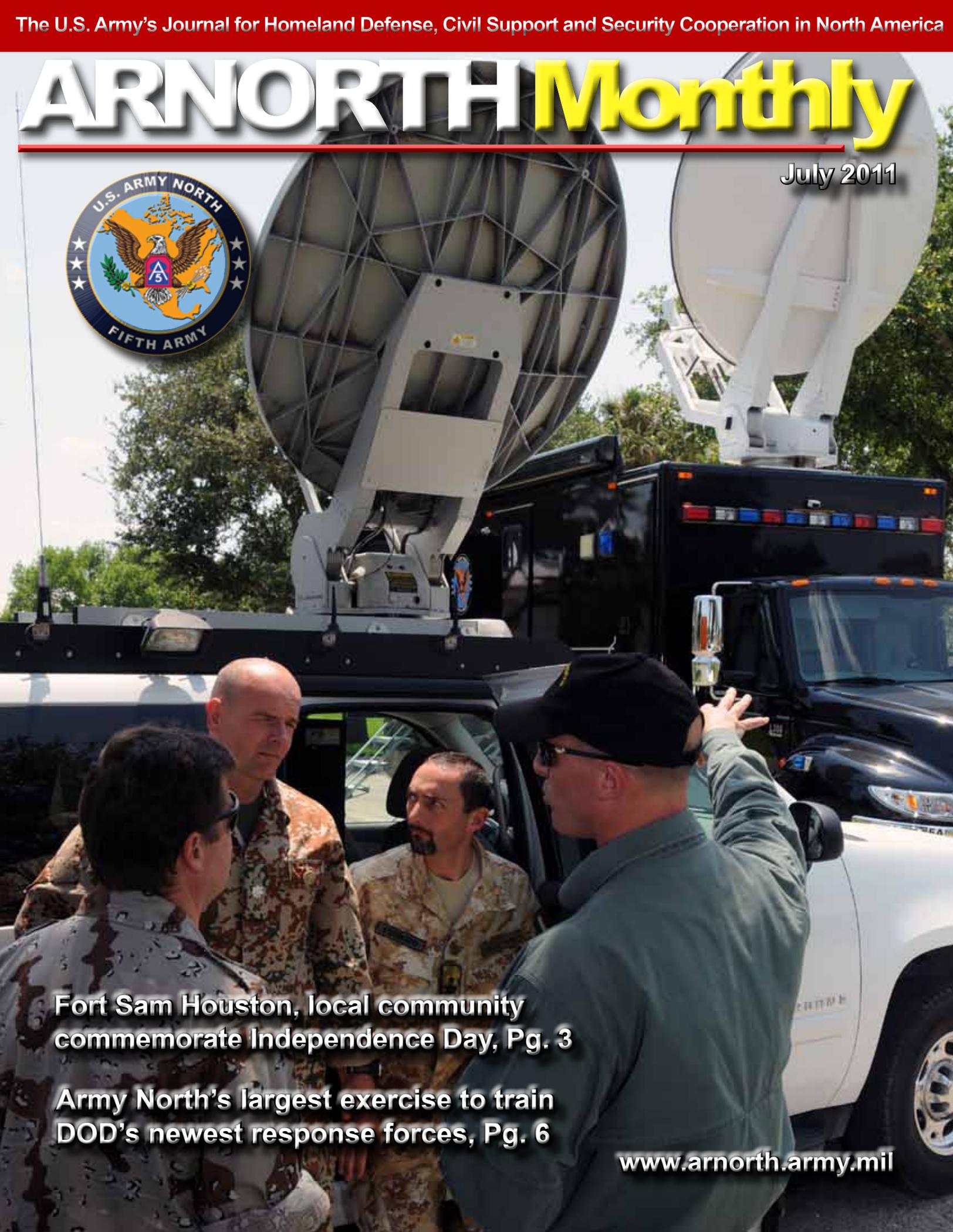


ARNORTH Monthly

July 2011



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Front Cover: FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Matt Hopper, telecommunications specialist, U.S. Army North, explains the functions and capabilities of Army North's emergency response vehicles to military officers from Spain, Denmark and Italy, during a June 8 briefing and walking tour of Army North. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO)

Back Cover: FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — First Sgt. Eric Espino assumes responsibility for Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, during a change of responsibility ceremony in the Quadrangle June 29. Espino assumed responsibility from Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bernard. (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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Fort Sam Houston, local community commemorate Independence Day

Army North PAO

Photos by Col. Wayne Shanks, Army North PAO



FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — **TOP:** A member of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution shows a copy of the Declaration of Independence to a few children during the Fort Sam Houston "Salute to the Nation" celebration at the post's parade field July 4 to commemorate Independence Day. **RIGHT:** Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general of U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, speaks with the gathered Fort Sam Houston and San Antonio communities as they gathered together at the post's parade field July 4 to commemorate Independence Day. **BOTTOM:** Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Support Activity, Fort Sam Houston, fire an M8, 75 mm Pack Howitzer during the post's "Salute to the Nation" celebration at the post's parade field July 4 to commemorate Independence Day. A salute round was fired to recognize each of the 50 states.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Pool time

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Capt. Michelle Martinez, commander, Operations Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, and her daughter, Mikaela, say hello to friends June 21 at the Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center during a battalion Family Readiness Group event.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Farewell

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (right), commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, presents the Legion of Merit to Col. Quill Ferguson, G6, Army North, at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club June 30 as part of Ferguson's retirement after 30 years of military service. Ferguson, who began working at Army North in 2007, said he was going to take some time off before possibly pursuing another career.

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ARNORTH welcomes

Col. ROBERTAKE, PMO
 Col. SCOTTARNOLD, SJA
 Col. MATHEW BRADY, G3
 Col. KEITH JOHNSON, SURG
 Lt. Col. JOHN HALE, G5
 Maj. DANIEL WELSH, G3
 Maj. HAROLD MONTOYA, G6
 Maj. JASON MANN, SURG
 Maj. CARL HILL, SJA
 Maj. JOSHUA KESSLER, CCP
 Maj. MICHAEL GRISSOM, RGN VI
 Maj. BRAD MARTIN, CG
 Capt. JASON REED, RGN X
 Master Sgt.
 GLORENA RUSSELL, SGS
 Sgt. 1st Class BRENTON YORK, CCP
 Sgt. CANDY GREER, G3
 Spc. NEKEISHA WALKER, OPS

ARNORTH says goodbye

Col. CRISTOPHER FULTON, RGN V
 Col. TYLER HARDER, SJA
 Col. GARY STANLEY, RGN I
 Col. JOEL WILLIAMS, JOEL, G1
 Lt. Col. DAVID BRIDGES, RGN VII
 Lt. Col. MICHAEL HARVEY, G3/5/7
 Lt. Col. RANDY MARTIN, PAO
 Lt. Col. ALBERTO RIVERA, RGN IV
 Maj. JOHN DEPEW, RGN VII
 Maj. FREDERICK DUFAULT, OCG
 Maj. JOSHUA MUNCH, PMO
 Maj. JOHN THYNG, G4
 Maj. JOHN TURNER, OCG
 Maj. TROY WALLACE, SJA
 Maj. ROBERT RUPE, G2

Fort Sam Houston honors retirees



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Families, friends and loved ones say farewell to Col. William Kirk, Brooke Army Medical Center; Col. Kelly Wolgast, U.S. Army Medical Command; Lt. Col. Kerry Reyna, 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command; Lt. Col. Arthur Hobbs, U.S. Army North; Chris Comeaux, U.S. Army North; 1st Sgt. Juan Serra, Company E, Defense Language Institute, English Language Center, Lackland Air Force Base; Master Sgt. Antwan Nicholson, BAMC; Master Sgt. Ramon Gomez, Army North; Sgt. 1st Class Theresa Galbreth, 14th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Benning, Ga.; and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Jones, U.S. Army South, during the installation retirement ceremony at Army North's historic Quadrangle June 30.

HHBn Soldiers commemorate Memorial Day with battalion run

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Soldiers from Operations Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, sing cadence during a battalion run on June 30 in honor of the Independence Day holiday. Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins (blue shirt), deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, runs alongside the formation.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

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Army North's largest exercise to train DOD's newest response forces

Story and photos by
Patti Bielling
Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — U.S. Army North's largest disaster response exercise is one step closer to reality as the final Vibrant Response 12 and 12A planning conference wrapped up June 23 at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

The conference was the last chance for exercise planners to assemble as they put the finishing touches on the event, scheduled for Aug. 16-28 at various venues in southern Indiana and northern Kentucky.

The exercise will be the fourth field training event in the Vibrant Response series, which trains federal military forces on their role in supporting civilian consequence managers in responding to catastrophic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear – or CBRN – incidents. The event will be the first confirmation exercise for the 5,200-person Defense CBRN Response Force.

They are among the more than 7,000 active and reserve Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians who will train in the exercise.

The DCRF replaces the 4,500-person CBRN Consequence Management Response Force and is designed to bring even more life-saving capability to an incident faster. Each iteration of the exercise presents new and more complex challenges for the training units, said Paul Condon, Army North's lead Vibrant Response exercise



Maj. Chris Campbell, U.S. Army North, prepares to brief the C2CRE-A (Command and Control Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Element-A) concept of support for Vibrant Response 12 and 12A field training exercise to be conducted in August.

planner.

"We have forged a strong training partnership with the Indiana National Guard and the people who run Camp Atterbury and Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex," Condon said. "We've worked with them to add several new venues at both Camp Atterbury and Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex in order to accommodate the larger DCRF."

The exercise also provides excellent training opportunities for other DOD units and external agencies involved in disaster response, Condon said.

These organizations include the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Army's 9th Area Medical Laboratory, the Fort Knox Fire Department, and National Guard elements from Indiana, California, West Virginia,

Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota.

Even Verizon Wireless will participate, said Clark Wigley, Army North joint exercise planner.

The wireless company often deploys cell phone towers and other equipment into disaster areas to enable emergency communications.

"Verizon will be using Vibrant Response to train their crews to repair equipment in a contaminated environment," Wigley said. "They also are providing some of their mock equipment for the military to transport."

The DCRF and C2CRE will assume their mission Oct. 1 as federal military initial CBRN response forces designed to provide search and rescue, decontamination, medical, aviation, communications and logistical support.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Foreign officers visit

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Foreign liaison officers from Japan, Singapore, Brazil, Israel, Czech Republic, Spain, Denmark and Italy visit Army North's historic Quadrangle June 8 to learn about the unit's homeland defense, civil support and theater security cooperation missions and to see firsthand some of the specialized equipment the unit uses. The FLOs spent a week June 6-10 visiting different Army commands to see how the Army is building partnership capacity; they visited III Corps at Fort Hood; U.S. Army North and U.S. Army South at Fort Sam Houston; and U.S. Special Operations Command and U.S. Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Good Bye

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, awards The Legion of Merit to Col. Joel Williams, Army North G-1, for his outstanding service during his tour. The LOM has the motto taken from the Great Seal of the United States "Annuit Coeptis," meaning, "He [God] has favored our undertakings," and the date MDCCLXXXII, or 1782, which is the date of America's first decoration, the Purple Heart.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres, Army North PAO

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- Avoid direct exposure as much as possible during peak UV radiation hours
- Apply sunscreen properly

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Army North honors WWII prisoner of war

Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO

RIGHT: Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, presents the Purple Heart Medal to retired U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ray Johnson Jr. June 2 on behalf of his father, Tech. Sgt. Ray Johnson, who died during WWII.

Johnson Jr. was seven years old when his father Ray died in the Japanese prison camp Cabanatuan in 1942.

Swan told attendees at the Purple Heart ceremony about Ray's courage surviving the infamous Bataan Death March before he arrived at the camp.

"If you fell behind, or fell out of the ranks, or resisted in any way, you were either beaten with clubs or rifle butts, bayoneted or shot," Swan said.

Johnson Jr. said that survivors of Cabanatuan eventually visited his family and told him how his father died.

"My father died of dysentery, malaria and starvation," he said.

Leaders at Army North and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Alamo Chapter 1836, worked to ensure Johnson received the honor he deserved.

"It's been fantastic; I've had a lot of help," said Johnson Jr. "It's been 69 years, but we got it done."



BOTTOM RIGHT: Sgt. 1st Class Frank Ho, U.S. Army North (bottom right), and others from Army North and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Alamo Chapter 1836, watch as Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, presents the Purple Heart Medal to retired U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ray Johnson Jr. June 2 on behalf of his father, Tech. Sgt. Ray Johnson, who died during WWII. After the ceremony, well-wishers congratulated Johnson and took him on a brief tour of the Quadrangle.



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Air and Missile Defense Battalion supports Border Patrol in Arizona detect illicit drugs

Story and photos by
Armando Carrasco
JTF-N PAO

FORT BLISS, Texas — Detecting and responding to low flying aircraft used by transnational criminal organizations to transport illicit drugs across the U.S. – Mexico border is critical to the accomplishment of the U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector’s homeland security mission.

During a recently completed training mission conducted in Southern Arizona by the Soldiers of Battery E., 4th Battalion, 5th Air and Missile Defense Regiment, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, the U.S. Border Patrol’s efforts to curtail the illegal activity was greatly enhanced with the support of the unit’s Sentinel radar and Avenger air defense systems.

The Military Support to Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies mission, based on a request for the Department of Defense assistance submitted by the U.S. Border Patrol, was coordinated by Joint Task Force — North. As an element of U.S. Northern Command, JTF-N solicits volunteer active duty and reserve component units and personnel from all four DoD branches to perform military support operations requested by the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security agencies.

“During the mission, 4-5 AMD Soldiers employed their Sentinel radars, along with the visual surveillance capabilities of their Avenger air defense systems, nested with U.S. Border



Pvt. Adam Reardon, an Air Defense Tactical Operations Center enhanced operator-maintainer, prepares to employ a 4th Battalion, 5th Air and Missile Defense Regiment, Sentinel radar. The air defense system enhanced the U.S. Border Patrol’s efforts to detect and respond to suspected low flying aircraft used by transnational criminal organizations to transport illicit drugs across the U.S. – Mexico border in Southern Arizona.

Patrol surveillance systems, the Western Air Defense System, and Air Marine Operation Center, to identify and report the suspected illegal border crossings of low-flying aircraft to agents patrolling the Arizona – Sonora, Mexico border area,” said Lt. Col. John Stahl, chief of JTF-N’s Southwest Regional Support Team.

“The air defense support increased the Border Patrol’s ability to secure the homeland and provided the unit with a tremendous opportunity to train on their mission-essential tasks against a real adversary — the transnational criminal organizations,” said Stahl.

In accordance with the Posse Comitatus Act, military personnel on JTF-N missions operate strictly in a support capacity. They cannot search, seize, detain, make arrests,

nor assume law enforcement roles.

The Soldiers of the “Renegade Battalion” limited their support activities to reporting the detected aircraft suspected of illegally entering U.S. airspace.

“The Border Patrol is always striving to find new ways to detect and interdict smugglers from entering the U.S.

“The (supporting) Soldiers serve as a force multiplier contributing to a better managed border by providing intelligence analysis and immediate support to our mission,” said Randy Hill, chief Tucson Sector Border Patrol.

“The Soldiers’ presence allows our agents to respond more rapidly to any detected crossings thereby increasing our effectiveness,” said Hill.

JTF-N missions provide the volunteer units with unique real-

world training opportunities that allow them to train on over 90 percent of the mission-essential tasks – their wartime military duties.

The task force support missions also allow the units to operate in civilian law enforcement interagency environments at the federal, state, and local levels.

“The opportunity to deploy our Sentinel and Avenger capabilities in this capacity facilitated for unparalleled training value. Executing daily emplacement of our organic equipment throughout the border region allowed us to focus on our core competencies as short range air defenders, while simultaneously offering enhanced situational awareness to the U.S. Border Patrol in tracking transnational threats,” said Capt. Jonathan Hendershott, E/4-5 AMD battery commander.



Pfc. Michael Yaeklis, an Air Defense Tactical Operations Center enhanced operator-maintainer, works inside a Sentinel radar air defense control center, and conducts preliminary communications during a homeland security support mission executed in support of the U.S. Border Patrol.



Pfc. Ronnie Thompson, an Air and Missile Defense crewmember, conducts a systems check of an Avenger weapon system. The Avenger system was used in conjunction with Sentinel radars to detect aircraft attempting to illegally enter U.S. airspace along the U.S. – Mexico border in Arizona.

In coordination with the JTF-N mission planners and the U.S. Border Patrol military support coordinators, E/4-5 AMD planned the entire support operation and executed a complete unit deployment, mission execution, and redeployment.

The Southwest border mission allowed the unit to train in an arid desert environment that is similar to what they would encounter during a deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Prior to their movement from Fort Hood to Arizona, all supporting personnel completed the JTF-N required pre-mission training.

Upon arrival at their mission site, they also received a series of mandatory mission startup briefings prior to the start of the support

operations.

The briefings included legal authorities training, which outlined what the Soldiers could and could not do during the mission.

“Working in conjunction with the United States Border Patrol and sharing the operational procedures of both agencies was definitely beneficial to the professional development for all parties involved,” said Sgt. Jason Fields, avenger team chief, E/4-5 AMD.

The interagency support mission was a total “win-win situation” – the U.S. Border Patrol received high technology support that helped them to detect and interdict illegal aircraft border crossings and the 4-5 AMD Soldiers netted real-world training opportunities that will help prepare them for future deployments.

Soldiers and civilians in Army North get SHARP

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Soldiers and civilians at U.S. Army North took part in the Army's new Sexual Harassment/Assault Prevention and Response Program training June 27-July 1.

The training was part of an Armywide initiative to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault.

All Army personnel must have the new training by Sept. 30; the training combines and replaces all unit sexual assault prevention and response and prevention of sexual harassment annual training.

"With this initiative, the goal of the Army is to eliminate sexual

harassment, which hopefully, will eliminate the chance of sexual assault happening," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Berry, SHARP program manager, Army North.

"In the past, the sexual harassment and training was conducted through Equal Opportunity channels; but now, it is being moved under the SHARP program together with sexual assault because the Army has realized that the two play hand in hand with each other," Berry said.

The new training is presented through realistic scenario videos and helps to bring better awareness — and it's more effective, said Sgt. 1st Class David Friese, equal opportunity advisor, Army North.

"There is no tolerance for sexual harassment or sexual assault in the

U.S. Army," said Friese.

"SHARP training reinforces the Army policy and also the Army's commitment to protecting victims of sexual harassment and assault."

The training shows that inappropriate comments and behaviors may be a precursor to sexual assault, added Berry.

"What I hope people take away from this training is that they understand that sexual harassment is wrong and can lead to sexual assault," he said.

"By providing this training, Army North personnel will be aware of what the indicators and behaviors are of sexual harassment and sexual assault and eliminate it from the workplace as well as in their personal lives."

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Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention

INTERVENE
When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT
You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE
We are American Soldiers. **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest...together.

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Sexual Assault:

Sexual Assault is a crime defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling) or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim. "Consent" will not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force or coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated or unconscious.

Unrestricted Reporting:

Unrestricted Reporting allows a Soldier who is sexually assaulted to seek medical treatment, counseling and an official investigation of his/her allegation through current reporting channels (e.g. chain of command or law enforcement), or he/she may report the incident to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator or on-call victim advocate.

Restricted Reporting:

Restricted Reporting allows a Soldier who is sexually assaulted to confidentially disclose the details of his/her assault to specifically identified individuals (SARC, victim advocate, healthcare provider or chaplain) and receive medical treatment and counseling, without triggering the official investigative process.

"Sexual assault is a crime that cannot and will not be tolerated in the United States Army. It has a devastating and often lasting impact on the victim, a fellow Soldier. Moreover, sexual assault tears at the moral fiber of our unit formations, degrading our readiness."
GEN George W. Casay Jr.
Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army

BASIC FACTS ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

- Most victims know their offenders before an assault occurs.
- Most assaults involve mind or mood altering substances (i.e. drugs and alcohol).
- Most alleged and confirmed **victims** are junior enlisted Soldiers.
 - Over half of military victims are 20-24 year old females and PVT-SPC.
- The majority of alleged and convicted **offenders** are junior enlisted Soldiers and NCOs.
 - Over half of Army offenders are 20-24 year old males and PVT-SPC.
- Most of the reported assaults investigated by the Army occur on a military installation.

HOW CAN I ENSURE I DO NOT BECOME A SEX OFFENDER?

- To reduce the risk of you or a buddy committing and/or being accused of sexual assault:
- Practice the Army Values.
 - Don't abuse your authority and ensure proper boundaries are maintained.
 - Ensure that partners are of legal age and consent to sexual activity.
 - If someone is passed out, unconscious, asleep or under age, they are not legally able to give their consent.
 - Communicate with potential partners. Misunderstandings, especially between people who may not know each other very well, can lead to dangerous and career-threatening situations.
 - Make sure that you and your buddies avoid using drugs or excessive alcohol. People under the influence of alcohol or drugs not only act impulsively, they often have different memories of how events occur.
 - Educate each other about sexual assault by routinely talking about issues such as rape and assault. Clear up any misconceptions or misunderstandings about the issues.
 - Do not condone sexually inappropriate or offensive jokes.
 - Remember, "No" means "No!" If you are not sure how your partner feels about your actions, just ask.

HOW CAN I ENHANCE MY SAFETY?

- If you are in an uncomfortable situation, get to a safe place immediately.
- If you feel you are in danger, attract help any way you can.
- Walk in lighted areas after dark.
- Do not drink to excess or use drugs. If you do drink when you are out:
 - Never accept drinks from anyone other than trusted friends.
 - Open drink containers yourself.
 - Never leave your drink unattended.
- Have your keys ready before you reach your destination.
- Keep the doors to home, barracks room and car locked.
- Remember, most victims are acquainted with their offender, so ensure proper boundaries are maintained.
- Report inappropriate behavior immediately.

HOW CAN I BE MORE AWARE OF POTENTIAL DANGER?

- Empower yourself with knowledge.
 - Understand the dynamics and issues involved in sexual assault.
 - Stay alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Trust your instincts; if a person or place feels unsafe, it probably is.
- Be aware of how "date rape drugs" are used in conjunction with alcohol.
- Be on guard if the person you are with:
 - Ignores, interrupts or makes fun of you.
 - Sits or stands too close to your "personal space."
 - Drinks excessively or uses drugs; tries to get you to drink or use drugs.
 - Pressures you to leave a social situation so that you can be alone.

All leaders—military and Army Civilian—must maintain an environment that rejects attitudes and behaviors that promotes sexual assault, and ensure that each individual understands their role in combating this crime.

Be Proactive!

- Don't wait until something happens! Stay informed and educated on the impact that a sexual assault has on the individual, the unit and the mission.
- Participate in annual sexual assault training. Soldiers must understand what sexual assault is, how to recognize, prevent, and report it, and the consequences of engaging in these behaviors.
- If you are in a foreign country, know their social norms and 911 equivalent.

Be Assertive!

- If someone pressures you to do anything you don't want to do, say "NO!"
 - Match your body language to your words. Don't laugh or smile.
- If the predator continues to advance, try to escape or get someone else's attention by making a lot of noise, blowing a whistle or flashing lights.
- If all else fails, fight back by kicking, scratching and biting, but **ONLY** if you feel you can do so without putting yourself at heightened risk.

Be Safe – Be Smart!

- Travel with a buddy. Offenders are less likely to attack a group of people.
- If you do have to go out alone, let your chain of command know when and where you plan to arrive, so they know when to expect you.
- Walk confidently. Potential offenders look for passivity and low self esteem.
- Stay physically fit. This will enable you to fight an offender, if necessary.



DCE region VII integrates new team member

Story and photo by
Lt. Col. Dave Bridges
Deputy DCO, RG VII

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The addition of a regional desk officer position has benefited the U.S. Army North Region VII Defense Coordinating Element, the “Pioneer Team.”

Mark McClintock has become an integral part with his addition to the team as a regional desk officer in late 2010.

Since the creation of the ten fulltime defense coordinating elements across the nation the DCEs have undergone several changes in equipment and staffing. The latest change in team structure is the addition of a regional desk officer at U.S. Northern Command for each region.

As originally formed in 2006, the regions consisted of six permanent core positions – a Defense Coordinating Officer, a deputy DCO, an operations officer, a communications noncommissioned officer, and two Department of the Army Civilians. In 2007, the teams expanded to seven with the addition of an operations noncommissioned officer. By 2010, the teams expanded again by adding an IT specialist and a logistics management NCO.

“Pre-disaster communications among the DCE teams, Army North and USNORTHCOM staffs are essential to the planning process,” said Col. John Moore, Region VII defense coordinating officer. “The RDO is crucial in facilitating that communication.”

During the process of a DCE monitoring and sharing information, Army North and NORTHCOM have



LINCOLN, Neb. — U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Daryl Bohac, assistant adjutant general for Air Operations, Nebraska National Guard, discusses disaster response operations planning with Mark McClintock, regional desk officer, Region VII Defense Coordinating Element, in the Nebraska Joint Force Headquarters in Lincoln, Neb., March 24.

a need for state specific information that helps with their pre-disaster planning. Moore added that it is in the pre-disaster timeframe that the DCE can be the busiest, and what the team needs is simplified reporting lines of communication and a reduction in the number of parties making requests for information.



Simply put, the RDO is the NORTHCOM commander’s subject matter expert for a given region. DCE VII’s RDO McClintock occupies his desk at NORTHCOM headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo.

He is expected to, “establish close working relationships with the DCE in order to develop an in-depth

understanding of the civilian and military operating environments,” said Admiral James Winnefeld, Jr., NORTHCOM Commander.

Moore noted that performing those duties reduces the RFI process to DCE VII in two ways. First, he lowers the number of phone calls and emails coming from assorted NORTHCOM staff to the DCE down to a central point of contact. Secondly, it eliminates many of those requests from being made. The RDO, as a regional expert, answers many state-specific questions in a timely manner within NORTHCOM and without as much as a phone call to the operations section. In addition, the process simplifies who the team contacts at NORTHCOM for questions.

During his initial meetings in Kansas City, McClintock visited the team, introduced himself, gathered disaster planning documents, met Region 7 Federal Emergency Management Agency partners and

attended a quarterly FEMA Regional Interagency Steering Committee meeting. Subsequently, the DCO and McClintock decided on a two-phase visit plan to cover Region 7 states.

Phase One covered Iowa and Nebraska with the deputy DCO accompanying him. In each state the deputy helped introduce McClintock to the National Guard and emergency manager planning staffs in each

state’s joint force headquarters.

From that point McClintock briefed his responsibilities, answered questions, and gathered specific state response information. His military service was an asset in his dialogue with the specific planners.

Visits to Kansas and Missouri were made with Lt. Col. Terry Rodesky, operations officer, Region VII DCE.

When the Pioneer Team learned

of the RDO concept late last year, Moore said it was obvious that it would be a win-win situation for the team and an asset to operations and regional partners. Through several recent disasters, to include major tornadoes and on-going flooding, the RDO proved his value to the field by sharing information, streamlining requests for information and other operations.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Change of Responsibility

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bernard, outgoing first sergeant, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, passes the company guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Fields, HHBn, who then passed it on to 1st Sgt. Eric Espino, incoming first sergeant, HSC “Headhunters,” during a change of responsibility ceremony at Army North’s historic Quadrangle June 29. The passing of the guidon signifies the change of responsibility in the headquarters company of more than 80 Soldiers and 200 civilians. “The respect and support that I was given from all the Soldiers and civilians was outstanding, and I worked to the best of my abilities to ensure that everyone in the company was treated equally and received the respect and support that our team members deserve,” said Bernard. “I will miss being able to serve as the company first sergeant.”

News

Farewell message from Secretary Gates

Department of Defense

WASHINGTON — To the Men and Women of the United States Armed Forces: Tomorrow, 30 June 2011, I will retire as Secretary of Defense.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve and to lead you for the past four and a half years. All of that time we have been engaged in two wars and countless other operations.

It has been a difficult time for you and for your families, from long and repeated deployments for those in all four services and the associated long separations from loved ones to the anguish of those of you who have lost friends and family in combat or those of you who have suffered visible and invisible wounds of war yourselves.

But your dedication, courage and skill have kept America safe even while bringing the war in Iraq to a successful conclusion and, I believe, at last turning the tide in Afghanistan.

Your countrymen owe you their freedom and their security.

They sleep safely at night and pursue their dreams during the day because you stand the watch and protect them.

For four and a half years, I have signed the orders deploying you, all too often into harm's way. This has weighed on me every day.

I have known about and felt your hardship, your difficulties, your sacrifice more than you can possibly imagine.

I have felt personally responsible for each of you, and so I have

tried to do all I could to provide whatever was needed so you could complete your missions successfully and come home safely and, if hurt, get the fastest and best care in the world.

You are the best that America has to offer.

My admiration and affection for you is without limit, and I will think about you and your families and pray for you every day for the rest of my life. God bless you.

Panetta makes Independence Day calls to deployed service members

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Six forward-deployed U.S. service members began their Fourth of July morning with telephone calls from Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta. Panetta, sworn in as the nation's 23rd Secretary of Defense July 1.

Panetta reached out to convey his thanks and support for their service, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Doug Wilson said.

The defense secretary spoke by phone with service members deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Bahrain, Wilson said.

"They represent America's men and women in uniform who are away from their families on this July 4 weekend," Wilson added, noting that they "come from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and the Army National Guard."

Panetta told each service member how proud he was of their service and emphasized to each his commitment to fight for them and

their families as they are fighting for their country, Wilson said.

"He told each that he looks forward to meeting them during his travels as secretary," Wilson added.

The names, home towns and locations where they are serving are as follows:

U.S. Army Spc. Darwin Siquig is serving in Afghanistan and is from Kahuku, Hawaii.

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Shain Frazier Jr. is serving in Afghanistan and is from San Diego, Calif.

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Frankie Lizcano is serving in Afghanistan and is from San Antonio.

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Jay D'Amico is serving in Afghanistan. He is originally from Joliet, Ill., and now lives in Surprise, Ariz.

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Brandon Frawley is serving in Bahrain. He is originally from Augusta, Ga., and he and his family now live in Newport, N.C.

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Kelly Ann Pels is serving in Iraq. She is from Clermont County, Ohio.

Petraeus confirmed as CIA director

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Senate confirmed Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, currently the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, as the next director of the CIA.

Petraeus will replace Leon E. Panetta, former CIA director, who took office today as secretary of defense.

During his confirmation hearing June 23, Petraeus said some

observers have questioned whether his previous involvement in Afghanistan and other endeavors will color the agency's analysis of those efforts.

"Let me reassure you on this issue," he said. "Clearly, I have views on the efforts in which I've been engaged. I've shared them in the past with the agency's analysts, and I'll do so in the future."

"However, if confirmed, when I am in the situation room with the president, I will strive to present the agency position," he said. "I will also remain keenly aware that I am the leader of an intelligence agency, not a policymaker."

According to a spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Petraeus will turn over command July 18.

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John R. Allen has been nominated for promotion to general and appointment as Petraeus' successor.

Petraeus will retire from the Army on Aug. 31 and assume his new duties as central intelligence director Sept. 6, the spokesman said.

FEMA authorizes Federal funds to help battle fire

Army News Service

ATLANTA, Ga. — The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has authorized federal funds to reimburse costs to North Carolina to fight the Simmons Road Fire burning in Bladen and Cumberland counties.

This authorization makes FEMA funding available to reimburse 75 percent of the eligible firefighting

costs under an approved grant for managing, mitigating and controlling the fire.

Eligible costs can include equipment and supplies (less insurance proceeds) and costs for emergency work such as evacuations and sheltering, police barricading and traffic control.

"FEMA approved this grant to make sure that North Carolina has the financial support it needs to fight these fires and save lives, structures and property," said FEMA Regional Administrator Phil May.

"Meanwhile, our thoughts and prayers go out to families who've been affected."

The state's request was approved on July 4.

The fire started on June 20, and has burned in excess of 5,100 acres of state and private land.

At the time of the request, the fire was threatening more than 300 homes in the Roseboro community, with a population of more than 1,200.

Mandatory evacuations are taking place for approximately 40 homes.

The fire was not contained when the request was submitted.

Federal fire management assistance is provided through the President's Disaster Relief Fund and made available by FEMA to assist in fighting fires that threaten to cause a major disaster.

\$4.6 million Army grant will fund infectious disease research at UTSA

UTSA press release

SAN ANTONIO — The South Texas Center for Emerging Infec-

tious Diseases at The University of Texas at San Antonio announced June 13 it will receive \$4.6 million over the next five years from the U.S. Department of Defense's Army Research Office.

The grant is to establish a Center of Excellence in Infection Genomics (CEIG) to support microbiology research, teaching and outreach activities aligned with Army priorities.

Infection genomics is the scientific discipline in which biologists characterize functional properties of the entire genome of infectious organisms.

"This new center is a winning proposition for both UTSA and the military," said Bernard Arulnandam, UTSA's Jane and Roland Blumberg Professor in Biology and associate dean of research for scientific innovation in the UTSA College of Sciences.

"UTSA researchers will study infectious organisms that threaten the Army here and abroad and develop technology to translate that research into practical solutions for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases. All the while, we will train students to become great microbiologists for the Department of Defense."

UTSA's CEIG will focus on four core areas of expertise: the genomics of intestinal and respiratory pathogens; the biochemistry and molecular biology of vector-borne pathogens; the immunopathogenesis of fungal infections and anti-fungal drug development; and vaccine development.

The Center's researchers will collaborate with experts at UT's Health Science Center at San Antonio and the Brooke Army Medical Center, a premier Army hospital and level I trauma center.

