

# ARNORTH Monthly

May 2009



[www.arnorth.army.mil](http://www.arnorth.army.mil)

## Hurricane Ready

Army drill focuses on inter-agency preparations

## Wildland Fires

National Interagency Fire Center braces for summer

## Army Supporters

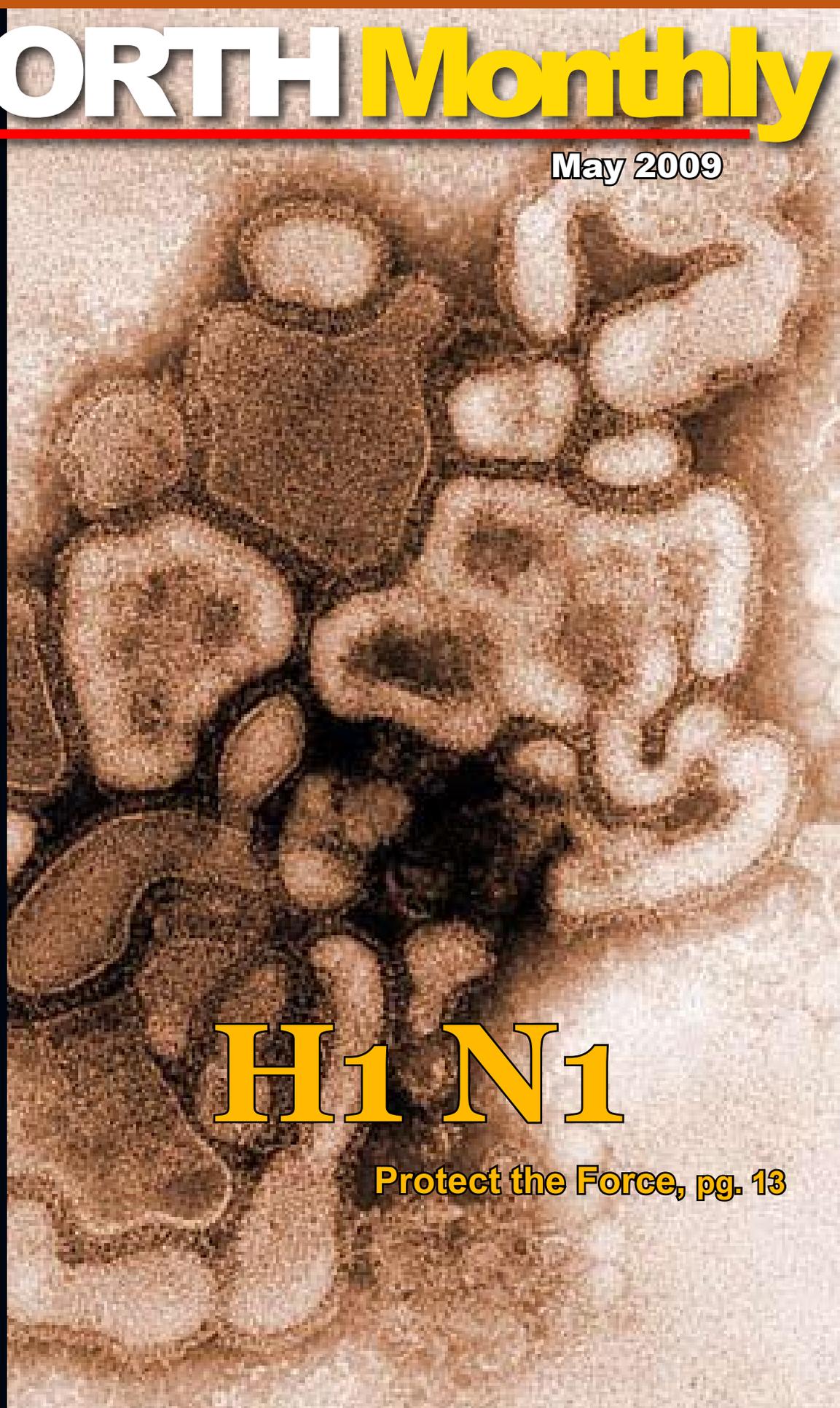
Civilian Aides to Secretary of the Army tour ARNORTH

## Viva Fiesta!

Photos from this years Fiesta events

# H1N1

Protect the Force, pg. 13



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**ARNORTH CG:**

*LTG Thomas R. Turner*

**ARNORTH CSM:**

*CSM George Nieves*

ARNORTH conducts Homeland Defense and Civil Support operations, and Theater Security Cooperation activities, as the NORTHCOM Joint Force Land Component Command and the Army Service Component Command in order to protect the American people and their way of life.

**Hurricane Readiness**

## Preparing for this year's hurricane season

Hurricane season is coming soon. And while individual households may prepare by stocking up on food and water more than 150 Guard members, civilians and active-duty service members convened at Fort Belvoir, Va. to discuss a coordinated response should severe hurricanes make landfall this season.

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**H1N1**

## No cause for alarm with flu outbreak

While emphasizing caution, the surgeon general of the Army said there is no reason to be alarmed by the H1N1 flu outbreak.

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**CASA**

## A group of SECARMY aides tour ARNORTH

A group of about 75 Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army visited U. S. Army North April 27 during a ceremony and orientation tour.

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**Fire Fighting**

## Agencies meet to plan for wildfire fighting

Led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region X Defense Coordinating Officer, an Army North team participated in the National Interagency Fire Center/Department of Defense Spring 2009 Wildland Fire Fighting Conference in Boise, Idaho April 14 – 15.

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# A Look Ahead

## MAY 2009

*Military Appreciation Month, Mental Health Month, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month*

**Military Spouse Appreciation**  
*12 - 6 p.m. at ACS*

**Military Personnel Exchange Program Conference** *May 4-8 at ARNORTH HQ*

**Professional Development**  
*FM 7-0 Training the Force*

**May 10 MOTHER'S DAY**

**Florida Hurricane Conference**  
*May 10-15 in Fort Lauderdale*

**Farewell Luncheon**  
*Col. Dochnal at Augie's BBQ*

**Border Security Conference and Expo**  
*May 13-14 in Phoenix*

**May 16 ARMED FORCES DAY**

**ARNORTH Prayer Luncheon**  
*in the Quadrangle*

**DSCA Course**  
*May 18 - 22 in San Antonio*

**May 22 TRAINING HOLIDAY**

**May 25 MEMORIAL DAY**

**NCO Retreat**  
*T Bar M*

**ARNORTH Retirement Ceremony**  
*9 a.m. in the Quadrangle*

**DCG Welcome Ceremony**  
*10 a.m. in the Quadrangle*



## Hurricanes

# Army drills interagency partners for hurricane preparedness



Photo by Marny Malin

Col. James Larsen II, assistant chief of staff, G7, U.S. Army North; Col. Ben Hancock, deputy commander, Joint Task Force Civil Support; and Maj. Gen. John Basilica, commander, U.S. Army North Operational Command Post 1, discuss the coordination of active-duty forces in a hurricane response drill held at Fort Belvoir April 14, 2009.

Hurricane season arrives June 1st. While households may prepare by stocking up on canned food, water and other essentials, the Army led a group of over 150 interagency partners in an exercise at Ft. Belvoir, Va., to rehearse a coordinated response to severe hurricanes this season.

The Rehearsal of Concept, or ROC, drill was organized by U.S. Army North, the Army component of the U.S. Northern Command, as part of its mission to support

civil authorities during disasters. Officials from the National Guard Bureau, U.S. Coast Guard, Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and many others were present to lay out their respective courses of action in the event of a hurricane.

In addition to the planning aspect of the drill, the ROC is also a chance for participants to meet each other before any hint of adverse weather hits the coast. The 2009 hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

“It gets people who are going to be working together face to face,” said Air Force Col. Randolph Staudenraus, chief of current operations for National Guard Bureau. “You can say, ‘I know this guy, I know he can help, I know he has this stuff here,’ in the time of crisis.” Interagency coordination is critical to success, he added.

“When you get everyone together like this, it allows you to synchronize your efforts because it’s like a machine in that you have a lot of moving parts; and, when you have that, it increases your potential risk of failure,” said Army Lt. Col. Travis Grigg, deputy defense coordinating officer for Army North’s Region VI.

According to Army North officials, the exercise is designed to fully coordinate the support that active military forces could be asked to provide states and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the event of a major hurricane.

“With a ROC drill like this one of the main purposes is to coordinate your efforts and movements to make sure there are no holes or gaps so you are moving in a unified DoD effort,” Grigg said.

Before Hurricane Katrina, disaster response was handled by the states through Emergency Management Assistance Compacts with very little coordination with the federal government, said Maj. Tom Puetz, an operations planner for the National Guard Bureau.

The exercise scenario begins 120 hours before the landfall of a major hurricane and continues until at least 48 hours after landfall. This year's notional storm hits southern Florida before gaining strength in the Gulf of Mexico and striking Alabama and Mississippi. The scenario is designed this way to provide a large number of agencies and states to present and run through their respective plans.

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## **“It gets people who are going to be working together face to face”**

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In the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season, the United States was hit by 16 storms, eight of which were hurricanes. Five of those were considered major hurricanes, with Hurricane Ike being the strongest and making landfall just east of Galveston, Texas.

“Based on the things my boss learned here at the Department of the Army ROC drill, we took that and had our own Region VI ROC drill,” Grigg said. “That is where we got down a little more at the tactical level with all of our players – our FEMA people, all of our state emergency management people, our National Guard folks and others, and we really honed in on that level with all those different players.”

With Ike hitting Texas, Grigg said he witnessed, firsthand, the benefits of last year's ROC drill in preparing the necessary agencies for the storm.

“It turns out that Ike followed along with the same scenario; so, when we had to execute we were ready,” Grigg said. “Now, it wasn't a perfect operation and we did have some issues we had to deal with while we were on the ground, but, had we not had the ROC drills, I think it would have been a much more difficult operation.”

*(by Andrew Sharbel/Fort Belvoir Eagle)*

# **Army North, FEMA seek joint training opportunities**



A U.S. Army North hurricane response exercise may mark the beginning of a new training relationship between the command and a regional team belonging to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Members of the two organizations put their heads together April 22 in San Antonio to seek ways to make the most of available training resources while sharing expertise and experiences within realistic disaster scenarios.

Army North's Mike Weimer said he hopes having a FEMA Incident Management Assistance Team, or IMAT, visit the exercise will be another step toward regularly integrating these regional teams into Army North exercises.

“These teams can leverage Army North's training regimen, resources and practices – the whole established training apparatus,” said the chief of the Assessment Division, Army North Directorate of Training.

Cole Bricker of FEMA's Region VI IMAT helped organize his team's visit to see the exercise at Camp Bullis. The operations section chief said FEMA so far has developed four of 10 planned regional teams.

The new teams are designed to rapidly deploy pre- or post-disaster to assess the situation and bring in additional FEMA capability. The team remains to form the core of FEMA's response effort on the ground. Once the mission turns to long-term recovery, the IMAT returns home to reset for its next mission, Bricker said.

Weimer said including the teams in Army North exercises is a natural fit. Two IMATs have already participated in Army North regionally focused exercises in Minneapolis and in Puerto Rico, he said.

“Because we are in support of a primary agency and because more often than not that

agency is FEMA, we think they could influence how we train. They could grade our paper, so to speak,” he said.

Providing that feedback would not be difficult for team members who are as widely skilled as IMAT members are, Bricker said.

“Each of the 15 people on the team is highly trained in their own functional areas and also cross-trained in several other areas so we can adapt quickly to the particular needs of the situation,” he added. “And because we are not a pick-up team, we can train as a team, understand the threats and capabilities within the region and develop relationships with planners and consequence managers in the states.”

Those are exactly the strengths that Weimer said he likes to leverage in Army North training events.

“The IMATs bring a regional focus, allowing us the chance to better explore regional problem sets, regional plans and procedures that may be difficult for Army exercise developers to replicate in detail,” he said.

The visit also gave the visiting FEMA representatives a closer look at how DOD plans and conducts operations – something that's difficult to do in the middle of a disaster, Bricker said.

The four team members watched as one of Army North's Defense Coordinating Elements served as the DOD representative on the ground to coordinate military support after the fictional Hurricane Bert struck the Texas coastline.

They also observed Army North's Operational Command Post 2, which was exercising its mission to command and control notional units responding to the pretend storm.

Bricker agreed that training with Army North would yield many benefits for both organizations, not the least of which was building crucial relationships before disaster strikes.

“You can't take fencing lessons in the middle of a sword fight,” he said. “If there is an emergency, we all will have to work together seamlessly. So our team looks forward to being involved in future exercises.”

*(by Patti Bielling/ARNORTH PAO)*

## ARMY NORTH

## Deputy Commanding General named for ARNORTH



The Army chief of staff announced April 13 the assignment of Brig. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins, assistant division commander (operations), 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan., to deputy commanding general, Fifth U.S. Army North, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

There will be a welcome ceremony for Wiggins May 28 at 10 a.m. in the Quadrangle.

Wiggins served as the 1st Inf. Div. commander since July 17, 2008. He relinquished his duties to Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks during an assumption of command ceremony April 15.

Before Wiggins took over as commanding general, he served as the assistant 1st Inf. Div. commander for maneuver.

## ARNORTH organizes new units to deal with disaster

The Department of Defense is preparing for the upcoming hurricane and wildfire seasons by organizing another unit specifically trained to deal with these contingencies. U.S. Army North has stood up a Reserve Defense Coordinating Element to react to natural disasters or other crises.

ARNORTH currently has 10 DCEs that provide military advice to state and other government officials. These DCEs are as-

signed to different regions across the country mirroring the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency regions. This organization has been sufficient to successfully respond to all crises in the past. During hurricanes, other natural disasters or National Events the DCEs determine what assets DoD can provide for disaster relief, support, or assistance.

## Coordinating Faith

Cooperation with Faith Based Organizations during disasters was the focus of a Northern Command-sponsored conference in Colorado Springs March 31 – April 2.

Military chaplains had the opportunity to coordinate with a variety of organizations such as the Red Cross, Federation of Fire Chaplains, Billy Graham Rapid Response Team, and the Salvation Army.

“Each organization gave a short brief and a description of how they respond in disaster situation,” said Army North Command Chaplain (Col.) Dan Franklin.

In addition to chaplains from NORTH-COM commands, other military organizations represented included the National Guard Bureau, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Forces Command, and U.S. Army’s Forces Command.

“Increasing communication between the military community and FBOs responding to disasters will facilitate unity of effort in disaster response and speed the transition from military response to civilian and local control of disaster recovery operations,” Franklin said.

## ARMY-WIDE

## Unified Quest

Unified Quest is an integrated year-long campaign of learning consisting of seminars, studies and excursions, and culminating in the Army Future Game during May 3- 8 at the Center for Strategic Leadership at the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Built on the expertise of a broad array government officials, scholars, allies, and military leaders, Unified Quest examines questions of interest to the Army but yields answers of interest to all.

The theme for Unified Quest 2009 is “sustaining balance in the future force” and this year’s campaign has examined how the Army can rebalance itself to confront the complex challenges of the future as an integral component of a “whole-of-government” approach.

To learn more about Unified Quest, see <https://unifiedquest.army.mil/>.

## Defending Cyberspace

Providing protection and centralization of the Army’s computer network system while also making connectivity and information accessible to the war fighter is crucial in supporting military objectives, said the Army’s first commander of the newly stood up 7th Signal Command (Theater).

Brig. Gen. Jennifer Napper told an audience of information technology employees that the 7th Signal Command is committed to providing and protecting “one team, one network” and to being the preeminent provider of LandWarNet, the Army’s globally interconnected communications and computing systems.

“This is a growing field ... We are about assuring maneuverability through cyberspace” for the Army, Napper said. “You need to be able to go unobstructed, unimpeded to the information you need to know. I’m not sure we can guarantee that today on our networks.”

Napper’s comments were made April 14 during the ninth annual Redstone Arsenal Information Security and Assurance Conference and Exposition, hosted by the Garrison and the Aviation and Missile Command. The event at Bob Jones Auditorium included about 550 participants and more than 30 exhibitors.

Napper spoke to conference attendees about “Defensive Operations in Cyberspace” designed to protect the integrity of the Army’s network system. The 7th Signal Command, based at Fort Gordon, Ga., was stood up in 2008 under Napper’s command. Its mission is to centralize the Army’s network in one location and provide access to LandWarNet capabilities that support Army forces in the states and in theater.

## Army Suicide Statistics

The Army released suicide data for March, reporting 13 potential suicides during the month. All 13 cases are currently under investigation to confirm the cause of death.

In the February report, the Army reported two suicides and 16 pending investigations. Since that report, the Army updated the numbers to reflect eight confirmed suicides, 10 pending investigations, and two additional deaths under investigation. There have been 56 reported suicides in the Army during 2009. Of these, 22 have been confirmed, and 34 are pending confirmation of suicide as the cause of death.

“The Army’s charter is more about improving the physical, mental, and spiritual health of our Soldiers and their families than solely focusing on suicide prevention - if we do the first, we are convinced that the second will happen,” said Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, who recently completed an eight-day, suicide-prevention tour that included visits to six major Army installations.

The Army is currently engaged in a three-phased Suicide Prevention Training Program that will reach Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, and Family members. Phase one of the program consisted of an Army-wide suicide stand-down and was completed March 15. The second phase, which includes a suicide prevention ‘chain-teach,’ is currently underway and is scheduled to reach the entire Army community by July 15. The third phase will continue indefinitely through annual training requirements.

In addition to specific suicide prevention programs, another major focus for Army leaders is eliminating the stigma associated with seeking mental health care.

“Any Soldier, from Private to General, may need help at some time in their Army career,” Chiarelli said. “Seeking that help, without fear of stigma, has to become second nature in our Army community, it has to become part of our culture. We’re not there yet, but we’re going to get there.”

## Army Training Network Launches

The Army Training Network is set to go online April 20 with the mission of becoming the one-stop shop and information source for Army training.

“ATN is about the ability of trainers and educators to go to one spot where they can talk over their problems. If you want to know about training, you come here,” said Jimmy Davis, ATN government team leader.

The ATN Web site has the most current training doctrine available, Field Manual 7-0, Training for Full Spectrum Operations, published in December 2008. Online “Training Management How-To” and “Training Solutions” in ATN replace the hardcopy FM 7-1, Battle Focused Training.

“The thing about ATN is that it’s live, it’s current, it’s now, unlike the two-dimensional documents that the Army has operated with for so many years,” said Bill Brosnan, ATN



contractor team leader.

Davis and his small team of contractors have a combined almost 100 years of Army experience, at both the officer and noncommissioned officer levels, and in fields such as aviation, field artillery and military intelligence.

The ATN team spent nearly three years writing the current version of FM 7-0. Davis said the process of formalizing new doctrine is lengthy for a reason, as doctrine is meant to be the foundation of standardized training for several years. He said he hopes having training solutions consolidated and archived online in ATN will reduce the time required to publish future revisions to FM 7-0.

Across the Army Training Network Web site, users have the capability to comment on doctrine, make recommendations for changes and submit training solutions from the field.

Visit the ATN portal at <https://atn.army>.

[mil](#). An Army Knowledge Online user name and password or Common Access Card is required to access the ATN Web site.

## Sexual Assault Prevention Summit

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren launched the second “I. A.M. Strong” Sexual Harassment/Sexual Assault Prevention Summit in Arlington, Va., April 6, telling the audience of Soldiers and civilians that the Army would become the nation’s “gold standard when it comes to sexual assault investigation and prosecution.”

Echoing the words of Lt. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, the Army G-1, to “absolutely eradicate” sexual assault and sexual harassment in the Army, Geren said that since 9/11 nearly 2,000 American Soldiers had been punished for sexually assaulting a fellow Soldier. He also said that sexual assault is one of the country’s most under-reported crimes.

“Experts estimate that only one in five sexual assaults are even reported and that’s not just within the Army, that’s on the outside, but we assume that to be true in the Army,” he said. “And, if that is true, those 2,000 reports mean since 9/11 that 10,000 American Soldiers have been assaulted by a fellow Soldier, blue-on-blue ... 10,000 American Soldiers.”

“I A.M.” stands for intervene, act and motivate, the cornerstones of the campaign. More information can be found at the [Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response & Prevention \(SHARP\) Program](#) website.

## Army launches official blog, Facebook page

In April, the Army not only launched an official blog portal, but also an Army fan page on Facebook.

Both sites were launched by the new Online and Social Media Division of Army Public Affairs. Division Chief Lt. Col. Kevin Arata said he was excited because thousands of people get their information from blogs and social networking sites.

“And I don’t think we’re targeting just one demographic,” Arata said, alluding to the

perception that such sites attract primarily a younger audience. “I think there are a lot of older folks out there savvy to this type of



communication.”

“The blogosphere is a place where a lot of different people are at,” Kyzer said. “We know our active-duty Soldiers are there. We know that our family members are there. We know that there’s people simply there who choose to get their information from blogs.”

Blogs are meant to be an informal and chatty type of communication, said Lindy Kyzer, the portal’s administrator and a Public Affairs specialist in the Online and Social Media Division.

“Everything we post on ‘Army Live,’ we really want to get comments and feedback from,” Kyzer said. “Blogs thrive on a vibrant comment section and an active dialogue, and that’s really what we want.”

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**DoD Begins QDR, NPR Processes**

The Department of Defense announced the commencement of the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) and the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) on April 23. The processes will culminate in final reports to Congress due in early 2010.

The QDR, which is conducted every four years, is one of the principal means by which the tenets of the National Defense Strategy are translated into potentially new policies, capabilities and initiatives. “The purpose of the QDR is to assess the threats and challenges the Nation faces, and then integrate strategies, resources, forces, and capabilities necessary to prevent conflict or conclude it on terms that are favorable to the Nation now and in the future,” said General James

E. Cartwright, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“The QDR takes a long-term, strategic view of the Department of Defense and will explore ways to balance achieving success in current conflicts with preparing for long-term challenges,” said William J. Lynn, deputy secretary of defense. “The review will also look at ways to institutionalize irregular warfare capabilities while maintaining the United States’ existing strategic and technological edge in conventional warfare.”

The process for the 2010 QDR will embrace a whole of government approach where the Department of Defense will consult with other U.S. Government departments and agencies and appropriate Congressional committees. There will also be consultations with key allies and partners. The 2010 QDR will address emerging challenges and explore ways to improve the balance of efforts and resources between trying to prevail in current conflicts and preparing for future contingencies, while also institutionalizing capabilities such as counterinsurgency and foreign military assistance.

The NPR will be conducted in consultation with the Departments of Energy and State. The purpose of the NPR is to establish U.S. nuclear deterrence policy, strategy, and posture for the next five to 10 years and to provide a basis for the negotiation of a follow-on agreement to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). This report will be submitted concurrently with the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

**Mullen Addresses Suicides, Ops Tempo During Texas Visit**



Suicide rates, operational tempo and homeless veterans were some of the topics

facing the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a news conference following a visit with wounded soldiers and their families at Brooke Army Medical Center here April 17.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, along with U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, both of Texas, spoke to reporters following visits to the burn unit at BAMC, as well as to the Center for the Intrepid, the state-of-the-art rehabilitation center adjacent to the hospital.

“Brooke Army Medical Center is state-of-the-art and is considered the gold standard for health care for our wounded warriors,” Cornyn said. “We’re proud of the services here and the healing afforded our wounded service members and their families.”

Mullen faced the questions of a rapid rise in suicides within the military, primarily in the Army, since 2006. He told reporters that the answers start at the top.

“We are alarmed at the increase in suicides, particularly in the Army,” he said. “In all services, the numbers are going up, and ... we are on a pace in 2009 to exceed 2008.”

But as bleak as the numbers are, Mullen said, he believes there is a solution.

“I think the solution is leadership,” the chairman said. “It’s leadership at the top – and that is certainly going on at Fort Hood, but it’s also leadership at the [noncommissioned officer] level. And I know the leadership of the services – especially the Army – is very focused on this, and I think that’s really a big part of the solution.”

But Mullen admitted that the services have been pressed hard during eight years of war and constant deployments.

**Cyber Defense Cost Pentagon \$100 Million in Six Months, Officials Say**

Defending the Defense Department’s global information grid from attacks cost the U.S. military more than \$100 million over the past six months, U.S. Strategic Command officials said April 8.

Air Force Gen. Kevin P. Chilton, Stratcom commander, and Army Brig. Gen. John Da-

vis, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Global Network Operations, spoke from a cyber security conference in Omaha, Neb.

Chilton said Stratcom – charged with overseeing cyber operations – needs to treat computer network operations just as commanders treat operations on the land, in the air or on the sea. Defense Department networks are attacked thousands of times a day, he said. The attacks run the gamut from “bored teenagers to the nation state with criminal elements sandwiched in there.”

The motives of those attacking the networks go from just plain vandalism to theft of money or information to espionage. Protecting the networks is a huge challenge for the command, Chilton said.

As in land, sea and air domains, the United States wants to retain freedom of action in the cyber domain, Chilton said. “We need to have the tools, skills and expertise in a time of conflict so we can maintain our freedom of action,” he said.

A prohibition on using so-called “thumb-drives” and other portable data storage devices on Defense Department computers will remain in effect, Davis said. “I don’t think anybody realizes how much better shape we’d be in if we just did the basics right,” he said. “People need to just apply the basic rules and procedures that have been put in place to protect ourselves.”

While this won’t stop the more sophisticated threats, “it sure will get rid of the thousands of things that clutter the environment,” Davis said.

## UNITAS Gold Marks 50 Years of International Maritime Cooperation

The Navy’s longest-running annual multilateral exercise got underway April 20 off the Florida coast, with 11 participating nations working together to promote maritime security and stability in Latin America.

Navy Adm. James Stavridis, commander of U.S. Southern Command, called the 50th UNITAS Gold exercise a milestone for naval cooperation in the

Western Hemisphere.

This year’s UNITAS Gold, hosted by U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet, included the militaries of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

The scenario-driven training will featured live-fire exercises, undersea warfare, shipboard operations, maritime interdiction operations, anti-air and anti-surface warfare, amphibious operations, electronic warfare and special warfare, officials said.

### HOMELAND SECURITY

## DHS Publishes Rightwing Extremism Report

The DHS report, “Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment” drew extensive media coverage in April for raising concerns that returning veterans possess combat skills and experience that are attractive to rightwing extremists.

As a result, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano released a statement April 15 regarding the report.

“The primary mission of this department is to prevent terrorist attacks on our nation. The document on right-wing extremism sent last week by this department’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis is one in an ongoing series of assessments to provide situational awareness to state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies on the phenomenon and trends of violent radicalization in the United States. I was briefed on the general topic, which is one that struck a nerve as someone personally involved in the Timothy McVeigh prosecution.

“Let me be very clear: we monitor the risks of violent extremism taking root here in the United States. We don’t have the luxury of focusing our efforts on one group; we must protect the country from terrorism whether foreign or homegrown, and regardless of the ideology that motivates its violence.”

The report, classified For Official Use Only and Law Enforcement Sensitive, is readily available on the Internet.

## Southwest Border: The DHS Way Ahead

DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano announced at the White House in March a major set of Southwest border initiatives designed to support Mexico’s campaign against violent drug cartels by limiting the flow of firearms and cash from the United States to Mexico.

These initiatives bring more personnel to the Southwest border and place additional technology at strategic locations in order to crack down on the illegal activities that fuel the drug war in Mexico.

DHS has formalized an operational enhancement plan, building from last month’s announcement, which lays out specific information about how each initiative will be implemented. Complete details of the plan can be found at [http://www.dhs.gov/news/releases/pr\\_1239821496723.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/news/releases/pr_1239821496723.shtm).

### FEMA

## President Declares Major Disaster For Indiana, Florida

The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced April 22 that federal disaster aid has been made available for the State of Indiana and April 21 for the State of Florida.

The Indiana assistance will supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding during the period of March 8-14, 2009. Regis Leo Phelan has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations.

Federal disaster aid has been made available for Florida to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, and straight-line winds beginning on March 26, 2009, and continuing. Jeffrey L. Bryant has been named the federal coordinating officer.

## Safety Is First Priority In Disaster Recovery

After a disaster, residents often turn to using generators and other gasoline-powered equipment. Or, people use gas and charcoal grills as temporary heat sources. Doing either can create deadly carbon monoxide, warn FEMA and the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES).

Studies by the Centers for Disease Control show that CO exposure kills hundreds of people every year and thousands more are treated in hospitals for CO exposure unrelated to fires. Deaths occur more often during the winter and men are 2.3 times more likely to die from exposure than women. The death rate is highest among seniors, possibly because the population is at higher risk for undetected CO exposure.

For more information about carbon monoxide poisoning and prevention visit <http://www.cdc.gov/co/guidelines.htm>.

## Texas Receives More Than \$2 Billion In Disaster Assistance Since Hurricane Ike

Federal assistance to help Texans recover from the Hurricane Ike disaster has topped \$2 billion, FEMA announced April 17.

The disaster assistance - in the form of grants and low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) - now totals just over \$2 billion, and continues to increase daily as communities, homeowners, renters and business owners move forward with their recovery efforts, said officials from FEMA and the Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

"The \$2 billion mark is an important milestone in the Hurricane Ike recovery effort," said Federal Coordinating Officer Brad Harris. "Those dollars have helped put roofs over displaced Texans' heads and they have contributed to the recovery from storm-related losses. They also have helped get roads cleared and repaired, communi-

ties operating and much more."

The last FEMA/State Disaster Recovery Center in Texas - one of 130 recovery centers that have served Texans since Hurricane Ike - closes April 10, in Galveston, reflecting the state's progress in recovering from the disaster.

## Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101

FEMA announced April 14 the release of the final Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101: "Developing and Maintaining State, Territorial, Tribal, and Local Government Emergency Plans."

CPG 101 completes the requirements of HSPD-8, Annex I to develop a "national integrated planning system." Combined with the Integrated Planning System (IPS) guidance provided by the Department, the vision of a vertically integrated planning system providing for a consistent planning process across all levels of government is realized.

While IPS focuses on federal planning, CPG 101 was developed by a team of state, tribal and local officials from across the United States working together to develop guidance that can aid State, tribal, local, and territorial officials in protecting their citizens.

CPG 101 is the first in a series of publications developed through the FEMA National Preparedness Directorate's CPG Initiative. Future CPGs will discuss planning considerations for a variety of emergency functions, hazards and special preparedness programs including; special needs planning, household pets and service animals, fusion center / emergency operations center interface, and hazard-specific guidance.

CPG 101 serves as the emergency plan foundation for both public and private sector planning in the United States. Planners in all disciplines and organizations may find portions of the guide useful in the development of their emergency response plans.

The CPG 101 document can be found online at [www.fema.gov/about/divisions/cpg.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/about/divisions/cpg.shtm). For more information on other FEMA initiatives, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## FEMA Awards Contracts For Low Emissions Travel Trailers

FEMA awarded four contracts for the manufacture of low emissions travel trailers April 14.

In 2008, FEMA developed new, strict performance specifications for travel trailers with input provided to the Joint Housing Solutions Group from industry experts, the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Health Affairs. Included in these new specifications are requirements to eliminate the use of formaldehyde emitting materials; maintain continuous air exchange; venting and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems that meet HUD standards and; test air quality in units to ensure levels are below .016 parts per million.

Travel trailers provide a good resource to states with homeowners who have less than six months to repair their homes and whose property cannot accommodate other types of housing units, such as park models or mobile homes. Travel trailers are not ideal, or suitable, for those who need a housing solution for a prolonged period of time.

FEMA may authorize travel trailers for use as interim housing in declared disasters only at the specific request of the state; only on private property (i.e., not in group, community or cluster sites); only for a maximum of six months' occupancy; only after the state has determined an acceptable level of formaldehyde for units prior to occupancy; and only if such units have air exchange controls that meet or exceed FEMA specifications.

## Long-Term Recovery Organizations Provide Disaster Assistance

As Washington residents have demonstrated throughout the storms and flooding of the past few years, they care not only for themselves, but for their neighbors,

too. Now, concern for the welfare of their communities is leading individuals and faith-based and voluntary groups to work together in local Long-Term Disaster Recovery Organizations (LTROs).

The mission of an LTRO is to help those neighbors for whom federal and state disaster assistance will not be enough. An LTRO may serve as a clearinghouse and point of contact for volunteer efforts to repair damaged housing, mediating between homeowners in need and volunteer groups that come to do the repair work.

For example, in one county, an elderly, disabled man had extensive damage to his roof after the storms in January. He was able to receive help from FEMA for temporary housing, and he did have insurance to cover his expenses. But he needed help bringing it all together. While some volunteers from an LTRO agency helped the man complete his insurance claim forms and deal with the insurance company, other volunteers installed a tarp until a new roof could be built.

When applicants with disaster damage have exhausted all available FEMA/state assistance and still have serious unmet needs, they are referred by the state to an LTRO. The state will identify the agency with the appropriate resources to help, then will provide the applicant with the phone number of the county LTRO. The applicant then calls the LTRO.

FEMA brings to every major disaster a team of people who specialize in helping form LTROs.

## FEMA Publishes Final Rule Organizational Structure

FEMA published its final rule, "Technical, Organizational and Conforming Amendments; Title 44 Chapter I" on April 3.

The rule is a technical amendment to FEMA's regulations adding changes that reflect FEMA's current organization and procedures, such as directorate names and addresses, but not affecting the substance of the regulation.

Those needing to reference Title 44,

Chapter I of the CFR should use the electronic version, which is updated daily. This resource can be accessed at [www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/) (select Title 44 from the drop down menu).

## Students Get Tips On Evacuating Pets In Disasters

Almost 200 children at two Chambers County schools learned how to care for pets in a disaster, make emergency kits for their families, administer first aid and prepare in other ways for an emergency through a hands-on educational program offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

FEMA for Kids is a two-hour interactive classroom program that teaches children about emergency preparedness. It is being presented in Texas schools whose communities were damaged by Hurricane Ike.

The program includes an art session that allows children to express themselves through art about their disaster experiences. During a recent presentation at one of the elementary schools, one child drew a picture of the only two homes left standing on his street after Hurricane Ike. The child said the homes belonged to his neighbors and that his own home was destroyed in the storm.

The high point of the program for the children, almost all of whom have pets, was learning how to take care of their animals when disasters threaten. The children were instructed that pets also need to be evacuated to ensure their safety and received tips on caring for them in emergencies. The children also played an online game called Ready Kids, produced by FEMA, about disaster preparedness.

"These kids really took to emergency preparedness planning, and we hope they'll share it with their friends and families," said Roxann Crawford, a FEMA disaster assistance employee who coordinated the school program.

For information about FEMA programs for children, visit Ready Kids Web at [www.ready.gov/kids](http://www.ready.gov/kids) and FEMA's Web site for children at [www.fema.gov/kids/](http://www.fema.gov/kids/).

## NATIONAL GUARD

### DoD taking steps to improve Guard's equipment, new role

The Department of Defense is taking steps to improve equipment levels in the Army National Guard and also deal with the implications of the Guard's new role as an operational reserve, Robert M. Gates told students at the Army War College following a speech April 16.

He added that between fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2013, \$39 billion is in the budget for equipment for the National Guard.

"And what is different about this buy for the National Guard is that, instead of getting equipment that the active force no longer uses, the Guard will be getting the same equipment that the active component is using," Gates said. "So, there will be a level of capability in the reserve component that we have not had before."

In the past, the Army Guard's equipment level has been about 70 percent, "and based on what I'm being told, we should be back at that level by about FY 2011."

### Hurricane response preparation underway for states

With the start of hurricane season only a few months away, the National Guard is busy preparing to respond if such a storm should make landfall, senior Army officials said during an Army bloggers roundtable hosted by U.S. Army North on April 10.

"About five years ago, we started meeting as a region in the southeast to discuss our shortfalls for units that were activating and mobilizing to go overseas as well as units coming back," said Army Col. Bill Beiswenger, the joint operations officer for the Florida National Guard.

"For those shortfalls that we couldn't meet within our respective states, we went ahead and worked out preliminary EMACs—Emergency Management Agreement Compacts—between the states

that we could bring in forces rapidly.”

For those in the Florida National Guard, those response plans have been refined over the years. “We probably get more chance than anyone to exercise hurricane operations,” said Beiswenger. “Since 1992, with Hurricane Andrew, the Florida National Guard has been activated 70 times (for state missions). So, Florida gets a lot of chance to go ahead and rehearse and work actual operations.”

And that means that should a hurricane make landfall and cause damage, the response is almost second nature for those in the Florida National Guard. It also means that training for such an occurrence is almost a year-round event.

“The minute hurricane season ends, we start our training program,” said Beiswenger.

## **National Guard: A force multiplier in fight against drugs**

We need a balanced approach in combating drugs, one that includes prevention, treatment and enforcement, a senior Guard official said at the National Guard Counterdrug Domestic Operations and Planning Meeting here March 24.

“No one knows how to do that better than the National Guard Counterdrug Program’s Soldiers and Airmen as we’ve followed that approach for years,” said Army Guard Maj. Gen. Peter Aylward, the director of the National Guard Bureau’s Joint Staff.

He said while the health and economic cost alone from drug and alcohol abuse in the United States amounts to over \$350 billion a year, the bigger problem is the personal cost.

“Human suffering – lives lost as well as dreams lost – not only affect the abuser, but it impacts our families and our communities,” Aylward said.

The National Guard Counterdrug Program, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year, is a congressionally-mandated program that operates a full

spectrum of antidrug efforts in support to law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations.

Under the leadership of their governor, Guard members in each of the 54 states and territories operate in concert with their unique, state-based needs.

About 2,500 Soldiers and Airmen work in the CD Program in a Title 32 status, which is state control with federal funding. Additionally, these troops are still required to train with their units and deploy as required.

In their CD status, they support local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in ground and aerial reconnaissance, criminal analysis and linguistic missions.

Guard members also work with community-based organizations across the country in various drug demand reduction programs to educate the nation’s youth about the hazards of illicit drugs and to motivate children to be drug free.

### **VETERANS**

## **VA creates new site**



The Veterans Affairs Department has launched its new “Returning Veterans” Web site to welcome home veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, veteran-centric Web site that focuses on their needs and questions, VA officials announced today.

“VA is entering the world of Web 2.0, because that’s where this generation of veterans is already communicating,” said Dr. Gerald M. Cross, VA’s principal deputy undersecretary for health. “We’re opening our doors to them virtually to let them know what they can expect when they step through our doors in reality.”

The Web site will feature videos, veterans’ stories and a blog where veterans are encouraged to post feedback. The site also will restructure the traditional in-

dex-of-benefits format found on other VA pages into question-based, categorized, and easily navigated links by topic. This will allow veterans to find benefits of interest easily and discover related benefits as they explore, officials said.

“We hope our returning veterans find this site easy and helpful, but also engaging,” Cross said. “As the site grows, we will be linking to veterans’ blogs and highlighting more of their own stories from their own views. We are their VA, so we are eager to provide a forum for veterans to discuss their lives.”

## **President joins VA, DoD in announcing lifetime electronic record for civilians**

The President, along with VA secretary Shinseki and Defense Secretary Gates, announced that VA and DoD have taken the first step in creating a Joint Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record – a comprehensive system that will ultimately contain administrative and medical information from the day an individual enters military service throughout their military career, and after they leave the military.

The president noted that his proposed budget will:

- Increase funds by \$25 billion above baseline over the next five years.
- Dramatically increase funding for veterans health care.
- Expand eligibility for veterans’ health care to over 500,000 veterans who were previously denied care by 2013.
- Enhance outreach and services related to mental health care and cognitive injuries, including post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, with a focus on access for veterans in rural areas.
- Invest in technology to deliver services and benefits to veterans with the quality and efficiency they deserve.
- Provide greater benefits to veterans who are medically retired from the service.
- Facilitate timely implementation of the comprehensive education benefits that veterans earn through their dedicated military service.

# Surgeon general: No cause for alarm with flu outbreak



Photo by C. Todd Lopez/Army News Service

While emphasizing caution, the Surgeon General of the Army said there's no reason to be alarmed by the flu outbreak, because there are treatments available. "There is no cause for panic or alarm," wrote Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, U.S. Army surgeon general in his blog. "Antiviral drugs are available in the event you become ill; and there are preventive measures you can take to stay healthy." The Army Medical Command recommends avoiding those who already have the flu, and washing your hands often.

## **While emphasizing caution, the surgeon general of the Army said there's no reason to be alarmed by the H1N1 flu outbreak.**

"It's important for you all to understand that there is no cause for panic or alarm," wrote Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, U.S. Army

surgeon general in his blog. "Antiviral drugs are available in the event you become ill; and there are preventive measures you can take to stay healthy."

Although there is no reason for panic or alarm, U.S. Army North remains on alert since one of their primary missions is providing support to civil authorities.

"If H1N1 continues to spread throughout U.S. communities and progresses to a form that makes

people sicker, states could begin to request assistance from the federal government," said Lt. Col. William Darby, chief of environmental and occupational health operations, ARNORTH.

ARNORTH is prepared to support civil authorities and provide command and control capabilities if H1N1 does progress.

"The human race has never been better prepared to battle a pandemic than they are right now,"

Darby said. "We have developed phased strategies for individuals and communities to protect themselves. We have created stockpiles of medication and personal protective equipment to help states and communities prevent and treat the disease."

The new strain of the flu virus has been confirmed in such places as Mexico, the United States, New Zealand, Canada, Spain and the United Kingdom. There have been deaths in Mexico.

The H1N1 flu usually occurs in pigs, though certain strains can be passed to humans -- and from human to human.

"The most recent cases ... appear to have the ability to be passed from person to person and have resulted in a number of cases in the United States as well as widespread disease in certain parts of Mexico," Schoomaker said. "It is likely that this ... flu will spread to many if not all parts of the United States."

The symptoms of H1N1 flu are similar to other kinds of flu, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. In some cases, there may also be vomiting and diarrhea.

The H1N1 flu is passed from person to person much like other forms of the flu, Schoomaker said.

"Most people catch (H1N1) flu the same way they catch the regular flu," he said. "You can catch (the) flu by coming in contact with droplets from infected people after they sneeze or cough. This can occur by being in the path of a sneeze or cough or touching something that has those droplets on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes."

Medication like Tamiflu and

Relenza can treat the flu, Schoomaker said. These medications are not available over the counter, however, but by doctor's prescription.

"If you have (the) flu and need treatment, treatment should start within two days after you begin to feel sick," Schoomaker said. Those with chronic medical conditions are at risk for more severe illness from the H1N1 flu, he said.

According to Schoomaker, neither the Army nor the overall military population are showing any unusual spike in illness that might indicate H1N1 flu. Additionally, the general said, he and other senior medical officials in the joint community are staying abreast of the issue in order to keep the force healthy.

"Rest assured that my staff and I are working the ... flu issue closely with the Joint Staff surgeon, the assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the other military services, Health and Human Services, and Centers for Disease Control and Preventive Medicine," Schoomaker said.

Deployed service members are at no increased risk of infection, according to information released by the Surgeon General's Office.

The Army Medical Command recommends Soldiers and their families avoid contracting the flu by avoiding those who already have the flu, and by washing their hands often.

"If you think you have (the) flu, contact your health care provider. He or she will be able to determine if you need testing or treatment," Schoomaker said.

*(by C. Todd Lopez/Army News Service)*

## What you can do to prevent H1N1

The best way is to keep the virus from entering your body. Since it is spread via aerosol as well as droplets, that means you can get the virus from contaminated surfaces as well as by being a few feet away from someone who has the disease. Wash your hands frequently, particularly before eating and after using the restroom or extensive handling of common use equipment such as door knobs, rails on the staircase, gym equipment, etc. It takes about 20 seconds to adequately wash your hands, since the organism can remain in skin oils even when the hands look clean. A waterless hand sanitizer works almost as well. If your hands get chapped, use lotions. Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when sneezing, or else use your sleeve, not your hands. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Don't travel if possible to areas where there are known cases of swine flu. If you do have a fever with cough or sore throat, STAY HOME and call a doctor. If your coworker has a fever with cough or sore throat, tell him/her to go home! If there are confirmed cases in a community, social isolation measures such as restrictions on public gatherings and transport may be ordered by the appropriate authorities. For more information on H1N1 visit [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/) or [www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0509\\_h1n1/](http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0509_h1n1/).

CASA

## Civilian Aides support, sustain strong Army

You may find them involved with taking care of wounded Soldiers.

Or working on housing issues outside an Army post. Or you may see them involved with working out complicated training issues with state, county and city officials. Or presenting gold stars to the families of fallen Soldiers. They all have the Army's best interests at heart. But many of these men and women have never served in the military or wear the label of a political party.

They're called Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army, or CASAs, special Army ambassadors who interface with Army commanders and the Secretary of the Army on issues affecting their region.

A group of about 75 CASAs visited U. S. Army North April 27 during a ceremony and orientation tour.

Hosted by Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner, AR-NORTH Commanding General, the group was witness to the naturalization of 40 Soldiers and Airmen who became United States citizens.

The morning began in the historic Quadrangle at Ft. Sam Houston; with a call to orders as the area surrounding the event was made a "court of the United States," for the naturalization ceremony.

Immediately following the ceremony the CASAs were divided into separate groups to receive orientation briefings provided by various Army organizations in the San Antonio area.

The ARNORTH briefing was provided by

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**“It has to be a person who believes in and supports the American Soldier”**

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Maj. Gen. John Basilica, Commanding General ARNORTH Operational Command Post I, who led the guests on a tour of the command and control vehicles used during deploy-



photo by Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo

Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (from left): T.C. Freeman, from central Kentucky; Jean Shine from central Texas and husband, Bill Shine, react to a HAZMAT briefing from the Texas National Guard during a demonstration at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. More than 80 civilian aides, special government employees who agree to serve as representatives of the Secretary of the Army without salary, wages, or related benefits, representing all states and territories, met in San Antonio for their annual national conference.

ments.

“We get a lot of briefings each year,” said Mike Hood, CASA for north Texas, “and it’s tough for us to realize exactly what our ‘green suiters’ are doing here in the homeland. “What you do here – it blows my mind, it’s extraordinary.”

Basilica said that the CASAs are an important part of the Army, in that they have direct contact with Secretary Geren and he with them.

“If, for example, the CASA from Louisiana saw something that the troops at Ft. Polk needed, or an issue that came up the secretary needed to know, they can just pick up the phone and give him a call,” Basilica said. “The converse is also true, they are great facilitators who believe in what the Army is doing.”

According to Ms. Judy Smith, CASA program manager and special assistant to Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, each state and territory has at least one representative.

Additional aides can be added depending upon Army population density and areas of

interest to the Army. Currently more than 80 civilian aides serve throughout the nation.

Smith said the term of each aide is two years, with a maximum of five terms or 10 years. She said senior aides can serve six additional years and those with the title “emeritus” retain their appointment for life.

Retired Army Reserve Maj. Gen. John Scully, with more than 32 years of Army service, is a civilian aide representing the state of Illinois who said that, while serving in the military is helpful, it’s not necessary or required to have Army service.

“It has to be a person who believes in and supports the American Soldier,” said Scully. “And that could be a civilian who has no military background. But I think if you look at the CASA biographies you’ll see that most of them have some type of military background.”

The epitome of that classic example of a civilian aide is Mr. Louis Stumberg Sr., a San Antonio resident and CASA emeritus for the western U.S., who has spent more than 30 years battling for military issues in San Anto-

nio and throughout Texas.

Co-founder of Patio Foods, creators of the first frozen Mexican dinners, Stumberg has an impressive résumé of community involvement and service.

Chairman of the greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, member of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, president of the Boy Scouts of San Antonio and close to 60 years as a member of the Rotary Club are just a few examples of community service spanning more than six decades.

But the 85-year-old civilian aide's accomplishments with the Army in San Antonio and throughout Texas may be his most lasting legacy.

For close to 15 years Stumberg worked with civic leaders and Congress to build a new Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. In April of 1996, the 450-bed state-of-the-art medical center, along with its famed burn center, opened its doors for Soldiers and families members.

Today, Stumberg is still fighting Army issues, this time to stop the encroachment of suburban sprawl and commercial building adjacent to Camp Bullis, a Fort Sam Houston training site expected to double its capacity for training in the next few years.

"Camp Bullis is going to be key to doubling training here - that's why they established it here," said Stumberg. "They've got a place to



photo by Don Manuszewski/ARNORTH PAO

Maj. Gen. John Basilica, commanding general, Operational Command Post 1, talks to a group of several Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army during an orientation tour to U. S. Army North in San Antonio, Texas, April 27.

train that's within 30 minutes of post. Yet it's being impacted by all of the housing construction and night lights from commercial growth.

"The name CASA implies civilian aide to the secretary, but it's really working with the military locally to see what we can do."

Scully agreed that the role of a civilian aide isn't necessarily the idea of forcing someone to do something. "It's suggestions, providing ideas and working with the community to tell

the Army story."

Scully looks at his job as helpful to Soldiers and the Army in two ways: "One, I work with my local recruiting battalion, something I feel every CASA should do. For example, in the Chicago metro area, the recruiting battalion has had a difficult time getting into some of the local public high schools. Working with the local recruiting battalion commander and the local junior ROTC superintendent, we've been able to open some doors for the Army.

"As a CASA, you also have to be able to organize events. For example, right now we're putting together an Armed Forces Week Ball in Chicago and we have Lt.Gen. Sorenson coming from the Army Staff. This is an event where we have corporations actually paying for Soldiers to attend. So half the people in the room will be military. You kind of have to use common sense to reach out to the community."

Both Stumberg and Scully agree that as representatives of the Army, directly assisting the Secretary, it's the little things that often make the biggest difference over a lifetime.

"I opened six ranches where wounded warriors and their families can come and go fishing and hunting," said Stumberg. "One of the highest compliments our people could be paid actually came from one of our staff. One of the cooks who had been hired to prepare the meals for the Soldiers and their families told us he didn't want to be paid for his services. Seeing the faces of the Soldiers and their families was to them and I think it's one of those small things we do that sometimes makes the biggest impact."

(by Rich Lamance)



photo by Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo

Sgt. 1st Class Blair Pilgrim, Emergency Medical Services NCOIC, demonstrates the use of standardized medical apparatus employed by the Army to several Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army during their visit to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, April 27.

# FIESTA!



Photo by Richard Blackard/ARNORTH PAO  
 Military ambassadors take the stage during Fiesta's Taste of New Orleans event.



Photo by Richard Blackard/ARNORTH PAO  
 The Army Fife and Drum Corps performs at the Alamo during Fiesta's Battle of Flowers Parade.



Photos by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/ARNORTH PAO  
 Left: Lt. Gen. Thomas R. Turner, commanding general, ARNORTH, carries ARNORTH's wreath to the Alamo during Fiesta's Battle of Flowers parade, honoring the heroes who fell during the battle for the Alamo.  
 Top: Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division Chorus march off stage during a performance for ARNORTH's Fiesta reception at the Quadrangle.



Photo illustration by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/ARNORTH PAO  
 More than 200 military leaders and San Antonio community leaders showed up for the ARNORTH Fiesta reception at the Quadrangle on Fort Sam Houston to celebrate the annual event April 19. Food and refreshments were served and the 82nd Airborne Division chorus performed for the crowd.

# Health & Wellness



## New Fitness Program Helps Soldiers Maximize Potential

The Army's newest resiliency training, Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, is a program designed to improve the emotional and psychological fitness of Soldiers and their families, the program's director said.

"Comprehensive Soldier Fitness is really a strategy that the Army is starting to use to ensure that each Soldier has the opportunity to maximize his or her potential in each important aspect of their life and their health, which is not just physical, it is really part of the roadmap to arrive at 'Army Strong,'" Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Rhonda Cornum told "DotMilDocs" listeners April 2 on Pentagon Web Radio.

Cornum discussed the program's intent, which is to boost the resilience of soldiers and their families by increasing their physical, emotional, social, spiritual and family strengths. She said the Army has

historically concentrated on the physical fitness and physical health aspect of its soldiers.

"It's a preventative measure to not get people surviving, but thriving," Cornum said. "The idea is to make them more emotionally and psychologically fit."

Cornum added that the five domains -- mental, emotional, spiritual, family strength and fitness -- don't just happen, they have to be trained.

"We recognize now that those other domains are equally important, particularly in this time when the Army really is under a lot of stress," Cornum said.

"The program will start off with assessing where you are in those five domains and developing an ... individualized training program," Cornum continued. "It will link soldiers with what [is] needed prior to

any problem developing."

Resiliency training will be initiated in all training schools, she added.

"Just like being able to do more push-ups or run faster, these aptitudes can be trained and they can be practiced and perfected and everybody can be improved," Cornum explained.

The Army's strength is its diversity, she said, but noted there are areas in which the Army can help soldiers do better.

"It's like changing your diet and your exercise and your blood pressure so that you don't get heart disease; not waiting until somebody has heart disease, has a heart attack and then doing CPR," Cornum said.

(by Navy Lt. Jennifer Cragg / Defense Media Activity's Emerging Media directorate.)

## Luchtime Seminar: Religion and Violence

"Religion is primarily a positive source for society," reassured Chaplain (Col.) Dan Franklin to a small group gathered at a recent Army North lunchtime lecture.

"But what makes it go from normal, to this isn't right?"

To help better understand this phenomenon, Franklin walked the group through examples ranging from the Jim Jones mass suicide-murder of 1978, to religiously-justified suicide attacks of Hezbollah and al-Qaida, explaining the signs and characteristics

of religion being corrupted to incite violence.

Drawing heavily on the book *When Religion Becomes Evil* by Charles Kimball, Franklin explained the five warning signs, such as blind obedience to a charismatic leader and using any means to justify an end.

"Danger occurs when interpretation of a religion's creed becomes the absolute truth, with no variation allowed," he said, while emphasizing that most religions take the healthy approach of being inclusive and tolerant.

Franklin recommended Kimball's book as an enlightening read, but warned that almost anybody would find something that offends them inside the cover.

"You have to put on a shell when reading it," he said. "But Kimball's main points are right on."

Franklin offers the presentation on Religion and Violence to Defense Coordinating Elements during assistance visits by the AR-NORTH Chaplains Office and to any Army North elements that would like to receive it.

## Medal approved for ARNORTH

The Joint Staff has approved the Humanitarian Service Medal for personnel that directly participated in the humanitarian relief assistance provided to the citizens of Texas and Louisiana as a result of Hurricane Gustav and Hurricane Ike during the period of Sept. 1 to Sept. 25, 2008.

Civilian personnel who participated in the relief efforts are eligible for the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service.

Submission lists from each section for the award were due Apr. 15, 2009.

For more information contact Mr. James Towle in the personnel support division at (210) 221-2056 or by email at james.towlejr@us.army.mil.

## This Month's Awards

Col. Alfred Dochnal  
Legion of Merit  
Retirement



Lt. Col. Jeffrey Templin  
Meritorious Service Medal  
PCS



Staff Sgt. Yolanda Gill  
Army Commendation Medal  
ETS



Sgt. 1st Class Brandon James  
Army Commendation Medal  
Achievement



Master Sgt. John Keenan  
Army Commendation Medal  
Achievement



## Educational Council

Fort Sam Houston has implemented an educational panel to meet monthly and discuss ways to improve access of educational services to the service member. If you would like to be a part of this council, please sign up with your BOSS Representative.

For more information on how you can sign up contact Staff Sgt. Christina Corbett at (210) 221-9721 or at email address christina.corbett@us.army.mil.

## CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM TRAINING

# Massachusetts CST trains on Soviet ship

A Weapons of Mass Destruction team from the Massachusetts National Guard recently swept a former Soviet naval ship for radioactive material here at the Battle Ship Cove naval ship display.

The 1st Civil Support Team (CST) used the ship to conduct a radioactive material training exercise.

Prior to the exercise, the CST conducted a two-day course about rapid radiological assessments. The purpose of the exercise was to train the team through all stages of an alert with an emphasis on dealing with a radiation hazard and to build upon their previous maritime operations training.

The training mission covered tasks such as establishing a base of operations, maintaining an operations center, installing communications and conducting a hazardous material survey with a focus on radiological material.

"The team is using detection equipment that will be carried and employed on the ship," said Maj. Jason M. Squitier, a CST science officer. "Additional stationary force protection equipment may be utilized, depending upon how the team reacts to the training scenario."

In the training scenario, Battleship Cove receives a vessel donated from the Russian Navy. Once the vessel is docked at the park, the local fire department is asked to perform a sweep of the ship's decks for any chemical

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**“Individual participation strengthens the unit’s radiation response skills and refines our maritime operations activities”**

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Photo by Sgt. James Lally, Massachusetts National Guard

Nuclear, biological and chemical team members from the 1st Civil Support Team of the Massachusetts National Guard survey a former Soviet naval ship for radioactive material during a training exercise March 4, 2009 at the Battle Ship Cove naval ship display in Fall River, Mass.

and radiological hazards that may have been present from past operations.

During the sweep no chemical hazards were discovered but one of the firefighter's radiation pager alarmed. The firefighters then disembarked the ship and requested the assistance of the 1st CST to further characterize and identify the hazard.

"In a situation like this, we would go to the site and survey the area to determine where and what the hazard might be and bring it to the lab," said Sgt. Robyn M. Corbin, a CST Nuclear, Biological and Chemical team member.

Capt. Anthony G. Circosta, a CST survey team leader, briefed the team on what to do if they found the ship's generator mechanic, who has gone missing. "If the survey team finds him or anyone else call the decontamination team to remove him and keep surveying the area," he said.

Lt. Col. Margaret White, the CST commander, said, "The mechanic is represented by a 185-pound mannequin that the decontamination team is going to have to remove from the ship."

"It's a difficult thing to do while wear-

ing a chemical protective suit and breathing through a gas mask. Maintaining physical fitness enables Soldiers to perform this kind of challenging mission," said White.

To prevent injuries the team's physician assistant monitors their blood pressure, temperature, pulse and heart rate regularly. "It gives us an idea what their normal ranges are so that if they have an abnormal reading during a mission we can substitute them with another team member," said White.

The chemical protective equipment the team wears provides an appropriate level of protection for a radiological mission but allows them to be able to move in the confined space onboard a ship. The team works in small groups with the U.S. Coast Guard and has increased their maritime operations over the last year.

"It's a difficult environment to work in so to get a feel for it the team is going to sleep on board the ship tonight, said White. "Individual participation strengthens the unit's radiation response skills and refines our maritime operations activities."

*(by Sgt. James Lally / Massachusetts National Guard)*

# Drug trafficking, violence and the state of Mexico

by Dr. Phil Williams/Strategic Studies Institute

Headlines and television commentaries about Mexico becoming a failed state as a result of drug-related violence have become a dime a dozen. Terms such as “criminal insurgency,” “narco-terrorism,” and “narco-insurgency” are all used to describe the widespread killings.

The Joint Operating Environment Report of 2008 even suggested that Mexico, along with Pakistan, could suffer from a dramatic collapse of the state, with serious implications for U.S. national security.

Former Drug Czar, General Barry McCaffrey, published an after action report on a visit to Mexico in December 2008 which concluded that “Mexico is not confronting dangerous criminality—it is fighting for survival against narco-terrorism.” The situation in Mexico is clearly serious, and there is no argument that drug-related violence increased steadily through 2006 and 2007 and more than doubled in 2008.

Yet, inflammatory language and hyperbolic rhetoric do nothing to clarify the issues. To describe Mexico as becoming a failed state is deeply insulting to a country in which national sovereignty and national pride remain powerful impulses. Even the common description of Mexican drug trafficking organizations as cartels is a misnomer; they control neither price nor production levels—the requisite criteria for a cartel.

Moreover, too few commentaries focus on the reasons for this increase in violence or what it really means to the stability of the Mexican state. While some of the rhetoric has had an impact in Washington, compelling the new administration to treat Mexico as a high priority, it has also generated much more heat than light.

This does not deny the horrific nature of the violence: torture and decapitations have become common, barrels of acid have been used to dispose of bodies, executions have been posted—albeit only briefly—on YouTube, and drug trafficking organizations are able to outgun the police and provide a challenge even to the Mexican Army.

Yet it is important to understand why the violence has increased, who the main victims are, and how it can best be combated. The common portrayal of a country out of control

and a state likely to be forced into submission is not compelling.

Mexico’s involvement in the drug business is long-standing, and Mexican organizations are active in the cannabis and methamphetamine trade as well as in the cocaine business. The role of Mexico was transformed during the late 1980s and 1990s, however, as U.S. interdiction efforts made it far more difficult for Colombian drug trafficking organizations to transport cocaine successfully through the Caribbean. As a result, the Colombian groups started to go through Mexico, often making payments in cocaine to the Mexican trafficking organizations that assisted them.

Inevitably, the Mexicans went into business for themselves and have gradually replaced the Colombians as the dominant force in cocaine trafficking throughout the United States—a development facilitated by both legal and illegal immigration of Mexicans into the United States. In effect, the trafficking organizations and networks took advantage of what in other ways can be understood as a location curse in which Mexico is the natural transshipment point for drugs coming from Colombia to the United States.

The violence in Mexico has grown as the Mexican government moved from acquiescence and even tacit support for the drug trade under the PRI to confrontation with the traffickers by the PAN Presidents, Fox and Calderon. Consequently, Mexico is suffering from what might be described as transitional violence: comfortable and collusive relationships between organized crime and the state have broken down, and alternative relationships have not been institutionalized.

The attacks by trafficking organizations on police chiefs, officials, and soldiers can be understood as an attempt to pressure the state to move away from confrontation and to give the trafficking organizations space in which to operate. This does not constitute an insurgency; and the violence—although it has spilled over and killed innocent civilians—has, with one exception, not deliberately targeted civilians. When grenades were thrown into a crowd in Morelia on Independence Day (September 15, 2008),



Drugs seized by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard sit on the fantail of the guided-missile frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) before being offloaded by law enforcement officials in Mayport, Fla., Dec. 12, 2008. More than 13 metric tons of drugs worth more than \$220 million were interdicted by several different units and collected onboard the ship for transport back to the United States.

this sparked widespread condemnation. Although culpability is not entirely clear, in the aftermath, some of the drug trafficking organizations publicly announced that they were not responsible for the attack and offered rewards for the capture of those who were. How much of this was simply trying to shift the blame for the attacks in which eight people were killed and many more injured remains uncertain. The public reaction, however, was one of shock and outrage. Recognizing this, trafficking organizations, many of which are embedded in local communities, might be inclined to avoid such indiscriminate attacks in the future.

Apart from the violence designed to inhibit the Calderon administration from further efforts to interfere with the business, most of the killings are related either to competition among the major trafficking organizations or to rivalries at the retail



Intelligence and operations personnel from the Joint Task Force Four concentrate on their computer screens. The Joint Task Force Four controls sea, land and air resources providing law enforcement agencies with drug trafficking detection and monitoring capabilities in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific.

level. Control of the retail outlets to the indigenous consumer markets, which have emerged in Mexico during the last several years, has become a source of contention locally. The major clashes between larger organizations have centered on the control of strategic warehouses for major stockpiles and shipments of cocaine in cities such as Tijuana, Nuevo Laredo, and Ciudad Juarez. The proximity of these cities to major interstate highways (or drug transportation corridors) in the United States has intensified the struggle for control.

Another factor which feeds into the violence is the ready availability both of powerful weapons and those who know how to use them. The main source of weapons is the United States and in particular the frequent gun shows which take place close to the U.S.-Mexico border—although some weapons are also smuggled into Mexico from Central America. The Zetas, former Mexican Army Special Forces, are the most prominent specialists in violence, but other drug trafficking organizations also have many in their ranks with military experience (including some defectors) or with a law enforcement background. At the same time, competing drug trafficking organizations have become locked into a rising spiral of violence fed by machismo and by a desire for revenge rather than simply by business competition. Many of the drug trafficking organizations have a central core of family members and the killing of relatives gives the

violence an emotional quality that generates enmities and a desire for retribution which can span years or even decades.

This is not intended to downplay the violence or minimize the challenge posed to the Calderon government. The increase in the number of drug-related killings from 2006 to 2008 makes it impossible to be sanguine. In 2006, Mexico had an estimated 2,221 drug-related killings. This increased to 2,561 in 2007. In 2008, it more than doubled to somewhere between 5,620 (the figure most Mexican newspapers used at the end of 2008) and 6,756, the estimate made by the Zeta newspaper in Tijuana. Even accepting that part of the 2008 increase might have resulted from better reporting and analysis by the Mexican government, the increase is staggering. Part of it, however, represented a new fragmentation among the trafficking organizations—with the Beltran-Leyva organization defecting from Chapo Guzman, and the competing factions in the remnants of the Arellano Felix Organization engaged in an internecine succession struggle (with Guzman reportedly also involved) for control of their remaining routes and markets. Moreover, when these figures are broken down, as they were by Zeta, clearly much of it was concentrated in three Mexican states: Chihuahua (2,266), Sinaloa (1,152), and Baja California (1,019). Together these three states account for almost 66 percent of the total. This suggests that the notion of a nationwide epidemic of drug violence is somewhat

inaccurate.

The violence is concentrated where the trafficking organizations are competing for dominance—and at least some of the spillover elsewhere is likely to be imitative violence. Moreover, the number of policemen and soldiers killed is somewhere between 5 and 10 percent of the total, so the extent of the challenge to the Mexican state might be smaller than is often portrayed. While this fits with the assessment that trafficking organizations are protecting their operating space from government pressure, it does not amount to a “criminal insurgency” or “a state fighting for survival against narco-terrorism.”

At the same time, assassinations such as that in May 2008 of Edgar Millan, the Acting Chief of the Federal Police, reveal very clearly that there is a lack of respect for the forces of law and order at the national level as well as in certain states and municipalities.

Nevertheless, it is important to understand the nature of the violence: it is about control and protection of the illegal drug business more than it is a direct frontal assault on the Mexican state. It is more akin to the clashes between the Medellin and Cali drug trafficking organizations in Colombia during the 1990s and the wars among the Jamaican posses in the United States during the same period than it is to insurgency or terrorism. And Mexico—which has a vibrant middle-class; a surprisingly robust economy; and a president willing to confront the drug trafficking organizations, root out drug-related corruption, and reform key institutions and agencies such as the police and judiciary—is a long way from becoming a failed state. Mexico is a functioning and resilient state. It is nothing like Nigeria—which has long teetered on the brink of collapse but not toppled over—let alone Somalia.

The problems in Mexico are extremely serious, but we do nothing to help by trotting out over-simplistic and inaccurate characterizations rather than attempting a serious diagnosis of the challenges Mexico faces.

The views expressed in this op-ed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government. This opinion piece is cleared for public release; distribution is unlimited.

## Fire Fighting

# ARNORTH, FEMA meet with NIFC to prepare for wildfire season

Led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region X Defense Coordinating Officer, an Army North team participated in the National Interagency Fire Center/Department of Defense Spring 2009 Wildland Fire Fighting Conference in Boise, Idaho April 14 – 15.

Col. Richard Jenkins, Region X DCO, said the conference is an important piece of an overall planning effort by NIFC and DoD officials to be able to manage wildfires and put them out as quickly as possible when they do occur.

Jenkins' role during wildfire response is the coordination of any DoD support requested by the NIFC, which would normally consist of aerial suppression assets (MAFFS), rotary wing support, or ground units to augment civilian ground crews.

The ARNORTH piece of assisting NIFC

with the WFF effort entails the land component of the overall DoD response force.

“We have a large logistics capability that civilian officials rely on when the time comes,” said John Bruce, ARNORTH current operations. “Additionally, if an active duty battalion is called into assist local authorities ARNORTH would provide the command and control for them.”

Also at the conference were officials from the National Guard, U. S. Forrest Service, National Weather Service as well as the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Director of Military Support, U.S. Northern Command, and Air Force North.

“The beauty of (NIFC) is the focus on fire management,” said Neal Hitchcock, Deputy Director of Fire Operations, “which can only be accomplished with our partnerships and getting the support (from DoD) when we need it.”

Weather officials said during the conference that the weather patterns this year are making it difficult to predict but emphasized that the dry pattern that the U. S. southwest has been in continues to persist and make the area vulnerable to fire.

DoD has provided support for wildfires for 26 out of the last 36 years.

In 2007 operational command post two deployed to California to provide command and control assistance.

It was the first time an OCP had ever deployed.

“Regardless of where the fire(s) will be we have to be ready,” said Bruce, “and the partnerships we establish and strengthen at conferences like this are essential to everyone’s success.”

For more information on NIFC and tracking wildfires visit their website at [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov).

(by Don Manuszewski/ARNORTH PAO)



According to the National Interagency Fire Center more than 5 million acres were torched across the U.S. in 2008 by more than 80,000 wildfires. In 2007 operation command post 2 deployed to California to provide command and control assistance. It was the first time an OCP had ever deployed.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kenneth Toole  
A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter from the Minnesota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment dumps a Bambi bucket on a portion of the Cavity Lake Fire in northern Minnesota.

## GRAND OPENING

# World's largest U.S. consulate opens across border from Fort Bliss

**Numerous U.S. and Mexican dignitaries attended the official grand opening of the U.S. Consulate General in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.**

The new \$66 million, four-story facility will employ about 300 people. It includes 109 service windows where Mexican immigrant visas and American border crossing cards and travel documents will be processed. It is the largest U.S. consulate in the world.

Antonio O. Garza Jr., U.S. ambassador to Mexico and the keynote speaker for the event, said the impressive consulate was overdue and built in Juarez because of the \$1 billion in trade and the more than a million people who cross the border. He said one of his constant goals as an ambassador has been to make sure people in Washington and Mexico understand border issues.

"But we don't do just visas," Garza said. "We are representatives who cooperate with Mexican authorities on immigration, law enforcement

and trade. We are working on deepening and multiplying the ties that bind both sides of the border by promoting cultural and education programs to deepen understanding between Americans and Mexicans."

During his tenure, Garza traveled throughout Mexico listening to people's concerns regarding the security of their children and communities. He said the U.S. government has also heard about the issues and that is why it has pledged to work as a friend and neighbor to confront common goals, Garza said.

One of those pledges is the Merida Initiative, a \$1.4-billion bill that over several years is going to provide very concrete assistance to the Mexican government in their fight against drug trafficking, said Brig. Gen. Sean MacFarland, commanding officer of Joint Task Force North. Assistance will include training, detection equipment and aircraft.

"I think the opening today sends a tremendous signal to the Mexican people," said MacFarland. "It tells them we place a high degree of importance in our relationship with the people of Mexico and specifically the



photo by Virginia Reza/USAG Fort Bliss  
Brig. Gen. Sean MacFarland, commanding officer of Joint Task Force North, shakes hands with members of the Socorro High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps during the grand opening ceremony of the U.S. Consulate General in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

people along our border, in facilitating better cooperation and stronger ties between the two countries. It was great for us to be here today. We enjoy working with our counterparts in the law enforcement agencies on both sides of the border. It is a good relationship and it's getting stronger every day."

The Juarez consulate dates back to the 1800s where a staff of four provided assistance to American citizens in need. After a mining industry developed and the railroad was brought into Paso del Norte, bilateral trade increased significantly drawing more U.S. companies and tourists to the area.

Today, Ciudad Juarez and El Paso are North America's third largest manufacturing center and forms the largest binational metropolitan area along the entire U.S., Mexico border. It is the world's busiest, handling the most immigrant visas of any such facility. It is the only site in Mexico to apply for U.S. immigrant visas.

(by Virginia Reza/USAG Fort Bliss)



photo by Virginia Reza/USAG Fort Bliss  
U.S. and Mexican dignitaries cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the U.S. Consulate General in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico during a ceremony.