MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Life Support Training Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to update policy guidance within the Military Health System for American Red Cross life support training (First Aid/cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/automated external defibrillator (AED), Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)). As military medical treatment facilities (MTFs) transition to normal operations, no further extensions for the above life support certifications will be granted after June 30, 2020. Personnel whose certifications expired between March and June 2020 have up to 120 days to get recertified. This also applies to providers who have American Heart Association cards.

The Defense Health Agency encourages those facilities that deemed it prudent to cancel training during this crisis to resume training as expeditiously as possible, especially for those personnel scheduled for deployment. It is important that we continue to support the warfighter and to reiterate that our education and training departments must ensure that ALL deploying personnel receive required training before departure in alignment with DHA-PM 6025.13, Volume 4, Enclosure 2, page 20, section (e) which states; Privileging Authorities will ensure life support training (Basic Life Support [BLS], Advanced Life Support [ALS], Pediatric Advanced Life Support [PALS]) is available to personnel to meet deployment requirements.

American Red Cross has put forth COVID-19 guidance that outlines course delivery and training options available to MTF Directors/Commanders on the Red Cross Instructors Corner (https://www.redcrosslearningcenter.org/s/). In addition, the Military Training Network (MTN) has published the Mission Essential Training Guidance which provides guidelines on how training is to be executed during this COVID-19 pandemic. These resources provide MTF Directors/Commanders with the tools and policies they need to safely resume life support training.
My point of contact for this matter is CDR Thomas Sather, Chief, Policy and Programs, Education and Training Directorate. He can be reached at (703) 681-7555 or via email at thomas.e.sather.mil@mail.mil.

ANITA L. FLIGGE
Brigadier General, USAF, NC
Deputy Assistant Director for Education and Training (E&T)

cc:
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force