MEMORANDUM FOR LEADERS, TROOPS, CIVILIANS, AND FAMILIES OF U.S. AFRICA COMMAND

SUBJECT: AFRICOM COVID-19 Resiliency

1. In our second month with Corona virus, AFRICOM’s COVID-19 response remains the command’s #1 priority. My Commander’s Intent remains: **The purpose and end-state of our response to the COVID-19 virus is to preserve our force from the effects of the virus while we maintain continuity of critical operations at home-stations in Europe and in our AOR.** In this “new normal” COVID-19 world, accomplishing our mission while preserving your health and readiness is our primary focus and we are establishing new battle rhythms, processes, and procedures to do that. To support our forward deployed forces our priorities are:
   - **Rapid point-of-care testing.** We are working to get expeditionary testing capabilities onto the continent and into the field so we can quickly care for our people and prevent the spread to others.
   - **Personal protective equipment to critical forces.** Our first responders on the continent – those treating and transporting patients – are our first priority for PPE. We are pressing this hard.
   - **Evacuation procedures for theater assets.** We are developing procedures for our unique theater CASEVAC assets to evacuate personnel to better care while protecting our aircrews.

2. Your discipline and dedication to our mission and the health of our force and families has minimized the impacts of COVID on our command. Your continued deliberate actions are keeping us well protected. Be prepared to hold the line for another 6-8 weeks. Do your part and keep up the “3Ds” of our response:
   - **Distance:** Practice Social Distancing to reduce the time and frequency of contact with others.
   - **Disinfection:** Constantly clean and disinfect your hands, work spaces, and common areas.
   - **Decisions:** Make deliberate decisions to stay at home, meet virtually rather than in person, wipe your cart at the Commissary, or avoid an unnecessary trip to the Exchange.

3. Back home, the disease progression is still on the upstroke. We can’t control events there and we can’t get home to help. Be mindful as the situation develops and recognize that many among our ranks will likely be impacted by some kind of bad news from home. We must stay strong and remain calm to support our friends, families, and battle buddies. Leaders, teammates, chaplains, and other counselors need to be ready to support each other.

4. We will take an opportunity on Friday, 10 April, to focus on resilience by reaching out to every teammate, up and down your chain of command. Keep checking on and helping one another.

5. We are proud to stand in the phalanx with all of you—6 feet away! Stay alert, stay healthy, stay ready!

RICHARD D. THRESHER
Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine Corps
Command Senior Enlisted Leader

STEPHEN J. TOWNSEND
General, U.S. Army
Commander