



U.S. ARMY NORTH INTELLIGENCE: AMERICA'S INTELLIGENCE

By Colonel Laura Knapp and Major John Holland

Introduction

Maintaining intelligence readiness and supporting unified land operations in the U.S. homeland requires the U.S. Army North (ARNORTH) (Fifth Army) intelligence enterprise to operate in a complex and contested theater. Nation-state competitors develop and advance capabilities that specifically aim at perceived seams in our homeland defenses and operate through a framework of constant global competition in every domain. While their influence may be declining, non-state adversaries pose a persistent threat to American interests—at home and abroad. The routine occurrence of natural and manmade disasters threatens U.S. communities everywhere, testing the resilience of whole-of-nation responses to save lives and alleviate suffering.

The ARNORTH headquarters, when directed by U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and resourced by Headquarters, Department of the Army, may serve as the theater Joint Force Land Component during crisis and conflict. In competition, the ARNORTH intelligence enterprise is responsible for executing the NORTHCOM commander's daily operational requirements—*Set the Theater* for intelligence and be prepared to *Set the Joint Operational Area* for intelligence for crisis and conflict. In conflict, the ARNORTH intelligence enterprise provides intelligence support to operational forces in order to deter, detect, and defeat foreign threats against the United States and the American people. Additionally, the intelligence enterprise provides intelligence support in coordination with partners and Services to protect and defend Department of Defense (DoD) assets and capabilities required to actively project combat power around the globe. Although the ARNORTH G-2 team is the smallest of all regional Army Service component commands, it has a very important mission—to provide intelligence for homeland defense.

ARNORTH's Intelligence Enterprise

ARNORTH's intelligence priorities are linked with the ARNORTH commander's priorities for the theater. Those intelligence priorities are—

- ◆ **People first**—The resiliency, readiness, and protection of the intelligence workforce and those we support are the cornerstone for everything we do.

- ◆ **Intelligence support to homeland defense**—Provide situational understanding for a multitude of foreign peer and near-peer threats to achieve the command's complex mission.
- ◆ **Intelligence support to defense support of civil authorities (DSCA)**—Rapidly respond in support of lead federal agencies, as well as local, state, tribal, and territorial governments, to save lives, prevent human suffering, and mitigate property damage by providing situational awareness, damage assessment, and incident awareness and assessment.
- ◆ **Intelligence support to theater security cooperation**—Remain the land-based security partner of choice by building regional security with our allies and partners through intelligence training and by supporting situational understanding of the operational environment.

From competition through conflict, the ARNORTH intelligence enterprise requires additional intelligence capabilities, which are outlined in combatant command operational plans. Military intelligence (MI) theater enablers, under operational control of ARNORTH, conduct mission command, intelligence collection, and single-source and all-source analysis, production, and dissemination. The 505th MI Brigade (U.S. Army Reserve MI brigade-theater [MIB-T]), headquartered at Camp Bullis, Texas, is the theater MI brigade support for ARNORTH and under operational control by ARNORTH when mobilized. The 505th MIB-T routinely trains with the ARNORTH team to build mission readiness and annually mobilizes a small portion of the brigade in direct support of the ARNORTH G-2. ARNORTH's assigned Theater Intelligence Operations Detachment comprises 35 Soldiers who, along with the annual mobilization of the 505th MIB-T U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, form the theater analysis and control element and the theater G-2X.

The ARNORTH intelligence enterprise conducts analytic exchanges and authorized liaison with DoD, federal, foreign, state, local, and territorial partners in regard to defense-related foreign and counterintelligence activities. The ARNORTH intelligence enterprise also interfaces with key partners during DSCA missions for "other than intelligence

activities” to assist decision makers with government-provided information for damage assessment and situational awareness in an event expected to be declared an emergency or natural disaster.

Partner Integration—Joint, Interagency, and Multinational

The ARNORTH Assistant Chief of Staff G-2 relies on joint and interagency partnerships for nearly all operational and planning efforts. As the G-2 works to expand counterintelligence and human intelligence operations in a complex operating environment, constant coordination with NORTHCOM, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), and our federal agency partners is crucial to ensure adherence to all applicable laws and policy. Additionally, our partnerships with intelligence elements of federal law enforcement agencies enhance our ability to obtain timely and relevant data pertaining to threats to the homeland and allow us to submit time-sensitive requests for information directly to the agents best suited to answer them. The G-2X requirements in Alaska require close coordination with multiple partners, including U.S. Army Pacific, Alaska Command, U.S. Army Alaska, and the 500th MIB-T. The G-2X currently has a liaison officer embedded with the Army Counterintelligence Center and five counterintelligence agents embedded with INSCOM supporting operations throughout the NORTHCOM area of responsibility. The G-2X also has three human intelligence collectors attached to NORTHCOM headquarters to support operations in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The ARNORTH G-2 maintains a strong relationship with the U.S. Defense Attaché Office in Mexico and our Canadian partners in order to support theater security cooperation efforts between the United States and our partners. The ARNORTH G-2 coordinates and conducts intelligence subject matter expert exchanges, mobile training teams, and exercises with partner nations’ military and security forces to increase their intelligence capabilities and capacities. Our intelligence security cooperation efforts are linked to securing the land approaches from the north and south and support competition-phase engagement and homeland defense preparation.

To the north, ARNORTH G-2 focuses on interoperability with Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) for regional and global operations enhancement. Increased regional cooperation with CAF improves coordination and synchronization of cross-border operations. Moreover, we seek to improve interoperability with CAF for global (North Atlantic Treaty



United States and Canadian Soldiers work together through the Military Oriented Protective Posture decontamination process during DECON operations at Maple Resolve 18-01, Canadian Forces Base, Wainwright, Alberta, Canada, May 19, 2018. U.S. Army North and the Canadian Armed Forces plan year round for the Canadian Army’s Exercise Maple Resolve, the largest allied exercise conducted in North America.

U.S. Army photo

Organization and coalition) operations in order to secure the homeland from abroad. Canada is not only a key defense ally of the United States but also shares electrical grids, fiber-optic networks, and oil and natural gas pipelines with the United States, as well as our longest common border.

With our partners to the south, ARNORTH seeks to bolster the defense and security of the U.S. southern approach. The ARNORTH G-2 led efforts to support the institutional capability growth, operational effectiveness, and interoperability of both the Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional (Secretariat of National Defense) and the Secretaría de Marina (Secretariat of the Navy) as a defense partner with the United States and in the region. Mexico remains an important defense partner for the United States, and we share a 2,000-mile land border where over one million legal border crossings occur each day—the most border crossings in the world. Mexico is also the country with the largest number of native Spanish speakers and is a key regional leader in Latin America.

Intelligence Support to U.S. Army North Operations

The ARNORTH intelligence enterprise is keenly aware of the trust the American people place in its military as well as the policies and sensitivities associated with conducting intelligence activities in the U.S. homeland. The ARNORTH intelligence enterprise mission in the homeland supports and complies with DoD and Service policies governing intelligence activities, as our intelligence efforts are linked to defense-related foreign and counterintelligence activities. ARNORTH policies and orders provide specific guidance to

safeguard against unauthorized collection against U.S. persons. Special emphasis is given to the protection of the constitutional and privacy rights of U.S. persons.

Intelligence in Homeland Defense

We expect attacks against our critical defense, government, and economic infrastructure to be one of the first actions our competitors take in an escalating crisis. The National Defense Strategy states that defending the homeland from attack is the number one defense objective. Understanding this, the ARNORTH G-2 continues to advance planning for the employment of intelligence capabilities to provide collection and analysis of indications and warnings of any such potential attacks by those competitors or other non-state threat actors who desire to harm our critical capabilities.



U.S. Army photo by SPC Brian Pearson

Buses carrying Soldiers from Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force 801-2 arrive at the Marriot Hotel Renaissance Center in Detroit, MI, April 10, 2020. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, is providing military support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help communities in need.

ARNORTH, when operating as a Joint Force Land Component Command, executes homeland defense by detecting, deterring, preventing, and defeating threats from actors of concern associated with the land domain. Defending the homeland in the land domain neither begins nor ends at U.S. borders, so ARNORTH planning is guided by the construct of an active, layered defense that aims to deter and defeat aggression abroad and simultaneously

protect the homeland. It is a defense-in-depth that relies on the collection, analysis, and sharing of information and intelligence and the ability to rapidly generate and project warfighting capabilities to defend the United States, its allies, and its interests. Virtually all strategic threats to the homeland are based in areas of responsibility for other geographic combatant commanders; however, these threats can be employed against the U.S. homeland with a few computer keystrokes from any location, the deployment to international waters off our coasts, or the launching of an adversary's intercontinental ballistic missile. As the threats to the U.S. homeland are worldwide, cooperation in homeland defense intelligence operations hinges upon timely and accurate information and intelligence sharing.

Intelligence in DSCA—COVID-19 Support and Hurricane Recovery Efforts

DoD Directive 3025.18, *Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)*, defines DSCA as “support provided by U.S. Federal military forces, DoD civilians, DoD contract personnel, DoD Component assets, and National Guard forces...in response to requests for assistance from civil authorities for domestic emergencies, law enforcement support, and other domestic activities, or from qualifying entities for special events.”¹ In supporting DSCA events, the ARNORTH G-2 incorporates reporting from all classification levels from sources not normally associated with an Army Service component command headquarters. To be successful in a DSCA operating environment, the ARNORTH G-2 Operations Division facilitates information and intelligence sharing among various federal, state, and local entities in order to alleviate human suffering. Examples include damage assessments after a catastrophic event, such as a hurricane or the rupture of a dam, and line of communication analysis to aid agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), enabling the ingress and egress to flooded areas.


During the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic response, the ARNORTH G-2 supported 5 division-level task force commands and 10 defense coordinating elements by deploying 15 counterintelligence special agents and more than 20 all-source intelligence officers and analysts. Their task and purpose were to provide foreign threat indicators and warning, conduct counterintelligence support to Title 10 of the U.S. Code force protection, aid in situational awareness, and manage requests for information to assist the forward-deployed forces. By forward-deploying intelligence teams throughout the United States, the ARNORTH G-2 was able to coordinate and liaise with multiple members of the intelligence community and federal law enforcement to ensure all responding Title 10 Soldiers understood the operating environment and received appropriate force protection support. The G-2's key contributions included

providing situational awareness of foreign-produced counterfeit N95 masks, foreign-based disinformation and misinformation related to the pandemic, and information supporting the establishment of a no-fly zone covering a deployed Army field hospital.

ARNORTH G-2 supports other DSCA events such as natural disasters, including hurricane strikes. In order to provide appropriate support, all ARNORTH G-2 operations officers are both DSCA I and DSCA II certified, providing them the knowledge and understanding of the FEMA-led joint, interagency operating environment in which providing life-saving capability and aid to state and local municipalities is the number one priority. Additionally, the G-2 works closely with the ARNORTH contingency command post as well as other mission command headquarters such as the three division-level task forces of the Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Response Enterprise. The ARNORTH G-2 supports these commands by providing weather and environmental impacts information to the operating environment, line of communication analysis,

force protection support as required, and coordination of information assessment and awareness aerial platforms for the task force commander. During the 2017 response to Hurricane Maria, the ARNORTH G-2 was instrumental in providing accurate updates on lines of communication throughout Puerto Rico, enabling the timely delivery of federal aid to the island.

Conclusion

History has shown the ingenuity of our adversaries to challenge us on our own soil. The Black Tom Ammunition Depot bombing in World War I, Operation Pastorius in World War II, the 9/11 attacks, Iran's failed assassination plot against the Saudi ambassador in 2011, and the massive Russian cyber-attack in 2021 all serve as examples of the cunning strategies employed within the United States. Threats to the homeland are real. The ARNORTH G-2 continues to detect and illuminate threats, ensuring our command is able to respond and defeat our adversaries. 

A History of Foreign Adversary Attacks in the United States

Black Tom Ammunition Depot bombing, World War I: The explosion at the Black Tom depot in New Jersey occurred on July 30, 1916, blowing out tens of thousands of windows across the harbor in Manhattan. Because the blast occurred at 2:08 a.m. on a Sunday, fewer than 10 people were killed; however, the blast destroyed a massive amount of military goods. The United States had not yet entered World War I and was officially neutral which allowed American munitions dealers to legally sell to any of the warring nations. Most of the arms, were going to Britain, France, and Russia because the British navy had blockaded Germany. The initial investigation concluded that the explosion was an accident; however, in the 1930s, New York lawyer John McCloy amassed enough evidence to prove that the explosion had in fact been the work of German saboteurs.²

Operation Pastorius, World War II: Operation Pastorius was a failed 1941 Nazi plan, in which German submarines put two teams of infiltrators ashore in New York and Florida to sabotage defense-related industries in the United States. All of the saboteurs had been born in Germany, lived in the United States, and then returned to their homeland. However, before they could strike, one of the participants foiled the plot by revealing the details to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The eight saboteurs who had already entered the United States were subsequently arrested.³

9/11 attacks: September 11 attacks, also called 9/11 attacks, were a series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks committed in 2001 by 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda against targets in the United States, the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in U.S. history.⁴

Iran's failed assassination in 2011: On 11 October 2011, two men with ties to Iran were charged with planning to assassinate Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi ambassador to the United States. According to the U.S. Justice Department, the aim was to bomb a restaurant in Washington, DC, frequented by Jubeir. The plot was thwarted by U.S. officials.⁵

Endnotes

1. Department of Defense Directive 3025.18, *Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)* (Washington, DC, December 29, 2010, incorporating Change 2, March 19, 2018), 18.
2. James M. Lindsay, "TWE Remembers: The Black Tom Explosion," *The Water's Edge* (blog), *Council on Foreign Relations*, July 30, 2014, <https://www.cfr.org/blog/twe-remembers-black-tom-explosion>.

3. *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, s.v. "Operation Pastorius," accessed October 28, 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ex-Parte-Quirin#ref1197098>.
4. *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, s.v. "September 11 attacks," accessed October 28, 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/event/September-11-attacks>.
5. Ewen MacAskill, "Iranians charged in US over plot to assassinate Saudi ambassador," *The Guardian*, October 11, 2011, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/oct/11/iranians-charged-us-assassination-plot>.

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