

ARNORTH Monthly

November 2011



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Front Cover: FORT BLISS, Texas — The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, S.C. National Guard, conducted a culminating training exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas, Oct. 10-23 to train the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Ohio National Guard. The 263rd AAMDC is the training certification authority for First Army and the United States Army Forces Command for all ground-based air defenses. (Photo by Sgt. Brad Mincey, 108th Public Affairs Detachment, S.C. National Guard)

Back Cover: WASHINGTON — Visitors to the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center take time Oct. 11 to check out U.S. Army North's Sentinel and exhibit showcasing the unit's civil support mission and unique capabilities. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres-Cortes, Army North PAO)



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

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Honoring sacrifices of veterans is best way to show appreciation

By Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III

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



community, along with our neighbors here in Military City U.S.A., of the accomplishments of our American citizen warriors.

Nearly 24 million veterans live among us. Many are husbands, wives, sons, daughters, cousins and relatives; they live in every state and territory; they are men and women from all ethnic backgrounds, and they come from every walk of life. It is through the power of our diverse American culture that our armed forces

Veterans Day is unique in that it is a day set aside specifically to honor the bravery, heroism and sacrifices of all U.S. veterans – both past and present.

Although Veterans Day comes only once a year, it serves as a reminder for our

have proven, time and again, to be the preeminent military force of our time as it continues to protect the interests of our nation.

As a nation, we have honored the sacrifices of our veterans for almost a century now, dating back to Armistice Day, which was first celebrated on November 11, 1918, to honor the end of World War I. In 1954, Congress changed the holiday to Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars.

This Veterans Day is significant in that it helps mark a decade of persistent conflict for today's veterans, stemming from the 9-11 terrorist attacks on our homeland. Today, we have approximately 1.1 million men and women in uniform. I ask that you never forget the service – and the sacrifice – of your brothers and sisters in arms and that you keep a special place for them in your hearts.

Be as proud of them as they are of their service to our nation.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday! To the veterans of our nation: Thank you for your service! Strength of the Nation!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Town hall

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, addresses Army North service members and civilians Nov. 27 during a Quarterly Town Hall and Recognition ceremony at the Army Community Services building.

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Photo courtesy of 167th TSC PAO

New commander

FORT MCCLELLAN, Ala. — Maj. Gen. Charles Gales Jr., incoming commander, 167th Theater Sustainment Command, accepts the unit colors from Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, adjutant general, Alabama National Guard, during a change of command ceremony here Sept. 11. Maj. Gen. Joe Harkey, the outgoing commanding general, relinquished command during the ceremony. The 167th TSC provides command and control of theater sustainment forces as part of an operational mission with U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Army North.



Photo by Deyanira Rossell, 502nd FSS PAO

CFC kicks off

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, officially kicks off the post's 2011 Combined Federal Campaign Sept. 21 at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club. The military community in San Antonio donated \$5,511,000 to charities last year during the campaign – the largest contribution in Texas, and the sixth-largest in the world. The campaign ran through Oct. 31, with additional dates available through early Nov.

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ARNORTH welcomes

Col. Timothy Williams,
DCO RG III
Maj. Joshua Carlisle, G4
Maj. Michael Clayton, G3
Chief Warrant Officer 5
Addison Allen, G4
Sgt. 1st Class Scott Lewis, PMO
Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Peirce, CCP
Mark Costello, G2
Susan MacPhearson, G8
David Vasquez, G3/5/7

ARNORTH says goodbye

Col. James Mathis, DCO RG III,
Maj. Christopher Sheldon, G4
Sgt. Christopher Haun,
DCE RG X
Dora Barnhardt, CoS
Lawrence Belyeu, CSTA
Tania Cuervo, COS
John Donahue, G6
Jeffrey Harris, CSTA
Joan Hernandez, G3/5/7
Rodney Jones, CSTA
Virgil Jones, G3/5/7
Nancy Kittinger, G8
Charles Mark, CSTA
Linda Oliver, G3/5/7
Martha Ortiz, G8
Adolfo Ramirez, G3/5/7
Jesus Ramirez, CSTA
Christopher Rowand, G6
Drusilla Smith, CSTA
Donna Stong, CSTA
Jose Torrens, G3/5/7
Gloria Vallejo G6
Cynthia Valverde, G1
Elsie Ybarra, G4

Fort Sam Houston honors retirees



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Families, friends, comrades and loved ones say farewell to retirees Sept. 28 during the installation retirement ceremony in U.S. Army North's historic Quadrangle grounds. Retirees are (from left to right) Lt. Col. Larry Martin Jr, U.S. Army South; Lt. Col. Agustin McLamb-Quinones, U.S. Installation Management Command – Central Regional Command; John Donohue, Army North; J.D. Ramirez, Army North; Maj. John James, Army North; Maj. Martha Diaz, Headquarters, Southern Regional Medical Command; Maj. Michael Bousset, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade; Hermilla Martinez, Institute of Surgical Research; Sgt. 1st Class Scott Bynum, 187th Medical Battalion, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School; and Dora Barnhardt, Army North.

CG presents...

Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO



FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, presents a framed "Star note" to Carol Villa Oct. 27 for winning Civilian of the Quarter during the Quarterly Town Hall and Recognition ceremony.



FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, presents a framed "Star note" to John Branum Oct. 27 for winning Supervisory Civilian of the Quarter during the Quarterly Town Hall and Recognition ceremony.



FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, presents the Sue Cotton award to Gwendolyn Oquendo Oct. 27 for her service during the Quarterly Town Hall and Recognition ceremony.

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Defense coordinating officer builds team during Denver exercise

Story and photo by
Patti Bielling
Army North PAO

DENVER — Teamwork and information-sharing are two keys to coordinating disaster response, emphasized one of Army North's defense coordinating officers during a recent certification exercise in Denver.

Col. Rich O'Connor and his defense coordinating element had a chance to practice those skills and many others in a certification exercise Oct. 24-28 in the Mile High City.

This was the first chance for O'Connor to put his team through its paces after assuming the duties Aug. 15 as the defense coordinating officer for the six-state region of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

"My philosophy for a long time has been simple," O'Connor said. "Be competent in what you do, confident in how you do it and be compassionate to one another."

He said his team lived up to that philosophy as it rehearsed a coordinated response with local, state and federal partners to a notional dam break that flooded a major city and left thousands in need of help.

Regional members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency trained alongside their federal military counterparts. Their participation was invaluable, allowing both the military and civilian responders to stress their



Col. Rich O'Connor (right), Region VIII defense coordinating officer, U.S. Army North, listens Oct. 27 as Mike Smith, federal coordinating officer, addresses exercise participants from both the military and Federal Emergency Management Agency during a Region VIII certification exercise.

processes to bring requested support to a state as they would during a real disaster, one participant said.

"The exercise was well laid out and allowed me to interface with broader range of partners than I normally have the opportunities to do in the smaller-scale exercises in South Dakota," explained Col. Marty Comes, the Army's liaison officer to South Dakota.

"Building relationships is a priority for Col. O'Connor," Comes said. "Not even six weeks into the job and he's been to nearly all of the states in the region."

O'Connor also invited local, state and federal partners to observe the exercise, including the FEMA regional administrator, the Colorado director of emergency

management, National Guard leaders, the Denver fire chief and various other first responders.

Their interest shows the importance that all of them place on building relationships and partnering, he said.

O'Connor said he takes a long view. Even before the exercise, O'Connor invited all regional partners to attend new monthly brown-bag lunch information sessions, which will include expert speakers on important topics such as tribal affairs and agro-terrorism. The first one meets in November.

"I'm in this for the long haul," O'Connor said. "I'm blessed to have the opportunity to be in this job and to partner with such dedicated team. I like this job, and I want to learn and do it well."

TF-51 welcomes new commander

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

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Maj. Gen. Charles Gales Jr. assumed command of U.S. Army North's Task Force – 51 at Fort Sam Houston's historic Quadrangle Oct. 18 from Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Jacobs, as Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, presided.

Under the leadership of Jacobs, the contingency command post has deployed to support numerous missions in Army North's area of responsibility, including the California wildfires, the British Petroleum oil spill and Hurricanes Ike, Gustav and Irene.

"He was very instrumental in helping us craft our responsibilities in the homeland for the command and control of Title 10 (federal) forces," said Swan.

"We turned to him to get us through a very important period of transition and for the stand up of the Command and Control Response Element Alpha, part of the CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) enterprise force."

Under Jacobs, TF-51 participated in numerous local and national-level exercises that helped train and validate mission effectiveness by establishing relationships and improving coordination with local, state and federal agencies. The natural disaster and nuclear detonation exercises also improved unit cohesion and efficiency in responding to short notice events.



FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, passes the Contingency Command Post 1 colors to Maj. Gen. Charles Gales Jr., incoming Task Force – 51 commander, during the change of command ceremony Oct. 18 in the Quadrangle.

"Army North is a championship team," said Jacobs. "I am truly proud to have been a part of this team and every Army reserve officer should have an opportunity to serve in a command such as this."

The new commander

acknowledged the commitment it takes to lead such a special and distinguished unit to be prepared, trained and ready to deploy in a moment's notice.

"Prepare for the worst, pray for the best, Army Strong, Strength of the Nation," said Gales.

Strike ready

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Staff Sgt. Robert Nelson, training noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, and Soldiers from throughout Fort Sam Houston, rehearse baton strikes, jabs and blocks during Entry Control Point augmentee training Oct. 19. Soldiers from many different occupational specialties also learned to handcuff and search suspects, were certified to use Oleoresin Capsicum spray, better known as pepper spray, and were tested on the use of force during the four-day course Oct. 17-20. On the last day of the class, Soldiers manned the gates with officers from the 502nd Security Forces Squadron.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Relinquishing command

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Capt. Loron Grantham, outgoing commander, Intelligence and Sustainment Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, passes the company guidon to Lt. Col. Shannon Miller, commander, HHBN, during a I&S Company change of command ceremony Sept. 23 in the Quadrangle. By passing the guidon, Grantham relinquished command of the company to Capt. Stephen Corpus. Corpus previously served as the collection requirements manager, U.S. Army North. Grantham is now the Task Force — 51 operations officer.

Hungry critters

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — A visitor to U.S. Army North's "Quad Quest" feeds a hungry goose Sept. 17. Visitors also got try authentic Army food from the late 1800s and spoke with personnel from the Fort Sam Houston Museum about the history of the Quadrangle. Quad Quest highlights the history of the Quadrangle, the oldest building on Fort Sam Houston, as well as the history of the U.S. Army in San Antonio from the late 19th century to the present.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

Historic Quadrangle welcomes new duck pond

Photos by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Animal Caretaker Adam Quintero prepares to release the ducks Sept. 16 during a ribbon-cutting for the new "duck pond" in the grounds of U.S. Army North's historic Quadrangle. The natural-looking limestone-lined pond and waterfall replaces a shallow rectangular pool that had sat in the grounds. "We have to be good stewards of history," said Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North. Army North leaders have spearheaded a project to restore and beautify the historic grounds.



FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Michael Grizer, public works director, 502nd Air Base Wing; Lt. Col. Melissa Fahrni, deputy chief of staff, U.S. Army North; Col. John Lamoureux, commander, 502nd Mission Support Group; Jason Spivey, pond project superintendent; and Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North; cut the ribbon Sept. 16 on the Quadrangle's new animal-friendly, limestone-lined duck pond. "(The duck pond) is primarily a place where you can come and have special events here and people will want to come visit," said Wiggins. "And I'll tell you, the added attraction is that waterfall — listening to it is pretty soothing. So hopefully it's a place where you can come for your lunch breaks and special events and enjoy it and take pride in the facility in which we all occupy."

Army North Soldiers join 25,000+ runners for Army Ten-Miler

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

WASHINGTON — Army North Soldiers laced up their running shoes and scrambled to the starting line, along with more than 25,000 fellow runners Oct. 9, as they geared up for the start of the renowned Army Ten-Miler.

The Army North competitors bobbed and weaved their way through thousands of runners for the first couple of miles on the streets of Washington; it was only then that they were able to truly stretch their legs and concentrate on the pace and competing in the race.

Maj. Daniel Welsh earned bragging rights as the top finisher for Army North's team. He soared along to an impressive 59th place overall on the day with the time of 55:32. Averaging a blistering five minutes per mile, he was the 10th active-duty member to finish.

"The key is to get and maintain

a good pace," said Welsh. "It's difficult to do so with everyone running at the same time."

Welsh, who also competed in the 2010 race, understands the challenges in maintaining the commitment and dedication required to compete with the fastest runners in the Army.

"It's been difficult to maintain a constant training regimen," said Welsh. "With all the other responsibilities in life, training for this event was second to my family and my responsibility at work."

With Army North's mission to execute the Department of Defense's homeland defense and civil support operations in the land domain, many ARNORTH personnel frequently travel throughout the United States to help support, train and validate DoD response forces.

Members of this year's team were executing the ARNORTH mission in different states throughout the year, which precluded the opportunity to train

together as many would have liked.

"We had a good team this year," said Staff Sgt. Michael Graham, a plans and operations noncommissioned officer who also earned honors as Army North's NCO of the Year. "After mile four, I realized that it was just the beginning of the race. I had such a long way to go."

The race tracks the teams as well as the individuals, with the times of the runners being combined to create the team's total time. Ultimately, the team finished 23rd out of the 47 active-duty teams and 109th of 596 total teams entered in the race.

Graham and his fellow runners earned their spots with the team through a series of races during the months prior to the competition.

"It's a great opportunity to run this event. Not only am I representing Army North, I'm representing the Army, and I'm proud to be here to see this many people supporting us in the run," said Graham.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres, Army North PAO
WASHINGTON — Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Fields, senior enlisted leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, and Lt. Col. Shannon Miller, commander, HHBn, flank the members of the Army North running team: Maj. Bryan Juntunen, G3 operations; Staff Sgt. Michael Graham, plans and operations noncommissioned officer and Army North NCO of the Year; Sgt. 1st Class Enrique Castro, battalion personnel noncommissioned officer; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Rose; communications noncommissioned officer; Maj. Daniel Welsh, information operations officer. The teammates stopped at the Army North display inside the Fort Sam Houston tent Oct. 9 as they prepared for the kickoff of the Army Ten-Miler in the North parking lot of the Pentagon.



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger
WASHINGTON — Skydivers from the U.S. Army Golden Knights help kick off the start of the Army Ten-Miler race Oct. 9 with a tandem aerial demonstration as they jumped in to the starting line in the North parking lot of the Pentagon. The skydiving team was one of the several attractions for visitors and participants of the annual running event.

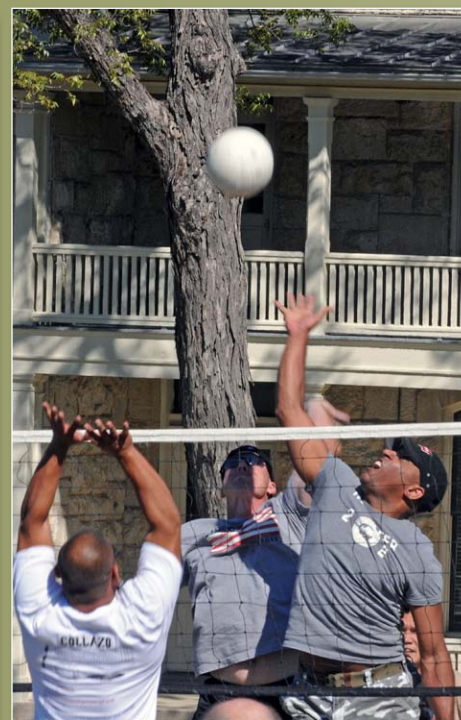


Headquarters Support Company, officers



Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — U.S. Army North Soldiers, civilians and family members took a break from their regular schedules Oct. 21 to compete in football, volleyball, horseshoes, poker, tug-of-war and other competitions for the unit's annual Organizational Day. Participants also judged a chili cookoff and a motorcycle and car show. A team of officers defeated a team of enlisted Soldiers for bragging rights in the ultimate football game, and Headquarters Support Company took home the Commander's Cup.



triumph at ARNORTH Organization Day



Org. Day winners:

Tug-o-war: (Ops. Co.) Maj. Christopher Campbell, Sgt. 1st Class Monsanto Jefferson, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Stake, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Washington, Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Williams, Staff Sgt. Jerome Anderson. **Volleyball:** I&S Co. **Football:** Officers. **Warrior Challenge:** (Ops. Co.) Maj. Bryan Juntunen, Sgt. 1st Class Peter Villa, Staff Sgt. Jerome Anderson. **Poker:** Cpt. Philip Lee. **Chili cookoff:** Mike Snell. **Carshow:** Daryl Kinman. **Motorcycle Show:** Frank Fedler. **Commander's Cup:** HSC.



San Antonio community commemorates 10th anniversary of 9/11 at the Alamo

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

SAN ANTONIO — Community members joined with civic and military leaders here to remember the victims and heroes of the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S., during a 10th 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. Jessica Clayton, Gold Award-winner, Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, and Matthew Wilkes, Eagle Scout, Troop 809, along with San Antonio military, police and fire department leaders, laid a yellow wreath in front of the Alamo with the words: “We will always remember.”

“What we do in life does, indeed, echo through eternity, and this is certainly true of the men and women we are gathered here to honor today,” said USAF Gen. Edward Rice Jr., commanding general, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio. “(We are) remembering the 2,977 victims



San Antonio firefighters begin the Firefighter Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run/Walk in front of the Alamo Plaza Sept. 11, after the 9/11 commemoration.



A delegation of dignitaries places a wreath in front of the Alamo during a commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S. Pictured: (Front row) Jessica Clayton, Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas; and Matthew Wilkes, Eagle Scout, Troop 809; (Back row) Gen. Edward Rice Jr., commanding general, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio; Fire Chief Charles Hood, San Antonio Fire Department; Police Chief William McManus, San Antonio Police Department; and Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston.

of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and remembering the over 2,700 coalition killed in Afghanistan since we started the response to that attack and the many, many more multiples of that number that have been wounded in action.”

America remains indomitable after 9/11, said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston.

“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,” said Swan. “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.”

Swan said the commemoration was an important part of our commitment to freedom.

“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,” Swan said. “It must be protected, defended and appreciated every day, both at home as well as in distant theaters.”

The ceremony honored each flight, ending with United Airlines flight 93.

“It is now 0903 hours local time,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, senior enlisted leader, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, and master of ceremonies for the

commemoration. “United Airlines flight 93 from Newark International Airport bound for San Francisco crashes into a field in Shanksville, Penn., killing all 44 passengers and crew onboard.

“But ladies and gentlemen, this flight was different. Flight 93 did not strike one of the terrorists’ intended targets, instead they and the crew joined together and put an end to the day’s deadly attacks, (and) in the efforts to do so, it cost them their lives.

“They used cell phones; they called family and friends,” Ciotola said. “They spoke of much of what we speak of here today, Love and Hope. Their final recorded words that morning: ‘Ready? O.K. Let’s roll.’”

The ceremony had special meaning for many in the crowd.

“My daughter started Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps on 9/11,” said Rose Sotillo, a member of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., San Antonio Chapter 4. “She’s an Army captain serving in Iraq right now.”

Sotillo said that it meant a lot to see the support the community has for its Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

“San Antonio is a community that over the generations has known the meaning of sacrifice and valor, and there’s no better place to



A joint band of Army and Air Force musicians plays the Armed Forces Medley at the Alamo Plaza during the 9/11 commemoration ceremony.



Community members at the Alamo Plaza listen as Brian Ferguson, a member of San Antonio Pipes and Drums, plays Amazing Grace on bagpipes during a commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S. The ceremony included moments of silence for American Airlines flight 11, United Airlines flight 175, American Airlines flight 77 and United Airlines flight 93, and remarks from civic and military leaders.

commemorate the events of 9/11 than here, at the Alamo,” said San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro. “Today, as a community of 1.3 million people, we give particular respect and honor to the men and women serving us in uniform who, over these last 10 years, have been called – beyond the call of duty – to protect our nation in a post 9/11 world.”

The mayor spoke of the lessons of 9/11 for the generation born after the attacks.

“Today as we remember the lives lost on 9/11, we also say a prayer and hope that the 9/11 generation will know that the events of that day spoke not only of what evil is, but spoke

of a common humanity among us as Americans – but more importantly among people of the world – that we are fundamentally not destructive, but constructive, that we’re not hateful, but loving, and that we’re not evil, but good,” said Castro.

The community was gathered to remember 9/11, and was also there for something more, Castro said.

“Today we honor the men and women who died that day, but we also honor the possibilities of our nation, its beauty, its freedoms, and our common humanity.”



Police Department Honor Guardsmen perform a 21-gun salute in honor of the nearly 3,000 victims of 9/11.

Celebrate America's Military Week 2011

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce created the Celebrate America's Military in 1970 as a way for the business community to say thank you to men and women who serve and have served in the military. The tradition has grown to become the nation's largest community event in honor of our military, with more than 250,000 people participating in CAM events each year.

Thursday, Nov. 3, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – CAM Greater Connections Mixer, San Antonio Botanical Gardens, 555 Funston at North New Braunfels.

Friday, Nov. 4, 11:30 a.m. – Association of the U.S. Army Luncheon, Sam Houston Club, guest speaker is CSM Neil Ciotola, U.S. Army Installation Command, tickets are \$13.

Saturday, Nov. 5, 8 a.m. to Noon – Fort Sam Houston Retiree Appreciation Day, for more info call 221-9004.

Monday, Nov. 7 – CAM Birdies for the Brave Golf Tournament, TPC San Antonio, \$125 per person.

9 to 10 a.m. – ESPN2 live broadcast of 'First Take' in the Quadrangle.

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7 a.m. – Air Force Association Combat Breakfast, Kendrick's Enlisted Club, Randolph AFB.

Wednesday, Nov. 9 – Spirit of America Dinner, Hyatt Regency Hotel, featured speaker is Gen. Philip Breedlove, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, Tickets are \$85.

Thursday, Nov. 10, Noon – Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve "Salute to Bosses," Luncheon Double Tree Hotel, tickets are \$18. Reservations are required. To place a reservation, contact Caryl Hill at 210-225-3326.

Friday, Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.
9:30 a.m. – Veterans Day Salute, JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa, tribute begins at 9:30 followed by a day of special events, concluding with a special concert.

1:30 p.m. – Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Ceremony, San Antonio National Cemetery.

Friday, Nov. 11, 3:30 p.m. – Texas A&M University – San Antonio Salute to American Veterans, and main building dedication and ribbon-cutting, TAMU-SA Campus, One University Way.
4:30 to 11 p.m. – Operation Homefront Concert at the MacArthur Parade Field, Fort Sam Houston. Concert features Fort Sam's Own, Patsy Torres, Bruce Robinson, Radney Foster, Tanya Tucker and Jack Ingram. The event is free & open to the public.

Saturday, Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m. – Wreath laying at the Alamo Plaza, and at Noon the Veterans Parade kicks off at the Alamo Plaza.

Sunday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m. – Veterans Day Concert "Salute to Service." Majestic Theater tickets are free and can be picked up at the Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT) offices on Fort Sam Houston, Randolph AFB and Lackland AFB, the Majestic Theater Box Office downtown on Houston Street, or the Fiesta Store on Broadway.

*For more information on events,
please visit:
www.celebrateamericasmilitary.com*

Army North, Fort Sam Houston, local schools meet to discuss academic partnership efforts

By Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger
Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — U.S. Army North hosted the Fort Sam Houston Adopt-A-School luncheon Oct. 25 at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course.

The luncheon served as an opportunity for the representatives of the nine participating schools, along with their partner units, to sit down and discuss their plans for the coming year as well as to share their experiences on their achievements over the past year.

"This has been very productive thus far," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general of U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, in speaking about the combined efforts of the partner schools and units. "This program is really about those sitting around the table and what you want to get out of the program."

The initial intent behind the program, explained Swan, was to put the framework in place for providing support to the schools and to build a "common operating picture." The luncheon provided each of the partner units and schools the opportunity to talk about their programs and to share their experiences with one another. Each was able to provide his/her approaches on supporting the unique needs of each school.

"What works in your school," cautioned Swan, "may not work in another school – and vice versa. Every class that comes in, every year, is a different group. You have to adapt to that."



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

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general of U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, provides the opening remarks as Army North hosts the post's Adopt-A-School luncheon Oct 25 at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course. The luncheon served as an opportunity for the representatives of the nine participating schools, along with their partner units, to share their experiences and achievements.

"This is a learning experience, so share those things that seem to be working at your school as far as the partnership with the units," said Mark Greszler, deputy chief of staff-installation management, Army North, who serves as the program's coordinator.

"We have nine schools and nine unit partners – that is a success story," he said, adding that to date, there have been approximately 500 volunteers, who have amassed nearly 1,500 hours in volunteer time with the schools.

"That's good work and, as I think as most units are finding out, the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines, all the service members, enjoy doing this stuff – so use them."

The nine schools, along with their partner units, are:

Cole Middle School with Brooke

Army Medical Center;

Pershing Elementary School with U.S. Army North;

Lamar Elementary School with the Army Support Activity;

Wheatley Middle School with the 32nd Medical Brigade;

Bowden Elementary School with the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade;

Washington Elementary School with U.S. Army South;

Wilshire Elementary School with the 502nd Mission Support Group and the 106th Signal Brigade;

East Terrell Hills Elementary School and the Army Medical Department Center and School;

and Fort Sam Houston Elementary School with the Army Environmental Command and the 410th Contracting Support Brigade.

South Carolina's 263rd AAMDC trains to protect heart of freedom

Story and photos by
Sgt. Brad Mincey

108th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT BLISS, Texas — Daily we hear news about National Guard Soldiers serving bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan, but not as often do we acknowledge those who are serving stateside protecting the homeland.

The South Carolina National Guard's 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command based in Anderson, S.C., has the unique mission of preparing National Guard Soldiers to defend the nation's capital from an air attack.

In October, AAMDC Soldiers conducted training along with a live fire mission at Fort Bliss, Texas, for such a contingency. Additionally, for more than a year, the 263rd has been partnering with and training the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, from Columbus, Ohio, in preparation for this special mission that few are qualified to accomplish.

"We have been here for three

weeks conducting a culminating training event for the mission in the nation's capital," said Maj. Gen. Laurie Newton, 263rd AAMDC commander. "Along with that, we are validating and certifying the minimum deployment package for the Distributed Interactive Simulation piece. This involves tactics, techniques and procedures."

The 2nd Battalion, 263rd AAMDC is the training certification authority for First Army and the United States Army Forces Command for all ground-based air defenses. Since July 2010, Soldiers from both the 263rd and 174th have been training every weekend to ensure the readiness of the 174th ADA.

"The South Carolina guys have been great," said Sgt. 1st Class Chad Fluharty, 174th ADA. "We've had some intense days of training during the past year and this exercise validates that training so we are better able to protect the U.S. capital."

"We train and validate the training for Soldiers who protect the homeland," said Newton. "In particular, the National Capital Region. Washington, D.C. is the freedom center of the world, and that is what we are defending with National Guard Soldiers."

During the exercise, Soldiers had the opportunity to train on a variety of missile platforms, from large Norwegian Advanced Surface to Air Missile System, to AN/TWQ-1 Avenger Air Defense System, as well as shoulder-fired missiles.

The diversity of systems allows Soldiers the opportunity to engage a wide range of incoming targets, ranging in size from a large passenger jet to small, unmanned drones.

"The troops are very dedicated because they know that this is an important mission," said Newton. "This is truly a protect the homeland mission. If something happens here, the repercussions spread across the world."



The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, S.C. National Guard, conducted a culminating training exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas October 10-23 to train the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Ohio National Guard. The 263rd AAMDC is the training certification authority for First Army and the United States Army Forces Command for all ground-based air defenses.
(Photo by Sgt. Brad Mincey, 108th Public Affairs Detachment, S.C. National Guard)

Fort Sam Houston bids farewell to Army North's deputy commanding general

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

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Fort Sam Houston leaders, service members, family and friends, gathered together to bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, and his wife, Annette, during an Army North Tattoo Ceremony Sept. 30 at the historic Quadrangle.

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, Army North and Fort Sam Houston, presented a Distinguished Service Medal to Wiggins and thanked him for his many contributions to Army North and Fort Sam Houston.

"Perry and Annette came to the command in April 2009 and have been instrumental players in moving Army North forward in a host of ways," said Swan. "Perry's responsibilities span the entire range of this command's unique homeland defense and security mission, from the readiness of the tip of the spear – our defense coordinating officers who are



Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, says farewell to comrades, friends and well-wishers during his Tattoo ceremony in the Quadrangle Sept. 30. Wiggins will assume command of First Army Division, West, Fort Hood, Texas.

embedded out in the FEMA regions – to the validation of the preparedness of the Department of Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Forces, to the building of a lasting partnership with our Mexican armed forces comrades."

Swan highlighted Wiggin's work with the DoD's national terrorism exercise, Vibrant Response, his commitment to his fellow Purple Heart recipients and his efforts to restore and improve the grounds in the Quadrangle. Swan also thanked Annette for her leadership of the Military Civilian Spouse Club, her work with San Antonio Fiesta 2011 and her many volunteer activities.

Wiggins will assume command of First Army Division West, Fort Hood, Texas. He has served as the deputy commanding general of

Army North since April 27, 2009.

Established in 2006, DIVWEST has seven brigades with 54 subordinate battalions. In 2009, DIVWEST headquarters moved from Fort Carson, Colo., to Fort Hood, Texas.

Wiggins thanked the Soldiers and Civilians at Army North for their efforts during his time at the unit.

"To all my teammates here at Army North, I want to say a special thank you for your untiring dedication and unwavering loyalty to this command," said Wiggins. "Without your efforts, we could not have accomplished all that we have accomplished these past two years. The outstanding reputation earned by Army North is due, in fact, to your herculean efforts, and I want to personally give you my thanks."



Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, Army North and Fort Sam Houston, presents the Distinguished Service Medal to Wiggins.

Presidential Proclamation – National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Utilizing the talents of all Americans is essential for our Nation to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we recognize the skills that people with disabilities bring to our workforce, and we rededicate ourselves to improving employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors for those living with disabilities.

More than 20 years after the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with disabilities, including injured veterans, are making immeasurable contributions to workplaces across our country. Unfortunately, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities remains too high -- nearly double the rate of people without disabilities -- and reversing this trend is crucial.

In both the public and private sectors, we can increase employment opportunities for Americans with disabilities. My Administration is promoting competitive, integrated employment for persons with disabilities and the elderly through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Last year, we also recommitted to making the Federal Government a model employer for people living with disabilities. Agencies are working harder than ever to promote equal hiring practices and increase retention, while also expanding internships, fellowships, and training opportunities.

We know education is the foundation on which all children can build bright and successful futures, and no child should be limited in his or her desire to learn. In September, we announced the final regulations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C, to improve services and outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families during the critical years before kindergarten. The educational environments we are creating for children with disabilities will ensure they are better prepared to succeed in the classroom and later in the workplace, helping position our Nation to lead in the 21st century.

Work accessibility is just as vital to success as ensuring educational and hiring opportunities. Public transportation is a service that should be available to all Americans, and rules instated this year by the Department of Transportation require new rail construction or renovations to ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities. We are also improving our compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act to make Federal agencies' electronic and information technology more accessible to individuals with disabilities. This will ensure all applicants have equal opportunity to apply for jobs, and it will allow Federal employees to better use technology at work.

To win the future, we must harness the power of our Nation's richest resource -- our people. Americans with disabilities, like all Americans, are entitled to not only full participation in our society, but also full opportunity in our society. Their talents and contributions are vital to the strength of our Nation's workforce and our future prosperity. Together, we can ensure persons living with disabilities have equal access to employment, and to inclusive, supportive workplaces.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2011 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to embrace the talents and skills that individuals with disabilities bring to our workplaces and communities and to promote the right to equal employment opportunity for all people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

News

DHS announces first national preparedness goal

Office of the Press Secretary

WASHINGTON — On Oct. 7, the Department of Homeland Security announced the release of the country's first-ever National Preparedness Goal.

The goal is the first deliverable required under Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness, which was released in April 2011. The goal sets the vision for nationwide preparedness and identifies the core capabilities and targets necessary to achieve preparedness across five mission areas laid out under PPD 8: prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery.

“As we work to build a more prepared nation, we must work with the entire community – the public and private sectors, faith-based and non-profit organizations, and most importantly the public,” said Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate. “This goal recognizes that reality, and we will continue to work with all our stakeholders to implement PPD 8 and build a more prepared and resilient nation.”

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate announced the release of the goal at the annual National Emergency Managers Association Conference in Austin, Texas. The full goal can be found online at www.fema.gov/ppd8.

PPD 8 called for the development and maintenance of a National Preparedness Goal to define the core capabilities necessary to

prepare for the specific types of incidents posing the greatest risk of security to the nation. This goal builds extensively on prior work of various stakeholder groups from around the nation, draws upon lessons learned from large-scale and catastrophic events and represent input from all stakeholders.

As directed by PPD 8, this goal will be reviewed regularly to ensure consistency with applicable policies, evolving conditions and the National Incident Management System.

Don't pass stopped Texas school bus

State of Texas Operations Center

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas law prohibits vehicles from passing any school bus that is stopped and has its flashing red lights activated to protect children getting onto and off of a school bus. However, some motorists still break the law and place schoolchildren at risk of injury or death.

During National School Bus Safety Week (Oct. 17-21), Texas Highway Patrol Troopers in many rural areas of the state rode on or followed school buses to catch motorists who broke the law.

When a vehicle illegally passes a stopped school bus with the red lights activated, Troopers riding on the bus radioed ahead to other Troopers who pulled over the offending motorist and issued a ticket that cost up to \$1,000. Troopers also patrolled areas where school buses pick up and drop off children, looking for motorists violating the school bus law.

“The safety of children riding on school buses is important, and we

will do everything we can to ensure that Texas drivers obey the law,” said Steven C. McCraw, Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety. “Drivers will receive tickets if they do not stop for school buses as required.”

In 2010, Texas Highway Patrol troopers wrote 414 tickets for passing a stopped school bus.

There were 762 crashes in Texas involving school buses last year. In those crashes, one person died and 89 people had serious injuries, according to the Texas Department of Transportation, which tracks traffic crashes.

Senior enlisted members, officers must self-report criminal convictions

By Mark Edwards
DoD News Release

WASHINGTON — All U.S. Army commissioned officers, warrant officers and enlisted members above the pay grade of E-6 who are on active duty or in an active duty status in the Reserve Component shall report in writing via DA Form 4187 or memorandum, any conviction of such member for violation of a criminal law of the United States – whether or not the member is on active duty or in an active status at the time of the conduct that provides the basis for the conviction.

This policy applies to any criminal convictions announced on or after March 1, 2008, and is effective immediately.

For convictions announced after March 1, 2006, and before the date of the memorandum, the report shall be made to the Soldier's commander within 15 days of the date of this memorandum, even if

sentence has not been imposed or the Soldier intends to appeal the conviction.

For convictions announced after the date of the memorandum, the report shall be made to the Soldier's commander within 15 days of the date the conviction is announced, even if sentence has not been imposed or the Soldier intends to appeal the conviction.

If you have any questions concerning legal please contact your nearest Staff Judge Advocate or legal office.

First lady announces hiring commitment for spouses, vets

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — First Lady Michelle Obama, on a visit with her husband to Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., today announced a private sector hiring commitment of 25,000 military spouses and veterans as part of the Joining Forces campaign.

Some 270 companies represented by the American Logistics Association for doing business in military resale and morale, welfare, and recreation, have committed to hiring 25,000 military spouses and veterans in the next two years, the first lady said.

The commitment is the largest yet toward President Barack Obama's challenge for the private sector to hire 100,000 military spouses and veterans by 2013.

“They do not want to miss out on your potential,” the first lady said to a cheering audience inside the 94th Fighter Squadron's hangar. “They want American businesses to have the best, most-talented, most

hard-working employees around.”

The commitment came from diverse companies, she said, ranging from the corporate behemoths Procter & Gamble, Tyson Foods and Hewlett-Packard, to smaller companies such as Prime Time Services, which plans to hire hundreds of military spouses and veterans within the next year.

Some hiring efforts already have begun, Obama said, with Siemens, Sears, K-Mart and Sam's Club, and through Chamber of Commerce job fairs.

“These are bold commitments, and these are companies that are making these pledges not just because it's the right thing to do or because it feels patriotic,” she said. “They're also doing it because it's good for their bottom line ... because they know that veterans and military spouses, like all of you here today, represent the best our country has to offer. And they want you on their team.”

The first lady then introduced her husband, the president, saying his presence shows what “a huge deal” the announcement is.

The president thanked the troops for their service, noting, “Your generation has earned a special place in America's history.”

Many of the three million post-9/11 war veterans “have taken their leadership experience, their mastery of cutting edge technologies, their ability to adapt to changing circumstances, and they've become leaders here at home,” the president said. “They've become leaders at businesses all across the country.

However, the Obamas said, many military spouses and veterans struggle to find good employment.

“The truth is that sometimes employers may not always know about all that you have to offer,”

the first lady said. “They might have trouble understanding a military resume, or they might see a spouse who's lived in five cities in seven years as a red flag, rather than a reality of military life.”

“We want America to know that you're veterans who have completed missions with enough variables involved to make most people's heads spin; that you're trained in state-of-the-art technologies; that you've managed dozens if not hundreds of your peers; and when the stakes are the highest, that's when you're at your best,” she added.

Services announce recruiting numbers for fiscal 2011

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — All four active-duty services and five of the six reserve components met or exceeded their recruiting goals for fiscal 2011, officials announced Oct. 20.

Army: 64,019 accessions, for 100 percent of its goal of 64,000; **Navy:** 33,444 accessions, for 100 percent of its goal of 33,400; **Marine Corps:** 29,773 accessions, for 100 percent of its goal of 29,750; and **Air Force:** 28,518 accessions, for 100 percent of its goal of 28,515.

Army National Guard: 50,430 accessions, for 95 percent of its goal of 53,000; **Army Reserve:** 30,087 accessions, for 106 percent of its goal of 28,320; **Navy Reserve:** 8,364 accessions, for 100 percent of its goal of 8,344; **Marine Corps Reserve:** 9,180 accessions, for 100 percent of its goal of 9,157; **Air National Guard:** 7,182 accessions; and **Air Force Reserve:** 9,069 accessions.



U.S. ARMY NORTH
FIFTH ARMY

