MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Stop Movement for all Domestic Travel for DoD Components in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019

References: (a) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Travel Restrictions for DoD Components in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019” March 11, 2020
(b) Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 4) – Department of Defense Guidance for Personnel Traveling During the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak” March 11, 2020
(c) Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 2) – Department of Defense Guidance for Military Installation Commander’ Risk-Based Measured Responses to the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak” February 25, 2020
(d) DoD Instruction 6200.03, “Public Health Emergency Management within the DoD,” March 28, 2019

The continuing spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) necessitates immediate implementation of travel restrictions for domestic Department of Defense (DoD) travel. These restrictions are necessary to preserve force readiness, limit the continuing spread of
the virus, and preserve the health and welfare of Service members, DoD civilian employees, their families, and the local communities in which we live.

This memorandum applies to all DoD military and civilian personnel and their families assigned to DoD installations, facilities, and surrounding areas in the United States and its territories. All DoD military personnel will stop movement while this memorandum is in effect. In addition, DoD civilian personnel and DoD family members, whose transportation is government-funded, will also stop movement. This policy applies to Permanent Change of Station (PCS) and Temporary Duty. Additionally, until the domestic travel restrictions prescribed above are lifted, DoD Components may only onboard civilian employees within the local commuting area, and military members are only authorized local leave in accordance with Service policies.

A travel exception may be granted in writing to the guidance contained herein for compelling cases where the travel is: (1) determined to be mission-essential; (2) necessary for humanitarian reasons; or (3) warranted due to extreme hardship. Mission-essential travel refers to work that must be performed to ensure the continued operations of mission-essential functions, as determined by the DoD Component. Approval authority for these exceptions belongs to the Combatant Commander if the individual is assigned to a combatant command; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff if the individual is assigned to the Joint Staff; the Secretary of the Military Department concerned for personnel under his or her jurisdiction; or the Chief Management Officer for the Office of the Secretary for Defense, Defense Field Activities and Agencies. This authority may be delegated in writing to a level no lower than the first general officer, flag officer, or member of the Senior Executive Service in the traveler’s chain of command or supervision. These exceptions are to be done on a case by case basis, shall be limited in number, and shall be coordinated between the gaining and losing organizations, as appropriate.

Travel by patients and medical providers for the purpose of medical treatment for DoD personnel and their family members is authorized. Individuals who have already initiated travel (including intermediate stops) are authorized to continue to their final destination. 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 period are exempt. Authorized travelers will adhere to the Force Health Protection guidelines in reference (b) and later guidance, if any.

Our understanding of COVID-19 is rapidly evolving, and this guidance will be continuously evaluated as conditions warrant. Component heads should ensure this stop movement guidance is clearly communicated. For overseas travel, refer to the Travel Restrictions for DoD Components in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 memorandum dated March 11, 2020. This guidance is effective March 16, 2020, and expires May 11, 2020. The expiration aligns with the expiration date of reference (a), the Secretary of Defense memorandum published on March 11, 2020.