



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 316TH WING (AFDW)
JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND 20762

MEMORANDUM FOR 316TH WING DEFENDERS

The purpose of this memorandum is to directly communicate to Joint Base Andrews Defenders and reinforce that as your Installation Commander, I have complete confidence in your ability to protect and defend America's Airfield.

The nation's eyes are on Joint Base Andrews almost every day because of the national security missions we are tasked to execute. We must maintain the trust and confidence of our nation and those we serve. This trust has been eroded because we allowed an individual to penetrate our layered security and ultimately, was able to access America's Airfield. Fortunately, the individual did no harm; however, this incident could have been catastrophic to our nation's leadership and could have had a disastrous ending. We must do better, we must learn from this unacceptable incident, and we must ensure an intrusion like this this never happens again.

I understand the pressure you face each shift, knowing that as Defenders, you must be right 100 percent of the time, and a bad actor only needs to be lucky once. Additionally, I know that while many of our military members are afforded the opportunity to telework during COVID-19, you have continued to come to work each and every shift to dutifully protect and serve at Joint Base Andrews. Regardless of the weather, the circumstance, or the challenge, I know as Defenders, you are professional Airmen committed to standing watch and ensuring our national security.

Additionally, I want you to know that I have your back. We are working on a comprehensive review of all approved credentials used to enter the base. I understand you encounter credentials from over 100 local, state and federal agencies and this may create confusion on who can and cannot access the base. As your installation commander, I am reinforcing your authority to not allow access if they do not have the proper credentials, if they are not properly vetted, and if they have not been appropriately identified or cleared, regardless of who they are or where they work. If the credentials do not allow entry to our installation, then **we must not allow them on to Joint Base Andrews.**

I want you to know that several technology upgrades have been funded and are awaiting installation. But there is more to do in upgrading our technology to augment the important work each of you do each day on the front lines of America's Airfield. It is my mission to provide the 316th Wing Defenders the resources, time, training and technology needed to be successful.

I believe in you and trust you to keep Joint Base Andrews safe. Hold the line, take the high road, stay professional and keep pressing excellence.

With much respect,


Col Schaff