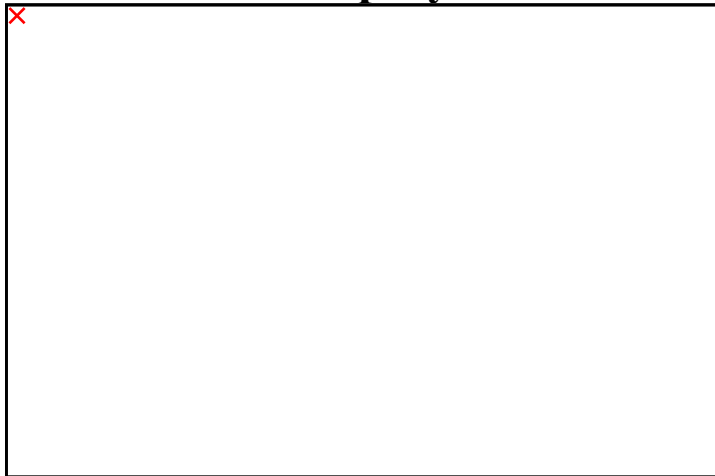


Students learn more about role of NORTHCOM

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office

Students discuss military role in disaster relief, talk with NORTHCOM deputy



Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, Deputy Commander of U.S. Northern Command and 1989 USAWC grad, spoke to Army War College students about the role of U.S. Northern Command. Photo by Scott Finger.

Feb. 2, 2010 -- After spending the morning discussing how the military can assist in an emergency on American soil, Army War College students got to listen first-hand to one of the people responsible for coordinating the response.

Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, Deputy Commander of U.S. Northern Command and 1989 USAWC grad, spoke to students and faculty in Bliss Hall Feb. 2 about defense support to civil authorities, the role of U.S. Northern Command, and how Hurricane Katrina has helped transform NORTHCOM.

Blum spoke about how the events of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina helped shape and focus NORTHCOM's mission. As a result of Katrina, NORTHCOM created detailed plans that laid out the command's role in defense support to civil authorities.

"The discussion in Bliss Hall resulted in my Seminar, 2, spending additional time discussing the idea of 'who is in charge during DSCA mission,'" said student **Lt. Col. Shawn O'Brien**. "He did not make a big deal out of this question. His response was you are a leader of troops and leaders take care of their people. The opinions varied on this response but in the end his experience and insight from all of his National Guard experience were thought provoking."

Student **Lt. Col. Carla Campbell** had a similar experience.

"The information Lt. Gen. Blum provided was a great fit for the DSCA discussion," she said. "His organization and how they anticipate what may be required was of great interest and assisted with understanding the strategic implications that NORTHCOM tackles."

Blum also noted that the role of NORTHCOM wasn't just focused on disaster relief. According to Blum, NORTHCOM's role is to anticipate, prepare, and respond to threats and aggression aimed at the United States, its territories, and interests within the assigned area of responsibility and, as directed by the President or Secretary of Defense, provide defense support of civil authorities including consequence management operations.

