



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 20 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DOD PERSONNEL

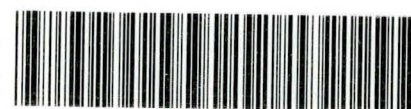
SUBJECT: Message to the Force – Modification and Extension of COVID-19 Travel Restrictions

After careful consideration and assessment of the situation with regard to the national COVID-19 pandemic response, and with the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I have decided to extend the DoD-wide travel restrictions I imposed back in March until June 30, 2020. Extending these travel restrictions is necessary because of the global nature of our presence and our movements. While many areas in the United States are on a positive trajectory, some areas, and other nations, are not. We must ensure our personnel movements do not present a threat of spreading COVID-19 within our ranks and communities. We will continue to take all necessary measures to protect you and your families, and this action reinforces the three priorities I established for fighting COVID-19: protecting our Service members, DoD civilian employees, and families; safeguarding our national security capabilities; and supporting the whole-of-nation response to the coronavirus.

In addition to extending the travel restrictions, I am also expanding exemptions and waivers for travel. My new guidance allows for operational deployments and redeployments, and recruiting and basic training activities. It clarifies that travelers who are in the middle of temporary duty travel, or a permanent change of station (PCS) move, may continue on to their home stations or new duty stations. As before, it permits travel necessary for medical treatment, and continues to allow travel for individuals pending retirement or separation. Further, we will still allow waivers for mission, humanitarian, and personal hardship reasons. When it meets operational requirements, we will also consider in-place assignment extensions and waivers for PCS moves for Service members with school-aged dependents to minimize school year disruptions and education costs.

While this decision is necessary to keep our people safe and our military ready, I understand the impact these travel restrictions continue to have on our Service members and their families, and we will work to ease the burden on you as much as possible. We want to give our Service members, DoD civilians, and their families sufficient time to plan, to make personal and work adjustments, and to prepare for the changes this extension will bring. Therefore, I will review this order every 15 days to determine, consistent with the administration's guidelines, if conditions will allow travel to resume earlier than June 30, 2020.

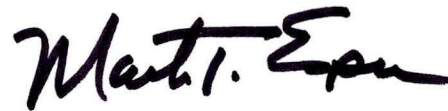
As we all do our part in mitigating the effects of this global pandemic, we must remain ready to carry out our core national security missions. We must be prepared to adapt and modify our posture around the world to ensure we send a clear message to any adversary who may try to exploit our robust response to COVID-19: we remain ready and willing to meet any threat to our great Nation or our interests.



OSD004108-20/CMD004939-20

At the same time, we will continue to support the whole-of-nation response to the coronavirus. Our medical personnel, scientists, and engineers are working around the clock lending their expertise and leadership. Our National Guard is performing essential tasks around the country performing duties such as testing, logistics, and planning in support of state and local officials. All told, over 56,000 Service members across the Nation are supporting the American people in the fight against this invisible enemy.

I am extremely proud of all of you, the best America has to offer, who demonstrate the strength and resilience you unfailingly exhibit during our Nation's most trying times. We will get through this together, and we will be stronger and more prepared than ever before.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark T. Esper". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.