

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



160

YEARS OF THE California National Guard



CNG mourns death in Afghanistan

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'To bind up the nation's wounds'

Major General William H. Wade II

A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. More than that, no man is entitled to; less than that, no man shall have.

— President Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

Arguably, never before in the history of the United States has the care and support of service members and their families been more important than right now, in the seventh year of the global war on terrorism. With the growing number of injured and disabled warriors and dependent families, the task for their care falls to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which plays an ever-increasing role in their recovery, rehabilitation and survival.

The modern-day VA was established by President Herbert Hoover's Executive Order S398 on July 21, 1930. However, caring for injured and disabled service members started long before 1930, even before the United States was a country.

The first benefits were offered to the Pilgrim Soldiers of Plymouth who were disabled in conflicts with Pequot Indians. And just before the birth of our nation, the Continental Congress — as an incentive to enlist in the Army — promised pensions for

Soldiers who became disabled.

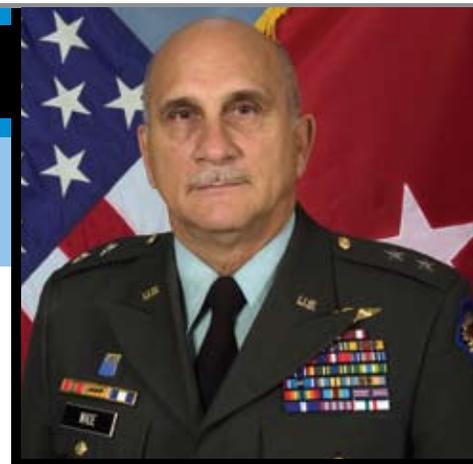
After the turn of the 20th century, domiciliary and medical facilities were established for veterans, and benefits were expanded to include widows and dependents. As the United States entered World War I in 1917, a new system of veterans programs was established for disability compensation, insurance for service members and veterans, and vocational rehabilitation for the disabled.

From the beginning of the 19th century until the establishment of the VA in the 20th century, veterans affairs and care were handled through a kaleidoscope of changing institutions: the Military Bounty Lands and Pension Branch, 1810-1815; Pension Bureau, 1815-1833; Office of the Commissioner of Pensions, 1833-1849; Bureau of Pensions, 1849-1930; Office of the Surgeon General, 1862-1930; National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of the United States, 1866-1873; National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1873-

1930; Bureau of War Risk Insurance, 1914-1921; Rehabilitation Division, 1918-1921; Veterans Bureau, 1921; and U.S. Veterans Bureau, 1921-1930. Most of those institutions were part of the War Department, the Department of the Interior or the Treasury Department

The establishment of the VA in 1930 enabled the government to "consolidate and coordinate Government activities affecting war veterans." At that time, three disparate agencies had been handling those activities: the Veterans Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions of the Interior and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

When fully consolidated in 1930, the VA had 54 hospitals and 31,600 employees, serving 4.7 million veterans. Today, the VA supports 171 medical centers, 350-plus outpatient and outreach clinics, 126 nursing homes and 35 domiciliaries. The VA's responsibilities and benefits programs have also grown exponentially, with the World War II G.I. Bill as well as educational assistance acts for Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and all-volunteer-force veterans. The most recent addition to the VA's growing responsibilities was the addition



of operating requirements for the National Cemetery System, which includes marking veterans' graves in private cemeteries and administering the State Cemetery Grants Program.

It is fitting that the VA motto was taken from President Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address, as he attempted to bind the divisive wounds of a country torn apart by ideological differences. It sets a tone and standard of care and concern for America's warriors and their families:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Remember to thank a VA employee for caring for our warriors and their families.

Documentation is key

Command Sergeant Major William Clark Jr.

During the past seven years of conflict, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has greatly improved care for injured veterans, and new leadership is poised to continue those improvements. In January, President Barack Obama appointed Gen. Eric Shinseki as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. And on April 22, Illinois National Guard member Maj. L. Tammy Duckworth was sworn in as assistant secretary of veterans affairs for public and intergovernmental affairs. On May 20, she took the oath again, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, in recognition of the impact Walter Reed had on her life while recovering from injuries sustained in 2004.

Shinseki and Duckworth know firsthand the challenges wounded warriors face. Shinseki lost part of his foot during a tour in Vietnam, and in 2004, while piloting a Black Hawk helicopter in Iraq, Duckworth was shot down and ultimately lost both of her legs and partial use of an arm. With those experiences, what an impact they will make in ensuring

service members and their families receive the best care in the world. With all the expert medical care and administrative support available to Guard members, leaders at the unit level also must ensure service members' medical issues are addressed.

Senior leaders must ensure service members are sent for medical exams after every incident involving an improvised explosive device or vehicle-borne improvised device. Leaders also should ensure combat awards are completed and follow up with Soldiers and Airmen who have lingering medical issues. Leaders must ensure service members with known injuries do not leave the demobilization site or wing without proper documentation and medical care, and must ensure Line of Duty (LOD) reports are submitted as early as possible. Leaders also must ensure redeploying Guard members fill out post-deployment health assessment forms, which a medical representative will review upon the service member's return. Another critical step is the post-deployment health

reassessment, which must be completed within 90 days after return.

Senior leaders should keep commanders and staff informed about the well-being of each individual and their family, ensure all benefits are made available and work with other leaders to ensure continuity of care.

Soldiers and Airmen returning from deployments should be encouraged to register with the VA immediately upon returning. This starts the documentation process for service-related injuries or illnesses and allows for timely benefit assessment. Some Soldiers view registering with the VA as an unimportant step they may take in the future, if they need treatment. Leaders can change that perception through their own example and by talking to Soldiers and Airmen.

Some Guard members continue counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) many years after serving in a conflict, and some have found that illnesses can be attribut-



ed to their service. Many conditions such as PTSD and traumatic brain injury may not show signs until years after the incident that caused them. Service members who have been affected by such conditions would likely recommend that you file your VA claim early, when documentation and recollection are fresh.

No matter how small an incident or injury is, the unit or wing and the Soldier or Airman must process an LOD, which serves as documentation of an incident or injury. Future medical and educational benefits are at risk if the VA cannot connect service claims. It is therefore imperative to reinforce that documentation is key.

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- ★ 250-300 words for a half-page story; 600-800 words for a full-page article
- ★ Include first and last names, and verify spelling
- ★ Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference
- ★ If there is a public affairs officer assigned to your unit, ensure he or she reviews it

Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible
- ★ Caption (what is happening, who is pictured and the date of the photo)
- ★ Credit (who took photo)
- ★ No retouched photos

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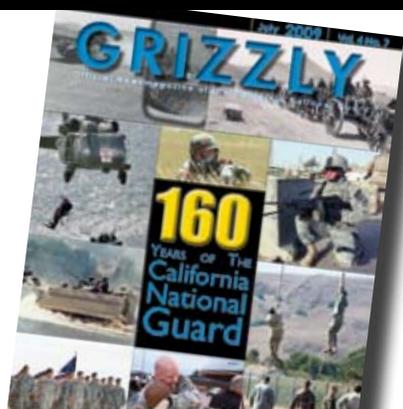


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PHOTO BY SGT. DANIEL EATON

BOOM! 6

FROM THE EDITOR

On this, the 160th anniversary of the founding of the California National Guard (page 16), it is appropriate that we look back in gratitude to service members such as Maj. Rocco M. Barnes (page 5), who died in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in June, and Cpl. Harold W. Roberts (page 15), who sacrificed his life to save a fellow Soldier during World War I. During the Cal Guard's 160 years, many of California's sons and daughters have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom, lives and property while serving in the state's part-time military force.

Like their Guard brethren who preceded them, California National Guard members make sacrifices every day in locations around the world to keep peace in foreign lands (page 8), mentor and assist fledgling armies (page 10), clear roads of dangerous explosives (page 10), prevent biological or chemical terrorist attacks (page 14), train high-tech drone pilots (page 7) and protect our nation from ballistic missile attack (page 7), among other duties. Unlike the original California Guard, today's force includes an Air Guard component, which works hand-in-hand with the Army for training and missions, including combat operations (pages 7 and 18).

Carrying on 160 years of tradition but moving boldly into the future, the California National Guard is always ready to sacrifice for our safety.

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EYES TO THE SKIES

CNG unit protects against missile attack

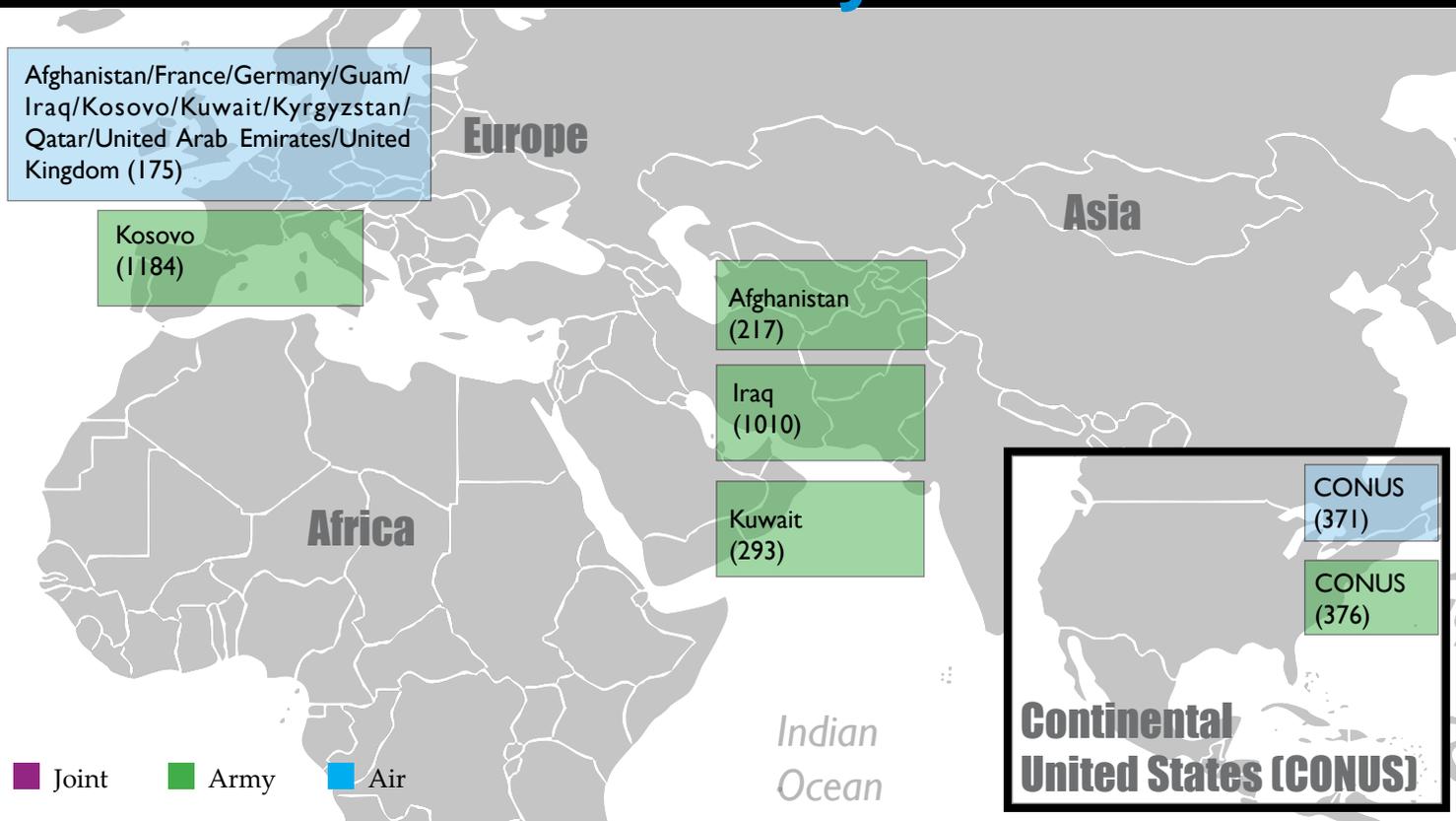
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KOSOVO FORCE

40th ID marks 10 years of NATO presence

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The California National Guard as of June 2009



Honors & Awards



The California Air Force Association's Unit of the Year Award is presented to Col. Steve Beck (right), commander of the 162nd Combat Communications Group, by Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree (center), commander of the 4th Air Force, at March Air Reserve Base in May. Photo courtesy of California Air Force Association.

The California Air Force Association announced the following awards at its annual convention:

- **Unit of the Year:** 162nd Combat Communications Group; Col. Steve Beck, commander
- **Person of the Year:** Brig. Gen. Robert Otto, commander, 9th Reconnaissance Wing
- **Field Grade Officer of the Year:** Lt. Col. Douglas Weskamp, 144th fighter Wing
- **Company Grade Officer of the Year:** Capt. Jennifer Cinq-Mars, 144th Fighter Wing
- **Senior Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year:** Senior Master Sgt. Bradley Riggs, 222nd Intelligence Support Squadron
- **NCO of the Year:** Tech. Sgt. Fernando Wilkins, 129th Maintenance Group
- **Airman of the Year:** Senior Airman Renae Bobbitt, 222nd Operations Support Squadron
- **California State Military Reserve (CSMR) Officer of the Year:** Lt. Col. Craig Morris, State Emergency Center, Sacramento
- **CSMR Airman of the Year:** Chief Master Sgt. Archie Mitchell, 146th Airlift Wing Support Unit
- **Golden Bear Award:** Col. Martin Ledwitz, CSMR
- **Sustained Outstanding Performance Award:** First Lieutenant George Williams, CSMR

Lt. Col. Lawrence M. Hendel

On behalf of the president of the United States, the California National Guard's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, presented the Legion of Merit to Lt. Col. Lawrence M. Hendel for exceptionally meritorious service while serving in various positions of increasing responsibility, culminating as the division chaplain for the 40th Infantry Division. Hendel's servant heart and ministry spirit ensured chaplain support was provided to the Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Division, and his supervision and training of subordinate unit ministry teams provided much-needed chaplain support to the global war on terrorism. Hendel is a "Soldier's chaplain," who is admired and respected by both the officer and enlisted corps. His unwavering dedication is in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon him, the Chaplain Corps, the California Army National Guard and the United States Army, the award states.

Lt. Col. Lawrence M. Hendel, left, receives the Legion of Merit award from Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard. Hendel serves as division chaplain for the 40th Infantry Division. Photo by Tech Sgt. David Loeffler



Senior Master Sgt. Sabrella Bacon

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People honored Senior Master Sgt. Sabrella Bacon of the Fresno, Calif.-based 144th Fighter Wing with the Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award, acknowledging her contributions as a leader supporting equal opportunity, race relations, affirmative action, human resources and public service. Bacon has managed her base's occupational health program and its safety program, which support about 1,000 Airmen. She also provided state-certified hazardous-material training to more than 50 personnel on the crash recovery, hydrazine and spill-response teams. Bacon also volunteers countless hours assisting troubled youths.



Master Sgt. Cesar P. Jurilla Jr.

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council presented its Military Meritorious Service Award to the 163rd Communications Flight's Master Sgt. Cesar P. Jurilla Jr. for supporting equal opportunity in the federal workplace, public service and community involvement. The 163rd's noncommissioned officer in charge of computer maintenance, Jurilla has supervised many self-help projects for the Guard, which resulted in large savings. He also volunteers to provide medical assistance to indigent members of Saint Christopher's Church in Moreno Valley, Calif.; volunteers to teach self-defense to children and adults; is an active member of the Moreno Valley Filipino-American Association; and mentors youths interested in joining the National Guard.



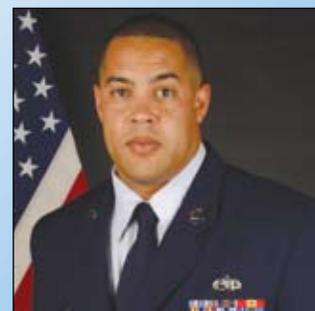
Master Sgt. Manuel Hernandez

The League of United Latin American Citizens bestowed its Military Meritorious Service Award to Master Sgt. Manuel A. Hernandez, recognizing that his leadership and dedication have been essential to the 144th Fighter Wing. Hernandez, who works full-time as a technician for the 144th, has previously deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, as first sergeant for the 732nd Expeditionary Intelligence Squadron. He has also assisted in developing a Student Flight Orientation Program, which resulted in a 50 percent increase in Basic Military Training distinguished graduates. Hernandez operates the 144th's improvement team and volunteers to support an adventure camp for 100 teens in San Luis Obispo.



Tech. Sgt. Fernando Wilkins

National Image Inc. honored Tech. Sgt. Fernando Wilkins of the 129th Maintenance Group with its Meritorious Service Award for exhibiting attributes that epitomize the Air Force's core values. Wilkins, who won the California Air National Guard's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award and the California Air Force Association's NCO of the Year Award this year, completed eight training schools last year and served a 75-day deployment to Iraq, where he worked as the military liaison for contractors. Wilkins, who earned a bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2007, works as a quality assurance inspector for C-130 aircraft. He previously served five years in the active-duty Air Force and five years in the Reserve.



MAJOR ROCCO M. BARNES



Maj. Rocco Martin Barnes, 51, died June 4, 2009, in Afghanistan, following a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle rollover. Barnes is survived by his mother, Grace C. Barnes-Filo, and sisters, Theresa and Jennifer Barnes.

Barnes was born in Cleveland on April 9, 1958. He moved to Florida and enlisted in the Army Delayed Entry Program as an E-1 on Jan. 20, 1978. In April 1981, then-Sergeant Barnes transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, and in September of that year, he transferred to the Reserve Troop Program Unit. On Feb. 6, 1982, Barnes enlisted in the Florida Army National Guard, and on Aug. 12, 1989, then-Sergeant First

Class Barnes received his commission as a second lieutenant.

In April 1990, Barnes was ordered to active duty. In November 1991 he was released from active duty and returned to National Guard unit member status. On Aug. 11, 1992, Barnes was promoted to first lieutenant. On March 25, 1999, he enlisted in Company A, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, California National Guard, and was promoted to captain.

In August 2002, Barnes was mobilized in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and he was released from active duty on July 4, 2003. In October 2004, Barnes mobilized again, this time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On March 9, 2005, Barnes was transferred to Tactical Command Post, 40th Infantry Division, as the operations officer, and on March 28, 2005, he was promoted to major. On March 31, 2005, Barnes was attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th ID, and in May 2006 he was released from active duty. In October 2006, Barnes was attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 40th ID Artillery, and in July 2008, he was reassigned to Tactical Command Post 3 as the information operations officer. On Aug. 20,

2008, Barnes was mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom in support of the Marine Corps.

Barnes' awards and decorations include the Bronze Star (third award); Meritorious Service Medal; Army Achievement Medal (second award); National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star; Iraq Campaign Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Humanitar-

ian Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with "M" device); Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (third award); Army Service Ribbon; Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon; California Medal of Merit; Special Forces Tab; High Altitude-Low Opening Badge; and Air Assault Badge.

Barnes was laid to rest June 15 in Holy Cross Cemetery in Cleveland.



Lt. Col. Randall Simmons and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Recker of 1st Battalion, 108th Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition Squadron, Georgia National Guard, pay respects on Camp Blackhorse, Afghanistan, to fallen comrades Maj. Rocco M. Barnes of the California National Guard and Maj. Kevin M. Jenrette, Sgt. 1st Class John C. Beale and Spc. Jeffrey W. Jordan of the Georgia National Guard.

PHOTO BY SGT. JAMES SIMS

Guardman made ultimate sacrifice for freedom, liberty

By Lt. Col. Michael Wise
40th Infantry Division

When the Marine Corps requested in 2008 that Maj. Rocco M. Barnes of the 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard, be sent to Afghanistan to augment the Marines' force there, Barnes' commander, Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, resisted: Barnes was needed for a Cal Guard deployment to Kosovo. The Marines, however, had asked specifically for Barnes because of his performance working with the Marines in Iraq in 2004, and Barnes insisted Harrel allow him to deploy to Afghanistan, saying he had given the Marines his word.

Impressed by Barnes' persistence, Harrel approved the deployment to Afghanistan, and Barnes deployed Aug. 20, 2008, as an adviser to the 2nd Kandak Embedded Transition Team (ETT). On June 4, 2009, Barnes, 51, was killed in a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle rollover while returning from a successful combat mission in Surobi District, Kabul Province. He died as he lived, manning the turret of his vehicle, with his boots on, leading from the front. He posthumously received a Bronze Star — his third — for meritorious service.

Barnes enlisted in the Army Delayed Entry Program in 1978 and served in the Army Reserve and the Florida National Guard before moving to California in 1999 and joining Company A, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group. It was at that time that many of us had the privilege of first meeting then-Captain Barnes. He took command of Operational Detachment A (ODA) 971 and eagerly rebuilt the team from



Maj. Rocco M. Barnes supports Operation Enduring Freedom at Kabul Military Training Center, Afghanistan, in 2002.

an initial handful of special forces veterans. I was immediately impressed by Barnes' dedication to the unit and to the country he loved. He also enjoyed a successful career as an executive in the private security industry (providing security for current Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on the Hollywood sets of "True Lies" and "Collateral Damage") and worked as an adviser and scriptwriter for several major films. He wrote the screenplay for an action film, "Trajectory," which will begin production next year.

In August 2002, Barnes was mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). He led ODA 971 through the company's first combat deployment, and his leadership resulted in the first successful deploy-

ment of an Afghan National Army battalion from Kabul to defend its new government. Barnes spent more than six months transforming an inexperienced, rag-tag Afghan battalion into an effective, well-respected fighting force. Barnes was released from active duty on July 4, 2003, and awarded a Bronze Star.

In October 2004, Barnes volunteered and mobilized again, this time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He deployed as an individual augmentee and maneuvered himself into the field (of course) as an ETT adviser. During the deployment, Barnes' ETT and its Iraqi unit conducted the first successful hostage-rescue ever executed solely by Iraqi special operations forces. Barnes spent 17 months in Iraq, was released from active duty in May 2006, and received a second Bronze Star for meritorious service. In October 2006, then-Major Barnes was attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 40th Infantry Division Artillery, and in July 2008, he was reassigned to Tactical Command Post 3, 40th ID, as the Information Operations Officer. Shortly thereafter, he deployed to Afghanistan with the Marine Corps.

Rocco gave the Army more than 31 years of faithful, courageous and honorable service. A great sadness falls on us with his passing. Rocco's dedication to his country, like many before him, has preserved our freedoms at the ultimate price. With pride and gratitude, many of us can say that he was our friend and that we had the privilege of knowing him. Our lives and liberty, and that of our families, are safer and richer because of him. We are permanently indebted to Rocco, and to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and liberty.

PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS BERNIE MCGROARTY

79th IBCT rolls out the big guns

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

The 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team took the phrase “train as you fight” to a new level during this year’s annual training (AT) at Camp Roberts, Calif., from June 6-20. Units in the brigade went back to their roots, got their hands on some new equipment and honed their warrior skills.

Most significantly, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, brought out the big guns.

“It’s the return of the king!” boasted Maj. Jason Palepoi Mauga, the battalion’s executive officer, referring to the Army’s nickname for the Howitzer, “King of Battle,” because of its contribution to enemy casualties.

It had been more than four years since the unit fired its cannons, and Mauga said the 1-143rd Soldiers were pumped to be training on the 105 mm Howitzer during AT.

The battalion was tasked with security missions during back-to-back deployments to Guantanamo Bay and Iraq, which created a learning gap within its ranks, said Lt. Col. Rob Wooldridge, battalion commander. To fill that gap, the unit borrowed lighter versions of the Howitzer for AT from the Oregon National Guard. The 1-143rd had not fired a 105 mm Howitzer since the Korean War.

“We gave up the heavy to go light, which I, personally, think is better since it’s more mobile,” Wooldridge said. “This is what the guys should have been working on all along.”



Above: Forward observers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in San Diego, call for and adjust fire on a nearby observation post during live-fire training at Camp Roberts, Calif., in June. Decommissioned military vehicles were used to simulate enemy targets. **Below:** Gun Section 3, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, fires its Howitzer, named “All Day,” during June training. Section 3 acted as the adjusting piece, or lead cannon, firing adjusting rounds at specified coordinates before the remainder of the battery provided “fire for effect.”

“All day!” Team 3 responded to its commander, during a fire mission at the range. “All day” is the team’s motto and is written on its Howitzer.

Forward observers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 79th IBCT, directed the booming Howitzer blasts, checking to ensure shells landed on the demolition field at the specified coordinates. Blasted decommissioned tanks dotted the field, with plumes of smoke leaving a reminder of what the King can do.

Howitzers weren’t the only blasts being heard during AT. Ranges were hot throughout the installation, with troops firing M-4 Carbine rifles with close combat optic attachment, M249 squad automatic weapons, M60 machine guns and M69 practice hand grenades.

When they put the live rounds away, troops in HHC, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and an opposing force from Company B, 185th Infantry Battalion, fired blanks during an all-out battle. Chinooks picked up the contenders and dropped them off ready for war.

“From my viewpoint as the convoy commander, the operation was near flawless,” said Sgt. William Soronen, a military policeman in the Brigade Special Troops Battalion. “It was an obvious demonstration of the powerful capabilities of the Army’s firepower.”

Troops were kept fresh by Soldiers who used a tactical water purification system to bring gallons of potable water to the brigade from the Nacimiento River, which runs through Camp Roberts. According to Pvt. Steven Garcia, a water treatment specialist, it takes about two hours from beginning to end to get the brigade fresh drinking water — and troops on Camp Roberts unanimously agreed that it tasted better than anything that came out of the tap on post.

Additional training saw troops convoy out to the field, set up a tactical operation center and command posts, and sleep in the field for up to a week. In the classroom, troops learned everything from suicide prevention to radio procedures and night-driving techniques, which utilize an infrared camera attached to a vehicle.

“It’s like driving during the day,” Pfc. Amy Shaffer, a transportation management coordinator for HHC, 79th IBCT, said of using the infrared camera. “Plus you could use it as surveillance to pick up objects that put off heat. Also, it’s not just for night, it could be used during all weather conditions, like snow, fog and even sandstorms.”

Maximum use was made of the two-week AT period to ensure troops of the 79th IBCT were Soldiering-up and preparing for what may lie ahead.



163rd graduates Air National Guard's first Predator pilot, operator class

Story and photo by Senior Airman Paul Duquette
163rd Reconnaissance Wing

Since the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing's conversion from KC-135 aircraft to MQ-1 Predators in 2006, the unit has been the first Air National Guard wing to open a Predator maintenance schoolhouse, the first to log a Predator mission in the United States and the first to open a Predator formal training unit (FTU) for pilots and sensor-ball operators. The wing's — and the Air National Guard's — first FTU class, comprising 10 Guard members from five states, graduated May 15 on March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

"It seems every time I speak to a group of people, we've accomplished another first for the Air National Guard," said Lt. Col. Kirby Colas, commander of the 196th Reconnaissance Squadron, 163rd Reconnaissance Wing, during the graduation ceremony.

The Predator, an unmanned aerial reconnaissance system, has been in use for more than 10 years, but prior to 2009, the only Predator FTU in the Air Force was run by active-duty Airmen at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

The 163rd's first FTU class began in March and lasted nine weeks. The FTU is slated to teach five classes each year, with about 10 students per class.

"This mission is very challenging,

not only due to its 24/7 operations but because of the things you see and do," Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas, commander of the California Air National Guard, told graduates May 15. "You just embarked on one exciting journey. ... You will save lives of individuals you may never meet or ever know."

The 163rd's FTU instructors are qualified to train Reserve and active-duty Airmen, but its first class consisted of National Guard members only. There were five Predator pilots and five sensor-ball operators from California, Arizona, Nevada, North Dakota and Texas. The Predator's sensor ball houses its optics, lasers and video cameras.

The 163rd's schoolhouse produces Predator crews with almost all the skills required to immediately fly missions. Upon graduation, the students return to their units and enter mission qualification training (MQT). Students learn the unclassified basics at the FTU, while MQT is designed to transition pilots and operators into the classified world and educate them on their new missions. MQT varies in length depending on the unit.

Due to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) restrictions, Predators



Lt. Col. Kirby Colas, commander of the 196th Reconnaissance Squadron, 163rd Reconnaissance Wing, presents a certificate of graduation to Predator sensor operator Senior Airman Ronald Burkes during the Air National Guard's first Predator FTU graduation ceremony May 15 on March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

cannot be flown out of March Air Reserve Base, so the 163rd stood up a launch and recovery element (LRE) at Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) in Victorville, Calif., where the FTU's Predators are stored, maintained, launched and recovered.

FAA regulations bar student pilots from operating Predators in commercial airspace, so LRE pilots and sensor operators navigate the aircraft to restricted Army and Marine Corps airspace, where the LRE crew passes controls to the FTU student crew at March Air Reserve Base.

The use of Army and Marine airspace creates opportunities for joint training. Lt. Col. Thomas Pritchard, 196th Reconnaissance Squadron FTU commander, said Predator crews are working with Soldiers from Fort Irwin, Calif., during pre-deployment training to simulate missions that both units would perform overseas. The FTU also has worked with joint terminal air controllers from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and may soon conduct joint training with Marines at Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command in Twentynine Palms, Calif.



The Soldiers of Detachment 1, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, stand ready to defend the nation against a ballistic missile attack. The unit, which is the only one of its kind in the nation, stood up at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., last summer.

Missile defense relies on Cal Guard unit

By Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Negrón
Detachment 1, 100th Missile Defense Brigade

The latest addition to the California National Guard, a unit of seven Soldiers on Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., stands ready 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to defend the nation from missile attack.

In late 2004, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., began sending two-Soldier teams to Vandenberg for rotating periods of temporary duty that typically ran 90 days or more. The cost to support the mission was enormous, however, and leadership decided to stand up a permanent unit at Vandenberg.

In November 2007, five Soldiers from Colorado volunteered to stand up the new unit, and in the summer of 2008, Detachment 1, 100th Missile Defense

Brigade, was born, and its Soldiers became California Guardsmen. In addition to the five Soldiers who moved from Colorado, Detachment 1 includes a California native and an Alaska native.

Detachment 1 Soldiers monitor the ground-based interceptor missiles and supporting equipment housed at Vandenberg. They support test launches of the missiles, which are designed to intercept incoming warheads outside the earth's atmosphere, and are prepared to defend the nation against a missile attack. It is the only unit of its type in the nation.

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade was stood up by presidential decree in 2003 at an accelerated rate after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

KFOR MARKS 10 YEARS I



40th ID serving 2nd deployment for NATO mission

By Kent Harris
Stars and Stripes

About a dozen years ago, not many Americans had heard of Kosovo. The small province in southern Serbia didn't often make headlines.

In 1998, things changed when tensions flared into open hostility between Kosovo's predominantly ethnic Albanian population and Serbian forces directed from Belgrade. Amnesty International estimates 9,000 civilians, most of them ethnic Albanians, were killed as Serbian forces took on the paramilitary Kosovo Liberation Army. Hundreds of thousands of refugees fled their homes and the province.

In June 1999, NATO troops entered Kosovo after Serbia agreed to withdraw its forces following a 78-day allied bombing campaign. At the mission's peak, 50,000 NATO troops, including 7,000 Americans, were in Kosovo, keeping the peace. By 2003, the number fell to 17,500, including 3,000 Americans. Last month, NATO decided to further downsize troop levels in Kosovo, from 15,000 to 10,000.

The California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division led the Kosovo Force (KFOR) Multi-National

Brigade-East mission for a year in 2005 and 2006, and in March of this year, the division assumed responsibility for the KFOR Multi-National Task Force-East mission for nine months. Today, about 1,200 California Army National Guard members (and about 200 other Americans) provide security in Kosovo.

Capt. Eddie Morgan, a National Guardsman from Eureka, Calif., is part of a two-man liaison monitoring team that travels Gnjilane district in a civilian vehicle. To be seen as non-threatening, he and his partner wear Army uniforms but carry concealed weapons and wear no extra protective gear.

Kosovars often ask Morgan and his partner to resolve issues. In June, they were asked to solve a dispute about a tree that appeared ready to fall on a church or an adjacent clinic. Though U.S. troops could have handled the job, they wanted local residents to do it. "We're not in the business of resolving issues," Morgan said. "Our job is to ... get the information and report."

Morgan jokingly refers to Capt. Michael Riley, commander of Company A, 1-185th Combined Arms Battalion, as the "muscle." Riley and his men project a more militaristic posture than Morgan and his part-

ner: They drive in Humvees, heavily armed, wearing full-body protection.

"We're basically the military presence on the ground," Riley said.

The 1-185th Soldiers are not constantly engaged in battles with anti-American factions like they would be in places such as Iraq or Afghanistan. Still, they're ready if called upon. When they see crimes committed, they take people into custody and hand them over to the Kosovo police.

Lt. Col. Lars Staack, whose Task Force Sabre is responsible for patrolling the greater Vitina municipality, said the local government and law enforcement agencies have a long way to go to reach Western standards. "They know what 'right' looks like," he said. "Sometimes, they have a hard time getting there."

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment, patrol their sector every day, looking for trouble spots and working with Kosovo police and Kosovo Border Police. First Lieutenant Michael Han, Staff Sgt. Luis Rivera and 1st Lt. Andrew Gallego recently led separate patrols in different areas of the sector, and it turned out to be a pretty typical day.

N KOSOVO



2



5



3



4

1: California National Guard Soldiers with Kosovo Force 11 meet a local man on patrol in June.

Photo by Col. Eric Grimm

2 and 3: California National Guard Soldiers and Kosovar children work together to clean up two areas of Kosovo, Brezovica and Strpce, on Earth Day, April 22.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade

4: Capt. Michael Riley, commander of Company A, 1-185th Combined Arms Battalion, and Brig. Gen. Keith Jones, assistant deputy adjutant general for California's Army National Guard, watch a live-fire exercise in December at Camp Shelby, Miss., where the 1-185th trained for its current deployment to Kosovo.

Photo courtesy of American Forces Press Service

5 and 6: Soldiers from Kosovo Force 6B walk the streets of Kosovo during the 2005-2006 deployment of the 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard.

Photos courtesy of 69th Public Affairs Detachment

7: Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rosenberg, left, of the 40th Infantry Division fires an Austrian pistol while a German Soldier looks on during an April event in Kosovo to qualify U.S. troops on German weapons. The U.S. troops returned the favor a few weeks later, hosting German Soldiers so they could qualify on U.S. Army weapons.

Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts



PHOTOS BY SPC. DARRIEL SWATTS

Above: First Sergeant John Wheeler and a local resident team up to repair a desk for the students of Ndre Mjeda Elementary School in Debellde, Kosovo, in May. California National Guard Soldiers and community members built or repaired 16 desks and chairs that day. Below: Lt. Col. Lars Staack, commander, Task Force Sabre, prepares to hand out candy and toys to a group of students.

Guard troops revamp Kosovo classroom

By Spc. Darriel Swatts
69th Public Affairs Detachment

For a child going to the Ndre Mjeda Elementary School in Debellde, Kosovo, one of the first lessons learned is to share. On a typical school day, as many as 30 students squeeze into a classroom no larger than a one-car garage. With only six desks and limited chairs, seating is at a premium.

California National Guard Soldiers from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment, visited the school over a May weekend to make sure the next Monday wasn't just another typical school day. Armed with tool kits, the troops went to work giving the classroom a makeover.

"We saw this as an opportunity to be able to immediately impact the community in a positive way, so we pulled some money together and bought all the materials necessary to help make or repair the desks and chairs," said 1st Lt. Michael Harley, Troop A commander.

Knowing that submitting a formal request for materials through the chain of command could take up to a month to process, the Soldiers decided to give from their own pockets. They bought the supplies locally and provided the labor to rebuild the classroom's desks and chairs, with some help from the community, including some of the children who will be using the finished products.

"I have a little girl of my own, [and] I would want her to be in a comfortable learning environment, so by helping these kids, we are showing



how much we truly care about their future," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Cort of Troop A. "These kids are the future of Kosovo."

Soldiers built or repaired 16 desks and chairs. They also gave the school a new white board, dry erase markers and chalk, and six students from underprivileged families received clothes and school supplies donated by Lt. Col. Lars Staack, Task Force Sabre commander.

"These kids don't always get new stuff," said Spc. Shawn Anderson. "By making them new tables and chairs, which is something so simple to us, it makes a huge difference."

Combat advisers team with Afghan unit

**By Sgt. 1st Class Chad Rickard
Joint Force Headquarters HHD**

California National Guard Soldiers are at the tip of the spear in some of the heaviest fighting in the Afghanistan theater of operations. Embedded transition team (ETT) members are the U.S. Army's modern combat advisers, mentoring and assisting Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers in becoming a self-sufficient, professional fighting force able to defend their country and provide a stable living environment for the citizens of Afghanistan.

In addition to the basic counterinsurgency mission of mentoring and nation-building, ETT Soldiers are trained to provide "coalition effects" to assist the ANA. Coalition effects include calling for artillery fire, directing close-air support and close combat attack helicopters, and initiating a medical evacuation. These are vital tasks that ANA Soldiers cannot yet perform themselves because of a lack of equipment, resources or know-how.

The California Army National Guard has two 16-man ETTs deployed to Afghanistan. One team is in the Jalalabad area, while the other is in the province of Khowst. Maj. Nicholas Fleischmann, a Fresno, Calif., police officer and member of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and I are deployed to Khowst as ETT members



Sgt. 1st Class Chad Rickard uses a 40-power spotting scope to identify Taliban fighters along a mountain in eastern Afghanistan during an interdiction operation March 9.

with the ANA's 3rd Infantry Kandak, 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps. Our 16-man team was split up once we arrived in Afghanistan; the other 14 members of our Guard team are in different locations throughout the country. Fleischmann and I work independently with our company of Afghan Soldiers.

Our ANA unit is a fully certified, combat-ready battalion that has been at the forefront of fighting in eastern Afghanistan, along the Pakistan border. Fleischmann and I have spent most

of our 12-month deployment at Spera Combat Outpost in the Spera District of Khowst. It is a remote post that has a handful of U.S. Soldiers and a limited number of ANA Soldiers. It sits near the border of Pakistan between two highly traveled infiltration routes used by enemy fighters and is accessible only by helicopter.

We are in constant contact with enemy fighters who are attempting to enter Afghanistan and disrupt the efforts of coalition forces. The outpost sustains

up to two to three attacks per week. In February and March, we repelled multiple attacks, resulting in more than 50 enemy fighters being killed and several dozen wounded.

On March 8, we defeated an estimated 100-man force that attempted to overrun our outpost using machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) fire during a six-hour fire fight. Our ability to direct close-air support and maneuver Afghan troops against the enemy resulted in the decimation of a numerically superior force on the battlefield.

In addition to running the outpost, Fleischmann and I conduct numerous air assault missions with our ANA counterparts. In January, we conducted a joint air assault in Terezai, Afghanistan, on the Pakistan border. On the second night of the operation, our position was attacked by 50 enemy fighters using machine guns, RPGs and AK-47 assault rifles. Once the enemy initiated the attack, close-air support and artillery were used to repel the attackers, resulting in 31 enemy fighters being killed and two enemy fighters wounded and captured. During the fight, I sustained shrapnel wounds to the left hand and arm, but was treated and returned to duty in a few days.

Both of the California Army National Guard's 16-man ETTs in Afghanistan are expected to return in mid-August.

PHOTO BY SGT. TYLER DETWILER

235th Engineer Company sappers lead the way

**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Isom
235th Engineer Company**

The 235th Engineer Company sappers, based in Petaluma, Calif., have the most dangerous job in Afghanistan, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Doni L. Jones of 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment. The 235th is responsible for route clearance for a portion of Regional Command East. The sappers search for improvised explosive devices (IED) daily in conditions that challenge the most experienced engineers.

"This work takes a special kind of warrior," said Sgt. Travis Finlay, a team leader and assistant operations Sergeant for the 235th. "When one of these ... drivers gets struck by an IED and gets right back in his vehicle to look for more — that's courage."

Sappers lead the way for the infantry on every route and nearly every mission. They dismount with the sole intent of closing on and destroying the enemy without hesitation. The 235th operates, at times, less than 1 mile from the Pakistan border.

"It's the most stressful and risky job in the military," said Staff Sgt. Alden Camaya. "You never know when you're going to get blown up."

The 235th is assigned to the 276th Engineer Battalion, Virginia National Guard, along with Guard sapper companies from Wisconsin and Michigan and an active duty company, the 541st Engineer Company.



Sappers of the 235th Engineer Company have one of the most dangerous jobs in the military — clearing the road of improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan.

This is the second combat deployment for the 235th, which deployed in 2004 as Company A, 579th Engineer Battalion. The 235th has cleared more than 3,000 miles during more than 1,000 mission-hours this deployment, and it has a 98 percent Combat Action Badge rate and a 16 percent Purple Heart rate.

The Sappers live out of their vehicles, moving between forward operating bases, constantly working on their vehicles and continually changing their tactics to stay one step ahead of the enemy when identifying and neutralizing IEDs.

"Route clearance is challenging and requires 100

percent focus and diligence," said Staff Sgt. Eric Hill. "It's always evolving."

Spc. Joshua Moffett, a medic with the 235th, sees a dedication to duty that inspires him daily.

"It astounds me, the bravery these guys instill in one another," he said. "They never quit."

The unit's medics share the danger with their engineer brethren outside the wire, and inside the wire, they take care of wounded warriors at the field surgical team clinic. The medics' training and leadership has instilled in them an "I'll always be there" attitude, which gives confidence to the engineers, knowing they can rely on the medics with them.

The medics of the 235th have responded in the field to a myriad of events, including a vehicle rollover at night, which required an aerial medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) by Company C, 168th General Support Aviation Battalion, California National Guard, based in Sacramento.

"There was no illumination from the moon, the chopper could not find a place to land because of the rugged terrain, and the dust was so intense, I couldn't see the chopper and it couldn't see us," said Spc. Daniel Chung, who treated the occupants. "The MEDEVAC pilots and flight medics really knew what they were doing ... and it was reassuring to see another California Guard unit on scene."



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY

Airmen in L.A., Soldiers in Iraq complete marathon

Story by Master Sgt. Julie Avey, San Diego Regional Public Affairs; and Master Sgt. Sean Whelan, 28th Infantry Division

As the sun rose in the downtown Los Angeles sky, wing members, family and friends gathered to kick off the 24th annual Los Angeles Marathon, while eight Airmen from the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing lined up to run 26.2 miles. The wing's 12-person team, which included four civilian runners, secured the starting line, acting as a human chain. Team members started the race behind the elite runners and the wheelchair racers, but in front of the 14,000 runners in the general population.

"We hold onto a rope that we are to let go of as the run goes off," said Maj. Brenda Hendricksen, captain of the 163rd's race team. "It's kind of a scary feeling, knowing that we are the only thing stopping the thousands of runners."

The wing has had a team of six to 16 runners each of the past seven years. This year's team included five first-time marathoners.

"Every team member finished the race. For running 26.2 miles, [that] is an accomplishment in itself," said Hendricksen, a veteran of 13 marathons and four L.A. Marathons. "All my teammates who I talked to along the way seemed to be having a good race. I was impressed with all the runners."

The 12 team members finished the race with times ranging from 3:27:58 to 5:42:43.

"An interesting fact I heard over the loudspeaker at the start of the race was that 1 percent of the U.S. population can state that they have accomplished a



Top: From right, Staff Sgt. Giovanni Sanchez, Tech. Sgt. Ed Wojick, Lt. Col. James Sumners and Maj. Brenda Hendricksen of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing and civilian marathon team member Carolyn Tereshi await the start of the L.A. Marathon, holding a rope to keep the other runners at bay. Above: Sanchez and others eagerly await the starting gun.

marathon, and this is part of what kept me motivated," said Tech. Sgt. Ed Uribe, who was running his fifth marathon.

Why run 26 miles? Team members said they run to represent worthy causes, for the rush or simply to achieve a goal they set for themselves.

"I'm happy I decided to run my first marathon and stuck with it despite all of life's challenges this year," said Lt. Col. James Sumners.

Matt Nolasco of the Moreno Valley Military Affairs

163rd Reconnaissance Wing marathoners

- Maj. Brenda Hendricksen**
- Lt. Col. James Sumners**
- Master Sgt. Cyndie Sartin**
- Tech. Sgt. Ed Wojick**
- Tech. Sgt. Ed Uribe**
- Staff Sgt. Giovanni Sanchez**
- Staff Sgt. Marlon Zarate**
- Staff Sgt. Edward Lyell**

Committee, a partnership of local businesses and military entities, ran to show support for the men and women of the Armed Forces.

"It is truly an honor to run with the servicemen and women of the 163rd," he said.

Halfway across the world that day, 450 Soldiers on Camp Taji, Iraq, ran 26.2 miles in the 108th Field Artillery Memorial Day Marathon, which the Los Angeles Marathon supported with energy bars, t-shirts, number tags, banners and awards.

"I think that many of the Soldiers were excited because we were shadowing the L.A. Marathon," said 1st Lt. Jeremy Arnett, a member of the 108th Field Artillery and race organizer. "The turnout was greater than I expected."

Starting at 5 a.m. to avoid the heat, which later reached 113 degrees, the Soldiers ran two laps of a 13.1-mile course and raised \$7,000 for the families of fallen Soldiers in the process.



Sgt. Jason Schilling of the San Diego-based 670th Military Police Company kisses California before leaving on a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey



Troops from Company B, 185th Infantry Battalion, out of Los Alamitos, Calif., regroup during a mock battle against Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, during annual training on Camp Roberts, Calif., in June. The battle included helicopter transport, booby traps, smoke grenades and attacks along hillsides and in open areas.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo



California Air National Guard engineering assistants Master Sgt. Ray Linares and Staff Sgt. Jim Fields discuss calibrations on a global positioning system at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on June 9. Linares and Fields, who were deployed in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, were preparing to survey a section of Radio Range Road.

Photo by Pfc. Christopher Vann

Kapyong High School Principal Youngman Han holds up a photograph of Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kaiser Jr. during a memorial ceremony May 3 in Kaiser's hometown, Inglewood, Calif. Kaiser was the first 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard, Soldier killed in Korea, in 1952. As a tribute, the men of his unit donated their money, time and skill to build a school in Kapyong, Korea. The school, which was originally named Kenneth Kaiser High School, recently held its 54th graduation ceremony. The school has graduated 13,000 students since its dedication in 1952.

Photo by Spc. Jennifer C. Eddy



Ulises Sanchez, 17, holds aloft the Distinguished Honor Graduate award during a June 19 graduation ceremony for the California National Guard's Grizzly Youth Academy in San Luis Obispo, Calif. The Guard's two youth academies provide live-in, military-style schools for teens who have dropped out of school or are at risk of dropping out.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Payer



California Army National Guard recruiter Sgt. Ben Garcia watches Saugus High School Principal Bill Bolde compete with students in a push-up contest at the Los Angeles County school in May. Garcia said he had never seen an administrator participate to such an extent during a campus event. Saugus High has supported the Guard through donation drives and various other activities.

Photo courtesy of Saugus High School



Lt. Col. David Kauffman, the Kosovo Force Multi-National Task Force-East command judge advocate, finished first in the annual Danish Contingent March on May 16 in Kosovo. The California National Guardsman completed the 15.7-mile march with a 22-pound pack in 2 hours and 48 minutes, besting 802 Soldiers from 19 countries.
Photo by Lt. Col. Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Army



The California National Guard Joint Color Guard leads Soldiers and Airmen in honoring Old Glory and the California state flag during a June 12 celebration of the U.S. Army's 234th anniversary at the Guard's Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento. The anniversary, June 14, marks the initial formation of the Continental Army in 1775. The date is also recognized nationwide as Flag Day, because the Continental Congress adopted the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777.
Photo by Tech. Sgt. David Loeffler



Samantha Plamondon, bottom right, and other members of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls stand outside the U.S. Veterans Hospital in Fresno, Calif., after delivering handmade cards to patients. Girls from across the state gathered in Fresno in April for the nonprofit's annual Grand Assembly; the organization was founded in 1922 for daughters of Masonic Lodge members. Plamondon's father, 1st Sgt. Rodney Plamondon, is a member of the California National Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment.
Photo courtesy of Samantha Plamondon



Pfc. Sara Santibanez and Pfc. Erika Diaz of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team provide free security at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life overnight event May 16-17 in San Diego.
Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey



First Lieutenant Michael A. Rodriguez, 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion, enjoys a sunset on Camp Roberts, Calif., after a tough day of annual training in June.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo

"NCOs are not ordinary people. They are men and women who stand apart from the crowd, who seek responsibility, take charge and get the job done."

-Gen. (ret.) Gordon R. Sullivan, Army chief of staff, 1991 to 1995



The Army has designated 2009 "The Year of the NCO" to recognize its enlisted leaders at all levels of command. Grizzly will feature an exemplary noncommissioned officer each month in 2009 to commemorate The Year of the NCO.

'The true warrior's mission is never over'

By Sgt. Aron Reppas
95th Civil Support Team

If you ask me about my California National Guard experience, I, with great pride, can say that of all the things I have done in my life, this is the best.

I did not start in the military at 18 – nope, actually much older than that. I was at my father's house, watching a news program about our troops overseas. My father is a veteran as well. While we were watching, I couldn't help but wonder why the heck I was sitting there with a cushy job, while those studs were out there working their butts off. So I told Pops that I was going to take a leave of absence from work to go fight.

I enlisted in the infantry and started learning how to be a Soldier. Upon enlistment I was sent to Company B, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment. About a month later, the readiness noncommissioned officer for the rear detachment asked if I wanted a full-time job, and I said, "Sure."

I studied and adapted to everything I could to become not just a good warrior but also a subject matter expert. I kept pleading with my boss to let me deploy, but he kept saying, "You're not ready." I went to several schools and kept training so I would be ready



for my chance to go, and I met some of the most extraordinary people along the way. Then, after almost a year, I found a unit that was deploying, and my mentor said, "Go for it."

The training and expectations were stepped up a lot. One thing my father told me was that if he ever heard I was being complacent, he would snap my legs in two. So I made sure to pay close attention to detail. We went through mobilization and all that

fun stuff, which was not fun or easy. I needed to keep in mind why I was there and also the ethos we live by.

Eventually mobilization was finished, and we hit the ground in theater. It was the real thing. There is a giant chance my butt would have been shot off if I hadn't remembered the training I had received and the words my old man had given me. I will never be the same. But I sure had a good group of men to my left and right.

To have esprit de corps means you absolutely care about your family: the guys and gals you work with. This isn't a job. You might have an office to go to and people to answer to, but right down to the bone, it is life and death. To have that closeness with my fellow warriors is the greatest thing I have ever experienced.

Becoming an NCO has been an honor. "The Backbone" it says in the NCO Creed, and the backbone we are. The young warriors we are training need us. My old man told me the true warrior's mission is never over. It is our calling that we maintain our purpose, creed, ethos and faith to our Soldiers and our country.



The 95th Civil Support Team, which comprises 22 full-time service members, stood up in December 2001. The CST, whose main responsibility is to northern California, was created to counter chemical and biological terrorist threats.
 Photo courtesy of 95th Civil Support Team



Roberts' courage a credit to NCOs

By retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Gary J. McMaster
Camp Roberts Historical Museum

This year, during the Army's Year of the NCO, it is most appropriate that we pay tribute to the namesake of the California Army National Guard's primary training and mobilization site. For sacrificing his own life for that of a comrade, Cpl. Harold William Roberts received our nation's highest military honor — the Medal of Honor — in 1919, and Camp Roberts was named for the Soldier upon its completion in 1941.



Renault FT-17 tanks roll through France during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I in 1918. Cpl. Harold W. Roberts, for whom the California National Guard's Camp Roberts is named, died in an FT-17 during the offensive.

Photo courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration

Born in San Francisco to working class parents in 1895, Roberts graduated from Wilmerding High School and then enrolled in the University of California at Berkeley. With World War I looming on the horizon, however, he decided to drop out of college to join the Army.

After basic training on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay, Roberts went into the horse cavalry and was sent to the Philippines. After returning to Camp Fremont, Calif., following his tour, Roberts soon volunteered for the brand new Tank Corps. After a rail trip across the country, he boarded a British transport ship for France, then went through several weeks of training on French Renault FT-17 tanks.

The Renault FT-17 was the forerunner of modern tanks used today, incorporating a fully revolving turret for the main gun, the engine in the rear and the driver in the front. Roberts, a quick learner, was an excellent driver. He advanced to the rank of corporal by the beginning of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the last big push in northern France, which finally broke the back of the German defense.

On Oct. 4, 1918, Roberts was driving his two-man tank through heavy German artillery fire, when his gunner motioned for him to drive into a mass of bushes, which looked like a German machine gun nest. What was hidden by the bushes, however, was a large artillery crater filled with 10 feet

of water. The small tank rolled into the crater and began filling with water. Realizing that there was time for only one person to get out, Roberts yelled for his gunner to scramble out the top hatch. The gunner braved machine gun fire to try and dislodge Roberts' hatch with a tree limb, but soon he had to run for safety himself.

When the firing stopped and members of his battalion returned, Roberts' wet and lifeless body was removed from his tank and laid to rest in a battle grave. He was 22. Among his few personal effects was a photograph of his dog, Frisky.

Roberts was recommended for the Medal of Honor by his brigade commander, then-Lieutenant Colonel George S. Patton Jr., and the posthumous medal was presented to Roberts' father, along with the French Croix de Guerre and the Italian War Cross.

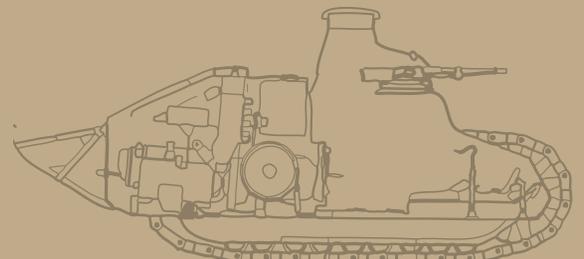
Roberts' dedication and sacrifice will never be forgotten. His name lives on at the installation that bears his name, and it is chiseled in stone and forged in brass in many places around the nation. But the true mark the young man made was the honor he brought to the Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps. This year, let us pay homage to the valiant acts of the many Army NCOs who have served — and continue to serve — as teachers, mentors and role models for the troops who follow them.



"WAR IS THE PROVINCE OF DANGER, AND THEREFORE COURAGE ABOVE ALL THINGS IS THE FIRST QUALITY OF A WARRIOR."
—CARL VON CLAUSEWITZ,
"ON WAR"

FUN FACT

Newspaper articles indicate that in 1945 — four years after Camp Roberts was named in honor of Cpl. Harold William Roberts — his Medal of Honor was found beneath the seat of a car in Blytheville, Ark., by a used car dealer who had bought the car from a Soldier. The Soldier said he had come across the medal while stationed in California. News reports said the medal would be sent to the War Department for Roberts' next of kin, but Roberts' parents were no longer alive. The Camp Roberts Museum is working with the National Archives to discover what ultimately happened to Roberts' medal.



45,000

The peak population of Camp Roberts, in 1944 during World War II. During the war, 436,000 troops completed Camp Roberts' 17-week training cycle.

ALWAYS READY, Cal Guard celebrate



Civilian in Peace — Soldier at War

By Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II
Adjutant General
California National Guard

Just as the first militia of the colonies predated America's Army and the birth of the United States, so did the California National Guard predate California's establishment as a state. The first California National Guard unit was formed July 27, 1849, more than a year before California was admitted into the union Sept. 9, 1850. Before that time, and up to Dec. 20, 1849, California was run by a military government.



Since that early summer day in 1849 — and for 160 years — the California National Guard has transformed from a state ground defense force, through a joint air-land strategic reserve, to its present forward-deployed joint-operational force of nearly 22,000 Soldiers and Airmen — one of the two largest Guard formations in America. For 160 years, California has remained the land of the free, because it was the home of the brave.

▲ The California Air National Guard flies fighter jets, cargo planes, unmanned reconnaissance vehicles and helicopters to provide air, space, cyberspace and support capabilities for the state and the nation. Flying missions abroad, protecting civilians at home and providing tactical communications and transport, these Airmen are guarding America, defending freedom.



▲ The California Army National Guard has fought for America's security during the global war on terrorism, the Korean War, World War I and World War II, among other conflicts, and since 1849, the California Army National Guard has protected civilians during events such as floods, fires and the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

ALWAYS THERE

s 160 years of service

The Most Important Part-Time Job in America

By 1st Lt. Michael A. Rodriguez
Command Historian
California National Guard

For the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard, 1849 marks the beginning of our legacy. On July 27, 1849, the first California Guard was mustered into service in San Francisco. Known at that time as the California Militia, it was not until after the end of the Civil War, in 1865, that the state legislature enacted Chapter DXLI, Statutes of 1866, officially naming the state's uniformed militia force the "National Guard of California."

The citizen-Soldiers of California have participated in many operations at home and abroad. The Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II are but a few of the campaigns during which California's own have given the ultimate sacrifice. As we consider the California National Guard's progress from a strategic reserve in 1849 to a fully deployable operational force today, let us take a moment to pause and reflect on the service of those before us, as well as those who will follow.



Since Sept. 11, 2001, California National Guard members have served in combat, peacekeeping and other missions in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Kosovo, Kuwait and numerous other countries. During that time, 26 Guard members from California have paid the ultimate price so that others may live. ▲



Last year's domestic missions for the California National Guard included fighting California wildfires, rescuing victims of hurricanes Ike and Gustav in the U.S. Gulf Coast region and securing the U.S.-Mexico border. Other domestic operations included the Guard's Counterdrug Task Force, which seized \$15 billion worth of drugs and property in 2008, and its two youth academies, which provide guidance, education and discipline for troubled teens. ▲

Army trains 'JET' Airmen

By Maj. Charles Pratt
129th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Just when you thought you would never go "outside the wire" in a combat zone as a member of the Air National Guard, there you are in a Joint Expeditionary Task (JET) mission, providing critical skills and expertise under the Army's tactical control. In a growing joint environment within Central Command, Airmen are increasingly in the mix with Army units fighting the war on terrorism.

Knowing Airmen are being tasked by the Army to perform missions requiring ground combat skills in Afghanistan and Iraq, the 2nd Air Force has contracted with the Army to provide Combat Skills Training to JET Airmen. Combat Skills Training at Fort Dix, N.J., lasts 34 days, and there are no days off. Classes may begin early in the morning and resume late at night, and the sporadic classes take some adjustment. But it couldn't be more fun.

I fired more semi-automatic rifle and handgun rounds — with pop-up targets, even at night — during my month at Fort Dix than ever before. And three nights of combatives training at Fort Dix taught more hand-to-hand combat techniques to subdue an enemy than watching a mixed martial arts fight. We also received extensive improvised explosive device (IED) training.

Additionally, there were several days of Convoy Operations Training, which took us from soup to nuts on how to plan, protect and navigate a multi-vehicle convoy through hostile territory, complete with mock enemies shooting at us. Trainees also attended Humvee Egress Assistance Training, which simulated a vehicle rollover.

Airmen also received 40 hours of Combat Life-saver training. After sticking intravenous needles



Maj. Charles Pratt of the California Air National Guard's 129th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron receives Combat Skills Training from Army Soldiers at Fort Dix, N.J., on April 2.

in our buddies, we ran in full "battle rattle" under fire threat, carrying patients over obstacles and under barbed wire, and calling in requests for medical evacuation. We also spent a few days on a forward operating base in harsh conditions, took a few lessons on Arabic languages, set up an entry-control point, trained for counterinsurgency operations and

navigated through the woods with a compass and a map.

I have deployed to Iraq since my Combat Skills Training, and I know that when I go outside the wire, I will know what to do, look for and react to in a joint combat environment.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAJ. CHARLES PRATT

670th MP 'Street Fighters' depart for Afghanistan

By Capt. Kimberly Holman
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

The "Street Fighters" of the 670th Military Police (MP) Company, 49th MP Brigade, showed decisive eagerness mixed with the sadness that comes from saying goodbye May 29, as 175 Soldiers departed from San Diego. The Soldiers will train for two months at Fort Bliss, Texas, before heading to Afghanistan for a year-long deployment.

"I feel prepared to go; I'm trained and I'm ready," said Cpl. Howard Schwenke. "The sooner we go, the sooner we get to come home. The hardest part is just leaving your family for so long."

While deployed, the unit will assist and train Afghan police in law enforcement and detainee-processing procedures.

"This is the greatest honor of my life,"

said 1st Lt. Richard Long, commander of the 670th, expressing his pride and gratitude to his Soldiers. Long has held four command positions, but this will be his first overseas.

Soldiers from the unit also deployed last year as a platoon with the 40th MP Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nearly 50 Soldiers from the 670th conducted operations in Mosul as police transition teams and trained Iraqi police to defend themselves and local villagers.

"Every time this unit has been called to duty, they have served with distinction," said Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, 49th MP Brigade commander, noting that among other accomplishments, the Street Fighters served during World War II, the 1992 Los Angeles riots and last year's California wildfires.



Above: Soldiers of the 670th Military Police (MP) Company, 49th MP Brigade, board a commercial plane to Fort Bliss, Texas, to train before a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. Right: Cpl. Howard Schwenke of the 670th MP Company, holds his 16-month-old daughter Eliana during a deployment ceremony attended by more than 400 well-wishers in San Diego on May 29.



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY

Big cat gives Airman big scare

By Senior Airman Krystal Rannals
129th Maintenance Group

During a recent deployment to Djibouti, I had an opportunity to visit Decan Animal Refuge with some Soldiers and Airmen as well as some celebrities who were on a USO/Armed Forces Entertainment tour. Decan receives no government funding and relies solely on visitor donations and volunteer workers, and our tour guide made it clear that Decan is a refuge, not a zoo: The animals are the priority, and if our presence bothered them, we would be removed.

To appear non-threatening to the animals, we split into two groups. My group included actors Christian Slater, Joel Moore and Zach Levi. At first I wondered how I was going to fully enjoy myself while trying to avoid saying or doing something humiliating around them. But all the service-members soon found the actors are normal individuals like us; within a few minutes, we were laughing together, being curious about the animals and having a good time.

In addition to seeing ostriches, zebras, gazelles, lynx and white donkeys (of which there are 600 in the world), meeting the cheetahs was a highlight. The camp is set up so we were enclosed in a tiny space for viewing the cheetahs, who have tons of room to roam around. The barrier between us was the same type of fence you would use to keep your dog from running away; the cheetahs could easily have stuck their claws through the gate, and we could not run in any direction.

As soon as we were given the OK to

touch a cheetah, the actors and service-members stuck their hands through the fence to pet the cheetah, and it was so friendly! It would purr — about the sound you would hear if 10 domestic cats purred at the same time — and that just encouraged people to go all-out, scratch behind the ears, under the chin, everywhere! I, on the other hand, observed and wondered how I was going to work myself up to do the next thing we had planned.

We walked down a corridor to a gated circle that housed their friendliest cheetah. She was sitting in the open, and people were hugging her and putting their faces up to her for photos. But when it was my turn, she was panting from the heat and looking very agitated, and I could feel in the pit of my stomach that something was wrong — a little thing I call women's intuition. Sure, the group before me had gone in and come out without a hitch, but they never seem to see danger coming on "When Animals Attack!" either.

I cautiously posed next to the cheetah and said to my cameraman, "Take the picture," but my group said, "Nooo, let her lick you. Touch her." So I put my wrist in front of her mouth, and she gently licked it. Then I took a breath, placed my face closer to hers, and reached out to pet her head as they snapped another picture. Mission accomplished.

I turned away and smiled at the members of my group with pride, then I saw big eyes and dropped jaws on



Senior Airman Krystal Rannals of the 129th Maintenance Group pets a cheetah, who later pet Rannals back, at Decan Animal Refuge in Djibouti on May 16. Rannals visited the nonprofit refuge with actors Christian Slater, Joel Moore and Zach Levi as well as other Guard members.

their faces, and before I knew it, there was a heavy paw on my thigh and sharp teeth on my calf. The cheetah had lifted herself off the floor, reached for my left leg but missed, then got my right thigh and went in for my calf. When I realized what was happening, I grabbed the closest person to me, Slater, and hid behind him. Then the tour guide pulled the cheetah back.

"She likes to play with legs," the guide said.

Likes to play with legs?! That information would have been helpful to know prior to entering the area!

After gathering myself, though, I realized she was just playing with me. She could have easily clawed me and sunk her teeth into my calf, but she just wrapped a paw around my thigh to pull me closer and lightly touched me with her teeth. I'm still alive and well and hopefully just around the corner from my next adventure!

I-185th Soldiers grapple in Iraq

By Capt. Renato Rossignoli
16th Sustainment Brigade

Thirty-nine National Guard Soldiers spent a week grappling and choking each other in the first Army Combatives level 1 course offered by 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, from May 4-11.

"I learned how to properly close the distance, achieve the dominant position and finish the fight," Spc. Juan Rivas said. "There are a lot of mixed martial arts out there, but this one was really easy to learn and a lot of fun."

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Tackett, the unit's primary instructor, said high demand prompted him to plan more courses and qualify Soldiers at higher levels of combatives. Three level 1 classes were therefore conducted in June. The weeklong program exposes Soldiers to various exercises that help improve skills and develop a warrior mentality.

"This [on-the-ground] fighting style, based on

Brazilian and Gracie Jiu-Jitsu, is a solid foundation from which to train in further hand-to-hand combat tactics," Tackett said. "The class teaches the warrior spirit, to never quit, to close the distance with your enemy, to obtain a dominant position and then to finish your enemy."

Basic grappling positions like the mount, side control, guard and rear mount are also included. The class also demonstrates finishing moves such as straight arm bars, bent arm bars and the rear naked choke.

"A clinch drill to show your warrior spirit and willingness to close with the enemy is mandatory and always leaves the body sore," Tackett added. "Choke-out day always causes anxiety and nervousness."

In May the battalion had three level 2-certified instructors and 12 additional Soldiers enrolled in the level 2 instructors course.



Two California National Guardsmen battle during combatives level 1 training at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, on May 10. Thirty-nine Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, participated in the training May 4-11.

California launches veterans care Web site

By Pfc. Robert Aguilar
40th Infantry Division

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard, on May 22 announced the launch of California's Network of Care for Veterans Web site, which connects veterans, active duty personnel and their families with medical services, social services, and employment and educational opportunities in their local communities.

"There has never been a more important time to find cost-effective ways to connect our veterans and military service members with the critical services they need," Schwarzenegger said. "Our brave men and women in uniform risk their lives for our freedom and ask for very little in return, and we want them to know this remarkable resource is now here to serve them."

The Veterans Network of Care combines private-sector service providers, non-profit service providers, and county, state and national resources on one site for veterans.

"It looks pretty easy to use for Soldiers who are coming back, and also for older veterans like myself," said Otis Flake, a member of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. "It's an accomplishment to see more veterans are able to get more services now than before because of



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, center, and Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard, far right, unveil California's Network of Care for Veterans Web site during a press conference May 22 at The West Los Angeles National Guard Armory.

programs like this."

California, along with Maryland, is one of two states that provide Network of Care.

"It's my pleasure to support this com-

bined effort to provide assistance for our deserving veterans," Wade said.

"Today, through this Network of Care, Californians can ... show their unwavering support for those who serve and have served their state and nation."

Learn more

www.cavets.networkofcare.org

PHOTO BY PFC. ROBERT AGUILAR

SRP gives 79th IBCT a snapshot of health

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Usually when a unit goes through Soldier readiness processing (SRP), its members can bet they will be seeing the sands of a country far, far away. When the Soldiers of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team lined up for SRP in June, however, the only sands they were expecting to see were those kissed by the cool waves along California's Pacific Coast.

Lt. Col. Keith Lochner, executive officer for the 79th IBCT, said SRP is typically dedicated for deploying units, but the 79th jumped at the chance to meet its mandatory yearly periodic health assessment (PHA) requirement, as well as to get a clearer picture of who is deployable within the state.

"We saw an opportunity during this annual training (AT) to match up SRP resources and the PHA in a controlled environment during AT to see where the brigade stands in supporting future missions in Iraq and Afghanistan if the opportunity became available," Lochner said. "Plus, this gives a good snapshot to the state of the medical readiness of the brigade."

Though the brigade is not deploying, individual Soldiers will know where they stand and could even



Sgt. Daniel Villanueva of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, receives an immunization shot during Soldier Readiness Processing, which the brigade completed in June, despite not being scheduled for an imminent deployment. Brigade leaders said they now have a clearer picture of how to get more troops ready for deployment.

join other deploying units if they choose.

"The IBCT is not just looking out for itself but the entire California National Guard as a whole," Lochner said.

Throughout the medical and administrative portion

of the two-day event, lessons were learned, and reality set in about where the brigade stands. The 79th IBCT already had more than 600 Soldiers who were medically non-deployable, and estimates in June put that number as high as 800.

"Now, with our eyes open, we can work hard [to] become a deployable asset in the future," Lochner said.

The SRP included stations for various medical screenings, including electrocardiograms and cholesterol testing, as well as a complete records update. Some Soldiers also received dental care during AT, which removed them from medical hold lists. Dental care is a key to getting Soldiers ready to deploy, Lochner said, because many traditional Guard members do not have dental insurance.

"After they looked at my X-ray, they asked me if I had dental insurance. I told them no, and they gave me the phone number to Tricare," said Spc. Paul Averion, who had a wisdom tooth removed. "I'm thinking about getting Tricare Dental."

Soldiers from units across the state took part in the SRP, along with troops in inactive duty training.

"This was the commander's No. 1 priority," Lochner said.

Q&A

WITH COL. STEVE T. BECK,
COMMANDER,
162ND COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The 162nd Combat Communications Group is a wing-equivalent organization, but without a full-time family readiness coordinator. It receives all of its family readiness support from the California National Guard's four flying wings. The 162nd comprises 10 units spread throughout the state.

How do you reach subordinate elements and units so they know what the Operation Ready Families (ORF) program offers? How do you get those elements and units involved?

Each squadron or flight has a civilian volunteer (often an Airman's spouse or parent) who acts as the unit's family readiness coordinator and a point of contact for family readiness. They coordinate outreach to welcome civilian family members, to increase the knowledge base and to encourage participation and involvement in base events and Family Readiness Group activities. Unit coordinators and points of contact receive annual training and monthly updates regarding resources and events to disseminate to their units' personnel and families. Wing Family Program coordinators maintain contact with members of geographically separated units through e-mail, keeping them informed of current events, educational and training opportunities, important dates and contact information. The 146th Airlift Wing utilizes the Department of Defense's Military Family Life Consultants Program and its Web site Military OneSource to keep unit members informed about available benefits.

What types of events does your ORF program organize to help families meet and form potentially long-term connections?

Each unit in the 162nd Combat Communications Group has an annual Family Day, in which relationships with family members and unit leadership are emphasized. Those events are also excellent venues for providing benefit education and deployment-awareness training to family members. The 129th Rescue Wing also offers flights in military aircraft for family members and organizes homecoming and send-off ceremonies for deployments.

What does your ORF program do prior to a deployment to provide families with the best support possible?

Wing Family Program coordinators work with volunteers to prepare pack-

ets of information for deploying Airmen and their family members, including base contacts, instructions for sending care packages, briefs on local family readiness and support groups, guidance for reading a leave and earnings statement, tips on locating financial guidance or household repair assistance, and information on child care subsidies and grants for children's activities.

Wing Family Program members are prepared to brief groups or individuals on Red Cross Services, Armed Forces procedures for emergency notification, morale calls, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, referral to a base chaplain and health insurance questions, among other topics. Families are also invited to meet the unit commander, first sergeant and other key personnel, as available.

Family members' contact information is also collected before deployment, so Wing Family Program members can follow up with outreach calls and wellness checks during the deployment.

What tools do you use to assist with the "up and down" flow of ORF communication?

Civilian volunteers meet regularly to discuss new resources and avenues of communication for reaching families and Airmen with day-to-day support and assistance during times of separation due to schooling, training and deployment. The 129th Rescue Wing, for example, maintains contact with families through monthly deployment newsletters and monthly well-being checks via phone, personal visits or e-mail.

What events and programs does your ORF program offer for youths?

The youth program at the 144th Fighter Wing provides opportunities for youths from all of our units. Its volunteer youth coordinator and assistant coordinator work with Teen Army/Air National Guard (TANG) youths in California's Central Valley. Youth events include community service, training, social interaction, team building and leadership opportunities, as well as lots of fun, as participants learn and make connections with other military youths.

The wing commander, senior leadership and military personnel also provide extensive leadership and training



Operation Ready Families coordinators and volunteers do all they can to ease the struggles for service members and their families when Soldiers or Airmen deploy.

at the annual California Air National Guard Teen Adventure Camp, and this month, the 144th will host its first annual Central California Teen Aviation Adventure Camp.

Wing youth coordinators disseminate current opportunities for camps, scholarships and teen activities via e-mail, traditional mail and phone calls. TANG youths have participated in home construction, food drives, CPR courses, child care, toy and food distribution, fundraisers, sporting activities and youth symposia. Youths from the 144th have also been selected for various Air Force camps, leadership summits and other events.

What are some of your greatest ORF challenges?

One of the greatest challenges to the ORF office is coordination of a multitude of programs and incoming information with just one full-time staff member. Volunteers are eager to assist when they have time, but most are working individuals leading active and productive lives apart from the base, raising children, dealing with aging parents or personal and family challenges, as well as often providing volunteer service to other community organizations.

One of the greatest challenges for civilian volunteers is learning to maneuver in the military community to reach the family members behind the Airmen. In their quest to accomplish their mission of promoting family readiness and encouraging connections with other military families, they often discover the limits of communication due to Privacy Act regulations, which require that the service member deliver certain information to those at home.

How do volunteers keep families engaged with the ORF program?

Once reached, personal contact helps family members discover ORF's genuine concern for them and their family's welfare. With personal connections and more established relationships, families gain the realization of the multitude of reliable and relevant resources ORF has to offer, and they find those that have particular significance for them.

Consistent communication through e-mails, calls and mailings keeps families engaged. And the combination of civilian and military personnel, including the unit commander, working together to impact family readiness provides the greatest benefit.

Supporting you when our state calls

By Col. David B. Nickels
Manpower and Personnel Directorate



The California National Guard's Manpower and Personnel Directorate (J1) has published several articles on member care, covering topics such as how to prepare for your medical needs when deployed; how to take advantage of mental health and well-being resources when facing the challenges of duty; and how to plan for and utilize the new educational benefit. This month I'd like to give you a general overview of what you can expect when asked to support a state emergency.

Many of you answered the call to Emergency State Active Duty in the summer of 2008, when thousands of fires were burning in our state. You spent your precious vacation days or disrupted your civilian work schedules to answer the call and protect the lives and property of California citizens. That call may come again this fire season, and J1 is preparing for that possibility to ensure you are supported.

J1 assists in bringing members on duty and placing them in the state payroll system. When California's Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) faces a situation that requires the California National Guard's response, we bring on personnel and deploy them in State Active Duty (SAD) status. You should be aware that it is a completely different process from the federal deployment cycle.

One of the most vital steps to complete while being processed to SAD status is to fill out your Emer-



Processing Guard members for state missions, like the 2008 California wildfires, requires an entirely different procedure from processing for federal deployment.

gency State Active Duty payroll sheet (commonly referred to as OTAG Form 14) accurately and legibly. Providing a clearly written street address (no P.O. Boxes) is essential to ensuring you receive your pay in a timely manner. Doing this, combined with your unit's submission of an accurate daily personnel accountability report, will ensure that your participation in the mission is documented and tracked for pay, benefits and subsequent

awards.

For last year's wildfire response, service members were called to duty for several weeks – but they were on Emergency State Active Duty. Therefore, the mission was generated and paid for by the state of California. The environment was challenging – participants needed to tolerate smoke, rough terrain and demanding physical labor. The California National Guard Joint Staff coordinated the medical qualification screening, personnel processing and overall strength accountability. More than 2,000 Guard members were trained and ready to support the mitigation of wildfires.

While on SAD, medical attention is provided by local hospitals, and medical care is paid for by the State Compensation Insurance Fund. If a Guard member's condition warrants recovery time, their duty status will be extended by the state for the timeframe recommended by attending medical staff.

If you are called on to assist with a California natural disaster or contingency operation, you will know that you have an opportunity to use your skills to assist the citizens of California, and that your service is being applied right in your backyard. And you will know that the J1 staff is working as a team to support you when you respond to the governor's call, whether it be for wildfires, floods or even a pandemic.

Guard educates budding scientists

By Michael Holder
Environmental Programs Directorate

The California National Guard's Environmental Programs Directorate participated in State Scientist Day, sponsored by the California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS), on May 20. More than 3,000 students in third grade through sixth grade from 30 elementary schools throughout the Sacramento Valley gathered on the west lawn of the state Capitol. The students learned about sustainability, including pollution prevention; conservation of natural resources; chemistry; and the importance of plants, insects and wildlife.

This was the 21st annual State Scientist Day and the third straight year that the Guard has participated. Forty other state agencies participated as well, including the California State Lands Commission, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the California Department of Water Resources. All of those agencies have initiated major internal sustainability programs.

Students learned how the California National Guard protects and monitors all the land, plants and animals entrusted to its care, because only through sustainability can we maintain our training lands for the next generations.

Students were given a pH demonstration on common household chemicals, with an explanation of the science behind the pH scale. The students learned what makes an acidic or alkaline solution and how Guard personnel routinely conduct pH tests on stormwater samples. The students were surprised to learn that the Guard employs scientists and that a simple test like a pH test can be an indicator of water quality.

The purpose of State Scientist Day is to encourage elementary school students to pursue careers in science. By working side-by-side with educators, we may help the next generation of Guard scientists prepare to serve their country. For more information, visit www.capsscientist.org.



Elementary school students learn from scientists May 20 during the 21st annual State Scientist Day at the Capitol in Sacramento. More than 3,000 students from 30 Sacramento Valley elementary schools participated in the event along with scientists from the California National Guard and 40 other state agencies.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA INIGO

Bonuses replace 'stop-loss'

A new program that provides additional pay for Soldiers deploying past their end-of-service dates will take effect Sept. 1 for the National Guard.

The Deployment Extension Stabilization Pay Program replaces the so-called "stop-loss" program and pays cash bonuses of up to \$6,000 to Soldiers who elect to remain in their units past their end-of-service dates in order to deploy.

The bonus is not a lump-sum payment, and the amount of the incentive depends upon when the Soldier decides to extend their enlistment contract. A Soldier will receive \$500 for each month on active duty if the Soldier agrees to extend their service between 180 days and 365 days prior to the unit's mobilization date. If a Soldier agrees to the extension between 179 and 90 days before mobilization, the Soldier will receive \$350 a month.

Soldiers who take advantage of the program will have their enlistment contracts extended for the length of the deployment plus 90 days.

Paternity leave available for some Soldiers

A new Army policy grants married fathers up to 10 consecutive days of paternity leave when a child is born.

Paternity leave must be taken within 45 days of a child's birth. Soldiers who are deployed at the time of their child's birth can take paternity leave during the 60 days after returning from deployment.

Unmarried fathers are not eligible for paternity leave under the policy. Prior to the parental leave provision being signed into law Oct. 14, no branch of service had the authority to grant non-chargeable paternity leave.

The Army allows a female Soldier to take six weeks of maternity leave. In addition, the Soldier is not available for deployment for four months after delivery.

The Army Adoption Program provides up to three weeks of non-chargeable leave for adoptive parents.

DID YOU KNOW...

the house listing for your real estate business that you just printed in a Guard office might cost you more than you think?

Using government supplies and equipment for purposes other than official or otherwise authorized activity is prohibited. Government employees are specifically prohibited from using government supplies and equipment to support a business. Examples of prohibited activity include using a government computer and Internet connection to run a travel business or investment service. Taking home government-purchased supplies for personal use is also a violation.

Joint Ethics Regulation DoD 5500.7-R discusses the proper use of government equipment. It states that when using these types of resources, it should only be for "Official use" and/or "Authorized purposes."

These resources rely on the nation's tax dollars, and you are accountable to the citizens of our country. If you are unsure about whether an action may be in violation, contact your staff judge advocate and speak to the ethics adviser.

VA program helps disabled veterans find employment

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Program helps service members and veterans who have service-related disabilities find suitable employment, maintain employment and/or achieve independence in daily living.

Services include assistance with post-deployment employment in the National Guard or Reserve, job readiness and job placement as well as training and services to maximize independence in the community. Veterans are eligible for 12 years after their date of separation from active duty or 12 years after receipt of a service-connected disability rating.

Correction: A story in the June Grizzly incorrectly stated that Kosovo Force 11 Soldiers had placed protective barriers at the Kamenica Cultural Center in Kosovo. The barriers, which were removed by Kosovo Force 11 troops in April, had been placed there by an earlier Kosovo Force in the 1990s.



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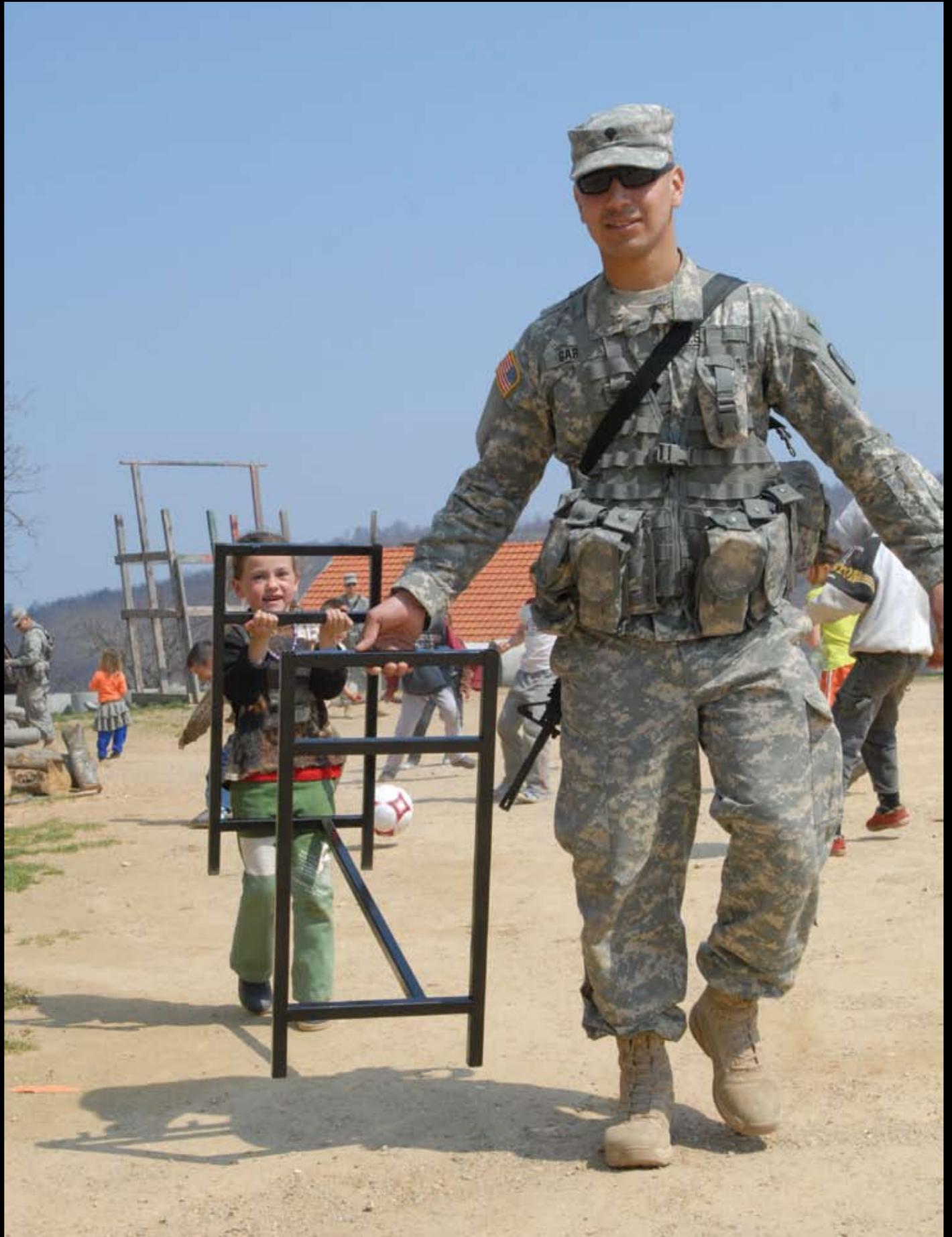


PHOTO BY SPC. DARRIEL SWATTS

Spc. John Garibay of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment, gets a little help carrying a broken desk from a student at Ndre Mjeda Elementary School in Debellde, Kosovo. Garibay and other California National Guard Soldiers volunteered part of a May weekend to repair and build much-needed desks and chairs for the school (page 9).