

GEORGIA GUARDSMAN



SERVING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND STATE DEFENSE FORCE OF

COVID CHRONICLES: VOLUME II



CONTRIBUTING DOD ORGANIZATIONS

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GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

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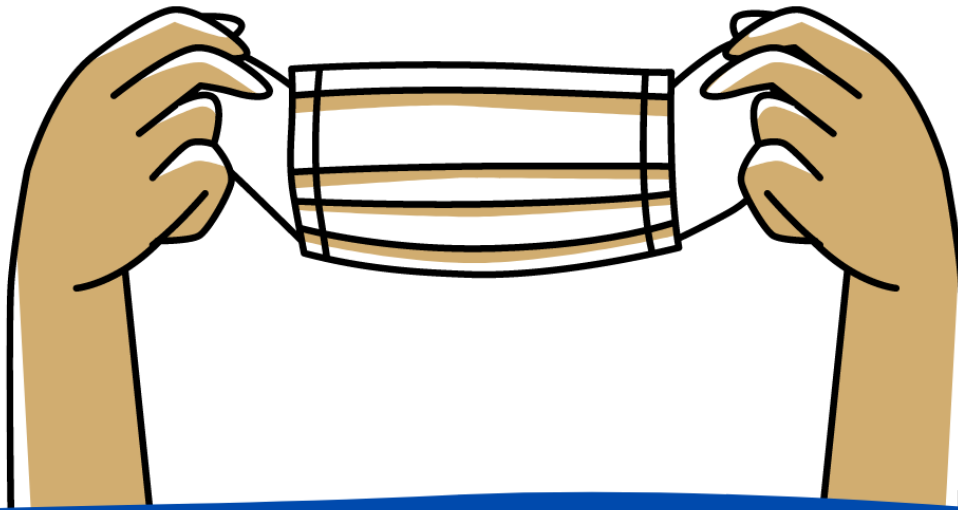




Georgia National Guard #MaskUp



How to safely wear your mask per DOD guidelines



Per DOD regulation set by the office of the Secretary of Defense in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control, Soldiers, Airmen, civilian employees and dependents are required to wear face coverings when in uniform or on post when social distancing of 6-feet or more cannot be maintained or inside military facilities.

Face masks should not have printed lettering, brand logos, or profane/derogatory imagery. All face masks should be functional, clean and maintain compliance with DOD regulation. When worn, masks should cover mouth and nose.

Cloth facemasks must be a solid color of either...



White



Black



Coyote
Brown



Tan



Sage
Green



Olive
Green



OCP

Guardsmen are permitted to use the following face coverings

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ N95 Face Masks | ✓ Reusable Cloth Masks |
| ✓ Surgical Masks | ✓ Sponge Masks |
| ✓ DOD Issued Neck Gaiters | ✓ Sponge Mask with Filter |

For More Information, Please Visit <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/FaceCoverings.aspx>

EIGHT DECADES OF COORDINATED DOMESTIC RESPONSE OPERATIONS: **THE GA DOD AND GSP**

STORY BY MAJ. WILLIAM CARRAWAY | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD |

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Over Labor Day weekend, Citizen Soldiers and Airmen of the Georgia National Guard worked with members of the Georgia State Patrol in Atlanta to ensure public safety following instances of civil unrest. The Ga. National Guard has a long tradition of partnering with the GSP and other state and local responders in times of emergency.

Operation Deathless

In August 1958, Georgia's Governor Marvin Griffin, a former Adjutant General of Georgia, pondered grim traffic statistics provided by the Ga. Department of Public Safety. The previous year, the GSP responded to 281 accidents resulting in 117 injuries and seven deaths over Labor Day weekend. Despite more than 450 public safety officers from the GSP and Georgia Bureau of Investigations ramping up enforcement and patrols, the GSP estimated that 14 Georgians would die in traffic accidents from August 29 to September 1, 1958. Not content to simply stand by and wait for the statistics to become reality, Griffin turned to the Georgia National Guard.

After consulting with the governor, Maj. Gen. Charlie Camp, Georgia's Adjutant General, ordered more than 600 Guardsmen to state active duty over the Labor Day weekend for an unprecedented mission of public safety. The Guardsmen, representing more than 30 units from across the state, took to the roads and skies in partnership with GSP to spread a message of traffic safety and to prevent traffic accidents and deaths associated with increased holiday traffic.

"I'm supposed to use the National Guard only in times of emergency," said Griffin in a statement announcing Operation Deathless." Well, when it is estimated that 14 people will be killed in Georgia in one weekend, I think a real emergency exists and I want to save those 14 lives."

On the ground, more than 100 National Guard jeeps, prominently adorned with the 12 by 18-inch Operation Deathless sign with skull and crossbones logos were positioned to deter aggressive driving and assist motorists. Guardsmen in radio-equipped jeeps maintained roadblocks and observation points at key intersections and highways. Though Guardsmen had no arresting authority they provided backup at GSP checkpoints, helped detain intoxicated drivers and stopped cars with defective headlights. The Guardsmen also rendered aid to stranded motorists with flat tires, stalled vehicles and other minor problems.

Operating 24 hours a day, the Guardsmen worked with state and local law enforcement officials to spread the word about highway safety and to respond to those in need. In addition to the robust ground effort, 20 Ga. National Guard helicopters and fixed wing aircraft took to the air



to advise GSP of reckless drivers. As a result of their combined efforts, traffic fatalities fell well below the predicted level of 14 with eight lives lost over the long travel weekend.

Patriot Winter

When a rare winter storm descended upon north Georgia January 9, 2011, the combination of snow, sleet and freezing rain covered roads and interstates from Atlanta to Chattanooga with ice. Again, Georgia's Governor turned to the Ga. DoD and GSP.

"Soldiers and Airmen of the Georgia National Guard stand ready to do our part to help local communities recover," said Maj. Gen. William Nesbitt, Georgia's Adjutant General at the time of the winter response.

At the request of the GSP, Georgia National Guard units transported hospital staff to Grady Memorial Hospital and other medical centers throughout north Georgia. reconnaissance flights by the Marietta-based 78th Aviation Troop Command helped the Ga. Department of Transportation assess the storm impact while GSP officers, travelling with National Guard High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles assisted stranded motorists and cleared roads for civilian emergency vehicles. In Calhoun, the 1st Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment deployed Soldiers and vehicles to assist GSP in reaching areas inaccessible to patrol vehicles.

2014 Winter Storms

Two winter storms struck Georgia between January 28 and February 10, 2014. The first of these storms struck Atlanta with freezing rain paralyzing traffic and stranding motorists. More than 200 Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers were activated in response to Governor Nathan Deal's emergency declaration. The Guardsmen mobilized more than 50 response vehicles to assist the GSP and other local responders in rescuing stranded motorists. Nearly 5,000 motorists were assisted in the early hours of January 29 alone.

A heavy snow event impacted Georgia with snow and ice accumulation from the Tennessee border to Augusta February 12. More than 1,000 Georgia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were activated to assist the GSP and Ga. DOT with road clearing operations while volunteers of the Ga. State Defense Force augmented response operations at GEMA.

"Our Georgia Guardsmen have been trained to respond to (winter storms)," said Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, commanding general of the Ga. ARNG. "Guardsmen want to help their fellow citizens during state emergencies and are well prepared to do so."

Civil Defense Operations

On the afternoon of May 29, 2020, thousands gathered in Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta for a peaceful observance of the life of George Floyd and to demand justice for his death. Despite the peaceful intent of the demonstration, violence broke out as the evening wore on. Live footage of burning police cars and shattered windows at the CNN center shocked Atlanta and world residents alike. Peaceful demonstrations swiftly gave way to coverage of widespread looting from the College Football Hall of Fame to Lenox Mall.

Six minutes before the stroke of midnight, Governor Brian Kemp issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency in Fulton County and activating 500 Georgia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. By 3:00 a.m. the next morning, more than 60 Ga. ARNG Soldiers of the 265th Chemical Battalion were in position guarding





property adjacent to Centennial Olympic Park. Arrayed along Marietta Street NW From Baker Street to the CNN Center, the thin line of Citizen Soldiers stood as a bulwark against further property damage. Meanwhile, Soldiers of the Decatur-based 170th Military Police Battalion rushed to Lenox Mall to deter further looting. Just hours before, the Soldiers of the 265th and 170th had been engaged in COVID-19 response operations disinfecting long term care facilities and supporting Ga. Department of Health testing sites around Atlanta.

Standing among the early responders to Centennial Olympic Park were Maj. Gen. Tom Carden, Georgia's Adjutant General and Brig. Gen. Randall Simmons, commander of the Ga. ARNG. In the pre-dawn darkness, the senior leaders conferred at the intersection of Marietta Street and Centennial Olympic Park Avenue and conceived of the initial troop movements to assist the GSP in providing for public safety and preventing escalating violence and property damage.

For the first week in June, Soldiers and Airmen of the Ga. National Guard supported the efforts of the GSP in ensuring a peaceful environment for Georgia's citizens to exercise their constitutional rights of speech and assembly. The GSP and Atlanta Police Department were also charged with enforcing the curfew imposed by the mayor of Atlanta. To support this mission, the Ga. DOD dispatched Citizen Soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 201st Regional Support Group to





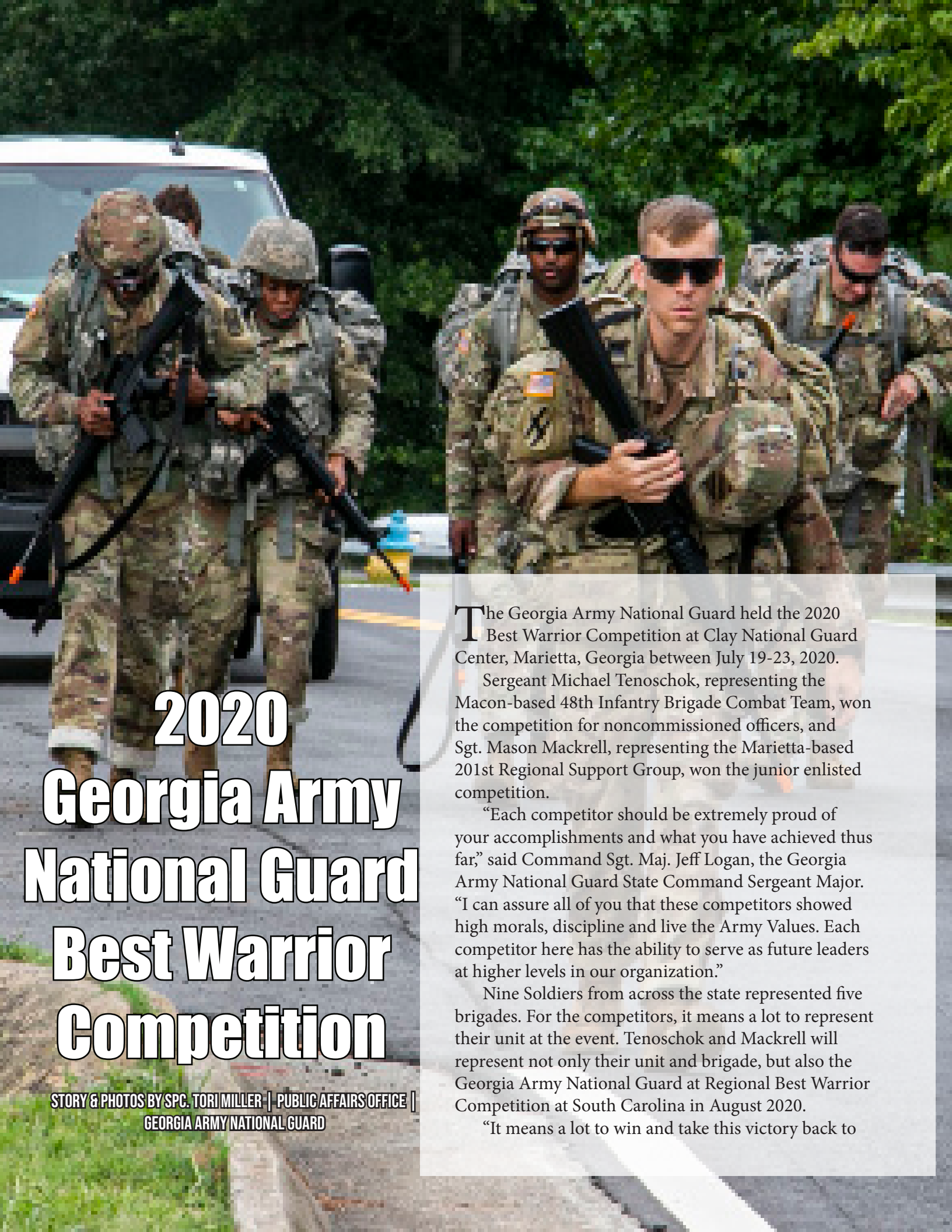
supplement GSP and APD security. Georgia Air National Guard Airmen of the 165th Security Forces Squadron also deployed in support of civilian law enforcement officers at Atlanta's Centennial Olympic with medics from the 116th Air Control Wing and 165th Airlift Wing. As a result of the strong coordinated response, Atlanta did not witness a repeat of the violence and property damage observed May 29 and Ga. DoD support operations concluded June 8.

The morning of July 5 saw a return of violence as vandals struck properties across Atlanta including the GSP Headquarters. In response, Governor Brian Kemp issued an executive order authorizing the activation of up to 1,000 Georgia Guardsmen. Briefing senior leaders of the Ga. DoD, Carden addressed the gravity of the situation.

"We do a much better job protecting the American people than we do policing the American people," said Carden. "This is not a job we relish doing, but when the situation like we saw over the weekend dictates our assistance, we will do it and be professionals while we do it."

From July 6 through Labor Day weekend, Ga. ARNG Soldiers supplemented GSP personnel, secured public property throughout Atlanta and responded to demonstrations to prevent violence. While Labor Day weekend operations have ended, the Ga. DoD remains on duty performing missions in support of COVID-19 response efforts, civil defense and deploying personnel in support of overseas combat operations.





2020 Georgia Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition

STORY & PHOTOS BY SPC. TORI MILLER | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE |
GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The Georgia Army National Guard held the 2020 Best Warrior Competition at Clay National Guard Center, Marietta, Georgia between July 19-23, 2020.

Sergeant Michael Tenoschok, representing the Macon-based 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, won the competition for noncommissioned officers, and Sgt. Mason Mackrell, representing the Marietta-based 201st Regional Support Group, won the junior enlisted competition.

“Each competitor should be extremely proud of your accomplishments and what you have achieved thus far,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeff Logan, the Georgia Army National Guard State Command Sergeant Major. “I can assure all of you that these competitors showed high morals, discipline and live the Army Values. Each competitor here has the ability to serve as future leaders at higher levels in our organization.”

Nine Soldiers from across the state represented five brigades. For the competitors, it means a lot to represent their unit at the event. Tenoschok and Mackrell will represent not only their unit and brigade, but also the Georgia Army National Guard at Regional Best Warrior Competition at South Carolina in August 2020.

“It means a lot to win and take this victory back to



my unit,” said Tenoschok. “I hope that this motivates my Soldiers to push themselves to keep bettering themselves.”

The Soldiers competed in more than 32 separate events during the five-day competition centered around equipment proficiency, warrior tasks and battle drills, medical knowledge and physical strength.

On the first two days of the competition, the Soldiers completed a written exam, an Army Physical Fitness Test, an Army Combat Fitness Test, weapons disassembly and assembly time test, Humvee tire change test and more.

“It took a lot of self-drive and a lot of heart to be successful in this competition,” said Mackrell. “I am proud to be Soldier of the Year because it is a representation of my leadership, my family and I

am proud to be here.”

During the final three days of competition, the Soldiers tested in skills, to include night and day land navigation, a 10-mile ruck march, call for fire, searching a vehicle in a combat environment, reacting to indirect fire and a board appearance.

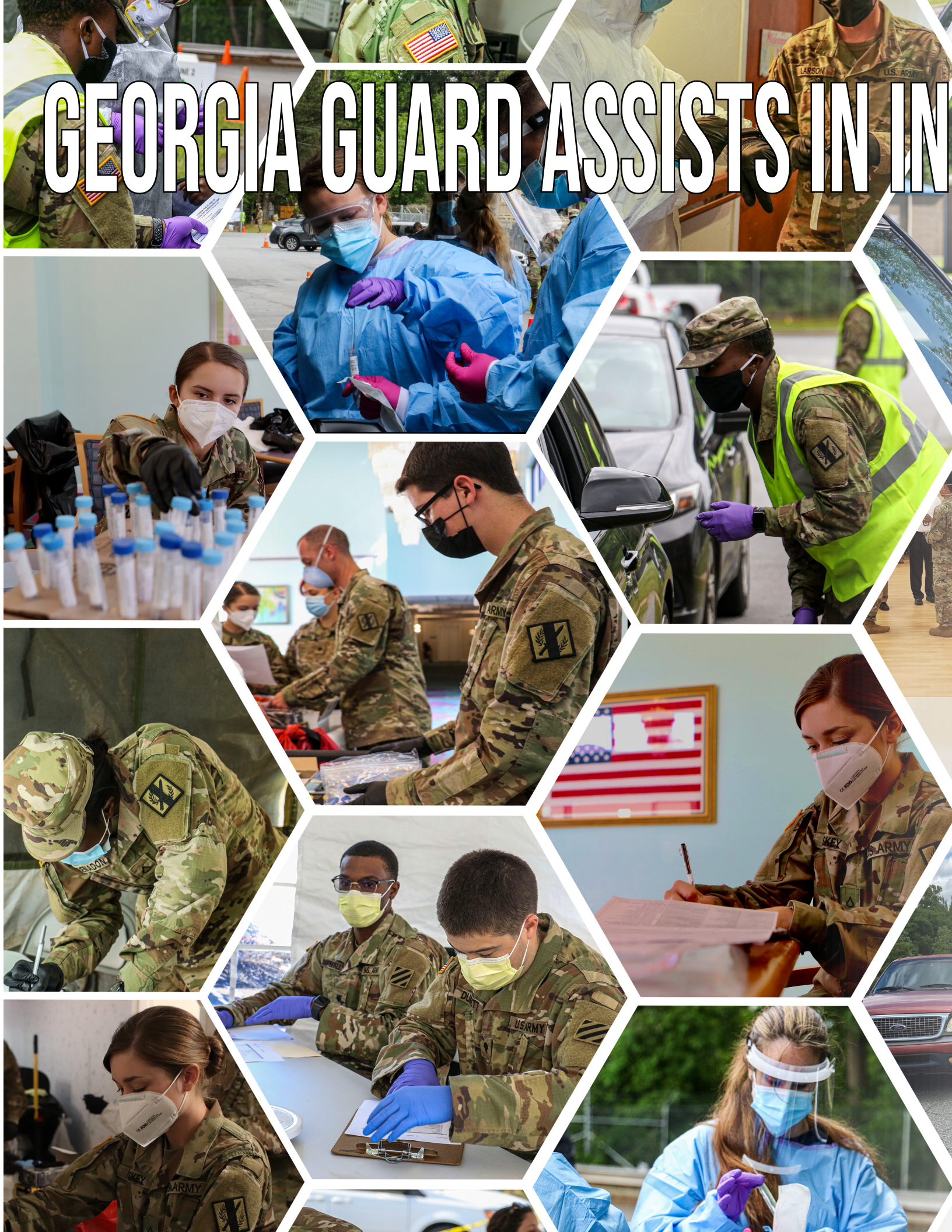
This year, COVID-19 posed an additional challenge to the competition. Event organizers distantly separated test lanes and required competitors to wear face masks when in close proximity. Participants disinfected equipment before and after each use to prevent spread of coronavirus. Additionally, medical personnel conducted temperature checks on competitors twice a day.

Competing Soldiers motivated one another during the event and pushed themselves to



complete the tasks in an expeditious but thorough manner. By the end of the week, the competitors had built camaraderie through the difficult tests presented in the competition.

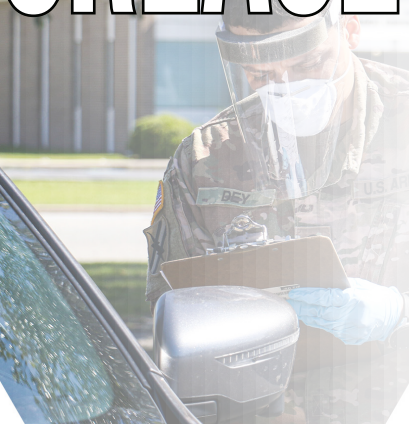
“The Georgia National Guard is a leadership factory and these competitors represent that,” said Brig. Gen. Randall Simmons, the Commanding General of the Georgia Army National Guard. “This competition is a victory for the organization. Organizations that fail to celebrate their successes tend to have fewer of them.”



GEORGIA GUARD ASSISTS IN IN



INCREASE OF COVID-19 TESTING



**STORY BY SPC. TORI MILLER | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD |
PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

The Georgia National Guard, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health and Augusta University, is assisting COVID-19 testing facilities in response to the public health state of emergency. Georgia National Guardsmen provide medical, logistical and security support to testing facilities located across the state in order to increase testing of COVID-19.

“One way that we can alleviate suffering is to help set conditions to safely get our state on a guided path towards normalcy,” said Maj. Gen. Thomas Carden, Adjutant General of the Georgia National Guard. “Testing is a function of alleviating that suffering.”

More than 600 Georgia National Guardsmen are supporting the testing mission. As of May 12, 2020, the Georgia National Guard has assisted Ga. DPH in testing over 28,900 Georgians statewide. Georgia Guardsmen intend to test up to 2,200 citizens per day.

“We want to run out of testing kits...,” said Brig. Gen. Randall Simmons, commander of the Georgia Army National Guard and Joint Task Force Commander for Georgia’s COVID-19 Response. “We just need to get the tests out to as many people as possible to break down the barriers right now, to make it easier for folks to get a test.”

Georgia National Guard service members support the testing mission by staffing specimen point of collection (SPOC) sites, Ga. DPH sites and mobile testing teams (MTTs). There are currently nine SPOC sites, 16 Ga. DPH sites and 30 MTTs that provide mobile testing.

Mobile testing teams deploy to and test residents and employees of long-term care facilities, correctional institutions and government facilities. These teams slow the spread of COVID-19 by testing citizens that do not otherwise have the opportunity or ability to visit a testing site.

The stationary SPOC and Ga. DPH sites operate on an appointment and drive-up basis, and the testing is free. The procedure does not require any personal contact and visitors remain in their vehicles for the entire process.

All symptomatic individuals are eligible for COVID-19 testing at a Ga. DPH test sites with a referral from a healthcare provider or local public health department. Only individuals who have been evaluated by a healthcare provider or local health department and assigned a testing number will be seen at these drive-thru sites.

Visitors can arrive unannounced or without an appointment to any one of the nine Augusta University SPOCs. However, it is preferred to receive a screening via the AU Health ExpressCare app or the hotline phone number prior to arrival.

Georgia DPH testing, AU SPOC testing, and the AU Health ExpressCare app are all free services and are no expense to users.



DRAWING ON STRENGTHS, 116TH ARMY BAND HELPS WITH TESTING

STORY & PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. AMY KING | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Georgia Guardsmen with the 116th Army Band and 93rd Financial Management Support Unit have been assisting Augusta University in testing Georgia citizens for COVID-19. These soldiers have been operating outside their military occupational specialties by implementing Augusta University's app, AU Health ExpressCare.

The app the Soldiers have been supporting helps Georgia citizens, some who are suffering from possible COVID-19 symptoms, find near-by testing sites. Nine of these sites are specimen point of collection sites, or SPOC sites, operated by Augusta University with support from Georgia Guardsmen. The app has been operational since early April and has been

steadily growing to meet demand while Georgia Guardsmen support behind the scenes.

"As more sites have come online, our workload has increased pretty dramatically," said Sergeant 1st. Class Adam Pyper, shift NCOIC, 116th Army Band, Georgia Army National Guard. "We're constantly looking over our schedule to see what we need to change and how we need to adjust fire to meet demand."

Pyper, along with several other members of the band, a few personnel with the 93rd FMSU, and a few airmen from both the 116th Airlift Wing and 165th Air Control Wings, have been working in a call center that helps people using the app find the resources they need. According to Pyper, there are two courses of action citizens can utilize when trying to find a test site.

The first, and preferred method, is to download and login to the app. Then the app user will be led through a video screening with a medical provider who will identify





if they should be tested for COVID-19. Once it has been determined that the user is a candidate for testing, their name is put into a pool. This is where Pyper and his fellow service members come in.

“The doctor tells them that shortly they will be contacted by us,” said Pyper. “We receive that pool of information. We take their record that pops up, and it’s just generic information to start with. It might be their name and date of birth, just to get us started. We call them up on the phone, ideally within 15 to 20 minutes, and we’ll call them 24/7.”

The crew works around the clock to ensure that those seeking help can find the answers they need, but not all citi-

zens know about the app. In that case, Pyper in his crew can take a different course of action.

“The patient sees on a news outlet or a news report somewhere that there’s a site that’s near them they can go get tested at,” said Pyper. “If it happens to be one of ours, then what they’ll do is they’ll arrive at the site, the nurse will do like a rapid face-to-face screening with them and ask them whatever questions they need to determine whether or not they should be tested.”

Pyper explained that after a nurse screening, the process works almost the same as if they had used the app. Patients are then routed to their call center, where Soldiers and Airmen do everything

within their power to ensure they get the care they need that same day, and their efforts do not go unnoticed.

“Many times, I’ve had people on the phone stop at the end and say ‘let me just take a moment to tell you how grateful I am,’” said Pyper. “That is what I’m here for. We’re impacting the public in a very intimate way. Ways we may not even know until they come up to us and say ‘that’s making a huge difference in my day, my week, and my life.’ This kind of thing does that.”

Pyper believes that musicians and finance personnel are ideal for this job as it requires a human touch and an intuitive knowledge of database navigation. Guards-

men within the band have likely spent years learning to play music and performing in public, often to strangers. It’s these types of communication skills and dedication that makes them good at what they do in the call center. More importantly, he says, is the opportunity to use their skills to participate in a Defense Support to Civil Authorities mission.

“I think it’s great that we’ve got Soldiers in uniform answering the phone and saying ‘this is sergeant so-and-so, or this is airman first class so-and-so. I’m here to help,’” said Pyper. “This is awesome, and it’s a great opportunity for us to serve the community in a direct way.”

43RD MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATED DURING GA. DOD MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

STORY & PHOTOS BY CAPT. BRYANT WINE | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE |
GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Governor Brian Kemp joined the Georgia Department of Defense for its annual Memorial Day observance at Clay National Guard Center in Marietta, Ga. May 21, 2020. Major General Tom Carden, the Adjutant General of the Ga. DoD, presided over the virtual ceremony in which participants donned face coverings and practiced social-distancing to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19.

This year, the Ga. DoD added a plaque to the memorial wall at Clay National Guard Center in memory of Master Sgt. Mark Allen. The dedication brings the total number of service members honored on the wall to 43.

“As I stand in front of this wall of 43 names, I am reminded of the bravery of our fellow Georgians and Americans who stand in the gap and fight for the freedoms we hold dear” said Gov. Kemp. “That is why we are here today. Each Memorial Day, we have the opportunity and responsibility to remember the fallen, as well as to acknowledge our blessings.”

Allen, of Loganville, Ga., died Oct. 12, 2019 from wounds received during combat operations in July 2009 while deployed to Afghanistan. Allen enlisted in the US Army on July 10, 1991 as an indirect fire infantryman. In 1995, he joined the Florida Army National Guard and then transferred to the Georgia Army National Guard in 1998. Allen deployed to the Sinai Peninsula as part of the Multinational Force and Observers Peacekeeping Mission from July 1994 to January 1995, to Iraq from May 2005 to May 2006 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to Afghanistan from April to July 2009 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Allen retired May 30, 2013 after 22 years military service due to effects of wounds received in Afghanistan.

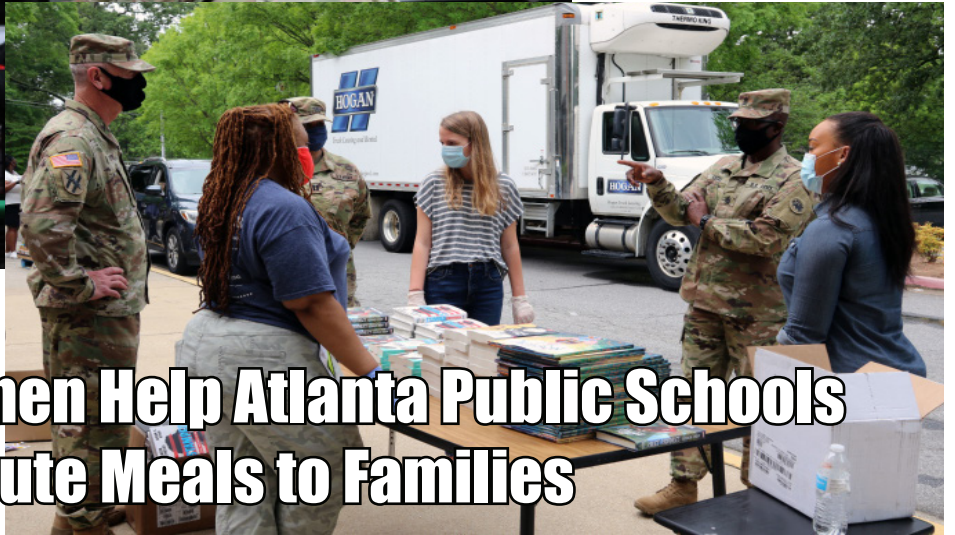
“To the family and friends of retired Master Sergeant Mark Christopher Allen and the countless families around our state and around our country who have lost loved ones, thank you for your bravery and resilience” said Gov. Kemp. “We cannot imagine the loss and the challenges that you all have faced. But I can promise you that as we observe this Memorial Day, your fellow Georgians and Americans join you in honoring the memory of your loved one and their sacrifice.”

During the ceremony, retired Command Sgt. Major James Nelson, former State Command Sgt. Major of the Ga. ARNG and chairman of the Freedom Calls Memorial Foundation, recounted the history of Memorial Day. Afterwards, Command Sgt. Major Roy Marchert, senior enlisted advisor of the Georgia National Guard, recited the poem “In Flanders Fields.”

Major General Carden and Command Sgt. Major Marchert placed a wreath before the memorial wall, then rendered honors while the names of the enshrined 43 service members were read aloud. After the playing of “Taps” by Spc. Adam Mitchell, of the Marietta-based 116th Army Band, two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters of the Georgia Army National Guard’s Marietta-based Company A, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment, 78th Aviation Troop Command, flew over the ceremony in honor of the fallen.

The virtual ceremony concluded with a benediction from Chaplain Maj. Jon Pirtle.

“Greater love has no end than this that somebody lay down his life for his friends” said Pirtle in his benediction. “And of that, we have proof. This is why we should have hope. As we remember our fallen, we know that we can carry on through hope.”



Georgia Guardsmen Help Atlanta Public Schools Distribute Meals to Families

STORY & PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. AMY KING | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Soldiers from the Tifton-based 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 78th Troop Command, Georgia Army National Guard, have been helping the Atlanta Public Schools system distribute food to families affected by COVID-19 since April 11. As of the mission's conclusion on Monday, May 18, 2020 to coincide with the end of the school year, the Soldiers have distributed 948 thousand meals to approximately 50 thousand families within the APS district.

"A lot of children relied on the school prepared lunches as part of their dietary needs," said Cpt. Athena Brown, officer in charge, 110th CSSB APS mission, Georgia Army National Guard. "So, with the school shutting down due to COVID, that was basically two meals a day that students weren't getting."

Before the 110th CSSB arrived, APS experienced personnel shortages and pieced together teams of volunteers. However, community volunteers weren't enough, and APS requested more assistance. Brown's Soldiers were able to fill in the gaps and speed up the production of meals, which increased the number of meals per week from 40 thousand to 160 thousand.

The Soldiers were assigned to 10 schools in metro Atlanta to include Frederick Douglass High School and Bunche Middle School. Every week, from Tuesday to Thursday, they would work on unloading the ship-

ments and packaging meals in preparation for distribution on Monday.

The team established relationships with families within the community they saw every week, said Brown. Due to close adherence to guidelines and consistent medical screening, not one Soldier on her team has tested positive for COVID-19 despite their close contact with thousands of people.

According to Brown, the mission also saved money for parents that are now unemployed. Many of the families are already low income and lost even more during the shelter-in-place order, which allowed only essential personnel to continue working. She says that many of these families were under distress, and worried where they were going to get their next meal.

"They were so grateful," said Brown. "I had families actually cry because they were so happy that the food was available to get because there are single parents out here that are struggling, and that was just one less meal that they had to be concerned about."

The Georgia Guard continues to support 10 food banks across the state, assisting those still struggling to make ends meet. One of these locations, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, remains one of the largest distributors and is accessible to families in metro Atlanta and the APS school district.

SOCIAL ME

SPOT

The Georgia National Guard Social Media and coverage of the

GA National Guard @GeorgiaGuard · Apr 6
Soldiers from the 1177th Transportation Company help to ensure Georgians in need are fed during #COVID19 by supporting the @ACFB. #YourGaGuard #SharedPurpose



8 101 294

GA National Guard @GeorgiaGuard · Apr 8
Our Georgia National Guard Infection Control Teams continue their mission every day and night helping to protect our most vulnerable population in the fight with #COVID19.
#InThisTogether #YourGaGuard



Georgia National Guard

"Expanding #COVID19 testing is an important step in flattening the curve. Please help us get this new information to those that need a test. The Georgia National Guard is now partnering with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and the Georgia Department of Public Health to increase sample collection and testing." - The Adjutant General of Georgia, Major General Thomas Carden Jr. #SharedPurpose #SharedValues #SharedVictory #GeorgiaStrong

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., MPH, Commissioner | Brian Kemp, Governor
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 15, 2020

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Expanded Testing For COVID-19 in Georgia
Revised Testing Criteria and Increased Number of Test Sites

Atlanta – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is increasing the number of specimen collection sites statewide for COVID-19 testing, and is revising the current testing criteria to accommodate more testing of Georgia residents.

Effective immediately, **all symptomatic individuals** will be eligible for COVID-19 testing. Health care workers, first responders, law enforcement and long-term care facility residents and staff will still be prioritized for testing regardless of whether they are or are not symptomatic.

Referrals are still required, however, there are now **two ways** to be referred to a DPH specimen collection site:

Local Health Department
Individuals who meet COVID-19 testing criteria may now be referred to DPH specimen collection sites by contacting their local health department. They will be screened by appropriate health department staff and referred to the closest, most convenient specimen collection site. Contact information for local health departments can be found on the DPH homepage at <https://dph.ga.gov/>, under COVID-19 in Georgia.

Health Care Provider Referral
Health care providers and/or physicians can and should continue to refer patients for COVID-19 testing.

People **should not arrive unannounced or without a scheduled appointment** at a specimen collection site, hospital, emergency room or other health care facility. **Only individuals who have been evaluated by public health or a health care provider and assigned a PUI # number will be referred to these drive-thru sites.**

Together we can stop further spread of COVID-19 in our state and save lives.

Stay home – the Governor has issued a **shelter-in-place Executive Order** that should be observed by all residents and visitors.

Practice social distancing – keep at least 6 feet between yourself and other people.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES

DPH HEALTH DISTRICT	COVID-19 TESTING SITES	COUNTIES
DISTRICT 1 / ALBANY / BARCELON	100-801-1234	Albany, Barrow, Chatham, DeKalb, Douglas, Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne
DISTRICT 2 / BARTOW / BARTON	1-800-801-1234	Bartow, Bartonsville, Chatham, DeKalb, Douglas, Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne
DISTRICT 3 / BARTON / BARTON	1-800-801-1234	Bartow, Bartonsville, Chatham, DeKalb, Douglas, Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne
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DISTRICT 8 / BARTON / BARTON	1-800-801-1234	Bartow, Bartonsville, Chatham, DeKalb, Douglas, Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne
DISTRICT 9 / BARTON / BARTON	1-800-801-1234	Bartow, Bartonsville, Chatham, DeKalb, Douglas, Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne
DISTRICT 10 / BARTON / BARTON	1-800-801-1234	Bartow, Bartonsville, Chatham, DeKalb, Douglas, Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne
DISTRICT 11 / BARTON / BARTON	1-800-801-1234	Bartow, Bartonsville, Chatham, DeKalb, Douglas, Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne
DISTRICT 12 / BARTON / BARTON	1-800-801-1234	Bartow, Bartonsville, Chatham, DeKalb, Douglas, Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne
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DISTRICT 20 / BARTON / BARTON	1-800-801-1234	Bartow, Bartonsville, Chatham, DeKalb, Douglas, Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne

TAGofGA @TAGofGA · Apr 11
Our Governor & our citizens appreciate the @GeorgiaGuard. I know that residents in nursing homes across our state are safer because of your hard work & sacrifice. What you are doing today for your neighbors is a crystal clear representation of our organizational values!

Governor Brian P. Kemp @GovKemp · Apr 11
.@GeorgiaGuard members are actively working to protect our most vulnerable population. So grateful for their service! #COVID19 #gapol bit.ly/2wvjzD0



EDIA LIGHT

edia Spotlight reflects the importance
COVID-19 response.



Georgia National Guard

Georgia Army National Guardsmen with the Marietta-based, **78th Troop Command**, is supporting **Atlanta Public Schools (APS)** in the distribution of 62,000 breakfast and lunch meals to students during **#COVID19**.
#InThisTogether #GeorgiaStrong



GA National Guard @GeorgiaGuard · Apr 22

The Georgia National Guard is setting up four coronavirus testing sites across metro Atlanta where people who think they have the virus will be able to be tested for free.



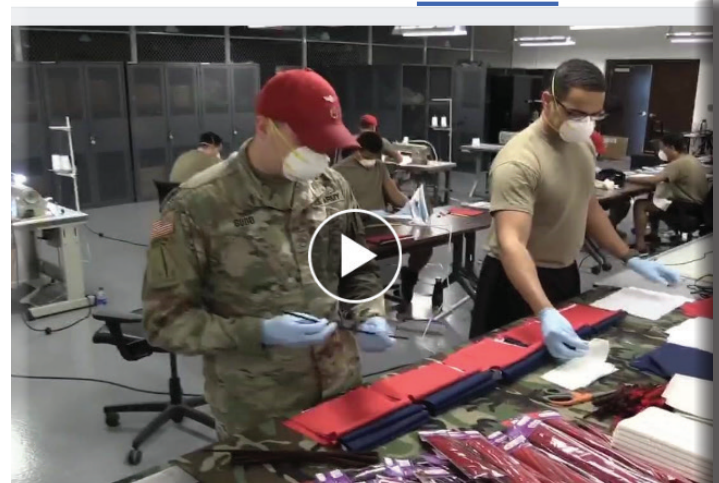
National Guard to open new free coronavirus testing sites this week
Hundreds of people are getting tested for coronavirus in Gwinnett County.

wsbtv.com

2

36

55



Georgia National Guard...

Georgia National Guard parachute riggers from the 165th Quartermaster Company answered the call to a mission that required their unique skill set to create masks for Guard Soldiers and Airmen activated to respond to the statewide **#COVID19** mission.

Uploaded on 04/10/2020 · View Permalink · Copy Video ID



TAGofGA @TAGofGA · 4/15/20

Expanding **#COVID19** testing is an important step in **#FlatteningTheCurve**. Please help us get this new information to those that need a test. The **@GeorgiaGuard** is now partnering with **@GeorgiaEMA** and **@GaDPH** to increase sample collection & testing.
#SharedPurpose #GeorgiaStrong



COVID-19 TESTING / Direct Patient Line

DPH - HEALTH DISTRICT	COVID-19 TESTING LINE	COUNTIES
DISTRICT 1 / AUGUSTA / South	1-800-847-6622	Albany, Appling, Burke, Calhoun, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Colquhoun, Crisp, Cuthbert, DeKalb, Dodge, Evans, Fannin, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Glascock, Hancock, Hardee, Heard, Henry, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lanier, Long, Lowndes, McIntosh, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Oneida, Owsen, Peach, Perdue, Pierce, Randolph, Rich, Richmond, Rockdale, Spalding, Spalding County, Wilkes, Wilcox, York
DISTRICT 2 / COLUMBIA / South	1-800-847-6622	Albany, Appling, Burke, Calhoun, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Colquhoun, Crisp, Cuthbert, DeKalb, Dodge, Evans, Fannin, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Glascock, Hancock, Hardee, Heard, Henry, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lanier, Long, Lowndes, McIntosh, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Oneida, Owsen, Peach, Perdue, Pierce, Randolph, Rich, Richmond, Rockdale, Spalding, Spalding County, Wilkes, Wilcox, York
DISTRICT 3 / DUBLIN / North	1-800-847-6622	Albany, Appling, Burke, Calhoun, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Colquhoun, Crisp, Cuthbert, DeKalb, Dodge, Evans, Fannin, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Glascock, Hancock, Hardee, Heard, Henry, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lanier, Long, Lowndes, McIntosh, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Oneida, Owsen, Peach, Perdue, Pierce, Randolph, Rich, Richmond, Rockdale, Spalding, Spalding County, Wilkes, Wilcox, York
DISTRICT 4 / MARIETTA / North	1-800-847-6622	Albany, Appling, Burke, Calhoun, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Colquhoun, Crisp, Cuthbert, DeKalb, Dodge, Evans, Fannin, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Glascock, Hancock, Hardee, Heard, Henry, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lanier, Long, Lowndes, McIntosh, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Oneida, Owsen, Peach, Perdue, Pierce, Randolph, Rich, Richmond, Rockdale, Spalding, Spalding County, Wilkes, Wilcox, York
DISTRICT 5 / AUGUSTA / East	1-800-847-6622	Albany, Appling, Burke, Calhoun, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Colquhoun, Crisp, Cuthbert, DeKalb, Dodge, Evans, Fannin, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Glascock, Hancock, Hardee, Heard, Henry, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lanier, Long, Lowndes, McIntosh, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Oneida, Owsen, Peach, Perdue, Pierce, Randolph, Rich, Richmond, Rockdale, Spalding, Spalding County, Wilkes, Wilcox, York
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

GEORGIA GUARDSMEN DEPLOYED IN 2019 RESPOND TO COVID-19 IN 2020

STORY & PHOTOS BY SGT. JORDAN TRENT | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



The Georgia National Guard deployed more than 2,600 Soldiers and Airmen in support of military operations and training missions around the world in 2019. Now in 2020, many of these service members serve a different kind of mission— to fight the COVID-19 virus. Typically in a reset state after coming home from deployment, many Georgia Guardsmen are instead working around the clock in the communities where they work and live by disinfecting long-term health facilities, increasing the state's testing capacity, supporting public school and food bank meal distribution and assisting at hospitals.

Georgia Army National Guard Cpl. John Rader, a Combat Engineer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 201st Regional Support Group, recently deployed to Iraq from August 2018 to April 2019. Less than a year after returning from Iraq, he mobilized in response to COVID-19.

Rader's team led project management for one of the most heavily constructed bases in Iraq during the 2018-2019 deployment. They built wastewater

treatment plants, new houses and lined roads with protective barriers.

In the COVID-19 response effort, Rader serves in the 201st RSG operations center at Dobbins Air Reserve Base where he tracks on-going missions across the state.

Some of the tracking systems Rader's team uses were previously designed during the deployment and his team tailored the methods for use during the COVID-19 response. These products improve communication and interoperability by helping key leaders maintain awareness and better assess the situation in real-time. He said the COVID response mission is new to his unit, but they are learning and adapting every day.

"All my neighbors reach out and we get a lot of thanks," said Rader. "I live in the area of operations that we're cleaning nursing homes in. Our guys have already cleaned the nursing homes that my neighbor's parent's live in. It's a meaningful line of work. It makes you proud to let your neighbors or your family know what you do."



Georgia Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Diane Piedrahita, an Emergency Management Specialist assigned to the 165th Civil Engineering Squadron, was activated to serve at the Emergency Operations Center in Savannah, Georgia in early March for the COVID-19 response.

Piedrahita deployed to Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan with the 165th CES in July 2019 and returned in January 2020. Overseas, she served in the operations section of emergency management. She tracked weather and intelligence information, conducted training using Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear, bunker training and Emergency Operations Center training to prepare for potential missions. Now she's applying the same lessons learned from the deployment to the COVID-19 response effort.

"It's a good experience because we get to work with the medical teams, which is what I'm studying," said Piedrahita. "We usually don't get to work with them as we respond to natural or manmade disasters, so responding to a pandemic is a new experience. This is a new one to add to the mission set and we're getting better at the mission every day."

Since returning home earlier this year, Piedrahita continues serving in the 165th CES in the operations section tracking teams while they conduct missions across the state. Piedrahita is also a post-graduate student at Georgia Southern University studying for her Master's Degree in Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology.

The Georgia Army National Guard's newest unit, 1st Battalion, 54th Security Forces Assistance Brigade

headquartered at Fort Benning, Georgia, activated Soldiers to support the COVID-19 response mission as well.

Georgia Army National Guard Sgt. Quantez Harper, a 68W Combat Medic assigned to Company B, 1- 54th SFAB, is mobilized to fight against COVID-19 after returning at the end of 2019 from a deployment to Afghanistan.

Harper has served in the Army National Guard for 12 years which includes three overseas deployments. In COVID-19 response effort, he applies his medical training and experience by serving in a medical support team deployed to Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Georgia.

"It's tough," said Harper. "Especially leaving a 10-month old and fiancé, but at the end of the day this is what we do. You learn to take the energy and use it as motivation to help others. Being here in Albany where there was such a national spotlight and knowing that we are here doing good things to help this community really drives my passion to be here. Being a part of something bigger and doing some good in the world is my motivation," said Harper.

The Georgia National Guard continues to support the nation's needs abroad while also aiding their communities at home by working alongside partner agencies, building response capability and alleviating suffering until the threat of the COVID-19 virus is defeated. Georgia Guardsmen are able to respond at a moment's notice to domestic crises, as well as answer the nation's call for trained, deployable forces for missions abroad.

648TH MEB WELCOMES NEW BRIGADE COMMANDER, COL. BRIAN ELLIS

STORY & PHOTOS BY CAPT. BRYANT WINE | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE |
GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

COLONEL KEVIN HAMM RELINQUISHED COMMAND OF THE GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 648TH MANEUVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE TO COL. BRIAN ELLIS DURING A VIRTUAL CEREMONY AT CLAY NATIONAL GUARD CENTER MAY 16, 2020. COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR RONALD DELOACH ASSUMED SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR RESPONSIBILITY FROM COMMAND SGT. MAJ BRANDON COOK AT THE SAME EVENT.

Hamm, who led the brigade since July 2018, passed the 648th MEB colors to Ellis, signifying the official transfer of power for the "Hydra Brigade", an organization of more than 1,700 Georgia Guardsmen. Hamm's tour of command oversaw the brigade's response to Hurricane Michael in 2018 and 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery Regiment's participation in exercise Big Bow at Fort Riley, Kansas in June 2019. Hamm's command culminated with activation of soldiers across the brigade in response to COVID-19 and seeing-off the 874th Engineer Utilities Detachment on the unit's deployment to the United States Central Command area of responsibility in May 2020.

Hamm has served over 29 years in the Army, 18 of which have been in the Georgia Army National Guard. Hamm enlisted in the Florida Army National Guard in 1991 as a ROTC cadet at the University of West Florida and commissioned into the regular Army as an artillery officer in 1993. Hamm deployed to Haiti from 1994 to 1995 in support of Operation Uphold and Restore Democracy as the fire support officer of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment. Hamm became the battalion maintenance officer of 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment when he joined the Georgia Army National Guard in 2002, and

later deployed with the unit to Iraq in 2005 as the assistant operations officer in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He deployed to Afghanistan with 1-118 FAR in 2009 as the battalion's executive officer during Operation Enduring Freedom. After successful detachment command of the Georgia Guard Training Center and serving as executive officer of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Hamm returned to 1-118 FAR to command the battalion from November 2012 to April 2015. Hamm served as the Georgia National Guard J-5 plans officer before taking command of the 648th MEB in July 2018.

Hamm's next assignment is chief of the joint staff of the Georgia National Guard.

Colonel Brian Ellis has served over 29 years between the Illinois, Virginia, Washington, and Georgia National Guards. Ellis enlisted into the Illinois Army National Guard in 1991 as a cannon crewmember and commissioned through Southern Illinois University's ROTC program in 1994 as an infantry lieutenant. From 2004 to 2005, Ellis deployed to Kuwait as a battery commander in 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, Washington Army National Guard, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. After joining the Georgia Army National Guard in





2008, Ellis deployed to Afghanistan as the executive officer of 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment from 2009 to 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Ellis served as the Georgia Army National Guard chief of mobilization readiness following the deployment, as well as commanded 1-121 IN from September 2011 to March 2013. Ellis' most recent assignments and mobilizations includes director of military assistance, Combined Joint Task Force- Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq) from 2017 to 2018 and director J-7, Special Operations Joint Task Force- Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq) from 2019 to 2020.

The 648th MEB activated in 2007 and became federally recognized in 2009. Elements of the 648th MEB deployed for the first time in 2009 and 2010 when the 810th Engineer Company and 190th Military Police Company, respectively, deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2012, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 648th MEB deployed to Afghanistan where the brigade received a Meritorious Unit Citation and its first campaign streamer.



AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



MEMORIAL DAY FLYOVER

Georgia Army National Guardsmen of the Marietta-based 78th Aviation Troop Command conducts a Memorial Day flyover Atlanta to honor fallen heroes and those on the frontline battling COVID-19 on May 25, 2020. The flyover passed over iconic locations such as Grady Hospital, Stone Mountain, Lake Lanier and Georgia National Cemetery.



BLUE ANGELS APPRECIATION FLYOVER

The Air Force Thunderbirds and Navy Blue Angels showed their appreciation for frontline workers by conducting a joint flyover of the city of Atlanta, Georgia on May 2, 2020.



CHANGE OF COMMAND FOR GEORGIA'S 170TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers of the 170th Military Police Battalion render honors to the flag during a change of command ceremony at the unit's Decatur Armory July 31, 2020.

GEORGIA GOVERNOR ADDRESSES DEPLOYING ENGINEERS

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp addresses Soldiers of the 874th Engineer Utilities Detachment during a predeployment ceremony at the unit's Toccoa, Ga. armory May 3, 2020.



BLACK KNIGHTS OF THE GA. ARNG 221 MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION DEPLOY

Governor Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp speak with Capt. Neal Noel and 1st Sgt. Lewis Watson, command team of the Forest Park-based Company A, 221st Military Intelligence Battalion, prior to the unit's May 4, 2020 departure from home



Stay tuned for the next COVID Chornicles Vol. III edition
of the Georgia Guardsman Magazine!



GEORGIA GUARDSMAN
★★ SERVING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND STATE DEFENSE FORCE OF GEORGIA ★★

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