



## **Lead 6 Sends:**

### **A Message from Brigadier General David A. Lesperance**

**30 SEP 2020**

Wow! It's been a busy few weeks here at the NTC and Fort Irwin with many opportunities for us to tell our story and showcase the many accomplishments of our units and Soldiers with senior leaders. If you're not tracking, ROT 20-10 was significant as it was the first Division Level training rotation in 20 years to be conducted at the National Training Center. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our Soldiers and civilian employees, from across the installation, who worked hard to make ROT 20-10 a success.

As busy as it's been, we were able to complete the rotation with yet another opportunity to tell the NTC and Army story to a visitor, with whom many of you had a chance to interact with. We were fortunate to host Denzel Washington and his team at the request of the Army, for research and a site recon as a potential filming location for an upcoming movie. CSM Justice and I are grateful that he and his team were willing to dedicate so much time with our community members while they were here.

Opportunity Leave couldn't come at a better time. I can hear the collective sighs of relief as families and vehicles head to the gate for a much deserved and long overdue break. Between the COVID safeguards, in place now for nearly seven months, and four Rotations, take this much deserved opportunity to refresh yourselves, reconnect with loved ones, or perhaps see a few sites before coming back in preparation for ROT 21-02.

While we all need this break from the high OPTEMPO that is Fort Irwin, I encourage leaders at every level to remain engaged with your team while traveling; particularly those who are not taking leave. Issues or concerns our Soldiers are dealing with do not disappear with leave and neither does the responsibility of being an engaged leader. Stay in touch and lead by example.

If you're staying informed, our county was beginning to see progress with declining case and positivity rates. However, SBC announced today that due to an increase in case rates, it will remain in the "purple," most restrictive tier. While this is not the news we wanted to hear, we do remain conditions based here and are already operating within the "red" tier for many of our services and facilities. In fact, based on conditions and counsel from all command teams, I've modified my General Order to allow non-essential travel within our local area to include Apple Valley, Hesperia and Victorville.

Our leave period is a little different this year with varying time frames for each O6 level Command. This was necessary based on mission requirements, individual safety and the safety of our community as a whole. Conditions and required safeguards will vary as you travel. Please continue to remain vigilant and remain aware of conditions and mitigation measures around you. Continue to follow CDC guidelines for cleanliness, masking and hand washing so that we all make it back safe and COVID free. Remember, it's your continued vigilance and adherence to our policies and CDC guidelines that have kept our community safe.

Again, I thank you for all that you do for our community and our Army. Every member of our team is vital to our community and the readiness of our Army. Take care of each other and safe travels over this much deserved leave period.

**Lead - Train – Win!**