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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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May 13, 2020

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MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Blanket FACT Waivers Due to COVID-19 FACT Cancellations

Diplomatic Security (DS) continually monitors guidance from the Department of State, the CDC, and the White House related to the COVID-19 crisis. We are working to ensure that mission-critical training and operations remain viable. Unfortunately, health concerns and evolving guidance have compelled us to postpone or cancel a number of courses.

In light of these concerns, Foreign Affairs Counter Threat (FACT) courses are cancelled through the week of August 31, 2020. These cancellations may prevent personnel from completing FACT training prior to departing for overseas posts. To ensure that personnel may proceed with their travel, the Under Secretary for Management approved a blanket FACT waiver for:

(1) U.S. government personnel from any department, agency, or entity for whom FACT training requirements would normally apply, who are scheduled to travel abroad on official duty (regardless of whether the travel is a permanent change of station or a temporary duty assignment) before December 1, 2020. This waiver will remain valid until the employees' next official travel to the United States after FACT training resumes.

and

(2) Those personnel who have current FACT waivers and were scheduled to complete FACT between March 16, 2020, and November 30, 2020. This waiver will remain valid until their next official travel to the United States after FACT training resumes.

No memo is required for personnel who benefit from the aforementioned blanket FACT waiver; however, those individuals must complete the online High Threat Security Overseas Seminar (HTSOS) (soon to be renamed Counter Threat Awareness Training – CTAT) course prior to departure, if they have not done so in

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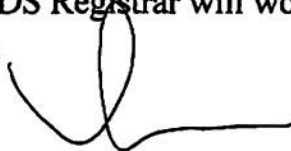
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the past year. This will provide for a minimum level of training for those who have not yet taken HTSOS/CTAT and an appropriate refresher for those who have completed it within the past several years. A written confirmation of completion must be attached to the employee's country clearance request.

Agencies and individual personnel are expected to monitor FACT training requirements and ensure that required training is completed during the next official travel back to the United States after FACT training resumes.

Any need for waivers that fall outside of these limited guidelines must follow the current waiver process. The Department will process requests as soon as they are received. Such individual waiver requests will be processed per the guidelines in 20 STATE 31716.

After FACT training resumes, the DS Registrar will work to enroll personnel in the most expeditious manner possible.



Lisa D. Kenna
Executive Secretary

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