

Teammates,

In my first three weeks as Supt, I've been enormously impressed with the way you've handled our fight against COVID-19 as a team, unfortunately, the virus is fighting back! Out of an abundance of caution and in response to an increase in COVID-19 cases on the installation and in the local area, we are going to increase our COVID-19 posturing at USAFA. Our surveillance testing program has proven reliable so far, and we have to honor what the math and science tells us. Therefore, we have increased our pooled testing this week, so we can closely monitor the status of our personnel. Please use the chain of command within your Mission Element for guidance on your respective Element's current phasing restrictions. We have plans in place to respond quickly to such posture changes, so we can limit exposure and potential community spread. We are executing these plans to maintain the health and safety of cadets and permanent party. This is not the first time we have needed to increase our restrictions, and it will not be the last. I am counting on each of you to be a great wingman, who is responsible in your decision making and who will adhere to the guidance set forth by your leadership. Remember, our individual choices affect everyone around us. So, please do not become complacent in the basics: mask wearing, hand washing, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings and abide by surveillance testing requirements. Display the self-discipline I know you all possess, so we can relax the increased posturing more quickly.

I wish we weren't dealing with this, and I know it is a huge stressor on everyone, especially our cadets. But, I have to say, there is no other team I'd rather be fighting with right now! We're going to win this battle, and we're going to be better for it in the end—"Tough times don't last, tough people do!" Hang in there!!!

V/R Rich Clark

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