

## 142 FW Livestream TownHall - Unanswered Questions

### **1) As this develops, and if this continues beyond the April drill, what steps is the wing working on to address future drill periods, May, June, etc.?**

Answer: State and Wing leadership will continue to closely monitor the Wing Long Range Calendar. At this time, it is premature to make a decision on future regularly scheduled drills (RSDs). We will communicate any changes to future RSDs as soon as possible.

### **2) Governor Kate Brown issued a stay at home order today. How does this apply to Technicians and AGR members?**

Answer: We have critical State and Federal missions, and those will continue. Governor Brown's order does not restrict us from traveling to PANG Base, when required, to take part in mission essential activities that can not be completed via telework. If a member is questioned, by local law enforcement, about their travel, they should display their Common Access Card, and respond that they are ordered to PANG Base for mission essential duty.

### **3) Identifying opportunities of remote work seems very beneficial. Is the ORANG looking into long term benefits of certain career fields working remotely?**

Answer: Not at this time. We do have a standing telework policy, but the current push for maximum telework is a specific response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm sure this time of maximum telework will provide us some good lessons learned on what works, and what doesn't, but there is no specific study of teleworking occurring now.

### **4) Who will be essential once the deployers and aircraft have left for their mission?**

Answer: After our team departs for the Deployment, we will continue to ensure our Aerospace Control Alert Mission, and maintain readiness. This will be done in balance with the COVID-19 pandemic. More information will flow, through the chain of command, in the days and weeks ahead.

### **5) Wondering if this will be available to view later for those not present?**

Answer: Yes, if anyone missed the livestream, please follow the same link that was sent out via AtHoc and email.

### **6) Will there be additional resources available for deployed member's families? It is adding a stress that isn't part of a 'normal' deployment and really wasn't something covered by YR events etc.**

Answer: Our Airmen & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC) is working to consolidate information internally into a resource bank to equip us with up-to-date information for walk-ins and members referred to us. PA will post resources available on the PANG COVID-19 resources webpage. If you are personally experiencing hardship, reach out to your leadership team, and then to the A&FRC with specific questions.

**7) Does the Wing or ORANG have any resources for members who may be out of work right now or experiencing financial hardship?**

Answer: Our A&FRC is collecting resources (DoD/State/local) that support our airmen in this unexpected time of crisis. This information includes safety net resources that members experiencing hardship may need. The A&FRC is working to consolidate this information internally into a resource bank to equip us with up-to-date information for walk-ins and members referred to us. Additionally, we will post select resources available on our PANG Covid-19 webpage. The underlying message is . . . Reach out to your chain of command and inform them of your situation. We are starting to receive more tasking for State Active Duty, and this is meaningful work for members who are looking to serve the State at this time.

**8) How do we maintain grooming standards when salons and barbers are ordered to shut down?**

Answer: Do the best you can to maintain a professional image while in uniform, however, your leadership understands that you can't get a haircut if the barbershops aren't open. Bottom Line – The health and welfare of our Airmen and families are more important than a fresh haircut right now!

**9) Is there any chance the 142nd will purchase their own test kits?**

Answer: This is technically possible, but not practical right now. Performing the testing exposes health care workers to infectious risk, and robust PPE is required for each test performed. The 142 MDG does not routinely stock this PPE. Members who have symptoms should notify their chain of command and engage their primary care doctor's office to see if testing is appropriate. Testing availability is changing rapidly, so there may come a time soon when we can source test kits that are accurate, affordable, and easy to administer safely.

**10) With HIPPA laws if someone in the unit is sick how do we learn if it is from a virus or just the cold or flu. I stayed home Friday due to possible exposure and anticipate being home next week.**

Answer: Commanders have been given broad latitude to enable remote work or telework. For those who cannot perform their work functions remotely, hygiene and social distancing remain critical (and effective) for preventing spread. Individual members with significant health conditions should discuss with their Commander who, in coordination with the MDG, can help determine the best risk mitigation strategy.

**11) I may have missed this as I joined late, are there any extra considerations for personnel with medical conditions that make them higher risk, such as immunocompromised?**

Answer: Individual members with significant health conditions should discuss with their Commander who, in coordination with the 142 MDG, can help determine the best risk mitigation strategy.

**12) Is having the MXG continue to come into work truly mission essential? On weather closures we are not considered essential. Also OPM says members who are essential should be notified annually and we haven't had good communication on this subject.**

Answer: We're still working on this answer, to ensure we correctly follow all human resources policy. As of this response, I don't have a final answer. However, to help share my thinking on this issue, here are a few thoughts. We have a vital State and Federal mission, and that will continue throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. To continue our missions, we must preserve the health of our force. The mission is a combination of an action (the task), which is carried out by people (our most precious resource). Therefore, we are following the CDC guidelines for reducing exposure to COVID-19, and we have instituted maximum telework. However, if we need people present, to complete a mission, we must take that risk, and have them report to duty. Finally, the definition of "mission essential" is situational. If the crisis is a snowstorm, the most mission essential personnel are from our roads and ground team. If the crisis is a fire, the most mission essential personnel are from our fire department. In short, it depends . . . Our mission essential team will rely on the judgement of the local commanders.

**13) Is it possible to consider having some cypher doors in Bldg. 170 relaxed due to incessant hand washing?**

Answer: LRS needs to maintain the locks so that the warehouse and loading dock remain a controlled area. Once the Deployment departs, we will go to a more skeleton crew and the locks will be more important to ensure that inventory and supply items are properly secured. Additional needs for the locks in B170 are for entities that handle large volumes of personal information, like the 142 FSS and the 142 CPTF. Propping these doors open while reducing staff increases risk to mission. There are cleaning agents around the building to keep hands and door knobs clean.

**14) If we are having trouble connecting while telecommuting, should we come in, or would the Wing prefer that we stay home? Not sure if the priority is to accomplish work or social distancing.**

Answer: As I stated during the TownHall, the priority is the health and welfare of our team. We will sort through the challenges of telework. Also, this information was pushed to the Wing, via a Network Alert on NIPR email, on 18 March:

There are only a limited number of VPN connection resources available across the domain (ANG-wide). When these connections are saturated, users are unable to connect. VPN should only be used when access to a network drive is necessary, or when access to a website requires a .mil connection. For access to government email, use Outlook Web Access (OWA)/Web Mail. When using VPN, disconnect as

soon as you are finished performing the tasks that required VPN access (EMAIL DOES NOT REQUIRE VPN ACCESS). If you're trying to connect via VPN, please be patient as it may take multiple attempts. Cisco VPN is being overtaxed due to the unprecedented number of users telecommuting from home.

Again, please logoff from VPN as soon as you complete the task(s) that required VPN access. This will allow others a chance to conduct their business.

The attached file has instructions for using Web Mail. This does NOT require you to be connected via VPN.

Please be patient when contacting the CFP at 335-5555. We are short-handed and trying our very best to help you as quickly as possible.

**15) If and when it comes down to essential employees will title 5 civilian technicians be considered essential. And will that be based on their duties here?**

Answer: We're still working on this answer, to ensure we correctly follow all human resources policy. As of this response, I don't have a final answer. However, we do know that Title 5 employees can be deemed mission essential. We will provide a better answer when we have it available from State HR.

**16) Is the wing going to provide CAC readers to members for home use and telework?**

Answer: CF is working on an initial purchase of 100 CAC readers for home PCs. When they arrive we will work distribution through units.

**17) Could you please explain how the importance of deploying on this specific mission takes such a priority, despite the activities we were supposed to be in support of being cancelled and/or not a reality, anymore that we are being put at an extremely high risk of contracting/being exposed to COVID19 by transiting through airports & on commercial airliners staying either in a hotel OR in close quarters on base?**

Answer: We are mobilized in support national security. These missions will continue or increase in importance as the nation responds to the crisis. The USAF leadership is actively pursuing options which avoid some of the increased risk factors you mentioned like commercial air travel and hotels. Yesterday (24 March), there were a number of telecons to work through Courses of Action that enable this federal mission, while minimizing public health risks to the force.

**18) What exactly are we going to be doing for the deployment now that this pandemic is the reality? What are our plans for accommodations, meals, "social distancing" while deployed?**

Answer: We are providing for the Defense of North America. The Air Expeditionary Commander, in conjunction with senior enlisted leadership, is engaged at the Federal level to provide lodging, meals,

and a general work environment that reduces the risk of the spread of infectious disease. Some of the specifics will not be sorted out until arrival, but will be communicated to the team as soon as available.

**19) Any concerns or possible changes for ONE DSG deploying - who is a non-commuter. Obviously we will stay in a hotel in PDX prior to the trip etc.**

Answer: We are concerned about all of our Airmen who have additional travel. Their mission begins before they make it through the gate at PANG Base. Please comply with the best practices published by the State's Health Department and maintain the best social distancing possible prior to departure.

**20) Since the deployment is happening...when are we going to get COVID specific guidance to deployers?**

Answer: There is no particular COVID-19 guidance for the mobilization. Airmen should follow Health Department guidelines prior to Mobilization. When your Title 10 orders begin, you are required to follow DoD guidelines, which closely mirror those provided by the States. You are Mission Essential. One of the things your leadership may tell you is to remain at home and practice good pre-emptive sequestration until ordered to report for duty. If that is the case, please follow those orders with your utmost diligence. We are not paying you to "take time off," rather we are using the resources to preserve the force and provide ready combat capability.

**21) What are our plans for accommodations, meals, "social distancing" while deployed?**

Answer: 1 AF is working at a feverish pace to ensure you have a sanitary and isolated place to operate from while mobilized. The entire leadership team is doing everything within their power to enable you to remain healthy and defend North America. You are our Air Superiority plan.