

ARNORTH Monthly

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runs to find cure

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Commanding General:

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III

Command Sergeant Major:

Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood

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Former ARNORTH CG bids adieu after 35+ years service to nation



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner (right) is presented the Army Distinguished Service Medal by Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, during Turner's retirement ceremony Dec. 15 inside Army North's historic headquarters at the Quadrangle. Turner retired following 35 years of service with the Army – the final three at the helm of Army North. "As I depart today, I leave confident that the Soldiers of today's Army are men and women of character. It has been my distinct honor to serve with them – to have been called a Soldier. If I have been able to mentor one of these fine Americans, I will consider my duty done," said Turner.

PAT set to assess effectiveness, efficiency

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

I want to thank each of you for the work that you do every day in keeping our nation safe from the very real dangers that exist in our world today. It was not that long ago that the Fifth Army, a decades old contributor of military strength, was directed to reorganize and form the United States Army North. And we did just that.

Our new command was built with the understanding that we would continue to grow. The Army, our leaders, and all of us today recognized that our missions change and new ones would be added to those we already have. Accordingly, these changes may necessitate a new or transformed design.

With respect for the accomplishments of Army North before, and recognition that our missions, indeed the expectation of our nation, will change, Lt. Gen. Swan directed the formation of a Process Action Team. The PAT will assess missions and tasks and the corresponding organization we have built. 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.

The PAT will operate for the next 30 to 45 days. It will assess with the goal of achieving effective reorganization for today's and tomorrow's ARNORTH mission.

The CG has said that people will not lose jobs. Jobs that people currently have may move or may change but growth and efficiencies gained will afford opportunities to move forward on ARNORTH's growing path sooner.

Naturally, there may be some need for training and education to facilitate what I am describing here, but we will meet each challenge if and when it arises.

I want to reiterate that the only decision now is to look at the organization and determine whether we are postured to be the operational force that our current and future mission demands.

Throughout this process we are committed to our most important resource, our people, and keeping you all informed. Again, thank you everyone. Remain Army Strong!

Change of Command**Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III takes command of U.S. Army North***Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner bids farewell after more than 35 years service with U.S. Army***By Sgt. Joshua Ford**

U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III took over as the commanding general of U.S. Army North from Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner during a change of command ceremony Dec. 15 inside the command's historic headquarters at the Quadrangle.

Hundreds of service members and civilians also gathered to bid farewell to Turner, the command's second commanding general, as he retired after more than 35 years of service — the final three at the helm of Army North.

The ceremonies were co-hosted by Air Force Gen. Victor Renuart Jr., the commanding general of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, and Gen. Peter Chiarelli, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Prior to assuming command of Army North, Swan served as the Chief of Staff and Director of Operations, CJ3, for Multi-National Force — Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Before that, he served with as the Director of Operations, J3, with United States Northern Command, based out of Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to lead the Soldiers and Civilians of Army North for two reasons," said Swan, after assuming command from Turner. "First, I believe deeply in the mission and the people of this command. And second, in my mind there



Photo and cover photo by Doug Myers, Fort Sam Houston Visual Information Office

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left), U.S. Army North commanding general, gives a speech after taking command of ARNORTH during a change of command ceremony Dec. 15 inside Army North's historic headquarters at the Quadrangle. Swan assumed command from Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner, who retired following 35 years of service with the Army — the final three at the helm of Army North. Cover: Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left), U.S. Army North commanding general, is presented the Army North colors by Air Force Gen. Victor Renuart, the commanding general of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, during a change of command ceremony Dec. 15 inside Army North's historic headquarters at the Quadrangle.

is no more noble task for a Soldier than to use one's skills and experience to assist and, if necessary, to defend our fellow citizens in

their homeland in times of great need.

"This job, this command, is truly the 'no penetration line' in the defense of our country."

Prior to the ceremony, Chiarelli promoted Swan to the rank of lieutenant general before a group of family and friends in Swan's new office.

Turner took command of Army North in 2006 after previously serving as the commanding general of the 101st Airborne Divi-

"As I depart today, I leave confident that the Soldiers of today's Army are men and women of character. It has been my distinct honor to serve with them — to have been called a Soldier."

Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner,
Former commanding general, U.S. Army North

see **Swan** Pg. 4

After beating cancer, ARNORTH civilian runs to find cure for others

By Sgt. Joshua Ford

U.S. Army North PAO

It has been nearly 10 years since Carol Rein, a financial management analyst at U.S. Army North, has been in complete remission from breast cancer.

Now, at 61, Rein found a way to battle cancer for others: running.

Rein said she wants to help any way she can to find a cure and recently started running half-marathons with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training.

Each running event raises money to find a cure for what more than 11 million Americans suffer from every year.

"What started this was my daughter, Shelly," said Rein. "She told me I needed to get back to running; so, when I found TNT, I decided to get back into running. Since I am a cancer survivor, anything that we can do to raise funds to find a cure to eliminate cancer is a good thing."

TNT is the world's largest voluntary charity sports training program and has more than

390,000 participants. It focuses primarily on raising money to fight blood cancers. Since 1949, TNT has raised more than \$680 million for research, with more than \$69 million in 2009. The team travels all over the country to run in events to raise money for a cure.

Rein traveled to San Francisco with TNT in October to run in Nike's Race to San Francisco. She ran the half-marathon and raised more than \$4,000.

She started training in May 2009 with Shelly West, a friend who is a management analyst at

Brooke Army Medical Center. West, 49, who is more than a year in complete remission from acute myeloid leukemia, said Rein is the reason she runs.

Rein and West trained together twice a week after they decided to start running with TNT.

"I used ARNORTH's civilian physical training program. It helped having the extra time to train every week," said Rein.

ARNORTH's civilian program allows civilian employees

—— see **Run Pg. 5**

from **Swan, Pg. 3**

sion and Fort Campbell, Ky., where he deployed his command to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Tom Turner is one of the finest men I know," said Chiarelli. "He is a leader, a Soldier and a diplomat – a husband, a father, a son and a friend. Throughout his career, he has held numerous difficult and demanding positions; and, in each case, he has done an absolutely masterful job."

While serving as commanding general for U.S. Army North, Turner stood up the nation's first chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive consequence management response force, which is tasked in preparing for catastrophic events, such as terrorist attacks or natural disasters.

"Tom Turner was given the job of crafting Army North into a joint force land component command," said Renuart. "Tom has just done a spectacular job in leading this command. He has been proven in tough circumstances. Over the last three years, I have counted on Tom to lead, to coordinate and to support all of the operations that U.S. Northern Command has been asked to carry out in this country."

In 2008, he said Turner and U.S. Army North responded to back-to-back hurricanes, Gustav and Ike, and provided a rapid response and provided key support capabilities, to include search and rescue, evacuation, transportation and medical.

"Not only have you taken this command from good to great, you have done the same for every unit and organization you have lead throughout your career," exclaimed Chiarelli. "The Army is undoubtedly better and stronger for your efforts and sacrifices – and those of your Family."

Turner, who graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1974 and was commissioned as second lieutenant in the infantry, said his next move will be a difficult one for him and his Family.

"This will be a difficult transition for me personally," said Turner.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kim Chaney, U.S. Army North G1

A 17-gun salute is fired to honor Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner, U.S. Army North's former commanding general, during his retirement ceremony. Dec. 15 inside Army North's historic headquarters at the Quadrangle. Turner retired following 35 years of service with the Army – the final three at the helm of Army North.

"The Army has been my life.

"As I depart today, I leave confident that the Soldiers of today's Army are men and women of character. It has been my distinct honor to serve with them – to have been called a Soldier. If I have been able to mentor one of these fine Americans, I will consider my duty done."

Army North members learn, share medical planning experience

By Patti Bielling

U.S. Army North PAO

A seamless medical response to a disaster won't happen unless a multitude of agencies share a common language and a common understanding of how the others operate.

To accomplish this, the Homeland Security Medical Executive Course brings together medical professionals from local, state and federal agencies to help increase that understanding before disaster strikes.

Members of United States Army North were among the military and civilian attendees of the most recent course,

held during an early December blizzard in a downtown Minneapolis hotel.

Fred Watke, an Army North medical planner said he did not attend the course expecting to hear a lot of technical detail. Instead, he was looking forward to the interaction with the other services and those in the "whole strata of the civil support environment."

Because his office is responsible for coordinating many aspects of military medical support following disaster, Watke said he and his fellow Army planners tend to look at a disaster response holistically.

"A course like this allows me to learn a lot about how the local and state responders view things and what they expect from us," he said. "This is also an opportunity to reassure them so they know the military is not going to take over a response, but we'll be there to provide them with what they ask for."

Col. Christopher Fulton, Army North's newest defense coordinating officer, took advantage of an opportunity to address the group. In the three months he's been in the job for Region V, Fulton said he's learned that civil support is a very complicated business and encouraged lo-

cal and state responders to become well acquainted with the military emergency preparedness liaison officers in their states and regions.

"Establishing these relationships and knowing the capabilities each agency brings to the response are essential before a disaster occurs," he said.

The course is offered several times per year at locations throughout the country, said Navy Lt. Claude Long, the course's officer in charge of the course, who noted that the 80 attendees included health care professionals

————— **see Med Pg. 6**



Courtesy photo

Carol Rein (middle in purple shirt and shorts), who serves as a financial management analyst with U.S. Army North, crosses the finish line during the Nike's Race to San Francisco Oct. 18. Rein ran the women's half-marathon with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training and raised more than \$4,000 to find a cure for cancer. The Race to San Francisco was the first half-marathon the 61-year-old had completed. Rein, a proud survivor of breast cancer, said if she can help people with cancer by running, then there is no reason she shouldn't.

————— **from Run, Pg. 4**

three hours a week to take off from work and exercise. Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner, former ARNORTH commanding general, implemented the program in early August.

"I told the general that his PT program was working out great," said Mitzie Roberts, friend and coworker of Rein's. "I told him because of the three hours a week, my friend is going to run two half-marathons. He thought it was good."

Since Rein and West began training, they completed two half-marathons: one in San Francisco and the Nov. 15 Rock and Roll Marathon in San Antonio.

"I could not have done it without Carol," said West. "She encouraged and inspired me every step of the way. In San Francisco, I cried as I approached the finish line. In San Antonio, I celebrated."

Both, Rein and West said they are eager to help others overcome the challenges brought forth with cancer in whatever ways they can. After all, each knows what it's like.

"I am a proud survivor of breast cancer. If I can help people with cancer by running, there is no excuse I shouldn't," said Rein.

President nominates new NORAD and NORTHCOM Commander

By U.S. Northern Command PAO

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced Dec. 23 that the President has made the nomination for the next U.S. Northern Command commander.

Navy Vice Adm. James Winnefeld Jr. will be appointed to the rank of admiral and assigned as commander of NORTHCOM and North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Northern Command was established Oct. 1, 2002, to oversee homeland defense efforts and

coordinate defense support of civil authorities. Its area of responsibility encompasses the continental United States, as well as Alaska, Canada, Mexico and the surrounding water out to 500 nautical miles.

Winnefeld is currently serving as director, strategic plans and policy, J-5, and as senior member, United States Delegation to the United Nations Military Staff Committee, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

If confirmed, Winnefeld will become the fourth commander and second admiral to head the Defense Department's response in homeland security matters.



Courtesy photo

— from **Med**, Pg. 5

from the active and reserve components of the Army, the National Guard, the Navy and the Air Force.

Others hailed from various states, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Coast Guard, and the U.S. Public Health Service, among many other agencies.

The course uses large group lectures to introduce concepts – such as medical evacuation or communicating medical information to an affected population – and then encourages the attendees to discuss them in a facilitated small-group setting.

The course was originally created to fill a gap in training to respond to incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives, or CBRNE, said Long.

“There was a lot of training out there on topics like how to respond to a mass casualty event or how to conduct decontamination, but there was no umbrella course that taught the overarching response from the medical perspective,” said Long.

Upon returning to the Training Institute on Fort Sam Houston, Long said he would like to develop additional modules tailored specifically to military medical response during civil support operations.

As for this course, Aggie Leitheiser, the director of emergency preparedness for the Minnesota Department of Health,



Photo by Patti Bielling, U.S. Army North PAO

Col. Christopher Fulton, an Army North defense coordinating officer, addresses attendees of the Homeland Security Medical Executive Course in Minneapolis Dec. 9.

said it met her expectations and that she learned a lot about military medical capabilities and how the system works.

“The depth and breadth of experience of the people in this course was impressive,” she said. “The small-group exercises allowed us to take and apply the

concepts to a situation so everyone can better understand the interplay between civilian and military responders.”

The next course is scheduled for June in Tacoma, Wash. Those interested in other course offerings can visit: <http://www.dmrta.army.mil/courses.html>.

Asst. Sec. Def. for Homeland Defense visits ARNORTH, speaks to DSCA students



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

Dr. Paul Stockton, assistant secretary of defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, speaks to a class of approximately 60 service members and Civilians attending the Defense Support of Civil Authorities course Jan. 5 in San Antonio. Stockton spoke of the importance of DSCA and the vital role everyone plays in helping to improve upon the valued program. "We need to make progress in strength in unity of effort far beyond that which exists today," said Stockton. "You all are going to be critical in making progress in the realm of unity of effort and in saving lives when catastrophe strikes." The course provides an overview of the DSCA organization, structure, mission areas and describes how DSCA fits into the missions of homeland security and disaster response.



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

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left), commanding general, U.S. Army North, briefs Dr. Paul Stockton, assistant secretary of defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, on ARNORTH's organization and what the command is focusing on to improve its capabilities in providing Defense Support of Civil Authorities in response to catastrophic events if they were to occur in the United States. Swan and his senior leaders from Army North met with Stockton Jan. 5 at ARNORTH's historic headquarters' in the Quadrangle.



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

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, the commanding general of U.S. Army North, presents his coin to Dr. Paul Stockton, assistant secretary of defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, after Stockton spoke to a Defense Support of Civil Authorities class Jan. 5 in San Antonio. "With a partner like Dr. Stockton up at the Pentagon making those key policy decisions and adjustments that we need to execute our mission, I think we are in very good hands for the future of the DSCA mission," said Swan.

Asst. Sec. Def. for Reserve Affairs visits Joint Task Force — Civil Support

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Toni Burton

JTF-CS PAO

FORT MONROE, Va. — It is essential to keep improving preparedness in case of an attack on United States soil, said the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Dennis McCarthy, who is responsible for the overall supervision of the Reserve Component Affairs of the Department of Defense, visited Joint Task Force — Civil Support as part of a visit to the Hampton Roads area Dec. 16.

JTF-CS is focused on Chemical, Biological Radiological Nuclear and high-yield Explosive consequence management planning, preparedness and command and control of Department of Defense forces during CBRNE incidents.

“The fact is everybody is aware now of how serious the threat is,” said McCarthy during a visit to JTF-CS.

McCarthy told the staff that government officials can not be satisfied with how prepared the country has been. He stressed

the need for constant improvement.

“It was a good visit,” said Capt. Michael Collins, JTF-CS chief of staff. “It was great to meet with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs since one of our decontamination units, out of Chicago, Ill., is an Army Reserve Unit.”

McCarthy is familiar with the origins of JTF-CS. He was on the staff at United States Atlantic Command when the JTF-CS was being created as a subordinate of USACOM in the late 1990s. The task force stood up in October 1999.

JTF-CS is a standing joint task force comprised of active, reserve and National Guard members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. It is the operational headquarters for the CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force.

The CCMRF is a total force of about 4,700 personnel consisting of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from active-duty, Na-



By Petty Officer 2nd Class Toni Burton, JTF-CS PAO

Dennis McCarthy, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, during a brief at JTF-CS. McCarthy, who is responsible for the overall supervision of the Reserve Component Affairs of the Department of Defense, visited Joint Task Force — Civil Support as part of a visit to the Hampton Roads area, Dec. 16.

tional Guard and reserve units, who deploy as the Department of Defense’s initial response force for a CBRNE incident.

One of the CCMRF subordinate units, Task Force Aviation, is an Army National Guard unit — the 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade, headquartered in Frankfort, Ky. It assumes com-

mand and control of rotary wing aviation operations in support of CBRNE consequence management operations.

Task Force Aviation units spread across eight other states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Florida, Nevada and New Mexico.

ARNORTH’s hails and farewells teammates

Arrivals

Military

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, CG

Command Sgt. Major

David Wood, CG

Capt. Angel Ortizmedina, Region II

Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone

Alexander, G2

Staff Sgt. Conrad Calderon, G7

Civilians

Christopher Burt, G3

Gary Mills, G3

Gary Dickenson, G6

Alejandro Morales, G6

Steven Wisniewski, CSTA

Departures

Military

Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner, CG

Lt. Col. Timothy Brumfeil, OCG

Maj. Joseph Gilbert, Region I

Maj. Ezell Tornes, G3

Maj. William Moore, G3

Master Sgt. John Keenan, Region VI

Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Parks

Civilians

Thomas Bowersox, G4

Rodney Jones, HHC

Gary Miles, SJA

RED HORSE Airmen, leaders learn lessons in consequence management exercise



Photo courtesy of 820th Red Horse Squadron

Airmen from the 820th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers Squadron conduct Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Consequence Management Response Force operations at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center during the Vibrant Response 10.1 Field Training Exercise in Indiana in early November.

By Capt. Nicholas Anderson
820th Red Horse Squadron

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – Fourteen Airmen from the 820th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers Squadron drove up to the simulated sight of utter devastation. A nuclear device exploded in Indianapolis, Ind., only days before, creating untold destruction and loss of life. Massive debris stacked eight feet high; overturned vehicles and live utility lines cover two kilometers of the landscape ahead, creating an impenetrable barrier for emergency response personnel.

While it may seem farfetched, this is just one of many possible Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive scenarios rehearsed during a joint service exercise in southeast Indiana in November. CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians are

on standby 24/7 to respond at the direction of the secretary of defense to any major CBRNE catastrophe in the United States that requires Department of Defense capabilities.

The exercise proved to be a valuable tool for the Airmen from the 820th RED HORSE Sqdn., from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The unit was notified in June of its role in the CCMRF and officially began its work Aug. 10, when it replaced the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron.

The unit has 126 personnel and more than 800 short tons of cargo allocated to the mission, ready to meet the rapid response timeline established by U.S. Northern Command.

Some may wonder why the 820th RED HORSE, a low density-high demand enabler unit, was tasked for the mission.

“RED HORSE has the capability to project integrated Air Force Engineer capabilities anytime, anywhere with little to no notice,” explained Ron Clouse, who

serves with Air Force North civil engineer operations. “NORTHCOM, through the U.S. Army North headquarters and its Joint Forces Land Component commander, who are ultimately responsible for CCMRF operations, wanted DoD controlled uniformed forces. The AFNORTH commander and we engineers knew that RED HORSE had the ability to provide what the JFLCC wanted – an available first response heavy engineering capability.”

Defense Support of Civil Authorities missions are not new to the RED HORSE team. More than 90 personnel from the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, based at Hurlburt Field, Fla., deployed in response to Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, to provide emergency repairs and debris removal operations on Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

This mission, is different though.

“RED HORSE CONUS (continental

see **RED** Pg. 10

Region IX welcomes addition of new building

DUBLIN, Calif. — Col. Mark Armstrong, defense coordinating officer, U.S. Army North, and Lt. Col. Michael Friend (right), the garrison commander of the Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, cut a ceremonial ribbon Dec. 18 for Building 304 at the Camp Parks RFTA along with Wink Quatrano, building contractor, and James Tarver, director of Public Works for USAG Camp Parks. The opening of the facility greatly enhances the work space for ARNORTH's Region IX defense coordinating elements, whose nine core members are co-located with FEMA Region IX in Oakland, Calif. The renovated building at Camp Parks will serve as a satellite office and will provide a training location the DCE, which can expand to more than 30 personnel, to include emergency preparedness liaison officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. DCE IX supports the states of California, Arizona and Nevada in the FEMA Region IX and is prepared to deploy nationwide as required.

(U.S. Army photo)



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United States) deployments in the past were ad hoc, with little time ahead to prepare,” explained Lt. Col. James Christley, the deputy commander of 820th RED HORSE squadron. “This is the first time we’ve had the opportunity to be part of a response force capable of responding to anything from a hurricane to a natural disaster.

In an effort to prepare responders for the CCMRF mission, Joint Task Force – Civil Support, the CCMRF headquarters unit, and RED HORSE implemented thorough training programs. Personnel assigned to CCMRF attended additional CBRNE training, hazardous material awareness training, week-long Command Post of the Future courses, convoy briefings, Tactical Operations Center training and NORTH-COM training for CCMRF and DSCA awareness. Additionally, each responder received media relations training from Public Affairs.

Prior to the November exercise in Indiana, 30 RED HORSE personnel attended the Vibrant Response 10.1 Exercise from Aug. 1-14 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The exercise provided unit leaders the opportunity to exercise their TOC operations using realistic computer simulation software.

“Even though we work closely with the Army in Southwest Asia, this training gave us a chance to learn more about joint operations,” said Capt. Brandon Sokora, engineering flight commander, 820th RED HORSE Squadron. “It also helped us understand our responsibilities in a major disaster and how we will interact with local, state and federal agencies. The scope of responsibility and the number of organizations involved really drives home how important this mission is.”

Approximately 2,800 CCMRF troops and a majority of their equipment participated in the Vibrant Response 10.1 Field Training Exercise in

Indiana, which simulated a nuclear explosion near Indianapolis, Ind.

With 122 personnel and 758 short tons of cargo deployed, Dr. Ronald Hartzer, AFCEA chief historian, called it “the largest RED HORSE stateside deployment that I can find in my records.”

Each morning, several teams left the RED HORSE compound at Camp Atterbury and traveled to construction sites there and at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center and Jennings County Fairgrounds.

“At any given time in the day we had between 50 and 80 personnel on the road to sites or executing MAs,” Senior Master Sgt. Scottie Spradlin, cantonments superintendent, 820th RED HORSE Sqdn. “Over a four-day period, we had personnel simultaneously clearing roads of debris, grading land for FEMA trailers, neutralizing utility lines, constructing walls or sidewalks and repairing camp infrastructure.”

Members of the media and distinguished visitors walked down to the site and said they were surprised by how much of the road they were able to see again. Tech. Sgt. Todd Mitchell, team non-commissioned officer in charge, briefed Gen. Victor Renuart, the commanding general of U.S. Northern Command, on the operation.

The RED HORSE stands ready to support, declared Tech. Sgt. Alfredo Perez, an equipment operator with the 820th RED HORSE Sqdn.

“This is the kind of mission that we never want to have to execute,” said Perez, “but we want to make sure that everyone in the country knows we’re ready for. If something terrible does happen, JTF-CS and the 820th RED HORSE will do everything we can to quickly respond.

“We want to be there for our fellow Americans and will come together to overcome any horrific events we may face.”

U.S. Army North celebrates holidays inside Quadrangle with prayer, music



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

Maj. Chip Nicholas (left), U.S. Army North chaplain, Staff Sgt. Glen Hambrick, ARNORTH chaplain's assistant, and Joseph Osborn, ARNORTH safety officer, lead ARNORTH Soldiers and Civilians in caroling during the ARNORTH holiday celebration Dec. 17 at ARNORTH's historic headquarters inside the Quadrangle. Refreshments were served following a prayer led by Col. Danny Franklin, ARNORTH chaplain.

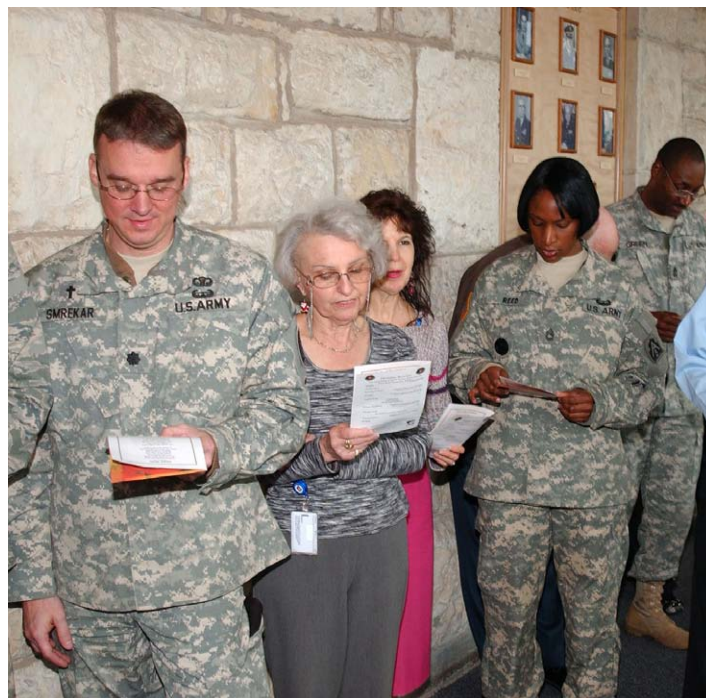


Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

U.S. Army North Soldiers and Civilians sing Christmas during ARNORTH's holiday celebration Dec. 17 at ARNORTH's historic headquarters inside the Quadrangle. Maj. Chip Nicholas, U.S. Army North chaplain, and Joseph Osborn, ARNORTH safety officer, led the carolers as they provided the music with acoustic guitars.



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

U.S. Army North Soldiers and Civilians line up for refreshments during ARNORTH's holiday celebration Dec. 17 at ARNORTH's historic headquarters inside the Quadrangle. Before refreshments were served, the ARNORTH team celebrated the holidays with prayer and Christmas carols.



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

Col. Danny Franklin, U.S. Army North chaplain, leads ARNORTH Soldiers and Civilians in prayer during ARNORTH's holiday celebration Dec. 17 at ARNORTH's historic headquarters inside the Quadrangle. ARNORTH celebrated the holidays with prayer, song and refreshments.

News

Army-Wide

Army approves suicide-intervention training for leaders

By Army Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Suicide-intervention training is now available for Army leaders and other key personnel who are on the front lines of suicide prevention across the service.

The Army has approved two-day and five-day workshops on Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, known as ASIST. The workshops are produced by Living Works Education, Inc., at locations across the country.

The five-day ASIST workshop is a “train the trainers” course that will certify key Army personnel, who upon completion will be qualified to conduct the two-day ASIST course throughout the Army.

“We would never deploy Soldiers without first training them to accomplish their anticipated mission -- why should suicide prevention be any different?” asked Brig. Gen. Colleen McGuire, director of the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force.

“When you go to the emergency room with a physical injury, you’re right to expect the nurses and doctors are well-trained and can get you the care you need,” McGuire said. “The same should be true if you’re thinking of harming yourself and you choose to go to your leadership or other Army professionals seeking help.”

The two-day ASIST workshops will train Army leaders, chaplains and chaplain assistants, substance abuse counselors, Family advocacy program workers, medical and dental-health professionals, and other care providers in a range of suicide-prevention and intervention skills.

From identifying those who may be having thoughts of suicide to improved understanding of how beliefs and attitudes affect suicide interventions, Army personnel who complete the two-day course will be better able to save Soldiers, Family members, and Department of the Army civilian’s lives and serve as an additional suicide prevention resource for Army commanders, said

Walter Morales, Army suicide prevention program manager.

“We want to rapidly expand the suicide-prevention capabilities of our Army,” Morales said. “That means making realistic, immediately useful training available for the key links in our suicide-prevention chain. The two-day and five-day ASIST workshops provide both the intervention skills our community needs, and a way for us to get more qualified, competent, and capable trainers at units across the Army.”

More information about the ASIST workshops is available www.livingworks.net.

The ASIST training is intended to complement the Army’s approved “Ask, Care, Escort” or ACE Suicide Prevention training currently available for all Soldiers and front-line supervisors.

ACE standardized training and awareness material can be downloaded from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine Web site at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>.

Stop-loss payments continue but some no longer eligible

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The fiscal 2010 defense budget extends payments to servicemembers involuntarily extended on active duty under the so-called “Stop Loss” program, but those who received a bonus for voluntarily re-enlisting or extending their service after being involuntarily extended no longer qualify for retroactive Stop Loss pay.

The Defense Department put the new policy into effect Jan. 5, modifying eligibility for retroactive special pay to comply with Section 8108 of the 2010 Defense Department Appropriations Act, which took effect Dec. 19.

Servicemembers affected by the new policy who already received Stop Loss payments will not be required to repay them, defense officials said. However, all outstanding applications from affected servicemembers will be returned, along with an explanation of the change in law that makes them no longer eligible to receive the payments, officials said.

Department officials announced in March their intention to eliminate the Stop

Loss policy, which kept servicemembers on active duty beyond their contracted end-of-service date.

While the services work to phase out the policy, officials authorized a special pay of \$500 a month for anyone retained on active duty due to Stop Loss. Retroactive payments applied for anyone who served on active duty between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, and the fiscal 2010 defense budget extended that authority through September 2010.

Servicemembers were able to begin submitting their claims for retroactive Stop Loss special pay on Oct. 21.

KFOR drawing down to 10,000 troops

*By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hagburg
North Dakota National Guard*

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo — The Kosovo Force will transition from about 14,000 to 10,000 NATO forces by Jan. 31, due to improvements in security, said the commander of Multi-National Task Force-East.

Brig. Gen. Al Dohrmann told media in Kosovo last week that improvements in security have prompted the Kosovo Force to move its posture to a “deterrent presence.”

“KFOR will rely more heavily on reserve forces that are able to quickly and decisively respond whenever and wherever necessary in support of local structures as a third responder,” Dohrmann said.

Dohrmann, a member of the North Dakota National Guard, assumed command of MNTF-East Nov. 14. He commands about 2,200 Soldiers, including the Greek troops of Task Force Hellas and Polish/Ukrainian troops of Task Force POL/UKR; along with North Dakota’s 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. KFOR is commanded by German Lt. Gen. Markus Bentler and is currently in its 12th rotation of forces.

“You may notice fewer KFOR patrols, but that is directly related to the abilities of the Kosovo Police,” Dohrmann said. “Any adjustments made will not decrease KFOR’s operational capability.”

Dohrmann was asked whether the move to a deterrent presence would affect security in Kosovo. He responded by stating that while there still are challenges ahead in Kosovo, progress continues every day.

News

Department of Defense

President signs 2010 defense budget into law

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense officials are hailing passage of the fiscal 2010 budget that funds military programs and wartime operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and provides a military pay raise.

President Barack Obama signed the 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act into law Dec. 19 after the Senate approved it during a rare early Saturday session. The Senate passed the measure by an 88-to-10 vote.

The \$636.3 billion legislation provides \$128.3 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a 3.4 percent military pay raise.

The law also extends various authorities and other non-defense fiscal 2010 appropriations, White House officials announced. Most of those provisions involved temporary extensions of emergency unemployment and health-care benefits that had been set to expire.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates issued a joint statement Dec. 18, pressing the Senate for action.

“We strongly urge Senate passage of the Defense Appropriations Bill today, prior to expiration of the current continuing resolution,” the statement said. “Passage today will provide important support for our foreign policy and national security priorities and ensure continuity of funding for our troops in combat and for all of the Department of Defense.”

The House passed the legislation Dec. 16.

National Guard

Top 10 call-outs of the National Guard in 2009

By Master Sgt. Greg Rudl

National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va., – In addition to the thousands of Soldiers and Airmen current-

ly activated for ongoing federal missions, the Guard provides significant response to planned events and unexpected contingencies. On average, on any given day, 17 governors call out their Guard to help citizens in need. Though 2009 lacked a major hurricane, wildfire or other natural disaster, it still had its moments. Here are the biggest and most memorable call-outs of 2009.

#10 Mena, Arkansas tornado:

The pictures of its destruction reminded many of the 2007 F-5 twister in Greensburg, Kan., and the tornado that devastated Parkersburg, Iowa, in 2008. Soon after a powerful tornado ripped through the community of 5,700 the night of April 10, members of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team arrived. They conducted search and rescue and set up security check points. As morning broke and the destruction became more visible, more Guardmembers arrived to help.

#9 Runaway balloon:

Call it a publicity stunt gone wrong, but when the Colorado National Guard got the call in October that a silver Mylar balloon was adrift with possibly a boy inside, they wasted no time scrambling UH-60 Black Hawk and OH-58 Kiowa helicopters to provide assistance to civilian authorities tracking it. As millions watched on TV, the small balloon crashed gently some 50 miles from where it started – with no one aboard.

#8 The Blizzard of 2009:

The recent storm that crippled the Eastern seaboard with record snowfall had governors in affected states and the District of Columbia calling out more than 1,200 Guardmembers. The Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen responded, performing missions that included aerial reconnaissance, transporting food, water, blankets and other supplies, transporting stranded motorists and health care professionals and sheltering operations.

#7 Snow and rain in Washington:

When previous heavy snowfall combined with on-going rainfall caused flooding conditions throughout the state in January, more than 400 Washington National Guard members were called out to help. They cleared snow, staffed traffic control points, used high-water vehicles to evacuate people, moved supplies and conducted door-to-door health and welfare checks, not to mention delivering 30,000+ sandbags to affected areas.

#6 Kentucky ice storms:

Though the western part of Kentucky was hardest hit, this massive ice storm stretched

from the Ozarks through Appalachia, paralyzing several states in late January and early February, including Arkansas and Missouri. Over 4,000 were called up in Kentucky alone – its largest in history – to clear debris, provide communications support, engineering capability, power generation, security and aviation recovery missions as well as distribute food and water.

#5 Red River flooding:

Saving a town from flooding takes team work and a strong back. Guardmembers from Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, Missouri and South Dakota – 2,000-3,000 of them – found that out in March and April when they helped fill and place millions of sandbags. Why? The Red River, swelled from rain and snow, was threatening the towns of Fargo and Moorhead. They also did snow removal, worked at traffic control checkpoints, helped in evacuations and assisted local law enforcement in dike and shelter security.

#4 Tsunami response in American Samoa:

This call-out was memorable because of the way Guardmembers got to the scene of the disaster. Hundreds of members of the Hawaii Air National Guard climbed aboard military jets and flew thousands of miles to provide medical care and other aid to residents of American Samoa in September after a tsunami struck the region. Medical teams treated people in the capital and other troops convoyed to remote villages to support search and rescue operations.

#3 Oil refinery fire:

More than 300 Puerto Rico National Guard troops responded to a massive fire that burned a refinery near San Juan in October. The Army Guard's 215th Firefighting Team and the Puerto Rico Air National Guard worked with local firefighters to contain the blaze.

#2 G-20 Summit:

Demonstrators took to the streets in Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 24-25 but so did more than 2,500 Pennsylvania National Guard members to maintain order, supporting local, state and federal authorities. It was called Operation Steel Kickoff – fitting for a town with six Super Bowl Championships.

#1 Presidential inauguration:

Many estimates had the Guard presence for the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration at over 10,000. They came from states near and far, by personal auto to military transport. They patrolled a packed National Mall providing security, crises response, basic first aid and medical evacuation if needed.

News

Veteran Affairs

VA selects permanent location for historic Civil War monument

By Veteran Affairs PAO

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced today the Department of Veterans Affairs has selected the Frazier International History Museum in Louisville, Ky., as the new home of the Bloedner Monument, the nation's oldest Civil War memorial.

The Bloedner Monument was removed from Cave Hill National Cemetery in Louisville in December 2008 and taken to a temporary facility where it was professionally conserved by Conservation Solutions Inc. to arrest further damage.

"The removal of an important monument from a national cemetery is rare and was not undertaken without great deliberation," said Secretary Shinseki. "However, the overwhelming significance of the Bloedner Monument and its failing condition warranted this unusual step."

The monument was carved in January 1862 by Pvt. August Bloedner to commemorate his fellow soldiers of the 32nd Indiana Infantry, all of them German immigrants who fell in the Battle of Rowlett's Station near Munfordville, Ky. The monument's original location was on the battlefield, marking the graves of 13 soldiers who perished there. When most of these remains were removed to Cave Hill National Cemetery in 1867, the Bloedner Monument was moved there as well.

VA historians, in collaboration with the Kentucky Heritage Council and Heritage Preservation Inc., selected the Frazier International Museum as the new home from three interested facilities based on Civil War exhibit plans, controlled environment and security, financial stability, annual visitation and proximity to Cave Hill National Cemetery.

The monument was fabricated from St. Genevieve limestone, with a base of Bedford limestone added in 1867. It measures approximately 5 feet long, 1 foot deep and 3 ½ feet high. The monument is carved

on one side with a relief of an eagle and an inscription in German in a rustic script. The text was approximately 300 words and 2,500 characters long at the time it was carved. Because of the poor quality of the limestone and effects of the environment, the monument has lost a significant amount of material. Only about 50 percent of the original carving and inscription remains.

The monument was temporarily relocated to a University of Louisville facility for treatment while VA conducted a thorough evaluation of potential sites. The evaluation process included written proposals and site visits. VA posted information on the Internet, mailed information to Veterans and Civil War heritage groups and held a public information meeting to solicit suggestions.

A new monument, with an interpretive sign explaining the significance of the original Bloedner Monument and indicating its location, will be placed at Cave Hill National Cemetery in 2010.

FEMA

FEMA announces \$200m in emergency food, shelter program awards for 2010

By FEMA press desk

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Dec. 31 that federal funds totaling \$200 million has been awarded to assist organizations dedicated to feeding, sheltering, and providing critical resources to our nation's hungry and homeless.

Funding was made available by Congress for the National Board of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) to support social service agencies in more than 2,500 cities and counties across the country.

"The EFSP provides an important resource to support our communities and our most vulnerable citizens," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "As we work to build our nation's emergency response team, it is important that we recognize the diverse assistance that our agency is able to bring to bear, and ensure we are leveraging those resources for those who need it most."

EFSP grant funds are used to supplement food, shelter, rent, mortgage and utility assistance programs for people with non-disaster related emergencies.

These funds are in addition to \$100 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, announced in April 2009.

The EFSP is administered by a National Board, chaired by Berl D. Jones Jr. of FEMA, with representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide. United Way Worldwide serves as Secretariat and Fiscal Agent to the National Board.

EFSP funding is allocated to qualifying jurisdictions based on thresholds involving population, unemployment and poverty levels both nationally and locally. Grants are then awarded to non-profit community and government organizations that are chosen by Local Boards in the qualifying jurisdictions. This year's awards bring the total aid disbursed in the EFSP's twenty-seven year history to more than \$3.6 billion.

A state-by-state list of the eligible jurisdictions and award amounts is available at www.efsp.unitedway.org.

Ike temporary housing program extended

By FEMA press desk

TEXAS CITY, Texas – The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Texas Division of Emergency Management announced Dec. 23 that the Governor's request for a four month extension to the Direct Assistance provided for temporary housing has been granted for eligible hurricane Ike individuals and families. The program was originally slated to end March 12, 2010 but has been extended until July 9, 2010.

Under FEMA policy, extensions in temporary housing assistance beyond eighteen months may include the collection of rent from those survivors still residing in temporary housing units. FEMA will work closely with the state in the coming weeks to determine how best to implement this extension in a way that meets the shared goal of helping survivors move into safe, permanent housing solutions, including determining the details and timetable of rent collection.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

I have
the
audacity
to
believe
that
peoples
everywhere
can have
three meals
a day for
their bodies,

education
and
culture
for
their
minds,
and
dignity,
equality
and
freedom
for
their
spirits.

Fort Sam Houston MLK commemoration

Where: Army Community Service Building 2797

When: Jan. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Peter Healy 2009



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

VIRIW NO. A4713