



Navy Region Southeast All Hands Message

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Update: May 29, 2020

COVID-19

May 29, 2020

HPCON C

STATUS UPDATE #13

Team Southeast,

I am sure all of us are relieved to see signs of the military beginning to move toward normal working conditions. Throughout the pandemic, the Navy's first priority has been the safety and security of the military and civilian members of our team and their families. This remains the Navy's first priority now that we are preparing to reassess many of the protective guidelines put in place more than two months ago.

Last week, the Department of Defense released the initial [guidelines for reassessing the Health Protection Condition \(HPCON\)](#) levels at our installations. This week, the [Department of Defense released a memorandum reassessing the existing travel restrictions](#) on service members.

It is important to understand that travel opportunities will be reinstated in a careful and precise manner, keeping the safety of our personnel in mind throughout. The Stop Movement order is still in effect and has conditions for when commands may begin to authorize personnel movement. This phased approach is primarily centered on the White House's "[Opening Up America Again](#)" guidelines. Additional guidance should be forthcoming to include the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) assessment on whether a state, district, territory, or host nation *shall be considered* to permit movement to/from these areas. In light of this recent Stop Movement order, Navy Region Southeast Commanding Officers and Officers in Charge may now authorize local leave up to 150 miles from the duty station of the requestor.

Additionally, installations in locations that meet the "Opening Up America Again" guidelines are likely to begin requesting to reduce their HPCON level from Charlie. Navy Region Southeast remains in Charlie. Charlie is put in place when there is the potential for high morbidity or contamination. Some examples of associated restrictions in Charlie include all of the HPCON B measures, as well as social distancing, limited personnel on base, face coverings and travel restrictions.

HPCON Bravo recognizes that there is still an outbreak with a heightened exposure risk. Some examples of the restrictions associated with Bravo include strict hygiene, maximizing telework and limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people.

As you can see, many of the limitations between Charlie and Bravo are the same, or at least quite similar. COVID-19 is still with us, and we must continue to utilize care and caution as we look at the potential of personnel returning to work.

You may be asking what facilities will begin opening when an installation transitions back to Bravo. The facilities that will be opened, and the restrictions placed on those facilities, will be determined by the Installation Commanding Officer in coordination with medical professionals. Stay tuned to your installation websites and social media sites for the latest information.

While we continue to work remotely in many cases, it is easy to lose track of each individual's situation. It is vital that we maintain good communications with each other, but it is also important that we have a formalized way to know your current situation as well.

The Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) has established a Pandemic Personnel Status Tracker (PST) tool to determine how affected you and your family are by COVID-19. The personnel Status Tracker tool only takes a couple of minutes to update and you need to input your status even if you have not been affected directly. This tool is for military and civilian personnel (including NAF). Instructions on how to report your status using the NFAAS PST tool can be found [here](#).

The wheels are beginning to turn, but things won't be back up to full speed for a while. The last two weeks have seen a steady movement toward a reopening of our facilities. It will take time and a coordinated effort. I cannot stress enough how important it is that everyone take the appropriate actions both at home and when at work. We will get through this together. Be Smart! Be Well! And as always be safe!