

ARNORTH **Monthly**

February 2011



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Front Cover: CAMP BULLIS, Texas — Sgt. 1st Class Somphot Hongtong, operations noncommissioned officer, Headquarters Support Company, U.S. Army North, explains the position of the aperture sight on the M-16A2 Rifle Jan. 20 to Capt. Philip Lee, attorney, Army North, during the company's advanced marksmanship training at the Camp Bullis Military Training Reservation in San Antonio. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres-Cortes, ARNORTH PAO)

Back Cover: TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Airmen from the 60th Aerial Port Squadron work alongside Soldiers from Army North Region IX to guide a trailer of disaster relief supplies from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Jan. 7 onto a C-17 Globemaster aircraft. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Harrower, 60th Air Mobile Wing Public Affairs)

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

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Public Affairs Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger
Public Affairs Operations: Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres
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Leaders, Soldiers, Families must focus on safety during Washington's Birthday

By Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III

Commanding General, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston



The third Monday of February we celebrate George Washington's birthday, our first Commander-in-Chief. Through popular tradition, Washington's birthday has become a time to honor and celebrate all our former presidents' birthdays. While we may have a favorite president, we all understand that serving in this country's highest office is extremely demanding. I salute all leaders, past and present, who have and continue to serve this great nation.

It is also important to focus on safety during any holiday and you should take every precaution in order to enjoy a safe and memorable celebration. Service members going on leave/pass or moving from one post to another must complete the automated risk assessment; Civilian employees must also do the same (per AR 385-10) when using their privately owned vehicles during a move or going TDY, and are encouraged to use this tool when taking leave. Your chain-of-command must brief all service members and Civilians on preventive actions to avoid accidents or injuries. I challenge you to eliminate common risk factors such as excessive speed, alcohol, fatigue, failure to wear seat belts, and failure to wear protective gear for motorcycle riding. The automated TRiPS POV Risk Assessment web based tool can be found on the US Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Web site <https://safety.army.mil>.



Army North Soldiers enhance vital skill set through marksmanship training

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

CAMP BULLIS, Texas — During the Revolutionary War, “Baron” Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a former Prussian officer, was brought in to teach marksmanship training to Continental Army Soldiers, and he clearly demonstrated the importance and the effectiveness of properly placing volleys of fire against enemy forces.


A little more than 223 years later, Soldiers from U.S. Army

North’s Headquarters Support Company concentrated on modern principles of advanced rifle marksmanship during live-fire weapons training Jan. 27 at the Camp Bullis Military Training Reservation in San Antonio; the training, however, was not with muskets but rather with current weapons: the M-16A2 Rifle and the M-9 Beretta Pistol.

“This training is excellent in developing confidence in our junior and senior noncommissioned officers,” said Maj. Rene Rodriguez, commander, headquarters support

company, Army North. “It also sets the pathway for the same NCOs receiving this training in their future assignments to lead qualification ranges and lead Soldiers.”

Learning close-quarter combat skills is as paramount in today’s Army as it was in the past as Soldiers continue to learn different and more effective ways to use their combat equipment. Although the mission requirements here in Army North do not call for carrying a weapon on a daily basis, maintaining basic Soldiering skills remain a top priority for the



CAMP BULLIS, Texas — Staff Sgt. Kalisha Heard, intelligence analyst, Headquarters Support Company, U.S. Army North, fires an M-16A2 Rifle Jan. 20 during the company’s advanced marksmanship training at the Camp Bullis Military Training Reservation in San Antonio.

command.

“The procedures and techniques for implementing the program are designed to improve Soldiers’ understanding of common firing principles to allow them to become more proficient marksmen and to increase their confidence in applying their firing skills in real-world contingency operations,” said Sgt. 1st Class Barney Muller, range noncommissioned officer in charge, HSC, Army North.

Soldiers rehearsed reflexive fire from the standing, unsupported firing position and a modified firing position in which they squatted slightly forward as they fired to steady themselves. The modified position provided them a stable base to react to returning fire. Soldiers also rehearsed rapid, semiautomatic fire training, with continuous, rapid single shots.

“Every Soldier must be

proficient in their warrior tasks,” said Sgt. 1st Class Somphot Hongtong, range safety, operations noncommissioned officer, Army North. “If the mission requires us to defend ourselves and our citizens, then we will be able to perform that mission.”

Many of the Soldiers said they appreciated the opportunity to practicing their basic Soldiering skills.

“I enjoyed the training,” said Staff Sgt. Kalisha Heard, an Atlanta native who serves as an intelligence analyst with Army North. “Due to my break in service and frequent PCS moves, I was overdue for advanced rifle marksmanship training. I was able to regain my confidence with the M-16A2 and familiarize myself with the M-9.”

The training for Soldiers today is much more complex when compared to the straight-line

shooting of the Colonial days. However, many of the principles taught by the famous “Baron” in 1776 remain paramount today – the solid foundation of marksmanship.

Soldiers must know their weapons and maintain a high level of proficiency to be able to engage the enemy with precision.

“The Global War on Terror is not set in one battlefield or environment, and reflexive drills and different firing postures are very good for Soldiers to learn and become proficient at,” said Staff Sgt. Nathan Haselhorst, communications noncommissioned officer, Army North.

Reflexive fire, for one, is especially essential for those who convoy a lot or conduct foot patrols to help keep themselves and their battle buddies safe in a combat zone.”



CAMP BULLIS, Texas — Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Turberville (Right), operations noncommissioned officer, Headquarters Support Company, Army North, fires an M-9 Beretta Pistol Jan. 20 during advanced marksmanship training at the Camp Bullis Military Training Reservation in San Antonio. (Left) The M-9 Beretta Pistol ejects a round and loads another during Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Turberville’s live fire training Jan. 20 at Camp Bullis.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, ARNORTH PAO

Moving on ...

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins (right), deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, welcomes Gen. Raymond Odierno, the commanding general of U.S. Joint Forces Command, based in Norfolk, Va., to Army North's historic Quadrangle Jan. 31. Odierno visited Army North to preside over the retirement of Col. David Thompson, who served under Odierno's command as the Multi-National Forces – Iraq inspector general and as the U.S. Forces – Iraq inspector general.



Photo by Armando Carrasco – JTF-N PAO

Saying hello to heroes...

EL PASO, Texas — Maj. Teresa Haney thanks Wesley Hopper and Joseph Britt for their service to the nation. Hopper served 24 years in the Army and Britt served in both the Navy and Marine Corps. Residents of the Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home received a special holiday visit from Santa, who was accompanied by the Joint Task Force — North staff members and their Partners in Education students from North Loop Elementary School.

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ARNORTH

welcomes

Maj. Richard Dunbar, G3

Maj. Jeffrey Kaldahl, G2

Maj. John Mullican, PMO

Capt. Melissa Steward,
PMO

Capt. Peter Villaluz, G4

CW5 William Keith JR.,
CofS

CW3 Dennis Quintero, G3

Master Sgt. Dale Lee, CCP

Sgt. 1st Class Enrique

Castro, HHB

Sgt. 1st Class Latrice

Jefferson, G1

Sgt. 1st Class Monsanto

Jefferson, G7

Staff Sgt. Adam Sahlberg,

OPS

Sgt. Peter Melton, G3

ARNORTH says

goodbye

Lt. Col. Michael Brough,
CCP1

1st Lt. Juan Martinez, HHB

Jerry Firebaugh, G6

Robert T. Gonzales, G1

Kerry Krause, G6

Carol Rein, G8

Russell Stephens, CSTA

NCOs – Leaders lead by example

By Command Sgt. Maj.

Eddie Fields

HHBn, Army North

Hello ARNORTH Family and friends! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the support you have given the battalion over the past six months.

As the senior enlisted advisor in the battalion, I continue to watch our leaders grow on a daily basis. I would like to share a few of my thoughts about the Non-Commissioned Officer.

Three things impact you once you become a NCO, they are: leadership, role modeling and your ability to take care of your Soldiers and their Families. Many of you in the command have made the transition many moons ago, but it is wise to always remember that the NCO Corps is a time-honored Corps – steeped in tradition, with a great history – and recognized since its inception as the “Backbone of the Army.”

As a nation at war, we ask our NCO Corps leaders to perform at extraordinary levels, with the weight of the nation on his or her shoulders. A great NCO once was asked, at the time of his death, if he could pick two things to repeat before he died. He replied: “I would become an NCO and marry the same spouse.”

Leadership is the ability to motivate Soldiers to accomplish tasks that they would not normally perform – under abnormal conditions or circumstances.

Leaders do this by providing purpose, direction and motivation. NCOs accomplish this by leading from the front, setting the example



and by never asking Soldiers to do anything that would bring dishonor to our country or our command.

As noncommissioned officers, they serve as **role models** for both enlisted Soldiers and junior officers.

As such, it is imperative to teach the Soldiers and officers to be better than they are, to be honest and to treat each other with respect.

It is as important, in today’s Army, as it was in the past, to keep an open mind. As an NCO, you will find that you live in a proverbial glass house and that with increased rank and status, the more you become exposed.

You are the ultimate role model and bearer of the unit standards. The better you represent these things, the more superiors respect you, peers admire you and subordinates wish to emulate you.

My role model always reminded me to remember that you live in a glass house as an NCO and, by the way, do not embarrass me. We often do not recognize our true role models until we have noticed our own personal growth and progress.

As for **knowing your Soldiers and their Families**, many discover this is their greatest tool for motivating because they can use this knowledge to touch each of them individually.

This involves knowing what is going on in their lives; knowing if they are financially straight; and knowing the activities they enjoy outside of the work place.

This shows that you care and allows you to be their biggest advocate when speaking of their needs.

Listen to your Soldiers. What may seem trivial to you may be important to them – and never give them “lip service.”

As leaders, you must enforce standards and discipline – so do not be afraid because they expect it. It is equally important to remember that they also expect to be rewarded for when they do well.

Tell your Soldiers what it takes to be successful, and keep them on track to achieve success.

Take care of them before, during and after training or deployment.

Ensure they are ready for the challenges of today and tomorrow. Know their Families. Invest in them and watch the dividends.

I challenge each and every NCO in the command: Do not rest on your laurels or your accomplishments of yesterday but continue to be the best NCO you can be and continue to strive toward even bigger goals and ambitions.

Whatever it may be, remember: Mission First and Soldiers Always.

Army North, NORTHCOM, National Guard work diligently to enhance relationships



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. John Orrell, NGB

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, speaks at the 2011 National Guard Bureau Domestic Operations Conference Jan. 19 at the National Harbor, Md.

**Story and photo by
Air Force Tech. Sgt.
John Orrell
NGB**

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — Army North and the National Guard are partners in planning, coordinating and integrating domestic operations, the commander of Army North said at the 2011 National Guard Bureau Domestic Operations Conference here Jan. 20.

“This is so critical to do ahead of an event so that we’re not struggling to sort through these things under fire during moments of chaos,” said Army Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III,

commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston.

“We’re very proud of the relationship ... that has been built with your leadership and the leadership at the state level.”

Swan spoke of that relationship and the role Army North and the National Guard play in domestic response and homeland preparedness in support of Northern Command.

“We’ve tried very hard over the last year to really go the extra mile to emphasize the team support,” he said. “We fully understand many of the limitations on federal forces in the homeland, but we also

understand many of the strengths that can be brought ... under the proper authorities.

“Concepts like the contingency dual-status commander that is being worked hard by all of us, are one of those mechanisms to bring together state forces ... and that unity of command and unity of effort we’ve all been after for a long time.

“What you’ll see and hear – not only from me but the rest of us in NORTHCOM – ... is really a commitment to making adjutants general, governors and other leaders successful in the most hazardous and disastrous situations we might face here in the homeland.”

Army North, the National Guard and NORTHCOM can work together to achieve a three-mission-set overlap, he said.

The first mission: homeland defense.

“Homeland defense ... are those traditional military functions,” he said. “We’re rarely vulnerable to a land attack in the homeland; our threats are really in the maritime or air domains.”

The second mission: civil support.

“Our civil support mission – whether it’s in the CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear, and high-yield explosive) arena or the other defense support of civil authority activities and support to law enforcement – is about 60 to 70 percent of the mission for Army North,” said Swan.

The third mission: security cooperation with Canada and

Mexico.

“Our long-standing partnership with the Canadians is rock solid, and it does not take much of our time to maintain that relationship,” he said. “Certainly with the NORAD connection, we have that bi-national relationship.

Some of you from the northern-tier states also have strong relationships across the border with our Canadian partners.

“It’s a much different situation ... with Mexico these days; and from a theater cooperation perspective, our command – among others in the NORTHCOM family, to include some of our Guard partners in a title 10 (active-duty) status – is spending much more time with Mexico. That is certainly going up on our priority list, both at the Army North level and the NORTHCOM level.”

Just like the National Guard,

ARNORTH and NORTHCOM’s purpose is to protect the American people and our way of life, he explained.

“One role that we play and take very seriously,” he said, “is the coordination between the Department of Defense and other federal agencies. It’s almost always in support of a federal agency, which in turn may be supporting your state.

“So – while we have a direct support relationship to your state National Guard, other National Guard leaders around the country – it’s always done through one of these intermediary federal agencies, whether it’s FEMA, the FBI or some other federal agency.

“That lineage in place is complex from time to time, but we spend a lot of time making sure that that is done correctly.”



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Weber, JTF-CS PAO

Command brief

FORT MONROE, Va. — Air Force Maj. Gen. Garry Dean, commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region — 1st Air Force, and Air Force Maj. Gen. Jonathan Treacy, commander, Joint Task Force — Civil Support, listen to a command briefing as part of Dean’s visit to JTF-CS, Jan. 24.



WARRIORS CORRALLED FOR 'COWBOY BREAKFAST'

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

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – While most of San Antonio began their commutes to work, the team at Cowboy Breakfast honored more than 600 gathered wounded warriors, service members and their families here.

Cowboy Breakfast volunteers said they knew one of the best ways to show their support and gratitude for the sacrifices of the Soldiers would be donating 3,000 breakfast tacos to the Warrior and Family Support Center Jan. 27.

“The Cowboy Breakfast Board is honored to have the privilege to serve our military personnel undergoing treatment and their caregivers,” said Chuck Christian, chairman of the Cowboy Breakfast Foundation.

The Cowboy Breakfast, in its 33rd year, has been a long-standing tradition in the local community and one of the main events preceding the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. Today’s 2nd annual WFSC Cowboy Breakfast provided the local community an opportunity to interact with troops and continue to build upon the relationship with the military installation.

In all, more than 30 local residents and city officials participated.

“I’m here to serve and honor those who serve my country,”

said Susan Reed, Bexar County district attorney. “This is so special and important to us because we must continue our support in our local community



Spc. Wendy Brickhouse, a medic and an injured Soldier, talks with Pioneer Flour Company volunteers Robbie Halbardier (right), and Mechelle Kwader (center) at the Warrior and Family Support Center during the 2nd Annual WFSC Cowboy Breakfast Jan. 27.

as ‘Military City USA.’”

The mission of the WFSC team is to provide coordinated services for patients, their next-of-kin and extended Family members, said Judith Markelz, director of the WFSC. Although the primary focus is on Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Warriors, the facility also provides support for Family members in helping to ensure they receive emotional support and answers to their medical questions. The program’s main goal is in rehabilitation, which involves learning to cope with war-related disabilities as individuals, as couples and as Families.

“It makes me feel like other people care about us Wounded Warriors,” said Spc. Wendy Brickhouse, an injured Soldier, who enjoyed the breakfast and camaraderie. “We are far away from our Family and friends, and it’s nice that people take time out to do things like this for us. It gives us motivation, and a positive attitude takes our rehabilitation a long way.”

The relationship between the military and civilian community in San Antonio is historically one of honor, trust and mutual commitment.

“This is our way to show our appreciation to those who have served us,” explained Christian. “With our sponsors’ help, we were able to wake up early and begin preparing for this event. This is our second year doing it. It’s a lot of work and a lot of effort, but I love it – and I am honored to do it for them.”



Graig Lindsey, head chef for Cowboy Breakfast Foundation, thanks Soldiers for their service and encourages them to get second and third helpings of breakfast tacos during the Warrior and Family Support Center’s 2nd Annual Cowboy Breakfast Jan. 27 at the WFSC. (Right) Spc. Wendy Brickhouse, a medic and an injured Soldier, speaks with a local community member who volunteered her time to feed breakfast to Soldiers, their Family members and the caregivers during the Warrior and Family Support Center’s 2nd Annual Cowboy Breakfast Jan. 27 at the WFSC.



Army, Air Force and FEMA train to respond to various types of emergencies

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Patrick Harrower
60th Air Mobility Wing PAO

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Soldiers and representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency visited Travis Air Force Base recently to train with the 60th Aerial Port Squadron.

The joint training on loading emergency response equipment aboard an aircraft enables each agency to respond rapidly to a natural or man-made disaster.

“The more we practice, the faster we get,” said Tech. Sgt. Matt Greenwood, 60th APS air transportation standards evaluator. “We perform this training on a regular basis so we can maintain a quick response time to any disaster that may occur.”

The Army partners with FEMA in regional response teams across the country, so when a disaster strikes, the corresponding regional team can respond within a matter of hours. In this case, the nearby FEMA Region IX team works closely with the U.S. Army North Defense Coordinating Element in Oakland. They rely on airlift support from Travis to move equipment and personnel quickly within their region.

“It’s a great training opportunity,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class Juan Hernandez, operations NCO for

ARNORTH Region IX DCE. “It’s very helpful when the Army and FEMA can come to Travis to train on how to prepare our paperwork, pack our cargo correctly and load our equipment onto an airplane.”

There are only 10 regional teams across the country, so it is important that each team train not only to keep certifications current, but maintain the ability to smoothly transition cargo, said Hernandez.

In the event of a disaster, FEMA contacts the nearest DCE to prepare for deployment. Generally, the responsible DCE will request air transportation through the Air Force to move emergency equipment quickly to aid in disaster response efforts.

“FEMA is the initial federal response,” said Cat Looper, FEMA Region IX Incident Management Assistance Team logistics section chief. “It’s important that the Army and Air Force train to do their load planning properly.

“This enables FEMA to move equipment, response teams and resources to support survivors of a disaster.”

FEMA is constantly developing capabilities to be at the scene of a disaster in less than 12 hours, said Looper.

“It’s good to know that when we need airlift, we can drive 40 miles east to Travis and get moved out to where we’re going,” said Looper.



TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Airmen from the 60th Aerial Port Squadron work Jan. 7 alongside Soldiers from Army North Region 9 to guide a trailer of disaster relief supplies from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on a C-17 Globemaster aircraft.

JTF – Civil Support practices response during rehearsal of concept drill

**Story and photos by
Petty Officer 2nd Class
Toni Burton
JTF-CS PAO**

FORT MONROE, Va. — Senior leaders took a look at how the Department of Defense’s response to a nuclear explosion may play out Jan. 26-27 during a rehearsal of concept here.

U.S. Northern Command’s Joint Task Force–Civil Support hosted a forum facilitated by U.S. Army North to synchronize and rehearse the DoD’s homeland defense mission of support to civil authorities.

Dozens of senior leaders and planners from both commands with their subordinate forces and representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency affirmed the capabilities of the task force’s allocated military units, collectively called the Defense CBRN Response Force, to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident.

JTF-CS is the military unit designated to provide consequence management and oversight of Department of Defense Title 10 forces responding to CBRN incidents.

The task force and its subordinate units are part of the unified federal response to a CBRN event, responding only when state authorities request assistance from the federal government.

“This operation is different from what we have practiced over the last 30 years,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Jonathan Treacy, JTF – Civil Support commander. “This is a new campaign design, not how we normally deploy overseas. This campaign is more difficult. Flexibility is the key.”

The forum, dubbed a rehearsal of concept, or “ROC” drill, also allowed Northern Command, Army North and JTF-CS to synchronize planning for an upcoming field training exercise in March.

The exercise simulates a nuclear attack on American soil and will test Northern Command’s ability to respond to an actual U.S.-based chemical, biological or nuclear incident.

“As soon as an incident goes off, we all have to act,” Treacy said. “Strategic planning is the only way for this to happen. To answer the big question: Can we really do it in time we need to do it? I am pleased to say, ‘yes.’”

Last year, the honorable Robert

Gates, secretary of defense, made the decision for the DoD to provide a faster reaction with more life-saving capabilities, called the CBRN Enterprise Concept, said Herb Brown, chief of Deliberate Plans for Army North.

“To develop and rehearse the concepts for a response to a CBRN event using the CBRN enterprise concept is the principle idea of this ROC drill,” he said.

The different representatives took turns expressing what their responsibilities and capabilities would be if called to an incident.

The two-day forum allowed planners and commanders at all levels of the DoD military response force to express any concerns that could possibly come about during an actual coordinated response to a crisis.

As FEMA will likely be the lead federal agency during a response, training together is critical for planning for such events, according to Eric Phillipson, senior planner for FEMA’s Region V.

“I’m understanding the decision process and requirements that DoD will need during a response,” Phillipson said.

“This is very helpful, very useful.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christian Michael,
JTF-CS PAO

(Left) Members of Joint Task Force – Civil Support take part in a Rehearsal of Concept drill, held at the Bay Breeze Club on Fort Monroe Va., Jan. 26-27. (Right) Col. James Gray, Army North G4, addresses leaders from U.S. Northern Command, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Army North, Joint Task Force – Civil Support and supporting task forces.



Photo by Gunnery Sgt James Goodwin,
JTF-CS PAO

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE CIVIL WAR



Photo by U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Command Sgt. Maj. Derrick Taylor, 106th Signal Brigade command sergeant major; Sgt. 1st Class Melanie Locklear, Fort Sam Houston equal Opportunity advisor, U.S. Army North; Col. Chris Haigh, 106th Signal Brigade commander and Sgt. 1st Class Ahmand Brown, 106th Signal Brigade equal opportunity advisor, cut a cake to kick off Black History Month Feb. 1 at the post exchange.



DEOMI releases National African American, Black History Month Observance Poster

By Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of African American/Black History Month, celebrated each year during the month of February, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute proudly announces the availability of original artwork available for download from DEOMI's public Web site: www.deomi.org.

In honor of the efforts of people of African descent to destroy slavery and inaugurate universal freedom in the United States, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History has selected "African Americans and the Civil War" as the 2011 National Black History Month theme and suggests that all people study and reflect on the value of their contributions to the nation.

In 1861, as the United States stood at the brink of Civil War, people of African descent, both enslaved and free, waited with a watchful eye.

They understood that a war between the North and the South might bring about jubilee, the destruction of slavery and universal freedom.

When the Confederacy fired upon Fort Sumter and war ensued, President Abraham Lincoln maintained that the paramount cause was to preserve the Union, not end slavery.

Frederick Douglass, the most prominent black leader, opined that regardless of intentions, the war would bring an end to slavery,

America's "peculiar institution."

Over the course of the war, the four million people of African descent in the United States proved Douglass right.

Free and enslaved blacks rallied around the Union flag in the cause of freedom. From the cotton and tobacco fields of the South to the small towns and big cities of the North, nearly 200,000 joined the Grand Army of the Republic and took up arms to destroy the Confederacy.

They served as recruiters, soldiers, nurses, and spies, and endured unequal treatment, massacres, and riots as they pursued their quest for freedom and equality.

Their record of service speaks for itself, and Americans have never fully realized how their efforts saved the Union.

Frederick Douglass, an American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman, said "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pockets, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States."

These words moved many African Americans to enlist in the Union Army and fight for their freedom.

With President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the Civil War became a war to save the Union and to abolish slavery.

Approximately 180,000 African

Americans comprising 163 units served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and many more African Americans served in the Union Navy. Both free African-Americans and runaway slaves joined the fight.

"In researching this year's theme of "African Americans and the Civil War," I found that historic hi-resolution images for this topic are few and far between," said Mr. Pete Hemmer, DEOMI Illustrator.

"Realizing that a reenactment image would probably work better for a dynamic portrait, I contacted several United States Colored Troops Civil War Reenactment Groups.

Working with Mr. George Smith, (featured on the poster), President of the United States Colored Troops Living History Association, was invaluable because of the photo reference provided by him of himself taken at a Civil War reenactment event while portraying a corporal with the 13th United States Colored Infantry Regiment.

The background image is a Civil War recruitment poster," Mr. Hemmer said.

While all DEOMI published themes are representative of the Department of Defense, this does not preclude an organization from creating their own theme or using previously published themes.

Regardless of what theme your organization selects, the following link can provide critical information to support a successful program.

Association for the Study of African American History Month at <http://www.asalh.org>.

CG takes stock of Army North, recognizes efforts of teammates

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
ARNORTH PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — The commanding general of U.S. Army North took stock of his organization and thanked his personnel for their efforts Jan. 21 during the unit's Town Hall and Quarterly Recognition Ceremony at the Dodd Field Chapel.

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, Army North and Fort Sam Houston, met with more than 200 of his military and civilian team members at the chapel and told them their efforts were critical and appreciated.

"I am very proud of this organization," Swan said. "The heart and soul of any organization is you, the people, who make things happen for the command."

He spoke of five priorities he felt were important at Army North: training, theater security cooperation, planning, command and control, and synchronization and integration, and he briefed those in attendance on how he rates the organization on each of those priorities.

"I measure the success of the command based on the success of those that we support," Swan said. "As a federal military headquarters, we are almost always in support of other people. They may be National Guardsmen, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Transportation or Customs and Border Protection.

"If those organizations are successful because of something we've done, then I consider that a success for U.S. Army North. We need to continue to bring value."

After a year in command, he said the town hall provided him an opportunity to share an "Army North 101" snap-shop view and assessment of the year in review and to provide a glimpse of where the command is heading.

Training, he said, is an area the unit excels in, and he rates it at "sustain."

"One of the things we have to do in Army North is to be training experts," Swan said. "I think we do things extremely well in the Defense Support of Civil Authorities arena. I think there is no one better in the

Department of Defense than this command on training others on what the DoD does for other civil agencies across a wide spectrum of missions — disaster response, support to law enforcement, you name it. I think we are very good at training folks on what that's all about."

In the area of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive response, he continued, the command has the critical responsibility for marshalling forces, training forces, preparing Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines to be able to respond, along with first responders, in a hazardous environment — whether it's a terrorist attack, natural disaster or man-made industrial disaster of some sort.

He rated theater security cooperation as an area to "improve" as the unit continues to build closer security cooperation ties with Mexico.

"The relationship with Canada is a sustained one and a very strong one — military to military," Swan said. "Where I have tried to place effort is in Mexico, along with Admiral

(James) Winnefeld (Jr.) — making this the highest priority for NORTHCOM. The priority is to improve our ability to work with our partners in the Mexican military to strengthen them in their fight against a common enemy."

The commanding general said that Army North has been successful in planning and working with outside partners, and rated planning as a "sustain" but wanted to continue to improve the unit's command and control ability, which he rates as "improve."

"In my experience, we have not really been tested during the time that I've been here," he said. "We got by fairly well last hurricane season, and we have not had a major terrorist attack. We have not been tested yet, so I assess that we still have more work to do, and I am personally looking ahead to that national-level exercise as a way to test us and improve our ability to do command and control."

Swan said the command was very good and synchronization and integration, ensuring that personnel and assets were utilized used in the most efficient way and that the unit play an important role in helping synchronize efforts with the National Guard, local and state governments and federal

agencies.

“We have a unique view of the world,” he said. “We view the entire country, across all the states and territories; and because of that, we are able to see some things that people who are more narrowly focused are unable to see so that we can help them do their jobs better, assist other agencies and do those kinds of integration things.

Another area of importance leaders in Army North are working, he said, is to develop better professional development opportunities for its civilian team members.

“Those of us in uniform, and those who have been in uniform, we’re part of a very well-structured professional development regime throughout our careers.”

“I think we need to redouble our efforts to get a similar capability for our civilian partners here in the room and serving around the country as part of the

command. This is an area that I’m going to ask for a lot of people’s help on to make sure that we’re doing the best by all of you who serve so well every day in a changing and often difficult environment.”

He stressed the importance each member of the command plays in getting the word out about the accomplishments and vital importance of Army North.

“I want you to be a spokesman for the command. Be conversant on what this command does for NORTHCOM, for the DoD and, ultimately, for the Nation. If you can’t be excited for this mission, you can’t be excited for anything.”

During the quarterly recognition ceremony, more than 50 military and civilian member of the command were recognized for their achievements, which included their support for the Combined Federal Campaign, various military awards, civilian service awards, length of service awards, civilian of the quarter awards and the Sue Cotton Award.

CG outlines his 2011 Command Vision and Philosophy

“Five Areas where U.S. Army North must be the best at:”

Training — U.S. Army North is the recognized training center of excellence for civil support operations and defense support of civil authorities — in order to provide the DoD response to any emergency in the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility — includes exercise design, observer-trainers, SMEs, skilled senior mentors and non-DoD players.

Theater Security Cooperation — The security of our Nation is inextricably tied to the security of Mexico and Canada. Our role includes traditional mil-to-mil partnerships as well as military support to U.S. law enforcement agencies that are assisting Canadian and Mexican law enforcement in countering transnational threats.

Planning — Our military training has provided us skills that are equally important to our many partners. We will share that expertise in ways that make others successful, in a respectful manner, and helps build planning capacity in other agencies, departments and jurisdictions. Planning also helps us anticipate and get ahead of the inevitable confusion that goes with catastrophic events.

Command and Control — C2 of DoD response forces in large-scale operations is our strength. We will be able to build teams, staffs and organizations on short notice in what will be "come as you are" chaotic operational environments. Must be practiced constantly.

Synchronization and integration — We will assist our interagency, international and State partners in synchronizing and integrating a response or operation. For example, our DCOs play this role when integrating requested DoD response forces into a USG response within a State. Our military training has made us experts in this crucial area.

Region IX Defense Coordinating Element Soldiers recognized for tsunami response

By Steve Mogan
Region IX DCE Ops

OAKLAND, Calif. — Nine members of U.S. Army North's Defense Coordinating Element Region IX and associated joint service emergency preparedness liaison officers were recognized Jan. 4 for their support efforts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency when an 8.0 earthquake struck the Pacific near American Samoa in October 2009.

American Samoa is an unincorporated U.S. territory about the size of Washington, D.C., with a population of 65,000, located in the South Pacific Ocean; immediately following the tsunami, President Barack Obama issued a major disaster declaration allowing federal resources, including the Department of Defense, to work with local government organizations and emergency response personnel to provide life support, public health and safety measures.

U.S. Pacific Command's Joint Task Force – Homeland Defense awarded Joint Service Achievement Medals to the nine Army North personnel for their efforts coordinating the DoD response from their home base in Oakland.

"This was the right thing to do, to recognize the efforts of our team in Oakland who contributed to the success of that rapid response in the Pacific," said Col. Mark Armstrong, the defense coordinating officer for Region IX. "These awards reflect the joint and interagency nature of what our DCE members and EPLOs do in support of FEMA, U.S. Northern Command and Pacific



Photo courtesy of JTF-HD PAO

AMERICAN SAMOA — Relief workers survey the damage to a "fautasi," or Somoan long boat, after an 8.0 earthquake struck the Pacific near American Samoa in October 2009. U.S. Army North's Defense Coordinating Element Region IX and associated joint service emergency preparedness liaison officers supported the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Pacific Command's Joint Task Force – Homeland Defense in relief efforts.

Command."

The massive earthquake triggered towering tsunami waves that gushed over the island and reportedly killed at least 170 people in the region.

The center of Pago Pago, the largest city in American Samoa, sustained heavy damage in the tsunami, with its main street flooded, cars overturned, shoreline businesses damaged and main power station for the island destroyed. Response efforts were hampered by the enormous distances involved in projecting personnel and resources from the continental United States and around the Pacific Rim to the island – yet all challenges were overcome.

"As a member of the DCE, you never really grasp the scope of our job until something like this happens," said Sgt. 1st Class

Juan Hernandez, operations noncommissioned officer, Region IX DCE. "This was my first real-world incident, and I was amazed at how quickly and efficiently the (defense support of civil authorities) process worked. It was good to see how everyone's hard work here was making a difference to the people of American Samoa."

The Region IX DCE and EPLOs assisted FEMA and PACOM with coordinating the response, including a massive airlift of supplies, equipment and personnel to the distressed island. A U.S. Navy Frigate, the USS Ingraham, was quickly dispatched to American Samoa and was among the first U.S. military assets to arrive and join the response effort along with forward deployed members of JTF-HD DCE members, who

deployed from Hawaii. U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft provided movement for responders, communications equipment, huge generators and response supplies.

Ninety members of the Hawaii National Guard were also deployed to provide search and rescue, communications and medical support in addition to Air Force personnel to run the forward airfield operations.

“It was absolutely inspiring to see how the interagency community was united in providing the right support as quickly as possible to the survivors,” said Janine Hollenbeck, planning officer, Region IX DCE. “In the event of a catastrophic disaster such as this, everyone quickly becomes aware of how much people are depending on us to do our jobs well.”

The overall Federal effort was led by FEMA, which deployed a federal coordinating officer and an incident management assistance team and coordinated efforts of the Coast Guard, Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Aviation Administration, the American Red Cross and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Armstrong presented awards on behalf of Pacific Command to Lt. Col. Paul Gault, former deputy DCO; Sgt. 1st Class Juan Hernandez, operations NCO, and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ballard, information systems NCO.

Joint EPLOs also presented an award were: retired Air Force Col. Andy Akelman, Air Force Col. Glenn Young, Air Force Col. Miriam Michael, Navy Capt. Prakash Thomas, Navy Capt. Craig Smith and Army Lt. Col. Les Simonson.



Photos courtesy of JTF – HD PAO

(Top) AMERICAN SAMOA — Relief workers from U.S. Pacific Command’s Joint Task Force – Homeland Defense begin response and recovery operations, after an 8.0 earthquake struck the Pacific near American Somoa in October 2009, where nearly 200 people were killed after a deadly tsunami struck the island. (Bottom) American relief workers cart off debris during response and recovery efforts on the island. The tsunami that struck the island was spawned by two undersea earthquakes along separate fault lines.



JTF-Civil Support improves distributed command and control efforts

By U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Christian Michael
JTF-CS PAO

FORT MONROE, Va. — For members of Joint Task Force – Civil Support, getting to an incident site faster means saving more lives.

To that end, the task force has extended its monthly command and control exercises – known as joint operating center exercises, or JOCEXes – from one to two days.

The extended exercise prepares members to respond more quickly to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive attacks on U.S. soil. JTF-CS is the joint-service command and control unit that manages military support of Title 10 federal agencies when responding to domestic CBRNE incidents.

The extra-long exercises also are to practice a new technique called distributed operations, spreading forces across several locations to reduce the time and cost required to deploy consequence management assets, improving the unit's ability to get "boots on the ground" and start saving lives.

"We have now made operations smarter, more efficient and faster," said Randy Hall, deputy director for training, readiness and exercises at JTF-CS. "We need to really refine those distributed command and control processes to minimize the time in reporting and information management processes. The (new) JOCEX will help us ... refine all those objectives."

In the past, JTF-CS trained to respond to a CBRNE incident by deploying all of its 200-plus personnel to the incident site to command and control about 4,700 Department of

Defense 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 task force is broken up into three separate command posts. Two are near the incident site, but the overall command and control will remain at the Fort Monroe-based main command post.

Deploying fewer people and less equipment allows for a faster response time, which means civil support personnel can begin the life-saving, injury-preventing and other support functions needed by state and federal first responders.

"We can send a small amount of people and equipment forward, and can take command of all military forces that are coming in quickly," said Hall.

Still, the distributed operations procedure is a new way of doing business and will require time for members to adjust, said Hall. Unit trainers are taking a "crawl, walk, run" approach to instituting the new technique.

The extended monthly exercises provide an opportunity for individual directorates to finalize communication procedures and refine tactics, technique and procedures, which are key components of successful, distributed operations.

"We've been making exercises a little more robust, putting a lot more work into creating them and designing them from a training and exercise perspective, to get better results on the execution," said Hall.

Each monthly training exercise is scenario-based, providing a simulation of a CBRNE incident at a designated city – the same type of events JTF-CS might be called upon to respond to.

Last week's two-day exercise involved a 10-kiloton nuclear bomb detonation at a Seattle port, notionally causing tens of thousands of casualties.

As each exercise scenario progresses, task force command and control functions are tested, including the ability to communicate between the three command posts and with on-the-ground response forces.

Ultimately, improving results during such exercises better prepares civil support personnel for the possibility of actually responding to a CBRNE event using the distributed operations procedure.

"There are a lot of moving pieces that go into making the mission successful and there is no such thing as too much practice," said Tony Kelly, deputy director of current operations, JTF-CS.

The culminating event to test the distributed operations procedure will take place in March during Vibrant Response 11.1 field training exercise, which will include a major portion of the CCMRF as well.



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Toni Burton, JTF-CS PAO
FORT MONROE, Va. — Joint Task Force – Civil Support personnel practice command and control procedures at a forward command post during a joint operations center exercise Jan. 20 at Fort Monroe, Va.

Defense coordinating elements train alongside FEMA in new certification

By Patti Bielling
Army North PAO

BOISE, Idaho — A recent U.S. Army North exercise here offered a glimpse into the future of disaster response training for the command's defense coordinating elements and Federal Emergency Management Agency regional teams.

The Jan. 24-31 certification exercise for Army North's Region X Defense Coordinating Element in Boise, Idaho, was the first event under a new standard in which the Army North elements trained alongside their FEMA counterparts.

FEMA leaders and trainers have looked at the design of Army North's DCE certification exercises over the course of the last five exercises and decided to formally use them to integrate, train and, in some instances, certify their federal coordinating officers and regional incident management assistance teams, said Mike Weimer, who heads Army North's Defense Coordinating Officer and Element Synchronization Team.

"By doctrine, the defense coordinating officer and his element are part of FEMA response team operations in their initial operating facility to begin coordinating the federal disaster response to the requirements of the state," said Weimer. "Clearly, the defense coordinating officer and element will be better trained when they train with those they will respond with."

One goal for her 13-member team, said Jackie Gladish, FEMA's Region X IMAT leader, was to integrate with their counterparts on the DCE to identify and test best practices.

"You never want to step off in a no-notice event without a plan," she said. "This is a time to work out the kinks, to understand how people communicate and operate in a fast-paced but nonthreatening environment."

Gladish said she appreciated that Army North's trainers focused on developing capability from deficiencies. She said they turned everything into a learning opportunity for everyone, whether military or civilian.

The event marked the first Army North exercise for Col. Michael McCormick, who became the DCO for the four-state region of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington in August. He and his team were practicing the response to a notional earthquake in eastern Idaho.

McCormick said he is a strong proponent of training with his regional partners. He said his primary goal was that every member of his team walked away with a better understanding of FEMA's consequence management processes and procedures.

A second goal was to further develop with FEMA a better common operational picture.

"We work in support of FEMA," said McCormick. "If our operating picture is the same as theirs, then we're making decisions based on



Photo by Patti Bielling, Army North PAO

BOISE, Idaho — U.S. Navy Lt. Aron Foster and Staff Sgt. Joseph Fisher add information to the common operational picture during a certification exercise for Army North's Region X Defense Coordinating Element Jan. 28.

common information to best support the state's response efforts."

In order to develop the COP, the teams first had to overcome a host of communications and security issues. Because the two agencies use different computer networks and mapping programs, the teams found a way to electronically share map overlays that create snapshots of the "disaster" area and infrastructure.

Perhaps more importantly, the DCE COP manager worked closely with his FEMA counterpart and identified which data sets each would build to minimize manual data input and avoid duplication of effort.

"In the end, it was a bit of a workaround, but it's a good first step that beats having two separate pictures that do not align," McCormick said.

For her part, Gladish said that she is happy to have people on her team who can work with geospatial imagery programs and support geospatial imagery development in the field.

News

Interactive simulation launched to provide information on PTSD

By Department of Defense

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense announced today the launch of an interactive simulation designed to help those dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The National Center for Telehealth and Technology developed the ‘Virtual PTSD Experience’ to help combat veterans and their families and friends to anonymously enter a virtual world and learn about PTSD causes, symptoms and resources.

“We believe this is the first time DoD has used interactive simulations with the Web to help our military community with PTSD in the privacy of their homes,” said Dr. George Peach Taylor Jr., principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The Virtual PTSD Experience was designed to be used in the privacy of homes. Visitors are anonymous, which reduces the perceived stigma of asking for help with PTSD.

“We created an environment that lets people learn by doing, rather than reading text and watching videos on two-dimensional websites,” said. Kevin Holloway, the psychologist who led T2’s virtual world development. “They can learn something new each time they visit.”

Tricare Young Adult Program announced

By Department of Defense

WASHINGTON — The Depart-

ment of Defense announced today its introduction of the premium-based Tricare Young Adult Program which extends medical coverage to eligible military family members to the age of 26.

Expected to be in place later this spring, TYAP implements the National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal 2011. Premium costs for TYAP are not yet finalized, but the NDAA specifies rates must cover the full cost of the program.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 required civilian health plans to offer coverage to adult children until age 26.

Tricare previously met or exceeded key tenets of national health reform, including restrictions on annual limits, lifetime maximums, “high user” cancellations, or denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions – but did not include this expanded coverage for adult children. Dependent eligibility for Tricare previously ended at age 21 or age 23 for full-time college students.

The fiscal 2011 NDAA now gives the DoD the authority to offer similar benefits to young adults under Tricare.

“We’ve been working hard to make sure we could put Tricare Young Adult on a fast track,” said Tricare Deputy Director, Rear. Adm. Christine Hunter. “Fortunately for our beneficiaries concerned about health care coverage for their adult children, the law signed by the President includes opportunities for military families to elect this new premium-based plan retroactive to Jan. 1.”

Beginning later this spring, qualified, unmarried dependents up to age 26 will be able to purchase Tricare coverage on a month-to-month basis – as long as they are not eligible for their own employer-

sponsored health coverage.

“This program has the potential to extend Tricare coverage to several hundred thousand additional beneficiaries,” said Hunter. “The premium allows us to provide this excellent benefit to our military families while responsibly addressing the impact of health care costs on the DoD budget.”

Pre-deployment screening yields benefits

By Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown, Army News Service

An Army study released today found that Soldiers who received extra behavioral-health screening prior to deployment had significantly lower rates of combat stress than those who did not.

The study, published in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, was conducted by five Army doctors. They screened three 3rd Infantry Division Brigade Combat Teams at Fort Stewart, Ga., prior to their 2007 deployment, and compared results with three BCTs who did not take part in the program.

The study, called the Pre-deployment Mental Health Screening/Care Coordination Program, was developed by Army physicians and psychologists who had been searching for a better way to track Soldiers with behavioral health issues, especially when headed overseas.

The 10,678 Soldiers who took part in the program received an extra 15 questions during their pre-deployment health screening pertaining specifically to behavioral health.

Questions included “Are you currently taking any medications for a mental health condition?” and “Do you have any past or recent history

of suicidal or homicidal thoughts, plans, or attempts?”

National Guard responds to year's biggest storm

*By Tech. Sgt. John Orrell,
National Guard Bureau*

WASHINGTON — In response to blizzard conditions and strong winter storms across a third of the country, six governors have declared states of emergency and about 1,100 National Guard members from 11 states have been activated or are on standby, National Guard Bureau officials said.

The governors of Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin had declared states of emergency, and the Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Texas and Wisconsin National Guard had activated. Meanwhile, Guard members in Indiana, Kansas, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania were on standby, officials said.

A day after Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency, the Missouri National Guard called up more than 600 Soldiers and Airmen to conduct emergency missions throughout the state.

The Missouri Guard members will be spread over three task forces, said Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Danner, adjutant general.

“Our force is seasoned by dozens of overseas deployments and 18 state emergency missions since 2005,” Danner said. “Our citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are ready to protect their fellow Missourians in their time of need, whether they are conducting door-to-door safety visits or clearing critical paths for emergency vehicles so first responders can do their jobs.”

USNORTHCOM supports response to severe winter storms

By USNORTHCOM

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Northern Command activated the Defense Coordinating Officer and Defense Coordinating Element for two FEMA regions today in support of response efforts to severe winter storms in the nation.

U.S. Army North DCO and DCE for FEMA Regions III and V are activated to provide assessment and coordinate DoD assets as required. DCOs and DCEs work very closely with federal, state, tribal and local officials to determine what unique DoD capabilities can be brought to assist in mitigating the effects of severe winter weather.

The Department of Defense designated McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, OK; Wright Patterson AFB, OH and Fort Campbell, KY as FEMA Incident Support Bases to support forward distribution of supplies and equipment to areas affected by extreme winter weather.

The Department of Defense has capabilities that save lives as well as many other unique support capabilities such as air lift, medical, communications, and catastrophic planning.

USNORTHCOM is the joint combatant command formed in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to provide homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities.

New Jersey and Pennsylvania have Guard members on standby, but no mission requirements had arisen as of last night too hard to secure the systems.”

Chandler to become next Sergeant Major of the Army

By Department of Defense

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Army John McHugh and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. announced today that Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond F. Chandler III will become the sergeant major of the Army March 1.

“We have the utmost confidence in Command Sgt. Maj. Chandler and look forward to having him join our leadership team,” said McHugh. “He has the right qualities and credentials to assume this vitally important duty that Sgt. Maj. of the Army Preston has skillfully and adeptly performed for the last seven years.”

Chandler is currently the commandant of the U. S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. He will succeed Kenneth Preston, who has served since January 2004.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Chandler is the right soldier to lead our NCO Corps,” Casey said. “He has demonstrated excellence in every position, and has the depth of experiences required to help us lead our Army.”

Chandler will be sworn into the new position March 1 in a ceremony at the Pentagon.

“Being named the 14th sergeant major of the Army is truly an honor,” Chandler said. “I am humbled, yet excited by the opportunity to serve our soldiers and their families in light of the challenges ahead.”

The role involves extensive travel and focuses on soldier training, non-commissioned officer development and the well-being of families. He also routinely testifies before Congress on these issues.

