



HEADQUARTERS IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

Office of the Adjutant General
Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center
7105 NW 70th Avenue
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824

April 1, 2020

To all our valued employers of the men and women serving in the Iowa National Guard:

I thank you for all that you do. One thing that sets the National Guard apart from other U.S. military components is our state support mission. Americans are accustomed to seeing the National Guard activated to respond to floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, forest fires and many other natural and manmade disasters. Today, here in Iowa and across the country, thousands of National Guard Citizen Soldiers and Airmen are on duty assisting their respective governors in response to this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

Within the span of just a few weeks, a nationwide force of nearly 15,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have answered the call to duty to combat COVID-19 across the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia. The Iowa National Guard is doing its part as well with nearly 150 Soldiers and Airmen on duty to support our county, state and federal partners in fighting this escalating crisis.

One thing is certain; it will take a unified, whole-of-America approach to respond effectively to this pandemic. The National Guard's long standing state and federal partnership will help ensure a rapid and unified response. As this situation continues to develop, we expect the demand for more Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to expand as the state continues to assess needs and look for additional resources to assist Iowans in their time of need. Even as we stand ready to deploy hundreds of Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers overseas later this year in support of our federal mission, we continue to meet the needs of Iowans right here at home.

You, the hundreds of employers of our Iowa National Guard service members, are an important cornerstone of our support network. We could not meet our state or federal missions without the incredible support of our outstanding employers. I want to take a moment and say thank you for all that you do to support your employees who serve in uniform. I am especially mindful of the tremendous toll this pandemic is taking on employers across the state and nation. I myself was a small business owner early in my civilian career and I can only imagine the unprecedented challenges you all face today. As National Guard Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, we live here, we serve here and we work here. We feel the impact this pandemic is having all across our state.

We are mindful of the impact when calling up Iowa National Guard members for state active duty from areas directly affected by the disaster or those who have a critical role to play in their civilian capacity.

We are heavily focused on projecting and anticipating future needs and will do our best to provide as much notice to our members as possible when calling them to state active duty. Communication is key in times like this and I ask that you continue to address any issues or concerns through your ESGR representatives.

Once again, I want to thank you for all that you do to support your employees who serve in uniform. Know that we are all in this together and we will get through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben J. Corell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke.

Benjamin J. Corell
Major General, Iowa National Guard
The Adjutant General

"ALWAYS READY"