

# DOCTOR: 'We will continue until the mission is complete'

FROM PAGE ONE

According to Jackson, the Javits Center has been transformed into a 500-bed hospital unit.

Jackson says that of the 500 beds, 452 are intermediate care ward beds (meaning medical/surgical beds), and 48 are intensive care unit beds.

The center has the capacity to expand to 2,500 beds, but currently, they have not had to meet that need.

"The New York City hospitals are the front lines," Jackson said. "We were sent to lessen the burden on the city hospital system by taking the recovering patients that still require hospitalization. Our ICU is to stabilize patients that decompensate in our intermediate care ward beds."

According to Jackson, soldiers working the Javits Center are taking

in convalescing COVID patients, which usually are on the road to recovery and still require supplemental oxygen.

"Some of these patients may decompensate while on the floor, meaning their respiratory status worsens, and we can manage them in the ICU and transfer back to a NY city hospital once stabilized if needed," Jackson added.

According to Jackson, when the center first opened, it was originally planned to be a non-COVID facility, but beds that had been set up were being underutilized.

"It turned out that non-COVID beds were not what the city hospitals needed," Jackson said. "They needed a facility to care for COVID patients and the Department of Defense had to get approval for soldiers to care for COVID patients due

to the higher risk and concern for us getting sick when we still have the mission of being ready to deploy for war or other conflicts."

Jackson said approval occurred, and the center was switched to a COVID facility April 2.

"Patient census increased with this change," Jackson said.

On April 8, Jackson began caring for patients on the COVID intermediate care ward, as more physicians were needed for patient care due to increased patients.

"The patients are mostly very appreciative of the care we are providing," she said. "We do wear appropriate protective equipment and force health protection is a top priority."

One patient who wished to remain anonymous who was treated at the Javits Center said, "My doctors and nurses were caring and watch-



The Javits Convention Center in New York City has been transformed into a temporary field hospital.

ful. And, in a strange way, seeing that other New Yorkers were being treated in a hospital erected seemingly overnight gave me hope that COVID patients were being well taken care of."

Jackson, who was previously deployed to Iraq, says this mission is different in that it is a medical mission and also a multi-agency mission.

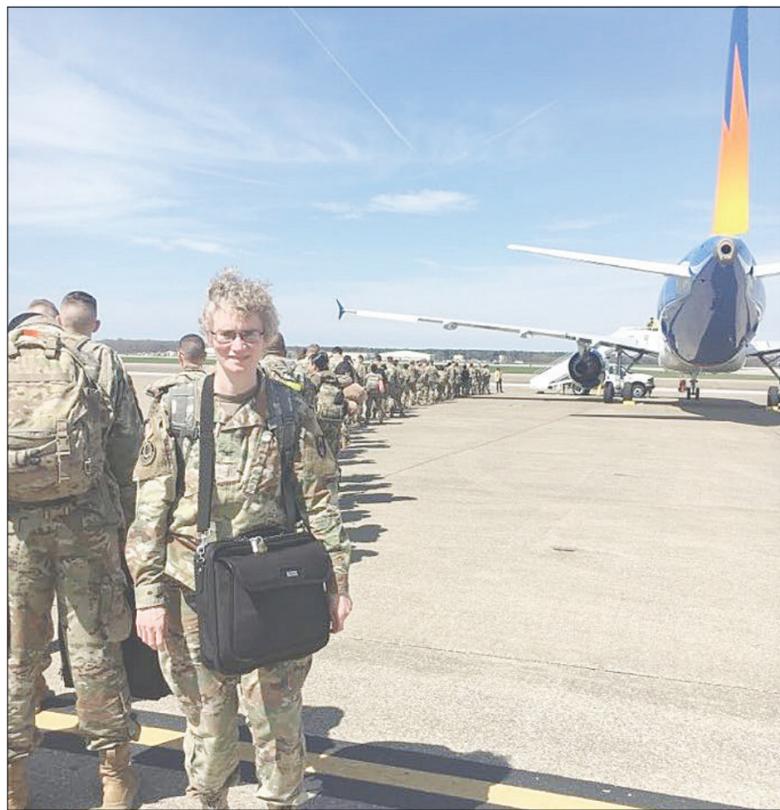
"This is the first time I have ever worked with the United States Public Health Service, Health and Human Services, or the National Guard," she said.

Jackson said even though she has anxiety about catching the virus each day the center is admitting and discharging patients, as a soldier she and her fellow comrades took an oath to protect the country.

"Right now, we are protecting our fellow citizens from a disease

rather than a foreign power," she said. "And

we will continue until the mission is complete."



Col. Jackson and fellow soldiers shown preparing to board a plane as they are deployed to New York City.



## Press Club, PSR feeds older adults

Piedmont Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging Inc. (PSR) delivered hot, nutritious meals Thursday, April 23, with the help of North Street Press Club. "We were able to deliver more than 30 freshly made meals to older, isolated adults in the Farmville area," PSR Interim CEO Thomas Jordan Miles III said. "This is a way we can use expanded federal nutrition funds to help local restaurants and keep our seniors healthy." Miles said this was a trial run with the deliveries, which went well. PSR plans to expand this offering in other counties in the coming weeks. Pictured are, from left, PSR Driver Jim Christie, Miles, Driver Sherry McKinney, and Site Coordinator Brandon Akers.



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