

**International Military Education and Training (IMET) Guidance in Response to COVID**  
**Updated February 11, 2021**

**1. Policy for International Military Students (IMS) funded by the International Military Education and Training (IMET) and Foreign Military Financing (FMF) programs**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are IMS who have been required to remain in the U.S. past the end of their official training. A specific amount of funding was made available through IMET or FMF for those courses, to include travel and living allowance (TLA) funding. However, if the student is required to remain in the U.S. due to travel policy restrictions (either in the U.S. or their home country), they will require additional funding to pay for the ongoing LA expenses.

For IMET funded students, regardless of the year of their program (15R, 16R, 17R, 18Q, 19I, 19Q, 20Q, 20I, 21Q), the Department of State will make available already approved current year IMET funding to support the TLA for the student if no funding is available. In the unlikely scenario where there is no more current year IMET funding available (after de-obligating funds from future training requirements), DSCA needs to come back to State to ask for additional funds by country. The Military Departments (MilDeps), will report the financial requirement for the additional TLA for tracking purposes to DSCA who will send it to State monthly.

For Foreign Military Sales (FMS) blanket order training cases funded with FMF, the same policy will apply, with some differences. If there is unprogrammed FMF that remains on the training line, those funds are to be used for the COVID-19 related TLA costs. If there is no additional funding on the FMS case but there are uncommitted funds in the country's FMF holding account, the MilDep will modify the case in order to add funds for the TLA, in consultation with State to ensure the funds are notified and obligated broadly enough. If there is no uncommitted FMF, DSCA will scrub with the services existing FMF funded case to find unprogrammed FMF that can be shifted to fund the requirements. For countries that have no uncommitted FMF in their holding accounts (and no new FMF being provided in FY 20), Security Cooperation Offices will need to make a request of the government for national funds to be transferred into their holding account to fund the additional TLA costs.

**2. Guidance on Duration of IMET funded Courses under COVID-19 Quarantine and Distance Learning**

To prevent the spread of the virus, the U.S. military services will impose a 14 day quarantine period prior to the initial IMS report date. The IMET program will pay for the additional TLA cost only for courses that are at least four weeks in duration that start through 4th Quarter FY21 (September 30, 2021). The only exceptions to this policy would be if the partner nation is pays for the TLA associated with the 14 day quarantine or pays all TLA for the course. If schools can combine separate courses to extend the total track to greater than four weeks, IMET will fund the TLA. To the extent that school houses can convert the course that is less than four weeks long to a distance learning (DL) option, IMET can continue to fund the tuition of courses as State approves on a case by case basis.

### **3. Guidance on Quarantine Period Prior and Post CONUS Training**

To ensure IMET funded courses are accounting for this issue, all courses should include a “COVID-19 Quarantine” line that would precede the official course report date by 14 days or longer as determined by the training installation commander to capture the required per diem for that period. This line should be programmed for all courses starting for the rest of FY21 and through quarter two of FY22 (March 31, 2022). If and IMS must quarantine in a third country, prior to arriving in their home country for return, there must be a documented way for the student to arrive in their home country. If a student is required to quarantine in a third country prior to arrival in the U.S. and on return, the Department will examine the overall cost prior to approval. If there is further guidance by either Department on related to quarantine for foreign travelers, we will adjust this policy accordingly.

### **4. Guidance on Mobile Education and Training Teams (METs / MTTs) for FY 21 (Q1 thru Q3)**

While METs and MTTs supported by IMET are a vital tool for education, training, and engagement, the Department expects that U.S. personnel travelling overseas, once restrictions are lifted, may be required to quarantine by the partner nation upon arrival. With that in mind, the Department does not view expending IMET to pay for extended per diem amounts for U.S. personnel remaining in quarantine as an effective use of funds. Therefore, we are instructing Security Cooperation Offices to cancel any METs or MTTs that have been scheduled to take place during the first three quarters of FY21. If the MTT is four weeks or longer, a case-by-case decision will be made whether to approve. If the MET/MET can be converted to a distance learning (DL) option, IMET can continue to fund the tuition but will still require State approval on a case-by-case basis. .

### **5. FY21 IMET Funding for English Language Labs**

With the unprecedented and ongoing impact that COVID-19 pandemic, many countries IMET programs have seen significant program impacts. Those impacts have translated into lost courses leaving them with funding that could be recouped during the End-of –Year (EOY) process. As a means to mitigate some of those EOY returns, the Department will allow countries to use IMET funds to procure English Language Labs, books, publications, and associated training. This policy is not meant to be a blanket authorization to shift significant portions of a country’s IMET budget to procure labs. This policy is for countries that have standing requirements that could be addressed earlier than previously planned (e.g., English lab / support planned as part of the FY22 or potentially FY23 IMET program). If a country does not have labs as part of your FY22 program, the Security Cooperation Office must:

- 1) Have had a site survey conducted, in person or virtual, within the past 5 years;
- 2) Have an English Language Training (ELT) program that is active and supported by the host nation military;
- 3) If the requesting country does not have a language lab programmed in FY21 or FY22, they must provide a justification to DSCA and PM, along with the appropriate COCOM endorsement to include:
  - a. Current status of the country’s ELT program;
  - b. Number of active English language labs in country;
  - c. Country plan for staffing and managing the ELT program.

## **6. IMET Funding for Lapsed or Non-Inclusive Health Care Insurance for IMS**

IMS and their authorized dependents are required to have healthcare coverage per the Security Assistance Management Manual (C10.9.1). In the context of COVID-19, there are instances where insurance policies have lapsed because the student must remain in the U.S. due to travel restrictions and the policy has ended. In this instance, the U.S. government will consider funding medical bills as a result of COVID-19 on a case by case basis, if the IMS meets the following criteria:

1. The IMS must have had insurance for themselves and family member(s) during original period of U.S. training. Proof of policy must be provided;
2. The medical expenses must be directly related to treatment for COVID-19;
3. There is no Foreign Military Sales (FMS) blanket order training case with unprogrammed funding that could pay for such the medical expenses;
4. The partner nation has not provided an indemnification letter to the U.S. stating they would be responsible for any related medical costs;
5. The partner nation has been officially requested, via the Security Cooperation Office, to pay the outstanding medical bill and has officially declined to do so.

If these criteria are met, a formal request must be made to DSCA by the MilDep before any IMET or FMF funding is to be used to pay for the outstanding COVID-19 related medical expenses.

## **7. COVID-19 Related Testing and Vaccinations for IMS**

If it is the policy of the U.S. government to require international travelers to demonstrate a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival in the U.S., the IMET program will not reimburse for those costs. . If the partner nation requires a negative test prior to return, the IMET program will reimburse for this expense in FY 2021.

If vaccinations are being offered and are available to the IMS, from the Department of Defense, they should avail themselves to them and use their insurance to reimburse for such costs. If the IMS' insurance does not reimburse for this cost, the IMET program will reimburse for this cost in FY 2021. If the IMS has accompanying family members, the cost for vaccination is to be paid by the IMS. IMET and FMF will not pay for COVID-19 vaccinations in the IMS' home country.