

## **REP Air Force Reserve Questions & Answers**

As of 7:30 p.m. March 18, 2020

### **General Questions**

**Q1: SecDef directed travel restrictions based on COVID 19. Does this affect UTA and if so, will members be allowed to complete UTAs via telework?**

A1: In light of current travel restrictions, Commanders will decide if drills will be conducted or if alternative training methods will be used to accomplish training requirements balancing the mission need against the health risks to airman, local conditions as well as relationships with local partners. Commanders have the discretion to excuse or reschedule wing UTAs, reschedule individual UTAs, create super UTAs in combination with upcoming UTA drills. Commanders may also consider using telecommute if within the boundaries of governing regulation to accomplish online training and, where possible, mission-essential related operations as outlined in the AFRC/CC's 2019 Novel Coronavirus Commander's Intent memo. Refer to AFRC/CC memo "2019 Novel Coronavirus Surveillance and Tracking Guidance;" additional guidance will be provided as this crisis evolves.

**Q2: Does the SECDEF travel restriction policy impact AFR members? If so, who or what defines my local area?**

A2: This leave restriction applies to all AFR members currently in status. Per AFI 36-3003, leave begins and ends in the local area. The local area is the place where the member lives and from which he or she commutes to the duty station. Each Installation Commander may or may not have additional local policies for distance.

As of 16 Mar 20, there are no travel restrictions within CONUS. However given pockets of high transmission within the US, Public Health Emergency Officers should advise commanders of travel risk and ensure travelers are armed with knowledge of National Provider Identifier and self-observation for 14 days prior upon return.

**Q3: What is the requirement for the local area with reference to Travel and Allowances?**

A3: Per the JTR 0206, the DoD installation, base or senior commander must establish, in a written directive, the local area for travel and allowances which is typically a minimum of 50 miles within which DoD travelers are eligible for reimbursement, even if they come from different commands, units, installations, or agencies.

**Q4: What are the rules for rescheduling Reserve PT tests? For how long do they hold? What if my local base has suspended PT testing?**

A4: As of 16 Mar 20, all fitness assessments have been suspended for all Department of the Air Force personnel until Jun 2020. More information will be forthcoming as this situation evolves.

**Q5: What is the difference between quarantine and self-monitoring?**

A5: Per the Centers for Disease Control guidance, self-monitoring means people should monitor themselves for fever by taking their temperatures twice a day and remain alert for cough or difficulty breathing. This should be done daily before arriving on duty. If they feel feverish or develop measured fever, cough, or difficulty breathing during the self-monitoring period, they should self-isolate, limit contact with others, and seek advice by telephone from a healthcare provider or their local health department to determine whether medical evaluation is needed.

Quarantine, in general, means the separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease, but may or may not yet be symptomatic, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease.

For additional definitions used in COVID-19 guidance, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>.

**Q6: As a Reservist, how do I know if I should telecommute or report to my duty location?**

A6: Members who are uncertain whether or not they should report to duty should contact their chain of command for additional guidance. Telecommuting is an option commanders may consider when making work force decisions in the current emerging environment.

**Q7: What AFR missions and/or positions are considered mission essential?**

A7: The SecAF has designated all Global Force Management missions as mission essential; all other mission essential requirements are determined by unit commanders who will balance the mission against the health and safety of their unit, mission readiness and local conditions.

**Q8. What happens if a Reservist is in danger of having a “bad year” due to COVID-19 travel restrictions?**

A8. Liberal excusal or reschedule policies to include future ‘super’ four-day UTAs are a course of action commanders can consider to facilitate members achieving a good year. Virtual options to continue required training and events are also encouraged, when feasible. Individual members may work with their unit leadership for reschedules or equivalent training opportunities. Members should work with their chains of command for options available to meet satisfactory retirement and fiscal year requirements.

## **Mission Cancellations**

**Q9: I am a Reservist TDY for an Air University professional development course. How is it affected by the SecAF's stop movement memo?**

A9: Many Air Education and Training Command Air University activities have been suspended to include all Eaker Center functional courses and future leadership (Wing/Group/Squadron commander) level courses i.e., NCO Academy, Chiefs, and First Sergeant courses, as well as the Leadership Development Course and Squadron Officers School. Members should contact their course directors or the Air University website for further guidance.

**Q10: I am a Reservist scheduled to attend an Officer Training School (OTS). How is it affected by the SecAF's stop movement memo? What about BMT and tech schools?**

A10. As of this publication date, military accessions sources such as OTS, Basic Military Training, USAF Academy, Reserve Officer Training Corps, and tech schools have been designated as mission essential activities and will continue under revised procedures. This guidance may change, however. Visit the AETC web page for further updates.

**Q11: Is the March Yellow Ribbon Event cancelled?**

A11: Yes, all Yellow Ribbon Events have been cancelled through May 11, 2020.

**Q12: Will Reserve units cancel the Seasoning Training Program?**

A12: The discretion to cancel STP resides with commanders. Unit commanders will determine if members on STP are mission essential for operations.

## **PCS Entitlements**

**Q13: If I am doing a permanent change of station to a CDC Alert Level 3 location and am ordered to remain at a port of departure until transportation is available, what allowances am I authorized?**

A13: You may be authorized per diem (lodging plus meals and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation in accordance with JTR Section 0539.

**Q14: If I am performing a permanent change of station to a CDC Alert Level 3 Location, and am ordered to travel to an alternate location until transportation is available, what allowances am I authorized?**

A14: You may be authorized per diem while awaiting transportation. You should contact your new duty station to determine whether you are considered to be awaiting transportation, or if

they are going to provide you Temporary Duty Orders. Dependent travelers may only receive per diem if they are in an awaiting transportation status.

**Q15: I have an assignment and was supposed to have my HHGs picked up. What should I do?**

A15: If you are currently not enroute to the next duty location, remain at your current duty location until the Stop Movement has been lifted. Contact your Chain of Command for further guidance and instructions. Members can also contact their local Transportation Management Office for general questions prior to movement of HHG, NTS or POV.

**Q16: I have already left my previous duty station and am enroute to my new assignment. What should I do?**

A16: If you are enroute to your next duty location, continue to that duty location then contact your Chain of Command for further instructions.

**Q17: I have an assignment to or from an impacted location and am unsure of the location of my HHGs. What should I do?**

A17: Those members who already have HHG in the pipeline should contact the losing transportation office.

**Q18: I have an assignment to a Level 2 location, will I be allowed to proceed?**

A18: Members with an assignment to a Level 2 location may proceed without a GO/SES exception but are subject to travel screening protocols. However, concurrent travel for dependents are not permitted until the travel restriction is lifted. Approval for exceptions to policy for dependents is the first GO/SES in the member's change of command. This concurrent travel guidance restricts family members from traveling concurrently with the military or civilian sponsor. Exceptions are to be done on a case by case basis, shall be limited in number, shall be documented in writing and signed by the waiver authority, and shall be coordinated between the gaining and losing organizations. This authority may not be re-delegated.