

ARNORTH Monthly

July 2010



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Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III
Command Sgt. Maj.: Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood

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CG meets with Region II disaster response leaders in New York

**Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres-Cortes**
Army North PAO

NEW YORK — As the 2010 hurricane season began, the Army's top disaster-response official, Lt. Gen.

Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, met with disaster-response counterparts from Region II, a region composed of New York, New Jersey, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, to discuss how cooperation and relationships are critical in supporting the region during natural disasters.

Swan met with the adjutants general from New Jersey and the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency officials and the Army North defense coordinating officer for the region, at the Jacob K. Javits Federal Office Building here June 1.

"During these critical times, we don't get a second chance to do it right," said Swan. "We have a direct role in training the force to handle these types of missions, and we must be able to react when protecting and supporting our homeland."

Army North, the Joint Force Land Component Command under U.S. Northern Command, provides defense support to civil authorities during natural disasters. Typical support may include transportation, search and rescue, medical evacuation, food and water distribution and other emergency support functions.

"It's important that we have the opportunity to talk with one another in the region to discuss our objectives and our

goals in supporting our islands," said Maj. Gen. Renaldo Rivera, adjutant general, Joint Force Headquarters, U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard. "Hurricane Omar showed us how exercises and preparations are crucial in having the correct funding and federal assets in place, such as rotary and fixed winged aircraft."



Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North, talks with Maj. Gen. Renaldo Rivera, adjutant general, Joint Force Headquarters, U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard, during a conference June 1 in the Jacob K. Javits Federal Office Building in New York.

When Hurricane Omar hit the coast of the Virgin Islands in 2008, causing a devastating \$6 million in damage, Region II crisis response teams provided support for those affected by the disaster.

An island or territory has to be self-sustaining relatively quickly after a hurricane because air travel will be restricted as the hurricane passes and moves on, Rivera said. The Virgin Islands, consisting of St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas and Water Island, is manned by approximately 500 National Guard troops.

Cooperation and planning between the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Defense and other local, state and federal agencies will be impor-

tant in the upcoming hurricane season.

"We count on the defense coordinating officers to keep us up to date on any assistance that will be required after a storm hits," said Lynn Canton, FEMA regional administrator, Region II. "Our plans are clear, and we continue to train together to ensure we have prepositioned assets even before an event occurs."

FEMA has already pre-positioned generators on the Islands to help support the upcoming hurricane season. New Jersey, home of 16 million residents with 566 municipalities and 21 counties, contains one of the largest police and firefighting forces on the East Coast. Coordinating between all the agencies can be challenging in itself.

see **NEW YORK**, Pg. 10

Army North partners with South Carolina for disaster exercises

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson,
Army North PAO

ANDERSON, S.C. — The Soldiers of U.S. Army North's Defense Coordinating Element, Region IV, partnered with the state of South Carolina during statewide disaster response and weapons of mass destruction exercises June 14-20.

The three overlapping exercises, dubbed "Palmetto Eagle," "Palmetto Shield" and "Red Dragon," were designed to test cooperation between more than 100 local, county, state and federal agencies and to test state response and recovery plans.

"When there's an actual disaster, that's not the time to be handing out business cards," said Col. Barrett Holmes, defense coordinating officer, Re-

gion IV. "We are here in support of local and state officials, and the lessons we learn and the relationships we forge will enable us to refine our tactics, techniques and procedures and create a model that we can take with us."

During the initial exercise, Palmetto Eagle, emergency officials initiated the state's Emergency Operations Center, practiced evacuating citizens and responded to a hurricane making landfall on the coast.

Palmetto Shield, which overlapped the coastal exercise, ratcheted up the pressure on the participants by adding weapons of mass destruction exercises in the upstate of South Carolina.

National Guard and Reserve units participated in Red Dragon, a concurrent exercise with Palmetto Shield involving defense

support to civil authorities in a large-scale chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear disaster.

The exercises culminated June 19 in Anderson, S.C., with the mock explosion of a tractor-trailer at the Michelin Sandy Springs plant and the mock explosion of a moving truck containing chemicals at the Anderson University Athletic Complex.

The DCE, from its tactical operations center in Anderson, responded to requests for assistance from the lead federal agency in the exercises, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and worked with the state of South Carolina.

"The biggest thing was that it gave us an opportunity to work with FEMA and the state and to exercise our ability to respond to a crisis," said Sgt. 1st Class William Brashear, operations noncommissioned officer, DCE Region IV. The exercise, added the Jupiter, Fla., native, marked the first time he had the opportunity to work through a CBRNE scenario.

The scenarios tested state and federal capabilities, strengths and shortages, and exercised responses in a state that has gone 21 years without a major disaster, said W. Montague "Q" Winfield, federal coordinating officer, FEMA Region IV, who added that he felt Army North's participation was crucial.

"If something goes down, there's no doubt the DCE will be involved," Winfield said.



Anderson County firefighters plan decontamination operations during a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear exercise at the Anderson University field house June 19.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Maj. LaDaryl Franklin, chief of current plans center, Contingency Command Post 1, U.S. Army North, discusses the process for hasty mission analysis to members of CCP 1, Army North, at the Rudder Army Reserve Center June 25 during a nine-day ramp-up exercise. Members of CCP 1 are preparing for Vibrant Response, a national-level weapons of mass destruction exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., slated to run from July 10-24. It will involve more than 3,500 military and civilian personnel from around the United States.

Army North gears up for Vibrant Response 10.2 FTX

U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – U.S. Army North will host more than 3,500 military and civilian personnel from around the country to take part in a field training exercise designed to simulate a terrorist attack in the continental United States.

The Vibrant Response exercise will take place July 10-24 at Camp Atterbury, the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center and other surrounding areas in Indiana.

The training will include urban

and aerial search and rescue missions, simulated decontamination operations, airlift, medical training and numerous other exercise events.

Joint Task Force 51, based at Fort Sam Houston, and members of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive Consequence Management Response Force 10.2 will work with other federal, state and local emergency responders during the exercise.

The CCMRF 10.2 is organized into three task forces: Task Force Operations, Task Force Aviation and Task

Force Medical. Their capabilities include: CBRNE technical rescue, decontamination, aviation, medical, logistics and other functions.

Army North deploys JTF-51 when directed by the commander of U.S. Northern Command to command and control federal military forces providing support to civil authorities in order to save lives, prevent further injury and provide temporary critical support.

The exercise will feature multi-story building and tunnel searches, rubble pile extractions, medical treatment of patients and aero-medical evacuation.

Army North leaders engage community, discuss importance of mission



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, speaks to members and guests at the annual general membership meeting of the Alamo Chapter of the Association of the United States Army at the Sam Houston Club June 11. Wiggins explained the role of Army North in homeland defense, theater security cooperation and civil support to a crowd of active-duty Soldiers, Reserve, National Guard, retired service members and Civilians. Wiggins also said that despite projected growth and construction at the post, he was committed to preserving the historical buildings and "green space" of the post. "Fort Sam Houston will remain one of the jewels in the Army," he said.

San Antonio botanical gardens, zoo officials visit Army North



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, U.S. Army North PAO

John Manguso, chief of the Fort Sam Houston Museum, speaks to officials from the San Antonio Botanical Garden and the San Antonio Zoo and Aquarium about the history of the Quadrangle and the wildlife in the courtyard, during a meeting June 9 at the Quadrangle. Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, Army North, invited local zoo and garden officials to discuss a joint project to improve the grounds inside the courtyard and to promote more local community visits to the Quadrangle.

ARNORTH welcomes

Kenneth Coulter, HHC
 Guy Sands-Pingot, OCG
 Leandro Quintero, PMO
 Michael Ulestad, G6
 Col. Darrell Jenkins, OIG
 Col. Gary Martel, G3
 Col. Conrad Munster, COFS
 Lt. Col. Keith Czelusniak, G8
 Lt. Col. Collin Fortier, G3
 Maj. Kays AlaliAYS ALALI, Surg.
 Maj. Michael Crawford, G5
 Maj. Dale Ellenbecker, G3
 Maj. Mary Rosequist, Surg.
 Cpt. Kevin Mensing, G3
 Cpt. Michael Norton, HHB
 Master Sgt. William Griffin, OIG
 Sgt. 1st Class Morris Thornton, G3
 Staff Sgt. Walter Stewart, DCG
 Sgt. Danny Medina, G3
 Spc. Marcus Valles, G2

ARNORTH says goodbye

Stephen Hiller, G3
 Karen Ossorio, DCO, Reg IV
 James Parker, G2
 Lanzo Wallace, G6
 Lt. Col. Kim Chaney, G1
 Lt. Col. David Silver, Surg.
 Maj. Elizabeth Gum, Surg.
 Maj. Thomas Jones, Surg.

4th of July in History

1781 – The first official state celebration occurs in Massachusetts.

1787 – John Quincy Adams celebrates the Fourth in Boston, where he hears an oration delivered at the Old Brick Meeting House.

1788 – Fourth celebrations first become political as factions fight over the adoption of the Federal Constitution.

1791 – The only Fourth of July address ever made by George Washington takes place at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

1798 – George Washington attends the celebration in Alexandria, Virginia, and dines with a large group of citizens and military officers of Fairfax County.

1825 – President John Q. Adams marches to the Capitol from the White House

1861 – President Abraham Lincoln sends an address to both houses of Congress regarding the suspension of Federal government functions by secessionists in the South.

info from www.usa.gov

ARNORTH farwells 149 years of military service



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, U.S. Army North PAO

(Left) Col. Danny Franklin, chaplain, U.S. Army North; Col. Christopher Mitchell, chief of air and missile defense, G3; Lt. Col. James Laffey, deputy G4; Lt. Col. David Vasquez, operations officer; Contingency Command Post 2; and James Towle Jr., administrative assistant, office of the assistant chief of staff, stand before a crowd of Family, friends and well wishers for a final time during a retirement ceremony in the Quadrangle June 25.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to serve,” said Franklin. “I have enjoyed every place that I’ve been assigned to – some more than others.” Franklin entered the service in 1982 as a chaplain. He was presented the Legion of Merit for his service to the nation.

“I always joked that I loved going camping,” said Mitchell. “The Army provided the best venue for that, and I even got paid for it.” Mitchell entered the service in 1984 as an air defense artillery officer and was presented the Legion of Merit by Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, Army North.

“As an old boy use to say, ‘It’s been a heck of a hay ride,’” said Laffey. “My father taught me these things called values, even before the Army did ... I thank him.” Laffey entered the service in 1986 as a transportation officer. He was presented the Legion of Merit for his service to the nation.

“I’m going to get up every morning, cook breakfast for my wife, take her to work, get her lunch, eat it with her, pick her up from work, and cook dinner for her until she tells me to get a job,” said Vasquez. Vasquez entered the service in 1990 as an air defense artillery officer. He was presented the Meritorious Service Medal.

“I would like to thank privates Moses and Abraham from when I joined,” Towle said jokingly. He served 51 years of total service to the United States government. Towle began his career in 1959 as a field artillery fire direction analysis and then became a personnel specialist. He was presented the Haratio Gates Gold Medal.

Army North liaisons serve in unique, complex duty



Col. Barrett Holmes (left), defense coordinating officer, Region IV, U.S. Army North, gives guidance to members of his defense coordinating element June 19 in Anderson, S.C., during Palmetto Shield, a terrorism exercise conducted June 16-20 in upstate South Carolina. The DCE, including its state emergency preparedness liaison officers, supported the state of South Carolina in its statewide, full-scale emergency drills, along with more than 100 local, county, state and federal agencies.



Col. Barrett Holmes (center), defense coordinating officer, Region IV, U.S. Army North, is briefed by members of his defense coordinating element June 19 in Anderson, S.C., during Palmetto Shield, a terrorism exercise conducted June 16-20 in upstate South Carolina.

Story and photos by

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — For the U.S. Army North Soldiers and officers who serve as state emergency preparedness liaison officers, their work is complex and far removed from typical military life.

The SEPLOs, or state EPLOs, as they're known, are Reserve officers who serve in civilian communities in the states they're assigned to and report to the regional EPLOs and regional defense coordinating officers. They coordinate with local, county and state authorities as well as Reserve and National Guard units.

"It's not like being in traditional Reserve unit," said Col. Randy Hall, South Carolina SEPLO, Army North. "You've got to go out and find a unit to do an Army Physical Fitness Test with, or for qualifications and ranges, even to get flu shots and meet other requirements, but we've got a good support network."

Hall and Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Flanigan, his operations noncommissioned officer, work out of the National Guard Joint Operations Center, which is co-located with the S.C. Emergency Operations Center in Columbia, S.C.

Having liaisons in the states enables the military to respond to events much more quickly, which is crucial when responding to natural disasters and other serious incidents.

"An EPLO can be on the scene very quickly and has extensive knowledge on what assets and resources are available in a state," Hall said.

Although Army and federal agencies cannot respond to emergencies until specifically requested by the state, the goal is to be able to predict where the resources will be needed if called upon and to preposition the federal assets and resources if possible to provide a more rapid response.

Hall said the work is gratifying and the experience he garners is also beneficial in his civilian employment as director of campus safety at Wofford College.

"It ties directly with my civilian job," Hall said. "In the police department, we use some of the same systems. I'm very interested in emergency man-

agement, and I'm able to take what I learn as an EPLO back to my civilian job."

Flanigan, who deployed in January to Sanford, Fla., to support operations in Haiti, said the work is meaningful.

"We were in charge of a 'flight-following' cell tracking passengers, arrival and departure times and monitoring flights," Flanigan said. "It was a good learning experience, and it was gratifying." He said more than 200 Haitian orphans were flown to the United States while he was working in the cell.

The work is different from traditional military operations because the liaison is not in command of a unit or an area but is there to support civil authorities, said Col. Brad Reid, chief regional EPLO, Region IV, Army North.

"You have to get used to the idea that the Army is not in the lead role," Reid said.

In the case of a natural disaster, a state will first apply its resources before requesting federal assistance, though federal assistance, including military assistance, will be available very quickly because of pre-positioned assets and resources under several federal disaster contingency plans.

An assignment as an EPLO, usually for three years, is valuable experience, Reid said.

"It's a good developmental experience for any officer to move into this realm and then take back the experience to a traditional unit," said he concluded.

REGION 4



_____ from **NEW YORK**, Pg. 3
 “This meeting is about building the working relationship with our counterparts from New York, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico,” said Maj. Gen. Glenn Reith, adjutant general, New Jersey Army National Guard. “Coordinating how we will support the other states in the region is difficult when your own force is down to only 55 percent due to combat deployments to Iraq.”

The deployment of New Jersey’s 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Iraq in 2008 made it more challenging to maintain support for contingencies in the state such as natural disasters and homeland security.

However, with close relationships with the Air National Guard and other agencies, New Jersey was able to fill in the gap left by the brigade’s deployment by training other agencies to perform homeland missions, Reith said.

“The unity of effort between us and the Air National

Guard was instrumental during that year,” said Reith. “We were able to train them on our vehicles in order to be prepared for any possible support.”

With a vast amount of underground transportation, New Jersey’s contingency plans for flooding due to hurricane-induced wind and rain is a top priority, as well as cooperative contingency plans with New York, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

During 9/11, New Jersey provided assets and support to New York. That type of support is what the Defense Coordinating Elements and the Defense Coordinating Officers are there for.

“Support for response is more of an art than science,” said Swan. “It requires a lot of trust and confidence among our partners, and more importantly, an effective response relationship will maintain the public’s trust and confidence in their local, state and federal agencies.”



Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left), commanding general, U.S. Army North, meets with Maj. Gen. Glenn Reith (far right), adjutant general, New Jersey Army National Guard and his fellow senior leaders during a conference June 1 in the Jacob K. Javits Federal Office Building in New York.



Army North delegates tackle military community, Family issues

Story by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson,
Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Should single Soldiers get the same money for housing as married Soldiers? Could the post open more child development centers? Should those in post housing have to pay for utilities?

Twenty delegates from U.S. Army North met to decide which issues, including the previous questions from Soldiers and Family members from Fort Sam Houston and Army North, would be presented to Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, Army North, for consideration by senior Army leaders in Washington, D.C., during a mid-level Army Family Action Plan conference in San Antonio from May 24 – 27.

“The Army Family Action Plan is our voice,” said Tania Cuervo, quality of work-life program coordinator, Army North. “It improves the quality of life for our Army Families.”

Delegates were divided into two working groups. Each group was given a list of issues to review, led by a facilitator. Officials from TRICARE, Brooke Army Medical Center, Army North’s human resources office, post housing and other organizations and agencies were on hand to advise delegates.

The issues came from an installation-level AFAP conference, as well as from anonymous submissions to drop boxes in Army North, and emails to AFAP. The delegates, facilitators, recorders, subject matter experts, observers, transcribers and issue support personnel at the conference are critical to ensuring that Soldiers, Civilians and Family members receive the best services and support possible from the military community, said Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, Army North.

“It’s important your voices are heard,” Wiggins told conference at-

tendees during his opening remarks. “My children are benefactors of this program.”

In one of the working groups, delegates debated issues ranging from employment opportunities for spouses and Family programs training for preventative care and paying for utilities in base housing.

In the other group delegates debated issues ranging from basic allowance for housing and remote identification card registration, to having a liaison to aid in the transition to new schools for incoming Families.

For an issue to be developed it must fall within the installation, mid-level or the Department of the Army’s area of influence; it must contribute positively to the Army’s goal of readiness and retention of quality Soldiers and must enhance the quality of life for their Families; it must be attainable; and it must have measurable objectives with an identified end product.

Every issue was considered for development, with notes and pre-prepared staff positions.

Demauri Malin, AFAP delegate and wife of Lt. Col. P. Thomas Malin, deputy defense coordinating officer, Region VIII, said she thought many of the issues stem from Families not getting the information they need.

“I think mostly a lot of the issues have to do with communication breakdowns,” Malin said. “There are a lot of programs and opportunities out there, but the Army is a big organization and there are breakdowns.”

Malin said she herself doesn’t get a lot of information because of her husband’s remote job in Lakewood, Colo., away from Army North, and that she hadn’t gotten to meet other Family members until the conference.

“This is the first I’ve had any contact with others from Army North,” Malin said. “It’s wonderful, I feel like part of the Army Family.”

Sergeant Major of the Army honored at his resting place in Fort Sam Houston Cemetary



A wreath was placed in front of the grave of retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Leon L. Van Autreve June 14 during a wreath-laying ceremony. The ceremony is held each year in conjunction with the Army Birthday and Flag Day to remember the fourth sergeant major of the Army, who passed away in 2002.

He was born in Eeklo, Belgium, on January 29, 1920, and died March 14, 2002, in San Antonio. He is only one of two Sergeant Major of the Army not buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

He entered the U.S. Army in August 1941 from Delphos, Ohio. After basic training at Fort Belvoir, Va.

He was discharged in August 1945 and enlisted again in March 1948. After a tour in Germany from 1950 to 1954, he served as an instructor with the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Toledo until 1958.

He served as Sergeant Major of the 91st Engineer Battalion from 1967 to 1969 in Vietnam as Sergeant Major of the 20th Engineer Brigade.

In July 1969, he was selected for assignment to Alaska as the Command Sergeant Major, where he remained until he was selected as the Sergeant Major of the Army. Sgt. Maj. Van Autreve’s final resting place is in the Fort Sam Houston Cemetary.

JTF-N welcomes new commander at Fort Bliss

Story by Armando Carrasco

JTF-N PAO

FORT BLISS, Texas — Brig. Gen. Sean MacFarland relinquished command to Col. Michael Bills during a change of command ceremony conducted June 9 at Headquarters, Joint Task Force – North.

JTF-N, based at East Fort Bliss, is the Department of Defense organization tasked to provide multi-domain military support to the nation's law enforcement agencies.

As a subordinate element of U.S. Northern Command, JTF-N is under the operational control of U.S. Army North, the Joint Force Land Component Command.

JTF-N operates within the entire USNORTHCOM area of responsibility, which encompasses the entire North American continent, to include the air, land and sea approaches.

"I have known both these stellar officers throughout my and their careers, and it is a great honor for me to be able to pass the colors of JTF-N," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston.

"I can say, unequivocally, that the outstanding successes that JTF-N achieved under Sean MacFarland will continue to flourish with Mike Bills at the helm."

"In 2001 al Qaeda terrorists launched the most devastating attack on our homeland since the War of 1812 and now inter-cartel drug wars are raging along the Southwest border," said MacFarland.

JTF-N's mission has grown from a Southwest border counterdrug mission to an all-border, all-threat mission.

"I am proud to say that JTF-N has stepped up to the new challenges brilliantly by partnering in new ways with our U.S. law enforcement partners, Mexican and Canadian counterparts, by using new technologies and old technologies in new ways," said MacFarland.

Bills graduated from George Mason University, Fairfax, Va., and was commissioned through Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1984, after completing three years of service as an enlisted Soldier.

"It is an honor and privilege to become the commander of JTF-N," said Bills.

"I look forward greatly to serve as a member of the United States Northern Command and accept



Photo by Edd Natividad, JTF-N

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston (right), passes the Joint Task Force – North colors to Col. Michael Bills during a change of command ceremony June 9 at the task force's headquarters on Fort Bliss. As a subordinate element of U.S. Northern Command, JTF-N is under the operational control of U.S. Army North, the Joint Force Land Component Command.

this responsibility mindful of the importance of our mission.

"I will strive to continue this organization's tremendous reputation and accomplishments as one of the most unique and challenging missions within the Department of Defense — supporting our law enforcement agencies' efforts to secure our homeland and safeguard our nation," Bills concluded.

Prior to taking command of JTF-N, Bills' previous assignments included standing up the U.S. Army's Wounded Warrior Program and serving as the chief of the BRAC at the Human Resources Command.

Fifth generation of Family graduates from West Point

Story by Randy Mitchell
U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Service before self is expected of our Soldiers, but one Family has taken it to new heights.

Second Lt. Mark Armstrong Jr. recently joined five consecutive generations of West Point graduates from the United States Military Academy.

“I wanted to serve my country, develop my leadership skills and get a world-class education,” said Armstrong. “At West Point, I was able to do that and much, much more.”

As the young Armstrong should know, he has some big shoes to fill as one of five consecutive generations of Armstrong’s to attend West Point.

His father, Col. Mark Armstrong Sr., serves on active duty as the U.S. Army North Region IX Defense Coordinating Officer in Oakland, Calif., near his birthplace of Palo Alto, Calif., where generations of his Family have lived and served.

The senior Armstrong, a 1981 graduate of West Point himself, proudly administered the military oath of office to his son.

“I was thrilled to be able to commission my own son into the Army,” said Armstrong, fully knowing his son may soon be deployed in harm’s way in Afghanistan or Iraq. “West Point has prepared him well to be a leader of character in today’s complex, volatile, uncertain and multi-national combat environments.”



Courtesy of John Armstrong Jr., West Point Class of 1978

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Col. Mark Armstrong Sr. administers the military oath of office to his son, 2nd Lt. Mark Armstrong Jr., at West Point, May 22 as Armstrong Jr. joins the fifth generation of the Family of West Point graduates.

The senior Armstrong grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area that was already rich in military Family tradition.

His father, Lt. Col. John L. Armstrong, was a 1946 graduate of West Point. A Pearl Harbor survivor and veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam, John died in 2004 and never got to see his grandson in uniform as a Cadet.

“We are all so proud of Mark Jr.,” said Kathryn Halsey Armstrong, John’s widow, who still lives in Palo Alto. “His grandfather would have been so proud of him too.

“He’s a fine young man, and carrying on a wonderful tradition of service to our nation as part of the ‘Long Gray Line,’” said Kathryn, referring to the nickname for the graduates of West Point since its inception in 1802.

Both of Mark Jr.’s great-grandfathers attended West Point as well. Col. John D. Armstrong, also of Palo Alto, was a 1919 graduate. A Pearl Harbor survivor, he served as commander of the 365th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division,

during the WWII Italian campaign.

The other great-grandfather, Maj. Gen. Milton B. Halsey, was a 1917 graduate who joined the search for Pancho Villa in the desert southwest immediately after graduation. He later served with Generals Patton and MacArthur and commanded the 97th Infantry Division in WWII when it liberated Czechoslovakia.

Halsey then moved to the Pacific Theater as commanding general of the Yokohama Command and chief of staff of 9th Corps

during the occupation of Japan. He later served as chief of staff of 8th Army, overseeing operations in both Japan and Korea.

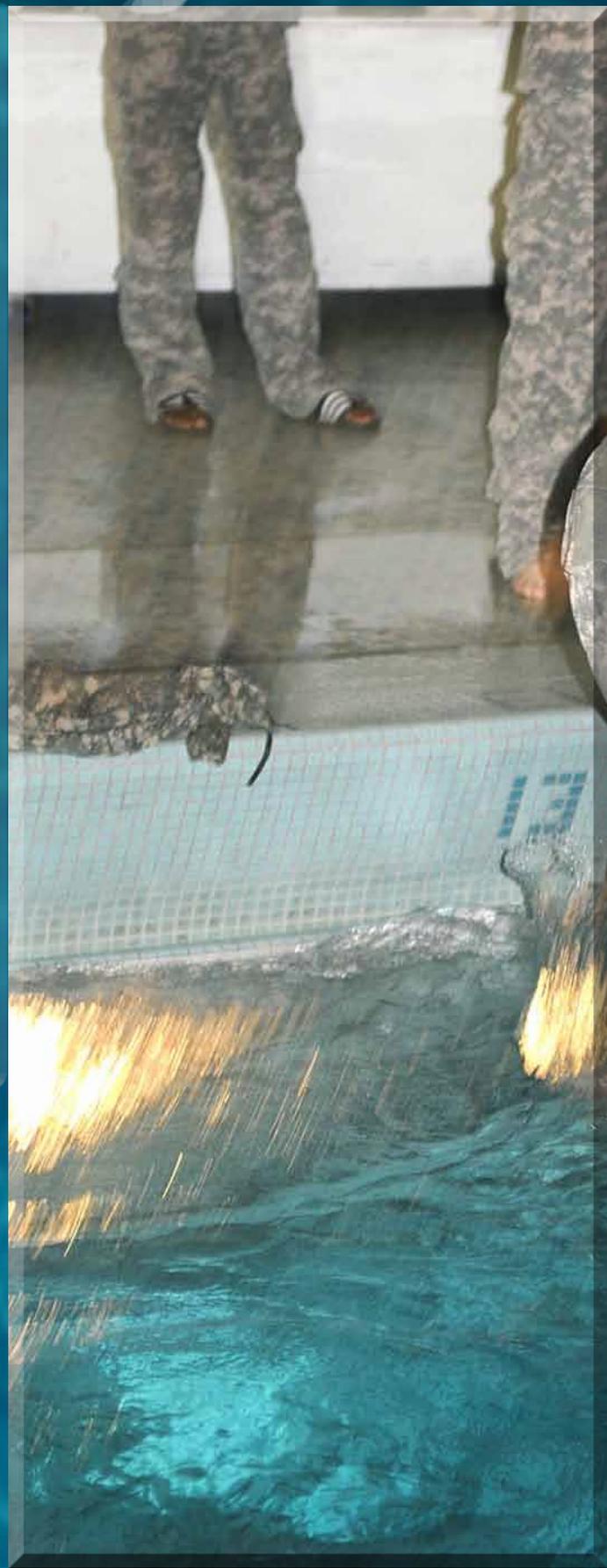
However, the rich Family tradition began more than a century ago in 1891 when Mark Jr.’s great-great grandfather, Col. Frank Spear Armstrong, graduated from West Point – starting the chain that hasn’t been broken since.

Frank Armstrong was taught by the great Civil War generals from West Point. He served in the Philippines as a young officer and in France in WWI.

The earliest Armstrong in his direct line of descendants to serve in America was Col. John Armstrong, who served with George Washington and made the famous Christmas Day crossing of the Delaware River, earning the “Order of the Cincinnati.”

The military ties also extend to the maternal side of the Halsey Family with Col. Lee Crandall, the commander of 47th Arkansas Cavalry, who served during the Civil War.

Soldiers strive to keep afloat dur



*Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres-Cortes
U.S. Army North PAO*

(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Alfred D'Adda, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army North, attempts to create pockets of air inside his Army Combat Uniform trousers to use as a flotation device during water survival training at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center indoor pool at Fort Sam Houston June 18.

(Center) Master Sgt. Noe Garcia, operations noncommissioned officer, U.S. Army North, appears to walk on water as he jumps into the pool in his Army Combat Uniform, which he proceeded to use as a flotation device.

ing water survival training class



(Above) Sgt. Lauren Aldaco, force protection noncommissioned officer, U.S. Army North, attempts to create pockets of air inside her Army Combat Uniform trousers to use as a flotation device June 18. The techniques the Soldiers learned during the training are used as part of the Army's Water Survival Training Curriculum 21 – 21.

(Below) Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters company, U.S. Army North, prepare for a briefing at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center indoor pool. Soldiers practiced jumping in the pool, and treading water while using their Army Combat Uniform trousers as a flotation device.

Bogus tourniquets endanger lives

Story by Steve Elliott
Fort Sam Houston PAO

Counterfeit models of the U.S. Army's Combat Application Tourniquet are available on the Internet and on the open market.

Using the counterfeits can be lethal and the Army considered this enough of a problem to send out a priority message April 14 sounding the alert on these bogus devices.

"While I haven't seen any of these counterfeits in use, I have seen a few ordered by logisticians more interested in cutting costs than in quality control," said Col. John Kragh, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston.

"The Combat Application Tourniquet is standard issue to all deploying Soldiers. It's in each Soldier's Individual First Aid Kit pouch."

Kragh explained the Army's concern with the counterfeits.

"The rod on the dummy tourniquet is bendable to a point where it cannot work right. It's like bending Gumby's arm," he said. "The makers do not market the item ostensibly as a medical device, but they sell it and package it like a retail item.

"The danger is if someone mistakes the fake for a real CAT or a real medical device," the colonel said. "That mistake could be fatal, since it cannot control bleeding."

A tourniquet is used to cut off the flow of blood to a part of the body, most often an arm or leg. It may be a special surgical instrument, a rubber tube, a strip of cloth, or any flexible material that can be tightened to exert pressure.

In a case of bleeding emergency, a tourniquet is used to completely stop the flow of blood.

Meant as a temporary fix, tourniquets are not recommended to be used for more than 20 minutes at a time because of the danger of congestion and

gangrene.

The message said that the Defense Logistics Agency knows the fake items are available for purchase through non-Department of Defense websites, and that authorized DoD procurement gateways will supply only the approved commercial part from authorized distributors.

If the counterfeits are found in any inventory, they should be replaced by the real thing and the counterfeit

should be reported to that activity's logistical supply office.

"It's easy to get the right items using routine, professional supply channels," Kragh said. "If other channels are used, then it's easy to get the wrong stuff. It just takes a credit card and choosing the wrong online supplier."

The message said the phony tourniquet was first encountered several years ago in a depot in Afghanistan and was thought to have been purged from the system.

At that time, the item was of obviously inferior construction and recognizable as a counterfeit.

Today, the product has been modified and is difficult to distinguish from the authentic CAT.

The Element Cat is a very carefully made counterfeit CAT tourniquet, manufactured in Hong Kong for \$8.50 each. It was designed to look, feel and act like the real thing.

The authentic item has a National Stock Number of 6515-01-521-7976 and has a unit cost of \$27.28.

The markings appear to be a copyright or trademark infringement, and that is why law enforcement has become involved in the investigation," the colonel noted.

"We have had a previous counterfeit CAT confirmed from the Middle East, but this was purged from the warehouses uneventfully a couple of years ago.

This is one of the reasons why we should remain vigilant.

HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE



Courtesy Photo

The real one has a manufacturing date stamped on it.

Fort Sam Houston public affairs leaders meet, discuss unity of effort

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson,
Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Public affairs leaders from throughout Fort Sam Houston joined forces June 10 at the Sam Houston Club during a public affairs conference designed to ensure unity of effort.

The highlight of the event featured a briefing by Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, the commanding general of U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, who discussed his vision and leadership philosophy with the attendees and expressed his thoughts on the important roles public affairs professionals play under the Joint Base San Antonio concept.

“I’m a collaborative, cooperative, unity-of-effort type of commander,” said Swan. “We are all in this together. Each of us is deputized to be a representative of the entire Fort Sam Houston community.”

The conference, hosted by the U.S. Army North Public Affairs Office, included break-out sessions on crisis communications, community relations and command information.

“What we are trying to do is to harness the talent of all of the communities, recognizing that Fort Sam Houston has many voices,” said Lt. Col. Randy Martin, chief, public affairs, Army North. “It’s about unity of effort more so than unity of command.”

With more than 60 tenant units at the fort, defining “who does what” and “who is responsible for what” is complex, Swan said, adding that it is important for the assembled PAOs to be able to work together.



Don Manuszewski, chief of public information, U.S. Army North public affairs office, leads a crisis communications working group through a mass-casualty scenario June 10 at the Sam Houston Club. The Army North PAO hosted public affairs leaders throughout Fort Sam Houston during a conference designed to discuss unity of effort on the installation.

“Our job is to bridge the chains of command so that we have unity of effort,” Swan said. “It’s up to us to reach out and engage the public.”

Public Affairs leaders from U.S. Army North, the 502nd Air Base Wing, AMEDD Center and School, U.S. Army Medical Command, Brooks Army Medical Center, 5th Recruiting Brigade, U.S. Army South, U.S. Medical Information Technology Center, West Region – Installation Management Command, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, the Mission and Contracting Command, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade and others weighed in on topics of joint concern and shared ideas for improving public affairs efforts.

In the crisis communication

working group, participants used a mass-casualty scenario on post to create a framework for updating crisis communications plans.

“We worked through a crisis scenario that involved a mass casualty incident,” said Don Manuszewski, chief of public information, Army North. “The scenario was designed to make our group think through the many tasks needed to successfully communicate during such an event.”

The break-out group was productive, Manuszewski said.

“The biggest thing that came out of the group was the dialogue we established and the rapport we developed with each other,” Manuszewski said.

— see Public, Pg.18

Army North CSM discusses importance of discipline, standards with USAF enlisted leaders



U.S. Army photos by Sgt 1st Class Manuel Torres-Cortes, U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood, senior enlisted leader of U.S. Army North, takes advantage of an opportunity to speak with Air Force noncommissioned officers June 23 at Fort Sam Houston's Evans Theater. "I am absolutely honored to be here," he told the assembled enlisted leaders. "When do we, as professionals, have the opportunity to meet with those who will one day take our place?" Command Chief Master Sgt. Juan Lewis, the senior enlisted leader for the 502nd Air Base Wing, invited Wood and senior enlisted leaders from Fort Sam Houston to speak to the assembled leaders during a weeklong senior noncommissioned officer enhancement seminar attended by more than 200 master sergeant selects from Randolph Air Force Base, Lackland AFB, Eglin AFB, Brooks Army Medical Center and Fort Sam Houston. The purpose of the seminar, said Lewis, is to prepare the "heroes" for increased responsibility and prepare them for future challenges. "You are charged, as leaders in our formation, to uphold the traditions of our institutions," Wood emphasized. He said traditions and the American spirit have proven vital to the nation's success. "Americans have this desire to survive," he said. "Your forefathers took a chance on life and came to America with nothing. That's in you. What a great country."

— After the ~~from Public~~ **Public**, Pg. 17 participants came back together and discussed the results of their collaborative efforts.

"I think the conference provided an opportunity for public affairs folks to get together and discuss how operations within various commands on Fort Sam Houston can be synchronized and to look at opportunities to share information," said Phillip Reidinger, public affairs officer,

AMEDD Center and School and Fort Sam Houston.

The conference provided an opportunity for the public affairs representatives to establish communication amongst the various organizations and afforded the assembled leaders an opportunity to hear from the fort's senior mission commander.

"Public affairs is commander's business," said Martin.

"The time for building partner-

ships is before a crisis. Having the commanding general express his views is rewarding on many levels."



New JTF-CS building taking shape

Story by H. J. Bentley III
JTF-CS PAO

FORT EUSTIS, Va. – Joint Task Force – Civil Support is one step closer to moving 22 miles to its new home on Fort Eustis.

The much-anticipated move has been in the works since the announcement of Fort Monroe's closure under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Plan.

The new two-story headquarters building is under construction and will feature about 63,000 square feet of office space. JTF-CS leaders toured the work site with officials from the Corps of Engineers June 22 to examine the progress on the new facility.

"A lot of hard work has gone into this," said Maj. Gen. Daniel Long, JTF-CS commanding general. "I'm extremely pleased with these facilities."

JTF-CS' new home is at the intersection of Jackson and Madison avenues on Fort Eustis. The new facility will consolidate all of the command under one roof and will

accommodate the 260 members of JTF-CS.

Work started on the new \$11 million facility on March 1 and is moving forward to meet the anticipated August 2011 move in date. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District Office is overseeing construction of the project.

"While one of our smaller construction projects, it's one that's important to our nation's needs," said Jon Jones, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District office, whose office is overseeing construction efforts on several other projects on Fort Eustis.

At Fort Monroe, JTF-CS is spread out in four different buildings with a total area of nearly 47,000 square feet. Building 96, the main administrative hub for the command, is a former elementary school built in the 1950s and converted specifically for JTF-CS in 2003.

JTF-CS was established in 1999 in order to meet the needs of military planners and headquarter

command elements that lead these forces. Joint Task Force – Civil Support is a subordinate command of U.S. Northern Command, a unified combatant command formed to plan, organize and execute both homeland defense and civil support missions.

The commander of U.S. Army North serves as the

Joint Force Land Component Command commander and has operational control of JTF-CS.

JTF-CS plans and integrates Department of Defense support to the designated primary agency for domestic consequence management operations in response to catastrophic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive incidents.

When directed, JTF-CS deploys to an incident site, establishes command and control of DoD forces, and provides military assistance and support to civil authorities to save lives, prevent further injury and provide temporary critical support to enable community recovery.

JTF-CS is the nations' only standing CBRNE joint task force. It is comprised of active, reserve and National Guard members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines and Coast Guard as well as civilian and contract personnel.



Photo by Cmdr. Matt Tucker, JTF-CS

FORT EUSTIS, Va. – Steel beams rise above the foundation June 22 of the new Joint Task Force – Civil Support Headquarters facility being constructed on Fort Eustis, Va. The 63,000 square-foot facility will accommodate the 260 members of JTF-CS. Construction for the facility is slated for completion in May 2011.



Photo by H.J. Bentley III, JTF-CS PAO

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Matt Tucker, command engineer for JTF-CS, explains building details June 22 to Maj. Gen. Daniel Long, commander of JTF-CS, on the building site of the new headquarters being constructed.

News

Fort Sam Houston earns environmental award

By Steve Elliott,
Fort Sam Houston PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS — When it comes to Camp Bullis, finding a harmonious balance between the needs of the Army and the needs of the environment has long put Fort Sam Houston leadership in a tight spot.

Add to the mix the explosive growth in development that's encroaching upon the once wide-open spaces around the 28,000-acre training area, and it can lead to potential disaster on a multitude of levels.

Located along San Antonio's northern edge, Camp Bullis was once considered to be on the outskirts of the city with few developments around it until the 1990s. Since then, San Antonio has catapulted into becoming the seventh-largest city in the United States and the third-fastest growing city in the nation.

Over the years, the task of training combat medics in Camp Bullis' realistic field conditions has also grown in size and importance and is a central feature of the Defense Department's multi-billion-dollar plan to make San Antonio the nation's center of military medicine.

While growth is good for the bottom line of the city and surrounding areas, it has rapidly closed in on this training area which is now surrounded on all sides, save for its north-ern boundary. Real estate developers and home builders still gaze hungrily upon the pristine areas around Camp Bullis in their

quest to erect even more gated communities

Defense Media Activity will consolidate media operations

By Ron Rogers, San Antonio
Joint Program Office

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — The Base Realignment and Closure Commission's 2005 recommendations include uniting Defense Department internal information programs under one roof. Activated in 2008, the Defense Media Activity combines the Army Broadcasting Service, Soldiers Radio and TV, the Soldiers Media Center, the Naval Media Center, the Air Force News Agency, and the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service with the American Forces Information Service. Those BRAC recommendations were implemented in 2008 and Marine Corps internal information assets were added to the group in 2009.

American Forces Radio and Television Service, American Forces Press Service, the Pentagon Channel, Stars and Stripes and the Joint Combat Camera Center are also among the offices that now fall under the DMA.

Melvin Russell was appointed acting director of the DMA in 2010. He says establishment of the DMA is an excellent example of overall BRAC 2005 objectives and makes a lot of sense. If you look at jointness – the joint basing concept, to take all the internal information capabilities for the Services, from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and put it together into one activity was really what BRAC 2005 was all about, he said during an interview at DMA San Antonio.

The new DMA building is under

construction at Fort Meade Maryland scheduled for completion by the BRAC deadline of September 15, 2011. Russell said the reason the Office of the Secretary of Defense chose Fort Meade, Maryland was logical to keep it in the Greater Washington D.C. area where many DoD media operations currently happen.

The move to Fort Meade will not significantly change each Service's products, such as Airman Magazine or Service-specific television products, Russell said. One of the things the Services insisted upon from day one is that whatever was done with the new joint activity, they had to make sure the look, feel and content of service products were preserved to meet Service requirements.

However, Russell said some consolidation of production efforts will make operations more efficient.

The joint support to that will be to consolidate studio support, technical operations, satellite truck operations, videographers, and audio enhancement. That is our savings.

Russell said this effort will also result in efficiencies such as news coverage similar to Hurricane Katrina.

We ended up with all of us sending crews resulting in three crews at the same event, Mr. Russell said.

Now we can better look at the requirements and send teams out to support those requirements and cover what we need to be covering.

The new DMA will employ 2,240 people worldwide with an annual budget of \$260 million a year. The current DMA building in San Antonio will close as part of the process. Russell says DMA leaders are doing everything they can to help people who want to make the move or help those who decide to stay in San Antonio.

We tell them if you would like to move with us to Fort Meade, your same job is waiting for you and we would love to have you join us.

If they choose not to move, then we will assist them in getting on a priority placement list and help them find a job in this area, Russell said.

The American Forces Network has a rich history.

It can trace its origins back to May 26, 1942, when the War Department established the Armed Forces Radio Service.

Gates reviews military spouse career program

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates is grappling with the best way to reopen the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts program to new applicants, concerned that the program has morphed beyond its original intent and cost estimates, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said here today.

Gates believes the program, commonly known as MyCAA, was designed to provide military spouses portable career skills that would help them find jobs after making permanent change-of-station moves, Morrell said.

He offered examples: real estate licenses or home health-care provider accreditations.

But in many cases, Morrell said, the MyCAA program has become an avenue for military spouses to pursue four-year degrees and other, longer-term educational opportunities now provided through the new Post-9/11 GI Bill.

“That is not what MyCAA was

designed for,” the press secretary said.

As a result, the Defense Department temporarily halted new enrollments in February pending a top-to-bottom review.

More than 136,000 spouses who had already established MyCAA accounts continue to receive program benefits.

As the secretary considers the best way to resume the program fully, he is wrestling to determine, “given the sudden groundswell of interest in this program, how do we manage that interest, how do we focus it on what it was meant for (and how to we handle it from a budgetary perspective?” Morrell said.

Gates must decide: “Do we refine this back to what it was originally intended to be - an opportunity for people to relatively quickly gain a very portable skill that would make them employable wherever they lived, or what it has morphed into — an opportunity for people to pursue a range of educational opportunities?” Morrell said.

Morrell said he expects a decision relatively soon.

Human Resources Command cases colors for move to Fort Knox

Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria cased its colors on June 16 in preparation of the command’s move to Fort Knox, Ky.

The organization’s move will combine the current HRC locations from Alexandria, Indianapolis and St. Louis into one central site.

The move will also provide the

command’s first opportunity to establish itself as a premiere organization on a military installation.

“The mission right now is to continue to maintain readiness of the Army, professional development of our Soldiers, and take care of Soldiers and their families as we go through this transition over the next couple of months to make sure that the same support the field expects and has gotten over the years is undiminished,” said Maj. Gen. Sean Byrne, HRC commander.

The colors are expected to be uncased at Fort Knox on June 25.

President Obama appoints Petraeus to replace McChrystal

Department of Defense

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama today accepted Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal’s resignation as the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, calling it the right decision for national security.

The president also announced that he has nominated Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of U.S. Central Command, to replace McChrystal in Afghanistan.

The decision comes in the wake of a Rolling Stone magazine article that depicts McChrystal and members of his staff as being at odds with the president’s administration.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced June 22, that the President has nominated Army Gen. David Petraeus for appointment to the rank of general and assignment as commander, International Security Assistance Force/ commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

Fort Sam Houston celebrates Army's 235th Birthday, Flag Day



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston (left); along with Col. Daniel Berliner, Army South; retired Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady; Pfc. Jodie Griffith, 717th Military Intelligence Battalion, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade; and Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, commanding general, Army South; cut a birthday cake June 25 at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio during the Army North/Army South Birthday Ball. Berliner, as the oldest attendee of the ball, along with Griffith, the youngest attendee, and Brady, a Medal of Honor recipient, joined Swan and Trombitas, the commanding generals, to commemorate the Army's 235th birthday (June 14). Brady, who served as the event's guest speaker, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in which he used three helicopters to rescue more than 50 wounded personnel in one day during the Vietnam War. At the end of the day, his aircraft had more than 400 holes in them from enemy fire and mines. In two tours in Vietnam, he flew more than 2,500 combat missions and rescued more than 5,000 wounded personnel.



(LEFT) Soldiers dressed in period uniforms present battle streamers to be attached to the Army flag June 14 at the post flag pole. Sgt. Maj. Shawn Barnes, U.S. Army Garrison, attached the 178 streamers, which represent 235 years of the Army's service to our nation. (RIGHT) The Army Medical Department Center & School color guard presents the colors at the 235th Army Birthday and Flag Day celebration June 14 at the post flagpole.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres, U.S. Army North PAO



Army North birdies tournament en route to claiming top honors

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas

— Ramon De Hoyos (left), Alfred Garcia and Kenneth Jordan proudly display their trophies after the three helped their team chip, birdie and drive away en route to victory during the Fort Sam Houston 2010 Golf Intramurals June 22. The team from U.S. Army North claimed top honors as USARNORTH Team #1 defeated MEDCOM Team #1 to earn the title of Fort Sam Houston Intramural Golf Champions. The two teams were the champions of the Hogan and Daly golf leagues, each of which consisted of 10 teams. The avid Army North golfers kicked off their nine-hole match play April 6 and competed each Tuesday over the next nine weeks. The top four teams of each league then faced off to determine their league champions. The golfers



Courtesy Photo

were honored for their achievements during the league’s awards ceremony and dinner June 25 at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Banquet Room. Earlier in the day, they took advantage of a final opportunity to knock the ball around during a scramble golf tournament. The other members of USARNORTH Team #1 (not shown) are Robert Mason, Chad Kingston, David Yandon, John Bruce, Scott Bonnette, Richard Vinas, Robert Berg, Thomas Piasecki and William Davenport. De Hoyos served as the team’s coach.

Around JTF-CS

(BELOW) FORT MONROE, Va. — Maj. Gen. Daniel Long and Navy Capt. Michael Collins are on the hunt for fish as they cast their lines in Jones Pond at Cheatham Annex, in Yorktown Va., as part of Joint Task Force – Civil Support’s command fishing tournament.



Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Weber, JTF-CS



(ABOVE) FORT MONROE, Va. — Staff Sgt. Thelma Cabrera and Maj. Gen. Daniel Long cut a cake during JTF-CS’s celebration of the Army’s 235th birthday June 14 at Fort Monroe, Va. Cabrera and Long, the commanding general of JTF-CS, are the youngest and oldest Soldiers of JTF-CS.



Decon relief ...

Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, U.S. Army North PAO
ANDERSON, S.C. — An Anderson County firefighter decontaminates "victims" of a chemical attack during a mass casualty exercise at the Anderson University athletic complex June 19 in Anderson, S.C. The scenario, part of statewide disaster-response exercises dubbed "Palmetto Eagle," "Palmetto Shield" and "Red Dragon," were designed to test cooperation between more than 100 local, county, state and federal agencies, including U.S. Army North's Defense Coordinating Element Region IV, and to test state response and recovery plans.