FKCC   26 March 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR All Department of Defense Affiliated Personnel in Korea

SUBJECT: Authorized Departure for Eligible Family Members and Civilians

1. References:

    a. Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Authorized Departure – Individuals at Higher Risk from COVID-19," March 20, 2020

    b. Assistant Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Military Personnel Guidance for Department of Defense Components in Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019," March 23, 2020

2. The Department of State has approved an Authorized Departure for eligible family members (EFMs), including DoD EFMs and civilian employees who have determined they are at higher risk of a poor outcome if exposed to COVID-19 or who have requested departure based on commensurate justification in foreign areas. Eligible personnel may return to the United States at government expense upon verification that appropriate transportation and reception procedures are in place for their intended route of travel. The DoD has designated the US as the safe-haven for departing EFMs and Arlington, VA, for DoD civilian employees. Reception procedures have not yet been established for civilian employees travelling to Arlington, VA.

3. Authorized Departure is voluntary and is a personal decision. When making this assessment, individuals should balance their own unique circumstances with conditions at both origin and destination. The specific processes and entitlements associated with Authorized Departure will be determined by each Service. Therefore, if you believe an Authorized Departure is appropriate, the first O-6 in your chain of command will assist you with this process and verify transportation and reception procedures are in place for your situation.

4. The USFK POC for this matter is Col Jason Knight, Assistant Chief of Staff, J1, at DSN 315-755-4101 or jason.l.knight10.mil@mail.mil.

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