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FM CG III MEF/MARFORJ//

To: III MEF/MARFORJ G THREE, III MEF/MARFORJ G ONE, III MEF/MARFORJ G TWO, III MEF/MARFORJ G FOUR, III MEF/MARFORJ G FIVE, III MEF/MARFORJ G SIX, CG THIRD MARDIV, THIRD MARDIV G THREE, THIRD MARDIV G ONE, THIRD MARDIV G TWO, THIRD MARDIV G FOUR, THIRD MARDIV G FIVE, THIRD MARDIV G SIX, CG FIRST MAW, FIRST MAW G THREE, FIRST MAW G ONE, FIRST MAW G TWO, FIRST MAW G FOUR, FIRST MAW G FIVE, FIRST MAW G SIX, FIRST MAW MED, CG THIRD MLG, THIRD MLG G THREE, THIRD MLG G ONE, THIRD MLG G TWO, THIRD MLG G FOUR, THIRD MLG G FIVE, THIRD MLG G SIX, THIRD MLG HSSE, CG THIRD MEB, CG THIRD MEB G THREE, 31ST MEU/OPS, III MIG/OPS, MRF-D/OPS, CG MCIPAC

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UNCLAS

Subj: III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MEF)/MARINE CORPS FORCES JAPAN (MARFORJ) NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK RESPONSE EXECUTION ORDER (EXORD) 21-001 **incorporating FRAGOs 001 through 019**. (Short Title: **FRAGO 019** to III MEF/MARFORJ COVID-19 Outbreak Response EXORD 21-001)

References. Contact your unit COVID-19 representative for specific COVID-19 references.

Encl: (1) III MEF/MARFORJ Travel Approval Authority and Smart Pack
(2) Restriction of Movement Quick Reference

Narr/ This EXORD incorporates all 16 FRAGOs for the III MEF/MARFORJ COVID-19 Outbreak Response EXORD 21-001. For III MEF personnel in Hawaii and installations in mainland Japan, if guidance conflicts with local policies, follow the guidance of the local installation commander. In Japan, this EXORD applies to all III MEF/MARFORJ SOFA personnel (service members, dependents, SOFA status civilians, and U.S. contractors). **This FRAGO is effective as of 1600 on 13 August 2021.**

Rmrks// This FRAGO includes additional tasks for III MEF/MARFORJ Commanders. Additionally, it places an emphasis on Sentinel Surveillance Testing requirements as well as prohibiting several off-base activities in order to protect our force from COVID-19, maintain our readiness, and support the well-being of the community in which we live.

Summary of Sentinel Surveillance Testing requirements listed in Annex G:

- 1% of Marines, Sailors, and USMC civilian employees will be tested every 14 days.
- 10% of clinical health care personnel will be tested every 14 days.
- 10% of congregant settings will be tested every 14 days.

Summary of Off-Base Prohibited Activities:

- In all of Japan, the following are prohibited: mass gathering events; large groups; high density events or activities (indoors and outdoors) that preclude social distancing; off-base bars, taverns, karaoke clubs, night clubs, disco clubs, lounges, public bath houses (onsens), and establishments that restrict entry to adults only.
- In Okinawa:,
 - **Fully vaccinated** personnel are prohibited from: indoor dining; outdoor dining between the hours of 2000-0500; indoor tourist attractions; festivals and concerts; indoor sports; group PT; martial arts; indoor recreation; arcades, movie theaters, pachinko parlors; indoor group activities; indoor gyms.
 - **Fully vaccinated** personnel conducting leave or liberty to mainland, Japan in a red zone must follow the same restrictions as Okinawa.
 - **Unvaccinated** personnel are prohibited from: tattoo parlors; massage therapy; barbershops, hair and nail salons; indoor dining; outdoor dining between the hours of 2000-0500; indoor tourist attractions; festivals and concerts; public transportation with the exception of taxis; indoor sports; group PT; martial arts; indoor recreation; arcades, movie theaters, pachinko parlors; indoor group activities; indoor gyms.

1. Situation. (Change) We last adjusted our off-base measures on 2 July 2021, just before the Independence Day holiday weekend. At that time, we had 10 SOFA cases. Within one week, cases off-base quickly spiked resulting in Okinawa's fifth outbreak. Additionally, SOFA cases began increasing. Prior to this fifth outbreak, the all-time high for active cases within the local population was 2,756 on 5 June 2021. The local population is now over 5,000 active cases. Additionally, cases within the SOFA population is now approaching an all-time high of 140 cases, which occurred on 30 March 2021. Currently, the SOFA community has 113 active cases and climbing. Transmission rate both within the local population and SOFA community is high.

Clearly, the United States and Japan have a common enemy that presents a clear and present danger to us all—COVID-19. More than 35 million Americans have been infected by the virus and nearly 613 thousand have died. Here on Okinawa, the enduring epicenter of Japan's pandemic crisis, more than 27,000 have been infected, approximately 240 have died and nearly 5,000 are presently sick due to COVID-19. Okinawa's prefectural government (OPG) recently requested a few concessions from its citizens to help stem the relative-tsunami of cases threatening its populace. As an inextricable part of the community, we will support the OPG's objective as part of our enduring efforts to mitigate the impacts of this pandemic on our collective health and safety. To cope with this critical point in time, OPG requests all local residents take the situation seriously and double down on the following:

- a. Do not gather outdoors or at home (with those other than cohabitants), and avoid non-essential outings.
- b. Avoid traveling across prefectures from/to mainland Japan, as well as remote islands.
- c. Get vaccinated.

Across III MEF/MARFORJ, COVID-19 continues to present risk to the safety of service members, civilians and family members. It threatens our readiness to deploy and to fight and win. I need your continued vigilance and adherence with our long-standing tenets for COVID-19 mitigation:

- a. Wear masks inside U.S. government buildings, and off-base while indoors or where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- b. Avoid large gatherings.
- c. Maintain good personal hygiene and hygiene within our workspaces.
- d. Seek medical attention immediately if symptomatic.
- e. Comply with published guidance and preventative measures.

I am counting on your selfless commitment, discipline, and example to protect our force from COVID-19, maintain our readiness, and support the well-being of the community in which we live. We must always be ready to Fight Now. We will only succeed together. Tomo ni.

2. Mission. III MEF/MARFORJ protects the force and local populations, slows the spread of COVID-19, and prepares for widespread outbreaks in order to safeguard life, maintain readiness, and ensure the ability to respond within the INDOPACOM area of operation (AOR).

3. Execution. (Change) **Effective as of 1600 on 13 August 2021.**

a. Commander's Intent

(1) Purpose. To date, our success against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been built on the consistent and dedicated commitment of leaders throughout III MEF and MARFORJ to maintain discipline among our force, transparency with our challenges and efforts, and compliance with measures designed to preserve the force and our readiness to fight now. I am still counting on the MEF leadership as we continue to take a deliberate and measured approach in our battle with COVID-19. We are entering in a new phase with this FRAGO. I will need all our leaders – NCO to officer – to study, communicate, apply, and enforce these new measures. Make sure you understand why we are changing our approach. You are the vital link for our ability to meet our operational requirements, keep everyone safe, and ensure we can fight now. Pay close attention to individual needs, provide support and direction as required, and uphold high standards of conduct. Additionally, I demand that all of us continue to live our values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. I know you will make us proud.

(2) Endstate. Ensure the III MEF/MARFORJ population remains safe from the lasting effects of COVID-19, our force remains ready to fight and win, and that we keep faith with our local communities.

b. Concept of Operations. III MEF/MARFORJ will satisfy the requirements established in all HHQ directives and polices, as well as the requirements established in this order.

c. Tasks

(1) Task to III MEF/MARFORJ Commanders

- (a) Deploy forces that are medically ready and are free from COVID-19 infection.
- (b) Ensure compliance with COVID-19 policies.
- (c) Whenever possible, employ video teleconferencing and other networking capabilities to prevent close contact and enable social distancing.
- (d) Ensure 100% education and training of all personnel regarding III MEF/MARFORJ COVID-19 definitions, policies, and mitigation measures.
- (e) Enforce the conduct of strict hygiene measures, to include: maintaining a double-arm interval (social distance), use of cloth face coverings, hand-washing, wiping down common surface areas, and other measures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- (f) Identify shortfalls in the ability to satisfy the requirements of this EXORD and report to the CG, III MEF/MARFORJ.
- (g) Identify III MEF/MARFORJ personnel who are or will be in ROM status.
- (h) BPT to sequester mission essential units to preserve readiness and ensure their immediate employability.
- (i) Commanders will identify high-risk individuals, including those with preexisting conditions, and ensure they are properly protected.
- (j) NLT 30 days prior to OAI execution, provide the request for COVID-19 testing information to Task Force SAFEGUARD (TFSG) via Care Point and send the COVID-19 mitigation plan to TFSG at TFSG_CORC@usmc.mil.
- (k) III MEF MSCs will designate a COVID-19 representative who will attend the TFSG CORC sync meetings on Monday and Thursday of each week.
- (l) (Add) Commanders will ensure a COVID-19 representative attends the weekly COVID-19 sync meetings via Global Video Services. See paragraph 5.a.(2) for details.
- (m) (Add) In all of Japan, prohibit the following off-base activities: mass gathering events; large groups; high density events or activities (indoors and outdoors) that preclude social distancing; off-base bars, taverns, karaoke clubs, night clubs, disco clubs, lounges, public bath houses (onsens), and establishments that restrict entry to adults only.
- (n) (Add) In Okinawa, prohibit the following off-base activities for fully vaccinated personnel: indoor dining; outdoor dining between the hours of 2000-0500; indoor tourist attractions; festivals and concerts; indoor sports; group PT; martial arts; indoor recreation; arcades, movie theaters, pachinko parlors; indoor group activities; indoor gyms. Fully vaccinated personnel conducted leave or liberty to mainland, Japan in a red zone must follow the same restrictions as Okinawa.
- (o) (Add) In Okinawa, prohibit the following off-base activities for unvaccinated personnel: tattoo parlors; massage therapy; barbershops, hair and nail salons; indoor dining; outdoor dining between the hours of 2000-0500; indoor tourist attractions; festivals and concerts;

public transportation with the exception of taxis; indoor sports; group PT; martial arts; indoor recreation; arcades, movie theaters, pachinko parlors; indoor group activities; indoor gyms.

(p) (Add) Ensure Sentinel Surveillance Testing is adhered to IAW Annex G IOT break the chain of disease transmission and reduce risk to the force and III MEF/MARFORJ OAI.

(2) Tasks to Task Force SAFEGUARD. See Annex F.

d. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Types of Testing, Testing Requirements and Procedures. See Annex G. See Annex P for Pre-Travel Testing FAQs.

(2) COVID-19 Test Results and Follow-On Actions. See Annex H.

(3) Unit Deployments, Redeployments, Individual Movements, and Unrestricted Travel (including Space-A). See Annex I.

(4) Restriction of Movement. See Annex J.

(5) Individual Actions

(a) III MEF/MARFORJ has five tenets each person should remember in a COVID-19 environment:

- Wear a face covering.
- Maintain social distancing (double arm interval).
- Avoid large gatherings.
- Hygiene: hand washing, wiping down common surface areas.
- Minimize interactions with people.

(b) Any unvaccinated personnel that come into close contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case will immediately notify their chain of command and quarantine for 14-days.

(c) Any unvaccinated DoD civilian or contractor that comes into close contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case will quarantine and be restricted from access to installations and/or their workplaces for 14-days.

(d) III MEF/MARFORJ personnel are encouraged to maintain a close contact trace log, but are no longer required to do so in the event they become a COVID-19 confirmed case. Units should continue to maintain close contact trace logs for group activities.

(6) Face Coverings. See Annex K.

(7) N95 Respirator and Fit Testing Requirements and Procedures. See Annex L.

(8) Reporting Requirements. See Annex C.

(9) Compliance. See Annex M.

(10) Ceremonies. The prohibition of ceremonies has been rescinded.

(11) Official host nation personnel visiting for actions/events in support of III MEF/MARFORJ OAI's and other CG level approved events are authorized.

(12) OPSEC

(a) Commanders should remind service members to practice good OPSEC when using non-U.S. Government supplied applications for COVID-19 tracking on personal mobile devices. Some evidence suggests foreign entities have collected user location information and smart phone data from similar applications. As a reminder, applications/programs that were not supplied or approved by the U.S. Government are NOT authorized for use on U.S. Government provided phones or computers.

(b) Assessments and any other unit readiness related reports shall be done via classified means to protect the operational security of III MEF/MARFORJ.

(13) All Protected Health Information (PHI) and Personally Identifiable Information (PII), when transmission is required, will be transmitted via encrypted email and if databases are sent, password protected. No collaboration of platforms is to be used to communicate PHI/PII.

(14) Authorization to deviate from the requirement to be placed in quarantine or isolation must be requested from the CG, III MEF/MARFORJ via appropriate channels.

4. Administration and Logistics

a. Administration

(1) Medical Screening Teams. See Annex N.

(2) Funding. See Annex D.

(3) Definitions. See Annex E.

(4) Common Exceptions to Policy. See Annex O.

b. Logistics. Commanders are responsible for coordinating and supporting the sustainment and life support for any individual in isolation or quarantine. Logistical requirements that pertain to Okinawa, Japan only are listed in ANNEX A.

5. Command and Signal

a. Signal

(1) AtHoc Notification System

(a) To receive immediate notifications and alerts, all III MEF/MARFORJ personnel will enroll in the AtHoc mass notification system.

(b) Instructions for enrollment and registration in the AtHoc system have been distributed to all commands via SEPCOR. This material is also included in the III MEF/MARFORJ COVID-19 Playbook.

(2) TFSG CORC sync meetings will occur Thursday of each week via Global Video Services PR_TFSG_CORC. **MSC COVID-19 representatives are required to attend these meetings. MSE and other personnel assisting with COVID-19 operations are encouraged to attend these meetings in order to receive the most up-to-date COVID-19 information.**

b. Command

(1) III MEF/MARFORJ Points of Contact

- (a) Commander, Task Force SAFEGUARD, Lieutenant Colonel Neal Cheramie.
- (b) Deputy Commander, TFSG, Maj Denver Edick, DSN: 646-9652.
- (c) TFSG CORC/Operations Officer, Captain Alex Lizotte, DSN: 646-7268.
- (d) TFSG CORC, Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Schuchhardt, DSN: 646-4636.
- (e) III MEF Battle Center (MBC), Watch Chief, DSN: 622-7706.

(2) MARFORPAC Points of Contact

- (a) MARFORPAC Watch officer, marforpac.coc.wo@usmc.mil, DSN 315-477-8642.
- (b) MARFORPAC Watch Chief, maforpac.coc.wchf@usmc.mil, DSN 315-477-8633.

Annexes:

- ANNEX A – COVID-19 Logistical Requirements for III MEF MARFORJ
- ANNEX B – COVID-19 Off-Duty Activities for III MEF/MARFORJ
- ANNEX C – COVID-19 OPREP-3 Procedures for III MEF/MARFORJ
- ANNEX D – COVID-19 Funding for III MEF/MARFORJ
- ANNEX E – COVID-19 Definitions in support of III MEF/MARFORJ Policies
- ANNEX F – Tasks to Task Force SAFEGUARD
- ANNEX G – Types of Testing, Testing Requirements and Procedures
- ANNEX H – COVID-19 Test Results and Follow-On Actions
- ANNEX I – Unit Deployments, Redeployments, and Individual Movements
- ANNEX J – Restriction of Movement
- ANNEX K – Face Coverings Guidance

- ANNEX L – N95 Respirator Guidance
- ANNEX M – COVID-19 Compliance
- ANNEX N – Medical Screening Teams
- ANNEX O – COVID-19 Common Exceptions to Policy
- ANNEX P – Pre-Travel Testing FAQs
- ANNEX Q – Transition Plan for JCRC/TFSG