



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY


**Department of Military and  
Veterans Affairs**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** House Military & Veterans Affairs Committee

**FROM:** Torrence Saxe   
Commissioner  
Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

**DATE:** March 15, 2020

**SUBJECT:** DMVA/Alaska National Guard involvement in COVID-19 Planning & Response

On March 13, 2020, Co-Chair Shaw requested bullet points regarding the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and the Alaska National Guard's involvement in COVID-19 planning and response.

The department's actions are as follows:

- DMVA has been involved in the response to COVID-19 since the Wuhan Repatriation flight that occurred in late January.
- Involvement has primarily been preparing to participate in a Unified Command with the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in accordance with the Alaska Pandemic Influenza Plan.
- At direction of The Adjutant General, the Alaska Organized Militia stood up a Joint Task Force to prepare for any potential resource requests that may come from the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to the National Guard in response to this event.
- Governor Dunleavy's declaration of public health disaster emergency, issued March 11, 2020, directed the activation of the Unified Command described above.
- The State EOC is activated, and will be staffing the Unified Command to coordinate the overall response to COVID-19. This is similar to how the executive branch responds to disasters, such as the 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake, flooding, etc.
- The mission of the State EOC and COVID-19 Unified Command is to respond to requests for assistance or resources from our local jurisdictions. We utilize the Incident Command System to organize that response.
- The Alaska Organized Militia is prepared to respond to resource requests or mission assignments that cannot be fulfilled by local, private, or other civilian methods.
- The Alaska Military Youth Academy has been in direct contact with the Department of Education and Early Development, and DHSS, and has developed contingency plans in case the Academy needs to close school.
- The entirety of DMVA has developed continuity of operations plans and orders of succession, and are planning to implement telework if directed by Department of Administration on the state side, or at the direction of the Adjutant General on the federal side.

