



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT BLISS NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER ACADEMY
BUILDING 2E SHERIDAN ROAD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916

ATSS-CDA

30 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL Assigned/Attached Personnel, NCO Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas 79916-6501

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #15, **Prohibition of Travel to Certain Mexican States and Cities**

1. The narcotics related to violence in Mexico continues to present an unacceptable risk to health, safety, welfare, and morale of Department of Defense personnel and their families.
2. This memorandum implements USARNORTH FP Travel Directive 13-015 – Mexico Travel Prohibitions.
3. Until further notice:
 - a. The Mexican State of Chihuahua and all Mexican cities along the U.S. – Mexican Border are off limits to all Soldiers assigned/attached to the Fort Bliss NCOA, Department of the Army Civilians, Contracted Personnel, and International Students. All family members are highly discouraged from visiting these areas as well due to the severe and continually increasing levels of violence currently occurring in those areas.
 - b. All Mexican cities along the U.S. and Mexican Border are off-limits to all active duty and reserve personnel in the Title 10 status assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas.
 - c. Land travel by personally owned vehicles (POV) into and throughout Mexico, for routine, unofficial travel, is prohibited.
4. I strongly urge the Fort Bliss NCOA family members (including foreign military student's families) not to travel or pass through these areas for their own safety and security.
5. This order does not currently affect travel to other areas of Mexico. Service members are reminded to use **extreme caution at all times** while traveling to and through areas not currently prohibited and will follow the requirements of Army Regulation 600-8-10 and Army Regulation 525-13 accordingly. All personnel considering travel anywhere in Mexico will view the State Department website

<http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis> and comply with posted restrictions, advice, and warnings.

6. Emergency Travel:

a. Effective immediately, a country/theater clearance through the Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System (APACS) is **required** for all active-duty military (including inactive reserve and National Guard personnel on Title 10 Status) on approved emergency leaves into prohibited areas of Mexico.

b. A country/theater clearance is **not required** for non-official travel to non-prohibited states.

c. The Commandant may approve, on a case-by-case basis, routine, or emergency personal travel into a prohibited state as a part of an enroute travel plan when the destination is into an area that is not prohibited. Travel of this nature will only be approved when conditions present undue hardship on the traveler, i.e., extreme monetary cost, delay of expedient travel, no nearby air facilities, or other considerable impacts. Under this exemption, a country/theater clearance is not required. The Commandant will not delegate his approval authority and will take the following measures:

(1) Conduct, complete, and maintain a command approved risk assessment prior to the requested travel date. See Enclosure 1 (Unofficial Travel Risk Assessment Form.

(2) Ensure the service member has completed Antiterrorism Awareness Training (<https://atleveltdtic.mil/ati>) and has a training certificate dated within 30 days of the requested travel date.

(3) Ensure that the service member has received an appropriate threat/area briefing from the Security Manager Office (G-2) within 30 days of requested travel. All service members who have a top-secret clearance and/or are red on to the SCI level must coordinate with the G-2 SSO to obtain any additional threat/are briefings NLT 30 days prior to requested travel or as soon as they request emergency or unofficial travel.

(4) Ensure the service member is advised that all U.S. citizens (including Soldiers) are now required to present a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) complaint document such a passport or a passport card when re-entering the United States.

d. Travel for leisure purposes is authorized to Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara, Jalisco, Bahia de Banderas (Bay of Flags), Nayarit (Coastal Highway Resort areas between Nuevo Vallarta and Punta Mita), Mazatlán and Sinaloa. Service members must travel via air to immediate area of destination city or arrive via cruise ship.

Lodging/stay must be in resort or tourist area of these locations. Country/theater clearance is **not required**. The Commandant will not delegate his approval authority.

e. Routine personal travel (absences) on cruise ships that visit ports in prohibited states is authorized and does not require theater or country clearance. However, travelers must remain onboard ports of call.

7. Official Travel:

a. Official travel to the prohibited states is limited to mission essential travel only. A country and theater clearance through APACS is **required** for all official travel to Mexico. Personnel on official travel to Mexico are required to travel with an official U.S. passport, travel orders, and government ID card. Brigade level commanders may approve official travel to and through these areas on a case-by-case basis for mission essential travel and will not delegate this approval authority. Before the Commandant approves travel, the Directors will take the following measures:

(1) Conduct, complete, and maintain a command approved risk assessment NLT 14 days prior to the requested travel date.

(2) Ensure the service member has completed Antiterrorism Awareness Training (<https://atleveltdtic.mil/ati>) and has a training certificate dated within 90 days of the requested travel date.

(3) Ensure that the service member has received an appropriate threat/area briefing from the Security Manager Office (G-2) within 30 days of requested travel. All service members who have a top-secret clearance and/or are red on to the SCI level must coordinate with the G-2 SSO to obtain any additional threat briefings NLT 30 days prior to requested travel. If your origination does not have a qualified Antiterrorism Officer, contact the Plans and Operations Divisions, DPTMS for assistance.

(4) Ensure the service member is advised that all U.S. citizens (including Soldiers) are now required to present a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) complaint document such as a passport or a passport card when re-entering the United States. For military personnel, this includes U.S. Military Identification with military travel orders in their possession.

(5) Upon the Commandant's approval, submit travel request to the Security Manager (G-2) to coordinate submission of threat clearance request NLT 14 days prior to date of requested travel.

(6) Travel to conduct personal or family member Department of State business is authorized to the U.S. Consulates in Nogales, Sonora; Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, and Matamoros. Travel is limited to daytime

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only with no overnight stay. The Commandant's approval is required. A country/theater clearance is not required.

8. Air Travel:

a. Service members experiencing a travel layover in a prohibited state with their final flight destination to a non-prohibited state must remain in the air terminal. Exception may include commercial travel to a lodging facility for the night, but no other ground travel. I will periodically re-evaluate these restrictions based on updated assessments and Force Protection travel advisories posted by USARNORTH.

9. 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, airports and seaports. Violations have resulted in arrests, convictions, and long prison sentences for U.S. Citizens.

10. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at (915) 568-2440.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Gibbs', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

S. STEVE GIBBS
CSM, USA
Commandant