



**THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

April 15, 2020

**MANPOWER & RESERVE  
AFFAIRS**

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND  
DEFENSE AND GLOBAL SECURITY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR READINESS  
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Presidential Memorandum on Providing Federal Support for Governor's Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19, dated April 14, 2020

References: (a) Title 32, United States Code  
(b) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of the National Guard to Provide Essential Assistance to States Combating COVID-19," March 27, 2020  
(c) Presidential Memorandum, "Providing Federal Support for Governor's Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19," April 14, 2020  
(d) DoDD 3025.18, "Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) Change 2," March 19, 2018  
(e) DoDI 3025.22, "The Use of the National Guard for Defense Support of Civil Authorities Change 1," May 15, 2017

The Secretary of Defense's three continuing COVID-19 response priorities are: 1) Protecting our people; 2) Maintaining mission readiness; and 3) Supporting the whole-of-government effort. To support those priorities, this memorandum provides guidance to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau regarding orders for duty under 32 U.S.C. § 502(f), authorized by DoD in response to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mission assignments (MAs) for implementing the President's direction in reference (c).

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security (ASD(HD&GS)), as delegated by the Secretary of Defense in reference (b), approves mission assignments issued by FEMA in accordance with reference (c). Approval of a mission assignment by the ASD(HD&GS) triggers the Secretary of Defense's authorization for use of National Guard personnel to fulfill the mission assignment in a duty status pursuant to Section 502(f). The following direction applies in the execution of approved FEMA MAs:

1. In accordance with reference (c), the President directed FEMA to fund 100 percent of emergency assistance activities associated with preventing, mitigating, and

responding to the threat to public health and safety posed by COVID-19 that specified States undertake using their National Guard forces, as authorized by the Stafford Act.

2. If the ASD(HD&GS) has approved a FEMA MA authorizing 31 days of duty under reference (c) for a State or territory specified in reference (c), the Army and Air National Guard may issue orders for responding National Guard members for up to 31 days of duty.
3. The Army and Air National Guard are not authorized to issue orders for personnel to begin duty on a new individual order after April 28, 2020.

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force, will issue guidance consistent with this memorandum to the States and territories to support mission requirements while minimizing risks to the National Guard members. Commanders should balance mission requirements and members' circumstances in the issuance of orders.

National Guard members serving on continuous Federally funded duty orders of more than 30 days (including Title 32 orders for more than 30 days) are entitled to comprehensive TRICARE coverage for themselves and their eligible family members, effective the initial date of duty. The Reserve Components/Military Departments will promptly transmit the proper transactions in Enclosures 8 and 9 of DoD Manual 7730.54, Volume 1, necessary to update the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, the official system of record for TRICARE eligibility and enrollment.

Benefits for duty performed under 32 U.S.C. § 502(f) will be administered in accordance with applicable law and policy. Nothing in this memorandum will affect the execution of assigned responsibilities in law or affect responsibilities in DoD issuances that are consistent with this memorandum.

My point of contact for this guidance is Judd Lyons, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Reserve Integration, at (703) 693-2423.

Virginia S. Penrod  
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