

U.S. Army South

# Defense & Fraternity

January 2014



## Inside this issue:

- Army South welcomes Chilean delegation for staff talks
- Central American JAGs gather for Operational Law conference

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**U.S. Army South**

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Please send submissions to:  
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*Front cover: Sgt. 1st Class Noe Alaniz (left), 3rd Cavalry Regiment, speaks with Colombian Capt. Juan Devia (right) about the Stryker during a visit to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment motor pool on Fort Hood, Texas, Nov. 18. (U.S. Army photo by Frederick Hoyt)*

*Back cover: The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce created the Celebrate America's Military celebration in 1970 as a way for the business community to say thank you to men and women who serve and have served in the military. The tradition has grown to become the nation's largest community event in honor of our military, with more than 250,000 people participating in the events each year. Since 1970, The Chamber has organized this annual tribute to our military. Known as "CAM," this two-week community celebration features three Chamber events including a CAM Kickoff Luncheon (300+ attendees), with a notable speaker who has made great efforts to support the armed forces; the Spirit of America Dinner (450+ attendees), with a senior military official as the featured speaker; Celebrate the Buffalo Soldiers and their important role in serving our nation at the San Antonio National Cemetery; and an annual golf tournament, now partnered with the Birdies for the Brave, at TPC San Antonio.*

# COMMANDER'S CORNER

**Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo**  
*Commanding General*



This quarter's issue of Defense & Fraternity sets the tone for where U.S. Army South will focus our efforts. You'll read about Lt. Col. E.J. Irvin's 1-228 Aviation Regiment recently executed collective and individual training, and about the importance of being deployable at all times.

These two pieces are a good reminder of what all of us signed up when we joined the Army -- be ready to answer our Nation's call at anytime.

In order to be ready, we must be proficient in our individual and collective tasks. We must also ensure we are deployable from a personal point of view. Natural disasters or conflict can occur at anytime, and it's our duty to be ready.

As you read these readiness pieces, ask yourself if you're ready, and if not, get a plan to get there.

This edition addresses our partner nation staff talks and partner nation transformation.

The advances our partner nations have made with respect to focusing on combating illicit networks from a regional perspective is impressive, and highlighted with the illicit airstrips mission recently executed with JTB-Bravo and the Honduran army.

Agreed to training areas (ATAs) that we develop with our partner nations are a key enabler towards achieving regional cooperation that can and will contribute to neutralizing illicit networks in our area of interest (highlighted in the coverage of our recently completed staff talks with the Chilean army).

Our partner nations are also in the midst of transforming their forces; accounting for the changes necessary to improve regional security (as evidenced in the article about Colombia's Stryker Battalion commander visit to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood). No doubt transformation and readiness are hard work; and there must be a

commitment to work these.

The good news is we and our partners recognize the importance and are executing a solid plan to get there.

Finally you'll read about our liaison officers from Chile, Colombia and Brazil.

I consider these three teammates to be an integral part of the U.S. Army South staff.

Colonels Assadi, Yoshida, and Serpa are among the best of the best within their respective armies, and U.S. Army South is privileged to have them on the team.

As we usher in the New Year, I am very anxious to continue building on the tremendous momentum we have with our partner nations on improving regional security.

I am also very anxious to continue improving on our readiness and deployability so the U.S. Army South Team can be ready to answer the call anytime, anywhere.

**"Juntos Podemos! - Together We Can!"**  
**Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo**  
**Commanding General**  
**U.S. Army South**





Brig. Gen. Orlando Salinas (center), U.S. Army South deputy commanding general, Chilean Maj. Gen. Guido Montini (in front of Salinas), Chilean army director of logistics, and Chilean Maj. Gen. Luis Chamorro (behind Salinas), Chilean army aviation commander, greet San Antonio Rotary Club members prior to San Antonio's Downtown Rotary Club Commanders Luncheon at the Scottish Rite Banquet Hall Nov. 6.

## Army South welcomes Chilean delegation for annual army-to-army staff talks

*Story and photos by  
Eric R. Lucero  
U.S. Army South Public Affairs*

U.S. Army South hosted a delegation of Chilean army leaders to its headquarters on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Nov. 5-6 to finalize a course of action that will see the two armies engage in more than 50 events that are scheduled to be conducted over the next two years.

Brig. Gen. Orlando Salinas, the U.S. Army South deputy commanding general, joined Chilean Brig. Gen. Guido Montini, the director of logistics for the Chilean army and head of the Chilean delegation, and

Chilean Brig. Gen. Luis Chamorro, the commander of the Chilean Army Aviation Brigade, during the closing ceremony of the army-to-army staff talks here Nov. 6.

"The Chilean army is one of the U.S. Army's most important and valued partners in the hemisphere. We share common core values and vital interests, which makes our cooperative efforts important and our relationship more meaningful," said Salinas.

The staff talks were held Nov. 5-6 and served as a forum for strategic-level discussion between the two armies. The engagements enhance army-to-army contacts and mutual understanding, provide insights concerning specific U.S. Army programs and areas of mutual interest

and assist partner nation armies in areas of modernization and reform.

The U.S. Army has engaged in annual bilateral staff talks with the Chilean army for the past eight years. Army South, on behalf of the U.S. Army, conducts the staff talks with the Chilean army.

"We seek opportunities to work together in order to improve our interoperability and capabilities as partners to address common challenges," said Salinas. "The work we do during staff talks will serve to focus those efforts and make them much more productive."

The staff talks have been instrumental in enhancing the interoperability and cooperation between the two armies. The intent is to increase stability in the region.

As a result, U.S. forces' capabilities have also improved by gaining lessons learned from the Chilean army in peacekeeping and disaster response operations.

"Chile has quickly emerged as a true regional leader in terms of economic, social, diplomatic and military power," said Salinas. "We want to assist in strengthening Chile's position as a regional leader and we will support its efforts to help the other nations of Latin America as they deal with these challenges as well."

In addition to the staff talks working sessions, Montini and Chamorro attended a luncheon in downtown San Antonio hosted by the Rotary Club Nov. 6. The luncheon was part of San Antonio's 43rd Annual Celebrate America's Military celebrations.



Chilean Lt. Col. Ricardo Santander leads a presentation to members of the Chilean and U.S. delegation during the army-to-army staff talks Nov. 6 at the U.S. Army South headquarters on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The luncheon marked the first time Chilean army leaders attended an official San Antonio Chamber of Commerce event.

This year's staff talks were centered on two themes: Promoting Regional Security and Stability and Strengthening Doctrine and Operational Capacity to Improve Interoperability.

"Chile is a vital partner for our relationship in the hemisphere," said Col. Timothy Hodge, the Army South chief of Security Cooperation Division. "We think these staff talks are helpful for advancing the agendas that both our nations have toward peace and prosperity throughout the

*"We think these staff talks are helpful for advancing the agendas that both our nations have toward peace and prosperity throughout the region."*

*- Col. Timothy Hodge,  
Army South chief of Security Cooperation Division*

region." Specific areas of discussion included increasing the Chilean army's participation in joint regional support exercises and operations with the U.S. Army, to include engineering support of Beyond the Horizon 2014 in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

BTH is an annual exercise deploying military



engineers and medical professionals to partner nation countries for training, while providing services to rural communities.

The Chilean army deployed a team of engineers to El Salvador to participate in BTH 2013.

“These staff talks ensure the relationship between our countries and the sharing of information remain strong,” said Chilean Col. Humberto J. Assadi, the Chilean army’s foreign liaison officer to Army South. “We have learned much from being able to participate in multinational exercises. In addition, we hope to share our experiences related to natural disasters like earthquakes and floods.”

With its highly capable military and law enforcement agencies serving as models of professionalism in the region and supporting exercises, the Chilean army plays a vital role in enhancing security in the region.

“This series of annual meetings has contributed greatly to building the strong relationship between our Armies,” said Salinas. “Through these talks, we have an opportunity to develop a final blueprint that General Montini and I can confidently approve to guide our cooperative security activities over the next few years, to improve our capabilities as armies, and reinforce our relationship as equal partners.”



Members of the Chilean and U.S. delegation listen to a brief on the Chilean army during the army-to-army staff talks Nov. 6 at the U.S. Army South headquarters on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.





Col. Timothy Hodge, the U.S. Army South chief of Security Cooperation Division, welcomes leaders from seven Central American nations to San Antonio Sept. 24 prior to a conference to discuss regional threats and collaborative solutions.

## Army South, Central American JAGs gather for operational law conference

Story and photos by  
Eric R. Lucero  
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

Members of U.S. Army South and the Central American Security Cooperation Office met with delegates from seven Central American nations in San Antonio Sept. 24 – 26.

The conference focused on key topics of mutual interest between U.S. and Central American forces.

One of the key topics discussed was the need of a collaborative effort to counter transnational crime.

In an effort to do this, each of the conference attendees from the CENTAM region gave a presentation and shared legal lessons learned on military support to civil authorities and countering transnational organized crime.

“Some of these countries are operating under emergency powers in their efforts to counter transnational organized crime,” said Lt. Col. Dan

Saumur, the U.S. Army South Staff Judge Advocate. “In some circumstances, the military is requested by the government to assist in this struggle. No other force really has the institutional integrity or capacity to handle these problems and the legal issues that go with that are many.”

Each of the countries talked about their statutory framework for dealing with those problems presented by organized crime. To discuss the legal issues that accompany assisting in this the struggle, each JAG was asked to present a topic of concern to his or her colleagues.

“This is a fight we are not going to be able to win individually,” said Guatemalan Col. Byron Gutierrez Valdez, the Guatemalan army judge advocate general. “The fight against transnational crime is so complex. It cannot be a one-country struggle. The advantage of having a forum like this is that it allows the advisors of that joint effort to gather to discuss common strategies and the way forward.”

By forging a central line of effort, each country’s JAGs are available to assist each other in times of need.

“A common misconception is that these countries’ legal personnel are ill-equipped to handle these problems, but that is not the case,” said Saumur. “A lot of the JAGs that we deal with at the highest levels are very smart, very experienced and academically qualified. Their biggest challenge would have to be a lack of resources and lack of institutional structure.”

This can be difficult in establishing credibility with each JAGs senior commander.

*“The advantage of having a forum like this is that it allows the advisors of that joint effort to gather to discuss common strategies and the way forward.”*

*- Guatemalan Col. Byron Gutierrez Valdez, Guatemalan army judge advocate general*

“You need a JAG to be prepared,” said Capt. Loraima Morciglio, an Army South administrative and civil law attorney. “His role as an operational law advisor is very important and if the system doesn’t have the structure to support him, it’s very challenging.”

In some of the countries, there is a minimal JAG structure to assist if a JAG has problems or needs additional training. This conference marked the first time JAGs from each CENTAM country were in the same room and assisted in introducing them in an effort to encourage them to rely more on each other.

Saumur agreed that a collaborative effort by legal professionals in the CENTAM region can prove to be a force multiplier in countering transnational threats.

“These criminal organizations are transnational so they take advantage of the difference in the border operations and the lack of cohesiveness in the bordering countries,” said Saumur. “They know exactly what the limits of each of the countries are and they exploit that.”

“Long-term, now that we know how each country operates, we would like to develop a plan that will allow us to work together to counter common threats,” said Morciglio.

After the conference, each of the seven JAGs returned to their respective countries to present their



Lt. Col. Dan Saumur (right), U.S. Army South’s Staff Judge Advocate, speaks with Lt. Col. Juan Carlos Alvarado Sandoval (left), the Salvadoran army staff judge advocate, prior to the start of the Central American Legal Advisors Conference Sept. 24 in San Antonio.





Capt. Juan Lozada-Leoni, U.S. Army South Staff Judge Advocate Office, speaks with operational law judge advocates from seven Central American nations during the Central American Legal Advisors Conference Sept. 24 in San Antonio.

findings and recommendations to their senior regional leaders and chiefs of staff for their armies and security forces.

“Our objective was to plant that seed. Speaking for myself, I don’t view the United States’ role as to continue

to lead this,” said Saumur. “I really want the Central American countries themselves to take ownerships of that. We’re not going to solve these bigger problems like CTOC, without the commitment of the other countries themselves.”

## JTF-Bravo supports Honduran-led anti-drug operation

Joint Task Force-Bravo assisted Honduran military forces in conducting a successful operation to disrupt and disable illicit airfields used for drug trafficking Oct. 6-10.

As part of Operation ARMADILLO, Joint Task Force-Bravo’s 1-228th Aviation Regiment transported Honduran forces to and from several remote locations in the Gracias a Dios region of Honduras. The Honduran forces used explosives to crater the illicit airfields, rendering them useless.



An explosion creates a crater in an illicit airfield used for drug trafficking in the Gracias a Dios region of Honduras.

During the operation, the Honduran forces destroyed more than 10 illicit airfields.

Operation ARMADILLO was planned and approved by the Honduran government working in collaboration with the U.S. government to provide aviation support to the Honduran military in disabling illicit airfields.

The purpose of the operation was to target airfields utilized by drug trafficking organizations in order to improve public security for Hondurans living in the department of Gracias a Dios.

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# Fire in the Sky

## 1-228th Aviation Regiment sharpen aerial gunnery skills

*Story and photos by  
Air Force Capt. Zach Anderson  
Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs*

The pounding of the rotors fills the air as the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter banks sharply to the right, hugging the terrain in a shallow valley between mountain peaks.

From the side of the aircraft, a crew chief peers out the open window, his hands resting on the handles of a M240 machine gun.

As the aircraft levels off, the sound of the rotors is overtaken by the rattle of machine gun fire as the crew chief unleashes a hail of bullets onto a target below, firing until the weapon has expended its supply of ammunition.

The crew chief calmly releases the trigger and begins reloading the weapon in preparation of the next pass over the target.

There's plenty of ammo ready to go--in fact, the crew chief will fire a total of 1,600 rounds of ammunition before his aerial gunnery training for the day is completed.

The ability to fire the M240 effectively and accurately is a critical skill for members of Joint Task Force-Bravo's 1-228th Aviation Regiment. Because of this, members of the regiment conduct aerial gunnery training in order to maintain proficiency and currency on the weapon system.

"To stay current, we have to fire at least 300 rounds every 180 days," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Lamont, the 1-228th standardization instructor for non-rated crewmembers. "It's important to maintain currency on the weapon in



*Spc. Brad Spencer, a 1-228th Aviation Regiment Soldier, prepares to fire a M240 machine gun from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during aerial gunnery training Nov. 15. Members of the 1-228th conduct aerial gunnery training regularly to maintain currency and proficiency on the weapon system.*



case of a deployment or any type of mission that may require it.”

Crew members train on firing the weapon in a variety of conditions.

During a recent training session, members practiced firing the weapon from a UH-60 that was equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks.

The large outboard tanks, which sit directly next to the gunner position, pose a unique challenge.

“The tanks force you to have a smaller window for firing the weapon,” said Lamont. “Because we normally fly with the tanks on, it’s important to practice that. There are lockout blocks in place so the M240 doesn’t move. The crew chiefs have to practice reaching out, pulling the weapon in and changing the ammo can. It’s all about consistency, going through the motions and practicing accuracy on target.”

U.S. Army Spc. Brad Spencer, a crew chief assigned to the 1-228th, participated in a recent aerial gunnery training session, during which he fired the weapon for the first time with the auxiliary tanks attached to the aircraft.

“A big thing is learning the difference in having a full range of movement without the tanks as opposed to firing with the lockout blocks, just getting used to firing in that limited range of moving the weapon,” said Spencer. “But after getting used to that, it’s a matter of looking downrange, seeing where the bullets are hitting and adjusting to hit the target.”

To maintain currency, members must fire in both day and night conditions. Lamont said firing at night

presents some distinct challenges as well.

“At night, wearing the night vision goggles, you have to deal with the muzzle flash from the weapon, which can white out your goggles,” said Lamont. “That can bother the pilots as well, so the pilots have to get used to that and the crew chiefs have to get used to moving by feel. The training allows them to go through the motions, to learn muscle memory and how to change out the ammo can without any mishaps.”

Lamont said the training serves two purposes: To keep members current as well as to increase their skill with the weapon.

“It’s a good skill to have, and if you are more accurate, it means less rounds you have to put downrange and the target is eliminated sooner,” said Lamont. “But it’s a skill you have to keep current. If you don’t use it, you will lose it.”

The continuation of aerial gunnery training will ensure that the members of the 1-228th maintain this critical operational skill.

*Top -- Sgt. 1st Class Steven Gage, a 1-228th Aviation Regiment Soldier, prepares to fire a M240 machine gun from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during aerial gunnery training Nov. 15.*

*Middle -- A 1-228th Aviation Regiment Soldier inspects ammunition prior to aerial gunnery training Nov. 15.*

*Bottom -- Spc. Brad Spencer, a 1-228th Aviation Regiment Soldier, prepares to fire a M240 machine gun from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during aerial gunnery training Nov. 15.*



Two Soldiers assigned to the 1-228th Aviation Regiment inspect ammunition prior to aerial gunnery training Nov. 15. Members of the 1-228th conduct aerial gunnery training regularly to maintain currency and proficiency on the weapon system.





Members of the 1-228th Aviation Regiment work in the Tactical Operations Center in Mocomon, Honduras, during a Collective Training Exercise Nov. 19. During the field exercise, the Soldiers responded to both exercise and real-world mission requirements.

## JTF-Bravo's 1-228th Aviation Regiment accomplishes Collective Training Exercise

*Story and photos by  
Air Force Capt. Zach Anderson  
Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs*

The call comes in to the Tactical Operation Center (TOC) without warning: A U.S. military member has been injured in an operation taking place off the coast of Honduras and requires an immediate medical evacuation (MEDEVAC). The aircrew instantly springs into action--the pilots, crew chief and flight medic quickly gather the available information on the location and condition of the victim before sprinting to a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter that is ready for takeoff. Less than 20 minutes after the initial MEDEVAC request was received, the helicopter is off the ground and headed for the Honduran coast to conduct an over-water hoist mission to aid the injured service member and transport him to a medical care facility.

This scenario is just one of several undertaken by Joint

Task Force-Bravo's 1-228th Aviation Regiment during a week-long Collective Training Exercise (CTE) conducted by the unit, Nov. 16-22.

For the exercise, the 1-228th set up a tactical field operating location at Mocomon, a remote Honduran military outpost located in the Department of Gracias a Dios, Honduras. Members of the unit lived in field conditions, sleeping in tents and eating Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), while launching missions and dealing with multiple exercise and real-world scenarios.

"A Collective Training Exercise takes all our subordinate unit tasks and collects them together at the battalion level so we can perform our mission essential tasks," said Maj. Kenneth Ferguson, 1-228th Aviation Regiment Operations Officer. "The purpose of this exercise was to put some stress on our systems, both operationally as well as logistically."

Ferguson said the idea behind the exercise was to put

the members of the battalion in a position that replicated a real-world scenario, where both the logistical and tactical planning had to be done within a limited window of time.

"Only a few members of the battalion were read into the plan for this exercise," said Ferguson. "They formed a 'white cell' which commanded and controlled and set up the scenarios for the exercise. No one else knew what the mission was until three days prior to launch. That caused us to go into a 72-hour planning cycle, which is our standard timeline and it caused us to exercise all our elements, from operations to logistics, to have the appropriate package positioned, loaded, and pushed out to the field in order to sustain the battalion for a week."

By taking the entire unit into the field for the exercise, the 1-228th was able to present new challenges that aren't typically seen when operating from an established base.

"The staff doesn't normally get the tactical play when we are operating out of a garrison environment," said Lt. Col. E.J. Irvin, 1-228th Aviation Regiment Commander. "The biggest part of this exercise wasn't to execute the aviation piece in a tactical environment; we do that on a daily basis. It was to get the staff involved in the planning process and the sustainment and logistical support in a tactical environment."

Throughout the exercise, scenarios were injected with the direct intention of placing the staff in situations where they had to make decisions that were outside the realm of their typical day-to-day operations.

"I wanted to stress the staff's capabilities and force them to think outside the box and consider courses of action that normally wouldn't make sense," said Irvin. "With certain exercise injects, you have the opportunity to basically control the scenario and make sure they think down a certain lane so they have that experience. That way, if and when it



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter assigned to the 1-228th Aviation Regiment approaches Mocomon, Honduras, while carrying a sling-loaded generator in order to set up a tactical operating base for a Collective Training Exercise Nov. 18

happens for real, they have the experience to do that."

During the week, members of the 1-228th conducted operations ranging from medical evacuations (MEDEVACS) to downed aircraft scenarios to personnel inserts to formation flying operations. Along with the training operations, the unit constructed the exercise in a way that allowed them to meet multiple objectives, both training and real-world.

"The way we try to run this is to get at least two, if not three objectives achieved anytime we put aircraft in the air. That way we are achieving multiple goals and getting more bang for the buck," said Ferguson. "Coming out here, we set up this scenario in such a way that we could do three or four real-world reconnaissance missions because we needed to train on the task of doing point and area reconnaissance. We were able to get training on that for pilots who hadn't done it in awhile, as well as provide information to our J3 (operations) and J2 (intelligence) which will be useful for a real-world scenario."

In addition to the training and real-world scenarios, the exercise also allowed Joint Task Force-Bravo to



Soldiers from the 1-228th Aviation Regiment work together to set up a sleeping tent at Mocomon, Honduras, as part of a Collective Training Exercise (CTE) being conducted by the unit Nov. 17.



***“I wanted to stress the staff's capabilities and force them to think outside the box and consider courses of action that normally wouldn't make sense.”***

***- Lt. Col. E.J. Irvin,  
1-228th Aviation Regiment commander***

work with the Honduran military to assist in providing stability in the Department of Gracias a Dios.

“We chose objectives in an area where there is a need for stability,” said Ferguson. “By operating and doing training flights as well as real-world reconnaissance flights and other missions within this area, we are able to provide a presence and assist in providing stability during a critical week leading up to the Honduran elections. It is good to have coverage here on a periodic basis to show our Honduran partners that we are serious about our relationship with them and that we can enhance their capacity to operate.”

Irvin said the teamwork of Joint Task Force-Bravo was key to the success of the CTE.

“I am impressed with the way the team has operated,” said Irvin. “When I say team, I don't mean just the 1-228th. We've had great support from the Army Forces Battalion (ARFOR) in helping us with the refueling piece, and the Joint Task Force-Bravo Commander sent people out here to help run the SWE-Dish, which allows us to maintain connectivity with the rear. It all validates what we are doing, and we couldn't do it without them. It is definitely a total team effort.”

While the exercise focused on training and validating the capability of the 1-228th to support and execute the mission, Irvin said there are some other lessons the members of the unit will take away from the operation.

“It is to ensure we don't make the same mistake twice,” said Irvin. “But not just the mistakes, it's also to capture the things we have done well and sustain those things. That is the most important thing, so that we aren't relearning all the time. We capture what we do well and learn what we can



*Sgt. Erick Fernandez refuels a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter assigned to the 1-228th Aviation Regiment at Puerto Castilla, Honduras, Nov. 19.*

tweak to become even better and more efficient.”

Col. Thomas Boccardi, Joint Task Force-Bravo commander, said he was pleased with the 1-228th's planning and execution of the exercise.

“It all starts with discipline, and they are a very disciplined unit,”

said Boccardi. “They marched toward some very specific training objectives they wanted to accomplish out there. It's not all single-ship operations, and it's not always pilot or co-pilot. It has to do with who is on the left and right of you. They built a multi-echelon training exercise that had depth not only for individual task, but collective tasks and mission tasks. And they didn't just do it here-- they went out in the field at Mocoron. There is an operational aspect to it. When they started the exercise, they put their entire training plan under a simulation of real world events.”

The exercise was built to provide not only tactical training, but validation of the 1-228th's systems in both operations and logistics. Both Irvin and Ferguson agreed that the exercise achieved that goal while validating the 1-228th's mission essential taskings.

“We know as a battalion, working together as a team of teams, that we can launch anywhere in the area of operations (AOR) and know exactly what package we need to take to sustain ourselves,” said Ferguson. “We know how to do mission planning from an austere environment and that we can accomplish the mission.”

“This exercise experience is invaluable,” said Irvin. “I don't know that this battalion has ever gone out into the field in this manner just to train. We have executed real world, but now I am absolutely confident that no matter what the task or

how large the task, whether it be the entire battalion or just a couple of ships, that I can launch the battalion to go execute in support of Joint Task Force-Bravo and U.S. Southern Command.”



*A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo's 1-228th Aviation Regiment waits for her aircraft to be refueled at Puerto Castilla, Honduras, during a Collective Training Exercise Nov. 19.*





A U.S. Soldier assigned to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment speaks to Colombian Capt. Juan Devia about the Stryker during a visit to the 3rd Cavalry motor pool on Fort Hood, Texas, Nov. 18. (U.S. Army photo by Frederick Hoyt, U.S. Army South Public Affairs)



Two U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment speak to Colombian army Capt. Juan Devia about the Stryker during a visit to the 3rd Cavalry motor pool on Fort Hood, Texas, Nov. 18. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Erik Warren, 3rd Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs)

## Colombian army delegation visits Fort Hood, studies Strykers

*Story by  
Frederick Hoyt  
U.S. Army South Public Affairs*

As part of weeklong visit hosted by U.S. Army South, a delegation from the Colombian Army traveled to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment Headquarters and Combined Arms Training Center at Fort Hood, Texas, to learn more about Stryker vehicles and operations.

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment's Stryker Sabre Squadron showed the Colombian delegation how a Stryker equipped regiment and squadron operates.

This was the first time the command team for the new Colombian combined arms battalion visited a U.S. Stryker regiment.

"The Colombian army is currently in a period of transformation and will be adding a combined arms brigade to their existing inventory over the coming years through 2020," said Maj. Michael Burgoyne, the Colombian Desk Officer for U.S. Army South.

A combined arms brigade is usually made up of infantry and armored elements.

"This week's visit is the result of many months of planning and is an important initiative to build Colombian interoperability from the inception of the new unit," Burgoyne added.

In July of this year, at the request of the Colombian army, Army South sent a Transformation Planning Assistance Team to Colombia.

During the 10-day visit both armies worked closely





Colombian army Lt. Col. Norman Rey (left), the commander of the 3rd Light Armored Vehicle Battalion, listens to Col. Cameron Cantlon (right), the commander of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, during a visit to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment headquarters on Fort Hood, Texas, Nov. 18. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Erik Warren, 3rd Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs)

together to optimize Colombian Army transformation planning efforts. One of the outcomes was an analysis, which laid the framework for the development of a Colombian combined arms brigade based on the Light Armored Vehicle III or Stryker platform.

“This trip is very important for us because the Colombian army is going through a force transformation process. The U.S. army has given us good advice and has been very helpful during this whole process,” said Lt. Col. Norman Rey, commander, 3rd Light Armored Vehicle Battalion, Colombian army.

Colombian army have greatly reduced the threat and brought the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) to peace negotiations in Havana, Cuba.

With an end to narco-insurgency in its sights, the Colombian army is now looking to the future configuration of its forces.

“We are trying to help facilitate this positive transformation within our country and our army for the benefit our citizens and the region,” said Rey.

“This new equipment will give us multi-mission capability and we look forward to future joint engagements and training exercises with the U.S. and our regional partners,” Rey added.

As the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Southern Command, Army South works closely with partner nation armies throughout the western hemisphere to strengthen regional security. The command recognizes Colombia as an important

partner and ally in the collective effort of combating transnational organized crime.

“It’s been great to be a part of this process and to see it coming to fruition,” said Burgoyne. “This will undoubtedly provide soldiers from both of our armies with many new training opportunities and professional partnership exchanges.”

***“This will undoubtedly provide soldiers from both of our armies with many new training opportunities and professional partnership exchanges.”***

***- Maj. Michael Burgoyne,  
U.S. Army South Colombian desk officer***

“We are also hoping to transfer this enormous learning process. We want the technical, tactical and doctrinal changes to our army to take place in a smooth and efficient manner,” Rey said.

For the last 50 years Colombia was burdened with significant internal security challenges, said Burgoyne.

However, over the last decade Colombia and the



Colombian army Lt. Col. Norman Rey (left), the commander of the 3rd Light Armored Vehicle Battalion, speaks to 2nd Lt. Amanda Mathews, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, about a Stryker vehicle during a visit to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment motor pool on Fort Hood, Texas, Nov. 18. (U.S. Army photo by Frederick Hoyt, U.S. Army South Public Affairs)



# U.S. Army South Foreign Liaison Officers



Lt. Col. Marcello Yoshida  
Brazilian Army



Col. Javier Assadi  
Chilean Army



Col. Jose Armando Serpa Hernandez  
Colombian Army

Lt. Col. Marcello Yoshida was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He began his military career in 1990 when he was admitted to the Brazilian Army Military Academy where he graduated in 1993 as an armor officer.

During his military career, Yoshida served in mechanized units as a platoon leader, operations officer, logistics officer and troop commander.

He also spent part of his career working in intelligence, taking courses in the Brazilian and Chilean armies and working as an analyst for a corps in Brazil.

In 2005 and 2006, Yoshida worked for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

In 2012, Yoshida attended intermediate level education (ILE) at the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

He also earned a degree in management from the Universidade Federal do Mato Grosso do Sul and a doctorate in military science from the Brazilian Army Command and Staff College.

Col. Javier Assadi was born in Satiago, Chile, where he completed his primary education at St. Gabriel's English School and then completed two years at Bernardo O'Higgins Riquelme, the Chilean army's military school. In 1982, he graduated from the Chilean Military Academy and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the armor branch.

In 1989, Assadi served as an instructor at the Chilean Military Academy.

From 1993 to 2007, Assadi served in several capacities including commanding a company in a cavalry regiment, serving as the 6th Division headquarters operations officer in Iquique, Chile, and the 7th Tanks Group commander in Baquedano, Chile. Following his promotion to colonel in 2007, Assadi served as a tactics instructor at the Command and Staff College in Santiago, Chile.

Prior to his arrival at Army South, Assadi commanded the 5th Reinforced Regiment "Lanceros" in Puerto Natales, Chile.

Assadi is married with two daughters.

Col. Jose Armando Serpa Hernandez was born in Santander Bucaramanga, Colombia. He began his military career in 1985 when he was admitted to the Military School of Cadets General José María Cordoba where he graduated in 1987 as an intelligence officer.

During his military career, Serpa served in various roles as an intelligence officer, including commander and chief of staff of tactical and operational counter intelligence units.

Among the units to which he has been assigned are the Region No.2 Counter Intelligence Operations Command, Seventh Division, Fourth Commando Brigade, Fifth Division Command, and Central Military Counter Intelligence Command.

He received a degree in senior management at the Universidad de los Andes, in terrorism and counter terrorism at the Universidad Sergio Arboleda, and studied human rights and international law of armed conflict at the Universidad Autonoma de Bucaramanga.

Serpa is married and has two children.

To see these videos below, go to Army South's Youtube page at [www.youtube.com/usarmysouth](http://www.youtube.com/usarmysouth).



To see Army South's new command video magazine, please visit [www.youtube.com/usarmysouth](http://www.youtube.com/usarmysouth) or go to our homepage at [www.arsouth.army.mil](http://www.arsouth.army.mil).

The command video magazine is published monthly and is produced and edited by Army South Public Affairs broadcasters: Sgt. Joel Vazquez and Frederick Hoyt.



To go to Army South's homepage, use your Smartphone to scan this QR code.



To go to Army South's Youtube page, use your Smartphone to scan this QR code.







U.S. Soldiers distribute water and Meals Ready to Eat to Haitian local nationals during Operation Unified Response. On Jan. 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused severe damage in Haiti, prompting more than 100 Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians from Army South to deploy within days in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. (courtesy photo)

## DEPLOYMENT ...

# Will you be ready when the call comes?

**Story by**  
Lt. Col. Carol McClelland  
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

In the late afternoon on Jan. 12, 2010 the Maryland-sized island nation of Haiti experienced a 7.0 magnitude earthquake with the epicenter 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the capital. Arguably hundreds of thousands of people died and more than a million people were left homeless.

U.S. Southern Command established Headquarters, Joint Task Force – Haiti Jan 14 to assist the Haitian government and U.S. Embassy. And U.S. Army South deployed to support that effort.

As a member of ARSOUTH if called to action, are you ready to deploy?

By most accounts, Operation Unified Response,

the disaster relief mission to Haiti, was a huge success, according to Army South Command Historian, Dr. Isaac Hampton II.

He said U.S. military response, at its peak, included 22,000 forces – 7,000 based on land and the remainder operating aboard 58 aircraft and 15 nearby vessels.

U.S. Military assistance continued in the form of annual military engineer exercises and related medical treatments on the island, Hampton wrote in the unit’s annual history that year.

Army South Soldiers and civilians were deployed for two months during the Haiti relief effort. But the team needs to be ready to go when called and be prepared to stay as long as required, according to Lt. Col. Jeffrey C. Knight, Army South Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion commander.

“My foremost responsibility as the HHBN commander is deployment readiness,” Knight said. “If I can’t maintain a reasonable state of readiness and the ability to sustain ourselves in an austere environment, we risk rendering ourselves irrelevant in a no-notice crisis. We must stay ready so if the need requires, we can help others in their time of need.”

“We’re 90 percent across the board in compliance,” said Maj. Michael Healy, battalion operations officer, referring to training certifications Soldiers need in order to be SOUTHCOM deployable.

Along with basic Soldier skills like being weapons qualified and passing the Army Physical Fitness Test, Healy rattled off a number of other required training such as human rights, anti-terrorism and survival, evasion, resistance and escape, or SERE, among others. (See information box for more details.)

To ensure Army South personnel are up to date with deployment requirements the battalion assembles many agencies in a central location for a one-stop, easy access event for Soldiers and mission essential civilians to go through.

Participants snake through to every station during the SRP, or survival readiness preparation. At a legal table they can make an appointment to update their will or powers of attorney.

The medical readiness section reviews health records and provides missing immunizations on the spot. Members show their official passports and 5-year expiration dates are checked to ensure Army South personnel can deploy to the command’s Areas of Responsibility: Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Getting everything done at once is a challenge area, according to Healy, whose job it is to track and provide readiness statistics for Soldiers numbering several hundred.

With the unit just having completed an SRP in October, Healy cautioned deployment diligence to Army South personnel.

“Everyone wants to wait until the SRP, but if you pop up as needing dental, for example, just go get it taken care of.”

To prove his point he cited several current statistics of readiness like 19 people currently needing their annual preventive health assessment.



Dr. Isaac Hampton II (right), the U.S. Army South command historian, speaks with 1st Sgt. Malcolm Peoples, 209th Military Police Company, during Operation Unified Response April 10, 2010 in Haiti. (U.S. Army photo by Kaye Richey, U.S. Army South Visual Information)

### Required training for deployment tracked by battalion:

- Weapons Qualification ..... Every Six Months
- APFT ..... Every Six Months
- Anti-terrorism Level 1 ..... Annually
- SERE ..... Every Three Years
- Human Rights ..... Annually
- Isolated Personnel Report Problems ..... Every Six Months and 90 Days Before Deployment

### \*Additional pre-deployment training is required, but tracked by section’s training NCOs:

- Security
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness
- Resiliency
- Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System
- Employment & Re-employment Rights
- Electronic Country Clearance
- Operations Security

### Recommended pre-deployment training requirements:

- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program
- Suicide Awareness
- Combat Lifesaver





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