



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, UNITED STATES CYBER
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(PROCUREMENT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(PROCUREMENT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(CONTRACTING)
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Temporary Redeployment of At-Risk Contractor Employees from Afghanistan

Contracting officers responsible for contracts with performance in Afghanistan shall comply with the attached United States National Support Element-Afghanistan (USNSE-A) memorandum as soon as possible to respond to novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) health concerns in theater. This order from USNSE-A was endorsed by United States Central Command (CENTCOM) and supported by the Joint Staff, Director for Logistics. Contracting officers shall inform their contractors that, in accordance with theater orders, they must redeploy employees identified as “at-risk personnel” from Afghanistan. Redeployment of identified “at-risk personnel” in Afghanistan must commence as soon as possible, and those contractor employees must be prepared to move no later than April 18, 2020. Contracting officers unable to meet this aggressive timeline should provide the United States Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A) Operational Contract Support Integration Cell (OCSIC) with a timeline in which this task can be met. Although the attached memorandum references a request for information, USNSE-A, in coordination with CENTCOM, has determined that they no longer require this information.

For the purpose of this direction, USNSE-A has defined that “at-risk personnel” are those individuals over 60 years old and those with underlying medical conditions (such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer). Contractor employees meeting USNSE-A’s definition of “at-risk personnel” will be redeployed unless they have an approved exception to policy.

USNSE-A analysis and modeling of the spread of COVID-19 has shown there is insufficient medical capability in-country to provide medical support for all personnel who may become infected. On April 12, 2020, HQ USFOR-A Fragmentary Order (FRAGO) 20-110 directed retrograde of contractor “at-risk personnel” within the joint operational area. This directed retrograde applies to both U.S. citizen and third-country/other-country national contractor employees. Redeployment of contractor “at-risk personnel” will be conducted in

accordance with the terms of their respective contracts and USFOR-A is actively working to facilitate commercial or military airlift options as necessary. Contracting officers or their contracting officer's representatives (CORs) who need assistance or have questions concerning transportation should contact the USFOR-A OCSIC as soon as possible, as airlift options are available within the next week.

Per HQ USFOR-A FRAGO 20-110, when mitigating solutions are not feasible for the continuation of mission essential services due to the redeployment of "at-risk personnel," requiring activity commanders may request an exception to policy (ETP) through the USNSE-A Commander.

It is understood that contracting officers will communicate directly with their contractors for them to redeploy contractor personnel. It is also understood that this communication may take the form of a contract modification or other form of formal communication. Compliance with this USNSE-A direction may result in cost impacts to some contracts. If this is the case, contracting officers shall coordinate with requiring activities/CORs to obtain the required funds and issue the required direction to the contractor as soon as practicable.

When considering if this request falls within the scope of your contract, contracting officers are reminded that DoDI 3020.41, *Operational Contract Support*, states that "terms and conditions of contracts shall require that contractors authorized to accompany the force (CAAF) comply with theater orders, applicable directives, laws, and regulations, and that employee discipline is maintained." Additionally, DFARS 252.225-7995 (Class Deviation 2017-O0004) "Contractor Personnel Performing in the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility (DEVIATION 2017-O-0004)" requires contractors to comply with "orders, directives, and instructions issued by the Combatant Commander, including those relating to force protection, security, health, safety, or relations and interaction with local nationals." USFOR-A FRAGO 20-110 and the USNSE-A memorandum are theater orders issued for the protection and health of the total force and protection of the mission.

Contracting officers should refer to "Actions for DoD civilian employees, contractor personnel, and family members" in "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 4) – Department of Defense Guidance for Personnel Traveling During the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak," dated March 11, 2020. Supplement 4 provides preventive actions contractor personnel should take prior to travel, upon embarkation, and upon arrival at debarkation airport. Supplement 4 also provides general guidance on DoD workplace access restrictions at home station or their final destination. More specific guidance on workplace access restrictions may be found in "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 8) – Department of Defense Guidance for Protecting Personnel in Workplaces during the Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," dated April 13, 2020. Contracting officers should inform contractors about this Departmental guidance, and requirements contained in command-level guidance or imposed by the countries to which the contractor personnel are redeploying. Contracting officers should also account for applicable contract specific provisions when notifying contractors. The DoD Force Health Protection Guidance can be found at: <https://www.whs.mil/Coronavirus/>.

As this redeployment direction for contractor “at-risk personnel” is temporary, guidance concerning the return of these personnel in theater will be transmitted directly from the OCSIC to contracting officers and/or CORs. To facilitate this communication, contracting officers responsible for contracts with performance in Afghanistan are asked to provide their contact information to the USFOR-A OCSIC.

For additional information regarding this memo, please contact Lt Col Bryan Lamb at (703) 693-0497 or bryan.d.lamb.mil@us.af.mil. For questions regarding USFOR-A FRAGO 20-110, the cessation of these temporary contractor “at-risk personnel” directives, contractor transportation, or for additional contractor redeployment information please contact CDR Priscilla Cavazos, USFOR-A OCSIC Director, at priscilla.cavazos.mil@mail.mil or Mr. Edward Holden, USFOR-A OCSIC, at edward.r.holden.civ@mail.mil. For questions regarding exceptions to policy please contact MAJ Donald Huskey, USFOR-A, at donald.e.huskey1.mil@mail.mil.

Kim Herrington
Acting Principal Director, Defense
Pricing and Contracting

Attachment:
As stated



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES NATIONAL SUPPORT ELEMENT-AFGHANISTAN
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN
APO AE 09356

USNSE-A CDR

10 April 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR MG Christopher Sharpsten, Director of Logistics, US Central Command

SUBJECT: Request to Issue Directives to all Contract Employers in Afghanistan in Order to Gather Vital Information and Redeploy "at-risk" contractors in Support of COVID-19 Response

1. **Request.** Immediately issue directives to all contract employers in Afghanistan directing the collection of information identifying at-risk personnel currently working in Afghanistan and to direct the redeployment of those at-risk personnel in order to mitigate risk to Resolute Support medical systems
2. **Background.** In December 2019, a novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease COVID-19 that has now spread globally. The Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency on January 31, 2020, under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), in response to COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the COVID-19 outbreak can be characterized as a pandemic, as the rates of infection continue to rise around the world. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation declaring the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency.
3. **Mission Impact.** The Resolute Support and Operation Freedom's Sentinel mission's #1 priority is protection of the force. This force is comprised of military, government civilian, and civilian contractors. Based on current modeling of the spread of COVID-19, there is insufficient medical capability to treat all personnel who become infected. The command is taking measures to identify all of its at-risk personnel and redeploy most of them temporarily to their country of origin to reduce risk to the individual and finite resources in Afghanistan.
4. **Specific Information Sought.** The following information is requested from all contract employers in Afghanistan.
 - a. Identify contract employees who would fall within the COVID-19 at-risk population which is defined by the World Health Organization as the following: personnel 60 years and over and/or has been diagnosed with, or is taking medication for, pre-existing medical conditions, to include high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, cancer, or diabetes.

USNSE-A CDR

SUBJECT: Request to Issue Letters of Technical Direction to all Contract Employers in Afghanistan in Order to Gather Vital Statistics in Support of COVID-19 Response

- b. Provide contractor numbers and duty description of identified at-risk personnel identified in (a) above.
 - c. In conjunction with the Requiring Activity, identify capabilities or services, which will be impacted if at-risk personnel are removed, and determine which employees are deemed mission essential.
 - d. Redeploy non-mission essential at-risk employees, with a prepared to move date of NLT 18 APR 2020.
 - e. All information must be provided in the format enclosed.
 - f. Deadline for submission of the information is 15 April 2020.
5. POC is CDR Priscilla Cavazos at 318-481-5092 or priscilla.cavazos.mil@mail.mil.

Encl. COVID-19 Active Contractor
Personnel Information



PATRICK MATLOCK
Major General, U.S. Army
Commander
U.S. National Support Element-Afghanistan