

NPS Travel Policy ...from CAPT Philip E. Old, Chief of Staff

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

NPS Team,

The health and safety of our people working and studying at NPS is always top priority. As the novel coronavirus continues to spread, it is an increasing force health protection threat to all NPS personnel.

We are in the midst of wide-ranging planning efforts to maintain the operational readiness of NPS and be able to execute the education and research missions in a COVID-19 environment. That planning effort is in alignment with the USNORTHCOM OPORDER for global pandemic response and encompasses six overlapping phases: (0) Prepare (1) Protect (2) Mitigate (3) Response (4) Stabilize (5) Transition. We are currently in Phase II - Mitigate.

To the end of protecting the health of our people, and with the President's concurrence, I have signed out the attached [Memorandum](#) providing guidance on travel for NPS personnel. **BOTTOM LINE:** all official travel is suspended until further notice. Exceptions will be considered only on a case-by-case basis after determination of mission essential criticality.

This travel guidance enables the balancing of the criticality of the travel against the most up-to-date risk assessment of COVID-19 to make risk decisions taking into consideration the NPS mission, the welfare of the traveler, and the welfare of the NPS population.

In light of the dynamic and evolving operational environment resulting from the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), this guidance is subject to change and will be re-visited as circumstances and higher headquarters guidance change.

CAPT Philip E. Old
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