

Heroes of the Air Force Reserve,

On March 13, the President declared a national emergency in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus, designated COVID-19. Federal, state and local governments have implemented measures to respond to this crisis and to mitigate the effects of this outbreak, slow the spread of the virus, and prevent our healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed.

The wide-spread nature of this pandemic impacts nearly every Reserve Citizen Airmen. It is in these conditions where the Command Chief and I see strong leadership from you, in both your military role and also as leaders in your communities. This is resilient leadership at all levels.

Command teams are empowered to first take care of you and your families, by ensuring your safety, and keeping you informed.

They are taking smart-risks to ensure the continued operations of our mission-critical functions while using their best judgement to contain the spread of COVID-19.

All Airmen should practice good hygiene and take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Everyone should maintain strong situational awareness with regards to the pandemic and the conditions in your local area.

Above all, everyone should remain calm and make rational, well-informed decisions in regards to COVID-19. Airmen should seek information from reliable sources, such as medical experts and government officials. The Center for Disease Control is the lead federal agency for the pandemic response, and their website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>) contains a variety of information on COVID-19. This site provides links to state-specific information through an interactive map which depicts national COVID-19 cases. Additionally, AFRC Public Affairs provides Air Force Reserve specific information on our website (<https://www.afrc.af.mil/COVID-19/>).

The Command Chief and I also expect you to be good wingmen, by reaching out to your fellow unit-members, supporting one another, and helping those in need. If you find yourself in need of assistance, please reach out.

Despite challenges that COVID-19 presents, I am confident that our resourceful, capable, and innovative Citizen Airmen will overcome and continue to provide the American people with the level of national security and readiness that they have come to know and expect from the Air Force Reserve.

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