

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



Fighting the flames

CNG's 146th Airlift Wing takes on the Mountain Fire

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Remembering the Bataan Death March

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Leadership Corner

A band of brothers and sisters

Major General David S. Baldwin



Our organization is steeped in history dating to the First Muster in 1636, and our culture and tradition are among the things that make the National Guard exceptionally strong. To maintain and build our strength, however, we must continuously evolve, and one of the biggest, most beneficial changes of the past 376 years has been the inclusion of women in our force — and as of this year, in every military role.

In August we celebrate Women's Equality Month, and we can celebrate it in the U.S. Armed Forces this year more wholeheartedly than ever before.

Women have played important roles in every conflict in U.S. history, including some women who disguised themselves as men so they could serve in combat during the Revolutionary War. Those patriots stood shoulder-to-shoulder with their fellow countrymen, fully committed to safeguarding our fledgling democracy. Their actions were invaluable to the war effort and laid the foundation for a steadily increasing role throughout the centuries since.

Despite supporting the military in a variety of positions throughout the years, women were not granted regular status in the Army or any other U.S. military branch until 1948. Promotion restrictions for women were removed by Congress in 1967, and a female Soldier attained the rank of general for the first time in 1970.

Department of Defense regulations, however, continued to keep women from filling many combat-oriented jobs, a policy that changed gradually in recent decades and was finally rescinded fully in January. Women are now eligible to perform any occupation in the Armed Forces, though the details of opening up those positions may not be completed until early 2016.

Rescinding the combat restriction was more than a move toward equality, but a tactical advancement as well, as the DoD's goal in the decision was to ensure that each mission is staffed with the best-qualified and most-capable people.

Female service members hold some of the highest leadership positions in the California National Guard, and as members of the nation's most frequently deployed National Guard force, our female Soldiers and Airmen have repeatedly deployed into harm's way since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Their remarkable service during that time has shown that no military can achieve its full potential without utilizing the talents and abilities of female citizens.

More than 202,000 women currently serve in the U.S. military, accounting for about 15 percent of the total force. During the past decade, women have deployed more than 280,000 times in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more than 150 have made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation in those theaters.

Throughout those conflicts, women have shown great courage, contributed to the military's mission in unprecedented ways and proven their ability in a wide variety of roles. Their performance made the Defense Department's decision to remove all combat restrictions an easy one.

Our female warriors are recognized as equals who can perform any military function and bring pride to this nation. We are a stronger, more modern force today than ever before, and we will continue to gain power and expertise as the contributions of our female service members grow.

Throughout the past decade, women have shown great courage, contributed to the military's mission in unprecedented ways and proven their ability in a wide variety of roles. Their performance made the DoD's decision to remove all combat restrictions an easy one.

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



Photo by Staff Sgt. Salli Curechin



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. (CA) Mirtha Villareal-Younger

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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:
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Cover Shot



Photo by Senior Airman Nicholas Carzis

A C-130J from the 146th Airlift Wing in Port Hueneme, Calif., drops fire retardant on the Mountain Fire west of Palm Springs on July 19. The 146th made 37 drops totaling 111,000 gallons during a six-day activation for the fire, which was 100 percent contained July 30.

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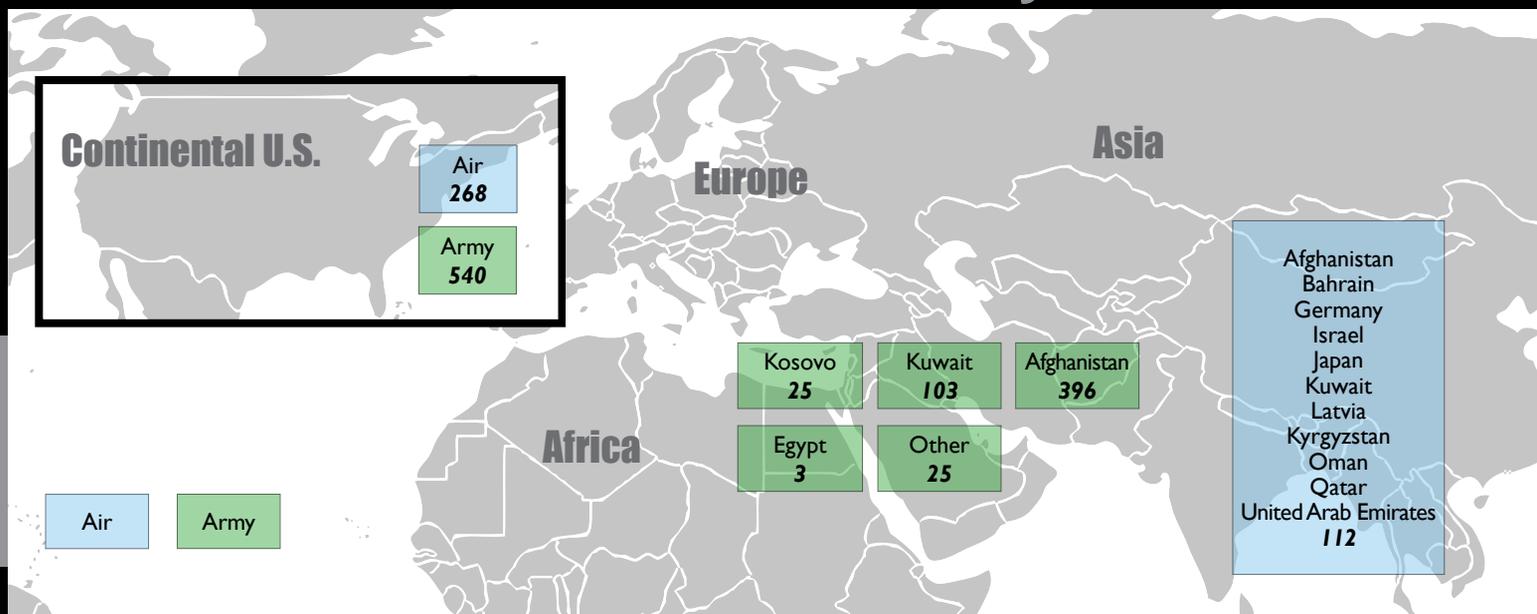
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California National Guard mobilizations as of June 2013



Home is where the healing is

Injured reserve component troops reunite with their loved ones and rehabilitate at home through the Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit

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

In July 2012, Staff Sgt. Raymond Moreno and four other members of the California Army National Guard's 578th Engineer Battalion were coming back from a combat mission in Paktika province, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated under their Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle and knocked Moreno unconscious. Moreno and the vehicle's driver were medically evacuated to Germany, then traveled to Fort Bliss, Texas, where Moreno underwent surgery for a fractured foot and received a diagnosis of traumatic brain injury, or TBI.

"I was thankful for the MRAP I was in," said Moreno, a platoon sergeant and combat engineer for Task Force Mad Dog in Afghanistan. "It prevented further penetration. My injuries could have been worse."

Moreno now remains on active duty as part of California's Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit (CBWTU), which allows recuperating Guard and Reserve Soldiers to live at home and access medical facilities nearby.

"The Warrior Transition Unit helps the healing process and allows me to recover at home with my support system — my family and friends," he said. "They have a whole program working with us to transition back to civilian life."

Moreno said he is concerned about returning to his job as a correctional officer for the state, but he is getting the need-



"The Warrior Transition Unit helps the healing process and allows me to recover at home with my support system — my family and friends. They have a whole program working with us to transition back to civilian life."

— Staff Sgt. Raymond Moreno
Task Force Mad Dog, Afghanistan, 2011-12



Photos by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

ed physical therapy and is taking business administration courses online as part of his recovery process.

"[The CBWTU] helps me feel better about returning to my job or transitioning to a job better-suited to accommodate me and my injury," he said.

Nearly 70 National Guard Soldiers gathered June 3-7 at March Air Reserve Base in Southern California for a CBWTU muster that included informational briefings, a resource fair and adaptive reconditioning activities that featured a wide variety of sports.

"The muster helps us with what we are going through and allows us to talk to those we interact with on the phone on a weekly basis in person," Moreno said. "I am in contact with the people I need to be in contact with to improve my process."

On June 5 at the Loma Linda University Drayson Center, Moreno was introduced to a cycling program, Road 2 Recovery, that uses only his upper body, and he was shown a swimming program that enables him to work out without putting pressure on his foot or lower body.

"We are still required to maintain our height and weight [standards in the CBWTU], and this adaptive sports clinic gives us a way to live a healthy lifestyle," he said.

CBWTU members also took turns at adaptive sports such as basketball, kayaking, yoga and stretching.

"[My] injury was severe enough that doctors initially told me I might lose my leg," said Staff Sgt. William Cornelius of the Army Reserve, who fell through a rooftop in Iraq while taking cover from enemy fire and injured his back and left leg. "Today I still have my leg and I appreciate

TOP: Staff Sgt. Eric Stell of the CNG's 578th Engineer Battalion takes a spin in a kayak June 5 during a day of adaptive sports activities that was part of the California Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit's muster June 3-7 at March Air Reserve Base. **ABOVE:** Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Ramirez of the Army Reserve gets some stretching help from his son Julian, 7. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Master Sgt. Adais Garcia of the CNG's 40th Infantry Division tries out an upper-body-powered cycle.

the opportunity to try activities such as kayaking and other water-based exercises."

Suzie Ovel, who works in public affairs for the Warrior Transition Battalion for California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, said the most important part of the muster is that it exposes Soldiers to local resources such as Paralympics clubs near them.

"They had the opportunity to not only try adaptive sports [at the muster] but to connect within their hometown, with regional folks, for help with transition," Ovel said.

Physical therapists were also on hand to examine heart rates, strength and balance, and to provide feedback on exercises that could help each individual's recovery. Nutrition experts also shared their expertise with recovering Soldiers.

"I am thankful for the resources [provided by the CBWTU]," said Staff Sgt. Eric Stell of the California National Guard's Pomona-based 578th Engineer Battalion, who was injured falling from an MRAP in Afghanistan. "I especially feel the program is [good] for the younger, brand new Soldiers. This program really helps when faced with adversity and gives them options."



Bravo Company home from Afghanistan

By **SGT. IAN M. KUMMER**
California Military Department Public Affairs

For many Soldiers, there may be no challenge as trying or difficult as being separated from their loved ones while serving overseas in a time of war. But even in the most difficult mission, there is hope of finally returning home, stepping back on home soil and into the waiting embrace of family and friends.

Soldiers from the California Army National Guard's Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, made their return home from a nearly yearlong deployment July 23 and enjoyed a tearful reunion with their loved ones at Stockton Metropolitan Airport.

"It feels good; I'm breathless," said Spc. Kyle Reeves of the 1-126th. "I was scared at first, but getting to talk to my family face-to-face again feels great."

"Seeing [my family] again was worth the whole nine months," added Spc. Lindsey Dillman from the 1-126th.

Even for the families of Soldiers who have deployed before, the separation may not get any easier with experience.

"This deployment was harder than the last one," Dillman's mother said. "Afghanistan is rougher than her tour in Iraq."

Reunion can be not only a time of joy, but



Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer
Staff Sgt. Brandon Wright of Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, enjoys a moment with his sons at the battalion's homecoming ceremony July 23 at Stockton Metropolitan Airport following a nearly yearlong tour in Afghanistan.

of relief too, as some Soldiers worry about returning home to relatives and friends they haven't seen in many months.

"I was scared to go back," said Spc. Samantha Deleal. "It's been a year; so much has changed. But now I'm here and it feels great."

Perhaps the most momentous reunions of

the day were between new parents and their infant children, who may have seen each other only once before, at birth.

"He saw his son for only 12 hours," said the mother of Spc. David Rojo, who deployed for the first time with the 1-126th. "The birth was three weeks early; his wife did everything to make it happen before he left."

Also present at the homecoming were warriors from previous generations — members of local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) posts.

"We adopted [the 1-126th] last year," said Bob Appler from the VFW. "We were here when they left. We fed them and we all had a good time."

Through years of hard work by both veterans and active military personnel, policies have been established to ensure the transition from a war zone back to civilian life is as easy as possible.

"When I got back from Vietnam, I was discharged back onto the street less than six hours later," said Herman Owens from the VFW. "I'm glad things are done differently now."

As tearful Soldiers and their families picked up their bags and made their way to the parking lot, members of the Capital Region Chapter of the American Red Cross handed out water and snacks.

"We attend all the homecomings we know about," said Trisha Johnson from the Red Cross. "If we're invited, we come. They just need to tell us."

"I've got family still in the military, so I'm personally motivated to give support in any way I can," said Pierre Hetu of the Red Cross, who was in the Army from 1958-62. "They deserve a good homecoming."

I 46th AW gets third firefighting call of 2013

By **MAJ. KIMBERLY HOLMAN**
146th Airlift Wing

In July, and for the third time this year, the 146th Airlift Wing's specially equipped firefighting C-130J aircraft were put to work extinguishing a local blaze.

The fire that sparked the concern of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) and the California Office of Emergency Services in July was the Mountain Fire near Idyllwild, Calif., just west and above the city of Palm Springs.

The fire started July 15, and official requests came through late on July 17 to activate 146th aircraft equipped with Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems, or MAFFS. Two MAFFS-equipped C-130J planes departed the 146th's base at Channel Island Air National Guard Station the following morning.

"We were flying at 9,500 feet, which is a very high altitude, in very steep, mountainous terrain," said Lt. Col. Brian Kelly, a MAFFS pilot who is also the wing's vice commander. "It was evident why we use these aircraft to fly this mission: The C-130J displayed capability performing under the toughest conditions."

Kelly added that the mission required "some of the most picturesque flying I've seen," as the crews dropped fire retardant at the top of Mount San Jacinto near the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, which provides access for hiking and camping trips in Mount San Jacinto State Park.

Ground support crews and air crews from the 146th seamlessly fell into step with Cal Fire's crews. The 146th flightline was quickly transformed into a tanker base, and operations support personnel manned radios and phones in the tower above.

While fighting the fire throughout the day, 146th crews refilled their tanks with fire retardant at an airfield in San Bernardino that was once known as Norton Air Force Base. At the end of the day, the C-130Js returned to Channel Islands, where maintenance crews worked into the wee hours of the morning to prepare the aircraft for the next day's flying.

"It's hard work for these guys and long hours, but they love the MAFFS mission," said Capt. Tony Montes, commander of the 146th Airlift Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "They are the unseen heroes out there, but they don't mind."

"We know if [the planes] don't get airborne, good people could lose everything — their house or their lives," he said. "So we are glad we can chip in and help."

MAFFS-equipped planes are capable of releasing 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant at a time through a nozzle on the rear left side of the aircraft. The 146th's two MAFFS planes made 37 fire retardant drops totaling 111,000 gallons during their six-day activation, despite being unable to fly at times because of thick smoke and low visibility.

"It's always a pleasure to work with our

Cal Fire partners," said Senior Airman Tess Armstrong, MAFFS operations controller for the 146th. "They always support us 100 percent. ... We work very well together as a team."

The 27,531-acre Mountain Fire destroyed 23 structures including seven homes near Idyllwild, a popular mountain get-away destination for Southern Californians. The fire, which was caused by an electrical equipment failure on private property, ac-

ording to the U.S. Forest Service, was 100 percent contained July 30.

Earlier this year, 146th MAFFS crews were called to fight the Camarillo Springs wildfire, within sight of the wing's Channel Islands base, making seven drops for a total of 14,950 gallons of retardant May 3-6. The wing was also called to service June 22 through July 13 to fight fires in Colorado and Arizona, where 146th Airmen made 21 drops totaling 63,550 gallons of retardant.



Photo by Senior Airman Nicholas Garzis
Senior Airman Timothy Maikeo, right, Senior Airman Dave Rogoff and Airman 1st Class Guido Morales of the 146th Airlift Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron connect the nozzle of a Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems unit to a C-130J airplane July 18 during firefighting operations at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Calif.

CSTs, CERFP shine during Quiet Glow

The California National Guard's two civil support teams and its CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package join a host of civilian agencies in preparing for a radiological terrorist attack

By 1ST LT. JASON SWEENEY
California Military Department Public Affairs

On May 21, members of three specialized California Guard civil response units were dispatched in civilian clothes to Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey, Calif., where they conducted a clandestine sweep for radiological material. The service members then conducted radiological searches in an empty building in Salinas, where they had been told suspected terrorists may be storing bomb-making materials.

Two days later, early in the morning of May 23, a simulated "dirty," or radioactive, bomb went off in a vehicle at the Salinas Sports Complex, causing mass casualties among role players at the scene. The Salinas Fire Department was first to arrive, fol-

lowed by Cal Guard Soldiers and Airmen in hazardous material (hazmat) suits, who used radiation-detection equipment to assess the exploded vehicle and the grounds for contamination. The Guard members then examined the victims and escorted them through a mobile decontamination trailer the Guard units had set up nearby.

About 100 members of the California Guard's 9th Civil Support Team (CST), 95th CST and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) participated in the May 20-24 exercise, Quiet Glow, along with more than a dozen other agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the California Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Air Marshal Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and multiple police, sheriff's and fire departments.

The exercise unfolded as a real world event would, with local emergency responders first on the ground at different incident sites. As the terrorist plot unfolded, the responders called for assistance from state and federal agencies.

"Quiet Glow was designed to exercise the California National Guard's [Defense Support of Civil Authorities] mission," said Sgt. First Class John Fansler of the 95th CST, who was the Quiet Glow exercise director. "The biggest learning point was the interagency coordination."

Defense Support of Civil Authorities, or DSCA, missions are the main responsibility for the 22-person CSTs and for the CERFP, Fansler said.

Sgt. 1st Class Garrick Whitley, a member



ABOVE: Sgt. Jason Villasenor of the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team searches for radioactive material in a vacant building May 21 in Salinas, Calif., during the Quiet Glow exercise. **LEFT:** Members of the Salinas Fire Department evacuate a role player with simulated injuries from the scene of a simulated dirty bomb explosion May 23 at the Salinas Sports Complex. **BOTTOM:** Members of the CNG's 149th Chemical Company head for the scene of the simulated dirty bomb explosion in Salinas.

of the 95th CST, said Quiet Glow was well-structured and multi-layered.

"It was a great example of interoperability and interagency cooperation," he said.

Spc. Dominique Crowder of the CERFP participated in radiation sweeps and helped decontaminate victims while wearing a hazmat suit during the exercise.

"I got a chance to use our radiation equipment, so it was good training," she said. "We've never trained with the CST before, so it's been a good experience."

Bertha Piñon-Simpson, a grant administrator for the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services, said the exercise allowed local first responders to tap into the National Guard's knowledge.

"It's a very good partnership with the

National Guard," she said. "It benefits us because in a real-time disaster we'll be familiar with faces and names and with everybody."

Salinas Fire Capt. Cary Lesch agreed that it is valuable for his department to grow a relationship with the California National Guard.

"They have the equipment and expertise," he said. "If something like this really happens, they're the first call for me."

Capt. Fernando Perez, an operations officer for the 9th CST, said the exercise will improve interoperability when a real disaster strikes.

"We can respond at any time in any given area," he said. "It's really good to know the people you're working with so we can respond efficiently and effectively."

Photos by 1st Lt. Jason Sweeney



40th ID validated in 'Super Bowl' of exercises

Infantry Division's performance in massive Warfighter drill makes 40th ID 'Available' for battle

By STAFF SGT. SALLI CURCHIN

40th Infantry Division Operations Company, Detachment I

The fighting was gruesome, with chemical weapons and bombs injuring and killing military members, civilians and children alike. Grisly mass graves had been discovered, and casualty statistics continued to rise dramatically in Atropia, a fictional nation whose borders had been crossed by an army looking to topple its government.

The remnants of the Atropian Army faced a dire situation, until the California Army National Guard's 40th Infantry Division led thousands of coalition Soldiers into Atropia to secure the nation's sovereignty. The Sunshine Division's force included Soldiers from the United Kingdom, a U.S. Army Reserve brigade and five additional U.S. Army National Guard brigades.

"The 40th Infantry Division participated in the most sophisticated and demanding command staff training arena that the Army has to offer," said Sgt. Maj. Steven Wolf, a senior observer from Headquarters, 1st Army, which plays a significant role in Warfighter and other exercises at the Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Mission Training Complex. "Warfighter is the Army's Super Bowl [of exercises], and the California Army National Guard took on world class opposing forces."

First Army is responsible for training the entire depth of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve modular force on more than 150 diverse mission requirements.

"The completion of Warfighter marks a significant rite of passage of the 40th ID in the Army Force Generation Cycle from the phase of 'Ready' to the phase of 'Available,'" Wolf said. "This transition signifies that the 40th is available to do battle."

The exercise included more than 500 Soldiers from the 40th ID as well as 1,700 active duty and reserve component Soldiers and Airmen from 14 states who served in subordinate roles to the 40th ID. They were opposed by nearly 2,000 trainers and role players in a round-the-clock



Photo by Sgt. Matthew Wright

scenario, making the June 3-16 exercise the largest Warfighter since 2001, Wolf said.

The dramatic scene unfolded while blurry-eyed service members with headsets frantically monitored double screens, extracting and inputting data.

"We trained in space operations, integration of airpower, artillery and non-lethal engagements through our targeting process, humanitarian and civil support. You name it, we trained it," said Lt. Col. Peter Szczepanski, 40th ID operations officer. "Bringing all these assets together provides a high operational tempo and a continuous area-of-operations environment, including offensive, defensive and stability operations both stressing and testing the effectiveness and integration of our warfighting functions across the full spectrum of unified land operations."

The 40th ID and its partner brigades decisively defeated the opposing forces during Warfighter, but Szczepanski said winning the simulation was not the division's main goal.

"The real measure of success is our ability to learn from the experience, get better as a team and be more ready to provide mission command to America's Soldiers in peace and war," he said.

The ID's training objectives at Warfighter focused on working with command-and-control systems, including the Command Post of the Future (CPOF) communications platform; wide-area security operations; and sustainment functions once the battlefield was stabilized and the Atropian government needed to be supported.

"I learned about and got to implement a new program on CPOF that greatly affected operations in the [division's tactical command post]," said Spc. Nicholas Ruff, 26. "I basically installed and trained operations leaders to instant message each other. Before this, leaders were gathering personnel to meet the old-fashioned way. It disrupted their ability to track real-time game play and respond immediately."

He added that communication is a vital aspect of any operation, but particularly in a high-tempo, round-the-clock scenario, when stress and lack of sleep can affect how people deal with each other.

Spc. Tonya Tillis of the 40th ID proved her skills and dedication during Warfighter and earned an invitation to Afghanistan from fellow CNG unit the 349th Quartermaster Company.

"It always comes down to our individual Soldiers. They have done an extraordinary job of the exercise combined with an extraordinary lot of work to get to the level of planned proficiencies, their focus and dedication during the train-up."

– Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones
Commander, 40th Infantry Division

"The original power distribution plan was flawed, with people plugging things in anywhere initially and causing power failure. We had to rewire for even power distribution," said Tillis, a 21-year-old air conditioner mechanic.

"I received some real world, invaluable training from the Air Force [air conditioner] mechanic," she added. "He gave me instruction and a computer program that sets up systems automatically. This is going to be priceless to me when I deploy in two weeks [with the 349th]."

Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones, commander of the 40th ID, said the division had been preparing for Warfighter for 18 months, realigning personnel and training on combat skills vital to the exercise.

"It always comes down to our individual Soldiers. They have done an extraordinary job of the exercise combined with an extraordinary lot of work to get to the level of planned proficiencies, their focus and dedication during the train-up," he said.

"We experienced some challenges with an active and highly trained opposing force, but we will have an opportunity to reflect on those mistakes as we document any shortfalls in our [after action review]," he continued. "We will work very diligently to make up where we found soft spots, reinforce those skills and program those changes in training year 2014 and 15."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Salli Curchin

TOP RIGHT: Lt. Col. Peter Szczepanski, 40th Infantry Division operations officer, performs a "rock drill" June 5 to demonstrate a battle plan for troops deploying to Atropia, a fictional nation invaded by one of its neighbors in the Warfighter exercise scenario at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. **ABOVE:** Lt. Col. James Westerfield of the 40th ID answers questions from role players acting as civilian reporters covering the deployment of U.S. troops to Atropia on June 14.



Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer

Soldiers from the Cal Guard's 95th Civil Support Team contain a simulated hydrofluoric acid leak at the Intel Campus in Folsom, Calif., on July 17 as part of Determined Defense, a two-day inter-agency training exercise involving the 95th and more than 30 civilian first responder agencies.

95th CST prepares for terrorist attacks

Determined Defense exercise simulates chemical attack, tanker spill for CST, civilian agencies

BY SGT. IAN M. KUMMER

California Military Department Public Affairs

Two Soldiers in full hazardous materials (hazmat) gear tread carefully through a deserted Folsom, Calif., parking lot under the baking afternoon sun. Their objective: a damaged metal pipe ominously leaking liquid on the scorching asphalt. The liquid had been identified by earlier reconnaissance as hydrofluoric acid, a highly toxic substance that burns — or even kills — upon contact with the skin. Nearby, a canister responsible for the damage continues to ooze wisps of smoke.

Fortunately for all parties involved, this was only a simulated emergency. The canister was a simulated bomb powered by an air compressor. The “hydrofluoric acid” was, in actuality, harmless water.

This was just one small part of the first day of Determined Defense, a massive two-day training exercise involving the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team and more than 30 other first responder agencies. The exercise simulated a chemical weapon attack at the Intel Campus in Folsom on July 17, followed by a tanker truck spill at the Aerojet site in Rancho Cordova the following day.

“When we have an exercise of this magnitude, it is important we involve the National Guard so we can understand their capabilities, how they can support our mission and how we can support theirs,” said Lt. Dirk Regan of the Folsom Police Department. “We’re very grateful to be participating in this.”

The 22-person 95th CST arrived at the scene by CH-47 Chinook helicopter less than 90 minutes after the explosion and deployed to the staging area to coordinate their containment efforts. Though highly trained to deal with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive [CBRNE] situations, the 95th is also well-versed in the

medical aspects of a situation like Determined Defense.

“We have a physician assistant who is organic to our team,” said Capt. Nathan Serena, the operations officer for the 95th. “We also have a medic ... EMTs, as well as [Combat Lifesavers]. We have a very robust medical capability.”

The CST trains to be as flexible as possible and function under a wide variety of conditions.

“We assess into the unit through a board process, and once approved we go through rigorous training to become good at our specialties,” Serena said. “Like firefighters, we can do any job [within the team] but also have a more specific role for each member of the team.”

Determined Defense simulated a real-life emergency as closely as possible. The Intel employees and civilian media were notified in advance of the exercise to avoid causing alarm — and to foster confidence in the first responders' ability to handle a large-scale disaster.

“We’re hopeful that the public will feel safer in their community because we’re working with our allied agencies and putting forth the effort to create better understanding and interoperability with the folks who are likely to respond to an event of this magnitude,” Regan said. “We hope we never have to respond to this level, but we want [the public] to know that we are prepared.”

Regan said the Folsom Police and Fire departments would be the first agencies on the scene if the Determined Defense scenario played out in real life. But the size and severity of the situation would require additional resources.

“Once our initial officers had responded to the scene and identified the threat, [a threat] the magnitude of today’s exercise would put us in a position to have to call for outside resources, in this case the National Guard,” he said.

Five California State Military Reserve [CSMR] members played the roles of terrorists during Determined Defense.

“As role players here, most of us have a background in this type of work,” said CSMR Col. David Garcia. “[We know] the expectations, what could possibly happen and what the response should be. We bring a lot of experience.”

The CSMR is an all-volunteer organization that offers training support to the California Guard and provides personnel and expertise in times of emergency. Many CSMR members are law enforcement or medical professionals who are highly qualified to act as interagency liaisons at the site of an emergency.

“We get real contact with these agencies, the people who are going to respond,” Garcia said. “We know who to talk to; it really helps with communication.”

The Determined Defense mission required nearly a year of planning and coordination between the various agencies and Intel, growing from a routine exercise into a huge operation encompassing every aspect of a real emergency.

“There’s a number of components involved, including the arrest of suspects, medical care for people that are [harmed] from the detonation and biological hazard, and a number of other concerns as far as the impact on the community ... and other risks that come into play as the exercise progresses,” Regan said.

The exercise did not go perfectly, but that was expected. Mistakes and areas needing improvement were identified, so as to avoid repeating them in a real emergency.

“The Intel facility here is a great venue for training and a great venue to integrate with the other agencies,” Serena said. “It’s a great opportunity to interact and get our equipment out and practice.”

Day 2 simulates tanker truck spill at Aerojet facility

BY SGT. IAN M. KUMMER
California Military Dept. Public Affairs

Every first responder organization has its own unique heritage, skill sets and success stories, but in the event of a large-scale emergency, the word of the day is “cooperation.” Every man and woman must work together for the good of the community, and that doesn’t happen by accident — it only occurs through training and hard work.

The Cal Guard’s 95th Civil Support Team and more than 30 other first responder agencies came together July 18 for the second and final day of Determined Defense, a grueling exercise testing their ability to respond to a terrorist attack against the Aerojet facility in Rancho Cordova, Calif.

During the previous day’s exercise, emergency workers had responded to a simulated chemical weapon attack against the Intel Campus in Folsom, Calif. Today, the mission was to contain a simulated tanker truck spill at Aerojet.

“This gives the [hazardous materials] teams experience with working in an inter-agency operation,” said Steve Adcock, the Aerojet assistant fire chief.

This was a day not only of hazmat and first aid procedures, but a time of mutual discussion and face-to-face familiarization between the dozens of federal, state and local organizations that could be involved in a real-life response.

“You don’t want to be exchanging business cards for the first time at an incident,” said Joseph Pierz, a senior safety engineer for Aerojet. “You want to make contact in advance.”

During the exercise, every step of the emergency response process was discussed and mapped out, from the first law enforcement officers and firefighters at the scene to the arrival of the 95th CST and the FBI. In this case, the crashed tanker truck was first cordoned off by officers of the California Highway Patrol.

“[The tanker truck] crashed through the fence off the road. That’s in our jurisdiction, so we have investigative authority,” said Officer Bill Fader of the CHP. “Initially that first call goes to [the fire department] and ambulances, if needed, and the local investigative authority.

A real accident or attack can cause panic and chaos, making smooth coordination and understanding between the various responding agencies of vital importance.

“I’ve been to accidents like this before where there’s all kinds of stuff going on,” Fader said. “Training like this is crucial.”



As a first responder unit in support of civilian agencies, the 95th CST participated in Determined Defense to ensure its communication and logistical requirements are compatible with their partner agencies.

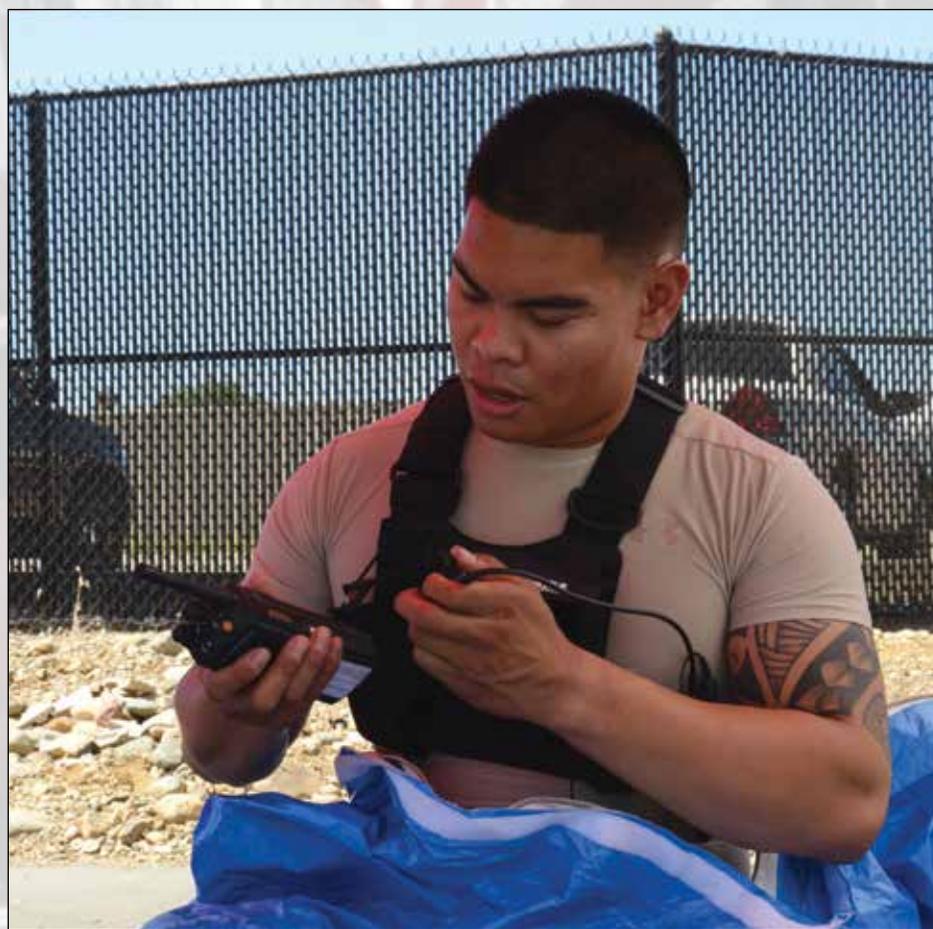
“We’re the [CNG’s] Tier 1 response team in Northern California,” said Lt. Col. Michael Sather, the CST commander. “Our No. 1 objective here is interagency coordination.”

To facilitate communication and teamwork between the various agencies, members of the CNG’s Joint Operations Center (JOC) observed the scenario and exchanged information with the participants.

“We help monitor the situation and give the on-scene commanders the situational awareness they need to respond to an incident,” said Capt. Johan Lai, a JOC battle captain.

The CST trains hard at events like Determined Defense, but even during training, the members remain ready to respond to a real emergency.

“We don’t let the whole team out of state or on leave at once,” Sather said. “We’re always ready, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.”



TOP: A CH-47 Chinook helicopter takes off after inserting members of the 95th Civil Support Team near the Folsom, Calif., Intel Campus, the site of a simulated chemical attack July 17 during the two-day Determined Defense exercise. **MIDDLE:** Sgt. Alex Zonio of the 95th CST puts on his hazardous material gear July 17. **ABOVE:** Sgt. 1st Class Herbert Kendall, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Cal Guard Joint Operations Center, discusses a simulated tanker truck spill at Folsom’s Aerojet site with Sacramento firefighters on July 18, the second day of the multi-agency exercise.

Photos by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer

Hail storm brings out maintainers' best

1106th TASMG in Afghanistan makes more than 200 repairs in three weeks to keep helicopters flying

Photo by Capt. Chad Ashe



Staff Sgt. Patrick Jubrey of the 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group repairs a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter May 22 on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

By **CAPT. CHAD ASHE**
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade

A severe hail storm hit Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on April 23, damaging more than 80 U.S. Army helicopters and requiring many new blades, stabilators and windows. But the action that followed the storm was the real phenomenon, according to members of the Army Aviation community.

The 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), whose helicopters were damaged, enlisted aid from units across Afghanistan, the United States and Kuwait, resulting in more than half of the damaged helicopters being repaired within a week.

"I remain inspired and in awe to serve with our great leaders and maintainers who made this significant challenge and historical event easy to overcome — a remarkable accomplishment by any standard," said 3rd CAB Col. Allan Pepin, commander of Task Force Falcon. "The enemy had no opportunity to take advantage of the impact on our aircraft."

Much of the credit for that remarkable accomplishment goes to the California National Guard's 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG), which is attached to the 3rd CAB and provides structural repair services for helicopters in Kandahar's Regional Command-South as well as Afghanistan's RC-Southwest and RC-West. The 1106th's combined area of responsibility is slightly smaller than Montana.

The Fresno-based 1106th performed more than 200 sheet

metal repairs for the helicopters damaged in the hail storm.

"I'm proud to serve my country and be out here and do what I was meant to do — fixing aircraft so that the people who are using them can have them when they need them to do the real mission out there," said Spc. Samuel Miller of the 1106th.

"This is my first deployment, and it means a lot to me," Miller added. "For me [the top priority is] learning and doing what needs to get done and accomplishing the mission."

Staff Sgt. Patrick Jubrey of the TASMG, who helped supervise maintenance operations following the hail storm, said the influx of repairs following the storm did not slow the TASMG down, and his team will complete any mission, no matter how big the task.

"The big end game is support overall," he said. "We don't have big jobs or little jobs; we take on any job and get it done."

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Marty Calkins, 3rd CAB aviation maintenance officer, said the sheer number of airframe repairs required after the hail storm provided five years worth of experience for the 1106th's airframe mechanics.

"Their dedication, commitment and professionalism throughout the repair processes produced incredible results, getting 90 percent of the damaged fleet back into the fight within three weeks — a complete success story," Calkins said.

CA, CT, HI Soldiers get Chinooks ready to fly

22 members of the 640th ASB re-assembled helicopters shipped from Hawaii for training in Texas

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

Soldiers from the California National Guard's 640th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) and the Hawaii National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility met up in the San Diego shipyards in June to re-assemble twelve CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

The aircraft were en route to Fort Hood, Texas, where they would be used by Hawaii National Guard troops training for deployment to Afghanistan. A ship carrying the Chinooks arrived at the Port of San Diego on June 12, and the last aircraft flew out June 23.

"[The Chinook mission] is establishing our name with the National Guard Bureau as a go-to unit," said 1st Sgt. John Ousley of the Long Beach-based 640th ASB, which sent 22 Soldiers to San Diego to assist in assembling the Chinooks.

The California Soldiers met up with four Hawaii Guardsmen in the Port of San Diego to unload and re-assemble the Chinooks, which had been broken down for shipping from Hawaii. They were joined in the mission by one Soldier from the Connecticut National Guard as well as four flight

crews from Colorado.

"What makes this great is the assembly of the aircraft gave our California Soldiers a chance to train on the F-model Chinook, as we have not yet received the new model but are scheduled to receive them in the near future," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steve McHugh of the 640th ASB. "We are being provided on-the-job training. Hawaii provided advice and expertise on the new F-model [before arriving], allowing us to train and prepare for them."

"The experience of being a part of the Chinook F-model build-up was very interesting — to see the differences and similarities between the models," said Sgt. Nicholas Eber, a team leader for the 640th ASB. "It was a great learning experience for my Soldiers and I ... as we had never touched F-models before. They did such an outstanding job by applying what they trained for to complete this mission."

The four Hawaii Guardsmen who participated in the rebuild were already familiar with the F-model.

After the Hawaii National Guard Soldiers train with the aircraft at Fort Hood, the Chinooks will be distributed to other National

Guard units in the U.S. While in Afghanistan, the Hawaii aviators will use aircraft that are already overseas.

"We all worked together as a team to accomplish this mission," Eber said. "The team leaders had a lot of respect towards our Soldiers

when it came to how proficiently they completed their tasks."

Ousley said the 640th ASB performed similar maintenance and assembly tasks on the CH-47D model Chinook while deployed to Iraq in 2011. During its nearly yearlong tour, the 640th was the

only ASB in Iraq and was responsible for supporting seven aviation battalions. The 640th ASB was designed to support three battalions.

"Our unit is well-prepared for missions such as this one," Ousley said.



Pvt. Efran Garcia, left, and Spc. Andrew Velasquez of the Cal Guard's 640th Aviation Support Battalion attach helicopter blades to an F-model CH-47 Chinook in support of a Hawaii National Guard mobilization June 14. Members of the 640th and other Guard units assembled twelve Chinooks in 14 days at the San Diego shipyards.

Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

Ready for any hazard

By SHANNON ARLEDGE

FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness

Thirty-eight Soldiers from the 140th Chemical Company completed two weeks of advanced training on handling hazardous materials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Ala., in July.

The Los Alamitos, Calif.-based 140th's mission is to detect and mitigate chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) incidents, including those involving weapons of mass destruction. The men and women of the 140th attended two courses in Anniston: the Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents course and the Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents course.

Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials is a five-day class providing responders a combination of lectures and advanced hands-on practical exercises in identifying hazardous materials, using advanced surveying and monitoring equipment, selecting and using personal protective equipment, and performing decontamination procedures.

"This training keeps us focused and up to date on the latest equipment," said 1st Sgt. Fernando Ravega, first sergeant for the 140th. "These skills are perishable. If you don't train, you lose valuable knowledge."

The other course included technical training for operating in an all-hazards environment as well as the collection of potentially contaminated crime scene evidence. The instruction incorporated advanced competencies, technologies and tactics that focus on chemical, biological, radiological and explosive material.

"Training like this is a dying art, and you can't get it just anywhere," said 1st Lt. Kristina Tudor, 140th Chemical Company reconnaissance platoon leader. "We can't train like this at home. Having the ability to train with live nerve agents and biological materials like anthrax is specialized training you can only get [at the CDP]."

The training ended with a day at the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological, or COBRA, training facility — the only training site of its kind for state, local and tribal emergency responders. Working with sarin and VX nerve agents and the biological material anthrax, the students trained in a scenario that required the rescue of citizens, preservation of evidence, and location and identification of toxic substances.

"We are more confident," said Sgt. Jose Perez, who will soon be commissioned as a second lieutenant. "We can take this training back to others who could not [attend the course]. This knowledge prepares me more if something were to happen in our city or state."

The CDP incorporates realistic venues into its hands-on training. Students navigate dark hallways filled with smoke as they search for survivors and carefully preserve crime scene evidence.

"This training improved our unit's ability to operate the equipment necessary to respond to a CBRNE event," Tudor said. "Decontamination and survey and monitoring procedures were also reinforced."

She added that, "CDP courses taught us more about setting up a command center, and not just in a military setting. It gave us better experience to work with our civilian counterparts we will support."



Photo by Shannon Arledge

Soldiers from the California Army National Guard's Los Alamitos-based 140th Chemical Company, 100th Troop Command, enter a smoke-filled room during an exercise at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Ala. The 140th sent 38 Soldiers to Anniston in July for two weeks of advanced training on handling hazardous materials.

Quick reaction force training builds confidence

870th MPs learn wide range of skills at FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Alabama

By SHANNON ARLEDGE

FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness

The California Army National Guard's 870th Military Police Company spent its two-week annual training period at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Ala., in July. The company's 93 Soldiers in attendance completed six courses on the effective use of law enforcement tactics in a contaminated crime scene and proper response following a terrorist attack.

"Our company is different from other companies," said 1st Sgt. Brock Kelly of the Mountain View-based 870th. "We are the [Guard's] quick reaction force for Northern California; if anything happens, our company is the first to get called."

The company also received advanced training on employing crowd control measures, understanding protester tactics and operating in an area contaminated with chemical and biological hazards.

"We are prepared to deploy in support of state and local law enforcement," said 1st Lt. Keith Frederickson, an 870th MP Company platoon leader and a deputy with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. "We serve as a force-multiplier during a natural disaster or civil unrest. ... This training makes us all more proficient MP Soldiers and helps us communicate more effectively with local law enforcement."

"I feel more confident going shoulder-to-



Photo by Shannon Arledge

Members of the CNG's 870th Military Police Company search for suspects during a July exercise in a simulated town at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness, in Anniston, Ala., where the unit conducted its annual training this year.

shoulder in support of civilian law enforcement," said Spc. Gabriela Toruno of the 870th, who is a juvenile probation officer when not wearing a military uniform. "I [now] know I can be effective if the [quick reaction force] is deployed.

"Before, most of us would simply do what

we were told," she said. "Now the learning curve is lessened. ... The hands-on training [in Anniston] gave us the confidence we need, and I feel ready."

In addition to its role as a combat force, the 870th is charged with providing disaster relief in the event of an earthquake, fire,

flood, civil unrest or terrorist event. The unit is always prepared to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear event (CBRN).

At the Center for Domestic Preparedness, the 870th MP Soldiers had an opportunity to train at the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological, or COBRA, training facility. COBRA offers the only emergency response exercises in the nation that feature nerve agents and biological materials.

"The CBRN training can't be forgotten — if there were a major hazardous materials incident, I know the National Guard would be called out," Frederickson said.

"The CBRN training here is extensive," he continued, "and as military policemen, we would be expected to wear protective equipment and enter a contaminated area to triage survivors, collect evidence and maintain security."

Kelly said the exercises at the Center for Domestic Preparedness made for a non-traditional annual training period, but the CNG plans to send more companies there in the future.

"The Soldiers are more confident, and we learned that our operating procedures need to mirror the local law enforcement we will support," he said. "We also plan to integrate local law enforcement into our training and gain a better understanding of each other's capabilities."



At a Glance



ABOVE: Capt. Walter Wade, left, and 1st Sgt. Gerardo Alan of the CNG's 1113th Transportation Company unfurl the unit's colors July 27 during a transfer-of-authority ceremony at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, where the 1113th replaced the Connecticut Guard's 1048th Transportation Company. **Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tanya Green**

TOP RIGHT: Soldiers with the CNG's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, watch as UH-60 Black Hawks approach a landing zone July 22 during air assault training at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., the site of the 1-184th's annual training July 14-28. **Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer** For more on the 1-184th, see page 15.

TOP CENTER: Soldiers of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team fire a blank round from an M119 Howitzer during a change-of-command ceremony July 26 at Camp Roberts, Calif. **Photo by Capt. Cody Gallo** For more on the 79th, see page 20.

TOP LEFT: Spc. Samantha Deleal of Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, and her family rejoice at her unit's homecoming July 23 at Stockton Metropolitan Airport following a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. **Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer** For more on the 1-126th, see page 5.

FAR LEFT: A Soldier with the 870th Military Police Company works to break through a device used by protesters to bind themselves together and thwart crowd-control tactics during a July exercise at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Ala. **Photo by Shannon Arledge** For more on the 870th, see page 11.

BOTTOM CENTER: California State Military Reserve members perform color guard duties for the annual Veterans Forum hosted by Rep. Grace Napolitano at the National Guard Readiness Center in Azusa on June 1. The forum provided an opportunity to speak with officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as specialists in case management, mental health services, education benefits and other topics. **Photo by Sgt. 1st Class (CA) Robert Davidson**

LEFT: Soldiers with San Diego-based Troop C, 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment, work to spruce up the Hillside, Kennedy and Wells parks in nearby El Cajon to show appreciation for their community's support. **Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey**

New Calif. export: State Military Reserve

CSMR member moves to Arizona, takes militia concept with him



By **CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 RICK DE LA TORRE**
CSMR Public Affairs

Arizona recently took the first steps toward establishing a state defense force, and the longstanding California State Military Reserve (CSMR) is due a bit of credit for getting the Arizona initiative off the ground.

In 2011, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed legislation creating an armed volunteer state militia that can be deployed by the governor and is separate from the National Guard. If and when the force becomes operational, Arizona will join 23 other states and territories that boast an active state militia or defense force.

The genesis of the new Arizona militia began several years ago when a CSMR Soldier, Sgt. Jim Ellis of the CSMR's Recruiting Task Force-South, sadly announced that he had to leave the CSMR because his civilian job in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security was transferring him to the Grand Canyon State.

When Ellis wondered if Arizona had an equivalent to the CSMR, his noncommissioned officer in charge, 1st Sgt. Jerry Shultz, told Ellis there was no Arizona SMR, but Ellis could take action to make it happen when he got there.

Shultz handed Ellis some CSMR recruiting materials and told him to make an appointment with an Arizona state legislator and present a proposal to start a state defense force. Eventually, Ellis made that presentation, which led to the initial law that was signed by Brewer.

Ellis has thanked the Recruiting Task Force for providing the spark to get the Arizona effort started, and he continues to look to his California brethren for guidance.

"I told him that we can help them with advice, suggestions and encouragement," Shultz said. "It will be nice to have another state defense force at our border."

Cadet Corps restores camp tradition

By **SGT. IAN M. KUMMER**
CA Military Dept. Public Affairs

Though the National Guard serves in many vital roles for the California community, one that should not be overlooked is the growth and development of young men and women across the state, California's future leaders and innovators — members of the California Cadet Corps.

Founded in 1911 and now boasting more than 6,000 middle and high school students in schools across the state, this summer the Cadet Corps celebrated the return of an old tradition not practiced in 23 years: the weeklong summer camp. The camp at Camp San Luis Obispo crams a wide variety of activities into a weeklong program that splits students into seven different units, each targeting a separate topic such as survival skills, leadership, first aid, marksmanship and even an officer commissioning unit.

For the final event of the pro-

gram, more than 170 cadets gathered under the admiring gaze of their families and instructors for a graduation ceremony June 30.

"This experience can be one that will help you to achieve future goals in your lives," said Col. Larry Morden, the Cadet Corps' executive officer. "You will gain skills and experience that you can utilize in many aspects."

The Cadet Corps was originally founded to produce young officers for service in the Army, but the primary purpose today is to prepare youths for success in whatever career or life path they choose.

"When I first joined, I thought it was just a boot camp experience. But after I was in a little while I realized it's much more than that," said Derek Wong, the cadet commander at the summer camp program, who recently graduated from the Cal Guard's Oakland Military Institute. "This is a way for kids



Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer

Cadets with the California Cadet Corps' 10th Brigade receive red berets that signify their completion of 80 hours of exercises and education in the field on June 30 at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

to get experience in leadership as well as physical and mental endurance they'll need for life."

While camp was fun and exciting for the cadets, it was also challenging and full of surprises, like when Morden collapsed and simulated a seizure during one of his lectures, requiring cadets to scramble and provide

first aid to save him.

The Corps has produced many successful leaders over the years, including California's current governor, Edmund G. Brown Jr.

"This is like a lab for leadership and decision-making skills," Wong said.

SMR trainers' police experience pays off

By **CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 RICK DE LA TORRE**
CSMR Public Affairs

When Soldiers are on duty as part of a base security force (SecFor), they know situations can be more than just difficult: They can be potentially deadly. If not handled properly, scenarios that put lives in jeopardy may develop, such as when a suspect doesn't want to be handcuffed or tries to grab a Soldier's sidearm.

A segment of training that both California National Guard and California State Military Reserve (CSMR) SecFor Soldiers have learned to count on is the instruction pro-

vided by the CSMR's 2nd Brigade, State Military Police (SMP). The SMP presents numerous exercises for SecFor personnel that supplement Army field manual requirements and procedures with experience and techniques gleaned from civilian law enforcement experience. By design, many SMP members are current or former members of law enforcement agencies.

"We can tell you what works and doesn't work. We have the experience," said CSMR Capt. Fred Thompson, a long-time deputy in the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

About 30 Soldiers, mostly from the CSMR,

attended a three-day training cycle in June on Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), Los Alamitos. In addition to plenty of classroom time devoted to review and study, the course featured plenty of physical, one-on-one practice, including instruction on how to maintain control of your weapon if challenged in close quarters and how to safely and efficiently handcuff a suspect. Many of the student-Soldiers had recently joined the CSMR with the intent of developing or enhancing careers in law enforcement-related work.

One aspect of SecFor work that was meticulously practiced was the traffic stop. Those situations must be handled very carefully because of the diverse factors that may be involved, particularly on JFTB, which is not only a military environment but also a venue where the public is regularly invited for activities and events.

"Is it Mom and Dad [in the car] with the kids or hardcore gangsters?" the instructor asked the class. "We are the stewards of the base. We are trying to keep things safe."

Just like civilian police officers, Soldiers are taught to be vigilant and aware of their position in relation to the people in the vehicle and to passing traffic. The key, according to the course material, is to never turn your back, especially when writing a citation.

The SecFor troops also were taught to stay disciplined in conduct, no matter how friendly or unfriendly the circumstances become. The best bet is always to remain professional and neutral, Sgt. Thompson advised.

"After you write them a ticket," he told the class, "don't say 'have a nice day.'"



Photo by Staff Sgt. (CA) John Thompson

Staff Sgt. Dustin Wilkins, right, a martial arts teacher who is an instructor for the California State Military Reserve's 2nd Brigade, State Military Police, demonstrates a hold on Staff Sgt. John Di Bona of the CSMR's Installation Support Command at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, during a June training session in Los Alamitos.

Mixed infantry squad mirrors Guard make-up

I-184th Infantry Battalion cobbles together teams from many different backgrounds

By **MASTER SGT. PAUL WADE**
CA Military Dept. Public Affairs

A baker, a fireman, a truck driver, a security guard, a criminal justice student and an avid video gamer walk up to a building and stack close behind each other near a closed door. Stop me if you've heard this one.

The lead man checks the door frame for trigger traps and nods it is clear.



For more photos, scan this QR code or visit Flickr.com

"Breach," the gamer whispers as the fireman swings around and bashes open the door. A "terrorist" role player in the room is then greeted with blank 5.56-mm rounds in the chest,

courtesy of an M-4 rifle wielded by an infantryman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, who just happens to make pastries and bread when he isn't clearing buildings with his squad.

Spc. Brendan Hellar, the baker and ammunition handler from Pleasant Hill, is part of 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, 1-184th, which conducted its annual training July 14-28 at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. He is joined in the Dublin, Calif.-based squad by Sgt. Ryan Poulter, the video gamer and fire team leader from Pleasant Hill; Spc. Kingly Kong, a student and

machine gunner from San Jose; Spc. David Martinez, a security guard and fire team leader from San Jose; Spc. William Sewell, a truck driver and grenadier from Pacifica; and Pvt. Kevin Turner, a fireman and radio and telephone operator from Red Bluff.

Collectively this mix-and-match crew embodies the make-up of the National Guard's citizen-Soldier force. On the surface you see armor-clad, camouflaged warriors, but underneath you might find someone who specializes in a secondary skill that makes that person a "force-multiplier" — perhaps a weapons expert for the Guard who also knows how to restore an electrical circuit during a disaster-response mission because of his civilian expertise.

But being a part-time Guardsman also has its drawbacks. The battalion's motto, "Let's Go!" signifies the quick reaction of a well-oiled team. Having each squad member attend every training weekend and the two-week annual training period is key to that efficiency. Even then, time is critical, and the short training window makes each task harder. But that is what the National Guard has been doing successfully for 376 years.

"I was pretty surprised to find out one of my squad members was a baker," said Poulter, a Ranger-qualified Soldier who recently transitioned from the active duty



Photo by Capt. Cody Gallo

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Battalion, enter and clear a room July 22 during the unit's annual training at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

Army's 25th Infantry Division. "I have guys from all over the place with various backgrounds, and even I'm new. This is just my second time training with the unit."

Poulter's squad had been training in the hills of Fort Hunter Liggett for a week, but it typically still takes a while to move into the "run" phase of training when the starter pistol goes off. The situation was complicated by Balikatan, a massive exercise in the Philippines in April. About 175 troops from the 1-184th fulfilled their annual training requirement during Balikatan and therefore were not at Fort Hunter-Liggett in July.

"We are a lot better now than we were on day one," Poulter said. "[Balikatan] split us up, so not only do we have guys we don't usually work with on a daily basis, we have a few we haven't had a chance to work with on a monthly basis.

"[Overcoming] that shyness you

get meeting someone new ... was the key part," he continued. "Communication is absolutely critical to any job and even more so as an infantryman."

Third Squad knocked out a variety of mission-essential training tasks at Fort Hunter-Liggett, including helicopter insertion and extraction, reacting to unexploded ordnance, casualty management, movement to contact and clearing a building.

"We have been throwing a lot of stuff at our guys, like hitting them with a fire hose, to catch them up," Poulter said. "They caught on pretty quick."

Poulter said his battalion mates seemed eager to learn because they don't train every day and therefore don't burn out.

"Some people join [the active duty Army] and it turns out it wasn't what they expected," he said. "These guys are here and

re-enlisting ... because they want to be here. When you teach them, they get excited, really involved in it.

They might not all have the skills of an active duty infantry unit or Ranger battalion, but they have the hunger, and that's what helps them gather the information and the skills so quick," he added.

Before the day was done, Poulter's squad headed back to the terrorist's hideout for another run, but this time smoother and faster.

"I want to hear you. Communicate," Sgt. 1st Class Alejandro Lopez-Gutierrez, 1st Platoon sergeant, told the troops while standing on an observation catwalk above the building.

The fireman then kicked in the door and "enemy" mannequins fell to the ground.

"One more time," Lopez-Gutierrez said.

New recruit joins the fight with I-184th Infantry

By **SGT. IAN M. KUMMER**
CA Military Dept. Public Affairs

Even a thousand-mile journey has a first step. Even the longest and most distinguished military career has a first mission. For one 22 year-old Chinese-Portuguese infantryman in Company C, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, the first mission was a full-scale air assault exercise at Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., on July 22.

Pvt. Robert DeCosta, a San Francisco native, had never attended a drill weekend before, let alone an exhaustive annual training exercise or a landing zone drop. But he found himself in good company at Fort Hunter-Liggett, with new Soldiers like himself and experienced troops to learn from.

"I like the unit; they have their act together," he said. "They're good guys who are very passionate about what they do."

A married man with an 11-month-old son, DeCosta is no stranger to responsibility.



Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer

Spc. Robert DeCosta provides landing zone security after disembarking a UH-60 Black Hawk during air assault training at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., on July 22.

"I joined the Guard to be a role model for my son," he said. "But I also joined because I wanted to serve my country. I

guess you could say I'm a patriot."

DeCosta takes the challenge of fitting in as

a new Soldier in his company with a positive attitude. "It's kind of like going to a new school," he said. "It takes a while to get to know everyone."

Even as he worked to fit in as a new Guardsman, DeCosta demonstrated that the most junior Soldier can serve an important role in a mission, if he has the drive to succeed.

"Dacosta showed himself to be a good Soldier," said Staff Sgt. Jason Ramsey, DeCosta's squad leader. "He is quiet person but seemed to be focused on the mission and excited to get back home and see his wife and baby."

As a full-time supervisor at an electronics store in Sacramento, DeCosta enjoys the benefits of a career in the Guard.

"This gives you the best of both worlds," he said during a brief break in his platoon's foot patrol. "You can have a civilian job and do a lot of stuff most people don't get to do, like what we're doing now!"

Soldiers put lifesaving skills into action

By **SGT. IAN M. KUMMER**
California Military Department Public Affairs

Every Soldier who attends the Combat Lifesaver course is taught care under fire — the skills needed to provide lifesaving care to a person injured in an accident or combat event that threatens the rescuer as well as the victim.

Two members of the CNG's 349th Quartermaster Company, based out of Vallejo, put those skills to the test following a disastrous civilian auto accident only days after completing their Combat Lifesaver class with the CNG's Task Force Warrior training element on Camp Roberts.

As 1st Sgt. Terran Jesse Jr. and Sgt. 1st Class Marsie Franco from the 349th were driving on Highway 101 toward the main gate of Camp Roberts on June 27, they witnessed a vehicle flip over the fence on the side of the freeway and burst into flames.

"We were turning left towards the gate, and I saw this car flipping over and over again, metal flying everywhere," Franco said.

"The car had just catapulted right over the wire," Jesse added.

Jesse pulled over and the two Soldiers carefully approached the burning wreck, which had set ablaze the surrounding grass and shrubbery, parched bone-dry by the searing summer sun.

While Franco stepped back and called 911, Jesse helped the two occupants, a man and a woman, get out of the car. The man was not seriously hurt, but the woman was bleeding profusely from her leg.

Though the situation was alarming, the Soldiers kept their heads and knew their first priority was to move the two civilians



Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer
Sgt. 1st Class Marsie Franco and 1st Sgt. Terran Jesse Jr. used their newly acquired Combat Lifesaver skills to save a civilian motorist near Camp Roberts, Calif., in June.

and themselves away from the spreading fire. The man helped Jesse pick up the woman and move her a safe distance from the blaze.

"We did a two-person carry, just like what we were taught in the [Combat Lifesaver] class," Jesse said. "The guy didn't know how to do it, so I showed him."

After moving the woman away from the accident site, Jesse treated her leg by using his uniform jacket as a makeshift compress bandage. The woman was also experiencing pain from the afternoon sun beating down on her legs, so Franco covered her uninjured leg with her uniform jacket. The Soldiers also removed their t-shirts and soaked them with water to help moderate the woman's temperature.

"The man was in shock, so I told him to sit

down and give [the woman] some shade," Jesse said.

At one point, the woman turned pale and her chest stopped moving. Jesse applied two chest compressions, causing her to regain consciousness and start breathing again.

"I pumped her chest and said her name and she came back," Jesse said.

Franco and Jesse continued talking to the woman and assessing her condition while waiting for medical help to arrive.

"We took turns talking on the phone or talking to her," Franco said. "I would talk on the phone away from her so she wouldn't get upset."

There was no time for the troops to stop and think — only to take action, relying on their

in-depth training and muscle memory.

"There's still pieces I don't remember," Franco said. "But the training comes back to you. Everything started clicking."

"It was a team effort," Jesse said. "Franco did really well."

Civilian paramedics arrived quickly and took the civilians and the Soldiers to Twin Cities Community Hospital in Templeton, Calif. After being examined for fume inhalation, the Soldiers were released, and they paid the two civilians a visit.

"We got to see them afterwards at the hospital," Franco said. "We got to talk to them and their families and see how they were doing. It was awesome."

Franco and Jesse said they do not see themselves as heroes, just as Soldiers who acted when no one else would.

"Everybody was on their cell phones — one guy was even taking a picture — but no one was helping," Jesse said. "We did what any other Soldier would do."

The instructors at TF Warrior congratulated Franco and Jesse on a job well done.

"They did exactly what we train people to do," said Sgt. John Gonsalves, noncommissioned officer in charge of Team Medical at TF Warrior. "This is care under fire."

Jesse credited his training at TF Warrior for the life saved that day and said he firmly believes every Soldier, deploying or not, should receive the benefit of the training.

"The war might be ending, but this is training every unit should go through," he said. "You learn a lot. This is great training, and you never know when you might need it."

349th Quartermasters train to save lives

By **SGT. IAN M. KUMMER**
69th Public Affairs Detachment

Boom! A plume of smoke erupts amidst a platoon of Soldiers scrambling for cover. "You're taking fire, you're taking fire!" a voice cries out. "What are you going to do?"

Even as the Soldiers lay down suppressive fire on the enemy in a nearby treeline, the situation grows more complicated: Several of their comrades are laid out on the ground, moaning with pain.

"You have wounded," the voice says again. "What do you need to do now?"

Soldiers carefully approach the wounded troops and begin applying first aid and moving them to a casualty collection point under a nearby cluster of trees. Meanwhile the radio operator calls the unit's higher headquarters to request medical evacuations via helicopter. As the team members complete the final steps to safely evacuate their wounded, the exercise ends, and all the participants, including the "casualties," assemble for a review with their instructors.

This was the final drill of the Combat Lifesaver course taught to the Vallejo-based 349th Quartermaster Company at Camp Roberts, Calif., on June 14. Though the Cal Guard has skilled combat medics trained to provide the highest level of care possible to injured Soldiers, every Soldier has the opportunity to become a Combat Lifesaver — a team member capable of performing first aid in the first mo-

ments after someone has been wounded.

The Combat Lifesaver course is built around the concept of the "golden hour" — the goal of keeping even a critically wounded patient alive and transporting them to a medical treatment facility within an hour. Combat Lifesavers are not medical professionals, but are trained to administer "buddy aid," implementing basic but crucial lifesaving measures like a tourniquet.

"You're not saving lives," said Sgt. John Gonsalves of the CNG's Task Force Warrior training element, which taught the course to the 349th. "The hospital saves lives. ... Everything we teach here is about buying time."

One of the most important elements of any CLS course is practical exercises to develop good habits and muscle memory and overcome any discomfort about applying first aid to a fellow service member.

"Out on the lane, one of the Soldiers was uncomfortable touching his patient," said Sgt. Devin Long of Task Force Warrior. "I told him he couldn't just say he was sweeping for wounds — he needed to actually do it."

The 349th Soldiers practiced lifesaving techniques with members of the same sex. However, they were cautioned that there won't be such a luxury in a combat situation.

"You're all brothers and sisters," Gonsalves said. "You're not males or females; you're Soldiers. ... Don't deny [another



Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer
Spc. Travis Orth of the 349th Quartermaster Company practices his lifesaving skills June 12 during the Combat Lifesaver course on Camp Roberts, Calif.

er Soldier] proper treatment because you're embarrassed."

The California State Military Reserve (CSMR) provides critical support to the Guard's Combat Lifesaver training mission and has worked closely with Task Force Warrior and other National Guard elements to reach their goals.

"We're all volunteers," Col. (CA) Anthony Dintcho said of the CSMR, which does not pay its members for training. "We provide all of the equipment and medical supplies needed by the units for this training, and we've paid for it all out of pocket."

TF Warrior instructors learn forensic skills

Tactical site exploitation ensures documents, materials and people are properly identified, collected and protected

By **SGT. IAN M. KUMMER**
CA Military Dept. Public Affairs

A Soldier frustrated by inadequate and poorly conceived training is a Soldier who has been failed by his or her leadership. Worse still, that Soldier may be sent to a combat zone woefully unequipped for the challenges ahead.

Search that building? What am I looking for? Is that a roadside bomb or a piece of garbage? Detain that person of interest? Did I properly collect and document evidence?

An uneducated Soldier is an unprepared Soldier. Fortunately for leaders in the California Army National Guard, a solution is just a phone call away.

On Aug. 1, at Camp Roberts, Calif., members of the CNG training element Task Force Warrior completed the final exercise of the Tactical Site Exploitation course given by the Pentagon's Joint Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Defeat Organization/Counter-IED Integration Cell program.

Tactical Site Exploitation gives Soldiers the skills needed to not only secure and search an area or building in a war zone, but to know what to look for in that situation and how to preserve the evidence they find. Students learn about a wide variety of substances and situations they might run into during a search, ranging from drugs, weapons and explosives to laundered money.

"What it boils down to is the presence of abnormal and the absence of the normal," said course instructor Jason Johnston. "What is there that shouldn't be, and what's missing that should be there?"

Armed with this knowledge, the Task Force Warrior Soldiers are ready to be trainers at their respective units. But that isn't enough, said Staff Sgt. Robert Pitts, an instructor with Task Force Warrior. Any deployable Soldier could be called to combat duty, he said, so each troop should have the firsthand training to be able to navigate such an environment and be effective.

"We can take this information back to our units as subject matter experts, but units as a whole need to go through



RIGHT: Sgt. Victor Aden of the California Army National Guard's Task Force Warrior training element uses a metal detector to search for evidence Aug. 1 at Camp Roberts, Calif., during the Tactical Site Exploitation course taught by the Pentagon's Joint Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Defeat Organization/Counter-IED Integration Cell program. **ABOVE:** Aden and Staff Sgt. Robert Pitts, left, search for contraband in a kitchen at Camp Roberts during the Tactical Site Exploitation course.

this training," Pitts said.

The Counter-IED Integration Cell's training program is not based on theory or speculation, but on painfully learned lessons from the Global War on Terrorism.

"[We were] detaining people who ended up being set free because the Soldiers weren't trained right," Pitts said of his own experience overseas. "Now with this course, we know the importance of proper evidence collection."

Task Force Warrior instructor Sgt. Victor Aden said he used improper techniques when he was deployed.

"We didn't wear latex gloves, we burned down buildings without documenting anything. We didn't understand the concept of forensic evidence," he said. "But here we went



over the ingredients and how to actually make homemade explosives and IEDs. We know what to look for."

Though the war in Afghanistan is winding down, experienced combat leaders have stressed the importance of increasing and maintaining readiness for similar combat operations.

"Our enemies today will most likely be our enemies tomorrow," Pitts said. "IEDs like the ones we're seeing in Afghanistan will probably still be in use 10 or even 20 years from now."

The Counter-IED Integration Cell is available to conduct training anywhere in California at no cost to the requesting unit. To schedule a class, contact Jason Johnston at 530-566-2217 or Johnston_Jason@bah.com.

Quartermaster company prepares for Afghanistan

By **SGT. IAN M. KUMMER**
California Military Department Public Affairs

Bringing together team members from many different units and backgrounds for an overseas deployment can create difficulties, many Soldiers will attest. But they also appreciate the rich variety of skills and experiences those



Soldiers with the 349th Quartermaster Company receive Combat Lifesaver instruction from trainers with the Cal Guard's Task Force Warrior training element June 14 in advance of the company's deployment to Afghanistan this summer.

troops bring to the fight.

The Soldiers of the 349th Quartermaster Company learned this lesson firsthand when they commenced their training cycle with the California National Guard's Task Force Warrior training element at Camp Roberts on June 10.

"I'm impressed with the vast experience and natural leadership [we have] from different units and previous deployments," said Sgt. Scott Higgins of the 118th Maintenance Company, who joined the 349th for its training cycle and its scheduled deployment to Afghanistan this summer. "We're doing well out here."

Though the quartermasters have many experienced troops, they nonetheless appreciated the tutelage of TF Warrior, which is dedicated to preparing Guard units from around the country for deployments overseas.

"The in-depth training [TF Warrior] provides here is really good," Higgins said. "They really break everything down in a clear and concise manner."

While the seasoned veterans of the company honed their skills during TF Warrior's training events, the new Soldiers were given an opportunity to learn new skills and practice performing in demanding leadership positions.

"I've never done training like this before," Pvt. Nicole Metcalf of the 349th said. "I've never been put in a leadership role like this before. I was really nervous at first, before I

started getting into it."

"This is a great learning opportunity for all of us," said Spc. Travis Orth of the 349th. "I think the training is amazing. I'm having a lot of fun with it."

The 349th has many new members from different backgrounds and units, but they had no problem bonding as a team to face the challenge of a combat deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"We're working together and bonding really well," Orth said.

As in every TF Warrior training cycle, mistakes and deficiencies were identified, corrected and improved upon, making students more comfortable with their combat roles.

"The after-action reports are very productive," Orth said. "Everyone, even the junior privates, are able to participate and learn from it."

TF Warrior lives by the maxim "train as you fight," insisting that student Soldiers endure an operational tempo during the training period that is equal to or greater than they will experience on deployment. That means no easy days or weekends off.

"I like how we're out here every single day," Metcalf said. "I'm already feeling a lot more comfortable about this deployment."

Photos by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer

Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer

CNG recognizes long-time partnership with LAPD

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA INIGO**
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

Leadership from the 49th Military Police Brigade visited the Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters on June 14 to present California Commendation Medals to a handful of police officers for their assistance to California National Guard military police dating back to 2005.

"It's an honor and a privilege to in some way provide for our Soldiers who have done so much for our country," said Metropolitan Division Sgt. David Carter, whose son is a Marine with two combat tours under his belt. "It's easy to balance their military capabilities with our training — it's the right field to promote knowledge."

Most recently, the LAPD allowed three Soldiers from the 330th Military Police Company to join them at the Grammy Awards in February to learn about large-scale operations. Earlier, in January, the LAPD trained 120 Soldiers from the 330th MP Company in advanced civil disturbance scenarios, including the Combined Arms Team Training, a course taught by the U.S. Secret Service for operation in an active-shooter environment. That event supplemented training for the 330th given by the LAPD last November, covering the use of batons, shields, less-lethal weapons and vehicles in riot and

crowd-control situations, as well as employing arrest circles and extracting downed service members.

"The enthusiasm of the LAPD officers who support these training events has been unparalleled in my experience," said Sgt. 1st Class Wade Scott, Security Forces noncommissioned officer (NCO) in charge at Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), Los Alamitos, who was instrumental in coordinating the exercises.

The LAPD performed similar training in 2005 and 2006 for about 300 Soldiers from the 670th MP Company, 40th Infantry Division Headquarters Support Company, JFTB Security Forces and California State Military Reserve (CSMR) Security Forces.

All together about 200 LAPD officers have contributed time to training Military Department personnel. In return the CNG has given the LAPD access to the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 weapon simulator and the Military Operations in Urban Terrain Site on JFTB.

"I know that [continuing the partnership] would be a huge win for both sides," Scott said. "Our MPs and SecFor need this training, and with limited funding, this is an excellent way to produce solid MP NCOs."

CNG, state university PD aim to build rapport

By **SGT. IAN M. KUMMER**
CA Military Dept. Public Affairs

A seasoned police officer is no stranger to weapons training, but he or she may learn something at Camp Roberts, the premier training site for the California Army National Guard.

Officers from the California State University Police Department (CSU PD) in San Francisco joined Soldiers from the Cal Guard's 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion and the Guard's Task Force Warrior training element on July 1 at Camp Roberts. The day of

marksmanship lessons built upon a relationship of good communication and cooperation between the two agencies.

"The [223rd] is right down the road from us," said CSU PD Cpl. Chris Jones. "When we need help, it's good to know the Guard is there."

The CSU PD officers brought a variety of rifles, pistols and weapons optics to the event along with more than 4,000 rounds of ammunition for seven shooters. At Camp Roberts they had a rare opportunity to shoot on a 500-meter open range.

"We're grateful to these guys; we don't get to shoot long distances like this often," Jones said.

This was the first weapons marksmanship event conducted by the 223rd in support of a local law enforcement agency, a project that required more than a year of planning and coordination.

"We made history today," said Sgt. 1st Class David Ortiz of the 223rd. "This is only the beginning. We plan to expand this out to other law enforcement agencies in Northern California."

Events such as this help build rapport between the Guard and civilian agencies and prepare them for real-life emergencies that require high levels of cooperation and trust. In recent months, the CSU PD and the 223rd have collaborated on a variety of training events, improving crowd control and other skills that could be needed in the case of a natural disaster or emergency.

"This builds cohesion and a good incident command system," Ortiz said. "It's just a matter of time before there is some kind of emergency and we need mutual assistance."



Cpl. Chris Jones of the State University Police and Sgt. 1st Class David Ortiz of the CNG's 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion inspect Jones' AR-15 during a June 28 training event at Camp Roberts, Calif.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Inigo

Fallen firefighters returned home

CNG firefighting crew carries remains of two 'Hotshots' from deadly Arizona blaze

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA INIGO**
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

Under a graying sky, as if Mother Nature herself was saddened, a C-130J Hercules airplane landed at Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), Los Alamitos, on July 10, carrying the remains of two California-native firefighters who were killed battling a wildfire in Arizona on June 30.

The California National Guard C-130 aircraft and crew also had been in Arizona, fighting the same wildfire.

"We are honored to have been able to do this for our fellow firefighters," said Col. Paul J. Hargrove, commander of the Port Hueneme-based 146th Airlift Wing. "We have fought side-by-side with these very brave men and women, and we deeply mourn this tragic loss."

Service members awaited the arrival in formation on the tarmac as firefighters and other first responders marched together in a "sea of blue" with bagpipes and drums from a Scottish marching band keeping time. Patriot Guard Freedom Riders flanked the pathway along their route as thousands of community members looked on.

Flag-draped caskets carrying Christopher MacKenzie, 30, and Kevin Woyjeck, 21, were then separately escorted by honor guards from the ramp of the C-130 to their families to be taken to their final resting places. Bagpipes played "Amazing Grace" just before each casket was presented to the families.

Both fallen firefighters, who were members of the Prescott, Ariz., Fire Department's Granite Mountain Hotshots, hailed from the Southern California area. MacKenzie, a Hemet, Calif., native who graduated from Hemet High School in 2001, was returned to Hemet after the planeside honors. Woyjeck, the son of Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Joe Woyjeck, was taken to Long Beach.

Woyjeck's stepbrother, Clint Mosly, accompanied him on the flight from Prescott to Los Alamitos, and he stood alongside Woyjeck's father during the planeside ceremony. Mosly is a former 146th Airlift Wing crew chief and flight engineer who is now a Black Hawk helicopter pilot for the California Army National Guard and a firefighter for Los Angeles County.

MacKenzie and Woyjeck were among 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots who died in the line of duty fighting the Yarnell Fire. According to news reports, it was the worst wildland firefighting loss in the nation since 1933, when the Griffith Park Fire in Los Angeles took the lives of 29 firefighters.

"I am proud of the California National Guard's ability to make the return of these fallen firefighters a very special, honorable and dignified event for the impacted families," said Col. John Lathrop, chief of staff for the Los Alamitos-based 40th Infantry Division.

Troops offer health care to rural Hawaiians

Hundreds of service members serve 12,000 medical, dental and optometric patients free of charge

By **SENIOR AIRMAN MICHAEL QUIBOLOY**
163rd Reconnaissance Wing

Twenty-four members of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing Medical Group joined more than 500 other U.S. service members who gathered across Hawaii to provide free health care to medically underserved areas of the state June 4-12.

Tropic Care 2013 was designed to prepare service members for rapid response and disaster relief missions while simultaneously aiding the local populace, said Air Force Col. Jerry Arends, the director for Tropic Care. National Guard, Reserve and active duty units from the Army, Navy and Air Force participated in Tropic Care, the largest Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) operation to date.

By mission's end, the Tropic Care clinics saw about 3,000 medical patients, 3,000 dental patients and 6,000 optometry patients, providing more than 1,000 sets of prescription glasses. Residents were seen free of charge and without any form of identification required.

The 163rd contingent out of March Air Reserve Base, Calif., was spread across three islands and included junior enlisted Airmen getting their first experience with this type of training.

"For [less experienced Airmen], it's very valuable because it gives them an overview of what we actually do in the field, especially for someone new to the unit that's never been deployed," said Maj. Julian Manalo,



Photo by Senior Airman Michael Quiboloy

Maj. Maria Ignacio, a nurse practitioner with the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing Medical Group from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., checks Hawaii resident Ernesto Leano's ears June 7 at the Iao Intermediate School in Wailuku, Hawaii, during the Tropic Care exercise, which saw 500 service members spread across Hawaii to provide free health care in medically underserved areas.

site commander for the Iao Intermediate School clinic. "It gets them a chance to see what it's like, to see the living conditions and what's involved with the work. It's good training."

The 163rd Medical Group's team included the California Air National Guard's state surgeon, a pediatrician, a dentist, nurses, public health specialists, optometry technicians, dental hygienists, medics, a logistics specialist and other personnel working at several clinics on the islands of Hawaii,

Kauai and Maui.

Senior Airman Katy Peña, a medic who was among the Medical Group's team members on Maui, said the mission was an excellent training experience as well as an excellent life experience.

"On one hand you get real-world training, treating people with symptoms that you don't normally see on the mainland," she said. "On the other hand, you also see what the conditions are like for people that live

here that can't afford health care, and you really learn to appreciate things."

Some patients were prescribed medicine for simple aches and pains, while others gained potentially life-changing treatment.

Manalo and Peña recalled a young girl who traveled from another island with her mother when they heard about the offer of free medical treatment. The girl suffered from elephantiasis, a condition characterized by the gross enlargement of areas of the body, typically the limbs. The parasitic infection had caused the girl's leg to balloon in size, which caused her pain and stunted her growth. She was 14 years old, but at first glance many thought she was closer to half that age.

The girl was treated at a Tropic Care site and referred to the Department of Public Health for continued therapy. Her leg is expected to return to normal size in about a year, enabling her to live a more normal life.

She was just one of many Hawaii residents who were grateful for the rare chance to receive medical attention.

"It is a blessing for me because I don't have health care. I said, 'Thank God,' when I saw this," said 61-year-old Ernesto Leano, who was treated for back problems. "I'm very happy to see you here. I will never forget in my life how they helped me here."

The next destination for the 163rd Medical Group is Latvia, where they will accompany a civil engineering unit on a mission to build a schoolhouse in August.

746th CSSB puts training into overdrive

Army Guard battalion's three transportation companies cross-train on each other's vehicles

By **SGT. GLEN BAKER**
224th Sustainment Brigade

The Van Nuys-based 746th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) brought all three of its transportation companies to the battalion's annual training June 14-29 at Camp Roberts, Calif., to prepare its drivers for any contingency.

The three companies each utilize different vehicles, but Lt. Col. Ted Arlauskas, commander of the 746th, said every driver should be able to shift to another vehicle when needed.

"What we have seen in the state over the past couple of years is when units get mobilized, they often go on a slightly different mission from what they're manned and equipped for," he said. "For example another truck company that drives M915 tractors and M872 trailers like our 1114th Transportation Company was notified for mobilization, but they were told that they were going to drive [Palletized Load System trucks]."

"A lot of time was spent trying to find trucks to train on, trying to find someone to train the Soldiers and trying to find Soldiers to train," Arlauskas said. "I want to

avoid that, so if my units get tapped for a mission that's slightly different, then they are ready and prepared."

The 746th CSSB comprises the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company as well as the 756th, 1072nd and 1114th transportation companies. The Lancaster-based 756th operates 5,000-gallon tankers for fuel transfer; the 1072nd from Fresno drives Palletized Load System trucks; and the 1114th from Bakersfield uses M915 tractors with 40-foot flatbed trailers.

In all the CSSB's four companies brought 269 troops to Camp Roberts.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnson of the 756th, who served as a tractor-trailer instructor, said the greatest challenge for many drivers was becoming accustomed to pulling trailers while using their rearview mirrors.

"When you go backwards with the trailer, everything is backwards, and you do everything the opposite way, so it takes them a while to get used to it," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Ferdinand Santos of the 1072nd, who trained Soldiers on the Palletized Loading System, said the students were required to learn a wide array of new

equipment but still appeared to enjoy the course work.

"My favorite part of the training is seeing these new guys driving and off-loading and looking at their faces and seeing them having a good time," he said.

Staff Sgt. Samara Arias, a truck squad

leader for the 756th, said all the instructors deserve praise for their excellent effort and teaching.

"I assisted with arranging the training," she said, "but the instructors are the ones who made it happen. They're the ones out there who are making sure the students can handle the system so they can pass."



Photo by Sgt. Glen Baker

A Soldier with the 1114th Transportation Company directs an M915 tractor June 18 during the unit's annual training at Camp Roberts, Calif.

Smiley succeeds Malanka as head of 79th IBCT

By CAPT. CODY GALLO
79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Col. Mark Malanka passed the leadership of the California Army National Guard's 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) to Col. Jeffrey Smiley in front of about 700 IBCT troops July 26 at Camp Roberts, Calif.

"We have had a hell of a ride over the last 3 1/2 years," Malanka said during the ceremony. "Standing up for multiple deployments, you have shown unbelievable resilience and professionalism."

He added that the 79th's Soldiers met every mission asked of them and exceeded all expectations.

Maj. Gen. Lawrence Haskins, commander of the California Army National Guard, handed the unit colors to Smiley.

"Part of the honor for me today is that I follow in command one of the California



Photo by Capt. Cody Gallo

Soldiers of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team stand in formation during a July 26 change-of-command ceremony at Camp Roberts, Calif., to mark the transfer of authority from Col. Mark Malanka to Col. Jeffrey Smiley.

Army National Guard's finest Soldiers," Smiley said. "Mark's list of accomplishments with this brigade are significant, and he's left an enduring presence that will be felt for years to come."

The San Diego-based 79th comprises more than 4,800 Soldiers across California. During the past year, the IBCT ranked No. 1 for unit readiness among all Army National Guard units of its type. The rating is determined through an evaluation of both personnel- and equipment-readiness. Based on its high state of readiness, the 79th was selected for two overseas mobilizations in 2012.

In addition three of the IBCT's battalions — 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment; the 40th Brigade Support Battalion and the 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion — rank No.1 among their battalion type in the

Army National Guard. Two more battalions — 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment; and 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment — rank in the top three for their classification.

"You all accepted the challenge when you volunteered to join this organization," said Malanka, who now serves as deputy commander of the Cal Guard's 40th Infantry Division. "Now I want you to acknowledge your success and carry it forward. Take on new challenges and be proud of your accomplishments."

He added that the 79th's Soldiers "truly are the best of the best," but their success would not have been possible without the support of their families.

"To your wives and husbands, your children and those close to you, I personally

thank them from the bottom of my heart," he said.

Smiley said he saw the IBCT lead the effort and set the standard for others to follow under Malanka's command.

"That said, the challenges we face are and will continue to be significant," he said. "To my teammates in the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, including the 78 deployed to Afghanistan and Africa, know that I pledge to you my very best, the full attention of our mission and your needs.

"As we move forward toward our future destiny, our success will not be realized by anything I say here today, but rather by our actions and the deeds in the moments and years ahead," he added. "I look forward to meeting the challenges head-on with each and every one of you."

Lewis commands combat aviation brigade

By SGT. IAN M. KUMMER
California Military Department Public Affairs

While a change-of-command ceremony is a frequent occurrence in the military, it is not so common for the ceremony to be accompanied by a spectacle of aviation skill — a

flyover of four different helicopters.

At the head of the formation Aug. 1 was a UH-72 Lakota light utility helicopter, followed by a UH-60 Black Hawk, another Black Hawk specially configured for medical evacuation missions and finally a CH-

47 Chinook. Each aircraft represented a unique aspect of the of the Army Aviation mission, all working together as a single unit.

This flyover was the climactic moment in the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade's change-of-command ceremony at Camp Roberts, Calif., where Col. Laura Yeager passed her responsibilities to her executive officer, Lt. Col. Todd Lewis.

The ceremony was only one small part of a truly unique annual training event for the CAB: This was the first time the CAB had trained together as a brigade in 10 years, the result of many months of hard work and teamwork at every level of leadership within the unit.

The CAB faced challenges when it returned from Iraq in 2011, like any unit returning from overseas. Leaders needed to ensure the CAB was doing everything necessary to take care of its Soldiers while also handling the logistical headache of reorganizing millions of dollars in equipment and making the brigade fully mission-ready.

Yeager, who commanded the CAB for 18 months, guided the unit through that tricky transition from overseas combat operations to the CAB's new focus on domestic emergency response. When Yeager first assumed command of the unit, the 40th ranked nearly at the bottom of the list for readiness: It was 11th out of 12 CABs in the Army National Guard nationwide.

By the time she left, the unit ranked No. 3.

"She has done incredible things," said Sgt. Maj. Bryon Robinson, the 40th CAB's top enlisted member. "She preached cooperation between the battalions, which has made a huge impact on our readiness."

Yeager remains humble about her contributions, attributing the unit's success to the leadership of her noncommissioned officers (NCO).

"Our vision was to get everybody involved from top to bottom," Yeager said. "[Robinson] got with the NCOs, and they got the majority of the work done."

"It's a huge accomplishment how far [we've] come," she added. "Most units take four years to reset. We've done it in one and a half."

Yeager and Robinson said they only expect the CAB's progress to continue under Lewis' leadership, as Lewis served as Yeager's executive officer for her entire term as commander.

"We've been a team for a year and a half," Robinson said. "We should see no drop in performance."

Lewis agreed, saying he expects a smooth transition.

"We've established our core functions. Now we need to maintain them," he said.



Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer

Maj. Gen. Lawrence Haskins, commander of the California Army National Guard, passes the guidon for the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade to Lt. Col. Todd Lewis, signifying his assumption of command of the unit Aug. 8 on Camp Roberts, Calif. Lewis succeeded Col. Laura L. Yeager.



40th Tank Company in the Philippines

September 1941: The Cal Guard's 40th Tank Company arrives in the U.S. colony the Philippines

Dec. 7, 1941: Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and the Philippines, prompting the United States' entrance into the war

April 9, 1942: U.S. troops in the Philippines surrender to Japanese invaders, who force 78,000 U.S. and Filipino Soldiers on a 65-mile march estimated to take six days. The prisoners suffer from thirst, malnourishment, disease and beatings, resulting in 7,000 to 10,000 deaths on the march, followed by similar conditions in the prisoner camp.

Sept. 2, 1945: Japan surrenders and the U.S. begins bringing troops home.

Last Cal Guard Bataan Death March survivors die

By **1ST LT. JASON SWEENEY**
CA Military Dept. Public Affairs

The Bataan Death March was a walk through hell that took the lives of thousands. Although exact records were not kept, between 7,000 and 10,000 Americans and Filipinos are estimated to have perished on the 65-mile march that began April 9, 1942.



Pfc. Roy Diaz

Forty-seven National Guardsmen from the Salinas, Calif.-based Company C, 194th Tank Battalion, survived the march and made it home to tell about it. At the start of this year, three Bataan Death March survivors from Company C were still with us: Roy Diaz, Manny Nevarez and Norman Rose. Unfortunately none of the three remains today to tell their story.

On March 25, Rose died in San Jose at age 91. He was followed two months later, on May 25, by Diaz, who passed away in Salinas at age 96. Then Nevarez, the last surviving member, died in Sparks, Nev., on June 25 at age 95. With the passing of Nevarez, the California National Guard's last living link to one of the most notorious events of World War II is now gone.

Company C was a tight-knit bunch, according to Roy Diaz's wife, Lorraine. "[They were] a band of brothers," she said at her home in Salinas shortly before Roy's passing. "They're heroes."

Roy and Lorraine said they hoped the sacrifices and hardships endured by American and Filipino service members during the Death March and subsequent captivity would not be forgotten.

"Not many people know about it today," said Roy Diaz, who looked good for his age despite a bum knee and was in high spirits.

"This is history," Lorraine said. "It's awful what happened to them. It should never have happened."

Manny Nevarez's daughter, Noreen Hill, said her father never talked about the Death March or the war. Nevarez, however, did post a diary of his time in captivity online at <http://bit.ly/lb71wVD>. The diary chronicles the hard work, sickness, longing for home and occasional beatings the American prisoners of war endured.

Hill described Nevarez as a good father who lived a good life. And while he didn't talk about the war, he never forgot his fellow survivors from Company C.

"It was a long recovery when he came back from World War II," she said. "The company was very dear to him."

Nevarez was a private and Diaz a private first class with Company C in 1941. The company was part of the Cal Guard's 40th Tank Company, which had been mobilized and integrated into the active duty Army shortly before America's entry into World War II. Company C arrived in the Philippines in September.

"We didn't know there was going to be a war," Diaz said.

On Dec. 7, Japan struck Pearl Harbor and simultaneously attacked the Philippines. Diaz and his buddies took cover in a bamboo grove and witnessed the bombing of Clark Field, which destroyed much of the American air power in the Philippines.

"Everybody was excited," he said. "All night long, we were patrolling."

Japanese forces quickly took the capital,

Manila, and American and Filipino troops retreated down the Bataan Peninsula. Company C played a leading role in holding back the Japanese onslaught, striking Japanese positions and inflicting heavy losses.

Diaz patrolled in a "half-track" vehicle south of Manila, where he took fire from field artillery. His lieutenant got hit, Diaz said, and was cut in half in his tank.

Three months after fighting began, American supplies were nearly exhausted.

"We ran out of food and ammunition," Diaz said. "We ate the cavalry horses."

With no reinforcements on the way, Maj. Gen. Edward King, commander of the Filipino and American forces on the peninsula, surrendered to Japanese fighters on April 9, 1942, making 12,000 American and 66,000 Filipino service members prisoners of war.

What followed was one of the worst atrocities of WWII. The Japanese fighters marched the American and Filipino troops 65 miles in tropical heat up the Bataan Peninsula to a prison at Camp O'Donnell.

"There was very little water and not a damn thing to eat," Diaz said.

Many contracted malaria by drinking from puddles on the roadside, and Diaz saw a friend bayoneted through the back while trying to get water. Others were beaten or run over by trucks when they fell.

"Man, the smell," Diaz recalled. "Everywhere we went, there was a dead one there and a dead one there."

One Filipino boy flashed the marchers a "V" sign for "Victory," Diaz said, and a Japanese fighter cut the boy's fingers off.

"We walked for 11 days with no food," he said. "That's all we did was march and watch the guys get killed."

Diaz managed to survive by conserving water in his canteen. Once he reached the prison, he was incapacitated by malaria.

"There was no medicine or nothing," he said. "You just sweat it out."

When Diaz recovered, he was put to work. The Japanese forces needed mechanics, so he worked fixing trucks outside the camp, where conditions were better.

Diaz was then shipped to the island of Mindanao, where he worked as a slave laborer. Diaz and his fellow prisoners were allowed to grow their own food there, he said, and sometimes Japanese troops shot Filipino water buffaloes, called carabaos, and gave the meat to the prisoners.

In the final year of the war, Diaz was shipped to Japan, where he worked in a factory hauling lumber. While there, he survived a meager diet, a major earthquake and American bombs as the campaign against Japan reached a crescendo.

When Japan surrendered Sept. 2, 1945, American bombers began dropping supplies for the prisoners of war. Diaz and his buddies gorged themselves on canned peaches, he said, but they promptly became sick after having endured a starvation diet for 3 1/2 years.

Like most of his fellow survivors, Diaz was discharged from the Army soon after arriving home. He later met his wife, Lorraine, at the Colma del Rodeo Parade, and they married in 1956. He worked as a rancher and salesman, and the two lived a prosperous and happy life.

"Roy was a man who loved his community and loved his family," said Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., a friend of Diaz who is the top enlisted member in the California National Guard. "And he loved all of those guys he fought with in World War II."

CNG youths practice with an NFL star

Reggie Bush hosts 2nd annual youth camp for military children at his alma mater high school in La Mesa

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

Detroit Lions running back Reggie Bush returned to his old football stomping grounds at Helix High School in La Mesa, Calif., in June to give back to the military families in his community.

Kids and parents enjoyed Bush's second annual Pro Camp for the children of current or former Armed Forces members. More than 300 children, including about 30 from California National Guard families, had the chance to touch down on the field June 15-16 and play with the pro on the field where he learned the game.

Bush coordinated with the Army program Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) to provide a weekend of football for military children. SOS offers support and services for families of deceased Soldiers.

"Most of the kids are children whose parents are serving our country, and it is great to give them an opportunity," Bush said. "To give them a free camp and get something positive out of here today makes me feel good. Their family members are the real heroes for serving our country."

Military children spent two days training with football coaches and youths in their age group.

"It was absolutely a great experience," said Cody Shannon, 17. Shannon's father, 1st Sgt. Payam Shannon, is currently deployed to Afghanistan with the California National Guard's 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "I feel like I bonded with my team, and the coach I had was fantastic."

"It was great to see and meet Reggie," he added. "The one thing he pushed on us was the importance of education, even sharing a personal experience with us. That really struck me as something different and showed me his character. It told me what kind of a leader and Army dependent I should be to help those younger than me."

The older players provided a fitting finale for the weekend by playing a game for the

camp championship, and every student received an autographed photo of their team with Bush.

"I enjoyed it very much," said 12 year-old Gabriella Martinez, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Ben Martinez of the CNG's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing. "The training was really intense but it was a great experience and I hope to go again next year."

Joseph Thomas, 16, said he looks forward to sharing his new skills on the football field.

"One thing I took away from this camp was confidence on the field, knowing what I was capable of doing," said Thomas, the son of Master Sgt. Jerome Thomas of the CNG's 162nd Combat Communications Group. "The Reggie Bush camp was a very helpful experience, to see where I was at personally as a football player. The camp was not only enjoyable but also very challenging."

Tech Sgt. Martinez said the camp was fun for everyone there, regardless of their age group.

"My daughter Gabby made me proud as she played hard and won an Everlast Award on her team. It was a great Father's Day gift as we had a great day out there on Father's Day."

For information on Survivor Outreach Services or to find the SOS office nearest you, visit www.sos.army.mil.



Gabriella Martinez, left, works with Detroit Lions star running back Reggie Bush, far right, at the Helix High School alumnus' annual football camp for military children June 15 in La Mesa, Calif.

Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

Brazilian black belt joins CNG's Task Force Warrior

Army National Guard instructor learned martial arts to protect himself growing up in Brazil

By **SGT. IAN M. KUMMER**
California Military Department Public Affairs

As a force of citizen-Soldiers in a nation built on the immigration of hardworking, talented people from around the world, it should be no surprise that the California Army National Guard has the honor of providing some of these men and women a new way to fulfill their dreams and be a part of something bigger than themselves.

For one Brazilian-American martial arts expert who serves with the 670th Military Police Company, that dream is to give back to the country he now calls home. And as a combatives instructor for the Guard's Task Force Warrior training element, Pfc. Andre Huebes has been able to share his years of knowledge and experience with fellow Soldiers.

"This is my way to serve and contribute to the country," Huebes said.

A black belt in Taekwondo, Jiu-jitsu and Muay Thai, Huebes didn't have lofty intentions for his studies when he first began training in the martial arts.

"While still living in Brazil, [martial arts] was just a way to protect myself, and I grew to love it," he said.

Even after leaving Brazil in 1994 for San Diego, where he lives with his wife and two children, Huebes' passion didn't go away. On the contrary, it only grew. By 2007, Huebes was teaching Brazilian Jiu-jitsu full-time. But still he wasn't satisfied.

"Living here [In the United States] has benefitted me in so

many ways," Huebes said. "I wanted to give back."

In 2008, Huebes began a career as a police officer in Orange County. Unfortunately that career was cut short in 2009 when the recession hit and he was laid off. Unfazed, Huebes found a new outlet for his energy in 2010, when he enlisted in the California Army National Guard as a military policeman in the 670th.

"So far, the Guard has been good for me," Huebes said.

Even as a new Soldier, Huebes stood out from his peers.

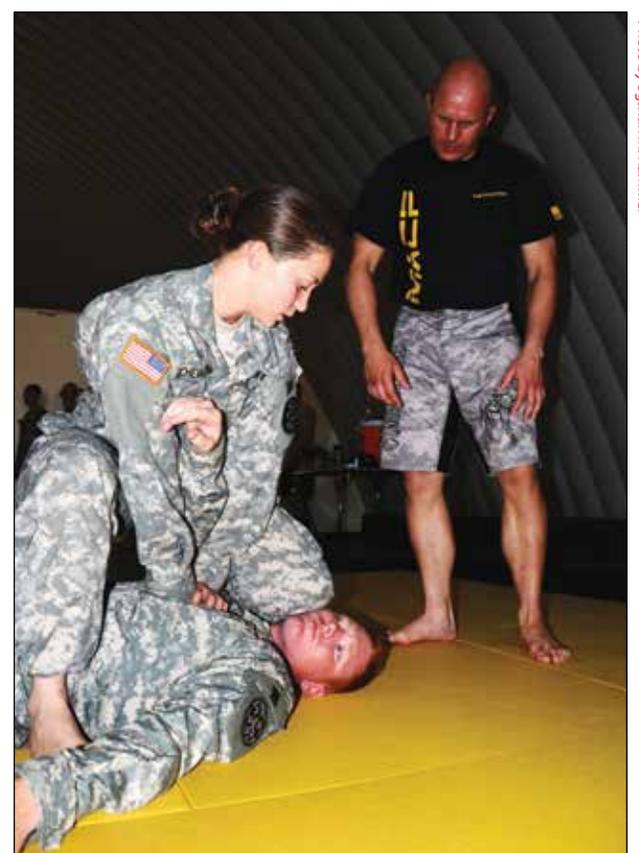
"At the beginning of each class, I ask if anyone has some previous combatives experience," said Staff Sgt. E. R. Franco, a combatives instructor for TF Warrior who taught a class for the 670th in May. "[Huebes] stood up and volunteered. He was super quiet and unobtrusive, but his skill spoke for itself."

Impressed by Huebes' performance, TF Warrior offered him the chance to work as an instructor, which he accepted.

"He's brought a whole new level to our training, which directly benefits the Soldiers," Franco said. "He says this is a way to give back, and he means it."

Huebes enjoys his work as an instructor and believes the Army combatives program provides good learning experience in self defense, even for beginners.

"[Combatives] teaches the basics," Huebes said. "You have to know the basics, whether you are a white belt or a black belt."



Pfc. Andre Huebes, a combatives instructor for Task Force Warrior, coaches Spc. Emily Echevarria and Pfc. Jonathan Moore of the 349th Quartermaster Company during the unit's training cycle at Camp Roberts, Calif., on June 20.

Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer



Members of 10th Brigade, California Cadet Corps, march in formation June 30 during the pass-and-review ceremony for the Cadet Corps summer camp at Camp San Luis Obispo. The Corps revived its summer camp this year after a 23-year hiatus. Photo by Sgt. Ian M. Kummer For more on the Cadet Corps, see page 14.

Jones named JFTB commander

Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones was named commander of Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, effective Sept. 1. Jones is also commander of the Los Alamitos-based 40th Infantry Division.

Vets sought for insomnia study

Veterans of operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn are eligible to participate in a drug-free insomnia study aimed at reducing depression and suicide. Participants in the Stanford School of Medicine trial will receive a behavioral insomnia treatment in four weekly sessions. Patients will receive \$200 to \$350 compensation as well as mileage reimbursement for those traveling 30 miles or more to the test site. To sign up for Project SERVE: Sleep Enhancement for Returning Veterans, call 650-724-5368, visit www.ProjectServeSleep.com or email projectserve-email@stanford.edu.

C.W. Driver, Safeway earn ESGR Award

C.W. Driver of Pasadena, Calif., and Safeway of Pleasanton, Calif., were among 15 employers nationwide that were recognized with a 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The award, given by Department of Defense agency Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), is the DoD's highest recognition for employers of Guard and Reserve service members. The 15 recipients distinguished themselves from among 2,899 nominations received from Guard and Reserve members. The winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 26.

C.W. Driver was nominated by a member of the Navy Reserve who said C.W. Driver routinely sends letters and care packages to deployed employees, hosts send-off and welcome home parties, and supports spouses and families in a service member's absence. C.W. Driver also stays in contact with deployed employees, even arranging for an employee overseas to lead the Pledge of Allegiance for a company meeting via video conference. The small business also partners with the DoD employment program Hero 2 Hired to encourage other employers to hire National Guard and Reserve service members.

Safeway also was nominated by a member of the Navy Reserve, who praised the company's special training program for reserve component junior officers and noncommissioned officers to prepare them for management positions within the company. To date, 81 reserve component service members have been promoted as a result of the program. Safeway also features its military employees on a Wall of Honor at the corporate office.

The Los Angeles Fire Department was one of 30 finalists for the Freedom Award but was not chosen for the recognition.

Sleep on the USS Hornet

Military dependents age 5 to 18 can sign up for a night aboard the USS Hornet aircraft carrier museum Sept. 21-22 through the California National Guard Child and Youth Program. During the free event, kids will ride the flight simulator, play shipboard games, participate in a night watch, learn about NASA's Apollo 11 and Apollo 12 missions, and earn a special crew member patch and certificate. Children age 5 through 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register, visit www.jointservicesupport.org and search under "Events."

DID YOU KNOW...

inappropriate relationships are detrimental to good order and military discipline?

The military considers a service member to be married until their divorce is final. A legal separation from one's spouse does not enable a service member to begin relationships with other people. As Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) states, "A marriage exists until it is dissolved in accordance with the laws of a competent state or foreign jurisdiction." Being legally separated does not enable a service member to be considered single.

Adultery is incompatible with the Army and Air Force values as outlined in Army Regulation (AR) 600-100 and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 1-1. Adultery by service members, especially those in leadership positions, is prejudicial to good order and discipline and can bring discredit to the Armed Forces. Adulterous conduct can have a divisive effect on a unit; negatively impact discipline, morale and unit cohesion; and be detrimental to a service member's authority. Even if the conduct is only indirectly or remotely prejudicial to good order and discipline, adultery may be considered service-discrediting.

Regulations require commanders to take action to resolve adulterous situations within their command once they become aware of them. Commanders should consider all relevant circumstances, including the service member's legal marital status and the impact of their actions upon order and discipline. Officers charged with adultery under Article 134 of the UCMJ may also be charged with conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

References: UCMJ, Articles 134 and 133; AR 600-20 and 600-100; and AFI 1-1.

CORRECTION: An article in the March issue understated the number of services performed by the CNG's Veterans Honors Program since 2000. CNG honor guards have performed more than 95,000 services.



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Senior Airman Mark Deimling, an MC-130P Combat Shadow airplane loadmaster for the CNG's 129th Rescue Wing, gets a warm welcome from his son and daughter after returning June 10 from a four-month deployment to Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, where wing personnel performed combat search-and-rescue support for Operation Enduring Freedom and Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino

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