

Question	Interviewee 1 (OH)	Interviewee 2 (NE)	Soldier 1 (OH)	Soldier 2 (NE)	Soldier 3 (NE)	Soldier 4 (OH)
<p>How did you feel about being a part of this mission?</p>	<p>I had no choice, but I was happy to contribute to fighting the disease.</p>	<p>It was a great learning experience! I loved giving back to my state in its time of need. They pulled people from all different MOS and units so we got to know a lot of new people and learned about their MOS and hear their experiences.</p>	<p>I feel that I had at least made a small impact in the control of COVID-19 by always being ready and available.</p>	<p>I really enjoyed being a part of this mission. Not only did it provide the unique opportunity that being a National Guardsman brings of serving our state, it showed how we can come together Army and Air Force alike and complete a mission. It was also great to actually utilize my MOS.</p>	<p>I felt glad that I could help out.</p>	<p>Indifferent. The state had us as a resource when they wanted it to get done quickly so we got it done.</p>

<p>Do you feel like the mission you were on made an impact in public health control of COVID-19? Please explain.</p>	<p>No. Testing takes too long for the results to really be indicative of the current state of the facilities.</p>	<p>Absolutely, my team was one of the first to be activated. We did a lot of the first test, trial and error with the different types of test kits. We were seeing around 300-500 people getting tested a day so my group became the guinea pigs and eventually became the team that helped make the SOPs.</p>	<p>Yes, we helped civilians and their families impacted by COVID by giving them a sense of relief and safety. Their test results helped them return to their normal daily lives.</p>	<p>I feel like it did help, yes. It helped provide free testing for individuals who either wanted or needed to know. A good majority of the people we tested needed a positive result in order for their employer to have them do anything about it and we gave them a free chance at doing so. Without Test Nebraska, there would have been a good amount of people who went untested and continued about their normal day simply because they couldn't afford to get tested. Even today, to go into an emergency clinic to get tested, after insurance even, it still costs \$150. We also helped contribute to entire factories getting tested. Because I was on one of the traveling teams that spent a lot of</p>	<p>Yes, it allowed for more data to be gathered from the outer areas of Nebraska and therefore the identification of the steps that needed to be taken to control the spread of COVID-19.</p>	<p>I think for the public events and the nursing homes we visited, it offered a little bit of comfort to know whether or not they had the virus at that time. I don't know if it did much more than that afterwards as people resumed their lives, but it was a brief moment of comfort for some and a lot of annoyance for some others.</p>
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time in western
Nebraska, we
helped a lot of
people get tested
before going into a
surgery either in
their town or much
closer than going
to the nearest
major city that had
the capability of
testing individuals.

<p>Did you feel that you had adequate personal protective equipment? Please explain what equipment you did and didn't have.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes, we were lucky to have access to a lot of equipment. With it kind of being an unknown we went in with a lot of protection. We wore Tyvek suits, rubber boots and gloves, and PAPRs. We made changes as we learned more about the virus and what worked best for everyone. By the end of mission we wore surgical gowns & gloves over our Duty uniform or PTs if it was cold, N95 mask, and a face shield if you were in direct patient contact.</p>	<p>I feel that we had adequate PPE, but not always enough of it. We had gowns, gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer.</p>	<p>I feel like I had adequate PPE. We started off with tyvek suits and eventually switched to a surgical gown of sorts, plenty of gloves, duct tape to make sure the base layer of gloves stayed in place, N95 masks, and face shields. The only thing I could say that I wished was changed was the second team I was on got a sort of knock off brand of N95s that we were told were fine and then found out later that they weren't as effective as they were supposed to be. We did notify our supply as soon as we could and got some different ones, though not enough in the beginning. We had to save them for the people who were actively in contact with the patients.</p>	<p>Yes, we had Pyrex suits and plenty of masks, gloves, and faceshields.</p>	<p>I believe we had the proper equipment including gowns, goggles, masks, gloves, and face shields.</p>
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Did you feel like you were provided enough medical supplies? Please explain.	Yes	We had all of the medical supplies we needed and asked for.	I feel like we weren't always provided with enough supplies, a lot of the time we had to re-use gowns all day. No one is to blame for that though, considering how fast everything had to happen in order to contain COVID.	Yes aside from the slight mask issue mentioned in the previous questions.	Yes, we were continually being resupplied to make sure we had all the necessary items.	We had some days where we were running low on supplies but rarely ever were we lacking in supplies.
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Were there any health coverage concerns expressed to you by those you tested?	Yes. People were concerned if the test were free and if their insurance would get involved.	We tested a lot of different demographics of people and a lot of people were concerned with the cost, if health insurance would cover the test, and if they needed health insurance to get the test. The test we did were free and no health insurance needed.	Not that I heard or know of.	As a register person, I never personally had anyone ask me about need health coverage but we had many people ask for verification that it was actually free.	There were people who were afraid they would have to pay for the testing and also that were afraid of being sent to the hospital.	Many people asked if their lack of coverage was a concern or if their insurance was going to bill them for it.
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<p>How did those you tested seem to react to your presence? For example, were they grateful, scared, untrusting, annoyed? Please provide examples, especially of encounters that stood out to you.</p>	<p>Mostly scare, some grateful, and a few where just like "let's get this over with."</p>	<p>A lot of the people working in the meat packing plants were scared and untrusting. There were a lot of people who would drive in to the testing areas and see our State Patrol that helped with crowd control, or our Military uniforms and leave. We worked very closely with the local health departments and asked why they wouldn't come in and it was because they thought they might get deported or put in jail. One town was very displeased with us being there and cussed and yelled at us. However, 95% of the people were grateful for us coming to their town or being open at times to accommodate the shift change in the factories. We had a lot of businesses and towns donate lunches for us.</p>	<p>Most seemed scared at first, but in the end were grateful for how patient and kind we were with them. One time I tested a lady and she was thanking us for our help and service the entire time she was being tested and even after we were done.</p>	<p>For the most part, everyone was mostly grateful for us being there. We never really ran into any problems except for in Omaha when we could only run 300 tests a day and would have so many people come that we would have to start counting out cars/individuals right away and usually had to start turning people away an hour or so in because the person counting hit 300 and we didn't want to have people wait in line for 5 hours or so just to be turned away at the end. I was never the counting person but I know they had a lot of people that would get angry about being turned away. They would tell them we already hit our max number but to come back one of the other days we</p>	<p>Most people were very grateful, especially out in the rural areas of the state. However, there were a few instances, especially when we were in Omaha that were not happy with the Military presence and would yell at us.</p>	<p>Most of the people we tested seemed to be either grateful or indifferent to our presence. I remember a few occasions where individuals were very annoyed that we, as "pawns for the government", were the ones conducting the testing.</p>
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were there (we were at this location for two weeks). But as I said, most people were very grateful. DHHS was almost always extremely grateful for our presence. They would thank us often and most of the time would either provide plenty of snacks and/or try to provide us with lunch.

What system was in place, as told to you by your chain of command, to care for you and your family members if you were to contract COVID-19?

If we had any symptoms we were isolated in our hotel rooms until we could get tested and then after the test came back go from there. We only had a negative tests come back so I'm not sure what the protocol would have been for a positive. There was an isolation holding block set up for us at the end of mission if we didn't have a place to do the 2 week quarantine period.

We were given the choice to stay in the barracks at DSCC in order to keep our family safe if we didn't live alone and if we contracted it we were put into quarantine either at our own home or at Camp Perry if there were concerns of it being contracted by a family member.

We never got tested until the end and that only became a thing towards the end, there were many people who didn't get tested before their orders were up. I know some of them went through and got tested after they were off orders to make, sure, though. If we were to have a fever or get any other symptoms, we were to relay this to our leadership and stay in our room (we stayed in hotels the entire time). From there we would be tested and isolated until the results came back. If we were to be positive while still on orders, we would just be quarantined in the current hotel room for 14 days and then rejoin the team after. If we were to test positive at any point in the 14

That we would be provided a place to quarantine if we didn't have one and that our title 32 status would allow for our Tricare to be active.

We were told that we had coverage but that we were responsible if brought COVID back to our homes.

days after we got off orders, we would be put on orders for an additional 14 days so that we were being paid to quarantine and didn't need to go back to our normal day to day job. If you lived in a place in which you weren't able to be quarantined whether it be due to living with family or roommates, you would be provided housing. I'm unaware of what this housing was like but I know it was an option.

Did you or anyone on the mission with you contract COVID-19? If so, please explain how it was handled.

We did not have anyone contract COVID 19.

No, one that I know contracted the virus.

None of us contracted COVID-19 that we are aware of.

None of the people from my team contracted COVID-19.

Not that I am aware of.

Where you informed about how many COVID positive patients you came into contact with?

Not exactly. We could watch the numbers on the news go up and we were the only testing team in the communities we were testing in so we had a pretty good idea.

Never

For the post part yes. It was up to someone at that location if they shared that information with us. There were a couple places that didn't share with us their numbers but most did. We could usually still get a rough estimate based on what was publically reported overall in the areas where they didn't tell us but not exact numbers..

Yes

No.

Is there is any part of your experience that you want to share that you haven't talked about yet? If so please tell. Your feelings about being on the mission, how it was handled, and COVID, in general, are of particular interest.

I think the way we handled the mission shows how versatile the National Guard is as a whole. Last year we had activations for the floods and this year it was Covid and wild fires.

We are here to help the public, but will only help if you let us. Many people are too scared, or have other concerns to be tested or take the necessary precautions to prevent from spreading or contracting it. We can only do so much and it would be greatly appreciated if everyone did their part. Also, please don't make your young children get tested if you are also getting tested. If you have it, then your children have it. We hate to test and scare young kids, especially since I was made to test a 6 month old baby (by its parents).

Overall, I think it was a great experience. As I mentioned above, it gave myself and my fellow 74Ds a chance to actually use our MOS. It's a good MOS to not have to use in a real world setting but at the same time it was nice to be able to show our use for once. It also helped contribute to excellent leadership development all the way around. We had a lot of lower enlisted, PFCs and SPCs mostly but even some PV2s, who were in the roll of NCOIC because they were the subject matter expert in that area.

I just think that my team handled the situation very professionally and I enjoyed my time on mission.

I think that the mission was exactly why we have the guard for the states, generally speaking. However, there was an obvious lack of communication about plans and some movements. Things could have been worse but not knowing our schedule until the night before was difficult unless we were forced to stay in one central location rather than having the option to commute. In one location it could have been planned better. How politicized the disease has become over the course of the mission has entirely removed how concerned I am over it. Until I have another job with the guard to do, I am

							indifferent to the entire COVID “situation”.
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