OTSG DPA Weekly Sends

May 5, 2020

What you need to know

1. The Army Surgeon General, LTG R. Scott Dingle, “TSG SENDS: COVID-19 and Army Medicine” messages from this week are included for your awareness. Please read!
   • Published TSG Sends (April 28) (Click Here)
   • Published TSG Sends (May 1) (Click Here)

2. CDC updated guidance on COVID-19 symptoms. (Click Here)

3. DOD COVID-19 Talking Points (May 5) (Click Here)

4. DOD COVID-19 Media Fact Sheet (May 5) (Click Here)

5. Army Medicine General Officer Reassignments:
   • Brig. Gen. Shan Bagby will be Commanding General, Brooke Army Medical Center/Chief of the Dental Corps, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.
   • Brig. Gen. Wendy L. Harter will be Commanding General, Regional Health Command-Central, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

6. STAND-TO! Edition: U.S. Army Voluntary Recall Program
   The U.S Army Voluntary Recall Program manages the recall of retirees to active duty. These voluntary recalls are a part of the Army's plan for a mass mobilization. For more information: https://www.army.mil/standto/archive_2020-05-01/?s_cid=standto

7. DVIDS Center for COVID PA Products: https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/COVID19

8. COVID-19 Information:
   • Army: https://www.army.mil/coronavirus/
   • APHC: https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/
   • DoD Web Page: https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/
   • Health.mil Web Page: https://health.mil/News/In-the-Spotlight/Coronavirus
   • TRICARE Web Page: https://tricare.mil/coronavirus
Armed Forces Medical News

Army Medicine Week in Review

Articles:
1. LRMC nurses combat COVID19 (April 29)  
   https://www.army.mil/article/235068

2. Oral surgeon provides intubation training to medical staff (April 29)  
   https://www.army.mil/article/235064

   https://www.army.mil/article/235114

4. Bassett ACH Midwife and Nurses Exceed Expectations (April 28)  
   https://www.army.mil/article/235060/bassett_ach_midwife_nurses_exceed_expectations

5. CBS: Fighting an unseen enemy: How the military is protecting itself from the coronavirus pandemic (April 26)  

6. Empowering Flexibility, Broad Discretion and Addressing Concerns (April 24)  
   https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Features/Story/Article/2164865/empowering-flexibility-broad-discretion-and-addressing-concerns/fbclid/IwAR2QKH7ISvf5mHYdaUrGt9txOOQABUQU8sY3YSv1xlAqs0zdgoD90NVSaQ4/

7. Military members honor veteran who died at NY field hospital (April 22)  
   https://www.army.mil/article/234820?linkId=87199744

8. Training prepares providers for severe coronavirus patients (April 21)  

Resources:
1. DOD COVID-19 Response Infographic (April 28) (Click Here)

2. “Engaged Leaders” infographic (April 26) (Click Here)

Videos:
1. Parachute riggers with the North Carolina National Guard change their mission from repairing parachutes to creating face masks for #Soldiers as part of the COVID9 Response. (April 30)  
   https://www.facebook.com/USArmy/videos/742695232801232/

2. AFN: LRMC’s Military Transient Detachment is prepared to care for COVID patients (April 30)  
3. Find out how the Military Health System is doing its part in the inter-agency U.S. federal government response to #COVID19. (April 29)
https://www.facebook.com/MilitaryHealth/videos/225835485401603/

4. Medical Simulation Training Center Trains For Responding to COVID19 (April 29)

5. Ansbach’s Health Clinic adapts to changes caused by COVID-19 (April 27)

6. Saluting all those in our military family who have entered the fight on #COVID19. (April 26)
https://www.facebook.com/SecDef/videos/598693134104779/

7. AFN Video: Allergies vs COVID19 (April 21)
https://www.facebook.com/LRMCofficialpage/videos/233725631187951/

8. TAMC Tips – Ways to Deal with Anxiety During These Unique Times (April 17)
https://www.dvidshub.net/video/750250/tamc-tips-ways-deal-with-anxiety-during-these-unique-times

MEDCOM Graphics: (Click Here)

Media Engagements / Events:
1. Army Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville briefed reporters on the Army’s role in the Defense Department’s #COVID19 efforts during a Pentagon news conference. Basic Training, Officer Training, and a return to military exercises are discussed as well as the DOD Sexual Assault Report results. (April 30)
https://www.facebook.com/USArmy/videos/2592992277581735/

2. Ellen Lord, Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment, held a news conference at the Pentagon to discuss how the DOD is partnering with industry to mitigate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Procurement of PPE and ventilators, the transportation of COVID-19 patients, and procurement and modernization efforts. (April 30)
Upcoming Events

1. Lt. Gen. R. Scott Dingle, The U.S. Army Surgeon General, will hold a Virtual Town Hall on May 11, from 1200 – 1400 EDT (1100 – 1300 CDT) for the National Capital Region and Joint Base San Antonio Staff. [link]

2. Army will host a weekly COVID-19 press conference scheduled for Thursday, May 7, with the time TBD. You can watch live at [link].
Army Medicine Family,

The DOD and our Army are transitioning to the stabilization phase of the COVID-19 response, as we prepare to send additional military medical providers to augment hospitals in the New York City metropolitan area. We've also added additional behavioral health providers to the fight. There are nearly 100 military behavioral health specialists treating patients and providing counseling services to other medical providers at the Javits Center and throughout New York City hospitals.

The additional behavioral health support, highlights the ongoing need to protect and care for our medical force, as they care for others. The Veterans Administration (VA) recently developed a useful ‘COVID Coach’ app, containing valuable information for Veterans and Service members, to support self-care and overall mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Some of the features include: education about coping during the pandemic; tools for self-care and to improve emotional well-being; trackers to check your mood and measure your growth toward personal goals; and graphs to visualize progress over time. COVID Coach is not intended to replace needed professional care related to COVID-19 or mental health conditions, but it can provide some useful tools to assist you. Learn more and download the app at: [https://www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile/COVID_coach_app.asp](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile/COVID_coach_app.asp)

Approximately 4,400 Military medical personnel across the Joint Force are staffing a total of 30 medical facilities or embedded operations nationally, to include 20 hospitals, two hospital ships, seven alternate care facilities, and a nursing facility. I extend my gratitude for all that you are doing in support of these efforts.

Army News has done a great job in documenting the Total Force efforts of Army Medicine during the COVID-19 crisis. Here are some recent articles:


As we work to support the Army’s efforts to responsibly transition to routine training and readiness activities, I urge you all to remain vigilant and continue following the CDC’s recommended preventive measures. Those measures include social distancing, wearing masks or face coverings, frequent hand washing, avoiding close contact with sick individuals, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning frequently touched objects and surfaces, staying home when feeling ill, and avoiding touching of your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Thank you for all you are doing to support our Army and the Nation! I’m extremely proud of you!

Army Medicine is Army Strong!

TSG 45

VR

R. SCOTT DINGLE

LTG, USA
The Surgeon General

Useful links:
[https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/covid19](https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/covid19)
[www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus)
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
[www.usa.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)


Army Public Health COVID-19 Hotline: 1-800-984-8523
[https://geohealth.hhs.gov/arcgis/home/](https://geohealth.hhs.gov/arcgis/home/)
Army Medicine Family,

We have remained steadfast during another week in our fight against COVID-19. As part of the whole-of-government response effort, we continue to support expeditionary medical operations across the United States and provide relevant medical capabilities when requested. We remain ready to respond to future requests as the need arises, and will apply the incredible lessons we have learned during the current wave of the virus.

I’m attaching a nice graphic that sums up the DOD contributions during the COVID-19 crisis. Take a look. The Army Medicine Total Force has been very busy. Thank you for all you and your teams are doing!

To highlight just one example of the ingenuity that is being exercised, a team of Army Medicine doctors have developed a new device called the COVID-19 Airway Management Isolation Chamber (CAMIC). The device could be an answer to the PPE shortages impacting health care workers who are on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. The CAMIC is a collaborative effort between a team of military doctors and researchers at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Madigan Army Medical Center, and the Fort Belvoir Army Community Hospital among other institutions. Read more about it here: https://taskandpurpose.com/news/military-doctors-coronavirus-treatment-device

I would also like to send a proud shout out to Womack Army Medical Center, for recently receiving the CDC’s Public Health Accreditation Board’s credentialing for their Department of Public Health. Womack was also recently verified as a Trauma Center by both the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and by North Carolina’s Office of Emergency Services. Thank you to the entire team for being a shining example of medical excellence.

I want to conclude this week by thanking you for the tremendous work you have done caring for our people, while caring for the mission during the COVID-19 response efforts. You have done an extraordinary job protecting the health of our Soldiers, Family Members, and Civilians during this global crisis. I am asking that you apply the same care and diligent effort as America reopens and we develop a framework in the Army to safely transition to routine training and readiness activities.

The key to success as we transition is your engaged leadership at every level. The COVID-19 crisis, and uncertainty about the immediate future, have increased stress for many and left others feeling more isolated. I need all leaders to redouble your efforts, and not allow physical and social distancing to become an obstacle to staying in contact with our teammates.

Leaders MUST stay engaged and connected to maintain the social bonds that will keep us functioning as a resilient and cohesive team. I asked the Army Public Health Center to put together the useful tool attached, that I hope will help you remain engaged!

As you continue to follow the CDC’s guidelines for prevention and protection against COVID-19, and practicing the discipline of physical and social distancing, I want you to remain vigilant and look for creative, safe ways to remain connected to friends and loved ones.

Army Medicine is Army Strong!

TSG 45

VR
R. SCOTT DINGLE
LTG, USA
The Surgeon General
COVID-19 TALKING POINTS
(Updated May 5, 2020)

Priority Messaging
- DoD is providing military manpower and equipment – both capacity and capability – to state and local authorities around the country to help combat COVID-19.
- Protecting our people has remained a DoD priority from the start. We must take those prudent measures to limit COVID-19’s spread, while also ensuring our people are trained and ready to defend the nation.

Supporting State and Local Authorities
- U.S. Northern Command, in support of FEMA, is leading the DoD response to COVID-19 efforts in the continental United States, ensuring hotspots around our country have the support they need. The command is conducting expeditionary medical operations across America at 22 hospitals, 5 Alternate Care Facilities, a hospital ship, and a skilled nursing facility.
- 46,800+ National Guardsmen are supporting COVID-19 response at the direction of their governors. State priorities remain focused on testing and screening, as well as providing logistical support through warehousing and distribution of medical supplies and food.
- The Army Corps of Engineers in concert with federal, state and local partners are bringing their talents to bear to convert buildings into temporary hospitals.

Supporting Allies and Partners
- COVID-19 remains a global challenge that no nation can face alone – our strong network of alliances and partnerships is critical to combating this virus.
- The United States has been the largest contributor to global health security for decades, contributing more than $140B in global health assistance in the 21st century alone.
- Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the U.S. Government has utilized an All-of-America approach, and already committed more than $770M in assistance specifically aimed at fighting this pandemic.
- DoD has provided millions in humanitarian assistance to 65 partner nations through the provision of medical and personal protective equipment and the transportation of humanitarian cargo.
- We are working with our NATO allies to coordinate inventory among capitals and use military cargo planes to transport equipment.
- Together, we should continue to support our partners’ ability to detect and respond to the virus, reinforce international health care systems, and share lessons learned to protect the force.

China Messaging
- The pandemic highlights the importance of transparency to human health, good governance, and the global economy. Restricting information has had devastating consequences for China and the global community.
• The PRC has a special responsibility for this crisis and we welcome no-strings attached contributions – as we would from any other nation – of high quality supplies to meet public health needs.

• We expect the PRC to share all virus data and work through recognized and credible mechanisms for humanitarian and global health assistance to sell or donate high-quality medical supplies. Assistance should not be exploited for propaganda purposes or to gain leverage on issues.

**Protecting our People**

• DoD will continue to safeguard U.S. national interests and those of our allies and partners throughout this crisis.

• Commanders must balance mission requirements with force health protection.
  
  o The Secretary of Defense has given commanders the authorities they need to make necessary decisions to protect their forces.
  
  o Commanders are empowered to take necessary precautions because the virus is unique to every situation and every location.

• We ask our people to take actions to protect themselves and those around them by employing protective measures including practicing good hand washing, social distancing, and taking appropriate actions if feeling sick.

• The Secretary of Defense has directed multiple efforts to mitigate the pandemic’s impact on our people and set the bar for precautions.
  
  o Directed wear of cloth masks for instances where social distancing is not possible.
  
  o Enacted a stop movement order.
  
  o Raised the HPCON level for all DoD installations.
  
  o Cancelled and/or modified exercises.
  
  o Maximized teleworking where possible.

• Online resources:
  
  o The Defense Digital Service designed an online tool for the DoD community to assess potential COVID-19 symptoms. Called [MySymptoms.mil](https://www.milSymptoms.mil), the anonymous tool does not diagnose disease but assesses the likelihood someone may have COVID-19 based on a series of simple health-related questions and then provides information on how to seek further advice. Though designed with DoD personnel in mind, the public may also use it.
  
  o [www.coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov)
  
  o [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
  
  o [www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/](https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/)
  
  o [www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus](https://www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus)
DoD COVID-19 UPDATE
May 5, 2020

Key Developments: 62,600+ DoD personnel supporting COVID relief

- **U.S. Northern Command** is responsible for DoD’s support of COVID-19 efforts with 13,500+ people deployed, including approximately 2,600 medical personnel. The command is conducting expeditionary medical operations across America at 22 hospitals, 5 Alternate Care Facilities, a hospital ship, and a skilled nursing facility.

- **National Guard**
  - 46,800+ National Guardsmen are supporting COVID-19 response at the direction of their governors. State priorities are focused on testing and screening, especially as states prepare to reopen, as well as providing logistical support through warehousing and distribution of medical supplies and food.
    - The New Mexico National Guard has more than 600 members activated, distributing personal protective equipment, transporting test specimens, assisting with traffic control, and distributing water to Pueblo and Navajo Nations.
    - The Missouri National Guard is assisting school lunch programs, ensuring students who rely on school meals do not go hungry as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - The Arizona National Guard is supporting 20 food banks throughout the state.
    - More than 540 members of the Virginia National Guard are assisting the state with testing, distribution of food and key supplies and training people how to use personal protective equipment.
    - The Louisiana National Guard is conducting medical testing at 11 sites with more than 25,600 people tested to date.
    - The West Virginia National Guard and West Virginia University have partnered to develop key data systems to track critical medical supplies and
forecast locations throughout the state that will need more supplies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- The Rhode Island National Guard is supporting operations at hotels housing COVID-19 positive homeless populations and others who require family distancing.

- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
  - USACE is executing 42 FEMA Mission Assignments totaling $1.8 billion, with 15,000 personnel engaged and 1,268 deployed in support of COVID-19 response operations. USACE has assessed 1,139 sites for possible use as Alternate Care Facilities (ACFs) and awarded 36 ACF construction contracts to add 14,959 beds to states with critical bed shortages. 27 of these 36 ACFs are complete.

### DoD News

- [Esper Details Defense Readiness in Face of Pandemic](#)
- [Mobility Airmen Transport COVID-19 Equipment to Ghana](#)
- [Citizen Airman epidemiologist volunteers for COVID19 fight](#)
- [Seabees Build Medical Facility to Support COVID-19 Efforts in Guam](#)
- [Army Medical Logistics Command explores virtual channels for medical maintenance support](#)
- [‘I Am Navy Medicine, helping stop the spread of COVID-19’: Lt. Anna Dufour, Navy Nurse Corps officer](#)
- [Michigan Guardsmen Support COVID-19 Detection Effort](#)
- [First responders use DLA surplus for pandemic readiness](#)

### DoD Cumulative Totals, 0500, May 5, 2020

*Note: These figures are refined as the Joint Staff Crisis Management Team receives updated/corrected reporting on case numbers*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cumulative Cases</th>
<th>Cumulative Hospitalized</th>
<th>Cumulative Recovered</th>
<th>Cumulative Deaths</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Military</td>
<td>4,967</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1,844</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>1,229</td>
<td>32*</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dependent</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>14*</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>24*</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,526</strong></td>
<td><strong>170</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,937</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
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*The figure was corrected after a data review showed instances of active case numbers being conflated with cumulative ones.*

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<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>USA</th>
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<th>USN</th>
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<td>1,039</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>433</td>
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<td>118</td>
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