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UNCLAS PERSONAL FOR COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS AND OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE
SECINFO/U/-// MSGID/GENADMIN,USMTF,2008/COMUSFLTFORCOM NORFOLK VA// SUBJ/PERSONAL
FOR - COMMANDERS GUIDANCE ISO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN// GENTEXT/REMARKS/

1. During the current government shutdown, the Fleet will continue to provide ready forces to safeguard national security. In the meantime, we must remember that war fighting is first, and we will continue to provide the best possible support to those engaged in that fight. Concurrently, we will continue to protect the lives and property of our Nation's citizens. We have historically demonstrated good judgment and scrutiny of our operations and expenditures, and I expect even greater scrutiny in the current environment.
2. Based on existing orders, you are directed to execute only those activities that are absolutely necessary to safely accomplish currently assigned "excepted missions and operations." Where possible, you should avoid or delay expenditures unless they are absolutely necessary. This is not business as usual.
3. Lacking changes to existing orders or additional specific direction, I will adhere to commander's intent as stated in the Deputy Secretary of Defense's memo, dated 25 September 2013:
"The Department will, of course, continue to prosecute the war in Afghanistan, including preparation of forces for deployment into that conflict. The Department must, as well, continue many other operations necessary for the safety of human life and protection of property, including operations essential for the security of our Nation."
4. Specific excepted operations detailed in the memo's attachment include:
 - a. Military operations and activities authorized by deployment or execute orders, or otherwise approved by the Secretary of Defense, and determined to be necessary for national security, including administrative, logistical, medical, and other activities in direct support of such operations and activities; training and exercise required to prepare for and carry out such operations.
 - b. Activities of forces assigned or apportioned to combatant commands to execute planned or contingent operations necessary for national security, including administrative, logistical, medical, and other activities in direct support of such operations and activities; training and exercise required to prepare for and carry out such operations.
 - c. The attachment also provides instructions for continuation of essential missions and functions that may be carried out in the absence of appropriated funds, including but are not limited to:
 - (1) Protection of Life and Property/National Security
 - (2) Safety of Persons and Protection of Property
 - (3) Acquisition and Logistics Support
 - (4) Education and Training
5. In addition to current day-to-day operations, we must also maintain a long term view from both a readiness and financial perspective. To the maximum extent possible, we must maintain the progression of our units through readiness production cycle to ensure that units currently forward have a trained and certified relief. We need to balance that effort with a long term financial view, conserving resources so we can execute the most essential and urgent tasks.
6. We fully understand that we don't control all the resources necessary to produce readiness. We are only a part of the Readiness Kill Chain that relies on other activities and organizations to support our

operations. We are already feeling the impact of the 11,000 of our civilian shipmates who have been furloughed and are critical to readiness production. We also feel the impact of the tens of thousands of other civilian professionals who are furloughed from their jobs at other commands that provide us the logistics, training, maintenance, IT, communications and other critical services and support.

7. As a direct result, we may need to slow the pace of FRTP progression.

Where we are able to accept risk (defined in both dollars and time), we will delay until that risk is no longer acceptable. We will not compromise the quality of our training or safety of our forces.

8. Commanders must not operate any faster than safe. We must not let our 'can do' attitude impede safe operations and training.

I expect Commanders to speak up when they feel safety might be compromised. If a range or facility is understaffed to safely operate, you must suspend operations. If there is doubt that you can fly a sortie or run a damage control drill safely..there is no doubt..cancel the event.

9. Commanders will continue to report where they have canceled or delayed training due to safety concerns, lack of resources, lack of authorities, or because they do not meet the threshold of excepted activities. Additionally, Commanders will report the impacts of their decisions.

10. You have my admiration and deep appreciation for your unswerving professionalism and dedication. You are Commanders; and I expect you to command. I will continue to trust you to make the hard, fiscally responsible decisions. We will provide leadership with the best information we have during this very dynamic situation. We are still the greatest Navy and Nation that the world has ever known. We will lead our way through this challenge just like we have in the past.

11. ADM Gortney sends.//

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