



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
9301 NW 33RD STREET
DORAL, FLORIDA 33172

SC-CC

28 April 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SOUTHCOM HEADQUARTERS AND SUBORDINATE UNITS

SUBJECT: Modification and Reissuance of DoD Response to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

References:

- (a) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, subject: "Travel Restrictions for DoD Components in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019," dated March 11, 2020 (rescinded)
- (b) Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Memorandum, subject: "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 4) Department of Defense Guidance for Personnel Traveling during the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak," dated March 11, 2020
- (c) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, subject: "Stop Movement for all Domestic Travel for DoD Components in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019," dated March 13, 2020 (rescinded)
- (d) Commander, U.S. Southern Command Memorandum, subject: "Travel Restrictions in Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)," dated March 13, 2020 (rescinded)
- (e) Commander, U.S. Southern Command Memorandum, subject: "Updated Guidance on Travel Restrictions in Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)," dated March 18, 2020 (rescinded)
- (f) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, subject: Modification and Reissuance of DoD Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 – Travel Restrictions," dated April 20, 2020.

1. Policy.

This memorandum rescinds reference (e) and reissues guidance on travel restrictions in response to COVID-19.

In response to the global outbreak of COVID-19, and in order to maintain force health protection, readiness of the force, and mitigate the risk of transmission, SOUTHCOM is implementing reference (f) through this memorandum.

2. DoD (to include USCG and Exchange Officers) Uniformed Personnel.

Effective immediately, all government funded travel OCONUS and CONUS and all non-local travel and leave for service members is suspended through June 30, 2020, unless approved in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 below. For HQs USSOUTHCOM, MARFORSOUTH, SOCSOUTH, and JIATF-S, the local area is defined as travel within Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, Collier, Hendry, and Palm Beach counties.

Service Members that have returned from any location OCONUS will be under a 14 day restriction of movement order. Service members are to follow the strict actions outlined in reference (b), to include being restricted to their domicile for 14 days and limiting contact with family and other personnel.

3. DoD Civilians.

Effective immediately, all government funded travel OCONUS and CONUS is suspended through June 30, 2020; unless approved in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 below.

DoD civilians with approved leave OCONUS may continue to travel to their desired location but must be advised of the associated health risks they may assume.

DoD civilians that have returned from OCONUS locations will be under a 14 day restriction from the DoD workplace starting from the date of departure from OCONUS location. Supervisors will maximize telework options (or weather and safety leave, if appropriate).

DoD Components may continue to onboard civilian employees within the defined local commuting area only, and civilian employees whose travel to the defined local commuting area is not government-funded.

4. Partner Nation Military Advisors and Interagency Personnel.

Individuals that have returned from OCONUS locations in the past 14 days are restricted from the DoD workplace for 14 days starting from the date of departure from OCONUS location.

5. Approval Authorities.

Component Commanders, JIATF-S Commander, and JTF GTMO Commander are delegated authority to approve for their assigned personnel all mission-essential related travel as outlined in paragraph 5 below and for service member leave outside of defined local commuting area. This authority may not be further delegated.

The HQs USSOUTHCOM Chief of Staff is the approval authority for all other personnel, to include the SCOs and JTF-Bravo. Approval authority is for all mission-

essential travel as outlined in paragraph 5 below and for all military leave outside of the defined local commuting area. This authority may not be further delegated.

Approved travel will be reported to the Chief of Staff, USSOUTHCOM through the SCJ1. Reports will be forwarded to the SCJ1 Ops email NLT every Sunday at southcom.miami.scj1.mbx.j1x@mail.mil.

6. Exceptions to Policy.

Travel exception requests will only be approved on a case by case basis and in writing for compelling cases where the travel is:

- a. Determined to be mission-essential;
- b. Necessary for humanitarian reasons; or
- c. Warranted due to extreme hardship

Mission-essential travel refers to work that must be performed to ensure the following mission-essential tasks are completed:

- a. Protect U.S. personnel and families.
- b. Preserve the health and well-being of U.S. personnel and families.
- c. Protect U.S. Government property.
- d. Defend critical DoD infrastructure, to include cyber systems.
- e. In emergency situations, save human lives.
- f. Counter transnational criminal organizations.
- g. Counter violent extremist organizations.
- h. Carry out GTMO's mission to conduct safe, legal, and humane treatment of detainees.
- i. Maintain operational command, control, and communication systems.
- j. Maintain access within the AOR.

7. Additional Guidance

Approved CONUS travel incurs a risk to force. Individuals traveling on commercial aircrafts, to or from CONUS hotspots, and visiting with personnel that may have been in

contact with COVID-19 positive people, who then return to work at the SOUTHCOM HQ presents a risk to the force. Each case should be evaluated individually and supervisors have the discretion to require a 14-day ROM (military members) or restriction from the workplace (civilians/contractors) upon return from CONUS travel. The 14-day restriction should maximize use of telework or use weather/safety leave, if applicable.

Individuals whose TDY ends while this memorandum is in effect are authorized to return to their home station. Individuals pending retirement or separation during this stop movement order are exempt from this policy.

Travel by those under the authority of a Chief of Mission and authorized by that Chief of Mission is exempt from this policy. However, travel must be coordinated with HQ USSOUTHCOM J1 and J5 prior to executing travel.

Service-specific policies and guidance must be followed for service mandated training/funded training and PCS orders. The Services are developing implementation procedures for how they will handle PCS moves if/when stop movement restrictions are lifted. We will follow that guidance.

In accordance with reference (b), approval authorities will establish pre- and post-travel screening and reception procedures for all travelers.

All travelers remain responsible for contacting their gaining organization in advance of travel and to keep the organization updated on their travel itinerary.

When practicable and within operational requirements, we will consider in-place assignment extensions or the applicability of waivers for PCS moves for service members with school-aged dependents in order to minimize school year disruptions and education costs.

My point of contact is the Chief, Military Personnel Division, MAJ Tamla Wilson, SCJ1, at 305-437-1124 or via email at southcom.miami.scj1.mbx.j1x@mail.mil.


CRAIG S. FALLER
Admiral, USN
Commander