

# NOSOTROS

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 22

Serving the U.S. Southern Command military family in South Florida, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the surrounding seas

DECEMBER 15, 2011

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Arthur McQueen

**Maj. Gen. Juan Ayala, SOUTH-COM Chief of Staff, addresses the participants of the recent Military Family Action Plan Conference, hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison-Miami Family Support Center.**

## National Guard Marks 375 Years Since ‘First Muster’



Arthur McQueen

**DORAL – AF Maj. Gen. Mark Sears, Dep. Cdr for Mobilization & Reserve Affairs, Spc. Juan Aguero and Sgt. Maj. Carl Legore, cut the ceremonial cake following a history presentation of the National Guard since its 1636 inception.**

### Miami-Dade First Responders Assist in FPEX

**DORAL –** U.S. Army Garrison-Miami Directorate of Operations organized and conducted an Active Shooter exercise here Dec. 7 that involved members of the Garrison, HQ staff, Army and Air Force Exchange Service and contractors. The shooter was apprehended by DES personnel after a brief hostage situation in the AAFES Xpress facility.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue helicopters evacuated casualties and M-D personnel participated in the After Action Review.

### Army Moves Forward with Civilian Reductions

The Department of Army has announced it is moving forward with plans to reduce the size of its civilian employee workforce.

In July, the Army announced a planned reduction of approximately 8,700 positions by Sept. 30, 2012. These cuts are based on Department of Defense resource decisions as reflected in the fiscal 2012 President’s Budget and require a reduction of Army civilian employees to comply with decreased funding levels.

The Army has identified 70 different locations affected by these reductions across eight commands and agencies with nearly 90 percent of the cuts taking place within **Installation Management Command**, Army Materiel Command, and Training and Doctrine Command.

Thirty seven states will be affected by these reductions with the majority of personnel cuts occurring in those states with the largest mili-

tary and Army civilian populations.

“Army commands and agencies are continuing to take necessary actions to reduce their civilian on-board strength to meet funded targets established by the secretary of defense and reflected in the President’s Budget,” said Thomas R. Lamont, assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs. “To the maximum extent possible, the Army will rely on voluntary departures to achieve these manpower reductions.”

Commanders are responsible for shaping their workforce within their allocated budget and may use all available options to achieve reduction objectives while mitigating adverse impact on the workforce. Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment may be used to reduce the number of personnel to meet mission objectives.

# Caribbean Nations Security Conference Focuses on Illicit Trafficking, Disaster Relief

**Michael Wimbish**  
U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs

**BASSETERRE, St. Kitts & Nevis** – Defense and security leaders from 17 nations completed a two-day Caribbean region security conference here today where they discussed proposals and cooperative solutions to counter transnational crime, illicit trafficking and support to humanitarian operations.

Sponsored by U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and hosted by the Saint Kitts and Nevis Defense Force, the 2012 Caribbean Nations Security Conference (CANSEC) was planned by participating countries with the theme, “Regional Information Sharing to Combat Transnational Organized Crime and assist Foreign Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response.”

This year’s conference included briefings, discussions and meetings focused on improving collaboration and coordination among regional security forces.

“I think the most important thing we can do is focus on

what capabilities we have today. And with those capabilities, what can we do to improve how we are addressing our collective security concerns,” U.S. Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser, SOUTHCOM Commander, told attendees in his opening remarks. “By focusing there, it breaks through a lot of the barriers and concerns and allows us to directly talk about what we can do and builds a very, very firm foundation that we can build on as we work in the future.”

Attendees discussed how regional security forces can leverage existing and emerging information technologies to facilitate combined efforts to counter transnational organized crime and the illicit trafficking of drugs, humans and weapons that form the backbone of their existence.

Fraser noted that from a regional perspective, the biggest concern is in Central America, which has seen significant increases in violence in recent years and an area “where 90% of the cocaine coming out of Colombia enters the United States.” But, the shifting and



Michael Wimbish

**Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser gives opening remarks for CANSEC.**

adaptive nature of transnational organized crime demands a persistent, hemispheric approach to deal with the threat.

“If you go back 20 years, the Caribbean was much more a focus of where the transnational organized criminal organizations were focused, running through the Caribbean directly into the United States. As pressure was put on those avenues, they have shifted... and they have shifted into Central America,” said Fraser.

Fraser said that the United

Nations “sees a shift starting to happen again back into the Caribbean.”

“I know that you see that on a day-to-day basis,” Fraser told the attendees. “That’s why, as we look across the region, I see [the threat] as a regional issue, as a hemispheric issue and one that we have to continue to work together.”

SOUTHCOM security cooperation and engagement efforts in the region include a se-

**.. see CANSEC on page 8**

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Via ICE at: [http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=124098&s=628&dep=\\*DoD&sc=2](http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=124098&s=628&dep=*DoD&sc=2)

Submissions to NOSOTROS should be received by the Monday preceding the publication date.



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# From the Army's Home Front:

*Caring exemplifies the spirit of the holiday season*



**Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter**  
Installation Management Command

One of the world's greatest leaders was a gate guard who worked at the main gate of Fort Benning, Ga. What made Mr. McCoy so great was that he knew his job was more than checking ID cards. With his awesome attitude, he conveyed to every person passing through his lane that he cared.

Somehow he succeeded in making a difference just through his genuine message of "Welcome Home!" I've talked with many people who had contact with him—Soldiers, parents visiting their Soldiers, Civilians going to work, and visiting retirees who were stationed at Fort Benning years ago, and all agreed. He made a difference.

We've all seen this type of inspired leadership on every installation. Showing that we care exemplifies the very spirit of the holiday season.

The great thing about being part of the Army Family is that caring goes beyond the holiday season. It is day in, day out, year-round.

Margie and I and our four kids have lived and grown as a Family on Army installations around the world. In addition to Mr. McCoy, we've met many whose sense of service far exceeded their job description—really dedicated people at a housing office, Youth Sports coaches, and Child Development Services, to name just a few. My family's experience is not unique. Every Soldier and Family member can point to service providers on our garrisons who go out of their way to help.

The same sense of caring is why so many Soldiers, Family members, Civilians and retirees volunteer their time and talents across the installation. Our volunteers welcome newcomers. They teach classes, mentor children and teens, and run play groups for young mothers and toddlers.

They plan outings for Wounded Warriors, build houses for disabled veterans, support Survivors, help prepare Families for deployment and throw welcome home parties.

Caring and selfless service is ingrained in our Army culture, and we are much stronger because of it.

Army Strong!

To everyone who has extended a helping hand this past year, whether in a professional capacity or as a volunteer, thank you. Thank you for choosing to go the extra mile to make a difference for Soldiers, Civilians and Families.

Let's all enjoy what the season offers, wherever we are, and enjoy time with friends and loved ones. As we celebrate, let's remember those who are deployed and extend extra support to their Families at home.

Let's also be mindful of those around us who may find this time of year more difficult. For those who need assistance, our installations provide a number of Soldier and Family support services. If you are unsure where to go, start with Army Community Service or the chaplain's office.

From my Family to you and yours, we wish you a safe and happy holidays and a blessed new year.

# Battaglia: Reducing Suicides a Top Priority

**Karen Parrish**  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – Military leaders are committed to reducing suicides in the ranks, Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia, the Defense Department's top enlisted leader, said here Dec. 9.

A report on military suicides states that from 2005 to 2010, service members took their own lives at a rate of about one every 36 hours, according to the report.

Also, while only 1 percent of Americans have served during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, former service members represent 20 percent of suicides in the U.S.

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs

estimates 18 veterans die by suicide each day.

"Whether it be [a suicide] every 80 minutes or one every 80 weeks, one is obviously one too many," Battaglia said.

Since 2000, the military has implemented several initiatives designed to identify those service members at risk for suicide, the sergeant major said.

Total Force Fitness, for example, is a program that has gained momentum over the past few years and provides families an enriched factor of resiliency [and] builds toughness, Battaglia said.

The sergeant major said commanders and front-line leaders up and down the chain of command must continue to educate and engage service members

and family members.

"It's important for that individual service member to know that there's no problem so serious ... to decide to take [their] life," he said. "We can help solve the problem together."

Convincing someone suffering from suicidal thoughts to seek help is "a big step," he acknowledged. "A lot of responsibility lies on the commander ... [but] all of that commander's subordinate leaders share a similar responsibility," he said.

Battaglia said one important point he wants to share with service members who are struggling with personal issues is that help always is "a fingertip away" – pushing the buttons on a phone or knocking on a door can be the first step to a better

life.

"All of our troops know this – we care," he said. "Our men and women have chosen to do what 99 percent of their societal peer group chose not to – and that's to serve in uniform as valued members of our armed forces."

DOD and the VA are also working to reach the veteran population to help those at risk, Battaglia said.

"Sooner or later we're all going to leave uniform," he said.

Veterans are still part of the total force, and "help for them, again, is only a fingertip away."

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/GetHelp/SuicideWarningSigns.aspx](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/GetHelp/SuicideWarningSigns.aspx)

**Veterans Crisis Line:** [www.veteranscrisisline.net/](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/)

# After Hours:

## Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities and events

### FAMILY AND MWR announcements may be found on the NIPR portal

To be placed on the Family and MWR e-mail list, send your name, phone number and e-mail address to [mwrcustomervice@hq.southcom.mil](mailto:mwrcustomervice@hq.southcom.mil).

**TICKETS OFFERED BY THE INFORMATION, TICKETS AND REGISTRATION (ITR) OFFICE,**  
305.437.1595/2400

■ **MIAMI DOLPHINS** tickets starting at \$25 per game. Save money on parking – Orange parking available for \$22 (reg. price \$25)

■ **NHL HOCKEY FLORIDA PANTHERS** tickets available now at the ITR Office.

### ■ SPECIAL OFFERS FROM THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER

Save up to 20% off.

<http://www.arshtcenter.org/tickets/calendar/view.aspx?id=10698>, and enter promo code HOLIDAY prior to selecting your seats.

**B.B. KING IN CONCERT** PRESALE! Wednesday, January 4 at 8pm PLUS Save 15% off tickets\*! From Eric Clapton to Jimi Hendrix, every blues guitarist for the past century has been influenced and inspired by the master – B.B. King! Knight Concert Hall. GET GREAT SEATS BEFORE THE GENERAL PUBLIC ONSALE PLUS SAVE 15%!! Special offer tickets start at only \$42!

**MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET** 20% off tickets to the Dec. 27th-29th 8pm performances! MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET is the smash hit Broadway musical, the story of the famed recording session where Sam Phillips, the "Father of Rock 'n' Roll," brought together Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for one unforgettable night. Ziff Ballet Opera House. Tickets start at only \$21!

**SALUTE TO VIENNA** Friday, December 30 at 8pm Save 10%.

Welcome the New Year with "Salute to Vienna," patterned after Vienna's world famous "Neujahrskonzert", returning for a glorious 13th season. A festive New Year's Concert, featuring a brilliant new cast of over 75 musicians, stellar European singers and dancers in beautiful costumes. Knight Concert Hall. Special offer tickets start at only \$41! Tickets are limited & ticket fees apply. Offer not valid on previously purchased tickets and not available for all sections & performances. If you have trouble accessing the special offer online, please call group sales at 786-468-2318.

■ **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL PRESENTS: MICHAEL JACKSON THE IMMORTAL TOUR**, March 3, 2012, 8pm, American Airlines Arena, prices start at \$55

■ **WRESTLEMANIA XVIII** tickets are available now at the ITR Office, before they go on sale to the general public. Prices: Section 436 Row 16: \$45; Section

439 Row 11: \$65; Section 139 Row 18: \$145; Sun Life Stadium on April 1,7pm

■ **BUS TRIP TO SEA WORLD ORLANDO**, Jan, 14, adults \$80, children \$70. Payment due by close of business, Jan. 11.

### LOCAL EVENTS

■ **HOLIDAY FESTIVAL December 16, 2-4pm, Courtyard.** Directorate tree decorating, crazy ties and sweaters, holiday karaoke contests, holiday bazaar (also on Dec 15) make your own sundae, holiday refreshments. Photos with Santa (Santa arrives at 1415.) Bring the family!

**SPORTS & FITNESS PHONE:** 305.437.0123/4

### ■ NEW CLASS SCHEDULE:

#### Monday

1130-1230 Tai-Chi with Sensei Montalban  
1130-1230 Spinning with Gabriella  
1230-1330 Yoga with Gabriella

#### Tuesday

1130-1230 Spin Lunch with Liz  
1200-1300 Power Yoga with Rae  
1645-1745 Zumba with Rosie

#### Wednesday

1130-1230 Spinning with Gabriella  
1130-1230 Self defense with Sensei Montalban  
1230-1330 Yoga with Gabriella  
1630-1730 Mid-Week Restorative Yoga w/Rae

#### Thursday

1130-1230 Spin Lunch with Lucy  
1200-1300 Power Yoga with Rae  
1645-1745 Zumba with Rosie

#### Friday

1130-1230 Spinning with Gabriella  
1230-1330 Yoga with Gabriella

Schedule is subject to change. \$3 per class or \$25 for 10 classes Please arrive on time for class. First come – first served. Jill M. Hauser, Recreation Specialist, 305.437.1682/0123.

### ■ FITNESS CLASSES AT NO COST:

**Functional Fitness (outside)** – M-TH, 6-7am, 11:30-1pm, and 5-6 pm, P.O.C. Frank Same 305.437.1152, Sign-up at the Gym counter.

**Open Play Volleyball** – Tues., Thurs., 12-1pm

**Racquetball Challenge Court** – M-F 1130-1pm, Court #1. Beginning Jan 9, 2012 – **Tai chi**, Mondays at 1130, **Self-defense**, Wednesdays at 1130 with Sensei Montalban.

### NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST MWR

Activities sheet is online at [www.cnic.navy.mil/keywest](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/keywest)

■ **MASSAGE THERAPIST** 60 minute session – \$70, 30 minute session – \$35. Call Russell Protzman, 305.951.1286 or 305.887.1719.

■ **ONE – ONE PERSONAL TRAINING WITH GABRIELLA** 60-minute session, \$60; 30-minute session, \$30. Sign-up at the Gym counter.

**"THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN"** Tuesday, 10 January, 1-2pm, USAG-Miami, Installation Services Center, 9301 NW 33rd Street, 2nd Floor, Suite E2005, Family Support Center. Learn about the features and benefits of the Thrift Savings Plan including: The differences between the 5 Funds and the Lifecycle Funds; How to Participate in the TSP and Contribution Limits; Tax benefits of the Thrift Savings plan; TSP Loan Programs and penalties of early withdrawal; TSP options after you separate or retire; The TSP match; Spouse Rights; Combat Zone Tax Exclusion. Space is limited. Please email to reserve your seat: [Richard.Zimmelman@hq.southcom.mil](mailto:Richard.Zimmelman@hq.southcom.mil), phone (305) 437-2645.

ALL MIAMI-DADE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS! **YOUTH LEADERSHIP MIAMI** (YLM) is a free program for public and private high school students in Miami-Dade County in good academic standing. YLM, "lite" version of the Greater Miami Chamber's Leadership Miami program, includes: team building exercises, government officials and prominent business executives and a community project. YLM is scheduled for Feb 3-4 at Florida International University, Biscayne Bay Campus. Interested students must complete an application process and be present both days of the program. Participating seniors have the opportunity to win a **\$1000 scholarship** from the South Florida Progress Foundation and Wells Fargo. Applications are available. Contact Leana Cianfoni 305 577-5425 or [lcianfoni@miamichamber.com](mailto:lcianfoni@miamichamber.com).

Named ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults and awarded the Florida Book Award gold medal, "this exceptional historical novel" is a book to share with the whole family, a book to give as gift, a book to celebrate... Meet Christina Gonzalez Discussing and signing **THE RED UMBRELLA** Saturday, December 17, 11am Coral Gables Museum 285 Aragon Ave Right next door to Books & Books. This moving tale of a 14-year-old girl's journey from Cuba to America as part of Operation Pedro Pan – an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents sent them away to escape Fidel Castro's revolution – is perfect for all ages and all South Floridians.

**PAVE THE WAY:** Parents And Volunteers Enhancing Kindergarten Readiness. PAVE the Way is a mentor program for families in KID Preschool Plus. Through this program volunteers are specially recruited and trained as mentors to work one-on-one with parents and caregivers to increase participation in their children's learning process and Kindergarten readiness. We are currently recruiting for this program. What is needed from you: Minimum 20 years of age, Your own Transportation, Minimum dedication of 4 hours monthly between, 6-8pm or weekends for one school year, Level II Background Screening (\$32.00 cost) as part of orientation, Ability to listen, play, communicate effectively and be accessible. Who to contact: Ann Cunniff, Volunteer Coordinator, 954-390-7654 x1046, [anncunniff@kidinc.org](mailto:anncunniff@kidinc.org)



# Holiday Bazaar Offers Gifts To Satisfy Every Taste

A shopping district only a turnstile away! The Holiday Bazaar in the courtyard of the U.S. Southern Command headquarters runs today through Friday and offers holiday gift ideas to handle all of your friends and loved ones. The bazaar was organized by the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation directorate of U.S. Army Garrison-Miami.

Vendors are listed below:

**Anna Gleichman** – Premier design high fashion jewelry and photography services

**Beauticontrol** – Spa & Beauty products

**Corinna Lerma-McQueen** – prepackaged German cookies

**Elena Ervolino** – Lady’s Handbags

**House of Bijoux and Accessories** – Bijoux Fashion Jewelry

**Lizabeth Klasovsky** – Flower arrangements

**Mary Kay Cosmetics** – Cosmetics and beauty products

**Scentsy Wickless Candles** – Candles

**Somar Photography** – Photography Services

**South Florida Commuter Services**

**Spaca** – Fashion Jewelry and shirts

**Tastefully Simple** – prepackaged gourmet food

**Things & Occasions** – custom-made jewelry

**Tie District Inc** – Ties

## 112th Signal Detachment Welcomes New Commander

**Sgt. 1st Class Alex Licea**  
Special Operations Command South

**HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla.** – Soldiers assigned to the 112th Signal Detachment hailed the arrival of their new commander Army Capt. Jason A. Zumek during a change-of-command ceremony at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., Dec 9.

Navy Rear Adm. Thomas L Brown II, the commander of Special Operations Command South presided over the change-of-command ceremony.

In his remarks, Rear Adm. Brown praised outgoing commander Capt. George J.

Lindsey II for the work the 112th achieved under his command. Brown acknowledged the following accomplishments: Increasing partner nation capacity on the use and maintenance of military communications equipment; the rapid response of the signal detachment following the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti; and providing SOCSOUTH communications support for the command’s various deployments that focused on establishing partnerships with nations from the Caribbean, Central and South America.

The 112th Signal Detachment directly supports all operational and tactical communications for Special Operations Command South under the direction of U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC).

“The 112th Signal Detachment is so important when it comes to supporting our deployed servicemembers and partner nation forces,” said Rear Adm. Brown. “Under the leadership of Capt. Lindsey, the 112th has become an elite group of troops who understand how to operate their communications equipment and do it with a sense of professionalism.”

During his farewell speech, Capt. Lindsey thanked the Soldiers of the 112th for all their support throughout his two-year command.

“Thank you for making me successful and supporting me,” he said.

Capt. Lindsey, a native of Houston, took command of the newly established detachment in January 2010 with just eight Soldiers. Today, the detachment has grown to 30 Soldiers.



photos by Sgt. 1st Class Alex Licea

**Army Capt. Jason A. Zumek firmly holds the guidon of the 112th Signal Detachment during a change – of-command ceremony Dec. 9 at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. The change-of-command ceremony is a formal passing of responsibility, authority and accountability of command from one leader to another. In the Army, the change of command ceremony is conducted at all levels, from the company to the senior Army level.**

Before completing his closing remarks, Lindsey welcomed Capt. Dumeck and his family to the 112th and SOCSOUTH organization and expressed to him that the members of the 112th stand ready to support him. Capt. Lindsey will be heading to Korea for his next assignment.

Zumek, who has served for 16 years, is a native of Enumclaw, Wash. He received his commissioned in 2008 after attending Officer Candidate School.

“The Soldiers of the 112th are true professionals,” said Zumek during his remarks. “You have lived up to your great reputation.”



**Army Capt. George J. Lindsey II, outgoing commander, 112th Signal Detachment, presents Navy Rear Admiral Thomas L. Brown II, commander, Special Operations Command South, the unit colors of the 112th Signal Detachment. The handing of the colors signifies his final act as commander.**

## FORT BRAGG, N.C.



### WHITE HOUSE LIVE

Now Streaming...  
 December 14, 2011 11:55 AM EST [Share](#)  
 President Obama and The First Lady  
 Speak to the Troops and Military  
 Families  
 Fort Bragg, North Carolina

# AROUND THE AMERICAS

**ABOVE LEFT:** “Part of ending a war responsibly is standing by those who fought it. It’s not enough to honor you with words. Words are cheap. We must do it with deeds. You stood up for America; America needs to stand up for you. That’s why, as your Commander-in Chief, I am committed to making sure that you get the care and the benefits and the opportunities that you’ve earned.”

## HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, FLA.



**ABOVE:** Soldiers assigned to the 112th Signal Detachment work on a military radio during the unit’s annual communications certification along Miami’s famed Rickenbacker Causeway Dec 1. The certification, which consisted of five communications testing stations over a 12-mile course, was conducted in order to ensure all Soldiers of the unit were up to date on their radio certifications.

## MANAGUA, NICARAGUA



Sgt. 1st Class Dori Pelley

**ABOVE:** A US Air Force C-5 touched down in Managua, Nicaragua to deliver 6 fire trucks / emergency vehicles and 1 pallet of fire hoses destined for the two different fire-fighting organizations here in Managua. Fire Chiefs Chavarria and Delgado of the respective organizations were very excited; their organizations accepted the donated goods and hoped to put them into service immediately.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Lance Cpl. Ronald Russell, assigned to Marine Corps Detachment embarked aboard High Speed Vessel (HSV 2) Swift, saws a piece of wood for repairs at Centro Escolar Elementary School. Russell is part of a team completing minor structural, electrical and plumbing repairs to the school during a three-week Southern Partnership Station project. Southern Partnership Station is an annual deployment of U.S. ships to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility in the Caribbean, Central and South America.

## LA UNION, EL SALVADOR



Sgt. 1st Class Alan B. Owens

# WHHIX EX: Using Technology To Save Lives

**Angel L. Perez Jr.**  
Program Manager, WHHIX

U.S. Southern Command's J72 (Science, Technology and Experimentation) and J44 (Surgeon's Office) co-sponsored a medical information technology familiarization and demonstration event at the U.S. Army Garrison-Miami Fitness Center, Dec. 13-14.

The Western Hemisphere Health Information Exchange program involves two basic technology development and research arms. The first is the Medical Application of Speech Translation and the second is the development of an electronic medical record for use in humanitarian assistance or disaster relief scenarios.

Many agencies and organizations partnered to make this event successful besides SOUTHCOM, including the Army South Command Surgeon and several members of his planning staff, representatives from Maxwell Air Force Base and Arizona National Guard.

Other units participated and will utilize this technology in upcoming medical readiness training exercises including Health and Human Services and the U.S. Public Health Service, University of Miami trauma surgery and telemedicine department personnel, representatives from the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

Each brought a unique perspective and capability, and the varied backgrounds of the organizations and individuals combined to provide a very successful demonstration and gather important data to



facilitate preparation recommendations for the upcoming field missions where the technology will be utilized and tested.

The event include familiarization and training in the hardware and software from both the speech translation and electronic medical record projects, followed by table-top exercises using the equipment in simulated humanitarian assistance and disaster response scenarios.

Several Spanish-speaking personnel served as patients and went through a typical patient encounter with English-speaking providers using the speech translation technologies throughout the process, while the provider staff documented their care in an electronic medical record.

A typical humanitarian assistance encounter involved registration, preventive medicine education, screening, physician/provider visit, pharmacy, and ultimately discharge.

At each stage a different type of speech translation hardware was used, according to the environmental factors. Although the patient moved from station to station, the EMR resided in a local server and the patient only took their wrist bar code band with them for identification purposes. Each new provider

scanned them to pull up their record and add additional information pertinent to their station.

The second demonstration/rehearsal simulated a disaster response scenario with more extensive treatment requirements in an inpatient setting, and highlighted the rapid encounter capabilities of the DMIS.

Each project was able to gather data in this controlled environment that will better prepare them for deployment to the field environment later in FY12 and FY13, as the research project unfolds.

The speech translation team encountered several new noise and environmental variations. These will impact the hardware they bring downrange with them, and many medical aspects of speech recognition (both in English and the Spanish translation) were highlighted, helping to underscore the need for development of a medical body of translation capabilities for use in these scenarios.

The EMR team also found some areas to improve the DMIS product, and the plan is to work with HHS to make some software (and possibly hardware) updates prior to the field missions to provide the units with an even better product for their field tests.

In the end, everyone came away from the event excited about the technologies and ready to take the next steps towards integration into a field testing environment during 2012.



# Military Family Action Plan Conference Action



## CANSEC, from page 2

ries of multilateral exercises, professional military-to-military engagements and the provision of security capabilities.

U.S. military support is one part of an overarching U.S. government effort to counter the threat of illicit traffickers in the Caribbean.

Much of SOUTHCOM support to the region falls under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), a regional security-partnership initiative first announced by President Barack Obama during the Fifth Summit of the Americas in 2009.

CBSI is one of four U.S. led security assistance initiatives now underway in the Western Hemisphere. The other initiatives are the Merida Initiative to assist Mexico, the Central American Region Security Initiative (CARSI), and support to Colombian internal security efforts. U.S. military support to CBSI includes the Secure Seas program, which provides patrol boats and communication suites to Eastern Caribbean nations to help them counter illicit trafficking in their territorial waters.

On the humanitarian and disaster relief front, attendees discussed continuing ef-

forts to enhance information sharing capabilities to improve collective responses to major storms and other disasters.

Fraser shared some of his insights from last years support to international relief efforts following the major earthquake that ravaged Haiti. He stated that because there were so many different sources of information, that too often response forces spent more time trying to determine what the situation was in Haiti rather than focusing on what to do.

"It was only when we put together a consolidated report from all the organizations that were helping support the government of Haiti, and put it into a routine, daily update that came from all organizations involved, that we started dealing directly with how we confront and how we deal with those issues," said Fraser.

He stressed that the Haiti experience highlighted the need for a platform to provide persistent situational awareness to speed critical relief support.

"Establishing the routines in how we share that information, so that as a disaster strikes, there's a vehicle and a venue and there's training and awareness of how to use that vehicle to get a picture very

quickly," Fraser said. "We have made some progress from the decisions we made last year... of building information sharing capabilities. We will have some proposals [during the conference] that we'll put on the table as well as we look for ways to improve that."

Joining the U.S. and St. Kitts and Nevis at CANSEC were: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Dutch Caribbean, French Antilles, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.

Representatives from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Regional Security System (RSS), the Inter-American Defense Board, the U.S. State Department, U.S. Northern Command, and Joint Interagency Task Force-South also took part in the conference.

Observers from other regional organizations and nations, including Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, also attended the event.

Traditionally, the location of the CANSEC conference rotates among countries of the region. The 2011 conference was held in Trinidad and Tobago.