

United States Northern Command

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United States Northern Command (**USNORTHCOM**, or informally just **NORTHCOM**) is a Unified Combatant Command of the United States military. Created on October 1, 2002 in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks, its mission is to protect the United States homeland and support local, state, and federal authorities. The support that USNORTHCOM provides to civil authorities is limited by the Posse Comitatus Act which limits the role of the U.S. military in civil law enforcement.

USNORTHCOM's Area of Responsibility (AOR) includes air, land and sea approaches and encompasses the contiguous United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico and the surrounding water out to approximately 500 nautical miles (930 km). It also includes the Gulf of Mexico, the Straits of Florida, portions of the Caribbean region to include The Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The commander of USNORTHCOM is responsible for theater security cooperation with Canada, Mexico, and The Bahamas.^[1]

USNORTHCOM is composed of several standing Joint Task Forces (JTFs) previously assigned to United States Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM): Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region, Joint Task Force-Civil Support, Joint Task Force Alaska, and Joint Task Force North. USNORTHCOM service components include U.S. Fifth Army/ARNORTH, First Air Force/AFNORTH, MARFORNORTH, and United States Fleet Forces Command.

USNORTHCOM headquarters has approximately 1,200 uniformed and civilian members, and few permanent forces. Forces from all branches of the U.S. military may be assigned to the Command as needed to complete its mission.

Commander, U.S. Northern Command is concurrently Commander of the U.S.-Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). The two are co-located at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. General Ralph Eberhart was the first CDRUSNORTHCOM.

The current commander of the U.S. Northern Command is Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN.

United States Northern Command



Emblem of the United States Northern Command.

Active	2002-present
Country	United States
Type	Unified Combatant Command
Headquarters	Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Nickname	NORTHCOM
Commanders	
Combatant Commander	Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr. USN
Deputy Commander	<i>(Vacant)</i>

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Related legal changes

The Military Commissions Act of 2006 lifted many restrictions placed on the military to support civilian administration by the Posse Comitatus Act, however the US Supreme Court ruled in June 2008 that significant portions of the MCA were unconstitutional. The "John Warner Defense Authorization Act of 2007" H.R. 5122 (2006) effectively nullified the limits of the Insurrection Act ^[2] when it was passed; however, the bill was amended in 2008.

On Oct. 1, 2008, the 3rd Infantry Division (United States)'s 1st Brigade Combat Team was assigned to U.S. Northern Command, marking the first time an active unit had been given a dedicated assignment to Northern Command. The force will be known for the first year as a CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force, and will serve as an on-call federal response force for terrorist attacks and other natural or manmade emergencies and disasters. ^[3].

List of commanders

Note: The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 stipulates that at least one deputy commander of USNORTHCOM be a National Guard general officer unless the commander is already such an officer.^{[4][5]}

	Image	Name	Branch	Term began	Term ended
1.		General Ralph E. Eberhart	USAF	October 22, 2002	November 5, 2004
2.		Admiral Timothy J. Keating	USN	November 5, 2004	March 23, 2007
3.		General Victor E. Renuart Jr.	USAF	March 23, 2007	May 19, 2010
4.		Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr.	USN	May 19, 2010	

References

1. ^ U.S. Northern Command Public Affairs (22 October, 2009). "About USNORTHCOM" (<http://www.northcom.mil/About/index.html>) . *USNORTHCOM website*. Peterson Air Force Base, CO: U.S. Northern Command. <http://www.northcom.mil/About/index.html>. Retrieved 28 July, 2010.
2. ^ Bush Moves Towards Martial Law, 26 October 2006 (<http://www.towardfreedom.com/home/content/view/911/>)
3. ^ [1] (http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/09/army_homeland_090708w/)
4. ^ [2] (<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?tab=main&bill=h110-4986>) Pub.L. 110-181: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008
5. ^ [3] (<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h110-4986>) Pub.L. 110-181: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 full text

External links

- United States Northern Command (<http://www.northcom.mil/>)

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Categories: Commands of the United States armed forces | Military units and formations in Colorado | Organizations based in Colorado Springs, Colorado | Military units and formations established in 2002

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