



Team McChord,

1 June 2020

Our country has experienced heartbreaking and tragic events during the last week. The events in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and the nation's response to the death of George Floyd, reminds us there is much more work to be done to end racism and realize our nation's dream of equality for all.

While we respect an individual's right to protest and support the fundamental right of free speech, we cannot condone the outbreak of violence in our country. As always, your safety remains our top concern. Please remember that Governor Inslee has directed all citizens to stay home in order to combat the ongoing public health emergency in Washington State. Exposure to COVID-19 in highly populated areas is still prevalent and a very real risk to our force. Also, as a reminder, both DoDI 1325.06 and AFI 51-508 stipulate that military members are prohibited from participating in demonstrations or rallies: 1) while on duty; 2) when in a foreign country; 3) when in uniform; 4) when their activities constitute a breach of law and order; or 5) if violence is likely to result. Additionally, all military members are prohibited from participating in or advocating for supremacist, extremist, or criminal gang doctrine, ideology, or causes, and this behavior is punishable under the UCMJ. Lastly, demonstrations on military installations that could result in the interference with a mission or present a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline, or morale of military members are prohibited.

This is a time for reflection, empathy and much needed conversation. In the next weeks, we plan to use these tragedies as a platform for discussion to ensure that all Airmen in the 62nd Airlift Wing, regardless of race, creed, gender or sexual orientation, are valued as equals. Chief Schultz and I appreciate everything you do each day to contribute to our mission, and thank you for being vigilant. We are proud to command such a diverse and successful team.

ERIN M. STAINE-PYNE, Col, USAF
Commander

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Command Chief