



FORSCOM SENIOR LEADERS

Command Readiness Program provides vital forum for total Army discussions

By Sgt 1st Class Anthony Florence and Col. Beth Thelen



"We must remain a transparent, inclusive, one team total force with the knowledge of what is ahead, ARFORGEN provides a predictable model for our Active Reserve and National Guard Soldiers."

"Training needs to get back to the basics and fundamentals, reinvigorate chemical training by getting those chemical protective suits out and training more at night."

Gen. James D. Thurman
Commanding General
U.S. Army Forces Command



FT MCPHERSON, Ga. (April 4, 2011) – U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) hosted its annual Command Readiness Program March 28-30, to update senior commanders and staff on mobilization, deployment and FORSCOM's missions - to include introducing a new regulation detailing Army Force Generation. [More](#)

Command Readiness Program Videos

[A Closer Look - Gen. James Thurman](#)

[Army Today - Army Readiness Conference](#)

NEWS

Bednarek takes command of First Army

By Master Sgt. Danette Rodesky-Flores, *First U.S. Army Public Affairs*

ATLANTA, Ga. (April 6, 2011) – Lt. Gen. J. Michael Bednarek became the 36th commander for First Army today in a ceremony at Fort McPherson's Hedekin Field. [More](#)



The stars shine bright deep in the heart of Texas

By Sgt. Adam Turner, *1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs*

FORT HOOD, Texas (March 30, 2011) –The 1st Cavalry Division promoted two of its own to the rank of brigadier general, as Col. (Promotable) James Richardson, of South Carolina, and Spokane, Wash. Native, Col. (Promotable) Gary Volesky, took their oath of office from the 32nd and current Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Peter Chiarelli here on Cooper Field, March 28; earning them both their first star. [More](#)



FORSCOM band members train student musicians

By Britney Walker, *U.S. Army Forces Command Public Affairs*

FORT MCPHERSON, Ga. (April 1, 2010) - Students from the East Lincoln Middle School band traveled here today from Iron City, N.C., to listen and learn in master classes and performances by the U.S. Army Forces Command's Army Ground Forces Band. Every year The Army Ground Forces Band reaches out to high school and middle school students in an effort to promote the United States Army. [More](#)



Army, Construction team celebrate progress, prepare for "Race to the Finish" at FORSCOM/USARC site

By Jim Hinnant, *U.S. Army Forces Command Public Affairs*

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (March 29, 2011) – "Gentlemen - start your engines!" On command, engines from three stock cars rumbled to life as Art Chambers, safety manager, Hensel Phelps Construction Co., kicked-off the "Race to the Finish" celebration here, March 24. [More](#)



Public Affairs



Summary
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ON POINT

Army says 'generating force' should not be cut further

By Rob McIlvaine, *Army News Service*



WASHINGTON (March 31, 2011) – Under Secretary of the Army Joseph W. Westphal told senators March 29, that the Army's generating force has already taken significant cuts and must be preserved to ensure a pipeline of trained troops.

Westphal testified before the U.S. Senate Armed Services subcommittee on readiness and management support, chaired by Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.). The committee met to hear how the services proposed to cut costs and produce efficiencies called for by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates.

Westphal spelled out the Army's stance on remaining strong: "In the Army, the generating force, all those elements of military and civilians that support our operational force, has been reduced in significant ways to support and to be part of the operating force. [More](#)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNITS IN ACTION

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wa. -

Soldiers of the Mobile Training Team Pathfinder course conduct airborne operations out of a C-130 aircraft at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Cesar Padilla, 20th Public Affairs Detachment)

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Top Shots

Here are the "Top Shots" of the week from Public Affairs professionals throughout FORSCOM worldwide. Want to see your photo here? Send high-resolution photos to FCOMMediaReport@conus.army.mil



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FORT IRWIN, Calif. - 1st Lt. Michael Keyser, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, crawls through an obstacle during a Pre-Ranger Assessment Course. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Giancarlo Casem, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs)



FORT HOOD, Texas - Fort Hood officials welcomed more than 200 injured veterans and their supporters as they cycled through the installation on March 31 on the fourth of their six-day, 350-mile Ride 2 Recovery Texas Challenge. (Photo courtesy of Mike Thomas, U.S. Army Forces Command Secretary General Staff)



CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – Children of Razada Primary School sing the "A,B,C's" in English for 1st Lt. Michael Sexton Jr., platoon leader, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, and Sgt. 1st Class Muhammad Salah Ahmad, platoon sergeant, 1st Regional Guard Brigade, Kirkuk Combined Security Forces. Soldiers of 1st AATF partnered with the Kirkuk CSF during a community assistance mission to the Razada village in Kirkuk, Iraq. (U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force Public Affairs, 1st Infantry Division)



SHINDAND AIR BASE, Afghanistan - Two AH-64D Apache Longbows from Task Force Comanche, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, flying side-by-side launch flares during a mission near Shindand Air Base. The AH-64D is responsible for most of the air weapons team coverage in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sean Harriman, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 4th Infantry Division)

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