



Hughes becomes top Army civilian at 20th CBRNE Command

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — A retired senior noncommissioned officer and Army civilian became the senior civilian at the U.S. Department of Defense's premier all hazards command on Nov 1.

Charles Hughes was promoted to serve as the Deputy to the Commanding General and senior U.S. Army civilian for the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland-headquartered 20th CBRNE Command.

Originally from Hickory, Mississippi, Hughes is the former deputy operations officer for the multifunctional 20th CBRNE Command.

Hughes has served in the Operations Directorate at the 20th CBRNE Command Headquarters since 2010.

The 20th CBRNE Command is home to 75 percent of the active-duty Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) specialists, as well as the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity, five Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Teams and three Nuclear Disablement Teams.

From 19 bases in 16 states, Soldiers and Army civilians take on the world's most dangerous hazards.

Hughes retired from the U.S. Army as a master sergeant while serving at the St. Louis, Missouri, Recruiting Battalion.

During his 24 years of uniformed Army service, Hughes was stationed across the nation in a wide variety of Army recruiting and leadership assignments.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and graduated from the Center for Crea-



Charles Hughes was recently promoted to serve as the Deputy to the Commanding General and senior Army civilian at 20th CBRNE Command. Hughes is the former deputy operations officer and has served at the command since 2010. U.S. Army photo by Angel D. Martinez-Navedo.

tive Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina. Hughes also graduated from the Civilian Education System's Advanced Course, the Marketing Information Course and the U.S. Navy's Staff Officer Planning course.

"After retiring from the active-duty Army, I wanted to continue working with Soldiers," said Hughes. "Becoming an Army civilian was a way for me to continue to serve with Soldiers. As a civilian working for the Army, the impact that I have made on Soldiers and units is gratifying and rewarding. Army civilians ensure that Soldiers are manned, trained, equipped and resourced to execute the missions we ask them to do."

In his new position, Hughes exercises broad authority to formulate strategic plans, policies and programs in support of CBRNE operations, readiness and force structure.

Hughes said he would focus on improving communication and staff synchronization while building on the systems and processes already in place.

"My leadership philosophy is rooted in being accountable and responsible to myself for my actions and the way that I communicate with leaders, subordinates, friends, family and others," he said. "A few traits that I have: always be positive; communicate clearly and concisely; always ask, how can I help you; and be approachable."

Hughes said he was grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Deputy to the Commanding General and the senior U.S. Army civilian as a GS-15, which is equivalent to a colonel, for the one-of-a-kind command.

"I have to say that I am blessed and so appreciative for the opportunities that have come my way and the opportunity that 20th CBRNE Command gave me to start as a GS-09 and progress to where I am today as a GS-15," said Hughes. "No one is more fortunate than I, to have served with the outstanding Soldiers, civilians and contractors, past and present. They have truly made a difference in my career, and for that, I am forever grateful."

[Read full story](#)

From the Deputy to the CG

Teammates,

I am humbled and fortunate to have been selected to serve as your senior civilian as Dr. Mark Fishback transitioned to retirement. It is an honor bestowed on me that I cherish and am very proud of. What you can expect from me; a leader that cares about our civilian workforce and is People First focused on developing our civilian workforce to sustain our roles and responsibilities in the execution of the command's mission.



I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our civilians, but there are many that I have not had an opportunity to meet, and I hope to do so in the coming months. I am always interested in your story.

In my previous position as the Deputy G3, I saw firsthand the outstanding work and accomplishments our civilians contributed daily alongside our military counterparts. The unique talents, technical competencies, and unwavering commitment to accomplish any tasks that you were given is unmatched by any other organization that I have encountered. You are #1.

During this festive time of the year, Millie and I are wishing you and your family a joyful and happy holiday season. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in 2023.



People First! Lead, Care, Train, Maintain!
Liberty We Defend!

Mr. Charles Hughes
Deputy to the Commanding General

Chaplain's Corner

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

As you celebrate the holidays in the coming weeks, I pray that all of you will feel true peace and joy in your hearts during this season.

Make the most of the opportunities to share that peace and joy with those you love.

The term "cordial" came from Middle English cordial, from medieval Latin "*cordianlis*" (of the heart), and from the Greek word "*kardia*" (heart).

Kardia (heart) does not refer to the physical organ but is always used figuratively to refer to the seat and center of human life. The heart is the center of the personality, and it controls the intellect, emotions, and will.

Being cordial literally starts from the heart. It starts with the deeply rooted principle that the other person is important and deserving of my undivided attention.

Cordiality brings relief, cheer, and encouragement.

Can you be cordial to the people around you in this season of peace and joy? It wouldn't be too hard; just show a warm smile, a solid handshake, direct eye contact, and a word of encouragement. Simply mention something you honestly appreciate about him or her.

"Oil and perfume rejoice the heart; so, does the sweetness of a man's friend that cometh of hearty counsel" (Proverb 27:9).

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel D. Kang
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Command leverages expertise on Aberdeen Proving Ground

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The Department of Defense's premier all hazards command leverages the expertise at the U.S. Army's oldest proving ground to combat the world's most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and allied operations.

Celebrating its 18th anniversary this month, the 20th CBRNE Command traces its roots to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and the units that have worked to combat Weapons of Mass Destruction there since they were first used on battlefields during World War I.

Located in the science, technology and security corridor in northeast Maryland, APG is the nation's oldest active proving ground.

From 19 bases in 16 states, Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians from 20th CBRNE Command deploy around the world to take on all hazards.

With over 90 occupational specialties, the command brings a wide variety of expertise to the fight. The one-of-a-kind formation also relies on the technical reach back capabilities of many commands on Aberdeen Proving Ground, including the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center, Chemical Materials Activity and Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense.

From World War I through the Global War on Terrorism, units from Aberdeen Proving Ground have helped to safeguard U.S. forces and enable mission readiness.

In one of many examples, Maj. Gen. C. V. Clifton, the military aide to President John F. Kennedy, recognized Soldiers from Aberdeen Proving Ground for providing detection equipment and protective clothing to support U.S. military operations during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The command received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the management, repackaging and transport of Saddam Hussein's nuclear program out of Iraq.



The U.S. military's premier all hazards command leverages the expertise at the U.S. Army's oldest active proving ground to combat the world's most dangerous hazards. Celebrating its 18th anniversary this month, the 20th CBRNE Command traces its roots to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and the units that have worked to combat Weapons of Mass Destruction there since they were first used on battlefields during World War I. U.S. Army photo by Walter T. Ham IV.

In support of Operation Dragons Egg, the command sent the CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity to Fallujah, Iraq, to analyze the contents of a buried tanker truck.

Today, the 20th CBRNE Command continues to support military operations around the world and domestic authorities across the nation.

Franz J. Amann, the director of the CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity (CARA), previously served as the commander of the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit (TEU), one of the first two units assigned to the 20th CBRNE Command.

When the 20th CBRNE Command activated, the TEU was reflagged to the 22nd Chemical Battalion. The battalion was manned by both Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians.

In 2007, CARA was established with the civilians from the 22nd Chemical Battalion. This allowed the battalion to focus on specific Soldier missions while CARA assumed responsibilities for the non-standard missions.

U.S. Army civilians at CARA tackle many unique and challenging missions, from supporting the remediation of Formerly Used Defense Sites and characterizing Weapons of Mass Destruction to conducting emergency response missions for Recovered Chemical Warfare Material and providing technical escort of surety and non-surety chemical material.

Amann said CARA and 20th CBRNE Command have deep roots on APG and strong ties to the research, development and technical organizations that serve there.

"We have an enduring connection to Aberdeen Proving Ground that goes back to its foundation," said Amann, a native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, and retired U.S. Army Chemical Corps colonel. "That strong bond of service and partnership continues today with the brave, smart and tenacious Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians who serve here and uphold the legacy of TEU, this command and the installation."

[Read full story](#)

Army EOD Soldiers train to field new robots on Fort Stewart

FORT STEWART, Ga. – U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal Soldiers trained to field new EOD robots on Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Army EOD technicians from the 756th Ordnance Company (EOD) learned about the CRS robot system during a training class.

Sgt. Joseph Serafini from Palm City, Florida; Sgt. Eric Forgarsi from Raleigh, North Carolina; Spc. Patrick Doherty from Kansas City, Missouri; Spc. Ryan Huffhines from Hollywood, South Carolina; and Pfc. Christian Wilson-Garcia from Puyallup, Washington, participated in the training course that was cut short by Hurricane Ian.

The Fort Stewart, Georgia-based 756th EOD Company “Blasters” are part of the 184th EOD Battalion and 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command, the U.S. Department of Defense’s premier all hazards command.

Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians deploy from 19 bases in 16 states to tackle the world’s most dangerous hazards in support of military operations around the world and domestic authorities across the nation.

According to 1st Lt. Houston T. Buxton, a platoon leader with the 756th EOD Company, the new robot will increase the EOD company’s arsenal of weapons needed to defeat dangerous explosive devices.

“The size and operability of the robot make for a great reconnaissance tool,” said Buxton. “This robot will get used frequently on various mission sets, given its portability. Its quick startup will cut down on idle time leading up to missions and allow team members to focus their attention on more pertinent tasks.”

Buxton said the Blasters will use the new robots to get ready for an upcoming training rotation at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, California.

“After the fielding, the 756th EOD Company will set up different robot lanes in preparation for NTC,” said Buxton, a Seattle native who graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. “These lanes will key us in on which robots to use during mounted operations. Similarly, we will use these robots for team leader certifications and other training events to better prepare our EOD techs for future missions.”

Highly trained and equipped for operations around the world, U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians are experts who can render safe anything from a hand grenade to a nuclear weapon.

Headquartered on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the 20th CBRNE Command is home to 75 percent of the active-duty U.S. Army’s EOD technicians and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) specialists, as well as the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity, five Weapons of Mass



U.S. Army EOD Soldiers from the 756th Ordnance Company (EOD) learned about a new robot system during a training class. The Fort Stewart, Georgia-based 756th EOD Company “Blasters” are part of the 184th EOD Battalion, 52nd EOD Group and 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. Department of Defense’s premier all hazards command. Courtesy photos.

Destruction Coordination Teams and three Nuclear Disarmament Teams.

U.S. Army EOD units from 20th CBRNE Command deploy to the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command areas of operations while also supporting U.S. Indo-Pacific Command exercises and Defense Support to Civil Authorities missions for U.S. Northern Command.

The 756th EOD Company deployed to Syria and Iraq from April 2021 to December 2021.

As a part of their homeland response mission, the Blasters also respond when military munitions are found on or off base in the coastal areas of Georgia, including everything east of Atlanta, north of Jacksonville, Florida; and south of Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

[Read full story](#)

Premier military all hazards command marks 18th anniversary

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Maryland – The U.S. military's premier all hazards formation marked its 18th anniversary, Oct. 16.

The 20th CBRNE Command celebrated its birthday early during a widely attended cake cutting ceremony, Oct. 14, that was hosted by Brig. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, the commanding general of 20th CBRNE Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Arzabala, the senior enlisted leader.

Hood said the U.S. Army realized it needed a technical CBRNE exploitation capability in 2003 and that led to the creation of the one-of-a-kind command.

Retired Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Richard Cody drafted the memo that led to the establishment of 20th CBRNE Command when he served as the deputy chief of staff of the Army for operations and plans.

"Where the command has gone today is remarkable, twice of what I dreamed it would be," said Cody in an interview after his retirement from the Army. "In terms of relevancy, they are more relevant today than when we first stood them up."

The command recognized Cody with its Defender of Liberty Award in 2019 for his role in creating this critical capability that enables military operations and safeguards U.S. troops and American citizens from CBRNE threats.

The multifunctional command was activated as part of U.S. Army Forces Command on Oct. 16, 2004, and originally called the 20th Support Command (CBRNE). It was renamed the 20th CBRNE Command in October 2013 to reflect its mission more accurately. Headquartered on Aberdeen Proving Ground in northeast Maryland's science,

technology and security corridor, the 20th CBRNE Command is home to 75 percent of the Active-Duty Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) units, as well as the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity, five Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Teams and three Nuclear Disablement Teams.

Highly specialized and highly trained units from the 20th CBRNE Command support military operations around the world and domestic authorities across the nation.

American Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians deploy from 19 bases in 16 states to confront and defeat the world's most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and allied operations.

[Read full story](#)



The 20th CBRNE Command celebrated its 18th anniversary early during a cake cutting ceremony, Oct. 14. The ceremony was hosted by Brig. Gen. Daryl O. Hood (left), the commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Arzabala (right), the senior enlisted leader. U.S. Army photo by Marshall R. Mason.

EOD officer overcomes Achilles tendon injury to excel at ACFT

FORT BLISS, Texas – A U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal platoon leader overcame a ruptured Achilles tendon injury and recovered to excel on the U.S. Army Combat Fitness Test.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Christopher B. Washington from the 741st Ordnance Company (EOD) was recognized for scoring 586 out of 600 on the ACFT and named the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command Defender of the Week.

The Fort Bliss, Texas-based 741st EOD Company “Matadors” are part of the 3rd EOD Battalion, 71st EOD Group and 20th CBRNE Command.

According to Washington, it normally takes a year to recover from a ruptured Achilles tendon.

“I’m still not fully recovered, but I am close,” said Washington. “I’d say the point where I felt close to normal after the injury was about seven to eight months.”

Washington said the key to his recovery and success at the ACFT was to steadily work toward his goals.

“I think the only way to improve on things you aren’t good at is to do them more. If it means lifting weights, running or calisthenics in your room, just do it more,” said Washington. “Once you take the ACFT and get your current baseline, set a new goal and work toward it.”

Originally from Phenix City, Alabama, Washington said he made specific fitness goals and stuck to them to recover as quickly as possible after his injury.

Before joining the U.S. Army, Washington graduated from Troy University in Troy, Alabama, with a degree in Criminal Justice and Digital Forensics.

Washington said he became an Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer because he wanted to serve around the brave, smart and tough Army EOD Soldiers who confront and defeat everything from hand grenades to nuclear weapons.

“I became an EOD officer to give myself a challenge and pursue a job that wasn’t ordinary,” said Washington. “I liked that the job involved interagency training, gaining a unique skillset and lots of opportunities to travel while meeting new people. So far, I’ve enjoyed being in EOD. Each day there’s a new mission or challenge to complete, and I work with very intelligent people. I’m proud to be EOD and represent this community.”

As the U.S. Army explosive experts, EOD technicians support both military operations around the world and domestic authorities across the nation.

The Matadors deployed to Kuwait in 2019 and they respond when military munitions are discovered on and off base in nine counties in Texas, all of New Mexico and parts of Arizona.

Capt. Razzilee L. Oquendo, the commander of the 741st EOD Company, said Washington had done an outstanding job of balancing the conflicting demands of leading his platoon and recovering from his injury.

“I think that his road to recovery speaks not only to his grit and determination but also to his time management,” Oquendo, a graduate of Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville, Georgia, who is from St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. “He balances his physical therapy appointments with his everyday job phenomenally.”

Oquendo said that the EOD platoon leader’s commitment is an inspiration to the rest of the Soldiers serving in her EOD company.

“Sometimes he comes in sore or in some pain but still manages to participate in training with the Soldiers,” said Oquendo, who has served in the Army for 11 years. “The company respects him immensely and draws on his energy to work just as hard in their own jobs.”

[Read full story](#)



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Christopher B. Washington from the 741st Ordnance Company (EOD) was recognized for scoring a 586 out of 600 on the Army Combat Fitness Test after overcoming a ruptured Achilles tendon injury. He was named the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command Defender of the Week. Courtesy photo.

Army civilian manages worldwide CBRNE deployments



Michael A. Emelio was selected as the 20th C Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command Civilian of the Quarter for the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2022. U.S. Army photo by Marshall R. Mason.

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – A U.S. Army civilian was recognized for expertly managing the operational planning and orders for 31 Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) companies and 15 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) companies.

Michael A. Emelio was named the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command Civilian of the Quarter for the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2022.

Emelio serves in the 20th CBRNE Command Operations Directorate’s Future Operations and Plans Section where he develops, prepares and publishes operations orders

for EOD operations and emergency response efforts. While he primarily supports EOD units, Emelio also managed 15 chemical companies and supported high visibility and short-fused operations.

According to Emelio, the high pace of his job at 20th CBRNE Command keeps it interesting.

“There is always some real-world change or initiative on going, always something new to work on or with other commands on,” said Emelio.

Emelio is from the Washington, D.C., area, and grew up in Prince George County, Maryland, and Arlington, Virginia. He served in the U.S. Army for 22 years, starting out as an infantryman before becoming an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician and retiring as a master sergeant. He deployed to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Emelio said he enjoyed working with the Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians at the one-of-a-kind command

“The people make the command,” said Emelio.

Kimani J. Rice, the deputy chief of plans for 20th CBRNE Command, said Emelio was put in for the award because of his dedication to the command.

“Mike is always looking to help out the team,” said Rice, who is from Philadelphia. “Without hesitation, he is the first to step in and fill voids that are created by emergent missions.”

[Read full story](#)

Retirements/Moves/Promotions/Awards

Retirements			52nd EOD Group	Tony Woolard	22-Oct-22
			CARA	Wayne Purdue	22-Oct-22
71st EOD Group	Mary Brumley	31-Oct-22	G8	Soraya Albanese	05-Nov-22
G3	Gerald Iler	30-Nov-22			
1st Quarter Gains			1st Quarter Promotions		
CARA	Grace Bultron	11-Oct-22	G6	Sydonie Graham	GS-11
71st EOD Group	Dale Ryan	06-Nov-22	G2	Nadia Hopkins	GS-09 FPL GS-12
CARA	Miguel Ferrer-Lozada	20-Nov-22	CMD GRP	Charles Hughes	GS-15
CARA	Charmaine Joseph	20-Nov-22	G4	Adam Ochylski	GS-12
CARA	Jabil Sayibu	20-Nov-22	G8	Cordell Mercer	GS-09
G8	Melinda Graber	18-Dec-22			
1st Quarter Losses			Honorary Awards		
52nd EOD Group	Kimberly King	22-Oct-22	Mary Brumley	Meritorious Civilian Service Award	
			Chris Gutberlet	Civilian Service Commendation Medal	
			Gerald Iler	Civilian Service Commendation Medal	

Birthdays

October

Courtney Aceto
Mary Alice Allan
Timothy Crews
Kevin Hanuszcak
Cynthia Mostella
Susan Persing
Yancey Rhoden
Kimani Rice
Edward Rios
Christopher Seliga
Suree Valenzuela
Clinton Vandiver
Marcus Woods

Adam Ochylski
Brenda Parks
Timothy Reed
Rajesh Sabharwal
Joshua Shareef
Xuerong Shi
Steven Thomas
Caroline Tompkins
Kevin Wioland
Walter Wyatt Jr.

December

Frank Amemu-Golo
Angela Bahr
Tawana Blaine
Ryan Cole
Christopher Crecelius
Dennis Crouse
Xavier Dashielle
Mychael Hamlin
Christopher Hurst
Virginia Isaac
Louis Kilmon Jr.
Herbert Lindsay
Rodney Mayo
Michael Moon
Kim Reid
Connie Robinson
James Rouse Jr.
Lucius Smith Jr.

November

Christopher Barnett
Jaime Benitez-Vazquez
Timothy Brochu
Craig Burns
Nathan Cantwell
Timothy Cook
Jacqueline Frieze
Charletta Hammons
Ana Harrah
Michael Hettinger
Christopher Hosson
William Jones
Michelle Mong

Awards

Civilian of the Quarter

Michael Emelio

Length of Service Awards

5 Years	Bao Tran	13-Nov-22
10 Years	Bradley Weber	23-Oct-22
25 Years	John Bestall	04-Nov-22
25 Years	Tracey Corbett	01-Dec-22
25 Years	Susan Grice	26-Nov-22
25 Years	Christopher Henke	19-Nov-22
25 Years	William Jones	17-Dec-22
35 Years	Luis Lefert	06-Oct-22
35 Years	Rodney Mayo	23-Dec-22

Employee Assistance Program provides free support services

By Shila D. Smith

The holiday season can be a tremendously stressful time for many individuals who are struggling with a mental illness and loss of a family member.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available to help.

The Employee Assistance Program is a voluntary, work-based program that offers free and confidential assessments, short-term counseling, referrals and follow-up services to employees who have personal and/or work-related problems.

EAPs address a broad and complex body of issues affecting mental and emotional well-being, such as alcohol and other substance abuse, stress, grief, family problems and psychological disorders.

EAP counselors also work in a consultative role with managers and supervisors to address employee and organizational challenges and needs.

Many EAPs are active in helping organizations prevent and cope with workplace violence, trauma and other emergency response situations.

Points of contact for EAP Coordinators:

APG (410) 278-5319, Fort Carson (719) 526-2196, Fort Hood (254) 287-2437, Fort Riley (785) 239-5047 and Redstone Arsenal (256) 316-6121.

Army civilian progress review due

All Fiscal Year 2023 Defense Personnel Management Appraisal Program Mandatory Progress Reviews should be completed and documented in my performance tool.

The FY23 DPMAP Appraisal Cycle is April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023. Performance plans are required for all civilian employees. One progress review is required to be documented in MyPerformance tool for employees to be eligible for a performance appraisal.

All U.S. Army civilian supervisors are required to have four mandatory elements in their performance plans.

If more information on U.S. Army civilian professional development programs [click here](#) and then click on the "Civilian HR Professional Development" link.