

GRIZZLY

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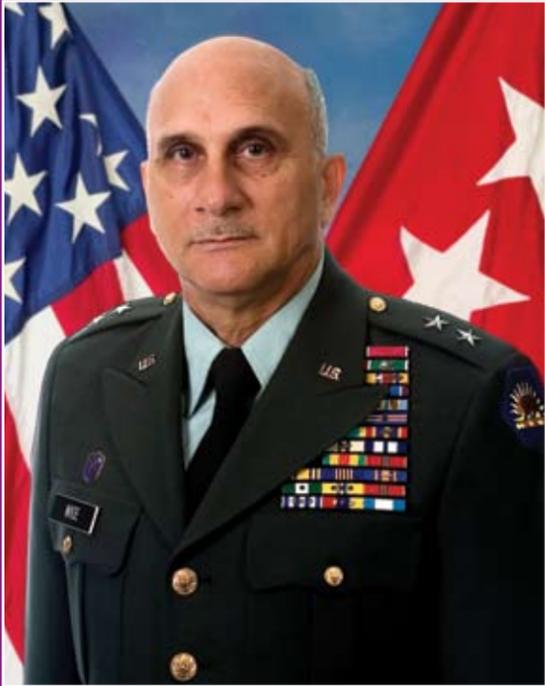


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▶ California National Guard Leadership



Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II



Command Sgt. Maj.
William Clark



Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight

Army Division

Air Division



Brig. Gen. Louis J. Antonetti



Command Sgt. Maj.
Sally J. O'Brien



Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas



Command Chief Master Sgt.
Deborah K. Lott

Joint Staff

State Military Reserve



Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth



Brig. Gen. Emory J. Hagan



Command Sgt. Maj.
Robert W. Delaney

Grizzly

The Official Newsletter of the
California National Guard

Vol 3. No.2

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FROM THE EDITOR

SUBMISSIONS

With the holidays behind us, many have made resolutions to become physically fit. Physical fitness is a basic job requirement for military members and as such should be a priority. Making time to work out might seem like a bridge to far, but remember there are simple ways if not to improve your physical fitness, not detract from it. Making smart dietary choices is an easy way to help stay fit. Obviously choosing to eat a salad instead of a burger will make a difference, but drinking water instead of a soft drink can cut 100s of calories per day. Begin making slight modification to your daily routine and soon you might just begin to feel and see a difference in your appearance.

All branches of the military administer physical fitness test. Remember, it is easier to keep up with a subject (physical fitness) if you review it everyday instead of trying to cram. If you cannot see a trainer at a local gym, the internet offers great free websites to help you train and avoid injury. For great work out tips and programs log on to: <http://www.hooah4health.com/>

Articles:

- ★ 250 – 300 words for half a page, 600-800 words for full page article.
- ★ Include first and last names, and *verify spelling*
- ★ If there is a Public Affairs officer assigned to your unit ensure he/she reviews it.

Photographs:

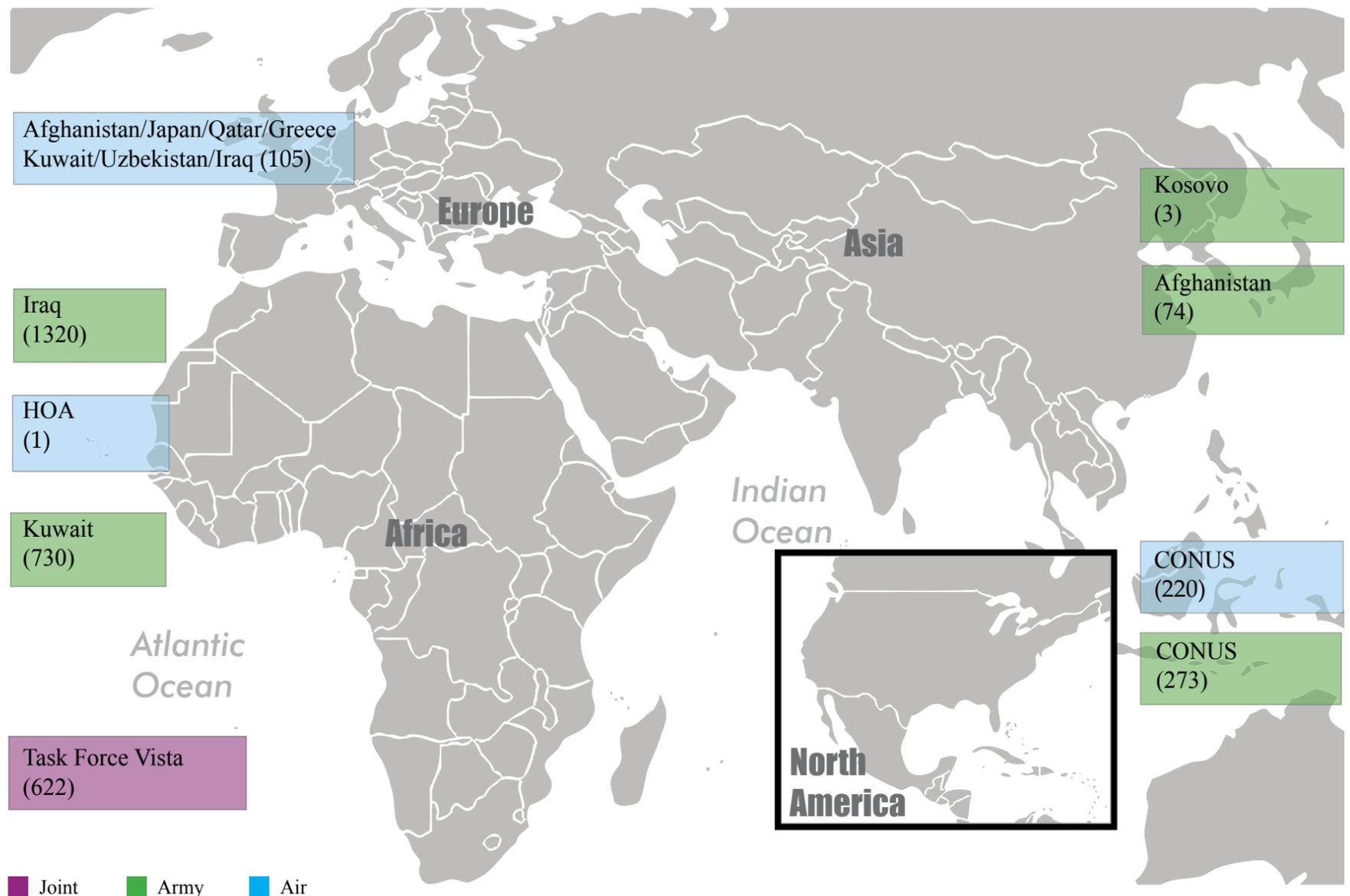
- ★ Highest resolution possible, minimum 300 dpi
- ★ Credits (who took photograph)
- ★ Cutline (what action is taking place in the photograph and identify individuals in photograph)

Email story submissions by the 15th of every month to:
mirtha.villarreal@us.army.mil

COVER COURTESY OF COUNTER DRUG

Where We Are

The California National Guard as of February 2008



TROOPS AND TRIBES

INNOVATIVE TRAINING BENEFITS BOTH

BY 1ST LT. THERESA M. CHRYSAL



Resident elder and veteran of the Korean War, Billy Carpenter, blesses the Bald Hill construction site with a traditional tribal prayer. Also pictured are Tribal Chairman Lyle Marshall and Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth.

Landslides are a force of nature. But that hasn't stopped California and Indiana National Guardsmen from helping the Hoopa Indian Reservation put up a fight.

For the past few months, Soldiers and Airmen from California and Indiana have joined members of the Hoopa Indian Reservation to work together on an engineering project designed to mitigate the degradation of a major landslide in northern California.

The project, operation Winter Eagle began in October and produced major results before concluding in early December.

"We got done above and beyond what we planned on getting done this year," said Hoopa civil engineer Cody Smith. "Our estimate right now is that with your guys' help, we removed a total of 40,000 cubic yards off that slide face - 30,000 of it with these machines

right here which your guys were running," numbers that well exceeded the tribe's original goal for the year of about 18,000 cubic yards.

The project is one of many conducted by the California Civil-Military Innovative Readiness Training team. Approximately 20 Soldiers and four individuals from the Hoopa Roads Department worked alongside one another to stabilize a hillside which had given way in August 2003 blocking residents and denying emergency personnel from traveling a critical passageway.

Although the Hoopa tribe conducted mitigation measures, the affected area increased 300 percent and magnified the tribes need for assistance. Former Innovative Readiness Team (IRT) commander Maj. Ken Shedarowich had built a strong relationship with the Hoopa community while his troops pro-

vided medical and dental services for tribal members. Upon learning of the Bald Hill Slide situation, he asked how the California National Guard could assist.

On Dec. 11, Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth, Director, Joint Staff, visited the Hoopa Indian Reservation to view the work of the IRT and Hoopa Roads Department.

At the site of the slide, the visit began with a moving prayer offered in the native tongue by the tribe's resident elder and sergeant-at-arms, Billy Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter also happened to be a veteran of the Korean War and was glad to have the Army there with the tribe.

"We are all one. We're not different from one another," said Carpenter as he began. "Usually when we call on the creator ... the rest of the day is a good one."

As Brig. Gen. Ellsworth surveyed the slide, he spoke on behalf of the engineers.

"It's been great training, and it's always a pleasure," he said. "Relationships are good, and it helps keep our folks tuned up. We've got great engineers. We know they're working hard when they're dirty. I'm an engineer officer so I can speak for you guys."

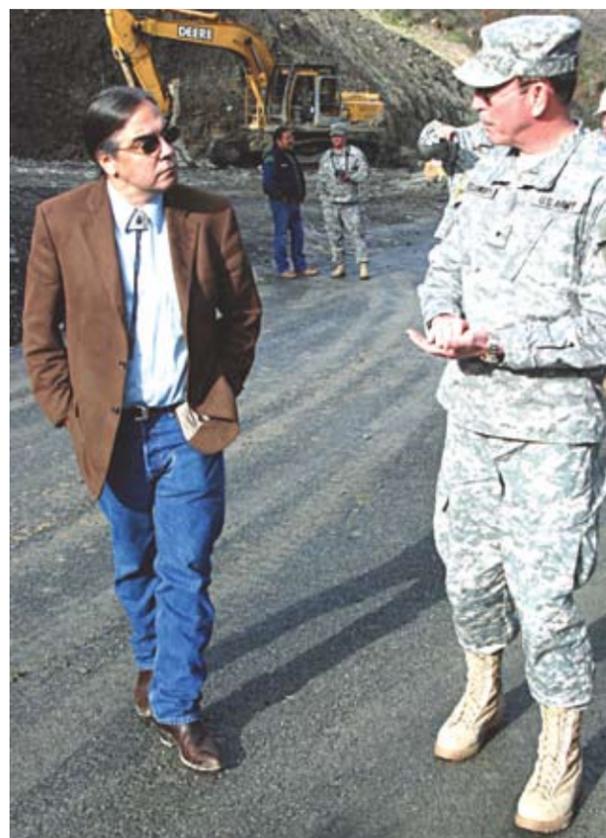
When the comment "check your boots, Sir," came from a brave Soldier in the rear, the general laughed as he looked at his own clean ones and replied, "that was a few years ago."

Tribal Roads Department Director Jacque Hostler said several agencies and Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Calif., have supported the project. The tribe continues to lobby for

more federal money to fix the road permanently which could require moving another 100,000 cubic yards of material.

Although the project is not expected to be complete until 2010, Hostler praised the Guard for their help and said they could at least see a light at the end of the tunnel.

"Having you all here is a lifelong dream to see the art of accomplishing with us hand-in-hand the mitigation of Bald Hill Slide," she said. "It's not a small matter that the Guard came at the final hours and provided the funding and support we needed."



Tribal Chairman Lyle Marshall of the Hoopa Indian Tribe and Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth discuss how the mudslide at Bald Hill completely covered Pine Creek Road, the only route available for many residents going to and from their homes.



On a recent visit to the Innovative Readiness Team of Operation Winter Eagle, Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth took time to congratulate the Bald Hill mudslide construction team on their successful mission. The team is comprised of members of the Hoopa Indian Tribe as well as the California and Indiana National Guard.

FLEXIBILITY IS KEY FOR CALIFORNIA GUARD SOLDIERS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. BRYANT MAUDE

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – For Soldiers serving in Company B, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, 168th Brigade Support Battalion, the word “flexible” takes on real meaning.

“I was trained as a 31 Bravo, military police,” said Spc. Jacob Chrones of San Diego.

“19 Kilo, tanker,” stated Spc. Michael Dahl, of Beaumont, Calif., who is one of a dozen California National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) mission for the 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade.

“It was kind of thrown in our lap,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas Coy, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the RAID mission.

The RAID is a giant balloon that flies high above the skies of bases in Iraq. It gives commanders on the ground a visual look at the area outside of the wire. Co. B was tasked with the mission shortly after arriving in theater and have adapted well.

“It was difficult at first because you have to calculate the right mix of helium and oxygen,” stated Spc. Uriel Torres, RAID operator for Co. B, 1st Bn., 143rd FA, “but it’s easy now.”

Each of the team members underwent two and a half weeks of training before they were handed the around-the-clock mission of maintaining the giant balloon. “It’s going great now,” said Coy. “These guys are all smart and we’re all flexible. You have to be I guess.”

Spc. Juan Garcia and main wench operator is in the process of bringing the giant Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment balloon down to 50 feet for a periodic check.



Spc. Uriel Torres, Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment operator observes the cable as the giant RAID balloon is being lowered.



Monitoring giant balloons is not the only thing Co. B has had to adapt to. Just down the street, at entry control point three, another group of Soldiers perform an equally critical mission - force protection.

“Basically we’re the defense of the base,” stated Sgt. Michael Taylor, from Newberg, N.C., the gate sergeant of the guard at ECP three for the 46th Chemical Company. Trained as a chemical specialist, Taylor had to adapt quickly to the security mission given to him by Co. B, 1st Bn., 143rd FA.

“A guy has to be flexible to do this job,” said Taylor. “It takes flexibility to manage security, make improvements, control traffic, and whatever else they may have for you.”

The old saying, “If life gives you lemons, make lemonade,” seems to apply for these Soldiers; as all indications point to them making lemonade out of lemons.



Pfc. Joshua Shepherd monitors vehicles coming in and out of an entry control point.

CHANNEL ISLANDS ANG BRINGS COMMAND TEAM EXPERTISE TO UKRAINE ARMED FORCES

BY LT. COL. MICHAEL N. DUGAS

As part of the California National Guard's ongoing State Partnership Program, Guardsmen from the 146th Airlift Wing recently returned from another successful trip to Melitopol, Ukraine. This trip was one in a series of ongoing events where the goal is to assist the Ukrainian military in its efforts to build and train a more professionalized Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Corps.

The 146 Airlift Wing was tasked on 26 September to bring a command team of four personnel who have worked together for at least one year. The command team consisted of one squadron commander (O5-O6), one Chief (Command Chief or Senior Enlisted Advisor equivalent), one Senior NCO Superintendent, and one 1st Sgt. The command team was also accompanied by a Ukrainian translator.

Their key objectives were to help their Ukrainian counterparts: develop and utilize professional NCOs; outline the relationships and interactions between officers and NCOs; explain the roles, responsibilities and duties of NCOs; discuss professional development of NCOs; and explain the unique relationship be-

tween a commander and his senior enlisted advisors.

The 146th Airlift Wing's command team developed four key presentations that gave an overview of the role of an NCO as seen by each command team member. The first presentation conducted by Lt. Col. Michael Dugas included an overview of the command team, commander responsibilities, and the commander's relationship with his team members. The commander emphasized his responsibility of organizing, training, and equipping. Two key points to this brief were: accomplishing the mission and taking care of the people.

Chief Joel Reynoso followed with a presentation stressing his role as the most senior enlisted with the job as the senior advisor/mentor to NCOs and junior officers. He spoke of his responsibility of "setting the tone" of an organization and to lead the direction of unit morale while assisting the 1st Sgt. supporting the Superintendents, and carrying through the commander's policies and programs.

The 1st. Sgt, Senior Master Sgt.

Jeri Nieberding, presented third. Order and discipline, maintaining good morale, and carrying out administrative duties were three key points in her presentation. She explained how she was "an extension of the commander," the commander's problem solver, and the liaison between the enlisted force and the commander.

Lastly, the Superintendent set out to brief on more "technical" terms. Senior Master Sgt. Adrienne Martinez briefed on developing plans, programs, and policies, conducting surveys and providing analysis to the commander since she acts as his, "eyes and ears". The education and training of NCOs and officers was stressed as paramount to ensuring a highly competent well-trained force able to carry out the mission. Training every member to a level where they can replace you and take charge is our ultimate training goal.

In the end, the members of the 146th Airlift Wing and their Ukrainian hosts were pleased that yet another successful step was taken in furthering the development of Ukraine's NCO Corps. And of course, after

the formal briefings, the members of the 146th and their new Ukrainian friends had a great opportunity to get out for a little cultural experience and see some of the beautiful sites Ukraine has to offer.

The California National Guard State Partnership Program is coordinated by the staff out of Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento and they were also very pleased with the members of the 146th Airlift Wing. "Successful events like these are always a positive experience as they continue to enhance a high level of respect and esteem for each other's armed forces and lead to many lasting friendships," said Capt. Clayton Smith. "The California National Guard State Partnership Program has been helping our allies in Eastern Europe build stronger democratic institutions for the past thirteen years, and we are proud to say the results have been very positive." Capt. Clayton Smith, International Affairs Officer, Joint Force Headquarters.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 146TH AW

Members of the 146th Airlift Wing capture the moment while visiting with their Ukrainian Air force counterparts

MILITARY TRANSITION TEAMS

BY MAJ. GEORGE TOTH

November 18, 2007, started like most mornings for Maj. George Toth of the Army's Military Transitions Team. He briefed his staff on the day's training of the 3/4 Iraqi Army Headquarters' Soldiers, expecting a day filled with mentoring and advising. Then, Toth received a fragmentation order: His Soldiers would perform a food drop to the needy Iraqi residents, a delivery of 500 kg of rice. He was provided one day's notice.

Rather than become dismayed at the order's timing, Maj. Toth saw an opportunity to help the area's impoverished while training the Iraqi Soldiers in planning a mission with a narrow timeline.

Toth and several other Soldiers drove three vehicles - loaded down with rice - to a location Southeast of Sulaymaniyah, where they met up with the 3/4 IA Soldiers. Iraqi Maj. Raza requested that Toth address the growing crowd of Iraqi residents - "Always be prepared to speak at a moment's notice when your counterpart is an Iraqi unit," quipped Toth.

Toth made it clear to the Iraqis that the gesture was not a handout, but an expression of the partnership between the Iraqi Army and their community. The event, said Toth, helped "legitimize" the 3/4 IA in the eyes of the Iraqi people in that they participated in the goodwill mission with U.S. Soldiers. After a few handshakes, the food disappeared quickly into the hands of some of Iraq's neediest families.

"I was both saddened and relieved, emotions which are normally in conflict with each other but today were intertwined to form a somber atmosphere during the food supply handout," said Toth. "The families expressed thanks for the assistance and made it clear to me that although times are still difficult, they welcome the change and new direction toward which their country is heading."



U.S. AND IRAQI SOLDIERS CELEBRATE OPENING OF 2-3/4 HEADQUARTERS

With General Mam Rostam's arrival, it became apparent this would be no routine ceremony. For three decades the legendary Kurdish fighter battled the tyranny of Saddam Hussein's regime, hoping to one day witness an Iraqi fighting force built on equality and democratic principles. Today, the warrior's dream moved closer to reality.

Gen Rostam joined U.S. Military Transition Teams and Iraqi officials to mark the opening of the Iraqi Army's 2-3/4 headquarters in the Chamchamal region. But for the general and others present, the ceremony didn't represent closure, but a promising new chapter in Iraqi history.

"We owe special thanks to the Iraqi and American Soldiers that have sacrificed for this cause, to bring freedom for all," said Brig. Gen. Anwar, 3/4 IA commander. "This step is only the beginning."

The 2-3/4 IA HQ is significant in that it allows U.S. funds to not only strengthen the Iraqi Army, but also bolsters the local economy by employing Iraqi residents in the construction and operation of the headquarters.



The Military Transition Teams 0430 and 0432 were both in attendance, allowing Soldiers from both teams to exchange vital information, as well as share war stories and greet their fellow MiTT Soldiers.

Col. James Hajduk, MiTT 0430 commander, was invited to address the audience on behalf of the U.S. Soldiers, after which Brig. Gen. Anwar cut the ribbon to officially open the post.

"Thanks to the Americans for the funds to build the 2-3/4 IA HQ," said Gen. Anwar. "(Thanks also) to the ACC (a U.S. contracting company) for the hiring of the local community to build this compound."

STRESSED OUT

MAJ STEVEN KEIHL, DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH



In the past 30 minutes, three of my peers expressed feeling “stressed out”. For the record, stress is a normal part of everyday life and all of us are forced to deal with it. Simply stated, stress happens whenever anything in our world demands some type of adjustment or change. The smart guys would say something like, “stress is an elevation in physical and psychological arousal or readiness that results from exposure to a stimulus or demand.” Stress can be minor, moderate, or even excessive depending on both the individual and the situation. At first, stress may be helpful and can increase our ability to focus and perform. However, a human being is only able to withstand stress for so long and maintain a condition of alert for limited periods. Once this threshold is passed, people feel “stressed out”.

Our servicemembers fighting and living on the streets of Iraq often experience what is referred to as critical incident stress. Exposure to combat and experiencing the horrors of combat can “stress” an individual beyond his or her personal threshold and lead to problems like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). We hear a lot about PTSD and combat stress in our modern world and rightly so. Unfortunately, what is sometimes overlooked are problems related to general stress impacting servicemembers and their families right here in the great state of

California. You see, while general stress is both normal and expected, a failure to adequately manage general stress will lead to cumulative stress. In other words, sometimes people create giant piles of unresolved general stress... this can be very, very destructive. Cumulative stress can lead to a deterioration of both mental and physical health, slow or block job performance, strain and create problems with interpersonal relationships, etc.

There is an almost limitless list of sources of stress. Remember, stress is anything that causes us to change or adjust. In many situations, we have absolutely no control over stressful events. Getting cut off on the freeway by an inattentive motorist, receiving a last-second job related demand, having a sick baby in the home, or receiving inaccurate information are all examples of common sources of stress that we have NO control over. And while we cannot always control the stress in our lives, we can learn to watch for warning signs of being “stressed out” and we can also learn to do a better job managing stress.

There are warning signs that we are reaching a boiling point and struggling with unresolved stress. Common warning signs include mood swings, increased anger and irritability, forgetfulness, inattentiveness, carelessness, with-

drawal, or a loss of concentration. Some people elevate the problems caused by unresolved stress by attempting to deal with stress by using drugs or alcohol. If we fail to pay attention to the warning signs and deal with unresolved stress more serious warning signs will emerge. These could include destructive changes in relationships, paranoia, depression, dramatic changes in performance, chronic irritability, and suicidal ideation. Obviously, if you or someone you know is exhibiting such warning signs, the time to get help or intervene is NOW!

The good news is that we can learn to more effectively manage the stress in our lives. Modifications to our diet or exercise routine, obtaining or developing a positive support system, learning relaxation techniques, developing personal hobbies or interests, or learning to more effectively engage in self-disclosure are all methods people use to assist with stress management. When we manage our stress, we learn to avoid the problems of unresolved stress. Your physician, mental health professional, chaplain, or chain of command can assist you in tapping into a variety of resources related to stress management. Don't be “stressed out”!

The Department of Veteran Affairs has opened a national suicide-prevention hotline for veterans. The toll-free hotline, 800-273-TALK (8255) is staffed by mental health professionals available 24/7. FYI – VA provides mental health care to nearly a million veterans each year making it the largest provider of mental health care in the nation.

The Army Behavioral Health website is a great place to find mental health resources geared for the military. You can tap into this resource by going to www.behavioralhealth.army.mil. The website includes a bunch of great information addressing a host of topics like, (1) Helping Children Cope with Deployment, (2) PTSD, (3) Suicide Prevention, etc.

Contacting the Mental Health Task Force

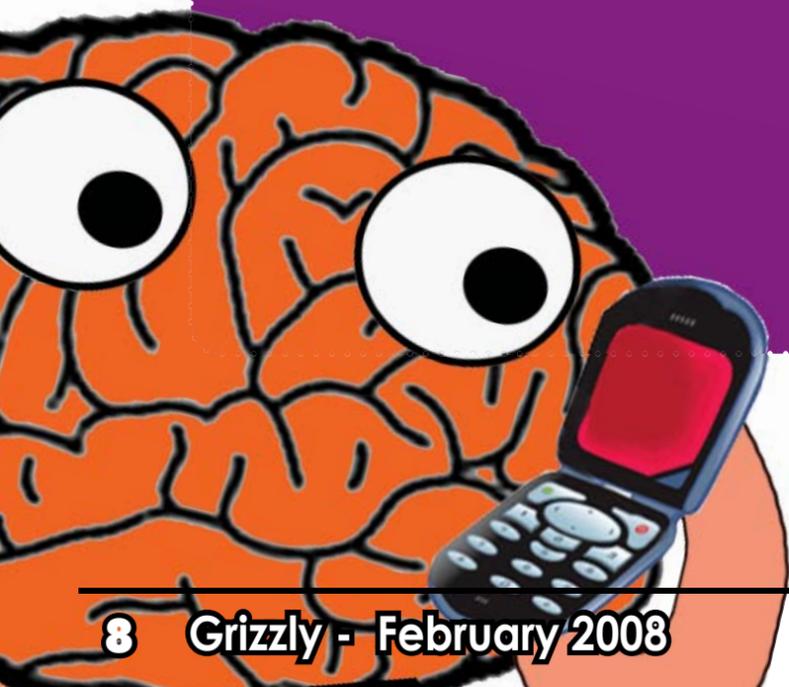
Office – 916-854-3019

DSN – 466-3019

Cell – 916-240-3477

Email – mental.healthca@ng.army.mil

Website - <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/mhtf/Pages/default.aspx>



129TH RQW SUPPORTS COUNTER DRUG OPERATIONS

STORY AND PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNTER DRUG

Selected members from the 129th Rescue Wing support Counter-drug Operations throughout the state. Their assets include helicopters, aircrew, pararescuemen and maintainers. The assets are utilized in support of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the eradication of illegal narcotics, and the clean up of public land environmentally damaged by marijuana production.

In 2007 alone, they assisted in the eradication of approximately 14,000 pounds of drug production equipment from public lands and provided medical support during a massive state-wide drug eradication operation.

Additionally, the team supported educational institutions by landing their helicopter at schools and speaking to nearly 900 students impressing upon them the importance to stay in school and away from harmful influences such as drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.



A 129th Rescue Wing pararescueman, working for the Counterdrug Task Force, is inserted into a former marijuana garden using the HH-60's rescue hoist during a Counterdrug Task Force site restoration mission.

YAMA SAKURA 53

STORY AND PHOTO BY MAJ. ALANA SCHWERNER

Intermittent snow and rain failed to dampen the spirits of more than 100 California National Guard Soldiers participating in Yama Sakura 53 on Camp Sendai in Sendai Japan Dec. 5-17.

The 40th Infantry Division Tactical Operations Center on Camp Sendai Japan hummed with the voices of men and women working through real world scenarios during the annual bilateral command post training exercise. Yama Sakura has been held each year since 1982 to strengthen military operations between the U.S. military and Japan Ground Self-Defense force.

The 40th Infantry Division's Tactical Command Post in Sacramento

was lead for the California National Guard's role in Yama Sakura 53. The U.S. Army's I Corps and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's Northeast Army were the primary players in the exercise.

"Different Warfighter functional areas have the opportunity to exercise their expertise during Yama Sakura. It's a training exercise for us even though it's a I Corp Warfighter. The Division is the main effort for the Corp during this exercise. We are also using this to prepare for our own Warfighter in August 2008," according to Sgt. Maj. Adam B. Walker. Occasionally, Japanese and English discussions were heard as bilateral meetings were held to discuss current operations. Japanese Soldiers

huddled around maps and held bilateral meetings to discuss exercise scenarios and operations.

"The experience of bilateral interaction is critical for this region and the other regions as we are working with non-US military organization and especially with non-English speaking populations," said Walker. "It's a good opportunity for young Soldiers to participate and see the big picture of how our bilateral relations with allied countries work and to experience local culture."

Sergeant Kurtis Lee, a 40th Inf. Div. Intel Analyst from Chino Hills, California, was familiar with simulated exercises but Yama Sakura was the biggest exercise of its kind he has participated in during his four year

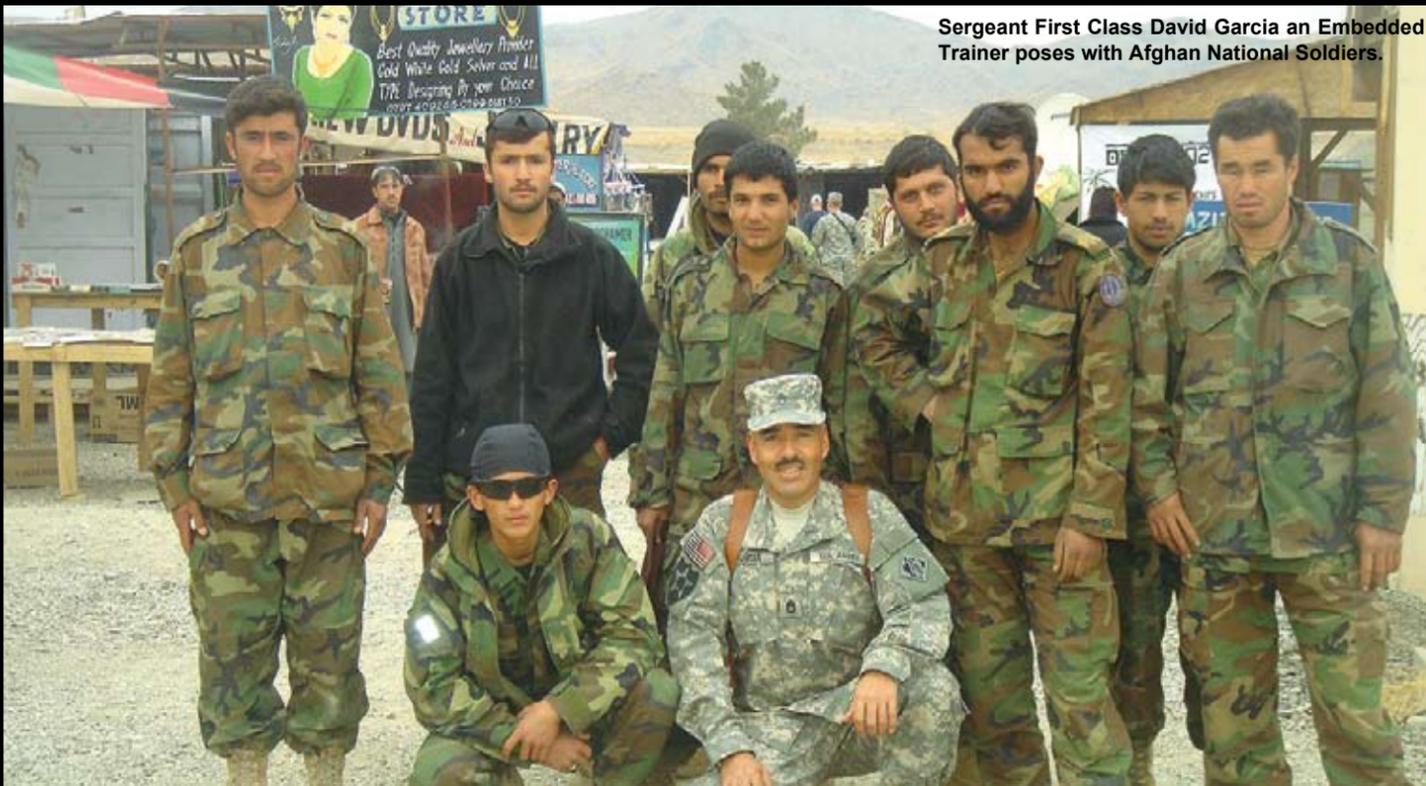
career with the California National Guard. It was also the first bilateral exercise he has experienced.

"It gave me more experience on different military equipment and systems and experience coordinating with other units and their equipment and assets. This exercise also taught me a lot about division operations," said Lee. "As an Intel Analyst the opportunity to visit other countries and cultures broadens my professional knowledge."

More than 3,500 Japanese and 2,000 U.S. service members from Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force, and Army Reserve participated in the exercise.



California National Guard member 1st Lt. Joe Medina, Spc. George West, and Lt.Col. Mark Morita and New Mexico National Guard member Master Sgt. Charlie Sandoval.



Sergeant First Class David Garcia an Embedded Trainer poses with Afghan National Soldiers.

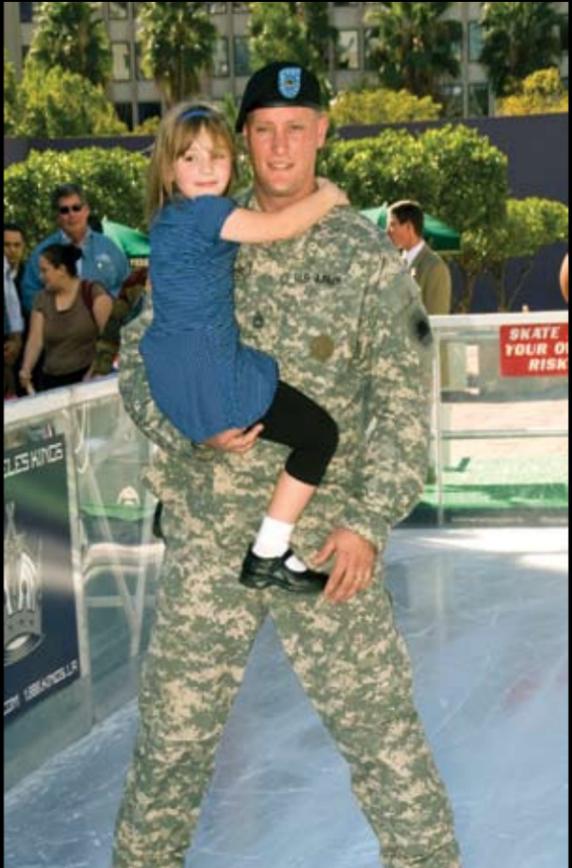


Specialist Eliseo Oseguera, Spc. Ruban Tejedalopez and Spc. Luis Zuniga. work on the air brakes of a deuce and a half-ton truck.

CONTRIBUTORS
 TECH. SGT DAVID LOEFFLER
 TECH. SGT JOSEPH PROUSE
 SGT. 1ST CLASS DAVID GARCIA
 CADET STEPHEN SIMMONS



Captain Daniel Bout, First Lieutenant Matthew McCarthy, and Lieutenant Colonel Dirk Levy pose with the guidon bearer, Corporal Thomas Wright.



Sergeant First Class Jason Showalter and his 7 years old daughter recently helped kick off the opening ceremonies of LA Kings Downtown on Ice at Pershing Square holiday skating rink. Special collaboration with Operation Ready Families allowed active military and their dependents to skate for free during the holidays.



Second Lieutenant Michael Rodriguez is recognized for his efforts to educate on issues concerning Native Americans by Brigadier General Mary Kight.

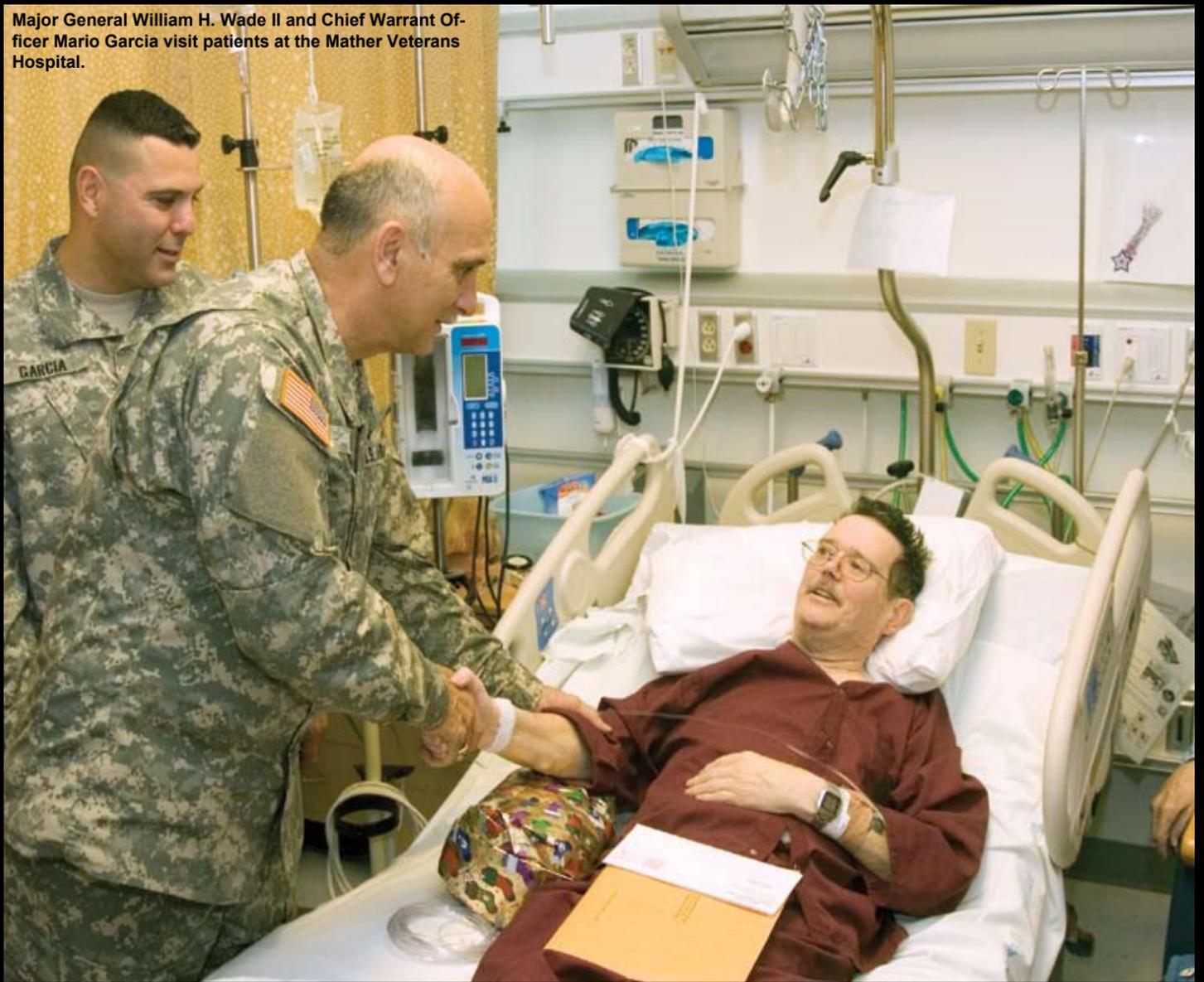


Major General William H. Wade II and Kurt Schlichter cut the ceremonial opening of the Azusa Armory.

AT A GLANCE



Sergeant Jens Bunger helps deliver bicycles to brighten the holidays for underprivileged children.



Major General William H. Wade II and Chief Warrant Officer Mario Garcia visit patients at the Mather Veterans Hospital.



Lieutenant Colonel presents ribbon at the grand



Second Lieutenant Mark Smith, 1-185th Armor, qualifies with an M9 pistol.



The California National Guard J6 Directorate was awarded the 'Best of California' for Leadership in Management of Information Technology



First Lieutenant George Flores, his wife Sonya and daughter Tatianna take a family picture as they wait for Santa to arrive at the Issac Lawson Memorial Armory in Fairfield.



163RD RW CONDUCTS FIRST PREDATOR MAINTENANCE CLASS

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DIANE DUCAT
Master Sgt. Bill Salinas and Master Sgt. Roger Polillo discuss the Predator.

BY SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL DUQUETTE

The 163rd Refueling Wing has undergone many changes with the recent transition to the MQ-1 Predator. One of these changes is the addition of a Field Training Detachment (FTD). The FTD, a schoolhouse for maintenance personnel to learn about the Predator, is slated to become a full-fledged training detachment soon.

The Wing held its first class Nov. 2-4, during the November Unit Training Assembly. Currently, Predator Introduction is the only course taught at the Wing, but other courses are slated to be available. The courses will include Tactical Aircraft Maintenance, Rotax Turbo Engine Maintenance, Predator Avionics Systems, Predator Satellite Communications Systems (KU) and Predator Ground Control Systems course.

Wing instructors have been teaching Predator maintenance classes at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Detachment 13, for approximately a year and a half. All told, Predator instructors go through about 10 - 14 months of training before they come back to the Wing, ready to teach.

"So far, only Wing members have been taught at our FTD, but there is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that is pending approval which will give the Wing the final approval it needs to start training servicemembers Air Force wide," said Sgt. Egan.



Wing maintenance personnel participate in one of the first Predator Introduction courses. Back to front, left to right, Tech. Sgt. Ray Chacon, Chief Master Sgt. Ray Phillips, Master Sgt. William Gutowski, Staff Sgt. David Ewers-Flores, Tech. Sgt. Eric Geyer, Staff Sgt. Tonna Stifle, and Instructor Tech. Sgt. Michael Adams

The MOA, once approved, will put the FTD under the Air Education and Training Command (AETC); turn it into an official technical school; receive a designation, for example Det. 13 at Nellis AFB and create the ability to facilitate NPS (non-prior-service) Airmen.

"In the near future, we might see NPS Airmen being marched around by an MTL (Military Training Leader), but before that hap-

pens, we have some logistics to smooth out, such as lodging," said Sgt. Egan, "We can't have NPS airmen staying in hotels off base."

When the MOA is approved, the Wing will be seeing more changes take place as the FTD gets closer and closer to transforming into an official AETC technical school house.

163RD RW CIVIL ENGINEERS DEPLOY TO GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA

BY SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL DUQUETTE



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY 163RD RW.

Master Sgt. Moses Alvarado, Tech. Sgt. Paul Gomez and Master Sgt. Karl Childress stand on a scaffold, working on the Expeditionary Legal Complex.

Five members of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing's (RW) Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to McCalla Airfield, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in early September to work on a construction project with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron.

Three of the five 163rd RW members, Master Sgt. Earl Rankin, Tech. Sgt. Paul Gomez and Staff Sgt. John Barber, recently returned from the deployment. Still in country, and slated to return sometime in March, are Wing members Master Sgt. Moses Alvarado and Tech. Sgt. Karl Childress.

The 474th is comprised of Air National Guardsmen from across the country to include Indiana's 122nd Fighter Wing, Wisconsin's 128th Air Refueling Wing, Vermont's 158th Fighter Wing, Ohio's 150th Fighter Wing and California's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing.

The project was to construct a \$10.2 million dollar Expeditionary Legal Complex. Here, the U.S. Office of Military Commissions will start the process of prosecuting enemy combatants detained in the Global War on Terror. The original completion date of the project was slated for March, 2008, but is now scheduled for mid February.

"One of the people I give a lot of credit to is one of our traditional guardsman, Tech. Sgt. Paul Gomez," said Sgt. Rankin, "He had

prior experience working on this kind of prefabricated building, so he was a huge contributor to getting the overall project closer to completion."

"In my shop, there were three other master sgt. and I did not have the most seniority, so while I was there I acted as a heavy equipment operator," said Sergeant Rankin. "Being just an operator gave me a little more time to enjoy myself in country."

"We (474th) were able to knock out some of the daily tasks quicker than expected," said Heavy Equipment Branch Chief Sgt. Rankin, "As a result, they were able to send some members home earlier"

NEW CONSOLIDATED DINING FACILITY AT CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MAJ. MARK JOHNSON

As many of you know, Camp San Luis Obispo has been without a Consolidated Dining Facility (DFAC) for several years. Through the hard work and support of people like retired Lt. Gen. Herbert Temple and politicians to include Senator Diane Feinstein and U.S. Representative Bill Thomas, Camp San Luis Obispo garnered the funding for a new, state-of-the-art, facility. It replaces the old consolidated DFAC facility (building 817) that was built in 1942 and de-commissioned in 2005.

The old DFAC had outlived its ability to adequately and safely serve the installation. That same year, Congress approved add-on funding for the new project. In November 2006, the Adjutant General of California, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II presided over a groundbreaking ceremony celebrating

the years of effort that were about to come to fruition. Soon after the groundbreaking, Sundt Construction began to perform

Construction management and on-the-ground supervision of the project for Alutiiq Global Solutions LLC, the Contractor for the project. To ensure quality control and effective coordination during the construction process, Mr. Tom Oliver of Camp San Luis Obispo Headquarters was assigned to act on behalf of CSLO and the Facilities Directorate at Joint Forces Headquarters as the construction coordinator.

In a period of less than eighteen months, the \$9.1M, 16,079 square-foot structure went from rendering; to concept; to a reality. The new facility will meet the dining requirements of up to 500 custom-



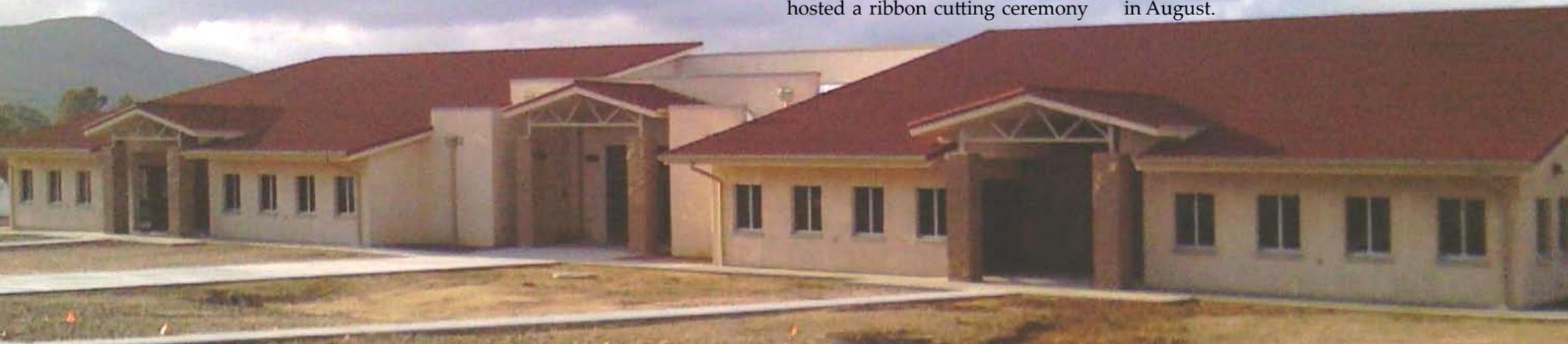
From left to right: Kraig Hill, Sundt Construction; Clyde Jensen, Tom Oliver, Warrant Officer Raj Cooper, Maj. Nicole Balliet, and Col Charles Bourbeau.

ers per meal. The facility will support two serving lines and has two large dining rooms which can easily separate to

four dining rooms. The new DFAC will greatly enhance Camp San Luis Obispo's ability to provide the highest quality of customer support to both tenant and transient users of the installation.

On Jan. 17, 2008, Alutiiq and Sundt hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony

to recognize the completion of the physical structure. The next phase of the project will focus on furnishings to include tables, chairs, plates, silverware. In addition, vendor contracts, hiring actions and other events will take place to prepare the facility to service the tenants and permanent party of the installation. The current plan is to begin utilizing the facility in the June/July timeframe with a grand opening ceremony to occur in August.



670TH MP "STREET FIGHTERS" GET COMBATIVE



BY SGT. KEN BINCE

NATIONAL CITY, Calif. — The HHC 670th Military Police Company's January drill weekend looked as if it would start off like any other, but near-flood conditions in San Diego forced a last-minute change to the training.

The 670th Soldiers were forced to conduct a homestation drill throughout the drenched weekend, postponing their original plan of training at the mock Iraqi village at MCAS Miramar, also called the Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT).

"The bad part was that we had to change our training because of floods and landslides," said Staff Sgt. Rorey Nichols, 670th training NCO. "The good part was that we completed combatives, which

could be conducted anywhere."

Combatives is defined by FM 3-25-150 as "an engagement between two or more persons in an empty-handed struggle, or with hand-held weapons such as knives, sticks, or projectile weapons that cannot be fired." In layman's terms, combatives amount to hand-to-hand combat.

The Soldiers of the 670th engaged in thorough instruction, warm up, stretching, demonstrations and intense practical exercises. The unit, being a headquarters element, consists of numerous military occupational specialties to include cooks, supply, chemical, vehicle mechanics, and, of course, MPs. Highly motivated and physically fit, the Soldiers soaked up the blocks of in-

struction, practicing back mounts, front mounts, guards, body positioning and takedowns with abandon.

"We need to train our Soldiers to live up to our motto," said 1st Sgt. Abraham Hinojosa. "They will become street fighters."

The last block of training consisted of flack vests, helmets, and pugil sticks. Similar instruction has been utilized in military training for over sixty years, originally designed to further Soldiers' bayonet skills. Pugil sticks are heavily padded training weapons with each end of the staff color-coded to represent the butt and bayonet of a Soldier's M16 or M4 weapon.

The Soldiers of the 670th competed in three rounds of two-minute

bouts separated by a one-minute break. By the end of the matches, all of the participants were obviously exhausted, saturated with their own sweat.

"There was a good balance of quality instruction and exercises," said Pvt. Willie Abercrombie, 670th cook. "I think it was cool that instructors actually fought, too. They definitely were knowledgeable about what they were teaching. I think it's good that, even though I'm a cook, that they let me do the training."

The 670th MPs quick thinking and expediency turned the rainy weekend, which could have been destined to a classroom abyss, into a time of valuable training, both on the battlefield and off.

JOLLY 92 AVOIDS DISASTER

BY: STAFF. SGT. ANDREW HUGHAN

PHOTO COURTESY: AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

On the night of May 5, 2006, a 129th HH-60G Pave Hawk, call sign Jolly 92, was confronted with an unprecedented in-flight emergency that could have spelled disaster for the aircraft and crew.

The actions of Pilots Maj. Tom Keegan and Capt. Matt Redmond, Flight Engineer Tech. Sgt. Trey Hicks and the Door Gunner Senior Airman Sean Pellaton on that night saved the aircraft and themselves, and for their efforts they were awarded the Earl T. Ricks award for Outstanding Airmanship by the Air Force Association in July, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

Jolly 92 was flying as wingman in a two-ship formation of Pave Hawks over the Central Valley.

The mission was a rescue alert mission conducted as part of an Operational Readiness Exercise. Conditions were turbulent, hazy with no moonlight, making NVG formation utilizing low-level tactics and air refueling particularly challenging. Jolly 92 and their flight lead rendezvoused with an MC-130P to conduct simultaneous aerial refueling.

The lead Pave Hawk closed on MC-130P's left hose followed by Jolly 92 on the right.



Air Force Association Chairman Robert Largent (left) and Lt.Gen. Craig McKinley, Director Air National Guard (far right) present the Earl T. Ricks award for Outstanding Airmanship to the crew of Jolly 92; Pilots Capt. Matt Redmond, Maj. Tom Keegan, door gunner Senior Airman Sean Pellaton and Flight engineer Tech. Sgt. Trey Hicks.

All appeared routine until, within a few feet of the hose, Jolly 92's refueling probe began to oscillate wildly.

Vibration in the cockpit made instrument reading virtually impossible but the pilot was able to halt closure and achieve separation

from the MC-130 and the lead Pave Hawk.

Oscillations increased until one

of the two heavy probe support brackets failed with a final violent snap.

This last snap jarred the helicopter so severely that the window over the pilot's head shattered sending glass shards into the cockpit and down number two-engine intake.

Separated from the other aircraft, and alerting the other aircraft in the formation, the crew had to assess the damage while enduring gale force winds inside the cockpit from the broken window. It quickly became apparent that the bent fuel probe was leaking fuel.

The crew diverted immediately to King City's small, rural civilian airport about fifteen minutes away.

A successful landing was achieved despite concerns of the probe's dangling position and the hail of dirt and gravel propelled into the cockpit by the rotor wash. An exact cause of the incident has yet to be determined but the aircraft's manufacturer, Sikorsky, has adopted the crew's actions as "Recommended Procedures" in a forthcoming safety supplement for use by Pave Hawk crews worldwide.

Flying a simulated combat mission and in-flight refueling the helicopter from a tanker is a tremendous challenge, and one the crews take on regularly, but when near-disaster strikes these crew members exemplified true professionalism and grace under fire.

PARARESCUEMAN RAISES MONEY FOR AIDS AWARENESS

BY STAFF SGT. JILL JAMGOCHIAN

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. (AFP) -- An Airman battled body, mind and social stigmas to raise awareness about AIDS and HIV testing for African Americans by running from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 14 days in December, which was approximately 26 miles a day for two weeks.

Tech. Sgt. Lejon Boudreaux, a California Air National Guard pararescueman (PJ) from the 131st Rescue Squadron, was approached eight months ago by a friend with the idea to participate in an extended run for charity.

Mike Sacco, an avid runner encouraged Sgt. Boudreaux to run for AIDS awareness. After speaking with Phil Wilson, the chief executive officer of the Black AIDS Institute, Mr. Sacco decided to work with the group to create "Run in a Million," an event that would publicize the AIDS epidemic as everyone's problem. The goal was to encourage one million African Americans to be tested by June 27, 2009, which is National HIV Testing Day.

"This was a great opportunity to provide an example of how we're all in this life together," Sgt. Boudreaux said, who has two friends in the Bay Area living with HIV. "We all have trials and tribulations, and our experiences shouldn't be segregated by race."

A pararescueman for 10 years, Sgt. Boudreaux is no stranger to physical and mental stress. In addition to their intense training program, multiple deployments and search and rescue missions, the PJs have a physical evaluation every 18 months. The evaluation consists of a three-mile run, 1,500-meter swim, push-ups, pull-ups and sit-ups.

"To be able to do that in succession is like a mini triathlon," Sgt. Boudreaux said.

He said his profession as a PJ and participating in five marathons in 2007 helped prepare for the L.A. run. But there were still reservations from his family and friends.

"Everyone had the general consensus that I was crazy," Sgt. Boudreaux said. "There's no book telling you the proper way to train, and there were so many unknowns."

He said his family was concerned with the possibility of hospitalization or long-term disability.

A significant concern arose following an injury he sustained to his right quadriceps, during the 12th day of the run. Sgt. Boudreaux was unable to continue past 16 miles, 10 miles short of their daily average throughout the course of the two weeks.

"I didn't think I could walk, let alone run the next day," he said.

A physical therapist volunteered to work on Sgt. Boudreaux's injury that evening with massage therapy and an ice bath, and he was able to run the next morning.

"The most heinous moments during that run was the everyday ice bath," Sgt. Boudreaux said.

Even though they were the only runners, they weren't necessarily alone. Sponsored by the Niketown store in Beverly Hills and supported by volunteer "crew chiefs," medics and fans, the duo successfully completed the arduous task.

"I was so excited my body held out," Sgt. Boudreaux said. "I went through the full emotional gambit of, 'What the hell am I doing?' to 'I can make it.' I thoroughly enjoyed each day."

Sergeant Boudreaux's father, Ron Boudreaux, and 19-year-old brother, Robert Dieguez, a PJ in his first year of training at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., were there to congratulate him on the final day of the marathon.

This experience inspired Sgt. Boudreaux to continue in his philanthropic efforts by kicking off 2008 with a charity run in conjunction with the Big Sur Marathon.

The charity run, The Angel Foundation helps fund the college tuition of a fellow PJ's son who has cancer, he said. Future efforts will include a charity mixer and car-wash to raise money before the run.

"People forget about the power of one," Sgt. Boudreaux said. "One person can make a difference."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTURO EVERITT

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

ANSWER THE CALL

The California Army National Guard is seeking highly motivated and qualified Soldiers to join the ranks of the Officer Corps. Officers are managers, strategic planners, problem solvers, and much more. Alongside their respective noncommissioned officer corps counterparts, officers guide Soldiers by the hundreds or thousands. They receive, deliver, and execute orders to successfully accomplish a mission. They lead from the front, always setting the example and are the standard bearers of the Army values. They are charged with caring for the health and welfare of their Soldiers. But ultimately, officers are responsible for successes and failures alike, and devote their lives to the safety and freedom of American citizens around the world.

The many pathways to receiving your commission; OCS, ROTC, Direct Commission, or WOCS, are outlined below. Call the officer lead hotline for more information: 916-369-4399.

Officer Candidate School (OCS)

It's an intense leadership training course, and not everyone's cut out for it. It's physically and mentally challenging. But those who are accepted, and see it through, agree it's one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

OCS is a great way to enhance your leadership and management skills. Whether you're a first-time Soldier or have prior military experience, OCS will transform you into an effective leader.

There are several options for attending OCS, as outlined below. After speaking with an Officer Strength Manager, you'll choose the best one for you based on your specific circumstances, such as work and family commitments.

State OCS (Traditional)

Location: Camp San Luis Obispo
Length: takes place on weekends—this is an 18-month program of one weekend a month, plus two two-week periods

Resident Programs

Accelerated OCS

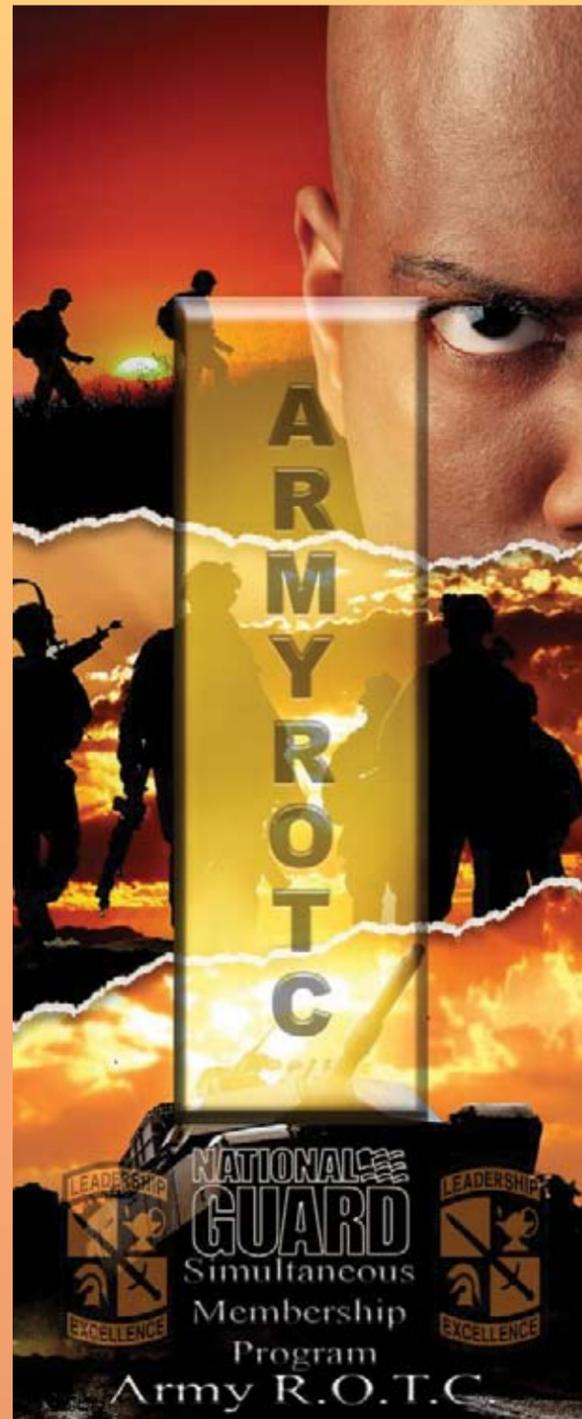
Location: varies
Length: 8 weeks, conducted four times per year

Federal OCS

Location: Fort Benning, GA
Length: 12-weeks, courses available nearly every month

Minimum Requirements

- Under the age of 40 at the time of commissioning (pending change up to 42)
- GT score of at least 110
- Must be medically and morally qualified
- Able to attain a Secret Security Clearance
- Able to pass a standard 3 event APFT with 60 points in each event
- US Citizen
- Within height/weight standards
- Must have at least 60 semester hours from an accredited college or University (Traditional) to begin and have 90 credit hours prior to commissioning
- Must have at least 90 semester hours from an accredited college (Accelerated/Resident courses)
- Commander's letter of recommendation



Army ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corp)

The Army ROTC program is a college elective that consists of a combination of academic classes and important hands-on training that will allow you to become an Army National Guard Lieutenant. It offers physical and mental challenges geared to help you succeed in college and beyond. More importantly, you will learn teamwork and be given responsibilities like mentoring younger cadets and helping them gain the same skills that you have learned. In addition to on-campus training, you could be offered instruction in mountaineering, rappelling and orienteering. Participation in the college-level Army ROTC program takes just a few hours per week. It won't interfere with other academic studies, sports or your social life. As a matter of fact, you'll find the program is a great place to form lasting friendships.

Are there any financial incentives available?

Army ROTC offers a wide range of merit-based scholarships that pay full college tuition. Those on scholarship also receive additional funds to purchase books, buy school supplies and pay other academic fees. Scholarships specifically for the ARNG can pay up to three years of full tuition (no limit). Financial incentives usually exceed \$16,000 per year and can reach in excess of \$50,000 depending on tuition costs. And in many circumstances, ROTC SMP Cadets can receive \$1000-\$2000 per month paid directly to them.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Minimum Requirements for Basic Branch direct commissions:

- Documented leadership position (BNCOC or higher can substitute)
- Recommendation by Company and Battalion Commanders
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Must be medically and morally qualified
- Body fat standards are less than 2% of the maximum allowable
- 70 points in each event on the APFT
- NCOERs and AERs address leadership skills or provide written comments that attest to above average accomplishments
- Soldier neither currently nor previously enrolled in OCS
- Attained baccalaureate degree from accredited school
- Attended WLC at a minimum
- Less than 40 Years Old (above 30 requires waiver)
- Qualify for secret security clearance
- Have an aptitude (GT) score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)

Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)

There are several options for attending WOCS, as outlined below. After speaking with a Warrant Officer Strength Manager, you'll choose the best one for you based on your specific circumstances, such as work and family commitments.

1. Federal WOCS

Location: FT Rucker, AL
Length: 4 weeks, 4 days or 6 weeks 4 days, resident.
Courses available nearly every month.

2. RTI Reserve Component Option WOCS

Location: Camp San Luis Obispo
Length: Three phases: Ph I- Distance Learning, Ph II- 5 IDTs at CSLO, and Ph 3- two week AT. Conducted once per year.

Minimum Requirements:

- Documented leadership position
- NCOERs and AERs address leadership skills or provide written comments that attest to above average accomplishments
- BNCOC or higher
- Recommendation by Company and Battalion Commanders
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Must be medically and morally qualified
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Pass 3 event APFT and meet height/weight requirements (can apply for APFT waiver)
- Qualify for secret security clearance
- Have an aptitude (GT) score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)

What's in it for you?

Regardless of your commission source, you'll receive a \$10,000 commissioning bonus and you'll have leadership skills that are in high demand outside the military (PRICELESS!). Civilian employers value Soldier attributes and especially the leadership qualities of commissioned officers. Graduates of any of these programs frequently enter their civilian careers at a higher level of responsibility and pay grade than their peers.

What is the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP)?

Allows current California Army National Guard Soldiers to remain in the Guard while participating in the ROTC program. It facilitates practical application of classroom instruction and on the job training with Soldiers while serving as a cadet under the mentorship of a commissioned officer.

Basic eligibility:

- Under the age of 40 at the time of commissioning (under 31 for scholarship cadets)
- U.S. citizen
- Must complete the ROTC Basic Course requirements or Basic Training
- Must be medically and morally qualified
- Meet Army Height & Weight requirements
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Full-time student in good academic standing
- If no prior college student must score a 920 or higher on SAT or a 19 or higher on ACT (Students with at least 1 full term of college are not required to have an SAT score)
- Must contain a 2.5 or higher GPA for scholarship
- Applicant must achieve a minimum score of 60/60/60 on APFT

Direct Commission

Direct Commission is an alternative commissioning source for exceptionally qualified individuals whereby a member of the chain of command nominates you for appointment as an officer.

Who gets nominated for direct commission?

Typically, those recommended for direct commission are people with specialized professional skills or personal qualities that would make them highly effective officers. For example, civilians with expertise in medical, legal, ministerial or technical fields, possibly acquired in their civilian job, might qualify. You could also be nominated for a direct commission in one of the Army's basic officer branches if you show outstanding leadership as an enlisted Soldier.

EARN YOUR COMMISSION AS AN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER THROUGH ARMY ROTC

TO QUALIFY:

- BE A GUARD SOLDIER
- ATTEND COLLEGE
- ENROLL IN ROTC CLASS

BONUS WITH A&S OR CHOOSE EITHER:
 TUITION/FEES SCHOLARSHIP (FULL TUITION, NO LIMIT)
 OR
 COMBO BOARD SCHOLARSHIP (30,000/YR LIMIT)

TAKE THE NEXT STEP TODAY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TAKING THE NEXT STEP CONTACT YOUR STATES OFFICER STRENGTH MANAGER OR YOUR ON CAMPUS ROTC RECRUITER.

NATIONAL GUARD LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

****GRAP-O pays \$2,500-\$8,500 for officer/officer candidate referrals.**

Visit www.guardrecruitingassistant.com

Recruit Someone to OCS and receive a bonus !!



Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II addressese CSMR OCS class 2007

CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVE (CSMR) OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL (OCS) CLASS OF 2007

BY COL (CSMR) MARTIN W. LEDWITZ

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. RICHARD S. BERQUIST

The Commissioning Ceremony for the second graduating class of the California State Military Reserve (CSMR) Officer Candidate School was held for thirteen new Army and Air component CSMR second lieutenants at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. The CSMR is the only state defense force with a formal yearlong OCS training program for new officers.

The candidates completed five phases of leadership training and development. The mission of the CSMR OCS is to train selected personnel in the fundamentals of leadership and basic military skills; instill professional and physical fitness ethics; evaluate leadership potential; and commission those who qualify as second lieutenants. The class began with 25 candidates, thirteen completed

the program. The new second lieutenants are: John C. Adams, Peter J. Anninos, Richard Davis, Heather J. Hagan, Mathew L. Huss, Randall Long, Ronnie Kebbas-Vezia, Daniel Lynch, Hector A. Mascorro, Andrew J. Rush, Stephen B. Scheffrin, Oleg Sherbakov, and Eric J. Van Der Heide.

The OCS program was developed by the Operations Directorate of the CSMR led by Col. (CA) Richard Grossman; the Course Director is Lt. Col. (CA) Charles Kosmerl. The Commandant is Maj. (CA) Paul Andersen, and the OCS Executive Officer is 2nd Lt. (CA) Anthony Martin.

Asked about his involvement in the OCS program and his philosophy for implementing it, Lt. Col. Kosmerl said, "I am a graduate of the active component OCS of the Sixties. The 168 days that I spent in that school affected me for the rest

of my life, and I was left with indelible impressions of what I felt a "true" OCS should accomplish and what values should be taught. Maj. Andersen, the Commandant, was commissioned through the CNG OCS in the mid-Eighties, but his program and mine were essentially the same, and we share similar values and attitudes. The CSMR Officer Candidate Guide and the CSMR TAC Officer Guide were adopted from the similar National Guard documents. One of my goals was to make the school as professional as possible within the context of the SMR. The average age is probably mid-forties, so we're not dealing with 18 - 20 year olds."

2nd Lt. (CA) Anthony Martin, the OCS Executive Officer commented, "All the candidates went through a formal application process, providing detailed application packets that were screened by their local units. Once approved by their local units, they were forwarded to

SMR HQ and were reviewed by an OCS Board for further screening and final approval. The OCS training consists of 160+ hours of formal coursework. This typically consists of 5 phases, each consisting of a 4-day weekend training session. In addition, there are 6 FEMA courses plus ad hoc assignments to be completed and numerous reading and writing assignments done on the students own time. It is important to note, that these activities are in addition to the normal UTA participation. OCS Phases are completed on non-UTA weekends to allow students to continue to participate with their units."

The CSMR is a proud, professional, dedicated group of citizen Soldiers and Airmen who assist in protecting California against natural and manmade threats. For more information visit www.calguard.ca.gov/casmr.

CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR CALIFORNIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TRIAL DEFENSE SERVICES (TDS)

Mission

Our primary mission is to provide trial defense services to California National Guard (CNG) Soldiers. The 22nd Legal Support Organization (22nd LSO) of the United States Army Reserve (USAR) assigns defense counsel for all California Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers in California.

Policy

California National Guard TDS operates under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the CNG and the 22nd LSO. The MOA mandates that all requests for counsel must go through the 22nd LSO. Soldiers needing legal advice or representation for an Article 15, administrative separation, court-martial, letter of reprimand, AR 15-6 investigation or any other military justice matter should request counsel through the 22nd LSO by the methods described below.

Requesting Counsel Using the Internet

The preferred method for requesting legal advice or representation is to submit a Request for Counsel through the 22nd LSO website by clicking the "Request for Counsel" link at the top of that website. A link to the 22nd LSO website is available at the CNG public website at <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx>. Click Office of the Adjutant General, then scroll down to click Staff Judge Advocate and then click Request for Counsel to be taken to the 22nd LSO website. Another way to find the 22nd LSO website is to type "jagcnet 22nd lso" using a search engine like Google.

Requesting Counsel by Telephone

If a Soldier is unable to access the 22nd LSO through the Internet, then the Soldier may also contact the 22nd LSO by telephone by using one of the numbers below. It is likely that a Soldier will have to leave a voicemail message at these telephone numbers. A representative at the 22nd LSO will reply to the message.

- Dial 1-877-432-9028 to get the automated telephone system. Press 1 then enter extension 4146.
- Dial 1-972-343-4146 for the 22nd LSO office for assignment of counsel.

Contact Through the CNG TDS Office

If a Soldier has made a request through the 22nd LSO website or by telephone to the 22nd LSO at the above numbers, and has not been contacted by defense counsel within 72 hours, then the Soldier should contact the California National Guard TDS Team office in Sacramento at (916) 854-3496. The California National Guard TDS Team is not authorized to assign defense counsel but under the circumstances described above will assist Soldiers in processing requests for counsel.

The "Request for Counsel" page on the 22nd LSO website can also found at the following links:

- <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/sja/Pages/default.aspx>
- <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/sja/Pages/TrialDefenseServices.aspx>

Savings Deposit Program

Military members deployed in combat zones, qualified hazardous duty areas, or certain contingency operations may be eligible to deposit all or part of their unallotted pay into a DOD savings account up to \$10,000 during a single deployment. Interest accrues on the account at an annual rate of 10 percent and compounds quarterly. For more information about the Savings Deposit Program and other investment options for service-members, visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service website, www.dfas.mil.

Veterans Receive Pay Increases

Millions of veterans and eligible family members will see their disability compensation, pension, and survivors' benefits increased as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides an annual cost-of-living increase for key benefits. A recent law signed by President Bush provides a 2.3 percent increase in disability compensation and survivors' benefits. Eligible veterans and family members will see this increase starting in their January 2008 checks. For more information about VA benefits and services, visit the VA website, www.va.gov/ or call 1-800-827-1000.

The Thrift Savings Plan

All active-duty and reserve members of the U.S. uniformed services are eligible to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), which allows them to save a percentage of their pretax income up to a current maximum of 15,500 per year. If you choose to participate, ask your disbursing office or download and print out the TSP Election Form (TSP-U-1). Return the completed form to your service's payroll or disbursing office. There are five investment funds available through the TSP. Initial contributions are automatically invested in the fund with the lowest risk. For more information, visit the Thrift Savings Plan website, www.tsp.gov.

Army Adds Advisors at Hospitals

Soldiers seeking to determine eligibility for payments under Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI), have a new ally in Soldier Family Support Specialists (SFSSs). Now available at 10 military treatment facilities across the country, the SFSSs perform a variety of duties including claims form and medical documentation assistance. The SFSSs will also provide assistance at other treatment facilities throughout the country. For more information about the SFSS program or TSGLI, contact the U.S. Army TSGLI service center at 1-800-237-1336, e-mail TSGLI@conus.army.mil or visit the TSGLI website at www.tsgli.army.mil.

VA Distributes Insurance Dividends

More than a million veterans are in line to share \$349 million in annual insurance dividends during 2008, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The dividend payments will be sent to an estimated 1.1 million holders of VA insurance policies on the anniversary date of their policies. Sent automatically through different payment plans, the amounts will vary based on the age of the veteran, the type of insurance, and the length of time the policy has been in force. Veterans who have questions about their policies may contact the VA insurance toll-free number at 1-800-669-8477, send an e-mail to VAinsurance@va.gov.

Did you know?

What to do when you have drill conflict ?

Notify your chain of command if you foresee a conflict with attending drill or UTA. Conflicts with attending drill are not normally acceptable due to employment conflicts, overtime, civilian schooling or loss of income. This requirement also extends to the completion of scheduled training agreed upon through the chain of command. In the Army National Guard, Soldiers will comply with this process using Split Unit Training Assembly (SUTA) in accordance with NGR 350-1 & NGR 680-1. In the Air National Guard, Airmen will comply with this process using Equivalent Training (EQT) in accordance with ANGI 36-2001. Both Soldiers and Airmen must meet their obligations by showing up at the scheduled time and place in the proper uniform, ready for training. The commander must plan for and resource training that will be conducted during the SUTA or EQT.

Soldiers may be allowed to make up drill using the SUTA process once approved by the commander; however Airmen may be allowed to make up a drill with or without prior approval. For both the Soldier and Airmen, there is a limited window of time in which the SUTA/EQT can be acted upon as follows:

- SUTA may be performed within 30 days prior to the scheduled drill, or within 60 days after the scheduled drill. SUTA is authorized ONLY upon the completion of the Authorization and Certification for Inactive Duty Training, CAL ARNG Form 350-2R.
- EQTs can be performed in a pay status for excused absences and in a non-pay status (retirement points only) for unexcused absences. An EQT in pay status must be performed within 30 calendar days of missed UTA and with in the same fiscal year, whereas an EQT in a non-pay status may be performed outside the 30 calendar days of the missed UTA period but within the member's anniversary year.

Should a conflict arise in your attendance at drill or UTA, the use of SUTA or EQT is a privilege, not a right, so ensure you communicate your issue with your commander.



Photo Courtesy of 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

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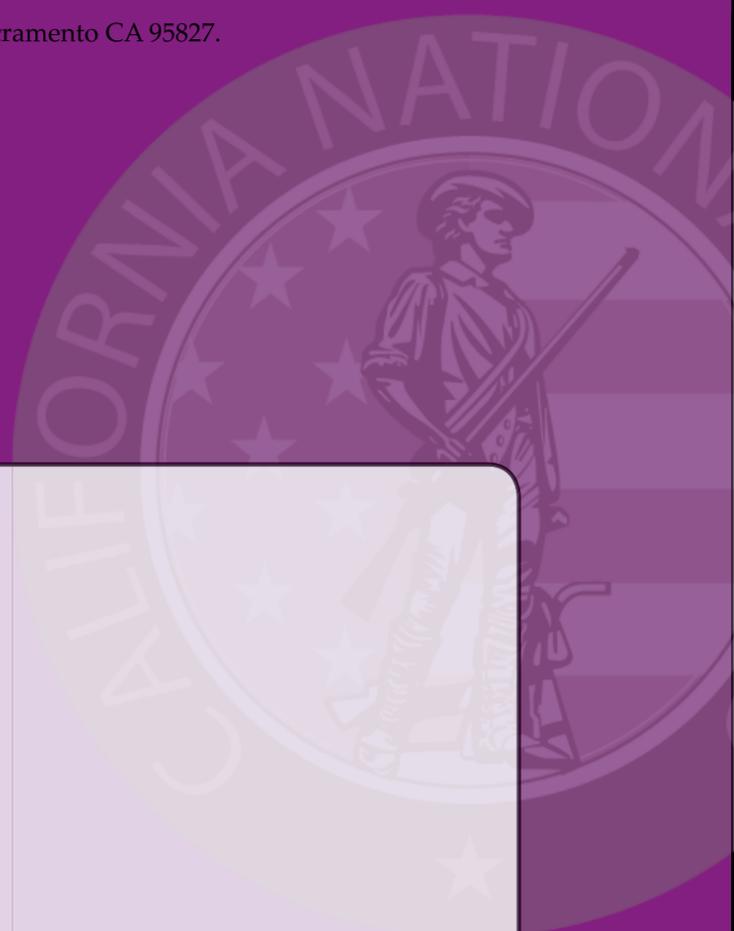
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