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U.S. ARMY FORCES COMMAND



FORSCOM FRONTLINE Edition: Friday, April 15, 2011 (Volume I, Issue 13)

FORSCOM SENIOR LEADERS

Lewis-McChord Army chief to take a lead role in Afghanistan

By Hal Bernton, *Seattle Times*

"We expect to begin a reduction in surge forces that came in over a year ago. Now that's conditions-based ... We have to maintain our mission focus and the momentum that we have gained in the surge. They [the Taliban] will obviously make a concerted effort to regain the initiative as we enter the fighting season and we are prepared to counter that."



Lt. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash.

(March 29, 2011) – The Army commander at Joint Base Lewis-McChord is headed to Afghanistan this summer, along with some 700 staff members, to take over day-to-day operations of the war.

Lt. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti and his I Corps unit will arrive in July, a key date that will mark the starting point for a drawdown of U.S. troops. He will help Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, assess the scale and pace of the withdrawals in a war that has stretched on for nearly a decade. [More](#)

NEWS

Thoughts on Crossing the Line of Departure

By Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, *U.S. Army.mil*

WASHINGTON, D.C., (April 11, 2011) – *Letter from the Chief of Staff of the Army* – I'm honored to be your 37th Chief of Staff. I want to assure you that I'm well aware of the challenges we face but equally aware of the opportunities we will have in the next four years to do a lot of good both for the Army and for the Nation. [More](#)



Serving the Army for more than half a century

By Ruben Maestas, *U.S. Army Forces Command Public Affairs*

FORT McPHERSON, Ga. (April 7, 2011) - U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) G-4 Senior Logistics Management Officer Charles "Chuck" D. Starcher received honors during a retirement ceremony here in the FORSCOM Headquarters building for more than a half century of service to the U.S. Army. [More](#)



296th Army Band entertains for tsunami victims

By Spc. April de Armas, *49th Public Affairs Detachment*

CAMP SENDAI, Japan (April 8, 2011) – Members of the 296th Army Band, U.S. Army Japan, have found a way to bring assistance, as well as entertainment, to the displaced Japanese locals following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. [More](#) [Video](#)



Third Army builds the best: How a mix of Soldiers from around the world are building the Army's future leaders

By Sgt. Ryan Hohman, *Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (April 4, 2011) – In January 2011, small group leaders from throughout the Army came together for the first time at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, with one single goal. That goal was to provide junior-enlisted soldiers with the training required to lead in today's Army. [More](#)



Public Affairs



Summary
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ON POINT

GEN. MARTIN E. DEMPSEY was sworn in as the Army's 37th Chief of Staff, April 11 in Arlington, Va., surrounded by an enormous family, mentors, his classmates from the 1974 graduating class at West Point, the secretary of the Army and the secretary of Defense.

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates said, "I'm confident that Martin Dempsey will bring the same passion and dedication to building the Army's next generation of leaders, guiding them with strength and vision as he has to every other position during his impressive career," during the ceremony on Summerall Field at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Army News reported that the warm, sunny day gave proof that America's banner will yet wave when 1.5 pounds of powder shot forth from the three-inch guns of the Salute Guns Platoon, the flags were heralded by the Continental Color Guard, the traditional field music was played by The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, and the U.S. Army Ceremonial Band marched the field - all members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).

"Marty, you are truly a Soldier's Soldier, and I know the Army is in able hands, ..." Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates

Full stories, and links to the outgoing and incoming Chief of Staff messages:

['Soldier's Soldier' becomes 37th Army chief of staff](#)

[Dempsey Lays Out Themes for Tenure as Army Chief](#)

[GEN George W. Casey Jr. farewell letter](#)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNITS IN ACTION



CAMP ISHINOMAKI, Japan – Soldiers with U.S. Army Japan and Japanese Ground Self Defense Force members set up a field shower station tent near Dogenin Temple where displaced Japanese civilians have been staying April 7. Service members have been setting up shower stations across north eastern Japan, so the displaced Japanese may shower. Some citizens have not showered since the tsunami on March 11. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Derek Kuhn, 40th Public Affairs Detachment) [Photos](#) [Story](#)

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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 FCCOMediaReport@conus.army.mil



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SHINDAND AIR BASE, Afghanistan - Two AH-64D Apache Longbows from Task Force Comanche, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, take flight as daylight fades over Shindand Air Base, Regional Command (West), Afghanistan. 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)



FORWARD OPERATING BASE NORMANDY, Iraq - An Iraqi Army mortar crew assigned to 4th Battalion, 21st Brigade, 5th IA Division waits for the rest of their battalion to assault a mock village as helicopters provide aerial security during a battalion live fire training exercise at Forward Operating Base Normandy, Iraq. Iraqi officers maneuvered nearly 200 soldiers from air, ground and mortar assets through the exercise as the culminating event of their 25-day Tadreeb al Shamil training rotation. Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for all-inclusive training, is an Iraqi military program focused on building unit cohesion and bolstering the IA's capabilities. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, USD-N PAO)



CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq - Sgt. Bernardo Medina, an infantryman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, uses his experience as a "Lefty" to show an Iraqi Army soldier serving with Commando Company, 15th Brigade, 12th IA Division, how a left-handed shooter should be positioned when firing an M16 rifle. Lead instructor of M16 rifle familiarization training, Medina and U.S. Soldiers paired with Iraqi soldiers to demonstrate the four fundamentals of executing a proper shot group during classroom instruction at Forward Operating Base Texan, near Kirkuk, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force Public Affairs, 1st Infantry Division)



AICHI, Japan - Soldiers with U.S. Army Japan load fuel barrels onto a truck with help from Japanese Ground Self Defense Force members and other soldiers near Sendai Airport on April 8. The soldiers deliver the fuel to various points across north eastern Japan as part of Operation Tomodachi. The Japanese use the fuel to power generators, fuel vehicles and provide warmth for the tsunami victims. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Derek Kuhn, 40th Public Affairs Detachment) [More](#)

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