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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
2218 5TH AVENUE
FORT Rucker, AL 36362-5225

DEC 1 4 2020

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 7

TITLE: Prohibited Activities for Fort Rucker Personnel

1. PURPOSE. This General Order identifies prohibited conduct that is prejudicial to the good order, discipline, health, and safety of all personnel within the USAACE and Fort Rucker Senior Commander area of responsibility. The purpose of this order is to protect the force, families, mission, and our local communities by restricting movement and personal contact to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.


3. APPLICABILITY. This General Order applies to all individuals who are subject to the military authority of the Senior Commander at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Family Members, Department of the Army Civilians, and Contractors (hereinafter “Civilians”) are required to abide by this General Order while on the installation, and are requested and strongly encouraged to adhere to these restrictions at all times. Failure to abide by this request may result in denial of access to the installation.

4. PRIOR GENERAL ORDER RESCINDED. General Order Number 6, published 15 September 2020, is hereby rescinded. General Order Number 7 incorporates the following substantive changes: a) authorizes personnel to dine indoor or outdoor at any on or off post restaurant(s), b) authorizes personnel to travel outside of the local area during Holiday Block Leave (HBL) from 19 December 2020 – 3 January 2021, c) directs personnel to abide by state and local travel restrictions while on HBL, d) provides COVID-19 considerations for travel, e) directs personnel to follow Post HBL ROM procedures.

5. STATEMENT OF MILITARY PURPOSE AND NECESSITY. Due to the spread of COVID-19, aggressive prevention and mitigation measures are necessary to reduce the transmission of the disease. Restrictions on certain activities are essential to preserving the health of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members and the overall Fort Rucker mission.

6. FUNDAMENTAL RULES:

   a. Any individual who feels sick, believes that they are exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, suspects that they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or tests positive for COVID-19, will immediately avoid contact with others, self-quarantine at their residence, and contact their supervisor. Supervisors will immediately notify the chain of command and activate a Fort Rucker Trace Team.
b. COVID-19 Symptoms. Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

c. Service Members will comply with information requests from a Fort Rucker Trace Team to assist in reducing the spread of the virus. Family Members and Civilians are strongly encouraged to comply.

d. Travel beyond one hundred and fifty (150) miles straight line radius from Fort Rucker is permitted when approved in accordance with (IAW) Fort Rucker Local Area Limit and Travel Policy (20 November 2020).

e. Visitors to Fort Rucker are authorized, however any visitors who display symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or believe that they came in contact with someone with COVID-19, or tests positive for COVID-19 will be reported to the chain of command immediately.

f. Social distancing and face covering requirements:

   (1) Maintain a separation of at least six (6) feet distance from all other personnel who are not members of the same household at all times both indoors and outdoors, to include during physical training.

   (2) Off post. A face covering will be worn at all times in all off post, non-residential buildings and facilities regardless of whether physical separation of six (6) feet can be maintained from other personnel.

   (3) On post. A face covering will be worn at all times in all on post, non-residential buildings and facilities regardless of whether physical separation of six (6) feet can be maintained from other personnel. Face coverings are required on post for all personnel over the age of 2 years. Exceptions:

          (a) Personnel are authorized to remove face coverings on post while seated in a private office or private cubicle with six (6) feet separation. Note – face coverings are required in all hallways, bathrooms, conference rooms, break rooms/areas, foyers, and common areas regardless of physical separation.

          (b) Military students are authorized to remove their face coverings on post while seated in an academic classroom with instructor approval and six (6) feet physical separation.

          (c) Personnel are authorized to remove face coverings for eating or drinking in designated areas where 6’ separation can be maintained.

   (4) Air and Ground Maintenance Areas. A face covering will be worn at all times while inside all aircraft hangars and air or ground maintenance facilities regardless of
whether physical separation of six (6) feet can be maintained from other personnel.

(5) While outside, face coverings will be worn whenever two (2) or more personnel are conducting pre-flight, maintenance inspections, or scheduled or unscheduled maintenance on the same aircraft or vehicle.

g. Barracks. Access to individual barracks rooms is restricted to the assigned occupants and any individuals designated by the command to conduct an assigned task, such as an inventory or health and welfare inspection. At no time will more than three (3) military personnel be present in a single barracks room.

7. PROHIBITED AND OFF LIMITS LOCATIONS.

a. Due to the high risk of infection, personnel will not visit off post bars, night clubs, dance clubs, spas, massage parlors and tattoo parlors.

b. Personnel are authorized to dine indoor or outdoor at any on or off post restaurant(s). The purpose of removing the restriction to off post dining is to facilitate travel during the holidays. All personnel are encouraged to dine at restaurants that implement social distancing between tables and where employees and customers wear face coverings. All personnel will exercise caution and wear a face covering, except when eating or drinking.

c. The list of prohibited locations is not all-inclusive and other locations may become off-limits due to health protection concerns.

8. HYGIENE, RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT (ROM), QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION:

a. Hygiene.

(1) All personnel should wash their hands often with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds or use an alcohol based hand sanitizing gel.

(2) All personnel should disinfect high touch areas, such as desks, light switches and door handles, no less than twice daily.

b. ROM / Quarantine / Isolation. The purpose of ROM, quarantine and isolation is to restrict individual movement and contact with others. Military personnel will adhere to directives from medical personnel including taking a COVID-19 test or entering into ROM, quarantine or isolation. All personnel will immediately inform their supervisor if they exhibit any symptoms associated with COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, or come into close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive.

(1) ROM. Fort Rucker military personnel who travel beyond 150 miles, such as leave, pass or TDY, will be placed in a 7-day ROM, which is an administrative quarantine, upon return to their residence. Military personnel who arrive to Fort Rucker from outside of
150 miles via PCS or TDY from a CONUS location, Alaska or Hawaii will be placed in a 7-day ROM in designated on post facilities or their on / off post residence. Personnel who arrive from any OCONUS location other than Alaska or Hawaii will ROM for 14 days per Fort Rucker Local Area and Travel Policy, dated 20 November 2020. ROM is the requirement for the SM to remain at home (assigned lodging/residence/barracks), except for the following: seeking emergency services, participating in religious services, acquiring food and other essential items, and conducting physical training, including outdoors, outdoor facilities and indoor gyms/physical fitness centers.

(2) Quarantine. All military personnel who come in close contact with someone who is COVID positive or who display symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be placed in quarantine under ROM for 14 days as a precaution as directed by the first O-6 or equivalent Director in their chain of command. Personnel will be placed in quarantine at a designated location (assigned lodging/residence/barracks) and will remain at that location for the 14 day period unless otherwise directed by the first O-6 or equivalent Director in their chain of command. Gyms/physical fitness centers are not authorized.

(3) Isolation. Personnel confirmed positive for COVID-19, or exhibiting symptoms sufficient for medical personnel to make a reasonable determination of COVID-19 diagnosis, will be placed in isolation at a designated location (assigned lodging/residence/barracks or treatment facility) and will remain at that location until cleared to return to duty by medical personnel. Those in isolation will separate themselves from others, to include those in the home. Gyms/physical fitness centers are not authorized.

(4) All-personnel in ROM in IHG or QFAC will adhere to the directives of the Garrison Commander (GC), his designee, and medical personnel concerning personal conduct and the virus monitoring process. The GC’s directives will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and public health and safety policies.

(5) All military personnel returning from HBL will follow ROM procedures as outlined in OPERATIONS ORDER I21-1008 (USAACE Holiday Block Leave). Post-HBL ROM requirements will be further clarified in General Order #8, effective 3 JAN 2021.

9. COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRAVEL. COVID-19 presents special challenges to all personnel traveling during HBL. At no time will military personnel travel to or from HBL destinations while experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19 or are in a directed ROM status. Active communication between the Soldier, chain of command and medical professionals is paramount to assess, evaluate and support individual cases as they arise.

a. Quarantine Procedures During Travel.

(1) Personnel who have been informed they are a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual, experience symptoms of COVID-19 or know they have been within 6 feet for 15 minutes of a positive COVID-19 case will immediately place themselves into a ROM
status and contact their chain of command immediately. Military personnel will also contact TRICARE (permanent party) or the Defense Health Agency-Great Lakes (DHA-GL) (IMT personnel) at 888-647-6676 to coordinate for an evaluation and potential care. Individuals who are placed into a ROM status will be placed on convalescent leave for the duration of their restricted movement.

(2) Individuals who are due back from HBL but are still pending laboratory results for COVID-19 will contact their chain of command to notify them of the situation. Individuals will remain in a ROM status while awaiting test results and contact their airline or other appropriate transportation provider to make modifications to their travel arrangements.

b. Isolation Procedures During Travel.

(1) Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 while on HBL will isolate themselves from others immediately and contact their command for additional guidance and coordination. Individuals on a HBL leave status will be changed to a convalescent leave status when they test positive for COVID-19.

(2) Under no circumstances will an individual who is thought or known to be COVID-19 positive be outside of an isolated status or initiate movement back to their place of training until cleared to do so. The appropriate place of duty for an individual known or suspected of being COVID-19 positive is to be at their location of isolation in a convalescent leave status.

c. Criteria for release from ROM/Isolation During Travel.

(1) Individuals who tested positive but are asymptomatic – cleared 10 days after positive test if they remain asymptomatic.

(2) Individuals who tested positive and are symptomatic – cleared 10 days after test as long as it has been 24 hours since last fever (without fever-reducing medications (e.g., Tylenol)) and other symptoms are improving.

(3) Individuals who had close contact with COVID-19 positive person – cleared 14 days after last contact with person.

10. EXCEPTIONS:

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

b. The CG is the approval authority for ETPs to General Orders and OCONUS leave IAW DoD FRAL COVID-19 ETP Policy dated 20 November 2020.

c. DOD COVID-19 Stop Move Exception to Policy. O-6 CDRs/DIRs are the approval
authority for all PCSs and TDYs for Soldiers within their chain of command/supervision. The USAACE Chief of Staff is the TDY approval authority for all USAACE Directorates without an assigned O6 or equivalent Director. This approval authority is non-delegable.

11. INDIVIDUAL DUTY. Persons subject to this General Order have the individual duty to know and understand the prohibitions contained herein. They have a further duty to become familiar with and respect the laws and regulations of the state and local authorities regarding COVID-19 prevention. Personnel departing the local area (to include during the HBL period) will verify travel restrictions and regulations for the State/local area to which they are traveling 72 hours prior to departure. COVID-19 Travel information can be found at the following link: https://www.coronavirus.gov. Violations of state and local laws and regulations may result in criminal punishment or adverse administrative action.

12. UNIT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY. Unit commanders shall ensure that their personnel are briefed on the prohibitions and requirements of this order. Prior to HBL, commanders will ensure that all personnel receive a 1) copy of approved DA 31 Leave Form, 2) copies of GO#7 and GO#8, 3) the Fort Rucker Local Area and Travel Policy, 4) a command contact roster, 5) HBL Pre-Post COVID-19 Screening memos (IMT personnel) 6) a list of emergency services numbers, including the duty Chaplain (via IOC), SHARP Hotline, Family/Victim Advocacy, Suicide Prevention, DoD Safe Helpline, and the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Numbers for emergency services can be found on the WeCare App, Fort Rucker.

13. WAIVERS AND AMENDMENTS. Requests for waivers or amendment of any provision of this General Order must be submitted through the chain of command for my decision.

14. ENFORCEMENT. The provisions of this General Order are punitive. Through this General Order, the following personnel may be subject to administrative or disciplinary action: all Service Members permanently or temporarily assigned to, attached to, or present on Fort Rucker, Department of the Army Civilians, and non-DA civilians on the installation.

15. EFFECTIVE DATE. This General Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until 3 January 2021 when General Order #8 takes effect.

DAVID J. FRANCIS
Major General, USA
Commanding