

Leadership Corner

In 2011 the CNG continued the high operational tempo we have been accustomed to since 2001, deploying thousands of troops overseas and remaining ready to respond to emergencies at home. Once again our troops faced tremendous challenges and performed admirably, upholding the standard of excellence we expect from our dedicated Guardsmen.

2011 was also a time of significant change for this organization, including my appointment as adjutant general. It is a testament to the fortitude of the CNG's members that we forged ahead in this time of transition without missing a beat, fully focusing on our duties and overcoming obstacles that otherwise might have prevented us from successfully completing our missions.

In a force such as ours, filled with

devoted, patriotic service members, wins and losses often come down to one thing: leadership. Military institutions are built on leadership at the officer and enlisted levels; in many ways this is what distinguishes us from other institutions. As military leaders, our decisions not only determine the direction of the Cal Guard, but have potentially great consequences on the lives of the individuals who serve.

In April 2011, when Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. directed me to lead this fine force, I immediately set out to make changes in key leadership positions that would ensure the health and success of this organization. Within my first few weeks, I placed many competent, capable leaders in command positions both at California Military Department headquarters in Sacramento and at brigades and

wings throughout California. In many cases these leaders were promoted from within, but I also extended my search beyond California and appointed proven leaders who brought their experience, expertise and winning attitudes to improve our already exceptional force.

These leaders have since set the conditions for our organization to succeed and flourish in a challenging operational and fiscal environment. As we move forward, I expect our officers and noncommissioned officers to continue to bear the torch and take us to the next level. Our leaders will find ways to innovate and strengthen our force while upholding the military values of integrity and selfless service, acting as good stewards of the taxpayers' money and ensuring our preparedness for domestic emergencies.



DAVID S. BALDWIN
Major General
The Adjutant General

Our responsibility to the people of California and the United States is too great to lose sight of those commitments for even a moment. With the leaders currently at the helm, this organization will never fall short in its dedication to the mission and to the people of this state and nation.

As I look back over the past year, I am proud of our enlisted corps and our many and varied achievements. Although we sent the CNG's final units to Iraq this year, we continue to send troops into harm's way in Afghanistan and numerous other worldwide locations. These Soldiers and Airmen deserve only the best leadership and mentorship.

The rank on one's chest, sleeve or collar identifies their role as a leader, but to truly lead, he or she must inspire, provide purpose and define the value of their troops' roles as Soldiers or Airmen. To be a mentor, you must transfer those leadership qualities through coaching and encouragement.

When senior officers and non-commissioned officers (NCO) are

asked who helped guide them early in their careers, a name will often fall from their lips within seconds. The importance of being a mentor and having a mentor cannot be over-emphasized.

Mentorship is a two-way street. First, you should seek out other Soldiers and Airmen and ask if they have questions about their careers or personal development. Second, you should seek at least one mentor for yourself. Don't wait for someone to ask you. I have many mentors, both officers and NCOs, whom I routinely look to for advice.

During my travels throughout the Cal Guard, I regularly ask young troops if they have a mentor. All too often I get a blank look in return. I challenge each one of you to take a look at your ability

to not only energize the future leaders of this organization but to use mentorship to intensify their development.

If you have experience, find a young protege who has the drive and passion to succeed, and pass your knowledge to them. The rewards of mentorship are great for both the mentor and the recipient of the knowledge. You will enjoy career satisfaction knowing you guided someone to that next promotion or assignment. You may discover someone's hidden talents and assist them in getting the right job. You could be that name they think of 20 years from now during their retirement ceremony.

Take a moment to reflect on your ability to assist your fellow troops. Use your wisdom to help



WILLIAM CLARK JR.
Command Sergeant Major
Senior Enlisted Adviser

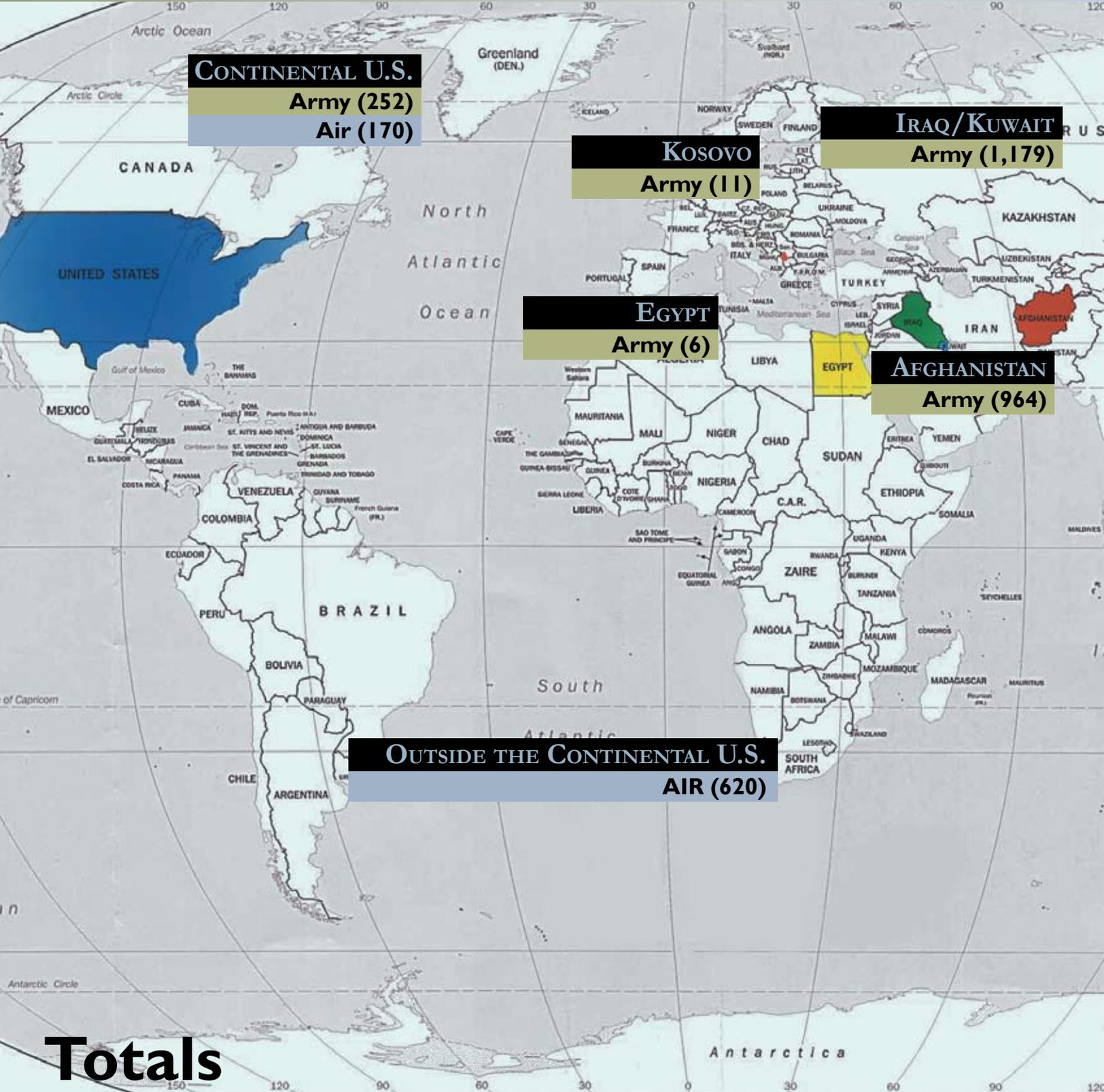
mold the next wing commander, battalion command sergeant major, first sergeant or section leader. Search the Web for your service's mentorship program, talk to your leaders or contact me to learn more. Build your mentorship directory today to shape the best possible leaders of tomorrow.

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Deployments in 2011

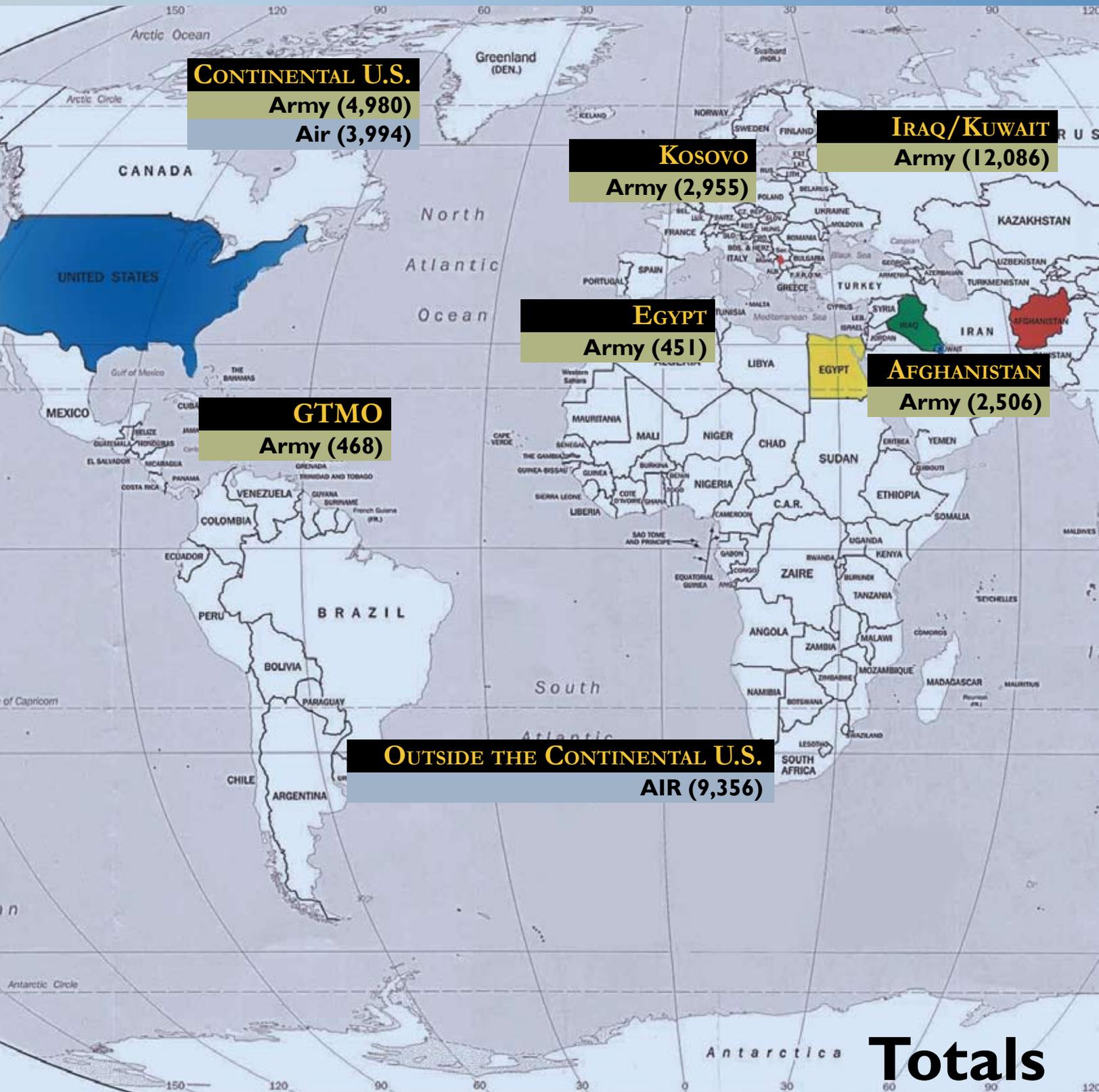


Totals

ARMY 2,412

AIR 790

Deployments since Sept. 11, 2001



Totals

ARMY 23,444
AIR 13,306

In Memoriam

IN REMEMBRANCE 2001-PRESENT

This page is dedicated to the members of the California National Guard who paid the ultimate price so that others may live.

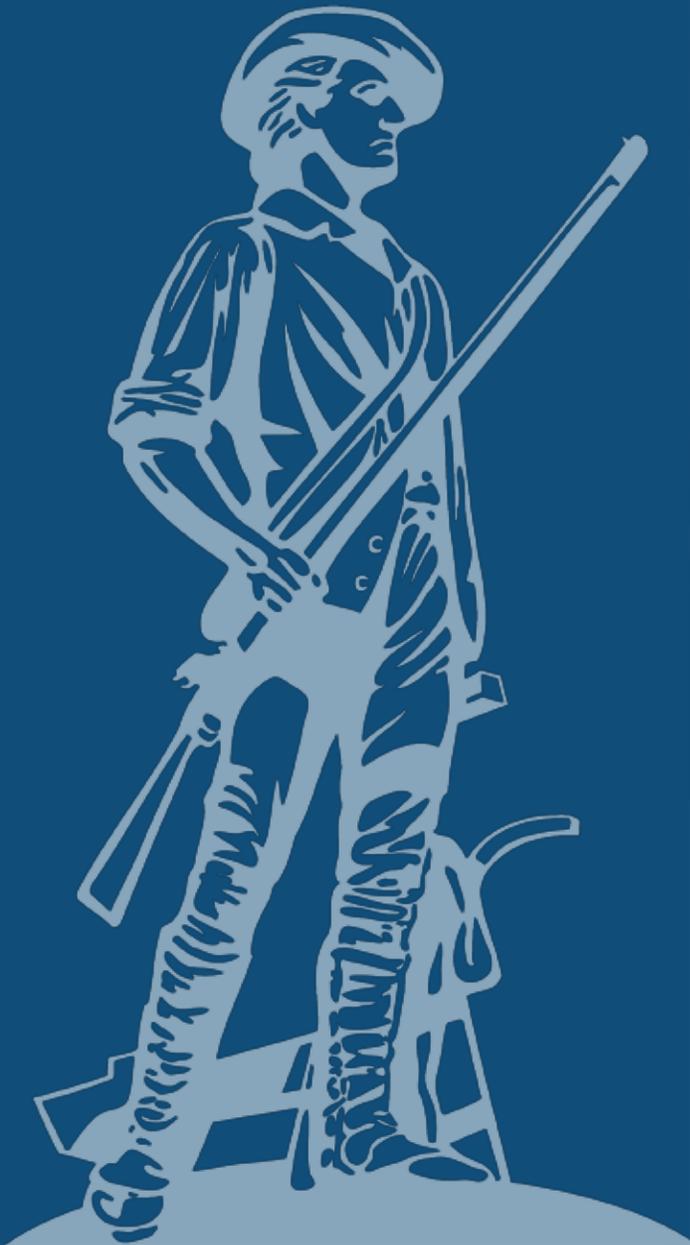
Staff Sergeant David Perry (649th MP Co)
Specialist Michael Mihalakis (270th MP Co)
Specialist Eric Ramirez (670th MP Co)
First Lieutenant Michael W. Vega (Co A, 223rd MI Bn)
Specialist Daniel P. Unger (Co A, 1st Bn, 185th Inf)
Staff Sergeant Jose C. Rangel (1106th AVCRAD)
First Lieutenant Andre D. Tyson (Co A, 579th Engr Bn)
Sergeant Patrick R. McCaffrey (Co A, 579th Engr Bn)
Sergeant Quoc B. Tran (Det 3, Co B, 185th Ar Bn)
Sergeant 1st Class Michael Ottolini (Co A, 579th Engr Bn)
Corporal Glenn J. Watkins (Co B, 1st Bn, 161st Inf)
Sergeant Timothy C. Kiser (HHD, 340th Fwd Spt Bn)
Sergeant Arnold Duplantier II (Co C, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Staff Sergeant Alfredo Silva (Det 1, HHB, 1st Bn, 487th FA)
Sergeant Mike T. Sonoda Jr. (Det 2, Co D, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Staff Sergeant Paul C. Neubauer (Co D, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Sergeant 1st Class Daniel R. Schiele (Det 1, Co D, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Staff Sergeant Jerry L. Bonifacio Jr. (Co B, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Captain Raymond Hill (HHC, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Sergeant Shakere T. Guy (Co D, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Sergeant Marcelino R. Corniel (Co A, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Sergeant 1st Class Isaac S. Lawson (HHD, 49th MP Brigade)
Sergeant 1st Class Rudy Salcido (1114th Transportation Co)
Sergeant Dwayne Young (Co C, 3rd Bn, 160th Inf)
Sergeant Dennis Sullen (HHC, 1st Bn, 185th Inf)
Sergeant Rhys W. Klasno (1114th Transportation Company)
Major Rocco M. Barnes (40th Infantry Division)
Sergeant Carlo F. Eugenio (756th Transportation Company)
Specialist Sean M. Walsh (870th Military Police Company)



Sgt. Carlo F. Eugenio
756th Transportation Co.
1982 - 2011



Spc. Sean M. Walsh
870th Military Police Co.
1990 - 2011



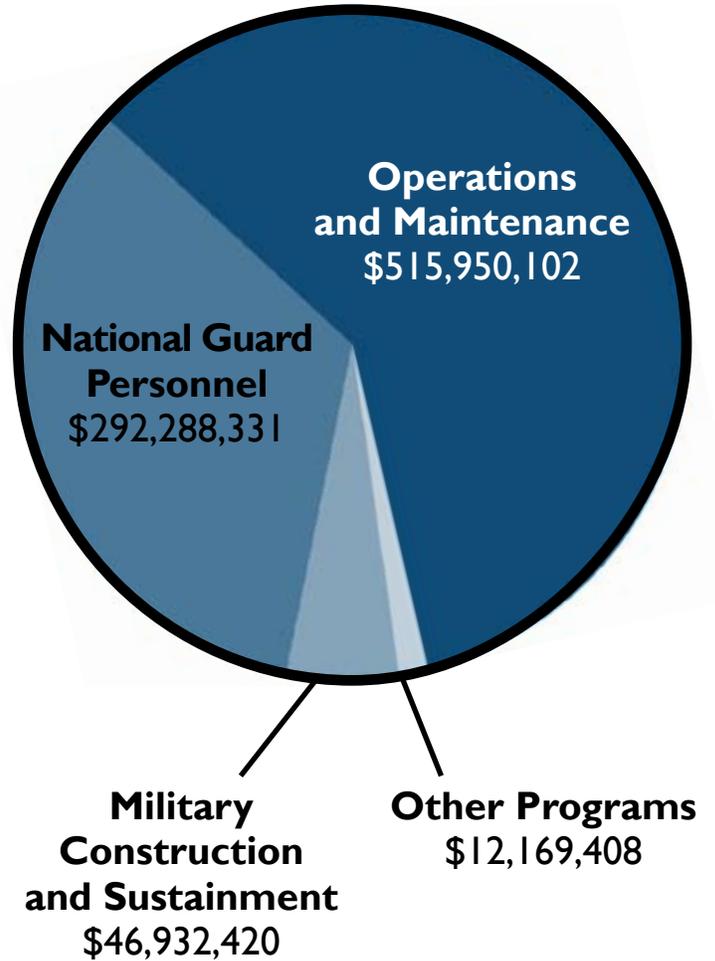
Economic Impact

Federal Allocations

**Joint Task Force Domestic
Support-Counterdrug**
\$19,874,467



Federal Spending



Youth Program Expenditures

Program	Congressional District	Expenditures
Grizzly Youth Academy	22	\$4,400,000
Sunburst Youth Academy	40	\$3,500,000
STARBASE	5	\$293,000
Total Expenditures		\$8,193,000



Civil Support Teams
\$1,048,000

Military Construction Spending	
SRM spending	\$34,591,000
MILCON spending	\$12,341,420
Total Construction	\$46,932,420

Allocations can be spent over five years • SRM: Sustainment, Restoration, Modernization • MILCON: Military Construction

Top MILCON Spending		
Location	Congressional District	Expenditures & Allocations
Camp Roberts	17/22	\$19,416,786
Moffett Airfield	14	\$2,355,420
Fresno	21	\$1,466,296
Los Alamitos	40	\$1,153,158
March Air Base	44	\$686,000
Channel Islands	24	\$548,000
Fresno	21	\$528,000
Seaside	17	\$320,711
Red Bluff	2	\$237,947
San Francisco	8	\$236,150

Our Creeds

**I am an American Soldier.
I am a Warrior and a member of a team.
I serve the people of the United States,
and live the Army Values.
I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.
I am disciplined, physically and
mentally tough, trained and proficient
in my warrior tasks and drills.
I always maintain my arms, my
equipment and myself.
I am an expert and I am a professional.
I stand ready to deploy, engage and
destroy the enemies of the United
States of America in close combat.
I am a guardian of freedom and the
American way of life.
I am an American Soldier.**



**I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my nation's call.
I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage,
a tradition of honor,
and a legacy of valor.**

**I am an American Airman,
Guardian of freedom and justice,
My nation's sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.**

**I am an American Airman:
Wingman, Leader, Warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind.
I will never falter,
and I will not fail.**



Army National Guard

40th Combat Aviation Brigade

For the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) and two of its organic battalions — the 640th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) and 1st Battalion (Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment — 2011 was defined by their historic deployments to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

In Iraq the brigade comprised battalions from active duty, Reserve and National Guard forces hailing from 22 states. At its peak, the CAB included 260 rotary-wing, fixed-wing and unmanned aircraft. Known in theater by the call sign Task Force Condor, the brigade provided full-spectrum aviation support throughout the Iraq Joint Operations Area. The brigade HHC's efficient and accurate performance of command-and-control functions earned the trust and praise of ground tactical commanders and their higher headquarters, the 18th Airborne Corps.

Missions supported by the 40th CAB included providing medical evacuation within one hour, armed aerial reconnaissance and security, air assault support to special operations forces and air movement of personnel and material. Following assumption of the mission in March, the brigade transported 178,000 passengers and more than 7 million pounds of cargo, supported ground tactical commanders with 7,800 attack and observation missions, and performed 535 medical evacuation missions. In all the CAB flew more than 72,000 accident-free hours.

The 1-140th was given the most high-profile and demanding missions to perform, and despite being split between three locations in Iraq, the battalion proved worthy of the task. The 1-140th's mission set included responsibility for the fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft that were designated to transport all senior military and civilian leadership, as well as execution of time-sensitive, night-vision-goggle special operations missions.

During the deployment, members of the 1-140th routinely transported the commander of United States Forces-Iraq, the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and numerous federally elected representatives. Support

to the Special Forces community required error-free performance under the darkest and dustiest flight conditions, and the 1-140th's exceptionally qualified crew members consistently delivered.

These achievements would not have been possible without the stellar performance of the 640th ASB. The 640th provided essential services for the support of all battalions including signal, medical, aviation refueling and aircraft sustainment maintenance support. The 640th was the only ASB in the Iraq theater. Therefore, in addition to its 40th CAB responsibilities, the 640th assumed responsibility for three battalions from the other aviation brigade in theater, increasing their workload to include twenty-four AH-64 Apache helicopters and forty UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

The aviation maintenance personnel within the units and the ASB established benchmarks for performance that will be difficult to exceed. During the deployment, Task Force Condor, supported by the 640th ASB, flew more flight hours per airframe than its predecessor in Iraq, the 1st CAB, and more hours per airframe than have been flown in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The Soldiers who composed the largest aviation deployment in CNG history proudly returned home in time to celebrate the holiday season with family and friends. They brought with them a substantial amount of experience, which will enrich the state for years to come.



40th Infantry Division

Technology, preparedness and response save lives. That is why the 40th Infantry Division (ID) led the way in those three categories in 2011. The year included the fielding of the new Army-wide communications system, the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), and the division's telecommunications team facilitated the fielding of the new system and the associated training of Soldiers. Training for the system took place at the division headquarters and was attended by National Guard Soldiers from four states.

"The WIN-T system allows full-spectrum communication from the higher headquarters to subordinate elements for the most current picture of the battlefield," said Master Sgt. Bobby Chavez, 40th ID telecommunications noncommissioned officer in charge. It will enable communication with civil authorities during state emergencies.

The 40th ID also stood up Domestic All-Hazards Response Team-West (DART-West) in 2011. The 23-person DART forms a deployable command-and-control headquarters to synchronize the flow of Guard forces into and out of a disaster area when requested by affected states. DARTs also manage the tactical flow of forces and equipment, providing command and control of joint reception, staging, onward movement and integration. "DART provides additional capability in the event of a disaster by recommending which units to support the requesting state," said Maj. Joseph Adams, operations officer for DART-West.

With only two primary DARTs in the U.S., the 40th ID team is responsible for 25 states and territories. To build interstate relationships, DART-West has travelled across the U.S. from Texas to Washington and across the Pacific from Hawaii to Guam.

In 2011, the "Blackhorse Artillery" of 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment, spent two weeks barraging the High Desert of Fort Irwin with precisely targeted rounds — the kind that make Soldiers grin and the enemy shudder. This was the first live fire exercise for the unit in three years.

Also in 2011, two members of 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, became the first National Guard Soldiers to qualify as master gunners on the Stryker Mobile Gun System. Master Sgt. Thomas Dalton and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Scott graduated from the Stryker MGS Master Gunner Course at Fort Knox, Ky., in June and July, respectively. "It felt really good to represent the National Guard among all the active duty Soldiers at the schoolhouse and know that our battalion continues to lead the way," Dalton said.

The battalion's two infantry companies as well as sections of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company received the newest version of the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle, the M2A2 ODS-SA, in 2011. This vehicle has only been rolled out to a select few units. The 1-185th also became the first reserve component unit west of the Mississippi River to conduct Expert Infantryman's Badge testing since September 2001.

Improving combat readiness, training and international interoperability were key tasks for the Talisman Sabre exercise, which took

place in Australia, California, Florida, Hawaii and Virginia. The exercise included more than 22,000 troops from the U.S. and Australian armies, navies and air forces, as well as the U.S. Marine Corps. Several civilian agencies from both countries also participated.

"The Soldiers [benefitted from] really great joint and multinational training," said Maj. Gen. Scott Johnson, commander of the 40th ID, who served as Army force commander for the approximately 1,500 U.S. Soldiers in the exercise. "What we're being asked to do is above division-level work. ... Our 40th Division people are getting a joint task force experience ... that's more on an operational and strategic level."

While the 40th continues to move forward, its members also make sure not to lose sight of their heritage. In 2011, Johnson and the 40th ID command sergeant major, Andres Roman, accompanied two Korean War veterans from the 40th to South Korea to attend a graduation ceremony at Gapyeong High School, which was built by 40th ID Soldiers during their service in the Korean War.



49th Military Police Brigade

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

The 49th Military Police Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) returned from Iraq in August 2010 and immediately went to work on a new initiative for homeland security: command and control of the Homeland Response Force (HRF) for Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX, which includes California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. As a joint task force with no-notice recall for domestic disasters or incidents, the HRF must be validated by March 2012. In preparation the HHC participated in the Vibrant Response exercise in Indiana in August as well as the Vigilant Guard exercise in Arizona in November.

The brigade also has security force and civil support responsibilities for in-state crises such as natural disasters or civil unrest.

The HHC welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Menard as the brigade's top enlisted leader in 2011, succeeding Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles. The HHC also experienced a change of command from Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier to Col. William T. Arruda Jr.

185TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

The 185th MP Battalion comprises six companies and one headquarters detachment with more than 1,300 total personnel, making it the largest operational battalion in the California Army National Guard. In 2011 the battalion participated in two training missions in Germany. Domestically, 185th Soldiers performed a cordon-and-search mission at Camp Roberts, Calif.; participated in a Warfighter competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; competed in a CNG marksmanship competition; and supported the Marine Corps air show in San Diego. The battalion was also tasked to provide two MP companies and a command-and-control element to conduct security for the Homeland Response Force mission. Additionally the battalion remains designated the quick reaction force for Northern California.

The 185th had one unit deployed in Afghanistan at the end of 2011, and one unit had just returned from deployment there. The battalion is also preparing to send three MP platoons to support three transportation companies in Afghanistan.

579TH ENGINEER BATTALION

"Making the world a safer place" is one of the 579th Engineer Battalion's more noble unwritten missions, and its Soldiers have been doing or training to do just that. Just some of their activities include the 217th Explosive Ordnance Company clearing explosive hazards at Camp Roberts; the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) responding to mock casualties at a simulated air show in Wisconsin; and the 235th Engineer (Sapper) Company training German forces.

In Afghanistan the 649th Horizontal Engineer Company has been working with Afghan engineers to build roads in Paktika province.

The 149th Chemical Company has been training at home to hone their proficiency at the CERFP's most difficult and critical task: decontamination. And the 132nd Multi-Role Bridge Company continues its preparation for deployment in 2012 to provide bridging support in Afghanistan.

The battalion has more than 850 Soldiers and stands well-prepared for an all-hazards event.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

A late night phone call. A weeklong stakeout in a shady neighborhood. Taping off a crime scene to preserve the integrity of sensitive evidence. These are but a few examples of the grim reality that faces an Army CID special agent. The 170th CID investigates upwards of 100 cases per year. Most are misdemeanor crimes, but some are felonies that on some occasions involve civilians. If an event is criminal and involves the interests of the CNG, then it falls to the 170th to investigate. Due to the nature of their work, special agents are not permitted to divulge information that may be sensitive.



79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

For the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2011 began with a strong possibility of a deployment to Operation New Dawn in Iraq. Whether it was Iraq or Afghanistan didn't matter: The brigade's leadership stressed all battalions and companies should get ready to move forward.

"We continue to prepare for our possible deployment," 79th IBCT Commander Col. Mark Malanka wrote to his Soldiers in early 2011. "We must remain focused, and leaders need to ensure that your Soldiers are informed and provide them with the guidance they need to succeed."

Malanka then began to assemble his leadership team to prepare his troops for combat, with several change-of-command ceremonies throughout the year. In January, Lt. Col Anthony Noll took command of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, during a ceremony in Modesto. That same month, Lt. Col Nick Ducich took command of 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, in a ceremony at Joint Force Training Base-Los Alamitos. In the spring, Lt. Col. Kevin Bender took command of the 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and in the summer, Lt. Col. Michael Leeney took command of 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment. In addition, 19 of the IBCT's 30 company, troop or battery guidons were transferred into the hands of new commanders.

Another key piece of the mobilization was family preparedness, which IBCT leadership continues to stress as being of the highest importance. Several events were held throughout the year to help Soldiers and their families prepare for an extended time away from home. "Family Readiness ... is a support program within military units that promotes the readiness of families in peacetime or war, providing constant support to military families," said Suzie Whittle, IBCT Family Readiness coordinator.

Due to the call to deploy, training events focused on preparing Soldiers for combat. Several Soldiers took advantage of a unique opportunity in Arizona at the Gunsite Academy. The owners of the private facility offer free marksmanship courses to those who have deployed to the Middle East to show their appreciation to the troops. "Although every Soldier saw a marked improvement in accuracy, Gunsite also taught us to fight with our weapon systems beyond just qualifying," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Corcoran. "After completing the course, all of us were more competent and able to return to our respective unit with the knowledge and ability to teach others what we have learned."

Field artillery Soldiers also kept a high level of preparedness and conducted live fire training during their training weekends. Additionally the "Redlegs" deployed their newly acquired Raven unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) during their March training. Flying the Raven and coordinating missions with fire-direction control brought together two very different weapon systems and gave artillery commanders a glimpse of what can be done in combat.



The brigade learned in late summer that it was not going to deploy overseas, but that didn't change the operational tempo of its annual training and Army Warrior Task training. Every battalion in the brigade spent more than two weeks at Camp Roberts, Calif., going through the various individual tasks and small-unit battle drills with the CNG's Task Force Warrior trainers.

Just as the brigade began to accept that it would not deploy, a clear reminder of the Guard's state mission came into play while the brigade's headquarters element was performing its two-week annual training in September. A massive power outage crippled Southern California and parts of Arizona, and the IBCT was put on alert to respond as Joint Task Force-South. Command Sgt. Major Harold London, the IBCT's top enlisted leader, said the San Diego power outage was an excellent opportunity to find the IBCT's strengths and weaknesses. "Could we go out and support civil authorities right now?" he asked rhetorically. "The answer is yes."

"Our battalions were really responsive," added Maj. Jeremy Hopkins, the IBCT's deputy operations officer. "Despite the recent stand-down for an overseas deployment, the blackout may have reinvigorated some Soldiers because we still have a mission here at home."

As 2011 wrapped up, the IBCT was preparing its Soldiers for a rotation at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, Calif., in May as its premier 2012 training event.

100th Troop Command

The 100th Troop Command completed another successful year in 2011. The 100th is a diverse brigade whose headquarters is designed as a command-and control headquarters for various types of missions and units.

In February, Soldiers from the 100th participated in the Cobra Gold exercise in Thailand. This, the 30th year of Cobra Gold, built on progress from previous exercises, improving participating nations' ability to conduct multinational operations and improve joint interoperability and capacity.

Company A, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Augmented), from Redwood City sent an operational detachment-A to Texas in 2011 to conduct Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat training. The Special Forces company also participated in an exercise at the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana. The unit's role was to conduct command-and-control and village-stability operations in a semi-permissive environment. The exercise also incorporated foreign internal defense, direct action, information operations and mutually supporting quick reaction forces. The rotation focused on improving unit readiness by providing highly realistic, stressful,

joint and combined arms training across the full spectrum of conflict.

The 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist) from San Francisco provided interpreters, translators, counterintelligence, human intelligence and signals intelligence support and personnel for domestic and overseas missions in 2011. At any given time, 10 percent to 20 percent of the battalion's Soldiers are spearheading intelligence support that drives operational missions, including key positions at the Defense Language Institute, counterintelligence field offices, U.S. Cyber Command and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Soldiers of the 223rd were recognized repeatedly in 2011 for their technical knowledge and professionalism while involved with deployments, mobilizations and overseas deployment training in 14 countries. Linguists for the 223rd were actively involved in the forefront of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa in 2011, and the 223rd Soldiers continued to build their skills by participating in exercises such as Cobra Gold, Panther Strike, Key Resolve, Rapid Trident, Beyond the Horizons and Ulchi Freedom Guardian.

The 100th remained current in its fire, flood and natural disaster relief certifications in 2011. Each company was focused on exercises that incorporate realistic scenarios and utilize the crawl, walk, run phases of training and mentoring, topping off the training year with a capstone exercise.

In August, Soldiers with the 140th Chemical Company from Los Alamitos participated in Soldier readiness processing as the first part of their pre-deployment process. The company will deploy to Kuwait Naval Base in March. In October pre-mobilization training brought Soldiers up to speed on challenges such as individual movement techniques, improvised-explosive-device detection, reaction to direct and indirect fire, hand-to-hand combat, military vehicle driver training, and individual rifle and pistol marksmanship.

"We have trained for our [chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear] mission for years. Now we get a non-chemical mission," said Sgt. 1st Class James Light, readiness noncommissioned officer for the 140th. "This will really test our Soldiers and bring them together as a team."

"For the new Soldiers, this [training] will be familiar, but for us old-timers, this is a much needed refresher in basic Soldiering skills," added Sgt. 1st Class Jason Schuch. "This deployment will be a challenging adventure for the company as a whole, which will include training, camaraderie and hardships."

The 49th Human Resources Company from Sacramento participated in the annual Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises in South Korea. The 49th sent 27 Soldiers to Korea two weeks prior to the exercise to train on joint reception center operations. The Soldiers were responsible for reception, in-processing, maintaining accountability, coordinating transportation and out-processing personnel.

The 629th Trial Defense Services Detachment from Sacramento assumed its Soldier



continued on page 55

115th Regional Support Group

During a Jan. 12 transfer of authority ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), 115th Regional Support Group, assumed their mission of providing administrative, logistical, munitions, transportation and maintenance support for all units in the CSSB's area of operations. Throughout



the deployment, the unit sustained a rapid operational tempo, remaining dynamic, quickly adapting to changes and not hesitating to think outside the box. The 749th made ambitious and innovative decisions, including transitioning from a tactical operations center to a logistical operations center concept.

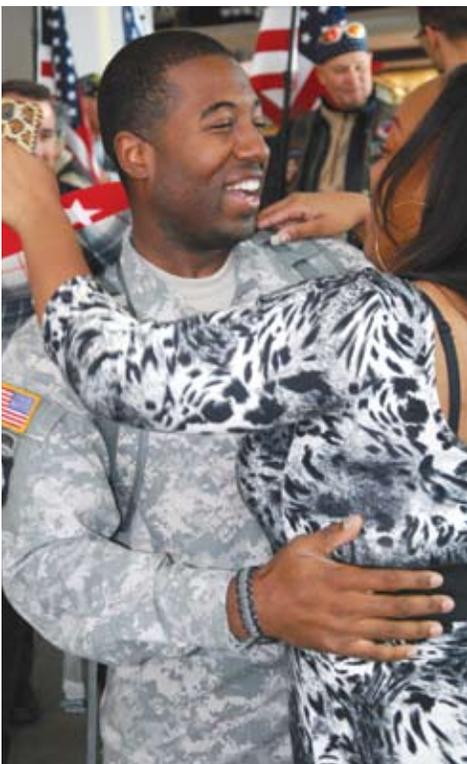
The 749th is combat-tested and prepared to assume any role in domestic operations. The Soldiers of the 749th, who mobilized just before the 2010 holiday season, made it home for Thanksgiving with their loved ones in 2011, returning to their home station in Benicia as one cohesive team without casualties and with no Soldier left behind.

The RSG's second deployment of 2011 was the San Mateo-based 297th Area Support Medical Company, which took control of the Contingency Operating Base Basra Medical Treatment Facility and Specialty Care Clinic after two weeks of training with the Texas Army National Guard unit that preceded it. The 297th received overwhelming community support upon their mobilization, including the San Mateo County Fair

adopting the 297th and taking donations for care packages to be sent to the Soldiers. This was the first overseas deployment for the entire unit since it was formed in 1954.

It was a busy year for the 340th Brigade Support Battalion. Along with continuing normal daily operations, the 340th supported three Soldier readiness processing events, conducted a battalion change of command, hosted the 65th Fires Brigade's logistics exercise, hosted the brigade's decentralized enlisted promotion boards and competed in the Philip A. Connelly Competition, which recognized Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 340th Brigade Support Battalion, for excellence in food service.

The 115th also prepared two companies — the 2668th Transportation Company and 349th Quartermaster Company — for upcoming mobilizations, and it fought through administrative and operational obstacles that resulted from the 115th losing a battalion and two transportation companies as well as gaining two quartermaster companies and going through multiple company reorganizations.



223rd Infantry Regiment

The 223rd Infantry Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI) completed more than 170,000 hours of instruction in 2011, more than double the amount of 2010. The RTI, based at Camp San Luis Obispo, consists of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) and three battalions along with the Regional Training Site Maintenance Center located at Camp Roberts. The numerous training programs provided by the 223rd to both Army reserve component and active duty Soldiers include the Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School, Noncommissioned Officer Education System courses, several military occupational specialty courses and additional skill identifier training.

The RTI's 1st Battalion facilitated a high level of military police instruction throughout the year, graduating 99 Soldiers in its three phases of training. The battalion continues to be a model for schoolhouses throughout the country as evidenced by the battalion earning the Army Training and Doctrine Command Institute of Excellence rating. The battalion has also been charged with preparing to deliver non-lethal weapons certification courses in the upcoming year.

The RTI's 2nd Battalion underwent two accreditation inspections in 2011, resulting in a 95.3 percent rating for both the Officer Candidate School and the Quartermaster Company. The battalion graduated 98 Soldiers from the Unit Supply Specialist Course, 54 from the Army Basic Instructor Course, 21 from the Small Group Instructor Trainer Course and 62 from the Combatives Course. This battalion is home to the Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Candidate School Company, which trains future leaders of the California Army National Guard to become competent, confident and disciplined leaders. The Officer Candidate School graduated 27 new lieutenants and began training 70 new officer candidates with hopes of graduating next year.

The RTI's 3rd Battalion trained more than 200 Soldiers per phase in its two phases of the Motor Transport Operator Course. The majority of those Soldiers were mobilized troops on their way to Afghanistan. The battalion worked tirelessly with other units to ensure the latest technology was available to students in seven courses conducted throughout the year, which contributed to an average graduation rate of 99 percent. The unit received an Institution of Excellence rating from Army Training and Doctrine Command, scoring a 95.6 percent on its accreditation. The battalion also has two subordinate training companies in Nevada and Washington state.

Company D of the 223rd Regiment continues to be a leader in ordinance and maintenance training as it again earned the Institute of Excellence rating from Army Training and Doctrine Command. The company conducted 50 courses at Camp Roberts in 2011 and trained 435 Soldiers, maintaining a graduation rate of 99 percent. The Regional Training Site Maintenance Center continued to support the readiness of the California Army National Guard by hosting nine new equipment-fielding and training events for five equipment packages, placing these items in the hands of CNG Soldiers



and training them on usage and maintenance. The complexity of their mission requirements is demonstrated by the numerous types of training conducted, such as the operation of armored security vehicles, non-lethal capabilities sets and backhoe fielding. The company's motto is "Train to a Higher Standard," and it shows in their continued drive for excellence.

The 223rd Infantry Regiment will continue to grow as it answers the call to meet the training needs of both the state of California and our nation, providing significant support to the readiness of the National Guard and the Army. New instructors are continuously being recruited to provide the best and most current subject matter experts for all Soldiers who train at the 223rd RTI.

224th Sustainment Brigade

Soldiers of the 224th Sustainment Brigade enjoyed another successful year in the California Army National Guard in 2011.

The month of March marked a milestone for the brigade when more than 300 Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 224th Special Troops Battalion (STB), returned home to Long Beach and Azusa from Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, where the HHC sustained U.S. forces within its area of responsibility. The tour, spanning 2010 and 2011, gave the Soldiers the mission of leading withdrawal operations while managing tens of thousands of convoys evacuating millions of dollars worth of equipment, supporting our national goal of ending combat operations in Iraq. "It was awesome to witness our junior Soldiers step up to the plate and make the mission a success," said Master Sgt. Larry Adams.

Upon their return, the STB Soldiers completed Yellow Ribbon events focused on reintegration into their civilian jobs and family lives, including a Freedom Salute awards ceremony recognizing Soldiers and families for their sacrifices during the deployment.

Simultaneously the STB's rear detachment, composed of seven units and more than 200 Soldiers, successfully deployed the 217th Fi-

nancial Management Detachment and the 1970th Contingency Contracting Team to provide financial and contract management support in Afghanistan. Additionally the STB's rear detachment completed four overseas development training missions, exercising financial management and signal communications support.

Soldiers with the 578th Engineer Battalion from Manhattan Beach rolled up their sleeves in 2011 and prepared for the road to war. With long days of training and late nights of battle drills, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company as well as the Forward Support Company (FSC) trained with the CNG's Task Force Warrior for deployment. The battalion departed California in September for Fort Bliss, Texas, where they would train before reaching Afghanistan. "Task Force Warrior's training was just about as modern and realistic as it could be, and now I feel more prepared to enter the fight in Afghanistan," 2nd Lt. James Wolf said.

The HHC and FSC, which deployed to support construction and route clearance operations, are composed of Soldiers from across the battalion. Other units in the battalion — the 216th Mobility Augmentation Company, the 315th Vertical Construction Company, the 140th Mobility Augmentation Company

and the 140th Engineer Support Company, — provided pre-deployment and training support during the HHC and FSC's state missions in 2011.

Additionally, Soldiers with the 216th assisted the 325th Engineer Battalion with a three-week training exercise in Germany, playing the role of Afghan Border Patrol. Both units learned about Afghan culture and established an element of realism to the training.

Soldiers with the 746th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) from Van Nuys reshaped their unit while still accomplishing their mission. With the assimilation of two new companies — the 1072nd Transportation Company (TC) and the 1114th TC — the 746th gained personnel, equipment and missions. All of the 746th's companies completed the Command Maintenance Evaluation Team inspection, passing 100 percent.

Soldiers of the 1072nd are ramping up for mobilization to Afghanistan in April 2012, and the 1114th will provide support at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, Calif.

The Soldiers of the 756th TC deployed in support of Afghanistan operations in August. "Our Soldiers, the 'Road Dawgs' have trained very hard for this deployment and are well-prepared to support their upcoming one-year transportation mission," said 1st Lt. Dalia R. Sanchez, 756th commander.

The 1498th Heavy Equipment Transportation (HET) Company completed the HET academy, qualifying 54 Soldiers.

Soldiers with HHC, 746th CSSB, have begun training and preparation to mobilize in June 2012. More than 200 Soldiers in the battalion became licensed on additional or new vehicles and heavy equipment in 2011.

"The question we ask to our new Soldiers isn't, 'Do you want to deploy?' but rather, 'When and where do you want to deploy?'" Said 1st Lt. Renard Thomas, commander of HHC, 746th CSSB. "Morale is high throughout the battalion, and the Soldiers are excited about their upcoming mobilizations."



1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group

The most frequently asked question of 2011 was, "What's a TASMGM?" During 2010, the 1106th converted from an aviation component repair activity depot, or AVCRAD, into a theater aviation sustainment maintenance group (TASMGM). The unit's mission remains the same: to provide depot-level aviation maintenance for 23 Army aviation support facilities and 333 National Guard helicopters from 13 states, including UH-60 Black Hawks, HH-60 Pave Hawks, CH-47 Chinooks, AH-64 Apaches and OH-58 Kiowas.

In 2011, the 1106th worked 283,000 man-hours to complete 305 aircraft work orders, perform 53 aircraft phase maintenance inspections for 18 deploying aircraft, paint 15 aircraft, repair 136,108 aircraft components and manufacture 76 special tools.

In addition the TASMGM served as the higher headquarters for all aviation units in the California Army National Guard while the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade was deployed to Iraq. Providing deployment support to its subordinate organizations resulted in an unprecedented operational tempo. Throughout the year, 19 of 21 subordinate organizations were preparing for mobilization or had recently returned from deployment.

The TASMGM assisted Detachment 1, Company I, 185th Aviation Brigade, in its preparation for deployment to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt as well as several other units that were preparing to deploy. It also assisted Company F, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, as it returned from Afghanistan.

The aviation workhorse for support to California continued to be 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment. The battalion's annual training included numerous missions throughout the state. Company A also supported local, state and federal agencies that conducted drug-enforcement operations as part of Operation Full Court Press, which resulted in the seizure or eradication of 632,000 marijuana plants and 2,000 pounds of processed marijuana. Agents also arrested 132

individuals and seized \$28,000 in U.S. currency, 38 weapons and 20 vehicles. In addition more than 51,000 pounds of garbage, 40 miles of irrigation line and 5,500 pounds of fertilizer and pesticides were removed from the forest. Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), and Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, also provided personnel and aircraft in support of Operation Full Court Press.

In April, Company A, 3-140th Aviation Battalion received the first two of eight new light utility helicopters, the UH-72 Lakota. The Lakota, which will ultimately replace the battalion's OH-58 Kiowa helicopters, brings technological advantages such as a security and support package that enables pilots to view and share data in real time with personnel on the ground. "We have transformed to a new era of Army aviation," said Company A Commander Capt. Robert Mariotti Jr.

Company B, 1-126th Aviation Battalion, responded to numerous state emergencies, including support of wildfire suppression efforts and search-and-rescue missions. Company B was actively engaged in fire-fighting activities during the summer. In July the company deployed two aircraft and 12 personnel to the Eagle Fire in San Diego County and an additional aircraft and personnel to Kern County in September. The company also supported training for the 4th Marine Division at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, Calif., performing full-spectrum lift and assault exercises.

Company C, 1-168th GSAB, was also active in search-and-rescue operations in the Sierra Nevada mountains in the spring and summer, including the rescue of two climbers in severe weather in the Mount Shasta region and a female hiker near Lone Pine in Inyo County. The battalion also provided support for efforts to fight the Comanche Fire in Kern County in September. Additionally, Company C performed rigorous training, which



included support of the 4th Marine Division at the Mountain Warfare Training Center, where the Soldiers were called upon to perform two real-life medical evacuations.

The transformation from an AVCRAD to a TASMGM added an organic combat support company to the 1106th. Company B, 1106th, conducted exercises at Port Hueneme, Calif., which included training to counter improvised explosive devices as well as training on military operations in urban terrain. Scenarios ranged from dealing with car bombs, suicide bombers and direct ambushes to room-clearing and dealing with civilians on the battlefield.

Soldiers of Company B, 1106th, completed off-road drivers training at Hungry Valley State Off-Highway Vehicle Area. The troops were challenged to complete a closed course with obstacles such as deep water fording, off-camber hill climbing, rock crawling and downhill driving.

The Soldiers of the 1106th have excelled throughout this period of transition and unprecedented operations tempo. They remain committed and will accept the challenges of the next training years.

Aviation and Ground Safety

ARMY AVIATION

The Aviation Directorate assisted in managing resources and aviation training that contributed to the largest aviation deployment in California's history in 2011, with the mobilization of the CNG's 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, 640th Aviation Support Battalion and 1st Battalion (Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment. Despite having 26 of 60 helicopters deployed overseas, the CNG logged more than 4,100 hours in the state of California in 2011, flying CH-47 Chinooks, UH-60 Black Hawks, OH-58 Kiowas and brand new UH-72 Lakotas. In addition to flying more than 700 hours in Kiowas to support the CNG's Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug, Army Aviation performed another 90 support missions totaling more than 480 hours, including 11 search-and-rescue operations and two major fire missions, as well as training and lift support. Army Aviation moved more than 3,929 passengers and 231 tons of cargo in 2011. The directorate's C-12 aircraft flew more than 475 hours. With reduced manning and tighter budgets, Army Aviation executed a solid program that garnered sensational news coverage of rescues and fire support, landed aircraft and crews in movies such as "Transformers 3" and an upcoming National Guard Bureau commercial and provided training support to state agencies and service members. New to this year was the arrival of the brand new Lakota at the Stockton Flight Facility, a huge step forward in modernization. The 1-140th flew an unprecedented 15,598 hours during its recent Iraq deployment. There were no aviation accidents in 2011, and Army Aviation's deployed Soldiers performed remarkably.

LOS ALAMITOS ARMY AIRFIELD

The year started with great upheaval and moves due to construction and significant loss of full-time personnel due to the 1-140th and 40th CAB deployments. With the cutbacks, the Airfield for the first time in memory was required to reduce operations schedules to support missions. A \$10 million hangar refurbishment was completed in 2011, as was refurbishment of a damaged and unusable runway. It was an exhilarating moment in October when the Airfield posted announcements, made phone calls and sent e-mails stating it was back to full business hours and service.

AVIATION SAFETY

Army Aviation incorporates safety into every aspect of planning, execution and assessment. On the Aviation Safety side of the house, CNG personnel flew a total of 158 missions ranging from search-and-rescue and fire-suppression operations to passenger transport and aircraft ferry flights from other states to California. All of these missions were completed without a single Class A-C aviation accident. Not only did the Army Aviation units conduct these missions safely, but they also flew another 3,613 hours in support of individual and collective crew training with no major incidents. The training involved hoist operations, external loads, terrain flight and high-altitude training under day, night and night-vision-goggle conditions.

GROUND SAFETY

The Ground Safety Office added two qualified personnel to support

its staff and continue providing safety expertise to the Guard. Despite the office's reduction in manpower to three, the office managed to accomplish all required annual inspections and maintain reporting accountability on all ground accidents. The state did exceptionally well in its inspection cycles. The Ground Safety Office also facilitated the resolution of numerous issues to improve working conditions for Soldiers. The groundwork was also laid for developing a motorcycle safety course projected to begin in the spring of 2012.

Early in the year the Ground Safety Office was asked to assist Camp Roberts with a Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board inspection. The inspection was required to enable the ammunition supply point at Camp Roberts to continue operating. Over time the encroachment around the base by the civilian population began to affect ammunition-supply-point and range-distance requirements. This inspection had been ongoing for years. Finally with the right staff in place to tackle the issues and after countless site visits, assistance inspections and communications over the last 10 years, the technical documentation was in order and forwarded for the board's consideration. Within days of receiving the documentation, the board returned a positive assessment, and the ammunition supply point was allowed to remain in service with only minor adjustments to the lightning warning system. This was the office's crowning achievement in 2011. Had the inspection not been approved, there would not have been an operational ammunition supply point within the California Army National Guard.



Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Strength through integrity is the hallmark of the CNG's revitalized Recruiting and Retention Battalion – a dedicated force of 340 personnel committed to building and maintaining a California Army National Guard that is fit to fight and always ready to deploy in support of state and federal missions.

The Recruiting and Retention Battalion has initiated a multi-faceted focus on precision recruiting, reducing attrition in the training pipeline and assisting units to maximize retention. In order to do so, the restructured, streamlined “boots on the ground” organization embeds recruiters with the units they support and creates partnerships between leadership teams and Recruiting and Retention company commanders, promoting real teamwork and quality communication at all levels of command.

Enhanced relationships between the recruiters and leadership at the company and battalion level are expected to pay big dividends. Embedded recruiters export and maximize institutional knowledge at multiple levels – from career counselors to readiness non-commissioned officers, and up and down the entire chain of command. Through proactive engagement, recruiters are becoming an invaluable resource in regard to personnel strength management.

Fully engaged recruiters know firsthand what the personnel requirements of their assigned units are going to be well in advance of those needs, so they can specifically recruit to meet them. Engaged recruiters also become aware of at-risk recruits early on and can provide counsel and motivation to put those Soldiers back on track. Additionally recruiters who are experts on re-enlistment benefits are able to provide knowledge and information that Soldiers need in order to commit to extending their service well in advance of the expiration of their term of service.

Internally the Recruiting and Retention Battalion has been proactive in fine-tuning its organization to meet and exceed the objectives stated above. Although the overall number of recruiting teams statewide has

decreased from 18 to 16, an enhanced mission-command leadership strategy extends more authority and accountability to its four company commanders and team noncommissioned officers in charge (NCOIC).

This affords the command the ability to maximize the knowledge, professionalism and dedication of its field staff and headquarters cadre in service to the California National Guard and U.S. Army. For example, Master Sgt. Jim Marchese, NCOIC of Team Los Alamitos; Master Sgt. James Britton, NCOIC of Team Azusa; and Sergeant 1st Class Luis Padilla, NCOIC of Team Los Angeles, will deploy to Afghanistan in 2012 as members of a special task force to mentor and train members of the Afghan National Army.

Staff Sgt. Eugene Welch of Team Los Angeles received a letter of commendation from Los Angeles Air Force Base late in 2011 for his initiative and selfless service in assisting the Department of Defense Police at an accident scene involving an injured motorcyclist.

The Recruiting and Retention Battalion has also reorganized its family support and readiness network, and it has added a public affairs officer and now publishes Mission Pulse, its new command newsletter.

The Recruiting and Retention Battalion continues to serve as the face of the California Army National Guard, providing color guards and recruiting booths to attract quality leads at major sporting events, assisting in community outreach throughout the Golden State and promoting enhanced brand awareness. Events in 2011 ranged from nationally televised NASCAR and IndyCar races to job and career fairs, scouting events, a partnership with California Interscholastic Federation high school sports, a video game convention and International Walk to School Day.





Air National Guard

129th Rescue Wing

The 129th Rescue Wing had another year of excellence in 2011. The wing made considerable infrastructure and operational system investments to increase its already world-class personnel recovery capabilities. Despite numerous changes, members of the 129th were ready to save lives in California, across the country and on the other side of the world.

As one of only three Air National Guard rescue wings, the Department of Defense, the state of California and countless local agencies depend on the unique personnel recovery assets the wing provides: HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters, MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft and highly trained "Guardian Angel" pararescuemen.

In January more than 65 air crew members, maintainers and supply personnel from the wing deployed to Djibouti, where they stood ready to provide personnel recovery support for Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa. The Airmen returned home in March after completing a successful tour.

The wing also was active in personnel recovery operations right here in California. On July 3 the wing was contacted by the California Emergency Management Agency about a missing hiker in the El Dorado National Forrest. A 54-year-old woman had become lost in the rugged terrain of the forest with no food, water or warm clothing. The wing launched a Pave Hawk on the morning of July 4 from nearby Truckee Tahoe Airport to lift a civilian personnel recovery team into the forest. Shortly after dropping off the team, the crew spotted the hiker, executed a tricky landing and assisted her to the helicopter. At the time of the rescue, she had been without food or water for about 48 hours. She was returned safely to her family, bringing the total number of lives saved by the wing since its inception to 947.

Wing personnel demonstrated their ability to mobilize rapidly to assist with natural disaster personnel recovery operations in August. The National Guard Bureau tasked the wing to provide assistance for relief efforts associated with Hurricane Irene on the East



Coast. Within 24 hours, about 40 Guardsmen from the wing, including Guardian Angel pararescuemen with swiftwater rescue capability, and two Combat Shadow aircraft were dispatched to the East Coast to conduct rescue missions. Another 50 Airmen stood ready to mobilize if circumstances required more personnel recovery assets. Wing personnel returned home after the storm weakened and the need for the lifesaving capabilities provided by the 129th Rescue Wing were no longer required.

While the 129th's commitment to providing lifesaving recovery capabilities remains steadfast, the wing itself underwent considerable change during 2011. After serving as wing commander for more than six years, Col. Amos Bagdasarian passed command to Col. Steven Butow in September. At the same ceremony, Col. Jeff Magram was officially announced as the new vice wing commander. In addition, three new group commanders accepted command at the ceremony.

The wing initiated considerable infrastructure changes during the last half of 2011. To better enable the wing to deploy personnel and cargo, leadership signed a memorandum of agreement with NASA to allow the wing to utilize space in Moffett Federal Airfield Hangar 3. In July wing personnel

began turning abandoned warehouse and office space inside Hangar 3 into a modern personnel- and cargo-processing facility. Through tireless work, wing personnel were able to complete this transformation in less than four months.

Another major infrastructure improvement effort focused on modernizing command-and-control facilities. The wing acquired new technologies for its command post, greatly improving operational communications and situational awareness. This modernization effort will continue through 2012.

"I could not be prouder of the hard work our Airmen put in to making the new facilities a reality," Butow said. "These facilities are going to make our ability to provide personnel recovery capabilities anytime, anywhere, that much better."

Many accolades were bestowed upon the wing in 2011. Most notably, a ceremony was held in November to recognize 14 members for their heroic actions during deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2009 and 2010. In front of a large audience with nearly all major local media outlets present, Brig. Gen. Mat-

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144th Fighter Wing

As F-16 Fighting Falcons roared down the runway, it seemed like just another day in Fresno for members of the 144th Fighter Wing, but the territory was very different. The runway was older, the base infrastructure was austere and it wasn't just F-16s the Guardsmen were hearing; they also heard SU-27s, Mig-29s and L-39s. This unique international aircraft combination was the result of 36 Airmen of the 144th Fighter Wing participating in a deployment to the former Soviet Union for the Safe Skies exercise at Mirgorod Air Base, Ukraine, along with members of the Alabama Air National Guard.

The exercise, coordinated through the CNG's State Partnership Program with Ukraine, was the first of its kind and focused on air sovereignty and air defense procedures in preparation for Ukraine to host EURO-CUP 2012, the European soccer championship. Ukraine gained independence in 1991, and California and Ukraine have collaborated under the Department of Defense's State Partnership Program for the past nine years. Safe Skies involved two years of planning and preparation and included the United States, Poland and Ukraine as well as international observers from Russia, China, Belarus, Japan, Germany, the Czech Republic and Sweden.

Back at home station, the 144th hosted public meetings regarding an environmental impact statement for the wing's conversion from F-16 fighters to F-15s. The environmental analysis is underway, with the first F-15 scheduled to arrive in Fresno in the fall of 2012. The conversion continues to move forward, with five pilots having graduated from F-15 training in Oregon who are now flying with other F-15 units across the Air National Guard to maintain their currency until the arrival of F-15s at Fresno. Two of the pilots are flying with the 104th Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, while each of the others is flying with the Florida, Louisiana or Oregon Air National Guard.

Later in the year, 32 Airmen were again on the move, this time heading 600 miles south to Phoenix for Vigilant Guard 2011. Medical team members for the 144th Fighter Wing

who are part of the CNG's Homeland Response Force (HRF) participated in a 36-hour continuous exercise, which was the first of its kind, working jointly with military and civilian agencies from California, Arizona, Colorado and Nevada. The exercise scenario focused on victim search and extraction, triage and life-sustaining medical operations. More than 400 hundred victim role-players were rescued during the event.

The HRF is a Federal Emergency Management Agency asset, but it is also an asset for state defense support to civilian authorities, which can be deployed to assist local first responders in the case of a natural disaster or other emergency. The HRF has several components, from a completely deployable field hospital to a fully functional command-and-control section that provides the incident commander greater control of all the responders and assets on the ground.

The 144th Fighter Wing also has the capability to assist local communities and the state of California through its defense support to civilian authorities mission, with personnel from the wing's Fire Department, Security Forces Squadron and Civil Engineer Squadron.

In addition to its various training exercises, the 144th Fighter Wing continued its state and federal mission and sent 50 members

to Afghanistan and other areas of operation overseas while also deploying three members to support Border Patrol on the U.S.-Mexico border.

It was a year of great challenges and change for the 144th Fighter Wing. With leadership changes, deployments and exercises, 2011 truly tested the unit's capabilities.

"It has been a difficult year, but we have a no-fail mission," said Col. Sami Said, wing commander. "We overcame great obstacles in 2011 and, in the end, validated our capabilities and mission readiness."



146th Airlift Wing

California wildfires of massive proportions, international blazes with history-making headlines and fires raging across the U.S. occupied the 146th Airlift Wing in 2011, as it spent the greater part of 2011 fighting fires, while also keeping pace with deployments to Afghanistan and conducting training around the world.

After several years of relatively quiet fire seasons, the 2011 fire season started off early, as the 146th actually ended December 2010 with a last-minute international deployment to assist Israel with a blaze that was called the worst in that country's history. The fire killed more than 44 people and injured 17 in less than four days before the fire was contained. The 146th sent C-130J aircraft with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) onboard to assist. Prior to the California aircraft arriving in Israel, however, nature intervened and rain fell for the first time in six months, putting an end to the fires.

"We were witness to some monumental bridges that were built — bridges that went beyond the fires," said Col. Paul Hargrove, 146th Airlift Wing commander and one of the wing's MAFFS pilots, who noted that many countries responded to the crisis, including

Turkey. "Adversarial countries dropped animosities to assist Israel during their crisis."

International firefighting in Mexico splashed the headlines in April, followed by the largest fires in Arizona's history, which burned more than 500,000 acres. The wildfires spread over state borders into Colorado and New Mexico, where they ripped across forested lands, threatening homes and significant structures like the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the first atomic bomb was built. C-130J aircraft from the 146th were there alongside others from around the country to fight the fires, which were eventually extinguished.

The 146th Airlift Wing had to pull out of its annual MAFFS certification and training in May so it could remain in Texas to fight ongoing fires there. Training and certification was rescheduled for June in Port Hueneme, Calif., where the wing is based, and was very successful.

The wing's firefighting efforts continued in September, when a fire that burned 55,000 acres broke out in Kern County, Calif. Airmen and a C-130J from the 146th joined CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk

helicopters and crews from the California Army National Guard in fighting the blaze. The Guard's contribution marked a turning point in the fight against the fire, which ultimately burned no homes or structures, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

In June three squadrons of the 146th set off for the "last frontier." The 146th Air Terminal Operations Squadron, Logistics Readiness Squadron and Security Forces Squadron traveled to Alaska to perform their annual training among the moose and bears at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage. Hands-on, real-world training was abundant there, and the units gained invaluable job experience.

More than 250 members deployed during the summer months to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Many left California aboard five of the wing's C-130J aircraft, which flew to Afghanistan with a full complement of air crews and maintenance crews. The crews were joined by members of the 146th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Civil Engineering Squad-

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163rd Reconnaissance Wing

The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing completed another milestone year in 2011, surpassing its previous mark for MQ-1 Predator unmanned-aerial-vehicle combat-support flying hours, while also breaking ground on an \$8.4 million Predator maintenance hangar at Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville.

The 163rd Operations Group continued its support of Central Command forces abroad by providing 24/7 combat support to contingency operations. In 2011 the Predator crews of the 163rd Operations Group flew more than 650 combat-support and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance sorties totaling more than 13,000 hours. Closer to home, the Operations Group assisted Northern Command by providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance training for our Mexican partners. The Operations Group's team of pilots, sensor operators and intelligence personnel continue to be among the most experienced in the Air Force.

The Formal Training Unit graduated five Initial Qualification classes of Predator pilots and sensor operators this year and supported a secretary of defense-mandated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance surge from June through November. The unit produced a total of 52 new Predator crews overall. In addition the unit produced 10 launch and recovery element crews and trained six instructor crews. The unit participated in 10 Army Green Flag West exercises at Fort Irwin, Calif., providing cutting-edge training to Air Force students and Army personnel alike. The Intelligence Formal Training Unit produced more than 60 mission intelligence coordinators for both Predator and MQ-9 Reaper unmanned-aerial-vehicle operations, and both schoolhouses continue to provide this training to Guard, Reserve, active duty and special operations Airmen.

The 196th Reconnaissance Squadron provided critical combat support to Marine and Army counterparts. The squadron's Predator crews have the most combat hours and experience in the Air National Guard.

The Maintenance Group had an extraordi-



nary year supporting the wing's two combat air patrols as well as its Formal Training Unit sortie production, local Formal Training Detachment student maintainer production and overseas deployment of more than 10 percent of its members. Ground Control Station maintainers were on shift every minute of every day to support two combat air patrols that are the "eyes in the sky" for ground forces. With expert maintenance, the Ground Control Stations hummed along at an astounding 99 percent fully mission capable rate, logging 15,256 hours and flying 911 combat sorties.

Maintainers at Southern California Logistics Airport and March Air Reserve Base provided support that allowed the Formal Training Unit to double the size of its air crew classes. Assigned maintainers battled weather and road conditions in the high desert to produce 194 mishap-free Formal Training Unit sorties totaling 1,052 hours. At March, Field Training Detachment 26 produced 182 expertly trained Predator maintenance personnel. Lastly, the 163rd Maintenance Group deployed a total of 20 members to overseas locations. The group continued its ongoing support to active duty counterpart units by deploying nine members to Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan, and seven members to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. All members at Kandahar were cross-trained to support

the MQ-9 Reaper. Additionally, one member was deployed to Sather Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn. Lastly, three members were deployed to Spangdahlem, Air Base, Germany, in support of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya.

The medical group continued to support the needs of those fighting our wartime mission. It also participated in several exercises, including Dark Zephyr, Operation Arctic Care, Operation Medical Shelter, Operation Joint Patriot and Operation Vigilant Guard.

The primary focus of the 163rd Security Forces Squadron in 2011 was the safe return of six Security Force members from Baghdad in February after a six-month deployment. While in Iraq, they conducted air base ground defense missions, which included working a security detail for the vice president of the United States and the secretary of defense. Unit members also deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border to support Border Patrol. The 163rd Security Forces was selected by the California adjutant general as the Tier 1 Security Force Response Force lead unit to respond to in-state emergencies. The squadron also began security operations at Southern California Logistics Airport in 2011. The squadron is preparing for an overseas deployment in 2012.

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162nd Combat Communications Group

The 162nd Combat Communications Group continues to be the hub for all non-flying, non-kinetic global effects operations for the California Air National Guard, leading the way for all Total Force Integration efforts across the nation in space, cyber and ground-based intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

The 147th Combat Communications Squadron in San Diego led the way in tactical communications support for Hawaiian first responders in exercise Makani Pahili in 2011 and also deployed members to Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq for a total of 2,555 man-days. The Eagle Vision satellite system continued to be a tremendous asset supporting natural disaster relief and Air Force exercises, with more than 8,000 images downloaded.

The 148th Space Operation Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base maintained 100 percent mission accomplishment on more than 10,000 sorties. The squadron successfully restructured its maintenance flight to bring in new skills needed to maintain new equipment, and it is currently preparing to turn over Advanced Extremely High Frequency Flight 1 for operations. The squadron will continue to command and control five Milstar satellites as well as the new Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellites.

The 149th Combat Communications Squadron in North Highlands finished a busy year as it completed turn-in of its combat communications equipment in preparation for a new mission: to provide communications and electronics support to the Global Hawk intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission at Beale Air Force Base. The 149th will be responsible for Global Hawk reach-back capability and communications-electronics support for all tactical equipment not actually on the Global Hawk airframe.

The 216th Operations Support Squadron at Vandenberg is actively engaged as the first Air National Guard unit providing full-time qualification training and space surveillance courses for active duty Air Force, joint and coalition personnel in Space Command and



U.S. Strategic Command to support the Joint Space Operations Center.

The 222nd Intelligence Support Squadron at Beale completed another year actively supporting Total Force Integration. The squadron provided critical expertise to maintain tactical network capability for the 548th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group. The 222nd averaged seven members activated at any given time to directly support the 548th ISRG's participation in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, maintaining equipment and infrastructure for Distributed Ground Station-2 to enable intelligence exploitation and dissemination to the warfighter 24/7 every day of the year.

The 222nd Operations Support Squadron is also fully integrated into the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance community at Beale. The squadron's dedicated Airmen work with active duty counterparts to maintain a corporate knowledge base and provide 15 percent of the multi-source intelligence-exploitation capability, 33 percent of the multi-source evaluators and more than 80 percent of all multi-source intelligence evaluations at Distributed Ground Station-2.

As part of Team Beale, the 222nd Commu-

nications Maintenance Flight supported Global Hawk operational sorties throughout the world. The flight deployed and provided communications-electronics expertise for Global Hawk operations in Guam. Its members are regarded as the leading experts for Global Hawk communication-electronics support throughout the entire Air Force.

The 234th Intelligence Squadron continues to provide direct support to multiple intelligence organizations at Beale. The unit has supported various federal and state missions, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and on the U.S.-Mexico border. The squadron's Airmen continue to exploit U-2, Predator and Global Hawk intelligence for real-time dissemination to warfighters and key decision-makers anytime, anywhere.

The 261st Combat Communications Squadron in Van Nuys is busily preparing to transition into its new role in information operations as a Hunter squadron responsible for identifying, assessing and mitigating network vulnerabilities for the Air Force. Leaning forward, the squadron members have taken advantage of opportunities in San Antonio,

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Training Bases

Camp Roberts

Camp Roberts, known affectionately as Camp Bob to Soldiers, is expected to see many changes in 2012. Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the California National Guard, is committed to upgrading the post and has assigned Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones as commander of the installation to oversee the improvements.

In 2011 construction began on a new dining facility, and work progressed on a new landfill that will enable the removal of materials from old barracks. This will greatly enhance the views of Camp Roberts from the freeway.

Camp Roberts has been relatively unchanged in its infrastructure since it was established in 1941. The post is therefore in the process of completely upgrading its infrastructure to handle the newer planned facilities coming its way.

IMPROVEMENTS

In 2011, all barracks windows were replaced, all electrical panels upgraded and all gas lines replaced using \$19 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or federal stimulus package. A \$32 million utilities replacement project is slated for fiscal year 2012.

The National Guard, in conjunction with the Department of the Army, invested in range improvement projects totaling more than \$1.7 million during 2011. Future construction plans include a combined arms collective training facility, a multipurpose machine gun range and a tactical unmanned aerial systems (UAS) support facility for UAS training.

Camp Roberts' newest simulation-training capability includes the Virtual Battlefield Simulation System. The Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer facility was also completed in fiscal year 2011, adding yet another element to the quality training available at Camp Roberts.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Camp Roberts provides training facilities for federal and state agencies, including the FBI, YMCA Youth in Government and the California departments of Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Forestry and Fire Protection.

In addition to the multiple agencies that train at Camp Roberts, the site serves as home to Task Force Warrior, California's pre-mobilization training assistance element. The group consists of more than 60 qualified in-

structors who certify deploying Soldiers on battle drills, Army Warrior tasks and other key training.

Camp Roberts also provides joint forces training and has the capability to house a brigade-sized element at any given time.



Camp San Luis Obispo

Camp San Luis Obispo, or Camp SLO, is a premier National Guard training center occupying 5,100 acres, which was founded in 1928 by the state of California. The cantonment area at Camp SLO can house 1,200 service members under normal conditions and 2,000 under emergency conditions.

OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

The California Army National Guard Officer Candidate School, located at Camp SLO, is known as one of the most challenging institutions in the Army National Guard and is recognized by Army Training and Doctrine Command as an Institution of Excellence.

On Aug. 13, a total of 23 Soldiers from the school's 60th graduating class received their coveted second lieutenant gold bars. Receiving these gold bars and being inducted into the family of commissioned officers is not an easy task. The 2011 class began the difficult journey of required training in the spring of 2010 with 46 Soldiers.

Beginning in 2012, Camp SLO will also host the State Parks Officers Training Academy.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

"It's the least we can do to help support our local community," Maj. (CA) Mark Johnson, acting full-time commander of Camp San Luis Obispo, said as Camp SLO staff supported the Special Olympic Games on May 6. Camp SLO staff were out in force to support the athletes by coordinating a bean bag toss and prizes.

Further supporting the Special Olympics, Camp SLO Headquarters and the 223rd Infantry Regiment, based at Camp SLO, participated in the Special Olympic torch run June 6. The Camp SLO group completed a 2.4-mile leg; the torch was then passed to runners from the California Men's Colony. All runners helped support the games by raising pledges.

UKRAINIAN OFFICERS VISIT

On June 12, Lt. Col. Kevin Bohn, part-time installation commander, and 1st Lt. David Ruiz, operations and training director, hosted officers from Ukraine, providing a tour of



the facilities and ranges.

MARINE TRAINING IN URBAN AREAS

Marines and Sailors from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) touched down in the Central Coast in July to prepare the MEU for scheduled deployments to the western Pacific and the Middle East later in the year.

The unit's maritime raid force, along with selected members from the unit's aviation and command elements, was based at Naval Air Station Point Mugu, Calif., and flew in Marine helicopters to conduct training missions at Camp SLO and other bases along the California coast. Exercises were also conducted on a gas-and-oil platform five miles off the coast. The combination of these sites supported mission-essential training and provided a dimension of urban realism not found on a single military base.

"This realistic training will prepare the MEU to be America's forward-deployed, forward-engaged force," said Col. Michael R. Hudson, the unit's commanding officer. "Training and fighting as a Marine air ground task force allows the Corps to be relevant throughout the spectrum of threats and pos-

tures to leverage all opportunities while deployed."

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

"If it doesn't move, stucco it!" That's the motto of Camp SLO Director of Public Works Maj. James Tulloch. The technique is environmentally friendly and blends with the local mission architecture surrounding the camp. In 2011 alone, stucco was placed on four buildings, and another five warehouse buildings received steel siding.

Other improvements included the complete renovation of the kitchen and lounge area of the Temple Conference Center and new concrete paving for the entrance to the Camp.

EXPLOSIVE SITUATION

On Feb. 24, a worker at Camp SLO was scouting a training area when he identified an unexploded ordnance, which was live. The 217th Explosive Ordnance Company happened to be training on the Leadership Reaction Course at Camp SLO and was immediately deployed for the real-life situation to identify the munition type, which turned out to be a World War I-era Stokes Mortar. The 217th extracted it for removal.

Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos

For Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Army Airfield, 2011 was another action-packed year. Aside from numerous training exercises, deployments and homecomings, there were several large-scale construction projects that added to the installation's capability as the region's primary airfield for emergency air transport of relief crews, humanitarian supplies, equipment relocation and medical operations in the event of a disaster.

In late December the CNG initiated a contract to begin construction on a new multi-million dollar building project right at the heart of the base. The two-story 75,000-square-foot facility will serve as the new headquarters for both JFTB-Los Alamitos and the CNG's 40th Infantry Division. Once complete, the building will effectively consolidate all key personnel for both organizations in one central location and offer them a state-of-the-art facility to conduct daily and emergency operations.

Nearly on the same timeline, the Army Reserve is in the midst of building a similar facility on JFTB-Los Alamitos that will serve as the 79th Sustainment Support Command headquarters. The Army Reserve is expanding its motor pool on base as well. Once finalized, it will be the largest Army Reserve equipment concentration site west of the Rocky Mountains.

"This has been an exciting year for us here. The base has gone through many changes that all serve to enhance our readiness as a force-multiplier," said Lt. Col. Susan Russell, who took command of JFTB-Los Alamitos from Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones in late October. "Once complete, these changes will ensure that the JFTB has the infrastructure to stand ready and answer our community's, state's and nation's call for support."

On the aviation side of the fence, the \$2 million resurfacing and repair project on the longer of the airfield's two runways was completed in late September. After 24 months of construction, this update increased accessibility to the installation for fighter jets and large-scale cargo aircraft.



This year also saw the completion of a \$10 million renovation of the airfield's main hangar. The renovation was completed just in time to welcome home the 300 Soldiers and sixteen UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters of 1st Battalion (Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment, which returned from Iraq in August.

"The revamped hangar vastly improves the working conditions for all aircraft maintenance personnel, and this translates to increased productivity, directly increasing our readiness," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 John D. Brown, aviation safety officer for the airfield. "Having our runway open means we can once again support the largest cargo aircraft in the NATO inventory and secures our position as a logistical lynchpin in Southern California's disaster response plan."

Outside of CNG events, JFTB-Los Alamitos and the airfield hosted six "hero missions" — the return home of fallen U.S. service members who were native to Southern California. The ceremonies were embraced by hundreds of local community members, police officers, firefighters, military members, Patriot Guard Riders and other veteran-support organizations that gathered on the flightline to pay respects to the fallen and offer support to their families.

JFTB-Los Alamitos and the airfield work diligently to maintain partnerships with cities that surround the base. These relationships are enhanced by the annual large-scale community events hosted on the base and airfield each year, and 2011 saw greater participation than ever. More than 60,000 local community members came to the installation to enjoy festivities and events that included the Race on the Base in February, the Independence Day celebration in July, and the Wings, Wheels and Rotors Exposition in October, which was combined with the CNG's Best Warrior Competition award ceremony.

The JFTB and airfield leadership also welcomed a new unit of aviators to the installation this year. Company A, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, of the Army Reserve relocated its unit from Victorville, Calif., to the Los Alamitos Army Airfield. The unit includes ten Black Hawk helicopters, nearly 30 full-time personnel and more than 60 part-time Soldiers.

Serving as a capstone for the year, JFTB-Los Alamitos and the airfield had the honor of welcoming home from Iraq more than 250 Soldiers of the California National Guard's

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California State Military Reserve

California State Military Reserve

The California State Military Reserve (CSMR), now 71 years old, provides a trained, disciplined and ready force of 1,042 Soldiers and Airmen to support the California National Guard. The largest concentration of CSMR personnel is found on Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos (JFTB). There are three CSMR units on the base, including the Southern Command and its 40th Support Brigade, the Installation Support Group (ISG) and the Southern Headquarters of the Center for Military History.

The ISG provided more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service and support to the installation in 2011. During a visit from Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., the ISG was requested to provide increased security assistance. Security personnel were assigned to the main gate and were involved in roving patrols. The ISG security force has become integrated with the full-time base security and has established a seamless operation. The ISG security and medical sections were on duty at the JFTB on July 4 in support of the base's Independence Day celebration. The ISG also actively supported the annual Wings, Wheels and Rotors Expo on the JFTB.

The ISG security section comprises Soldiers who are authorized to be armed and perform installation security duty. In response to a request from JFTB Base Operations, the Southern Command provided armed security for Air Force One during its stay at the JFTB on Sept. 26-27. The mission was accomplished smoothly and without incident.

In Northern California, the 100th Troop Command Support Brigade became Northern Regional Support Command in 2011. The command includes a small-arms training team, which trained 260 National Guard Soldiers on combat weapons at Camp Roberts. The command also provided licensed marriage and family therapist support to Northern California National Guard units.

Twenty-two CSMR members under Northern Command provided Warrior Skills training and tactical opposition forces to support Company C, 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion, in April at Camp San Luis Obispo.

The California Center for Military History is headquartered in Sacramento with a Southern Headquarters at Los Alamitos. Histori-

ans from the center can be found at Camp Roberts and California military museums and exhibits throughout the state. The Headquarters element conducted displays of historical artifacts during "Museum Days" in Sacramento, and the center assembled three display cases for the California Cadet Corps centennial celebration at Los Alamitos on April 4-6.

The Air Support Division of the CSMR comprises units supporting all wings of the California Air National Guard. The main CSMR location is at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Port Hueneme. All members of the CSMR Air component have prior Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard service experience.

The Channel Islands Student Flight support personnel again instructed the Student Flight in a wide range of subjects, including drill and ceremony, Air Force history and military customs. Several CSMR Airmen at Channel Islands supported combat arms and marksmanship training throughout the year. And more than a dozen CSMR Airmen at Channel Islands supported the Ventura County-wide disaster training and exercise project Operation Medical Shelter. The unit also participated in the Golden Guardian exercise as evaluators and observers.

During the 146th Airlift Wing's annual two-week training session, CSMR personnel conducted a theater orientation class, briefing deploying Airmen on Arab and Islamic culture. Members of the CSMR's 146th Air Support Unit also participated in Vigilant Guard, a multi-state exercise involving a mock nuclear detonation in Arizona.

Working with Air Guard officers, the CSMR is developing further contacts and identifying specific needs for the 162nd Communications Group at North Highlands Air National Guard Station and Beale Air Force Base with the goal of recruiting or transferring CSMR personnel to support the group.

The CSMR Communications Directorate coordinated the participation of 14 Soldiers and Airmen from the CNG and CSMR who



worked with the Hawaii National Guard during the Makani Pahili disaster response exercise in Kona, Hawaii, from May 27 to June 5. CSMR Soldiers and Airmen provided critical support as Incident Commander's Command, Control and Communications Unit operators during the exercise. The Communications Directorate also participated in a CNG earthquake exercise in November. Elements of the CSMR Communications Directorate continuously supported the CNG's network management activities, help desk function, telephone services and wireless communications.

CSMR chaplains and chaplain assistants deployed throughout the state to provide extensive direct support to CNG Soldiers and Airmen and their families in 2011. Support activities included casualty notifications, funerals, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program events and Strong Bonds marriage classes. Additionally, CSMR chaplains provided counseling sessions, hospital visitations and suicide interventions. CSMR personnel also provided chaplain support of Soldier readiness processing at Camp Roberts.

The CSMR took part in a tabletop exercise in February with the CNG's J5/7 Directorate, which handles strategic plans, policies and interagency interoperability as well as joint training, exercises and validation. A major effort was also made in cooperation with the CNG's staff judge advocate to assisting the CNG's Family Support Group in organizing a nonprofit support organization.

The Operations Directorate is responsible for training CSMR personnel. The Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Career Center Class of 2011 graduated May 1 at Camp Parks. Fourteen officers and warrant officers were commissioned or appointed by Brig. Gen. (CA) Roland L. Candee, the CSMR commander. It was the fifth class to graduate from the CSMR Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Career Center.

Public affairs and civil affairs personnel work closely with their National Guard counterparts. A CSMR officer works with the CNG public affairs officer on external relations. CSMR personnel are also trained to support the CNG Operation Ready Families program and provide help to local Guard units in response to deployment needs.



CSMR Judge Advocate General Corps members supported "Operation We Care," a CNG Family Readiness program, as well as Yellow Ribbon Reintegration events around the state. They also provided legal assistance for Soldier readiness programs at Camp Roberts, and regular legal support was provided in Fresno, Los Alamitos, San Diego, San Jose and Stockton.

The CSMR Youth Programs Division continued to provide training to the California Cadet Corps. Cadets took part in several drill competitions and a February luncheon with the governor. During the Cadet Corps centennial celebration at the JFTB in April, Soldiers of CSMR Southern Command provided armed plain clothes security augmen-

tation for Brown's security team. An armed, uniformed escort was also requested for Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the California National Guard.

The CSMR Southern Command held a Combat Lifesaver Course in April to provide recertification for 37 students of the 250th Military Intelligence Battalion in Long Beach. The CSMR's 4th Battalion assisted with law enforcement training for military police Soldiers of the California and Nevada National Guard as well as the Army Reserve at Camp San Luis Obispo. The instruction involved physical training, defensive tactics, combatives, grappling, handcuffing and role-playing in domestic violence, rape scene, traffic stops and drunk-driving scenarios.



EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) operates programs directed toward employers, employees and communities to ensure understanding of the role of reserve component members. ESGR encourages development of employer policies and practices to facilitate employee participation in the reserve components through a network of 4,500 volunteers in 54 local ESGR committees.

The ESGR Ombudsman Program provides third-party assistance and informal mediation services to employers and members of the National Guard and Reserve. It works in conjunction with the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) of the U.S. Department of Labor. Volunteer members are trained by ESGR and VETS to provide assistance in the resolution of employment conflicts that can result from military membership, training or other service requirements protected under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.



ESGR has ombudsman representatives available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-336-4590 to assist employers or military members with employment issues and the law.

www.esgr.org



Missions and Programs

Joint Task Force Sierra

In body armor and Kevlar helmets, they stood vigil on rocky, cold mountainsides, gazing for hours into the blackness.

California National Guardsmen stood watch throughout 2011, serving their state and country in a Department of Homeland Security mission that is unique in execution and intent. Along the Southwest coastline and the land border between the United States and Mexico, CNG members have been protecting America's borders, ensuring national security and providing protection for our citizens right here on American soil.

The mission, in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, began in August 2010. It was originally slated to last less than a year; however, President Barack Obama extended the mission to the end of September 2011, and then again to the end of December. As we approached the end of 2011, plans were being considered to extend and modify the mission further in 2012.

The border mission, known in California as Joint Task Force Sierra, primarily calls for troops to man strategically selected locations along the coast and border, where they act as additional eyes and ears, reporting any suspicious activity to border agents, who then perform their law enforcement duties. The four-state mission dubbed Operation Phalanx deployed 1,200 troops along the Mexico border in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, including 260 in California.

The mission evolved throughout 2011 as Border Patrol partnered with the National Guard to shift CNG support to where it would be most effective. Guardsmen began watching for suspicious activity from locations on San Clemente Island and further up the coast, well into Orange County. Boating activities involving illegal drug and human-smuggling were observed regularly by National Guardsmen, who directed the appropriate law enforcement agents to make apprehensions.

Guardsmen also began assisting with Remote Video Surveillance and Sensing, or RVSS. Guardsmen with RVSS responsibili-



ties simultaneously monitor up to 30 video feeds that display activity captured by cameras along the westernmost seven miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. RVSS is one of many tools used to fight illegal border crossings and is a vital force-multiplying asset.

"This is a porous border, and there are threats coming from outside the U.S. We are going to stop those threats," said Sgt. 1st Class Ittner, a Soldier serving on Joint Task Force Sierra. "But on the humanitarian side, these people are looking for a better life. They are not the enemy. We don't want to see anybody die out here."

The California National Guard has been lauded as providing a tangible visible deterrent to those looking to cross the border illegally, and it is credited with more than 6,200 apprehension assists since the mission began. CNG criminal analysts have also aided in the discovery of four underground tunnels between the U.S. and Mexico and the seizure of more than 108 tons of marijuana.

The California National Guard's partnership with Border Patrol is long-standing, dating back more than 20 years for initiatives stemming from the Guard's Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug as well as projects involving innovative readiness training.



The California National Guard also previously contributed to border security as part of Operation Jump Start from June 2006 to August 2008, when up to 1,500 National Guard personnel served on the California border.

Civil Support Task Force

Civil Support Teams

Civil Support Teams (CST) were established by Congress in 1998 to deploy rapidly to assist local incident commanders and first responders in determining the nature and extent of a weapons of mass destruction-related terrorist attack or other significant incident; provide medical and technical advice on WMD-response operations; and support follow-on state and federal military response assets. The primary mission of the 22 Soldiers and Airmen who make up a CST is to support local and state authorities at chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incident sites by identifying agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures and assisting with requests for additional military support

9TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

Preparing for catastrophe was the theme of 2011 for the 9th CST. The team ran the gauntlet on consequence management training and real world missions.

The 9th CST provided assistance regarding mitigation options for the Escondido Bomb House, one of the largest sites of illegal manufacturing and storage of high explosives found in the United States. The 9th CST used hazard plume modeling and simulations during a two-week period to provide advice to the incident command staff and determine the most favorable weather conditions and down-range impacts as a result of the techniques used to mitigate the homemade explosive materials found at the site. Mitigation could have created a significantly toxic plume that would have impacted thousands of residences and motorists. The hazard plume models, however, indicated the technique with the least amount of ground-level product dissemination. The operation was a success and is now considered the national model for dealing with these types of incidents.

The 9th CST, along with more than 33 National Guard entities from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada and Utah, participated in Vigilant Guard, a full-scale exercise sponsored by U.S. Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau. The exercise was designed to enhance the preparedness of the National Guard in performing state roles associated with homeland defense and defense support to civil authorities. The 9th CST supported the exercise by conducting ground movement in response to a simulated CBRN incident; identifying CBRN threat agents



and substances; assessing current and projected consequences; advising on response measures; and assisting with requests for state support in order to help save lives, prevent human suffering and mitigate property damage.

95TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

In 2011 the 95th CST came out of the shoot with an emergency readiness exercise at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, to work with base responders in a simulated WMD-related event. The unit also participated in a winter field exercise in California with the Truckee Fire Department. Then in February the CST traveled to Reno, Nev., for Operation Sierra Breeze, a regional field exercise involving multiple CSTs.

The second quarter started with an emergency deployment readiness exercise with the FBI. The team participated in a 10-day exercise in the San Francisco Bay Area involving more than 4,000 participants.

Operation Quiet Glow in May involved three CSTs and more than 30 response agencies. May also included Golden Guardian, a state-level exercise at numerous ports across California that saw half of the CST report to the Port of Redwood City and the other half to a separate location.

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Homeland Response Force

The purpose of the CNG's Homeland Response Force (HRF) is to provide a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) response capability throughout FEMA Region IX, which includes California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and other Pacific islands.

The HRF provides life-saving skills within 48 hours of an event. It can command and control several CSTs, CBRN enhanced response force packages (CERFPs), and other Guard assets in support of civil authorities. Along with the command-and-control capabil-

ity, the HRF incorporates decontamination, search-and-extraction and medical capabilities. In 2011 the HRF participated in several national-level exercises including Vigilant Response and Vigilant Guard to prepare for its validation exercise in February 2012.

Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug

In 2011 the California National Guard Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug (JTFDS-Counterdrug) celebrated its 22nd year of successful operations by supporting law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations in their efforts to disrupt illicit drug-production and -trafficking and reduce the demand for drugs through prevention and education measures among school-age children.

The task force's cross-functional teams of Soldiers and Airmen provide intelligence and criminal analysis, aerial observation and public land reclamation capabilities to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Teams also support statewide drug demand reduction (DDR) efforts by partnering with parents, anti-drug coalitions, community-based organizations, schools and law enforcement agencies to prevent the initiation of drug use.

FOCUSED OPERATION

JTFDS-Counterdrug's effectiveness and interoperability capabilities were demonstrated in July during Operation Full Court Press, a multi-agency illicit marijuana eradication and reclamation operation in Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, Tehama and Trinity counties. Targeting large-scale, illegal marijuana grow sites in and around the Mendocino National Forest, the operation included more than 300 personnel from 25 local, state and federal agencies. More than 50 JTFDS-Counterdrug members supported the operation with reclamation, criminal analysis, logistics and communications support.

Operation Full Court Press resulted in the seizure of 632,058 marijuana plants, 1,986 pounds of processed marijuana, \$28,031 in currency, 38 weapons and 20 vehicles as well as the arrest of 132 individuals. More than 51,404 pounds of trash and 40 miles of irrigation line were removed from public lands.

Throughout the year, JTFDS-Counterdrug supported missions statewide that led to

the seizure of 8,900 pounds of methamphetamine, 2.3 million marijuana plants, 32,000 pounds of processed marijuana, 907 pounds of cocaine and 41 pounds of heroin. The value of these illicit drugs totaled more than \$11 billion. Additionally, 247 weapons were removed from the streets. Removing drugs from the streets prevents money from filtering back into the transnational criminal organizations' coffers, and of course it keeps those drugs out of kids' hands.

Counterdrug flight crews flew more than 1,600 hours in support of law enforcement agencies' drug disruption operations, including DDR events at schools.

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Demand Reduction personnel increase awareness and motivate our state's youths to make positive changes in their lives. Their prevention efforts provide support to community-based organizations in activities that encourage youths to be drug-free.

"DDR is about changing the communities around the kids by instilling values," said Maj. Jeffery Moore, DDR commander for Northern California. "It is communities working together to make neighborhoods safer for kids."

Statewide DDR personnel establish relationships with community leaders with the goal of growing a greater collaboration of anti-drug efforts. The DDR team also addresses parents about the challenges students face and offers techniques that foster healthy development. The DDR program in 2011 provided more than 900 hours of instruction that reached more than 44,000 adults and children in California with a message encouraging a positive, drug-free lifestyle.

"DDR is about building character in kids," 1st Sgt. Clint Lockard said. "It's as simple as instilling values like loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage."



TRAINING

Task force personnel provided more than 1,400 hours of training for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations. The sessions covered subjects and skills useful in counterdrug operations such as medical treatment, ground tactics, mission planning, weapons qualification and equipment operation.

In May three members of the task force's Team Wolf supported the California Department of Fish and Game's annual Law Enforcement Clandestine Marijuana Cultivation Site Entry Training Course, providing realistic tactical training to about 100 members of various agencies throughout the state. Benefitting from years of experience in small- and large-scale operations as reconnaissance specialists for JTFDS-Counterdrug, the instructors trained agents on the Military Decision Making Process and on troop-leading procedures needed when planning rural operations such as listening post/observation post (LP/OP) missions,

marijuana eradication, entering and clearing a clandestine grow site, sling load transportation and battle drills. The team also provided instruction on land navigation, camouflage techniques, map reading and use of a global positioning system, or GPS.

“Without the input and expertise of Team Wolf personnel, we could not replicate this experience or even come close to the caliber of training we can provide,” said Robert Simpson, a Fish and Game patrol captain.



“[Team Wolf] members have more experience going into gardens doing reclamation and LP/OP than any other state agency.”

In July, JTFDS-Counterdrug’s medical team conducted a tactical medical training seminar for the Coachella Valley Gang Task Force. The Gang Task Force executes more than 200 drug-related search warrants each year, creating a potential for officer-involved shootings. The primary training objective was to share military techniques for the management of casualties in a tactical setting.

The training scenarios were based on real-world law enforcement situations such as an ambush at a felony traffic stop, an officer-down situation during a search and an active shooter situation. Each student was evaluated and critiqued by JTFDS-Counterdrug instructors to provide feedback that will help the Gang Task Force manage critical care situations in the future.

BORDER OPERATIONS

In June, Counterdrug troops supporting U.S. Border Patrol’s efforts to thwart maritime drug smuggling observed from their posts on shore that a group of men was attempting to land a small fishing boat on San Onofre Beach. After the Counterdrug troops alerted Border Patrol, the boat was found to be carrying 1,523 pounds of marijuana. Two weeks later, Counterdrug personnel detected another boat traveling near San Diego. They notified Maritime Unified Command

law enforcement personnel, who apprehended the four suspected smugglers and their 2,200-pound load of marijuana.

Also in 2011, JTFDS-Counterdrug supported Operation Greenflash II, a six-week, joint operation that focused the efforts of federal, state and local agencies on the maritime threat in San Diego County. JTFDS-Counterdrug brought several part-time National Guard aviation assets to the fight that had not previously been used in a maritime role.

JTFDS-Counterdrug engineers installed new roads and conducted road rehabilitation to support border infrastructure in 2011. The team created paved patrol and access roads for Border Patrol elements in an effort to decrease agent response time and increase agent safety.

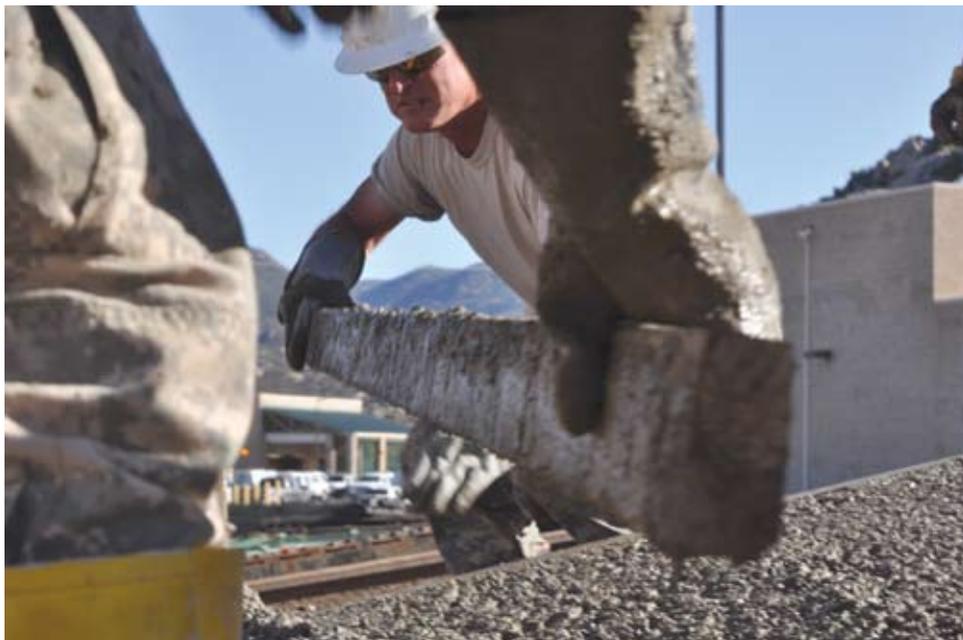
JTFDS-Counterdrug engineers also supported Border Patrol by implementing a federally mandated stormwater pollution prevention plan, which will reduce erosion during the rainy season. “Their goal is to keep the sediment on site,” Justin Wells of Border Patrol said. “The engineers are resourceful in coming up with new ways to prevent the erosion from occurring. They maintain erosion control by knowing where the drainage areas are [and where] potential sources of pollution are located, and they know how to address the pollutant issues.”

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

JTFDS-Counterdrug received special recognition in 2011 for outstanding support and professionalism. Among its accolades were:

- The Joint Law Enforcement Counternarcotics Operation Award for the Central Valley region, presented at the National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Conference
- Letters of appreciation for DDR activities received from U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui, State Assemblyman Roger Dickinson, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, 1st District
- The National Guard Bureau Criminal Analyst of the Year Award

JTFDS-Counterdrug’s dedicated, professional and skilled personnel are what make the program successful. Through their efforts and example, thousands of children and their families are positively impacted each year with messages about making wise choices and living drug-free.



Youth and Community Programs

Under the new governor, Edmund G. Brown Jr., the Youth and Community Programs Task Force was stood up. The task force, led by Brig. Gen. (CA) James L. Gabrielli, brought together several programs. By combining and consolidating these programs, Gabrielli is able to synchronize and maximize the efforts of more than 150 full-time employees, hundreds of volunteers and more than 5,000 cadets, students and youths.

OAKLAND MILITARY INSTITUTE

The Oakland Military Institute College Preparatory Academy (OMI) completed its 10th year in June with another highly successful crop of graduates who went on to post-secondary study at a rate higher than 95 percent. Additionally two alumni were commissioned as lieutenants in the Army after completing college at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Other OMI graduates have earned degrees from the University of California system, the California State University system and numerous private colleges and universities around the nation.

OMI's statewide Academic Performance Index (API), an indicator of overall academic success, has risen to 762, a gain of more than 100 points in the last five years. The API for OMI's African-American cadets, Latino cadets, English-learners and socioeconomically disadvantaged students each rose more than 100 points. OMI's boys basketball team took the Bay Counties League championship, as did the boys soccer team.

The OMI band, a relatively new addition to the program, took top honors in several competitive parades in California. OMI's acclaimed armed and unarmed drill teams also continue to garner honors at competitions and parades across the state.

GRIZZLY YOUTH ACADEMY

The CNG, in conjunction with San Luis Obispo County, operates Grizzly Youth Challenge Academy on Camp San Luis Obispo. Entering its 14th year, Grizzly serves 16- to 18-year-olds who have dropped out or are at risk of not completing high school. The academy provides a safe, structured envi-



ronment to promote academic achievement; develops leadership traits that improve self-esteem, pride and personal confidence; and teaches life skills such as budgeting, personal hygiene, punctuality, teamwork, responsibility and cooperation. In addition cadets completed 25,085 community service hours, valued at \$200,680 to the community, in 2011. Serving others and learning the value of volunteering helps cadets put into practice many skills learned at the academy.

Grizzly provides high school credit recovery, a GED testing program, the California High School Proficiency Exam and fully accredited high school diplomas, meeting the needs of all students. Additionally, cadets can access school activities and resources such as educational field trips, social activities and school counseling services.

One of the many innovations accomplished in 2011 was the purchase of a netbook computer for each cadet. A wireless network was also installed in the cadets' barracks to assist them in homework assignments.

Graduating a total of 357 cadets in 2011, Grizzly exceeded its funded graduation target of 340 students. About 92 percent of graduates achieved a positive placement for further education, work or volunteering after the

academy, one of the highest rates among all ChalleNGe programs nationwide.

SUNBURST YOUTH ACADEMY

Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy, the second ChalleNGe Academy established in California, was founded in January 2008 on Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos. Now in its fourth year, Sunburst has proven itself a dynamic and innovative organization that fosters cadet retention and professional growth for its cadre and staff. Sunburst has positioned itself as a model program delivering exceptional service to high school dropouts in Southern California and those who are at risk of dropping out. Sunburst collaborates with the Orange County Department of Education to provide an accredited, comprehensive and diverse high school experience for 16- to 18-year-olds. By virtue of this collaboration, Sunburst is a Western Association of Schools and Colleges-accredited community high school.

In December, Sunburst celebrated its largest graduating class — 156 cadets — bringing the total to 303 graduates for 2011, with an attrition rate of 10 percent, which is consistently among the best rate in the nation. Sunburst's two graduating classes in 2011

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Operation Ready Families

So many exciting changes occurred in 2011 for Operation Ready Families (ORF). In March, Mary Orr came on board as the new family assistance manager. Her expertise in management, team leadership and organizational development improved the CNG's programs, and as the spouse of a recently retired Air Force member, she understands the unique challenges military families face.

When Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin became the adjutant general in April, he moved Operation Ready Families under the supervision of Brig. Gen. (CA) James Gabrielli, who commands a division called the Youth and Community Programs Task Force. In accordance with its importance, Baldwin wanted Operation Ready Families to report to a general who reports directly to him. In July, Col. (P) Sylvia Crockett joined the Task Force as deputy commander. The CNG is fortunate to have such leaders who value family and make it a priority.

In April, Brig. Gen. Matthew Beevers and Mrs. Pam Baldwin participated in the first Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Okinawa Armory in Sacramento. Forty-four volunteers from across the state were recognized for more than 25,000 hours of volunteer service! Volunteers are the heart of Operation Ready Families, and without them the program would not be so successful. ORF depends on volunteers, who give so much of themselves and take time away from their families and jobs. To all the volunteers in Operation Ready Families, a heartfelt thank you! You are appreciated beyond words.

CNG Child and Youth Programs, run by Jerica Lovett, is now organized by region. Lovett covers the north, Rhonda Sparks is in the south and Melanie Diaz is based in Fresno. Regional events were held throughout the year for the children of Guard members. Some highlights include The Adjutant General's Symposium in San Diego and an overnight adventure at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

California's Family Assistance Program had an incredible year in 2011, helping make life-

changing connections for service members and their families. Just ask Army Staff Sgt. Silvia Sanchez of Sacramento. After she returned from deployment to Iraq, Sanchez was faced with a house that had fallen into major disrepair. You name it, Sanchez had to repair it, from electrical to plumbing, roofing, tile and sheetrock. Just try doing that without enough money to pay the bills. But Sanchez was about to meet a guardian angel in the form of "Rebuilding Together," a Sacramento-based charitable organization that was connected to Sanchez through her Family Assistance specialist. Another charitable organization, Big Sunday, secured a private donation to help Sanchez, and on Dec. 17 about 25 volunteers descended on her home to complete the work. What a Christmas present!

Then there's the story of Amy Jackson of Orange, the wife of Capt. Matthew Jackson from 1st Battalion (Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment. The Jacksons purchased a home shortly before he deployed, leaving Amy alone with their two children in a house that was falling apart. But more guardian angels were about to appear, thanks to connections facilitated by the Family Assistance Program. Almost a dozen Home Depot stores in Orange County each offered three volunteers on the day of the project. They painted and fixed the ceiling, landscaped her backyard, replaced her entryway floor and even

helped her organize her garage. Then Santa made an early appearance, delivering a new washing machine, dryer, dishwasher and refrigerator.

Nancy Vongchanh of Antioch is engaged to Spc. Joshua Ledford, who returned in December from Afghanistan, where he served with the 870th Military Police Company. Vongchanh went to family support meet-

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Task Force Warrior

Nearly 100 Soldiers from Task Force Warrior, the CNG's premier premobilization training element, which operates at Camp Roberts, successfully trained and validated more than 4,400 troops in 2011.

The highlight of the year was pushing nearly 2,400 Soldiers from the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team through premobilization training. It was the largest California Army National Guard unit ever to go through Task Force Warrior. The Task Force Warrior staff spent the better part of the summer working relentless hours training the 79th, which was the biggest element to complete training at Task Force Warrior since the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2009.

"We are configured as a training battalion designed to quickly and effectively train mobilizing units in 15 Army Warrior Tasks, four battle drills and vehicle licensing, if necessary," said Lt. Col. Loren Weeks, Task Force Warrior commander.

The tasks and drills include improvised explosive device recognition and defeat, reaction to direct and indirect fire, entry control point operations, urban individual movement techniques, land navigation, first aid and combat lifesaving, convoy operations, Humvee rollover and egress training, hand-to-hand combat techniques, marksmanship and radio communications. The units also attend numerous briefings on cultural awareness, rules of engagement, environmental awareness, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, to name a few.

All units receive the same basic premobilization training, regardless of the unit's mission. A finance company goes through the same grueling, sweat-inducing battle drills as an infantry battalion.

In addition to the 79th IBCT, numerous units from the California Army National Guard as well as elements from Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands received instruction from Task Force War-



rior. Air National Guard and active duty Army, Marine Corps and Navy units also received Task Force Warrior training.

While the summer months involved pushing hundreds of troops through premobilization training, there was still a moderate operations tempo during other parts of the year.

"There were small groups spread out over time," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Smith, one of the Task Force Warrior sergeants responsible for coordinating operations throughout the year. "We were able to find our weakness and improve our training capabilities."

Non-military agencies such as the FBI, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Paso Robles Police Department have trained with Task Force Warrior, mostly in marksmanship, driver training and first aid. Plans are in the works for the Drug Enforcement Administration to train with Task Force Warrior in the near future.

After a serious downsizing of person-

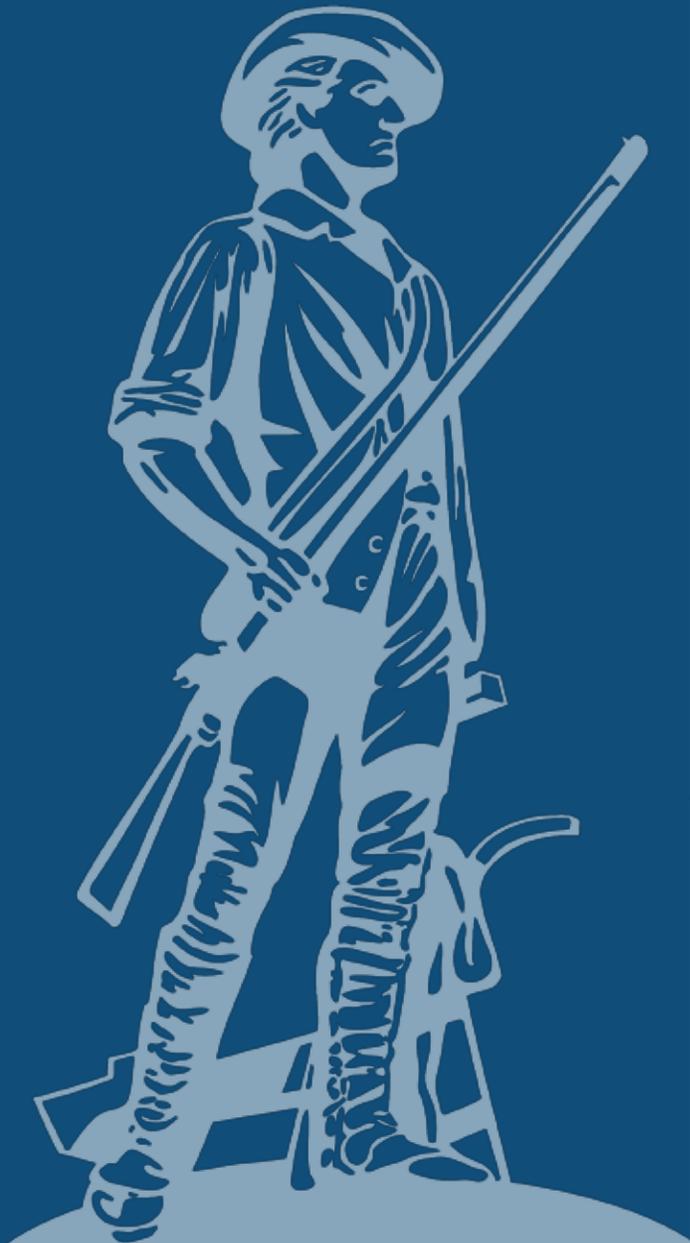
nel from 100 to 45, the Task Force Warrior teams have begun to consolidate their efforts with the intent of evaluating numerous training tasks in a single event, rather than evaluating individual tasks during multiple events.

A shift in training focus will also begin to prepare troops to respond to man-made and natural disasters in addition to the current premobilization curriculum.

Task Force Warrior will also begin instituting integrated convoy training that will include live-fire exercises. The mountainous, sparsely vegetated outskirts of Camp Roberts strongly resemble portions of Afghanistan, and the topography and intensity of the convoy training will provide an experience similar to operations in theatre.

Task Force Warrior is a noncommissioned officer (NCO)-run organization, and the NCOs are highly dedicated to their jobs.

"The officers manage, and the NCOs make it happen," Weeks said.



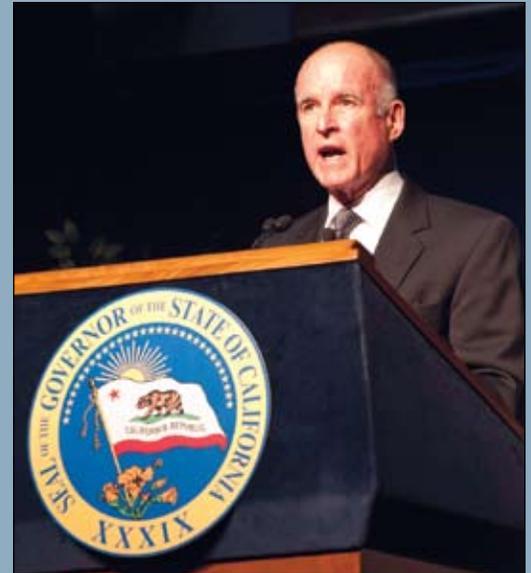
2011:
A look back

January

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

CNG commander in chief

Edmund G. Brown Jr. was sworn in as California's 39th governor and the California National Guard's new commander in chief. Following Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the 72-year-old political veteran began his third gubernatorial term with a National Guard force that was fully engaged in armed conflicts, international partnerships and a host of domestic missions. Brown's history with the CNG is marked most clearly by his founding of the Oakland Military Institute while serving as Oakland mayor in 2001, but the face of the Guard has changed considerably since he first took the governor's office in 1975, when he was just 36 years old. While Brown continues to be an avid supporter of National Guard youth programs, he now commands a National Guard that has evolved into a full-spectrum fighting force integral to contingency and domestic operations for the U.S. armed forces. California's National Guard is among the nation's largest and is arguably its most dynamic.



"Gold Miners" in Iraq

749th CSSB takes command



The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), 224th Sustainment Brigade, based in Benicia, assumed their mission of providing administrative, logistical, munitions, transportation and maintenance support for all units in the CSSB's area of operations in Iraq. Authority was transferred on Contingency Operating Base Adder from the Georgia National Guard's HHC, 110th CSSB. The CNG's citizen-Soldiers worked closely with their active duty Army counterparts in Iraq to provide seamless support for units of any military branch that were rotating out of the theater of operations in accordance with President Barack Obama's commitment to remove all troops from Iraq by the end of 2011. A total of 78 CNG Soldiers from the 749th CSSB successfully returned home to California in November from the 63-year-old "Gold Miner Battalion's" first deployment.

February



Centennial Celebration

California Cadet Corps

The California Cadet Corps celebrated 100 years of fulfilling its mission "to provide California schools and students with a quality educational and leadership development program that prepares students for success in college and the workforce." Founded in 1911 as the California High School Cadet Corps to recruit and train National Guard officers to serve during the World War I period, the institution evolved through the years, becoming the California Cadet Corps in 1935 and welcoming girls and middle-school units by the 1970s. Other changes include a greater leadership- and character-development focus. Today the Corps incorporates summer encampments, bivouacs, land navigation and marksmanship training, drill competitions, first aid training and leadership schools. The Corps is in more than 60 schools, serving more than 6,000 students annually.

March

Meritorious Commendation

95th CST earns TAG recognition



The 95th Civil Support Team (CST) earned the Adjutant General's Meritorious Unit Commendation in recognition of its Soldiers and Airmen building one of the most preeminent civil support teams in the nation. The 95th CST comprises 22 full-time service members technically trained by multiple federal and state agencies to assist in the National Response Plan for a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) attack on the United States. Teams are evaluated through Standardized Evaluation and

Assistance Team Inspections, which involve nine functional areas and 40 individual tasks of CBRNE operations. On its most recent SEAT Inspection, the 95th CST attained a 99.8 percent exceptional rating, which was the best in the nation.

"Dragonslayers" Come Home

224th SB returns from yearlong deployment

The 224th Sustainment Brigade returned from Iraq in March. When the brigade arrived at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, in 2010, its Soldiers cross-trained with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, the unit they replaced, to absorb the sustainment mission for the southern and central regions of Iraq. The 224th managed supplies, transportation and maintenance support for nearly two-thirds of the coalition's area of operations.



"Punishers" Safeguard Freedom

330th MPs return home from Afghanistan



The 330th Military Police Company returned from a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Ontario-based MPs completed more than 700 combat patrols, which Commander Maj. James Riehl said supported Afghan security efforts, were instrumental in seizures of weapons and investigations of bombings, and improved the lives of both our Afghan partners in security agencies and the people who live throughout Khowst province.

On the Move

40th CAB deploys to Iraq

Before the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) began its yearlong mission in Iraq, it first needed to get over there. More than 2,000 Soldiers, dozens of helicopters and tons of equipment needed to be transported by land, sea and air from Fort Hood, Texas, to the other side of the planet. The move required help from Air Force C-17 and C-5 strategic airlift aircraft and lumbering Russian Antonov An-124 heavy lift cargo planes.



The 40th CAB assumed command during a critical year in Iraq. American forces began drawing down as the Government of Iraq and Iraqi Security Forces took responsibility for Iraq's security. The 40th CAB is a unique collection of five battalions from the National Guard, Army Reserve and active-duty Army, with elements from 22 states. The brigade's headquarters company is a California Army National Guard unit from Fresno. The CAB was responsible for full-spectrum aviation operations in Iraq for the remainder of 2011, including everything from medical evacuation to reconnaissance and force protection.

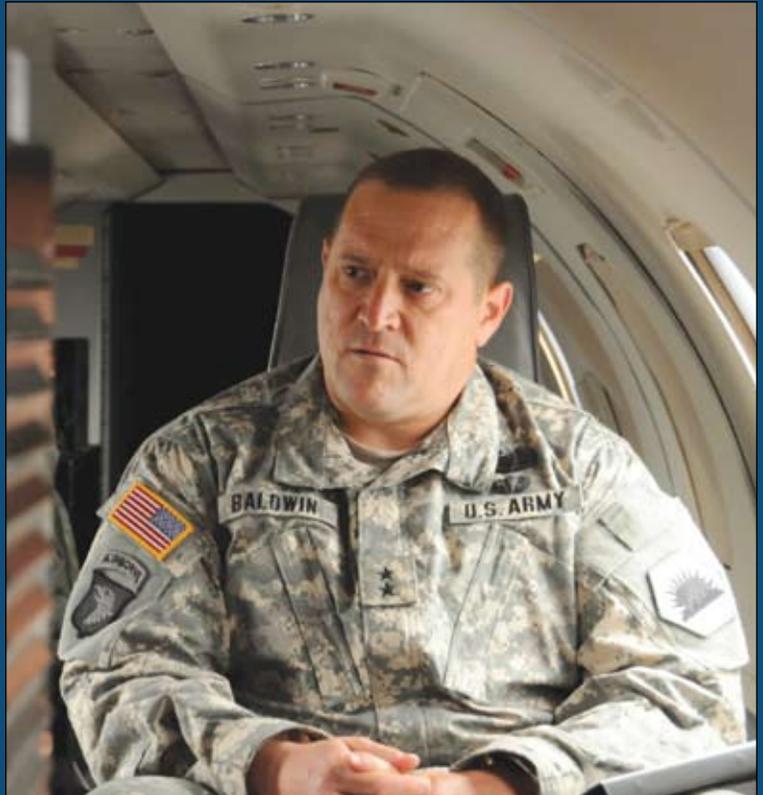


April

David S. Baldwin

New CNG adjutant general

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed then-Colonel David S. Baldwin as the California National Guard's 46th adjutant general. Brown said he chose Baldwin based on his exceptional experience, which includes two combat tours and 29 years of service. Baldwin was called back from a combat deployment in Afghanistan to serve as adjutant general, testimony to a career that has been marked by mobilizations, including a tour in Kuwait in 2001 and subsequent tours in Afghanistan in 2004 and 2011 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brown also appointed then-Colonel Matthew Beevers, another veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, as assistant adjutant general. Aside from their combat tours, both men brought to their posts extensive experience in stateside leadership, which served them well as they assumed command of one of the nation's most dynamic and heavily tasked National Guard forces in the country. The CNG has deployed nearly 37,000 Soldiers and Airmen to Afghanistan, Iraq and throughout the world since Sept. 11, 2001.



May

"Dustoff" Heroes

2-135th GSAB lifesavers return

For the members of "Bayou Dustoff," Detachment 1, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 135th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), their yearlong mission in Afghanistan could not have been more meaningful — saving lives on the battlefield. The detachment transported 609 patients during its deployment: 134 U.S. Soldiers, 184 Afghan National Army Soldiers, 99 other coalition Soldiers, 175 civilians and 17 enemy troops.



Modern Aircraft

3-140th gets fleet of Lakotas



The 3-140th Aviation Security and Support Battalion received eight LUH-72A Lakota light utility helicopters. The Lakotas will ultimately replace the Stockton-based battalion's OH-58 Kiowa helicopters. The new aircraft also free up the CNG's UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, allowing them to focus on bigger operational missions. The Lakota is designed to fly general support operations such as civil search and rescue, personnel recovery, evacuation, counterdrug and limited passenger transportation support. After receiving two Lakotas in May, the 3-140th Battalion proactively trained and prepared their pilots, crew chiefs and maintainers to remain mission-ready while transitioning aircraft. With the exception of awaiting their final aircraft to be delivered, the unit expects to be fully functioning in January.

June

Fighting the Flames

CNG douses fires in CA, AZ, NM and TX

June began one of the most active wildfire seasons the CNG has experienced. The Wildcat Fire, about 10 miles north of San Angelo, Texas, first called for the 146th Airlift Wing to deploy 40 Guardsmen and two C-130J aircraft in response to wildfires that were devastating much of southern Texas. Air National Guard and Reserve units from four states worked to contain many of the state's fires, which burned more than

2 million acres. July brought the largest fires in Arizona history, which burned more than 500,000 acres, spread over borders into Colorado and New Mexico and screamed their way through forested lands near hundreds of homes. C-130Js from the 146th were there with others from around the country to fight the fires, which were eventually extinguished. Also in July, 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, deployed two



CH-47 Chinook helicopters to support the effort to extinguish flames in northeast San Diego County. The Eagle Fire, which charred 14,100 acres, was 100 percent contained on July 30. In September, both the 146th and the 3-140th fought fires raging across Kern County near

Bakersfield, Calif. The fires burned nearly 55,000 acres and threatened 2,300 homes, but no structures were destroyed. In total the CNG flew more than 140 missions and dropped more than 250,000 gallons of water and 419,000 gallons of fire retardant in 2011.

July

Safe Skies

CNG Airmen train in Ukraine

More than 140 members of the Air National Guard traveled to Mirgorod Air Base, Ukraine, in July to participate in Safe Skies, a U.S. European Command-sponsored aerial military-to-military exchange event. The two-week exercise provided an opportunity for Ukrainian, Polish and American personnel to fly together and help prepare the Polish and Ukrainian forces for enhanced air supremacy and air sovereignty operations. It was also intended to foster improved communication and collaboration between the countries. The National Guard provided invaluable training for the Polish and Ukrainian forces, completing about 120 intercept missions.



Weed Whackers

Operation Full Court Press

The "Emerald Triangle," known for decades for its cultivation of high-grade marijuana, was the target for a multi-agency marijuana eradication effort known as Operation Full Court Press in July. The operation targeted large-scale, illegal grow sites in and around Mendocino National Forest, with participation from 25 local, state and federal agencies. Full Court Press resulted in the seizure or eradication of 632,000 marijuana plants and 2,000 pounds of processed marijuana, according to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. Agents also seized \$28,000 in U.S. currency, 38 weapons and 20 vehicles, and they arrested 132 individuals. More than 51,000 pounds of garbage, 40 miles of irrigation line and 5,500 pounds of fertilizer and pesticides were also removed from the forest.



August

James C. Witham

New California Air National Guard commander

Brig. Gen. James C. Witham, a seasoned fighter pilot and combat veteran, was named the new commander of the California Air National Guard. Witham has served in several command and staff positions, including director of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and director of air, space and cyberspace operations for the National Guard Bureau. He most recently served as chief of staff for the New Jersey Air National Guard. As commander, Witham will ensure that the California Air National Guard's four flying wings and one combat communications group are mission-capable and able to fulfill their state and federal missions.



Airmen Journey to War **146th AW deploys to Afghanistan**

Airmen assigned to the 146th Air-lift Wing loaded a C-130J aircraft bound for Afghanistan in August. The wing, based at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Port Hueneme, set off on a three-month deployment in support of ground troops and medical evacuations. Their C-130J aircraft, which can travel at speeds of more than 300 mph and haul more than 45,000 pounds, provided medical evacuations and rapid air transport of goods and troops, thereby reducing the number of convoys crisscrossing dangerous Afghan roads. The five planes that were deployed composed the largest of a series of summer departures for the 146th, which included the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Civil Engineering Squadron and Air Terminal Operations Squadron.



"Road Dawgs" Roll Out **756th supports OEF**

The 756th Transportation Company deployed to Afghanistan for a yearlong mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The "Road Dawgs," based in Van Nuys, were given less than six months notice in advance of their mission. With training and their families in the forefront of their mind, the unit quickly banded together to prepare themselves and their loved ones for the deployment.

Superior Aviators **1-140th welcomed home**

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, known as Task Force Long Knife, completed a yearlong tour at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in late July and arrived in Los Alamitos in early August. The helicopter assault battalion's 350 Soldiers, thirty UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and 20 fixed-wing aircraft performed a variety of missions in support of Operation New Dawn. The unit served a crucial role in supporting the troop drawdown taking place theater-wide, providing a variety of aviation support to personnel throughout the country, primarily in Iraq's central region. The 1-140th also operated two forward arming and refueling points for Army aviation assets and returned home with no casualties and more than 15,000 hours of flight time logged on the deployment.



September

Sept. 11: Never Forget

CNG honors 9/11 victims, fallen troops

A decade after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard gathered across the state to pay tribute to those who perished during the terrorist assault and the subsequent operations in the war on terrorism. Since 9/11 the CNG has lost 29 members in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The CNG has also implemented new training, techniques and technologies to defeat 21st century enemies on distant battlefields and on our home turf. The National Guard that serves California today is vastly superior to the force in place 10 years ago. The need to remain vigilant is engraved in the minds of CNG service members, even with the passing of time. Cal Guardsmen will not be satisfied until Americans can live their lives safe in the knowledge that they are protected from all threats foreign or domestic.



Building a Foundation

578th engineers Afghan construction

Nearly 175 Soldiers from the 578th Engineer Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, left California in mid-September to begin pre-mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas, in advance of a yearlong deployment. Upon arriving in Afghanistan, the 578th Headquarters and Headquarters Company based out of Manhattan Beach, Calif., and the Forward Support Company based out of Pomona, Calif., began route clearance and construction projects.



October

Best Warriors

CNG honors Soldiers of the year

For six grueling days, nine Soldiers competing for the title of Best Warrior navigated their way across the hills of Camp San Luis Obispo, climbed up ropes, under barbed wire and over walls, took down enemies and racked their brains for answers, all with little time



to rest. The competitors' experience ranged from roughly two to 17 years in the military and multiple deployments for a few. Their military jobs included military dispatcher, law enforcement and everything in between. The Best Warrior Competition has a four-year history that evolved from a previous annual event, the Soldier of the Year challenge. The competition is designed to select the Soldier and noncommissioned officer (NCO) who represent the best of the best, based on performance, potential and professional knowledge.



Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Demetrius McCowan, a sheet metal aircraft structural mechanic with the 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group and a native of Fresno, for being named the NCO winner in October and to Spc. John Cunningham, a scout with B Troop, 1-18th Cavalry, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and a native of Poway, for winning in the Soldier category for the 2011 Best Warrior Competition.

October

United Response

CNG dual-status command exercise

The CNG tested its responsiveness to a no-notice simulated disaster — a 7.8-magnitude earthquake centered in the El Cajon Pass in Southern California — during Exercise United Response at California Military Department headquarters in Sacramento. The exercise tested the construct of a dual-status commander, who has authority to simultaneously direct both Title 32 National Guard troops and Title 10 active duty service members. California joined Wisconsin in being the first National Guard organizations to implement the concept in full-scale disaster simulations.



Frag Drawdown

CNG's largest homecoming



Nearly 500 Soldiers of the 640th Aviation Support Battalion returned to California in late November. During their yearlong deployment in support of Operation New Dawn on Camp Taji, Iraq, the 640th was the only unit of its kind, playing a vital role in the maintenance, fueling and logistical requirements for more than 250 helicopters. The 640th also trained Iraqi Army personnel, helping to build and reinforce their aviation logistical capabilities to ensure Iraq's success as a nation.

November

Extraordinary Airmen

Distinguished Flying Cross recipients

Eleven CNG members from the 129th Rescue Wing were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for combat search-and-rescue missions conducted in Afghanistan. Three additional 129th Airmen were recognized with the Air Medal.



Both awards honor

heroism or meritorious achievement in an aerial mission or missions by armed forces members. Providing 24-hour alert in Helmand province, Afghanistan, and performing up to eight rescue missions each day in active combat zones, Airmen of the 129th Rescue Wing were credited with saving 345 injured people, including U.S. forces, coalition personnel and Afghan nationals, during their 2009 and 2010 deployments.

Vigilant Guard

49th MP Homeland Response Force

The 270th and 40th Military Police (MP) companies serve one of 10 regional forces in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Homeland Response Force (HRF) infrastructure to streamline the nation's capacity for responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) incidents. The Fairfield-based 49th MP Brigade will have responsibility for deploying the FEMA Region IX HRF, which is expected to be fully mission capable in



March 2012. Its 556 members will combine a CBRNE enhanced response force package (CERFP) with a command-and-control element, a battalion headquarters and a security company. Each CERFP includes decontamination, search-and-extraction and medical capabilities to respond to any incident involving dangerous contaminants. The CNG's HRF was evaluated in November during Vigilant Guard, a full-scale, statewide exercise in Arizona designed to ensure effective coordination between local, state, federal, private sector and nongovernmental organizations in preparation for a domestic emergency.

December

Healing Hearts All CNG units home from Iraq

Home for the Holidays 649th Engineers return from deployment

More than 170 Soldiers from the 649th Engineer Company returned to California in early December after a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. With more than \$63 million of heavy equipment assets, the 649th was responsible for the construction of 15 checkpoints and observation posts, 22 route improvements, and force protection improvements at 30 bases manned by NATO-led coalition forces. The highly motivated Soldiers put in more than 60,000 equipment hours during a long and intense deployment that included more than 80 successful horizontal-construction missions throughout all of Regional Command-East.



The California National Guard's last unit in Iraq, the 297th Area Support Medical Company, returned home in December after a yearlong deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. More than 60 doctors, nurses, medics, pharmacists, X-ray technicians, dentists and medical support personnel from the 297th provided health care to coalition forces throughout Iraq. The 297th also trained Iraqi forces in modern battlefield medicine.



Fallen Comrades Thank you for your service

With a humble heart, the CNG honors these service members who fought and died with honor keeping freedom alive for America.



**Sergeant
Carlo F. Eugenio**
1982 - 2011
Riverside, CA
756th Transportation Co.
Operation Enduring Freedom



**Specialist
Sean M. Walsh**
1990 - 2011
San Jose, CA
870th Military Police Co.
Operation Enduring Freedom

Sgt. Carlo Francisco Eugenio, a California Army National Guardsman, was killed Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011, from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his vehicle in Kabul province, Afghanistan, with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 756th Transportation Company, 746th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade.

Spc. Sean Michael Walsh, a California Army National Guardsman, died Nov. 16, 2011, in Khowst province, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained from indirect fire engagement. He was assigned to the 870th Military Police Company, 185th MP Battalion, 49th MP Brigade. The 870th, based out of Pittsburg, Calif., returned from its yearlong tour only one month after Walsh's death.

129th Rescue Wing, continued from page 24

thew Beevers, assistant adjutant general of the CNG, presented 11 wing members the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device, while three members received the Air Medal with V Device. The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement during an aerial mission. The Air Medal is presented for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement during an aerial mission.

The wing actively supported numerous community events and activities in 2011, including all national observance holiday events. On Memorial Day, Butow provided the keynote address during the United Veterans Council event in San Jose. During the Red, White and Tahoe Blue Independence Day festivities in Lake Tahoe, a Pave Hawk helicopter crew and Guardian Angel pararescue team demonstrated water rescue techniques. In November, the wing supported the San Jose Veterans Day Parade by conducting a flyover of the parade route.

The past year also saw the 129th participate in two movie productions. In February a Pave Hawk helicopter and crew flew to Candlestick Park in San Francisco to shoot a scene for the movie "Contagion" starring Jude Law, Kate Winslet and Matt Damon. The wing also contributed to "Patrol Base Jaker," a documentary about a Marine Corps deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan. Maj. Mathew Wenthe of the 129th was interviewed for the documentary about his experiences during personnel recovery missions during that deployment.

The future looks brighter than ever for the 129th, which successfully implemented programs and integrated systems throughout 2011 that greatly increased its ability to provide the state and nation with world class rescue capabilities. The wing continues to set the benchmark for personnel recovery operations in the Air National Guard.

"This wing is ready for whatever mission we are given," Butow said. "We look forward to the next year, [when] we will take the wing's ability to conduct personnel recovery to a completely different level."

146th Airlift Wing, continued from page 26

ron and Air Terminal Operations Squadron. All deployed for three months and provided airlift and airdrop capability to forward operating bases, mostly within Afghanistan.

The end of 2011 was marked with celebration as most of the wing's deployed members returned home. Many of them arrived home the day before Thanksgiving and were welcomed into the arms of family and friends as the C-130J's propellers slowly came to a stop on the tarmac. Tears of joy flowed as the tired travelers emerged from the planes to scoop up their children and other loved ones.

163rd Reconnaissance Wing, continued from page 27

The 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron continued to stay busy with projects at March and the Southern California Logistics Airport in support of the wing's Predator missions. Sixty engineers from the squadron attended silver flag training in July 2011, and the squadron deployed 50 personnel for six months to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Projects included drainage, air conditioning installation and sidewalk repair and installation. The squadron also constructed a 17,000-square-foot Reaper hangar at Southern California Logistics Airport.

The Logistics Readiness Squadron continues to raise the bar. In addition to flawlessly mobilizing 118 members in support of Predator operations and 27 members in support of Air Expeditionary Force operations around the globe, the unit led a 44-member joint task force and supported the funeral service for former first lady Elizabeth B. Ford in Palm Desert, Calif. Unit members provided around-the-clock logistics support, serving as motorcade drivers, escorting 197 media members and guarding the casket during the public repose.

The Force Support Squadron continued to provide support including personnel accountability for the Predator mission and assistance to other armed forces units across the nation for readiness, training and mission requirements. Deployments included

a seven-person food services team and a two-member personnel support team to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, as well as an officer to Afghanistan. In addition members participated with the security forces augmentee program and the March Honor Guard.

The 163rd Communications Flight is committed to providing a secure, reliable and robust network to support all facets of the wing's mission. The network operations and client support teams worked with wing members and service providers daily to ensure continuity of operations. The infrastructure team worked a number of wing-wide projects, including complex communications for a new hangar at Southern California Logistics Airport, rewiring most of the wing's facilities with more than 3,000 new network and phone connections, and expanding the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network to accommodate more than 300 users.

The information assurance and knowledge operations teams took their expertise on the road in 2011. Each worked with wings across the nation to bolster programs in preparation for inspections and to educate newly assigned staff members. The plans and programs team diligently worked to provide new and upgraded circuits, software and hardware to meet the demands of the wing's ever-changing missions. And the quality assurance section ensured that all flight members were properly trained and their training was documented.

162nd Combat Comm. Group, continued from page 28

Hawaii and Washington state to train with active duty and Air National Guard counterparts in the cyber-operational domain.

All units of the 162nd conducted "Home-town Heroes" celebrations in 2011, recognizing members who have deployed since Sept. 11, 2001. In spite of a busy operations tempo, deployments and inspections, many 162nd Airmen volunteered to support various community events and groups in 2011, such as the Air Force Sergeants Association, Veterans Administration hospitals, food drives, local youth centers, the Disabled Veterans Association and Toys for the Troops' Kids.

100th Troop Command, continued from page 16

defense mission from the Army Reserve in January. During the first nine months of the year, the unit opened new offices in Sacramento and Bell, Calif. These offices and the existing office at California Military Department headquarters in Sacramento enable the 629th to provide a higher level of professional and confidential defense services to our Soldiers. The 629th is also responsible for supervising defense services in Arizona, Hawaii, and Guam. The 629th has opened offices in Arizona and Guam and is busy with Soldiers. The Hawaii office is expected to open in early 2012. The 629th provides a full range of services, including defending courts martial and administrative separation boards, and providing advice regarding Uniform Code of Military Justice Article 15 hearings, 15-6 investigations and other situations in which Soldiers are entitled to counsel.

The 100th Troop Command met or exceeded every goal set for it this year while performing important state and contingency operations missions. The brigade's troops in-processed new Soldiers, completed annual training requirements, and prepared for, conducted and returned from overseas mobilizations, while practicing their military occupational specialties every drill.

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640th Aviation Support Battalion in late November. This event marked the single largest return home of CNG troops since President Barack Obama announced the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq before the year's end. More than 400 relatives, friends, fellow Soldiers and members of the community gathered on the airfield to welcome the troops home.

"We're proud of what our Soldiers have accomplished this year," Russell said. "We couldn't do what we do without the support of our community and surrounding cities. Our commitment to those partnerships is ongoing, and we look forward their mutual support in 2012."

Civil Support Task Force, continued from page 39

In June, coordination with more than 50 agencies during an 18-month period culminated in Operation Diplomatic Guard on Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay. The following week the team turned its training focus to shipboard operations in a simulated CBRN environment supported by local FBI and Coast Guard personnel.

At the end of June, a group from the CST was detailed to support the U.S. Secret Service during a visit to San Francisco by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Throughout the year, the CST supported several other large-scale exercises and events, including NASCAR races and Professional Golfers Association tournaments.

Youth and Community, continued from page 42

also earned 31 high school diplomas and 16 GED credentials, and 232 cadets earned the Presidential Physical Fitness Award. The cadets also performed more than 15,150 hours of service to the community, providing more than \$136,000 of in-kind service. Since Sunburst's inception, graduates have an 87 percent success rate for entering the workforce and/or pursuing higher education. Sunburst Youth ChalleNge Academy is a tremendous opportunity for teenagers who want a second chance to change their lives and enhance their education.

STARBASE

STARBASE conducted 80 classes in 2011 with 2,582 students attending — more attendees than any other STARBASE in the country. Students' pre- & post-program test-score improvement gained 3 percent over 2010 to reach a STARBASE record of 38 percent improvement. Teachers' comments about student performance back in the classroom also improved by 4 percent over the previous year. In addition the frequency of favorable parent feedback about their child's STARBASE experience increased 4 percent.

CALIFORNIA CADET CORPS

The California Cadet Corps celebrated its 100th anniversary April 8-10 at Joint Forces

Training Base-Los Alamitos, where it was attended by more than 1,000 current and former cadets and guests. Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. was the reviewing officer for the pass in review, which included the announcement of then-Colonel David S. Baldwin's selection as the 46th adjutant general for California. Brown praised the cadets for their commitment to patriotism, citizenship, leadership, academic excellence, fitness and basic military knowledge. He encouraged them to take the lessons they learn during their time as a cadet and apply them to making their communities better places for everyone to live. Brown mentioned that more than 1 million cadets have passed through the ranks of the California Cadet Corps since it began in the era of World War 1 as a training ground for Army officers. He thanked the adults who work tirelessly as volunteers and he spoke about the importance of youth programs such as the Cadet Corps as a vital component of his plan to get California back on track toward economic success. During this centennial year, the Cadet Corps added two full-time employees to work in logistical, administrative and recruiting support.

Operation Ready Families, continued from page 43

ings in Walnut Creek during the year Ledford was deployed, and she became a leader among the spouses at the meetings. While Nancy was waiting for her fiancé to return, her 1989 Jeep conked out. Of course Nancy's main focus was the safe return of her fiancé, but she was struggling to care for her three young children without reliable transportation. That's when Mike Rose's Auto Body of Antioch presented Nancy with a "new" used vehicle. Nancy has been regarded as a "rock" of support for other families who have family members deployed. Now her support of others has resulted in big payback for her and her kids.

Even with deployed family members serving so far away, the Family Assistance Program is doing what it can to help create connections that enable acts of benevolence and support for our armed forces. With the proper support, we can get through anything, even when our loved ones are serving a continent away.

2011



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