

# ARNORTH Monthly

June 2011



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**Front Cover:** FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Sgt. Maj. Eliodoro Perez, operations sergeant major, Contingency Command Post 1, U.S. Army North, passes the CCP1 colors to Maj. Gen. John Basilica Jr., outgoing CCP1 commanding general, during the change of command ceremony May 13 in which Maj. Gen. Kevin McBride assumed command. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres-Cortes, Army North PAO)

**Back Cover:** YAKIMA, Wash. — Soldiers from the 181st Chemical Company, 2nd Chemical Battalion, from Fort Hood, Texas, scan Pfc. Ammar Gibbs for radiation May 13 after he simulated losing consciousness during a search of a suspected chemical or biological weapons lab at a Yakima County, Wash., detention facility warehouse as part of an external evaluation conducted by U.S. Army North. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO)



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**Command Sgt. Maj.:** Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood

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# McBride assumes command of CCP1

## Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Maj. Gen. Kevin McBride assumed command of U.S. Army North's Contingency Command Post 1 at Fort Sam Houston's historic quadrangle May 13 from Maj. Gen. John Basilica Jr. as Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North, presided.

Basilica served as the CCP1 commander since April 2008.

McBride previously served as the U.S. Army Materiel Command's assistant deputy commanding general, Army National Guard.

Basilica was commissioned after graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1978.

He served 10 years of active duty and was appointed to the Louisiana National Guard in 1992.

He has served in numerous duty positions in command and staff throughout his career with operational assignments in Iraq and in support of Hurricane Katrina relief.

McBride served in a variety of command and staff positions during his career, including commanding an Attack Helicopter Battalion, a Light Utility Helicopter Battalion and the 56th Troop Command (Airborne).

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

McBride will now lead the headquarters designed to deploy on short notice to coordinate activities of military response forces for natural or man-made disasters.

The contingency command post is designed as an all-hazards command and control unit.

It has the capability to go anywhere



Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston, passes the colors to Maj. Gen. Kevin McBride, incoming CCP1 commanding general, signifying the change of command May 13 at Fort Sam Houston's historic Quadrangle.

needed to ensure Department of Defense personnel responding to support local, state and federal officials during a disaster have centralized command and control.

U.S. Army North, as the Joint Force Land Component Command and Army Service Component Command for U.S. Northern

Command, conducts Homeland Defense, Civil Support operations and Theater Security Cooperation activities in order to protect the American people and our way of life.

For more information about the United States Army North, visit [www.arnorth.army.mil](http://www.arnorth.army.mil).

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Photo by Col. Wayne Shanks, ARNORTH PAO

## Remembering fallen heroes

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Alamo Council Scouts: Frank Moran, Curtis Smith and Mark Moran, place American flags on the graves of fallen heroes May 27 in preparation for the Memorial Day remembrance at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 meet on Fort Sam Houston.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

## Yin the hen

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Aidan, 10, shows off Yin, a Golden Comet chicken, one of the three chickens he donated to Army North May 10. He and his mother Amy Kappler also donated two French breeds, a Golden Cuckoo Marans and a Black Faverolles, after hearing about the free-roaming deer, geese, ducks, peacocks and a rooster in the Quadrangle from a friend. Aidan was presented a certification of appreciation from Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston.

## ARNORTH welcomes

Lt. Col. Blake Burslie, CCP  
 Lt. Col. Eric Robinson RGN IV  
 1st Lt. Brian Everman,  
 HHB  
 CW2 Kristopher Ward, G2  
 Sgt. Maj. Tomas Gonzales,  
 G3  
 Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Reid,  
 Rgn X  
 Sgt. 1st Class  
 Christopher Williams, CCP1  
 Lei Silva, G6

## ARNORTH says goodbye

Lt. Col. Ladaryl Franklin,  
 CCP1  
 Lt. Col. Clyde Lynn, CSTA  
 Maj. Keven Bayless, G3/5/7  
 Maj. Brunttee Faye, G3/5/7  
 Staff Sgt. Daniel  
 Lewandowski, G3/5/7  
 Steven North, G2  
 Irene Jackson, G3/5/7  
 CIVILIANS OF THE QUARTER  
 (2d QTR, FY11):  
 Cat. I: Adam Quintero  
 Cat. II: William "Bill" Donaher  
 Cat. III: Luis A. Camacho

# Fort Sam Houston honors retirees



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

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Eight service members and a Department of the Army Civilian officially retired before family, friends and well-wishers during the post retirement ceremony at Army North's historic Quadrangle May 26. The retirees are: Col. Stephen Walker (left), deputy commander, 321st Civil Affairs Brigade, U.S. Army Reserve; Col. Alfred Carter, director, deputy chief of staff, Operational Protection Directorate and Provost Marshal, U.S. Army South; Col. James Larsen, chief, Training, Exercises and Education, U.S. Army North; Lt. Col. Lawrence Hallstrom, chief, Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Sam Houston; Maj. Carlos Valenzuela-Durr, support operations officer, 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Army Reserve; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Gregory Welker, senior counter intelligence technician, U.S. Army South; Master Sgt. Samuel Ruiz III, senior maintenance supervisor; 4th Battalion, 5th Air and Missile Defense Regiment, Fort Hood; Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Speight, operational rations noncommissioned officer in charge, Headquarters, Veterinary Command; and Emily Chlebowski, biological laboratory technician, Department of Defense Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory.

## HHBN Soldiers commemorate Memorial Day with battalion run

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Col. Shannon Miller (front, left), commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, leads the battalion on a Memorial Day observance run in the early morning hours May 26. The Soldiers and their leaders observed a moment of silence to commemorate the sacrifices of service members throughout the nation's history before heading out on a 3-mile run through historic Fort Sam Houston.



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



# Army North hosts force protection conference

Story and photo by  
**Randy Mitchell**  
Army North PAO

SAN ANTONIO — U.S. Army North hosted a force protection conference here May 3-6 to focus on increasing the safety and security of service members, civilians, family members and installations.

The conference was led by Army North's Provost Marshal Office and covered a wide range of topics for the force protection professionals.

The event marks the fourth annual conference headed by Army North, which is the Army proponent for force protection in the continental United States. It served as an opportunity for the attendees from across the force protection spectrum to meet one another and learn about some of the shared risks community members face every day.

"The agenda for the conference was designed to enhance collaboration among the force protection stakeholders to build greater synergy within the community," said Chris Frels, Army North's deputy provost marshal, who organized the conference.

The event attracted more than a hundred participants, to include those from the Army commands throughout the continental United States, sister services, U.S. Northern Command and the Department of the Army.

A key focus of the conference was to gain a better understanding of the major force protection challenges within the continental United States, identify force protection gaps and seams in the execution of the FP mission and to work together as a group to develop solutions to the identified challenges.



Maj. Gen. Jeff Mathis, Joint Staff J-3/4, speaks to attendees of Army North's 4th Annual Force Protection Conference May 5 in downtown San Antonio to discuss the importance of increasing safety and security of service members, civilians, family members and installations.

An additional unique change to the conference this year was the addition of a table top exercise to draw participants together in handling a crisis that could affect any of their locations.

"The table top exercise was the highlight of the conference and first of its kind whereby all represented commands participated in a scenario based exercise designed to bring out force protection gaps and seams, reinforce force protection and anti-terrorism reporting procedures, and strengthen information sharing relationships," said Frels.

Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, the deputy commanding general for Army North, kicked off the exercise by welcoming those attending as he emphasized the importance of working together within current budget constraints and challenges that

each command faces.

"Usama Bin Laden is dead," he said. "But challenges still exist. The threat is still very real to our military and American way of life."

The lack of a Department of Defense Force Protection policy is one of the greatest national security challenges, said Maj. Gen. Jeff Mathis, the Joint Staff J-3/4.

"There is no FP DoD-level policy," said Mathis. "No DoD-wide law enforcement policy. We need to work our way through these issues at the policy level."

"Each command presented challenges and shared ideas with each other on how to fix problems and address the issues," said Frels. "There is an enduring threat to DoD, and we must be prepared to prevent, deter and mitigate those threats that would diminish our war-fighting capability."

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

## Training for memorials

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Staff Sgt. William Rea (front right), Military Honors Platoon, and Trooper Ed Zamora (front left), Highway Patrol, San Antonio, lead the way May 18 as Soldiers from Fort Sam Houston's Military Honors Platoon share their skills and techniques in paying honors and respects for their fallen comrades with troopers from the Texas Highway Patrol. Nineteen troopers from Texas Highway Patrol's Region 6, which stretches from south of Dallas down to Victoria, joined the Soldiers to observe how the military conducts its services and to practice some of their techniques. Their fellow participants were Sgt. Timothy Ivey and Spc. Adrian Sanchez, both with the honors platoon, and Cpl. Bob Bratton, Highway Patrol, San Antonio, and Cpl. Eddie Longoria, a commercial vehicle examiner from Victoria.

## Good Conduct

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Lt. Col. Shannon Miller, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, returns a salute from Sgt. Peter Melton, Operations Company, HHBn, during a battalion awards ceremony May 26. Melton was presented a good conduct medal during the ceremony. Maj. Stephen Short, Office of Public Affairs, Army North, was presented an Army Achievement Medal and Sgt. Irma Johnson was presented an Army Achievement Medal.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

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## Fort Sam Houston combatives team tryouts for 2011 All Army Tourney



### Could you be an Army combatives champion?

Try out for one of 24 openings in the Fort Sam Houston combatives team. Tryouts will be held June 9-10 at the 32nd Medical Brigade combatives building, Bldg. 1160.

The Fort Sam Houston team will compete at the 2011 All Army Tourney at Abrams Gym at Fort Hood, Texas, from July 14-24.

#### Weight classes for males:

110 and under  
125 and under  
140 and under  
155 and under  
170 and under  
185 and under  
205 and under  
206 and up

#### Weight classes for females:

120 and under, 136, 153,  
169, 185, 198, 227, 228  
and up

If you're interested, call 210-872-1714, or email [jbsacombatives@yahoo.com](mailto:jbsacombatives@yahoo.com)



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Adam Fischman

Staff Sgt. Adam Therriault (bottom) executes an arm bar technique on his opponent while competing in the 2011 Army National Guard Combatives Championship Finals inside the Hector Santiago Fitness Center at Fort Benning, Ga., March 19. Therriault, assigned to Company A, 33rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Illinois Army National Guard, finished second.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

## ARMY NORTH CRUISES FOR MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Motorcycle riders from U.S. Army North line up to roll out of the sally port for a group ride to Texas Pride Barbecue for lunch during Army North's 3rd Annual Motorcycle Safety event May 25. The ARNORTH safety office hosted the event in which riders inspected each other's motorcycles and conducted a thorough safety briefing before heading out. Riders also volunteered some of their own lessons learned, and offered some tips for driving in major cities like San Antonio. **Bottom Right:** Sgt. 1st Class Monsanto Jefferson rides down Interstate 35 on his 2006 Suzuki GXSR 600 with the group on the way to lunch May 25. **Bottom Left:** Army North motorcycle riders roll out through the sally port during U.S. Army North's 3rd annual Motorcycle Safety event May 25 at Fort Sam Houston's historic Quadrangle.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres

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# Army North puts Fort Hood-based CBRN Soldiers to test

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

YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER, Wash. — It was a Friday the 13th more terrifying than a horror movie as Soldiers from two Fort Hood-based chemical companies faced simulated chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear scenarios.

Serving as the “directors” for the training event were the members of U.S. Army North’s Civil Support Training Activity, who orchestrated the training and external evaluations May 2-24 in and around the Yakima Training Center, Wash., for the active-duty companies.

During the exercise, Soldiers from the 172nd and the 181st Chemical companies, both of the 2nd Chemical Battalion at Fort Hood, worked through scenarios involving Ricin, Abrin, Anthrax, Nitric acid, radioactive materials and a host of weapons that could potentially be used as instruments of terror.

“This is our first opportunity to work with active component Army forces within the technical support forces,” said Larry Ritter, operations and evaluations analyst, Civil Support Readiness Group – Central, CSTA, Army North.

Ritter said the training was the same usually provided for Reserve-component Soldiers, albeit more compressed.

As of Oct. 1, active-Army units will work in a Defense Chemical Biological Radiological



Tim Stampley (right), an observer/controller/trainer from Civil Support Training Activity, U.S. Army North, observes as Soldiers from the 181st Chemical Company, 2nd Chemical Battalion, decontaminate a non-ambulatory “victim” May 13 during a mass decontamination scenario outside the training center’s gym. Members of Army North’s CSTA were putting the active-duty Fort Hood-based Soldiers through a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear external evaluation before the 181st Chem. Co. officially takes part in the new Defense Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Response Force mission Oct. 1.

Nuclear Response Force. It is a much larger organization than the previous CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force, which was composed of Army Reserve and Marine Chemical Biological Incident Response Forces. The size of the force will increase from approximately 3,800 people to more than 5,000.

The 172nd and 181st Chemical companies have been tapped as part of the DCRF.

“Analysis done at the Office of the Secretary of Defense indicated needed growth in capabilities at the local, state and federal level and an additional need to grow lifesaving capabilities in our technical support

forces,” Ritter said.

Some of the training was new for the active-duty Soldiers, who found themselves working with law enforcement, first responders, civil authorities, and complying with a host of domestic regulations Army units do not normally operate under when conducting operations in a theater of war.

“This is a lot different, working with civilians,” said Capt. Jeremy Gray, commander, 181st Chem. Co. “The Soldiers love the training, the new equipment, the new challenges and working in a homeland security mission, where you can actually see the benefit.”

In one scenario, Soldiers in

chemical suits set up a mass decontamination site for civilians exposed to an unknown agent during a sporting event. As the civilians came pouring out of the gym, Soldiers triaged them into minor, delayed and immediate categories, and ambulatory and non-ambulatory, with separate areas for males and females.

“I think it’s great that we get to do something here in the states – that we’re training to help Americans when the time comes,” said Spc. Justin Bursleson, CBRN noncommissioned officer in charge, 181st Chem. Co.

For the mass decontamination external evaluation, the Fort Hood Soldiers worked under Bernie Tillson, a retired assistant fire chief out of Boca Raton, Fla., who served as an incident commander.

“Our purpose here is to introduce them to the personal interaction they’ll have to have with an incident commander,” Tillson said.

Soldiers worked with



Simulated victims of a chemical incident spill out of the Yakima Training Center gym wearing tags with their notional medical symptoms May 13.



Pfc. Ammar Gibbs and Sgt. Damon Ford, initial entry team members from Fort Hood’s 181st Chemical Company, search a suspected chemical or biological weapons lab May 13 as part of an external evaluation in a Yakima County detention facility warehouse.

experienced role players from around the country, including first responders who worked in 9/11 operations in New York City.

Working with Army North and experienced first responders was very beneficial for the Soldiers, said Maj. James Scott, operations officer, 2nd Chem. Bn.

“The opportunity to place our Soldiers with seasoned professionals has been something we couldn’t replicate,” Scott said.

In a separate evaluation May 13, Soldiers from the Hazardous Materials Response Platoon, 181st Chem. Co., were trying to enter an unused Yakima County Jail building that housed a possible chemical or biological weapons lab when they faced an unexpected surprise: a bus with a simulated “dead” bus driver in front of the building and a real source of radiation setting off their detectors.

“You could see, watching them, when they realized it was real

radiation – suddenly, they started checking their suits,” said Michelle Anderson-Moore, radiation health physicist, Office of Radiation Protection, Washington State Department of Health.

Moore, who often works with Army Weapons of Mass Destruction

– Civil Support Teams, brought a small amount of Cesium-137 to the exercise for Soldiers to respond to. The sample was only strong enough to set off the detectors.

After Soldiers isolated the radiated area around the bus, they entered the warehouse building where they painstakingly surveyed every nook and cranny with multiple detectors until coming across a simulated Anthrax lab.

“We throw multiple things at them at a time,” said Ken Whited, Division G senior evaluation analyst, CSRG – Central, CSTA. “If they learn something today it may save their lives tomorrow.”

For Pfc. Ammar Gibbs, a member of the two-man initial entry team that went into the warehouse, working in CBRN is something to be proud of.

“Not too many Soldiers can speak on what we do,” Gibbs said. “It kind of separates you from your peers.”



## Elementary students visit with nature at Army North's Historic Quadrangle



Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, Army North PAO

### Duck, Duck, Goose.

**ABOVE:** Capt. Loron Grantham, commander, Intelligence and Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, introduces a second-grader from John J. Pershing Elementary School to one of Army North's noisier tenants, a goose, in the historic Quadrangle grounds April 14. Students were in the grounds as part of a field trip to complete studies in biology. Army North is partnered with the nearby elementary school, and many service members in the unit serve as tutors or mentors at the school. **RIGHT:** Capt. Michael Norton, U.S. Army North, explains the rules and responsibilities of feeding the wildlife to anxious students before handing over the feed. The children fed the peacocks, geese, ducks and deer in the grounds.



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## Army North leaders participate in career day

**RIGHT:** Lt. Col. Shannon Miller, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army North, helps a student from John J. Pershing Elementary School try on a U.S. Army aviator's helmet May 20 during the school's Career Day. The event is one of the culminating highlights of the school year for the San Antonio school, which is partnered with Army North's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion in the Adopt-a-School Program. Children at the elementary, primarily the first graders and kindergarten class, were provided an opportunity to try on military equipment, such as the aviation flight helmet, and heard about different military occupational specialties in the Army.



Photos courtesy of HHBN

**LEFT:** A John J. Pershing Elementary School student tries on a Kevlar helmet and bullet May 20 during the school's Career Day. **BOTTOM:** John J. Pershing Elementary School students try on U.S. Army Interceptor body armor and Kevlar helmets May 20 during the school's Career Day.



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# Army North exercises capabilities during Ardent Sentry 2011

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson  
Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — In a nationwide exercise, U.S. Army North, as a part of U.S. Northern Command, along with units from around the nation, responded to what many consider one of the greatest threats to the United States: a possible earthquake along the New Madrid Seismic Zone, a 150-mile fault zone roughly parallel with the Mississippi River in parts of seven states: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee.

In the national-level exercise, Ardent Sentry 2011, personnel from Army North, the Joint Force Land Component Command to U.S. Northern Command, conducted 24-hour operations May 16-19 to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency in response and recovery efforts following a simulated 7.7 magnitude earthquake that devastated much of the area in the seismic zone and overwhelmed state efforts.

“Our primary task is to assist local authorities with saving lives and mitigating suffering,” said Col. John Tulley, assistant chief of staff for plans, operations and training, Army North. “In the case of the New Madrid Seismic Zone, it’s not ‘IF’ it will happen – it’s ‘WHEN’ it will happen.”

This year marked the 200th anniversary of the 1811 New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquakes, which were



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger, Army North PAO  
Staff Sgt. David Tennant (center) and Sgt. 1st Class Alfred D'Adda, both assigned to U.S. Army North, work together during an exercise scenario May 18 at U.S. Army North's Combined Operations and Intelligence Cell during Ardent Sentry 2011, following a simulated 7.7 magnitude earthquake along the New Madrid Seismic Zone that notionally devastated much of the area in the seismic zone and overwhelmed state efforts.

recorded as some of the largest earthquakes to strike the continental United States.

Coordinating lifesaving and life-sustaining efforts with local, state and federal agencies, and different military commands and branches, is complex.

For the exercise, Army North (notionally or actually) activated eight defense coordinating elements: Region I, which is based out of Boston; Region III, based out of Philadelphia; Region IV, based out of Atlanta; Region V, based out of Chicago; Region VI, based out of Denton, Texas; Region VII, based out of Kansas City, Mo.; Region VIII,

based out of Denver; and Region X, which is based out of Seattle; along with two joint task force headquarters: Joint Task Force – Civil Support, based out of Fort Monroe, Va., and Army North's Joint Task Force 51 at Fort Sam Houston, and deployed them to the eight affected states to assist in relief operations.

Personnel established five incident support bases in Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee; provided air assets and personnel for medical evacuation, search and rescue and other missions; provided communications teams to coordinate initial response

efforts in Memphis, Tenn., Paducah, Ky., St. Louis, Mo., and Little Rock, Ark.; set up temporary medical facilities in Missouri and Tennessee; provided an air traffic control operations capability in Missouri; and coordinated efforts among more than 1,900 DoD Title 10 forces from around the country to support disaster relief operations.

Army North personnel performed command, control and sustainment of the command's defense coordinating elements and the large Title X federal force that deployed into the disaster area.

“We coordinate operations in the Combined Operations and Intelligence Cell,” said Sgt. 1st Class Natividad Ruiz, operations noncommissioned officer, Army North. “It’s an operations center

with big screens, like a NASA control room.”

During the exercise, Ruiz said he took requests for forces and for information and made sure personnel and assets were sent where they were needed most. He said the hardest part of his job is second-guessing himself.

“Sometimes you wonder, ‘Am I doing the right thing?’” Ruiz said. “That’s why this exercise was so beneficial – because we were scrutinized and got feedback on how we’re doing.”

The training process was critical for success, Tulley said.

“For the same reason you practice before a game, training prepares us for the real deal,” Tulley said.

“This exercise allowed us to further develop and rehearse this scenario and, even though

this exercise was an earthquake scenario, it helps us to prepare for other disasters, such as hurricanes, flooding, a terrorist attack, etc. Army North is America’s insurance policy for the homeland, so it’s important to periodically review and update that policy.”

When requested, DoD forces deploy to affected states where they are needed the most. The primary agency identifies those locations to an Army North defense coordinating officer.

Potential requests for assistance could include: incident awareness and assessment; search and rescue, air delivery, transportation and logistics; public communications; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear support; power generation and civil engineering.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Erik Cardenas  
Maj. Paul Lucci and Staff Sgt. Joshua Cookson, both serving with U.S. Army North's Joint Support Force 51, track disaster operations May 18 while conducting operations at Camp Bullis, Texas, during Ardent Sentry 2011, a national-level exercise that involved providing federal forces to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



*SOLDIERS LEADERS CIVILIANS FAMILIES*

**Take 5**  
*before the cookout!*

**Good BBQ**

- Perform a thorough safety inspection before lighting the grill
- Never use a grill in an enclosed space
- Only use an approved charcoal lighter fluid to start a charcoal-fired grill, and never add any flammable liquid to a burning fire
- Follow the instructions for lighting your gas grill
- Keep grills away from houses, fences, trees and anything else with a propensity for burning
- Don't wear loose clothing when cooking on a grill
- Keep all flammable materials away from the grill
- Make sure the fire is out when you are done



*What Have You Done to Save a Life Today?*



ARMY STRONG



## Army North tests Montana's 83rd Civil Support Team during external evaluation

Story and photo by  
Spc. Britney Bodner  
103rd Public Affairs Detachment

HELENA, Mont. — It all starts with a suspicious package at a government building in downtown Helena, Mont.

As security officers examine it, a mysterious liquid sprays out, prompting the 9-1-1 call for possible chemical contamination that ultimately leads to the deployment of the Montana National Guard's 83rd Civil Support Team.

The 83rd CST is used by incident commanders to identify chemical, biological and radiological substances with their projected consequences, as well as to offer advice on responding to these hazards.

All these skills and training were recently put to the test in downtown Helena, Mont., when the 83rd CST participated in an external evaluation put on by U.S. Army North from Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

According to 1st Sgt. Cary Monbarren, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 83rd CST, civil support teams have to participate in an external evaluations exercise every 18 months for national certification.

This allows the 83rd to support emergency responders in the event of a hazardous material situation that is beyond local capabilities.

Exercises like this give the CST feedback on their performance by somebody outside the team, said Joe Jakubowski, from San Antonio,



Staff Sgt. Casey Carnahan, survey team chief with the 83rd Civil Support Team, tests contaminated air from a container held by Joe Jakubowski, an evaluation analyst with U.S. Army North, during an external evaluation in downtown Helena, Mont. The external evaluation was conducted by personnel from U.S. Army North stationed out of Fort Sam Houston, Texas to validate the unit's training so they can respond to incidences concerning hazardous materials.

Texas, an evaluation analyst with U.S. Army North.

"We watch how they set up their trucks, put on their protective chemical suits, collect samples of a chemical agent and the process they use to identify the substance," Jakubowski explained.

"Anytime we can get an outside agency looking at our tactics, techniques, and procedures, it gives us a view that we don't see," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Whitney, the communications team chief for the 83rd. "They give us good feedback about what we can do better."

This exercise gave the survey team the chance to investigate a dispersion device, which is something they don't see very often, said Staff Sgt. Casey Carnahan, a survey team chief with the CST.

Completing the mission during the middle of the night and in freezing temperatures also presented challenges with visibility and the proper functioning of equipment.

"I think it goes to the Army's training strategy that you have to be able to do your job at any time in any condition," said Capt. Adam Karlin, a medical operations officer. "If we can complete the mission at night, in the cold, when you're tired, you can do it anytime."

The CST has to be prepared to respond to an incident whenever a call comes in, no matter the time or the weather, Monbarren said. External evaluations like this confirm what the team can do as well as solutions to help the team work more effectively.



## News

### Northcom supports response to severe midwest weather *NORTHCOM*

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Northern Command officials activated their defense coordinating officer and defense coordinating element for FEMA Region 7 and extended those functions for FEMA Region 6 in support of response efforts to the severe weather in the Midwest.

U.S. Army North's defense coordinating officer and defense coordinating element for Region 6 initially were activated to support flood relief in the South and have been extended with the activation of FEMA Region 7 to provide assessment and coordinate Defense Department assets as required in the Midwest, officials said.

Defense coordinating officers and defense coordinating elements work closely with federal, state, tribal and local officials to determine what unique Defense Department capabilities can assist in mitigating the effects of severe weather.

Emergency preparedness liaison officers from U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Air Forces Northern and Marine Forces North will deploy to FEMA Region 7 to help the defense coordinating officer assess and plan DoD support of civil authorities.

The Defense Department has capabilities that can save lives, as well as other capabilities such as airlift, medical and communica-

tions support and planning.

NORTHCOM is the joint combatant command formed in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to provide homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities.

### 4,300 NG Soldiers respond to U.S. floods *By Sgt. Darron Salzer, National Guard Bureau*

ARLINGTON, Va. — The number of National Guard members responding to severe spring flooding rose to about 4,300 over the weekend as parts of the Missouri River began to swell in states such as Nebraska and North and South Dakota.

Other states, such as Tennessee, Vermont and Wyoming are also seeing flooding as flood operations in Kentucky come to a close.

As of 5 p.m. May 31, about 2,000 North Dakota Guard members were on state active duty in response to rising waters in Burleigh, Morton and Ward Counties as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opened dams up-river that are oversaturated with heavy rainwater and snowmelt.

Snowmelt is predicted to cause flooding in Wyoming, where about 115 Guard members are performing sandbagging operations ahead of the floods as the state continues to see a warm-up trend.

The Wyoming Guard has opened its State Operations Center and is working with civil authorities to stay ahead of the waters, said a Guard official.

Montana also saw larger-than-usual snow pack in the mountains this winter, and heavy rains com-

bined with the snow melt have caused flooding in that state as well.

About 97 Guard members there are performing security operations at the time of this report, said a Montana Guard official.

Heavy rains have also contributed to rising waters in Vermont, where about 93 Guard members have been evacuating residents from around local lake bed areas.

Officials there said rains have been consistent almost every day for about a month now.

In Louisiana and Mississippi, Guard members continue their battle against the Mississippi River's floodwaters after severe storms swelled the river earlier this year.

Operations in both states, such as transportation support, levee patrol and inspection, search and rescue missions and levee security missions are scheduled to continue.

### Tornado disaster assistance available for some vets *Veterans Administration*

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that special disaster assistance may be available to veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans who have been affected by recent tornados in the South.

Veterans living in the designated disaster areas in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee may receive mortgage assistance through their loan servicers.

"VA wants to do everything we can to help veterans and their families during this difficult time," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric

K. Shinseki. "It is important for veterans to be aware of their rights and understand there are many resources available to help them recover from this disaster."

The VA strongly encourages mortgage companies not to initiate any new foreclosures in the disaster areas for a period of 90 days. The agency also encourages mortgage companies that service VA-guaranteed home loans to extend every possible forbearance to borrowers who are in distress through no fault of their own. This includes suspension of reporting to credit bureaus and waiving late charges for affected borrowers.

There are almost 26,000 veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans in counties in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee that have been declared eligible for individual assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Veterans should contact their insurance company as soon as possible to file claims for losses. At the same time, they need to contact their mortgage companies to let them know their circumstances.

Veterans should also start the FEMA disaster application process as soon as possible by calling 1-800-621-3362. Low interest loans, cash grants, and housing assistance may be available from agencies associated with the disaster recovery effort.

VA has information available on its website that provides basic guidance on options veterans should consider following a major disaster. Veterans may also contact their nearest VA Regional Loan Center at 1-877-827-3702.

Counties in Alabama affected by the tornado outbreak and that are

eligible for individual assistance through FEMA include: Autauga, Calhoun, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Etowah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, St. Clair, Sumter, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa and Walker.

Counties in Arkansas affected by the tornado outbreak include: Benton, Clay, Faulkner, Garland, Lincoln, Pulaski, Randolph and Saline.

Counties in Georgia affected by the tornado outbreak include: Bartow, Catoosa, Coweta, Dade, Floyd, Greene, Lamar, Pickens, Polk, Spalding, Troup and Walker.

Counties in Mississippi affected by the tornado outbreak include: Clarke, Greene, Hinds, Jasper, Kemper, Lafayette and Monroe.

Counties in Tennessee declared eligible for individual assistance include: Bradley, Greene, Hamilton and Washington.

### Odierno nominated as next CSA as Dempsey moves up *Army News Service*

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama announced May 30, that he will nominate Gen. Raymond Odierno as the next chief of staff of the Army.

Obama also announced he will nominate Gen. Martin Dempsey, the Army's current chief of staff, to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Dempsey is expected to replace Adm. Mike Mullen when his term as chairman ends Sept. 30. The president made the announcement in the White House Rose Garden just before departing to Arlington National Cemetery for the national

Memorial Day ceremony there.

"I'm announcing my choice for their successors today because it's essential that this transition be seamless and that we stay focused on the urgent national security challenges before us," Obama said.

If the Senate approves the nominations, Odierno — known for overseeing the transition from surge to stability operations in Iraq from September 2008 to September 2010 — will replace Dempsey as the chief of the staff after just five months of holding the Army's highest military position.

Dempsey became the 37th Army chief of staff April 11.

While Dempsey will have served just over five months as the chief of staff of the Army, his term in the position is not the shortest among Army chiefs. That record is held by Lt. Gen. John Bates, who served from Jan. 15, 1906 to April 13, 1906, serving just under three months in the position. However, Maj. John Doughty served in an equivalent position, as the United States Army's "senior officer," from June 20, 1784 to Aug. 12, 1784 — a stint of just 53 days.

Among those serving in the chief of staff position, a title first used in 1903, it was Gen. George Marshall who held the position longest, more than six years, from Sept. 1, 1939 to Nov. 18, 1945. He served in the position for the duration of World War II. Gen. Winfield Scott served longest in the Army's top position as its commanding general for 20 years, up through the first months of the Civil War.

Odierno currently serves as commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, which is being deactivated no later than Aug. 31. He entered the Army in 1976.



