



**JRTC and Fort Polk
COVID-19 Response
Commander's Update**



March 27, 2020

ALL THE WAY! Currently, JRTC and Fort Polk is in Health Protection Condition (HPCON) “Charlie” which is defined as “Substantial: Social distancing; shelter in-place.” Governor Edwards has declared a Public Health Emergency within Louisiana; the state currently has 2,746 x COVID-19 positive cases. Mayor Allen declared a Public Health Emergency for the city of Leesville on 26 March, 2020. Based on recent reporting of COVID-19 positive cases in both Alexandria, Leesville and Deridder we ask all members of our Fort Polk community to consider the activities you are conducting to ensure our Installation remains safe. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on JRTC and Fort Polk.

Based upon the recommendation from our Public Health Emergency Officer and the corresponding declarations of state and local civil leadership, I am declaring a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with DoD Instruction (DoDI) 6200.03, “Public Health Emergency Management Within the DoD”. The decision to move to an elevated HPCON level and declare a public health emergency are significant in that we have prioritized our activities to only those directly pertaining to COVID 19 preparedness and response as well as preparation for contingency operations, maintenance of equipment and essential services, the health and welfare of Soldiers and Families and maintaining good order and discipline. These precautions are designed to preserve the readiness of our Soldiers and units, protect our community, and prevent the spread of the virus. As conditions change, we will reevaluate these measures and implement appropriate adjustments.

As we have begun "Mission Essential Personnel Only" under HPCON-C with selected D-Measures; we are also nested with the Governor's "Stay At Home Order" which is a "stricter form of social distancing / stay home with movement outside of your home for essential needs only."

We discussed in great detail the expectations of the general guidance on Mission Essential Personnel Only, who makes up those Mission Essential Personnel, that all Soldiers will do individual PT Mon-Fri, that first-line Leaders will make contact with their assigned Soldiers 3 x per day - with one of those times being

Face to Face (if the Soldier is a Single Soldier in the Barracks - that is a physical Face to Face // if this is a Soldier living with their Army Family on the Installation or off-post - the daily Face to Face can be virtual. We are not conducting formations during this period of time - an example would be PT formations - we will only be forming to conduct mission essential tasks; our G3 Section is tracking each of these requirements across the Installation. Remember our JRTC and Fort Polk standing order: Every leader, every day, will look every one of his/her assigned Soldiers in the eyes to assess their health and any changes over the last 24-hrs. All Soldiers will receive a professional task from their leadership: On-line course, study individual or collective tasks, prep for upcoming board, or professional reading. Accountability will be executed every day.

Life in the Day of a Soldier is described by me in simple but great detail during yesterday's FB Live Town Hall session: Please view the 2:00 - 13:00 minute period for further details

<https://www.facebook.com/JRTcandFortPolk/videos/230220571502014/>

General Guidance on Mission Essential Personnel:

- BDE and BN CDR and CSM along with selected essential staff members
- C/T/B CDRS and 1SGs
- PL / PSG / SL
- Medical Personnel: BJACH, 32 HC, All Unit Medics, Clinics
- Selected Maintainers
- SSAs
- ASP
- DFACs
- Staff Duty and CQs
- Trace and Clean Teams
- MP / DES at ACPs and Law Enforcement Patrols; MP Station; Fire Station
- 1-5 AV: RL Progression for the new UH-72
- 1-5 AV: 1st Up MEDEVAC UH-60
- Contractors: Services for Ground Fleet / Aviation Fleet

Installation Access

There are no changes to the current access policy to the installation. Visitors without a DoD ID card or valid visitor pass must see the visitor control center at gate 1 located on Entrance Road. All personnel should limit their movements as much as possible in order to be compliant with the Stay at Home order and Mission Essential Personnel only directive.

I am exceptionally proud of the teamwork across the installation over the last two weeks. The cooperation between Soldiers, Army Family members, DA Civilians, and contractors has postured us well for preparedness and response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Together we will continue to take the appropriate measures to safeguard the JRTC and Fort Polk community.

ATW!

Forging the Warrior Spirit!

BG Frank