

Liberté Égalité Fraternité

PRESS KIT Operation RESILIENCE



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1. RESILIENCE IN A FEW WORDS

Launched on March 25th, 2020, Operation "Resilience" is the Defence contribution to the cross-Government Department engagement against the spread of COVID-19.



well as in overseas missions.

With "Resilience", the three branches of the military engage in all sectors where they can provide support to civil authorities, by adapting their action to local situations and within the framework of an ongoing dialogue with the latter.

"Resilience" is an unprecedented military operation aimed at supporting public services and the French people in the fields of health, logistics and protection, in France and overseas, while taking into account the need to pursue operations for the safety of the French people, on the national territory, in the air, on the seas, in the cyber space, as

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OPERATION

The fight against the COVID-19 outbreak on the national territory is a long-standing battle the Ministry for the Armed Forces is actively engaged in.

Operation "Resilience" is part of the Defence obligation to protect the national territory as set out in the White Paper on Defenceand National Security.

It mobilises all the branches of the military, the directorates and



services. Its organisation relies mainly on defence zones and the sovereignty forces.

This operation is distinct from operation "Sentinel", which focuses on the fight against militarised terrorism.

2.1. A Multi-Domain Operation

The military engaged in operation "Resilience" will provide their assistance and know-how to the civil authorities in several domains:

• <u>healthcare</u>: in addition to what the medical staff of the military establishments of the French Defence Health Service (SSA) already accomplishes, the three branches of the military actively participate in the areas most heavily affected by the coronavirus through the Military Resuscitation Element (EMR-SSA) in Mulhouse, but also through

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medical transport with the means of the Army (NH90 Caiman), the French Navy (LHD *Tonnerre*), and the Air Force (module Morphee);

- <u>logistics</u>: via the transport of air, land or sea freight, the provision of military locations, or the assignment of logistic experts to civil and health authorities to support them in the fight against coronavirus;
- <u>protection</u>: the military engaged in operation "Resilience" can ensure the protection of military and civilian sensitive sites, as well as surveillance and deterrent presence missions in support of the homeland security forces, for example. The three branches of the military, however, are not intended to participate directly in the enforcement of lockdown measures.

Link to video





2.2. A commitment in addition to the other means of the State

With "Resilience", the aim is for the three branches of the military to engage directly to the benefit of the population by complementing the inter-ministerial system placed under the authority of the Prime Minister. This operation contributes to the Government response, under the responsibility of the prefects, alongside hospital staff, civil administrations and other operators.

The Armed Forces contribute with their means when those of other State services are Insufficient, Inexistent, Unavailable or Unsuitable to meet the need.

The three branches of the military will engage in all the sectors where they can provide support to the continuity of the state.



3. MEANS IMPLEMENTED

The unprecedented health crisis facing France requires everyone's commitment. The assistance of the Armed Forces in these difficult times for the Nation is not only natural, but above all essential.

With operation "Resilience", which includes all military contributions, the three branches of the military are reorganising locally to best support the Government response, in mainland France and overseas.

The Ministry for the Armed Forces is fully mobilised, as shown in recent days by several air and sea medical evacuations, as well as the deployment of the Military Resuscitation Element, which relieves the severely tested Mulhouse Hospital.

The number of soldiers participating in operation "Resilience" is not fixed. The missions and the personnel assigned will be defined according to the needs expressed as well as the effects to be achieved, the capacities of the three branches of the military, and their operational imperatives.



3.1. The French Defence Health Service fully involved

The French Defence Health Service (SSA) has been fully involved in the system since the start of stage 1. All SSA hospitals, in accordance with the instruction

s of the Ministry for Solidarity and Health (MSS), have switched to the White Plan, a hospital system intended to react to large-scale health crises, and participate in the fight against the epidemic.



The Begin (Paris) Military Training Hospital (HIA), a first-line establishment, was one of the first establishments on the list of authorised health establishments to receive patients with COVID-19 infection. The second-line HIAs Percy (Paris), Sainte Anne (Toulon), Laveran (Marseille), and Clermont Tonnerre are also fully mobilised to increase the capacities of first-line establishments, and receive COVID-19 patients.

Moving to the epidemic stage mobilised the entire French healthcare system. In this context, the other third-line HIAs (Metz, Lyon and Bordeaux care for and also welcome, according to their capacities and public health needs, general medicine COVID-19 patients.

These HIAs were also mobilised from the first hour of the crisis through civil-military partnerships which led the SSA to have health personnel inserted in civilian hospitals.

Link to video

Link to video

3.2. Actively participate in the relief of the areas most affected by the coronavirus

3.2.1. The EMR SSA



The SSA, with the support of the Army Medical Regiment (RMED), has deployed near the Mulhouse Hospital a Military Resuscitation Element (EMR-SSA), a modular medical structure under tent with a capacity of 30 resuscitation beds which allows to care for COVID-19 patients.

The EMR-SSA has 121 personnel, including 91 from the SSA and 30 from the RMED. The nursing staff includes nearly fifteen doctors, including 10 anesthetists / resuscitators, nurses and nursing assistants, but also physiotherapists and biomedical engineers for medical support.





On Friday, April 17th, 2020, the Minister of Armies announced the readjustment of the format of the Mulhouse EMR, following the evolution of the epidemiological and health context in the Grand-Est region resulting in a reduced need for resuscitation beds. A module of ten resuscitation beds will be refurbished and able to be deployed later as needed, in consultation with the Ministry of Solidarity and Health.

The RMED of La Valbonne is a French Army unit with logistical expertise allowing to meet the needs of SSA specialists in energy, means of connection, food, protection, and life support in operation, with the support from the Logistics Force Command Post and the Land Forces Logistics Command.

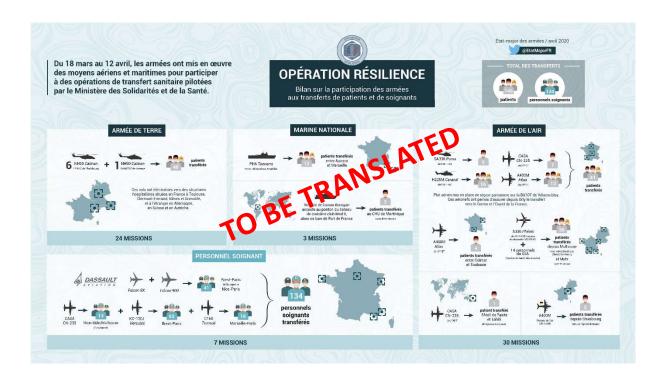
The RMED was initially sent to Chanteau (near Orléans) with the Directorate for Defence Healthcare Supplies (DAPSA) to prepare, assemble and qualify the imagined infrastructure by the SSA.

3.2.2. Patient transfer

From March 18th to April 5th, the armies used air and sea resources to participate in health transfer operations led by the MSS. 146 patients were transported in emergency by French military means (detailed presentation of these means in appendix).

- From March 18th to April 3rd, the Air Force carried out 6 missions by hiring an A330 from the 31st EARTS equipped with the Morphée kit and embedding SSA nursing staff, allowing the transfer of a total of 36 patients.
- From March 22nd to 24th, the French Navy hired the LHD *Tonnerre* to ensure the health transfer of 12 patients between Ajaccio and Marseille.

- On March 27th and 29th in the French West Indies, the speedboat *Korrigan* docked at the pontoon of the cruise ship club Med II, then in the bay of Fort de France. The crew transferred two patients from COVID-19 to transport them to the Martinique University Hospital via the Naval Base.
- From March 28th to April 5th, the Army's NH90s conducted 24 health transfer missions for the benefit of 48 patients. These flights were made to hospitals located in France in Toulouse, Clermont-Ferrand, Nîmes and Grenoble, and abroad in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Overall, 7 helicopters took turns performing these missions after having been specially adapted for this purpose, six from the 1st RHC in Phalsbourg and one from the GAMSTAT in Valence.
- On March 29th, an A400M from the German Air Force transferred 2 patients from Strasbourg to a German hospital.
- From April 1st to 7th, an aerial plot was set up by the air force in the Paris region on the BA107 at Villacoublay, bringing together Caracal helicopters from the EH 1/67 and Puma and the EH 1/44, a CASA from 64th ET, and an A400M from 61st ET. These aircrafts made it possible to ensure the transfer from Orly of 41 patients to the Center and the West of France during 21 missions, including 8 carried out by the Caracal for the benefit of 16 patients, 6 by the Puma for the benefit of 6 patients, 4 by CASA for the benefit of 7 patients, and 3 by the A400M for the benefit of 12 patients.
- On April 4th in Polynesia, a FAPF CASA transferred a patient between the Faaite Atoll and Tahiti.
- On April 5th, the A400M deployed on the BA107 air terminal was engaged to carry out a health transfer mission between Colmar and Toulouse for the benefit of 4 patients.



3.3. The implementation of specific know-how

3.3.1. Health support units

As part of operation Resilience, the army has defined and implemented a specific concept to respond to the coronavirus crisis: health support units (UAS). These units are detachments which act as reinforcements for civilian hospital structures. They carry out immediate proximity actions in support of the general functioning of these hospitals. Mainly used in the fields of transport, handling and organization, they can also help protect the site.

The result of an enhanced civil-military dialogue with hospital directors, ARSs and prefectures, the UASs allow supported hospitals to make room for maneuver to deal more effectively with the crisis, for example by strengthening their logistical capacity to better cope with the increase in activity in a context of constrained resources, or by allowing hospital staff to focus on patient management.

The UAS thus reflect the permanent capacity of the armies to innovate and adapt to respond in the most suitable way possible to the needs expressed by the civil authorities.



3.3.2.Logistical support missions

The soldiers of operation Resilience also provide assistance to civil authorities in the logistics field, via the transport of air, land or sea freight, the provision of rights-of-way or the assignment of logistics experts to civil authorities and health to support them in this key area of coronavirus control. They support in particular the maneuver of delivery and delivery of protective masks throughout the national territory, and more generally of sensitive sanitary equipment (hydroalcoholic gel, respirators, health equipment and pharmaceutical products).





Since April 1st, 2020, the Air Force has been implementing its tactical air transport means, as part of medical personnel transport missions, in order to quickly reach the sites requiring this

reinforcement of medical personnel. 134 caregivers were transported by Air Force planes between April 1st and April 12th.



3.3.3. Protection missions

The soldiers of operation Resilience can provide protection for sensitive military and civilian sites, as well as surveillance and deterrent presence missions in support of the internal security forces. The armies, however, are not intended to participate directly in measures to respect containment.

These surveillance missions, carried out throughout the metropolitan territory but also overseas territories, concern in particular the production and storage sites of sensitive sanitary equipment (protective masks). They may also involve securing convoys transporting sensitive material as part of the supply maneuver.

The soldiers of operation Resilience were also called upon to ensure the security of medical TGV used to transport patients.



3.3.4. The involvement of the three branches of the military in the disinfection of vectors, personnel and equipment

Teams specialised in deep disinfection have been deployed in mainland France in support of the ddefence and security zones, and overseas, in support of the higher commanders of the sovereignty forces. Firstly, they conduct deep disinfection operations of the vectors implemented to transfer patients and relieve hospitals in saturated areas, and more generally of all of the means used in the context of "Resilience", and to ensure continuity military activities including permanent postures and strategic activities. They can also be implemented to disinfect essential civilian infrastructures and sites to ensure the continuity of the State, or if there is a need for vital assistance to people.

These teams are made up of NRBC specialists, who have recognised expertise in deep disinfection operations. They constitute a rare capacity, which should be used wisely to continue operations over time.

- The three branches of the military have a joint NRBC Center (CIA NRBC) that trains
 and provides doctrine in the NRBC field. This centre trains each year hundreds of
 qualified NRBC staff who act as relays in their non-specialised units and are
 themselves responsible for the training of non-specialists. This network ensures
 resilience and an NRBC capacity for the three branches of the military.
- The Army, with its regiment of NRBC specialists, the 2 Armoured Regiment, has
 recognised expertise in the area of biological risks, in particular for deep disinfection.
 As part of operation Resilience, "light" disinfection teams, or "heavy" teams equipped
 with organic decontamination vehicles are able to eliminate any COVID danger both
 from premises and from specific infrastructures.



• The Air Force has an expert centre (CE NRBC) at the air base 120 in Cazaux, which trains the entire population of air base firefighters, and an intervention section (SI NRBC) capable of intervening and deploying on alert. Since January 31st, and the start of personnel airlift missions (repatriation of French expatriates from Wuhan) and airlift of patients with Covid-19 infection, the air firemen of the SI - NRBC of BA 120 are working on disinfection of the means of the Armed Forces.

- The Air Force has a total of more than 600 firefighters qualified to be engaged in NRBC missions. These specialists are spread across all nuclear-powered air bases (BAVN) and intervention-based bases (BAVI). This territorial network is thus likely to respond quickly to any request for protection or the re-implementation of military capabilities.
- The French Navy has NRBC specialists who can be embarked on its vessels and within the land rights-of-way distributed over the three maritime and overseas facades. The main specialised resource is assigned to the firefighter units of naval and air naval bases, of the operational base of Ile Longue, within the edge security brigades, but also in training and training structures (Mediterranean Schools Cluster and practical and safety training centers). The Navy also has specialists in nuclear crisis management whose expertise is sought after in NRBC (Department of Radiological Monitoring, Analysis, Monitoring and Expertise Laboratories in the Navy). Finally, the Marseille Marine Firefighters Battalion is a unit training sailors-firefighters from across the Navy, recognized in the field of Civil Security and armies and whose NRBC expertise is available to other formations of Marine.
- All the branches of the military include in their ranks, expert firefighters in the Nuclear, Radiological, Biological and Chemical fields, experienced in disinfection procedures.



3.4. Support to the population and civilian authorities overseas

The three branches of the military are mobilised to support the civil authorities of overseas territories in the fight against the Covid-19. In particular, the problem of insularity and elongation specific to overseas territories requires the implementation of specific means. As in mainland France, the civil authorities can count on the support of the Armed Forces in their fight against the coronavirus epidemic. Sovereignty forces are mobilised to assist the population and the civil authorities. Reinforcements are sent from the mainland to increase their support capacity. Troops of the Adapted Military Service were also placed under the operational command of the higher commanders of the sovereignty forces.



In addition, the President of the Republic decided on March 25th to deploy two amphibious helicopter carriers of the French Navy in the approaches to French overseas territories. They will support the action of the State in the fight against the pandemic. Regularly deployed to provide assistance to civilian populations in the event of a crisis, as it was the case when Hurricane Irma struck Saint Martin and Saint Barthélémy in 2017, they will make their versatility available to the civil authorities of the Antilles and Guyana, Reunion and Mayotte as part of the "Resilience" operation.

Thus, the LHD *Mistral*, committed to the Jeanne d'Arc mission, reoriented its route to Mayotte and Reunion. It reached Mayotte on April 4th, where it landed an on-board tactical sub-grouping (SGTE), which will reinforce the foreign legion detachment of Mayotte (DLEM). It then carried out a loading mission on April 10th of more than 200 tonnes of freight (water, foodstuffs, sanitary equipment) on Reunion Island. This cargo, consisting of water, food and sanitation equipment, was delivered on April 16th to Mayotte to support local authorities in the fight against the epidemic.

LHD *Dixmude*, just returned from a mission in the eastern Mediterranean, set sail from Toulon on April 3rd to the West Indies, which it reached on April 17th. Loaded with nearly 138 tonnes of equipment and means of transport - 170,000 FFP2 masks, 1 million surgical masks and hundreds of liters of hydro-alcoholic gel, as well as 4 helicopters - *Dixmude* also has specialists on board, health personnel and disinfection experts. Thanks to *Dixmude*, medical evacuations of patients with covid-19 are now possible. Indeed, the 4 helicopters on the *Dixmude* helicopter carrier come to reinforce the fleet of aircraft deployed on the Antilles and Guyana (3 planes and 11 helicopters of the armies, 1 plane and 1 helicopter of customs, 2 helicopters of civil security and 2 gendarmerie helicopters). The provision of all of these aeronautical means will offer flexibility and responsiveness for any inter-island connection, including medical, especially between the northern islands and Guadeloupe.

The ship initially carried out a logistics tour in the islands of the French Antilles (Saint-Martin, Guadeloupe, Martinique).

• April 17th in Saint-Martin for the unloading of a medical evacuation post which would be set up by the armed forces in the event of worsening health conditions;

- On April 18th in Pointe-à-Pitre for the unloading of three containers of masks destined for the Regional Health Agency and one for the gendarmerie of Guadeloupe, for the transshipment of six containers out of seven from *Dixmude* to French Guyana by the ship *Dumont d'Urville*. The 7th unloaded in Martinique was transported by military air between April 19th and 20th.
- On April 19th at Fort de France for the unloading of 19 containers bound for Fort-de-France with delivery to certain sites + one container towards the airport for urgent freight bound for Guyana.

4. THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY CONTINUE TO OPERATE AND PREPARE TO PROTECT THE FRENCH POPULATION

Resolutely committed from the start to providing support to the Nation in the fight against the coronavirus, the three branches of the military put their resources and know-how at the disposal of the civil authorities as part of this operation, while continuing to protect the Nation through their engagement in France and overseas.

Under the exceptional circumstances of the coronavirus crisis, the three branches of the military, the directorates and services remain mobilised to ensure the permanence of the missions essential to the security of the French people. These include nuclear deterrence, at sea and in the air, the fight against terrorism in overseas operations (Barkhane, Chammal) and on the national territory (operation Sentinel), the protection of our airspace, of our satellites, maritime surveillance and safeguarding or even the fight against traffic.

Thus, nearly 40,000 French soldiers are deployed on a daily basis for the security of France and the French people in France and abroad, but also 12,000 military firefighters employed the Ministry of the Interior.

These activities are maintained by taking into account all the strict and rigorous precautionary measures against the risk of contamination, which are adapted to local constraints, which are necessarily variable, whether one is in the field, in garrison, on base naval or aerial, on a ship or in an aircraft. For each of these units, the "barrier" measures necessary to protect the units are applied. They relate to everyday life and the exercise of missions (social distancing), hygiene measures in common places, the organization of community life as well as the monitoring of the state of health of the personnel, in connection with the local levels of the health service.

Finally, in the current context and in application of the measures of the Ministry of Solidarity and Health (MSS), to limit the spread of COVID-19, business continuity plans have been implemented in each army, within each unity to ensure all the essential missions for the protection of our citizens. Our armies are always organized to be ready and professional.

In order to curb the spread of the virus, the ministry therefore applies MSS prevention measures very rigorously internally. It adapts its organization and its activities in order to pursue its defence and protection missions for the Nation and the French people (deployment of online-working, suspension of gatherings, including in the context of sport or traditions, operation with alternating teams, closure academic schools and postponement of all non-operational activities, etc.).

Generally, an operation allowing reliefs every 15 days is preferred where this regime is compatible with the mission (eg: ships at base port and Navy entities based on land [staff or centers of expertise] have adopted a plating operation of up to 15 days).

APPENDIX

MILITARY VECTORS IMPLEMENTED FOR PATIENT TRANSFER

The Air Force Resuscitation module for patients evacuated over long distances (MORPHEE)

Since March 17th, at the request of Florence Parly, the three branches of the military have put on alert the Resuscitation Module for patients evacuated over long distances (Morphee) on the Istres Air Base 125. This module allows to transport up to six seriously ill COVID-19 patients over long distances and under appropriate conditions of care in Air Force A330 Phenix and C135FR aircraft.

A new multi-purpose aircraft delivered to the Air Force in October 2018, the A330 Phenix ensures the permanence of the nuclear deterrence mission through its ability to refuel its airborne component. It can also refuel fighter jets during their conventional missions (training, power projection or overseas operations) and ensure strategic passenger and cargo airlift.



Designed to support the troops deployed outside metropolitan France, notably in overseas operations, the Morphee capacity currently makes it possible to participate in the transfer of seriously ill COVID-patients from the most overwhelmed metropolitan hospitals to facilitate their care in other structures, in liaison with the General Health Directorate (DGS). This configuration was deployed for the first time in mainland France and on the A330 Phenix.



Link to movie



Operational since 2006, the Morphee system was used for the first time in Kosovo in 2008 and has since been used five times, in Kosovo and Afghanistan. A true strategic capacity, it allows at any time to evacuate simultaneously a dozen seriously injured from an area of operation, anywhere in the world, to mainland France where they are cared for in military hospitals.

In the context of COVID-19, the module is implemented by 20 people: 6 crew members and 14 members of the French Defence Health Service (SSA) for the care of the ill, including 2 conveying nurses.

The LHD Tonnerre

The LHD *Tonnerre* was the first LHD immediately mobilised, as it was available at the pier in Toulon. He was able to reconfigure its capacities in less than 48 hours to be able to carry out the mission of health transfer from Corsica to the hospitals of mainland France.



Upon their arrival in Marseille, in coordination with the Ministry for Solidarity and Health, the patients were transferred to health establishments in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region that can accommodate them. For this mission, the LHD's medical capacities have been adapted in order to receive patients in resuscitation. The *Tonnerre* has been configured to transport confined patients, with medical care.



The French Army NH90 Caiman



After an experimentation and certification phase conducted in coordination with the French Emergency Medical Service (SAMU) and the health authorities, the French Army Air Corps (AAC), supported by the 2Armoured Regiment has set up a procedure for transferring patients with coronavirus infection in the French Army tactical helicopter NH90 Caiman.

The configured NH90 hold can accommodate two patients in resuscitation for a transfer over several hundred kilometers. Patients are accompanied during the transfer by SAMU

teams, whose equipment (stretchers, oxygen, etc.) is stowed in the helicopter. Military personnel are provided with SAMU personal protective equipment, while the cockpit is separated from the hold by a protective device put in place by the NRBC-teams of the 2 Armoured Regiment.

The first mission was carried out by the 1st AAC Regiment of Phalsbourg. Under the operational control of the general officer of the eastern defence and security zone, he ensured the transfer of patients from Mulhouse to an hospital centre located in Essen, Germany.

Link to video





The Caiman is an 11-ton class European twin-engine military transport multi-mission helicopter. Multipurpose and at the cutting-edge of technology, it is available in 2 versions: TTH (tactical transport, Army) and NFH (anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, French Navy).

European solidarity through operation "Resilience"

To meet the needs expressed by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health, the Ministry for the Armed Forces also calls upon the solidarity of European Member States in the field of defence.

To illustrate this, the German Air Force made available to the European Air Transport Command (EATC) an A400M from the *Lufttransportgruppe* 62 to transfer two patients from Strasbourg to Ulm, on Sunday 29 March 29 via the airport of Stuttgart, after conducting a medical evacuation mission from Bergamo (Italy) to Cologne (Germany) to



relieve hospitals in Lombardy. Germany provides the healthcare personnel and equipment for these flights.

Based in Eindhoven in the Netherlands, the EATC is the result of a project initiated in 1999 by the Franco-German couple quickly joined by Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain and Italy. It brings together the airlift means of these seven countries according to a logic of pooling and sharing of aircraft in order to make the best use of them.

In addition, German and Swiss hospitals receive French patients that have been evacuated by helicopters of the French Armed Forces.

Other air platforms engaged in "Resilience"

From April 1st til 9th, a forward Air Force point was set up at Air Base 107 in Villacoublay to help relieve hospitals in Ile-de-France.

Its mission was to airlift patients with Covid-19 infection to hospitals able to welcome and care for them.



The air assets on alert posture are as follows:

- 3 Caracal of the EH 1/67 "Pyrenees" of the BA 120 of Cazaux:
 - o Airlift capacity of resuscitation patients: 2 people;
 - o Airlift capacity of patients in medical care: 6 people.
- 2 Puma from EH 1/44 "Solenzara" from BA 126 from Ventiseri-Solenzara:
 - o Airlift capacity of resuscitation patients: 1 person;
 - o Airlift capacity of patients in medical care: 4 people.
- 1 Cn235 Casa in "nurse" version (healthcare) of the 64 Transport Wing of the Air Base 105 in Evreux:
- Airlift capacity of resuscitation patients: 2 people;
- Airlift capacity of patients in medical care: 8 people.
- 1 A400M Atlas fitted with a "CM30" kit, from the 1/61 "Touraine" Transport Squadron of the Air Base 123 in Orleans:
 - o Airlift capacity of patients in resuscitation: 4 people;
 - o Airlift capacity of patients in medical care: 6 people.

This advanced plot was temporarily disengaged on April 9th following the improvement of the health situation in the region. From April 1st to 9th, it treated 46 patients at the Orly Evacuation Medical Center in order to transfer them to various regional hospitals. It can be reactivated under short notice.



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