

USAFA,

With the Independence Day quickly approaching this weekend and recent changes in military leave permissions, I wanted to get my modified leave policy out to you as soon as possible. Therefore, I've led off this update email with those important changes.

LEAVE POLICY UPDATE

In addition to my leave policy update, I also attached the 29 June 2020 SECDEF memo exempting service members from the COVID-19 travel restrictions that were originally established on 22 May 2020. Be advised that the local area remains defined as the area within a 250-mile travel distance from USAFA or alternate duty location. Military members are authorized to take leave *outside* the local 250-mile leave area with approval from the unit commander or equivalent (this may not be delegated).

Leave *within* the local 250-mile leave area can be approved by the unit commander or equivalent and lower (e.g., supervisors are authorized). More details about commander and supervisor risk assessment of the health status and travel itinerary for personnel requesting leave are included in the first attachment. Be sure you are safeguarding your members prior to leave approval.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

Last Thursday, we welcomed almost 1,200 Basic Trainees into our family. The Class of 2024 started the beginning of an incredible journey as they join the more than 50,000 USAFA graduates who have come before them. I ask that you all do your part to support these young men and women through their development and prepare them to lead the next generation of Air and Space Forces. I am extremely proud of all the cadre, staff, and volunteers who made In-processing Day (I-Day) a success despite the more challenging environment in which the operation was executed. It was truly impressive.

With PCS season picking up again, we will see a lot of turnover around the installation. This week we say goodbye to our Vice Superintendent, recently promoted Brig Gen Houston Cantwell, as he heads off to Sigonella Air Base, Italy to command the NATO Allied Ground Surveillance force. We also welcome our new Vice Superintendent, Col Otis Jones. He is a '95 grad and joins us from Yokota Air Base, Japan, where he was most recently in command of the 374th Airlift Wing.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR COAs

We are doing everything in our power to ensure we are prepared to continue our academic mission during the Fall semester while keeping the health and safety of our cadets, faculty, and staff a top priority. Last week, the Academy Board approved two possible Fall academic calendars.

- The first calendar allows us to execute the semester without any significant modifications from the norm—we start classes on 12 August and end the semester on 17 December with a normal Thanksgiving break in between. The second calendar considers the possibility of ongoing COVID-19 related impacts during the fall and winters months. It, too, starts the semester on 12 August but ends the semester on 11 December by removing our fall break coinciding with the Thanksgiving holiday.
- I believe it is in the best interest of the Academy, both for the health and safety of its cadets, faculty, and staff and for its academic and military training missions, to begin the semester assuming ongoing COVID-19 related impacts. No later than 1 October, the USAFA senior leaders and I will re-evaluate the state of COVID-19 across the country, state, and within the Academy and decide which of the two options to select.

LIVE STREAMS

On Friday 12 June, we hosted a Live Stream where the Commandant and the Dean discussed Summer Programs. If you missed it, here is the YouTube link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/BwjFYmCaJ4I>

The next Live Stream event will occur on Thursday, 9 July at 1530.

Enjoy the upcoming 4th of July holiday weekend. Be COVID-smart as you take the time to recharge and celebrate this great nation.

Stay healthy, stay connected, JS