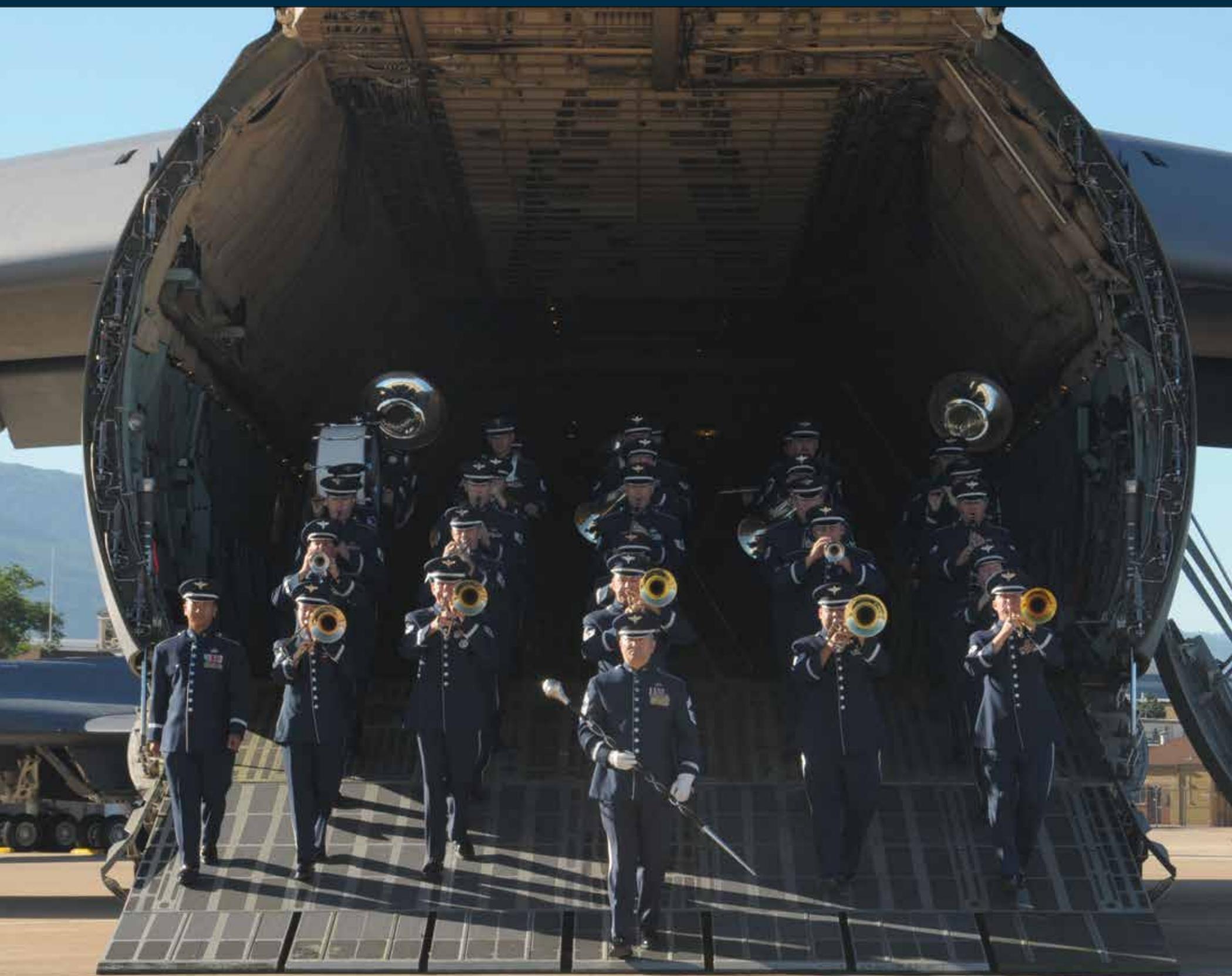


GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



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aims high on Western tour** page 13

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Cal Guard Military Intelligence takes the lead during large intel exercise in Utah

Leadership Corner

Back to basics: Rely on yourself

Major General David S. Baldwin



The California National Guard is a ready force. The citizens of this great state and nation depend on our ability to deploy at a moment's notice.

As Guard members we must be physically prepared to deploy whenever called to service. Be it a conflict halfway around the world or a natural disaster here at home, we have made a promise to our country and our state that we will be ready always. If we cannot live up to those promises, it could have serious repercussions for not only national security, but the health and safety of our fellow Californians. We will not let that happen.

If you are fit to deploy, you should take steps every day to maintain your readiness. If you are unable to deploy, you must find out exactly what you need to do, both physically and administratively, to return to fit-for-duty status as soon as possible.

Leaders should regularly discuss fitness with their Soldiers, push them to maintain healthy habits and lead by example. Leaders should also ensure their troops are aware of their health insurance options and encourage them to maintain coverage.

Though commanders and leaders oversee the readiness of their troops, it is an individual's responsibility to maintain their own medical readiness.

If you are ill or injured, you must seek medical care immediately, as your unit's medical team can help speed your recovery. You should also contact your medical noncommissioned officer (NCO), readiness NCO or unit deployment monitor to find out the steps you need to take to clear your non-deployable status and

We are an organization of great strength, and that strength comes from the combined might of our individuals. It is vital that each one of us strives to perform to our peak physical abilities and ensures we are ready to respond to our nation's call without hesitation or delay.

- Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin
The Adjutant General

become fit for duty.

Maintaining the physical and mental readiness required to perform optimally in combat and defense support to civil authorities (DSCA) missions requires fundamental knowledge about exercise, nutrition and sleep. Each of those components is important independently, but because they interact and complement each other, optimal performance can only be achieved when all three components are addressed together.

You should vary your workout routine to include a combination of strength, endurance, balance, agility and coordination exercises. But training hard and smart is only one part of the equation. Your body must be properly fueled and hydrated to maximize the benefit of the workout, and sleep and recovery time following exercise make the body stronger and faster.

For tips on healthy eating, exercise and sleep, visit www.guardyourhealth.com or consult your unit's medical personnel.

We are an organization of great strength, and that strength comes from the combined might of our individuals. It is vital that each one of us strives to perform to our peak physical abilities and ensures we are ready to respond to our nation's call without hesitation or delay.

Reaching a high level of readiness, performance and resilience is vital to every mission we perform and it is vital to keeping our members safe. Achieving top physical condition and maintaining deployable status is not an option—it is your duty.



After completing their fire mission on July 22 at Fort Irwin, Calif., Soldiers with the California Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment maneuver their M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzer back to the staging area. Over the course of their two weeks of annual training at Fort Irwin, the regiment participated in several exercises designed to increase their overall readiness. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

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Submissions

Articles:

- ★ Articles range from 350 to 2,000 words. All articles should be accompanied by multiple high-resolution images.
- ★ Include first names, last names and military ranks. Always verify spelling.
- ★ Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference.
- ★ Only submit articles that have been approved by your unit's public affairs officer.

Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible: MB files, not KB.
- ★ No retouched photos, no special effects.
- ★ Include the photographer's name and rank, and a caption: what is happening in the photo, who is pictured and the date and location.

E-mail submissions and feedback to:
jason.b.sweeney2.mil@mail.mil



Cover photo by
Airman 1st Class Madeleine Richards

The Air National Guard Band of the West Coast marches out of a C-5 Galaxy at Hill Air Force Base in Layton, Utah on June 30, 2014

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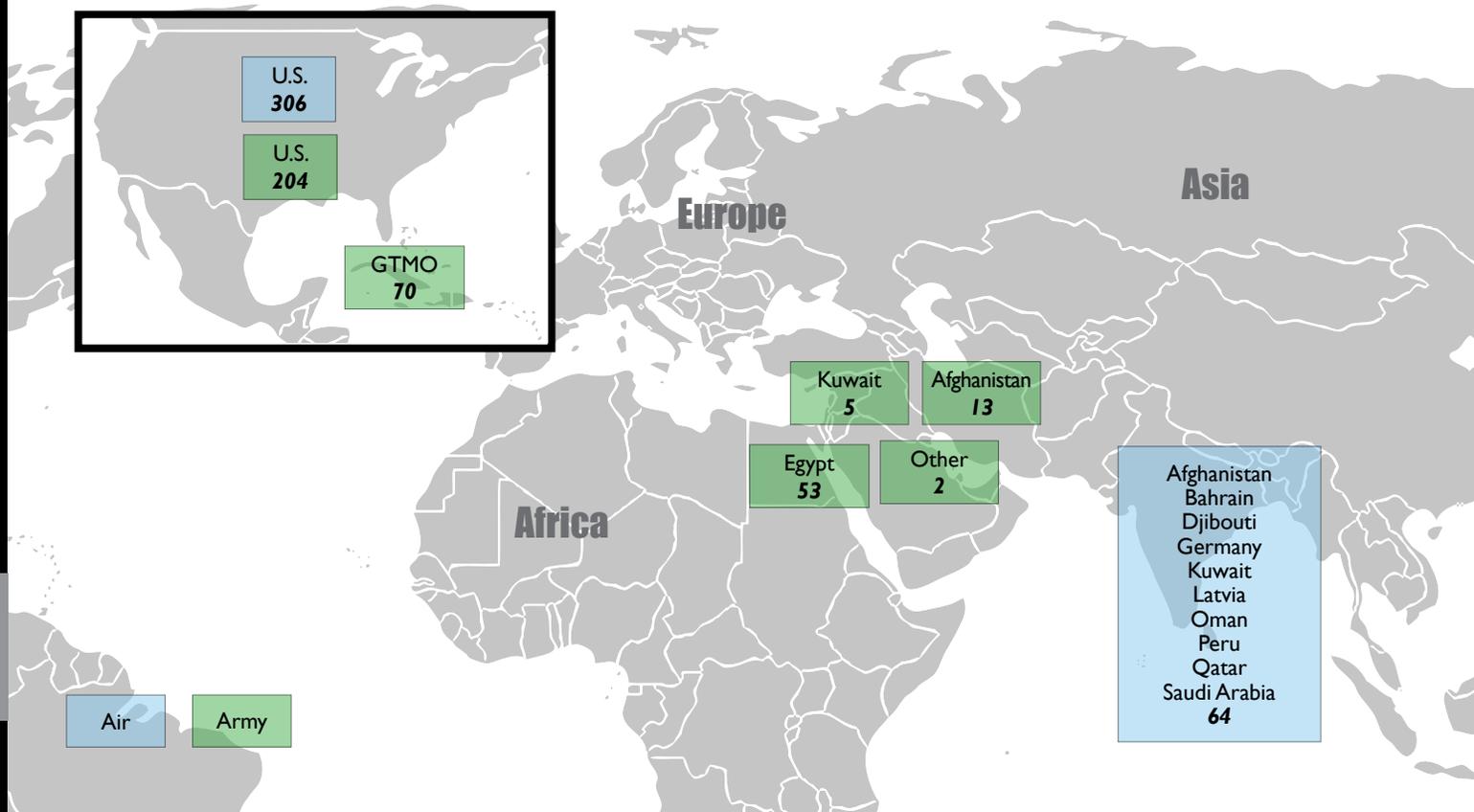
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California Guard members mobilized as of: **July** 2014



Cal Guard supports Exercise Eager Lion 2014

C-130 crews from the 115th Airlift Squadron participate in exercise above the deserts of Jordan

By **STAFF SGT. BRIGITTE BRANTLEY**
U.S. Central Command Public Affairs

At any moment, Airmen from the 115th Airlift Squadron may be called upon to respond globally with their C-130J Hercules aircraft to any number of contingencies.

Stationed out of Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Calif., the squadron was most recently called upon to support Exercise Eager Lion in the country of Jordan from May 25 to June 8.

Their mission: to provide other branches of the U.S. military as well as other partners a chance to practice real-world scenarios with a C-130.

"A lot of the other assets can contribute their own specific part to the mission, but if they need to get men and equipment on the ground fast, and they need to get there undetected, this is really the only machine that allows that to happen," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Sean Smith, a C-130 pilot with the squadron. "I'm hoping the other participants are able to see all the capabilities we provide."

Back at their home station, the guardsmen from the 115th are called on to respond to a wide variety of missions from aerial firefighting to drug interdiction to humanitarian assistance. Although their role in exercises like Eager Lion slightly differs from their role back in California, they said they are grateful for the experience they gain



A C-130J Hercules from the 115th Airlift Squadron flies over Jordan on May 31 during Exercise Eager Lion. C-130s added another dimension for other exercise participants during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief scenarios. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley

from participating.

"Actually having the other aircraft in the air and having assets on the ground is great," said Smith. "From our perspective, there are a lot of pilots who haven't gotten to see these situations during real-world operations, so some of these scenarios are the most realistic training we've seen."

One such exercise scenario involved F-16 Fighting Falcons escorting the C-130 to a drop zone, a training opportunity they wouldn't have otherwise had. Having interactions like this is one of the main objectives of Eager Lion—to work closely and enhance mutual

military capability.

In addition to the pilots getting to refine their airlift skills, the C-130 crew also gets the chance to refine their maintenance skills in a desert setting.

"With the high temperatures and amount of noise here, it's a different environment," said U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Erik Kallstrom, a maintenance officer with the 146th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "During checks, they comb over the whole aircraft, looking for leaks or anything that's damaged and will keep the aircraft from flying safely."

"We're getting valuable training out here," he added. "Our guys are getting the chance to gain a lot of maintenance experience with the fast-paced mission here."

That's another objective of Eager Lion—to prepare troops, both U.S. and foreign, to partner with each other during future contingencies. Having a C-130 participate helps develop partnerships by exposing them to a capability they might not otherwise have had the chance to train with.

"When our allies call on us at any moment in time, if those assets are anywhere near them, we will be able to get troops and equipment where they need to be in a timely fashion," said Smith. "With all the different countries and different aircraft involved, it's good to see how everything is coming together during Eager Lion."

Paramedics take action after witnessing motorcycle accident

By **BRANDON HONIG**
California Military Department Public Affairs

A motorcyclist in Sacramento was rear-ended by a sedan, thrown into its windshield, tossed in the air and slammed to the pavement June 6. And he considered himself lucky.

"Over and over again, when I said I was an Army paramedic, he said, 'Well, I guess I got pretty lucky,'" remembered Sgt. Jessica Shelley, a flight paramedic with Detachment 1, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, who was at the scene of the accident when it happened.

The patient was experiencing what Sgt. Joshua Smithee called the "Groundhog Day" effect, referring to the movie in which Bill Murray lives the same day over and over again.

"He was alert and oriented and talking to us and could answer certain questions we asked to see where he was mentally. Then he would stop and pause and ask, 'What happened?'" said Smithee, who is also a flight medic. "He'd ask a question, and we would answer it. Then he would ask the same question a few minutes later."

Other than his obvious disorientation, the patient was exhibiting no signs of major injury. But the Soldiers of the 2-135th — who happened to be conducting a physical fitness test on the road near their Mather Airfield home when the accident happened — were taking no chances.

Immediately upon witnessing the accident, Smithee ran to the motorcyclist while simultaneously directing two Soldiers to block traffic. Without removing the motorcyclist's helmet, Smithee, who is a civilian firefighter EMT, stabilized the patient's head to prevent any further neck injury. He

instructed Spc. Amy Dalton to stabilize the patient's back.

"It's weird," Smithee said, "when I'm in training, I stress a little bit. But in a real-life emergency, a calm comes over you, and you do what you gotta do. You don't think of what's happening—you just think of making the person safe and getting them the best treatment possible."

Shelley, meanwhile, cut the patient's pants and jacket with a pair of scissors provided by Sgt. Julian Ross and examined the patient for injuries. Ross had been parked in his car, cheering on the Soldiers performing their fitness test, when the accident occurred.

Ross grabbed a medical bag from his car, handed it to Shelley, who is a licensed paramedic, and began tending to the other patient at the scene—the driver of the Honda Accord that had struck the motorcycle.

"[The driver] was a little disoriented and not quite sure what had happened. He tried to get out of the car immediately, and Ross told him to stay in the vehicle, which keeps the spine in a neutral position," Shelley said. "It's best, if the car's not on fire, to keep them from walking around. If the patient's in shock, they may have injuries and not know it ... and by walking around cause more injury."

Both patients were fortunate the medics were nearby, and Shelley said the motorcyclist was especially lucky that he landed on the driver's side of the car rather than tumbling out into traffic.

"It was a perfect mesh," Shelley said of the team of Soldiers that responded. "Everybody jumped in, and not much was said as everybody took on their roles and responsibilities for the patient."

When first responders arrived, they transferred the motorcyclist to a backboard, removed his helmet, applied a cervical collar and transported him by ground to the hospital. The Cal Guard Soldiers left the next day for annual training at Camp Roberts, California, and never learned the identity or condition of their patients, though Smithee said it was a good sign that the paramedics did not call for a helicopter to transport the motorcyclist.

"In my profession, you don't always find out [the status of a patient]," he said. "You just go on with the job."

Shelley said she had been inspired to do the job of a paramedic because if one is passionate about the job and is on their "A-game," it can save a life.

"If someone didn't have the same passion for the job or wasn't on their A-game, it might have a different outcome," she said. "But Sergeant Smithee and Sergeant Ross and the other people I work with all have the same passion to do what's best for the patient."

On the day of the accident, Shelley had just returned from Texas, where she attended an Army paramedic course that was inspired by the success of Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment. Shelley's unit and Company C are collectively known as the California Army National Guard's Task Force Medevac.

"The Army, as a result of Charlie Company's deployment to Afghanistan, found out that the survivability of patients in deployed countries is greater when you have paramedics working on them," she said. "Before, Army flight medics were basically ground medics trained to work in the back of an aircraft."



Crew chief Sgt. Julian Ross, left, and flight medics Sgt. Jessica Shelley and Sgt. Joshua Smithee leapt to the aid of an injured motorcyclist and an injured driver June 6 when the Soldiers witnessed an accident during their unit's Army Physical Fitness Test. Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler

Charlie Company medics tracked all of their patients during their 2008 deployment. A study based on the resulting data, and later published in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery in August 2012, showed that severely injured patients treated by Charlie Company were 66 percent more likely to survive the next 48 hours than those evacuated by other units.

The study was persuasive enough to convince the Army to raise the minimum qualifications for flight medics, who now must complete a 55-week training course that produces licensed paramedics.

"Our bread and butter of what makes us work really well is the abilities of our medics," said Capt. Tyler Smentek, commander of Detachment 1, 2-135th. "Short of us not being in a helicopter that day [of the accident], we did exactly what we do every day. These guys reacted without hesitation, they needed no direction—they just went where they needed to be and immediately took action."

A heart for service

Sgt. Maj. Daniel DeGeorge and family provide hope and shelter to homeless couple with newborn baby boy

By **SENIOR AIRMAN ROSALIE CAMMARATA**
California Military Department Public Affairs

Danielle Navarro experienced labor complications Jan. 26. The umbilical cord was wrapped around her son's tiny, fragile neck, causing her excruciating pain and potentially threatening his life. The care and generosity of Sgt. Maj. (CA) Daniel DeGeorge and his family, however, turned a potentially tragic day into one filled with joyful tears.

For the past three years DeGeorge and his wife, Jenivee, have been serving the needs of homeless members in their community. Then in December they took the ultimate leap of faith and service: They invited a homeless couple to live in their home alongside four of their children and three grandchildren.

The day Sgt. Maj. DeGeorge met Navarro and Rory Grimes was a typical Saturday afternoon: With a trunk full of food, DeGeorge drove around his community in search of homeless men and women to feed. Upon spotting a tent near a golf course in Antelope, he parked his car and approached. Finding a couple inside, DeGeorge offered food and sleeping bags, and he soon learned the pair was expecting a baby.

DeGeorge returned home and shared the story with his wife, and for the next three weeks they made regular trips to visit Navarro and Grimes, bringing them food, clothes and companionship. After becoming well-acquainted with the couple, the DeGeorges decided to make an offer: They would invite Navarro and Grimes to move into their home.

"We were shocked and nervous," Grimes said, "but they seemed really nice."

If Navarro had delivered their baby while they lived on the streets, they would have

lost him to Child Protective Services. Also, after a series of complications including a painful infection and the umbilical cord being wrapped around the baby's neck, the couple concedes that both Navarro and their unborn baby could have died had she gone into labor while they were living in their tent. With the DeGeorges' generous offer, the young couple's prayers for a way to keep their baby had been answered.

And just like that, the already full DeGeorge home expanded to five adults and six children, including three of his grandchildren. One month after the couple moved in, Rory Grimes Jr. was born.

With the addition of Rory Jr., Navarro and Grimes said, their lives have been given great meaning and hope.

"Jen and Dan have helped us through so much," Navarro said. "Jen was there, by my side, holding my hand. She catered to my every need. She would rub my back, take me for walks and drove me to the emergency room in the middle of the night."

Navarro, Grimes and young Rory Jr. continue to live in the DeGeorges' animated, loving household while saving to buy their own home. They attend church with the DeGeorge family and participate in couples counseling. Grimes is looking for work, and both new parents plan to earn their GED credentials and provide for their son to best of their abilities.

The impact the DeGeorges made by helping that young family is emblematic of the life of service Daniel and Jenivee have practiced for years and instilled in their children.

Sgt. Maj. DeGeorge enlisted in the California State Military Reserve earlier this year following 10 years of service in the active duty Army and 13 years in the California Army National Guard. He has worked as a hazardous materials specialist, chap-



ABOVE: Danielle Navarro, Rory Grimes and their son Rory Jr. are seen at the DeGeorge household in Antelope, Calif., in May. Navarro and Grimes were homeless until being taken in by the DeGeorges shortly before Rory Jr. was born. Photo by Senior Airman Rosalie Cammarata RIGHT: Command Sgt. Daniel DeGeorge Photo courtesy the U.S. Army



lain's assistant and honor guard member, among other military occupations, and currently serves as the noncommissioned officer in charge of strategic communications for the California Military Department.

"You never worry about anything that Sergeant Major is handling," said Sgt. 1st (CA) Class Rebecca Wolkenhauer. "He embodies doing the right thing and being a Christian."

DeGeorge said serving as a chaplain's assistant for seven years was his best career decision.

"I had the opportunity to serve on a larger scale," he said. "In order to be great, you have to be a servant to all."

DeGeorge continues to be a servant in his everyday life, continually seeking opportunities to help those in need. He has donated clothes, tents, sleeping bags and personal hygiene items, and he keeps an abundance of bread in the back of his car just in case he spots a homeless person during his daily travels.

"There is a need out there," he said. "How could we turn our heads and not help people with needs?"

Sgt. Maj. DeGeorge began making a concerted effort to feed hungry people in the Sacramento area three years ago, and it

quickly became a DeGeorge family standard.

"My wife was all in. She wanted to make sure the animals were fed too," Daniel said. "We invested time so [homeless people] knew people still cared about them."

When the DeGeorges found a new church in Antelope, they continued their homeless outreach and made an immediate impact on their community and their new church.

"Before [Sgt. Maj. DeGeorge] and Jenny came, we weren't doing that much," said Mike Easter, Antelope Springs Church lead pastor and a former Cal Guard chaplain. "Now we are very involved [as a church in the community]."

Among other initiatives in Antelope, DeGeorge has established a ministry for high school students, mentored young men in a small group and directed the church's outreach and compassion program. He plans to expand that program, providing free daily meals at multiple sites and establishing outreach locations with free groceries and low- and no-cost clothes.

"We want to be a beacon of light and help the needs of the community," Sgt. Maj. DeGeorge said. "If one random act of kindness can change one life, then it's all worth it."



The DeGeorge household spends some quality time together on their front lawn in Antelope, Calif., in May. Danielle Navarro (third from right with baby) and Rory Grimes (second from right) were homeless when they were welcomed into the home in December. Their son Rory Jr. was born in January. Photo by Senior Airman Rosalie Cammarata

JVB gives generals star treatment

When distinguished visitors are in your area of operation, Joint Visitor Bureaus lead the way

By **SPC. JASON BEAL**
69th Public Affairs Detachment

When a brigadier general drops in on your brigade's multi-agency joint training exercise, you are likely unaware of all the preparation and planning that went into orchestrating such a visit.

The task of coordinating the itinerary of distinguished visitors, or DVs, falls on the shoulders of people like Irma Garrett, chief of protocol for the California Military Department. Garrett regularly acts as the director of her office's Joint Visitors Bureau, a directorate responsible for planning, coordinating and executing all visits, tours and meetings for DVs.

"We support any senior visitors and general officers during events such as promotions and changes of command," says Garrett. "We also provide support in planning and assist in programs and invitations."

Distinguished visitors can include general officers, flag officers, high-ranking retirees, elected officials and even celebrities. In the event of a large-scale training exercise, especially one involving multiple agencies, it's common for DVs to travel to the event site to witness the training in person.

Part of a JVB's function is to invite distinguished visitors to the training exercise four to six months in advance and collect the RSVPs in order to create a guest list. Next comes the task of arranging airport pickups for those who require it, as well as lodging for all visitors. The JVB provides transportation for the duration of the visit, to include guided tours of facilities or training sites, depending on what each DV wants to see and do. The directorate is responsible for facilitating briefings, ceremonies, seating arrangements and informing speakers of the presence of high-ranking guests and dignitaries. In the case of distinguished visitors to installations overseas, one critical duty



Irma Garrett, chief of protocol for the California Military Department, directs Sgt. 1st Class Rebecca Wolkenhauer on how the official party will enter the room for Brig. Gen Sylvia Crockett's promotion ceremony at the Capital building in Sacramento in 2012. Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler

of the JVB is arranging security, comprised of an escort officer and a team of security forces. The size of the security team depends on the threat level of the installation.

In a deployed environment, a JVB is not a permanent entity within the staff, but rather a special staff put together by the individual appointed as the JVB director.

"I had to build a team from scratch," says Army Col. Lisa Peake, a logistics officer at the California National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters. "I sought out people who were detailed oriented, very friendly and professional."

Peake acted as a JVB director while deployed to Kosovo with the California Army National Guard's 40th Infantry Division in 2008 and 2009. Some of the distinguished visitors she accommodated include Vice President Joe Biden, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin and an archbishop of the Roman Diocese.

In forming her "dream team," Peake targeted customer-friendly staff members who could maintain a positive attitude throughout their 15-month deployment. All personnel on her JVB staff were cross trained to be everything from escort officers to drivers so that each individual was capable of performing any task within JVB protocol.

The number of personnel in the JVB is determined by the size and location of the installation where it is located. In Kosovo, Peake commanded a support staff of eight Soldiers. Her deputy directors, a lieutenant colonel and a major, were responsible for escorting two, three and four star visitors. Additionally, she had two escort officers, both lieutenants, who escorted one-star visitors. The senior non-commissioned officer of her staff, a master sergeant, was responsible for escorting senior non-commissioned officer (NCO) guests and also managed billeting for all visitors. Peake's JVB also included a staff sergeant, who was the senior driver and flight operations NCO, and two sergeants who acted as protocol NCOs to set up dining and meeting rooms for visitors, drive vehicles and assist in room maintenance.

The emphasis of the JVB's mission depends on the environment of the deployment or training event. For example, the JVB at Guantanamo Bay focused on showing its DVs that the conditions of detention centers differed from the common public perception. Inaccurate perceptions were fought by showing visitors the safe and humane care and custody of detainees.

Whether it's fighting public misconceptions, showing off a large multi-national training exercise or accommodating a curious high-ranking visitor, the Joint Visitors Bureau prepares for every possible situation.

"Every visit is different," said Garrett, "it's important to know the mission of the event, know your people, and know what needs to be done."

CNG chaplains connect with Nigerian counterparts

California State Chaplain's Office conducts exchange seminar with Nigerian chaplains as part of the State Partnership Program

By CNG State Chaplain's Office

Members of the Chaplain Corps from the California National Guard and Nigeria Defence Forces (NDF) recently took part in an exchange as part of the State Partnership Program, an ongoing mission to foster friendship and collaboration through military to military contact events.

From April 26 to May 1, California State Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Wesley Clare, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mike Beyer and Chaplain Assistant (Master Sgt.) Desmond Knight traveled to Abuja, Nigeria, where they facilitated a training seminar with 38 members of the Nigerian chaplain corps. The theme of the exchange seminar was "Connecting to Culture, Command and Community" and took place at the Scorpion Officers' Mess at the Wu Bassey Army Barracks in Abuja.

The training consisted of briefings and forum discussions intended to foster collaboration, discussions of chaplain corps strengths and challenges and opportunities concerning religious support in a military context. Topics of discussion included the important work of chaplains in the areas of cultural leadership, advising command, building resilient communities and

maintaining spiritual wellness.

"This was extremely valuable for all of us," Clare said. "They were eager to learn and we all came away from the experience with renewed insights and strength for ministry."

The discussions often focused on practical issues, such as how to speak to commanders.

"I think the greatest interest they have is hearing how we exercise leadership, especially as we speak to commanders on the most important decisions impacting the communities we serve," Beyer said. "The Nigerians have a highly skilled professional chaplain corps and really wanted to understand how to best approach leaders with advice on morals, ethics and religious issues facing service members."



Chaplains from the California National Guard and the Nigerian Defence Forces are seen here at the Wu Bassey Barracks in Abuja, Nigeria, during an exchange seminar from April 26 to May 1. Photo by Master Sgt. Desmond Knight

By operating as a joint Religious Support Team (RST), the Californians demonstrated the importance of teamwork in delivering quality ministry in a highly diverse military.

"Whether in the U.S. or Nigeria, the Chaplain Corps is built on the concept of teamwork," said Knight. "Working with the Nigerians to help build up teamwork between chaplains and chaplain assistants is a vital part of our goal as we continue this relationship with the Nigerians."

Once the American RST finished its visit to Abuja, the Nigerians were eager to complete the exchange by travelling to California to attend a Chaplain Sustainment Training event held May 20-22 in San Luis Obispo, Calif. Chaplain Okena Okoye, Imam Ali Ado Baba and Chaplain Joseph Elise shared in presentations and discussions demonstrating to CNG chaplains and chaplain assistants the personal quality and professional excellence of the NDF chaplain corps.

"On behalf of the Nigerian Defence Forces, we are grateful for this opportunity to train with you and look forward to future visits with our American friends as this program continues," said Okoye.

Patriot Hook 2014

JFTB Los Alamitos key component in Southern California multi-agency disaster preparation exercise

By **COL. (CA) RICHARD LALOR**
California State Military Reserve

It is no secret that the Golden State is prone to a variety of natural disasters that range from wildfires to earthquakes, making civil support one of the most important missions for the California National Guard.

Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) Los Alamitos and Los Alamitos Army Airfield (LAAAF) are the only federal runways in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. For residents living in the highly-populated region, JFTB and LAAAF are critical assets for delivering that support should disaster strike.

Accordingly, JFTB was one of three southern California bases targeted to participate in Operation Patriot Hook 2014, a multi-service exercise that took place April 23-28. The exercise was designed to integrate military and federal agencies and provide train-

ing in quickly mobilizing and deploying first responders. Naval Air Station North Island and Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island also participated.

The annual exercise was developed and coordinated by the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command. Operations at JFTB primarily revolved around the staging, loading, unloading and movement of first responders, including their equipment and vehicles, by Air Force C-5A Galaxy and C-17A Globemaster III transport aircraft for the duration of the exercise.

"The joint nature of an operation of this size and scope offers an outstanding opportunity for our airfield staff to exercise its real-world capabilities with respect to surge operations, defense support of civilian authority (DSCA) and operations with our sister services and other state and federal agencies," explained Lt. Col. Jeffrey Sibley, LAAAF manager.

Participating agencies included the Federal Emergency Management Agency Task Forces 2, 4, 5 and 25, the FBI Rapid Deployment Team from Los Angeles, and the Department of Homeland Security's Border Patrol Search, Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR) Unit from San Diego.

The Air Force Reserve's 433rd Airlift Control Flight (ALCF) based at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, served as lead agency and managed the air mobility assets assigned to the exercise.



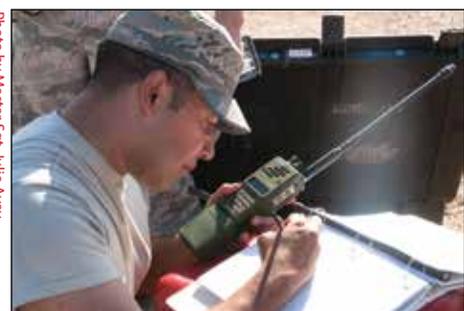
A tactical vehicle from the 147th Combat Communications Squadron loads onto a C-17 Globemaster preparing to transport equipment and personnel during Patriot Hook 2014.

"Patriot Hook gives us an opportunity to annually partner with our sister units and our new personnel to exercise our mission," said Maj. Robert Acosta, 433rd ALCF and Contingency Response Element Commander. "Even though it is the same in name, it is always a different mission with different people and different challenges. ... It gives us an opportunity to refine our mission essential tasks and teaches us what it will take to support a real-world mission."

In addition to JFTB and its airfield, California Army National Guard units participating in the exercise included the 1st and 3rd

Battalions, 140th Aviation Regiment and the 9th Civil Support Team. The Air National Guard was represented by the 147th Combat Communications Squadron.

"The focus of the California National Guard is to always be ready to support our citizens when called upon," said Lt. Col. Nathan Range, Deputy Commander of Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos. "Training exercises like Patriot Hook not only bring positive focus on JFTB and its airfield, they test our infrastructure and enhance the skill sets of our personnel to ensure our quick and coordinated response in the event of an emergency."



Staff Sgt. Abraham Ocano, of the 147th Combat Communications Squadron programs radios during Patriot Hook 2014.

Airmen awarded Air Force Combat Action Medals 10 years after Afghanistan firefight

By **MASTER SGT. PAUL WADE**
California Military Department Public Affairs

Until the night of Feb. 22, 2002, the incoming gunfire from the villages and high desert plains surrounding Bagram Airfield in northeastern Afghanistan was sporadic and warranted little response during Clinton Dudley's tour of duty while serving as a technical sergeant in the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Airlift Wing's security forces squadron.

It was a typical evening about an hour into his 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift. He was scanning the area in front of his hut on the outskirts of the open airfield with his M249 light machine gun when

his 13-man air flight operations security team went on high alert. Part of their job was to protect aircraft transporting troops and supplies to the newly commandeered airport as the war against the Taliban ramped up. A U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft had dropped its cargo and was taxiing on the concrete and steel platform runway behind him.

From the darkness came distant pinpricks of muzzle flashes, the cracking sound of gunfire reverberating off the foothills leading to the Hindu Kush Mountains and colorful tracer rounds streaked across the night sky toward the base.

"It was pretty scary," said Dudley, who now is the California Air National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Superintendent in Sacramento. "We had been there since December 2001 and up to that point we had only experienced probing fire."

"It was a firefight around an aircraft we were trying to get off the ground before it was hit," said Master Sgt. John Blevins, one of Dudley's former teammates.

As the aircraft continued its taxi the security forces struck back, engaging the enemy from multiple defensive positions and called in artillery reinforcements.

Enemy rounds impacted here and there on the airfield's control tower and the hut Dudley occu-

ried while he was unleashing his own barrage of lead. Nothing was able to reach and pierce the cargo-free aircraft as it spiraled skyward and out of range. More than 10,000 bullets were slung back and forth in a battle that lasted approximately 40 minutes. The attackers melted back into the night as mortar explosions were walked toward their firing positions.

Dudley and his team helped secure the base with zero reports of injuries. With his adrenaline still pumping he realized he still had more than six hours left on his shift.

A month later he returned home to his wife and went about his business moving from security forces into recruiting and retention. More than a decade later his actions on that night would resurface as two of his teammates spearheaded an effort for the team to receive the Air Force Combat Action Medal, a medal created in March 2007 reserved for its service members who have physically engaged hostile forces with direct and lethal fire.

"Years had passed so I didn't pay much attention to the Air Force creating this new medal until a week before we were presented it," said Dudley. "That is when I did a little bit of research."

He also finally told his wife what happened.

"When we were invited to a ceremony I told my wife what it was for. She was kind of surprised



Senior Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley, right, receives the Air Force Combat Action Medal from Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. William Burks on Dec. 5 in Reno for actions performed in a battle in Afghanistan in February 2002. Photo by Senior Airman Ashif Halim

because I never brought it up before," said Dudley, who was presented, alongside most of his former teammates, in December 2012 at the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno with their adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Bill Burks and Sen. Harry Reid doing the pinning. Reid's office had helped the airmen receive their medals after bureaucratic delays.

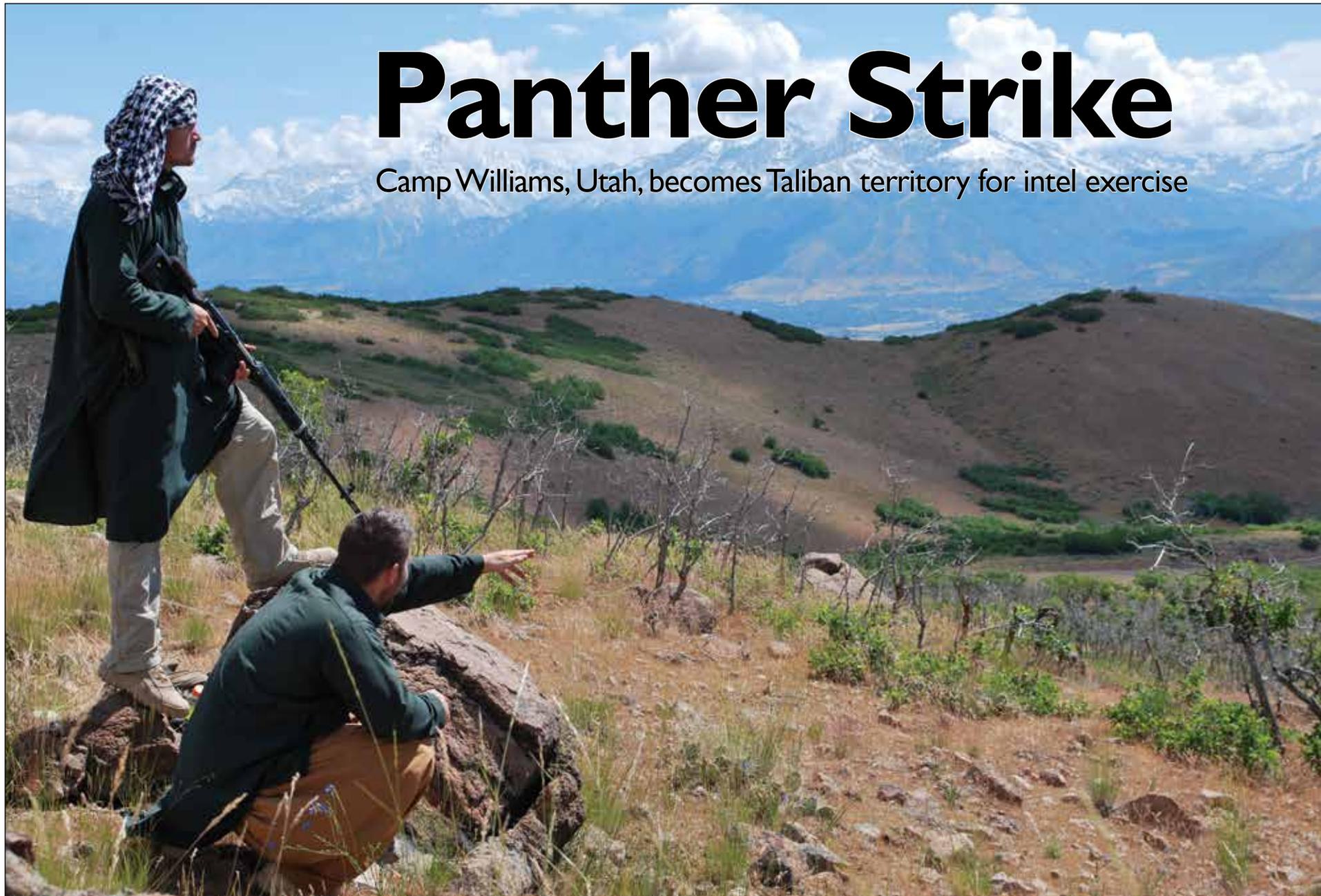
"I think the medal is a good thing. It matches what the other branches do for their troops who engage the enemy," said the veteran of 21 years. "The Air Force has its share of airmen in security forces, pararescuemen, combat controllers, tactical air control specialists and even mechanics and support personnel who ride in convoys and they all can come under fire."



From left, Master Sgt. Todd Shipley, Tech. Sgt. Clinton Dudley, Master Sgt. John Blevins and Senior Airman Justin Weilmunster prepare for VIP visit at Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan, December 2001.

Panther Strike

Camp Williams, Utah, becomes Taliban territory for intel exercise



A small element of Soldiers was selected and trained to replicate the insurgent tactics of Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters by launching simulated roadside ambushes on intelligence collection teams as they traversed through simulated Afghan villages during exercise Panther Strike at Camp Williams, Utah, over two weeks in June. Photo by 1st Lt. Jan Bender

By 1ST LT. JAN BENDER
California Military Department Public Affairs

The California National Guard's 223rd Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion hosted more than 600 Guard, reserve and active component Soldiers from 13 states and Canada who converged on Camp Williams, Utah, for Panther Strike 2014.

This annual training exercise spanned June 6-22 and simulated full-spectrum intelligence-gathering operations within a deployed combined joint task force.

"This is not your average [annual training event]. Over the years, Panther Strike has really made a name for itself. It's by far the most robust and organized intelligence [exercise] that I've been a part of," said Lt. Col. Dave Church, commander of the San Francisco-based 223rd MI Battalion and this year's Panther Strike 2014 Task Force commander. "Our staff has put a tremendous amount of time, toil, and effort... with the guidance and support of the [300th MI Brigade], into making this a dynamic experience for operators from across the various intelligence disciplines and other low-density specialties... and it's rewarding to see it all come together."

Panther Strike traces its origins to 2003, when the first exercise of this kind gathered human intelligence Soldiers from the Florida Army National Guard on Camp Blanding Joint Forces Training Center, Fla., to perfect their craft in a team-centric training evolution. Now, 11 years later, this animal has evolved into a large-scale collective intelligence venue, displaying the interdependency and interconnectivity of the different intelligence specialties.

The first week of the exercise was devoted to training Soldiers for their specific role in the scenario, which unfolded in week two.

The exercise leveraged the synergized efforts of military

intelligence Soldiers from across the human, counter, signals, imagery, geo-spatial and all-source intelligence fields to capture or eliminate cells of Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents in a Utah valley used to simulate Afghanistan's Kunar province.

"For the current conflicts we're involved in, Utah provides some critical elements of realism. Salt Lake [City] is at the same elevation as Bagram Airfield there in Afghanistan, and many Soldiers comment on the similarities in the terrain," said Utah National Guardsman Col. Derek Tolman, commander of the 300th MI Brigade, which is headquartered in Draper, Utah and serves as the higher headquarters for many of the units that rotationally host Panther Strike. "The exercise also tends to gravitate here because there is a lot of command support, and investments have been made to have all the necessary infrastructure in place."

Each year the organizers of the exercise work to improve different aspects of the training experience for Soldiers at every echelon of play. Among other improvements, 2014 saw a commitment of more than \$1.2 million from the Department of the Army's Intelligence Directorate, focused on reinforcing training on and access to the Army's all-source intelligence or fusion software platform known as the Distributed Common Ground System-Army (DCGS-A). This powerful program gives military intelligence professionals the ability to intake, process and analyze feeds of raw data and intelligence from across a broad array of sources, enabling analysts to synthesize, overlay and interpret the information so they can provide intuitive products, predictive analysis and impactful assessments of the current threat to commanders on the ground.

The exposure and technical training on DCGS-A benefited more than just an American audience.

"I was very impressed. I learned [the software] for the first time ever and I absolutely loved it. It's an awesome system," said Canadian Army Reserve Cpl. Jean-Philippe Lacasse

who served as an all-source analyst during the exercise.

Real-world, Lacasse is an intelligence operator with the 7th Intelligence Company based out of Ottawa and works full time as a strategic policy analyst at Canada's Department of Public Safety (the equivalent to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security). He has deployed to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan over his 13-year career.

"The challenge with intelligence now is not the collection of information like it was years ago... now the choke point happens at the analytical level... and I think a system like DCGS helps alleviate that. It automates some portions of the intel cycle which allows you to be more creative with the analytical portion," Lacasse said.

The talent pool Panther Strike draws from expands with each iteration. This year's events saw increased participation from Canadian forces and observers from both Australian and British forces. Next year, foreign participation is expected to increase from other partner nations.

For years exercise coordinators have been forced to turn away just as many U.S. Soldiers as they accepted due to funding constraints. Nearly 1,400 Soldiers requested to attend in 2014.

More than 75 VIPs, including elected officials and military leadership from across the country stopped in to watch the events unfold.

Many leaders see cross pollination of ideas and training ingenuity as central themes of this yearly synergistic event.

"It's amazing to see everyone feed off one another. There's an obvious fervency in the air," said Church. "Soldiers not only enjoyed the training, but they seemed to relish the companionship, the networking, the relationships. [Panther Strike] fosters a real sense of community between all our components and our international partners."

Signal intelligence analysts amp up Panther Strike training

By **SPC. BRIANNE ROUDEBUSH**
69th Public Affairs Detachment

A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flies over a simulated Afghan village teeming with role players dressed as locals. Soldiers on foot and in Humvees travel back and forth on a dusty road from the village to a forward operating base (FOB), while role-playing insurgents plan to ambush a passing convoy.

This scenario was just part of the training that played out June 8-22 during Panther Strike 2014, a large-scale, cross-component intelligence exercise.

Human intelligence, counter signals, imagery, geo-spatial and all-source military intelligence professionals worked together throughout the training to capture or eliminate cells of Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents in a Utah valley that stood in for Afghanistan's Kunar province.

While some intelligence collectors gather information from people, imagery and documents, signal intelligence Soldiers pull unseen electromagnetic waves out of thin air and transform them into tangible data. Over the course of this year's training, signal intelligence Soldiers had many oppor-

tunities to hone and improve their skill set.

"The training here has a very practical application," said Spc. Mark Johnson, a linguist with B Company, 142nd MI Battalion, Utah National Guard, who worked in the signal intelligence tactical operation center during Panther Strike. "We are getting a lot of hands-on experience with equipment that our unit doesn't have, so it's been great."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Garon Power, the officer in charge for the Low Level Voice Intercept course, said that since 2010, Camp Williams has been the LLVI center of excellence for the world. MI personnel from every branch of the military come to Camp Williams for this course.

Power and his staff pulled from the LLVI course curriculum to give the signals intelligence team a high-level, in-depth supplement to the Panther Strike training this year.

The course teaches different techniques to intercept and analyze communications in order to offer coalition forces an advantage.

"This training helps Soldiers feel more

confident in their skills," Power said.

Sgt. James Smith, a signals intelligence analyst with D Company, 297th Military Intelligence Battalion, Georgia Army National Guard said the LLVI course was perfect training.

"It teaches everything you need to know for the basics of LLVI," Smith said.

Smith has been to Panther Strike exercises in previous years. "Every time I come out here, I always learn something new," he said. "Whether it's something about the equipment I didn't know, or a way [to gather signals intelligence]."

The course encompasses three days of classroom instruction followed by seven days of hands-on experience out in the field. Mounted and dismounted operations were conducted, air insertions from a Black Hawk and operations around the FOB gathering intercepted communications and distributing them to the other intelligence assets.

Power said the goal of Panther Strike and the LLVI course was to create a training environment that is as realistic as possible and to facilitate teamwork among the various aspects of the intelligence community.



The Low-Level Voice Intercept logo reflects off a vehicle. Photo by 1st Lt. Jan Bender

"Each intelligence discipline is a wheel on the vehicle," Power said. "We all need to work together to get where we need to go."

HUMINT teams keep it real during Panther Strike

Role players at a simulated village test the skills of National Guard intel Soldiers at Camp Williams

By **MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY**
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

Soldiers on foot patrol outside the wire avoided simulated improvised explosive devices. Humvees traveled dusty roads between Forward Operating Base (FOB) Blessing and a local village, called Kanday, which was designed to replicate a village in Afghanistan. The IEDs and village were part of the annual Panther Strike exercise, which tested the skills of military intelligence Soldiers over two weeks in June at Camp Williams, Utah.

This year's Panther Strike focused heavily on Military Intelligence (HUMINT) Collection Teams and providing training to those Soldiers who gather and collect information on the ground through interpersonal skills. For the exercise, Soldiers spent three days in classroom instruction followed by seven days of simulated deployment experiences out in the field.

"We as human intelligence collectors are able to collect information through people rather than machines and this gives a more personal aspect allowing for more detailed information," said Spc. Michael Ortiz of the 250th Military Intelligence Battalion in Long Beach, Calif.

"We had the chance to study the history and culture of Afghans," said Spc. Cody Savell of the 321st Military Intelligence Battalion, Texas National Guard.

The classroom training for HUMINT collectors included cultural awareness classes. The cultural classes which were conducted at a local Islamic center in Salt Lake City included background information on how



Spc. Walid Lotfy, right, an intelligence collector with the 250th Military Intelligence Battalion, out of Long Beach, gets information from role players during Panther Strike 2014 in Camp Williams, Utah, June 17. Photo by Brianne M. Roudebush

to be culturally aware of Islamic customs and courtesies, tribes and ethnicities and the history of Afghanistan. Documentaries from Afghanistan were also utilized to relate to and show mannerisms of Afghan people.

"The classes were very beneficial for both the role players and as HUMINT collectors to not only allow for better realistic practice to real life situations but also for patience with others and listening skills," said Spc. Kimberly Blancas of the 578th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), D Company, Military Intelligence in San Diego.

Blancas was chosen to be one of the role players because of her background in improvisation in her college acting classes.

The HUMINT intelligence Soldiers were split between acting as Afghan role players and human collection teams that conducted source meetings throughout the field exercise.

During the exercise, military intelligence collectors took to the streets meeting role players dressed as Afghan locals in a simulated village or at arranged locations. The HUMINT teams interacted with over 100 Soldiers who wore Afghan attire.

"I embraced being a role player," said Blancas. "I liked seeing the opposite side and feeling what it is like to be on the other side. The interactions as a role player also allowed me to see other techniques the human intelligence collectors utilize in re-

acting to town's people and meeting with sources."

The HUMINT teams focus on building rapport with the locals while eliciting critical information.

"Our job is talking to people, gathering information, and it is rewarding being able to provide a more detailed piece to the other intelligence entities," said Spc. Julia Escobosa of the 250th Military Intelligence Battalion in Long Beach, Calif.

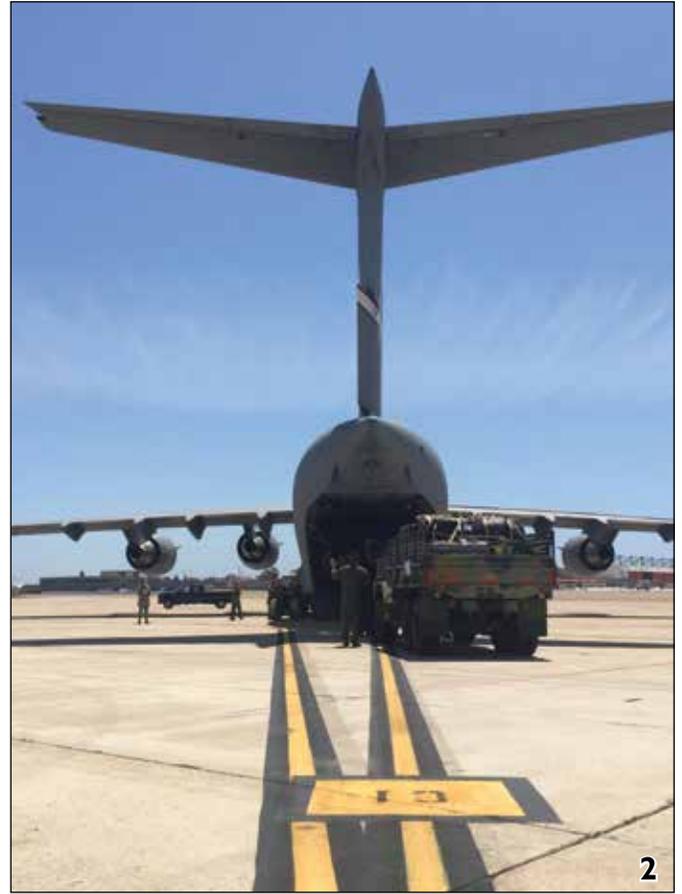
Reports are generated from the information gathered during the meetings and then incorporated with signals intelligence, imagery intelligence and counterintelligence.

"It is very important for us to know how other areas of the intelligence field work and what they can provide to our area of intelligence," said Escobosa. "Others in the field may not know how others work and what they can provide."

During the exercise, intelligence was gathered and analyzed and provided to commanders to ultimately drive operations.

The exercise incorporated the most current techniques, tactics and procedures used in the Afghanistan Theater of Operations to maximize Soldier familiarization with real world knowledge and current operating trends.

"I learned a lot about developing relationships with local populace," said Spc. Hannah Curry of the 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion in the Bay area. "I will be able to utilize the training during other operations as well."



1: Sgt. Bryston Brauer, a crew chief with B Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, out of Stockton, looks out at San Luis Obispo from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter on July 30. **Photo by Capt. Jason Sweeney** 2: A tactical vehicle from the 147th Combat Communications Squadron is driven aboard a C-17 Globemaster preparing to fly to San Clemente Island in support of Operation Patriot Hook, which took place April 23-28. Patriot Hook is an annual exercise simulating a joint military and civilian response to a natural disaster in a forward deployed location. The exercise integrates federal agencies with the military, focusing on mobilization training to disasters and emergencies worldwide. **Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey** 3: Military intelligence Soldiers from across the U.S. and Canada organize into different units to form a notional combined joint task force at Panther Strike 2014, which took place June 6-22. The exercise was designed to leverage the Soldiers' various MI specialties in the human, counter, signals, imagery, geo-spatial and all-source intelligence fields to capture or eliminate cells of Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents in a simulated valley of Afghanistan's Kunar province laid out on Camp Williams outside Salt Lake City, Utah. **Photo by 1st Lt. Jan Bender** 4. California Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Rich Smith, with the Air National Guard Band of the West Coast, performs at the Murray City Amphitheater in Murray City, Utah, on July 3, 2014. **Photo by Airman 1st Class Madeleine Richards**



At a Glance



5

A role player, serving as a protester or demonstrator, challenges members of the California Army National Guard's 185th Military Police Battalion during training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Ala. The MPs were at the CDP July 6-20 **Photo by Shannon Arledge** 6: Members of the Santa Clara Police Department SWAT team board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., on July 30 during an orientation flight. **Photo by Capt. Jason Sweeney**



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7: Signal intelligence collector Sgt. Vladimir Kuvshinov from B Company, 250th Military Intelligence Battalion, speaks with role players during an information gathering exercise at Panther Strike 2014, which took place at Camp Williams, Utah, June 6-22. Panther Strike is an annual training event that simulates full-spectrum intelligence gathering within a combined joint task force. **Photo by Sgt. Nicholas Cloward** 8: U.S. Army Reserve Capt. Kimberly Weiss, a veterinarian, provides simulated medical aid to Spc. Ryan Calhoun, a food inspector, both assigned to 994th Medical Company (Veterinary Services), during Warrior Exercise 2014 at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., on July 21. More than 40 active, Reserve and National Guard support units from across the country participated in the 14-day exercise. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Klutts**

CNG has its eye on drug smugglers

Counterdrug Task Force Ground Tactical Teams use specialized equipment to monitor smuggling vessels along California Coast

By **SPC. BRIANNE ROUDEBUSH**
CNG Counterdrug Task Force

After carrying more than 120 pounds of gear up five flights of stairs and applying copious amounts bug spray to ward off gnats and mosquitoes, the three-man surveillance team set up their equipment and settled in for the long night ahead.

Using specialized observation systems, the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force's Ground Tactical Teams monitor activity along the coast each night.

The mission began in 2011 when the Counterdrug Task Force partnered with local law enforcement agencies in California's coastal counties in response to increased drug smuggling activities.

Throughout the night, the teams document everything they see. If a suspicious vessel is detected, they contact the local law enforcement agency who will intervene as they see fit.

"This mission is important because it is the last line of defense to detect these vessels before drugs hit the streets," a Ground Tactical Team leader in Ventura County said. "Once they hit the streets, they're gone and there is nothing we can do."

When the program first began, San Diego was the only county the teams operated out of.

"Once we started detecting boats, [the smugglers] started pushing farther and farther north, up the coast," the team leader said.

There are now teams operating from San Diego up through San Luis Obispo.

The Ventura County team said there have been vessels detected as far north as Monterey and San Francisco.

"Their small, one or two-engine boats are not meant to travel that far," a specialist on the Ventura County team said. "They are getting desperate and taking more risks."

The Counterdrug teams continuously adjust their areas of operation in order to stay ahead of the smugglers.

Each team has multiple observation posts that they rotate through. Their equipment can be used in rain, fog and other low-visibility conditions.

"We actually have several different devices so we can adjust and prepare for whatever comes at us throughout the night," the team leader said. "We are at the mercy of the weather out here."

The operations have proven to be very effective. The volume of smuggling activity has drastically decreased since 2011. The team leader said the smugglers know they will be caught if they try to land on California shores.

The team said they enjoy working side-by-side with law enforcement officials and seeing the positive effects the mission has.

"This directly affects the neighborhoods where we live," the specialist said. "Being out here to stop smugglers is good for our communities. It helps keep drugs off our streets."



The California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Ground Tactical Team in Southern California uses specialized observation systems to detect suspicious vessels along the coast. Photo by Spc. Brianne Roudebush

Counterdrug Task Force hones skills for drug-fighting mission

Task Force Soldiers and Airmen maintain high standards and 'tight shop group' with multiple certification courses

By **SPC. BRIANNE ROUDEBUSH**
CNG Counterdrug Task Force

In order to guarantee the highest level of competency, professionalism and success, the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force conducted multiple initial and recertification courses throughout the state over the past several months.

For new hires, the initial certification courses enhance their basic knowledge through in-depth, high-caliber training.



Using night vision lenses, two California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force members conduct night training during their annual recertification course. Photo courtesy of the California Counterdrug Task Force

"Being in small class sizes and in small teams allowed us to work on specifics and get more one-on-one time to make sure we are doing everything correctly and efficiently," said an infantryman on the ground tactical team in Southern California who is not being identified for security reasons.

Teams conducted skill-specific training that will help them accomplish their missions. The courses covered everything from drug trafficking trends to community support and coalition development to specialized observation systems, weapons training and ground tactical movements.

"I think it gives them more confidence in their ability to do the mission," Sgt. First Class Neil Medlar, a noncommissioned officer in charge for Northern California, said. "We conduct scenarios to make it more realistic than just classroom training and they know they can do it—even under a little stress."

A sergeant first class and mission team leader for the ground tactical team in the Sacramento area echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that "realism" is a key component.

"We incorporated precision into the weapons training this year," the sergeant said. "It's not good enough to just shoot and hit a stationary target. In real life, when the stress picks up, you still have

to be able to get a tight shot group."

Not only does this advanced training help Soldiers and Airmen in their counterdrug role, it benefits them in their positions at their home units as well.

The infantryman said the training included a lot more land navigation and reconnaissance techniques that his unit does not cover.

"We got new training on how to blend in when you are surveying an area for an extended period of time," he said. "We learned how to set up listening positions and observation posts, which was new for me. We just had more time one-on-one to learn more tricks."

Counterdrug members also get trained on specialized equipment like long-range advanced scout surveillance systems and flare systems that they don't always have access to at their home units.

Furthermore, they are given the opportunity to take on leadership positions. The sergeant first class said the lower-enlisted Soldiers brief the instructors on how they plan to accomplish a training mission, rather than having the instructors give the orders.

"We get more responsibilities here than in a regular line unit where you just get told what to do," the infantryman said. "It definitely helps you build more confi-

dence when you get experience in leadership positions. It is 100 percent beneficial because you can take what you learn and bring it back to your squad or team."

The Counterdrug Task Force brings together Soldiers and Airmen from different specialties to create teams. The infantryman said the training is a great way to ensure that everyone, regardless of their military job or previous training, is on the same level when it comes to the skills they will need in the field.

Each year, members of the taskforce are required to attend a recertification course so that there are no questions as to whether the team is trained.

"The training is a refresher on the foundation that they have acquired from the beginning," Capt. Ruel Fuentecilla, an officer in charge in Southern California, said. "It goes back to basics and [adds] any best practices they have been able to implement and execute out in the field."

The Northern California sergeant first class said the training is an opportunity for members to correct any deficiencies or shortcomings in operations they might see.

"It gives the team the chance to get on the same page," he said. "Everyone comes in with their own experiences and equipment and we get to build upon that knowledge and learn together."



LEFT:The Air National Guard Band of the West Coast performs at the Brigham City Pioneer Park in Brigham City, Utah, on July 4. **RIGHT:** Chief Master Sgt. Jurgen Schwarze, member of the Tailgaters with the Air National Guard Band of the West Coast performs at the Park City Television Station in Park City, Utah on July 1, 2014. **Photos by Airman 1st Class Madeleine Richards**

Air Guard band entertains the West

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MADELEINE RICHARDS
146th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As a photographer for the 146th Airlift Wing, I was assigned to travel with the Air National Guard Band of the West Coast for two weeks in June and July. The music I heard and the camaraderie I witnessed between the band members and their audiences, however, deserved more than just a visual account.

On the first night of our trip, the band performed in a nice little town called Ojai, Calif. Once the first song played, I knew I was in for a good trip. The band performance lasted about an hour and a half and to say they sounded "pretty good" would be a huge understatement. They were amazing! From singing to flute solos, it was beautiful music, and my favorite part was when they asked the veterans in the audience to stand up toward the end of the show. When the last song was over, I heard quite a few audience members saying they wished they could hear one more song, and a few approached me just to express how much they enjoyed the show.

After the audience cleared out, the band started to pack up their equipment. I never stopped to think about who hauled all of the sound equipment, instruments, chairs, uniforms, music stands, etc. Well the band does it all! I was amazed by how much work they put in to prepare and clean up for a show.

The second stop on our tour was Hill Air Force Base, Utah. I wish I could say the drive was beautiful and scenic, but I slept the whole way—much needed sleep for the long day



Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Corbet talks to audience members at the Ogden City Amphitheater in Ogden City, Utah on July 2. Photo by Airman 1st Class Madeleine Richards

ahead of us, which started with a 7 a.m. report time. I had the pleasure of watching the Brass Quintet and the Dixieland Tailgaters—smaller groups made up of 562nd Band members—play before the main event. They were so much fun to watch. Both groups were extremely upbeat, and people just loved to watch them.

After they were finished performing, the entire band lined up to march down the edge of the flight line. Their formation was beautiful, and I didn't see one person step out of out sync. When they came to a stop, it was time for them to play the national anthem while a parachutist jumped out of an airplane with an American flag flying in the wind. It was an amazing moment!

That evening, the band played at the Ed Kenley Amphitheatre in Layton, Utah, which was overflowing with music lovers. The audience was very diverse in age, ranging from adorable young kids waving American flags to many older veterans representing their branch of service with hats and t-shirts. The energy of the crowd was amazing, and I could tell the band was feeding off their good vibes. When the band played "America the Beautiful," the crowd sang along, and even the captain of the band admitted it gave him goose bumps.

I was exhausted after the two shows, and I could only imagine how tired the band members were. But another 7 a.m. call loomed the next morning, this time for a special photo opportunity of the band playing and marching out of a C-5 Galaxy, the Air Force's largest cargo plane. That evening the band performed at the Bountiful City Park in Bountiful, Utah. The setting was a beautiful stage with wooden ceilings. The seating was provided by the audience members who brought their own chairs.

The music was amazing, as usual. I also really enjoyed taking pictures during the intermission and at the end of the performance, when a few of the band members stepped out into the crowd to talk to the audience members. They just loved it. People were asking questions about the band, and it was hard for a band member to walk a few feet without someone coming up to shake their hand.

The next morning at 4:45 a.m., the Tailgaters and I set off for Park City, Utah, for a special gig. During the Tailgaters performance at Hill Air Force Base, a fellow National Guard member, Joe Davis, who also happens to be the host of a TV show, had approached the Tailgaters and asked them to be on his show.

When we arrived at the TV station, Joe interviewed the

commander, Capt. Vu Nguyen, and Master Sgt. Gerald Lockwood, and then the Tailgaters began to play. The band members played four songs spread throughout the show, and Joe liked them so much he gave them and the whole 562nd Band an open invitation to come back whenever they are in town again. They wouldn't be able to fit the whole band in the studio, though, so I think he planned for them to stand outside on the deck!

That evening's performance was at the Draper City Amphitheater in Draper City, Utah. The show started off a little rocky with some technical difficulties when the microphone stopped working, but being true professionals, the band members maintained their composure and kept playing beautifully. After that first hiccup, the band was good to go for the rest of the night.

Performances followed in Ogden City and Murray City, Utah, and then Brigham City, Utah, on Independence Day. The performance on July 4 was special because I got to see the group Fuego Azul—another smaller group composed of 562nd members—perform for the first time. It was a nice change of pace with very upbeat Latin rock music. After they performed, a teenage boy approached the group to express to them how much he enjoyed their performance. It was sweet to see how the band can touch all different age groups.

The Dixieland Tailgaters were on a roll July 4 as well, walking in the audience and picking different groups to play for. The crowd absolutely loved it! The group would pick a spot to play and, while they were playing, pick up and move around to find a new spot. At one point they set up next to a few families having a cookout and played a Happy Birthday tune for a young girl in the crowd.

That was all before the main performance with the whole band which started at 9 p.m. The audience members were extra patriotic that night and showed an even higher level of excitement for the band's performance! When I was walking through the crowd taking photos, an older man approached and asked me to thank the band for coming and tell them how much their music meant to him and his wife. I also spoke with a couple I recognized from the show in Ogden City: They loved it so much they came back to hear the band one more time before we headed back to California.

This was my first tour as an Airman and I feel like I hit the jackpot when I was chosen to travel with the band. These service members make a special contribution to our nation, educating people about the Air National Guard and bringing smiles to so many faces.

A California National Guardsman with 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Brigade, fires blank rounds at U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers during Warrior Exercise 2014 at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., July 22, 2014.

Army Total Force trains as one at Warrior Exercise '14

Cal Guard, Army Reserve and Big Army train together at Fort Hunter Liggett

By **STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER KLUTTS**
20th Public Affairs Detachment

Flanked by California hills and sunburnt grass, U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers have a problem. They were manning an entry control point to a base as part of Warrior Exercise 2014, when a band of California National Guardsman launched an attack on their position.

Simulated casualties litter the control point. Wounded attackers call for help, others pretend to mourn the fallen. Two Soldiers from the Reserve unit, public affairs broadcasters by trade, stand frozen in the middle.

"There is no right or wrong decision. The only wrong decision is not making one," says U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kevin Ward, an observer, coach and trainer with 189th Infantry Brigade.

The silence breaks and the Soldiers start moving the bodies, clearing the way into the base.

The Warrior Exercise, held this year in July at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., serves as an annual culminating training event for combat support units throughout the Army.

Though the majority of the more than 40 units training are from the Army Reserve, the 14-day exercise also tests and strengthens the interoperability of Soldiers from the active duty, Reserve and National Guard components, collectively known as the Army Total Force.

"They're weaving in much like they would do on the modern battlefield. We don't necessarily ask what component somebody is. We just notice it says 'U.S. Army' on their uniform. We have to train like that so it is less impact and less startling to the system when we do it in combat," said Col. Randall Wickman, commander for 189th Infantry garrisoned at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

The 189th itself is comprised of active and Reserve battalions, which Wickman said uniquely equips them to be the primary trainers during the multi-component and multi-echelon event.

The active duty and Reserve partnership starts at the highest level of the exercise, the expeditionary sustainment command. Soldiers with 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, a Reserve unit out of Marysville, Washington, partnered with the 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command from Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The two units, usually charged with coordinating support and logistics for thousands of Soldiers, will transfer responsibility of those tasks during the exercise just as they would while deployed.

Below the expeditionary sustainment command, observer, coach and trainers, known as OC/Ts, shadow units during both phases of Warrior Exercise—mission rehearsal and a simulated mission in an adaptive training environment.

The OC/Ts, like Ward at the entry control point, are predominately from the 189th Infantry and have backgrounds in combat occupations like infantry and armor. They walk step-by-step through warrior tasks with the support units during the mission rehearsal phase.

Ward, a cavalry scout, said he keeps in mind that support Soldiers are often attached to combat units and could be attached to his in the future.

All Soldiers, regardless of their specific occupation, are expected to know basic warrior tasks that range from convoy operations to room clearing. Most begin the exercise prepared to start with the basics.

"They're not coming in here with the preconceived notion that they know everything, so they're more open to learn the actual doctrine and the fundamentals of

something and then put it into practical application," Ward said.

In addition to refreshing individual skills, Warrior Exercise as an annual training event allows units to test their abilities to work as teams in a simulated combat zone.

For U.S. Army Reserve 1st Lt. R.J. Salavec, commander of 409th Engineer Company out of Fort Collins, Colorado, the exercise was his third annual training event with the two prior being construction and humanitarian aid missions.

"We try to do something four or five times a year to get out into the community and build something, but nothing as tactical as this, nothing this far out of Fort Collins,"

Salavec said.

Company-level units like Salavec's can train in their occupations at their home stations, whether that be building a bridge like the 409th Engineer Company or taking photos and video like the Reserve public affairs Soldiers defending the entry control point.

"We're trying to stress the importance to these guys of making a decision," Ward said.

Warrior Exercise puts those Soldiers in situations they won't find during a weekend drill but may encounter on the battlefield, where decisions can be the difference between success and failure.



TOP LEFT: California National Guard Spc. Christopher Sprague, with 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, attacks a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier during Warrior Exercise 2014 at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., July 21, 2014. **BOTTOM LEFT:** U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers evacuate a simulated casualty during Warrior Exercise 2014. **RIGHT:** U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers prepare to enter a training village during Warrior Exercise 2014 at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., July 22, 2014. **Photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Klutts**

King of Battle takes the field

Troopers from 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment unload their M109A6 Paladins in the deserts of Fort Irwin during annual training

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS BENJAMIN COSSEL**
40th Infantry Division Public Affairs

As far as the eye can see, the landscape is near barren. The mercury in the thermometer pushes well past 100 degrees. Sweat drips off the guys mingling with desert dust, cutting a path as it pours down their face. To a man, they couldn't be happier.

It's the type of place only a desert tortoise could love. Well, tortoises and the Soldiers of the California National Guard's 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment as they wrap up their 2014 annual training deep in the desert ranges of Fort Irwin's National Training Center.

"Anytime my guys are out here," Lt. Col. Joe Adams explained as he waved his arm in a semicircle, "rolling into position, setting up and putting rounds

down range—they're happy. This is what they live for."

Adams is the commander of this uniquely positioned unit. Attached to the active Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 1-144th FA is also the only unit in the California National Guard with M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzers in its firing battery.

While the troopers of the regiment may live to send rounds down range, before they get to that point, there's a laundry list of boxes to check. Adams estimated his unit make up at 70 percent seasoned veterans, with 30 percent of his troops being freshly minted Soldiers.

"Each section has to get qualified on their individual tasks before they can move on to platoon maneuver qualifications," Adams said. "Once those unit are qualified,



LEFT: An M109A6 Paladin fires a volley on May 28 at Fort Irwin, Calif. ABOVE: Troopers prepare to load rounds inside a Paladin at Fort Irwin, Calif. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

then they can begin prosecuting targets as a platoon."

According to regimental executive officer, Maj. Eric Devries, certification comes through the use of standardized Army qualification tables. Numbered one through six, the first five tables put the Paladin crews through a series of maneuvers, each more challenging than the first and building on the skill sets of the previous. While the final table, table six does the same, it is the one these Soldiers look forward to—live fire.

With the mix of tested veterans and new troops, Adams said his unit is positioned to come out of annual training well trained and ready for whatever may come as veterans impart their hard earned knowledge to the younger, less experienced crew members.

One such Soldier is Spc. Eric Lomeli from Covina, California. "It's really nice to be able to come out here, apply what I learned in school and add to it, then take the lessons learned from my senior NCOs," Lomeli said.

Lomeli joined the regiment just two months ago, advanced individual training still fresh in his mind, he's anxious to learn as much as he can in this training environment.

"I know this isn't like being over in theater," the young specialist said, "but it feels really good to be getting a bit of real world training."

"This is a world class organization," said Adams, a noticeable swell of pride entering his voice. "I would take the guys into battle, anywhere in the world."

185th MP Co. trains at Center for Domestic Preparedness

Cal Guard MPs prepare for the worst with realistic disaster response training at CDP in Anniston, Ala.

By **SHANNON ARLEDGE**
Center of Domestic Preparedness

The 185th Military Police Battalion took advantage of training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) July 6-20. The battalion spent two weeks in Anniston, Ala., honing its skills employing crowd control measures, countering protester tactics, learning to manage incidents and performing military police duties in an area contaminated with chemical and biological hazards.

"This is excellent training for our Soldiers," said Col. Kelly Fisher, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade, which is the command element for the 185th. "The first thing I observed is how engaged, interested, and how challenging our Soldiers found the training. They love this kind of training and it gives them perspective of what may be expected of them if and when they get called up for a domestic response. Our number one priority when called upon is saving lives and mitigating human suffering and loss of critical infrastructure. The CDP is key to ensuring we are well prepared for these potential events."

U.S. Army National Guard units support their respective states throughout the nation. Guard units provide a variety of state support to include engineering, urban search and rescue, law enforcement, fire-fighting support and healthcare. The mix of talent and technologically skilled Guard members create units that are ready to support their region. Most importantly, they

are assets to the emergency responders in cities across the United States.

"An emergency incident will involve several different aspects of public safety—from fire to police to healthcare," said Lt. Col. Robert Paoletti, commanding officer of the 185th Military Police. "Having a place where we can train and experience different scenarios in a contaminated environment is great. We trained with all disciplines, learning a common set of operations and we all left with a better understanding of the [National Incident Management System], making our unit better in our HRF [Homeland Response Force] role supporting our state." The United States has established 10 HRFs selected to support each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions. The Army National Guard and Air National Guard are the primary HRF elements and assume roles based on current threats, with a principal focus on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response.

The unit's primary role in California is to support civilian authorities and quickly respond to emergencies. The 185th MP Battalion trains to provide disaster relief following earthquakes, fires, floods, terrorist events or civil unrest.

"I understand more about the roles and responsibilities at different levels," said Spc. James Hernandez. "This was my second time to train at the CDP. ... This time it is even better. Observing the different levels of response and working more closely with

the command structure was my biggest takeaway."

The 185th sent more than 110 Soldiers to CDP training—all part of the state's HRF. The unit collectively attended more than 10 courses over the two-week period and completed its training cycle by participating in an Integrated Capstone Event (ICE). The ICE is a one-of-a-kind training experience that blends multiple courses and disciplines into a single end-of-course exercise.

"This is a great way to utilize skills and implement them with civilian agencies, especially in the ICE," said Sgt. 1st Class Jesamyn Sobeckie. "We started at a rapid pace and every class built on the next. This is going to enhance our capability to perform as a civil support unit in the state of California."

"Classes like these where we work together and observe other first response capabilities are a large benefit," said 1st Lt. Antonia Ambrie. "Communication is important and when there are multiple levels of response, terminology must be consistent. The courses demonstrated how we fit into the response picture and communicate with each other and the state and locals."

The CDP incorporates realistic venues into its hands-on training. Updated training areas enhance a modern learning environment, including sound effects, role players performing in mass demonstrations, protester extrication tools, training in a toxic environment using nerve agents GB (Sarin)



The 185th MP Company troops train at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Ala. in July. Photo by Shannon Arledge

and VX and biological materials, such as anthrax and ricin. The scenarios simulate the rescue of citizens, illegal demonstrations, evidence preservation and locating and identifying the toxic substances.

"I enjoyed the level of instruction and experience from the instructors," said Sgt. John Lafaver. "We spent very little time in the classroom and were hands-on most of the time. I definitely feel more prepared. Anyone coming here, with the level of instruction and with the way this program is run, will find it impossible to walk away and not learn. More need to take advantage."

The CDP plays a leading role in preparing state, local and tribal responders to prepare for and respond to manmade events or major accidents involving hazardous or toxic materials, to include mass casualty events.

Under Title 32 (state support) missions, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are eligible to attend fully funded training at the CDP. Department of Homeland Security funds the training, the students' travel, lodging and meals. To learn more about the Center for Domestic Preparedness, visit www.cdp.dhs.gov, or call 866-213-9553.

224th Sustainment Brigade tests its METL

Cal Guard brigade participates in large Warfighter exercise at Fort Riley, Kan., where mission essential task list (METL) and military decision making process skills are put to the test in realistic war scenario

By **STAFF SGT. TINA VILLALOBOS**
224th Sustainment Brigade

More than 220 Soldiers of the California Army National Guard's 224th Sustainment Brigade teamed up with active duty troops from the 34th Infantry Division (ID), and Command Joint Task Force 12 (CJTF-12) to converge on Ft. Riley in June for Warfighter 2014. Warfighter is a periodic, comprehensive and collaborative simulated training exercise, which requires full participation from every Soldier in the brigade. Warfighter not only challenges troops to perform at peak levels within their skill set, but also tests their abilities in the areas of teamwork and cross-functional knowledge and capabilities.

The exercise, which lasted 14 days, immersed the brigade headquarters and participating units into a wartime theater of operations with a critical mission to accomplish. The magnitude of this exercise was history in the making, as it was the United States Army's largest Warfighter exercise ever conducted, involving more than 2,000 service members encompassing one division and 10 brigades, according to Fox News 4, Kansas City.

While the overall mission of Warfighter was to liberate the fictional Atropian people, the specific mission of the 224th Sustainment Brigade was to satisfy the need for critical supplies and logistics to the 34th ID and CJTF-12 forces moving through the area of operations.

"The Warfighter Exercise was one of our first exposures to warfighter functions and cross-functionality in a different way than we have done in the past," said 224th Sustainment Brigade Deputy Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Jason Briggs. "We've really made leaps and bounds on developing a common operating picture; developing staff estimates; hasty planning—we have done far better now than we have done in any time in the recent past."

The computer driven exercise, directed by the actions of those being trained, as well as the training command, helped Soldiers experience some of the stress of being in a wartime theater of operation. Frag-

mentary orders (FRAGOs) and requests for information (RFIs) drove the training participants' command and control. Troops tested their operational policies and procedures, as well as their knowledge of rules of engagement and wartime protocol. Soldiers also gained an understanding of the effects of their decisions during a wartime scenario, as well as the importance of timeliness and methods for addressing unexpected contingencies.

Using the Army's "train as we fight" mantra, the training was intense and included 24-hour operations and high operations tempo scenarios occurring at all hours, to include dealing with civilians and displaced persons in the area of operations, continuously updated FRAGOs and RFIs, loss of troops and material assets, disruptions in host-nation infrastructures, interference of weather and system outages, all while dealing with media engagements with live television news crews and print media.

In an effort to replicate a realistic in-theater scenario, the Operations Center of the 224th Sustainment Brigade was set up in a giant tent, comprising the functional sections of brigade headquarters, just as it would be in a wartime theater of operation.

"This is the first time during a warfighter that we have actually set up a TOC replicating being in the field," Briggs said. "In the past, warfighters have been in the building and this definitely set a different tone. Every brigade that comes through here, regardless of their function, should establish in this way in order to set the tone for the exercise."

The training tested standard operating procedures [SOPs], as well as every functional brigade element working in sync to accomplish the whole. Every team was challenged to upgrade and revise their SOPs and learn more about their mission essential task list (METL).

"We are working on enhancing our current plans and SOPs, which will enhance the S-3's [operations section] and the overall brigade headquarters SOP," said Lt. Col.

Arnold Andersen, 224th Sustainment Brigade plans officer. "It will give us a very good starting point, so we don't have to muddle through start-up operations anymore. We know exactly where everything needs to be in the plans tent; from how we plan on conducting briefings and military decision making processes [MDMP], to the proper manning to ensure I have everybody I need in my section to support the mission."

Less experienced Soldiers gained a deeper understanding of the functional knowledge they learned at Army Initial Training [AIT] or Officer's Basic Course [OBC], while seasoned troops honed their skills, adapted to the new environment and mentored other Soldiers to build confidence in their ability to complete the mission.

"One thing that even our OCs [observer controllers] for this warfighter noticed is our camaraderie," said Briggs. "We all get along and there is a consensus. We work well together."

As a signal support specialist, primarily in charge of radios and mobile communications for the 140th Engineering Support Company, Spc. Nikeisha Clarke adapted her skill set to working on computers and telephone lines during Warfighter.

"Warfighter is very different from what we do back at home station," Clarke said. "I feel this was very beneficial because we did a lot of cross training. For any other Soldier that has an opportunity to go to Warfighter, I would say, keep your eyes and ears open! Take plenty of notes and be prepared to learn a lot. It was great training, and I can't wait to do it again."

Warfighter tested commanders and their staffs at every level and focused on the brigade's ability to provide logistics and necessary supplies to units across the spectrum of the fight.

Command Sgt. Maj. Adam B. Walker was very proud of his troops. "We won! All my senior NCOs were successfully trained and learned their role in the exercise. The staff and the entire brigade gelled."



Command Sgt. Maj. Adam B. Walker, of the 224th Sustainment Brigade, conducts a mock interview during a Warfighter exercise that took place over two weeks at Fort Riley, Kan. Warfighter exercises simulate scenarios leaders might encounter in war, including media presence on the battlefield. Photo by Staff Sgt. Tina Villalobos

"The OCTs [observer controllers/trainers] made sure that the brigade had that training effect and learning curve," said Maj. Noland Flores. "I think overall it was excellent. Our team's top three take-a-ways were learning the systems; people working outside their ranks and MOS'; and the OCTs providing guidance and mentoring. My Soldiers did an outstanding job. They worked very hard, and I was very proud of what they accomplished."

While keeping SOPs current and keeping abreast of Army skills manuals is always a good idea, it can pay particular dividends at Warfighter, according to Maj. William Mendelsohn, 224th Sustainment Brigade Personnel Officer in Charge.

"My advice for other officers coming to a warfighter would be to spend a lot of time preparing," Mendelsohn said. "Make sure you thoroughly walk through the entire process, from preparation to end of mission."

Col. David Ceniti, 224th SB commander said, "This training event allowed us to exercise our mission command utilizing our various tactical networks, and allowed our staff to align up with the warfighting function... something we have not done before we got here, and was a key training event for us."

Inner workings of a Warfighter exercise

Warfighters are mission command exercises that simulate scenarios that leaders might encounter in war. For every move of a Warfighter, participants are observed by Observer/Controller/Trainers (OC/Ts) as well as senior mentors. The OC/Ts are experts and among the Army's most accomplished and experienced Soldiers.

Warfighter exercises are driven by both the training audience and the Mission Command Training Program (MCTP) through realistic mission command information systems, doctrinal command and control procedures and battlefield communication systems.

The MCTP uses a Mission Scenario Events List (MSEL) to drive a simulated battle scenario. The training audiences' tactical response to the MSEL creates a rolling battle between coalition and opposing forces.

The exercise includes both **response** and **work cells**.

- The **response cell** represents the role of a higher command headquarters (those in response cell roles are typically mission command staff from a division scheduled to attend an upcoming Warfighter).
- The **work cell** is a small team pulled from the training audience to assist in the war simulation and to ensure that predetermined training tasks are accomplished during the exercise.
- The exercise control group provides external factors that units can expect to encounter in a theater of operations (to include news media, diplomats, coalition partners, scenario-based atrocities and terrorist activity).
- The exercise also provides senior brigade staff with an opportunity to learn and grow during a Warfighter. During the exercise, senior staff is shadowed by active or retired general officers and retired or active Army colonels.



The Santa Clara Police Department SWAT team poses for picture in front of a Cal Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter July 30 at Camp San Luis Obispo. Photo by Capt. Jason Sweeney

You don't know SWAT

But the California National Guard does. Santa Clara Police Department SWAT and Cal Guard aviators team up at Camp SLO for some high-speed training in the skies above California's Central Coast.

By CAPT. JASON SWEENEY
California Military Department Public Affairs

You know what they say, you're either SWAT or you're not.

That may be the case, but on a warm July day at Camp San Luis Obispo members of the Santa Clara Police Department SWAT team were thanking California Army National Guard aviators for their service—and for taking them on low-altitude, hard-turning rides between mountaintops and over the California coastline.

A Cal Guard CH-47 Chinook, UH-60 Black Hawk and LUH-72 Lakota landed at the camp on July 30 and teamed up with 22 members of the Santa Clara PD SWAT team.

The Army National Guard crews briefed the SWAT team on the capabilities of each Army helicopter. They then practiced loading and unloading onto the aircraft before going up for orientation flights in the Central Coast sky.

"This is the first step in getting our guys acquainted with air operations," Santa Clara PD SWAT Lt. Brett Cole said. Cole said the briefings and orientation flights were excellent training in the event his unit and the Guard have to work together on tactical insertion missions.

The Santa Clara PD SWAT team is a highly trained rapid response police unit that responds to all types of tactical emergencies. If there is a hostage situation way up in one of Santa Clara's high-rise buildings, or a drug raid in a remote location, the team can request a ride from the California National Guard.

Civilian agencies can request assistance from the Cal Guard as part of the National Guard's defense support of civil authorities (DSCA) mission—whether for fighting fires, responding to natural disasters, a terrorist attack or supporting law enforcement agencies fighting crime.

"You guys have fantastic resources available," Cole said of the California National Guard.

The Santa Clara PD SWAT team is located in the San Francisco Bay Area's highly populated South Bay in the heart of Silicon Valley. The team often assists other agencies throughout the Bay Area. This year, the team is taking on an increased level of responsibility with the August opening of Santa Clara's new Levi's Stadium.

The state-of-art \$1.3 billion stadium can seat up to 75,000 and will host San Francisco 49er home games, soccer games, professional wrestling events and the Super Bowl in 2016. The Santa Clara SWAT team will be responsible for responding should any tactical emergency occur at the stadium.

"I think it is really beneficial for us and law enforcement agencies to work together," said 1st Lt. Alyson Miller, a Chinook pilot with B Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, out of Stockton. "We can show them what we can do and how we can help them."

"We have a symbiotic relationship with local law enforcement agencies," said Capt. Ben Bowman, pilot in command of the Chinook used during the training. "It helps to get face time before going out on a real-world mission."

The 1-126th provided the CH-47 Chinook for the training. The Chinook gives SWAT the ability to insert large teams of up to 30 into hard-to-reach locations.

A Company, 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, also out of Stockton, provided the LUH-72 Lakota. The Lakota, with its forward looking infrared (FLIR) pod, downlink system and searchlight, can provide surveillance assistance and serve as a command and control platform.

The UH-60 Black Hawk, flown by a crew from Fresno's 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, can in-

sert small teams into tight landing zones and can also be used for command and control.

"These aircraft give us added capabilities in air operations," Santa Clara SWAT Sgt. Greg Hill said.

Sgt. Bryston Brauer, a crew chief with the 1-126th, said he enjoyed working with the Santa Clara PD SWAT team.

"I get extra training time and experience working with other agencies," he said. "And they get training they wouldn't get anywhere else."



LEFT: Members of the Santa Clara PD SWAT team practice egress from a Cal Guard CH-47 Chinook at Camp San Luis Obispo on July 30. ABOVE RIGHT: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Rathe briefs SWAT on the LUH-72 Lakota. BOTTOM RIGHT: SWAT members fly above California's Central Coast in a CH-47 Chinook. Photos by Capt. Jason Sweeney

Headquarters barber retires

By **CAPT. JASON SWEENEY**
California Military Department Public Affairs

Getting a sharp-looking haircut at a good price from barber Frank Lonteen was one of the perks of visiting or working at the California Military Department's Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento.

For those at JFHQ, getting a haircut is now going to be a little less convenient. Lonteen retired June 24 after 21 years in the building and 54 years total working as a barber.

Lonteen cut hair two days a week up on JFHQ's second floor. His small shop had a barber's chair, military-themed photos up on the walls and a large cork board covered with military unit patches donated by his many customers over the years.

To get your hair cut by Lonteen was to spend 10 to 15 minutes chatting about such things as the latest historical series on HBO, his travels around Northern California and his hobby of collecting old casino poker chips and pre-prohibition beer trays, signs and bottles—some worth thousands of dollars. A haircut from Lonteen gave Soldiers and Airmen a chance to take a break during the work day, have a seat and talk about sports, politics or the latest news in his life and yours.

"Every conversation was different," Lonteen

said. "The people and the conversations—that was the best part of it."

Lonteen started cutting hair in 1960 as a young man in his hometown of Denver. Three years later he moved to California and got a job as a barber at Mather Air Force Base, which at the time was home to the Strategic Air Command's 4134th Strategic Wing and the Air Force's only aerial navigation school.

Lonteen's barber shop was in Mather's officer's club, which he described as being a wild place in the 1960s. An endless parade of young lieutenants on the base for navigator training would come in for drinks, pool, card games and the chance to watch the dancers who sometimes provided entertainment at the stag bar.

"Guys would have a drink while getting their hair cut," he said.

Lonteen said it was a much different era back then. "There was a lot of energy and stress going on," he said. President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated, the Cold War was in full swing and antiwar demonstrators were often outside the front gates protesting the Vietnam War.

With the end of the war in Vietnam, things calmed down, Lonteen said. Then the Cold War ended and Mather Air Force Base was

slotted for closure in 1993 as part of a military realignment process.

One of Lonteen's regular customers in those last days at Mather was California Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Tandy Bozeman, who was the California Guard's adjutant general. At the time, the Cal Guard was moving its headquarters from Watt Avenue in north Sacramento to its current location at 9800 Goethe Road.

During a haircut, Lonteen said to Bozeman, "Hey, how about putting a barber shop in your new building?"

He got a call from Bozeman the next day and shortly after moved in to the new headquarters building. Lonteen split his time cutting hair at McClellan Air Force Base and JFHQ until McClellan closed down in 2000.

This year, at age 78, he finally decided to close shop at JFHQ. He plans to spend his retirement hanging out with his girlfriend, daughter and granddaughter. As an Old West history buff, he will do a bit of traveling around California and hopes to visit all the California Missions. And, he will continue his hobby of buying and selling collectibles.

At this time, there are no plans for anyone to replace him at JFHQ.

"I've been pretty lucky," Lonteen said of his



Frank Lonteen, left, gives California Army National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Lawrence Haskins one last haircut. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Prouse

long career. "I've never been sick, never had a cavity or a headache. Moderation is the key to everything."

Lonteen said being a barber can be a rewarding career. "It was for me. I have a lot of great memories of a lot of great people. I loved it."

He said the fact that his customers were in the military made his job doubly rewarding. "There's nobody better than military people. They're patriotic and they protect our country."

Craft a sound financial plan

By **BOB SPINELLI**
Personal Financial Counselor, Central California

A couple of months ago I talked about the first three elements of a sound financial plan. They are:

1. A formal budget
2. An adequate emergency fund
3. Adequate regular retirement savings

The first element above gives you a clear picture of your spending. The next two balance short- and long-term savings.

The next three elements, which I'll discuss below, refine and specify uses for your remaining funds. And, finally, it's important to discuss proper uses of credit.

Here are the remaining four elements:

Adequate life insurance

Life insurance's primary purpose is to replace the income lost due to death so the surviving spouse and family members can maintain their lifestyle.

For many active duty and National Guard personnel, especially before marriage and children, Servicemembers Group Life Insurance, or SGLI, is more than adequate. However, with a home mortgage and a growing family, additional insurance may be needed. This may require about \$400,000 to \$500,000 of additional insurance.

Insurance can be purchased in two different modes, term insurance or permanent insurance. With term insurance you pay a level premium, which covers the actual cost of the life insurance for a period of years. With a permanent policy or its variants, you pay a premium that is higher than the actual cost of term insurance. The company invests the excess funds and guarantees you a minimum return. The cash value, which increases with the life of the policy, is the combination of the excess premiums

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Bob Spinelli
Personal Financial Counselor
Central California

and the earnings. So in a sense it is a forced savings program. You can cash in the policy and get that cash value at any time.

Thus permanent insurance essentially combines actual insurance coverage with savings. This can be useful for those who do not have the discipline to save directly. But you may get a lower return on the excess premiums than the return of investing in your Thrift Savings Plan. Therefore I generally recommend paying the lower premiums of term insurance and taking the excess funds and investing directly in TSP or other vehicles.

Adequate education savings

Several saving vehicles exist in addition to transferring unused post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits.

Qualified tuition plans, or 529 programs, are offered by all the states. They permit you and other people to deposit unlimited funds into an account where they are invested tax-free. The funds can then be withdrawn tax-free, if used for qualified educational expenses.

A Coverdell Educational Savings Account is another means of savings. You can deduct \$2,000 each year from your taxable income for a Coverdell account. The funds are invested and can be withdrawn tax-free for qualified educational expenses.

When you have a child in college, qualified educational expenses reduce your taxable income. There are also several tax credits that can be taken, depending on your income level.

Saving for large purchases

Automobile purchases are among the largest we make. One way to think of this expense is that you will always be making a "car payment": You can either borrow now and pay the loan and interest, or you can pay cash for the vehicle and make the "car payment" to your replacement car fund for your next purchase. Choosing the cash purchase will save you about \$1,000 a year for the rest of the period you continue to drive and purchase vehicles.

If you already have a loan, make additional monthly payments to reduce the term and then start a replacement fund. It may take you two vehicles to get to full cash purchasing. Use the same technique for other major purchases such as vacations, furniture, boats and motorcycles.

Judicious use of credit

Credit—borrowing to finance purchases—should only be used to purchase a house with a mortgage and possibly a vehicle. Beyond that, paying the interest rates on installment personal loans and credit cards is ill-advised. Credit cards should only be used to purchase short-term items and should be paid off in full at the end of each month. We all know someone who has gotten into credit card debt and how painful it is to remedy.

If you have questions about any of these elements or about how to move from where you are financially to where you want to be, contact your local personal financial counselor.



Signals intelligence collectors board a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter for a land navigation event during Panther Strike 2014 at Camp Williams, Utah, June 18. Panther Strike is an annual training event that simulates full-spectrum intelligence gathering operations within a combined joint task force. Photo by Spc. Brianne Roudebush

Ingalls awarded for JRSOI leadership

Col. Charles C. Ingalls, commander of the Mission Support Group at the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing, was awarded a California Medal of Merit for his leadership while serving as the commander of the Joint Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (JRSOI) task force from Aug. 14, 2012 to July 14, 2014.

The JRSOI task force was put to the test at the start of a large consolidated California National Guard annual training event that took place over two weeks in June. Several hundred Soldiers assembled at the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Port Hueneme for the JRSOI, which was run by the 146th Airlift Wing. The Soldiers were in-processed, briefed on the mission and then sent on a convoy north to Camp Roberts, Calif., for their annual training event. The JRSOI process validated what would occur should there be an event that necessitated a large scale mobilization of Cal Guard members.

Cal Guard Air Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Randall R. Ball commended Ingalls for "his vision, proactive leadership, technical knowledge and superior judgment."

Ingalls achieved the objectives of the JRSOI training event by integrating and synchronizing Army and Air National Guard manpower and resources. His attention to detail and proactive regard for safety resulted in zero task force mishaps.

Funds help Guardsmen in financial need

The Sergeant Majors Association offers short term financial assistance to Cal Guard Soldiers, Airmen and their families through its Chaplain's Fund and Wounded Veterans Fund.

Both funds assist Cal Guard members who are experiencing financial hardship due to deaths in the family, funerals, medical bills, job loss or other events.

The Chaplain's Fund pays out a maximum of \$800 to Cal Guard members with valid financial needs. Since 9/11, it has paid out about \$660,000 to more than 700 Guard members.

The Wounded Veterans Fund is similar to the Chaplain's Fund but reserved for Cal Guard members who have been deployed to a combat theater. It has a maximum payout of \$1,000.

The Wounded Veterans Fund was founded in late 2013 and has helped eight Cal Guard members since then.

To receive assistance, a troop reports his financial distress through his non-commissioned officer chain of command. The Guard member's command sergeant major or command chief master sergeant confirms the hardship to the Sergeants Major Association, which then determines if assistance should be made.

Both funds deduct no overhead allowing 100 percent of donations to go to Guard members.

For more information, email retired Sgt. 1st Class Charles Massicotte at c_massicotte@att.net.

Donations may be made to the Sergeants Major Association's Chaplain's Fund, 7785 La Mirada Circle, Buena Park, CA 90620.

New Army PT uniform coming in 2015

Get ready for some changes to the Army Physical Fitness Uniform.

The Army has redesigned the PT uniform with new colors, lighter moisture-wicking fabrics and changes intended for a better fit.

The lettering has been changed to gold. Gray has been swapped out for black on the T-shirts and jacket. The reflective elements have been removed as a cost-saving measure and the shorts have been redesigned for a better fit so they are less revealing during sit ups.

More than 30 changes have been made intended to improve performance, aesthetics and comfort. The changes are the result of two large surveys and testing at posts around the Army. The PT uniforms will be phased in over three years and the cost will be about \$3 less than the current uniform.

The newly designed PT uniforms will be available service-wide in October of next year. They will be issued for Army National Guard, Army Reserve and Reserve Officer Training Corps Soldiers next summer, according to the Army Times.

DID YOU KNOW...

line of duty (LOD) investigations have a significant impact on medical benefits?

A line of duty (LOD) investigation determines if an injury, illness or disease was incurred or aggravated as a result of military duty and not due to gross negligence or misconduct of the service member. The outcome of the LOD has a significant impact on a service member's potential medical benefits.

A common mistake commanders make concerning LODs is not processing them as required for service members in an authorized federal duty status, to include Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) members. Most service members don't know that AGRs are allowed to submit LODs. If AGRs wait until close to retirement or early separation from the AGR program to submit their LODs, the LOD will be more difficult to process.

It is imperative to process LODs in a timely manner. It is important that all leaders and service members work together to process LODs from start to completion. By doing so, service members get the care they need and are not charged for medical care for injuries incurred while on duty. Ensuring all necessary paperwork is collected will get the LOD through the process efficiently. Always consult your unit's medical liaison if guidance is needed, and refer to Army Regulation R 600-8-4 and Air Force Instruction 36-2910 for more information.



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Soldiers with the California National Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 40th Infantry Division, prepare to enter a building at the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility on June 17 during annual training at Camp Roberts, Calif. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

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