



3 Feb 2020

Marines, Sailors, and Families of MCAS Miramar,

Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper has tasked Marine Corps Air Station Miramar with supporting the potential repatriation of American citizens subject to federal quarantine due to the coronavirus outbreak. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the lead agency for this effort and they are true experts. We will deliver our 100% support.

While the exact methods for Miramar's role are still evolving, our mission is clear. We will assist HHS in an effective and dignified repatriation process while we ensure the safety and well-being of our residents and tenants – this is inherent in our mission. Our support to tenant units will continue uninterrupted.

There are several pieces of information that I can give you that are important. All repatriates going through the quarantine process have been screened multiple times by U.S. medical professionals and do not display symptoms of the coronavirus. Repatriates will be confined throughout quarantine and there will be no contact with DOD personnel. I cannot give you a timeframe for completion, but what I know is that the quarantine duration is 14 days. Finally, you should know that any person exhibiting symptoms during the quarantine period will be transferred off-station for care.

I am asking for your support as we host a group of people undergoing an uncomfortable transition. First, your safety is a primary concern, as is the dignity and privacy of the repatriating personnel. Please do not approach or take photos of facilities or people either as they arrive or while they are in our care. Second, I will ask for your patience as I anticipate minor changes to daily life around the base. Third, I know the Marine Corps family is a generous family. We will work toward a process where you can contribute to the well-being of those we are supporting.

Finally, I know many of you have questions. I have asked our HHS teammates to help me get more information to you, and we will do that together once they have the available time – right now they are focused on planning and execution.

Again, thank you for your support and patience.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles B. Bluff'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B'.

Commanding Officer