



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-6332

7 May 2020

Dear Civil Air Patrol Volunteers and Staff –

This COVID-19 thing is a long haul, isn't it? If you are anything like me, you are more than ready to put restrictions behind you and get on with life. If we could only push a big red "Easy" button to make it so! Unfortunately, we are less in control of our circumstances than we would like to be.

Those of us in Civil Air Patrol are adhering to a set of COVID-19 limitations to travel and meetings detailed in a memo dated 14 Mar 2020. I set an end date to those restrictions of 11 May. Today I extended the end date for those restrictions to 30 June. Why is that? As I wrote to you previously, we are rolling out guidance on how wings can carefully ease out of their current sets of restrictions. My target date for rolling out this guidance is on 12 May. The happy news is that we will have a careful migration for CAP from more restrictive to less restrictive stances very soon.

Back to the notion that this is a long haul we are enduring with COVID-19. As a leader, I worry about people in our organization. Is everyone doing okay? Are some people struggling? In earlier messages I urged us to reach out to others – engage – to help make sure that our wingmen are persevering okay through these trying times. Please keep reaching out and connecting. Genuinely listen. Sometimes we tend to talk more and listen less; we should reverse that ratio. Sometimes we tend to hear what we want to hear and not what's being said or how it's being said; we should listen intentionally in seeking to understand.

Let's continue to take care of one another. After all, this is a long haul we are enduring. Thank you. Be well. Be safe. Be strong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Smith".

MARK E. SMITH  
Major General, CAP