



**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000**

MAR 27 2020

The Honorable Chris Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

The Department of Defense (DoD) deeply appreciates your leadership and partnership as we combat the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and protect the people of your State or territory and our Nation. We face an immense challenge against an invisible enemy and the key to our success is working as one team: federal, state and local governments; the private sector; and every individual American citizen. Together, we will defeat this enemy.

Given this unique crisis, I have made the decision to accelerate the process for how the Department of Defense authorizes the use of National Guard forces under title 32, U.S.C., section 502(f).

Pursuant to the President's orders providing Federal support for the Governors' use of the National Guard to respond to COVID-19, I hereby authorize the use of State National Guard forces to perform duty under title 32, U.S.C., section 502(f), subject to the following conditions. These conditions are: (1) the States and territories or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identify specific requirements for COVID-19 support in accordance with the Stafford Act; (2) requests originating from the States and territories must be submitted to FEMA; and (3) FEMA approves and provides the Department of Defense with a fully reimbursable mission assignment. Once the mission assignment is received, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security will promptly approve these requests.

This authorization enables your timely use of the National Guard to save lives and protect public health and safety. The men and women of the National Guard are Citizen-Soldiers who stand ready to serve their communities as we fight COVID-19.

As you know, FEMA's National Response Coordination Center is the quarterback for our team and the single point of entry for all requests for assistance, to ensure a swift, effective, and coordinated Federal response. For example, FEMA can provide access to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for assistance with rapidly developing overflow patient facilities in existing structures such as convention centers and hotels.

The Department of Defense stands ready to assist you and your citizens. If you have any DoD-specific questions, please contact Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Bob Salesses or Colonel Eric Shwedo on my staff, at (703) 697-5774.

Sincerely,

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