

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



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California National Guard Leadership



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- ★ Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference
- ★ If there is a public affairs officer assigned to your unit, ensure he or she reviews it

Photographs:

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



Photo by
Master Sgt. Julie Avey

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, inspect the troops along the U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego County on Aug. 18.

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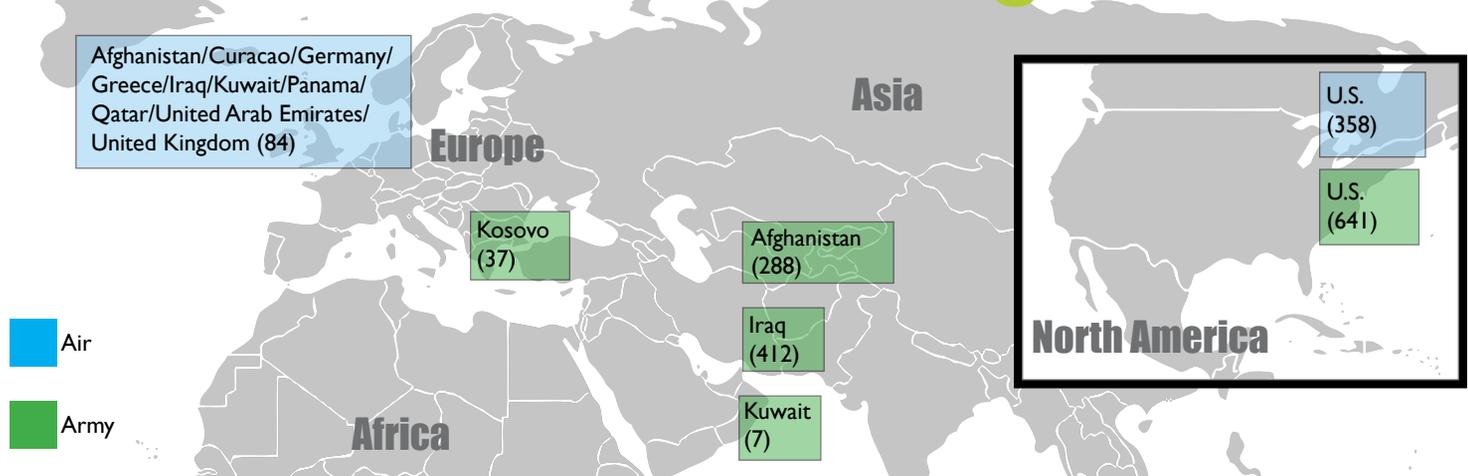
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49th MP Brigade completes Iraq mission

By 1st Lt. William Marquez
49th Military Police Brigade

As part of America's responsible draw-down of its forces in Iraq, the last military police (MP) brigade in Iraq furled its colors July 27 and ended its nationwide police training mission.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, based in Fairfield, Calif., conducted its end-of-mission ceremony in the rotunda of Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Iraq. The ceremony marked the end of a five-year mission for U.S. MP forces.

After the departure of the 49th, the training of Iraqi police by elements of the U.S. MP corps will be decentralized. No longer will a single MP brigade command thousands of Soldiers training Iraqi police who serve at more than 1,200 police stations across Iraq. The remaining MPs tasked with training Iraqi police will now be under the command of various advise-and-assist brigades and maneuver divisions that continue to support Iraq's security forces.

"Your mission across Iraq was daunting, to say the least," said Lt. Gen. Robert W. Cone, deputy commander for operations, United States Forces-Iraq, during the ceremony. "I emphasize 'across Iraq,' because

unlike most brigade-size elements, your mission spanned nearly the whole of Iraq, covering 15 of the 18 provinces."

The 49th also conducted the Police Training Team mission in Iraq in 2005 and 2006, helping train more than 100,000 Iraqi police officers and establishing nationwide standards for measuring the progress of Iraqi police stations.

"Not only does the 49th have the distinction of being the only National Guard MP brigade assigned the training team mission in Iraq, but you have now done it twice," Cone said.

Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, commander of the 49th MP Brigade, was the deputy commander in charge of police training operations when the 49th served in Iraq in 2005 and 2006.

"Four years ago, the security situation was terrible," he said July 27. "The police were not capable, and all we could teach were basic survival and tactical skills.

"During this tour, on the other hand, the security situation is greatly improved," he said. "We were actually able to help them learn techniques of policing in a free society."



Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade, and Robert D. Liles, command sergeant major of the 49th, case the colors at the end of the brigade's Iraq mission July 27 in the rotunda of Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory in Baghdad.

Cone used statistics to back up Currier's assertion of the progress Iraqi police have made since the 49th's previous tour, noting that Iraqi people are now much less likely to suffer attacks from violent extremists.

"In 2007, only 44 percent of the Iraqi people had confidence in the Iraqi police's

ability to provide security," he said. "Today that level has risen to 72 percent.

"This renewed confidence comes from a trust established on the streets and in the neighborhoods of Iraq," Cone continued. "The 49th's Police Training Teams helped build that trust by showing their Iraqi counterparts how to do it right."

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DANIEL YARNALL

Gov greets returning 49th MP Soldiers

By Erin Wetzelberger
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Family and friends gathered Aug. 10 on Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., to greet Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, returning from a one-year deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldiers stepped off their commercial flight to cheers and tears of the flag- and sign-waving crowd assembled at the hangar. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger personally thanked each Soldier as they exited the plane and entered the arms of overjoyed family members.

"This day seemed so long in the future, and it's finally here," Sgt. Brad Daeda said. He plans to work on his new house and take a long road trip across the western United States with his wife, Melissa, and son, Jacob.

Outside the hangar, Dania Soriano helped her 15-month-old daughter, Halia, get reacquainted with her father, Spc. Jose Soriano. The little girl was somewhat shy around her father, whom she had not seen in person since she was barely 3 months old.

"We'd talk to him on Skype," Dania Soriano said, referring to the web-enabled communication platform. "She's used to seeing him on the screen and now she's seeing him in real life."

With time, the returning father's gentle smiles in his daughter's direction were returned. Soriano said he has simple plans now that he's back with his family.

"Sleep," he said with a chuckle, "and go to the park with my daughter, try to catch up on the moments I've missed."

The brigade was responsible for the training of Iraqi police forces and is the last U.S. military police brigade to centrally oversee such training. The 49th also transferred control of the last major U.S.-operated detention facility to Iraqi authorities.

Brig. Gen. Louis J. Antonetti, deputy adjutant general, California Army National Guard, commended the Soldiers for the hard work that went into completing the mission.

"The motto on your brigade crest is 'Pride and Power,'" he said. "Not only should you have pride in what you have done, but you have the power of the entire force that's here with you today."

Antonetti cautioned the returning Soldiers against reckless celebration and impulsive decisions, such as buying a motorcycle.

"Your successes while you were overseas can be overshadowed by one false step of not ensuring that you protect yourself while you're here at home," Antonetti said.

Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, commander of the 49th, credited the support of friends and family in the U.S. for the success of his brigade.

"Know that your Soldiers did an outstanding job. They risked their lives every day for a better Iraq and a more self-secure Iraq



and Middle East," he said. "They were out protecting our nation's interests, and I'm very proud of each and every one of them."

The brigade previously deployed to Iraq in 2005, during which it led three MP battalions, 23 companies and five detachments in military police combat operations throughout the country.

ABOVE: Friends and relatives gather outside a hangar on Travis Air Force Base, Calif., to greet Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, returning from a yearlong deployment Aug. 10. RIGHT: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger greets a 49th MP Soldier upon the unit's return from Iraq.



PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS PAUL WADE

Summer programs spread drug prevention message

By 2nd Lt. Kara M. Siepmann
 Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug

Schools may take a break from formal education during the summer, but for the California National Guard Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug prevention team, it's no time for a vacation. In fact, the summer months are when operations kick into high gear.

Summer camp programs and church-sponsored activities are perfect opportunities to reach kids with a drug prevention message. Youth program organizers request visits from the Joint Task Force prevention instructors because they recognize the positive influence the message has on kids.

Focused on reducing the demand for illegal substances, the prevention team's 10 non-commissioned officers (NCO) are stationed throughout the state to provide support to their regions. Sgt. 1st Class Toby Corder, drug demand reduction representative for the northern California region, stays busy meeting requests to provide instruction to kids. He travels often, some days driving two to three hours to reach a school or camp. But the long drive is worth it.

"When I visit kids, my job is to get them the message and help them become productive kids, and one day productive citizens," Corder said. "That's my own personal motivation."

Corder's region covers seven counties: Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity. He is invited to make return trips to the camps regularly to speak with kids. Much of the prevention effort in northern California rests on his shoulders — a responsibility he happily accepts.

"I represent the prevention message, the community leaders, the military and the Counterdrug program," he said. "I have to put forward the best program I can."

Corder attributes his success over the past five years to the personal relationships he cultivates on a daily basis.

"I know my audience," he said. "I know the parents, the school administrators and the cops in my area."

Sgt. 1st Class John Holihan has been the Sacramento-region drug demand reduction NCO for the past five years. He and Corder have experience working with chil-



ABOVE: Pvt. Jessica Orosco of the 649th Military Police Company plank-walks with incoming freshmen at Orosi High School in Orosi, Calif., during a drug prevention course conducted July 20 by MP Soldiers and members of the CNG Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug. **BELOW:** Sgt. Adam-David Pepper of the Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug shows students the inside of a military vehicle during a drug prevention event.

dren of all ages, and their teaching method involves each child in the learning process, rather than just lecturing.

"You just can't issue orders," said Holihan, who likes to foster a discussion with kids. "These kids are resilient. But they don't always have someone to talk to. I provide someone to talk to, an escape for them."

Helping kids believe in themselves is an important part of the prevention team's job, Corder said.

"Kids don't respond to being told to stay off drugs," he said. "Say no to drugs' is an old message that didn't work. I give them strength to believe in their own goals — to be an athlete, a doctor or service member."

"I empower them to make positive choices in their lives and to understand their actions — whether good or bad."

Interactive conversations are just one ingredient the team employs when trying to reach children. The prevention representatives also lead physical exercises and problem-solving games to help the children get comfortable.

In a world of texting and tweeting, Holihan said, kids can be withdrawn from each other even when sitting in the same room. Social barriers begin to disintegrate during the games and exercises, though, and there's a positive message in each activity, even if the child doesn't realize it.

"They walk away un-

derstanding how teamwork helps them achieve results in that game," Corder said.

A successful prevention program requires more involvement than just talking to children, however.

"We don't just educate kids. We also are involved in community-based organizations which reach out to parents," Corder said. "We run parents classes like a town hall [meeting], where they can come in and ask questions."

Holihan's favorite mission is visiting the local youth correctional facility. Many of the kids have been in trouble with the law for theft or drug abuse, and Holihan looks for innovative ways to motivate them.

"When you present a child with a challenge or a problem, they just want to solve it," he said.

Holihan visits the facility every other week, and regularly visiting the youths has made a difference in their lives.

"The facility staff has told me there are less fights and problems because of my regular involvement," Holihan said.

The job has made a difference in the lives of the prevention team members as well.

"I don't think there's ever been an event with a youth that I haven't left in a good mood," Corder said.

Corder tailors his message to the problems facing his region through a combination of on-the-job experience, formal education and research. To stay up-to-date, Corder's most important tool is the Healthy Kids Survey given every other year to students nationwide

"Kids are brutally honest on [the surveys],"

Corder said.

From their answers, he identifies problems children face in his region. He does not teach an anti-ecstasy program where no ecstasy problem exists, for instance.

In front of his audience, Corder utilizes skills he learned through D.A.R.E. courses offered through the California Police Officer's Association and Stay on Track, a class facilitated by the National Guard Bureau.

"I ask them questions, and they have to answer with more than a 'yes' or 'no,'" Corder said.

As the children begin leading the discussion, he gauges their responses and their knowledge about the topic.

"The [specific drug] problem's pervasiveness is evident on the children's faces," he said. "When I talk, I watch their reactions. They have heard of it, seen it, smelled it."

He continually takes the feedback he receives from students and uses it to improve his style and methods.

"In 3rd grade and below, the message we teach kids is about safety: how to use a crosswalk and understanding stranger-danger and right and wrong," Corder said.

These messages are universal and help kids get through their day safely. As the child grows, the message matures as well. Corder said high school students are often exposed to drugs and alcohol and may have used the substances or know friends who have. Corder reminds them how using drugs and alcohol can hinder their life goals, and he focuses his message on encouraging children to make good choices that will have a positive impact in their lives now and in the future.



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JOSEPH BARKER

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. EMILY SUHR

Governor, CNG leaders visit California border troops

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Task Force Sierra Public Affairs

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and California National Guard leaders visited troops Aug. 18 in San Diego County along the border they will monitor in support of border patrol agents for the next year.

Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, joined the governor at the Otay Mesa site to recognize the efforts of citizen-Soldiers and border patrol agents to ensure homeland security. More than 250 CNG members will participate in the southwest border operation, Joint Task Force Sierra.

Guard members will assist Customs and Border Protection (CPB) in patrolling 60 miles across land and 114 coastal miles, acting as additional eyes and ears to deter drug- and human-trafficking.

California troops are expected to be fully operational on the border by Sept. 1. Earlier this year President Barack Obama called for 1,200 National Guard members to deploy across the four border states to act as reinforcement for CBP and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

One Guardsman said Aug. 18 was his first chance to meet and shake hands with the governor and adjutant general.

"This was very important," said the sergeant, whose name has been withheld for security reasons. "It gives us motivation as we prepare to begin the mission."

Schwarzenegger thanked the Guard members for their service and support, and he added that CBP agents had expressed to him how thankful they were for the Guard's assistance. He said land routes and maritime access will remain a concern for state leaders through the duration of this mission and beyond.

"It's important to remember that this is only the beginning," Schwarzenegger said. "Securing our border has to be the



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger addresses the adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, left, and other California National Guard troops during a visit to the U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego County on Aug. 18. About 250 CNG members will support Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents along the border for the next year.

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY

No. 1 priority — there's no two ways about that."

He noted that he was impressed with the CNG's rapid response to the border call-up; California was the first of the four border states to be mission-ready. Kight said the CNG is proud to contribute to homeland security.

"This showed that we have their 100 percent support on this mission," a CNG staff sergeant said. "Personally, I feel this

mission is a great asset to the country, especially the state of California. I'm glad our leadership recognizes this."

Col. William "Rudy" Arruda, who was appointed Joint Task Force Sierra commander Aug. 18, agreed with the staff sergeant.

"Today's event showed solid support for the mission and solid support for the Guardsmen."

163rd surpasses 50,000 MQ-1 Predator flying hours

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Duquette
163rd Reconnaissance Wing

August 7 was a day just like any other for the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing: A Predator air crew stepped into a ground control station (GCS) at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., to carry out the mission of aiding the men and women in uniform overseas. The crew didn't know, however, they were helping the 163rd reach an Air National Guard milestone of more than 50,000 flying hours with the MQ-1 Predator.

"To put this achievement in perspective, remember that we used to fly the KC-135 Stratotanker 3,000 hours annually," said Col. Randall Ball, commander of the 163rd. "Reaching 50,000 hours in tankers would have taken more than 16 years, and we have done it in the Predator in three years."

The 50,000 hours includes 1,383 training hours flown by the 163rd's Predator Formal Training Unit (FTU). The FTU stood up in March 2009 and to date has trained more than 60 active duty and Air National Guard Predator crews.

In November 2006, the 163rd was the first Air National Guard unit to receive a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) mission.

The 163rd has multiple crews that contributed to the August achievement, but pilot



A Predator flies to restricted airspace during a Flying Training Unit student mission Jan. 6, 2009.

Maj. John Jimenez, sensor operator Tech. Sgt. Chad Jones and mission coordinator Senior Airman Caley Sender were in the seats on the day the wing made history.

"We actually didn't know we were hitting this milestone," said Jones, a 13-year vet-

eran of the 163rd. "It was luck of the draw with scheduling."

Jones began his military career with the 163rd in 1997. Prior to being a sensor operator, he was a boom operator with the refueling mission. He has been a sensor

operator since 2007 and has more than 1,750 hours in the sensor seat.

"Before this mission, we were in a support role with the Stratotanker," he said, "but now with the Predator, I get a greater sense of directly contributing to the troops deployed overseas."

Jimenez is a relatively new RPA pilot with more than 150 hours flying the Predator. Prior to serving the 163rd, he was an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot with the New Mexico Air National Guard.

"One of the reasons why I came to this unit was because I wanted to stay relevant to the combat operations overseas," Jimenez said. "And this milestone just goes to show one of the strengths of this platform, which is persistent air support to the ground troops."

Sender joined the 163rd in 2007 and completed mission coordinator training in 2008.

"I joined the military for a few reasons. One was to serve my country and fight for something I believe in," she said. "I love my job. I really take pride in knowing that what I do here makes a difference to our troops overseas."

40th ID ADT helps launch demonstration farm

Kunar province facility will teach modern methods, technologies

Story by 1st Lt. Robert Parry
Combined Joint Task Force 101

Farmers in an impoverished area of Afghanistan will soon have a classroom for learning productive methods of growing crops.

Mashoqullah Hajji, the Chowkay district agriculture extension manager, planned the demonstration farm, while the funding came from the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) of the California National Guard.

The Chowkay District Demonstration Farm is the first facility of its type in Kunar Province. ADT Commander Col. Eric Grimm said it offers people whose farming techniques have not changed in hundreds of years an opportunity to see modern methods and technologies in action.

"This demonstration farm is the first of several facilities we are launching throughout Kunar province to show farmers things that they can do to grow more abundant, healthier and profitable crops," Grimm said.

"Things like planting corn in furrows to get each stalk more nutrients will increase the productivity of their land and allow them to use some land to grow forage to feed to their livestock," he continued. "That will

address another problem that is widespread in Kunar — livestock malnutrition."

In addition to furrows and forage crops, the farm will demonstrate the advantages of different types of seed that the ADT is hoping to introduce into Kunar; methods for lifting and storing water; and irrigation methods other than flooding, which Afghan farmers traditionally use.

"The new seed we delivered is designed for drought-like environments, and it grows shorter, which helps prevent attacks on coalition troops," said Sgt. Jason Stevens, a Lynchburg, Va., native and an orchardist for the ADT. "As companies begin to introduce this seed into Kunar, it is important that farmers see exactly how much more valuable it can be for them to use."

Grimm said the ADT selected Chowkay district for the first Kunar demonstration farm because it is central to the province, allowing many people to see its techniques on display, and because the district is well-run and secure, increasing the likelihood that it will be successful. Additional facilities are planned for other districts throughout the province.



Sgt. Jason Stevens, an orchardist with the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team and a native of Lynchburg, Va., inspects the soil on the Chowkay district demonstration farm July 19 in Afghanistan. This is the first demonstration farm built by the ADT in Kunar province and will be used to show local farmers alternative methods of planting to help increase crop production in the area.

"Ultimately, by showing folks better ways of farming, we hope to give the people of Kunar a path to economic freedom that

will improve their quality of life and enable them to better resist the influence of extremists in the region," Grimm said.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. NATHAN LIPSCOMB

Khas Kunar takes over for ADT, conducts VETCAP

Story by 1st Lt. Robert Parry
Combined Joint Task Force 101

In a significant sign of progress, the government of Khas Kunar district in Kunar province, Afghanistan, executed a veterinary civic action program (VETCAP) with minimal assistance from coalition forces July 13 in the village of Haquimabad.

VETCAPs have been planned and executed throughout Kunar province by the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team (ADT), with various local government officials attending in a learning capacity, according to Maj. Mike Leeney, executive officer for the ADT.

In the first five months of 2010, the team executed about 15 VETCAPs, often treating more than 1,000 livestock in a day. Their high was 3,000 in a day in Khas Kunar district in March — a day that required the ADT to request a quick reaction force to deliver additional supplies. However, Leeney said, the ADT's focus all along was on training the local government to do the job themselves.

"The number of animals we treated was irrelevant," Leeney said. "The only important thing was our effect in improving the local government's ability to provide services to the people."

"Often we'd get so focused on providing the service that we had to remind ourselves what the real task was and its desired effect: a better government for the people of Kunar province."



Afghan workers hold a cow as a local veterinarian administers medication during the first veterinary civic action program run by the Kunar provincial government, June 13 in Khas Kunar district.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. NATHAN LIPSCOMB

Realizing the need to shift operations to the local government, ADT Commander Col. Eric Grimm decided the unit would no longer execute VETCAPs and would only serve as a mentoring and resourcing force for the local governments. The first district to be the focus of this new model was Khas Kunar, the same district that saw the overwhelming 3,000-animal day.

In a change from previous practice, which used a dedicated Afghan Veterinarians'

Association (AVA) team, the Khas Kunar officials hired local veterinarians and only used AVA personnel for additional help. The Khas Kunar vets inoculated animals against eight diseases and against parasites common throughout the province.

"We have never received this kind of service from our government," said Ahmad Zia, son of a Haquimabad village elder. "We are very pleased with the district government."

On the morning of June 13, Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, worked with Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police personnel to establish security in Haquimabad, while district and provincial officials set up the site. ADT Soldiers arrived later to deliver medicines and ensure the set-up was effective, but they quickly discovered their presence was largely unnecessary.

"The district government had really done a great job," said Sgt. 1st Class Elias Medina of the ADT. "We had to make only minor adjustments, primarily because the area they'd cordoned off was too large, which is a mistake we've made more than once."

"As soon as they started letting animals in, we were standing around with nothing to do," Medina continued. "They were capable and prepared and executing well, so we left within an hour."

By the end of the day, 1,600 livestock had received inoculations and medical evaluations. In all aspects of the operation, the Afghan government leaned forward to execute, the ADT Soldiers said.

"Just after we arrived, we set up a tactical checkpoint," Sgt. Jeffrey Johanson said. "A team of Afghan National Army Soldiers came over and motioned for us to leave: 'We got this,' they said."

"It was clear they were taking pride in doing the job themselves and doing it right."



During Operation Trident in July, the California National Guard Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug and more than 21 other government agencies confiscated \$1.7 billion worth of marijuana, 33 miles of irrigation pipe and many other items that threatened California’s residents and its treasured forests.

Reclaiming the land

Tri-country marijuana-eradication mission takes back 303 acres of National Forest

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler
 Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The once-pristine forests enjoyed by California’s campers, hikers and naturalists have turned into one of the Golden State’s prime battlegrounds as illegal marijuana growers ravage our National Forest land.

The California National Guard’s Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug joined more than 21 federal, state and local agencies in July to eradicate illegally grown marijuana on public lands in Fresno, Madera and Tulare counties, reclaim the damaged forest and educate youths about positive choices and a drug-free lifestyle.

The bright, lush green of six-foot cannabis plants stood out from the rest of the foliage as a California Air National Guard HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter circled low above a manicured grow-site in Tulare County. The aircraft slowly settled into a tight and precarious landing zone. As the dust settled and the rotors slowed, a multi-agency team exited the helicopter and prepared for a hike on a trail almost unperceivable to the average hiker — a mistake that often leads unsuspecting visitors to illegal grow-sites and frequently violence.

“Drug traffickers who operate large marijuana grows on public lands in the Sierra Foothills despoil the environment and pose a safety threat to hikers, campers and other persons who use our parks and National Forests,” U.S. Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner said.

Water once destined for the forest’s plant and animal life is often stolen from streams and diverted to grow-sites through miles of irrigation pipe. Also at many sites, large water reservoirs are dug and sealed with tarps.

The water is then altered with growth stimulants, insecticides and concentrated fertilizer, which is fed to the plants through

elaborate drip systems that run through the grow-sites like complex spider webs.

“The growers are dangerous. They pollute our waters, they pollute our National Forests,” a member of a CNG ground tactical team said during Operation Trident in July. The names of some Operation Trident participants have been withheld for security reasons. “Any day we can get this stuff out of the National Forest, it’s a success.”

Drug traffickers often scar the forest with indiscriminate excavation and abandon piles of garbage, fertilizer and pesticides — often with ingredients illegal in this country — to seep into the forest floor. Multi-agency teams work in the forests to clear marijuana plants, remove contaminants and reclaim the land. It is difficult and tedious work, and the agencies are often assisted by volunteers who wish to reverse the damage done to the forest.

“They decimated the land,” a National Park Service tactical team leader said. “The growers clear-cut the underbrush and dug large holes for the plants. They surrounded the gardens with barbed wire to keep the animals out. We’ve seen large amounts of fertilizer, pesticides and evidence of poaching. ... We even rescued an emaciated dog.”

Field kitchens and living quarters found near the sites often suggest that growers stay in the forest for an entire six-month growing season. Many growers have recently updated their communications abilities with pre-paid cellular phones and solar chargers.

“Operation Trident is focused on armed drug smugglers who bring with them the dangers and violence associated with drug trafficking,” said Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims.

| Operation Trident | |
|----------------------|------------|
| SEIZURES | |
| Marijuana plants | 465,112 |
| Processed marijuana | 499 lbs. |
| Cocaine | 74 oz. |
| Methamphetamine | 49 oz. |
| U.S. Currency | \$1,450 |
| Weapons | 33 |
| Vehicles | 2 |
| Trash | 16.55 tons |
| Irrigation line | 33 miles |
| Fertilizer | 5,630 lbs. |
| Arrests | 96 |
| RECLAMATION | |
| Public land affected | 303 acres |

“These organized crime organizations don’t just grow marijuana on our public lands. They continue their criminal conduct during the off-season with other illegal drug and violent activities in our local communities.”

Operation Trident resulted in more than 100 arrests and the seizure of nearly 500,000 marijuana plants with a street value of about \$1.7 billion.

649th MPs aid Counterdrug efforts

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr
224th Sustainment Brigade

On a three-digit temperature July day near Springville, Calif., a group of Soldiers clad in Kevlar helmets and black harnesses boarded a Pave Hawk helicopter and took to the skies. Minutes later, the helicopter came to a stop and hovered high above the ground. From the sky, only treetops and a small open field — large enough for only two Soldiers to be lowered into — were visible. But as the two-person team descended from the aircraft on a hoist cable, broken trees, an abandoned makeshift camp site and piles of garbage came into view.

The broken trees and foliage led the way into what once was an illicit marijuana grow-site on public land. It will be the Soldiers' job, working in conjunction with members of 21 government agencies, to reclaim this land as part of Operation Trident.

For three weeks this summer, members of the California Army National Guard's 649th Military Police Company from San Luis Obispo, Calif., joined forces with Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug (JTFDS—CD) and other local and national agencies to help combat the effects of illegal marijuana growth in California's public forests in Fresno, Madera and Tulare counties.

"Illicit marijuana production on public lands is a huge problem throughout our county and participating counties," said Lt. Rick Ko, a member of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department and the incident commander for Operation Trident. "It is becoming a problem statewide and is probably going to grow into a national problem. It affects people who want to engage in recreational activities on public lands like hunting, fishing, camping and hiking."

Seventy-five percent of the nation's marijuana is grown in California, much of it on public land, Ko said, which can lead to dangerous confrontations with armed growers as well as severe environmental damage.

"These organizations are using pesticides and chemicals that are dangerous to the environment," Ko said. "They are polluting the watershed and destroying the land and habitat for animals."

To help combat the growing problem, the three counties' sheriffs departments called in law-enforcement and land-management agencies ranging from the U.S. Forest Service to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"We really don't have the money to go take care of this problem," Ko said, "so when you start pulling all the resources from the Forest Service, the Parks Service, Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, the three participating sheriff's departments, the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting and the National Guard, then you have enough resources to really address the problem and find permanent solutions."

Though many of these agencies have participated in this type of widespread eradication and clean-up effort in the past few years, including JTFDS—CD, this was the first time an entire National Guard unit stepped up to help out. For their annual training this year, approximately 120 Soldiers of the 649th MP Company assisted in prevention measures, officer safety during highway interdiction efforts and clean-up.

"As a commander, I'm ecstatic about this entire thing and the opportunities it provides to our unit and our Soldiers," said 1st Lt. Troy Jarrett, commander of the 649th.

The MP Soldiers provided a unique skill set that other volunteers can't. Because they are trained military police authorized to carry weapons, they were able to ride along with civilian law enforcement agents and provide security for the officers during highway interdiction missions. Using information provided by an intelligence team, law enforcement officers stopped suspicious vehicles and checked for evidence of marijuana growing or trafficking.

The MPs also assisted in reclamation missions. Once an illegal marijuana grow site is discovered, an eradication team goes in and chops down all the plants. The growers are either arrested or escape into the dense woods, leaving behind an environmental nightmare. Makeshift irrigation pipes are often used to redirect river water to the grow sites, and pesticides and chemicals

are left behind.

"The reclamation team will come and ... take all the irrigation out, pick up all [the growers'] left-behind clothes, toothbrushes, razors, soap," said Sgt. Noah Dawson of the 649th. "They'll take that all out and try to re-beautify the land back to the most natural state they possibly can."

Despite their efforts, some things cannot be fixed, such as downed trees used for camouflage, or burrow sites and mangled bushes used for sleeping.

"Only time is going to fix that, but all-in-all it looks 100 percent better than when you first get there," Dawson added.

The MPs spend anywhere from a few hours to a few days clearing out each grow site.

"It's not a bad mission, but it's a hard mission," Dawson said. Like most of his colleagues, he had never performed a mission like this one before. "You have to get in there and be willing to get dirty and put in the work, put in the man-hours. It's definitely good for the community and for the U.S."

Many of the MP Soldiers were also part of a prevention team. After learning techniques for teaching leadership and teamwork from full-time JTFDS—CD members, the MPs went to schools and talked to high school freshmen about staying off drugs. Other 649th Soldiers acted in support, doing jobs such as communications, security, kitchen duty and administrative duties.

Having the 649th join the mission this year has proven to be a huge success, Ko said, though the Soldiers themselves may have benefitted the most.

"I'm part of something so big," Pfc. Natalie Church said. "I feel important, helping to do good things for my community. I grew up here. It makes me feel good about the mission."

Two Soldiers from the San Luis Obispo, Calif.-based 649th Military Police Company are lowered into a hidden marijuana grow-site July 15 in Tulare County, Calif., during Operation Trident.



Though eradication is an important part of the CNG task force's duties, its primary goal is to prevent Californians from using drugs through education. The task force's prevention team spent July interacting with youths in central California.

"Our program [provides] youth-based educational activities designed to reduce first-time use of illicit drugs," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Payne, officer-in-charge of the prevention team. "We provide education to parents, teachers and community leaders."

The task force's prevention activities for children and adults continue year-round throughout California.

"I am proud of the men and women of the California National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, adjutant general of the California National Guard. "The efforts they have made during Operation Trident have proven again the ability of the California National Guard to work hand-in-hand with other agencies throughout the state, to rid our National Forest of illegal marijuana, restore the damaged forest land and, perhaps most importantly, to educate and positively influence the youth of our great state."



Master Sgt. Bill Gates, vice chairman of the 40th Infantry Division Korean War Veterans Association, and Brig. Gen. Scott W. Johnson, commander of the 40th ID, view the recently restored monument to Korean War veterans on Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Gates, a former World War II and Korean War Veteran, raised money through the Korean War Veterans Association to restore the monument, which had fallen into disrepair since its installation in 2001.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Yvonne Najera



ABOVE: Soldiers of the 224th Special Operations Aviation Squadron, based 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Brigade, participate in a transfer-of-authority ceremony on Vandenberg Air Force Base. Nicole Balliet, commander of the 224th SOAS, is the incoming garrison commander, and Brig. Gen. Scott W. Johnson is the outgoing commander for the mission to provide base support for the 141st IB.

Photos by 1st Lt. Nathan Lavy



A casing flies free as Cadet Yaroslav Pavlov of the 40th Infantry Division qualifies at the M4 range during annual training on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. Photo by Staff Sgt. Yvonne Najera



Participants in the 2010 Best Warrior Competition complete an Army Physical Fitness Test at Fort Benning, Ga., on July 30. Staff Sgt. Michael East of the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team earned a spot in the competition by winning the California Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition and the Army National Guard Region 7 NCO of the Year contest.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy

At a Glance



Special Troops Battalion, left, watch as leaders of the Weslaco, Texas-based 185th Armor Regiment, case their colors July 29 during a garrison command ceremony at the Contingency Operating Base (COB) Adder, Iraq. LEFT: Lt. Col. Long Beach, Calif.-based 224th Special Troops Battalion and dresses her troops on COB Adder after assuming responsibility for support and infrastructure to one of the largest COBs in Iraq.



Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, congratulates Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado during an award presentation Aug. 25 at the Capitol in Sacramento. Maldonado was recognized with the Patriot Award and the Above and Beyond Award by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for providing exceptional support to citizen-Soldiers. "Lieutenant Governor Maldonado's commitment to deployed service members is important," Kight said. "It's equally important that we, as service members, recognize employers like Lieutenant Governor Maldonado for their support." First Lieutenant Rito Guerra of 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, worked as Maldonado's district representative when Maldonado was a senator. Guerra was on military leave from his job for 20 months for military education and a deployment to Iraq, and he stressed how important it was to know he had a job waiting for him when he returned. "Without Lieutenant Governor Maldonado's support, it would've been difficult to focus on the mission," he said.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. David Loeffler



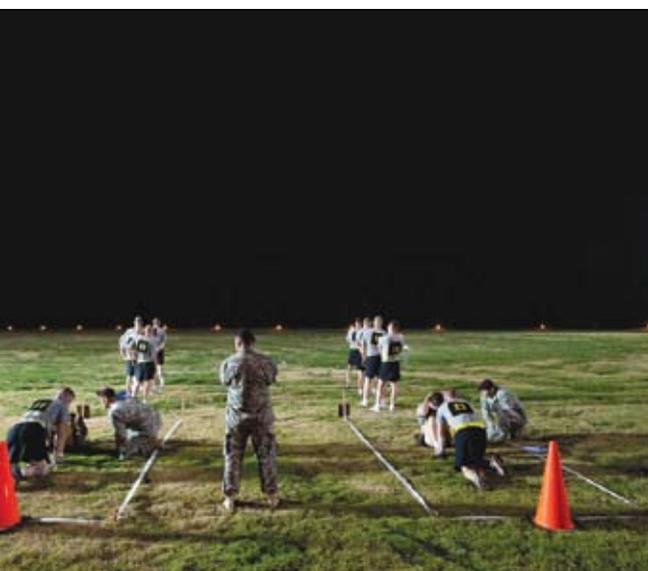
Members of the California National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Force Package Team arrive on the scene of a mock parking garage collapse during the Vigilant Guard Guam exercise on Aug. 25.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Vaughn



LEFT: Staff Sgt. Jesus Mata directs an F-16C Fighting Falcon from the California National Guard's 144th Fighter Wing at Kona International Airport, Hawaii, on July 13. Wing members were in Hawaii supporting Rim of the Pacific 2010, the world's largest multinational maritime exercise. BELOW: Four pilots with the 194th Fighter Squadron, 144th Fighter Wing, walk to their F-16C Fighting Falcon aircraft July 15 during the biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Chris Drudge



Brig. Gen. Antonetti leaves legacy of service, leadership

**Q&A by Maj. Marlena DeCelle
California National Guard Army Division**

Brig. Gen. Louis J. Antonetti, the deputy adjutant general, California Army National Guard, will retire this year after a distinguished 39-year career. Antonetti previously served as the commander of the California Army National Guard, commanding a force of nearly 17,000 Soldiers. Antonetti leaves a legacy of leadership, advocacy for Soldiers and lifelong service to the state of California and the nation.



Q: You entered the Army as a private and retired as a brigadier general. Why did you choose the path you took and what were your motivating factors?

BG Antonetti: I was an impressionable 7-year-old during the midst of the Cold War in Santa Cruz, California, and there was a local cleaners route driver who would mention the reason for his periodic absences from his daily deliveries to attend military training. I had an uncle, a young California Army National Guard armor officer, who would proudly wear his starched uniform while not allowing anyone to touch his gear. The final seed was planted while attending a Veterans Day parade and a tank rolled by with the tank commander standing tall. I then enlisted and served as a private armor crewman. Once in, I knew the Army was my opportunity to grow and have fun. I decided to make it my career. I knew that leading and managing was the right thing to do. I have always lived by the words of my first company commander: "Play the game, wear the uniform proud, and never be late."

Q: I know you are going to miss the Army. Do you think the Army will miss you?

LEFT: Second Lieutenant Louis J. Antonetti receives The Erickson Award from Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1973 for demonstrating the greatest academic and leadership ability in his class throughout Officer Candidate School. **RIGHT:** First Lieutenant Antonetti, center, takes a break from training on Fort Irwin, Calif., in 1977 with members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 149th Armor Regiment.

BG Antonetti: There were many leaders before me, and others will follow me. Our Army will continue to do great things, be strong and persevere. No one is indispensable and someone else will always step-up. My issue is the legacy that I leave through selfless service, in which I have dedicated two-thirds of my life. I will miss the people — our Soldiers and families. I will not miss all the meetings and my Blackberry [cellular phone]. The Army has grown; our National Guard has grown. As a National Guard, we have grown over the last 373 years from a strategic reserve to a professional, active partnership with our service components. It's not about me; it's the Soldiers, their families and what we have become. We can't let it go back to how it was.

Q: What gives you courage as a leader? How do you make the tough decisions?

BG Antonetti: A leader is someone who has competence, self-trust, and belief in knowing what right looks like, and will develop others to follow the same path. Courage entails the convictions to stay on that path. If no one follows, a person cannot lead. A leader must lead from the front while keeping an eye on the rear. I have tried to be an effective leader that quickly analyzes the situation, assesses the resources and makes a





Louis J. Antonetti enjoys his promotion to brigadier general Aug. 7, 2003, with his wife, Trish, five daughters and son-in-law after.

decision while maintaining the courage and conviction to right a wrong when a mistake has been made. Take the hard right over the easy wrong. Looking back, I would not have done anything different.

Q: Why do you think Soldiers are staying with the Army today, despite the stresses we currently face?

BG Antonetti: Beyond the adventure, the patriotism and the money and benefits, I believe it is because we want to belong to something meaningful. There is a tradition that binds us all together. It is what a person feels when they hear the national anthem played and see our nation's colors flying. It is a feeling of duty, honor, country.

Q: You seem to have mastered balancing a great family life with successful, dedicated service. Any words of advice for Soldiers and their family members?

BG Antonetti: Behind every good Soldier is a good spouse. My wife understood the Army's importance and what it means to serve. She knows that despite where the Army may take me, I will always come home to her. We kept open communications. When at home, I did not bring my work home with me. I tried to buffer my daily troubles from my family. She raised our five daughters and passed that strength down to them. If you don't have love, understanding, mutual respect and communication, you will have a weakness in your family. A great leader once said, "When you leave the Army, you should leave with memories, friends, family and your integrity. At the end, if you have all four, you did well. If you leave with three of these, you did good. If you leave without your family, you failed." I can say that I did well. I am leaving happy.

A distinguished career

Brig. Gen. Louis J. Antonetti's military career began when he enlisted in the California National Guard in January 1970 as a private. Since 2002 he has served as deputy adjutant general, resource services division, responsible to the adjutant general for management and supervision of state and federal programs. Upon being appointed as deputy adjutant general, Antonetti's first challenge was to overcome a nearly \$1 million budget deficit in the Joint Staff division. Between August 2002 and February 2003, he instituted a series of budget reductions, personnel realignments and fiscal policies that restored the division to fiscal solvency without impacting the California Military Department's state or federal mission. Antonetti spearheaded an organizational restructuring of the Office of the Adjutant General that streamlined working relationships and provided a more rapid response by National Guard forces for state or federal emergencies without incurring additional costs.

Prior to taking that position, Antonetti attended the National War College from July 2000 through July 2001. While there he participated with other senior leaders in publishing a comprehensive report, "Combating Terrorism in a Globalized World." This was used as background material by the National Security Council in the formulation of U.S. strategy for combating domestic terrorism. Antonetti was awarded a Master of Science in National Security Strategy upon completion.

From April 1992 to June 2000, Antonetti served as deputy director and then director of plans, operations and security for the California Military Department. During that time, he redesigned and automated the Joint Emergency Operations Center. He also authored the National Guard Bureau's Handbook on Civil Disturbance Training and Response, which defines the role of military forces in domestic emergencies. He planned and directed National Guard support to civil authorities during eight federally declared disasters and more than 700 responses to emergencies in California.

Antonetti served as the National Guard's liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency from January through September 1999, when he was responsible for developing and publishing the national response plan for Y2K. This plan encompassed preparation and response to potential adverse effects on critical U.S. infrastructure.

From February 1995 to September 1999, Antonetti served as director of the National Interagency Civil Military Institute. He coordinated the activities of the joint military/civilian faculty, which developed a curriculum to provide strategic, management and operational training and research for military and civilian leaders to enable better cooperation between response agencies during emergencies. As the senior faculty member, Antonetti led the development team that produced the Community Response Emergency Simulation Training (CREST) program, a computer simulation and training module that provides military and civilian leaders with an instructional course in consequence-management for a terrorist incident within the United States.

Antonetti's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Silver Hourglass), Army Service Ribbon, California Medal of Merit, California Commendation Medal, State Service Ribbon (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster) and Hawaii Commendation Medal.

Antonetti's career was made possible by the selfless service of his dedicated wife of 38 years, Trish, and his five daughters, son-in-law and granddaughter.



79TH IBCT SPANS THREE CENTURIES



Since 1881, the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team has protected the state and the nation

By Retired Lt. Col. Danny M. Johnson
California State Military Museum

The 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) is the California National Guard's largest combat formation. The IBCT, which has about 3,400 Soldiers, is the Army's lightest brigade combat team and is organized around restricted terrain.

The brigade combat team is the Army's basic tactical maneuver unit and is the smallest combined arms unit that can be committed independently. The brigade combat team is designed to conduct offensive, defensive and stability operations. The core mission is to close with the enemy by means of fire and to maneuver to destroy or capture enemy forces, or to repel attacks by fire, close combat and counterattack.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 79th IBCT, is one of the newest brigade-size units in the California Army National Guard. The 79th inherited a colorful history that dates to October 1881 in San Diego and includes two wars on two continents. The number 79 is familiar to the California National Guard: During World War I, the 40th Division (later the 40th Infantry Division) included two infantry brigades: the 80th from California and the 79th from Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico.

To trace the history of the 79th IBCT, one must go back to Oct. 12, 1881, when the San Diego City Guard was formed as part of the California National Guard. The unit comprised 87 members.

The early 1900s ushered in a new era for the unit. Due to World War I, the unit was drafted into federal service in August 1917 and became 5th Company, Coast Defenses of San Diego, at Fort Rosecrans, Calif.

The unit was reorganized and redesignated while mobilized in January 1918 as Battery B, 2nd Anti-aircraft Battalion, at Fort MacArthur, Calif. The battalion served in France from June through December 1918, taking part in the St.

Mihiel Campaign from Sept. 12-16 and the Meuse-Argonne Campaign from Sept. 26-Nov. 11.

The 251st Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-aircraft) was inducted into federal service in early 1940. The 251st became the first National Guard unit to leave the continental United States for overseas duty in World War II. The unit earned campaign streamers for the Central Pacific and Northern Solomons campaigns, and it received the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation. The 251st was inactivated in December 1945.

Between 1959 and 1971 the unit transitioned from an anti-aircraft artillery brigade to an artillery group and then to an armor unit. In January 1974, the unit changed again to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and moved to Los Alamitos, Calif. The headquarters relocated to San Diego in January 1981. It was later federally activated for eight days in 1992 during riots in Los Angeles.

HHC, 2nd Brigade, was mobilized from 2003 to 2004, when the brigade commander served as the commander of Task Force Guardian, a 7,500-Soldier brigade in support of Operation Noble Eagle III at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, providing additional force protection for 88 Army and Air Force Installations across the 21 western states. Eighty members of the unit were ordered again into federal service in August 2005 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit reverted to state control in February 2006.

In September 2007, as the Army created brigade combat teams, HHC, 2nd Brigade, 40th Infantry Division, was reorganized and redesignated as HHC, 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The 40th IBCT wore the former insignia of the 40th Armored Brigade. A year later in September 2008, the brigade was redesignated the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and received a new shoulder patch and unit insignia. The unit's name and patch have changed, but the Soldiers continue to carry on the unit's proud history of service and valor.



PHOTO BY PFC. NEVADA J. SMITH

By The Numbers

129

The numbers of years since the San Diego Guard first mustered. The unit continues its lineage as the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Perspective

"The United States faces a complex and uncertain security landscape in which the pace of change continues to accelerate. ... U.S. forces must be sized and shaped to provide the maximum possible versatility for the broadest plausible range of conflicts."

— U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates

Armed Forces Fact

The 251st Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-aircraft) was the first National Guard unit to leave the continental United States for overseas duty in World War II. The unit, which is part of the history of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, earned campaign streamers for the Central Pacific and Northern Solomons campaigns, and it received the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.



163rd FTU trains Guard forces using MQ-1 JTACs

By Staff Sgt. Paul Duquette
163d Reconnaissance Wing

The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing stayed on the leading edge of technology by providing MQ-1 Predator pilots and sensor operators realistic close air support training with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) during student sorties Aug. 7 at the formal training unit (FTU) on March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

"During this first sortie, we are proving the concept works," said Lt. Col. Thomas Pritchard, commander of the FTU. "In the future, we will be able to work with any Air National Guard unit that needs JTAC training."

This Aug. 7 exercise involved Air National Guard units from Louisiana and Pennsylvania. The role of a JTAC is to give attack-clearance to the Predator crew, so they can fire a Hellfire missile at ground targets.

"Through the use of technology, our video feed and chat communications are transmitted to these units," Pritchard said. "This allows the JTAC to work directly with the student crews at the FTU, giving them a realistic actor during their training scenario. This is exactly the way we fight in the [area of responsibility]."

Previously this interaction was simulated by FTU instructors during every training scenario. During the JTAC exercise, all the scenarios were based on simulated ground operations taking place at the Army National Training Center, which is a restricted area north of Southern California Logistics Airport.

"The Army does pre-deployment training at this facility," Pritchard said. "The FTU students benefit from the Army's scenarios, which add to the realism of their training. This is the most realistic training that we can possibly give."



During the exercise, the 163rd FTU also participated in the nationwide Green Flag exercise, which focused on electronic combat training to prepare U.S. forces to fight in a high-tech combat environment.

ABOVE: Lt. Col. Jeffrey Linehan, 163rd Reconnaissance Wing Predator pilot and Formal Training Unit (FTU) instructor, trains a student pilot and sensor operator during Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) training Aug. 7 at March Air Force Base, Calif. **RIGHT:** Mission coordinator Master Sgt. David Respicio works with JTACs from across the country during a training sortie.



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. PAUL DUQUETTE

Senior leaders strengthen ties at annual conference

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Kara M. Siepmann
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

More than 150 Army and Air component senior leaders and spouses gathered on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., for this year's Senior Leadership Conference and Spouses Workshop on Aug. 13.

Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, started off the day's presentations by welcoming her senior commanders.

"We become stronger as we come closer together," Kight said. This was her first conference as the adjutant general.

Opening remarks were given by Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas, commander of the California Air National Guard, and Brig. Gen. (CA) Louis J. Antonetti, deputy adjutant general, California Army National Guard.

The California National Guard's state and federal legislative goals were outlined to the group, and breakout sessions were held throughout the day that covered the CNG's Southwest border mission, the veterans benefit program Operation Welcome Home, family readiness, mentorship, community engagement and other topics.

"I'm glad they're covering mentoring and suicide awareness," said Command Sgt. Maj. Burdette Shields of the 100th Troop

Command. "When we're so focused on missions, we can lose sight of Soldiers and their families."

Some of Shields' concerns were also addressed down the street at the Spouses Workshop led by Linda Harrel, wife of Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard.

For 31 years, Linda Harrel has been an involved military spouse. Drawing from that experience, she led a discussion of current issues with 15 other spouses. The workshop gave Harrel an opportunity to find out what senior leaders' spouses want and need, she said.

"We want to do everything we can to provide tools to support our husbands," Harrel said. "But we also want to maintain and support a good family life."

That balance was center-stage during all of the presentations. Military etiquette issues, family readiness and community relations were also primary focuses.

Members of the Joint Force Headquarters protocol office facilitated many of the discussions.

"Understanding protocol helps the spouses feel more comfortable in a military en-



Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., the California National Guard's senior enlisted adviser, and Col. Dennis S. Sarkisian, staff director for the California Air National Guard, present an update on Air Guard performance during the Senior Leadership Conference on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., in August.

vironment," said Irma Garrett, chief of protocol.

"And after all, etiquette is about making people feel comfortable," Harrel told the attendees.

Following the conference and workshop,

spouses and senior leaders from around the state had the opportunity to meet and mingle.

"We're creating an organization greater than the sum of its parts," said Brig. Gen. Lawrence A. Haskins, assistant adjutant general. "That's what 'Joint' is all about."

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAN KACIR



Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley flies aboard a 129th Rescue Squadron helicopter June 15 during a visit to Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., to observe a test launch of the intercontinental ballistic missile Minuteman III.

SecAF flies with 129th RQS

By Airman 1st Class Jessica Green
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley flew with members of the 129th Rescue Squadron (RQS) during a visit to Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., on June 15 to tour the base and observe a test launch of Minuteman III, an intercontinental ballistic missile.

After visiting the 14th Air Force Joint Space Operations Center and being briefed on current and upcoming missions by 14th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Larry James, Donley got a lift from a 129th RQS HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter for an aerial base tour.

"We got notice of the request within a few days," said Lt. Col. Rhys Hunt, a Pave Hawk pilot with the 129th RQS. "Everyone came together to get the aircraft ready and available to fly the distinguished visitor."

"The base is huge, about 26,000 acres of launch sites, installations and space missile facilities," Hunt said. "The best way to give the tour was by helicopter."

While flying over the Santa Barbara County base, Donley had an opportunity to view Vandenberg's Space Launch Complex-6, nicknamed "Slick Six," a 132-acre complex modified to handle the expendable launch vehicle Delta IV.

"After we flew down to Slick Six, I had the opportunity to give the Secretary our squadron coin and a 'Pedro' patch to commemorate the five [active-duty] Airmen recently killed in Helmand [province, Afghanistan]," Hunt said. "We had flown the same area last summer."

In May 2009 approximately 100 Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing deployed to southern Afghanistan. The service members stood rescue alert at Kandahar Airfield, Tarin Kowt and Camp Bastion in Helmand province.

Flying under the call sign Pedro, 129th air crew, pararescuemen and support personnel provided round-the-clock personnel recovery and combat casualty evacuation support to coalition forces. All 129th personnel returned.

"Those [active-duty] Pedros were our buddies," Hunt said. "We only lost a helicopter over there; they lost their lives."

Donley thanked the Airmen for their service after he paused to recognize the fallen Pedro Airmen, said Maj. Thomas Roberts, a Pave Hawk pilot with the 129th.

"I think his visit proved that what Vandenberg does is a big deal for our country, and they need support," Roberts said. "It also gave the 129th a chance to connect with active duty counterparts for a better future working relationship."

PHOTO BY SPC. GLEN BAKER



Capt. William Mendelsohn, commander of the 224th Sustainment Brigade, applies a combat patch to the uniform of Master Sgt. Jason Delmundo during a ceremony June 17 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Dragonslayers earn combat patch

By 224th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

More than 300 Soldiers from the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), received combat patches July 17 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

"It's a very momentous day for the Dragonslayers," said Capt. William Mendelsohn, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 224th Sustainment Brigade. "Someday you'll be able to put your grandchildren on your knee and tell them about your service in Iraq."

"It's an honor to lead these fine Soldiers."

The Soldiers were awarded the patch after serving overseas in Iraq for more than 30 days.

"It's like a validation, a rite of passage," said Command Sgt. Maj. Vickie Dunlap-Jones. "It's following my predecessors in defense of our country and our president and fulfilling the ob-

ligation I swore to when I first enlisted."

The 224th will provide sustainment support to elements in southern and western Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn into the first half of 2011.

"Anytime you get a combat patch, it shows the sacrifice you made for the country," said 1st Sgt. Brian Barkins, who has earned 11 combat patches. "Whether it's your first or your last combat patch, it's always memorable. I always enjoy seeing Soldiers getting their first combat patch."

Supply specialist Pfc. Kenny Estrada said he feels like he is really part of the unit now.

"It means I can go home and show that I did my service not only to my unit, but to my country," added Sgt. Ricardo Adame, retention noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 224th.

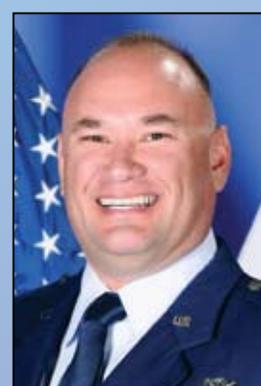
AWARDS AND HONORS

Two California National Guard members have been awarded the 2010 League of United Latin American Citizens Military Meritorious Service Award

Staff Sgt. Elisa Bernal's outstanding performance in her duties and volunteer efforts have impacted and enhanced the image of a Guard Soldier with Latin American roots. She deployed with the 40th Infantry Division for 18 months to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, where she was tasked as primary command color guard, representing the California National Guard in various ceremonies for incoming commands. Bernal has undertaken three additional duties as her unit's equal opportunity leader, unit prevention leader for the substance abuse program, and special emphasis program manager for the CNG's Hispanic Employment Program.



Capt. Leonard Lujan Jr. has distinguished himself through exemplary duty in the California Air National Guard and his local community. Deployed as the logistics and resources officer-in-charge, Lujan was assigned to the 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lujan later volunteered to deploy to Kandahar, Afghanistan, for 45 days to assist security forces and other U.S. and coalition assets during a 20,000-troop buildup. During his deployment, he donated time and supplies for the Kyrgyz Habitat for Humanity.





Executive Personnel Council Results, Fourth Quarter FY10

All officers must complete their pre-command course before they assume command.

Staff

Colonel David S. Baldwin, Chief of Staff, Joint, JFHQ, is reassigned as Senior Mentor, JFHQ (mobilized) and will deploy with 2/34IBCT to OEF, effective 1 Jul 10.

Colonel Matthew P. Beevers, Commander, 100th TC (M-Day), concurrent assignment as the Full-time Unit Support (FTUS) J3, JFHQ, effective 1 Jul 10.

Colonel Sylvia R. Crockett, J3, JFHQ, reassigned to Chief of Staff, Military Department effective 1 Jul 10.

Colonel Grace E. Edinboro, Deputy Commander, 49th MP Brigade, transferred to J5, JFHQ, effective 1 Dec 10.

Colonel Nathaniel S. Reddicks (ANG), FTUS Vice Chief of Staff, Joint, JFHQ, reassigned to FTUS Chief of Staff, Joint, JFHQ, effective 1 Jul 10. COL Reddicks retains concurrent M-Day assignment as Commander, 163rd MSG/163rd RW.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter L. Goodwater (DA-Select), Branch Chief, Engineer, JFHQ, reassigned to J3 (M-Day), JFHQ and promote, effective 1 Aug 10.

Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Oran L. Roberts, Chaplain, 115th RSG, transferred to Joint Force Chaplain, JFHQ and promote, effective 1 Apr 11.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Tinti (DA-Select), SJA, 40th ID, reassigned to SJA, 40th ID (9.1 MTOE) and promote, effective 1 Aug 10.

AGR Control Grades

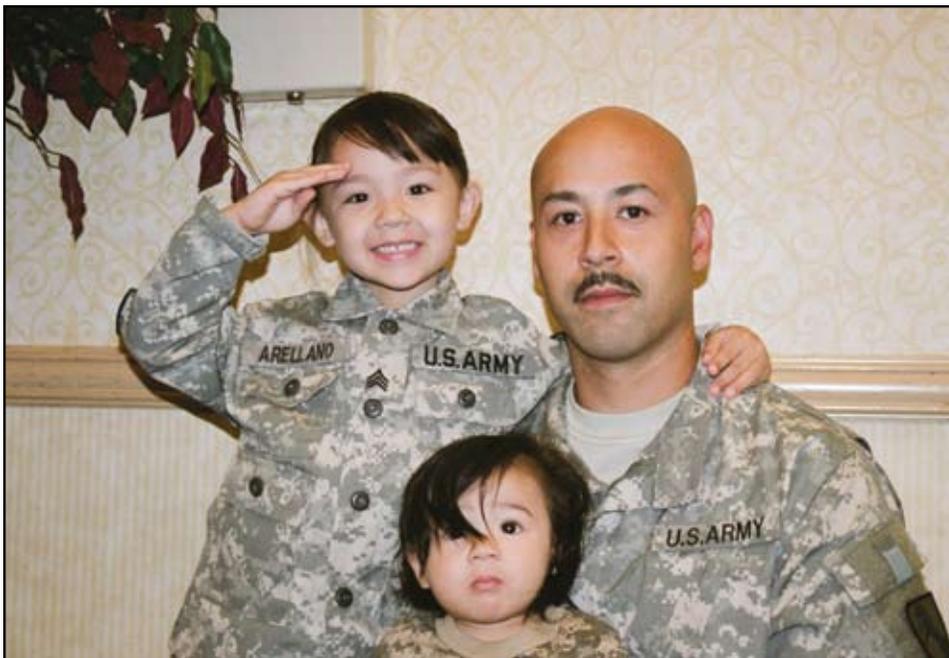
06/COL CG Status: REQ: 6. AUTH (FY10): 7. Temp CG:1. Total: 8. Assigned: 9 (2 promoted using DA Mob Authority). Available: 0. Pending Losses (FY10): 0.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew R. Flynn (DA-Select), Deputy Commander, 79th IBCT has been placed on the OML for the first available 06/COL CG.

Vacancies

The projected date for the 1st quarter fiscal year 2011 General Officer Executive Personnel Council is 12 Oct 10 at JFHQ. The following 06/COL positions are vacant or projected to be vacant in the next 12-18 months and will be considered:

Army Aviation Division Chief (SAO)
Deputy USPF0, USPF0
J6, JFHQ
Commander, MED DET
Commander, 223rd Inf Ret (RTI)
Deputy Commander, 49th MP BDE
J3, JFHQ
Commander, 224th SB
Chief of Staff, 40th ID



Sgt. Carlos Arellano and his children attend the Yellow Ribbon Freedom Salute for 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment, in Garden Grove, Calif., on July 24.

A proper welcome home

Yellow Ribbon Program honors Soldiers, provides services, information

Story and photo by Sgt. Tina Villalobos
Training Site Detachment, JFTB-Los Alamitos

More than 400 Soldiers and relatives filled a banquet hall in Garden Grove, Calif., during the Yellow Ribbon Freedom Salute ceremony July 24 for 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment. The Soldiers had recently returned from a yearlong humanitarian aid mission in Kosovo. The unit, known as the "Blackhorse Artillery," typically provides direct support for the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, enacted into law in 2008, provides information and resources to assist service members and their families in support of their health and well-being throughout the deployment cycle. Each phase of a service member's deployment presents unique challenges, and the Yellow Ribbon Program provides the support and resources necessary to help Soldiers and their families through those challenges. The program also provides support and services to Soldiers' employers, communities and units.

During the Freedom Salute ceremony, each Soldier was presented items to commemorate their deployment. For a first deployment, a Soldier was presented an American flag in a wooden display case, a Defender of Freedom certificate, a Defender of Freedom medalion and a commemorative coin. Soldiers returning from their second deployment received a Freedom Ring, and the service member's spouse was honored with a mantle clock. Soldiers returning from their third or greater deployment were recognized with the Freedom Salute brass plaque. Each plaque includes a commemorative coin and a place to insert a photo.

Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones, commander of Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos, discussed the significance of the commemorative gifts.

"When I received my Freedom Salute award kit from my deployment in Kosovo, they found a very prominent place in our home," Jones said. "They were and are very special. One of the first things you see when you walk into my residence is the flag and the accoutrements that came along with it."

The Yellow Ribbon Program brings a multitude of resources together for Soldiers and families at critical times in the deployment cycle.

"The most beneficial element of the Yellow Ribbon Program is that they are able to track the status of service members as they assimilate back into their civilian lives," Staff Sgt. Ismael Cabrera said. "That is im-

portant because some Soldiers' situations may have changed while they were gone, so they may need assistance with job placement or family support."

The program also allows Soldiers and families to prepare for future, perhaps unforeseen, needs.

"The most critical elements of this program are the resources that are identified and made available," said Brig. Gen. Scott Johnson, commander of the 40th Infantry Division. "There are things that are taken care of here — Soldiers do meet some immediate needs and make some contacts here. But just as important is the offering of services and information for future need."

Presentations included information on tuition assistance, battle-mind training and organizations that aid Soldiers and their families. The Yellow Ribbon Program holds several events featuring subject matter experts at various points throughout the deployment cycle.

"Everything else, you train for, but it never gets easier to miss your family," Sgt. Carlos Arellano said. "The Yellow Ribbon program provides a lot of useful information and subject matter experts for the various things we need in terms of support and resources."

The Yellow Ribbon Program provided lodging and air transportation or mileage reimbursement for designated Soldier guests who came from a distance greater than 50 miles. Breakfast and lunch were also provided. Professional, interactive child care was also provided, including catered food for younger children.

The 1-144th's recent deployment was a different mission than the Blackhorse Artillery is used to, Cabrera said, but he found it nonetheless rewarding.

"I felt our greatest accomplishment was leaving a good impression of America in Kosovo: that America was there to help them to rebuild their communities," Cabrera said. "The most rewarding thing about being a Guard Soldier is the positive work we do in helping our fellow man — whether that be abroad or stateside."

Jones agreed the 1-144th left a lasting impression.

"The faces of these Soldiers will forever be the face of freedom and security for [Kosovars]," he said. "Ours is the one nation and one flag they look at as a symbol of their freedom and security."

Suicide prevention: Speak up and save lives

By Sgt. 1st Class Stephen J. Haydt
CNG Suicide Prevention Program Manager



It's amazing how fast a year goes by. Last year, we were in the crawl stage of the Army's revitalization of the Suicide Prevention Program. Most Soldiers went through the "Stand Down" and "Chain Teach" phases of suicide prevention training. The training venues "Beyond the Front" and "Shoulder to Shoulder: No Soldier Stands Alone" were excellent opportunities to refocus our thought processes in recognizing the warning signs and risk factors for Soldiers who are at risk of causing self-inflicted injury or death.

This year we have further honed those skills with sustainment training called "ACE (Peer) Suicide Intervention." There are separate one-hour training venues for leaders, Soldiers, families and civilian employees. It may be the best hour you can invest in ensuring the livelihood of your fellow Soldiers and loved ones. The ACE (Ask, Care, Escort) training can be supplemented with training venues from the "Stand Down" and "Chain Teach" phases. A new venue in the "Shoulder to Shoulder" series called "I Will Never Quit on Life" is now available at www.preventsuicide.army.mil. Training aids and other training materials can be ordered from the Army Public Health Command at <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart>.

On July 30 the Department of the Army released a report, which is available at the web site www.preventsuicide.army.mil, that captures health promotion, risk reduction and suicide prevention efforts of the past 15 months and provides ideas and concepts for building a more resilient force. Based on current trends, the report predicts a significant increase in substance abuse, largely because of increased job-related stressors such as unemployment.

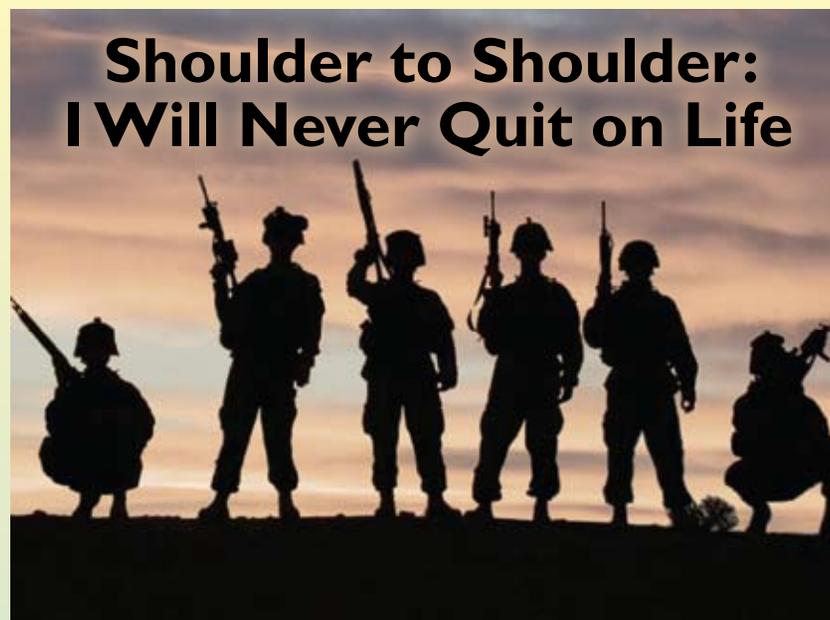
Although there has been a significant increase in the number of suicides in the National Guard, we have been fortunate in California to experience a relatively low number of suicides during the past decade. The California Army National Guard has experienced 16 suicides since 2001, including two this year. The number of California Air National Guard members lost to suicide was even lower during that period. To the surviving families and friends of those suicide victims, on behalf of the adjutant general and the entire California National Guard, we extend our sincerest condolences, and we stand ready to support you in your needs to transition to a life without your loved one.

We attribute the California National Guard's low suicide rate to the strong support team that was developed several years ago and continues to be refined and enhanced every year. The state's behavioral health office has been in the forefront of developing support programs such as the Behavioral Health Outreach Services program and California State Military Reserve Behavioral Health Program.

Additional behavioral health resources can be found at www.calguard.ca.gov/mh. The state chaplain's office held the first Pre-Marital Interpersonal Choices and Knowledge (PICK) seminar in July to help single Soldiers identify relationship conflicts and deal with them before getting married. The CNG Operation Ready Families program (www.calguard.ca.gov/ReadyFamilies) continues to cater to the needs of our Soldiers' and Airmen's families. The California National Guard Peer-to-Peer Training Program educates Soldiers and commanders on factors leading to suicidal behavior and teaches attendees that emotions such as depression, grief, anger and hopelessness often follow traumatic events both on and off the battlefield. For more information, visit: www.calguard.ca.gov/j1/Pages/Peer_support.aspx.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, with a national observance of Suicide Prevention Week from September 5-11. All units and communities are encouraged to organize events that promote suicide prevention awareness among Soldiers and their families. Examples include hosting a prayer breakfast to memorialize a fallen Soldier, participating in a 5K run/walk, organizing an overnight vigil such as the ones hosted by the Out of the Darkness campaign (www.outofthedarkness.org) or inviting local organizations such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Red Cross and county mental health agencies to your armory to provide briefings on their services. Other activities for individuals and units include:

- **Conduct a self-assessment:** www.militarymentalhealth.org
- **Run a drill to test your crisis response plan:** Just like running drills in preparation for deployment, your unit or community can organize drills to ensure all personnel know what to do in times of crisis.
- **Engage in fellowship, meditation or prayer:** Work with the local chaplain, faith group or community to host a breakfast in which suicide awareness (warning signs, risks and preventive factors) and the benefits of behavioral health care are discussed. Set aside time for meditation or prayer on behalf of those struggling with personal crisis. Use the opportunity to discuss the benefits of communication, helping one another and the importance of taking care of one's emotional well-being. Share stories of success and positive coping skills.
- **Speak Out! Save a Life:** Every day, people find hope and strength amid adversity and reach out to help one another. If you have overcome a personal crisis or helped someone through a crisis, e-mail your story to www.preventsuicide.army.mil. Submissions can be anonymous and will be shared throughout the year.



A variety of organizations stand ready to assist you and your family in your time of need. The following is just a partial list of resources for Guard members struggling with thoughts of suicide:

California Department of Veterans Affairs: www.cdva.ca.gov

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK

Operation Welcome Home: The state launched this program June 3 to assist veterans as they transition to civilian life. www.veterans.ca.gov

Military OneSource: Military OneSource provides up to 12 face-to-face sessions per issue, per counselor, free of charge. Those requiring long-term treatment will be referred to Tricare or a military treatment facility. 1-800-342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.com

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors: TAPS provides grief-support services such as survivor seminars and Good Grief camps. 1-800-959-TAPS

Give an Hour: This nonprofit provides free mental health services for military personnel. www.giveanhour.org

Real Warriors Campaign: This initiative was launched by the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury to promote the processes of building resilience, facilitating recovery and supporting reintegration of returning service members, veterans and their families. 1-866-966-1020 or www.realwarriors.net

Afterdeployment.org: A wellness resource for the military community, this organization's mission is to help service members, their families and veterans overcome common adjustment problems following a deployment. www.afterdeployment.org

Tricare: The health benefits provider offers remote and web-based counseling in the U.S. 1-800-600-9332 or www.tricareonline.com

Warrior and Family Assistance Center: 1-800-436-6290
www.arfp.org/WFAC

National Guard Psychological Health Program:
www.jointservicesupport.org/PHP/

Defense Centers of Excellence Outreach Center For Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury:
1-866-966-1020 or www.dcoe.health.mil/

Staff Sgt. Edward Shenault of 2nd Platoon, 330th Military Police Company, meets children during a dismounted patrol Aug. 9 in the city of Khowst in Khowst province, Afghanistan.
Photo by Spc. Joseph Samudio



Learn to help military kids thrive

The nonprofit Military Child Education Coalition will present its “Living in the New Normal Practicum: Helping Children Thrive Through Good and Challenging Times” training symposium Sept. 18 in San Ramon, Calif.

Living in the New Normal (LINN) encourages families to ensure their children have tools to bounce back from life’s storms and stressors; fosters community support efforts; and provides adults with information to support children during times of uncertainty, trauma and loss. LINN is predicated on the belief that children’s inherent courage and resiliency can be strengthened through deliberate encouragement.

Registration is free and includes breakfast and lunch. Attendees are responsible for their own travel and lodging.

Six Continuing Education credit hours are available for \$25. Full-day attendance is required for credit.

To register, visit www.MilitaryChild.org. For more information, call Mindi Ward at 254-953-1923 or email mindi.ward@MilitaryChild.org.

Casey: Guard won’t return to strategic reserve role

Defense Department leaders do not consider returning the National Guard to its Cold War-era strategic reserve role when discussing the future, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey said during the National Guard Family Program Volunteer Workshop in New Orleans in August.

“No one wants to go back to the Guard being just a strategic reserve,” he said. “We have come way too far.

“Half of the Guard are combat veterans. That’s a fundamentally different force and, as a result, it’s a fundamentally different Army,” Casey continued. “We are actively working through a study that will answer the question for us: ‘What should the role of the Guard and Reserve be in an era where we’re likely to have to rely on them continuously for a long period of time?’”

The United States is in an era of persistent conflict, Casey said, and he anticipates a significant operational tempo for the next decade. That follows nine years of war in which the National Guard has already played a crucial role.

“We — the United States Army — could not have done what we have done the last nine years at war without the Guard,” Casey said. “It’s Minutemen — and women — that are holding this force together.”

AUSA golf tourney in LA this month

The Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will hold a charity golf tournament Monday, Sept. 27. Proceeds from the tournament will be used by AUSA to provide assistance to Army units, Soldiers and families in the greater Los Angeles area.

Registration begins at 6 a.m., tee time is at 7:30 a.m., and the awards recognition luncheon will be held at 1 p.m. For more information, visit www3.ausa.org/glac, or contact retired Brig. Gen. Charles Ebner at ckebe@earthlink.net or 949-310-0556 or retired Maj. Gen. Paul Mock at ausaglacfamilies@aol.com or 909-519-4149.

AUGUST CORRECTIONS: An article in Grizzly incorrectly identified the rank of Kenneth O. Preston. He is the sergeant major of the Army.

The 146th Airlift Wing is based at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, not Naval Air Station Point Mugu. The wing shares runways with NAS Point Mugu.

DID YOU KNOW...

... the gift that Master Sgt. Joe Random received at his retirement may violate Department of Defense policy?

As much as we like to provide a proper send-off for individuals leaving units for reassignment or retirement, it is important to stay within Department of Defense (DoD) guidelines. Otherwise your honoree might be forced to return the gift.

For special or infrequent gifts, a DOD employee may accept items with a market value that does not exceed \$300 (there may be exceptions to this, so check with your staff judge advocate when in doubt). The \$300 limit applies to the cost for a single gift or for the aggregate cost of multiple gifts.

Additionally, the highest amount a DoD employee may solicit for voluntary donation is \$10. However, individuals may choose to donate more.

For more information, see Department of Defense Instruction 5500.7-R, paragraph 2-203, 21 November 2003.



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PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS PAUL WADE

Grateful citizens await the return of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif. About 100 Soldiers of the 49th MP Brigade returned Aug. 10 from a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For more on the 49th MP Brigade, see page 4.

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Retired Guard members, email GrizzlyMag.ngca@ng.army.mil.

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