



LOS ANGELES HEADQUARTERS
6171 W. CENTURY BLVD. SUITE 310
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

Madam Chairwoman, Ranking Member Dunn and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide a written statement for the record. My name is Jake Wood and in addition to being a Marine Corps veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, I am the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Team Rubicon. Team Rubicon is a nonprofit disaster response and relief organization whose mission is to serve communities by mobilizing veterans to continue their service, leveraging their skills and experience to help people prepare, respond, and recover from disasters and humanitarian crises.

It is our belief that our nation's military veterans are one of America's greatest untapped reservoir of resilience. These men and women, trained to the highest standards with tax-payer funds and tested in the world's most austere environments, have service in their blood. They are mission-oriented and selfless in their pursuit of impact. As a nation, we can turn to our military veterans to continue their service to help us prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and crises.

Through its response to the COVID-19 pandemic that has impacted our nation and world, Team Rubicon has proven that its model of recruiting veterans to provide volunteer assistance to those in need is successful. Team Rubicon has worked collaboratively with all levels of government throughout this pandemic response. During the early stages of the pandemic we shifted the entire team to focus on several critical objectives. Objective 1 was to keep our volunteers and the communities we serve as safe as possible. Objective 2 was to identify the impacts of COVID-19 to community lifelines and provide services to alleviate those impacts. According to FEMA, a lifeline enables the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and is essential to human health and safety or economic security.

Medical Operations:

Team Rubicon has or is currently performing missions in support of federal medical efforts. At the request of the California Emergency Medical Services Agency, Team Rubicon staffed a 200-bed Federal Medical Station in-place as a step-down isolation shelter for COVID-19 positive members of the public in support of Santa Clara County, CA. Team Rubicon continues to provide medical decompression and augmentation of the Navajo Nation's Kayenta Healthcare Center Emergency Department and Isolation Ward. Team Rubicon is also augmenting the Navajo Nation Emergency Medical Services, providing emergency medical response throughout the entire Navajo Nation.

In partnership with both private and public partners across the United States, Team Rubicon has provided end-to-end support for COVID testing sites to aid early identification of COVID-19 infection including traffic control, logistics support, or administering tests on suspected COVID-19 positive members of the public. To date Team Rubicon has provided support for over 9000 coronavirus tests. We are currently supporting 10 municipalities in six states.



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Feeding Operations:

Team Rubicon has been supporting community-area food banks, pantries, and delivery services to increase food security for those in the at-risk or in-need segment. Many in this population are experiencing food insecurity for the first time while simultaneously experiencing unexpected unemployment or underemployment as a result of COVID-19. This effort includes augmenting warehouse volunteers to ship/receive and pick/pack food items for further distribution, staffing food pantries so customers can quickly get needed food items, or delivering meals to customers via pre-established services (Meals on Wheels.) To date Team Rubicon has supported feeding partners in 120 municipalities where they have served 1,726,205 meals, packaged 4,726,155 meals, and distributed 15,701,995 lbs of food.

Logistical Support

Team Rubicon partnered with the City of Chicago to establish and lead a donations distribution center located at the United Center. With our expertise in inventory and logistical management we successfully managed and distributed millions of pieces of PPE that supported hundreds of agencies throughout Chicago.

In addition to supporting COVID operations throughout the country, Team Rubicon has continued to respond to natural disasters throughout the US. Severe weather and tornadoes have continued to affect the United States and Team Rubicon has responded in-kind to help affected populations with debris removal, expedient home repair, and spontaneous volunteer management to expedite these survivors' recovery from these disasters. The organization has done this against a backdrop of COVID-19, ensuring that policies, protocols and practices have been adapted keep volunteers and communities safe. We have performed response missions in 18 municipalities in 12 states.

I firmly believe that the partnerships that Team Rubicon has established with all levels of government is a best practice for nonprofit/ government disaster relief operations. I also know that providing veterans with a pathway to assist during times of crisis is a solution for success. I would welcome direct contact with The Department of Veteran Affairs to develop a direct partnership.

In service,

Jake Wood
Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jake Wood", written over a white background.