

There has been a lot of information circulating regarding the continuing Corona Virus/COVID 19 situation, although, I do not want to overburden you with hearing it all again, I want to let you know what I see and hear from my foxhole. So here goes my third message in the same four "buckets" as previously laid out (for those that did not see the first two, I have attached them).

1) At the SGT James Witkowski Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Increased telework; many of the 63rd Readiness Division civilian employees should have discussed this with their Staff Directors regarding options moving forward. Many of you will be starting to execute the telework agreements tomorrow. One big update is that we request all AGR/ ADOS Soldiers to complete the necessary telework training as quickly as possible, and to get your telework agreements in place as soon as possible.

As many of our Army Reserve civilians move to a telework scenario, we want to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in our remote VPN server. In order to ensure access, we are recommending civilians and Soldiers try to use OWA for email which may lighten the pressure placed on the VPN.

2) Status of Battle Assembly and Travel Restrictions.

The Secretary of the Army has placed additional restrictions on travel, and it is broad-reaching, affecting all non-essential travel. The travel restriction affects everything including battle assemblies for Army Reserve.

All Battle Assemblies for March have been postponed. This hiatus regarding travel could include April and possibly affect travel until 11 May 2020. More to follow on decisions regarding the Battle Assembly (BA) scheduled for 17-19 April 2020.

We have a very flexible RST policy for Commanders to use in working through individual cases for Soldiers planning travel in April to attend BA. I ask that you work with your commanders/Soldiers to underscore the importance of tracking their Retirement Year Ending (RYE) dates to ensure they have sufficient points to obtain a good year.

3) Actions to protect yourself, your family and your colleagues at work and home.

Please see previous notes to review CDC recommended actions to limit the spread of the virus. Governors in some states are considering/or have implemented policies such as shelter in place as they weigh all the options to limit social contact and we are reviewing what that means for us to ensure we interpret it accordingly and apply the appropriate measures.

In the meantime, with the flexible telework policy, and balancing risk to our force with risk to our mission, we believe we are meeting the intent. More to follow on this tomorrow as we continue to move forward.

4) Communication

We will continue to disseminate decisions and information as soon as we can.

Be well and be safe.

Blood & Fire!

VR,

Best Regards,

MG Alberto C. Rosende
Commanding General
63rd Readiness Division

For any questions regarding operational and functional requirements contact:

G3/COIC at (650)759-3482 or usarmy.usarc.63-rsc.mbx.coic@mail.mil. For Public Affairs guidance, support and media relations, contact your unit Public Affairs Office or Mr. Aaron Decapua, Phone: (650)526-9822, Mobile: (562)881-4376, usarmy.usarc.63rsc.mbx.pao@mail.mil.

As I mentioned in the first message, we need to ensure that we remain transparent and open regarding our actions as we face the Corona Virus (COVID 19) together..

I expect that we are all aware of the increasing threat of the COVID 19. As you can expect, we, within the U.S. Army Reserve, are currently experiencing a very fluid situation. Also, many actions are being taken at all levels of government, at the federal, state, and municipal levels, to prevent the spread of the virus. The Department of the Army and the U.S. Army Reserve Headquarters are working to provide us timely guidance and support. We all need to maintain situational awareness to best understand the potential impacts on our people, our greatest asset. As we seek to protect our people as our priority, we also need to make sure we maintain vigilance on our operational requirements as well as missions that are underway. I will continue to focus my comments on the same four subject areas to keep consistency.

1) Status of Witkowski Center, Mountain View, CA.

The Witkowski Armed Forces Reserve Center continues to stay open as usual. There is no discussion of its closure at this time. We are aware of school closings in the area that may impact some of our Soldiers and civilians. We are not planning any broad measures as yet, but encourage you to discuss your personal situation with your supervisor for guidance.

2) Status of Battle Assembly and Scheduled Events.

We continue to plan towards conducting of our Battle Assembly in April, but know that there will be more information to follow as we move closer. We have made decisions today to postpone other events that require commercial travel or require "large" gatherings of personnel. We will be notifying our personnel impacted by events that have been shifted or canceled very soon. I anticipate having additional information for you tomorrow based on scheduled meetings with senior leaders.

3) Actions to protect yourself, your family, and your colleagues at work and home.

SOCIAL DISTANCE: In addition to the hygiene recommendations published yesterday, many public health officials issued additional requirements regarding maintaining social distance from others. Yesterday, I read the updated guidance, which recommends persons keep 6 feet from each other. Several states, Governors, California and New Mexico included, have issued guidance regarding large gatherings which are predicated on the maximum number of individuals that should be at an event as well as the ability to keep the minimum social distance between participants.

The hygiene steps recommended are:

- staying home if feeling ill
- avoid public gatherings if you are immunocompromised, pregnant or elderly
- frequent hand-washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- avoiding close contact with sick individuals
- maintain a distance of 6 feet from each other in any social or professional setting
- coughing and sneezing into your elbow, or covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throwing away the tissue into the trash can, and immediately washing and sanitizing your hands
- cleaning frequently touched objects and surfaces
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth and avoid shaking hands
- cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces should also, be done, both at home and in the workplace.

4) Communication.

We published Operations Order (63d Readiness Division Operations Order 20-009) and have published Fragmented Order 001 to this Operations Order to provide additional guidance on the process to report information regarding illnesses to our personnel. The Operations Order also provides guidance on the collaborative effort that we must take to understand the impacts of potential decisions we may have to take in the future to limit operations, reduce or cancel activities, and even close facilities in the region.

Best Regards,

MG Alberto C. Rosende
Commanding General
63rd Readiness Division

For any questions regarding operational and functional requirements contact:

G3/COIC at (650)759-3482 or usarmy.usarc.63-rsc.mbx.coic@mail.mil. For Public Affairs guidance, support and media relations, contact your unit Public Affairs Office or Mr. Aaron Decapua, Phone: (650)526-9822, Mobile: (562)881-4376, usarmy.usarc.63rsc.mbx.pao@mail.mil.

I want to let all of you know that we at the 63rd RD are carefully tracking the Corona Virus - COVID 19 and its potential impact to our Soldiers, Civilians, Contractors, and our families. Our most important objective here is to ensure we are protecting our people while continuing to operate and support our Units, Shops, and Facilities in our seven states. We are in continuous contact with our Higher Headquarters, U.S. Army Reserve Headquarters, located at Fort Bragg, as they provide us updates on the current status from the Department of the Army Headquarters. With that said, there are a few key points I want to communicate.

1) Status of Witkowski Center, Mountain View, CA:

We currently remain open for business as usual. Based on our experience within the building, we will continue business as usual. As we continue to closely monitor the situation within our community, and track the status of local government, businesses, schools, etc. We will take action when and if we deem necessary.

2) Status of Battle Assembly and Scheduled Events:

As you may have heard, Army Reserve Headquarters - Fort Bragg is implementing travel restrictions, canceling non-essential travel, and postponing non-essential events to limit exposure and avoid large gatherings. For instance, we postponed this weekend's Family Programs training event originally scheduled for Houston, TX. We may need to postpone additional events as we review our short and near term calendars closely; we will notify you of further cancellations as the decisions are made. Functional commands are currently weighing the options and risks (i.e. travel exposure of unit members) of performing Battle Assembly weekends in the near term, so ensure that you are staying plugged in through your unit's chain of command if you are a subordinate unit outside of the 63rd RD. The 63rd HQ is still on track to perform BA during the period of 17-19 April 2020.

3) Actions to protect yourself, your family, and your colleagues at work and home. We continue to encourage all personnel to practice proper hygiene as the best way to prevent the spread of the virus.

Prevention includes:

- staying home if feeling ill
- frequent hand-washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand-sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- avoiding close contact with sick individuals
- coughing and sneezing into your elbow, or covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throwing away the tissue into the trash can, and immediately washing and/or sanitizing your hands
- cleaning frequently touched objects and surfaces
- avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces should also be done, both at home and in the workplace.

4) Communication:

We pledge to remain open, transparent and ensure timely communications and decisions. We will utilize our Facility Coordinators and Center Commanders in our seven-state area of responsibility as the primary means to disseminate and gather information. The important thing here is to be able to inform you of what we see going on, focusing on any exposure that may affect our people. Shortly, we will be disseminating to all our Facility Coordinators and Center Commanders a series of criteria to be able to provide recommendations for decisions on their future collective events and training. This way, they can work with their functional commands to agree on a course of action for their operational requirements. We pledge to stay vigilant, layout decision points, and be prepared and postured to take action as needed promptly; so far, we have no reason to shut down the Witkowski Armed Forces Reserve Center. We ask that you continue to stay plugged into the 63rd Readiness Division's Social Media as we will continue to provide frequent updates. I want to ensure we are making the right decisions early; as of now, we are open for business as usual.

Best Regards,

MG Alberto C. Rosende
Commanding General
63rd Readiness Division

For any questions regarding operational and functional requirements contact:

63/COIC at (650)759-3482 or usarmy.usarc.63-rsc.mbx.coic@mail.mil. For Public Affairs guidance, support and media relations, contact your unit Public Affairs Office or Mr. Aaron Decapua, Phone: (650)526-9822, Mobile: (562)881-4376, usarmy.usarc.63rsc.mbx.pao@mail.mil.