DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY
11291 SGT E. CHURCHILL STREET
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79918-8002

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATSS-CD

1 July 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ASSIGNED/ATTACHED PERSONNEL, US ARMY SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY, FORT BLISS, TX 79918

SUBJECT: Command Policy Letter #19, **Prohibition of Travel to Certain Mexican States and Cities**

1. The narcotics related violence in Mexico continues to present an unacceptable risk to the health, safety, welfare, and morale of Department of Defense personnel and their Families.

2. This memorandum implements USARNORTH FP Travel Directive 13-015 (Mexico Travel Prohibitions) dated 19 July 2013.

3. Until further notice:

a. The Mexican State of Chihuahua and all Mexican cities along the U.S. – Mexican Border are off-limits to all Soldiers assigned/attached to USASMA. Department of the Army Civilians, contracted personnel, International Students, and all family members are highly discouraged from visiting these areas as well due to the severe and continually increasing levels of violence currently occurring in those areas.

b. All Mexican cities along the U.S. — Mexican border are off — limits to all active duty and reserve component personnel in Title 10 status assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas.

c. Land travel by personally owned vehicle (POV) into and throughout Mexico, for routine, unofficial travel, is prohibited.

4. I strongly urge USASMA family members (including foreign military student families) not to travel or pass through these areas for their own safety and security.

5. This order does not currently affect travel to other areas of Mexico. Service members are reminded to use extreme caution at all times while traveling to and through areas not currently prohibited and will follow the requirements of Army Regulation 600-8-10 and Army Regulation 525-13 accordingly. All personnel considering travel anywhere in Mexico will view the State Department web site http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis pa tw/tw/tw 6033.html and comply with posted restrictions, advice and warnings.

6. Emergency Travel:

a. Effective immediately, a country / theater clearance through the Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System (APACS) is required for all active-duty military (including activated reserve and National Guard personnel in title 10 status) on approved emergency leaves into prohibited areas of Mexico.

b. A country/theater clearance is not required for non-official travel to non-prohibited states.

c. The Commandant may approve, on a case by case basis, routine or emergency personal travel into a prohibited state as part of an enroute travel plan when the final destination is into an area not prohibited. Travel of this nature will only be approved when conditions present undue hardship on the traveler, i.e., extreme monetary cost, delay of expedient travel, no nearby air facilities, or other considerable impacts. Under this exemption, a country / theater clearance is not required. The Commandant will not delegate his approval authority and will take the following measures:

(1) Conduct, complete, and maintain a command approved risk assessment prior to requested travel date. See Enclosure 1 (Unofficial Travel Risk Assessment Form).

(2) Ensure the service member has completed Antiterrorism Awareness training (https://atleveltdtic.mil/ati) and has a training certificate dated within BO days of the requested travel date.

(3) Ensure that the service member has received an appropriate threat / area briefing from the Security Manager Office (S-2) within 30 days of requested travel. All service members who have a top secret clearance and or are read — on to the SCI level must coordinate with the G2 SSO to obtain any additional threat / area briefings NLT 30 days prior to requested travel or as soon as they request emergency or unofficial travel. If your organization does not have a qualified Antiterrorism Officer, contact the Plans and Operations Divisions, DPTMS, for assistance.

(4) Ensure the service member is advised that all U.S. citizens (including Soldiers) are now required to present a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) compliant document such as a passport or a passport card when re-entering the United States.

d. Travel for leisure purposes is authorized to Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara, Jalisco, Bahia de Banderas (bay of flags), Nayarit (coastal highway resort areas between Nuevo Vallarta and Punta Mita), Mazatlan and Sinaloa. Service members must travel via air to immediate area of destination city or arrive via cruise ship. Lodging / stay must be in resort or tourist areas of these locations. Country / theater clearance is not required.

The Commandant must ensure personnel have individual antiterrorism and communication plans. The Commandant will not delegate his approval authority.

e. Routine personal travel (leave/pass) on cruise ships that visit ports in prohibited states is authorized and does not require theater or country clearance. However, travelers must remain onboard during ports of call.

7. Official Travel: Official travel to the prohibited states is limited to mission essential travel only. A country and theater clearance through APACS is required for all official travel to Mexico. Personnel on official travel to Mexico are required to travel with an official U.S. passport, travel orders, and government ID card. Brigade level commanders may approve official travel to and through these areas or: a case by case basis for mission essential travel and will not delegate this approval authority. Before the Commandant approves travel, the Directors will take the following measures:

a. Conduct, complete, and maintain a command approved risk assessment NLT 14 days prior to requested travel date. See Enclosure 2 (Official Travel Risk Assessment Form).

b. Ensure the service member has completed Antiterrorism Awareness training (https://atlevell.dtic.mil/at/) and has a training certificate dated within 90 days of the requested travel date.

c. Ensure that the service member has received an appropriate threat / area briefing from the Security Manager within 30 days of requested travel. All service members who have a top secret clearance and or are read — on to the SCI level must coordinate with the G2 SSO to obtain any additional threat / area briefings NLT 30 days prior to requested travel or as soon as they request emergency or unofficial travel. If your organization does not have a qualified Antiterrorism Officer, contact the Plans and Operations Divisions, DPTMS for assistance.

d. Ensure the service member is advised that they are required to travel with and present a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) compliant document such as a passport or a passport card when re-entering the United States. For military personnel, this includes U.S. Military Identification with military travel orders in their possession.

e. Upon the Commandant's approval, submit travel request to the Security Manager (S2) to coordinate submission of threat clearance request NLT 14 days prior to date of requested travel.

f. Travel for conduct of personal or family member Department of State business is authorized to the U.S. Consulates in Nogales, Sonora; Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, and Matamoras. Travel is limited to day time only with no overnight stay. The Commandants approval is required. A country / theater clearance is not required.

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8. Air Travel: Service members experiencing a travel layover in a prohibited state with their final flight destination to a non-prohibited state must remain in the air terminal. Exception may include commercial travel to a lodging facility for the night but no other ground travel. I will periodically re-evaluate these restrictions based on updated assessments and Force Protection travel advisories posted by USARNORTH.

9. Entering Mexico with a firearm, any type of knife or even a single round of ammunition is illegal. Even if the weapon or ammunition is taken into Mexico unintentionally, the Mexican government strictly enforces its laws restricting the entry of firearms and ammunition along all land borders and at airports and seaports. Violations have resulted in arrests, convictions, and long prison sentences for U.S. citizens.

10. Military personnel who violate or fail to obey this policy will subject themselves to administrative or disciplinary action under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

11. This policy letter supersedes the Command Policy Letter #3, Prohibition of Travel to Certain Mexican States and Cities dated 7 August 2013.

12. Place this memorandum on unit bulletin boards and give it the widest dissemination. This policy will remain in effect until superseded or rescinded.

13. Point of contact for this policy is the Security Manager (S2) Mr. Kerry A. Bowden at 915-744-8211 or kerry.a.bowden.civ@mail.mil.

DENNIS E. DEFREESE
CSM, USA
Commandant