

ARNORTH Monthly

February 2010



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Hurricane workshop presents forum for federal, state planners

NORTHCOM, NGB strive to improve response plans, Pg. 4

CG shares vision during town hall

ARNORTH teammates recognized for excellence, Pg. 5

CG visits 167th TSC, Alabama TAG

ARNORTH CG tours new facility, discusses evolution of 167th, Pg. 6

Region V DCO undergoes certification

'New' DCO, staff train to respond to disaster, Pg. 7



ARNORTH DCOs support SOUTHCOM in Haiti operations, Pg. 3

Commanding General:

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III

Command Sergeant Major:

Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood

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CONTENT

- 8 Former Sergeants Major of the Army**

- 10 Comprehensive Soldier Fitness**

- 14 News briefs**

- 20 CG visits JTF-CS**

- 21 ARNORTH Soldier presented Purple Heart for service in Iraq**

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Do you have a story to share?

The ARNORTH Monthly welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Editor at Joshua.r.ford@us.army.mil or the Public Affairs Sergeant Major at eric.d.lobsingier@us.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information.

The ARNORTH Monthly reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor or call commercial number (210) 221-0793 or DSN 471-0793.

ARNORTH bids farewell to NCO after 24 years of service



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, U.S. Army North commanding general, pins the Meritorious Service Medal on Master Sgt. Carol Williams, former noncommissioned officer-in-charge of ARNORTH's surgeons office, during Williams' retirement ceremony Jan. 29 at ARNORTH's historic headquarters inside the Quadrangle. "Like a lot of Soldiers, it's going to be strange not wearing a uniform. I'll still have a uniform in my closet. Maybe I'll try the uniform on once in a while. Then again, maybe not," said Williams. "It has been an honor to serve our nation and help people."

PAT decision to be set by end of February

By Col. Richard Francey, U.S. Army North Chief of Staff

A few weeks ago, I told you about an important initiative. We created a Process Action Team to assess missions and tasks and the corresponding organization we have built here. It will assess effectiveness and efficiency and determine if we are organized correctly. In the end, the answer may be yes and, of course, it could also be no.

As I promised, this process is completely transparent and we are committed to keeping you, our most important resource, informed. So, here is the most current update on the Organization Effectiveness PAT study.

The PAT has been, for the most part, fact finding up to this point. They have gathered documents and studies that were and are relevant (i.e. Concept Plan, OE study of 2009, ASCC design 5.4, organizational design of other field armies, etc) to gain insight into trends. To ensure complete transparency of this process, the PAT presents a progress update to the Staff Chiefs every week.

The PAT will present an In-Progress Review to LTG Swan during the first week of February in order to ensure we are meeting his intent. Our goal is to have a decision on this PAT by the end of February. Should any organizational changes be recommended and approved then, there will be timelines determined for implementation.

So far this has been a healthy process for the organization as it has given us a chance to objectively look at our systems. The CG's guidance has not changed. He said to "look at the effectiveness of the organization but make sure everyone understands that this is not a Reduction-In-Force effort." We will continue down that path and keep you informed along the way. Thanks for your patience.

I want to thank you again for the work you do every day in order to defend our nation. Army Strong!



Relief Effort

ARNORTH supports FEMA assistance to Haiti effort

By Sgt. Joshua Ford

U.S. Army North PAO

ATLANTA — A U.S. Army North Defense Coordinating Officer, along with his Defense Coordinating Element in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IV, have been busy since the 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti Jan. 12. FEMA Region IV includes the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Col. Robert Mayer, DCO, Region IV, and the DCE, based in Atlanta, have been working around the clock following flights leaving and arriving from the devastated nation.

Right now, the Region IV DCE, including emergency preparedness liaison officers from all services, are supporting FEMA's efforts to fly food and water to Haiti, said Lt. Col. Perry Seawright, deputy DCO, Region IV DCE.

"We have liaisons watching flights from seven airports within our region," continued Seawright.

Col. Mark Johnson, DCO from FEMA Region VIII, who is normally stationed in Denver, along with eight members of the Region VIII DCE, also deployed to the southeastern U.S. and worked with state and federal agencies while planning for numerous contingencies.

"By sending another DCO to help, we are able to maintain situational awareness and receive requests for support from everyone to the state level, all the way up to the federal and SOUTHCOM level," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, ARNORTH commanding general. "What (the DCOs) have done so far just shows the diversity of the capability of the DCO."

In total, 48 ARNORTH members were employed for support to Haiti's disaster response.

ARNORTH's DCOs are located in each of the 10 FEMA regions in the country. The DCOs serve as a military liaison to



Photo and cover photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left), commanding general, U.S. Army North, is briefed by Col. Robert Mayer, defense coordinating officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IV, during Swan's Jan. 20 visit to the Region IV headquarters in Atlanta. "This just shows the diversity of the capability of the DCO," said Swan, about the change in mission Mayer was asked to do in supporting U.S. Southern Command's operations in Haiti.

local, state and federal organizations and are responsible for processing requirements for military support, forwarding mission assignments to the appropriate military organizations through Department of Defense channels, and assigning military liaisons to activated emergency support functions, such as the support Region IV is providing to U.S. Southern Command.

FEMA and the DCO have very limited involvement in the operation supporting SOUTHCOM, but it is very important involvement nonetheless, said Seawright.

Staff Sgt. Luther Grayer, a supply sergeant for the DCE, said he has learned a lot

as his role switched from supply to operations practically overnight as a result of the earthquake that struck Haiti.

"I didn't ever think I could be doing this in the Army, and it's great," said Grayer. "It feels good knowing the very little that I am doing is helping a bigger operation provide support to the Haitians."

Swan said it is important to be aware that the mission in Haiti could go in any direction and, as such, it is vital the DCOs assigned to the mission keep an eye on it.

"As the operation in Haiti turns from an emergency relief effort to a long-term response effort, if FEMA and other agencies that may be involved need support

"It feels good knowing the very little that I am doing is helping a bigger operation provide support to the Haitians."

Staff Sgt. Luther Grayer
Supply Sergeant, Region IV DCE, U.S. Army North

from U.S. Northern Command, the DCOs will be there to gauge that support," said Swan.

NGB, NORTHCOM discuss disaster response during hurricane workshop

By Sgt. Joshua Ford

U.S. Army North PAO

TAMPA — The National Guard Bureau and U.S. Northern Command conducted their annual hurricane workshop Jan. 19-22 in downtown Tampa.

Top Department of Defense, federal and state officials gathered together to discuss federal and state hurricane response plans. The gathering also provided them an avenue to make recommendations for any necessary improvements.

“This forum is a place for us to exchange ideas, plans and procedures well in advance of an emergency,” said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, U.S. Army North commanding general.

During the conference, the attendees discussed and further developed plans for aero-medical evacuation, communications, transportation and funding of



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Juliette Kayyem (right), acting assistant secretary for intergovernmental programs, Department of Homeland Security; Gen. Gene Renuart Jr. (center), commanding general of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command; and Gen. Craig McKinley, National Guard Bureau chief, answer questions during a press conference in downtown Tampa Jan. 22 during the National Guard and NORTHCOM-hosted annual hurricane workshop.

forces so they would all be working on the same page in the event of a disaster.

“What we have realized is that one component cannot do it by itself,” said Col. Laverne “Bullet” Young, Region VI defense coordinating officer, Army North. “As a result of this conference, you are now seeing a blending of National Guard, Reserve and active components responding as a team and operating as a team.”

The workshop has been held annually since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the gulf coast in 2005. The devastation wrought by the storm demonstrated how, at that time, the United States was ill-prepared in its response to such a natural disaster.

“There will always be chaos, and there will always be confusion, but we want to reduce that as much as possible ahead of time so that it is more manageable – and the conference goes a long way in reducing that,” said Swan.

Perhaps one of the most prominent reasons for conducting an annual workshop such as this is it

provides commanders, federal officials and state officials a chance to meet each other.

“One of the things we want to avoid is meeting each other for the first time during an emergency event,” said Swan. “This helps us build relationships and provides us an opportunity to look at where we can mutually support one another.”

Ultimately, the goal of the workshop is for the participants to garner their lessons learned and put this knowledge to work in the form of operational plans for the military, states, and federal organizations.

“We want to keep building on (disaster response plans) so that we don’t find ourselves in a position where the only solution is just to put as many people as you possibly can to resolve a problem,” said Gen. Gene Renuart Jr., commanding general for U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (center), U.S. Army North commanding general; Maj. Gen. Garry Dean (right), commanding general, 1st Air Force and Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region; and Col. Laverne “Bullet” Young, Region VI defense coordinating officer, U.S. Army North, chat during a break at the National Guard Bureau and U.S. Northern Command annual hurricane workshop Jan. 19-22 in downtown Tampa.

CG presents awards, shares vision during town hall meeting

By Sgt. Joshua Ford

U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, U.S. Army North commanding general, met with the Soldiers and Civilians of ARNORTH Jan. 25 during the quarterly Army North Town Hall Meeting at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club.

The town hall meeting was Swan's first since he took command Dec. 15; during the gathering, he provided the Army North team his Vision Statement.

Swan said his vision is for Army North to be the Army's Center of Excellence for Civil Support and Domestic Operations and USNORTHCOM'S "Go To" command to lead, coordinate and support DoD land domain operations in NORTHCOM'S area of responsibility.

"I have a dual vision here that in the Army, we are the leaders within civil support and how the Army should operate in the homeland," said Swan. "We are the experts at that.

"We are the enablers to make other people successful. Whether that is at state or local level, or our federal partners in FEMA, the FBI or the Department of Homeland Security:



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, U.S. Army North commanding general, addresses the command's Soldiers and Civilians during the quarterly Army North Town hall Meeting Jan. 25 at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club. Swan said his vision for Army North is to be the Army's Center of Excellence for Civil Support and Domestic Operations and USNORTHCOM'S "Go To" command to lead, coordinate and support DoD land domain operations in NORTHCOM'S area of responsibility.

"We are here to make others successful."

Swan told the audience there are four areas the command must be best at: Training, Theater Security Cooperation, Planning, and Command and Control.

"Everyone in this room has a piece of every one of these in some way, shape or form," he explained. "In some manner, you are contributing to these four capabilities that I see us providing down to others."

Ultimately, it is up to each member of the team, military and Civilian alike, to make the command a success, said Army North's Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood.

"In order to be relevant, we have to make sure that we're capable of doing everything that we can ... in achieving all of the visions and expectations of our commander and the NORTHCOM commander," he said.

Swan also asked the Soldiers and Civilians of ARNORTH to do everything, every day, in an ethical manner, follow the law, and remember the command's supporting role in domestic operations.

"None of this is possible without great people," said Swan. "Everyone is important. Whatever your position is, whatever your specialty, you are important to the command."

To open the town hall meeting, Swan presented awards to numerous Soldiers and Civilians for their contributions and services with the Combined Federal Campaign, the Vibrant Response 10.1 field training exercise, time-in-service awards and presentation of the Civilian of the Quarter awards.

Do you have the skills?

Army North team:

Are you a talented designer, looking for a way to show off your undiscovered skills?

U.S. Army North is seeking your input on the design of a new CG's Coin of Excellence. Do you have the skills? The winning design will earn the designer his/her due recognition and the presentation of the first new coin by Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III. Are you up to the challenge?

Submit your design to Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger, ARNORTH public affairs senior noncommissioned officer: eric.d.lobsing@conus.army.mil, by Feb. 16.



ARNORTH CG visits 167th TSC

By Sgt. Joshua Ford

U.S. Army North PAO

FORT MCCLELLAN, Ala. — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North, met with Maj. Gen. A.C. Blalock, adjutant general, Alabama National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Joe Harkey, commanding general, 167th Theater Sustainment Command, Jan. 20 to discuss the future evolution of the 167th and the vital resources it provides to ARNORTH.

“At the end of the day, it is all about logistics, distribution and just getting it out there,” said Swan, about the importance of the capabilities the 167th TSC can provide to the American people in the event of a disaster.

The 167th TSC is a National Guard unit with more than 400 personnel assigned. Its headquarters is at Fort McClellan, Ala.

The unit’s primary mission is to support Army North, the Joint Force Land Component Command and the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Northern Command, which is tasked to conduct Homeland Defense, Civil Support operations in order to protect the American people.

“The 167th is a unique command,” said Harkey. “The Alabama governor and adjutant general fenced off the command from any state missions so the 167th could primarily focus on supporting NORTHCOM.”

Focusing on support to the NORTHCOM and ARNORTH missions is what the command has been solely dedicated to for more than three years now. Since taking on the mission as ARNORTH’s theater sustainment command, the 167th responded with logistic support to hurricane relief missions and has been an integral part in many NORTHCOM and ARNORTH-led exercises.

During the meeting, the senior leaders also discussed how the TSC, and other units assuming similar missions, need to become more versatile in their capabilities.

“This is the most complex (operational environment) in the world,” said Swan, adding that Soldiers operating in the United



Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left), commanding general, U.S. Army North, shakes hands with Maj. Gen. A.C. Blalock, adjutant general, Alabama National Guard, during his visit Jan. 20 at the 167th Theater Sustainment Command’s headquarters, Fort McClellan, Ala. During the visit, Swan and Blalock discussed the state of Alabama’s National Guard as well as the evolution of the 167th TSC.

States during a disaster must be prepared to provide great support to the American people during their time of need.

Swan, Blalock and Harkey also discussed how relationships between Alabama’s government, the Alabama National Guard, 167th TSC and ARNORTH have evolved since the 167th TSC assumed its vital mission.

“We have come a long way since we start-

ed,” said Harkey.

The meeting marked Swan’s first opportunity to visit with the 167th since he took command of ARNORTH Dec. 15.

“We wanted to familiarize (Lt. Gen. Swan) with our capabilities and the structure we bring to the mission,” said Harkey.

At the conclusion of the visit, Harkey accompanied Swan on a tour of 167th’s

new headquarters building. The building, which cost more than \$13 million, was completed in June and opened in December.

“At the end of the day, it is all about logistics, distribution and just getting it out there.”

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III,
Commanding general, U.S. Army North

Region V DCE shines during CERTEX

By Don Manuszewski

U.S. Army North PAO

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – It was a Tuesday morning, much like any other, when all of a sudden – BAM – a 6.4-magnitude temblor strikes in America’s heartland, changing lives forever.

Such was the scenario Jan. 26-30 in Springfield, Ill., as the Defense Coordinating Element from Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Region V was stretched to its limit during their Certification Exercise.

“We started the exercise with a new team – and we ended it knowing we are capable of deploying and successfully responding to a complex emergency with our federal partners,” said Col. Chris Fulton, U.S. Army North’s defense coordinating officer with Region V, who has been on staff less than six months.

U. S. Northern Command, Army north’s higher headquarters, requires each of the 10 DCOs to conduct a CERTEX within three months of assuming duties. The CERTEX program is spear-headed by U. S. Army North personnel, who design the exercise and evaluate the participants.

“New” only begins to describe what the colonel and his team faced as the exercise began. Not only was he “new” to his position, the deputy DCO and operations officer were also going through their first bite at the Defense Support of Civil Authorities apple.

“I’ve been through quite a few of these exercises with other regions, and this team did well,” said Carol Rein, an ARNORTH financial man-



Photo by Don Manuszewski, U.S. Army North PAO
U.S. Army North personnel work with Soldiers from ARNORTH’s Region V Defense Coordinating Element during the DCE’s certification exercise Jan. 26-30 in Springfield, Ill.

agement analyst, who was one of the eight ARNORTH augmentees assisting the region for the exercise.

“It started a bit shaky,” she said, “but you could see them really working toward a common goal and getting there as the week went on. They should be very proud of what they accomplished this week.”

The DCE team was purposely stretched to its limit as the scenario played out. Calls of “Sergeant Dean!” highlighted the first day as each of the 47 people assigned to the DCE for the exercise looked to Sgt. 1st Class Lynn Dean, the DCE communications noncommissioned officer, to get their computers up and running.

Dean set the tone early and took on the challenge. Within hours of their arrival, each member of the team was operational. The entire team met any and all challenges throughout the week.

After the initial shock, the DCE, with the various Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers assisting, began its

time, set up the team into different cells, ensuring each duty was covered by members of his team. Once established, the cells overcame the challenges presented, established processes in some cases and refined them throughout the week.

“This was definitely a challenge,” said Fulton. “By the time I left every day, my head was pounding. I don’t think I’ve learned this much, this fast, in a long time.”

Each of ARNORTH’s 10 DCEs are required to be certified every 18 months or whenever a new DCO is assigned. As the Joint Force Land Component Command and Army Service Component Command to USNORTHCOM, ARNORTH is responsible for land-based homeland defense, civil support and theater security cooperation with Mexico and Canada.

two-fold task of initial DSCA response – processing Action Request Forms and assuming command and control of the troops entering the area of operations.

Fulton, being “dual-hatted” as the DCO and joint force commander for the first



Photo by Don Manuszewski, U.S. Army North PAO

One of Region V emergency response vehicles sits outside of the Region V headquarters providing internet and telephone capabilities during Region V Defense Coordinating Element’s certification exercise Jan. 26-30 in Springfield, Ill.

Former Sergeants



1st Former Sergeant Major of the Army, William O. Wooldridge. July 1966 - August 1968. William O. Wooldridge, the 1st Sergeant Major of the Army, was sworn in on July 11, 1966 and served until his term ended in August of 1968. He was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on August 12, 1922.



3rd Former Sergeant Major of the Army, Silas L. Copeland. October 1970 - June 1973. Silas L. Copeland was sworn in on October 1, 1970 and served until his term ended in June of 1973. He was born in Embryfield, Texas, on April 2, 1920, and died Dec. 4, 2001.



5th Former Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge. July 1975 - June 1979. William G. Bainbridge, the 5th Sergeant Major of the Army, was sworn in on July 1, 1975 and served until June of 1979. He was born in Galesburg, Illinois, on April 17, 1925.



7th Former Sergeant Major of the Army, Glen E. Morrell. July 1983 - July 1987. Glen E. Morrell, Sergeant Major of the Army, was sworn in on July 1, 1983 and served until his term ended in July of 1987. He was born in Wick, West Virginia, on August 19, 1936.



The position of Sergeant Major of the Army was established July 4

The majority of American troops pulled out of Vietnam

Two days prior to Saigon's fall, 8,000 people were transported from the U.S. embassy April 28, making it the largest helicopter evacuation in history.

The Grenada Operation commenced Oct. 25



2nd Former Sergeant Major of the Army George W. Dunaway. September 1968 - September 1970. George W. Dunaway, the 2d Sergeant Major of the Army, was sworn in on September 1, 1968 and served until his term ended in September of 1970. He was born in Richmond, Virginia, on July 24, 1922.



4th Former Sergeant Major of the Army, Leon L. Van Autreve. July 1973 - June 1975. Leon L. Van Autreve was sworn in on July 1, 1973 and served until his term ended in June of 1975.



6th Former Sergeant Major of the Army, William A. Connelly. July 1979 - June 1983. William A. Connelly, the 6th Sergeant Major of the Army, was sworn in on July 2, 1979, and served until his term ended in June of 1983. He was born in Monticello, Georgia, on June 2, 1931.



8th Former Sergeant Major of the Army, Julius W. Gatenby. July 1987 - June 1991. Julius W. Gatenby, Sergeant Major of the Army, was sworn in on July 1, 1987 and served until his term ended in June of 1991. He was born in North Carolina on August 1, 1941.

Major of the Army



Former Sergeant Major of the Army, [Name].

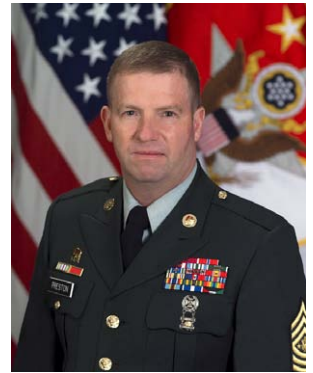


9th Former Sergeant Major of the Army, Richard A. Kidd. July 1991 - June 1995. Richard A. Kidd, the 9th Sergeant Major of the Army, was sworn in on July 2, 1991 and served until his term expired in June of 1995. He was born in Morehead, Kentucky on June 24, 1943.

U.S. and Russia sign a treaty Feb. 1 officially ending the Cold War



11th Former Sergeant Major of the Army Robert E. Hall. October 1997 - June 2000. Sergeant Major of the Army Robert E. Hall was sworn in as the 11th Sergeant Major of the Army on October 21, 1997 and served until June 23, 2000. A career Soldier, SMA Hall has held many leadership positions within the Department of the Army and Unified Command environments.



13th Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston. January 2004 - Current. Preston is a native of Mount Savage, Md., and was born Feb. 18, 1957. Preston entered the Army on June 30, 1975. He attended Basic Training and Armor Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.



Marlin Fitzwater announces, "The liberation of Kuwait has begun..." The air war started Jan. 17 with an Apache helicopter attack. U.S. warplanes attack Baghdad, Kuwait and other military targets in Iraq.

Attacks begin on U.S. targets Sept. 11

Operation Enduring Freedom begins Oct. 7

Operation Iraqi Freedom begins March 19



Former Sergeant Major of the Army, [Name].



10th Former Sergeant Major of the Army, Gene C. McKinney. July 1995 - October 1997. Gene C. McKinney, the 10th Sergeant Major of the Army, was sworn in on July 1, 1995 and served until October of 1997. He was born in Monticello, Florida, on November 3, 1950.



12th Former Sergeant Major of the Army, Jack L. Tilley. June 2000 - January 2004. Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley was sworn in as the 12th Sergeant Major of the Army on June 23, 2000 and served until January 15, 2004. A career Soldier, SMA Tilley has held many leadership positions within the Department of the Army and Unified Command environments.

"The most valuable take away I received thus far is the re-energized feeling of hope. This Master Resilience Trainer couldn't have come at a better time for me and my Family. I can't wait to get home and use these tools in my Family. It's like a light bulb has been turned on in my head."

*Ssg Jeffrey Holden,
Master Resilience Trainer*

"The use of good questions and knowledge of personal strengths can change perspective and lead to positive outcomes and effective communications."

*Ms. Danielle Corenchuk,
Family Member*



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"All Soldiers, Family Members and DA Civilians will reap the benefits of this program, as will anyone with whom they come into contact. This program will help in all aspects of our lives, empowering us to strengthen relationships with our families, our peers and our Soldiers."

*SFC Jose Sixtos,
Master Resilience Trainer*

"The entire program has been valuable. Mental Management, Character Strengths, Building Strong Relationships all create and can continue to create and mold the Soldiers, Families, and (DA) civilians at all levels."

*Ms. Anna Smith,
Family Member*



What is Comprehensive Soldier Fitness?

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness represents the Army's investment in the readiness of the force and the quality of life for our Soldiers, Family members and Civilians by giving the same emphasis to psychological, emotional and mental strength that we have previously given to physical strength. The program takes a holistic approach to fitness by optimizing five dimensions of strength: **Physical, Emotional, Social, Spiritual and Family.**



Key Program Elements

Global Assessment Tool (GAT)

Provides you with a baseline in four dimensions of strength: emotional, social, spiritual and family; and provides an opportunity to track self-development and growth in these areas over time. Available online at <https://www.sft.army.mil/sftfamily> (AKO log-in required).

Comprehensive Resilience Modules

Educates and provides tools so that you can develop your strength in the four dimensions. Available online at <https://www.sft.army.mil/sftfamily>.

The goal of CSF is to increase resilience and enhance performance by developing the five dimensions of strength:



Physical

Performing and excelling in physical activities that require aerobic fitness, endurance, strength, healthy body composition and flexibility derived through exercise, nutrition and training.

Emotional

Approaching life's challenges in a positive, optimistic way by demonstrating self-control, stamina and good character with choices and actions.

Social

Developing and maintaining trusted, valued relationships and friendships that are personally fulfilling and foster good communication including a comfortable exchange of ideas, views and experiences.

Spiritual

Strengthening a set of beliefs, principles or values that sustain a person beyond family, institutional and societal sources of strength.

Family

Being part of a family unit that is safe, supportive and loving, and provides the resources needed for all members to live in a healthy and secure environment.

Why should I participate?

The Army recognizes the increased sacrifices that you make on a daily basis. That's why we have designed CSF to provide you with the thinking skills and coping strategies needed to take care of yourself and your Soldier. The program links you with resources and tools available in the military community to build resilience.

How can I participate?

Family members are encouraged to take the Global Assessment Tool to assess their emotional, social, spiritual and family fitness. The GAT provides immediate results with links to tailored self-development training. This training provides a wide range of tools to help you and your Soldier to better communicate with one another, while maximizing your overall potential.

What's in it for me?

Our Army is strong because of the support our Soldiers receive from you. CSF enables you to actively manage physical and psychological challenges in your personal lives, and continue to be the pillar of support behind our Soldiers. The Strength of our Nation depends on it.



News

Army-Wide

Army Sustainment Command provides support to humanitarian assistance ops in Haiti

By Galen Putnam
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – The U.S. Army Sustainment Command is participating in humanitarian assistance relief operations in Haiti as part of Operation Unified Response.

Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilian employees, and contractors from ASC Headquarters and the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program located at Rock Island Arsenal, and members of the 406th Army Field Support Brigade at Fort Bragg, N.C., have deployed to Haiti.

The 8-member ASC team, now on the ground in Haiti, has been designated “AMC - Haiti” and is the lead for all Army Material Command efforts in Haiti. ASC is a subordinate unit of AMC, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va.

A 12-member Brigade Logistics Support Team from the 406th AFSB is also in Haiti to provide logistics and maintenance support to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, while the “All-American” Soldiers take part in Operation Unified Response.

“The Army Sustainment Command is the AMC logistics face to the field. We have a worldwide mission and we support Soldiers in places like Korea, Japan, Germany, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Qatar. We have a global mission, and almost anywhere we have Soldiers, ASC provides support,” said Col. David Sears, ASC deputy chief of staff for operations. “In this case we are playing a support role. We train for the full spectrum of military operations - everything from humanitarian assistance, all the way to full scale warfare. We’ve got a cadre of military and Civilian folks who have a vast amount of experience.”

In addition to personnel, ASC is assisting in provided tons of desperately needed supplies.

The 3rd Battalion, 405th AFSB, located at Leghorn Army Depot in Livorno, Italy, has

made two shipments comprising thousands of humanitarian aid items including 10-litre water containers, rolls of plastic sheeting, water purifying equipment, 10,000 gallon water bladders, and hygiene kits packed with laundry detergent, shampoo, soap, toothpaste and other sundries. The 405th AFSB is headquartered in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

“We received the call from USAID [United States Agency for International Development] notifying us that additional supplies were needed, and we packed and loaded the shipment as quickly as possible,” said Lt. Col. Roger McCreery, commander of the 3/405th AFSB. “Our intent was to get the supplies to the area as quickly as possible in order to assist in relieving the suffering of the Haitian people.”

In addition to those who have deployed or gearing up to do so, hundreds of ASC personnel world-wide are actively participating in relief efforts or are standing by to assist if called upon.

Fort Bragg continues to make progress in Haiti mission

By Eve Meinhardt

Paraglide

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The Soldiers on the ground in Haiti continue to coordinate efforts with the Soldiers and the Airmen back at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, N.C. to carry out the humanitarian efforts in Haiti.

Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn, deputy commanding general, XVIII Airborne Corps, was one of the first members of the corps staff to hit the ground in Haiti. He is currently serving as the deputy commanding general for Joint Task Force - Haiti. He said that he is proud of the progress being made in delivering aid to the people of Haiti.

“Those who are here on the ground will tell you the magnitude of the effort is hard to describe and the need in the country of Haiti is indescribable,” said Allyn in a video-teleconference from the joint task force headquarters in Haiti, Tuesday.

“Suffice to say, that in my 30 years of service, traveling to many places around the globe, no place comes close to what is needed here in Haiti in terms of returning them to a sense of fundamental life support and services.”

To provide this support, about 3,000 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division’s global readiness force, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and about 250 Soldiers from the XVIII Abn. Corps headquarters deployed to Haiti after an earthquake struck the country Jan. 12.

While Allyn and the Soldiers on the ground continue providing water, food and aid to the people of Haiti, Fort Bragg and Pope AFB continue to work together to ensure sustained supply replenishment and support.

“We could not have accomplished this mission to date without the great support of the Air Force, who provided dedicated Airmen on the ground here at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base and all the airplanes to provide delivery of humanitarian supplies and the air landing of equipment and our troopers,” said Lt. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, commanding general, XVIII Abn. Corps. “The Air Force is a great partner in everything we do here at Fort Bragg.”

Col. James Johnson, commander, Pope AFB, said the partnership is essential to accomplish this mission. In the short period of time since the event, Pope AFB has moved more than 2,500 tons of cargo and more than 2,500 Soldiers with a 95 percent departure reliability rate.

“In about 10 days Pope Air Force Base has executed the contingency out load of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd and elements of the XVIII Airborne Corps,” said Johnson.

“This is important because this is the first time that a brigade deployment has been completely supported by air lift. Our Green Ramp at Pope Air Force Base was the power projection platform to accomplish that feat with the great Soldiers from Fort Bragg.”

Allyn and Helmick both praised the efforts of the Fort Bragg Soldiers on the ground for their passion and dedication to doing everything they can to assist the people of Haiti.

Because relief is still needed and aftershocks continue to hit the country, currently, there is no set date on when Soldiers will begin to come home. Allyn said that right now, the sentiment among the Soldiers is that they are where they need to be.

“We’re not focused on when someone is coming in behind us or when someone is going to make a decision that there is a transition phase. We’re focused on ensuring that the emergency aid gets where it needs to get to and that we support all those who need to get it there fast.”

News

Army vessel supporting Haiti relief effort

By Sgt. Richard Andrade

16th MPAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – The Runny Mede, a U.S. Army logistics support vessel from the 7th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Eustis, Va., docked at the Port-Au-Prince Seaport Jan. 25, in support of Operation Unified Response.

The Army's largest powered watercraft arrived after a five-day trip loaded with critical equipment needed in Haiti. The cargo for this mission was all military equipment including some Humvees, a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, which has a 2.5-ton capacity and a 250-gallon water tank, most commonly known as a "water buffalo" and a bulldozer.

The LSV is designed to carry 2,000 tons of cargo and primarily used in intra-theater contingency operations. The vessel is 273 feet long and has a deck area of 10,500 square feet.

As vessel master for the Runny Mede and convoy commander of the three watercrafts which made their way to Haiti from Fort Eustis, Va., Chief Warrant Officer David Sherrod is responsible for the navigation of the convoy and normal day-to-day operations onboard his ship.

"This is going to take a while" said Sherrod of the Operation Unified Response mission.

"I have never seen anything like this, nothing of this magnitude," said Sherrod of the devastation he witnessed at the Port-Au-Prince Seaport in Haiti.

The pier collapsed and is submerged underwater, which makes it difficult for large ships to go near the shore. What makes the Army's logistics support vessel special is that when no other vessel can go near a port, like the one in Haiti; this vessel can go straight to shore, said Sherrod.

"Ship-to-shore missions are vital," said Sherrod "because we can actually hit the beach and download."

The Runny Mede's next trip will be water and medical supplies. The ship is running "as many trips as it takes" said Sherrod.

Department of Defense

Haiti's seaport capacity increases

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Conditions in earthquake-ravaged Port-au-Prince, Haiti, continue to improve day by day, but a tremendous need still exists, the commander of U.S. Southern Command said today.

Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser also said U.S. military personnel have opened a seaport that is bringing in about 200 containers a day, and that he expects that capacity to more than double in the weeks ahead.

Southcom is in charge of the U.S. military's humanitarian response effort in Haiti.

The United States now has more than 20,000 servicemembers in and around Haiti; 6,000 on the ground and the rest on vessels offshore, Fraser said.

"But those numbers only reflect those men and women who are actually in the theater," Fraser added during a video teleconference from his headquarters in Miami. "There's a lot of effort that's happening within Transportation Command and across the Department of Defense to support these efforts that are external to the theater."

Twenty-three ships, more than 60 helicopters and more than 30 fixed-wing aircraft are in the area, the general said. Meanwhile, he said, demand for ramp space at Toussaint L'Overture International Airport at Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, has started to recede.

"The demand is now down about 20 percent from what it was," Fraser said. "So we're supporting roughly a hundred flights a day into the airport and another 80 to 100 helicopter flights operating in and out of there as we go along."

The seaport in Port-au-Prince sustained tremendous damage in the original Jan. 12 earthquake, and more in the aftershocks that still continue. "The port is operating and has a roughly 200-container-a-day capacity going through it," Fraser said.

The command continues to repair the south pier that was damaged in the most recent aftershock. Fraser estimated the repair will take eight to 10 weeks. The joint, over-the-shore capability will bridge the gap until the repairs to the regular piers are completed, he said.

Joint Task Force organizes Haitian airport

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – When a disaster strikes, people assume it should be easy to get relief supplies in.

But it's not always a simple proposition. Can the airport's runway support the weight of cargo aircraft? What is the security situation like? What equipment does the airport have for unloading and loading? How many people and the means to support and supply them will be needed?

All of these questions and more are in the realm of Joint Task Force Port Opening at Toussaint L'Overture International Airport here. The unit, operating under U.S. Transportation Command, opened the airport after the magnitude 7 earthquake that hit Haiti Jan. 12 and has been responsible for operations on the airport's ramp since then.

The task force contains the Air Force's 621st Contingency Response Group, from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., and the Army's 688th Transportation Detachment for rapid port opening from Fort Eustis, Va.

The disaster in Haiti marks the first time "the whole enchilada" has been used in an operation, said Air Force Col. Patrick Hollrah, the task force commander.

"Something of this magnitude takes the whole team to make it happen," he said during a recent interview. "This is, unfortunately, what we were made to do. It is our job to respond to these."

The unit was the second one on the ground after the Air Force Special Operations Command team. "(The special operations team) brought a special tactics team with them that was restoring order and starting to control the airflow in," Hollrah said. "There were literally airplanes parked everywhere."

Before the earthquake, the airport saw 30 flights on a busy day, and those were mostly during daylight. At its peak, since the disaster, the airport received 120 flights per day 24 hours a day. The most recent statistics show the airport has handled at least 12 million pounds of relief supplies, and this does not count critical supplies that medical and relief personnel brought with them.

The joint task force will continue until its services are no longer needed, Hollrah said, or until the mission is taken over by other organizations.

News

Veteran Affairs

Veterans Affairs and Kaiser Permanente share electronic health information

By Veteran Affairs PAO

SAN DIEGO – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Kaiser Permanente recently launched a pilot medical data exchange program in San Diego using the Nationwide Health Information Network. This innovative pilot enables clinicians from VA and Kaiser Permanente to obtain a more comprehensive view of a patient's health using electronic health record information, including information about health issues, medications, and allergies.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs and the entire administration are encouraged by the opportunities that electronic health record interoperability provides for Veterans, Service Members and their dependents," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We are proud to join in this effort with Kaiser Permanente and to achieve the benefits of health data exchange, including improved quality, patient safety, and efficiency."

Led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the NHIN provides a technology "gateway" to support interoperability standards and a legal framework for the secure exchange of health information between treating physicians, when authorized by a patient. Clinicians from the participating organizations can electronically, securely, and privately share authorized patient data, ensuring around-the-clock access to critical health information. This immediate electronic access supports increased accuracy, efficiency and safety. It also helps to avoid redundant care and testing.

With the new health data exchange capability, when a Veteran visits a clinician, prior history data will be available instantly to help guide the best possible treatment in any location that participates in this program. Prior to this project, patients frequently consented to sharing this information; however, it regularly took

weeks or even months to receive paper health care documents. Now, this information can be transmitted electronically, within seconds.

A national effort is underway to promote the use of EHRs. Similar to financial institutions securely and seamlessly sharing customer information from different locations and systems, EHRs from different systems can safely, securely and privately provide access to health data from multiple sites of care.

VA wins national award for safe medication practices

By Veteran Affairs PAO

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has won top national honors from the independent Institute for Safe Medication Practices for its excellence in preventing medication errors.

"As one of the first health care organizations to develop and test bar code technology for medication administration, VA takes pride in its safety standards," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. "This honor confirms that the department is delivering excellence in health care to our nation's Veterans."

Called the "Cheers Awards," it honors individuals, organizations, companies and government agencies that set a high standard for keeping patients safe and improving the process of using medication.

For more than a decade, VA's health care system has given hospital patients a bar code wristband. The bar code contains the patient's unique identifier information. Nurses scan the wristband and the patient's electronic health record displays the patient's medical information. Then the nurse scans a corresponding code on a drug package before giving the medication to the patient. This ensures the right medications go to hospital patients at the right time, in the right dose.

What began as a stroke of genius on the part of a VA nurse watching a rental-car employee scan a bar code has become a widely used means of reducing medication errors in public and private hospitals. This year marks VA's milestone of 10 years scanning bar codes on patient wristbands and drug packages to ensure safe and effective treatment.

VA to begin recovery of post-9/11 GI Bill advance payments

By Veteran Affairs PAO

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs is beginning the process of recovering advance payments made available during the fall 2009 semester to Veterans and servicemembers who applied for education benefits.

"The advance payments were a huge success and helped thousands of student Veterans during the first days of the historic Post-9/11 GI Bill focus on studies and not their finances," said Keith Wilson, Director of Education Services at VA. "Now, we can get to the business of closing the books on advance payments and focus on supporting Veterans for the spring semester."

VA will begin sending out notification letters this week explaining the repayment process.

In October VA instituted an advanced payment process for all eligible students who were currently enrolled in an institution of higher learning for the fall 2009 term to ensure that all Veterans and eligible students were able to focus on their academic studies and not be burdened with financial concerns. As part of that process, a web portal was established to allow electronic submission for advance payment. Advance payments were also made on-site at VA offices around the country. At that time student Veterans were told that advance payments would be deducted from future benefit payments.

In collaboration with the Department of Defense, VA will also notify active duty service members who may have mistakenly applied for the advance payment of their options for returning un-cashed checks or reimbursing deposited funds.

VA discontinued advance payments via the website portal following the conclusion of the fall 2009 semester. VA is currently processing approximately 7,000 education benefits daily, up from an average of 2,000 at the beginning of the fall 2009 term.

As of January 22 the Department has processed more than 105,000 of the approximately 132,000 spring enrollments received. Since the inception of the historic new program last year, VA has paid out more than \$1.3 billion in education benefits, and opened the door to higher education to more than 183,000 Veteran students.

News

National Guard

Army Guard prepares for bigger role in Haiti

By Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – As humanitarian relief continues in Haiti, the Army National Guard stands ready to provide personnel and equipment to support the mission, senior Army Guard officials said.

“We stand by ready, willing and able to assist as soon as they sort out what the requirements are and what they want the Army Guard to fill,” said Army Col. David Aycock, deputy chief of staff of operations for the Army Guard.

Currently, a Puerto Rico Army National Guard unit is the only Army Guard unit participating in relief operations in Haiti.

“The Puerto Rico Army National Guard with three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and 13 personnel has been committed to the Haiti relief effort,” said Aycock.

But there may be additional Army Guard assets sent to Haiti in the coming days.

“We were asked yesterday to look at our ability to provide a command and communications company out of a general support aviation battalion,” said Aycock. “So, within the next 24 hours or so we may have a validated requirement for an aviation company to go down there.”

Sending in the aviation company would provide additional Black Hawk helicopters as well as LUH-72A Lakota helicopters, said Aycock.

The missions currently being flown by the Puerto Rico unit in Haiti involve airlifting water and rescue equipment, movement of personnel and casualty evacuation, said Aycock.

Other Guard assets, such as Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERF-P), are trained in urban search and extraction in disaster situations.

“I don’t want to be the one to guess whether they go down or not, but I will tell you that the farther away, time wise, you are from the event the less effective a search and extraction team is,” said Aycock.

The Haiti government announced over the weekend that the search and rescue phase of the operation had closed.

Aycock said that the next few weeks may see a transition to reserve component units, including those from the Army Guard, taking the lead in Haiti.

“The Army has asked us to look at some alternative solutions to provide some options for either additional forces that may be required or to replace some of the forces that are already on the ground sometime in the near future,” said Aycock. “My personal perspective is this thing is going to transition more and more to the reserve component-side of the house in the weeks ahead.”

However, which units or types of units that would be activated has not yet been determined.

“We’ve been asked to staff some potential options,” said Aycock. “We don’t have a hard requirement yet but we’re looking at some organizational constructs of what we think would be the right force structure to go down there within the parameters we’ve been given.”

Those parameters may change based on the needs on the ground and any mission plan would have to be first validated by the U.S. Southern Command, which has the overall command responsibility for U.S. forces in Haiti.

“We still have to go through the process of getting a validation from both Forces Command and Southern Command that the force mix we’re working meets the requirement on the ground,” said Aycock. “And, we would need to put specific Army Guard solutions against that list, brief the leadership here and then engage with those states that own those units.”

Several states have already volunteered for missions in Haiti.

“I think probably every state out there has come up on the net at some point and offered their assistance and engaged with us about their ability to provide forces and their willingness to provide forces should they get an opportunity to do that,” said Aycock.

For now, Puerto Rico remains as the sole Army Guard asset on-station as well as being among the first U.S. military units to respond to the earthquake.

“Obviously, if it were up to us, we would put other units down there, but that’s not the way the process works,” said Aycock, who described the process as more of

a pulling one than one that the Army Guard pushes units into.

“Although we do have to wait on a pull system, we have significant capability in the Army Guard to apply against this if asked to apply it,” said Aycock. “And you can bet your boots we’ll provide it.”

Guard air traffic controllers keep eyes on skies in Haiti

By Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The recent arrival of Air National Guard air traffic controllers in Haiti has greatly increased the number of flights that are safely entering and leaving the country’s air space.

“The test of how well we are assisting and helping with the on-going operation can be found in the numbers,” said Scott Duke, chief of the Airfield Services Division for the Air National Guard. “Before our presence, the daily count for arrival aircraft was around 90 per day. This morning, the number is at 120 daily operations. That is impressive and when you add the complexity of finding parking spaces for these aircraft on an airport not designed for that many airframes, you can immediately see the benefit.”

Currently, there are 12 Air Guard air traffic controllers deployed to Haiti as well as an airfield operations officer, said Duke. Additional air traffic control assets from the Air Guard are scheduled to arrive in Haiti within the next few days.

“Once they arrive at the airport, 50 percent of the Air National Guard’s air traffic control squadrons will be directly supporting air traffic control operations at the airport,” Duke said.

An airfield management team is also scheduled to be sent to the devastated country to help develop effective parking plans for aircraft, control vehicle traffic and manage flight plans for arriving and departing aircraft, said Duke.

But the role of the controllers is more than simply telling pilots when to take off and land.

“In the case of Port-Au-Prince, the capabilities of the air traffic controllers will be on

see HAITI, Pg. 18

News

from HAITI, Pg. 17

display as they establish landing sequences to the airport, coordinate departure routes, and do all the kinds of things one would see at a typical airport," said Duke.

However, the airport at Port-au-Prince isn't a typical airport.

"Obviously, the conditions on the ground at the airport present different challenges to the controller force, as well as our airfield managers, as they both orchestrate the many moving parts of airport operations in a manner that keeps things safe and moving efficiently," said Duke.

The Air Guard controllers on the ground are trained and equipped to negotiate those challenges.

"Our air traffic control squadrons are equipped with not only deployable personnel, many of them FAA air traffic controllers in their Civilian occupation, but possess the kind of tactical equipment needed to stand-up air traffic control operations at a bare base, austere landing environment, or, in the case of Port-Au-Prince ... at an airport that has lost an ATC capability," Duke said.

Within the Air Force, the bulk of the air traffic control missions fall to the Air Guard.

"The Air National Guard comprises 62.5 percent of the Air Force's deployable ATC mission," said Duke. "The 'embarrassment of riches' we have in our community makes us the logical choice to turn to in time of disaster."

The Air Guard's controllers have plenty of experience running missions in a post-disaster situation such as Haiti. In 2005, they were sent to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina slammed ashore.

"We deployed our air traffic controllers and mobile control tower to the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport and began to control traffic while the FAA worked on restoring the fixed control tower," said Duke. "These kinds of missions are exactly why the Air National Guard airfield services mission is so important to not only our wartime requirements, but support of civil authorities in time of need."

The air traffic controllers are scheduled to be on-station for up to 180 days, said Duke. Most will do a tour of 90 days and a follow-on group will rotate in for the remaining time.

FEMA

President Obama recognizes Haiti rescue teams during state of the union

By FEMA press desk

WASHINGTON – As he delivered his first State of the Union address, President Barack Obama recognized the work of those Americans helping with the response and rescue efforts in Haiti. As the President spoke, Rebecca Knerr of Chantilly, Virginia, the wife of one of the Task Force Leaders deployed to the country, watched as an invited guest of the First Lady.

Under the direction of the U.S. Agency for International Development, six Urban Search and Rescue task forces were deployed to Haiti. These FEMA-trained teams, comprised of more than 500 personnel, joined over 40 international search and rescue teams also on the ground in Haiti.

President Obama's appoints Canton, Freeman as FEMA regional administrators

By FEMA press desk

WASHINGTON – Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate applauded President Obama's appointments of Lynn Gilmore Canton and Beth A. Freeman as FEMA Regional Administrators for Region II, which encompasses New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and Region VII, which encompasses Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, respectively.

"Regional Administrators are crucial to our ability to respond effectively to emergencies based on the needs of the communities we serve," said Administrator Fugate. "Lynn Canton and Beth Freeman are experienced emergency managers and dedicated public servants whose knowledge of their regions makes them uniquely qualified to help lead our efforts."

Nonprofit groups—What are they? Can they apply for disaster assistance?

By FEMA press desk

SHREVEPORT, La. – Certain private nonprofit groups in the disaster-designated parishes that experienced damages from the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that occurred from Oct. 29 to Nov. 3, 2009, may be eligible for Public Assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. That includes eligible PNPs in the parishes of Beauregard, Bossier, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, De Soto, Franklin, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Union, and Webster.

A PNP is an organization that owns or operates facilities that provide certain essential services of a governmental nature and may be open to the general public. These groups may provide critical and non-critical services.

Examples of PNPs include: utilities (such as power, water and sewer), emergency medical facilities, volunteer fire departments, educational facilities, zoos, community centers, libraries, homeless shelters, senior citizen centers, governmental low-income housing, alcohol and drug treatment centers, facilities offering programs for battered spouses, animal control facilities, facilities offering food programs for the needy, daycare centers for children or individuals with special needs.

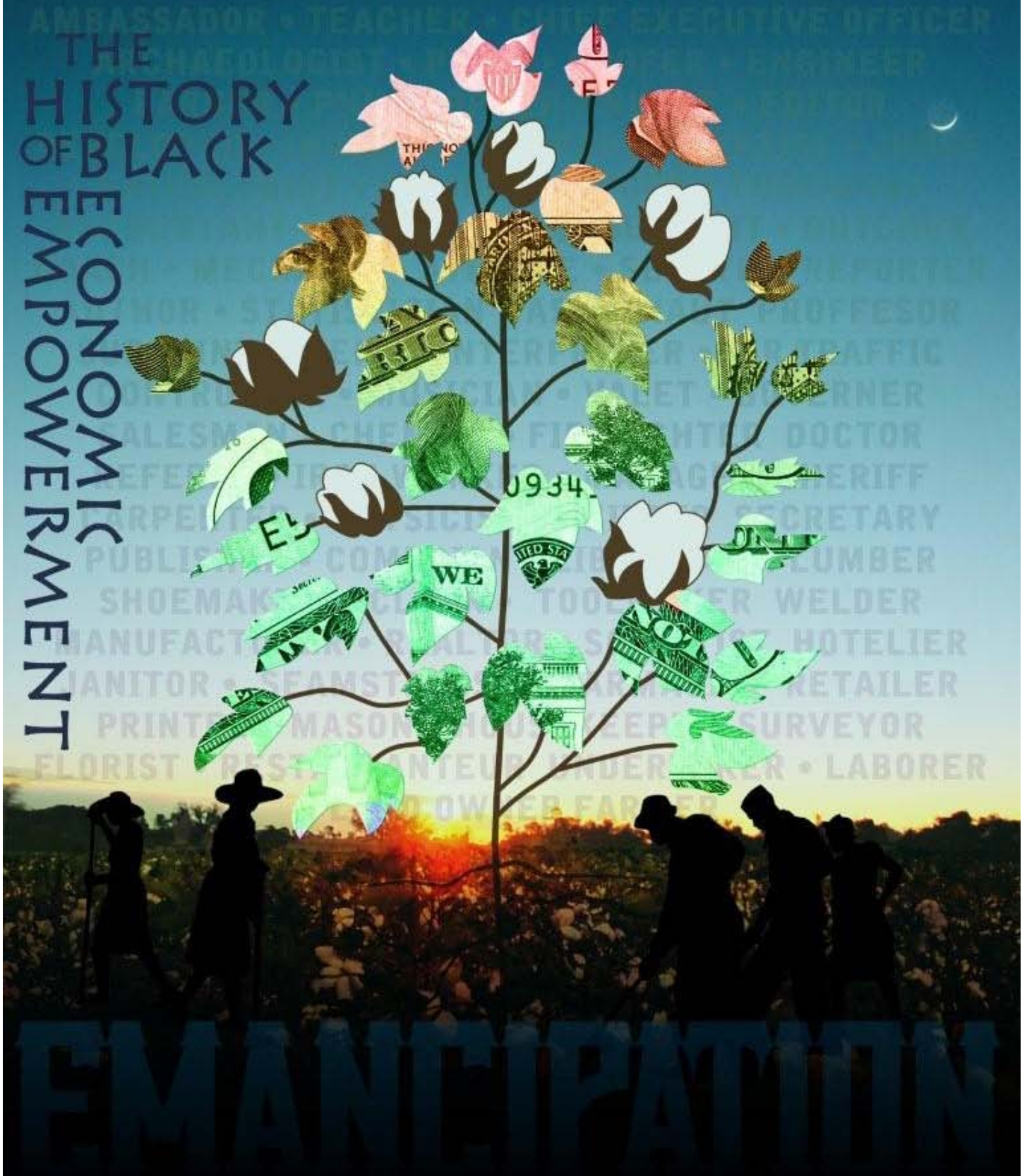
"The uninterrupted services of PNPs are an important part of disaster recovery," said Federal Coordinating Officer Gerard M. Stolar. "They provide vital services directed to the well-being of disaster-affected Louisianians."

PNPs begin the application process by contacting their local (city or parish) Office of Emergency Preparedness. The deadline to apply is Jan. 30 for Catahoula and Franklin parishes, with an extended deadline of Feb. 9 for the remaining disaster-designated parishes.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Additional disaster and public assistance information can be found on www.fema.gov.

Black History Month

THE HISTORY OF BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT





CG visits JTF-CS

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, Army North commanding general, signs a Joint Task Force – Civil Support charter poster during his first command visit to the unit Jan. 13 at Fort Monroe, Va. Swan is very familiar with the mission of JTF-CS, having previously served as the director of operations at United States Northern Command. In the two and a half years since he left that position, he said he was surprised at the growth that has taken place at JTF-CS. "I know this outfit will be prepared when it's called to do its mission," he said. (Photo contribute by JTF-CS)

HNP helps spread word

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Joint Hometown News Service, headquartered in San Antonio, is a directorate of the Defense Media Activity providing Hometown News Program support to the Department of Defense and military services. The HNP provides releases about military and Civilian personnel to media organizations in their hometowns highlighting the accomplishments and worldwide activities of individual members of the Armed Forces.

Participation in HNP is strictly voluntary and is open to all military personnel and Civilian employees. Leaders, managers, and supervisors at all levels are strongly encouraged to support the HNP as a vehicle for getting your personnel recognized for their efforts back home in front of Family, friends and the public. Simply put, it's a great way to tell the American people about the accomplishments of our personnel, Army North and the Army.

The HNP is much more than a check mark on the Army North in-processing/out-processing form. A small sampling of possible submissions, in addition to in-processing and out-processing, are school graduations (e.g., BNCOC/ANCOC/ILE, receipt of college diploma/graduate degree, etc.), receiving awards and decorations, short stories of deployments/redeployments/exercises, promotions, and retirements. If a photo is available for your event, even better!

You are encouraged to visit the Hometown Link (Joint Hometown News Service, Defense Media Activity) at: <http://hq.afnews.af.mil/hometown/> to see the wide variety of services provided.

To participate, please contact Richard Blackard, Army North Office of Public Affairs, 210-221-0015, DSN 471-0015, Richard.Blackard@us.army.mil.

CG greets New Year's guests



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, U.S. Army North commanding general, and his wife, Melanie, greet retired Gen. Ralph Haines Jr., former vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army, to Army North's New Year's reception Jan. 11 at the Fort Sam Houston Residence Center. More than 100 service members and Civilians from the Army North and Fort Sam Houston community attended the event to welcome in the New Year.

ARNORTH Soldier presented Purple Heart for service in Iraq



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left both photos), commanding general, U.S. Army North, presents the Purple Heart award to Sgt. Maj. Daniel Adle as his wife Kum Yo Adle watches on during a ceremony Jan. 8 at the Army North headquarters. Adle, while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division, was injured in Iraq's Diyala Province on April 7, 2007 during a complex attack by terrorists using small-arms fire, grenades and improvised-explosive devices. Following the presentation of his award, Adle thanked his wife for taking care of him as he went through his recovery process as well as for her support throughout the years.

ARNORTH's hails, farewells teammates

Arrivals

Military

Col. Don Cronkhite, G3
 Lt. Col. Paul Hester, RGN II
 Capt. Angel Ortizmedina, RGN II
 Capt. David Heninger, G3
 Capt. John Withers, SJA
 Sgt. 1st Class Jason Washington, G3
 Sgt. 1st Class Jason Schueler, RGN III
 Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Alexander, G2
 Staff Sgt. Conrad Colderon, G7
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Fisher, RGN X
 Staff Sgt. James Numa, RGN VI
 Staff Sgt. Sateen Lopez, RGN

VIII

Sgt. Matthew Starkey, RGN VIII
 Sgt. Ryan Young, RGN VII
 Sgt. Tellas Butler, RGN I
 Sgt. James Doherty, Region IV

Civilians

Alejandro Morales, G6
 Steven Wisniewski, CSTA
 Fred Williams, CSRG-E
 Joshua Cooperwood, G6
 Jeffrey Silvasy, CofS
 Richard Arnold, G6
 Steven Mogan, Region IX
 Christopher Lowd, G4
 Jacqueline Watson, CSRG-E

Departures

Military

Staff Sgt. Ralph Gilbert, PMO
 Staff Sgt. Robert Barnard, PMO

Civilians

Rodney Jones, HHC

Gary Miles, SJA
 Walter Isaacs, IG
 Jose Sosa, PMO
 Hector Planas, G3

Support the Army Family Action Plan today!

Your assistance is requested.

The Army Family Action Plan provides a way for Soldiers, Retirees, Civilians and Family members to let Army leadership know what works, what doesn't - and what they think will fix it.

What is AFAP?

The Army Family Action Plan is input from the people of the Army to Army leadership. It's a process that lets Soldiers, Retirees, Civilians and Families say what's working, and what isn't — AND what they think will fix it. It alerts commanders and Army leaders to areas of concern that need their attention, and it gives them the opportunity to quickly put plans into place to work towards resolving the issues.

ARNORTH AFAP needs your input and support. Please send your concerns/issues to arnorthafap@conus.army.mil.

Please disseminate this message to your Family members. We want to hear from them too!



Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer

No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army."



I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.



Competence is my watch-word. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind; accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.



Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals.



Noncommissioned Officers, Leaders!



SOLDIER'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER
I AM A WARRIOR AND A MEMBER OF A TEAM
I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES
AND LIVE THE ARMY VALUES

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST
I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT
I WILL NEVER QUIT
I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE

I AM DISCIPLINED, PHYSICALLY, AND MENTALLY TOUGH.
TRAINED AND PROFICIENT IN MY WARRIOR TASKS AND DRILLS
I ALWAYS MAINTAIN MY ARMS, MY EQUIPMENT, AND MYSELF

I AM AN EXPERT AND I AM A PROFESSIONAL
I STAND READY TO DEPLOY, ENGAGE AND DESTROY THE ENEMIES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CLOSE COMBAT

I AM A GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

VIDEO NO. 84713