

ARNORTH Monthly

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Safety of personnel, Families vital during Labor Day weekend

By Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner

Labor Day recognizes our nation's workforce and is the unofficial line between summer and fall. It's a good time for one more long weekend with Family and friends before everyone is settled into school and the weather cools down. I encourage you all to take the long weekend and relax after the long hot Texas summer, Exercise Vibrant Response, and the other events that keep every member of Army North busy.

I task all leaders to emphasize safety to their personnel. Although many things are outside our control, we can control the use of designated drivers or public transportation; the proper use of seat belts and child restraint devices; wearing protective clothing and equipment during sporting activities; water safety and protection from the sun; fire safety and safe food preparation, and accident prevention at home, both inside and out.



Staff Chiefs will ensure Soldiers and Civilians are briefed on preventative actions for accident and injury factors such as excessive speed, alcohol, fatigue, failure to wear seatbelts, and failure to wear DoD required

protective gear for motorcycle riding. The automated TRiPS POV risk assessment web based tool can be found on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center website at <https://safety.army.mil>. This tool must be completed for all planned trips outside the immediate area when you are going on leave, pass, or TDY. It will help you plan your trip, present you with hazards identified through ac-

cident investigations of similar trips, and offer controls to mitigate the known hazards.

Thank you for your contributions to the U.S. Army North mission. Have an enjoyable accident-free weekend and safely enjoy the rest of the summer with Family and friends.

ARNORTH bids farewell to 3 comrades

by U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner, the commanding general of U.S. Army North, shakes the hand of Col. James Larsen and enjoys a smile with Larsen and his wife, Abigail, after presenting him with his Certificate of Retirement July 31 inside the headquarters quadrangle. "Today is a time for 'thank you's' and a time to say farewell," said Turner, to his fellow Soldiers, who gathered together during U.S. Army North's Retirement Ceremony. "I'm thankful and proud to have served in our Army."



U.S. Army Photo



U.S. Army Photo

Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner, the commanding general of U.S. Army North, presents a Meritorious Service Medal to Lt. Col. Terance Allen, as Lena, Allen's wife, watches on July 31 inside the headquarters quadrangle. "Retirement – The word itself seems final, terminal even," said Allen, to those who gathered together during U.S. Army North's Retirement Ceremony. "I thought about it, and retirement just means a new beginning. The last 20 years were a blast. I wouldn't change a thing!"

Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner, the commanding general of U.S. Army North, presents a Meritorious Service Medal to Sgt. 1st Class Joe Garcia, as Paloma, Allen's wife, and their son watch on July 31 inside the headquarters quadrangle. "As I grew up in the military, I always had two NCOs I could count on," said Garcia, in talking about his father, a retired sergeant first class, and his brother, a retired first sergeant. "I learned about team work – how to build rapport – and how to hold up my end. Our mission – helping Americans on American soil – It's the best mission I've had."



U.S. Army Photo

Exercise**U.S. Army North prepares for potential missions during Vibrant Response 2009**

By Randy Mitchell
U.S. Army North PAO

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – It's a scenario that brought nightmares to generations and has been portrayed by Hollywood numerous times: a nuclear device detonated by terrorists on U.S. soil; as dreadful and tragic as that event would be, there are currently military forces training to aid federal and civilian authorities in response to such an occurrence.

Members of U.S. Army North's Joint Task Force 51 completed a command post exercise here Aug. 14. Named Vibrant Response 2009, the training drill brought more than 600 people together to train on how the military would provide assistance to the state of Missouri and local first responders if a nuclear device had been detonated in a civilian population.

The two-week exercise kicked off July 31 and focused primarily on military response to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive incident. The exercise confirmed the readiness and abilities of incoming forces that will fall under the CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force, or CCMRF, effective Oct. 1.

The exercise brought together more than 40 units from the Active, Reserve and National Guard components from across the United States. The CCMRF units would bring additional capabilities to support local, state and federal authorities.

"It is vital we work through the problem sets we may be confronted with during an



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford Army North PAO

Soldiers and Sailors working with U.S. Army North gather around a Command Post of the Future system for a briefing at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Aug. 11 during Vibrant Response 2009. The exercise focused primarily on responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive incidents. It was designed to confirm the readiness and abilities of incoming forces that will fall under the CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force effective Oct. 1.

event of this magnitude," said Lt. Col. David Taylor, operations officer for JTF 51.

The CCMRF consists of three major task forces under operational control of JTF 51 – Operations, Medical and Aviation.

The majority of forces align under Task Force Operations, which is led by the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, an Army National Guard unit based out of South Carolina. Additionally, the 330th Medical Brigade, an Army Reserve unit out of Fort Sheridan, Ill., commands Task Force Medical, and Task Force Aviation belongs to the

11th Theater Aviation Command, a mix of regular Army and Army Reserve units based out of multiple installations across the United States.

The challenge of bringing all the units together was entrusted to the JTF-51 logisticians.

"I gained an understanding of how a joint headquarters operates," said Maj. John Turner, JTF-51's logistics planner during the exercise, who had arrived to U.S. Army North three weeks prior to the exercise. "Additionally, I got to see first hand how the Defense Department integrates with civilian authorities."

Learning and working

through a tremendous amount of information and continuously developing doctrine involving Defense Support of Civil Authorities was a challenge, said Turner, and one he adapted to quickly.

He said it is important for the forces taking on the important mission to learn how work with their fellow agencies in providing the proper support when called upon.

"Familiarize yourself with the Joint Chief of Staff Execution Order directing how DSCA operations function," he advised.

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Mission Adaptability

U.S. Army North NCOs adapt to new challenges during Vibrant Response 2009

By Sgt. Joshua Ford
U.S. Army North PAO

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – Most Soldiers have come to expect that their next assignment will lead to another change in scenery on the eve of yet another deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

That is not necessarily the case for the NCOs serving with the United States Army North however. For them, their mission is much closer to home because Army North is not a typical combat unit. In fact, the word “combat” isn’t even part of the lexicon at their headquar-

ters on Fort Sam Houston.

The mission of Army North is to serve as the Army Service Component Command and Joint Force Land Component Command for U.S. Northern Command. It coordinates federal military response in the land domain in support of civilian agencies for disasters including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive incidents.

Army North works closely with state and federal agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as well as the other military services

year-round.

As you can imagine, the mission is vastly different than what NCOs may have traditionally trained for and can prove to be a difficult transition for those who have spent their military careers with combat units.

For these NCOs, it is a matter of embracing the lessons learned throughout their careers and using their acquired experiences to focus on their new missions.

“If individuals fall back on the basics of the Army, such as troop-leading procedures, the military decision-making pro-

cess and composite risk management, they will be able to adapt quickly and easily,” said Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Balistreri, the Operational Command Post 1 and Joint Task Force 51 sergeant major. “Changing from a maneuver mindset to a Defense Support of Civil Authorities mindset is not that big of a leap.

“Many operations that are conducted in the DSCA environment are seen in both Iraq and Afghanistan,” he explained. “Examples of some of those operations are humanitarian-assistance missions, medical assistance to locals and route-clearing operations.”

The headquarters element of Army North is based at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Forward-deployed, Colonel-led teams, are the Defense Coordinating Elements in major cities across the continental United States. Each has an area of responsibility aligned with the 10 designated FEMA regions. Army North has less than 600 Soldiers and Civilians, and slightly more than 75 of its Soldiers are NCOs.

Many practiced their skills July 31 – Aug. 14 during Vibrant Response 2009 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The exercise focused primarily on responding to CBRNE incidents and was designed to confirm the readiness and abilities of incoming forces that will fall under the CBRNE Consequence Management Force effective Oct. 1.

Staff Sgt. Brandon Hammond, a military police officer with Army North, was one of the NCOs honing his skills during the exercise, which he said

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Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Staff Sgt. Brandon Hammond (left) and Staff Sgt. Robert Barnard, both military police officers with U.S. Army North, discuss the situation they see developing while working on a command post of the future system Aug. 10 during Vibrant Response 2009 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The exercise focused primarily on responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive incidents, and was designed to confirm the readiness and abilities of incoming forces that will fall under the CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force effective Oct. 1. Army North's Operational Command Post 1 and Joint Task Force 51 will serve as the command and control headquarters.

Training

Ohio Force Protection Team trains for chemical attack

By Sgt. Brad Staggs
Indiana National Guard

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – Ohio National Guard members spent a week at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center here to test their ability to respond to a chemical attack.

Ohio's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package – one of more than a dozen such force packages around the country that the Guard calls "CERFPs" for short – comprises command and control, search and extraction, decontamination and medical teams staffed by members of Guard units.

During the exercise, simulated victims of a chemical attack were "traumatized" as they were transported to one area. The Soldiers and Airmen who were helping them were dressed in yellow chemical protection suits and trying to calm the survivors.

"Muscatatuck is an absolutely perfect setting for what we do,"

said Army Lt. Col. Scott Smith, the Ohio CERFP commander. "Our men and women can pull a victim from the rubble and have to bring them straight to decontamination without having to pause to reset the exercise."

The CERFP is made up of chemical and engineering Soldiers and Air Force medics pulled together from the Ohio Army and Air National Guard. In all, more than 600 personnel were brought to Muscatatuck to train.

The task for the CERFP was to set up a decontamination station in less than 90 minutes. Search and rescue teams could then bring victims to the decontamination station to save their lives. The team completed its task with 22 minutes to spare.

Capt. Marshall Jackson, Ohio state public affairs officer, said U.S. Army North validated the CERFP and was impressed with its performance. The Soldiers and Airmen who participated in the exercise were impressed as well.

"There is really realistic stuff



Photo by Sgt. Brad Staggs, Indiana National Guard

Two members of the Ohio National Guard Chemical Enhancement Force Protection Package Team assist a mock chemical attack victim out of a mock contaminated area during training at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Ind., Aug. 10.

here," Pvt. Michael Cooper said. "Especially on the rubble piles. I've never seen so many victims brought to us at one time. It's stuff you would see in real life."

Real people were placed inside vehicles and under piles of debris to create a realistic training situation for the Soldiers and Airmen unlike any they had experienced before.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Kristen Bandy said working in the training environment made the trip from Ohio worth the drive. "It's a lot of hard work, but in the end, it's really rewarding."

The Ohio CERFP will return to Muscatatuck in November when U.S. Army North will conduct a homeland security exercise.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford Army North PAO

Maj. Thomas Groggett (left), explosives and ordnance disposal staff officer, U.S. Army North, and Phillip Barnes (standing), senior evaluation analyst for civil support teams, U.S. Army North, review an operation order here Aug. 11 during Vibrant Response 2009.

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The advice was headed by participants of the exercise as they embarked on a weeklong effort to integrate and learn more about one another. The participants will have another chance to implement the lessons learned when the forces come together again in November for a field training exercise that will include nearly all components of the task forces to perform their mission in a simulated environment.

The training was extremely beneficial to the task force and to Army North because it also provides the unit's new personnel a chance to get a feel for what will happen in Kansas. Vibrant Response challenged JTF 51 to incorporate subordinate units from all military services

as well as multiple government agencies into CCMRF operations.

During the facilitated after action review, the senior mentor told the audience the training was valuable in preparing a vital capability that he hopes the nation will never need to utilize – the mission of protecting American citizens at home.

"I admire and appreciate what you are doing," said retired Army Lt. Gen. Don Holder. "What you are doing is just as important as any mission being performed overseas."

U.S. Army North serves as the Army Service Component and Joint Force Land Component Command for U.S. Northern Command and is charged with coordinating the federal military response in the land domain for domestic operations or disasters, to include CBRNE.

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afforded him new opportunities to learn and grow.

“It’s a burden and an honor to work in my field,” said Hammond. “Normally, a staff sergeant in the Army isn’t traveling the continent, shaking hands with dignitaries, conducting meetings with local, state and/or federal entities, and providing input at the strategic level as I do here.”

Of course, he added, working in a joint environment with Civilian agencies also introduces new operating procedures and jargon that he had to learn in order to adapt to and accomplish his mission.

Also participating in the exercise was Staff Sgt. Darin Ingle, an operations NCO with Army North, who said playing a supporting role in missions such as this is vital and the learning curve can be steep.

“Going from a Bradley section leader at 3rd Brigade (Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division) to potentially responding to a nuclear attack in a command and control unit is a challenging transition,” said Ingle, who redeployed from Iraq in February and reported to Army North in July.

“I have been serving in the Army for 10 years and have never been a part of anything like this – but that is what we, as NCOs, are supposed to do: train and adapt to the mission, no matter how much it differs from anything we have ever done.”

Perhaps among the most difficult transitions for many enlisted leaders is that they may no longer have young Soldiers to lead on a day-to-day basis.

“In all of my previous units, I was given a group of Soldiers, a stack of weapons, a map, a place and told to execute my mission,” said Hammond, who has served during two combat tours in Iraq. “That’s what I know, and that’s what I am good at.”

“Coming here, I had no idea how different this sort of situation could be: I have no Soldiers and, really, very few true “peers” because of the structure of this senior command. It has allowed me to step outside my comfort zone and really use my experience in a different way at a much higher echelon.”

The NCOs have essentially gone from serving as mentors for their Soldiers to serving with a senior command that has

a mission unlike any other Army unit – to help the American people in a time of need. Now, instead of presenting classes on how to react to contact or establish a checkpoint, they undergo training focused on Defense Support to Civil Authorities.

NCOs continue to focus on their tactical missions, said Ingle, because they know they will eventually return to combat units. Their current mission, however, is a great opportunity to enhance their skills for when they inevitably move on to their next assignments.

“There are just other things we have to learn about being in a unique unit like U.S. Army North,” said Ingle. “It is just another opportunity to learn about another realm in what all the Army does.”

Hammond and Ingle both said they now have a unique opportunity to protect and serve their nation – but in a more “behind-the-scenes” way.

“Some believe that a sexy mission is working with special weapons and equipment, jumping out of airplanes and breaking down doors,” said Balistreri. “I cannot think of a more important mission than protecting the citizens of our great country.”

“The missions in Iraq and Afghanistan are incredibly important, with protecting our service members and all others deployed as our number-one goal. Someday, hopefully very soon, the wars will be over – but protecting and defending our homeland will never go away.”

During the Vibrant Response exercise, Joint Task Force 51 responded to a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear weapon that detonated in downtown Kansas City, Kan. The simulated blast would have potentially affected more than 500,000 people in Missouri and Kansas.

“Responding to something like this would be catastrophic,” said Ingle, a native of Montgomery, Ala. “It would be unlike anything I could ever imagine doing.”

A man-made catastrophe such as this was but one of the contingencies the exercise prepared the Army North members to respond to. At one time, such an attack would have been unthinkable to most but recent history demonstrates anything is possible. Thus, intensive training such as Vibrant Response 2009 would pay huge dividends in the future if such an event were to occur.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO
Staff Sgt. Brandon Hammond (left) and Staff Sgt. Robert Barnard, both military police officers with U.S. Army North, discuss the situation they see developing while working on a command post of the future system Aug. 10 during Vibrant Response 2009.

“ARNORTH’s mission is important with the current situation we’re in,” said Hammond. “The mission has always existed. I think the necessity became more apparent when we were sucker punched in September 2001 by cowards.”

Army North’s mission is of vital importance to the nation and its Army and, as is the case with every unit in the Army, Army North depends on its NCOs to be successful.

“NCOs bring skills with them that are essential to what we do,” said Maj. Gen. John Basilica, the commanding general of Army North’s Operational Command Post 1 and Joint Task Force 51. “They are important because just like in combat, they provide skills for managing and guiding staff. This is important because our mission is to command and control Title 10 Forces in a complex environment.”

“One piece of advice I would give to NCOs making a transition like this is not to worry – their skills and experience will serve them well.”

NCOs are the backbone of the Army. It’s as simple as that. A good NCO embodies adaptability and versatility in any mission.

It is never an easy transition, said Hammond and Ingle, to go to a different unit with a unique mission Soldiers are not necessarily accustomed to. However, they emphasized, “We are NCOs – it’s what we do: Get the job done and make things happen.”

New Leadership

Texas State Guard changes command

By Col. William Meehan
Texas Military Forces PAO

CAMP MABRY — “Sound Attention, Sound Adjutants Call!” With this command, Col. Baldemar Cano, Texas State Guard, launched the military tradition known as “Change of Command.” Under a hot, bright sun July 25 on the Camp Mabry parade field, Lt. Gen. Christopher Powers, relinquished command of the Texas State Guard to Maj. Gen. Raymond Peters.

Powers, who has commanded the Texas State Guard since 2006, said he was “deeply honored by those in attendance” and acknowledged “the literally thousands of Soldiers, Marines and Airmen he had served with in his 40 years in the military.”

Powers thanked his family and particularly his wife, Patricia, for the sacrifices they made during his career. He had high praise for the Texas State Guard, remarking that “thousands of Texans may never know your names but will never forget your presence,”

referring to the many call-ups of the State Guard for state active duty, particularly during the 2008 hurricane season.

“They will go anywhere, do anything, take on any mission; these are truly amazing people,” he said.

The ceremony was presided over by Maj. Gen. Jose Mayorga, the Adjutant General of the Texas Military Forces.

“The governor had a special trust in you, a dedicated warrior, to command the State Guard,” Mayorga told Powers as the 36th Infantry Division played the tune “She wore a yellow ribbon.”

Mrs. Powers was presented with a bouquet of yellow roses for her support of her husband.

During the ceremony, Mayorga also took the opportunity to welcome Peters as the new commander.

“You were selected to command the Texas State Guard due to your competence and commitment,” said Mayorga. “I look forward to your service.”

The highlight of the morning was the actual change of



Photo by Lt. Shawn James, Texas State Guard

Maj. Gen. Raymond C. Peters (right) accepts the colors from Maj. Gen. Jose Mayorga, symbolizing the change of command from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander.

command where the Texas State Guard Colors were handed by Command Chief Master Sgt. Harold Higgins, the senior enlisted advisor to Powers, who handed them to Mayorga, as custom dictates, then passed the flag to Peters, who finished the ceremony by entrusting them again to Higgins, thus completing the circle of command.

Peters spoke to the assembled audience about his thoughts on assuming com-

mand of the Texas State Guard.

“Forty-five years ago,” he said, “I stood out here on this very same parade field and never imagined that I’d be back here promoted to the rank of major general. I consider it an honor and a privilege to command the Texas State Guard and am blessed to take command of the finest volunteer organization in the nation.”

Peters and his wife Mary reside in Austin.

How can Fort Sam Houston be better for you?

As part of our effort to improve service delivery performance, Installation Management Command is conducting a Customer Service Assessment of services provided by our installation.

This is designed to be an annual web-based, diagnostic tool process that provides feedback to garrison leadership from our customers.

This assessment will enable the garrison commander to obtain critical ‘voice of the customer’ feedback on service provider strengths and areas requiring improvement.

The assessment is divided in two groups: constituent (customer) and corporate (leadership).

The Constituent Assessment identifies garrison services most important to the customer and evaluates how well the garrison is providing each service.

The purpose of the corporate assessment is to assess the per-

formance and importance of the services as determined by installation leaders.

Please take this opportunity to participate in this 10 minute survey and encourage everyone that lives, works, trains and plays on Fort Sam Houston to make their voice be heard.

All leaders, Soldiers, Family members, teens, Civilians, contractors, retirees and veterans from all branches of service are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

This is our chance to make Fort Sam Houston the best that it can be!

Take the survey on line now through Sept. 18 at www.my-armyvoice.org.

The USAG Fort Sam Houston POC for this survey is Mr. Russell Matthias, customer management services officer at 221-2543, or email issues to samh.cms@conus.army.mil.

Editorial

CCMRF and the use of Federal Armed Forces in Civil Support Operations

By Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Jacobs

Commanding General, Operational Command Post 2

FORT SAM HOUSTON — Last year, the Secretary of Defense assigned the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division to United States Northern Command as part of the first dedicated Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive Consequence Management Response Force. The announcement of that assignment ignited the blogosphere. The internet sprang to life with dire warnings of armed Soldiers in full combat gear routinely patrolling our nation's streets. Alarmist predictions ran wild: steely-eyed infantrymen, just off the plane from Iraq and Afghanistan, not only would be enforcing domestic law but would slide rapidly down the slippery slope to the oppression of American citizens at the behest of an unchecked executive branch of government.

The cyber hue and cry illustrates the depth of the public's misunderstanding and the abundance of misinformation surrounding the federal military role in domestic civil support operations. Misunderstanding and misinformation about defense support of civil authorities in general, of CCMRF in particular, and of the legal authorities governing the domestic employment of federal forces exist even within our Army, as illustrated in "Resurrecting Posse Comitatus in the Post-9/11 World" by Col. Craig Trebilcock

In a revolutionary doctrinal change, Field Manual 3-0, Full Spectrum Operations, incorporates civil support as an integral part of the Army's operational concept. Just as Soldiers and leaders must understand offensive and defensive operations, an understanding of civil support operations is now imperative. We must eliminate the misperceptions of civil support operations, both in the public's eye and within our own institution.

Our armed forces have a long history of supporting civil authorities. In 1970 the Army conducted postal operations during the postal strike. In 1981, Army air traffic controllers staffed civilian control towers during the air traffic controllers' walkout. Federal forces supported state and local authorities during Hurricanes Andrew in 1992 and Katrina in 2005 as well as many other natural disasters in the last decade. Last year U.S. Army North, NORTHCOM's joint force land component command, deployed a task force to command and control federal military forces in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state of Texas during Hurricane Ike.

NORTHCOM is the combatant command whose area of responsibility includes the homeland. Civil support is one of NORTHCOM's two major missions; homeland defense is the other. Although interrelated, the two missions are separate and, unfortunately, are confused at times.

Two seminal events, 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, have heightened the importance of DSCA and have underscored the requirement for the Department of Defense to be ready and able to support civil authorities. Civil support is no longer just an additional duty for the armed forces; it is now a critical continuous endeavor. For example, 10 full-time defense coordinating officers, active Army colonels assigned to ARNORTH, are located and work daily with each of the ten FEMA



U.S. Army photo
Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Jacobs is the commander of Operational Command Post 2, US Army North. He is the author of *The Future of the Citizen-Soldier Force: Issues and Answers* and numerous articles.

regions and coordinate regularly with other federal agencies, state emergency management officials and National Guard leaders.

The role of the federal military in DSCA is carefully defined and deliberately circumscribed by the Constitution, statutes and policy. As many have noted, one of the laws that limits the role of the federal military is the Posse Comitatus Act.

Posse Comitatus prohibits Title 10 forces (that is, the federal military, as distinguished from the National Guard in a state status; Title 10 of the US Code is the title that governs the armed forces) from enforcing state or federal laws, except as otherwise authorized by law. Title 10 forces may not make arrests, stop and frisk suspects, conduct searches and seizures or perform domestic surveillance. Posse Comitatus is alive and well, and reports of its impending demise are greatly exaggerated.

The statutory prohibition on the use of the armed forces to enforce the law, however, does not mean that the military cannot engage with and support civilian law enforcement agencies.

The Department of Defense long has provided such support. The primary mission of Joint Task Force North, a subordinate joint task force of NORTHCOM based at Biggs Army Airfield, Ft. Bliss, Texas, is to provide support to civilian law enforcement authorities. For years, JTF-North has provided that support, with the authorization of Congress and without violating the Posse Comitatus Act or any other law.

The Insurrection Act is an exception to Posse Comitatus. The Insurrection Act allows the president to use federal armed forces to enforce the law in three circumstances: (1) at the request of a state legislature or, if the legislature is not in session, a governor; (2) either to enforce federal law or when a rebellion or unlawful "assemblage" precludes enforcement of the law through judicial proceedings; and (3) to suppress "any insurrection, domestic violence, unlawful combination, or conspiracy" if a state fails to protect the constitutional rights of its citizens. Actions taken under the Insurrection Act do not constitute martial law. Martial law is far more sweeping, and the president may impose martial law only in circumstances more extreme than those required to invoke the Insurrection Act.

The Insurrection Act has been invoked rarely in the last half century. Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy invoked the Act four times between 1957 and 1963 to enforce desegregation laws in Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama. President George H.W. Bush invoked the Act in 1989, federalizing National Guard units and

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deploying the 16th Military Police Brigade to restore order in the Virgin Islands in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo.

Discussing DSCA operations, which include CBRNE consequence management, in the same breath as the Insurrection Act only perpetuates misunderstanding. The Insurrection Act does not provide the legal authority for DSCA operations. Federal military forces, including CCMRF, conduct DSCA operations under the umbrella of the National Response Framework, promulgated by the Department of Homeland Security. The specific statutory authority for DSCA operations is the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, commonly known as the Stafford Act.

The National Response Framework outlines the comprehensive, unified system for responding to natural and man-made disasters in the homeland. Under this tiered response system, local governments are the first responders to any domestic emergency, and all incidents are handled at the lowest level possible. States become involved in disaster response only if an incident exceeds the capability of local governments to manage the response.

The National Guard, in its capacity as a state force, always has been and remains, the primary military response to any natural or man-made incident in the homeland. Before federal military forces will be used in response to a disaster in a state, that state, through interstate agreements, will employ the National Guard forces of its sister states.

The federal government becomes involved only if a disaster overwhelms local and state capabilities, to include those of the affected state's own National Guard and of other states' Guard units employed by the affected state, and then only at the state's

request. When the federal government responds, it designates a lead federal agency. The lead federal agency is most often, but not always, FEMA. DoD's role in all DSCA operations is to support the lead federal agency and other federal, state and local organizations.

Under the rubric of the Stafford Act, Title 10 forces perform only discrete and defined tasks, known as "mission assignments." These mission assignments result from requests for assistance that are usually passed to DoD from the local and state level through FEMA. The requests are vetted by the Joint Staff and approved by the Secretary of Defense. Every request is reviewed for legality by many DoD lawyers at various levels as it progresses to the Secretary. Aside from the necessity to ensure that the use of Title 10 forces in a DSCA operation is legal, appropriate and cost-effective, the process ensures that DoD is reimbursed for its expenditures under the Stafford Act and that readiness is not degraded by spending operational funds for DSCA missions. CCMRF, like any other DSCA force, will execute approved mission assignments and only approved mission assignments.

Citing the Insurrection Act and the 2006 amendment to that statute, Col. Trebilcock and others have implied that the assignment of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, to NORTHCOM as part of CCMRF is an unwarranted expansion of the president's authority to use the federal armed forces in the homeland and will lead to the demise of the Posse Comitatus Act. Nothing could be further from the truth. Equating CCMRF with unchecked executive authority demonstrates the widespread misperception of CCMRF.

In the first instance, DoD has long kept a combat unit on a short string to conduct homeland defense missions in the United States if necessary. But, other than

to point out that the Insurrection Act has empowered the president to act unilaterally to employ federal forces in the United States for over two hundred years, any discussion of the 2006 amendment to the Act is pointless because Congress repealed that amendment in 2008. Our tripartite system of checks and balances works. If Congress believes that the president has too much authority, it will act to take that authority away, just as it did in repealing the amendment to the Insurrection Act.

But, in any event, CCMRF and the Insurrection Act are apples and oranges. CCMRF is a DSCA force. Congress understands that, and any intimation that an imperious executive branch is using CCMRF as an attempt to evade the law, sidestep Posse Comitatus, and undercut both Congress and state and local authority does not pass muster. Congress fully supports DoD's efforts in creating CCMRF and assigning the first CCMRF to NORTHCOM. As the Senate report to the 2009 Defense Authorization Bill states, "efforts to establish the forces to manage the consequences of CBRNE incidents should receive the highest level of attention within the Defense Department, and the additional forces needed for CBRNE consequence management should be identified, trained, equipped and assigned to U.S. Northern Command as soon as possible."

More important, the slippery slope argument evinces the lack of understanding of the CCMRF mission and of why that mission is so vitally important to our national security. The CCMRF mission is to provide a rapid response capability to assist local, state and other federal authorities following a catastrophic event. CBRNE incidents pose a great and very real security challenge in the homeland. A terrorist attack or accidental CBRNE incident could be catastrophic and likely will over-

whelm local and state authorities very quickly. Federal military forces have capabilities that otherwise may be unavailable to states and localities.

A CCMRF is a joint force usually organized under a two-star headquarters. It comprises three subordinate colonel-level task forces: operations, medical and aviation. Task Force Operations is formed around the nucleus of a brigade combat team or maneuver enhancement brigade, augmented by logistics and specialized CBRNE units. Task Force Operations is capable of CBRNE detection and decontamination, and can provide, among other things, transportation, logistics, communications and public affairs support to local, state and federal entities.

Task Force Medical provides public health support, augments civilian medical facilities, conducts casualty collection operations, assists with patient movement and provides medical logistics support. Task Force Aviation provides heavy and medium lift helicopters.

By October of 2010, DoD will have three deployable CCMRFs. Currently, one CCMRF is operational. The second CCMRF will become operational in October of this year and the third in the following October. Army National Guard brigade combat teams, to be employed in a Title 10 status, will form the nucleus of Task Force Operations of the second and third CCMRFs.

Those who believe that CCMRF somehow subverts the law and portends the demise of Posse Comitatus misapprehend the role the federal armed forces have long played in DSCA operations. In the post-9/11 world, that role is ever more important. Given the fundamental obligation of assuring our nation's capability to respond to the unthinkable – and the potential consequences of failing to do so – it behooves all of us to work to correct that misunderstanding.

Commentary

Army Congressional Orientation Program broadens NCO's outlook on making a difference

By Master Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon
Army Reserve Communications

As part of The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, Department of the Army senior leaders have begun to incorporate noncommissioned officers into the Army Congressional Orientation Program. As one of the first NCOs to take part in this program, I must say that it was an unforgettable experience.

The ACOP is an 89-day program, run by the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison. Soldiers, both officers and NCOs, work in the office of a member of Congress as part of his or her staff. The objective of the program is for the Soldier to help the Members and their staffs gain a better understanding of the Army, Soldiers and the Department of Defense. In return, Soldiers receive a hands-on experience in learning how Congress operates.

I went through an interview process by which I was chosen to work as the military legislative liaison for congressman John Boccieri's office, the U.S. representative to Ohio's 16th congressional district. While there, I was primarily responsible for handling all Department of Defense and veteran issues. I was also able to identify beneficial pieces of legislation drafted to support servicemembers and their Families for the congressman to co-sponsor.

One of the most rewarding experiences was establishing the Congressman's Ser-

vice Academy Congressional Nomination Program. This program is designed to allow the congressman to select qualified high school seniors and constituents for nomination to one of the five military service academies (U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, etc.). Establishing the program for the congressman took a lot of work and dedication, but will hopefully open the door for some well deserved young men and women to enter one of the U.S. armed services academies.

What I also found gratifying was the opportunity to support Ohio's 16th District veterans, servicemembers and their Family members. Many servicemembers have issues that they feel can only be resolved by their member of Congress, and to be able to discuss those issues with a congressional staff member affiliated with the U.S. armed forces, I found, made for a better flow of communication.

One of the things that I will always remember is the fact that I helped save the career of a Soldier who was unnecessarily being forced out of the military. This really placed an emphasis on what the military legislative liaison position is about, and that is taking care of your designated district's service members and their families.

It was also gratifying to have had the opportunity to get the congressman's staffers involved in some military events. The event that was an eye opener for the staffers was their participation in the welcoming of wounded service members to the Pentagon. One of the staffers told me that the experience to meet a wounded Soldier was life changing and a true honor.

Overall, I gained a multitude of knowl-

edge pertaining to politics and the daily operations of Congress. One of the most valuable things I gained was the understanding of how legislation is drafted, processed, and possibly enacted.

I was surprised at how much legislation has been drafted in support of service members and their family members. I noticed how undeniably compassionate and concerned members of Congress are pertaining to the welfare of servicemembers. That allowed me to see that Congress does place the concerns of service members as high, or a little higher, as that of their other constituents living in their districts.

A great example of this was demonstrated when a Soldier deployed to Iraq sent an inquiry to the congressman pertaining to stop-loss. The Congress not only took time to address the Soldier's concerns, but he also sent a letter to the secretary of defense to inquire about stop-loss and its affect on all Soldiers. The support from the congressman, along with the support of many other members of Congress, led to a change in the way stop-loss is used by the Army.

Again, the experience afforded to me is unforgettable and one that has truly made me a better leader. The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer initiatives are not only enhancing the various skills of NCO's, but are also showing Soldiers that our senior leadership truly recognizes the role we play in the Army.

The opportunity to take part in the Army Congressional Orientation Program is one that I truly thank our senior Army leaders for and hope that opportunities like this continue to be established for the NCO Corps.



U.S. Army North,

We need your help in identifying different ways the San Antonio community can assist military Families. We are looking for your ideas! Please send your feedback to Randy Mitchell at randy.l.mitchell@us.army.mil or call him at (210) 221-2402. Your feedback is wanted! Thank you!

Safety

Army 'ready' anytime, anywhere

Safety Center officials encourage participation in National Preparedness Month observance

By U.S. Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – Many members of the Army Family have often remarked that the only thing certain in their lives is uncertainty.

Living such a life requires Soldiers, Civilians and their Family members to be ready for anything at a moment's notice. This month, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center joins forces with the Ready Army team to observe National Preparedness Month and encourage every member of the Army Family to commit themselves to a constant state of readiness.

"Things like permanent changes of station, deployments and natural disasters force every Soldier, Civilian and Family member to be ready for anything at anytime," said Col. Scott Thompson, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center deputy commander. "I encourage every member of our Army family to take time during this national observance to ask yourself if you are truly ready for anything."

National Preparedness Month is a six year old observance that is held each September and focuses on encouraging citizens to make preparedness a top priority in their lives.

This year, National Pre-

paredness Month organizers are asking Americans to look beyond a working fire alarm or extra food in the pantry to better understand what it truly means to be ready for anything.

"An Army Family that is properly prepared for anything enhances the readiness of our force," Thompson said.

"The right plan, the right kit and the right information all combine to increase the resilience of our Band of Brothers and Sisters in the face of whatever challenges we might encounter."

Driven by the mantra "get a kit, make a plan, be informed, get involved," National Preparedness Month organizers

have assembled a wealth of tools and tips to help people assemble emergency kits and be informed of threats unique to their areas. These tools and tips, which feature lists of what to include in emergency kits and how to assemble a Family emergency plan, can be found at www.ready.gov or www.ready.army.mil.

"Take time to prepare now," Thompson said. "There are so many uncertainties in our lives today, don't let your safety or your preparedness be counted among them."

For more information about preparing for and mitigating the risk of a variety of on and off duty activities, visit <https://safety.army.mil>.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month starts Sept. 15 and ends Oct. 15. This date marks the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries; Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. All of these nations declared their independence in 1821.

Mexico declared its independence Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18.

Hispanic is a term used to describe Spanish-speaking people regardless of their race.

As of July 2005, more than 42 million people claimed to be Hispanic.



Courtesy/Photo

(Left): Philip Bazaar, a Chilean member of the U.S. Navy, received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1865 for bravery during the Civil War.

(Right): In 1994 President Bill Clinton awarded Cesar Estrada Chavez a posthumous Medal of Freedom. Chavez co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW).[1] Supporters say his work led to numerous improvements for union laborers.



Courtesy/Photo

NEWS

ARMY-WIDE

Third Army breaks ground on new headquarters

By Sgt. Beth Lake

USARCENT PAO

SUMTER, S.C. — U.S. Army Central began a historic step in its move from Fort McPherson, Ga., to Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, S.C., as leaders from the 20th Fighter Wing, 9th Air Force, City of Sumter, and Third Army broke ground for the unit's new command and control complex Aug. 17.

Third Army's headquarters complex is scheduled to open in September 2011 and will include a command and control headquarters, a headquarters company facility, and a motor pool.

Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army/USARCENT commanding general, highlighted the importance of the move in the command's history.

"We are excited to begin a new chapter in our distinguished history with you here in South Carolina today," Webster said. "Third Army, when established on Shaw Air Force Base, will significantly add to the military missions and overall military presence in the Sumter community and in the state."

Commander of the 9th Air Force, Maj. Gen. William Holland, also emphasized the impact the move will have on current operations.

"USARCENT has a long and proud heritage," Holland said. "We look forward to our times ahead building a shared history here at Shaw. Combat experience from the Central Command area of responsibility has shown the absolute necessity of our services continuing to cooperate at all levels as a joint team. Co-locating our two headquarters at Shaw will further strengthen our partnership and interoperability. We are truly excited as we anticipate our future as one team, one mission and one community."

The move will bring more than 1,000 Soldiers, hundreds of Families and a new economic impact, to Shaw and Sumter,

Webster said.

Sumter's mayor, Joseph T. McElveen, Jr. stressed the support and hospitality these Soldiers, Civilians and Families will receive from the local community.

"You are going to find in Sumter that we have spent 60 years or more trying to figure out ways to support Shaw Air Force Base," McElveen said. "You are going to find that the same folks that have been doing that for many years are going to do that for our Army brothers and sisters as well. Each time you need us, you can call on us. This community not only says it, we do it."

Before picking up a golden shovel to break ground and move Third Army into a new era, Webster took a moment to offer thanks.

"Today is not just about a shovelful of dirt, or a headquarters building, or a new neighbor. It is a significant and positive change in all our lives. We look forward to continuing our work with everyone here as we build our capacities together. We are thankful for the support of the Shaw and Sumter communities. Together our people and their Families will build an even better team, working toward an even brighter future together."

Department of Defense

Gates, Mullen Use New Media to Hear from Troops, Public

By Donna Miles

American Armed Press Service

WASHINGTON — Got questions you'd like to pose directly to the defense secretary or chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff? Now is your chance!

Robert M. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen have launched interactive, virtual town hall sessions through the Internet.

The initiatives are part of a broad administration effort to connect more closely with the military, the American public and people overseas. The goal, officials explained, is to provide a forum for people to ask questions or offer suggestions or insights and get direct feedback.

The new Defense Department home page that went live this week features a prominently placed "Ask the Secretary" section. Anyone visiting <http://www.de->

[defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov) — military members, American citizens, people overseas — can submit a question to Gates.

Questions will be accepted for two weeks, then participants in the town hall will have another two weeks to vote on the questions submitted. The secretary will answer the five to 10 questions that top the list.

Meanwhile, Mullen launched an "Ask the Chairman" venue yesterday that enables anyone to pose a question to him via YouTube. The virtual town hall is open to everyone, whether they're in the military or a military Family or simply care about military issues, officials said.

Viewers can ask questions about whatever is on their minds — the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq, what the military is doing for wounded warriors and Families, the new Post-9/11 GI Bill or another topic of interest — by visiting <http://www.youtube.com/dodvclips>.

"The chairman really wants to have a conversation with the troops akin to the way he does all-hands calls at bases all over the world," Navy Capt. John Kirby, Mullen's public affairs officer, told American Forces Press Service. "He wanted that conversation to be as interactive as possible and reflective of what is on their minds."

Aug. 31 is the deadline to submit video questions. After the deadline, Mullen will watch questions submitted by YouTube viewers, then respond in a podcast, officials said.

Price Floyd, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said taking advantage of new media tools will enable Pentagon leaders to engage in an important two-way conversation with the public.

"We do live in a democracy, and that feedback from people is important to know what they're thinking, what they believe is important," he said. "It's their national security policy, it's not ours. It's theirs. The president was elected, and he appointed people here at the Defense Department to lead, but it starts with the American people."

The White House is planning a similar interactive venue for President Barack Obama to take questions directly from U.S. troops deployed in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

(If you have questions or comments about this story, contact the reporter at donna.miles@osd.mil.)

News

New G.I. Bill to heighten professional work force

By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Carden
Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — More college-educated professionals will enter the next generation's professional work force as a result of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said this week at the American Legion's 91st National Convention in Louisville, Ky.

Shinseki lauded the organization's efforts in advocating the new legislation, just as it fought for the original GI Bill more than 65 years ago.

"Just as you were responsible for the passage of the original GI Bill in 1944, your commitment here was instrumental, yet again, in getting this 9/11 GI Bill through the Congress," Shinseki said.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect Aug. 1, and with its expanded benefits and the option of transferring benefits to family members, it's likely to affect the country the way the original GI Bill did in 1944, he said.

Between 1944 and 1956, millions of veterans took advantage of educational benefits provided by the original bill and helped to fill the nation's work force with qualified and trained professionals. Although they no longer wore the military uniform, the veterans' contributions to the country weren't any less significant, he said.

"Returning World War II veterans leveraged the educational opportunities they had under the original GI Bill into sustained economic growth for the nation, catapulting the nation into the world's largest economy [and into a position of] leadership in the free world," he said. "Our country became richer by 450,000 trained engineers, 240,000 accountants, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 66,000 doctors, 22,000 dentists and [by] millions of other college-educated veterans who went on to lead our great country in the second half of the 20th century.

"This new Post-9/11 GI Bill has the potential to impact the country in the same way, thanks to your leadership and the leadership in country," he added. "You've been our eyes and ears for identifying

needs for veterans."

The education opportunities also will help VA in its struggle to end homelessness among veterans, which, Shinseki said, also will have an indirect but positive effect on a host of other issues. Veterans lead the nation in homelessness, he said, and also are ranked among the highest groups in the country for depression and substance abuse.

In 2003, more than 195,000 veterans were without homes. Shinseki pointed to a lack of education and employment opportunities, as well as mental-health and substance-abuse issues, as the main reasons for the over-representation of homeless veterans.

Today, VA estimates that 131,000 veterans are homeless, and Shinseki said he's determined to get them off the streets within the next five years. His department and President Barack Obama's administration are moving in the right direction to tackle the issue, he said, but he noted it won't be easy.

"We're moving in the right direction to remove this block from all of our consciences, and are committed to ending homelessness," he said. "No one that has served the nation as we have should live without care and without hope. I know there are no absolutes in life, ... but I also know that if we don't put a big target out there, we won't get our best efforts."

Homelessness is the last stop in an unfortunate road for many veterans, the secretary said. "To do this well, we'll have to attack the entire downward spiral that ends in homelessness," he said. "We must offer education, we must offer jobs, we must treat depression and we must treat substance abuse, [and] we must offer safe housing [for homeless veterans]. We must do it all."

The Post-9/11 GI Bill may not deliver an immediate impact on the homeless issue and others that veterans may face, but education is a long-term investment that will ensure many of their futures, he said.

"This investment in America's future will go on for decades to come," he said. "I told you what happened the first time we did this: thousands of trained engineers, scientists, doctors, dentists, accountants [and] teachers. Lightning is about to strike twice. And those who've answered our nation's call are going to be benefited into being leaders for our country in the 21st century through this program."

National Guard

Vigilant Guard exercise continues in western New York

By National Guard Bureau PAO

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The emergency response exercise known as Vigilant Guard resumes this week with a second table top exercise here at the Adams Mark Hotel for senior officials.

Participants will include leaders from the New York National Guard, Erie County, the City of Buffalo and the New York State Emergency Management Office.

The first Vigilant Guard table top exercise was run at the Adams Mark on August 12th and was designed for civilian emergency response officials. It was a walk-through effort to help civil authorities envision and then react to an earthquake that strikes Western New York resulting in numerous injuries and considerable damage.

The table top exercise ran through the first 48 hours of the disaster and the purpose was to help the various agencies test standing plans, interact with each other and prepare for and seek additional outside help, especially from the National Guard.

The exercise scheduled for Sept. 2 is for policy-level leaders and will also follow the initial 48 hours of the disaster. This exercise will enable senior officials to view the impact of the earthquake scenario on residents and infrastructure within their areas of responsibility so they can consider the kinds of decisions and coordination they will need to make in response.

The six-day full scale exercise is set for Nov. 1-6 and will be conducted at different locations in Erie County and in New York City and will involve local civilian and military teams conducting search and rescue and medical evacuation operations and more.

The Erie County Emergency Operations Center in Cheektowaga, and the New York State Emergency Operations Center and the National Guard's Joint Operation Center, both in Albany will run concurrent and coordinated command post exercises during Vigilant Guard.

Under the scenario, local emergency responders will be quickly overwhelmed by

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the damage and casualties and local government will seek military support. The purpose of the exercise is to help civilian and military officials in their planning and preparations to speed assistance when and where it is most needed when disaster strikes.

Vigilant Guard is a national exercise program sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and United States Northern Command to provide a training opportunity for National Guard forces to for state emergency response and exercise relationships with local, state, regional and federal partners against a variety of different homeland security threats, including natural disasters and terrorist attack.

More than 1,000 National Guard troops from New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and other states will participate along with local, state, county and city emergency response units and agencies. It will provide a realistic training opportunity for civilian and military officials to coordinate in order to protect lives and property.

Nationally, there are four Vigilant Guard exercises each year. Two exercises are aligned with national-level exercises such as Vigilant Shield and Ardent Sentry. The other two are regional "stand-alone" events, primarily with regional partners.

Vigilant Guard will help both the National Guard and civilian leaders practice command and control functions and Defense Support of Civil Authorities with the various government partners through a realistic learning environment to benefit all participants.

National Guard meets end — strength goals for 2009

By Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy

National Guard Bureau PAO

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army National Guard announced Aug. 27 that it reached its congressionally mandated end-strength goal of 358,200, a full month before the end of the fiscal year.

In addition to achieving the end-strength

goal, Army National Guard personnel readiness is at the highest levels in history.

At this time last year, the Army National Guard had over 26,000 Soldiers, who were "awaiting training." These are Soldiers who have never shipped to initial entry training.

Less than a year later, that number has been reduced to just over 10,000 Soldiers "awaiting training." Because they are not available for deployment, today's lower number equates to increased readiness for units.

Further evidence of this achievement is the percentage of Soldiers, who are considered trained and qualified in a military job.

In 2005, only 77 percent of Army National Guard Soldiers were considered trained in a military occupational specialty. Today, over 91 percent are trained in a military occupation.

Maintaining this level of readiness will be a challenge for the Army National Guard. "I worry about having adequate resources next year to sustain our current level of readiness," said Army Maj. Gen. Ray Carpenter, the acting director of the Army National Guard.

The achievements in Army National Guard personnel readiness, recruiting and retention over the past few years have been historic.

They occurred during two major wars and increased deployment requirements. Currently, the Army National Guard has over 65,000 mobilized soldiers.

Carpenter said the context of the achievement is as important as the achievement itself.

FEMA

FEMA announces \$260 million for New Orleans' recovery projects

By FEMA News Desk

NEW ORLEANS, La. — The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Louisiana Recovery Authority announced an additional \$260.3 million for projects throughout the New Orleans area, including funding to Dillard University, Templeman Prison I and II and the Gaslight Apartments. These announcements bring the total public assistance funds obligated for Louisiana recovery projects since Jan. 20 to more than \$1 billion.

"FEMA is working closely with our state and local partners to push money down into

the hands of locals as quickly as possible," said FEMA's Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office Acting Director Tony Russell. "Our recent funding reflects these efforts to provide tremendous support so that projects can move toward completion."

For Dillard University, FEMA provided an additional \$19.4 million as reimbursement for emergency protective measures done campus wide following Hurricane Katrina. These measures included site security, debris, mud and silt removal, dewatering of buildings, contents removal and building stabilization.

In the public safety arena, FEMA provided an additional \$23.3 million to the city of New Orleans to fund the extra costs necessary to support the replacement of Templeman Prisons I and II. This supplemental funding resulted from comprehensive follow-up inspections, which estimated damages to be more than 50 percent of the costs necessary to replace the facility. Per FEMA policy, if damages surpass this threshold, funding is provided as a replacement project instead of a repair project.

Another \$39.7 million was provided to Louisiana's Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) Office toward replacement of the Gaslight Square Apartments. FP&C plans to rebuild the project primarily as a senior living community, known as "Village De Jardin," instead of rebuilding the conventional apartment buildings that existed before Katrina. A community center, wellness center, clinic and nurse stations, library, game rooms and park area are also included in plans for the new facility, which is being funded as an "Improved Project" under FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

"It's encouraging to see this kind of progress after our efforts to improve the way that federal, state and local officials work together," said Paul Rainwater, executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. "Obviously it is the citizens who benefit from the funds being made available to reimburse or complete projects such as these."

In addition to Dillard University, Templeman I and II and Gaslight Square Apartments, the following has been funded:

- \$167 million to Facility, Planning and Control for insurance.
- \$1.7 million for YWCA Daycare
- \$2.2 million for Holy Cross School Central Services Building.

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- \$1.4 million to the Regional Transit Authority for the Canal Streetcar Line.
- \$1.8 million for Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.
- \$3.8 to Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for state management costs.

When FEMA approves projects through its supplemental Public Assistance grant, the funds are transferred to a federal Smartlink account. Once the funds have reached this account, the applicant can request reimbursement from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for eligible work completed. Obligated funds may change over time as the project worksheet is a living grant that is often adjusted as bids come in and scope of work is aligned.

The Public Assistance program works with state and local officials to fund recovery measures and the rebuilding of government and certain private nonprofit organizations' buildings, as well as roads, bridges and water and sewer plants.

In order for the process to be successful, federal, state and local partners coordinate to draw up project plans, fund these projects and oversee their completion.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

VETERANS

Secretary Shinseki Announces Expansion of Counseling for Combat Veterans

By VA PAO

WASHINGTON D.C. – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced that combat veterans will receive readjustment counseling and other assistance in 28 additional communities across the country where the Department of Veterans Affairs

will establish Vet Centers in 2010.

"VA is committed to providing high-quality outreach and readjustment counseling to all combat veterans," Secretary Shinseki said. "These 28 new Vet Centers will address the growing need for those services."

The community-based Vet Centers – already in all 50 states – are a key component of VA's mental health program, providing Veterans with mental health screening and post-traumatic stress disorder counseling.

The existing 232 centers conduct community outreach to offer counseling on employment, Family issues and education to combat veterans and Family members, as well as bereavement counseling for Families of servicemembers killed on active duty and counseling for veterans who were sexually harassed on active duty.

Vet Center services are earned through service in a combat zone or area of hostility and are provided at no cost to veterans or their Families. They are staffed by small multi-disciplinary teams, which may include social workers, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, master's-level counselors and outreach specialists. Over 70 percent of Vet Center employees are veterans themselves, a majority of whom served in combat zones.

The Vet Center program was established in 1979 by Congress, recognizing that many Vietnam veterans were still having readjustment problems. In 2008, the Vet Center program provided over 1.1 million visits to over 167,000 veterans, including over 53,000 visits by more than 14,500 veteran Families. More information about Vet Centers can be found at www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp.

A list of the new Vet Center locations is attached.

Communities Receiving New VA Vet Centers:

- American Samoa.
- Arizona – Mohave and Yuma Counties.
- California – San Luis Obispo County.
- Delaware – Sussex County.
- Florida – Marion, Lake, Collier, Okaloosa and Bay Counties.
- Georgia – Muscogee and Richmond Counties.
- Hawaii – Western Oahu.
- Indiana – St. Joseph County.
- Louisiana – Rapides Parish.
- Michigan – Grand Traverse County, also serving Wexford County.
- Missouri – Boone County.

Montana – Cascade and Flathead Counties

Ohio – Stark County.

Oregon – Deschutes County.

Pennsylvania – Lancaster County.

South Carolina – Horry County.

Texas – Jefferson and Taylor Counties.

Utah – Washington County.

Washington – Walla Walla County, also serving Umatilla County, Oregon.

Wisconsin – LaCrosse County, also serving Monroe County.

DoD, VA work to create lifetime electronic records

By VA PAO

WASHINGTON D.C. – For servicemembers who still remember hand-carrying their medical records back and forth to appointments, the new virtual lifetime electronic record will help prevent misplaced paperwork and help providers maintain and offer quality health care, the acting director of the program said.

President Barack Obama, along with Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki, announced April 9 that VA and the Defense Department have taken steps toward creating a joint virtual lifetime electronic record, or VLER.

"The president's vision, as he expressed that day, will permit information vital to health care, benefits and services to be available seamlessly to both departments from the moment a servicemember enters the military until the servicemember's or veteran's death," Navy Rear Adm. Gregory A. Timberlake, acting director of the Defense Department – VA Interagency Program Office, said yesterday in a "DotMilDocs" interview on Pentagon Web Radio.

The steps to create the electronic record exchange began a little more than a year ago when the program office was established as the single point of accountability for the records in response to Section 1635 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2008.

"VLER will serve as a model for a nation, especially at this tumultuous time of health care reform, and is intended to be a lifetime, personal record for use by the servicemembers, their Families and service providers to ensure a seamless continuum of care and benefits," Timberlake said.

DSCA Q & A on H1N1

From www.defenselink.mil

Question: What is DoD's role if there were a pandemic influenza outbreak within the United States?

Answer: Under The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, which was published in November 2005, DoD is responsible, specifically, for developing its own plan to implement this Strategy and, generally, for supporting civil authorities, when authorized by the President or the Secretary of Defense, in the implementation of this Strategy.

In addition to the National Strategy, the Federal Government recently released an Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza. This document provides a framework to the National Strategy, assigns preparedness and response tasks to Federal departments and agencies, and describes U.S. Government expectations of non-Federal entities, including State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, international partners, and individuals.

Question: What types of medical supplies and other assets will DoD be able to provide to State and local public health providers to help respond to a national medical emergency, such as a pandemic flu?

Answer: In accordance with Emergency Support Function Annex #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) of the National Response Plan, DoD may provide the following:

- Medical equipment and supplies, including medical, diagnostic, and radiation-emitting devices and pharmaceuticals.
- Available logistical support to health/medical response operations.
- Available medical personnel for casualty clearing/staging and other missions as needed.
- Available blood products in coordination with DHHS; and
- DoD confirmatory laboratory testing support in coordination with DHHS.

Question: What tasks will DoD perform in a pandemic influenza outbreak within the U.S.?

Answer: DoD has identified 19 critical tasks that the Department will perform to provide protection for its personnel, mission assurance, and support to civil authorities, both foreign and domestic, in response to a pandemic influenza outbreak. These tasks are already driving the shape and content of joint training, military exercises, and coordination with interagency partners. These tasks include:

- Medical intelligence.
- Force Protection (including Force Health Protection).
- Biosurveillance, disease detection, and information sharing.
- Interagency planning support.
- Surge medical capability to assist civil authorities.
- Medical care to U.S. forces.
- Installation support to civilian agencies.
- Bulk transport of pharmaceutical/vaccines/commodities.
- Protect defense critical infrastructure.
- Communications support to civil authorities.
- Quarantine assistance to civil authorities.
- Military assistance for civil disturbances.
- Mission assurance: Defense Industrial Base.
- Mortuary affairs.
- Continuity of operations/government.

Question: What is the role of the National Guard in a pandemic influenza outbreak within the U.S.?

Answer: When federalized, National Guard personnel support DoD assigned activities in support of the Federal Government response. When not federalized, National Guard personnel support the State governors in fulfilling the responsibilities of the States.

Women's Equality Day

More than 100 Soldiers and Civilians gathered to celebrate Women's Equality Day August 26 at the Fort Sam Houston Army Community Center. During the ceremony, participants watched a presentation on women's history.

"Woman's Equality Day is an important time to reflect on the passing of the 19th Amendment but should also be a time to look forward at the continued advances women make as vital members of society. That we all, regardless of gender, are embraced for our diversity and how we add to ensure mission success and inclusion," said Sgt. 1st Class Melanie Locklear, U.S. Army North equal opportunity advisor. After the presentation, sandwiches and cake were served.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Sgt. 1st Class Melanie Locklear, U.S. Army North equal opportunity advisor, cuts the cake during Women's Equality Day August 26 at the Fort Sam Houston Army Community Center. More than 100 Soldiers and Civilians attended the event, which included a presentation on women's history.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

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