



## DoD revises plans for Guard response capabilities

The National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Yield Explosives (CBRNE) response capabilities will undergo a reorganization to allow for better continuity of response to an incident and an easier transition between state and federal command and control elements, a senior DoD official said.

The changes ahead, which came about as a result of the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, include a reworking of the organization of the CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force (CCMRF).

"The first major change that we made is the decision to essentially go from a three CCMRF plan to a single CCMRF plan with other complementary pieces," said Christine Wormuth, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and Americas' security affairs.

With the new plan, said Wormuth, the CCMRF will be a larger organization and will have a quicker response time. Rather than responding to an incident within 96 hours of notification, the restructured unit will be able to respond within 24 hours of notification with up to 2,000 troops and an additional 3,000 within 48 hours.

The remaining two CCMRFs will be reorganized largely into command and control elements, said Wormuth.

"One of the important requirements that we identified, and that we previously identified, frankly, was the need to be able to respond to multiple, simultaneous events," she said.

While the CCMRF will largely be made up of active duty forces, a new response force will contain Guard members.

"Instead of doing a second and third CCMRF, we are now going to build, from within existing National Guard end strength, 10 Homeland Response Forces (HRF)," said Wormuth. "There will be

one of these HRFs in each of the FEMA regions, and they will be organizations of about 560 personnel-oriented and built around a core of CBERNE capabilities, much like what we see in today's CERF-Ps (CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages), augmented with a pretty substantial command and control capability as well as a pretty substantial security capability."

## National Guard equipment levels improving, Renuart says

National Guard equipment levels are improving nationwide, the commander of U.S. Northern Command told a congressional committee.

Air Force Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr. told the Senate Armed Services Committee that equipage is up to more than 70 percent.

"That's new equipment," Renuart

said. "The training quality is up. And we're especially pleased that the equipment related to these homeland support missions is close to 100 percent in most of the states."

Last year, in testimony to the House Armed Services Committee, the chiefs of the Army and Air National Guards' cited improvement.

"The Army has made great progress toward improving equipping levels within the Army National Guard," said its acting director, Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter. "In recent years, the Army has made an unprecedented level of investment in Army National Guard equipment."

Both Carpenter and Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard, said more needs to be done to improve equipment critical to both domestic and warfighting missions.

Renuart was elaborating on his command's 2010 posture statement, which he delivered to the committee.

"National Guard and Reserve forces are critical to [NORTHCOM's] ability to carry out our assigned homeland defense and civil support missions," he said.

NORTHCOM's headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo., has 50 full-time National Guard positions, of which 45 are filled, Renuart said.

## Checks Go High-Tech at AAFES

The check "float" at the BX/PX is going the way of rotary phones and dot matrix printers as the Army & Air Force Exchange Service converts to a paper check conversion (PCC) system this year.

"PCC scans and instantly converts paper checks into electronic debits to the check writer's account," said Chief Financial Officer Harold Lavender. "This technology has been operational in contingency locations for roughly ten years now and commercial industry for about five. It's an extremely efficient system."

Rollout of the PCC program began in AAFES CONUS locations in March and will



U.S. Navy Lt. Joseph Baugh, a physician assistant with the Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team, provides medical care for a sick child during a village medical outreach mission in the Gelan district of Afghanistan. Afghan, American and Polish medical providers from Forward Operating Base Ghazni treated 270 patients during the mission.

DoD photo by Master Sgt. Sarah R. Webb, U.S. Air Force



be fully implemented in all facilities by June 6. Concurrent rollouts of Pacific and European exchanges began in early April.

## DoD Resumes Military Career Spouse Program

The Department of Defense resumed the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) program. The 136,583 military spouses currently enrolled in the program are now again able to receive tuition assistance.

“We made a commitment to our military spouses when they established a career advancement account and we will be true to our promises,” said Tommy Thomas, deputy undersecretary of defense, military community and family policy.

The first phase of the reinstated program will enable the department to con-

tinue to pay up to \$6,000 in tuition assistance for spouses currently enrolled. The department is working to meet the need for spouses not yet enrolled who would like to establish an account.

The program was launched in 2009, to assist military spouses in attaining portable careers in high-demand, high-growth occupations. An unexpected spike in enrollment prompted the Defense Department to pause the program on Feb. 16. A thorough review began immediately to assure the program was accomplishing its intended goals.

Until new accounts can be created, Military OneSource Spouse Education and Career Consultants will continue to be available to provide education and training, career exploration, assessment, employment readiness and career search assistance.

## Air Guard enhances recruiting Web site

The Air National Guard is adding more personal interactivity in its public recruiting and retention Web site, using video and photo stories to tell Air Guard member stories directly to online visitors.

The revised [www.goang.com](http://www.goang.com) recruiting Web site draws upon navigation links with the newest Web design technologies to sort the Air Guard experience through a calendar format.

Gallagher said the new calendar format now breaks down the experience of Guard service as new recruits, prior service members, officers and health professionals experience it.

The Web site also uses the latest video technology and photo shows to tell those experiences as they may relate to public viewers, should they choose to become Guardmembers. 