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CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, DC 20318-9999

2 June 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY
 COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
 CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
 CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE
 CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
 COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD
 CHIEF OF SPACE OPERATIONS
 COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Message to the Joint Force

1. Every member of the U.S. military swears an oath to support and defend the Constitution and the values embedded within it. This document is founded on the essential principle that all men and women are born free and equal, and should be treated with respect and dignity. It also gives Americans the right to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. We in uniform – all branches, all components, and all ranks – remain committed to our national values and principles embedded in the Constitution.
2. During this current crisis, the National Guard is operating under the authority of state governors to protect lives and property, preserve peace, and ensure public safety.
3. As members of the Joint Force – comprised of all races, colors, and creeds – you embody the ideals of our Constitution. Please remind all of our troops and leaders that we will uphold the values of our nation, and operate consistent with national laws and our own high standards of conduct at all times.

*We all committed our lives
 to the idea that is America—
 we will stay true to THAT
 OATH AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.*

Mark A. Milley
 MARK A. MILLEY
 General, U.S. Army

cc:
 Secretary of Defense
 Deputy Secretary of Defense
 Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 Director, Joint Staff

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