



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, ARKANSAS

11 May 2020

Open Letter to the Men and Women of Team Little Rock

Over the last nine weeks, we have dramatically altered the ways that we execute our daily mission and socially interact. As previously closed public and commercial spaces reopen while the local threat ebbs, we must fight to preserve mission capability. To this point, your efforts have flattened the curve of this pandemic and proven your ability to operate in a COVID-contaminated environment. The potential of recurring waves of infection exists until a vaccine is available at scale within the next 12-14 months. The frequency and intensity of these waves depends on how well we, as a force and our families, adhere to CDC-recommended infection mitigation measures in what promises to be a long term fight.

Throughout this campaign, the installation's posture will remain responsive to local threat conditions as we employ a methodical, risk-informed, phased approach to the "new abnormal." Based on a comprehensive assessment of local conditions, Little Rock Air Force Base will transition from Phase 1A to Phase 1B beginning on 11 May 2020. While our posture may change periodically, our priorities as an installation will remain unchanged. We will continue to protect Airmen and their families, preserve combat airlift capacity and readiness, and defend the student pipeline. Collectively, we will continue to take active steps to protect the most at-risk populations within our workforce and across the installation.

This letter rescinds previous guidance provided on 26 March 2020. Airmen are now permitted to visit public and commercial spaces as they are reopened, while adhering to CDC guidelines, including mask wear. All other guidance, including, but not limited to the Installation's Public Health Emergency Declaration, as well the restriction to travel only within the State of Arkansas, remains in place. Nevertheless, members of Team Little Rock must assess the difference between what you *can* do versus what you *should* do as civil society reopens. The severity of the threat posed by the coronavirus remains unchanged. Consequently, we must all remember to not place ourselves, our families, or our coworkers at unnecessary risk by failing to take the proper precautions. Subordinate commanders must continue to enforce CDC-recommended infection mitigation measures while leading Airmen to not just survive and operate, but to thrive within a COVID-contaminated environment.

Finally, we want to thank you and your families for the resilience, fortitude, and flexibility so abundantly on display over the last two months. Your strength and your disciplined approach to combating this virus will allow us to collectively turn challenges into opportunities as we continue to adapt and overcome. Together, Team Little Rock will emerge stronger from this experience.

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