Access the entire webinar series here: https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/lessons-learned-in-healthcare-operations-during-a-pandemic-speaker-series-summary.pdf

Access speaker bio here: https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/the-role-of-ky-national-guard-on-covid-19-response-speaker-bio.pdf

Access the recording here: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1755741273252659203

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HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION GATEWAY

Healthcare Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic- Speaker Series

June 2022

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The Role of the Kentucky National Guard in COVID-19

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HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION GATEWAY

LTC Curtis M. Persinger, Director of Military Support

ASPR
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The Role of the Kentucky National Guard in COVID-19

LTC Curtis M. Persinger
Director of Military Support

Learning Objectives

- Recognize and understand National Guard Civil Support (NGCS) operations
- Recognize the legal and policy considerations of NGCS
- Develop an understanding of the *non-clinical* medical support NGCS provided the Commonwealth of Kentucky during COVID-19

Common NGCS Activities

- ❑ Wildland Firefighting
- ❑ Windstorms (Hurricane, Tornadoes, Cyclones, Typhoons)
- ❑ Earthquakes
- ❑ Floods
- ❑ Winter Storms (Snow, Sleet, Freezing Rain, Ice)
- ❑ Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CRE, CST-WMD, CERFP)
- ❑ Special Events (Inauguration, Sporting Events, Large Festivals)
- ❑ Cyberspace-Related-G6
- ❑ SAR-Helicopter-Search and Rescue
- ❑ Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)
- ❑ Quick Reaction Forces (QRF)
- ❑ Non-Clinical Medical Response

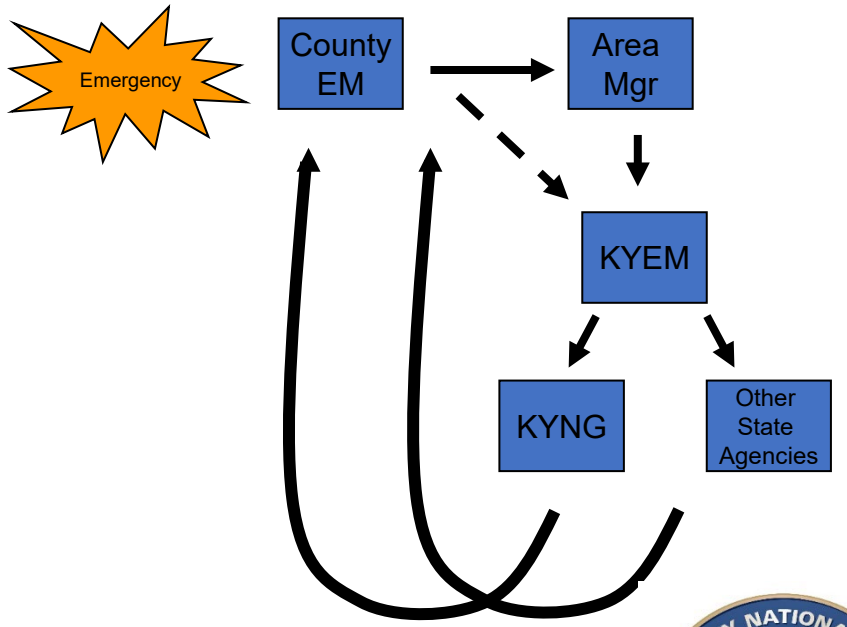
Legal and Policy Considerations

- National Emergency Act (1976, President to declare National Emergency - Invoke Special powers)
- Stafford Act (1988, Give FEMA responsibility for coordinating government-wide relief)
- Immediate Response Authority (72 hours)

The Request (How it's supposed to work)

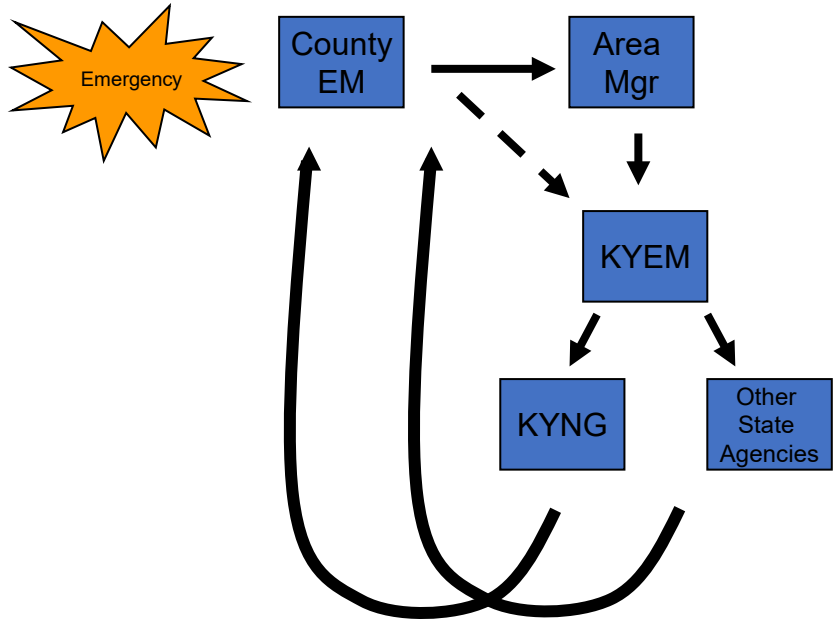
Employment of National Guard resources is initiated by:

- Kentucky Emergency Management is asked to respond to a request for support on behalf of a local official or county or area EM Representative
- Non-Emergency Request to PAO office for vetting
- A declaration of emergency by the Governor
- The Governor ordering the NG into State Active Duty (SAD)



How it Worked during COVID-19

- Request came from various counties into DPH for review and potential assignment for State/Federal support.
- Governor appointed Department of Public Health to work all hospital missions across the commonwealth in conjunction with the National Guard COVID-19
- All tasking vetted by DPH, then came to LTC Persinger
- Frequent discussions and teleconferences helped manage expectations, trends, and disengagement criteria.



What we Consider

- All other resources exhausted
- Meets one of the Executive Orders
- “Troops to Task”: Who, What, When, Where, Why (request a capability) ** Tell me your problem…
- Is there an exit strategy for the state while considering exit strategies for National Guard forces.
- Mission and/or Political Perception— “OPTIC”

Deployment Details

Question	Answer
How many soldiers were deployed?	• 600 over 30 days • In 45 hospitals and 6 food banks simultaneously • Note: 90% are not full-time employees of The Guard
Did they all have medical training?	Some did, but they provided non-clinical medical support
Where did they come from?	Various Units across the state of Kentucky
What kind of effect did this have on their full-time jobs?	The vast majority were not clinicians, but state activation did create a vacuum for their civilian employers
How long was the deployment?	~2.5 years

Deployment Details (continued)

Overall goal: Combat and respond to COVID-19 with full capacity and capability of the Federal Government to protect and support our families, schools, and business.

- Assisted with food logistics and preparation
- Staffed hospital and registration requirements
- Sanitized select hospital equipment and rooms
- Escorted patients throughout hospital for required labs and appointments
- Assisted long-term care facilities in critical non-clinical needs and staff shortages

Deployment Details (continued)

Challenges	Strategies
Increased federal, state, and local requests for support.	• Regular meetings to ensure missions analysis was conducted on current and future assignments
Geographic locations • Soldiers were asked to work several hours from their home of record/families • Extended activation without warning • Affected family, civilian employers, and the long-term commitment to the National Guard • Volunteer numbers decreased over time	• Once the disaster was federally declared, changed from commonwealth mission to a federal mission (i.e., different pay scales, benefits, and retirement points) • Increased team communication to adjust expectations on both sides
Concurrent disasters	• Opportunities to continue missions increased performance and validated local and state emergency plans

QUESTIONS?

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