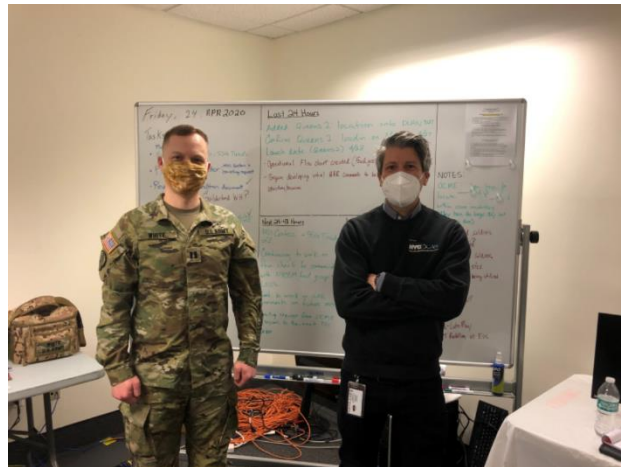


Fleet Staff Assist with Food Initiative

By: Keith Kerman

The scale of the COVID-19 emergency is staggering. We are all facing new safety, technological, and economic challenges in our traditional roles. We have also been asked to branch out to support the response in new ways altogether. In upcoming newsletters, I want to recognize ways fleet staff have stepped up to assist the citywide emergency response.

Food insecurity has emerged as a critical concern of this pandemic. Mayor de Blasio named DSNY Commissioner Kathryn Garcia as Food Czar to help ensure New Yorkers do not go hungry. DCAS Fleet is doing its part to help. Assistant Commissioner of Fleet Operations Brent Taylor is serving full time to support the operational aspects of this initiative at NYEM, along with fleet staff Henry Cornejo and Jason Li, who are also assigned to the Emergency Management Logistics Center in support of COVID-19 Food Distribution Site operations.



The program is a coordinated, multi-agency operation, distributing life-sustaining meals to a large number of New Yorkers at risk of food insecurity due to the COVID-19 virus. Food insecurity may result from loss of employment and other resources that enable people to access food. There is potential that vulnerable New Yorkers may lose access to their food supply, either through disruption of existing meal assistance or decreased ability to procure food independently.



The meals are delivered by a private fleet of hundreds of TLC vehicles that maintain a constant workflow around the facilities. TLC licensed operators are one of the many communities that has been economically harmed by COVID-19. The program helps to keep those vehicles rolling and drivers earning a paycheck during the current conditions.

In conjunction with NYCEM, DSNY, DoITT, TLC, NY National Guard, NYC Parks, and EDC, the DCAS

team is supporting the NYCEM Distribution Operations Planning Section. The team oversees new site scouting, on-boarding, data integrity, staffing, and organizational structure within the section.

The planning section has helped facilitate the launch of five new distribution sites over the past two months. Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx underwent fence and electrical modification, conducted by DCAS contractors, creating an operational workflow that has enabled the highest food throughput in the program. To date, the citywide program has delivered over 3 million meals to New Yorkers in need.

Many thanks to our partner agencies and organizations for their great work to help New York in this time of need and our appreciation to the fleet staff, at DCAS and elsewhere, who have volunteered to be part of this effort.

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 302, April 30, 2020:](#) NYC and Fleet Lose Two Dedicated Public Servants

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 301, April 27, 2020:](#) Cleaning Emergency Vehicles Exposed To COVID-19

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 300, April 20, 2020:](#) NYC Fleet Agencies Working Together to Fuel Ambulances

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