

ARNORTH Monthly

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Front Cover: DENVER – Lt. Col. Carrie Acree, emergency preparedness liaison officer, U.S. Army North, holds five-week old-Adrian Morant while his mother gets situated at the Denver International Airport aerial port of debarkation March 24. More than 140 military family members from Japan flew into DIA as part of Operation Pacific Passage, a voluntary departure operation that began after the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan March 11. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Doscher, NORTHCOM PAO)

Back Cover: MUCSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — Soldiers from the 591st Military Police Company, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, carry a mannequin with simulated injuries to a treatment point March 17 during Vibrant Response 11.1. Vibrant Response is a training event for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives Consequence Management Response Force. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Allen Stokes)



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Army North teams continue to assist military families returning from Japan

Story by Don Manuszewski
 Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — In support of Operation Pacific Passage, military and civilian members of U. S. Army North took the lead in setting up three reception centers on the U.S. West Coast and one in Denver to assist nearly 4,000 military family members who voluntarily returned to the United States in the aftermath of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami March 11.

With short notice, Army North's Defense Coordinating Element in Federal Emergency Management Agency Region X set-up a Joint Reception Coordination Center March 19 at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in SeaTac, Wash., while the DCE in FEMA Region IX set up a JRCC the following day at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. — both within 24 hours of being notified of the requirement.

The Denver JRCC was set up by the DCE from FEMA Region VIII and has been ready to start receiving the families since March 22, with a flight of family members and pets arriving March 24.

"We have an amazing team here," said Col. Michael McCormick, Army North's defense coordinating officer in the FEMA Region X. "From the people at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Naval Region Northwest to the many civilian agencies like the Red Cross and the USO, we're all working together to make this happen for the Department of Defense family members returning from Japan. Their care, comfort and rapid transit to safe haven destinations is our mission."



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Doscher, NORTHCOM PAO)

DENVER — More than 140 military family members prepare to process through the Denver International Airport aerial port of debarkation March 24. DIA, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Wash., and Travis Air Force Base, Calif., are receiving flights of military families who voluntarily left Japan as part of Operation Pacific Passage following the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan March 11.

The team at SEATAC was the first to stand-up and started receiving its first families March 20. As of March 23, the team had welcomed back more than 2,000 family members and nearly 100 pets.

The second team at Travis AFB began operations March 22 and has already assisted about nearly 2,000 people and numerous pets. The majority of that team is made up from the many service members who make Travis home on a day-to-day basis.

"It's a great experience and a great opportunity," said Capt. Matt Reed, Travis AFB veterinarian, who is on hand should any of the pets traveling with the families need his services.

With so many people transiting through the facilities at the JRCCs, it's

been quite a feat to help the families get to their ultimate destination, but everyone is working together to make sure the affected families have the best customer service possible.

"This is absolutely wonderful," said Katie Coleman, whose husband, U. S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Coleman, stayed behind at Misawa Air Base, Japan. "Everything and anything we wanted to know, they had an answer for; this has been above and beyond what I expected."

In Denver, the JRCC team was all set to assist the military family members as they disembarked the aircraft the afternoon of March 24. The Denver JRCC received two flights and was set to receive about two more.

— see Japan, Pg. 19



Photo by Armando Carrasco, JTF-N PAO

Intel Conference

FORT BLISS, Texas — Col. Eric Keys, Joint Task Force – North director of intelligence, speaks to Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security agents and intelligence analysts, along with their supporting military intelligence personnel March 10 during the 2011 JTF-N Intelligence Conference. The annual conference, co-sponsored by DHS's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, served as a forum for the development and planning of future intelligence initiatives to counter transnational criminal organizations and threats directed against the nation. Using both small and large group information exchange methodologies, the law enforcement agents, intelligence professionals and supporting military personnel focused on drug trafficking, alien smuggling, aerial and maritime smuggling, terrorism, tunnels, cross-border gangs, weapons smuggling, threat finance and information sharing and collaboration.



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

March awardees

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Awardees from Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion stand before a battalion formation in the Quadrangle during an award ceremony March 25. (From left to right) The awardees presented Army Achievement medals: Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Velasquez; Sgt. 1st Class Kuoway Ho; Sgt. 1st Class Carla Pittman; Staff Sgt. Jerome Anderson; Staff Sgt. Nick Davis; Sgt. Carine George; Sgt. Glen Griffo; Sgt. Daniel Aldaco; Spc. Dominique Ervin; Spc. Victor DeLeon; Spc. Gregory Becker and Spc. Tre Styles; being presented a battalion coin is Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson.

ARNORTH welcomes

Capt. Esther Marcella,
RG II DCE

Capt. Gary Phillips,
JTF-51

Capt. Anthony Roh, PMO

Sgt. 1st Class Felix
Ramossantos, OChap

Sgt. Katherine Scheiber,
I&S Co.

Hwa Oberle, G6

Timothy Callahan, G3

Maribel Mercado, SJA

ARNORTH says goodbye

Col. Mark Armstrong,
RG IX DCO

Lt. Col. William

Davenport, G3/5/7

Staff Sgt. John Jenkins,
PMO

Spc. Angela Mancha,
HHBn

Dale Clark, G3

Christopher Miller, G6

Fort Sam Houston honors retirees



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

Col. Mark Ritter, deputy director, Installation Management Command, West Region; Col. Lou Marich, assistant chief of staff, G5 Plans, U.S. Army North; Col. Allison Clark III, chief, Military Human Resources Division, and troop commander, Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Command; Lt. Col. Larry Carter, Joint Information Operations Warfare Center; Jon O'Hora, respiratory technician and registered respiratory therapist, Army Medical Department Center and School; Maj. Noemi Hernandez-Benrahhou, battalion signal officer and plans and training officer, 2nd Battalion, 348th Regiment Battalion, Fort Buchanan, P.R.; Capt. Karen Bellin, battalion chaplain, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe Belgium; Chief Warrant officer 4 Don Sammons, deputy G2, U.S. Army South; Master Sgt. Javier Diaz Berrios, noncommissioned officer in charge, Department of the Pharmacy, Brooke Army Medical Center; and Angela Swain, 502nd Force Support Squadron, stand before a crowd of Family, friends and peers during an installation retirement ceremony March 31 at U.S. Army North's historic Quadrangle.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

J. Randall Robinson, director of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command – West Region, and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt (left), command sergeant major, IMCOM-West, present the Legion of Merit to Col. Lou Marich, deputy chief of staff, G5 Plans, U.S. Army North, during an installation retirement ceremony March 31.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

J. Randall Robinson, director of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command – West Region, presents the Legion of Merit to Col. Allison Clark III, chief, Military Human Resources Division, and troop commander, Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Command, during an installation retirement ceremony March 31.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

Col. Mark Ritter, deputy director, Installation Management Command – West Region, stands with his wife, Lou Ann, and family March 31 before a crowd of well-wishers at the installation retirement ceremony. Ritter was presented the Distinguished Service Medal during the ceremony for his service.

Army North personnel quietly make huge training exercise successful



Jose Velazquez, Incident Command Post coordinator, U.S. Army North, and Mark Stifting, observer/controller/trainer, Army North, review upcoming missions to ensure they have been coordinated with the incident commander and the exercise control cell March 17 during Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North here and at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind.

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

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — As part of a large military disaster response exercise, service members from around the country provided lifesaving and life-sustaining services here and at Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex to the “victims” of a notional 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in Louisville, Ky.

Behind the scenes, U.S. Army North personnel quietly worked to make it all successful.

At Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by Army North March 11-19, Active, Guard and Reserve forces from Army, Air Force and Marine units cleared routes, provided medical and decontamination services, built temporary villages with Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers for displaced people, and

even emplaced tornado shelters — but it couldn’t have happened with the support of Army North, aka “exercise control.”

“Once the exercise begins, it is exercise control that manages daily training venues and training objectives to ensure we meet the exercise director’s intent,” said Col. James Larsen, exercise control officer for the exercise, and chief, Training Division, Army North. “All of the coordination done behind the scenes, to include synchronization

of all exercise enablers — role players, mannequins, effects, smoke, fire, downed aircraft, etc. — is accomplished by exercise control.”

But managing the exercise on a day-to-day basis is only part of it, he explained.

“Many of the folks who make up (exercise control) were essential to exercise development and design,” said Larsen. “These tasks include writing the scenario, planning the training venues, researching the effects of an incident and developing all of the written products and media to ‘set the scene’ for the participating units.”

It took a tremendous amount of planning, coordination and more planning to make an extensive training exercise such as this successful, said Clark Wigley, a joint exercise planner with Army North.

Planners built master scenario events lists, exercise directives, manning documents, coordination matrices, an exercise plan, warning orders, exercise orders and many other documents and plans essential to ensuring the exercise is successful, he explained.

“I’ve charged my planners with stretching the responding units to the max — and then some,” wrote Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, Army North and Fort Sam Houston, in a blog about Vibrant Response 11.1. “I consider Army North as ‘America’s Insurance Policy,’ and we need to make sure that this policy is ready and able to support our nation as quickly as possible while synchronizing with any response efforts already underway.”

Leaders took into account lessons learned as well as trends and observations from previous exercises, prioritized those



Personnel from U.S. Army North monitor training March 15 at the soccer field at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind., as Guardsmen from the 2nd Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 76th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Indiana National Guard, set up a distribution point for food and water for displaced civilians during Vibrant Response 11.1. More than 3,800 service members and civilians from throughout the United States participated in the disaster response exercise March 11-19.

recommendations, and adjusted the exercise accordingly.

“This does just not happen; it takes months of planning,” said Ruben Perales Jr., assessments and command lessons learned manager, Army North.

Coordinators synced schedules between training facilities, Active, Guard and Reserve units, federal agencies and even private companies.

Logistics planners arranged supplies and equipment. Medical, aviation and engineer units were tasked, and a host of other professionals added their input into a massive undertaking.

“We work from beginning to end to keep the scenario on track and help provide Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines the absolute best training possible,” said Wigley.

Army North exercise control worked closely with Joint Task Force — Civil Support, based at

Fort Monroe, Va., which served as the command and control for participating units in the exercise designed to prepare the participating units to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents.

The training isn’t one-size-fits all, said Sgt. 1st Class Peter Villa, exercise control noncommissioned officer in charge, Army North.

“We handle the scenarios for each unit,” said Villa. “We set the conditions for what each unit saw on the ground, everything from decontamination missions to displaced civilians.”

Members of the exercise control also benefited from the exercise, added Villa.

“Every time I come to one of these, I learn a lot more about the capabilities of DoD assets in a Defense Support of Civilian Authorities environment,” said

———see EXCON, Pg. 11

Soldiers go door-to-door to find casualties, save lives during Vibrant Response 11.1

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

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — In this macabre scenario, complete with cold and drizzle, rubble, cars upturned and small fires burning sporadically, Soldiers went door to door here March 15 while searching for victims of a notional ten-kiloton nuclear detonation in Louisville, Ky.

The “dead,” portrayed by local citizen role players and mannequins, lie on floors, in beds and even in front of their homes; survivors huddled in small clusters in the most functional rooms of the still-standing structures.

And facing this scene of devastation were the Soldiers from the 591st Military Police Company, from Fort Bliss, Texas, who searched each home and the surrounding areas to ensure that those injured received the life-saving medical care they needed. The military policemen, along with Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 76th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Indiana National Guard, were performing the wellness checks as a part of Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North, which is based at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

But as in real-life, like the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, some of the survivors portrayed being angry at the government or were unwilling to leave their homes.



A convoy of Soldiers from the 591st Military Police Company, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, along with fellow first-responders, arrives to conduct door-to-door searches for casualties March 15 following a notional 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in Louisville, Ky., during Vibrant Response 11.1. The Soldiers searched each home and the surrounding areas to ensure that those injured received the lifesaving medical care they needed.

It provided a valuable lesson for the Soldiers on some of the challenges they could face if called upon to help distressed citizens in their time of need during such as



Soldiers from the 591st MP Company, litter-carry a victim mannequin to an awaiting ambulance during door-to-door checks for victims. The military policemen set up a triage point for the ambulatory casualties, treated those critically injured on site, and were also called upon to assist mortuary affairs.

event. Thus, the MPs overcame these challenges as they soldiered on as they provided the immediate care available through the use of the ambulance team that accompanied their convoy. Additionally, they were tasked with the more somber mission of ensuring the deceased were collected for proper burial.

“This training allows us to better assist local agencies, and other state and federal partners, and it allows our Soldiers to see in a realistic sense what they’d face in a real-world mission,” said 2nd Lt. Benjamin Grimes, platoon leader, 591st MP Co.

The mission was new for the Guardsmen, who performed security for the military policemen as the MPs conducted the wellness

checks.

“This is the first time we’ve done this kind of training,” said Spc. Lucas Pate, an infantryman in the unit from Avon, Ind. “We’re a long-range surveillance unit, so this is definitely different. Usually we’re out in the woods.”

After clearing the homes, the Soldiers moved the ambulatory injured to a triage point set up in a nearby soccer field. There was a snag though. The medics weren’t there; they’d been re-tasked by higher headquarters. The crowd of civilians — hungry, thirsty, cold and wanting to leave the muddy soccer grounds — verged on becoming a mob, and the Guardsmen performing security were called upon to help keep the calm and reassure the local citizenry.

“It’s getting difficult,” said Spc. Ben Montgomery, infantryman, 2nd Sqdn., 152nd Cav. Regt. “They get in your face, and you just stand there and don’t talk to them or tell them to move on.”

Exercises such as this are invaluable in that they provide the Soldiers an opportunity to directly interface with those they are supporting during their time of need.

“The interface between Soldiers and Civilians during a time of crisis is very important aspect of defense support to civil authorities,” said



“Victims” of a notional 10-kiloton nuclear detonation, played by local citizens in southern Indiana, form a line for food and water at the soccer field at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center March 15. Soldiers from the 591st Military Police Company, 93rd Military Police Battalion, set up a triage point for casualties and distributed food and water, as part of a mission to conduct wellness checks and distribute aid during Vibrant Response 11.1.

Ronnie Guajardo, who serves as an observer/controller/trainer with Army North’s Civil Support Training Activity.

“It gives Soldiers a chance to see what they may come up against when and if this type of event occurs.”

The MPs treated those they could with what they could and arranged for food and water through their federal partners. The Soldiers said they learned a valuable lesson in

that when coordinating lifesaving and life-sustaining operations on a massive scale, there are times that assets that may be needed are unavailable, which necessitates finding another way to accomplish the mission.

“We’re rehearsing a situation with a miscommunication so we can deter it from happening again — or be prepared to respond when it does,” said Montgomery, a native of Bersailles, Ind.



Medevac

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — Cpl. Dustin Shuler (right), 591st Military Police Company, 93rd Military Police Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., litter-carries a “victim” mannequin with a flight medic to an awaiting UH-60 Black Hawk March 14th during Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command exercise conducted by U.S. Army North, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Soldiers from 591st MP Co., based at Fort Bliss, Texas, conducted wellness checks, set up a triage point and called in air evacuations for the exercise.
(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO)

1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment Soldiers support Border Patrol in Arizona

Story by
Armando Carrasco
JTF-N PAO

FORT BLISS, Texas—Equipped with the latest surveillance technology in the Army's inventory, the 1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, historically known as the "Warhorse Squadron," recently completed training in Arizona, which also supported the U.S. Border Patrol's efforts to detect, deter and defeat transnational criminal organizations attempting to cross the U.S. – Mexico border.

The Fort Bliss-based unit volunteered to execute the Defense Support to Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies mission coordinated by Joint Task Force – North, the U.S. Northern Command unit tasked to provide military support to the nation's federal law enforcement agencies.

Military personnel on JTF-N missions operate strictly in a support capacity. In accordance with the Posse Comitatus Act, they cannot search, seize, detain or make

arrests.

"The supported law enforcement agencies gain homeland security support and the units get to train on their mission-essential tasks against a real adversary, as opposed to other simulated training venues," said Lt. Col. John Stahl, chief of JTF-N's Southwest Regional Support Team.

During the U.S. Border Patrol – Tucson Sector support mission, the 1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment Soldiers served as the 'eyes and ears' of the agents that patrol the Arizona – Sonora, Mexico border area.

"The Soldiers used their state-of-the-art surveillance equipment to identify and report the suspected illegal activities they observed and vectored border patrol agents in to make the arrests and drug seizures," said Maj. Pete Schnurr, the JTF-N operations planner assigned to facilitate Warhorse's mission.

"The combined-arms effect that we strive for in all military operations was realized during this operation, resulting in increased drug seizures across the board for Tucson Sector during the 1st

Squadron, 13th Cavalry's mission," said Schnurr.

The military assistance was highly appreciated by the Border Patrol agents tasked to secure the vast Arizona desert environment between the legal ports of entry.

"The Border Patrol is always striving to find new ways to detect and interdict smugglers from entering the U.S. The (supporting) Soldiers serve as a force multiplier contributing to a better managed border by providing intelligence analysis and immediate support to our mission," said Randy Hill, Tucson Sector border patrol chief.

"The Soldiers presence allows our agents to respond more rapidly to any detected crossings, thereby increasing our effectiveness," said Hill.

In coordination with the JTF-N mission planners and the U.S. Border Patrol military support coordinators, the "Warhorse Troopers" planned the entire support operation.



Prior to their movement from Fort Bliss to Arizona, all supporting personnel completed the JTF-N required pre-mission training.

Upon arrival at their mission site, they also received a series of mandatory mission startup briefings prior to the start of the support operations. The briefings included legal authorities training, which outlined what the Soldiers could and could not do during the mission.

While providing the much needed support to the nation's law enforcement agencies, the JTF-N support operations provide the volunteer units with real-world training opportunities that are directly related to their go-to-war missions.

"This type of experience is impossible to replicate in a five or ten-day field exercise back home," said Lt. Col. Kevin Jacobi, 1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment commander.

"Where else can we operate over an extended period of time, in an extended operating environment, against a thinking foe who is actively trying to counter us by actively trying to hide, in order to make us work hard to find him!"

Another benefit realized by the unit, which will deploy to Afghanistan in the fall, was the opportunity to work in support of a



Photo by Armando Carrasco, JTF-N PAO

Spc. Derek Armstrong, 1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, surveys the Arizona-Mexico border using a Long Range Scout Surveillance System mounted on a humvee to aid U.S. Border Patrol efforts to detect, deter and defeat transnational criminal organizations. The LRAS has both day and night surveillance capabilities.

civilian law enforcement agency.

"We are going to be doing the same types of missions in Afghanistan," said Jacobi.

While deployed, the "Warhorse Squadron" will train and conduct combined operations with the Afghan National Army and Police Force.

"One of the aspects that you cannot replicate (on any other training operation) is the chance to work with other agencies like we will have to do in Afghanistan," said 2nd Lt. Frank McClendon, a "Blackhawk" platoon leader.

"I hope that other units get a chance to train like this; because it's the closest scenario we can get to an actual deployment."

"And we also got a chance to make a difference at the same time by helping keep drugs off the streets," said McClendon.

While executing the support operation, the 1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment also conducted concurrent weapons training, tested logistical capabilities, performed maintenance functions, and practiced their unit emergency-response plans.

from **EXCON**, Pg. 7

Villa, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y.

And although there is always room for improvement, the service members and civilians who participated in Vibrant Response 11.1 demonstrated that America is in good hands, said Swan.

"I have made it a point never to be completely satisfied," said Swan. "I guard against the complacency that might come with that. Having said that, I'm thoroughly proud of all of the teams here – both those who have set up the exercise and those who are participating – in their abilities to accomplish this very

difficult task."

The Vibrant Response 11.1 exercise involved U.S. Northern Command; Joint Task Force – Civil Support, based out of Fort Monroe, Va.; the Indiana National Guard; the Michigan National Guard; the 16th Theater Support Command from Fort McClellan, Ala.; Alabama National Guard; the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; the 1st Medical Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas; the 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade from Frankfort, Ky.; the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and many other specialized disaster response units.

Vietnam veterans show their admiration, support to Wounded Warriors



Retired Marine Sgt. Leroy Trevino, a radio operator in the Vietnam War, who is a member of Veterans of Vietnam of America, Alamo Chapter 366, serves a delectable Mexican-style lunch March 24 to Wounded Warriors at the Warrior and Family Support Center. The veterans said the luncheon provided them an opportunity to show their support and to thank the military personnel currently serving in the U.S. military and to those who have been wounded.

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

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — For local Vietnam veterans, some of whom dug trenches in the wetlands of South Vietnam in the late 1960s, there are vivid memories and a deep understanding of the hardships and tribulations combat causes; those shared experiences and common struggles inspired them to come together for a

common cause – to serve veterans of America’s more recent conflicts.

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Alamo Chapter 366, volunteered their time and efforts by donating and serving a Mexican-style lunch March 24 to Wounded Warriors at the Warrior and Family Support Center here.

“We were founded on the basic principles of never abandoning our brothers and sisters, who are veterans of war,” said Dan Medron, president, VVOA Alamo

Chapter. “We want to ensure the public understands the sacrifices these young men and woman make for our country and that they are taken care of properly and given the upmost care and support they need.”

Medron said



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that support has gotten much better throughout the years, especially due to the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As a Vietnam veteran, Medron said he recalls returning to the United States from the Vietnam War and people treating him and other vets as if nothing had happened.

He said no one seemed to be aware of the sacrifices of American Service members, adding that the current era of war has helped to highlight the sacrifices made by service members from every conflict and their services for their country.

“I feel very appreciative to these gentlemen; in fact, I think we should be thanking them instead of them thanking us,” said Staff Sgt. Chad Heuton, 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, who was working in Balad, Iraq, when he was injured.

“It sets a good example for all of us to give back to our fellow Soldiers and what we can do in the future to help our fellow comrades.”

The Alamo Chapter visits the WFSC once a month to donate food to Soldiers and the workers at the facility.

This March 24 lunch was a good, old-fashioned Tex-Mex meal featuring tacos, fajitas and rice and beans.



Staff Sgt. Chad Heuton, 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, is served a traditional style Mexican cuisine March 24 by members of the Veterans of America, Alamo Chapter 366, at the Warrior and Family Support Center.

The meal was served by Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force veterans from the Vietnam War. “It’s about honoring those who give of themselves for their country,” said retired Marine Sgt. Leroy Trevino, radio operator for the 5th Marine Regiment, who

served in Vietnam. “It’s good to see the government is giving these service members the support they need. Trevino said servicemembers share a bond. “We are all brothers; I’m glad that I’m able to do this for them.”

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Engineers clear way for lifesaving care during Vibrant Response 11.1

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

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — The mission for a disaster response exercise here called for clearing two routes, both choked with concrete, demolished cars, debris and hazards; this is, perhaps, a simple enough mission — normally.

But in this incidence, the Army engineers from 15th Engineering Company, 19th Engineer Battalion, Fort Knox, Ky., faced some additional difficulties March 18.

First of all, they had only one hydraulic excavator; secondly, the routes weren't just sporadically blocked like what would happen after a normal natural disaster. In this case, they were completely blocked, with concrete, metal

and debris rising more than five feet off the ground the length of the routes. Third, because it was a training environment, the debris had to be separated and recycled back into the dump. And fourth, and perhaps most significantly, because some of the stretches of road were new, they couldn't use their heavy, tracked vehicles, such as their dozers, on the road.

Such was the case for the team of engineers during Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command Exercise conducted by U.S. Army North March 11-19 at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex, Camp Atterbury, and various other training sites in southern Indiana.

"We're used to combat," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Hammond, platoon sergeant, 15th Eng. Co. "We go in with D9's (a 62-ton armored Caterpillar bulldozer), clear house. Here you have to be

more precise — we sort, puzzle-piece and categorize the debris."

The combat engineers, along with their peers from medical, aviation, logistics, security and many other specialties, were at MUTC and Camp Atterbury, Ind., on a short-notice deployment to provide Defense Support of Civilian Authorities, following a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in Louisville, Ky. An event such as this differs vastly from combat operations service members normally serve in.

"Places like Japan are a wake-up call for what we do right here," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston. "There is no bigger advertisement for this place than what we're seeing in the news right now, and it has created a sense of urgency for all of us at the local, state and federal level that this could

happen anywhere, anytime."

In a March 18 route clearance mission, the engineers were clearing an east-west route to a village.

"Our objective is to get a route cleared so that ambulances can get there and so that we can get food, water and other supplies to the people of the village," said Hammond, a native of Searsport, Maine.

Despite some of the difficulties added into the training, the work was important, said Sgt. Ray Jackson, a team leader in

the platoon and a spotter for the operator of the hydraulic excavator.

"It gives us the confidence we need in real-world situations," said Jackson. "It makes us more prepared."

Sgt. Maj. Eliodoro Perez, operations sergeant major, Contingency Command Post 1, Army North, who served as an observer/controller/trainer for the engineer mission, said the exercise control watched several aspects of the Engineers' training. "First and foremost is safety,"

Perez said.

"As OCTs, we evaluate their performance in accordance to their standard operating procedures and the employment of their personnel and equipment," Perez explained.

"Simultaneously, we coach leadership engagement — at the point of friction."

With a little "Acutum Acumen," the 19th Engineer Battalion motto meaning "sharpness of ingenuity," the Engineers completed their route-clearance missions and enabled first responders to get to the people that needed care.

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — Army engineers from the 15th Engineering Company, 19th Engineer Battalion, Fort Knox, Ky., load metal debris into the back of a 5-ton dump truck here March 18 as part of a route-clearance mission during Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command disaster response exercise conducted by U.S. Army North. More than 3,800 Active, Guard and Reserve service members from throughout the country participated in the exercise in which a notional 10-kiloton nuclear device, or "dirty bomb," detonates in Louisville, Ky. Because it was a training environment, the debris had to be separated and returned to the dump.



Did you know?

DoD is removing Social Security Numbers from ID cards

SSN Removal

To protect your privacy and personal identity information, your Social Security Number (SSN) is being replaced with a DoD ID Number on all ID cards.

ID Card Changes:

- As of June 2011, SSNs will no longer be printed on any new ID card.
- SSN removal will occur in three phases.
- Your new ID card will have a **DoD ID Number** in place of your SSN.
- Your DoD ID Number will be used as the Geneva Conventions serial number.
- If you are eligible for DoD benefits, there will also be a **DoD Benefits Number** printed on your new ID card.



For more information about Social Security Number removal, please visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard.

PHASE I

Remove Dependent SSN
Started in December 2008

DEPENDENT ID CARD



DD Form 1173

Dependent SSN replaced with
XXX-XX-XXXX

Sponsor SSN remains visible



DD Form 1173-1

PHASE II

Remove All Printed SSNs
As of June 2011

COMMON ACCESS CARD (CAC)



DoD Benefits Number
(only on cards that convey DoD benefits)



DoD ID Number

ALL OTHER CARDS

Cardholder SSN replaced
by a DoD ID Number



DoD Benefits Number
(only on cards that convey DoD benefits)



PHASE III

Remove SSNs Embedded in Barcodes
Beginning by end of 2012

COMMON ACCESS CARD (CAC)



SSN will be removed
from barcodes

ALL OTHER CARDS



SSN will be
removed from
barcodes

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who will get a new ID card?

A. All DoD ID cardholders will get a new ID card with a DoD ID Number in place of their SSN.

Q. When should I go get my new ID card?

A. Current ID cards should not be replaced until your card is within 30 days of its expiration date. If your ID card has an INDEF expiration date, and you would like your SSN removed, contact your nearest RAPIDS ID Card facility for an appointment.

Q. Will my ID be rejected without a visible SSN?

A. Your ID should not be rejected but you may be asked to verbally state your SSN or sponsor's SSN to access benefits.

Q. Will my medical provider use my DoD Benefits Number to process my claims?

A. Until all ID cards are replaced, providers may use either your SSN or DoD benefits number.

Q. Where can I get my new ID card?

A. ID cards are available at over 1,500 RAPIDS ID card centers worldwide. Visit the RAPIDS Site Locator at (www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home) to find a location near you.

Q. What should I bring?

A. Bring two forms of identification. One must be a valid (not expired) federal or state issued photo ID. Visit (www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-9.pdf) for more information.

WHINSEC students get firsthand glance into Army operations at Army North

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

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — International students from the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, based at Fort Benning, Ga., visited U.S. Army North March 25 after completing their capstone exercises to see firsthand how Army Service Component Commands function.

Sixty-five students from Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, Colombia, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Paraguay, El Salvador, Peru and Canada visited Army North to participate in discussions and workshops with the command's personnel. The students also visited U.S. Army South and Joint Task Force – North, which is located at Fort Bliss, during their trip.

“The main thing I want students to understand is the integration and synchronization of joint interagency, intergovernmental and multinational forces within Army North,” said Lt. Col. Tony Carbone, director, School of Professional Military Education, WHINSEC.

The visit provided the students an



Sixty five international students from the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, based at Fort Benning, Ga., visited U.S. Army North March 25.



Harold LeDoux, satellite systems supervisor, U.S. Army North, explains the operation of the Sentinel vehicle March 25 to students from the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, based at Fort Benning, Ga., during a tour of Army North. Translation was provided to the visitors through their earphones, so they could listen in their native language as LeDoux described the vehicle's capabilities. The students also visited U.S. Army South and Joint Task Force – North, Fort Bliss, as part of their trip.

opportunity to see, firsthand, some of the operational command and control and interagency coordination capabilities of Army North in supporting civilian authorities, Carbone said.

Army North leaders briefed the students on the unit's mission sets and current operations before conducting a question and discussion session. Following the session, the students toured the Current Operations Intelligence Center and learned about the command's unique operational vehicles: the Sentinel and the Emergency Response Vehicle.

“This visit to Army North enabled the students to understand our mission, organization and how we do business, specifically in the areas of support to civil authorities and security cooperation,” said Col. Hector Salinas, chief, Security

Cooperation Division, Army North. Salinas said the visit benefited Army North as well.

“One of our principal tenets is to build capacity and capabilities in order to be able to work effectively with our partners,” Salinas said. “Additionally, partner nations provide resources and efforts in achieving common goals.”

Maj. Julio Hernandez, a WHINSEC student, who serves as an operations chief at Hector Caraccioli Moncada Air Base in Honduras, said improving civil support operations was important in his country and that he was interested in the Sentinel.

“Our country is small; we have to use all our resources,” Hernandez, said.

“The main thing is how the military supports civilian authorities and how to match technology to help in this mission.”

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Army North, JB Lewis-McChord welcome family members at Seattle-Tacoma



SEATAC, Wash. — A joint team from Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Navy Region Northwest assists Department of Defense military and civilian family members at the Joint Reception Coordination Center inside the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport March 22 as part of a Voluntary Authorized Departure from Japan. U.S. Army North is heading up operations to welcome home the family members as the supporting command for U.S. Northern Command at three Joint Reception Coordination Centers in the continental United States. The other two sites are Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., and Denver International Airport. **(BOTTOM LEFT)** Family members walk through the airport terminal to the JRCC March 22. **(BOTTOM RIGHT)** A medic meets with family members as they process through the JRCC March 22.

(Photos by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathan Lockwood)



from Japan, Pg. 3

“I am confident we are ready to receive the families because they are our own,” said Col. Marc Hutson, DCO, Region VIII.

All teams understand the impact they can have on not only those families but the bonds they are making within the teams.

“We want to smooth this out the best we can so we can relieve the stress (the families) are experiencing,”

said Air Force Col. Jeff Snyder, from the 60th Medical Group at Travis AFB. “I’m enjoying working with the defense coordinating element to make this work.” (Story contributors: Lt. Col. Randy Martin, Army North PAO; Tom Saunders, Air Force Northern; Sgt. 1st Class Marshall Smith, DCE Region 8)

The JRCCs are expected to continue receiving the military families voluntarily leaving Japan as those families decide to leave.

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Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

Events for April 2011

The Department of Defense and Fort Sam Houston Officially recognizes Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April to raise awareness and promote the prevention of sexual violence through the use of special events and public education. "Hurts one, Affects all" conveys the message that sexual assault not only affects the victim, it also affects the military's ability to achieve readiness. A number of events throughout the month of April have been planned to educate and make aware the atrocity of sexual assault.

April 4-5 – Dr. Christopher Kilmartin: "Leadership and Sexual Assault Prevention"

April 4, 8-9:30 a.m. – Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797

10-11:30 a.m. – Wood Auditorium, MEDCOM

3-4:30 p.m. – BAMC Auditorium

April 5, 10:30-11:30 a.m. – Recognition, Reading of the Proclamation at the Roadrunner Community Center with Guest Speaker Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, Army North and Fort Sam Houston

April 18-23 – Sex Signals Shows

April 23 – 5K Run Against Sexual Assault and Child Abuse. The run begins at 9 a.m. Free T-shirts and water for runners will be provided. For more information call 210-295-0667.

Dr. Christopher Kilmartin is a college professor, author, stand-up comedian, actor, playwright, consultant and professional psychologist. He is a Professor of Psychology at The University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. He holds a Ph.D. in Counseling psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a licensed clinical psychologist who has a great deal of experience consulting with businesses, college students, human services workers, and counselors.

"Are you getting the signal?" The real life funny show about dating and other stuff! For show times, see your Unit Victim Advocate or platoon sergeant for details. For more information, call 210-221-0918/2418/2705.

U.S. ARMY

I.A.M. STRONG

INTERVENE • ACT • MOTIVATE

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention

INTERVENE

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE

We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest...together.

www.preventsexualassault.army.mil
Military OneSource • 1-800-342-9647

www.arnorth.army.mil

Task force uses 'distributed operations' to deploy assets faster, cheaper

By Petty Officer 1st Class
Steven Weber
JTF-CS PAO

FORT MONROE, Va. — Members of Joint Task Force – Civil Support utilized a new approach to consequence management during Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command exercise conducted by U.S. Army North March 12-21, at Camp Atterbury, and Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind.

This year, JTF-CS conducted distributed operations, spreading forces across several locations to reduce the time and cost it takes to deploy consequence management assets, improving the unit's ability to get "boots on the ground" and start saving lives.

"Distributed operations worked really well and made us more responsive," said Michael Collins, JTF-CS chief of staff.

"The plans and orders cell, the joint planning group and other entities like that stood up immediately when the incident happened and never had to break contact with operations to jump forward."

The exercise scenario, centered on JTF-CS and subordinate units, involved a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear device, or "dirty bomb," being detonated by terrorists within the city limits of Louisville, Ky.

The exercise is an annual, around-the-clock training event involving more than 3,500 Department of Defense personnel, including civilians and representatives of the military services and their active and reserve components.



Kevin Liske, current operations specialist, Joint Task Force – Civil Support, monitors the common operating picture in the tactical command post tent March 13 at "Forward Operations Base Panter," a training area near Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex. The tactical command post served as a liaison between JTF-CS, based at Fort Monroe, Va., and the simulated detonation point for exercise participants of Vibrant Response 11.1.

The task force conducts command and control of the forces that would respond in the event of a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive incident.

In the past, JTF-CS trained to respond to a CBRNE incident by deploying all of its 200-plus personnel to the incident site. From this position, JTF-CS provided command and control to about 4,700 DoD personnel who make up the CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force – the task force's subordinate medical, aviation and search and rescue forces.

Using distributed operations, the JTF-CS headquarters is broken up into three separate command posts. Two are near the incident site, but the overall command and control

remains at the Fort Monroe-based main command post.

Deploying fewer people and less equipment allowed for a faster response time, meaning JTF-CS and the CCMRF could begin life-saving, injury-preventing and other support missions requested by local, state and federal first responders.

The majority of personnel stayed at the main command post, while a smaller group went to the forward command post 600 miles away at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The smallest group made up the tactical command post, which was only a few miles from the training site at MUTC.

"We proved, with real troops on the ground, out in the field operating, that distributed operations works," Collins said.

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Marine quick response team tackles simulated nuclear detonation during Vibrant Response 11.1

Story and photos by
Sgt. Nazly Confesor
361st PAOC

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX — In the fallout of a nuclear attack, professionally trained personnel are needed to go into a disaster site and save lives.

Over 120 active-duty U.S. Marines and Sailors assigned to the Chemical, Biological Incident Response Force from Indian Head, Md., took part in Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North from March 11-19 at Camp Atterbury and Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex, Ind.

The exercise was designed to train military forces to respond to a nuclear “dirty bomb” detonated on U.S. soil, creating displaced civilians, wreckage and overall disorder in its aftermath.

During the exercise, CBIRF, along with other military forces, came together to support and comprise Joint Task Force – Civil Support. JTF-CS, headquartered at Fort Monroe, Va., is an integral part of our nation’s ability to recover from any catastrophic nuclear incident. Its purpose is to assist local, state and federal agencies during recovery missions.

CBIRF is an active-duty component within the Marine Corps that is organized to respond on short notice to a chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological or high-yield explosive incident within U.S. soil or worldwide. In the event of a CBRNE incident,



U.S. Marine Technical Rescue members of Bravo Initial Response Force, assigned to the Chemical Biological Incident Response Team from Indian Head, Md., stabilize the side of a building March 12 during Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North.

CBIRF’s Assessment Team and Initial Response Force (IRF) deploy immediately to help contain the catastrophe. CBIRF is capable of responding by land, sea or air.

“We are that rapid extraction force, the first people to go out

the door to help turn the tide and save lives,” said Marine Maj. Mike Johnson, of Allentown, Pa., the mission and operations commander of the CBIRF and Initial Response Force.

Currently, there are two teams

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broken down within CBIRF: Alpha and Bravo Team Initial Response Forces, both are based out of Indian Head, Md. During Vibrant Response 11.1, the capabilities of Bravo Team were put to the test.

“Every 60 days, these Marines go through a certification exercise that is signed off by the commanding officer of CBIRF to make sure they are ready to go,” said Johnson.

After 24 hours, the commander briefed the Marines; they prepared their gear and made sure they had all necessary equipment to complete their mission.

“When we get called to an incident, our job is to set up and immediately go in to detect if there is any contamination,” said Cpl. John Michaud, an assistant identification platoon team leader from Indian Head, Md., “We have to make sure it’s safe for people down there.”

The Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex, near Butlerville, Ind., served as the disaster site for Bravo IRF. Marines encountered hundreds of local civilians within the 1,000-acre complex that features more than 120 training structures such as a “pancaked” car garage.

Contracted role-players realistically took on the roles of displaced survivors, complete with artificial physical and mental wounds that would likely be encountered in the event of catastrophe of this type.

As Bravo IRF arrived at “ground zero,” each specialty team was given specific mission assignments. Although each team is different, the main focus of each one of them is the same: to ensure safety within the civilian population and themselves.

Bravo IRF has the capabilities



U.S. Navy Medical Chief Vantroi SibiliaMartinez, assigned to the Incident Response Force Bravo Team within the Chemical, Biological Incident Response Force from Indian Head, Md., steps out of a decontamination section with his eyes closed after being stripped out of his radioactive protective gear March 12 at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex during training at Vibrant Response 11.1, a large-scale multi-agency training exercise held March 11-19 in central Indiana. The field training exercise, with command and control from Joint Task Force Civil Support, put Soldiers in challenging lifesaving and life-sustaining missions in cooperation with local, state and federal authorities after a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in nearby Louisville, Ky.

for agent detection and identification, casualty search and extraction, technical rescue, personal decontamination, emergency medical care, and stabilization of contaminated displaced citizens at the disaster site.

With little sleep, each team focused on their mission assignments, whether it was drilling in the rubble to rescue a casualty or examining displaced citizens with a Point Detection Radiation 77 device.

The device conducts gamma radiation detection through a person’s body and monitors their health status.

Lance Cpl. Cordero Fruster, a member of the extraction team during Vibrant Response, and native of Fort. Lauderdale, Fla.,

said this exercise challenged him as both a Marine and an extractor.

“It’s a very hard job,” Fruster said. “You can be put into tight situations with having to crawl into tunnels and rubble while having to keep the possible casualty safe at all times.”

Fruster said the morale of the unit is high and he was excited to take part in training with so many people.

“I actually love it out here and it’s my first operation going out with the CBIRF so it’s been a different experience for me with something like this,” Fruster said.

Whether it is training such as VR 11.1 or a real-life crisis, the Marines of CBIRF stand ready to respond with a clear mission: Go out and save whom you can, wherever you can.

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Army North Family Readiness Welcome Day

Red Plate Welcome

Coming to a new unit, location and/or job can be challenging. Often a simple hello can make all the difference in making someone feel at home. The Red Plate Welcome is a way to make Army North newcomers feel a part of the team. The hope is this simple gesture will help new Soldiers, Civilians and their Families see Army North as a warm and friendly place to work. The Red Plate is a basic red plastic picnic plate topped with home baked goodies and current Family Readiness Group information..

Baby Bib Program

Having a new baby in your life is a time to celebrate! Each new Army North baby deserves this recognition with an adorable Army North baby bib. New parents, grandparents or aunts and uncles can request a handmade bib! These are open to all Army North Staff — Soldiers and Civilians alike!

How does it work?

Each month we want all new Army North Soldiers and Staff "Families" to receive a red plate full of goodies and new Army North Babies to receive a baby bib, but we can't do it alone! The FRG is a unit wide activity! Red Plates or Baby Bibs can be requested monthly by anyone in the unit (soldier and civilian alike) who wants to acknowledge a new Team or Family Member. Please let the FRG know how many plates and/or baby bibs you will need. Currently, the company commanders and first sergeants are taking care of delivering the plates and bibs. Please look around your workplace and make sure that everyone is being welcomed or celebrating the new baby in their life. Don't just expect that someone else will do it! We will track repeats, so there are no duplicate efforts!

For a goodie plate, tell us the Soldier/Civilian's name and section. For a new baby, tell us the Soldier/Civilian's name and section, their relationship to the baby, the baby's name, sex and birth date! Email the request to ARNORTHFAMILY@GMAIL.COM by the Friday before the First Tuesday!

Are there ways to help?

Yes! Notice if a new staff member or baby was missed and let us know! Each month we need volunteer bakers and package assembly people. We need donations of old ACU tops. For the bibs. We also periodically may need help making baby bibs. All help is greatly appreciated! If you are interested or have any ideas/suggestions, you can email the FRG at ARNORTHFAMILY@GMAIL.COM or call the Family Programs Assistant or your Family Readiness Group Leaders (see below).

EASTER EGG HUNT

The FRG's April event is an Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday, April 14 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The Hunt will be on the lawn outside the Quad, and other activities will be inside the Quad including: snack food, egg walk competitions, musical chairs and a Piñata.

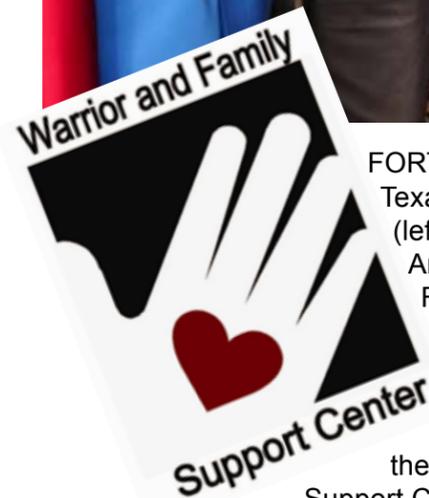
There will be four age groups for the Egg Hunt (including adults) and each age group will have a chance to find an egg good for a special prize basket!

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

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Texas Cavaliers spread Fiesta cheer to Wounded Warriors



FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Bill Mitchell (left), who serves as King Antonio LXXXIX for Fiesta 2011, presents free Fiesta parade tickets for Wounded Warriors to Judith Markelz, director of the Warrior and Family Support Center, at the Warrior and Family Support Center March 23.

Also participating in the ticket presentation were: Brian Daugherty, director of Army Community Service; Mark Johnson Jr., Cavaliers' River Parade Marshal; Annette Wiggins, military president of the

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO Military-Civilian Club; and Col. Wayne Shanks, Army North public affairs officer.

The Texas Cavaliers Association donated 200 free tickets for Wounded Warriors and 1,000 free tickets for service members of Joint Base San Antonio to attend the Texas Cavaliers River Parade April 11.

"Our military men and women serve this great nation every day, and on their behalf, I want to thank the Texas Cavaliers for continuing to support these great Americans," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, Army North and Fort Sam Houston.

"The Cavaliers have again paved the way for many of our troops and their Families to enjoy this year's Fiesta River Parade. Viva Fiesta!"

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News

Army North adopts integrated cost management system

By Sandra Akana and Paul Goodrich
Army North G8

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Leaders at U.S. Army North have begun using the General Fund Enterprise Business System, a decision-making system that takes cost management into account.

The General Fund Enterprise Business System is a Web-based enterprise resource planning system and the Army's principal financial transformation initiative. The ERP system will integrate data and processes from across the entire Army to include the U.S. Army Reserves and Army National Guard into a unified system. The data is then available from high-level summaries down to the level of individual projects.

GFEBs will perform all general fund accounting for the Army, including general ledger, accounts payable, and accounts receivable. The system also provides real-time cost management and cost control information that was previously difficult to produce or unavailable.

The Army is transforming business processes to allow for more informed decisions, better resource management, and greater support to war fighters. GFEBs is a significant initiative in this transformation, moving the Army to a cost management culture.

In April 2009, the Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army issued a memorandum implementing the GFEBs, in response to several con-

gressional mandates. When fully deployed, the system will meet a number of key requirements especially related to internal controls, such as Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, which requires federal agencies to centralize finance systems for better accounting; Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996, which requires accurate, reliable, and timely management information from financial management systems; and DoD initiatives that direct the services to field cross-functional and enterprise-wide architectures, systems and data.

GFEBs is being deployed through multiple waves that began in October 2008 at Fort Jackson, S.C. Army North was a part of the third wave deployment that converted in October 2010. The system is scheduled to complete deployment in January 2012. Full deployment will include more than 79,000 financial professionals managing a \$140 billion annual budget at more than 200 locations worldwide.

DoD to offer child care improvements for Soldiers, Families

Bill Bradner,
FMWRC Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO — According to the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, barely 10 percent of child development facilities nationwide are accredited. Within the Department of Defense, however, 98 percent of child development programs are accredited.

"We won't connect a military family with a program that we know is not developmentally ap-

propriate and not high quality," said Lee Ratliff, acting Community Based Division chief at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command.

"Child care is a quality of life issue," he explained. "It's vital our Soldiers know their children are taken care of, that they are in a high-quality environment."

Army Child, Youth and School Services, or CYSS, has been working for more than a decade to ensure Army child care on installations is fully accredited. In recent years, the focus has been to work with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, known as NACCRRA, to develop quality child care options outside the gates.

More than 14,000 children of active-duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers are currently enrolled in Army-sponsored, community-based programs that meet state licensing and/or national accreditation requirements.

Building on the success of Army Child, Youth and School Services, DoD plans to launch an initiative this year to improve the quality and quantity of child care available for Reserve Component personnel and families living in areas not directly supported by a military installation child care system.

Comptroller: Budget slows Defense growth

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Cost savings reflected in the fiscal 2012 Defense Department budget do not represent a cut from current funding levels, but rather a slower rate of

growth than has been seen in recent years, the Pentagon's comptroller and chief financial officer told a Senate committee yesterday.

Defense officials have identified \$178 billion in savings for fiscal 2012 through 2016, Robert F. Hale, appearing along with budget representatives from the services, told the Senate Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on readiness.

With a focus on improving business operations, defense officials identified \$100 billion in savings to be reinvested for combat capabilities, and took \$78 billion in savings from the department's top line to help in reducing the federal deficit, Hale said.

"Like Congress, the leadership of the Department of Defense is mindful of the fact that our nation is dealing with significant fiscal and economic pressures," he said.

In that spirit, Hale said, the department's budget requests for fiscal 2010 and 2011 included steps to curtail or eliminate programs "where we had met our procurement needs, or where programs were seriously troubled or provided capabilities that were judged too narrow to justify their expense."

Napolitano highlights DHS efforts on border security, travel and trade

Office of the Press Secretary
DHS

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano delivered remarks April 1 highlighting the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to strengthen security while facilitat-

ing legal travel and trade along the Southwest border.

"Security and economic prosperity represent two sides of the same coin," said Secretary Napolitano.

"We are committed to further strengthening our border security efforts, which will reinforce and help expand legal trade and travel in the border region."

Napolitano underscored the department's efforts to strengthen border security through the Southwest Border Initiative, launched in March 2009 — which includes increasing the number of Border Patrol agents from approximately 10,000 in 2004 to more than 20,700 today; doubling the number of personnel assigned to Border Enforcement Security Task Forces; and deploying more than a quarter of all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel to the Southwest border region—the most ever.

Napolitano also highlighted the collaboration between the U.S. and Mexico to bolster cooperation along the Southwest border. DHS has increased joint training programs with Mexican law enforcement agencies and border patrol agents are coordinating joint operations along the Southwest border with Mexican federal police to combat human trafficking and smuggling in both nations.

The Obama administration has made great strides working with local leaders to update infrastructure and reduce wait times at our Southwest border ports of entry while increasing security. More than 1,700 private-sector partners in Mexico are enrolled in the "Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism" trusted-shipper program, and CBP is deploying 250 new officers to

ports along the border as a result of the FY 2010 Border Security Supplemental. These investments have yielded concrete results, with imports crossing the Southwest border into the United States increasing 22 percent from fiscal year 2009 to fiscal year 2010.

Technology extends StratCom's priorities

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. Strategic Command's priority is to deter nuclear attack on the United States and its allies, but broader responsibilities in the 21st century include cybersecurity and missile defense, the organization's top officer said here yesterday.

Air Force Gen. C. Robert Kehler testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee for the first time since he assumed command of Stratcom in January.

"Of the threats we face, weapons of mass destruction clearly represent the greatest threat to the American people, particularly when they are pursued or possessed by violent extremists or state proliferators," Kehler said.

While nuclear deterrence is Stratcom's No. 1 priority, the general added, the command also has broader responsibilities in the 21st century, such as supporting U.S. Africa Command, he said.

"We provided B-2s early in (Operation Odyssey Dawn) for Africa Command's use," Kehler said. "We are also taking steps ... to make sure they have the space capabilities they need, to make sure the networks there are operational and have sufficient capacity and are secured."



Vibrant Response 11.1