



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS
LANSING

MG PAUL D. ROGERS
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR

25 MARCH 2020

Dear Community Leaders,

I hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy during this crisis. I am taking this opportunity to share information and solicit your support. The Michigan National Guard has a growing support presence with our partners across the State government. To date the majority of that support has been planning and coordinating the response. Unfortunately, disinformation has been spread throughout the United States, questioning the actions of the National Guard. That has raised uncertainty with community members and generated a lot of questions. Over the past two weeks I have received several requests from local leaders for information regarding MING activities. I am sharing this synopsis so you have relevant information to share with your fellow citizens.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the DMVA for specific efforts in your community. It is our goal to provide you with the facts and leverage your assistance to keep our citizens informed and abreast of our COVID 19 support efforts. I will make every effort to personally call local leaders if we are requested to work in their communities.

The Department of Military and Veteran Affairs is blessed with outstanding support from the citizens and community leaders across Michigan.

WHAT THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS IS DOING

On Wednesday, March 18, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced the call-up of the Michigan National Guard to aid Michigan in the response to COVID-19. This is part of the Michigan National Guard's mission to support local authorities and state agencies to aid Michigan families affected in times of crisis.

THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD: MICHIGANDERS AIDING MICHIGANDERS

The Michigan National Guard is a support agency with numerous professional capabilities to aid state agencies and local organizations when called upon. The men and women of the Michigan National Guard are technical experts who serve their own communities as doctors, logisticians, engineers, strategic planners, lawyers, public affairs professionals, and professional trades. When activated for service with the Michigan National Guard, these professionals support emergency response across the State with their unique skills.

The Michigan National Guard has trained side-by-side with state, local, and community emergency managers to respond to domestic emergencies. A National Guard response in a community is at the request of local emergency managers, coordinated by the State Emergency Operations Center, and directed by the Governor.

PROVIDING RELIEF TO COMMUNITIES

The Michigan National Guard has approximately 300 personnel already supporting the State of Michigan's COVID-19 response. Since March 18th, guard members have supported relief activities across the state, with missions including relief planning, assembling and loading critical personal protective gear, and staffing at distribution centers across Michigan.

MICHIGAN VETERANS HOMES

There are currently Michigan National Guard members assigned to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. They are assisting with the employee screening process, including temperature screening of all employees before they enter the Homes and ensuring screening protocols are being followed. By having the Michigan National Guard present to assist with this process, the Homes staff remains focused on the direct care to its members.

READY TO ASSIST

The Michigan National Guard has an additional strength of more than 8,500 Michigan National Guard members presently following the stay-at-home guidance to ensure they are healthy and ready if called upon as the response to COVID-19 continues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

PAUL D. ROGERS
Major General, MING
The Adjutant General