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Front Cover: CAMP BULLIS, Texas — A five-man team of Soldiers from U.S. Army North carries an “injured comrade” on a collapsible Sked up a steep embankment to a medical evacuation point during a four-mile challenge course Dec. 7 at Camp Bullis. During the timed event, Army North Soldiers ran the route in five-man teams and performed medical treatment and evacuation, utilized communications equipment, assembled weapons and performed functions checks. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, ARNORTH PAO)

Back Cover: Emilio Flores performs a traditional Native American dance during the U.S. Army North Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month observance in the Quadrangle Nov. 19. Guest speaker Richard Luna of the Chiricahua Apache Nation spoke about Geronimo and his monthlong captivity in the Quadrangle in September 1886. Luna, also known as Naateh, also performed a traditional blessing with burning Sage during the ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, ARNORTH PAO)


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Do you have a story to share? The ARNORTH Monthly welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers. 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. For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor or call commercial number (210) 221-0793 or DSN 471-0793.
I want to wish you and your Family a very happy and safe holiday season.

Our nation is made of many different peoples from numerous different cultures, but we all share reasons to celebrate this time of year. Our diversity is part of what makes this nation strong.

Regardless of our background, we all share the joy to serve with the finest men and women in uniform and those who serve our nation as civilian employees.

I want you to share your joy and celebrate this season, but to celebrate responsibly. The people that care for you – the ones you work with – all of us need you to be safe. Think about being responsible in every activity and identifying and countering any risk. Leaders must lead in this important task and bring everyone back in 2011.

As I look back on 2010, I take pride in the great accomplishments of Army North and those of our partners here in the homeland. I think of our extremely successful training exercises, including Vibrant Response and Vigilant Shield. Today, our borders are defended in depth as a result of support to law enforcement agencies and outreach to our neighbors to the north and south. Looking forward to 2011, I see opportunities to improve our response capability for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive incidents and other natural or manmade disasters through intensive planning, cooperation with National Guard and Reserve Components, and dynamic training events.

I want to encourage you to help spread the word of our great organization. Refer your friends to our Army North Facebook page and other information, such as the ARNORTH Monthly. Share your Army North experiences in all your travels and look for opportunities to tell our story in your own words to your friends and community. I find that too many have not heard our good news, and I personally want to change that for the coming year!

Congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for you and your Family in the coming year. You are important, and we are grateful for you. You are the Strength of the Nation!
Hawaii-based Army engineers build road for Border Patrol in N.M.

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

COLUMBUS, N.M. — Amongst the yucca, mesquite and lechuguilla of the Chihuahuan Desert in southwestern New Mexico are some barely passable four-wheeled truck trails and hills almost completely inaccessible by vehicle.

It is a large expanse of land that agents of the U.S. Border Patrol – El Paso Sector have had to patrol with great difficulty.

Until now that is. Roughly 25 miles west of the small port-of-entry town of Columbus, N.M., Hawaii-based Army construction engineers are building a 1.3-mile gravel road to enable Border Patrol agents to patrol through a valley in a chain of hills they previously had to drive around, enabling better access and observation.

The road project to 19 Canyon, coordinated by U.S. Army North’s Joint Task Force – North, Fort Bliss, Texas, is designed to improve the mobility and safety of Border Patrol agents responding to suspected illegal activities along the border.

“It gives the Border Patrol access to the other side of the mountain, and it allows the Border Patrol to establish an observation point in a strategic area,” said Maj. Christian Neels, engineer mission planner, JTF – North.

Engineering support is one of six categories of support that the task force provides to law enforcement agencies within the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility. JTF – North also provides operational support, general and training support, intelligence support, technology integration and interagency synchronization.

Border Patrol agents provided on-site force protection and equipment security, and funded material costs, while JTF – North funded the mission-related expenses, Neels said.

Construction engineers from the 561st Engineer Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, excavate waste material onto a “shaker” that separates dirt from rocks Oct. 14, during a 1.3-mile border road construction project near Columbus, N.M., in the southwestern New Mexico desert. The rocks were reused as “rip rap” to line ditches to control the flow of water and prevent soil erosion.
**WWII Vets honored**

SAN ANTONIO — Milton Stile (front), a WWII veteran who served in Casa Blanca and Oran, and his fellow WWII veterans, are led through an honor cordon of service members from throughout Joint Base San Antonio and applauded for their service at the San Antonio International Airport Nov. 5. Alamo Honor Flight, a local chapter of the non-profit organization, financed a free trip for the veterans, mostly from Bexar County, to visit the WWII Memorial, and several other memorials, in Washington. This is the second such trip put on by Alamo Honor Flight. “These veterans are very special,” said Tracy Huff, chairman of the board and president, Alamo Honor Flight. “They saved the world. We owe these guys a lot.”

**Final steps**

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Col. Shannon Miller, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, leads the formation back inside the historic Quadrangle grounds after a battalion run Nov. 10, to kick off the Veteran’s Day holiday weekend. Behind the commander, the Soldiers of Headquarters Support Company march on, led by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bernard, first sergeant, HSC, HHBN.
Fort Sam Houston honors military retirees

Col. David Fulbright, command surgeon, U.S. Army North; Col. Dana Scott, deputy corps chief, Veterinary Corps; Col. Gary Martel, chief, information operations, ARNORTH; Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Elliot, chief, equipment management branch, Brooke Army Medical Center; Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Balistreri, sergeant major, Contingency Command Post 1, ARNORTH; Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Goodman, detachment sergeant, 8th Forward Surgical Team, 45th Sustainment Brigade, 18th MEDCOM; Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Poole, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, HHC, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division; Sgt. 1st Class Clifford Warren Jr., platoon sergeant, Warrior Transition Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Robin Franks, G6 operations noncommissioned officer in charge, U.S. Army South; Staff Sgt. Sandra Poole, researcher, Army Physical Fitness Research Institute, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy; and Staff Sgt. William Taylor, medical inprocessing manager, Fort Bliss Inprocessing Center, stand before a crowd of Family, friends and peers during an installation retirement ceremony Nov. 18 at U.S. Army North’s historic Quadrangle.

Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein, commander general, Army Medical Department Center and School, presents the Legion of Merit to Col. David Fulbright, command surgeon, U.S. Army North, during the installation retirement ceremony Nov. 18 in Army North’s historic Quadrangle. Rubenstein also presented Fulbright’s wife, Beverly, with a certificate of appreciation.

Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein, commander general, Army Medical Department Center and School, and chief, Army Medical Service Corps, presents the Legion of Merit to Col. Gary Martel, chief, Information Operations, U.S. Army North, during the Fort Sam Houston installation retirement ceremony. Rubenstein also presented Martel’s wife, Joanne, with a certificate of appreciation.

Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein, commander general, Army Medical Department Center and School, and chief, Army Medical Service Corps, presents the Legion of Merit to Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Balistreri, sergeant major, Contingency Command Post 1, U.S. Army North, during the installation retirement ceremony. Rubenstein also presented Balistreri’s wife, Kelly, with a certificate of appreciation.
Army North hosts national interagency situational awareness workshop

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — More than 160 National Response Framework partners from the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Northern Command, the National Guard Bureau and many other agencies, met to hash out requirements and communications strategies at U.S. Army North’s Situational Awareness Workshop here Nov. 16-18.

Workshop participants heard from Susanne Wirwille, the keynote speaker, and took part in several large sessions, and some smaller, breakout sessions on specific fields, such as information requirements from various agencies and end users. Wirwille serves as the science and technology advisor for U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command.

“If we don’t know what our NRF partners’ requirements are, we can’t support them,” said Lt. Col. David Foster, geospatial operations officer and Environmental Information Working Group lead, Army North. Foster, who organized the conference after receiving requests from subordinate units and partners,
said making progress in situational awareness is very important.

“Situational awareness efforts mitigate risks and improve the decision-making process and information dominance of the user,” Foster said. “Having the right data at the right time improves decision making and reduces liabilities and redundant effort, saving millions of dollars annually, and supports our ability to protect the life, health and safety of first responders and U.S. forces conducting Defense Support of Civil Authorities operations.”

Many participants agreed the conference helped them to get a better idea of what everyone else is doing.

“I think it was good to get some situational awareness for a better view of what responders are actually doing,” said Carol McCaig, Geospatial Support Team lead, Office of Infrastructure Protection, DHS. “I think this conference is more important than many because it actually gets people together. It gets people talking with their peers in other government organizations that are doing the same things.”

Attendees discussed challenges in the sector, including sharing information across different computer systems and pulling relevant information piecemeal from incompatible databases.

Aaron Lieb, computer scientist, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., demonstrated a “middleware” software package that allows different systems to communicate. The middleware, known as Unified Incident Command Decision Support, is running in a pilot program in more than 200 locations.

The system, Lieb said, could help bridge military and civilian emergency management applications to allow for better coordination and interoperability.

One presenter even demonstrated how basic situational awareness tools could be built into current technologies, such as Apple’s iPad, iPhone and other devices. Ballance, who incorporated air-traffic tracking software into the devices as a proof of concept, said senior leaders could have real-time situational awareness tools in their phones or computers. “We’re looking at how we can do innovative things with infrastructure we already have,” said Ballance, a native of Huntsville, Ala.

The workshop also enabled end-users of information the opportunity to see many software options and communications platforms that are currently available.

“Our biggest takeaway was being able to see the specific tools that are available to enable us to have access to timely, relevant information,” said Maj. Pershing Markle, plans and operations specialist, Joint Task Force Headquarters – Pennsylvania. “Our biggest goal is to provide situational awareness to our senior leaders.”
Good management controls essential to conduct Army administration

By Martha Ortiz
Chief, Financial Plans and Operations, ARNORTH

Management controls are the means that managers use to regulate and guide their operations and programs to ensure the job is completed properly.

Good management controls are essential to achieving proper conduct of Army administration in a professional and businesslike manner.

When exercised in accordance with a prudent, common-sense set of standards, management controls permit full accountability for the resources entrusted to management.

The controls facilitate achievement of management objectives by serving as checks and balances against undesired actions.

The Management Internal Control Program and key tools insure adequate controls are in place and operating throughout the command, which allow weaknesses to surface before they escalate into problems.

There are many documents or tools that provide guidance to managers in establishing internal controls.

The Federal Manager’s Financial Integrity Act of 1962 (Public Law 97-255) requires management controls be established to provide reasonable assurance that government assets are guarded against fraud, waste and abuse.

The Managers’ Internal Control Program implements Public Law 97-255; Title 31, United States Code, Section 3512; Office of Management and Budget Circular A-123, Management’s Responsibility for Internal Controls; and DODI 5010.40.

This regulation is revised to increase the involvement and accountability of commanders and managers.

It does not contain instructions for the evaluation of Army accounting systems. Those instructions are provided in DOD 7000.14R, Volume 1.

AR 11-2 encourages reporting organizations to establish a Senior Management Councils to oversee internal control matters. Senior Management Councils are convened through special sessions of the Senior Level Steering Group /Senior Management Team.

This council meets as needed to provide advice on internal control matters, including the identification of internal control and systemic weaknesses that merit reporting in the annual statements of assurance.

The reviews look at management control reviews completed for the previous year. The responsible manager presents the review to the center’s senior managers.

The Internal Control Evaluation Plan is a great tool in the Internal Control Process for help in constructing an internal control plan.

An ICEP is a written plan to evaluate applicable key controls identified by HQDA functional proponents over a 5-year period, developed by Assessable Unit Manager and managers in accordance with Senior Responsible Official guidance and organizational objectives.

The goal is to provide reasonable assurance that Army programs are being executed efficiently and effectively.

MICP Computer Based Training is a crucial element in a successful internal control program, and can assist in early self-identification of internal control issues.

Six courses, based on eight training modules, are available through Army Knowledge Online at the Army Learning Management System portal. From July to October, 845 personnel have completed the MICP CBT. The courses are based on roles and contain the modules most applicable to each role.

The courses are Internal Control Administrator, Senior Responsible Official Course, Assessable Unit Manager Course, Managers Course, Personnel Conducting Evaluations Course and Internal Controls in Army Regulations Course.

The Managers’ Internal Control Program must identify and promptly correct ineffective internal controls and establish internal controls, when warranted, for the following two distinct processes: the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act overall process and the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act financial reporting process.

We should recognize that Internal Controls are inherent in our day-to-day activities, and that all employees have responsibility for internal controls.

It’s not rocket science, and it’s not just a good idea — it’s the law.
ARNORTH, Fort Sam Houston pay homage to Native American heritage

Story and photos by
Lt. Col. Randy Martin
ARNORTH PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Hundreds gathered at the Quadrangle for the Fort Sam Houston Powwow Nov. 13 to see traditional dancers, to receive blessings and to learn about the culture and heritage of Native Americans. It was the eleventh annual event of its kind but the first to be held inside this historic compound.

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, opened the event by reading aloud a proclamation signed by San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro marking November as Native American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

Erwin De Luna, the president of the United San Antonio Powwow, and emcee for the Quadrangle Powwow, performed the Blessings of the Ground for attendees with burning sage and discussed the importance of the traditions.

“Every song we will sing and every dance has meaning,” De Luna said. “Each is passed from generation to generation orally and is not written down.” De Luna, a hearings officer for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in San Antonio, grew up on Fort Sam Houston, the proud son of an Army noncommissioned officer.

“Having this powwow in the quadrangle is significant to Native Americans because one of our people, Geronimo, was held here as a prisoner of war,” said De Luna.

Native American participants perform traditional dances during U.S. Army North’s Native American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month observance Nov. 13 in the Quadrangle.

One Who Yawns

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Richard De Luna, also known as Naateh, talks about Geronimo, or Goy-ah-kla, “One Who Yawns,” during the installation National Native American Heritage ceremony Nov. 19 in U.S. Army North’s historic Quadrangle. De Luna, a member of the Chiricahua Apache nation, said Geronimo is misunderstood and was just acting to protect his family and his land. De Luna also performed a blessing to put Geronimo’s warrior spirit at rest. Geronimo and his fellow Apaches were held in the Quadrangle from Sept. 10 to Oct. 19, 1886.
San Antonio goes green, blue, white for Celebrate America’s
For 39 consecutive years, the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the local business community have paid tribute to the local active-duty and retired service members during the annual Celebrate America’s Military period. Celebrate America’s Military is San Antonio’s way of saying thank you to the men and women who serve to protect our nation. This year’s CAM was from Nov. 1-11 and included a kickoff luncheon with guest speaker NBA-great David Robinson, an AirFest 2010 at Randolph Air Force Base, a Veterans Concert “Salute to Service” by the San Antonio Symphony, a wreath-laying at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, a Buffalo Soldiers Commemorative Ceremony at San Antonio National Cemetery, and other events.
Army North gives thanks, enjoys feast

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — **Above:** Attendees enjoy a feast of turkey, ham, and roast beef sandwiches and vegetables and pastries after the formal portion of the Army North Thanksgiving Celebration in the Quadrangle Nov. 23. Col. Richard Francey, chief of staff, ARNORTH, wished service members, Civilians and Family members happy holidays. **Above, right:** Lt. Col. Deon Green, deputy staff judge advocate, belts out a resounding rendition of “God Bless the USA” during the gathering.

JTF – North, Border Patrol serve up hot meals

FORT BLISS, Texas — **Bill Hirzel (right),** associate chief, U.S. Border Patrol Special Coordination Center; Oscar Benavides, assistant chief, USBP SCC; and **Lt. Col. Phillip Sanchez**, Joint Task Force – North Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Marine Corps; serve a Thanksgiving Day take-out meal to a Soldier at the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division dining facility at Fort Bliss, Texas, Nov. 23. Task force and Border Patrol leaders served up hot food and holiday cheer for service members away from their families on Thanksgiving.

[www.arnorth.army.mil](http://www.arnorth.army.mil)
Japanese military leaders recognized American naval strength as the chief deterrent to war with the United States. Early in 1941, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, had initiated planning for a surprise attack on the United States Pacific Fleet at the beginning of any hostilities that the Japanese might undertake. The assumption was that before the United States could recover from a surprise blow, the Japanese would be able to seize all their objectives in the Far East and could then hold out indefinitely.

By September 1941, the Japanese had practically completed secret plans for a huge assault against Malaya, the Philippines, and the Netherlands East Indies, to be coordinated with a crushing blow on the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. Early in November, Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo was named commander of the Pearl Harbor Striking Force, which rendezvoused secretly in the Kuriles. The force of some 30 ships included six aircraft carriers with about 430 planes, of which approximately 360 took part in the subsequent attack. At the same time, a Japanese Advance Expeditionary Force of some 20 submarines was assembled at Kure naval base on the west coast of Honshu to cooperate in the attack.

Submarines of the Advance Expeditionary Force began their eastward movement across the Pacific in mid-November, refueled and resupplied in the Marshalls, and arrived near Oahu about December 5 (Hawaiian time). On the night of December 6 five midget, two-man submarines that had been carried “piggy-back” on large submarines cast off and began converging on Pearl Harbor.

Nagumo’s task force sailed from the Kuriles on November 26 and arrived, undetected by the Americans, at a point about 200 miles north of Oahu at 6:00 a.m., Hawaiian time, December 7, 1941. Beginning at 0600 and ending at 0715, a total of some 360 planes were launched in three waves. These planes rendezvoused to the south and then flew toward Oahu for coordinated attacks.

In Pearl Harbor were 96 vessels, the bulk of the United States Pacific Fleet. Eight battleships of the Fleet were there, but the aircraft carriers were all at sea. The Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet was Admiral Husband E. Kimmel. Army forces in Hawaii, including the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions, were under the command of Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department. On the several airfields were a total of about 390 Navy and Army planes of all types, of which less than 300 were available for combat or observation purposes.

The Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor and on the airfields of Oahu began at 7:55 a.m. on December 7, 1941, and ended shortly before 10:00 a.m. Quickly recovering from the initial shock of surprise, the Americans fought back vigorously with antiaircraft fire. Devastation of the airfields was so quick and thorough that only a few American planes were able to participate in the counterattack. The Japanese were successful in accomplishing their principal mission, which was to cripple the Pacific Fleet. They sank three battleships, caused another to capsize and severely damaged the other four.

All together, the Japanese sank or severely damaged 18 ships, including the eight battleships, three light cruisers, and three destroyers. On the airfields, the Japanese destroyed 161 American planes, Army 74, Navy 87, and seriously damaged 102, Army 71, Navy 31.

The Navy and Marine Corps suffered a total of 2,896 casualties of which 2,117 were deaths, Navy 2,008, Marines 109, and 779 wounded, Navy 710, Marines 69. The Army, as of midnight Dec. 10, lost 228 killed or died of wounds, 113 seriously wounded and 346 slightly wounded. In addition, at least 57 civilians were killed and nearly as many seriously injured.

The Japanese lost 29 planes over Oahu, one large submarine and all five of the midget submarines. Their personnel losses, according to Japanese sources, were 55 airmen, nine crewmen on the midget submarines, and an unknown number on the large submarines. The Japanese carrier task force sailed away undetected and unscathed.

On December 8, 1941, within less than an hour after a stirring, six minute address by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Congress voted, with only one member dissenting, that a state of war existed between the United States and Japan, and empowered the President to wage war with all the resources of the country.

Four days after Pearl Harbor, December 11, 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. Congress, this time without a dissenting vote, immediately recognized the existence of a state of war with Germany and Italy, and also rescinded an article of the Selective Service Act prohibiting the use of American armed forces beyond the Western Hemisphere.

(Information provided by http://www.worldwar2history.info/Pearl-Harbor/)
Pfc. Juan Molina, heavy construction equipment operator, 561st Engineer Company, 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, said the project was good for several reasons.

“We’re helping build a road for the Border Patrol, and it’s a good way for us to get experience,” said Molina, an El Paso native. “We can’t do nearly as much in Hawaii as we can do here.”

Many of the construction engineers were operating dozers, excavators, scrapers, shakers, water pulls and other heavy equipment vehicles for the first time since advanced individual training, said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Steese, platoon sergeant, 561st EN.

“Half have never operated the equipment before,” Steese said. “This is the best training we can get; it’s actual construction equipment operation. And this is the type of road we’d build in Afghanistan.”

Besides the actual road construction, the project included a water and storage site, where contractors brought in 37,000 gallons of water a day, six days a week, to use to spray down and compact the road; and a staging area, where engineers brought in the dirt and rock waste from the road construction to be put through the shaker and separated so that the material could be reused.

Some of the environmental considerations were new for many of the Soldiers, who had only built roads in combat zones.

“Putting up a silt fence was something new for me,” said Spc. Eric Davidson, heavy equipment operator, 561st EN. Davidson and his fellow “Dirt Dogs” of second platoon, 561st EN, put up the small silt fence the length of the project to protect the environment from material run-off from the road. Engineers also built ditches lined with “rip rap,” or stones, to help control the flow of water and prevent soil erosion.

Later in the project, engineers laid articulated concrete, a relatively new, flexible concrete system, in low-water crossing areas to avoid soil erosion.

The road construction project was an interagency project coordinated with the U.S. Border Patrol – El Paso Sector; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the U.S. Department of the Interior; the State of New Mexico; the U.S. Air Force Reserve; and other local, state and federal agencies, is part of ongoing operations to improve border security, and to provide a training benefit to the volunteer units, said Neels.

“The most important part is ensuring that the unit has the capabilities to do the work to standard, then tailoring the scope of work to their skill set.”

The road project puts a unit through the entire planning process, from preparation and deployment to construction operations and management, and then to redeployment and after-action review, Neels said. “The mission we do sets them up for success.”

The work made the trip from Hawaii worth it, said Sgt. Constantino Martinez, squad leader, 561st Engineer Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, directs Soldiers as they “clear and grub” a stretch of the 1.3 mile road project on the U.S. – Mexican border Oct. 14.

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The work made the trip from Hawaii worth it, said Sgt. Constantino Martinez, squad leader, 561st EN, who was supervising Soldiers as they “cleared and grubbed” a particularly difficult stretch of the road Oct. 14.

“I find it fun — the work, the training,” Martinez said. “We get good guidance to become proficient in the equipment. When we were in Hawaii we weren’t allowed to dig. This is the first time some of my Soldiers have gotten a mission, a road project.”
Cole honors service members during ‘Take a veteran to school day’

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
ARNORTH PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Students at Robert G. Cole Middle School brought a veteran to school with them to honor veterans and their families during a special assembly in the gym Nov. 10.

The school partnered with the History Channel and Time Warner Cable for the “Take a Vet to School Day,” national campaign, which links veterans with young people in schools and communities, and also includes curriculum for students that “enhances the learning of veterans’ experiences and their contributions to society,” according to a Time Warner press release for the event.

The rights and freedoms Americans have today are because of the nation’s veterans, said Texas State Senator Leticia Van de Putte (D-San Antonio), chair of the Senate Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee, to students, veterans and faculty at the event.

“The only reason we can do those things is because of the price that has been paid, generation after generation, by our veterans,” Van de Putte said. “Our country is strong, our state is strong and our communities are strong because of the men and women that have served in the armed forces.”

The Cole Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps color guard began the day with a presentation of the colors, and the Cole Middle School band performed the songs of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. Van de Putte went down the row of veterans and active-duty service members to personally thank each member and to present each with her challenge coin, a military tradition.

For the service members at the assembly, seated in front of their children, the day was special.

“It meant a lot to me,” said Marine Staff Sgt. Christopher Silva, 4th Recon Battalion, Fort Sam Houston. “My son, he’s proud of his dad and he asked me to come — and it’s the Marine Corps birthday.”

The assembly was also an important lesson for the students.

“I think it showed our children that our service members matter and that they help protect our freedom,” said Stephanie Velasquez, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Velasquez, U.S. Army North.

Guadalupe Velasquez said their daughter, Alexandria, was very moved by the assembly.

“She’s in tears,” he said. “She was very excited.”

Guest speaker Brig. Gen. Manuel Ortiz, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army South, thanks veterans and their families for their service and tells students at Robert G. Cole Middle School that veterans have earned the respect of Americans.
Army: drop YouTube, try MilTube
By Kevin Baron
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army wants you to stop posting your potentially sensitive videos on the very public and less-than-secure YouTube website and instead aim for its new in-house version: MilTube.

In the latest military attempt to grab the Web 2.0 technology tiger by the tail, the Army is offering MilTube as a safer, Defense Department-approved alternative for the exclusive – and properly logged-in – military community.

“The new website meets the Department of Defense’s need for a dynamic way to share videos – including training, ceremonies and news clips – across installations worldwide,” said a release from MilTech, a sub-office of an Army command in charge of communications, control and intelligence equipment.

“Because all activity takes place behind the firewall, the video and audio are protected from unauthorized viewing and distribution,” the group said, which makes MilTube a “military-safe” version of YouTube.

Users must have an AKO password to log in.

This is the latest military program for MilSuite, a package of social networking websites that mimics real-life counterparts – there’s a MilBook to mirror Facebook, for example.

So far there are 88,500 military users signed up for MilSuite. There are 2 billion videos watched every day on YouTube.

Troops can learn more about MilSuite by going its promotional Facebook page or viewing the Twitter account.

Troops also can watch a short promotional clip for MilTube.

NORAD continues to grow in importance
By Arie Church
airforce-magazine.com

PETERSON AFB, Colo. — With Arctic sea lanes becoming increasingly navigable to commercial and military traffic alike, U.S. and Canadian cooperation through NORAD is growing in importance, said Canada’s Chief of Air Staff Lt. Gen. André Deschamps Nov. 29.

“Awareness of sovereignty in the Arctic is certainly high in our government, and they have great faith in NORAD,” he told the Daily Report in an interview.

Established between the U.S. and Canada in 1958, NORAD remains “the primary tool for that bi-national defense,” said Deschamps. “As we see things trending right now, I see that growing and not diminishing.”

For example, he highlighted the recent addition of “maritime awareness” to NORAD’s continuing mandate. “The next horizon for NORAD,” he said, “is to look at DEW line replacement in the next decade,” given that today’s Distant Early Warning network of radars — now dubbed the North Warning System — dates to the 1980s.

“There are different options,” including any combination of satellites and high-altitude aerostats, combined with the current ground-based radar chain, explained Deschamps. He warned that although the notional timeline for fielding the replacement may “seem like a far horizon, ... for this kind of change in technology, it’s almost tomorrow.”

CSA supports ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ repeal, but not during war
By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Though he believes the law that bans gays from serving openly in the military eventually should be repealed, the Army’s senior officer told the Senate Armed Services Committee today, repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law now would be a distraction during wartime.

Lawmakers heard testimony from Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the other service chiefs and the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff about their take on a report produced by a Defense Department working group that details how repeal of the law would affect the armed forces.

Casey told lawmakers that during wartime, implementing a new policy would be an extra burden on leadership.

“Implementation of the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell would be a major cultural and policy change in the middle of a war,” he said. “It would be implemented by a force and leaders that are already stretched by the cumulative effects of almost a decade of war.”

The general said that implementation of a repeal of the law policy at this time would add another level of stress to an already stretched force, would be more difficult to implement in combat-arms units than in other units, and would “be more difficult for the Army than...
the report suggests.

However, the general also said that if the law is overturned and the armed forces must comply, the Army could do so with only “moderate risk” to service effectiveness.

“We have a disciplined force and seasoned leaders, who, with appropriate guidance and direction, can oversee the implementation of repeal with moderate risk to our military effectiveness in the short term, and moderate risk to our ability to recruit and retain this all-volunteer force over the long haul,” he said.

“As I read through the report, it seemed to me that the report called into question the basic presumption that underpins the law,” Casey said. “That is that the presence of a gay or lesbian servicemember creates an unacceptable risk to good order and discipline. I don’t believe that’s true. And from the surveys, it appears that a large number of our servicemembers don’t believe that is true either. So eventually, I believe, it should be repealed.”

The general added that while he believes the law should eventually be repealed, the services will need time to implement the change in the force.

“At this time, I would not recommend going forward, given everything the Army has on its plate,” he said.

**Army basic fitness program getting healthy makeover**

*By Alan Scher Zagier
Associated Press*

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — New Soldiers expecting Army drill sergeants to bust their chops over poor posture or a wayward gaze may instead want to avoid a more modern military transgression: relying on fast food for sustenance.

The U.S. Army plans to get new recruits into better shape with a revamped approach to health, fitness and diet at basic training.

The most visible changes will be in mess halls, where milk and juice dispensers will replace soda fountains and whole grains will be substituted for white bread and pasta.

Army leaders unveiled the new approach yesterday at Missouri’s Fort Leonard Wood. It’s the first substantial change to basic fitness training in the Army in decades.

“We are seeing many Soldiers entering our profession who need phased conditioning methods and improved nutritional habits,” said Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, of the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command.

“This is not (just) an Army problem,” he said. “This is a civilian problem that we’re receiving and fixing.”

The “Soldier athlete” initiative is designed to prepare new recruits with training methods similar to those offered to elite athletes preparing for competition, including greater use of athletic trainers, physical therapists and strength and conditioning coaches.

That means more attention on injury prevention, flexibility and mobility, coordination, aerobic endurance and healthy eating.

Drill sergeants will include one-hour sessions on performance nutrition in addition to their traditional responsibilities. And outdated exercises such as bayonet drills are being replaced with core strength workouts more commonly found in the aerobics studio than on the battlefield.

The changes were on display at the 787th Military Police Battalion’s dining hall, where color-coded food labels differentiated high-nutrient, protein-laden breakfast items from calorie-filled, energy-sapping choices.

Sugar cereals and biscuits topped with sausage gravy were among the choices, but so were scoops of sunflower seeds, cottage cheese, salsa, yogurt and granola bars.

As troops passed, drill sergeants kept close watch on their demeanor and comportment. They also didn’t hesitate to call out Soldiers who didn’t include enough fruit on their plates, or who opted for two cups of coffee but didn’t include a glass of water to remain hydrated.

“We’ve changed from feeding Soldiers to fueling the tactical athlete,” said Hertling, a former college athlete who continues to compete in triathlons.

Staff Sgt. Travis Bammer said he begins to notice a difference in troop’s physical performance and mental acuity after roughly five weeks under the improved nutritional regimen.

Hertling and other officials emphasized the need to decisively respond to civilian trends in diet and health brought into the military by new troops.

More than 60 percent require immediate dental care before they can enter combat. Female recruits report high levels of iron deficiency.

And approximately 25 percent of Soldiers entering basic training come with little or no organized physical training.

The Army is gradually rolling out the new program at its five training installations: Fort Leonard Wood; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; and Fort Knox.
EMMITSBURG, Md. — Soldiers know their jobs on the battlefield, but serving in a supporting role to civilian agencies in the United States can prove to be a complex, and perhaps a somewhat daunting, challenge.

To prepare for this complex mission, U.S. Army North staff, along with more than 50 of their peers from military and civilian sectors across the United States, attended a Defense Support of Civil Authorities course Nov. 15-19 at the National Emergency Training Center in the Emergency Management Institute, which is located in the historic city of Emmitsburg.

“We have to know how to get things done by any way, means or form,” said Col. James Mathis, Army North’s Region III defense coordinating officer.

“This place is a way to develop lessons and procedures as you can leave here to continue to work those procedures and the relationships you develop to help you on your mission.”

Army North military and civilian personnel must understand Defense Support of Civil Authorities, said Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, Army North, who served as the course’s host and senior mentor.

“If one of us fails, we all fail,” Wiggins said. “As we develop our relationship here, we will endure and will one day save lives.”

The course introduces students to national, state, local and DoD statutes, directives, plans, command and control relationships, and capabilities, said Mo Walton, DSCA senior instructor, Army North, with regard to DoD support for domestic emergencies and for designated law enforcement and other activities. The DSCA Phase II course is a weeklong event that provides in-depth instruction on the Department of Defense’s role in supporting the lead federal agency in DSCA assistance.

Students, divided into small working groups, participated in four tabletop exercises, which consisted of DoD responses to a natural disaster or Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or high-yield Explosive event.

The first exercise placed the students in the role of the defense coordinating element; the second exercise placed them as working members of the Joint Force Land Component Command. In the third exercise, participants served as members of a joint task force. In the fourth table top exercise they learned how to respond to a CBRNE event from the U.S. Northern Command-level perspective.

“The training is very useful,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Bemiss Jr., an operations noncommissioned officer with Army North’s Region VI defense coordinating element. “In the DCE, we work with local and state governments and federal agencies every day, so learning the laws, responsibilities and capabilities of military and civilian organizations allows me to perform my mission more effectively.”
For service members, the training clarifies the difference in roles seen as “normal” Army missions and the unique role and mission of civil support units in the United States, said Mark Roupas during his portion of the class. Roupas serves as a civilian advisor for DSCA with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense.

“Indiana is not the same as Iraq,” said Roupas. “Military units are not in combat operations when stationed back home. They participate in a supporting role in a DSCA environment.”

The course also clarified if, and when, federal forces become involved in a disaster relief, terrorist incidents or other such events.

“In DSCA concepts, we provide support when the civilian resources have been exceeded, a similar civilian capability does not exist and federal assistance is the most cost effective or most convenient method to meet requirements – such as the Economy Act or the Stafford Act,” Roupas explained to students.

Usually, federal forces are requested by the states, but the President can also direct federal forces to respond, said Robert Gonzales, senior legal advisor, Army North.

Events such as the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, and the Space Shuttle disaster in Louisiana and Texas, are some examples of when the president has initiated a federal response.

“Defense Support to Civilian Authorities is nothing new, said Gonzales.

“Our founding fathers didn’t leave out DSCA responsibilities – hurricanes and snowstorms were happening in colonial times,” he continued.

The course doesn’t just teach concepts; it also teaches techniques and procedures on how to accomplish the mission, said Mathis.

The course is hosted by Army North and is designed to assist the attendees in preparing for life-saving and life-sustaining support missions.

“The student that graduates from the DSCA Course is expected to understand the legalities, authorities and capabilities of DSCA support,” said Walton.

Wounded warriors get hats for heroes

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Bill Compton, a driver with Con-way Truckload, along with Master Sgt. Darin Schartner, noncommissioned officer in charge, Warrior and Family Support Center, and Lt. Col. Randy Martin, deputy public affairs officer, U.S. Army North, unload boxes of hats Dec. 1 donated for wounded warriors. Compton volunteered to drive to Fort Sam Houston to distribute more than 750 hats for heroes collected from donors in Nebraska. “I think it’s a great thing to do,” Compton said. “I don’t think we can do too much (for wounded service members).”
On 9 September forces of the U.S. Fifth Army, expecting little resistance, landed against heavy German resistance at Salerno in Operation Avalanche, which was almost unopposed. There had been a hope that with the surrender of the Italian government, the Germans would withdraw to the north, since at the time Adolf Hitler had been persuaded that Southern Italy was strategically unimportant. However, this was not to be, although the Eighth Army was able to make relatively easy progress for a while up the eastern coast capturing the port of Bari and the important airfields around Foggia. No reserves were made available from the north to the German Tenth Army which nevertheless came close to repelling the Salerno landing, thanks to the overly cautious command of General Mark Clark. The main Allied effort in the west initially centered on the port of Naples. Naples was selected because it was the northernmost port city that could be taken under cover of Allied fighter aircraft operating from Sicily.

*Information provided by The Institute Of Heraldry, Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army*
On Sept. 10, 1886, the Quadrangle had perhaps it’s most famous visitor, Apache Indian Chief Geronimo. Geronimo had been leading the Indians in Arizona and New Mexico in skirmishes against the U.S. Army. The battles were quite brutal and many died on both sides. According to post records, a Lt. Gatewood convinced Geronimo to surrender. The chief and thirty other Apaches were escorted by Capt. H. M. Lawton on a special train from Bowie, Arizona to San Antonio.

While inside the walls, Geronimo was promised the protection of the U.S. Army. Tents were set up to serve as shelters during their internment. The braves remained in San Antonio until October 22, when they were taken to Fort Pickens, Florida. There are many stories connected with the chief’s stay. One is that the deer in the Quadrangle were brought in for food for the thirty-one Indians.

Costs-$98,366.63 equals to $2,158,974.66

From the author Augustus Kosh’s book, *Birds Eye View of San Antonio Bexar County, Texas, 1886, the Quadrangle.*

1876- Foundation for walls and tower built.
1882- Clock added to the watch tower.
1886- Geronimo housed at the historic Quadrangle.
1890- First reports of deer in the Quadrangle.
1902- First photo of the big oak tree appeared.
1916- First reports of peacocks residing in the Quadrangle.

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FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas—San Antonio-area Boy Scouts fertilize an excavated planting site for a project to plant five Mountain Laurels in the Quadrangle courtyard Oct. 30. The effort was part of a community service project for Eagle Scout. Officials at Army North are working with local institutions and community organizations to improve the grounds at the historic Army depot building.

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