



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER AND FORT IRWIN
FORT IRWIN, CA 92310-5000

AFZJ-CG

23MAY12

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: NTC Policy Letter 16, Travel Policy for Mexico

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to clearly define the travel restrictions to Mexico for U.S. Service Members stationed at Fort Irwin. This letter supersedes memorandum, AFZJ-CG, Travel to Mexico, 04 Apr 11.

2. REFERENCES:

a. USARNORTH Force Protection Directive 11-298 (Mexico Travel Restrictions) DTG: 252100ZOCT11.

b. U.S. Department of State Travel Warning, SUBJ: Mexico, 8 Feb 2012.

3. BACKGROUND. The narcotics-related violence in Mexico continues to take a heavy toll on not only municipal and state police forces, but has now targeted U.S. Officials in and around the border area. The ability of local authorities to respond to or control street crime has deteriorated. This has resulted in an increase in murders, armed robberies, carjackings, car theft, bank robberies, and other crimes in Mexico. These reported conditions continue to present an unacceptable risk to the health, safety, welfare, and morale of DOD personnel and their Families.

4. POLICY: Based on increasing violence reported by the Department of State, Consulate General of the United States of America, and recommendations by the Commanders of USNORTHCOM and USANORTH, the following measures are effective immediately:

a. All travel to Mexico for service members (military) assigned to Fort Irwin is severely restricted until further notice.

b. Privately owned vehicles (POV), including motorcycles, into and throughout Mexico's border area, is prohibited.

c. All routine non-official travel (leave and pass) is prohibited to the states of Michoacán, Tamaulipas, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Durango, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi, Jalisco, and Zacatecas. Exceptions to travel in these areas must be for emergency purposes only, and approved by the Commanding General.

AFZJ-CG

SUBJECT: NTC Policy Letter 16, Travel Policy for Mexico

d. Personnel may travel via cruise ship or commercial air to major travel destinations (i.e., Ensenada, Mazatlan, Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta, Cancun, Cozumel). Travel to these areas must be approved by the first O6 in the chain of command, and should clearly state what restrictions the commander is putting in place to ensure the Soldier's safety, and should be specific to that geographic area. All personnel should restrict travel between airports/ports-of-call and the tourist areas to daylight hours. Below are examples of restrictions specific to geographic areas:

(1) Acapulco – travel is restricted to 2 blocks inland of Costera Miguel Aleman Boulevard, which parallels the popular beach areas.

(2) Mazatlan – travel is restricted to Zona Dorada and the historic town center.

5. PROCEDURES FOR AUTHORIZED TRAVEL: Military personnel must have a valid DA Form 31, which specifically authorizes travel in Mexico, signed by the first O-6 in the Soldier's chain of command. All approved leave must be reported to the Senior Commander NLT 15 days before travel begins. In these special circumstances, Commanders will take the following measures:

a. Complete a thorough risk assessment of the situation in Mexico (<http://travel.state.gov>).

b. Register through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), located at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. STEP can also make it easier for the US Embassy or Consulate to contact the traveler in case of natural disaster (earthquake, floods, etc.) terrorist incident, or family emergencies (i.e., lost or stolen passport).

c. Service members will have a valid passport or passport ID card and register with the local U.S. Consulate or Embassy within 24 hours of arrival in Mexico.

d. Ensure the Service member has current level I Antiterrorism Awareness Training (<https://atlevel1.dite.mil/at/>) within 90 days of requested travel.

e. Ensure Soldier has received appropriate threat/area briefings from a qualified Antiterrorism Officer within 30 days of requested travel. If your organization does not have a qualified Antiterrorism Officer, contact DPTMS for assistance at 380-7611.

f. Ensure Soldier has possession of an emergency contact sheet (chain of command, embassy/consulate).

6. CONSULAR INFORMATION: To register upon arrival or for any emergencies involving U.S. citizens in Mexico, please contact the closest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The U.S. Embassy is located in Mexico City at Paseo del la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc, telephone

AFZJ-CG

SUBJECT: NTC Policy Letter 16, Travel Policy for Mexico

from the United States: 011-52-55-5080-2000; telephone within Mexico City: 5080-2000; telephone long distance within Mexico: 01-55-5050-2000. You may also contact the Embassy by e-mail at: acsmexicocity@state.gov. The Embassy's internet address is <http://mexico.usembassy.gov>.

a. Consulates:

- Ciudad Juarez: Paseo de la Victoria 3650, telephone (52) (656) 227-3000.
- Guadalajara: Progreso 175, telephone (52) (333) 268-2100.
- Hermosillo: Avenida Monterrey 141, telephone (52) (662) 289-3500.
- Matamoros: Avenida Primera 2002, telephone (52) (868) 812-4402.
- Merida: Calle 60 no. 338 k, telephone (52) (999) 942-5700.
- Monterrey: Avenida Constitucion 411 Poniente, telephone (52) (818) 047-3100.
- Nogales: Calle San Jose, Nogales, Sonora, telephone (52) (867) 714-0512.
- Nuevo Laredo: Calle Allenda 3330, col. Jardin, telephone (52) (867) 714-0512.
- Tijuana: Tapachula 96, telephone (52) (664) 622-7400. During non-work hours, an American official may be reached at: 011-619-692-2154 (from Mexico) or 619-692-2154 (from the U.S.).

b. Consular Agencies: Information on the Consular Agencies can be found on the U.S. State Department Travel website: <http://travel.state.gov>.

7. FIREARMS: Entering Mexico with a firearm, any type of knife or even a single round of ammunition is illegal. Even if the weapon or ammunition is taken into Mexico unintentionally, the Mexican government strictly enforces its laws restricting the entry of firearms and ammunition along all land borders and at airports and seaports. Violations have resulted in arrests, convictions, and long prison sentences for U.S. citizens.

8. SERVICE MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES: Service members will follow the requirements of AR 600-8-10 and AR 525-13 accordingly. Military personnel who violate or fail to obey this policy will be subject to administrative or disciplinary actions under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice. Purchasing travel (i.e. flights, cruises or other means of travel) prior to exception to policy being granted is not justification for exception to policy and the service member will bear all costs incurred. Service member will comply with all leave requesting administrative procedures before purchasing travel.

9. I will periodically re-evaluate these restrictions based on updated assessments by the installation's Antiterrorism/Force Protection Officer. Please note that effective 01 Jun 09, all U.S. citizens, including Soldiers, must have a passport, passport ID card, or other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security to re-enter the United States. For

AFZJ-CG

SUBJECT: NTC Policy Letter 16, Travel Policy for Mexico

additional information, refer to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs web site found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/-cbpmc_2223.html.

10. PROPONENT: Proponent for this policy is the Secretary of the General Staff at (760) 380-3611 and the Installation G2 at (760) 380-6501.



TERRY FERRELL
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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