



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
47TH FLYING TRAINING WING (AETC)**

08 March 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR 47 FTW ALL

FROM: 47 FTW/CC

SUBJECT: Ciudad Acuña Border Reopening to Military

1. Laughlin Air Force Base permanent party military members are hereby authorized travel to approved areas of Ciudad Acuña through the Del Rio Port of Entry.

2. The following safety precautions **must** be followed by all military members.

a. Permanent Party Only: Students are still prohibited from crossing into Ciudad Acuña.

(1) Personnel are considered students and covered by this policy before, during, and after the completion of training, until the point at which they have PCS'd **and** physically signed into their follow-on assignment. While on leave status, during PCS, students are still assigned to 47 FTW and thus this policy letter still applies.

b. No Traveling Alone: If a military member wishes to travel across the border, they must be accompanied by another adult, 18 years or older, and always stay together.

c. Midnight Curfew: Members in Acuña must follow a curfew between the hours of 0000 and 0600. **Members who want to stay overnight must be on approved leave (must follow all foreign leave travel guidelines as noted in section i, (1) of this memo).** Those not on leave must be back in the United States before midnight.

d. Phone Use: Each member must have access to a personal cell phone at all times while in Ciudad Acuña. **NOTE:** Please be aware that most U.S. cell phone carriers charge for international data usage, calls, and texts.

e. Approved Travel Areas: Members may only travel to approved areas.

(1) Attachment 1 displays the approved area for travel to and in Ciudad Acuña. Members must always remain inside the approved area while in Ciudad Acuña. The authorized area in Attachment 1 is considered unrestricted and part of Laughlin's local area. Members should still consult the Foreign Clearance Guide (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>) and Department of State website (<https://www.state.gov/>) for travel advisories before traveling to Ciudad Acuña.

(2) Areas outside the approved area in Attachment 1 are off-limits for military members. Members are strongly urged not to frequent local bars, night clubs, and gambling establishments.

These businesses are known to be frequented by known criminal organizations and are considered security risks.

(3) The use of commercial taxis is not recommended.

f. No Alcohol or Tobacco Use Under 21: All military members under the age of 21 are prohibited from consuming, purchasing, or possessing alcohol and tobacco products in Ciudad Acuña despite the legal age of use in Mexico being 18. No military member may purchase or provide alcohol or tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21 while in Ciudad Acuña.

g. Mexican Laws: All military members crossing into Ciudad Acuña are subject to Mexican law. Members should be cognizant of the following: (1) Mexico does not recognize American car insurance policies; (2) Members may need to purchase Mexican car insurance; (3) Possession of firearms or ammunition in Mexico is illegal; and (4) Entry into Mexico with firearms or ammunition is illegal. **U.S. citizens may obtain emergency assistance from the U.S. Consulate's Office of Nuevo Laredo by calling: +52 867 100-0806, 24 hours a day.**

h. Government Vehicles and Equipment: No government vehicles or equipment may cross into Mexico unless mission requirements dictate.

i. Port of Entry: No ports of entry into Mexico may be used other than the Del Rio Port of Entry.

(1) Travel into other areas of Mexico and other foreign countries with approved leave are still allowed. Please continue to use LeaveWeb, Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System (<https://apacs.milcloud.mil/apacs/>), the Foreign Clearance Guide (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>), and the Department of State (<https://www.state.gov/>) website for all official travel or leave to foreign countries.

j. Appearance: Military uniform wear is strictly prohibited when traveling to or in Ciudad Acuña. Avoidance of any military identifiers (graphic T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc.) are strongly advised.

k. Identification: Members must have a valid Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) compliant identification for reentry into the U.S. See link below for acceptable identification as well as frequently asked questions (FAQs). **NOTE:** Military CAC **will not** allow access back into the United States **unless** travelling with official military orders or leave orders in hand. **The preferred method of identification is the U.S. Passport.**

(1) WHTI identifications: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/western-hemisphere-travel-initiative>

(2) FAQs: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/western-hemisphere-travel-initiative/faqs>

1. Chain of Command: Military members must inform their supervisor of their travel plans and who is traveling with them before crossing into Ciudad Acuña.

3. Failure to follow the instructions set forth in this memorandum, and any other direction regarding travel to Ciudad Acuña that may be set forth, may result in disciplinary actions under the UCMJ and member's removal of Del Rio Port of Entry access privileges. Air Force personnel are subject to the UCMJ, even in foreign countries. The Air Force has worldwide jurisdiction over all Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard members on Title 10 orders.

4. Should military personnel have a medical emergency while on travel to Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, they may call the Del Rio Port of Entry Operations Center at (830) 306-4350. The duty supervisor may help expedite their crossing once at the border (boundary line). During medical emergencies once at the border (boundary line), the port's Operations Center will be able to dispatch an ambulance. Military members will need to provide the Operations Center supervisor the age of the individual afflicted and what medical care is needed. In all emergencies, the port recommends the color, make, and model of vehicle be provided to help expedite and locate the vehicle.

5. If you have any questions, please contact the Wing Commanders Action Group at 47ftw.cag.wingcag@us.af.mil or DSN 732-4706.



KEVIN A. DAVIDSON, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

Attachment:

1. 47 FTW Authorized Areas, 01 March 2023



