



## US NORTHERN COMMAND

### Protecting and Defending America 2002-2008

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*Following the 11 September 2001 attack on America by terrorists using hijacked aircraft in New York City and Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon, senior leaders in the Defense Department began planning for the establishment of a combatant command whose primary mission would be to defend the U.S. homeland.*

#### 2002

- 1 Oct* U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) stood up at Peterson AFB, and General Ralph E. Eberhart (USAF) assumed command. In conjunction with the activation, Joint Forces Headquarters Homeland Security, Joint Task Force Civil Support, Joint Task Force 6, and the Joint Regional Medical Planning Program were transferred from USJFCOM to USNORTHCOM.
- 18 Dec* Gen Eberhart briefed Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Donald Rumsfeld on the development and implementation of USNORTHCOM's mission. During the meeting, Gen Eberhart advised Mr. Rumsfeld that the command would require 1,324 manpower billets to attain Full Operational Capability.

#### 2003

- 1 Feb* Space shuttle *Columbia* disintegrated as it re-entered Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts and scattering debris from Dallas, Texas, to Lake Charles, Louisiana. USNORTHCOM participated in the National Military Command Center, US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), NASA, and other civilian federal agencies' response to the event.
- 25 Mar* USNORTHCOM requested approval from the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and SecDef to establish a Joint Task Force for the National Capital Region (NCR) that reported to USNORTHCOM. The JTF would provide a focal point for planning and command and control (C2) for homeland defense and military assistance to civil authorities within the NCR.
- 27 Apr* USNORTHCOM published its strategic concept for ballistic missile defense, defining the command's responsibility for the employment of ballistic missile defense forces to defend the United States.
- 18-26 Aug* USNORTHCOM completed Exercise DETERMINED PROMISE 2003. The exercise focused on Military Assistance to Civil Authorities in response to a bio-terrorism attack in Clark County, Nevada. The scenario included wildfires in western states, a hurricane in the southeastern U.S., a train derailment in Kentucky, and an airborne threat in Alaska. As a result of the successful completion of Exercise DETERMINED PROMISE 2003, Gen Eberhart declared that USNORTHCOM had reached Full Operational Capability on 11 September 2003.

#### 2004

- 3 Feb* In response to a threat involving Ricin contamination at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, SecDef designated the USNORTHCOM commander as the supported combatant commander in the operations and directed the employment of chemical-biological incident response force (CBIRF) to the NCR.





## 2004 (continued)

- 28 Apr* USNORTHCOM issued its Planning Order for the 2004 fire season. USNORTHCOM was the supported military commander for providing Department of Defense (DOD) support to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.
- 1 Oct* USNORTHCOM published its Theater Security Cooperation strategy. The strategy outlined several goals for USNORTHCOM in establishing cooperative ties with Mexico, Canada, and nations in the Caribbean.
- 5 Nov* At the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Change of Command ceremony at Peterson AFB, Admiral Timothy J. Keating, USN, replaced General Ralph E. Eberhart, USAF, as Commander of NORAD and USNORTHCOM.
- Nov 04-Jan 05*  
USNORTHCOM participated in Operation WINTER FREEZE, a 3-month operation to prevent smuggling rings and illegal aliens from crossing the U.S.-Canadian border into New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

## 2005

- 12 Jun* Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff made his first visit to USNORTHCOM to familiarize himself with its mission, and how DHS and the command interact.
- 8 Jul* ADM Keating, Commander USNORTHCOM, and LTG H. Steven Blum, Chief National Guard Bureau, signed a Memorandum of Agreement to delineate the relationship between the two organizations.
- Aug-Sep 2005*  
USNORTHCOM supported Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita recovery efforts in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The Joint Operations Center worked 24-hour duty to facilitate requests for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- 23-24 Sep* President George W. Bush arrived at USNORTHCOM to monitor Hurricane Rita moving toward the Louisiana and Texas Gulf Coast.
- 22 Nov* SecDef approved USNORTHCOM Concept Plan 2002-05, Homeland Defense, which detailed operations to deter, prevent, and defeat threats and aggressions aimed at the United States and its interests within its area of responsibility.

## 2006

- 11 Mar* Commander USNORTHCOM approved Concept Plan 2501-05, Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA).
- 5 July* USNORTHCOM acknowledged that North Korea had launched six short-range ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan. USNORTHCOM personnel monitored the event using worldwide ground, sea, and space-based sensors.
- 28 Jul* Upon review of several studies and reports, ADM Keating announced the decision to relocate and combine the NORAD Command Center with the USNORTHCOM Command Center at Peterson AFB.
- 15 Aug* SecDef selected USNORTHCOM as the “global synchronizer” in the Global Response to Pandemic Influenza.





## 2007

- Jan* SecDef approved CONPLAN 2400 – Emergency Preparedness in the NCR, which integrates operations in the NCR under a single combatant commander; synchronizes DOD activities and existing federal, state, tribal and local emergency preparedness efforts.
- 29 Jan* USNORTHCOM received confirmation from the Missile Defense Agency that the ballistic missile defense system would be expanded in 2007 by stationing more interceptors at Fort Greely, Alaska; providing more US Navy Aegis-equipped ships with missile-defense engagement capability; and bringing online an early-warning radar in the U.K.
- 1 Feb* SecDef approved CONPLAN 0500 for CBRNE-CM. When directed by the Secretary of Defense, Commander USNORTHCOM conducts consequence management in the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, to support Civil Authorities in response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) situations.
- 23 Mar* At the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Change of Command ceremony at Peterson AFB, General Victor E. Renuart Jr., USAF, replaced Admiral Timothy J. Keating, USN, as Commander of NORAD and USNORTHCOM.
- 30 Apr – 17 May*  
Exercise ARDENT SENTRY/NORTHERN EDGE 07 was the largest and most complex exercise undertaken by NORAD and USNORTHCOM. The exercise tested federal, state, and local preparations for emergencies including a hurricane in the New England states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, a nuclear detonation in Indianapolis, and terrorist attacks in Alaska, Washington and Oregon.
- 22 Jun* USNORTHCOM monitored large wildfires in seven western states: Washington, Oregon, Northern California, Idaho, Montana, southeast Utah, and Northern Nevada. These devastating fires burned more than 1 million acres.
- 1 Aug* During rush hour, the four-lane bridge on I-35 crossing the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, collapsed into the river. EXORDS from the CJCS and USNORTHCOM activated the Region Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) and deployed a US Navy mobile dive and salvage unit to assist with the response and recovery operations.
- 8 Aug* Space shuttle *Endeavor* (STS-118) launched for a 14-day mission of continuing construction on the International Space Station. To perpetuate its support of the shuttle launches, USNORTHCOM activated JTF-STs.
- 16-19 Aug* USNORTHCOM monitored the path of Hurricane Dean as it progressed through the Caribbean, and initiated preparations for disaster response operations along the possible landfall on the Texas-Louisiana Coast. The storm, however, struck the eastern coast of Mexico.
- 18 Aug* USNORTHCOM readied disaster response mechanisms to answer the threat of Tropical Storm Erin that spawned rapidly in the Gulf of Mexico, and almost hit the Texas and Louisiana coasts with hurricane force winds.
- 28 Aug* Mr. Paul McHale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense, visited HQ USNORTHCOM for discussions with the commander and staff on support to DSCA, Theater Security Cooperation, Weapons Release Authority for Ballistic Missile Defense, Intelligence Collaboration with Mexico and Canada, and Interagency Coordination.





## 2007 (continued)

- 4-6 Sep The Theater Security Cooperation Maritime Planning Workshop met to draw up a FY08 Maritime Engagement proposal for the U.S. and Mexico.
- 5-6 Sep HQ USNORTHCOM hosted personnel from Canada, Mexico, and the United States at a Tri-National Pandemic Influenza Conference, which provided briefings and interaction on pandemic influenza plans and preparedness.
- 12-13 Sep USNORTHCOM Commander, Gen Renuart, revealed the NORAD and USNORTHCOM *Vision 2020*, and the development of a theater campaign plan that synchronized National Defense Strategy, guidance for employment of forces, global campaigns and contingency plans, and Theater Security Cooperation planning.
- 1 Oct USNORTHCOM observed its 5th Anniversary.
- 15-24 Oct The NORAD and USNORTHCOM wide-ranging training Exercise VIGILANT SHIELD 08 linked to several other major exercises: the DHS TOPOFF 4, the Joint Staff exercise POSITIVE RESPONSE 08-1, and USSTRATCOM's GLOBAL LIGHTNING 08.
- 23-31 Oct The DOD deployed, under the operational control of USNORTHCOM, unique military capabilities to support local, state and federal emergency response efforts in the Southern California wildfires. USNORTHCOM provided forces and assets for disaster response operations in support of DHS/FEMA, the Department of the Interior/National Interagency Fire Center, and state and local officials.
- 11 Dec In anticipation of requests for assistance from FEMA to assist residents of the Midwest suffering from heavy ice storms and extreme winter weather, the Commander of USNORTHCOM ordered the deployment of U. S. Army North DCOs and a Defense Coordinating Element for FEMA Regions V, VI and VII.

## 2008

- 31 Jan USNORTHCOM announced it would work closely with the Office of Secretary of Defense in evaluating recommendations in the just-released Commission on National Guard Final Report, in order to enhance our nation's ability to anticipate and conduct Homeland Defense and Civil Support missions.
- 3 Feb Air Force fighter jets, under direction of USNORTHCOM requirements, flew air patrols over the Super Bowl XLII in Phoenix, Arizona, in support of the FAA's temporary flight restrictions zone

