



11 March 2020

JBSA Teammates,

Out of an abundance of caution, with an overall aim to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 and associated risk to the force, effective immediately, JBSA is suspending all guest attendance for mass gatherings that are not deemed mission essential, to include basic military training coinig and graduation ceremonies. Additionally, newly graduated basic military trainees will be restricted from off base liberty, known as a “town pass”, and forward movement of trainees to their next training location will be expedited.

I understand this news will be disappointing to family members and friends of graduating basic military trainees who will not be able to take part in these occasions or spend time with their loved one; however, after consulting with medical experts, we consider this to be a necessary action to protect our service members, their families, our communities, and the force at large.

Currently, there are no community transmission cases of COVID-19, where the virus has directly passed from one person to another, anywhere on Joint Base San Antonio, the City of San Antonio, or any of the surrounding municipalities. Therefore, the overall risk of infection remains low. However, organizations from all Services host a number of training graduation ceremonies across JBSA training complexes including JBSA-Lackland where each year, roughly 40,000 Airmen march across the parade field, joined weekly by up to 7,000 family members and visitors from around the globe.

Gatherings of these size, with visitors coming from around the world, increase the possibility that the virus could be transmitted to our training population, and protecting our mission, our training pipeline, and personnel are our top priority.

This decision was not made lightly and rest assured these measures will remain in place only as long as absolutely necessary to protect the readiness of our force. I, along with medical experts and joint Service leaders from across JBSA will continue to monitor and evaluate the situation in hopes of a speedy return to normal operations.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

LAURA L. LENDERMAN  
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