



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Mark T. Esper
Secretary, U.S Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20318

Dear Secretary Esper:

I request that you order the deployment of a fully equipped and manned 248-bed U.S. Army combat support hospital (CSH) to Albuquerque, New Mexico. I also ask that the CSH be in place and mission-ready by April 10, 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter. This CSH is urgently needed to support the State of New Mexico's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens to overwhelm our existing medical treatment facilities and resources by early April.

I make this request in accordance with Section 403 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5170b(c)(1)) because the CSH is essential to the preservation of life in New Mexico.

I request that the CSH be placed under the operational control of Brigadier General Michele K. LaMontagne of the New Mexico National Guard. I recently requested that you appoint Brigadier General LaMontagne as the Dual Status Commander to simultaneously command and control both federal and National Guard forces in New Mexico.

Major General Kenneth Nava, the Adjutant General of New Mexico, is the point of contact on my staff for this matter. Major General Nava will coordinate with the Commander, U.S. Northern Command concerning this request.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham".

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico