DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 10TH SUPPORT GROUP
UNIT 35115
APO AREA PACIFIC 96376-5116

APAJ-SG-CO

27 March 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: All U.S. Army Personnel, Department of the Army Civilian Employees, SOFA Status and Command Sponsored Personnel, Master Labor Contractors, and Contractors working for U.S. Army Organizations in Okinawa

SUBJECT: U.S. Army – Okinawa Restrictions in Response to COVID-19

1. Although the diagnosed number of COVID-19 cases on Okinawa remains low, the risk to our U.S. Army team on Okinawa warrants protective measures to safeguard and preserve the force. To reduce the risk of transmission, we must take measures to ensure our activities conform to the best public health measures available to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control advises that the most effective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are the simplest: cleaning your hands often, avoiding close contact with other people, and practicing proper respiratory hygiene by covering your mouth with your elbow when you cough or sneeze. I urge all members of our Force to practice these precautions, and to continue exercising common sense to protect all members of our team, family, and host nation.

2. U.S. Forces Japan elevated Health Protection Conditions, and each installation team developed additional measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19. This is a community effort which depends on the actions of all Soldiers, DA Civilians, Family members, our host nation work force, and contract teams. Participation in all large gatherings is discouraged. We expect a common sense approach from everyone to meet the intent and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

3. Focusing on ensuring mission readiness through preventative health is my duty as a commander, and ensuring good order and discipline is my responsibility as the General Court-Martial Convening Authority for all U.S. Army personnel present for duty on Okinawa. The following restrictions in this memorandum are designed to maintain good order and discipline, health and safety, and ensure optimum readiness of our Force. Violations of these restrictions by military personnel could subject them to punishment under Article 92, UCMJ. Failure to comply by U.S. Civilian employees may result in disciplinary/administrative action and/or a determination that the employee has failed to adjust to the overseas environment. Violations by dependents may result in administrative sanctions, up to and including the loss of command sponsorship and an early return of dependents.

a. To the maximum extent practicable, personnel will practice social distancing. Social distancing is maintaining a separation of two meters distance from all other personnel at all times. When in doubt, use a double arm interval to judge your distance from others. Commands will minimize in person meetings and will seek to maximize the use of telework and other distributed methods for mission accomplishment.

b. Personnel will avoid unnecessary physical contact with others (ie: handshakes, high-fives, etc.); refrain from touching your face, eyes, or mouth.

c. Personnel are prohibited from patronizing the following types of off-installation facilities: public (non-DoD) hotels and resorts, bars, cafes, night clubs and similar establishments, indoor fitness facilities, onsens, spas and salons, barber shops, and public baths. Patronage of off-base restaurants is authorized for the purpose of takeout, carryout, and drive-through services. Utilization of DoD-managed hotels and resorts is authorized. Utilization of lodging such as whole house or whole apartment Airbnbs is authorized.

d. Personnel are authorized to engage in essential off-base services and activities such as grocery shopping, gas/service stations, medical or veterinary appointments, postal services, dry cleaners, banking, or other essential business that supports vital household functions.

e. Personnel are prohibited from attending any gathering where social distancing cannot be effectively practiced. This includes but is not limited to sporting events, concerts, festivals, religious gatherings, movie theaters, and educational classes.

f. Local leave is authorized. During leave you are still subject to the restrictions stated in this memorandum. Local leave will not be used to circumvent the restrictions on off-installation activities.

g. Individual barracks rooms are restricted to the assigned occupants. No other person is allowed in any given barracks room except individuals assigned to that room and individuals conducting an assigned task on behalf of the command, such as a health and welfare inspection. At no time will more than three personnel be present in a single barracks room at any given time.

h. Parties or other large social gatherings are prohibited. Soldiers residing in barracks are prohibited from engaging in "Barracks Parties" or outdoor "Block Parties".

i. Personnel are authorized to continue to hike, run, bike, swim, or engage in other on-base and/or off base outdoor physical fitness activities as long as they avoid close contact and adhere to the social distancing parameters.

4. Exceptions.

a. Exception to any of the restrictions requires prior, written approval of the Soldier's Summary Court-Martial Convening Authority, typically the Battalion Commander.

b. Emergency situations involving possible loss of life, limb, or eyesight should be handled as such and do not require prior approval.

c. Official travel directed by the chain of command is not affected by this order.

d. Soldiers will comply with all DoD / HQDA restrictions on travel as well as applicable Host Nation rules regarding travel, whether personal or official. Local commanders may set more restrictive boundaries; Soldiers will comply with those in addition to the restrictions herein.

5. Unit commanders will ensure their personnel are briefed on the prohibitions and requirements of this order. It is the duty of all U.S. Army – Okinawa personnel and their dependents, Civilians, MLCs, and contractors to respect the laws and restrictions put in place to combat COVID-19.

6. As the situation continues to evolve, additional measures may be imposed to ensure the protection of the force.

7. The restrictions contained in this memorandum are effective immediately and will be assessed every 14 days to determine the necessity to increase or decrease the established restrictions.

8. Point of contact for this memorandum is the Staff Judge Advocate at DSN 315-644-5201.

THEODORE O. WHITE
COL, LG
Commanding