

ARNORTH Monthly

September 2011



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Front Cover: JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND, Ind. — Soldiers from the 546th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade, begin their mission to bring food and water to "distressed civilians" Aug. 21 after being dropped off from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. The Fort Stewart, Ga.-based military policemen provided medical care and relief supplies to civilians as part of the field training exercise Vibrant Response 12. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO)

Back Cover: MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — Sgt. Matthew Frohnafel, survey team member, 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction – Civil Support Team, a unit from the Michigan National Guard, based out of the Augusta Armory at Fort Custer, Mich., inspects a subway car for chemical agents Aug. 17 during Vibrant Response 12, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North from Aug. 16-28. (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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As we remember 9/11, let's recommit to 3 hallowed words: Duty, Honor, Country

By Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III

Commanding General, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston



Duty. Honor. Country. "Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you will be, what you can be, what you ought to be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, and to create hope when hope becomes forlorn." Gen. Douglas MacArthur delivered

those words 49 years ago to the cadets at West Point.

And 10 years ago today, all Americans learned the meaning of those words when we were attacked here at home.

While first responders, flight attendants, doctors, Soldiers, Airmen and average citizens came together to help their fellow Americans, still 2,996 died that day, and in the decades since, 6,229 Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight against ruthless terrorists that wish to do harm to our great nation.

Today we're here to honor all of those who have fallen, the victims of that cowardly attack, as well as the men and women of our armed forces who have borne the heaviest

burden among us to ensure that those lost on that day in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania did not die in vain.

Few know the meaning of sacrifice better than those servicemen and women who serve proudly alongside the courageous first responders who protect us here in our hometowns.

Like you, I continue to be amazed that after all we have experienced in the past ten years, our resolve and resilience as a nation remains strong. This community of San Antonio – this military city – understands better than most the need to press on, to persevere and to never forget the sacrifices that have been made on our behalf.

We remain engaged in an era of seemingly persistent conflict that will continue to challenge our resolve, and that is why commemorations like this one serve as important reminders that freedom is, indeed, not free. It must be protected, defended and appreciated every day – both at home as well as in distant theaters.

So as we take time to remember those who died on September 11, 2001, and all who have given their last full measure of devotion here since, let us use this time in front of this monument of liberty to recommit ourselves to preserving the freedoms that they can no longer enjoy, and let us renew our commitment to those three hallowed words: Duty, Honor, Country.



Always remember

SAN ANTONIO — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, honors those who have fallen during 9/11 and in operations since the attacks during a tenth anniversary commemoration at the Alamo Plaza. The event included a moment of silence for each of the four flights that crashed on Sept. 11. Members of the San Antonio Police Honor Guard fired a 21-gun salute for the fallen.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Feedback

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — Paul Condon, Exercise Control Forward deputy director, U.S. Army North, provides feedback to unit leaders after a training mission to evacuate “patients” from a nursing home Aug. 19. Soldiers from the 501st Area Support Medical Company, 86th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Campbell, Ky., and the 66th Military Police Company, 504th MP Battalion, 42nd MP Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., evacuated patients from a nursing home as part of Vibrant Response 12, an annual U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Good hands

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — Lt. Col. Gary Coffey, chaplain, West Virginia Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package, holds a simulated “infant” rescued from a collapsed parking garage Aug. 18. The West Virginia CERFP rescued casualties from the collapsed garage.

ARNORTH welcomes

Col. Gregory Butts, RG IX DCO
 Col. Victoriano, Garcia, DCS, G4
 Col. William Hill III, DCS, G3/5/7
 Col. Robert Lee Jr., DCS, G3/5/7
 Col. Richard O'Connor II, RG VII DCO
 Col. Harry Termaat, OChap.
 Lt. Col. Shepard Gibson II, CCP
 Lt. Col. Charles Jackson, RG VII DCE
 Lt. Col. James Woods, CSTA
 Maj. Curtis Cole, DCS, G3/5/7
 Maj. Karern Dill, RG V DCE
 Maj. Peter Patterson, G3/5/7
 1st Lt. Sonia Villarreal, DCS, G3/5/7
 Warrant Officer Irving Harper,
 DCS, G3/5/7

Sgt. 1st Class Zinita Fraiser, DCS, G1
 Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Regler, DCS, G2
 Staff Sgt. Andrew Arocha, HHBN
 Staff Sgt. Martin Cantu, CCP
 Staff Sgt. Michael Graham, DCS, G1
 Staff Sgt. Lucas Hamrick, DCS, G3/5/7
 Staff Sgt. Kyle Teague, DCS, G3/5/7
 Staff Sgt. David Williams, DCS, G3/5/7
 Sgt. Elliott Moten, DCS, G3/5/7
 Spc. Jennifer Bautista, SURG,
 Spc. Kristabell Gomez, SGS
 Spc. Norma Torres, DCS, G3/5/7
 Karl Devlin, G8
 Martha Wilkins, DST

ARNORTH says goodbye

Col. Marc Hutson, RG VII DCO
 Col. Jon Lehr, RG VI DCO
 Maj. David Nelson, RG V DCE
 Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bernard, HSC HHBN
 Sgt. 1st Class Richard Martinez Jr, G2
 Eric Bodenhausen, CSTA
 Johnny Donald, G2
 Thomas Frankhouser, CSTA
 Robert Fruggiero, CSTA
 Edward Gardner, CSTA
 Bernard Nielsen, PMO
 Larry Ritter, CSTA
 Titus Rogers, CSTA
 Robert Stallion, CSTA
 Timothy Stampley, CSTA
 Roberto Stewart, G6
 Kenneth Whited, CSTA



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Recovery

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — Air National Guard Fatality Search and Recovery Team members collect a simulated casualty from a collapsed parking garage here Aug. 18 and load the casualty onto a sked as part of Vibrant Response 12. The participants shown are: (from left to right) Senior Airman Kevin Woodard, 123rd FSART, Ky. ANG; Tech. Sgt. Brittany Ingram, 123rd FSART, Ky. ANG; Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Feliciano, 156th FSART, PR ANG; and Staff Sgt. Jason Gallegos, 140th FSART, Colo. ANG.

RTO

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — Sgt. Zachariah Stroud, radio transmitter operator, Exercise Control Forward, U.S. Army North, relays the latest information to observer controller trainers in the field Aug. 19 during Vibrant Response 12. The exercise is part of Army North's mission to train the nation's federal military chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response capability. In the exercise scenario, members of the military's 5,200-person Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Force provide lifesaving and life-sustaining support after a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in Cincinnati.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Army North springs into action to provide requested support following Hurricane Irene

U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Army North's headquarters sprang into action Aug. 25 as Hurricane Irene closed in on the eastern coast of the United States. The command's operations center in the historic Quadrangle became a hub of activity as the Soldiers, along with their civilian partners, managed the mountain of information on the track of the storm.

This kicked off a flurry of activity as the command commenced issuing instructions to land-based forces preparing to respond in anticipation of requests for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency — the overall lead for the federal response effort for Hurricane Irene.

"It's ironic that we were in the middle of a major disaster response training exercise in Indiana at the time of the hurricane," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston. "However, we were able to reach out and quickly move our experts in Indiana and get them to where they were needed most — providing aid to our fellow Americans during their time of need."

The onset of the hurricane coincided with Vibrant Response 12, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North that kicked off Aug. 18 at Camp Atterbury, the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex, and other venues in Indiana. The exercise, which was in its final stages, focused on one of the most dangerous scenarios — responding to a nuclear attack.

Elements from Army North's Contingency Command Post and the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, which is based out of Fort McClellan, Ala., quickly moved from the exercise in Indiana to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey to



Photo by Randy Mitchell, Army North PAO

RALEIGH, N.C. — Col. Barrett Holmes, along with Michael Byrne, Glen Sachtleben and Capt. Chris Colbert, get a "bird's-eye" view of a washed out Highway 12 along the North Carolina coastline Aug. 28 as they soar above in a UH-60 helicopter to conduct an initial damage assessment of North Carolina. Holmes is the defense coordinating officer for U.S. Army North's Region IV Defense Coordinating Element. Byrne is a federal coordinating officer, and Sachtleben, an operations officer, both with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

receive federal troops responding to the disaster.

Army North quickly deployed nine of its 10 Defense Coordinating Elements, each led by a defense coordinating officer, to join with the FEMA Incident Management Teams across the northeastern U.S. The command also sent elements from the exercise in Indiana to augment the DCEs, which were fanned out from North Carolina, New York and Massachusetts, to FEMA's National Response Coordination Center in Washington D.C.

"The direction of the FEMA administrator, Craig Fugate, was for all agencies to lean forward and be ready," said Bill Donaher, a plans and operations officer with Army North's Region I DCE, about the advance preparation and the whole of the government effort. "Clearly they were — from the general population to the local governments and state governments and up to the federal partners."

The Army North military disaster response experts

were sent to advise both FEMA and state officials on federal military response capabilities.

“The ability of Region II DCE to move operations from Manhattan, N.Y., to relocate to Albany, N.Y., and be integrated into the Joint Field Office within 12 hours is a testament to the Department of Defense’s commitment to support our Federal partners and better serve the American people in their time of need,” said Navy Lt. Clemia Anderson III, joint regional medical planner, U.S. Northern Command. “Failure was not an option, and under the leadership of the Region II defense coordinating officer (Army North), the team refocused our efforts and came together to ensure that the relocation of the tactical operations center and main operations center was seamless to the Federal partners and the American people.”

In all, more than 6,500 active-duty service members have been on standby since Aug. 27, ready to assist potential states affected by Hurricane Irene. In New Jersey, nearly 100 troops from U.S. Army North and U.S. Northern Command provided command and control for military forces supporting efforts in the northeast.

“The states involved, and FEMA, tell us what they need and



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Asha Kin
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. – A Sentinel from Joint Task Force – 51, U.S. Army North, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, arrives here Aug. 28.

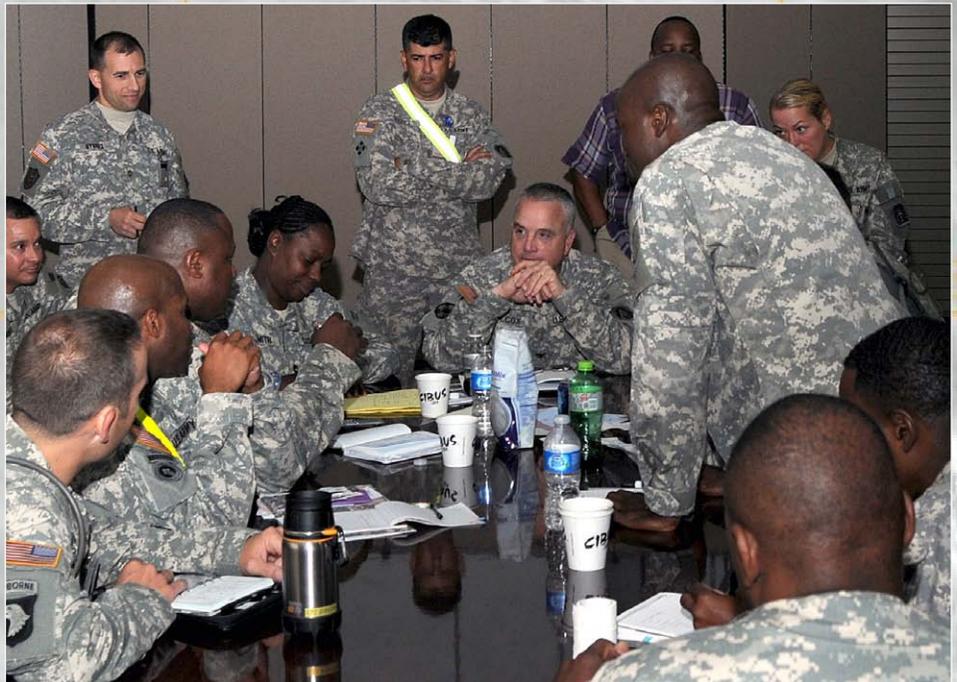


Photo by Sgt. Casey Collier, 22nd MPAD

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — Col. David Wilcox (center), the chief of staff for U.S. Army North’s Joint Task Force - 51, listens as his staff briefs him Aug. 26 as the team prepares for the imminent arrival of Hurricane Irene to the East Coast of the United States. The members of the contingency command post prepare to deploy forward to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., in anticipation of requests for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is the overall lead for the federal response effort for Hurricane Irene.

we provide it,” said Army Lt. Col. Kem Fleming, an operations officer with Army North.

Army North deployed two headquarters elements – Joint Task Force – 51, comprised of elements of the CCP, from Fort Sam Houston, and Joint Task Force – Civil Support from Fort Eustis, Va. – to help synchronize any federal response efforts. The states’ National Guard forces responded quickly as did the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to support the entire government’s response effort.

The teams worked throughout the weekend to identify potential DoD needs. Once identified, the command placed the appropriate forces on Prepare to Deploy Orders or pre-positioned the forces so as to provide for a rapid response if

called upon.

“In the DSCA mission, it is extremely important to be flexible. This allows the team to provide the required support where it is needed,” said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Bailey, operations noncommissioned officer, DCE, Region II, based out of New York City. “In the supporting role, the DCE has to be flexible to ensure that the people of the affected area receive timely support and materials.”

In the end, Hurricane Irene did not pack as much punch as originally expected, and the need for federal forces diminished. It was vital though, to ensure the support was there if needed.

“Working operations it’s very important to ‘set’ the region prior to an emergency,” said Sgt. 1st

see IRENE, Pg. 13

JTF-CS supports FEMA response efforts following Hurricane Irene

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

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Joint Task Force – Civil Support deployed 54 personnel and oversaw more than six hours of aerial surveillance missions as part of the federal response to Hurricane Irene, which wrought flooding and damage throughout the U.S. eastern seaboard.

JTF-CS managed two helicopters from the U.S. Army's Fort Stewart, Ga.-based Company A, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd infantry Division, that provided aerial transportation to nine representatives from both North Carolina response managers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The response was JTF-CS' first "real world" mission assignment since it was established in 1999.

The flights allowed emergency responders to obtain a bird's-eye view of the damage caused in the Outer Banks region following the storm. From the air, Federal and State officials were able to survey collapsed and flooded bridges, buildings and other damage.

"What we see is some pretty significant damage. ... We go through this to make sure we try to take care of those immediate things, but what follows is that we get on the ground, get into the neighborhoods and see if anyone needs our assistance," said Michael Byrne, FEMA's federal coordinating officer for Region IV

– which includes North Carolina – during an in-flight video interview posted on FEMA's website.

"We were essentially under a day and a half of tropical storm winds and almost a full day of hurricane-level winds," added Byrne.

"As a flight crew, we didn't know what to expect when we were flying over where Irene made landfall," said Army Capt. Chris Colbert, Company A's commander. "We were very pleased to see that the damage was less than reported and expected."

Byrne was one of the nine Federal and State emergency responders who surveyed damage in the Outer Banks region from the seats of the two UH-60 helicopters flown.

The Fort Eustis, Va.-based JTF-CS deployed to Roanoke, Va., originally as part of a "continuation of operations" plan, or "COOP," in anticipation of Irene. The "COOP" ensures mission continuity by moving enough people away from the area affected by the storm and then later continue the command's regular operations, if needed.

"We made preparations that we could continue operations in the case that Hurricane Irene displaced us from Fort Eustis," said Marine Col. Doug Schueler, deputy commander, JTF-CS.

"In the event (Fort Eustis) lost communication due to Irene, JTF-CS could still function in the event of a CBRN incident," said Gunnery Sgt. Juan Ospina, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of JTF-CS operations.



Photo courtesy of FEMA

A UH-60 helicopter from the U.S. Army's 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, based in Fort Stewart, Ga., is silhouetted against the horizon Aug. 28 while providing FEMA aerial surveillance transportation to North Carolina State and FEMA emergency managers who surveyed damage in the Outer Banks region following Hurricane Irene.

JTF-CS is not an all-hazards response force. Instead, the nearly 12-year-old military unit is designated to provide oversight of Department of Defense Title 10 forces responding to a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear – commonly referred to as "CBRN" – incident. When directed, JTF-CS commands and controls designated DoD forces to assist federal, state, local, and tribal partners in saving lives, preventing further injury and providing critical support to enable community recovery.

Marine NCO earns JTF-N enlisted honors

Tepezano named Joint Leader of the Quarter

By Armando Carrasco
JTF-N PAO

FORT BLISS, Texas — Earning the Soldier or noncommissioned officer of the month, quarter or year honors in a joint service command is a remarkable professional accomplishment.

U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Gabriel Tepezano, a native of El Paso, Texas, proved that he is ‘one of the best,’ recently by earning Joint Task Force – North’s Joint Leader of the Quarter title.

“As with any other competition, you need to be prepared mentally and physically,” said Tepezano. “You need to conduct research and study as much information as possible in order to be properly prepared to appear before the board, especially when competing against the other services.”

Tepezano, who enlisted in July 2001 and attended Marine Corps recruit training at San Diego, was selected for the top honors by a JTF-N board comprised of Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force senior noncommissioned officers.

The Marine’s competition included fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines assigned to the U.S. Northern Command unit tasked to provide military support to the nation’s federal law enforcement agencies.

“The command’s quarterly noncommissioned officer leadership competition is based on the ‘total’ joint leader concept; it is open to military personnel in grades of E-4 through E-6,” said Master Sgt. Ronald Novio, the command’s senior Army NCO.

The board scrutinizes a service member’s professionalism, military knowledge, technical competence and dedication to mission accomplishment.

“Staff Sgt. Tepezano distinguished himself by embodying what a junior leader should be,” said Novio.

“During the selection process, his confidence and dedication to the mission earned him a spot in the Joint Leader of the Year competition.”

Tepezano, who completed Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Communications-Electronic School at 29 Palms, Calif., is a certified field wireman.

He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002 and in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2004.

After completion of active duty service, he returned to El Paso and joined the Marine Corps Reserve. In 2009, he was assigned to JTF-N as a Joint Operations Coordination Center watch NCO.

“We provide command and control for the deployment, execution and redeployment of the volunteer Title 10 (federal) forces that perform the JTF-N counterdrug support missions,” said Tepezano.

“I also prepare and present verbal and written briefings, situation reports and serious action reports for the JTF-N commanding general and staff.”

Choosing a stand-out leader wasn’t easy, said Novio.

“The competition was very challenging to judge; each nominee



(Courtesy photo)

U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Gabriel Tepezano (right), watch noncommissioned officer, Joint Task Force – North, briefs U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Darrick Kimble, NCOIC, Joint Operations Coordination Center, JTF-N. Tepezano was recently selected as JTF-N’s Joint Leader of the Quarter.

had excellent junior leader qualities; the command structure and framework of JTF-N’s mission help produce these qualities,” said Novio. “Overall, the board panel was completely satisfied with the quality of all participants and the winner.”

Staff Sgt. Tepezano is already preparing for the Joint Leader of the Year board; the winner of the annual program will represent JTF-N at the U.S. Northern Command competition.

Tepezano is married and has two children. He earned the 2011 Fort Bliss Outstanding Soldier Volunteer award for his off-duty coaching and mentoring of pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade students at the Hurshel Antwine Elementary School.

Army North leads way during large-scale terrorism response exercise

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — With less than a month until the opening of the 9-11 Memorial in New York and the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pa., the Army unit responsible for responding to large-scale domestic terrorism and natural disasters is conducting exercises in Indiana involving 7,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and DoD civilians responding to a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in Cincinnati.

The Vibrant Response 12 exercise, conducted by U.S. Army North, focuses on the Department of Defense mission to support civil authorities after a disaster.

“No American can ever forget, or will ever forget, the loss of nearly 3,000 lives on Sept. 11, 2001,” said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, Army North and Fort Sam Houston. “With those terrible events in mind over the last 10 years, there continues to be a new focus from federal, state and local organizations to work together so we’re better prepared. Exercises like Vibrant Response ensure U. S. Army North remains able to quickly respond to the unimaginable, and ensure that whatever the size and scope of the disaster, we will be there – where and when it’s needed.”

Vibrant Response 12 is a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise for the specialized response forces dedicated



MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING CENTER, Ind. — U.S. Army North members meet at the beginning of the training day to play the placement of volunteer “distressed civilians” for many of the day’s training scenarios during Vibrant Response 12, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North.

to respond to any chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident.

“This is the fourth year we’ve held these Vibrant Response exercises, and because of the exercises we’ve been able to improve the DoD’s ability to work with partners like the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and we’ve improved the capabilities and speed of DoD response forces,” said Lt. Col. Thomas Bright, chief, Exercise Branch, U.S. Army North.

The exercise is in phases, like an actual response. In the first days of the disaster, local, county and state emergency responders provide immediate lifesaving and life-sustaining services, while federal forces from around the

nation mobilize and deploy to provide large-scale and specialized emergency support functions.

For Vibrant Response 12, in the initial days following the simulated blast, local police and firefighters and National Guardsmen performed lifesaving missions like medical evacuations and decontamination. Army North sent in two different response forces to continue to save more lives and provide support to the people affected by the disaster. These response forces were controlled by two separate joint task force headquarters tasked to synchronize the missions of a very complex response effort.

“Every disaster is different, and the government has scalable response forces and plans in place

to get immediate lifesaving and life-sustaining care to victims of natural or man-made disasters,” said Col. John Moore, Region VII defense coordinating officer, U.S. Army North.

During the exercise, command and control elements at Camp Atterbury coordinated with unit commanders on the ground at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Jennings County Fairgrounds, Jefferson Proving Grounds, Forward Operating Base Panther, and other venues, and coordinated with local, state and federal agencies.

“(The way we respond to catastrophes today) is in large part a direct result from the lessons learned ... things we could have and should have done in our response to Hurricane Katrina,” said U.S. Air



JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND, Ind. — Pfc. Matthew Clark, Stryker driver, 181st Chemical Company, 2nd Chemical Battalion, 48th Chemical Brigade, unspools a towing wench cable here Aug. 21 so that the M1135 Stryker Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Reconnaissance vehicle can be towed out of the mud. The 19-ton vehicle became stuck while Clark and his team were investigating a simulated hazardous materials leak.



MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — Soldiers from the 501st Area Support Medical Company, 86th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Campbell, Ky., evacuate “patients” from a nursing home Aug. 19 here during Vibrant Response 12.

Force Maj. Gen. Jonathan Treacy, commander of Joint Task Force – Civil Support, Fort Eustis, Va.

“One of the ways we do things here during Vibrant Response is to take a complex system that has multi-overlapping authorities in place ... and make us one very responsive group of organizations ... federal, state, and the other agencies that are not DoD,” Treacy said.

Military responders support many of the functions of the National Response Framework. Their missions cover a myriad of tasks, such as setting up communications, clearing routes, building shelter for displaced civilians, getting food, water, medical supplies and other necessities and equipment. Their missions also include providing medical care and evacuation, mortuary affairs, providing aerial imagery, testing for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear elements, decontamination,

assisting law enforcement with evidence collection and many others.

“The entire exercise, start to finish, is very challenging,” said Col. David Theisen, Task Force Ops commander, DCRF. “It’s very realistic training that provides our service members experience in a homeland support missions that most service members don’t have an opportunity to be exposed to. Rehearsing missions now assures the DoD, our partner agencies and the public that we’re prepared for this vital mission. At the end of the day, it’s Americans helping Americans.”

The missions are different from what service members are used to.

“The difference is definitely helping people on our own soil,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Savastano, platoon sergeant, 546th Military Police Company, 385th MP Battalion, 16th MP Brigade. “Normally, we’re overseas fighting

— see VR12, Pg. 14

Service members respond to worst-case scenario during Vibrant Response 12 exercise

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — More than 7,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Department of Defense civilians descended upon Camp Atterbury, the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex, and various surrounding areas in Indiana, to execute DoD support to civil authorities in a consequence management role during the Vibrant Response 12 exercise.

The exercise was conducted by U.S. Army North and is the command's largest disaster response exercise to date; the multi-agency, multi-component exercise is intended to prepare federal military forces for their role in responding to a catastrophic chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident in the homeland.

During the exercise, members of the 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, Michigan Army National Guard, simulated rolling out of Cincinnati when they notionally observed the flash and felt the bang of a simulated nuclear blast Aug. 16.

A call came over the radio telling them to turn around, head back into the simulated incident area and to monitor radiation along a route that police and firefighters would use.

Speakers in training area blared safety messages for residents. "This is an urgent message from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. This is not a test. Officials



Members of the 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, Michigan Army National Guard, prepare to monitor the area for radiation and other hazards after a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear detonation here Aug. 16.

confirm that a nuclear explosion has occurred in the Cincinnati area. Police and firefighters are on the ground and more help is coming."

The Guard team pulled in front of a large building billowing smoke and began pulling equipment out of trailers and compartments. People milling about demanded information and begged for medical aid and water from the team.

"Are we under attack?" a bystander asked a team member. "Help us, please."

Except that Cincinnati was actually the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex in southern Indiana, and the "victims" of the simulated 10-kiloton nuclear detonation were actually role players, in various degrees of garb, simulating injured citizens during the initial phase of the exercise.

"The scenario tests responding forces from the military and how

they work together to save lives, relieve suffering and mitigate great property damage," said Vince Sharp, observer controller trainer, Army North.

Soldiers were ready.

"If this ever happens in a real world event, we'll be prepared for the worst-case scenario – but I hope we never have to do it," said Staff Sgt. Chad Francisco, survey team chief, 51st CST, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich.

CST members cleared a route for local responders and reported on the area for members of the nation's Defense CBRN Response Force, a force of 5,200 DoD personnel.

During the exercise, the DCRF is scheduled to conduct numerous missions, to include decontamination, medical treatment and evacuation as well as logistical missions to transport food, water and supplies to victims.

from IRENE, Pg. 7
Class LaMarr Payne, operations
NCO, DCE, Region IV.

“Our job was to provide the necessary support to local and state officials in North Carolina. They knew that the necessary assistance was available, if needed – at the right time, in the right place.”

The Hurricane Irene recovery activities marked the first time that dual-status commanders were used to provide command and control over both active-duty and reserve-component (National Guard and Army Reserve) forces. The dual-status commanders for the response missions were appointed in New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island.

It marks a significant change in how the Department of Defense coordinates its disaster response activities. The dual-status commander concept was created in 2009 with the objective of streamlining operations among federal and state assets and to focus on coordinated efforts of the active-duty and reserve-component forces.

This is largely a result of lessons learned following Hurricane Katrina, which also directly led



Photo by Randy Mitchell, Army North PAO

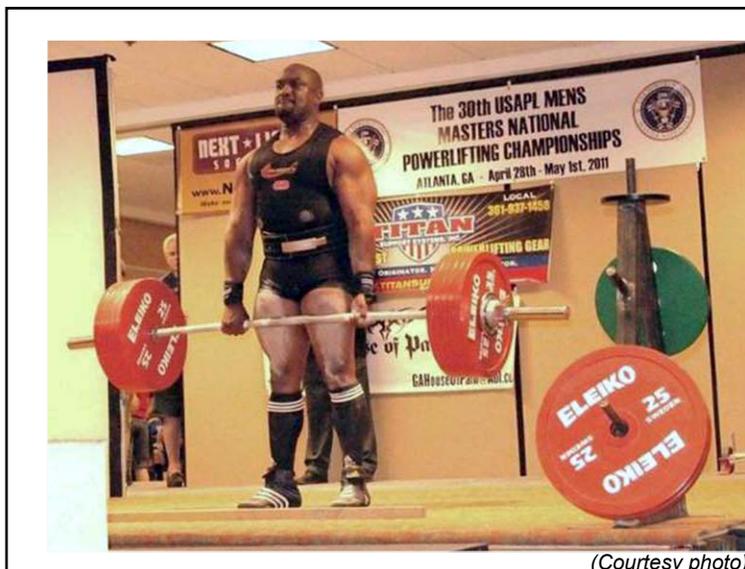
RALEIGH, N.C. — Col. Barrett Holmes (left), Region IV Defense Coordinating Officer, U.S. Army North, meets with Michael Byrne, Glen Sachtleben, and Capt. Chris Colbert, as the four prepared to board a UH-60 helicopter Aug. 28 to conduct an initial damage assessment of North Carolina. Byrne and Sachtleben, both with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Colbert, with U.S. Army Forces Command, met to discuss emergency response and recovery plans for the hurricane.

to the creation of the 10 standing DCE’s that are co-located with the 10 FEMA regions to better coordinate Defense Support to Civil Authority missions since 2006.

A majority of the DCOs are former Army brigade commanders who bring a wealth of knowledge and leadership experiences to the position. They have been called

upon many times in the past to provide defense support, to include the three nearly-simultaneous hurricanes in 2008.

“We cannot fail our fellow Americans when we respond to a disaster such as Irene,” said Swan. “We have to be ready when our government asks us to respond. This is our most important mission!”



(Courtesy photo)

Deadlift

ATLANTA — Ennis White, telecommunications officer, U.S. Army North, lifts more than 600 pounds during the dead lift event at the USA Powerlifting Master Nationals Competition held earlier this year in Atlanta. White earned a bronze medal in the overall completion. His numbers of the day were: Squats – 622.7 pounds; Bench-press – 523.5 pounds; and Dead-lift – 611.7 pounds. As a spectrum manager in his section, White is responsible for all the wireless communications for Army North’s defense coordinating elements, and for the CCP, JTF-CS, JTF-N and the various other organizations that fall under the command.



JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND, Ind. — Soldiers from the 546th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade, begin their mission to bring food and water to “distressed civilians” Aug. 21 after being dropped off from a CH-47 Chinook. The Fort Stewart, Ga.-based military policemen provided medical care and relief supplies to civilians as part of Vibrant Response 12, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North.

————— **from VR12, Pg. 11**
a war. We’ve had to change our whole mindset.”

Many service members said they were grateful for the opportunity to serve their countrymen.

“It’s what I signed up for,” said Spc. Kyle Stewart, 546th MP Co. “I enjoy helping the nation, helping civilians.” Stewart and his comrades from the Fort Stewart, Ga.-based military police company were transported by CH-47 Chinook to Jefferson Proving Ground Aug. 21 to provide lifesaving medical care to “distressed civilians” and bring them water and Meals-Ready-to-Eat.

Many units from throughout the U.S. participated in the exercise, including the 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Polk, La.; the 11th Aviation Command, Fort Knox, Ky.; the 62nd Medical Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; the 415th Chemical Brigade, Greenville, S.C.; the 5th Medical Brigade, Fort Hamilton, N.Y.; the 244th Aviation Brigade, Fort Dix, N.J.; the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, Fort McClellan, Ala.; elements of the U.S. Marine Chemical, Biological Incident Response Force, Indian Head, Md.; and other National Guard units from Indiana, California, West Virginia,

Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota.

The 5,200-person Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Force (DCRF), commanded and controlled by Joint Task Force – Civil Support, began operations on Aug. 18.

The 1,200-person Command and Control Response Element – Alpha, under Army North’s Joint Task Force – 51, joined the response Aug. 22.

Army North was reorganized in 2005 to function as the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Northern Command, the combatant command responsible for North America.

Soldiers have transformed Army into versatile, rapid force



Gen. Raymond Odierno
Army Chief of Staff

I am honored and humbled to be your 38th Chief of Staff. Over the last 10 years, our Army has proven itself in arguably the most difficult environment we have ever faced.

Our leaders at every level have displayed unparalleled ingenuity, flexibility and adaptability.

Our Soldiers have displayed mental and physical toughness and courage under fire. They have transformed the Army into the most versatile, agile, rapidly deployable and sustainable strategic land force in the world.

Our Army is the Nation's force of decisive action, extremely relevant and highly effective for a wide range of missions.

Trust is the bedrock of our honored profession – trust between each other, trust between Soldiers and Leaders, trust between Soldiers and their Families and the Army, and trust with the American people.

Today is like no other time in our history. We remain at war, and our top priority is to win the current fight.

It is also a time of uncertainty and historic change. We face a multitude of security challenges, such as transnational and regional terrorism in places like Yemen, Somalia, North Africa and Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas. We have the uncertainty of the Arab Spring, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and challenges of rising powers. All of this is underpinned by fiscal constraint.

Despite the challenges, we confront the future from a position of great strength. Our Army will continue to be the best equipped, best trained and best led force in the world.

The strength of our Nation is our Army; the strength of our Army is our Soldiers; the strength of our Soldiers is our Families. This is what makes us Army Strong.

Along with the Secretary of the Army, in the coming weeks, I will share thoughts on our way forward. This includes sustaining our all-volunteer Army, providing depth and versatility to the Joint Force and ensuring flexibility for defense of our interests at home and abroad.

I am proud to serve in your ranks, filled by great men and women that willingly serve our country.

You are courageous, confident, competent and compassionate. You live our Army Values 24/7 in all you do.

Discipline, high standards, and fitness are your watch words.

You are the best our country has to offer. I look forward to seeing you as I visit your camps, posts, stations and operating bases.

Thank you for your steadfast dedication and loyal service to our Nation.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

Quad visit

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins (right), deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, and Wiggins' wife Annette, welcome Gen. Raymond Odierno, (then) commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command, Norfolk, Va., to the Quadrangle Jan. 31, 2011. Odierno visited Army North to preside over the retirement of Col. David Thompson, who served as the U.S. Forces – Iraq Inspector General for Odierno.

Army North observer-controller-trainers on front lines at Vibrant Response

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

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — In Army North's largest annual field training exercise, Vibrant Response 12, observer controller trainers are on the front lines of a huge exercise involving approximately 7,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and DoD Civilians from more than 100 units.

"Observer controller trainers are essential because they provide that subject matter expert oversight and insight needed to ensure the mission is not only successful but also carried out in accordance with all safety guidelines," said Capt. Michelle Martinez, Task Force Ops observer controller trainer, U.S. Army North.

Martinez, who makes sure the appropriate trainers are available for each TF Ops mission at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex here, said that trainers participate in every aspect of a mission.

"O/C/Ts are involved in planning, movement, the mission itself, safety and many other aspects," Martinez said. "For example, trainers ensure service members treat the distressed civilians they encounter with respect and urgency. These people must be triaged and evacuated as quickly as possible."

Missions in a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear consequence management role are often complex, and O/C/Ts often



Capt. Michelle Martinez, observer controller trainer, Task Force Ops, U.S. Army North, watches as mortuary affairs Soldiers of the 111th Collection Company, 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 49th Group, collect a simulated casualty Aug. 20 during the Vibrant Response 12 field training exercise.

serve as coach and mentor, said Marine Staff Sgt. Joseph Wilson, TF Ops chemical battalion O/C/T, U.S. Northern Command.

"We give them technical advice to lead them on the right path," Wilson said. "The number-one focus is safety."

This year, more than 220 service members and civilians from First Army; Army North; Northern Command; the National Guard Bureau's Joint Interagency Training and Education Center; and the Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Mission Command Training Program served as O/C/T's for the exercise.

"This is the first year we've done anything like that," said Bob Townsend, deputy chief of operations group, U.S. Army North.

The O/C/Ts attended a two-

day academy before assuming their roles for the exercise. Karen Lloyd, who recruited many of the O/C/Ts and ran the academy, said volunteering to serve as an O/C/T is valuable experience.

"It's good experience for anyone," Lloyd said. "It's good leadership experience and great military professional development, and it's particularly beneficial for those going to work in a defense support of civil authorities environment."

Lloyd said the experience has been personally beneficial for her.

"I'm working in a mission that is critical for the American people," Lloyd said. "And just knowing we're helping responders get better prepared and some of those we're training may serve to save lives in a disaster – it's rewarding for me."

JTF-N welcomes new commander

By Armando Carrasco,
JTF-N PAO

FORT BLISS, Texas – Brig. Gen. Michael Bills relinquished command of Joint Task Force – North to Col. Mark Stammer during a change of command ceremony conducted Sept. 9 at the task force’s headquarters at East Fort Bliss.

Bills commanded the task force since June 2010; JTF-N is an element of U.S. Northern Command, under the operational control of U.S. Army North.

“Through Mike Bills’ leadership and vision, Joint Task Force – North continues to be those quiet professionals providing military support to law enforcement agencies in the conduct of counterdrug/counter-narco-terrorism operations in the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility – all with the goal of disrupting transnational criminal organizations and deterring their freedom of action in order to protect the homeland,” said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general of U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, Texas, who hosted the ceremony.

“The great (JTF-N) folks do not seek the headlines but rather measure their success by the success of those they support,” said Swan.

“As the JTF-North commander, I have witnessed the continual evolution and transformation of our mission and the endless successes that this organization has achieved over the past 14 months,” said Bills. “I am especially proud of our efforts to support interagency



Photo by Edd Natividad, JTF-N

Col. Mark Stammer accepts the Joint Task Force – North colors from Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (right), commanding general of U.S. Army North, during a change of command ceremony here Sept. 9. Brig. Gen. Michael Bills (second from right), the out-going JTF-N commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood (left), U.S. Army North’s senior enlisted advisor, participated in the ceremony. As an element of U.S. Northern Command, JTF-N is under the operational control of U.S. Army North.

unity of effort, enhance law enforcement’s effectiveness by building partner capacity, the contribution that we have made to build intelligence architecture in the homeland, and our evolving role in the U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Army North Theater Security Cooperation between U.S. law enforcement and Mexican military and law enforcement agencies.”

Bills is en route to Heidelberg, Germany, to serve as the deputy chief of staff for Operations, Plans and Policy at United States Army Europe and Seventh Army.

Stammer, who was born in Redfield, S.D., previously

served as the commander of the Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group, Fort Polk, La. He enlisted in the Army in 1982 and served at Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Hood, Texas. He was honorably discharged in January 1985 to attend the University of Houston.

After commissioning and graduation, he returned to active duty and has served in numerous student, command and staff assignments at Fort Benning, Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Hohenfels, Germany; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Washington D.C.; Afghanistan; Vicenza, Italy; Newport, R.I.; Iraq; and Fort Polk.

Fort Sam Houston, fellow Soldiers welcome Medal of Honor recipient

WFSC: 'Welcome home Leroy'

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Fort Sam Houston welcomed Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry during an open house at the Warrior and Family Support Center here Aug. 31.

Petry, who is only the 2nd living Medal of Honor recipient from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, said the visit was an important one for him because it provided him the opportunity to visit with his fellow troops – and it is a place he is very familiar with.

The visit was a homecoming of sorts for Petry, who was treated at Brooke Army Medical Center and spent much of his time during his recovery at the WFSC.

"It's my honor to be here surrounded by so many great people and wounded Soldiers who I got to visit this morning and this afternoon," said Petry. "It's where my heart is, having gone through it. It's why I took the job and decided to remain on active duty."

The veteran of eight deployments lost his hand and was injured in both legs while saving the lives of his fellow Rangers during a mission in Afghanistan in May 2008.

Petry recovered at BAMC and developed close relationships with many at BAMC and the WFSC, including Judith Markelz, WFSC program manager, who attended his Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House.



Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry, signs "RLTW" (Rangers Lead the Way) on the cast of Sgt. Ben Stehman, a Wounded Warrior and a tanker with Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, during an Aug. 31 open house at the Warrior and Family Support Center. Stehman was injured during an Aug. 7 mission in Kush Khadir, Oruzgan Province, in Afghanistan. Petry also presented Stehman a military challenge coin for excellence.

"I looked up the word 'home,' and the dictionary states that a home is refuge where you can go and feel surrounded by unconditional love," said Markelz. "So for all of us who have known and cared for you – Welcome home Leroy!"

"He's a hero in my book for once again coming to the assistance of his fellow Soldiers and servicemen and women by visiting the Wounded Warriors at Brooke Army Medical Center and the WFSC," said Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, while addressing the gathered visitors at the WFSC.

"He provides encouragement

and support for what will be, for some, one of the most challenging chapters in their lives."

After opening remarks, Petry spoke individually with the Wounded Warriors, fellow Rangers, guests and well-wishers at the open house event.

One Wounded Warrior had his cast signed by Petry with the message "RLTW," which stands for "Rangers Lead the Way."

"It was an honor to meet him because of what he did (in Afghanistan) and what he's done (for Wounded Warriors) since his injuries," said Sgt. Ben Stehman, a tanker with Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment,

1st Infantry Division.

Stehman was injured during an Aug. 7 mission in Kush Khadir, Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan. Petry presented him with a military challenge coin for excellence.

Petry currently serves as a liaison officer for the U.S. Special Operations Command Care Coalition-Northwest Region, and provides oversight to Wounded Warriors, ill and injured service members and their families.

“I’m sure the account of Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry’s actions on May 26 will be recorded in history books, but there’s a significant chapter that will not probably be annotated in the history books

– and that chapter is his heroic fight and struggle to overcome significant injuries and return to the ranks of the elite Rangers,” said Wiggins.

“Sgt. 1st Class Petry’s commitment to serve represents his strength and resilience. He’s a true American hero and a professional Soldier.”

Petry enlisted in the Army from his hometown of Santa Fe, N.M., in September 1999.

After completion of One Station Unit Training, the Basic Airborne Course and the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger



Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry speaks with San Antonio journalists about his recovery at the Brooke Army Medical Center and the support he received from the Warrior and Family Support Center as part of a U.S. Army North open house event Aug. 31 at the WFSC. The visit was a homecoming of sorts for Petry, who was treated at Brooke Army Medical Center and spent much of his time during his recovery at the WFSC.



Judith Markelz (left), Warrior and Family Support Center director, talks about her time getting to know Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry (center), Medal of Honor recipient, while Petry was recovering from his injuries. Petry, a veteran of eight deployments, lost his hand and was injured in both legs while saving the lives of his fellow Rangers during a mission in Afghanistan in May 2008. Petry recovered at Brooke Army Medical Center and developed close relationships with many at BAMC and the WFSC, including Judith Markelz, who attended Petry’s Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House. Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins (right), deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, praised Petry’s service.

Medal of Honor citation for Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry

“Staff Sgt. Leroy A. Petry distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya Province, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008.

“As a weapons squad leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Staff Sgt. Petry moved to clear the courtyard of a house that potentially contained high-value combatants.

“While crossing the courtyard, Staff Sgt. Petry and another Ranger were engaged and wounded by automatic weapons fire from enemy fighters. Still under enemy fire, and wounded in both legs, Staff Sgt. Petry led the other Ranger to cover.

“He then reported the situation and engaged the enemy with a hand grenade, providing suppression as another Ranger moved to his position. The enemy quickly responded by maneuvering closer and throwing grenades.

“The first grenade explosion knocked his two fellow

Rangers to the ground and wounded both with shrapnel. A second grenade then landed only a few feet away from them. Instantly realizing the danger, Staff Sgt. Petry, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his safety, deliberately and selflessly moved forward, picked up the grenade, and in an effort to clear the immediate threat, threw the grenade away from his fellow Rangers.

As he was releasing the grenade it detonated, am”putating his right hand at the wrist and further injuring him with multiple shrapnel wounds.

“Although picking up and throwing the live grenade grievously wounded Staff Sergeant Petry, his gallant act undeniably saved his fellow Rangers from being severely wounded or killed.

“Despite the severity of his wounds, Staff Sergeant Petry continued to maintain the presence of mind to place a tourniquet on his right wrist before communicating the situation by radio in order to coordinate support for himself and his fellow wounded Rangers.”

Army North breaks in new subway rescue training station at MUTC

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO

MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING COMPLEX, Ind. — During the Vibrant Response 12 exercise, conducted by U.S. Army North, service members and local first responders participated in a subway rescue scenario Aug. 17 for the first time here.

With the memory of subway terror attacks in the Paris, Tokyo, Madrid, London, Moscow, and the foiled New York City subway attack, Army North exercise planners added the scenario to use an actual subway simulation training facility recently installed at



Sgt. Matthew Frohnapfel, survey team member, 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction – Civil Support Team, a unit from the Michigan National Guard, out of the Augusta Armory at Fort Custer, Mich., tests for chemical agents Aug. 17 during Vibrant Response 12, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North from Aug. 16-28.



Sgt. Matthew Frohnapfel, survey team member, 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction – Civil Support Team, inspects subway cars Aug. 17 for chemical agents.

the training complex.

“The subway is a venue we just introduced to the urban training complex,” said Lt. Col. R. Dale Lyles, MUTC commander. “It has two subway cars that were donated to us by the Chicago Transit Authority, and it replicates exactly what a subway system would look like.”

Indiana and Michigan National Guardsmen, along with local Indiana firefighters, responded to emergency calls to the subway.

With smoke billowing from the entrance of the underground station, members of the 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction – Civil Support Team, a unit from the Michigan National Guard, out of the Augusta Armory at Fort Custer, Mich., surveyed the site for

possible hazardous chemicals while Indiana Guardsmen cordoned off the area from injured civilians and media role-players.

After the Michigan WMD-CST members gave the “all clear,” firefighters entered the smoky underground substation and evacuated the notional casualties.

“We were supposed to provide 360-degree security,” said Sgt. Mitchell Meadows, 219th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Indiana National Guard.

“But once we arrived on scene and saw the civilians at the entrance to the station, we took action to ensure their safety and that they didn’t hamper rescue efforts.”

Until they are federalized, state Guardsmen are authorized

to provide security that active-duty military members are not authorized to provide due to the Posse Comitatus Act.

The experience encountering injured civilians demanding help for loved ones still trapped in the station, and the determined, somewhat aggressive media role-players trying to get footage, was somewhat overwhelming for the Guardsmen providing on-site security, but they said the experience proved to be beneficial.

“It was helpful,” said Spc. Michael Hollifield, a military policeman with the 939th Military Police Detachment, 38th Infantry Division, Indiana National Guard.

“It was a new experience; it was good hands-on training.”

Hollifield, a native of Terra Haute, Ind., was one of the Guardsmen cordoning the site.

“We can set the venue up so it looks like a real disaster in a subway station, something that Soldiers aren’t necessarily trained to do,” said Lyles.

“The realness this presents gives all the complexities associated with testing the environment, gaining access, determining the best avenues of approach to get to the casualties, how to recover people in distress and things of that sort.”

This scenario and others in Vibrant Response are part of the lifesaving and life-sustaining missions of federal CBRN responders, said Duane Bowen, operations chief, Exercise Control

Forward, Army North.

“It’s important these units are prepared and trained in the event any natural or man-made disaster occurs,” Bowen said.

“Vibrant Response is one of the ways we ensure that we are ready.”



“Casualties” wait to be rescued or collected Aug. 17 in a new subway simulation training facility here.



Photo by Randy Mitchell, Army North PAO

Hurricane preparation

RALEIGH, N.C. — Soldiers and Airmen from Joint Task Force – Civil Support augment the staff of Army North’s Region IV Defense Coordinating Element Aug. 28 to plan and execute Title X (federal) support to Hurricane Irene relief efforts in anticipation of requests for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is the overall lead for the federal response effort for Hurricane Irene.

Military's new response force jumps into action during Vibrant Response

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — The military's Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Force assumed the exercise mission from state response forces here Aug. 18 while rehearsing the nation's tiered response capabilities during Vibrant Response 12, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North.

Within hours of arriving, the DCRF was performing search and extraction missions at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex.

The service members worked late into the night after small explosions at the training refinery simulated large-scale explosions. Responders performed mass casualty and decontamination for the simulated "victims" of the explosion.

"It was key that Title 10 (federal) forces arrive quickly and immediately begin assisting



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Staggs, MUTC PAO
MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING CENTER, Ind. — A plume of smoke rises from the refinery after a controlled explosion kicked off a mass casualty and decontamination training event late Aug. 18 during VR 12.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — The military's Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Force augments and assists state response forces here Aug. 18 as a rehearsal of the DoD's tiered response capabilities in Vibrant Response 12, an annual U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North.

civil authorities in responding to this incident," said Paul Condon, Exercise Control Forward deputy director, U.S. Army North.

In the United States, local and state authorities have numerous forces and capabilities to draw upon to conduct lifesaving and life-sustaining operations following a disaster. But when the scope of the disaster requires additional assistance, the U.S. military has additional response capabilities to support civil authorities and to perform a variety of specialized missions as part of an overall federal effort.

The DCRF is a 5,200-person federal capability designed to assist civilian first responders

to save lives, relieve human suffering and facilitate response operations following catastrophic CBRN events. The DCRF deploys when directed as DoD's initial federal CBRN response force to provide search and rescue, decontamination, medical, aviation, communications and logistical support.

During Vibrant Response 12, local, state and federal disaster responders are rehearsing an escalating disaster after a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear detonation Aug. 16 in downtown Cincinnati. During the first 48 hours, local, state and federal elements worked quickly to save lives and mitigate suffering while additional federal responders



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — In the operations center for Task Force Aviation, leaders track ongoing search and rescue missions and plan a wide-range of upcoming missions Aug. 18 during Vibrant Response 12. The task force supported the 5,2000-man Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Force, which assumes its mission Oct. 1.

from around the U.S. mobilized and moved to the disaster site.

“We have 18 aircraft here: eight CH-47 Chinooks, six UH-60s for medical missions and four UH-60s for general purpose missions,” said Col. Randall Schwallie, Task Force Aviation commander, part of the DCRF. “We brought them from Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Clearwater, Fla.; Fort Carson, Colo.; and Ft. Eustis, Va. The move went well because we have aviation support facilities throughout the U.S.”

Schwallie said his personnel are trained for military air missions, but the exercise is good for training his personnel to work with the large variety of military and civilian disaster response units and personnel.

“This is our chance to integrate with other task forces and rehearse support to civil authorities such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency

and the Department of Homeland Security,” he said. Schwallie and the other aviation personnel are part of the 11th Aviation Command, Fort Knox, Ky.

Aviation assets are critical in a disaster, especially when roads are blocked or people need to be



Photo by Sgt. Mark Kauffman, DCRF PAO

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — Soldiers from the 519th Military Police Battalion, Fort Polk, La., work together to set up a general purpose medium tent here Aug. 18, as part of Vibrant Response 12. The annual field training exercise, conducted by U.S. Army North, is the command’s largest disaster response exercise to date. This multi-agency, multi-component exercise is intended to prepare federal military forces for their role in responding to a catastrophic chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident in the homeland.

evacuated or receive immediate medical care.

Aviation units also support logistics missions, getting food, water, medical supplies and other supplies to those that need it.

The most challenging part of disaster operations is maintaining enough fuel during air operations, Schwallie said.

“Basically, with all the birds in the air, we burn a gallon of fuel a second,” said Schwallie.

Aviation personnel were excited about the mission.

“This is why I joined the Army – to help my family and friends,” said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Fisher, CBRN staff noncommissioned officer, Task Force Aviation. The native of Louisville, Ky., said he appreciated the opportunity to serve in a unique homeland mission.

This is the initial confirmation exercise for the DCRF, which officially assumes its mission Oct. 1. The DCRF’s structured to provide more lifesaving capability to an incident faster than the previous force.



Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal

September 20, 2011

Today marks the end of "Don't Ask Don't Tell." The law is repealed. From this day forward, gay and lesbian Soldiers may serve in our Army with the dignity and respect they deserve. Our rules, regulations and policies reflect the repeal guidance issued by the Department of Defense and will apply uniformly without regard to sexual orientation, which is a personal and private matter.

For over 236 years, the U.S. Army has been an extraordinary force for good in the world. Our Soldiers are the most agile, adaptable and capable warriors in history—and we are ready for this change.

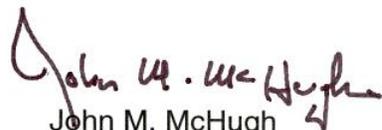
Over the last several months, our Leaders, Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians have discussed, trained and prepared for this day. The President, the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs have certified that repeal is consistent with military readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion and recruiting and retention. Your professionalism, leadership and respect for your fellow Soldiers will ensure that this effort is successful.

At the heart of our success is adherence to the Army Values. These standards not only infuse every facet of our culture and operations, but also guide us as we adapt to change. Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage are not mere words to us—they are the very principles by which we live, train and fight.

Accordingly, we expect all personnel to follow our Values by implementing the repeal fully, fairly and in accordance with policy guidance. It is the duty of all personnel to treat each other with dignity and respect, while maintaining good order and discipline throughout our ranks. Doing so, will help the U.S. Army remain the *Strength of the Nation*.


Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army


Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army

ALARACT 350/2011

Sept. 15, 2011

Subject: Clarification Of **Army Standards Of Conduct Policies**

1. Reference. Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, 30 Nov 09.

2. The purpose of this message is to clarify Army policies on Standards of Conduct.

A. Long-standing customs of the service prohibit public displays of affection by Soldiers when in uniform or while in civilian clothes on duty. Soldiers must project an image that leaves no doubt that they live by a common military standard and are responsible to military order and discipline.

B. However, long-standing customs of the service permit modest displays of affection in appropriate circumstances including, but not limited to, weddings, graduations, promotions, retirements or other ceremonies; during the casualty notification/assistance process including funerals; during deployment or welcome home ceremonies; for displays of affection or other physical contact between parents or guardians and children in their charge; or in other circumstances where modest displays of affection are commonly accepted.

ALARACT 353/2011

Sept. 15, 2011

Subject: Clarification Of **Unaccompanied Personnel Housing Policy**

1. Reference, Army Regulation 420-1, Army Facilities Management, Rapid Action Revision 28 Mar 09

2. The purpose of this message is to respond to requests for clarification to Army policy on unaccompanied personnel housing (UPH) raised during recent discussions with senior Army leaders from throughout the force.

3. Guidance. The Army will not establish facilities, quarters, berthing or practices based on sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is considered a personal, private matter. All rules and policies, and the enforcement of those rules and policies, will be sexual orientation neutral. Company level leaders often handle the inevitable issues that arise from having a large number of young adults living, working, eating, and relaxing together. Commanders continue to have the discretion to alter billeting assignments to accommodate concerns of individuals on a case-by-case basis, where it is in the interest of maintaining morale, good order and discipline, and is consistent with performance of the mission.

4. Roommate disputes. Management and assignment of UPH/barracks rooms on many installations has transferred to the installation's single Soldier Housing Office (SSHO) under the first sergeant's barracks program. The SSHO will continue to accommodate room reassignment requests from unit leadership if space is available; these requests will not be based on sexual orientation. Leaders should avoid "swapping rooms" and/or arbitrarily moving Soldiers around, and must coordinate with the SSHO.

5. Segregated facilities. Commanders may not establish policies or practices that physically segregate Soldiers according to sexual orientation. Separate facilities based on sexual orientation would create divisions within units and inappropriately isolate a portion of the force. Soldiers should be assigned to a room that is available. The lowest level of unit integrity possible within the brigade footprint. Individual requests to be assigned or reassigned a room should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and granted only in the interest of maintaining morale, good order and discipline, and consistent with the performance of the mission.

6. Cohabitation. Long-standing Army practice prohibits Soldiers cohabitating in UPH/barracks. Cohabitation is a term most frequently applied to couples who are not married but live together on a longterm basis in an emotionally and/or sexually intimate relationship. Army commands often promulgate this prohibition in local written policies. Commanders should take appropriate action to prevent cohabitation in UPH/barracks.

News

CSM Winzenried assumes top enlisted post at NORAD, USNORTHCOM

By Tech. Sgt. Thomas Doscher
NORTHCOM PAO

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Army Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Winzenried assumed the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command's top enlisted post today in a ceremony at the commands' headquarters Sept. 15.

Winzenried succeeds Command Chief Master Sgt. Allen Usry, who retired after 29 years of service in the same ceremony.

A combat engineer by trade, Winzenried calls himself a "simple guy used to blowing stuff up," who would rather hear about the mission from the person performing it than through a powerpoint presentation. It's a preference that makes up a major part of his leadership philosophy.

"In any job, especially when you get to the senior level, you have to get out and visit the servicemembers and DoD civilians that make up the command," he said. "I love to talk to people. I don't like dog-and-pony shows, and I don't need powerpoint slides. I want to hear from the servicemembers. That's how I see how well they understand their roles and missions and how they support the commands."

Winzenried said he plans to spend the first 60 days of his tour at NORAD and USNORTHCOM visiting the component commands and getting a feel for the mission.

"My goal is to get out because

as a senior enlisted advisor to the commander, I can't advise him on how the command is doing from sitting in this office," he said. "The only way to do that is to get out and talk to folks. I plan on staying very busy."

At the same ceremony that began Winzenried's tour at NORAD and USNORTHCOM, Usry ended his and a military career of more than 29 years in two service branches.

Usry, who said he plans to move to Florida with his wife, Melanie, said working at the commands was one of the highlights of his career.

"This is what the definition of bittersweet is," Usry said. "I'm excited about the next phase of my life, but everything in the last couple of months has been my last this or my last that. This is what I've done since I was 18 years old. I can't believe it's over."

Usry offered a last bit of advice to the NORAD and USNORTHCOM enlisted members.

"While you are doing all the things that are required to make you a successful Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, Coast Guardsman or Canadian Forces member, don't forget that you also have to develop personally," he said. "I've always promoted fitness, finances and education. Take care of your health, stay fit, have a financial plan for your future and walk out with an education. While you're taking care of the military don't miss the opportunity to let the military take care of you."

ARNORTH AFAP asks for feedback

By Tania Cuervo
Army North

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas —

The quality of life of all Soldiers, Civilians, Retirees and their Family members is extremely important.

The ARNORTH Army Family Action plan is an on-going process. In order for AFAP to be successful, we need everyone's support, your input. Tell us what needs improvement – issues you believe should be addressed. That is what AFAP is about.

AFAP issues contain three sections: title, scope and recommendation. Someone reading your issue should understand what the problem is, why it's a problem and what will fix the problem.

Title: The issue title is a short summary of the issue. It is not a sentence. Example: "Tuition Assistance for Overseas Spouses" not "Spouses Overseas Have Limited Access to Scholarships"

Scope: The Scope is a clear and concise paragraph about the issue. The Scope identifies one problem, not several. It is three or four sentences in length. The first sentence states the problem; the middle sentences provide facts or additional information; and the last sentence says why the issue is important.

Recommendation: Recommendations tell what you want to happen – the end product that will resolve this issue. Recommendations always start with a strong action verb (e.g., Strong verbs: provide, conduct, develop, build, fund; Weak verbs: consider, seek, ensure) each recommendation must relate to the problem identified in the Scope. If recommendations address a different topic, then submit another issue paper. Example: "Develop a tuition assistance program for overseas spouses." Not "Spouses should get financial aid in areas where they have limited

scholarships or employment.”

AFAP was created in 1983, and developed fully in 1984, the Year of the Army Family, to help the Army address the needs and concerns of Family Members. AFAP provides the Army community a “voice” in shaping their standards of living and identifying issues related to the current environment. Through AFAP, all members of the Army, including

Active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Family Members, retirees, surviving spouses and Department of the Army Civilians have a forum to voice concerns to Army leadership and make recommendations for change.

To date, 683 AFAP issues have resulted in 124 legislative changes, 179 Army and Office of the Secretary of Defense policies changed and 195 changes to programs and services.

Army implements OER policy changes

By Mark Edwards

HRC PAO

FORT KNOX, Ky. — Beginning Oct. 1, the Army Officer Evaluation Report Form (DA Form 67-9) policy changes to better align with current Army leadership doctrine and more accurately evaluate performance and potential of Army officers, and increase accountability and better inform a transparent Talent Management process.

The OER enhancement and changes apply to all OERs with a through date of Nov. 1, 2011, and later.

The changes include: reinstating senior rater box check for company grade officers, senior rater successive assignments recommendations,

incorporating a statement on the OER if the rated officer has completed or initiated a Multi-Source Assessment and Feedback/360 (MSAF) within the last three years, and a reduction in short-term evaluations. Additionally, the OER support form will be optional.

Specific modifications for each of these enhancements and changes are:

Senior Rater box check – The senior rater box check is reinstated for company grade officers (Warrant officer, Chief warrant officer two, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and captain) indicating rated officer’s potential. Senior raters will now complete part VII(b) of the DA Form 67-9 for rated officers in grades second lieutenant through brigadier general and Warrant officer through Chief warrant officer four.

Senior Rater successive assignments – Senior raters will be required to indicate three successive assignments, instead of three future assignments for the rated officer. The Senior Rater should look three to five years in the future, and list the next three succeeding positions appropriate to the rated officer’s grade and career path.

Multi-Source Assessment and Feedback/360 (MSAF) – The rater will include a comment that the rated officer has completed or initiated a 360/Multi-Source

Assessment Feedback within the last three years. The new OER form will eventually have a yes/no box check for 360 completion. The MSAF provides input from peers, superiors and subordinates which will help the rated officer develop as a self-aware and adaptable leader.

Officers can access the —360 Assessment at:

<https://msaf.army.mil>. Results of the feedback will still remain confidential and only be available to the rated officer and used for self development not evaluative purposes. The purpose of the rater’s check on 360 assessment is to help ensure that leaders are encouraging subordinate development and that rated officers are benefitting from available leader development programs.

Short-Term evaluation reduction - The new policy reduces multiple short-term evaluations, particularly in deployed situations, by permitting officers who change Raters, but continue to perform the same duties under the same Senior Rater, to receive a memorandum of input from their departing Rater rather than a Change of Rater evaluation. The memorandum of input is intended to be used by the Rater of record when they complete the final OER. This is at the senior rater’s discretion.

The Army anticipates more changes as they continue to develop the current evaluation forms to ensure they reflect current doctrine, increase Rater accountability, further stratify the Senior Rater profile technique for officer evaluation reports, and include an interactive leader development tool.

More information, including senior rater profile management training packets, MILPER message and Frequently Asked Questions go to www.hrc.army.mil/evaluations.

HRC can be reached at 1-888-ARMYHRC (276-9472) or email: askhrc.army@us.army.mil.

For questions pertaining to the MSAF, contact U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Public Affairs at 913-684-3097 / 913-306-6736 or email: harrison.sarles@conus.army.mil.



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