

Spotlight On

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Air Force Colonel Katherine Lemay Brown

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Tuckerman, Ark. Native, Air Force Colonel Katherine Lemay Brown, is the Director of Protocol for the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the United States Northern Command. Brown sets protocol policy and standards for NORAD/NORTHCOM. "Our staff is a selectively-manned bi-national joint team which executes protocol for the commands. We routinely plan, coordinate and execute the visits and events associated with all distinguished visitors to the commands," Brown said. "Our role in homeland security is to be an enabler to the command; we create the political-military environment appropriate for mission requirements. The diversity and expertise of the two nations and five services represented in the commands, affords us great opportunities to create organizational environments in which the commands can effectively operate. Just as the United States is key in world diplomacy, our commands are key in homeland security. The primary role of our office is to render a political-military enhanced environment which allows our senior leaders to execute the missions entrusted to them." Brown was heavily involved with the activation of the U.S. Northern Command. As the Implementation Planning Team Chairperson for Manpower and Personnel, she led a primary team of five, with multiple augmentations from Joint Forces Command, NORAD, U.S. Space Command, Joint Staff and other agencies, to define the initial manpower requirements of USNORTHCOM. "We worked in conjunction with the Joint Planning Group to design an effective management headquarters to provide unity of command for all DoD Homeland Security." "The most important aspect of our analysis was to consider the new organization constructs under which this new command would operate in and build upon. We were challenged to integrate all domains and interagency partners to achieve mission success in a previously undefined area of operations. We utilized a backwards-planning process and the proposed USNORTHCOM essential tasks to estimate the manpower required to accomplish the anticipated mission responsibilities. In addition, we were chartered with the coordination, (seeking/reviewing/approving), for the number of personnel needed for the initial operational capability of USNORTHCOM, as well as charting the way ahead for the command to be fully staffed by October 2003." Brown has had multiple role models and mentors. "One of the strongest influencers in my life was my grandmother, Sally Rose Stites Chisam. Although she was not a highly educated woman, she was one of the most brilliant people I have ever known. She never met a stranger...she never bypassed the opportunity to do what was right...she was a True Southern Lady. Every adjective or phrase used to describe a true leader applied to her." Brown joined the Air Force after being a teacher for 3 years. "All of my life I had wanted to be a school teacher...always played teacher as a child...obtained an education degree and taught for 3 years before I realized I didn't like the students! So I was seeking a new challenge when I discovered a love of my life, the USAF." Brown has been with the command since August 2002.



Colonel KT Brown, U.S. Air Force  
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