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II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE POLICY LETTER 8-20

From: Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force
To: Distribution List

Subj: PRESERVATION OF THE FORCE - ENHANCED HEALTH PROTECTION FOR UNITS IN
SUPPORT OF GLOBAL FORCE GENERATION REQUIREMENTS DUE TO COVID-19

- Ref: (a) MARADMIN 082/20 U.S. Marine Corps Disease Containment Preparedness Planning for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV) dtd 11 Feb 20
(b) MARADMIN 150/20 Update #1 U.S. Marine Corps Disease Containment Preparedness Planning Guidance for COVID-19; Commanders' Risk-Based Measured Responses dtd 7 Mar 20
(c) II MEF Update #1 to Guidance and Tasking for COVID-19 Response dtd 10 Mar 20
(d) ALNAV 025/20 Force Health Protection Guidance dtd 12 Mar 20
(e) MARADMIN 353/20 U.S. Marine Corps Guidance for Deployment of Individuals and Units, Surveillance and Screening and Testing, As well as Laboratory Diagnostic Testing During the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic dtd 17 Jun 20
(f) FMFLANT Guidance for COVID-19 Mitigation During Naval Force Training and Operations dtd 29 Apr 20
(g) MARADMIN 333/20 Transition to Conditions-Based Phased Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions dtd 5 Jun 20
(h) NAVADMIN 137/20 U.S. Navy COVID-19 Standardized Operational Guidance dtd 17 Jun 20
(i) II MEF COVID-19 Intentions and Update Daily Messages

Encl: (1) Pre-Deployment / Pre-Embark ROM-Sequester Commander's Support Tool

1. Purpose. In response to the 2019 Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic, II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) will implement preventative force health protection measures in accordance with references (a) and (b) in order to maximize operational readiness and minimize risk to force for units and individuals deploying in support of routine deployments, in response to a contingency, or operating aboard U.S. Navy ships. These measures include prioritization of limited resources, social distancing measures as described in references (c) and (d), enhanced screening, and pre-deployment Restriction of Movement (ROM)-Sequester as directed in references (e), (f), and (g). Sequester, as defined in reference (f) is the term used to describe isolating forces to remove or reduce risk of infection degrading a unit. Conditions of sequester will vary based on the local health threat, unit mission, and gaining combatant command / host nation policies. Under most cases, sequester should not restrict unit training or daily mission essential tasks. In addition to established policies and orders, this policy letter sets unit Priority of Effort and Priority of Support upon notification of deployment.

2. Scope. This policy applies to all II MEF forces preparing for global force management deployments, alerted to support contingency operations, and operating aboard U.S. Navy ships.

3. Action. In order to maintain a ready force to deploy, Major Subordinate Commands/Elements (MSC/Es) will do the following:

a. Medical Screening. Screen all deploying personnel daily commencing at deployment minus 30 days.

b. Scheduled Deployments and Exercises. Sequester units preparing for operational deployments, combatant command exercises, or at-sea exercises for a minimum of 14 days prior to deployment or embarkation.

(1) Per reference (e), if the supported geographic combatant commander and host nation agree or arrange for ROM in country, a pre-deployment ROM is not required. II MEF forces conducting ROM in country will still conduct medical screening and take appropriate health protection measures prior to deployment.

(2) Per references (f) and (h), pre-embarkation ROM conditions for at-sea deployments or underway training periods will be coordinated with Navy counterparts.

c. Alert Forces. Sequester may begin upon indications and warnings of potential employment, but must begin no later than notification. II MEF forces assigned to an alert status of notification plus 14 days (N+14) or less will conduct daily medical screening and take appropriate health protection measures beyond baseline conditions. This may include restricting movement of personnel to the local area and conducting ROM separately for personnel who join the unit or return to the unit following travel outside the local area.

d. Emergent Requirements. Implement measures in accordance with this policy based on anticipated deployment timeline for units or individuals alerted for emergent requirements. Per reference (e), Department of Defense component heads may request a waiver to the 14-day pre-deployment ROM requirement for deployments outside the United States from the Secretary of Defense if mission requirements dictate an expedited deployment.

e. Pre-Deployment COVID-19 Testing. All personnel will be tested for COVID-19 prior to deployment or embarkation, per reference (e).

f. Shipboard Embarkation. Units embarking U.S. Navy ships will follow applicable U.S. Navy, Fleet Forces, and FMFLANT guidance for COVID-19 prevention and mitigation aboard ships, to include references (f) and (h).

4. Information

a. Priority of Effort. These are actions, services, and resources that are required to prepare an individual or unit in order to meet theater employment. These services will be coordinated by the appropriate staff or coordinating authority to ensure a complete and ready force is deployable, but also resolve resourcing conflicts given the priority of support.

(1) Protection of the force. Commanders at all echelons shall prioritize and ensure their unit adheres to COVID-19 related protocols.

(2) Training. Actions required to attain, retrain, or sustain a level of readiness to meet mission-specific and theater entry requirements.

(3) Equipping. The equipment individuals and units need to deploy and to conduct required training to gain or sustain readiness. This includes personal protective equipment required to support training or enhanced force health protection.

(4) Services. Sustainment functions that ensure an individual and organization meet the deployment readiness requirements associated with, but not all exclusive to, legal, administrative, medical, and dental.

b. Priority of Support. The II MEF Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3 shall adjudicate conflicts for allocation of support between MEF priority units and shall update this priority as required.

(1) Alert or contingency forces ordered to a heightened state of alert based on indications and warnings of an imminent deployment.

(2) Global Force Management ordered alert forces with specified response timelines.

(3) Routine global force management deployment forces within 90 days of a planned deployment date.

(4) Forces conducting mission essential pre-deployment training in support of a global force management requirement (to include Marine Expeditionary Unit pre-deployment training program).

(5) Service ordered alert forces (CONUS-Based Alert Forces, Maritime Defense Support to Civil Authorities) not in a heightened state of alert based on indications and warnings of an imminent deployment.

(6) Forces conducting mission essential sustainment training (to include amphibious training with U.S. Navy ships).

(7) All other forces.

c. Deployment Day Timing/Requirements. No later than 30 days prior to deployment, MSC/Es and II MEF staff will confirm deploying forces receive the necessary resources and coordination to meet the established minimum deployment criteria and are prepared to execute pre-deployment ROM-sequester. Units will adhere to medical recommendations / requirements as updated in ref (i).

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MSC/Es - Begin daily health assessments to screen for COVID-19.

MSC/Es - Conduct unit/individual assessment to identify final required services or actions for deployment readiness.

MSC/Es - Executes pre-deployment tasks and training to sustain or attain individual deployment and mission readiness requirements by D-14.

II MEF - Coordinate with the MSC/Es, as per the identified resource requirements and resolve conflicts as required.

D-15

MSC/Es - Final conditions check and preparation; unit assumes sequestered status. Schedule COVID-19 testing to ensure receipt of results prior to deployment and with sufficient time to re-test if required. Isolate personnel with positive test results and re-test.

d. ROM-Sequester Conditions. Enclosure (1) provides a menu of measures that commanders may take during sequester to protect the health of their force. At a minimum, continue daily medical assessment, restrict travel from domicile to work and back, and isolate sick or symptomatic personnel. If the local health conditions dictate, the receiving combatant commander / host nation requires it, or there is an elevated need to ensure the deployment of a COVID-19 free force, the deploying unit commander may fully sequester his force at D-15 (sequestration may be done based on movement groups). Under these conditions, all personnel reside on base, the force billets and messes separately, and minimizes contact with nondeploying personnel. Employ PPE (masks and gloves) and minimum six feet separation for contacts with nondeploying personnel. Commanders will ensure that vehicles and spaces are cleaned and disinfected prior to entry by the deploying force.

e. Training Waivers

(1) Deploying forces should request waivers for training which cannot be safely conducted under COVID-19 conditions. This may also include offering / conducting in lieu of (ILO) or reduced training as an alternative for consideration by the waiver authority.

(2) Waivers requiring MEF level (or above) authorization. Requests shall be routed to II MEF G-37 and shall clearly specify: 1. The governing reference, 2. Specified waiver authority, and 3. Any mitigating or ILO training conducted.

5. Endstate: By prioritization, the MEF is able to field forces, both for scheduled deployments and emergent operations, with preserved capabilities to Train, Fight, and Win.



B. D. BEAUDREULT

Distribution: A, B.



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Current as of 16 June 20

II MEF COVID-19 Pre-Deployment / Pre-Embark ROM-Sequester Commander's Support Tool

	Normal Baseline		ROM-Sequester Minimum		Maximum Restrictions
COVID-19 Screening		Self-Monitoring	Separate respiratory screening from general medical / sick call	Daily Screening	2x Daily Screening (and/or shift work start)
	Current Conditions: Self-monitoring plus separate respiratory screening from general medical / sick call per II MEF COVID-19 Medical Support Services Order				
Hygiene	Frequent Handwashing	Increase in handwashing and sanitizing stations			Enforced (monitored) handwashing and controlled entry points and other key locations (mess areas, etc.)
	Current Condition: Increase in handwashing and sanitizing stations IAW MCI-East HPCON B/C				
Immunizations	Routine	Encourage members to ensure they are current with vaccinations	Unit verification immunizations are current		
	Current Conditions: Encourage members to ensure they are current with vaccinations per MCI-East HPCON B/C				
Sick Personnel	Report to sick call	Stay Home; consult with medical personnel via phone before reporting to sick call / BAS	Restrict access to the workplace by individuals whom the CDC recommends not to go to work to the fullest extent practical consistent with mission needs. Isolate sick personnel.	Add access restrictions for sick personnel to daily screening	Screening conducted at a limited number of entry control points to ensure sick or symptomatic personnel do not gain access.
	Current Conditions: Stay Home; consult with medical personnel via phone before reporting to sick call / BAS per II MEF COVID-19 Medical Support Order. Restrict access to the workplace by individuals whom the CDC recommends not to go to work to the fullest extent practical consistent with mission needs. Isolate sick personnel. Per SECDEF 13 Apr Memo (FHP #8) and MARADMIN 236/20				

Enclosure (1)

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Current as of 16 June 20

II MEF COVID-19 Pre-Deployment / Pre-Embark ROM-Sequester Commander's Support Tool

	Normal Baseline		Routine cleaning with regular disinfecting of frequently touched objects & surfaces	ROM-Sequester Minimum		Daily cleaning schedule with disinfecting of frequently touched objects & surfaces	Maximum Restrictions
Cleaning			Routine cleaning with regular disinfecting of frequently touched objects & surfaces			Daily cleaning schedule with disinfecting of frequently touched objects & surfaces	Multiple daily cleanings with disinfecting of frequently touched objects & surfaces
	Current Conditions: Routine cleaning with regular disinfecting of frequently touched objects & surfaces per HPCON B/C conditions and MARADMIN 218/20						
PPE (for non-medical personnel)			Use masks in situations where social distancing can't be maintained; eye protection and gloves recommended for close contact / contact with frequently handled items & surfaces			Add gloves and eye protection (along with masks) for contact with personnel outside unit	Use of eye protection, masks, and gloves for contact with personnel outside unit; may continue use of PPE within unit
	Current Condition: Use masks in situations where social distancing can't be maintained per MARADMIN 218/20						
Social Distancing	No restrictions	Avoid unnecessary gatherings	Formations of less than 250 personnel	No gatherings with personnel outside the unit.	Formations of less than 50 people	Formations of less than 10 people	Maintain strict social distancing at all times
	Current Conditions: Formations of less than 50 people per HPCON B						
TELEWORK / Physical Workspaces		TELEWORK Option for sick or high risk personnel	Increase TELEWORK and modify work hours / shifts	Max TELEWORK		Essential personnel only at watch / workstations; disinfect between shifts	Solate Unit work areas to create a "bubble"; do not allow personnel from outside units in these areas; Continue essential personnel only at watch / workstations; disinfect between shifts
	Per MCO 12271.1						
	Current Conditions: Maximize the use of TELEWORK to the extent practicable per MARADMIN 236/20						

Enclosure (1)

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	Normal Baseline		ROM-Sequester Minimum		Maximum Restrictions
Foot Traffic Plan	No restrictions	Configure entrances to minimize massing of personnel	Enforce social distancing at lines to minimize massing of personnel	Implement foot traffic pattern management to minimize passing encounters and massing of personnel	Strict foot traffic pattern management to minimize passing encounters and massing of personnel
Current Conditions: Encourage social distancing to minimize massing of personnel per MCI-East HPCON B					
Physical Training and Physical Fitness Facilities		Frequent disinfecting of shared physical fitness facilities			Sequestered unit does not use shared physical fitness facilities
	Normal cleaning		Enforced disinfecting in shared physical fitness facilities	No larger than Squad facilities	No larger than Fire Team; no access to physical fitness facilities
	Current Condition: At commander's discretion; Enforced disinfecting per MCI-East Phase 1 re-opening				
Leave	Per MEFO 1050.1D				Leave only within local liberty limits No leave
	Current Conditions: Leave only within local liberty limits per SECDEF 22 May Memo and MARADMIN 333/20 and II MEF COVID Intentions Message				
Liberty	Normal liberty limits		Areas with high community spread placed off-limits; no leave to off-limits areas	Essential stops only	Base liberty only No liberty
	Current Conditions: Wake, Durham, and Mecklenburg Counties in NC; Columbia and Myrtle Beach, SC; and Richmond, VA are off-limits to II MEF personnel per II MEF COVID Intentions Message para 5.Q.1;				



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	Normal Baseline		ROM-Sequester Minimum		Maximum Restrictions
Residence	As assigned		No shared residence with an increased chance of spreading COVID-19 (travel history, medical work in a COVID environment, etc.)	All personnel live on base	Isolated Unit Area; ideally racks are 6 feet apart from each other, alternate head & feet if not possible
Current Conditions: As assigned					
Messing	No restrictions		Changes to mess facilities to minimize contacts with serving utensils	Eat on base or in residence only	Separate / Field Messing
Current Condition: Per MCI-EAST HPCON B implementation					
Transportation	Routine cleaning		Disinfect vehicle interior surfaces during routine cleaning	All personnel (to include drivers/crews) use PPE	Use organic vehicles to max extent; ensure other supporting vehicles are disinfected before sequester unit personnel board & all personnel (to include drivers/crews) use PPE
Current Conditions: Increased disinfection per HPCON B/C					



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Normal Baseline		ROM-Sequester Minimum		Maximum Restrictions
Integration of New / Returning Personnel	No restrictions	ROM separately from rest of unit for 14 days based on travel history and medical assessment; provide separate workstation for mission essential personnel	ROM separately from rest of unit for 14 days regardless of travel history; provide separate workstation for mission essential personnel	Complete ROM period before joining unit and isolate new / returning personnel for 14 days before full integration
	Current Conditions: ROM separately from rest of unit for 14 days based on travel history and medical assessment; provide separate workstation for mission essential personnel per SECDEF 20 Apr Memo and MARADMIN 236/20			
COVID-19 Testing	Test based on symptoms, travel history, and contact with positive cases / persons under investigation		Test at beginning of sequester (time results to arrive before embark / deploy)	Test at beginning and end of sequester (time results to arrive before embark / deploy)
	Current Condition: Test based on symptoms, travel history, and contact with positive cases / persons under investigation per Navy Medicine guidance.			