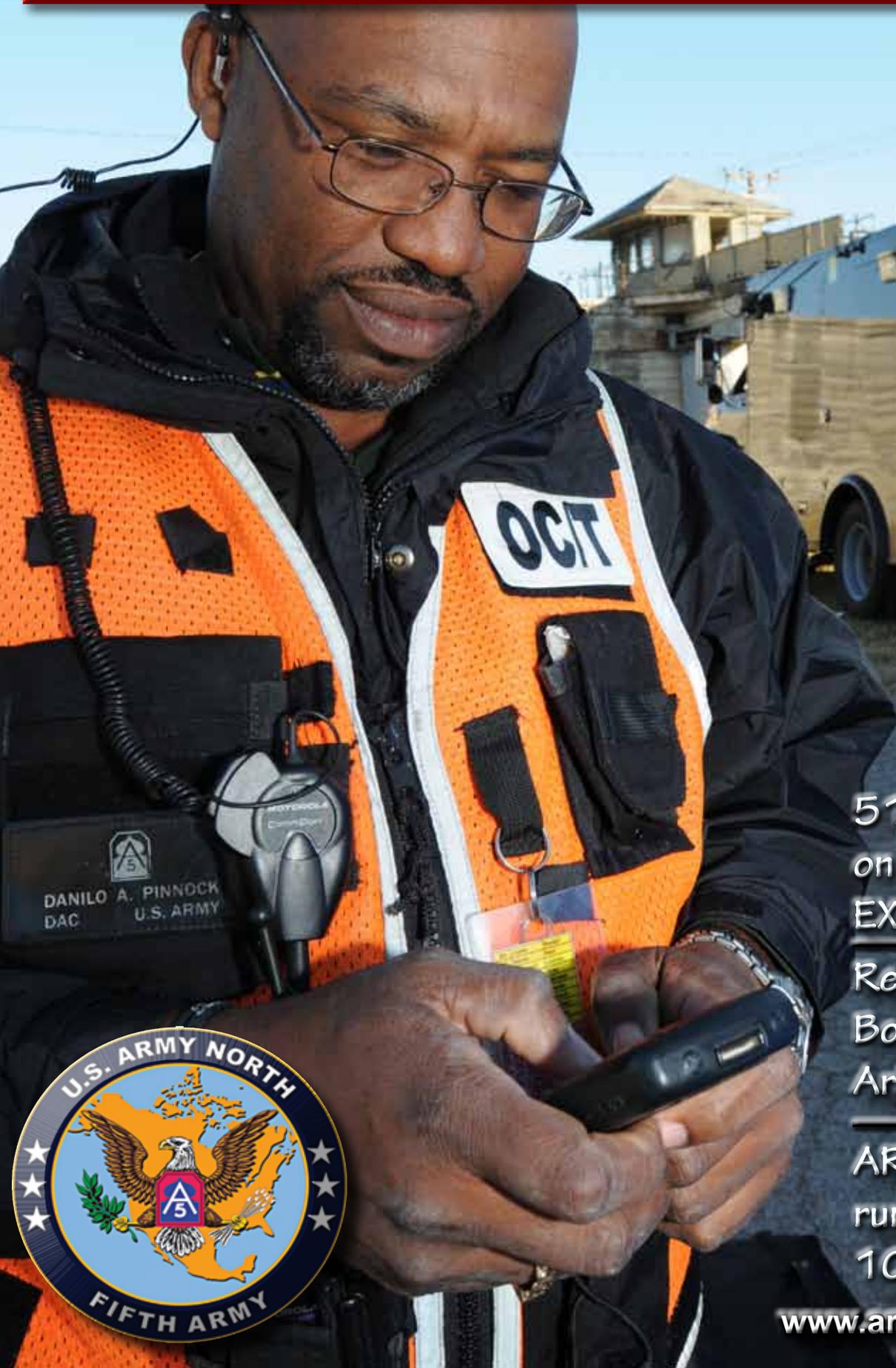


ARNORTH Monthly

November 2010



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on 'Sarin lab' for
EXEVAL, Pg. 4

Reservists assist
Border Patrol in
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ARNORTH team
runs Army's
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Cover: Danilo Pinnock, deputy chief, Midwest Division, Civil Support Readiness Group - East, Civil Support Training Activity, U.S. Army North, shares information with teammates during an external evaluation for the 51st Civil Support Team Oct. 21 at the old Tennessee State Prison in Nashville.

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

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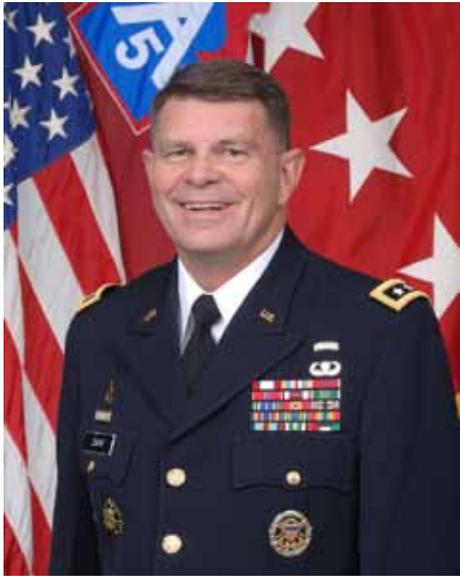
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Submissions should be sent to the Editor at keith.m.anderson@conus.army.mil or the Public Affairs Sergeant Major at eric.d.lobsinger@us.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The ARNORTH Monthly reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

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Demonstrate your patriotism and gratitude for Veteran's Day



By Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III
Commanding General, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends and neighbors here in Military City U.S.A. for a very memorable Celebrate America's Military week. The armed forces have a way of bringing together men and women of all types from all across the country each with their own view of the world. The one thing we all seem to agree on is that this city really does support its service members.

Veterans Day was born of a promise to "solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom..." That is a call to action that we honor for those who have once sworn an oath of service to our flag; for those who, in their golden years still remind us of past wars against tyranny in Europe and

Asia; and, those young citizens who, in time of war, put aside their personal ambitions to serve in our defense today.

I think of our older veterans, some not able to walk anymore, making their way to reunions at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.; the veterans of Korea and Vietnam marching in parades; and the young families reuniting at the end of each deployment. I also think of our heroes who today are recovering from wounds seen and unseen. They all know very well that freedom is not free.

I encourage you to demonstrate your patriotism and gratitude to fellow citizens in keeping with the original proclamation establishing Veterans Day signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in October of 1954.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday! Thank you San Antonio and thank you veterans of our nation!

Salute to Troops

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, greets guest speaker David Robinson, known by National Basketball Association fans as 'The Admiral,' during the Celebrate America's Military kick-off luncheon at the Exposition Hall at the Freeman Coliseum Grounds Nov. 1. Robinson was an All-American in his junior and senior years at the Naval Academy, and was selected as the number one NBA draft pick of the San Antonio Spurs in 1987, but did not play until competing his two-year military commitment to the Navy.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, ARNORTH PAO

Michigan National Guardsmen take on 'Sarin lab' for EXEVAL

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

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — At an old, abandoned prison made famous by Hollywood movies like “The Green Mile (1999),” and “The Last Castle (2001),” a team of Michigan National Guardsmen cleared a suspected “Sarin lab” Oct. 21 during their external evaluation, a periodic training proficiency assessment.

Members of the 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, Michigan National Guard — one of more than 50 such Guard teams in the U.S. — set up staging and decontamination areas, donned their protective, self-contained breathing apparatus suits and entered the old Tennessee State Prison to conduct a site characterization and to identify possible hazards as part of the assessment.

“A civil support team external evaluation is the culminating event for any domestic operations team,” said Lt. Col. Jason Awadi, commander, 51st WMD CST. “It helps identify the dedication, hard work, and training that CST’s undergo every 18 months. More importantly, an EXEVAL provides the CST commander with an objective view of how his or her team is doing in supporting the National Guard’s role in defending the homeland.”

As the Soldiers and Airmen of the 51st WMD CST, based in Augusta, Mich., searched for chemical, biological, chemical, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosives (CBRNE) in the cafeteria area of the abandoned prison,



Sgt. 1st Class David Holmden, 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, Michigan Army National Guard, helps Sgt. Lucas Montalvo, 51st WMD CST, don a protective suit before a mission during an external evaluation at the old Tennessee State Prison in Nashville Oct. 21.

observer controllers from U.S. Army North’s Civil Support Training Activity assessed them on 12 main tasks.

“This is the way U.S. Northern Command is assured units are trained to standard and fully manned and equipped to accomplish the civil support operations mission,” said Ronald Jones, director, Civil Support Readiness Group – East, CSTA, Army North. “First responders and local law enforcement officials do not have the sophisticated detection and monitoring equipment and training to handle domestic CBRNE contingencies; civil support teams have to be proficient and able to deploy quickly for contingencies.”

Tasks included conducting technical decontamination; establishing communications and medical support; conducting CBRNE ana-

lytical functions, assessments and a survey; establishing a base of operations; maintaining an operations center; conducting interagency coordination and other key tasks.

The most challenging aspect of the work isn’t the technical knowledge required, or the danger of exposure—it’s just working in the protective suits, said Sgt. Justin Johnson, survey team chief, 51st WMD CST.

“When you’re inside the suit it gets claustrophobic, the see-through plastic gets steamed up so it’s hard to see, you’re on a negative respirator so it’s difficult to breathe, it’s hot and you are doing delicate tasks with thick rubber gloves on,” Johnson said. “It’s very challenging, but just like everything else in the Army, it’s about constant training and muscle memory.”

Sarin, originally developed in Germany in 1938 as a pesticide, is a toxic and fast-acting nerve agent that was used in two terrorist attacks in Japan in 1994 and 1995.



Left: Sgt. Justin Johnson, survey team chief, 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, Michigan National Guard, radios that he has entered the cafeteria and begun his site characterization. Soldiers and Airmen of the Michigan civil support team, based in Augusta, Mich., identified and cleared the remnants of a "Sarin lab" in the cafeteria of the old Tennessee State Prison Oct. 21 for a periodic training proficiency assessment, overseen by U.S. Army North's Civil Support Training Activity. **Above:** U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Ruel Taylor, 51st WMD CST, inspects equipment before a site characterization mission during an external evaluation at the old prison Oct. 21. The 51st WMD CST, like more than 50 other Guard civil support teams, undergoes the EXEVAL every 18 months.



Members of the 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, Michigan National Guard, drive their six-wheeled 'gator' laden with sophisticated detection and monitoring equipment towards a building within the old Tennessee State Prison that was suspected to contain hazardous agents during an external evaluation Oct. 21. Hollywood movies "The Green Mile (1999)," and "The Last Castle (2001)," were filmed in the abandoned prison near downtown Nashville.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, ARNORTH PAO

Admiral

SAN ANTONIO — David Robinson, known by National Basketball Association fans as 'The Admiral,' addresses a crowd of military and civic leaders Nov. 1, during the Celebrate America's Military kickoff luncheon at the Exposition Hall at the Freeman Coliseum Grounds. The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce event to salute America's heroes ran from Nov. 1-11. Robinson was an All-American in his junior and senior years at the Naval Academy, and was selected as the number one NBA draft pick of the San Antonio Spurs in 1987, but did not play until competing his two-year military commitment to the Navy.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres-Cortes, ARNORTH PAO

AUSA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, talks with conference attendees visiting the US-ARNORTH display booth at the annual Association of the United States Army meeting and exposition held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in the nation's capital Oct. 26.

ARNORTH welcomes

Mark Boudler, HHBN
 Daniel Crump, CSTA
 Martin Gonzalez, G2
 Corey Molinelli, CSTA
 Karl Nagel, CSTA
 Steven North, G2
 Eddie Ramirez, HHBN
 Jill White, SJA
 Col. Hector Salinas, DCS, G5
 Lt. Col. Alberto Rivera, RG IV DCE
 Maj. Francisco Meza, DCS, G5
 Maj. Shawn Morton, DCS, G3
 Capt. Andre Brady, I&S
 Capt. Stephen Corpus, I&S
 Capt. William Craig, SURG
 Capt. Kenneth Price, DCS, G3
 1st Lt. Dustin Myrie, SJA
 Sgt. Maj. Eliodoro Perez, DCS, G3
 1st Sgt. Gary O'Neil, HSC
 Master Sgt. Jason Edwards, DCS, G3
 Master Sgt. Glenn Ford, DCS, G4
 Master Sgt. Eric Kombet, SURG
 Sgt. 1st Class Richard Berry, DCS, G1
 Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Gusta, Rg IV
 Sgt. 1st Class Christine Tulloch, DCS, G4
 Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Turberville, HHBN
 Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Velasquez, G4
 Staff Sgt. Jerome Anderson, OPS
 Staff Sgt. Kangata Bell, RG VII DCE
 Staff Sgt. Adrian Lambert, DCS, G2
 Staff Sgt. Deanna Mena, DCS, G2
 Staff Sgt. Thomas Narcotta, OPS
 Staff Sgt. Joshua Willoughby, I&S
 Sgt. Rhonda Wyrick, HHBN S4

ARNORTH says goodbye

David Halstead, G3
 Lee Leskinen, SGS
 Lee McKinney, PMO
 Col. Danny Franklin, OCHAP
 Col. Louis Vogler, G3/5
 Lt. Col. Daniel Bowman, G2
 Lt. Col. Roger Casillas, G8
 Lt. Col. David Snead, G3/5
 Lt. Col. David Vasques, G3/5
 Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Drinnon, RG V

Fort Sam Houston honors military retirees



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

Col. Louis A. Vogler, assistant chief of staff for operations and plans, U.S. Army North; Command Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Spridgen, training branch sergeant major, U.S. Army Medical Command; Master Sgt. Joseph E. Mandell, logistics division noncommissioned officer in charge, Brooke Army Medical Center; and Anthony J. Logan, budget analyst, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Resource Management, U.S. Army Medical Command; stand before a crowd of family, friends and peers during an installation retirement ceremony Oct. 28 in U.S. Army North's historic Quadrangle grounds.



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

Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, addresses retirees and their Families during the Installation Retirement and Awards Ceremony Oct. 28 in the Quadrangle. Wiggins presented the Legion of Merit to retirees Col. Louis A. Vogler, U.S. Army North, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Spridgen, U.S. Army Medical Command. Wiggins presented the Meritorious Service Medal to Master Sgt. Joseph E. Mandell, Brooke Army Medical Center. And he presented the Superior Civilian Service Award to Anthony J. Logan, U.S. Army Medical Command. Vogler said he was proud of his service. "It's an honor to have served," Volger said. "I don't think it's (retirement's) sunk in yet.

Army North defense coordinating officer receives national recognition

**Story and photo by
Randy Mitchell
Army North PAO**

SAN ANTONIO — The International Association of Emergency Managers recognized Col. Mark Armstrong Sr. as the USA 2010 Military Uniformed Services Emergency Manager of the year Nov. 2 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center during the association's annual conference.

Armstrong, the U.S. Army North Region IX Defense Coordinating Officer, is stationed in Oakland, Calif., where he serves as the single point of contact for the employment of military resources during disaster relief operations. He is one of 10 DCOs located throughout the nation that work daily with FEMA representatives within their regions.

The colonel was defined as an exceptionally dedicated officer by Army Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, U.S. Army North commander, who presented the award to Armstrong along with Craig Fugate, FEMA director.

"Mark is dedicated to bridging the military and civilian emergency management communities and committed to the Army North vision of supporting our fellow citizens with Department of Defense assets whenever needed in the challenging event of a large-scale disaster," said Swan.

"He is committed to the training and relationship building that reduces ambiguity and delays assistance during a catastrophic disaster."

Armstrong was individually selected in 2005 as one of the original 10 DCOs. He has served within the same region, which includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and coordination with U.S. territories in the Pacific region.

"Colonel Armstrong successfully bridged U.S. Pacific Command and



Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, and Craig Fugate (right), the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, present the USA 2010 Military Uniformed Services Emergency Manager of the Year award to Col. Mark Armstrong Sr., Region IX defense coordinating officer, ARNORTH, during the International Association of Emergency Managers 58th Annual Conference and Emergency Management Exhibition at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center Nov. 2.

U.S. Northern Command, the two U.S. combatant commands responsible for the FEMA Region IX area of operations," said Steven Mogan, Region IX Defense Coordinating Element operations officer.

During incidents such as the 2007 Southern California wildfires, 2009 American Samoa tsunami and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic flu outbreak, Armstrong was seen as the trusted agent that both federal and state authorities turned to in developing and executing an appropriate military response.

He is credited by his DCE team as implementing a system that significantly streamlined the process for military response to support of civil authorities during a natural or manmade disaster.

"His personal professional development has led to streamlined

response processes, managed expectations, enhanced training and fostered cooperation for military support across myriad levels of emergency management," said Mogan. The colonel has also been seen as a proponent of relevant and realistic pre-disaster training and has led his team through several state and national level exercises.

"Colonel Armstrong is recognized as one of the unique individuals who straddle both the military and civilian emergency management communities and strengthens both," said Mogan.

The IAEM, which has more than 5,000 members in 58 countries, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters; a goal shared by U.S. Army North.

CCMRF 10.2 TEAM HONE SKILLS, MATURE

**By Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Balistreri
Outgoing CCP1 SGM, U.S. Army North**



There are many new faces in the command – some even newer than mine – who may not understand CCMRF 10.2 (now known as 11.2 as of October 2010).

CCMRFs are designed to respond to a major CBRNE event in the United States, or its territories, to provide assistance to, and be in support of, local, state, tribal and other federal agencies.

CCMRF is actually an acronym inside an acronym which stands for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, high-yield Explosive, Consequence Management Response Force.

Currently, there are two CCMRFs ready to provide consequence management for a large-scale CBRNE attack or accident. CCMRFs are numbered by the fiscal year, followed by either a .1 or .2. CCMRFs with a .1 are associated, for the most part, with active duty units and are commanded and controlled by Joint Task Force – Civil Support. CCMRFs with a .2 are associated, for the most part, with reserve component units and are commanded and controlled by Army North's Contingency Command Post 1.

The CCMRF, in its entirety, is made up of several pieces. There are three brigade-level task forces:

Task Force Operations, Task Force Aviation and Task Force Medical, as well as a battalion level task force: Task Force Signal, that provides increased communications capabilities. The CCP commander and his staff – which is composed of about 75 members from Army North, individual augmentees and joint enablers – provide command and control of all Title 10 forces in the Joint Operational Area.

The CCMRF has approximately 3,500-4,000 personnel sourced for the mission, from the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Air National Guard and the Air Force. Additionally, there are more than 60 subordinate units from 14 states and as far away as Puerto Rico.

CCMRF 10.2 was designed to have a one-year train-up, followed by two years on mission cycle. In January 2009, Maj. Gen. John Basilica, the CCP 1 commanding general, provided guidance on how to proceed with manning, equipping, training and readiness issues that such a diverse composition of forces would face.

To achieve this, the CCP 1 staff used the Oct. 1, 2009, mission assumption date; the August 2009 command post exercise; and the July 2010 field training exercise, as its benchmarks. The staff associated achievable goals with each of those dates.

The CCP's chief of staff helped refine the task and purpose as the CCP moved closer to each known date. The staff realized there were numerous potential challenges to face since many of the units had not previously served in a Title 10 status, in the Continental United States, in a Defense Support of Civil Authorities environment.

The CPX involved approximately one-third of the players – and huge

lessons were learned. This led to many of the refinements made during the 12 months leading up to the FTX. Leaders at all levels were amazed at the monumental tasks involved in the movement of almost 4,000 personnel and 1,500 pieces of equipment into the joint operational area in southern Indiana to participate in a world-class FTX that was planned, resourced, manned and executed by Army North.

All of the participants, from privates at the unit level through the CCP's staff, learned tremendously valuable lessons. This will, ultimately, result in the members of CCMRF 10.2 being better prepared to take care of Americans if the unthinkable ever occurs here in the homeland.

The CCP is changing and looks very different than it did in January 2009. CCP 1 has grown from a force of one to 31 and, by this time next year, there should be approximately 75 full-time personnel. Besides the growth of the CCP, there are numerous changes that will affect all of us at Army North during the next several years.

As the Defense CBRNE Response Force (DCRF); Command and Control CBRN Response Elements A and B (C2CRE); Homeland Response Force (HRF); and CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), entities change and grow, I believe it is important to focus on the capabilities that can rapidly deploy to assist our civil partners and not get hung up on a name or exactly where a certain capability comes from.

In the event of a great tragedy, our nation will look to us – with watching eyes – waiting to see how fast and efficiently the DoD can provide life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to our citizens.

STRENGTH OF THE NATION.

NCOs, Operations Company triumph at ARNORTH Organizational Day



Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
ARNORTH PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Noncommissioned officers brought home the ultimate football championship, and Operations Company took the trophy for top company, at the 2010 U.S. Army North organizational day at the Quadrangle,

Servicemembers, Civilians and Families took part in tug-of-war, dunking booths, cake walks, Texas Hold 'Em poker championships, volleyball, horseshoes, and many other activities at the all-day event. There was also live music, cotton candy, barbecue, and many other treats for attendees.

Maj. Rene Rodriguez, Headquarters Support Company commander and officer in charge of the event, said more than 300 people participated throughout the day.

"This is the best turnout we've ever had," Rodriguez said. "And we were able to raise more than \$200 for the Family Readiness Group."

Soldiers appreciated the day off of work.

"It was fun to get out of the office, and my daughter got to dunk the chief of staff (Col. Richard Francey)," said Spc. Krystal Shults, human resources specialist, HSC. "I hope they continue to do these."



Joint Task Force – Civil Support celebrates 11 years of service to the nation

Story by
Gunnery Sgt. Jim Goodwin
JTF – CS PAO

FORT MONROE, Va. — Service members, staff and guests of Joint Task Force – Civil Support celebrated the command's 11th birthday Oct. 1, during a ceremony at its headquarters here.

JTF – CS is the military unit designated to provide consequence management and oversight of Department of Defense Title 10 forces responding to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive — commonly referred to as “CBRNE” — incident.

The “Joint Task Force and its subordinate supporting units are part of the unified Federal response to a CBRNE event, responding only when state authorities request such help from the Federal government. So far, the 200-plus person command has not had to be called upon to respond to a CBRNE event.

The task force has routinely been called upon to support a myriad of national events, to include the 2008 U.S. Presidential State of the Union address, Operation Burnt Frost and the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada.

If called upon to respond to a real CBRNE event, JTF-CS has established the communication and management processes to do so effectively, according to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jonathan Treacy, commanding general, JTF – CS.

“I think we’re in a state now where we’re pretty well set up for well-established processes and those types of things,” said Treacy during the ceremony.

“We’ve got certainty that we’ll have the right people at the right place at the right time to do what’s needed in



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Weber
 U.S. Navy Master Chief Glenn Hopkins, command master chief, and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jonathan T. Treacy, commander, Joint Task Force – Civil Support, cut a birthday cake Oct. 1 in recognition of the task force's eleventh birthday, during a ceremony at Fort Monroe, Va.

the case of a disaster or a man-made attack.”

Moreover, JTF-CS is “absolutely ready to respond in a moment’s notice,” said Treacy.

He also warned that preparedness should not equate to complacency when it comes to CBRNE consequence management, referring to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

“We were ill prepared for the events of 9/11,” he said. “What I would say on our eleventh birthday is that we don’t forget that lesson.”

Originally enacted by a Secretary of Defense memorandum signed by then-Pres. Bill Clinton on Sept. 13, 1999, JTF-CS was spurred by 1996’s Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction

Act. The Act placed responsibility of the development and oversight of a “program for testing and improving the responses of Federal, State, and local agencies to emergencies involving biological weapons and related materials and emergencies involving chemical weapons and related materials” on DoD.

Further, the Act required DoD to staff a military-led “domestic terrorism rapid response team” to assist Federal and State officials in the “detection, neutralization, containment, dismantlement, and disposal of weapons of mass destruction containing chemical, biological, or related materials.”

On Oct. 1, 1999, JTF-CS was officially stood up as a 30-person military command here. The command grew to its current capability, which includes three standing task forces of nearly 4,200 U.S. service members, following the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

“In the early years, we were primarily a planning and thinking command because while we were built for the idea that something bad might happen, it wasn’t really until 9/11 that suddenly the nation woke up and found themselves under attack,” said Rich Burmood, senior plans and policy analyst for JTF-CS.

Burmood is one of a handful of civilian employees who began working with JTF-CS since its inception 11 years ago.

Measuring JTF-CS’ success in the civil support mission is “difficult to quantify when success is measured with nothing happening,” said Treacy.

Still, JTF-CS has received three Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation awards from the Department of Defense during the following periods: Sept. 11 – Dec. 31, 2001; Feb. 1, 2002 – Jan. 31, 2004; and Jan. 1, 2007 – Dec. 31, 2008.

By Presidential Proclamation, November Military Family Month

We owe each day of security and freedom that we enjoy to the members of our Armed Forces and their families. Behind our brave service men and women, there are family members and loved ones who share in their sacrifice and provide unending support. During Military Family Month, we celebrate the exceptional contributions of our military families, and we reaffirm our commitments to these selfless individuals who exemplify the highest principles of our Nation.

Across America, military families inspire us all with their courage, strength, and deep devotion to our country. They endure the challenges of multiple deployments and moves; spend holidays and life milestones apart; juggle everyday tasks while a spouse, parent, son, or daughter is in harm's way; and honor the service of their loved ones and the memory of those lost.

Just as we hold a sacred trust to the extraordinary Americans willing to lay down their lives to protect us all, we also have a national commitment to support and engage our military families. They are proud to serve our country; yet, they face unique challenges because of that service. My Administration has taken important steps to help them shoulder their sacrifice, and we are working to ensure they have the resources to

care for themselves and the tools to reach their dreams. We are working to improve family resilience, enhance the educational experience of military children, and ensure military spouses have employment and advancement opportunities, despite the relocations and deployment cycles of military life. Our historic investment to build a 21st-century Department of Veterans Affairs is helping to provide our veterans with the benefits and care they have earned. We are also standing with our service members and their families as they transition back into civilian life, providing counseling as well as job training and placement. And, through the Post-9/11 GI Bill, our veterans and their families can pursue the dream of higher education.

However, Government can only do so much. While only a fraction of Americans are in military families, all of us share in the responsibility of caring for our military families and veterans, and all sectors of our society are better off when we reach out and work together to support these patriots. By offering job opportunities and workplace flexibility, businesses and companies can benefit from the unparalleled dedication and skills of a service member or military spouse. Through coordination with local community groups, individuals and organizations can ensure our military families have the help they

need and deserve when a loved one is deployed. Even the smallest actions by neighbors and friends send a large message of profound gratitude to the families who risk everything to see us safe and free.

As America asks ever more of military families, they have a right to expect more of us -- it is our national challenge and moral obligation to uphold that promise. If we hold ourselves to the same high standard of excellence our military families live by every day, we will realize the vision of an America that supports and engages these heroes now and for decades to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2010 as Military Family Month. I call on all Americans to honor military families through private actions and public service for the tremendous contributions they make in support of our service members and our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth. *BARACK OBAMA*

Cake walk

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — U.S. Army North service members, Civilians and Family members wait to hear the winning number during a cake walk at the Army North organizational day Oct. 29 in the Quadrangle. "Organizational day was a good way to meet more Families, and our kids got to make new friends," said Kandyce Garcia, wife of Staff Sgt. Richard Garcia. "Not everyone can make it to the Family Readiness Group meetings, so this was a great way to get to know each other."



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

JTF – North, Reservists assist Border Patrol in Arizona construction project

By Armando Carrasco
JTF-N PAO

FORT BLISS, Texas – Military engineers from the 458th Engineer Battalion, headquartered at Johnstown, Pa., completed a month-long summer deployment to Arizona building roads and retrofitting barriers in response to a request for military assistance from two U.S. Border Patrol sector headquarters.



Photo by Armando Carrasco, JTF-N PAO
Sgt. Christopher Hall, a 458th Engineer Battalion surveyor, checks the alignment of the newly constructed border road.

In a historic deployment of multiple elements from the same unit on a Department of Defense homeland security support mission, the 458th Eng. Bn. executed two simultaneous missions in support of the U.S. Border Patrol – Tucson Sector and U.S. Border Patrol – Yuma Sector.

The concurrent support missions were coordinated by Joint Task Force – North, an element of U.S. Northern Command under the operational control of U.S. Army North.

“This is the first time that a single



Photo by Maj. Christian Neels, JTF-N

Soldiers use an auger to drill a hole to place vehicle barrier supports along the U.S. – Mexico border in Arizona. The supports were cemented in place and tied together with welded supporting cross members.

unit has deployed separate elements on two Joint Task Force – North support missions while employing one common battalion-level tactical operational center,” said Lt. Col. Larry Stephney, JTF-N staff engineer.

The 458th Eng. Bn. provided logistic support and command and control to its deployed engineer assets, which included: 417th Engineer Company (Heavy), 766th Engineer Company (Heavy), 758th Engineer Company (Vertical), and the 665th Engineer Company (Vertical).

In addition, the battalion also deployed engineer support elements from the 428th and 481st Engineer (Survey and Design) Detachments.

Over the course of the 30-day deployment conducted in June, the U.S. Army reserve battalion rotated 153 Soldiers every two weeks as part of their annual two-week training requirement in support of both homeland security support missions.

“This was an excellent opportunity for the staff and our Soldiers to work

in a joint environment and provide a valuable resource for the long range benefit of the U.S. Border Patrol,” said Lt. Col. Scott Stape, commander, 458th Eng. Bn. “My staff had the opportunity to conduct a detailed military decision making process, execute deployable command posts, and coordinate with contractors.

“My Soldiers received valuable stick time on the equipment, practiced troop leading procedures, and developed professionalism throughout the noncommissioned officer corps. This benefited the unit by doing what we would do in theater without overt hostile aggression.”

At the Yuma, Ariz. mission site, the engineers constructed 2.3 miles of all-weather border road to be used by the U.S. Border Patrol – Yuma Sector agents that patrol the U.S. – Mexico border.

The Yuma border road runs parallel to the recently constructed border fence; 19,500 tons of stone were used to construct the road. Due to extreme



Photo by Armando Carrasco, JTF-N PAO

Soldiers from the 458th Engineer Battalion constructed 2.3 miles of all-weather border road in support of the U.S. Border Patrol – Yuma Sector agents. The border road runs parallel to the recently constructed border fence placed along U.S. – Mexico border in Yuma, Ariz.

hot weather conditions, the Soldiers worked in shifts during the day and at night.

“This was an outstanding opportunity to watch Soldiers perform their duties in an environment similar to combat; this also assisted the unit in developing our cohesion on an actual job site,” said Maj. Robert Yauger, executive officer, 458th Eng. Bn., and the Yuma mission commander.

“This experience will assist the unit to develop its planning and operational

work tempo in a multi-component environment, similar to a contingency operation such as Iraq or Afghanistan.”

The U.S. Border – Tucson Sector engineer project consisted of retrofitting 4 miles of vehicle barriers previously installed along the border near Sonoita, Ariz.

The Normandy style barriers, located along a well-known alien and drug trafficking area, were constructed from used railroad tracks that were cemented in place and tied together with welded

supporting cross members. The engineers used approximately 150 yards of concrete and 2,850 feet of railroad track to complete the 1,100 sections of retrofit legacy vehicle barrier.

“This training was pivotal to us being fully combat ready; it showed the leadership how well we perform when a real mission is hanging in the balance” said Capt. Eric Bowser, commander, 665th Eng. Co., and the Sonoita mission commander, “Normally, we do not have the opportunity to always see how we can directly support domestic efforts. This was a nice change.”

The JTF-N engineer support operations provide the volunteer units that execute the missions with the opportunity to train on 90 percent of their mission essential task lists – the units’ required military wartime duties. In accordance with DoD policy, the JTF-N support missions must provide a training benefit to the volunteer units or make a significant contribution to national security.

“We all expected our engineers to get plenty of training in their military occupational specialties; we were not disappointed,” said Master Sgt. Michael Holder, operations NCO, 458th Eng. Bn.

Flying gadget

Spc. Joe Benjamin (left), 5th Brigade Combat Team (Army Evaluation Task Force), 1st Armored Division, briefs U.S. Border Patrol – El Paso Sector Asst. Chief Robert Boatright (center) and Special Operations Supervisor Abel Melendez on the XM 156 unmanned aerial system during the U.S. Army’s Early-Infantry Brigade Combat Team (E-IBCT) limited user military battlefield test conducted at White Sands Missile Range on Sept. 17. The device, which features vertical take-off and landing capabilities, provides Soldiers with reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and early warning support at the platoon or squad levels in tactical and urban environments.



Photo by Armando Carrasco, JTF-N PAO

U.S. Army North Soldiers mentor San Antonio elementary students

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

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — School officials in San Antonio have tried many tactics to encourage students, but one cooperative venture between area schools and the San Antonio military community seems to be paying off.

School officials call the ventures Military Reading days. During the most recent one, Soldiers from U.S. Army North, along with their peers in Army and Air Force units from around Joint Base San Antonio, spent the morning Oct. 7 reading books and participating in activities with children at Valley Hi Elementary School.

The school, near Lackland Air Force Base, has a significant population of students who are less likely to go to college, and who are in need positive role models, said Daeon Harris, principal, Valley Hi.

“We’re constantly trying to build college readiness,” Harris said. “Any time we can join forces with the military community or other positive role models we try to do that.”

Capt. Michael Norton, operations



Capt. Michael Norton, operations officer, Headquarters Battalion, Army North, helps fourth-grader Zanaii put together a bracelet representing the stages of the water cycle.



Sgt. 1st Class Morris Thornton, communications noncommissioned officer, U.S. Army North, reads *Frankenstein* for Denise Candelario’s fourth-graders at Valley Hi Elementary School Oct. 7. Service members from Joint Base San Antonio, spent the morning reading books and participating in activities with children at the elementary as part of a Military Reading Day.

officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, Army North, and Sgt. 1st Class Morris Thornton, communications noncommissioned officer, Army North, spent time with Denise Candelario’s fourth-grade class.

The two led math bingo, read excerpts from “*Frankenstein*” (Classic Starts Series), helped the children make bracelets with beads that symbolized different stages of the water cycle, and led the kids in a rendition of “*Water Cycle Boogie*.”

“It was a great experience to give back,” said Thornton, a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Just seeing what’s going on around the world and then coming back — we’re so different and unique in that we can do things like this.”

Norton agreed with Thornton that helping kids is an important opportunity for Soldiers.

“It was an opportunity to share a couple hours with some amazing kids, as much for us as for them,” Norton said.

It was also a reunion of sorts for Norton, who had been stationed nearby the school with the 514th Military Intelligence Battalion and had visited the school to read with students there once before in 2008.

Candelario said that children need positive, real-life role models to counteract the negative influence of some musicians, celebrities and athletes.

“It’s always wonderful to have our military members interacting with our children,” Candelario said. “They need to see positive role models outside of what they see on the news.”

“It’s always wonderful to have our military members interacting with our children,” Candelario said. “They need to see positive role models outside of what they see on the news.”

ARNORTH runners take on Army's 10-miler in Washington, D.C.



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

An estimated 35,000 runners get ready to begin Oct. 24 in the 2010 Army 10-miler in Washington, D.C., The annual race, put on by the U.S. Army District of Washington, is to promote the Army, build esprit de corps, support fitness goals and enhance community relations. The course begins and ends at the Pentagon and runs through the nation's Capital.



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

(Left) Soldiers and Civilians from the U.S. Army North's Army 10-miler team, in blue t-shirts, begin their long trek weaving in and around an estimated 35,000 participants during the Army's annual 10-mile run in the nation's Capital. The San Antonio-based team competed against other military units from around the world for the commander's cup. Army North runners did well, finishing in the top 22 percent of total runners. More than 769 teams registered for the race; it sold out in 35 hours. Approximately 63 percent of the runners were active duty, Reserve, Guard, retired military, veterans, military Family dependents or Department of Defense employees. More than 225,000 runners have run the Army 10-miler since 1985.

(Right) U.S. Army North 10-miler team runners line up in front of the Army North display at the Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 'Hooah tent.' From left: Staff Sgt. Alberto Cadiz, office of the deputy commanding general; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Rose, communications operations noncommissioned officer; Lt. Col. William Rose, G3 operations; Lt. Col Thomas Lavender, regional emergency preparedness liaison officer, Region III; Maj. Bryan Juntunen, G3 operations; Maj. Rene Rodriguez, HSC commander; Sgt. 1st Class Michael Knott, G3 operations; John Sherman, program analyst, G8.



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

News

Fort Hood lessons promote better force protection

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One year after a tragic shooting spree left 13 people dead and 32 more injured at Fort Hood, Texas, the military is working at every level to apply lessons learned to protect the force against an increasingly complex threat, an Army force-protection official told American Forces Press Service.

The Fort Hood incident forced the military to evaluate, “not just the tactical-level response that happened at Fort Hood specifically, but also the processes and systems and policies that were in place for the Department of Defense as a whole that could have led to what happened,” said Mary “Chris” Frels, deputy provost marshal for U.S. Army North.

As U.S. Northern Command’s Army component, Army North has responsibility for force protection at Fort Hood and all other Army installations in the U.S. homeland.

Frels cited solid department-wide progress in fixing shortcomings identified in several investigations and reviews following the Nov. 5, 2009, incident.

These include findings of an independent panel Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates appointed to study the issues and recommendations in their 86-page report issued in January.

The military has improved its ability to identify internal threats - something she said it hadn’t focused on before what many Soldiers now

refer to as “5/11” - and to report information up the chain of command and through the law enforcement community in a timely, less-stove-piped manner, Frels said.

Cyber Command achieves full operational capability

DoD news release

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Defense announced Nov. 3 that U.S. Cyber Command has achieved full operational capability (FOC).

Achieving FOC involved U.S. Cyber Command completing a number of critical tasks to ensure it was capable of accomplishing its mission. U.S. Cyber Command is responsible for directing activities to operate and defend DoD networks.

“I am confident in the great service members and civilians we have here at U.S. Cyber Command. Cyberspace is essential to our way of life and U.S. Cyber Command synchronizes our efforts in the defense of DoD networks. We also work closely with our interagency partners to assist them in accomplishing their critical missions,” said Gen. Keith Alexander, commander of U.S. Cyber Command.

Some of the critical FOC tasks included establishing a Joint Operations Center and transitioning personnel and functions from two existing organizations, the Joint Task Force for Global Network Operations and the Joint Functional Component Command for Network Warfare.

U.S. Cyber Command’s development will not end at FOC, and the department will continue to grow the capacity and capability

essential to operate and defend our networks effectively.

There are also enduring tasks that will be on-going after FOC, such as developing the workforce, providing support to the combatant commanders, and efforts to continue growing capacity and capability.

U.S. Cyber Command is a sub-unified command under the U.S. Strategic Command. It reached its “initial operational capability” on May 21, 2010.

DHS ‘Risk Lexicon’ now available

DHS news release

WASHINGTON — Developed by the Department of Homeland Security Risk Steering Committee, the 72-page “DHS Risk Lexicon” became available Oct. 28.

The purpose of the DHS Risk Lexicon is to establish and make available a comprehensive list of terms and meanings relevant to the practice of homeland security risk management and analysis.

Accomplishing this goal improves the capability of the Department to assess and manage homeland security risk.

To support integrated risk management for the Department, the DHS Risk Lexicon promulgates a common language to ease and improve communications for the Department and its partners; facilitates the clear exchange of structured and unstructured data, essential to interoperability amongst risk practitioners; and garners credibility and grows relationships by providing consistency and clear understanding with regard to the usage of terms by the risk community. Available at <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/dhs-risk-lexicon-2010.pdf>

NORAD, USNORTH-COM commander outlines focus areas at homeland security symposium

*By Staff Sgt. Thomas Doscher
NORAD and USNORTHCOM
Public Affairs*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command spoke at the National Symposium on Homeland Security and Defense at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colo., Oct. 29.

Navy Adm. James Winnefeld, NORAD and USNORTHCOM commander, outlined the commands' eight primary focus areas and discussed the commands' role in cyber security on the last day of the three-day conference.

Sept. 11, 2003, coordinates U.S. military support for the Department of Defense efforts to assist the Space Shuttle astronauts in the event of an emergency.

The eight focus areas run the gamut of the commands' responsibility from counter-terrorism and force protection to the opening of the Arctic and rest on three factors.

"We've prioritized them based on three factors," Winnefeld told the audience.

"How important are these focus areas to our two nations? The second is, what is the multiplicity of challenges that are associated with each of these focus areas? How hard are they? What are the problems we're trying to solve? And the third dimension would be what are the opportunities out there? And if you combined those three factors, you can then come up with a rough order

of priority."

At the top of the list, Winnefeld said, is counter-terrorism.

"You can't be the NORAD or NORTHCOM commander without making that your first priority," he said.

"But I would hasten to add that while there are many challenges associated with that particular problem, there are not that many opportunities for a USNORTHCOM commander to engage.

"The lion's share of the counter-terror problem inside our borders is a law enforcement problem."

"Now that doesn't mean that we don't cooperate closely with law enforcement," he added.

"In fact, I would tell you we've made tremendous progress over the last year or so in the information sharing that we need to do within the intelligence community and the operational community to make sure that we're sharing what we know and that everybody is looking at the same sheet of paper in terms of what kinds of threats are out there."

Fort Hood shooting victims remembered during Afghanistan cross-fit competition

*By Staff Sgt. LaSonya Morales
16th MPAD*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — By 9:30 a.m. Nov. 5, more than 50 servicemembers gathered at the Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, boardwalk to participate in the Lumberjack 20 Cross-fit competition to honor the Soldiers who lost their lives in the Fort Hood shootings, Nov. 5, 2009.

"The cross-fit workout is a way to collectively pull everyone together for a common goal. It will allow

Soldiers to get out their aggressiveness and sharpen their skills," said 1st Lt. Brian Mackey, 20th Engineer Battalion tactical officer. "We do this in memory of the four Soldiers we lost, to carry on their names in honor."

The Fort Hood-based "Lumberjack" battalion was two months from deploying and had several Soldiers going through the final phases of pre-deployment screenings at the shooting site.

Four Lumberjack Soldiers were killed in the shooting and 11 were wounded.

The Lumberjacks held a ceremony before the competition started to unveil a memorial to honor the fallen Soldiers and their families.

"There isn't a day that goes by that we don't think about them," said Mackey, who is from Pittsfield, Mass.

The 20th Engineer Battalion's main mission in Afghanistan is route clearance.

They search for, and destroy, improvised explosive devices on Kandahar Province's many routes. It is a dangerous job, as IEDs are the number-one weapon used by the Taliban to attack Coalition Forces.

Of the wounded Soldiers, a few were able to join the unit in Afghanistan.

"The guys were all courageous," Mackey said. "We had a number of guys whose doctors' told them they would not be able to deploy, but they pulled through on time and it was really inspiring."

The Lumberjack 20 Cross-fit competition consisted of 20 dead lifts, 20 kettle-bell swings, 20 pull-ups, 20 box jumps, 20 squat and leans, and a 400-meter run after each event.

The winner of the competition was Capt. Ross Browning, HHC.

Preparedness, partnership play pivotal part in civil support in Missouri

Story and photos
by Patti Bielling
Army North PAO

COLUMBIA, Mo. — A catastrophic earthquake in southeastern Missouri served as the scenario for a U.S. Army North unit to practice its mission of coordinating the federal military response during disaster.

About 75 military and civilian planners from multiple state and federal agencies met in Columbia, Mo., Oct. 25-31, to participate in the training exercise with the Region VII Defense Coordinating Officer and Element.

The event served as a certification exercise for Army Col. John Moore, who assumed the post of Region VII Defense Coordinating Officer in July.

“I’m very fortunate to have joined a strong team,” Moore said. “As a result of this exercise, the team has become far more capable, and the key relationships and trust have become far stronger.”

The exercise simulated hundreds of dead and thousands more in need of food, water, shelter and medical care. The unit worked to coordinate a range of notional support missions including urban search and rescue,



Col. John Moore, Region VII defense coordinating officer, U.S. Army North, supervises his defense coordinating element during a Region VII certification exercise in Columbia, Mo., Oct. 27.



Col. Mike Baker, Nebraska emergency preparedness liaison officer, U.S. Army North, and Brian Ebert, Region VII plans and operations officer, ARNORTH, discuss a live-saving request for assistance, during a Region VII certification exercise Oct. 27 for Col. John Moore, incoming Region VII defense coordinating officer, ARNORTH. About 75 military and civilian planners from multiple state and federal agencies met in Columbia, Mo., Oct. 25-31, to participate in the training exercise with the Region VII Defense Coordinating Officer and Element.

aeromedical evacuation, medical triage and treatment, and moving essential supplies.

Playing a critical role in coordinating federal military support are Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers.

These Reservists are key advisors to the Defense Coordinating Element and serve as a link between the military services and their assigned states and regions.

“The good thing is that we were able to assemble the whole regional team and execute in a scripted format what our mission would be,” said Air Force Col. Eric Vander Linden.

“During the week, the DCE processed more than 50 requests for assistance.”

A number of experts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Missouri National Guard, the Missouri

Department of Public Safety and other agencies observed or participated in the exercise.

Their expertise was very helpful and added greatly to the realism of the exercise, Moore said.

“Civil support is all about preparedness and partnership,” Moore said. “This training event has allowed us to work the plans and processes with our state and federal partners so that during a disaster we can be effective as a team on day one.”

The Region VII element is based in Kansas City, Mo., and is responsible for the four-state region of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

They are among the 10 regionally based Defense Coordinating Officers and Elements assigned to U.S. Army North.



NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

On August 3, 1990 President George H. W. Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

The Bill read in part that “the President has authorized and requested to call upon Federal, State and local Governments, groups and organizations and the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.”

Since then presidents have reiterated that proclamation each year with one of their own adding Alaska Natives to the proclamation.

Our Army values diversity. American Indians have volunteered to serve in conflicts from World War II to Iraq. Few encountered any overt prejudice while in uniform, though Navajo Code Talkers were sometimes mistaken by their own men

for Japanese soldiers. But as one code talker recalled, Navajos had a chance to prove that wrong; the military prized them for speaking their own language. For all American Indian veterans, the honor of defending their country overrode all other considerations. From the Civil War to today’s current conflicts, American Indians and Alaska Natives have made lasting contributions to our wartime efforts.

“Since the birth of America, [American Indians and Alaska Natives] have contributed immeasurably to our country and our heritage, distinguishing themselves as scholars, artists, entrepreneurs, and leaders in all aspects of our society,” wrote President Barack Obama, in a proclamation. “Native Americans have also served in the United States Armed Forces with honor and distinction, defending the security of our Nation with their lives.”



Photo by Don Manuszewski, ARNORTH PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Col. Richard Francey, chief of staff, U.S. Army North, kicks off Native American Heritage Month Nov. 1 at the Army and Air Force Post Exchange here. The tenth annual Pow-Wow, to include a Blessings of the Ground and traditional dances, is scheduled to be held in Army North’s Quadrangle Nov. 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and a Joint Base San Antonio observance with guest speaker Apache Richard Luna, of Geronimo’s tribe, is scheduled for Nov. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Quadrangle.

JTF – CS personnel prepare for the worst possible disaster

**Story and photos by
Petty Officer 1st Class
Steven Weber
JTF – CS PAO**

HAMPTON, Va. — Personnel from Joint Task Force – Civil Support conducted a joint operations center exercise at the Hampton National Guard Armory here Sept. 29, to practice communication procedures needed for effective command and control in the event of a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive incident.

The one-day exercise was a “low-cost, low-impact” means to practice the skills essential to maintain readiness, according to Ken Lucas, deputy director of operations for JTF – CS.

“In the past we would only pull out our gear; we would only set up in a deployed configuration when we had a major exercise,” Lucas said.

“What we learned is that people would rotate in and out, and were unfamiliar with how to set up the equipment, unfamiliar with how we operate down range, or in a deployed status.”



Members of Joint Task Force – Civil Support take part in a joint operations center exercise at the Hampton National Guard Armory Sept. 29. The monthly exercise is to practice the skills needed to effectively conduct consequence management operations in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive incident in the U.S., to save lives, prevent further injury, and provide temporary critical life support to enable community recovery.

To remedy that, task force leaders began conducting monthly exercises three years ago to better prepare for a worst-case scenario, like a nuclear detonation in the U.S.

The exercise, and subsequent monthly exercises, will help prepare civil support personnel for upcoming, large-scale training exercises, including a field training exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., that will involve thousands of Department of Defense personnel from around the United States.

The exercise, known as Vibrant Response, will test the task force’s ability to run command and control from several different locations at once.

A real-life event, or even a major exercise, is not a time to learn the systems to carry out the command and control of the response of a disaster, Lucas said.

This is why JTF-CS trains to perfect its communication ahead of time.

“We train harder than we would expect it to be in real life,” said Lucas. “We can do so seamlessly and flawlessly to provide the consequence management support to our citizens in their time of need.”



Military and Civilian members of JTF – Civil Support rehearse communication procedures needed for effective command and control in the event of a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive incident Sept. 29.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, ARNORTH PAO

Long distance promotion

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Col. Shannon Miller, commander, HHBN, U.S. Army North, promotes Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Carlisle, operations noncommissioned officer, Intelligence and Sustainment Company, HHBN, Nov. 1 during a coordinated promotion via telephone with Carlisle's wife, Staff Sgt. Linda Carlisle, 201st Military Intelligence Battalion, Bagram, Afghanistan. "It's awesome that we got promoted on the same day," Carlisle said. "Above all, though, I can't wait for her to get back here."



Photo courtesy of the JTF - North PAO

Record-breaking read

EL PASO, Texas — Col. Tony West, National Guard Bureau liaison officer, Joint Task Force – North, reads to North Loop Elementary School students during the annual Jumpstart's Read for the Record campaign held Oct 7. The annual world record breaking campaign brings children and adults together to read the same book, on the same day, in homes and communities all over the world. The campaign kicks off Jumpstart's yearlong program designed to prepare children for success in school and life. 'The Snowy Day' by Ezra Jack Keats was this year's featured book. JTF North's military and civilian staff members have served as readers and mentors for the North Loop students for over 15 years.

Up to the Challenge

FORT MONROE, Va. — This year's Joint Task Force – Civil Support participants of the 10th Annual All-Military Wilderness Challenge pose following the two-day outdoor race, held Oct. 7-9 in Fayetteville, W.Va. JTF – CS sponsored three teams of four people each to compete in the race, which consisted of a 5.2-mile mountain run, a 12-mile whitewater raft race, a 10-mile mountain bike race, an 8-mile kayak race and ended with a 15-mile mountain hike. The Wilderness Challenge saw more than 50 teams from various military commands throughout the U.S. competing for bragging rights after completing the grueling course along West Virginia's New and Gauley Rivers in the Appalachian Mountains.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Defense

Dunk the Chief

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Col. Shannon Miller, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, dunks Col. Richard Francey, chief of staff, ARNORTH, during the unit's organizational day Oct. 29 in the Quadrangle. Activities such as the dunking both raised more than \$200 for the unit's Family Readiness Group. Service members, Civilians and Family members participated in ultimate football, volleyball, tug-of-war, horseshoes and other activities and judged a car show and motorcycle show.

