

**UNCLASSIFIED//**

**Subject:** UPDATED I MEF/MCIWEST COORDINATED MEXICO TRAVEL POLICY  
**Originator:** CG I MEF G-3(UC)  
**DTG:** 211833Z May 10 **Precedence:** ROUTINE **DAC:** General  
**To:** CG I MEF G-3(UC), CG I MEF(UC), CG MCI WEST G-3(UC), CG MCI WEST(UC), CO MCAS MIRAMAR CA(UC), MCAS YUMA AZ(UC), MCAS CAMPEN(UC), CO MCB CAMP PENDLETON CA(UC), CO MCLB BARSTOW CA(UC), MTCC 29 PALMS CA(UC), CG 1ST MARDIV G-3 (UC), CG 1ST MARDIV(UC), CG 1ST MLG G-3(UC), CG 1ST MLG(UC), I MEF HQ GRP(UC), CG 3RD MAW G3(UC), CG 3RD MAW(UC), 15TH MEU(UC), 11TH MEU(UC), 13TH MEU (UC), MCMWTC(UC)  
**Cc:** COMNAVREG SW SAN DIEGO CA(UC), COMMARFORNORTH G3-G5-G7(UC), COMMARFORNORTH(UC), NORAD-USNORTHCOM WASHINGTON OFFICE(UC), CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI(UC)

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 REF/A/DOC/USNORTHCOM/131840Z MAY 10//

NARR/REF A IS USNORTHCOM FORCE PROTECTION DIRECTIVE 10-133 (MEXICO TRAVEL).//

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 GENTEXT/REMARKS/

1. I MEF/MCIWEST HAS CONTINUED TO CAREFULLY MONITOR THE DRUG CARTEL VIOLENCE IN MEXICO, WHICH HAS INCLUDED RECENT ATTACKS ON AMERICANS, AND HAS DETERMINED AN INCREASED RISK FOR I MEF/MCIWEST PERSONNEL TRAVELING TO MEXICO. DUE TO THE CHANGING METRICS WHERE VIOLENCE IS OCCURRING, I MEF/MCIWEST HAS UPDATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL TO MEXICO.
2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A, ALL NON-OFFICIAL TRAVEL (LEAVE AND PASS) IS PROHIBITED TO THE STATES OF MICHOACAN, TAMAULIPAS, CHIHUAHUA, SINALOA, DURANGO, COAHUILA, AND NUEVO LEON. OFFICIAL DOD TRAVEL TO THE AREAS MENTIONED IS LIMITED TO MISSION ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ONLY. ALL TRAVEL TO THESE AREAS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE FIRST GENERAL OFFICER IN THE MEMBER'S CHAIN OF COMMAND. MEMBERS MUST SUBMIT THEIR REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL TO MEXICO TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED DATE. I MEF/MCIWEST WILL CONTINUE TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND RELAX OR TIGHTEN THESE POLICIES ACCORDINGLY.
3. TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR NON-PROHIBITED AREAS.
  - 3.A. AREAS OF CONCERN.
    - 3.A.1. RECENT REPORTING INDICATES THE VIOLENCE IN TIJUANA HAS SIGNIFICANTLY TAPERED OFF SINCE JANUARY 2010 AS THE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE DRUG-TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS HAS DECLINED. STREET LEVEL CRIMES REMAIN A CONCERN; SPECIFICALLY, ARMED ROBBERIES, TAXICAB EXPRESS KIDNAPPINGS, CAR THEFTS, CARJACKINGS, CREDIT CARD FRAUD AND VARIOUS FORMS OF KIDNAPPING. STREET LEVEL CRIMINALS SELECT VICTIMS BASED ON APPEARANCE OF VULNERABILITY, PROSPERITY, OR A LEVEL OF AWARENESS.
    - 3.A.3. THE VIOLENCE IN NOGALES HAS REMAINED HIGH WITH OVER 40 MURDERS PER MONTH REPORTED. THE OVERSEAS SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (OSAC), CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT, LISTS NOGALES AS THE THIRD MOST VIOLENT CITY

ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER WITH AN EXTREME INCREASE IN VIOLENT DRUG-RELATED CRIME. DOS HAS NOT RECOMMENDED U.S. CITIZENS DEFER TRAVEL TO THIS AREA; HOWEVER, I MEF/MCIWEST RECOMMENDS THAT ALL PERSONNEL VISITING NOGALES DO SO DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, REMAIN IN WELL-KNOWN TOURIST AREAS AND AVOID TRAVELING ALONE.

3.A.4. NORTHWESTERN PART OF GUERRERO STATE. I MEF/MCIWEST RECOMMENDS U.S. CITIZENS EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN TRAVELING IN THE AREA DUE TO THE STRONG DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS (DTO) PRESENCE.

4. I MEF/MCIWEST DIRECTS THAT COMMANDERS WILL ENSURE ALL PERSONNEL TRAVELING TO OTHER AREAS OF MEXICO NOT LISTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE ON OFFICIAL OR NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS MUST POSSESS AUTHORIZATION SIGNED BY THE FIRST O-6 IN THE TRAVELER'S CHAIN OF COMMAND. THIS POLICY IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND IS IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THIS TRAVEL DIRECTIVE APPLIES TO ALL ACTIVE DUTY AND RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL IN TITLE 10 STATUS AND DOD CIVILIANS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL. IT ALSO APPLIES TO DOD DEPENDANTS AND DOD CONTRACTORS (AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT VIOLATE ANY TERMS OF THE CONTRACT) WHEN TRAVELING IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY. DEPENDANTS, DOD CIVILIANS AND DOD CONTRACTORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ABIDE BY ALL TRAVEL PROHIBITIONS AND ADVISORIES FOR NON-OFFICIAL TRAVEL.

4.A. THIS POLICY APPLIES TO ALL TRAVELERS, INCLUDING PERSONNEL WHO REGULARLY COMMUTE TO A PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN MEXICO, AND OR TO THOSE WHO FREQUENTLY VISIT NEXT OF KIN OR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS WITHIN MEXICO.

5. I MEF/MCIWEST PERSONNEL MUST REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL TO MEXICO TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED TRAVEL DATE. THE USE OF THE SIGNED AUTHORIZATION FOR ALL TRAVEL, INCLUDING LEAVE OR OFFICAL BUSINESS, ENSURES A SINGLE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR ANY TYPE TRAVEL TO THE AREA. THE USE OF THE AUTHORIZATION DOES NOT NEGATE THE NEED TO FOLLOW STANDARD LEAVE OR OFFICAL TRAVEL PROCEDURES. AN APPROVED AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED FOR EACH VISIT. FREQUENT TRAVELERS, DUE TO OFFICIAL BUSINESS, PERMANENT RESIDENCE, OR PRESENCE OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY, MAY BE GRANTED APPROVAL COVERING TRAVEL OVER A PERIOD OF UP TO THIRTY DAYS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THEIR FIRST GENERAL OFFICER, OR IF APPLICABLE O-6, IN THEIR CHAIN OF COMMAND.

6. THE FOLLOWING MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN IN ADDITION TO AN APPROVED SIGNED AUTHORIZATION PER REF L:

6.A. LEVEL 1 ANTITERRORISM TRAINING WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO TRAVELING TO MEXICO. THIS BRIEF CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE AT WWW.AT-AWARENESS.ORG OR BY A CERTIFIED LEVEL II ANTITERRORISM OFFICER. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OR ATTENDANCE ROSTER MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE LEAVE/LIBERTY REQUEST.

6.B. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN - EACH MEMBER ON LEAVE OR LIBERTY IN MEXICO MUST HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION THE FOLLOWING PHONE NUMBERS IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

6.B.1. AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL: LOCATED AT AVE. TAPACHULA #96, COLONIA HIPODROMO 22420 TIJUANA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO. TEL: 01152-664-622-7400; DUTY PHONE: (619) 692-2154

6.B.2. BORDER SHORE PATROL: (619) 428-2427/1318 (COLLECT CALLS ACCEPTED)

6.B.3. MEMBER'S COMMAND DUTY PHONE NUMBER.

NOTE: IF A MEMBER IS NOT GOING TO THE TIJUANA MEXICO AREA, THEY WILL SUBSTITUTE THE TIJUANA NUMBER FOR THE NEAREST U.S. EMBASSY/CONSULATE OFFICE.

- 6.C. ALL PERSONNEL WILL USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM. A BUDDY IS ANY INDIVIDUAL, MILITARY OR CIVILIAN, THAT IS OVER THE AGE OF 18. THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL WILL BE ON THE AUTHORIZATION. THIS REQUIREMENT MAY BE WAIVED FOR PERSONNEL ON LEAVE VISITING FAMILY OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE FIRST GENERAL OFFICER, OR IF APPLICABLE O-6, IN THEIR CHAIN OF COMMAND.
  - 6.D. ALL PERSONNEL WILL RECEIVE A SECURITY BRIEF FOR THE AREA(S) OF TRAVEL.
  - 6.E. ALL PERSONNEL WILL REGISTER ONLINE WITH THE AMERICAN CONSULATE PRIOR TO TRAVEL TO MEXICO AT [HTTP://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV/TRAVEL/TIPS/REGISTRATION/REGISTRATION\\_1186.HTML](http://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV/TRAVEL/TIPS/REGISTRATION/REGISTRATION_1186.HTML). ALL PERMANENT RESIDENTS WILL REGISTER THEIR RESIDENCE WITH THE EMBASSY OR CONSULATE OFFICE.
  7. UNIT COMMANDERS WILL MAINTAIN AN ACCURATE ROSTER OF ALL PERSONNEL TRAVELING TO MEXICO, MAINTAINING RESIDENCE IN MEXICO, AND OR HAVE NOK/IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS IN MEXICO.
  8. THIS POLICY ESTABLISHES MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS THAT WILL NOT BE SUPERCEDED BY LOCAL COMMAND POLICIES. INDIVIDUAL COMMANDERS RETAIN THE AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RESTRICTIONS BASED ON INDICATIONS & WARNINGS (I&W).
  9. PUNITIVE EFFECT AND AUTHORITY: THIS INSTRUCTION CONSTITUTES A LAWFUL GENERAL ORDER, PUNITIVE IN NATURE. VIOLATIONS ARE PUNISHABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.
  10. ALL COMMANDS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THIS MESSAGE REACHES ALL HANDS, ESPECIALLY PERSONNEL RETURNING FROM DEPLOYMENT PRIOR TO POSTDEPLOYMENT LEAVE AND LIBERTY.
  11. QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS MESSAGE CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE POCS LISTED ABOVE.//
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