

# ARNORTH Monthly

May 2011



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**Front Cover:** SAN ANTONIO – Fort Sam Houston's Joint Color Guard marches forward to post the colors April 17 during the Fiesta San Antonio All Veterans Memorial Service at the Monument for the Battle of Hill 881 South in San Antonio. The event, organized by Alamo Chapter 366, Vietnam Veterans of America, served to honor veterans – both past and present. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger, Army North PAO)

**Back Cover:** SAN ANTONIO — Sgt. 1st Class Carla Pittman, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, escorts Humberto Naranjo, a WWII veteran, through the San Antonio International Airport terminal April 29. Naranjo was on hand with fellow WWII veterans to participate in a free flight to Washington, D.C., to see the National World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and other memorials. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO)



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

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# Memorial Day: day for reflection, remembering, honoring military

I want to thank all Soldiers and Civilians for your dedication to our country and to our Army as we celebrate the Memorial Day holiday. Your daily commitment to our Army Family is one of the best ways we can honor our brave men and women who serve this great country.

Memorial Day weekend begins what we typically recognize as the “official summer season,” and I hope all of you will observe this occasion with your Family and friends. May is also Mental Health Month and provides us an opportunity to recognize and salute the resilience of our Army Family as we continue to cope with the daily stress of military life and frequent deployments with their aftermath.

Please take time to restore balance in your life and learn about behavioral health and other wellness resources here at Fort Sam Houston. If you or your family is in need, please reach out to someone.

The Army Summer Safety Campaign is also already underway. Per the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center: “This year’s campaign, which runs April 1 through September 30, encourages every member of the Army Family to get out and enjoy all that summer has to offer, but

to ask yourself ‘what have you done to save a life today?’” On average, more off-duty deaths and accidents occur during these 101 days than all of the rest of the year.

Automobile and motorcycle accidents remain the leading cause of accidental deaths. Outdoor activities follow close behind in their danger to our Army Family. The Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) located at <https://safety.army.mil/> is a Web-based tool you must complete for all planned trips outside the local area when you are going on leave, pass or TDY. It will help you plan your trip, present you with possible hazards and offer potential controls to diminish the known hazards.

During your celebrations, remember our Soldiers and their Families who are deployed. Our military lifestyle is an honorable, but tough way of life. Thank you for all you do every day for Fort Sam Houston and our great nation, and have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

**GUY C. SWAN III**  
**Lieutenant General, USA**  
**Commanding**



*Reflections, by Lee Teeter*





Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, ARNORTH PAO

### Town Hall

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, addresses a packed room of Army North service members and Civilians during a quarterly town hall meeting April 8 at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club. The general discussed internal issues and areas of concern, and fielded questions from attendees. Swan also reminded everyone to take time to participate in Fiesta events on post and in the community.



Photo by Randy Mitchell, Army North PAO

### VFW serves again

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Mary Villafranca and Joseph Guajardo, VFW volunteers, serve lunch at the Warrior and Family Support Center. The center provides a place of rest and relaxation for wounded warriors, and their families, receiving care at Brooke Army Medical Center. The WFSC provides coordinated services to patients, next-of-kin and extended Family members with a primary focus on OIF and OEF Warriors. It provides a friendly, comfortable environment in which to take a break, watch a movie on big-screen TVs, play video games, check email or use the Internet, select a book or magazine to read, make a phone call or just grab a cup of coffee.

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## ARNORTH welcomes

Maj. Allen Hahn, CCP  
Maj. Sarah Thompson, I&S Co.  
Capt. Lamar Sales, DCS, G4  
CW4 David Bassilli, I&S Co.  
CW4 Darren Lester, G4  
CW3 Michael Brooks, G2  
Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Weaver, OCG  
StaffSgt. Charles Ridgeway, CCP  
StaffSgt. Wilkin Sam., G2

## ARNORTH says goodbye

Col. Lou Marich, G3/5/7  
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Knott, G3/5/7  
Sgt. Carine George, I&S Co.  
Spc. Tre Styles, HHB  
Esther Sue Downs, G6

# Fort Sam Houston honors retirees



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Col. David Rolfe, veterinary project officer, Headquarters, Veterinary Command; Col David Lambert, assistant chief of staff, G1, U.S. Army South; Lt. Col. Kenneth Shimabuku, policy, strategy and doctrine officer, G3/5/7 Division, U.S. Army North; Lt. Col. Louann Tucker, deputy G1, U.S. Army South; Lt. Col. Douglas Kiser, director, Installation Contracting Office, Fort Carson, Colo.; Lt. Col. Bradley Lieurance, Community Based Medical Home program manager, U.S. Army Medical Command; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Frank McLaughlin III, veterinary technician, Food Defense Program, Headquarters, Veterinary Command; 1st Sgt. Todd Waldo, first sergeant, Company B, 717th Military Intelligence Battalion, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; stand before a crowd of Family, friends and peers during an installation retirement ceremony April 28 at U.S. Army North's historic Quadrangle.

## Army North CG welcomes San Antonio mayor to new joint medical campus



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, welcomes San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro and members of the San Antonio City Council to tour the new facilities at the Military Education and Training Campus here April 6.

The joint Army, Navy and Air Force medical campus is projected to provide services for up to 8,000 students by the end of summer and have an economic impact of more than \$13 billion in San Antonio.

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# Deputy commanding general selected to command First Army Division West

Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, the deputy commanding general of United States Army North (Fifth Army) at Fort Sam Houston, has been selected for assignment as the commanding general of First Army Division West at Fort Hood.

The announcement was made official in a press release from the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Wiggins has been assigned to his current position since April 27, 2009.

As the deputy commanding general, Wiggins was second in command at Army North.

His focus areas included: training and readiness, major training exercise synchronization, and national Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Consequence Management Response Forces' readiness.

He has lived in a number of locations throughout the world but said he considers Warner Robins, Georgia, as home.

He earned his commission as an infantry lieutenant from Mercer University in 1983.

He has served with the Army throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

His operational tours have included key command assignments during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Joint Guardian in Kosovo and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

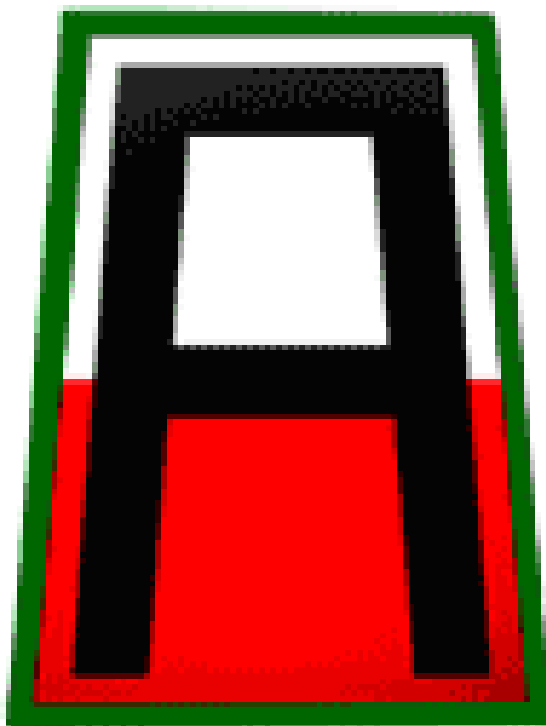
After serving on the Joint Staff



in the Pentagon, he served as the assistant division commander for maneuver with the 1st Infantry Division and later assumed duties as the acting commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley.

Wiggins is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Aviation Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College, where he earned a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies.

His replacement has not yet been named.



# Military, civilian community members join together to honor veterans



Photos by Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger, Army North PAO

**ABOVE:** Fort Sam Houston's Joint Color Guard stands at attention after posting the colors April 17 during the Fiesta San Antonio All Veterans Memorial Service at the Monument for the Battle of Hill 881 South in San Antonio. The event, organized by Alamo Chapter 366, Vietnam Veterans of America, served to honor veterans – both past and present. During the ceremony, military and civilian community members placed wreaths, bouquets and flowers at the base of the monument in honor of those who have served. **RIGHT:** Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, his senior enlisted advisor, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood, senior enlisted leader, U.S. Army North, gather together before the start of the memorial service.





# McBride to succeed Basilica as Army North's CCP1 commanding general

Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Maj. Gen. Kevin McBride will assume command for U.S. Army North's Contingency Command Post 1 during a ceremony scheduled for 2:30 p.m. May 13 at Army North historic Quadrangle. McBride, an Army National Guard officer, succeeds the retiring Maj. Gen. John Basilica Jr., also an Army National Guard officer, who served as the CCP1 commanding general since May 1, 2008.

McBride previously served as the U.S. Army Materiel Command's assistant deputy commanding general, Army National Guard, where he was the senior Army National Guard officer in AMC and the principal advisor to the AMC commanding general on all matters impacting the ANG.

He has also served as the commanding general for the 43rd Military Police Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005-2007.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the Fort Sam Houston Club.



Maj. Gen. John Basilica assumed command of Operational Command Post 1, United States Army North, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on March 1, 2008. In Louisiana, his full-time position is Director of the State Military Department. His previous assignment was Director of Logistics for the National Guard Bureau. Prior to his assignment with NGB, he commanded the 256th Brigade Combat Team during Operation Iraqi Freedom III in support of Task Force Baghdad.

For 13 years, he held various executive-level positions within the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to include: Chief of Staff Undersecretary and Interim Secretary.

Upon return from his combat tour, he accepted a full-time position with the Louisiana National Guard and was immediately appointed Commander of Joint Task Force Pelican, charged with leading the National Guard's Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief efforts. He was commissioned in 1978 upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point.



Maj. Gen. Kevin McBride assumed his duties as the U.S. Army Materiel Command's assistant deputy commanding general, Army National Guard, on Feb. 1, 2009. He is the senior Army National Guard officer in AMC and principal advisor to the AMC commanding general on all matters impacting the ANG.

He is also the liaison to the Chief, National Guard Bureau for all AMC issues that impact the ANG. He coordinates support for mobilizing and demobilizing ANG units to ensure equipment and logistical requirements are met.

Prior to his present assignment Major General McBride served as the commander of the 43rd Military Police Brigade from February 2003 to January 2009.

McBride graduated from the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I., in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and environmental Engineering and received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

He also received a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College in 2000.



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# Army North Soldiers, San Antonio service members honor WWII vets



Photo by Tracy Huff, Alamo Honor Flight

ABOVE: SAN ANTONIO — Col. Wayne Shanks, U.S. Army North Public Affairs Officer, and a Joint Base San Antonio honor guard and honor cordon, greet WWII veterans April 29 as they make their way through the San Antonio International Airport terminal April 29.

The WWII veterans were on hand to participate in a free flight to Washington, D.C., to see the National World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and other memorials. The event was organized by Alamo Honor Flight, a San Antonio-based non-profit organization. Army North Soldiers, along with fellow service members from throughout San Antonio, joined together to honor the veterans as they passed through the terminal.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

SAN ANTONIO — Maj. Shannon Stambesky, executive officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, and Staff Sgt. Glen Hambrick, chaplain assistant, Army North, speak with Ernest Merton, a fellow Fifth Army veteran, at the San Antonio International Airport April 29. Merton served with the 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, Fifth Army, during WWII.

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## Army North Families celebrate Easter in the Quadrangle with plastic eggs, piñatas



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

### Easter fun

**ABOVE:** U.S. Army North Families take off on an Easter egg hunt during an Army North Family Readiness Group Easter event April 14 in the Quadrangle grounds. Children also played piñata and other games, and FRG leaders awarded prizes. **RIGHT:** A young boy takes a swing at the rabbit piñata under the old Oak Tree during the FRG get together.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson



## Army North commemorates tree plantings during ongoing Quadrangle improvements

Photos by Luis Deya, Army North PAO

**RIGHT:** Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, thanks volunteers and those who donated to improve the grounds in the Quadrangle during a tree-planting ceremony April 6. Improvements underway in the Quadrangle include the planting of inner and outer rings of animal-friendly trees, the addition of picnic tables and benches, circular stone focal points, a visitor's center with historic photos, implements and children's activities, and the installation a new duck pond. To date, more than \$5,000 has been donated to improve the historic Quadrangle grounds.



**LEFT:** Lt. Col. Shannon Miller, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, pins an HHBn identification tag to the battalion-sponsored tree during a tree-planting and dedication ceremony April 6 in the Quadrangle grounds. Capt. Loron Grantham, commander, Intelligence and Support Company, HHBn; Capt. Michelle Martinez, commander, Operations Company, HHBn; Cheryl Wallek, family support coordinator, HHBn; and Staff Sgt. Brandon Hammond, battalion force protection NCOIC, HHBn; share the moment.

**RIGHT:** Malia, 7, daughter of Capt. Michael Norton, operations officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, reads the poem "Trees" by Alfred Joyce Kilmer, for the tree planting ceremony. Community members donated money for trees to be planted in the grounds, and were on hand to dedicate "their" trees with an identification tag. Capt. Norton dedicated a tree to his father, who retired from Fort Sam Houston in 1996, and who passed away following a two-year battle with cancer. To date, 26 trees have been dedicated in the historic grounds where Geronimo was held.





# AFAP conference serves to bring Soldier, Family issues to forefront

Story and photo by  
Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres  
Army North PAO

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Throughout the Army, Soldiers face issues that, at times, are too difficult to tackle; these issues are the focus of the U.S. Army North's 2011 Army Family Action Plan conference.

Representatives from throughout Army North and its Defense Coordinating Elements participated in the conference April 18-21 in downtown San Antonio.

"This is the time where we work to help Soldiers with issues, not only from the Fort Sam Houston area but from all the regions within Army North," said Col. Richard Francey, chief of staff, Army North. "This mission is critical in helping those issues get resolved."

The conference attendees played a key role by providing their insights and feedback to the command's leaders. The information is used to provide the commanders, as well as Army leaders, insight on areas of concern. This, in turn, provides the leaders an opportunity to address the issues and to establish plans and procedures geared toward resolving them.

AFAP provides a way for policy changes to become tangible, end-products for members of the Army Family, said Tania Cuervo, ARNORTH Quality of Work/Life program coordinator and Family Action Plan coordinator. It addresses quality-of-life issues for Soldiers, family members, retirees



Col. Richard Francey, chief of staff, U.S. Army North, emphasizes the command's resolve to support Army Families and the important role delegates play April 18 during the beginning of the Army North Army Family Action Plan Conference in downtown San Antonio.

and Department of Army civilian employees.

The assembled delegates, facilitators, recorders and transcribers worked together to not only identify the potential issues but to also prioritize them. Once that was established, they gathered in two small groups to discuss the issues and to craft their recommendations.

"The AFAP conference is helping Soldiers and family members increase their quality of life," said Aquinda Reed, plans NCO, Army North, who also served as a facilitator for the conference.

"Its main objective is to help reduce a potential weakness of issue in Army programs."

During the conference, among

the numerous issues discussed were: a proposed increase in the Service members Group Life Insurance cap to \$1 million; the elimination of future Army Career and Alumni Program budget reductions; and the authorization of federal retirees to pay health premiums with pre-tax dollars.

"The program is here to ensure that the Family, as a whole, has a support foundation," explained Reed.

Numerous ideas and recommendations flowed throughout the conference as those in attendance shared their observations and experiences.

"I believe that AFAP works," said Reed. "It is here to ensure that the Family, as a whole, has a support foundation."

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## Army's top enlisted leader visits Warrior and Family Support Center

Photos by  
Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger  
Army North PAO

LEFT: Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III and his wife, Jeanne, admire the Purple Heart site at Fort Sam Houston's Warrior and Family Support Center April 22 as Judith Markelz briefs them on the various services provided for Wounded Warriors and their Family members at the center. Markelz serves as the WFSC's program manager.



ABOVE: Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III, along with his wife, Jeanne, and Command Sgt. Maj. Leonard Ruiz (left), Warrior Transition Battalion, discuss the needs of Wounded Warriors and the unique role of the WFSC with Markelz.



RIGHT: Catalina Magee, wife of Staff Sgt. Gerard Magee, uses her creativity to craft a Mother's Day gift for her mother April 22 at Fort Sam Houston's Warrior and Family Support Center. Catalina and her husband were among the Wounded Warriors and Family members making use of the center's resources when Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III, and his wife, Jeanne, stopped in to learn more about the one-of-a-kind WFSC, a center built through private donations to provide a safe environment away from the hospital for Wounded Warriors and their Families.

[www.arnorth.army.mil](http://www.arnorth.army.mil)



# Army North orchestrates simulated category 4 hurricane response

**Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson  
Army North PAO**

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — It was back to the basics for military disaster response personnel as they set up a joint operations center to coordinate the Department of Defense response to a simulated Category 4 hurricane in Mississippi.

During a weeklong hurricane exercise April 18-22 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center on

Fort Sam Houston's Camp Bullis Military Training Reservation, personnel from the U.S. Army North's Joint Support Force – 51 coordinated with role players, who acted as local, state and federal disaster response officials, to provide lifesaving and life-sustaining defense support for notional victims of "Hurricane Fernando," which "struck" near Biloxi, Miss.

"This hurricane exercise is just what we needed to prepare for the upcoming hurricane

season," said Lt. Col. Kem Flemming, operations officer, JSF-51.

One of the participants was Capt. Anthony Roh, an operations officer for the Provost Marshal Office, JSF-51, who previously served as a company commander at Fort Drum, N.Y.

"I think (the exercise) is a great opportunity for me to get a higher headquarters' perspective and get experience in domestic civil support operations," said Roh, whose role in the exercise

was to conduct threat assessments and coordinate with local law enforcement.

During the course of the week, support force members coordinated "requests" from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and defense coordinating officers for search and rescue missions, medical evacuations, clearing and repairing roads and bridges. Additionally, they were also asked for help in providing logistics and relief supplies to responders and

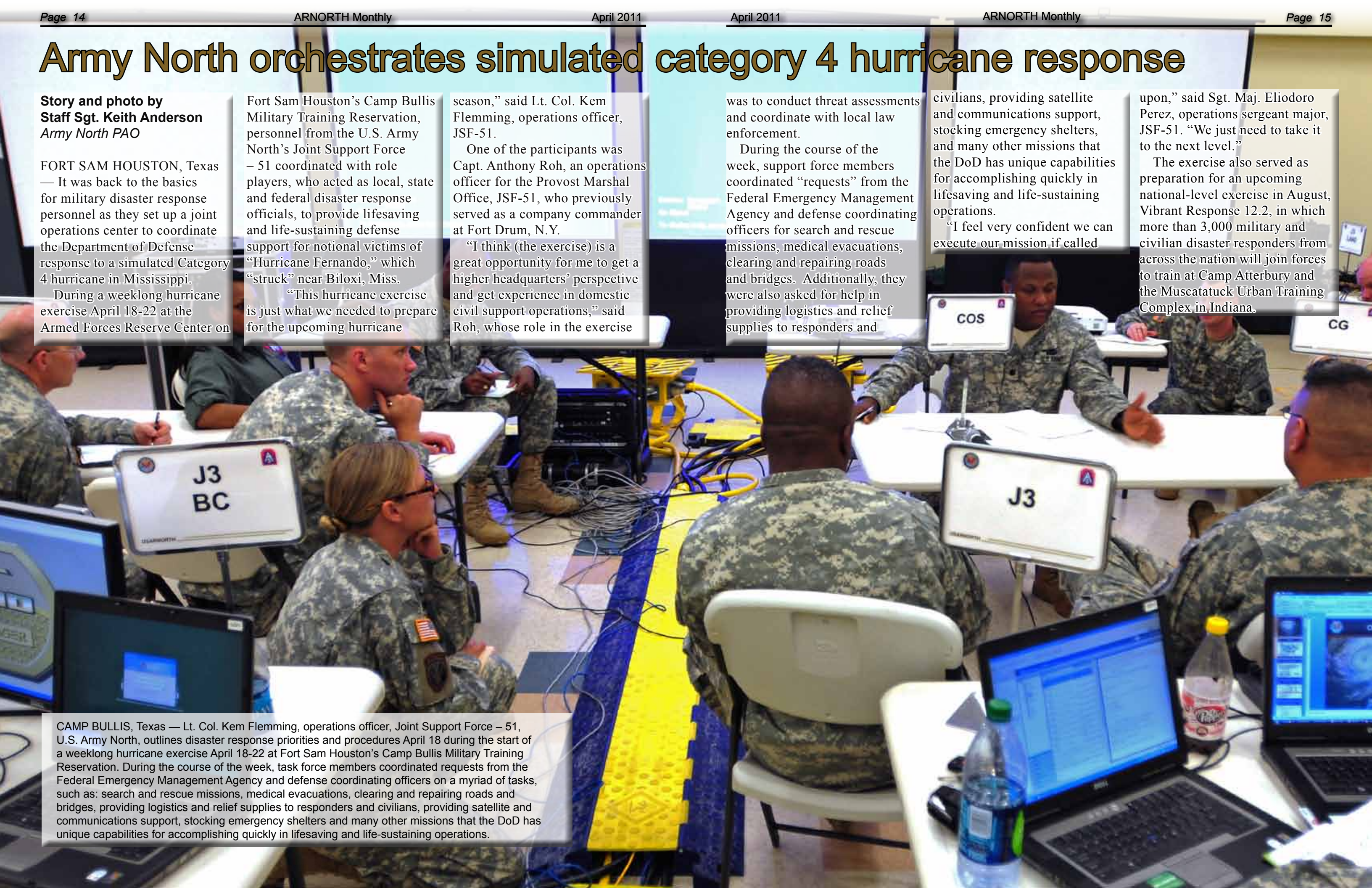
civilians, providing satellite and communications support, stocking emergency shelters, and many other missions that the DoD has unique capabilities for accomplishing quickly in lifesaving and life-sustaining operations.

"I feel very confident we can execute our mission if called

upon," said Sgt. Maj. Eliodoro Perez, operations sergeant major, JSF-51. "We just need to take it to the next level."

The exercise also served as preparation for an upcoming national-level exercise in August, Vibrant Response 12.2, in which more than 3,000 military and civilian disaster responders from across the nation will join forces to train at Camp Atterbury and the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex in Indiana.

CAMP BULLIS, Texas — Lt. Col. Kem Flemming, operations officer, Joint Support Force – 51, U.S. Army North, outlines disaster response priorities and procedures April 18 during the start of a weeklong hurricane exercise April 18-22 at Fort Sam Houston's Camp Bullis Military Training Reservation. During the course of the week, task force members coordinated requests from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and defense coordinating officers on a myriad of tasks, such as: search and rescue missions, medical evacuations, clearing and repairing roads and bridges, providing logistics and relief supplies to responders and civilians, providing satellite and communications support, stocking emergency shelters and many other missions that the DoD has unique capabilities for accomplishing quickly in lifesaving and life-sustaining operations.







## AsianPacificAmericans

in the United States Army

### Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

The “Asian/Pacific American” designation encompasses over 50 ethnic or language groups including native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. There are now more Asian and Pacific Islander groups than in the past - with 28 Asian and 19 Pacific Island subgroups representing a vast array of languages and cultures. These groups include Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Japanese Americans, Korean Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Asian Indian Americans, Laotian Americans, Cambodian Americans, Hmong Americans, Thai Americans, Pakistani, Samoan, Guamanian and many other language groups.

“Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander” refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. It includes people who indicated their race or races as “Native Hawaiian,” “Guamanian or Chamorro,” “Samoan,” or “Other Pacific Islander,” or wrote in entries such as Tahitian, Mariana Islander, or Chuukese. “Some other race” was included in Census 2000 for respondents who were unable to identify with the five Office of Management and Budget race categories. Many Asians and Pacific Islanders have ancestry in a number of different cultures.



Captain Wai landed at Red Beach, Leyte, in the face of accurate, concentrated enemy fire from gun positions advantageously located in a palm grove bounded by submerged rice paddies. Finding the first four waves of American soldiers leaderless, disorganized, and pinned down on the open beach, he immediately assumed command. Issuing clear and concise orders, and disregarding heavy enemy machine gun and rifle fire, he began to move inland through the rice paddies without cover. The men, inspired by his cool demeanor and heroic example, rose from their positions and followed him. During the advance, Captain Wai repeatedly determined the locations of enemy strong points by deliberately exposing himself to draw their fire. In leading an assault upon the last remaining Japanese pillbox in the area, he was killed by its occupants.

**MONTHLY EVENTS**  
**Jewish American Heritage Month**  
**May 1 May Day**  
**May 3 National Teachers Day**  
**May 5 Cinco de Mayo**  
**May 7 Join Hands Day**  
**May 8 Mother's Day**  
**May 12 Nurses Day**  
**May 21 Armed Forces Day**  
**May 22 National Maritime Day**  
**May 23 Victoria Day**  
**May 30 Memorial Day**



Private Jose B. Nisperos became the first Asian/Pacific American to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on September 24, 1911, while engaged in combat at Lapurap, Basilan, Philippine Islands. He served in the 34th Company, Philippine Scouts. In 1913, he having been badly wounded (his left arm was broken and lacerated and he had received several spear wounds in the body so that he could not stand), Private Nisperos continued to fire his rifle with one hand until the enemy was repulsed, thereby aiding materially in preventing the annihilation of his party.

Information provided by [www.army.mil/asianpacificsoldiers/](http://www.army.mil/asianpacificsoldiers/)

[www.arnorth.army.mil](http://www.arnorth.army.mil)

# Fort Monroe to close Oct. 1, JTF-CS to move to Fort Eustis, Va.

By Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Jim Goodwin and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Toni Burton  
 JTF-CS PAO

FORT MONROE, Va. — As part of the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act, Joint Task Force – Civil Support is moving from its peninsular Chesapeake Bay home at Fort Monroe, Va., to a river view at Fort Eustis, Va.

JTF-CS was identified as one of dozens of Department of Defense units designated for relocation this year under the BRAC. The Act dictates that Fort Monroe close by Oct. 1, forcing its tenant commands to relocate elsewhere.

The transition will be smooth, said Monroe and Eustis leaders during a two hour town hall meeting here April 5 to JTF-CS' 220-plus workers, nearly 64-percent of whom are U.S. service members.

During the town hall meeting, Col. Anthony Reyes, Fort Monroe's commander and Col. Glenn Grothe, 733rd Mission Support

Group commander (formerly the Fort Eustis garrison commander), provided key information on the transition and upcoming projects.

Specifically, Fort Eustis will receive a new furniture store, a new Army-Air Force Exchange Service Shoppette with a 10-pump gas station, additional dental services and expanded child care services, said Grothe.

“Change is not bad, just different,” said Grothe. “We have a lot of Army services on Fort Eustis.”

Reyes and Jean Thacker, Fort Monroe BRAC coordinator, said many services at Fort Monroe will continue to be available through the summer.

While Grothe discussed plans and changes implemented at Fort Eustis to help ease the burden of the addition of nearly 2,700 people to Fort Eustis.

In addition to JTF-CS, two other U.S. Army commands will make the move from Fort Monroe to Fort Eustis: the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and the U.S. Army Installation and Management Command — Northeast Region.

The 2005 BRAC Act also merged Langley and Eustis into joint base” status.

The move will transition JTF-CS from four buildings and about 47,000 square feet of space to a brand new building at Fort Eustis with about approximately 63,000 square-feet of space.

Construction of the new JTF-CS facility began March 2010 and is on schedule to be completed May 2011, according to U.S. Army Col. Kevin Anderson, JTF-CS' logistics director.

“The advantage is we will all be located in the same building in a facility that has been designed to support our operational needs,” he said.

The new facility's construction is spearheaded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at a cost of approximately \$19 million.

“The building ... gives us a little bit more capabilities for us to deploy our headquarters, and I don't see any major short falls in our move to maintain our mission requirements,” said Anderson. “I think the BRAC move overall is going very smoothly for JTF-CS.”

## Military Spouse Appreciation Day

By Sue Hoppin, MOAA

It is a day that is set aside each year to recognize and honor the contributions and sacrifices of military spouses. In 1984, then President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the Friday before Mother's Day to be designated as Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Since then, each President and senior military leaders have echoed the sentiments expressed by President Reagan. In addition to the public support and recognition of these leaders, events are commonly sponsored at installations across the nation and around the world to recognize the importance of our unsung heroes. Military spouses, past and present, are an extraordinary

group of individuals. While their husbands or wives took an oath and signed on a dotted line when they joined the military, spouses were enlisted through the back door with the vows they took on their wedding day. In choosing their mates, they inadvertently chose their way of life. While others have the luxury of decorating their homes knowing they will be there for the duration, military spouses decorate their homes hoping they will be there for three years. While others slowly gather a network of hairdressers, churches, dentists and doctors; military spouses hit the ground running. They know they have a limited time to set down roots before it's time to pack up again. For many people, the constant moving would discourage them from connecting with the local community; for the military spouse, the opposite is true. Adversity just makes them stronger.

[www.arnorth.army.mil](http://www.arnorth.army.mil)



# Marines gain training benefits during homeland security support mission

Story and photos by  
By Armando Carrasco  
JTF-N PAO

FORT BLISS, Texas — Marines from Ground Sensor Platoon, 2nd Intelligence Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force, completed a training mission last month that is credited with making a significant contribution to the U.S. Border Patrol's efforts to detect, deter, and defeat transnational criminal organizations' attempts to conduct drug and alien-smuggling activities on the U.S. – Mexico border.

The 2nd Intel Bn. volunteered to perform the Military Support to Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies mission coordinated by Joint Task Force – North, the U.S. Northern

Command unit tasked to provide military support to the nation's federal law enforcement agencies. The Camp Lejeune, N.C., based intelligence unit, which has performed similar JTF-N support operations at locations throughout the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility, executed the mission in support of the U.S. Border Patrol, Rio Grande Valley Sector.

The Marines used their state-of-the-art ground sensor systems to identify and report suspected illegal activities they detected to the federal agents patrolling the well-known South Texas alien and drug smuggling corridor.

"In the battle to secure the border the Marines are a very competent partner and made significant contributions to our efforts here in South Texas," said Rosendo Hinojosa, RGVs chief patrol agent. "The support provided by the Marines served as a valuable enhancement to our capabilities to secure the border and protect our nation from transnational criminal organizations."

"The Marines possess a wealth of

knowledge on the best techniques for emplacing their sensors to maximize the effects," said Lt. Col. Christopher McElveen, South-Central Regional Support Team Leader, JTF-N. "Despite operating in this challenging terrain that encompasses a river, urban areas, and an accessible road network, they were extremely successful in all assigned tasks."

The Marines proved highly effective at integrating their systems into the Rio Grande Valley Sector's Fusion Center, thus providing current and continuous sensor detection information to the agents at the Sector's command center and those in the field.

"In accordance with Joint Task Force – North's mission, we provided valuable assets that supported the Border Patrol's counter-narcotic and counter-transnational threat operations," said Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Jack Shannon, Ground Sensor Platoon commander. "In providing these assets and support, the ground sensor platoon sharpened its relevant patrolling and ground sensor implantation skills – this is real-life training – everyone wins."

The JTF-N law enforcement support missions, which are based on Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security requests for military assistance, must provide a training benefit to the volunteer military units and personnel.

"This mission is as real as it gets without having the enemy shooting at you," said GSP Sgt. Eric Heinl. "This mission helped the Marines understand their mission to the fullest extent without the pressures of combat."

The homeland security support mission allowed the Marines to apply their mission planning, sensor emplacement, and detection monitoring skills, in a

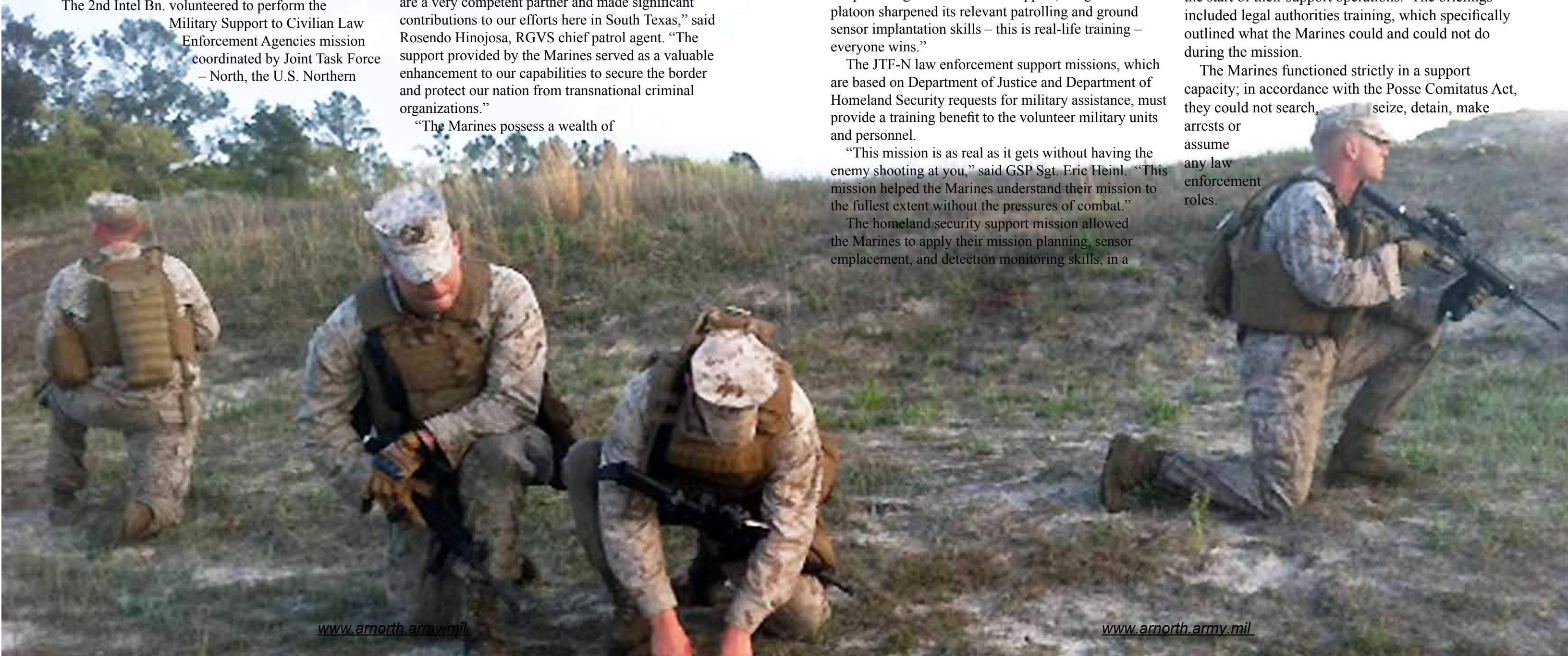
combined civilian interagency and military supported environment.

"This was a great way to learn, grow and help other Marines understand our mission in a real-world scenario. It also gave us the opportunity to work with other agencies like the U.S. Border Patrol, the National Guard, the U.S. Army, and the U.S. Navy," said Cpl. David Emery, GSP team leader. "We were able to see the big picture of how many people are involved with protecting our nation."

In coordination with the JTF-N mission planners and the U.S. Border Patrol military support coordinators, the GSP Marines planned the entire support operation and completed the JTF-N required pre-mission training prior to their movement from Camp Lejeune to South Texas.

Upon arrival at their mission site, they also received a series of mandatory mission briefings prior to the start of their support operations. The briefings included legal authorities training, which specifically outlined what the Marines could and could not do during the mission.

The Marines functioned strictly in a support capacity; in accordance with the Posse Comitatus Act, they could not search, seize, detain, make arrests or assume any law enforcement roles.





# Army North celebrates Fiesta,

Photos by  
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson  
Army North PAO



**TOP:** A joint color guard, representing the Army, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force and Joint Base San Antonio, stands for review April 10 during the 2011 Fort Sam Houston Fiesta Military Ceremony at the MacArthur Parade Field. **BOTTOM:** Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston; Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general, U.S. Installation Management Command; and Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, commanding general, U.S. Army South, render honors during retreat at the 2011 Fort Sam Houston Fiesta Military Ceremony April 10 at the MacArthur Parade Field. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, and William Mitchell, who serves as King Antonio LXXXIX for Fiesta 2011, pass in review of Fort Sam Houston troops during the 2011 Fort Sam Houston Fiesta Military Ceremony April 10. served as this year's River Parade Grand Marshal.



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# Fireworks at Fort Sam Houston



**TOP:** Members of the Army's Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps play a traditional military medley April 10 as the sun sets on the commanding general's reception in the Quadangle during the 2011 Fiesta and Fireworks at Fort Sam Houston. **Bottom:** Members of the 82nd Airborne Division's All-American Chorus file into U.S. Army North's historic quadrangle April 10 during the Fort Sam Houston Commanders Reception. The reception served as one of the highlights of the 2011 Fort Sam Houston Fiesta Military Ceremony.



San Antonio community members visit a U.S. Army North display booth during the Fort Sam Houston Fiesta and Fireworks Extravaganza at the post's MacArthur Park April 10, where Army North Soldiers spoke with them about the command's role and mission.



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# San Antonio military community says, 'Viva Fiesta!'



Members of the 323rd Army Band march past the Alamo under falling confetti during the 2011 Fiesta San Antonio Flambeau parade April 16. The theme for Fiesta's night parade was Holiday Magic, and tens of thousands of military and civilian community members gathered to enjoy the numerous floats, bands and assorted entertainment.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO*



*Photo by Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger, Army North PAO*

Fort Sam Houston's Fiesta military ambassadors wave to the gathered crowds April 16 from a horse-drawn wagon during the Flambeau Parade.



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO*  
LTG Swan and fellow JBBSA leaders carry memorial wreaths to the Alamo April 11.

**RIGHT:** Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, enjoys his ride in a classic Model A Ford as they motor down the street April 15 at the Fiesta Battle of Flowers Parade in San Antonio. Swan, who is the military coordinator for this year's Fiesta San Antonio participation, represented all military in the San Antonio area.

The theme for the parade was Bootin' 'n Scootin,' and tens of thousands of military and civilian community members gathered to enjoy the numerous floats, bands and assorted entertainment.

Fiesta San Antonio started in 1891 as a one-parade event and has evolved into one of the largest festivals in the nation.



*Photo by Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger, Army North PAO*



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO*

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, along with the Fiesta military ambassadors and a performing group from the 323rd Army Band, wave to participants during the Texas Cavalier's River Parade April 11. More than 45 civic and military organizations hosted floats in the parade. Other key floats included one for Fort Sam Houston leaders; the Navy Band of New Orleans; the U.S. Army Fife and Drum Corps; the Army's 82nd Airborne Chorus, and the U.S. Air Force Band of the West.



## News

### NG responds to Texas wildfires NGB

ARLINGTON, Va. — Four National Guard states are today supporting civil authorities battling more than 30 wildfires threatening lives and property in Texas.

Drought conditions led to a reported 32 uncontrolled wildfires currently burning there.

Under the direction of the Joint Forces Air Component Commander for Air Forces Northern at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., four C-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with firefighting capabilities are responding to the wildfires plaguing South Texas.

Texas National Guard soldiers already are supporting civilian authorities with personnel and four UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters using buckets to drop water in multiple counties, Guard officials reported.

The C-130s are basing their operations at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas.

Two of the four aircraft are from the California Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing; a third is from the Wyoming National Guard's 153rd AW and a fourth is from North Carolina's 145th AW.

California and North Carolina also are providing additional support aircraft, Guard officials reported.

All are expected to arrive to begin firefighting operations, April 18.

The Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, or MAFFS, is a self-contained, reusable aerial firefighting system loaded into the

cargo bay of a C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft, which effectively turns these airplanes into aerial firefighting tankers.

The system can discharge 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in less than five seconds, covering an area one-quarter of a mile long by 60 feet wide. Once the load is discharged, it can be refilled in less than 12 minutes.

Typically, the aircraft will spray along the leading edge of a fire in order to check its advance. The fire retardant has fertilizer mixed in, in order to promote re-growth in a burned area.

If needed, MAFFS aircraft can also spray water directly onto a fire. Four Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force Reserve units operate MAFFS.

To help alleviate the spread of fires, two additional MAFFS currently flying missions from Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, Texas, to Coahuila, Mexico, are also releasing retardant in Texas until the four relief C-130s arrive.

The MAFFS is owned by the USDA Forest Service, one of several federal and state government agencies and organizations with roles and responsibilities in wild land fire suppression that comprises the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

### Soldier blogging Website adds mobile app Office of the Press Secretary DHS

FORT KNOX, Ky., April 26, 2011 -- Army Strong Stories, the U.S. Army's blog where every Soldier is invited to blog about day-to-day life in the military, is now avail-

able as an iPhone app and mobile website.

Both mobile options give Soldiers, spouses, parents, prospects, and other Army supporters on-the-go access to a rich community of more than 600 Soldiers with backgrounds as diverse as medicine, human resources, infantry, law, and public affairs.

"It is to the great advantage of the U.S. Army to keep current and equip our Soldiers with the latest technology to ensure they continue to share authentic stories about their daily lives in the Army," said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, commanding general of U.S. Army Accessions Command. "The Army Strong Stories iPhone app and mobile website reinforce the Army's ongoing commitment to embracing social media and new technology."

Users of the Army Strong Stories iPhone app can read the latest Soldier blog posts and supporter stories or log in and post new stories and videos.

They can also choose a favorite blogger to follow, comment on posts, and share stories on Facebook and Twitter.

The app is now available as a free download in the Apple App Store at <http://bit.ly/armystrongapp> and is available for iPhone and iPod touch.

<http://m.armystrongstories.com>. Phone, Android, or webOS device.

### Marine Corps nuclear team wraps up mission in Japan

By Seth Robson and Chiyomi Sumida  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — A Marine Corps

biological response team that was brought to Japan to help save lives in the event of a large-scale radiation release is heading back to the States thanks to the improving situation at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, U.S. and Japanese officials said Tuesday.

After the March 11 earthquake and tsunami led to a near meltdown at the nuclear plant, 144 members of the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force deployed to Japan in case local officials needed help responding to fallout from the damaged plant, according to mission commander Marine Maj. Michael Johnson.

But successful efforts to reduce temperatures at the nuclear plant and plans to control contamination and reduce risk means the U.S. team can go home, a spokesman for Japan's Defense Ministry said Tuesday.

Instead of putting on radiation suits and rescuing frightened survivors, the Marines spent the deployment training at Yokota Air Base and communicating with Japanese and U.S. officials, Johnson said.

It was the first overseas mission for the unit, which was created in response to the 1995 Sarin gas attacks on Tokyo subway trains.

The force was on stand-by at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and helped protect workers in Washington, D.C., following the anthrax and ricin attacks of 2001 and 2003, Johnson said.

It include experts in urban rescue, emergency medical personnel, Marines who test soil, air and water for radiation and other toxins, explosive ordnance disposal technicians and troops who can decontaminate fleeing civilians, he said.

"The exact timeline of the rede-

ployment of all [unit] assets has yet to be finalized," said 1st Lt. John Norton, a spokesman for Operation Tomodachi – the U.S. military earthquake relief effort.

### Leaders Honor 9/11 Victims at Ground Zero, Pentagon

By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Carden  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Four days after announcing the killing of al-Qaida leader and 9/11 attack mastermind Osama bin Laden, top administration officials remembered those killed in the attacks with ceremonies today at ground zero in New York City and at the Pentagon here.

"What happened on Sunday -- because of the courage of our military and the outstanding work of our intelligence -- sent a message around the world, but also sent a message here back home that when we say we will never forget, we mean what we say -- that our commitment to making sure that justice is done is something that transcended politics, transcended party," President Barack Obama said at ground zero.

"It didn't matter which administration was in, it didn't matter who was in charge; we were going to make sure that the perpetrators of that horrible act -- that they received justice," the president said.

Vice President Joe Biden and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates led a tribute at the Pentagon Memorial with a wreath laying ceremony.

Biden, with Gates and about 100

other guests looking on, placed a large, white floral wreath -- made mostly of white lilies and carnations interspersed with red, white and blue ribbons -- on a metal stand directly in front of a stone on the western wing of the Pentagon, near the site where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the defense department's headquarters.

### Committee Picks Giunta to Light Warrior Games Torch

*U.S. Olympic Committee News*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., — Medal of Honor recipient Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta will light the torch to start this year's Warrior Games at the U.S. Olympic Training Center here May 16, officials of U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, announced today.

Deloitte, an international accounting and consulting firm, is sponsoring this year's competition, which runs May 16-21 and will bring together more than 200 wounded, ill and injured service members from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and special operations forces to compete in seven sports.

"I'm really excited that I was asked to do this," Giunta said. "It's truly an honor for me to kick off such an amazing competition with so many amazing people."

All of the competitors have faced adversity in some shape or form, and the fact that they have overcome it to not only compete at this event, but live full, quality lives, is awesome."



