



2008

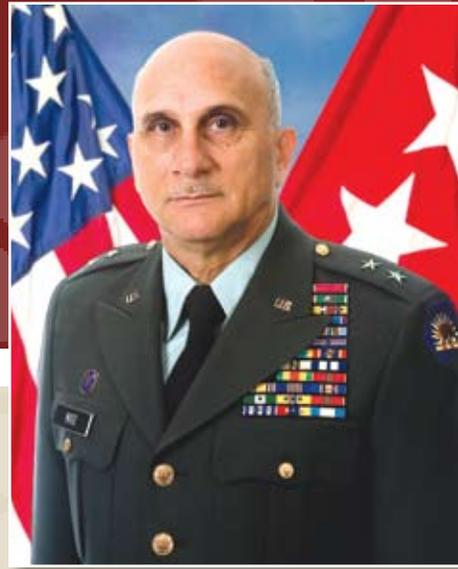
CALIFORNIA

NATIONAL

GUARD

YEAR IN REVIEW





Introduction

Two thousand eight was another year of challenges for the California National Guard — both at home and abroad. We deployed 2,972 Soldiers and 863 Airmen on federal missions to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Nigeria, Crete, Djibouti, Columbia, Guatemala, Korea, Kyrgystan, New Zealand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and numerous other countries around the globe, as well as responding to calls for support to civil authorities at home.

Once again, the California National Guard supported the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the U.S. Forest Service during Operation Lightning Strike — the state’s response to more than 1,800 simultaneous fires across northern California started by more than 2,100 unprecedented dry lightning strikes. California Army National Guard aircraft dropped 5,505,856 gallons of water, while the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve deployed MAFFS units from California, Colorado, Wyoming and North Carolina in order to drop 12,012,000 pounds of fire retardant on fires across the region in order to contain a catastrophic blaze that ultimately consumed 1,280,957 acres. In addition, 2,400 members of the California National Guard were mobilized and trained as Type II firefighters to support state and federal firefighters who had been stretched to their limits.

The Guard’s Joint Task Force Vista continued its support of the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, while making vast improvements to border security by constructing miles of new primary barriers, repairing existing secondary barriers and maintaining roads to enhance interior lines of communications. California National Guard aviators used their extensive flying skills and combat experience to insert border patrol agents and Guardsmen into otherwise inaccessible terrain to interdict illegal drugs, as well as assisting in several search-and-rescue operations.

The California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force was once again recognized for its planning, support and execution of the National Marijuana Eradication Initiative. During operations LOCUST and CLEAR VIEW, law enforcement authorities, in conjunction with the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, led a coalition of federal, state and local agencies in a mission to remove marijuana gardens, investigate and apprehend drug trafficking individuals, and remove drug infrastructure on public lands across Northern California. This multi-agency operation eradicated 2,982,158 plants and reclaimed 47 sites, garnering 10 individual and three team awards from the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

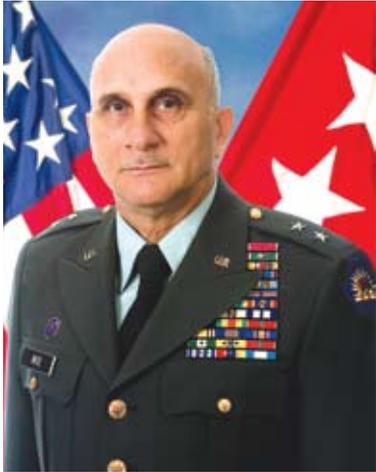
Like so many times before, the California National Guard’s success was a direct result of the selfless support of all its participants — its military members, their families, civilian employers, the community and its state and federal civilian employees. Because of this strong and dedicated team, the challenges were met, the requirements were satisfied, and the missions were accomplished.

ALWAYS READY – ALWAYS THERE: The California National Guard

WILLIAM H. WADE II
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II



Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight



Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark

Army Division

Air Division



Brig. Gen. Louis J. Antonetti



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael H. Winstead



Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas



Command Chief Master Sgt. Deborah K. Lott

Joint Staff

State Military Reserve



Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth



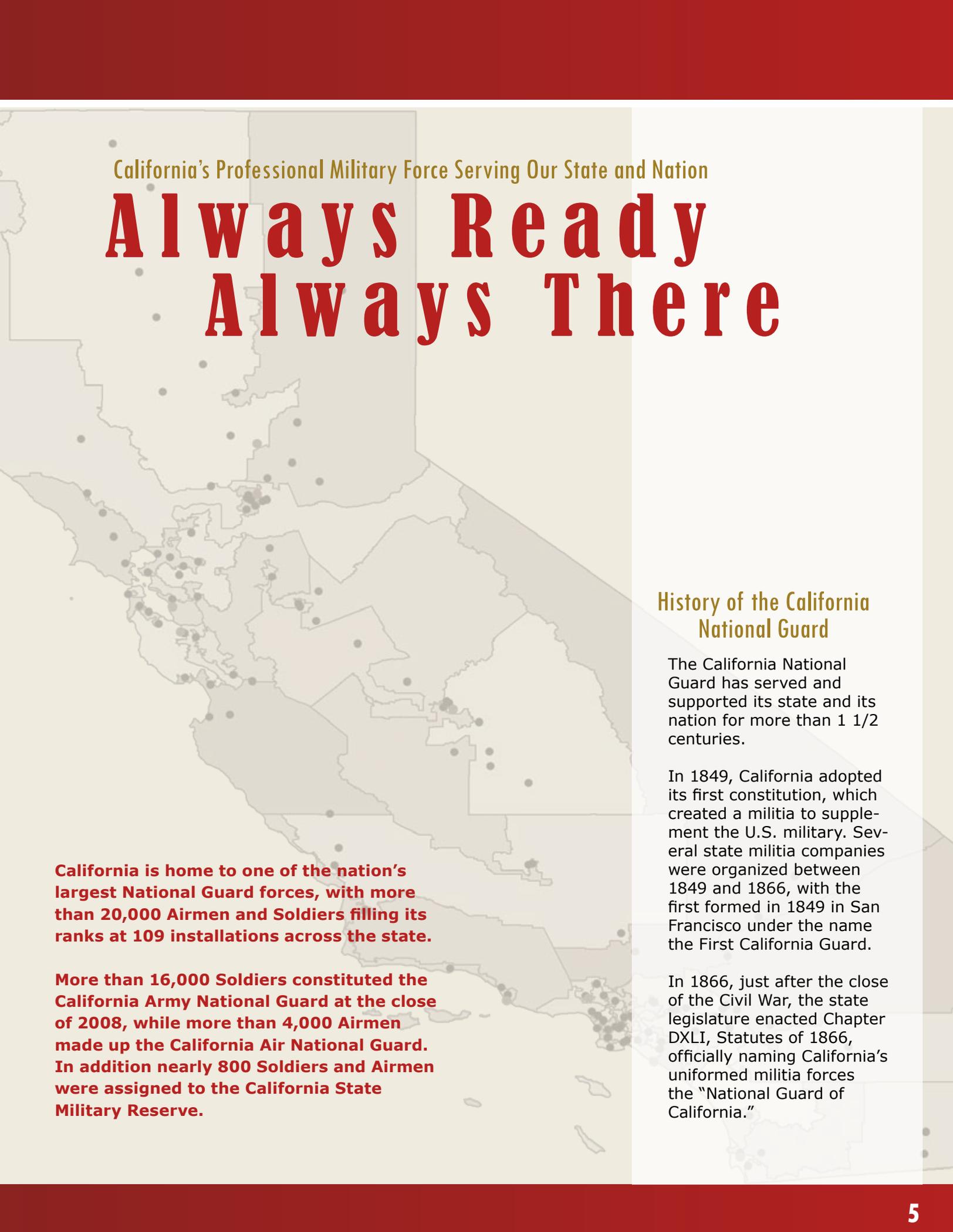
Command Sgt. Major Jose J. Gomez



Brig. Gen. Roland L. Candee



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert W. Delaney

A light-colored map of California is overlaid with numerous small grey dots representing military installations. The dots are distributed across the state, with a higher concentration in the central and southern regions. The map is set against a dark red background.

California's Professional Military Force Serving Our State and Nation

Always Ready Always There

California is home to one of the nation's largest National Guard forces, with more than 20,000 Airmen and Soldiers filling its ranks at 109 installations across the state.

More than 16,000 Soldiers constituted the California Army National Guard at the close of 2008, while more than 4,000 Airmen made up the California Air National Guard. In addition nearly 800 Soldiers and Airmen were assigned to the California State Military Reserve.

History of the California National Guard

The California National Guard has served and supported its state and its nation for more than 1 1/2 centuries.

In 1849, California adopted its first constitution, which created a militia to supplement the U.S. military. Several state militia companies were organized between 1849 and 1866, with the first formed in 1849 in San Francisco under the name the First California Guard.

In 1866, just after the close of the Civil War, the state legislature enacted Chapter DXLI, Statutes of 1866, officially naming California's uniformed militia forces the "National Guard of California."



\$737 MILLION ★

Federal funds for California Army National Guard



★ **\$278 MILLION**

Federal funds for California Air National Guard



\$435.4 MILLION ★

Amount paid to Airmen, Soldiers and civilian employees of the California National Guard



★ **\$56.1 MILLION**

Amount paid to local contractors for construction services



★ ★ ECONOMIC IMPACT

FISCAL YEAR 2008



\$1.02 BILLION ★

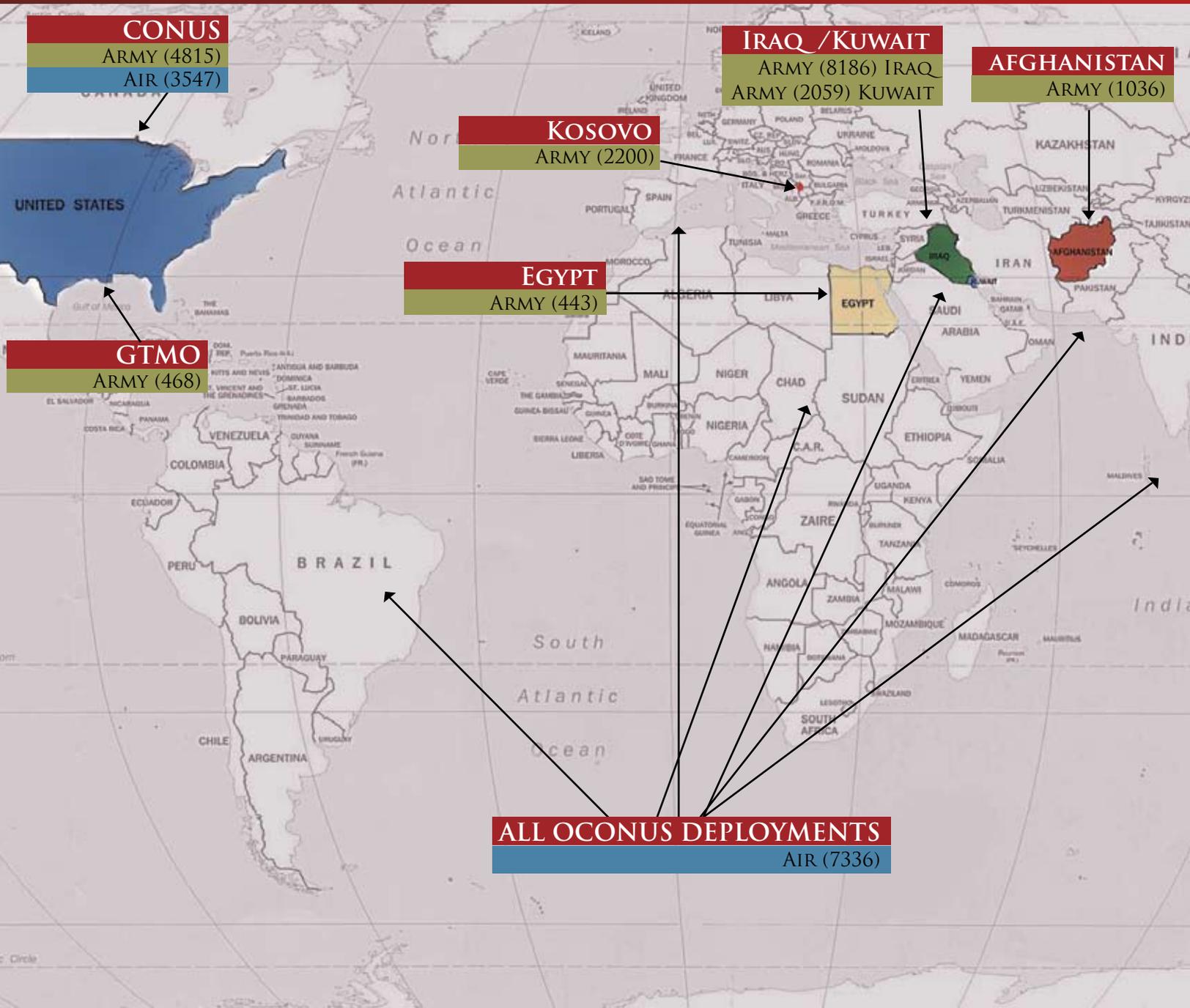
Federal funds used to support the California National Guard



SUPPORTING **109** INSTALLATIONS ACROSS CALIFORNIA



DEPLOYMENTS TO DATE SINCE 9/11



TOTAL

ARMY 19,207

AIR 10,883



TRAINING BASES

CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO

Organization

Camp San Luis Obispo, or "Camp SLO," is a premier National Guard training center that is located five miles north of the city of San Luis Obispo and occupies an area of 5,100 acres.

Founded in 1928 by the state of California and known originally as Camp Merriam, it was leased to the federal government in 1940. By 1945 the facility had expanded to more than 14,000 acres of federal and state land. The state-owned portion of the camp reverted to state control in 1947 but was again leased to the federal government during the Korean War and finally returned to state control in 1965.

The cantonment area at Camp SLO can house more than 1,200 service members under normal conditions and more than 2,000 under emergency conditions. A new state-of-the-art dining facility opened in 2008. The 16,079-square-foot, single-story building now serves the dining requirements of up to 800 troops, while the full kitchen provides two serving lines and space for four separate dining rooms.

The camp is home to 11 assembly buildings, many of them remodeled, with a total occupant capacity of 1,520, as well as more than 50 administrative and office buildings. Additionally, Camp SLO maintains a heliport, as well as a complex of warehouses, workshops and maintenance facilities. Other supporting facilities include a chapel, two service clubs, a theatre, a laundry facility, a barber shop and a post exchange.

Responsibilities

Camp San Luis Obispo provides operational, training and logistical support to a wide variety of civilian and military agencies at the federal, state and local levels. These agencies include the California National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve, the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, the U. S. Property and Fiscal Office, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Civil Air Patrol, the Defense Security Service, Achievement House, the Grizzly Challenge

Youth Academy Program, Operating Engineers, the California Conservation Corps, the California Department of Corrections, the California Department of Forestry, the California Specialized Training Institute and Cuesta Community College.

National Guard, Army Reserve and active Army units occupy facilities at Camp SLO for two- to three-week training rotations, primarily during the summer months. Among the new ranges under construction at Camp SLO are a Combat Pistol Qualification Range and Modified Record Fire Range. Other training facilities include an EST2000 weapons training site, a reconstructed Urban Assault Course (F-1), obstacle, land-navigation and Leadership Challenge courses, a warrior tasks training area and additional training areas suitable to conduct field-training exercises for a battalion-size element (about 1,000 personnel).

Camp San Luis Obispo is also home to the 223rd Infantry Regiment, which is responsible for the Cal Guard's Officer Candidate School and combined arms Military Occupational Specialty schools.

In the environmental arena, Camp SLO personnel requested an Army Compat-



ible Use Buffer (ACUB) in 2006 and received approval to partially fund the purchase of 315 acres along the camp's eastern boundary. In 2008, the Camp SLO ACUB Program, in partnership with the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo and the city of San Luis Obispo, secured a conservation easement for the 838-acre Stenner Ranch. The privately owned ranch also borders the eastern boundary of Camp SLO.

In the technology arena, the Camp SLO billeting office continued to invest money in wireless technology to improve quality of life for personnel renting quarters on post. In addition, the billeting office expanded satellite TV service to all rental quarters. Many of the quarters now offer international channels to foreign students based on the tenants' countries of origin.



CAMP ROBERTS

Camp Roberts is a 43,000-acre military installation located on Highway 101, midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The camp was built in 1942 and has been licensed by the Army Corps of Engineers to the California National Guard from 1971 to the present.

Camp Roberts is the largest National Guard training facility on the West Coast. With its rolling hills and steep, mountainous terrain it serves as host annually to more than 200,000 servicemembers from all military branches. The installation additionally provides ideal training facilities for research and development projects and testing for Department of Defense agencies and civilian contractors.

The site is home to more than 550 full-time employees, including permanent tenant organizations such as the Central Issuing Facility, the Maneuver and Training Equipment Site, the Regional Training Site Maintenance, the U.S. Army Satellite Communication Station and a U.S. Army Training Support Center.

Camp Roberts also provides ideal training facilities for federal and state agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the departments of Justice, Corrections, and Forestry and Fire Protection.

In addition to the multiple agencies that train there, Camp Roberts serves as home to Task Force Warrior, California's Pre-Mobilization Assistance Training Element. The group consists of more than 60 qualified instructors who certify Soldiers on Army Warrior Tasks and individual weapons qualifications. In the past, Soldiers were forced to travel to Fort Lewis for pre-mobilization training. Camp Roberts also provides for joint forces training and has the capacity to house a brigade-sized element at any given time.



Improvement

The National Guard in conjunction with the Department of the Army built new ranges and continues to improve infrastructure on Camp Roberts to face the increased demands of the Global War on Terrorism.

Range-improvement projects totaling more than \$5.5 million were completed during 2008, including the infantry-squad-battle and urban-assault courses. Six new range towers are also near completion. Camp Roberts continues to enhance its state-of-the-art Soldier Readiness Processing center, ensuring its ability to handle all its pre-mobilization requirements.

Still slated for completion are the Infantry Platoon Battle Course, upgraded Demolition, Modified Record Fire and Anti-Tank ranges, Combined Arms Collective Training Facility and breaching facilities. Base-improvement plans include road and tank trails, a 1 million-gallon water tank, airstrips, electrical infrastructure, fiber, senior enlisted quarters and enhanced perimeter security.



Simulation training includes a four-suite Engagement Skills Trainer, a Virtual Combat Operations Trainer, a Call For Fire Trainer and battle-command programs that allow commanders and their staffs to hone their decision-making skills.

Enhanced Moral, Welfare and Recreation facilities include an automated teller machine, a new Nautilus fitness center, outdoor basketball courts, picnic areas, an Internet Wi-Fi gaming room and an improved Phoenix Recreation Center that houses a barber shop, theater, library and pool tables.

JFTB LOS ALAMITOS

Organization

California and the U.S. Army received a great bargain when they turned over the Joint Forces Training Base in June 1971 to the Department of Defense.

The Department of the Navy established the base in 1942 as a Naval Air Station supporting World War II, and the Department of Defense turned it over to the California National Guard in 1977. Today there are 45 tenant entities representing military, federal, state, municipal, public, private and nonprofit organizations. The largest of these agencies include the Cal Guard's 40th Infantry Division and the 9th Civil Support Team for Weapons of Mass Destruction; California's Southern Region Office of Emergency Services; the state Department of Food and Agriculture's Operation Medfly; the Army Reserve's 63rd Regional Support Command; the California State Military Reserve; the National Aquatic Center; and an Army airfield.

The JFTB has about 700 employees among its tenants and supports about 5,000 military members for Guard and Reserve duty. Annual events include the Race on the Base, American Red Cross blood drive, the Independence Day Spectacular, Crime Survivors, the Veteran's Day Celebration and the Wheels, Wheels and Rotors Expo.

Responsibilities

Located at the seam of Orange and Los Angeles counties, the JFTB serves a population of about 13 million as an insurance policy for earthquakes, fires, pandemics and riots. Home to one of two controlled Army National Guard airfields, its runways can support a surge of state and federal aid if there is a catastrophic event like that experienced during California's wildfire season. This capability, coupled with the training facilities currently being used by the police and fire departments, make it a major contributor to the security of California residents.

The Veteran Services Center has part-



nered with more than 18 nonprofits to offer a complete menu of options for veterans and their family members seeking assistance. The center is designed to be a one-stop resource for veteran service programs and includes transitional counseling, assistance groups, entitlements and family support personnel, as well as tragedy assistance. The center is also a place where troops, their families and the community come together as an integral part of the veteran's recovery.

The Joint Reserve Intelligence Center's opening at Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base resulted in the deployment of reservists throughout the Los Angeles Basin. The reservists use their analytical skills to help protect U.S. forces across the globe, directly supporting combat commands.

In 2008, JFTB leadership also established Project Foundry, an intelligence-training program of the Intelligence Security Command. The purpose of the training site is to provide military intelligence units and Soldiers with home-station access to an optimal training environment in order to hone their expertise in current Military Intelligence systems and doctrine.

In one month, Los Alamitos Army Airfield averages 1,100 flights and 400 radar ground-control approaches and dispenses 120,000 gallons of fuel for military, state, federal and other aircraft. The 8,000-foot runway is primarily for emergency air transport of relief crews, humanitarian supplies, equipment relocation and medical operations.

JFTB is a critical Homeland Security training partner, fully capable of responding to disasters in southern California. Safety-planning opportunities include Civilian Emergency Response Teams, a regional Emergency Operations Center, Medfly Operations, the 40th Infantry Division's Joint Task Force response headquarters and air space management for emergencies. JFTB is also working with the Orange County Fire Authority to ensure pandemic awareness and preparations for mass casualties are in place.

JFTB is currently hosting a second class of about 100 students at its Sunburst Youth ChalleNge Academy, which provides intervention for adolescents at risk of failing high school. Students can earn credits toward a high school diploma or earn a General Educational Development (GED) credential.



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

49TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE

The year 2008 was a great time for the units of the 49th Military Police Brigade to advance their ability to provide support to civil authorities and to conduct their wartime mission. Those 49th Soldiers who weren't being mobilized focused on preparing for homeland defense missions.

In June, the Brigade Headquarters; 185th Military Police Battalion Headquarters; the Quick Reaction Force, composed of the 270th and 870th Military Police companies; and the CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear & Explosive) Emergency Response Force Package, (CERFP) headed by the 579th Engineer Battalion, participated in Vigilant Guard '08 in Nevada.

The exercise allowed brigade Soldiers to practice disaster-response command and control skills, perform security missions and exercise the search-and-rescue, medical and decontamination missions of the CERFP in earthquake and flooding scenarios in Nevada.

The Brigade Headquarters, forward support companies and engineers from the 579th and 132nd engineer battalions joined other California Guard members in training alongside civilian first-response agencies to earn their CBRNE Response Force validation. The EXEVAL, or external evaluation, resulted in the recognition of the California CERFP capability at the national level. The California CERFP is a fully accredited, Tier I resource available for all hazard-response agencies within FEMA Region IX. CERF teams provide urban search-and-extraction, medical and decontamination capabilities during a major disaster.

In support of its civil-support mission, the 49th MP Brigade Headquarters fielded the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, or JISCC, in April. In addition, the brigade fielded new satellite communications systems: the PRC 117 and the PRC 150, which work with the JISCC to allow 49th MPs and engineers to communicate with their headquarters — or anywhere across the



globe — from remote locations. The 49th also added a number of new vehicles, including several types of up-armored HMMWVs, upgraded bulldozers, upgraded SINCGARS and satellite radios, 29 new 3KW generators and nonlethal weapons kits for use in riot-control situations.

In October, then-Col. Donald Currier, 49th MP Brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Andres Roman dedicated a plaque on the Memorial Wall and a bench in the Memorial Grove at the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to honor those 49th MP Brigade Soldiers who gave their lives in defense of their nation.

Five criminal investigators from the 170th Military Police Detachment redeployed from Operation Iraqi Freedom in September 2008, after providing investigative support to the 68th MP Detachment in Tallil, Iraq, for a year.

Three Soldiers from the 69th Public Affairs Detachment redeployed in May from a year's deployment in support of the 131st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Alabama Army National Guard. This mission took them to several locations across the world to provide public affairs expertise to the Army.

One hundred seventy Soldiers from

the 40th Military Police Company mobilized in April for a year's deployment as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The company is stationed in Tal Afar in northwestern Iraq, performing Police Transition Training with the Iraqi Police throughout the northwest region.

More than 100 Soldiers from the 235th Engineer Company mobilized in late November for a year's deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Eight soldiers from the 69th Public Affairs Detachment mobilized in late November for a year's deployment in Kosovo, providing public affairs support to the 40th Infantry Division task force. They will assume the mission in Kosovo in early 2009.

The 49th MP Brigade HHC received an alert order in October to potentially deploy in late 2009 to provide command and control to all the Military Police assets performing the Police Transition Team mission in Iraq.

As the brigade headquarters moves forward with premobilization training, its two battalions — the 185th MP Battalion and the 579th Engineer Battalion — and two detachments — the 69th PAD and the 170th CID — will continue to provide world-class support to civil authorities and train for their wartime missions.

40TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

The year 2008 was a period of growth for the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Organized in 2005 under the Army's modular brigade structure, the 40th IBCT assisted in several missions and operations in 2008.

The 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, and 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, returned from their combat missions in Iraq in the summer of 2008. In August, companies A and B of the 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry, deployed to Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, the largest mobilization of California National Guard Troops since the Korean War. Near the end of the year, the 1st Battalion, 18th Cavalry, and 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, deployed to the Balkans for a Kosovo peacekeeping rotation, KFOR 11. By year's end, the 40th IBCT had deployed more than 2,500 Soldiers in support of overseas combat and peacekeeping missions.

"The Soldiers in our Brigade exceeded expectations," said Col. David S. Baldwin, commander of the 40th IBCT. "The 1-143rd FA and 1-160th IR both conducted flawless mobilizations and deployments."

The 40th IBCT also participated in operations in Ukraine, Kosovo, Korea and Germany, and October saw many of the brigade's leadership visit Hawaii to work with the Indian Army at Yudh Abhyas.

Annual training for the Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company was held at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. During the annual Warfighter exercise, the HHC, 40th IBCT's mission was to support the 40th Infantry Division.

"This was the first exercise by California Soldiers that involved moving all components of the Tactical Operations Center, or TOC, out of state," said 1st Sgt. Kathryn D. Nelson, the HHC, 40th IBCT current operations sergeant major for the Warfighter exercise. "The exercise allowed brigade components to move from the crawl to the walk phase

of implementing the system. After some refinement, the next step is to go to theater, where I know our staff will succeed."

The new technology used in today's modern TOC environment is augmented by the Blue Force Tracker, or BFT, a global positioning system that tracks friendly vehicles and aircraft.

"The 40th IBCT installed the BFT in about 240 vehicles and is currently training Soldiers on its basic operation," said Staff Sgt. Marty A. Polanco.

Another new technology introduced to the brigade this year is the Air Defense Airspace Management, or ADAM, equipment.

"It works with the BFT and TOC equipment to help provide an accurate pic-

ture of the battlefield," said Nelson.

Staff Sergeant Devon E. Luke, the HHC, 40th IBCT ADAM cell NCO in charge, said the equipment allows the command group to track everything in the sky in an area of operations: "We can see enemy and commercial planes, pretty much anything in the sky."

The brigade also fielded a number of mine detectors, forward repair systems and small-arms weapons systems.

"In addition to combat deployments and annual training, the 40th IBCT sent more than 900 Soldiers to Class II Firefighter training," said Capt. Paul Badillo.

The participants, said Badillo, learned how to assist the state's firefighters so they'll be prepared when called up for state active duty for fires.

"Our citizen Soldiers rallied last year for the fires and are ready to carry out any missions the governor may assign," said Baldwin.

Several brigade Soldiers also volunteered for the border mission Operation Jump Start. The brigade also provided equipment and Soldiers for the National Guard Bureau's "Warrior" music video shot in Santa Clarita, Calif., with musician Kid Rock.

The year 2009 promises to be another time of growth as the 40th IBCT prepares for the introduction of the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System and the fielding of the 1-143rd FA with M119, 105mm howitzers. The 1-160 IN will also head to Australia for the overseas deployment training known as Talisman Saber.

"The brigade will continue to introduce new technologies to the unit while supporting all missions asked of them. Next year's focus will be on individual and squad-level training, as well as the brigade's redesignation from the 40th IBCT to the 79th IBCT," Baldwin said.



224TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

The 224th Sustainment Brigade had an eventful 2008. The year began with two of the brigade's units receiving notification of upcoming mobilizations: The 1498th Transportation Company and the 1-185th Armor Battalion would be headed to Iraq with nearly 1,200 Soldiers.

The brigade began the year preparing to support the 40th Infantry Division in its Warfighter exercise, readying the 1-185th Soldiers for their mission in Iraq and providing oversight to the 746th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion as it prepared 1498th Soldiers for mobilization.

The staff participated in command post exercises for the Warfighter exercise in July, while simultaneously coordinating a multitude of tasks to support unit mobilizations. The planning and preparation paid off as two 224th officers were singled out by the Marines during the exercise for their mastery of tactical logistics, and the white cell that the headquarters provided to the 1-185th was commended for its outstanding performance.

The 1-185th conducted premobilization preparation and training throughout the year and eventually mobilized to Fort McCoy, Wisc., in August with nearly 850 Soldiers, before ultimately heading to Iraq.

The 1-144th Field Artillery Battalion's focus for the training year was to get on their howitzers and hurl some rounds down range. The unit had a successful annual training period as they began developing a working relationship with its wartime higher headquarters, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Irwin.

The 578th Engineering Battalion had a busy year as it provided a platoon to augment the 1498th as well as Soldiers to augment the 235th Engineer Company for their missions to Iraq. It was then called on to provide two other companies to augment the division for the KFOR 11 Balkans mission to Kosovo. The battalion persevered and experienced a tremendous increase in strength despite the multiple mobilizations. The units even had time to execute some building improvements and rehabilitation projects at Los Alamitos to hone their engineering skills.

The 746th Combat Service and Support Battalion's focus for the year was to prepare the 1498th for its mobilization. The 746th had phenomenal success as it licensed more than 200 Soldiers on

the Heavy Equipment Transport prior to their premobilization annual training. It was also the first unit in the California Army National Guard to complete premobilization annual training with 100 percent of Soldiers qualifying on individual weapons, Combat Life Saver skills, driver's licenses and Army warrior tasks.

The 224th Support Battalion remained involved in its communities and domestic missions throughout 2008. The 224th provided equipment and Soldiers to help fight both the northern and southern Califor-

nia wildfires. The 224th Soldiers also engaged their communities by supporting and housing Operation Gratitude and participating in numerous events such as the Raytheon West Coast Junior ROTC competition, the Wings, Wheels and Rotors Expo at Los Alamitos, as well as a number of parades and festivals.

The command remains focused on Soldier care and being combat-ready. At the turn of the year, the brigade headquarters was alerted it would deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2010.



40TH COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

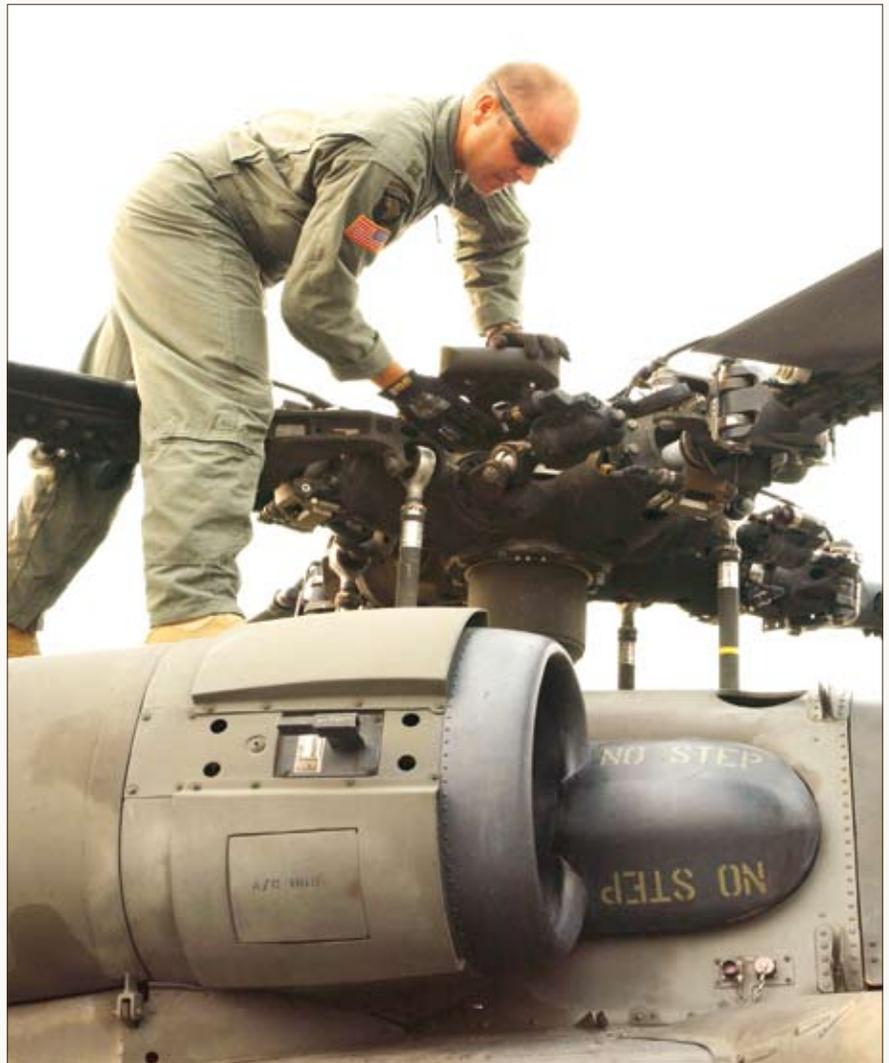
In 2008, the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade continued its proud tradition of providing full-spectrum aviation operations in support of both state and federal missions. California units that fall under the 40th CAB include the brigade headquarters, two flight battalions, an aviation support battalion, two separated fixed-wing detachments and a counterdrug aviation task force. The state depends on the 40th CAB's distinctive role in various operations.

In mid-2008, 40th CAB aircrews and staff were called upon to support the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) after lightning sparked more than 1,800 fires in Northern California. The mission, Operation Lightning Strike, required the commitment of up to 35 aircraft at a given time.

The 40th CAB not only provided aircraft and crews, it also took the lead for Joint Task Force Sentinel, delivering operational, maintenance, logistic and administrative support to the more than 200 personnel assigned to the task force. In early August, JTF Sentinel stood down after flying more than 1,500 hours and almost 900 sorties. In the end, task force personnel dropped nearly 4.3 million gallons of water, transported 1,049 passengers and flew 30,000 pounds of cargo. In addition, the 40th CAB maintains a fully trained Type II firefighting handcrew consisting of 100 Soldiers, ensuring the brigade remains ready to respond to the needs of Cal Fire and the citizens of California.

Task Force Eagle personnel flew OH-58 helicopters in support of the state's counterdrug program, conducting numerous air-interdiction missions. The year's counterdrug highlight was Operation LOCUST, a multi-agency cooperative task force. OH-58s and UH-60s from the 40th CAB participated in the operation, which ended Aug. 8 after eradicating more than 480,000 marijuana plants, making 42 arrests and executing seven search warrants. The 40th CAB also seized 35 weapons, 17 ounces of cocaine, 43 ounces of methamphetamine and nearly 400 pounds of processed marijuana.

In addition to the counterdrug benefits, the operation also yielded a positive environmental impact by removing 245 trash bags, 35,540 pounds of trash, 20 liquid propane tanks, 4,200 pounds of fertilizer, 22 pounds of pesticides



and 31.5 miles of irrigation pipe from public lands. CAB aircrews flew 119 sorties and accumulated more than 160 flight hours in support of the operation.

As part of the continuing Global War on Terrorism, the 40th CAB deployed three units overseas in 2008. Company B, 1-126th, sent 12 CH-47s and 144 personnel, and Company C, 1-168th, sent 6 UH-60s and 78 personnel to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Detachment 1, Company I, 1-185th Aviation, deployed one C-23 and seven personnel as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 40th CAB Soldiers also took part in Operation Jump Start, the Southwest Border mission, as mem-

bers of Task Force Wily. The task force stood down June 6 after flying more than 5,000 hours in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and assisting in the apprehension of more than 4,000 illegal border crossers.

2008 proved a demanding yet productive year for the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade. Whether supporting firefighting and search-and-rescue missions, paradrops, civil support teams, VIP transports or filming music videos, the 40th CAB Soldiers served with distinction in fulfilling their duties. They look forward to utilizing 2009 to prepare for a 2010 deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism and continuing the 40th CAB tradition of aviation excellence.

100TH TROOP COMMAND

The 100th Troop Command is one of the California Army National Guard's eight senior commands and has a history that reaches back three decades.

In 2008, the 100th Troop Command deployed most of its Soldiers in support of peacekeeping and national security missions such as operations Aerosafe, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and smaller missions to more than 32 different countries across the world.

In September, a new command team headed by Col. Barbara A. Nuismer and Command Sgt. Maj. Burdette S. Shields assumed responsibility for the units and Soldiers assigned to the 100th Troop Command. In early 2009, the command will assume the Joint Task Force-North duties for Defense Support to Civil Authority missions. It will also triple in size – to more than 3,000 Soldiers – when it adds the 185th Military Police and 579th Engineer battalions. The temporary reorganization is to take place while the 49th Military Police Brigade is deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

In 2008, the operational tempo for the Troop Command remained high. The following outlines the significant contributions from the command:

Federal Demobilizations / Mobilizations

- Company A, 5-19th Special Forces, commanded by Maj. Mitchell Utterback and Sgt. Maj. Dan Silliman, demobilized from a 12-month tour in Iraq.
- The 49th Personnel Services Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Renee MacDonald and Command Sgt. Maj. Vickie Dunlap, deployed six Personnel Services Teams to Iraq.
- The 217th Explosive Ordnance Company, commanded by Capt. Eric Waddell and 1st Sgt. Timothy Shields, deployed to Iraq.
- The 142nd Chaplain Team, commanded by Capt. Timothy Meier and Sgt. 1st Class Mathew McGee, deployed to Iraq.

State Mobilizations

- The 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Graham Clark and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Antone, deployed in support of Operation Lightning Strike (California fires).
- The 149th Chemical Company, commanded by Capt. Jay Kliever and 1st

Sgt. Reggie Jones, successfully completed Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Explosive Enhanced Response Force validation.

Exercises

- 40th Infantry Division Warfighter – Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- Rapid Trident – Ukraine
- Reception, Staging, Onward Integration exercise – Korea
- Guest Speaker Program – Nigeria

One major task the command will undertake in 2009 is the management of Periodic Health Assessments for the California Army National Guard under the California Medical Detachment commanded by Col. Sheila Dominguez. This effort will service more than 17,000 Guardsmen and will be in addition to the thousands of Soldier Readiness Processings required for all federal deployments.

Finally, the 159th Army Band – “The Governor’s Own,” also known as Detachment 1, 40th Infantry Division Band – performed at more than 50 events. It is estimated the band performed for more than 15,000 people.



40TH INFANTRY DIVISION

For the 40th Infantry Division, 2008 began with the news that the Army had assigned the Balkans 11 mission to the Division Headquarters. For many, this was familiar ground, as they had participated in the division's first Balkans rotation from 2004 to 2006 under Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II and later under Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger selected Wade to serve as the state's adjutant general.

The Army selected Brig. Gen. Keith Jones, assistant division commander, to lead the task force of more than 1,000 Soldiers. Soon thereafter, planning and preparing for Balkans 11 became the division's main focus.

In February, the division hosted a team of Ukrainian planners at a Los Alamitos conference, introducing them to U.S. military planning procedures and exposing them to the highlights of the Los Angeles region. The conference not only laid the foundation for a smooth exercise but helped build close bonds between the nations' Soldiers.

The division used the annual Warfighter exercise in March to begin the task of building a strong team for the Balkans 11 mission. The staff focused on the military decision-making process and the planning tasks and drills that would help them succeed in the exercise and during the upcoming deployment.

Under Brig. Gen. Scott W. Johnson, assistant division commander, a team of Soldiers from the division staff joined other California Guard members in April in traveling to Lviv, Ukraine, for a week of detailed planning and reconnaissance in support of an important NATO exercise scheduled for September 2008.

The Special Troops Battalion headquarters moved from Long Beach to Los Alamitos in 2008, and the STB's Soldiers said farewell to its battalion commander, Lt. Col. Keith Tresh, and welcomed its new commander, Lt. Col. Jerrie Muir.

In addition, the battalion executive officer, command sergeant major and most of the primary staff also turned over. The STB HHC also received a new commander in 1st Lt. Eric Monsen.

As the Warfighter ramp-up continued in June, the division staff tested its tactical standard operating procedures and information flow during a stringent command post exercise at the West Los Angeles readiness center.

June also saw the first of several iterations of Soldier Readiness Processing for the Balkans 11 mission. Large groups of Soldiers traveled to Camp Roberts for several days of medical testing, equipment issue and administrative work designed to get them ready for deployment in early 2009.

The division leapt into action after lightning started more than a thousand fires in Northern California throughout the summer. In addition to providing Soldiers to serve on the firelines, the division staff provided many of its senior officers to assist with command and control at the adjutant general's command post, not only giving the hard-pressed, full-time staff a chance to rest and see their families, but also providing division leaders with a rare opportunity to observe joint operations firsthand. The 250th Military Intelligence Battalion and other divisional units provided a 200-man task force to fight the fires as well.

After adjusting to the scheduling modifications brought on by the wildfires, the division staff traveled to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for a challenging Warfighter exercise. There the staff had the opportunity to work together in the same configuration that would comprise the division staff during the 2009 Balkans mission.

Key division personnel deployed to Lviv, Ukraine, in late August for the annual Rapid Trident exercise held at the International Peace and Security Center, in the Yarivov Training Area. Brigadier General Johnson served as

the U.S. exercise director, supervising the training of more than 1,000 troops from dozens of nations. Division personnel oversaw a multi-national brigade in the command post exercise and a joint U.S.-Ukrainian peacekeeping, field-training exercise.

In October, Johnson met with retired Col. Kim of the South Korean Army and escorted him on a tour of the 578th Engineering Company and a visit to the grave of Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kaiser, the first 40th Infantry Division Soldier killed during the Korean War. Kim was educated at a school in Kapyong that was funded by 40th ID Soldiers' donations and built by 578th engineers during the Korean War.

With nearly a year of planning and intense training completed, the Balkans 11 task force mobilized for a year in December. After three months of further training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., and then final validation at Hohenfels Joint Readiness Training Center in Germany, the task force will follow in the footsteps of the division's first KFOR mission, KFOR 6B. The 40th ID is dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for the developing democracy of Kosovo as well as providing staff support to Bosnia's NATO headquarters in Sarajevo.



1106TH AVIATION CLASSIFICATION AND REPAIR ACTIVITY DEPOT

The 1106th Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot reached milestones and experienced significant changes in 2008. The men and women of the command are an exceptional group of professionals who have excelled in meeting the challenges placed before them.

The AVCRAD's full-time mission is to perform intermediate and depot-level maintenance in support of Army National Guard aircraft within its region, covering 13 states and 23 facilities. Its mission during mobilizations is to act as the Army Materiel Command's aviation maintenance depot and provide theater-level maintenance for deployed aviation forces.

With an annual regional budget in excess of \$100 million, the command in 2008 supported Operation Jump Start, Contract Services, Depot Maintenance and Direct Operations Tempo in preparing aviation assets for deployment. The AVCRAD also provided backup Aviation Unit and Intermediate Maintenance and limited depot-maintenance support, deployed specialized aircraft and response teams, repaired thousands of components through the Repairable Management and National Maintenance programs and assisted with Non-Destructive Instruction and Testing across the nation.

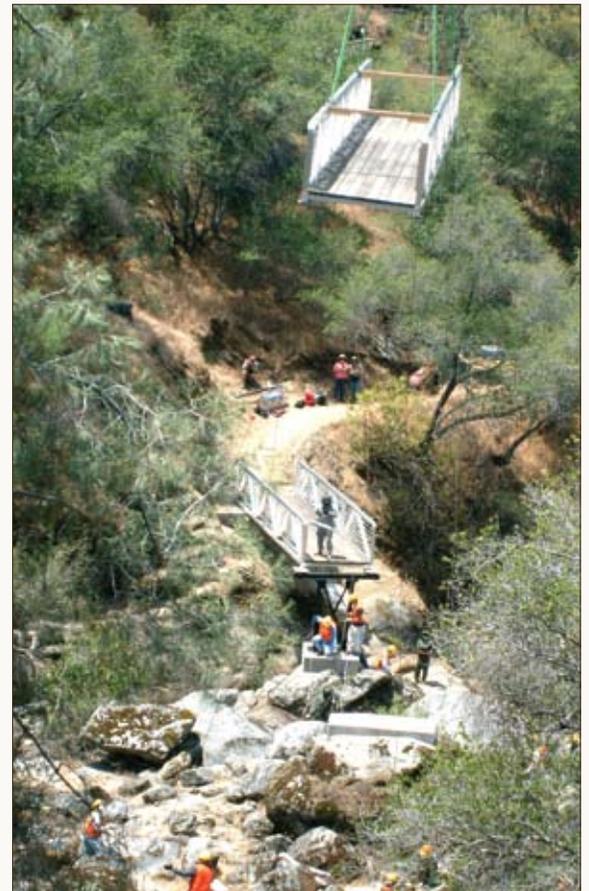
In January, Brig. Gen. Keith Jones presented the 1106th AVCRAD with the Meritorious Unit Commendation award in recognition of its performance while deployed in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom from Dec. 4, 2004, to Nov. 30, 2005. The command planned, implemented and executed pioneering doctrinal changes for the Theater Aviation Maintenance Program in support of all aviation forces within the Central Forces Land Component Command's area of responsibility.

Throughout the year, the AVCRAD tenant Fresno Flight Activity provided traditional support to the community as well as local, state and federal agencies. The installation of the Sandy Creek Bridge near Millerton Lake serves as just one example. A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter was able to sling load into position three separate sections of the bridge, a load weighing more than 4,000 pounds.

Other notable examples of the AVCRAD's support to the community and state include participation in a multi-agency raid on marijuana fields in Northern California's Shasta County, resulting in the removal of more than 270,000 plants. In addition, AVCRAD Soldiers worked seemingly countless hours battling the wildfires that devastated much of the state's countryside from San Diego to the Oregon border.

In May 2008, the unit began its transformation to the 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, or TASM-G. The ongoing change from an essentially Table of Distribution and Allowances structure to a Table of Organization and Equipment structure has not altered the unit's overall mission of providing aviation sustainment and depot maintenance at the theater level. The new design restructures this diverse group into three organizations – the HHD, Aviation Maintenance Company and Ground Support Company – which combine to provide a self-sustaining command with units located in Fresno and Santa Barbara.

Recruiting will be exceptionally important to the 1106th in the upcoming year as it grows from 342 to nearly 500 personnel and faces an upcoming deployment, further development of the command structure and its ongoing support to the region.



115TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

The Soldiers of the 115th Regional Support Group completed many missions and overcame numerous challenges in support of the Global War on Terrorism in 2008.

The 115th RSG consists of three battalions and two detachments. The command is capable of providing a wide range of support – from the transportation of cargo to providing medical attention. It deployed to locations throughout California in support of firefighting efforts, and the United States, Europe and the Middle East as an integral part of the Global War on Terrorism. In 2008, the command experienced a number of changes through the consolidation and reassignment of units.

The group's 2632nd and 2668th transportation companies contributed to the Guard's domestic mission by assisting with Operation Lightning Strike, providing support to efforts in and around the Mendocino National Forest. In addition, Western Trucking School trained 115th Soldiers to improve their driving on civilian roads in 2008.

The 2668th Transportation Company continues to support its local communities. Its Soldiers assisted the Elks Lodge with "Catch the Spirit" food deliveries and participated in a Fourth of July parade.

Company C, 297th Support Battalion, in San Mateo, Calif., provided medical support to National Guard units during exercises and deployment mobilizations. The company also conducted Combat Life Saver courses during its annual training, and some Soldiers worked to support the San Diego Navy Hospital.

Company A, 297th Support Battalion, in Yuba City, Calif., also contributed to several different missions, including the statewide firefighting missions. Members of Company A also mobilized with their sister company, the 1498th Transportation Company, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soldiers worked in their community by providing a Color Guard for Oroville Community National Day, participating in the Oroville Classic Auto Show parade, assisting with a Las Plumas High School JROTC event and holding a public Purple Heart ceremony.

Companies A and C conducted a joint cold-weather training exercise in February at Mount Shasta. Those companies are currently transitioning to become an Area Support Medical Company as a result of a merger with the 2668th Transportation Company.

The 349th Quartermaster Company in Vallejo, Calif., was deployed to Tallil Air Base, Iraq, where it provided multi-class parts to all military units within Iraq's southern region. The Soldiers returned to California in May.

Soldiers from the 185th Quartermaster Battalion were active throughout 2008, traveling more than 100,000 miles on 25 transportation missions.

The 118th Maintenance Company and the 1113th Transportation Company successfully demobilized from Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the battalion headquarters relocated from Fresno to Bakersfield. By the end of 2008, the battalion had conducted four unit changes of command, one battalion change of command and one command sergeant major transfer. Accession Task Force also recognized the 185th for

maintaining the highest retention rate in the state during 2008.

185th Soldiers helped form Task Force Shovel during Operation Lightning Strike. About 240 Soldiers conducted nearly four weeks of fire suppression missions in the Trinity Alps Complex. Three of those Soldiers were recognized for their part in saving the life of a civilian, and the task force received accolades from several civilian agencies.

The 340th Brigade Support Battalion continued to merge with the 1-149th Armor Battalion in 2008. In doing so, it increased the battalion's Duty Military Occupational Skill Qualification to more than 70 percent, maintained a monthly minimum 85 percent personnel strength, was able to turn all excess equipment and confirmed merger and alignment with the 65th Fires Brigade.

The 233rd Engineer Detachment (firefighting) had a busy year. It deployed to combat the Big Sur and King City wildfires, participated in the filming of the National Guard's Kid Rock music video and procured a Swiftwater boat to add to their rescue capabilities.



223RD INFANTRY REGIMENT

In 2008, the 223rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute, continued to provide training to Army Warriors and leaders in accordance with Total Army School System requirements and the adjutant general's directives in order to prepare Soldiers to fight, survive and win on the battlefield. Over the course of the year, the regiment conducted more than 100 classes and trained 1,500 Soldiers.

In addition to providing Military Occupational Specialty reclassification training in more than 10 critical MOSs, the 223rd Regiment was responsible for the commissioning of 22 officers and five warrant officers. The 223rd also conducted a number of other courses, most notably the first-ever Company Team Development Course, which trains company commanders, first sergeants and readiness NCOs to function effectively as a team. Other courses included the Platoon Leaders Course, combatives instruction, the Army Basic Instructor Course, the Small Group Instructor Training Course, the TAC Qualification Course and the Combat Lifesaver Course.

For the first time, the 223rd Regiment conducted the 35M Military Interroga-

tor course, the culmination of several years of intensive preparation which included the construction of an interrogation training facility, purchase of course equipment and coordination with numerous military intelligence entities.

The 223rd conducted several Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Candidate School seminars in order to inform and recruit quality future officers and warrant officers into the ranks of the California Army National Guard leadership. Some of these prospective candidates participated in the annual Officer Candidate Induction Program conducted at the regiment facilities in April.

In June, the 223rd Regiment command passed from Col. Sylvia R. Crockett, who had commanded the unit since September 2006, to Col. Kelly A. Fisher.

In August, the regiment hosted the 2008 Officer Candidate School Graduation weekend and Leadership Conference which continues to be one of the premier training events for the year. The 2008 events included a retreat ceremony, the Adjutant General's Western Bar-B-Q, a graduation ceremony, dur-

ing which keynote speaker Marine Col. Royal Mortenson addressed the graduates, and the California Military Academy alumni brunch.

The Regiment also hosted the NCO/Soldier of the Year competition during which numerous Soldiers and NCOs from around the state vied for the honor of becoming the state's top Soldier or NCO for 2008.

The 223rd completed its transformation in 2008, in which a new table of distribution and allowance was adopted. This transformed the 223rd Regiment from a two-battalion, one-company configuration into a three-battalion, two-company configuration with separate military police, multi-function and transportation training battalions, as well as a regional training site maintenance company and a headquarters company.

As part of this transformation, the regiment has eliminated the training of some MOSs and begun teaching others. As part of that effort, the 223rd continued to recruit, certify and retain certified instructors for those courses that are critical to the California Army National Guard and the U.S. Army.





AIR NATIONAL GUARD

129TH RESCUE WING

The 129th Rescue Wing experienced an epic year in 2008. The wing seamlessly transitioned from its normal rescue mission over land and sea to airborne and ground firefighting duty within the state. This flexibility clearly demonstrated the wing's ability to respond, adapt and save lives.

The wing began the summer with Operation Lightning Strike, an emergency response to the state's nearly 2,100 wildfires. Shortly after deploying key personnel to support operations at the Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and aircrews were certified to perform water bucket drops on wildfires for the first time in unit history.

During this major state emergency, crews dropped more than 150,000 gallons of water. The wing also mobilized personnel for Type II firefighting training, providing direct ground support to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection on the fire lines. Meanwhile, personnel remained on search and rescue alert throughout the operation. Helicopter crews stationed at Redding Airport landed in rugged terrain to medevac injured firefighters, and crews saved two civilians involved in a firefighting helicopter crash.

Along with responding to state emergencies, rescue crews performed two long-range over-water missions. In June, nearly 550 miles off the coast of California, a critically ill crewmember aboard a cargo vessel was successfully extracted and flown to a hospital for critical medical treatment. A month later, while still immersed in firefighting operations, aircrews saved a Canadian fisherman aboard a fishing boat 600 miles off the coast. Both patients were transported to the Regional Medical Center of San Jose. The medical center's heliport, which was completed in June, was the first in the Bay Area to be certified for use by the wing's HH-60G helicopter.

Soon after Operation Lightning Strike was completed, the wing was asked to



assist Louisiana and Texas in response to hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Over Labor Day weekend, the unit deployed more than 80 personnel, aircraft and equipment to the Gulf Coast region. Wing members quickly set up operations at Ellington Field in Houston forming Joint Task Force 129.

The JTF remained in Ellington for Hurricane Gustav and then relocated to Kelly Field in San Antonio for Hurricane Ike. Despite the rising flood waters and high wind, the JTF rescued a total of 16 civilians. After Hurricane Ike passed through the area, JTF 129 helicopters launched immediately into the disaster area and crews rescued another 18 survivors. This professional and highly skilled team of Citizen Airmen demonstrated the wing's life-saving capability to respond anytime, anywhere.

To hone the wing's rescue capabilities to respond to natural and manmade disasters, 129th Airmen participated in multi-agency exercises, including BAYEX 2008, a full-scale exercise designed to test the ability of Oakland and federal agencies to conduct a coordinated response to a major emergency. The unit also participated with NASA Ames in the Great Worden Quake II, an exercise designed to train and sharpen the skills of Moffett Field's emergency and disaster-assistance responders.

The 129th Rescue Wing's Counterdrug Task Force detachment, Team Hawk, utilized the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, aircrew, pararescuemen and maintainers to support local law enforcement agencies in the eradication of illegal narcotics and the restoration of forest lands that were environmentally damaged by marijuana production. During Operation LOCUST, Team Hawk airlifted more than 520,000 marijuana plants and \$2.2 billion in drug production equipment during a massive statewide drug eradication operation - the largest in California history.

Members from the 129th Security Forces Squadron returned in May from a six-month deployment in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In addition, 2008 saw the 129th Security Forces Squadron named the National Guard Bureau's Outstanding Security Forces Squadron of the Year for 2007. This achievement was unprecedented, as it was the third consecutive award received by the unit for excellence.

These impressive achievements made for another successful year and highlight exactly why the 129th Rescue Wing is regularly called upon to perform rescue operations in natural disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes and hurricanes.

144TH FIGHTER WING

The 144th Fighter Wing concluded another year of outstanding accomplishments and enjoyed unit recognition for impressive work and volunteerism. From working as Type II hand crews on California's devastating wildfires to witnessing Airmen receive the newly created Air Force Combat Action Medal, members of the 144th earned respect and received both state and national awards for their achievements.

The wing's primary mission is to provide air defense for California from the Mexico border to Oregon, utilizing the F-16C Fighting Falcon aircraft. The 144th also responds to state emergencies when requested by the governor. The unit primarily operates from the Air National Guard Base in Fresno and from an alert detachment located at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside.

In April, the unit was recognized by 1st Air Force with the Air Sovereignty Alert Unit of the Year Award for its unprecedented actions of standing watch for the entire West Coast in December 2007. The 144th provided aircraft and personnel to three alert sites simultaneously for the first time in history when the Air Force grounded its entire fleet of F-15s for structural integrity issues.

Wing pilots flew more than 2,300 sorties and 3,100 flight hours in 2008. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the 144th has flown more than 1,400 combat air patrol sorties in support of the homeland security mission Operation Noble Eagle. In addition to commitments at home, the 144th continues to support military operations throughout the world, including operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In support of Operation Lightning Strike, when Northern California lightning storms ignited more than 2,000 fires in late June, the 144th deployed personnel to supplement the Joint Force Headquarters staff and to augment local non-military firefighting groups. Fifty-four Airmen received training as Type II ground hand crews to augment Californian Department of Forestry and Fire Protection personnel. In addition, the wing's RC-



26B aircraft provided crucial real-time, full-motion video and imagery for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and Cal Fire incident commanders.

144th Security Forces Squadron personnel and civil engineers trained at Camp San Luis Obispo in February on their respective responsibilities, including close-quarter combat, convoy drills and team-building exercises. During separate deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, two civil engineering Airmen received the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

More than thirty medics and dental technicians from the 144th Medical Group deployed to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu to conduct hands-on training alongside Soldiers for their two-week clinical instruction. Medical Group personnel also participated in multiple Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High-Yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, exercises throughout the year, culminating in their first annual team certification.

Wing members also participated in Staff Assistance Visits, a Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Team inspection, an Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and a Management Program inspection, and prepared for a Health Services Inspection to be held in 2009. The wing's

alert forces also received "Mission Ready" status for their two Alert Forces Evaluations conducted in 2008.

Through volunteerism, the 144th Fighter Wing continues to be an integral part of its local community. Wing members participated in numerous aircraft flyovers and community events, including Habitat for Humanity Fresno, Tree Fresno, the Community Food Bank, and the Children's Hospital Radiothon, in addition to having a large presence at this year's Veteran's Day Parade. The wing continues its longtime support for holiday programs Toys for Tots and Silent Sleigh. Also in 2008, the wing's pioneer Young Heroes program presented medals to four children who have shown great strength in fighting life-threatening illnesses.

The Fresno Family Readiness Group was honored in February with the 2007 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award. Individual awards included the 1st Air Force Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award, the Air Reserve Component Antiterrorism Officer of the Year and the California Unit Career Advisor of the Year. California also recognized the accomplishments of three groups for their outstanding service by awarding them the Governor's Outstanding Unit Award in 2008: the 144th Mission Support Group, Services Flight and Security Forces Squadron.

146TH AIRLIFT WING



The 146th Airlift Wing brought the year to a close with many impressive accomplishments. During this year of change, the wing continued to support numerous worldwide and state missions, coupled with challenging training events.

This year was also marked by sadness. Colonel Steven Freidricks, a member of the wing since 1970 and wing commander since 2004, passed away unexpectedly due to illness. In May, more than 500 people attended services for their friend and fellow Air Guardsman. Using the example he set, the wing carries forward in the firefighting mission, quest for technological advancement and example of positive leadership. Under the new command of Col. Paul Hargrove, former commander of the 146th Operations Group, the wing remains focused on its essential missions.

In May, the wing deployed an aviation package to Afghanistan and served as part of the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. During the four-month deployment, wing members transported more than 8,900 tons of cargo and 25,367 passengers, more than any airlift squadron in the history of the U.S. Air Force. Throughout the year, the wing also supported ongoing operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Germany.

In preparation for California's wildfire response, the 146th hosted the annual Modular Airborne Fire Fighting train-

ing for MAFFS-equipped units across the nation. Members of C-130 units from Wyoming, Colorado and North Carolina came to Channel Islands to share the latest in airborne firefighting technology as they completed their annual training.

The MAFFS capability was utilized extensively during the state's 2008 wildfires. In addition, the 146th answered the governor's call for assistance with about 70 wing personnel training as Type II ground firefighters before being assigned to Task Force Bucket and Task Force 10. These teams provided valuable assistance to heavily burdened California ground firefighters.

In addition to firefighting missions, more than 20 members of the wing continued to support Operation Jump Start, the southwest border mission. The two-year mission in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection provided Guardsmen a rare opportunity to perform a Homeland Security mission on U.S. soil before the mission came to a close in September.

Preparing for a wide spectrum of missions is essential in the Air National Guard; this year, members of the wing's medical group participated in an Enhanced Response Force Package (known as CERF-P) credentialing evaluation held at Camp San Luis Obispo. Trained to respond to chemical, biologi-

cal, radiological, or nuclear explosion situations, CERF-P personnel from the 146th distinguished themselves and received full accreditation.

Preparations also continue for the wing's 2009 Operational Readiness Inspection. Personnel have deployed for training to the Air National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Centers in Mississippi and Michigan. The 146th Operations Group took part in an Aircrew Standard and Evaluation assessment to prepare, fulfilling all expectations for success during the visit and maintaining fully mission ready status.

As committed members of their community, the wing invited mayors and other civic leaders to a formal ceremony where they dedicated each of their C-130J aircraft to a surrounding city, the city name now proudly displayed above the aircraft crew entrance door. Additionally, the 146th Airlift Wing's Alumni Association raised more than \$5,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation when they hosted the 43rd Annual Air National Guard Western Invitational Golf Tournament.

The year for the 146th was filled with transformation and mission accomplishment. The wing continues to excel with strength and confidence inspired from past experience and leadership, and looks forward to the wing's future with renewed resolve and purpose.

163rd RECONNAISSANCE WING

The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing had a successful 2008 as its members simultaneously executed their federal mission, providing combat support to war fighters engaged overseas, and their state mission, responding to the governor's requests for assistance.

The wing secured its place as a key player in the Air Force's unmanned aerial system mission, standing up its MQ-1 Predator Field Training Detachment (FTD) and laying groundwork for a Formal Training Unit (FTU). Slated to begin operations in 2009, the FTU will provide Predator aircrew training to National Guard and active duty personnel.

Throughout 2008, the 163rd Operations Group maintained a combat presence in the Global War on Terrorism, providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support and precision-strike capability. Wing Predator aircrews conducted up to three 24/7 Predator Combat Air Patrols and amassed 12,000 combat support flying hours, resulting in the prosecution of more than 2,200 targets and support for more than 1,500 combat operations.

The 163rd Maintenance Group was instrumental to the wing's successful employment of the Predator. While managing equipment installations and upgrades, deploying personnel to support combat operations and standing up a maintenance-training detachment, the group ensured Predator operations continued unhindered. Additionally, the FTD heralded a new era for Predator maintenance training, becoming a recognized training detachment under the Air Education and Training Command.

The 163rd Medical Group participated in numerous missions and

exercises, including a Medical Readiness Training Exercise that brought relief to 6,000 Guatemalan citizens. In addition, the unit trained with its Army National Guard counterparts during a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package exercise, which validated the group as mission-ready and bolstered both services' abilities to respond to hazardous material incidents. Additionally, 2008 saw Airmen deployed to locations throughout southwest Asia, providing care to service members engaged in overseas operations.

The primary focus of the 163rd Security Forces Squadron was the deployment of nearly half its personnel to Baghdad as well as the support of detainee-transport security operations at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In Iraq, unit members conducted air base ground defense missions. In addition, the squadron provided wildfire hand crew personnel during Operation Lightning Strike.

The 163rd Civil Engineer Squadron, which hosts the Air National Guard's West Coast Regional Training Site, trained more than 1,500 National Guard, active duty Air Force and Marine personnel in 2008. It supported many construction projects, including a school restoration in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Department of Homeland Security's Mexico border fence; and construction at Guantanamo Bay. The squadron remains busy executing \$6 million in projects in support of the wing's Predator missions.

In 2008, the 163rd Logistics Readiness Squadron mobilized 78 wing members in support of Predator operations, 337 in support of Air Expeditionary Force rotations and 61 for Operation Lightning



Strike. The squadron assembled the first ANG Readiness Spares package to support the Predator mission and established supply accounts to support the opening of the wing's Predator training schoolhouses.

The 163rd Services Flight was active throughout 2008. Stateside missions included Operation Jump Start, Operation Lightning Strike and assisting other Armed Forces units across the nation for readiness, training and mission requirements. The flight also worked abroad to support operations in southwest Asia.

The 163rd Mission Support Flight provided personnel services support to 900 members of the wing and geographically separated units, including processing 477 personnel for training and deploying more than 400 personnel to support seven operational contingencies. Additionally, the flight's recruiting office helped boost wing manning from 84 to 108 percent.

The 163rd Communications Flight provided day-to-day support to the wing, including developing and implementing training programs, processes and policies. The flight also developed communications solutions to enable the wing to maintain a combat presence overseas while simultaneously standing up its maintenance and flight training detachments.

Community involvement remained a cornerstone to ensuring public support for the Air National Guard and Air Force. The wing participated in several events, including the Dr. Seuss National Reading Day Program; Camp Pendleton "Mud Run"; Los Angeles Marathon; Special Olympics Torch Run; and the National Guard Biathlon trials. It also provided public speakers, hosted tours and participated in air shows.

As a testament to the 163rd's dedication, the wing was awarded its fifth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and its eighth National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Flying Unit Award.

162ND COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

In 2008, the 162nd Combat Communications Group continued major transformation initiatives, ensuring future relevance to the Air Force, the state and the nation, while supporting vital overseas and stateside missions. Additional transformation is on the horizon, as a proposal was submitted to reorganize the 162nd Group into the 200th Wing, to include the 200th Space Group and the 200th Intel Group, in addition to the 162nd Combat Communications Group.

The 147th Combat Communications Squadron deployed Airmen in support of Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotations and returned members from Operation Jump Start on the Mexico border. It also provided tactical vehicles and drivers as well as personnel for training as Type II firefighters in support of Operation Lightning Strike, the Guard's wildfire response. The unit's Eagle Vision team became fully mission capable in May and provided critical imagery in support of the firefighting effort along with flood relief in the Midwest. Squadron personnel also participated in the annual Patriot exercise in Gulfport, Miss.

The 148th Space Operations Squadron finished 2008 with the completion of a new operations center. In addition to commanding the five current MILSTAR satellites, the center will allow for command and control of the Air Force's new Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellites. Set to launch in 2010, the satellites possess data rate modes six times higher than the MILSTAR II satellites and will enhance tactical military com-

munications, including real-time video, battlefield maps and targeting data.

The 149th Combat Communications Squadron focused on mission readiness and implementing a readiness plan that includes operations and maintenance training, exercises and warrior skills training. In June, members participated in a hurricane response exercise in Hawaii. This gave them an opportunity to develop solutions to combine networks, providing island-wide communications for the Incident Command System. During Operation Lightning Strike, the 149th provided communications support to the Modular Airborne Firefighting System mission deployed to McClellan Airfield, supporting several agencies and military organizations. The mission's success was a result of innovations tested in Hawaii.

The 216th Operations Support Squadron officially stood up April 1. This is the first Total Force Integration Air National Guard unit supporting a full-time Air Force Space Command and U.S. Strategic Command wartime mission as part of the Joint Space Operations Center.

In March, the 222nd Combat Communications Squadron closed its doors in Costa Mesa, and subsequently the 222nd Intelligence Support Squadron was established at Beale Air Force Base on April 1, providing communications maintenance support to the active duty 548th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Group. Personnel were retrained in the intelligence field, their new skills employed in the Distributed Ground Station-

Two, in support of missions worldwide.

The 222nd Operations Support Squadron was activated April 1 and consists of personnel previously assigned to the 234th Intelligence Squadron. Unit members are in their second year of mobilization at Beale, providing planning and programming support for Distributed Ground Station-Two, in addition to scheduling, training, mission planning, and standardization and evaluation expertise.

Also on April 1, the 222nd Communications Maintenance Flight was activated. Personnel support the communication segment of the RQ-4 Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, ensuring high altitude strategic ISR capability worldwide. The growing unit has increased its manning from 53 to 93 percent and has three members in their second year at Beale.

The 234th Intelligence Squadron is engaged in providing mission support to the 548th ISR Group, delivering full-spectrum imagery analysis and signal intelligence crews to support U-2, Global Hawk and Predator missions. Unit members are in their second year of mobilization at Beale, supporting operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as well as worldwide ISR operations, providing nearly real-time actionable intelligence.

The 261st Combat Communications Squadron sent vehicles and personnel to fight many wildfires. In May, about 100 members provided voice and data services to the Hawaiian agencies of Emergency Management and State Civil Defense during a hurricane response exercise in Hawaii. Personnel also deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Korea, fulfilling Aerospace Expeditionary Force requirements.

In 2008 the California National Guard was honored when Senior Master Sgt. Donna J. Goodno from the 147th Combat Communications Squadron was selected as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Additionally, Master Sgt. Denise Fuentes from the 162nd Combat Communications Group was selected as the Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention NCO of the Year.





CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVE

CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVE



A GROWING FORCE

The all-volunteer CSMR has grown almost 25 percent, to nearly 800 members, during the past two years, and expansion is expected to continue.

The CSMR includes 45 Airmen, 12 chaplains and 31 members who are qualified to wear the CSMR Recruiter Badge.

Last year, the CSMR graduated its third Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Candidate Course classes.

More than 155 CSMR Soldiers and Airmen served a total of more than 4,240 man-days in support of Operation Lightning Strike in the summer of 2008.

Last year, the CSMR made plans to reactivate the California Naval Militia in 2009, providing California with access to U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard reservists.

The California State Military Reserve, or CSMR, is the state defense force authorized by the United States Code and the California Military and Veteran's Code. The CSMR is a proud, professional, dedicated group of citizen Soldiers and Airmen who help protect California against natural and man-made threats.

Veterans with experience, professionals with skills and citizens with a passion to serve participate in the all-volunteer force, whose primary mission is to support the California National Guard in its homeland defense and security missions. The CSMR also acts as a force multiplier for the California Military Department, the adjutant general and the governor.

Brigadier General Emory J. Hagan, then commander of the CSMR, initiated an aggressive set of goals for 2008 aimed at providing increased capability and support to the California National Guard. The CSMR was reorganized into Northern and Southern Regional Commands, both composed of Army, Air, Installation and California Center of Military History support groups to increase support of National Guard units in their respective regions.

To meet its changing and increased mission requirements, the CSMR has increased its strength by almost 25 percent – nearly 800 personnel – over the last two years. It is anticipated that this rate of growth will continue far into the future.

To assist with the expansion, Northern and Southern Recruiting Commands and a CSMR Recruiter School were established.

To date, 31 CSMR Soldiers and Airmen attended recruiter school and are qualified to wear the CSMR Recruiter Badge. CSMR recruiters attended various events throughout the state in 2008, including the Riverside Air Show, the Miramar Air Show in San Diego, NASCAR events at Fontana and Infineon Raceways and Fourth of July parades across the state.

The CSMR's Professional Military Education continues to expand and improve. In 2008, the CSMR graduated its third Officer Candidate School and

Warrant Officer Candidate Course classes. The Basic Orientation Course for new CSMR Soldiers and Airmen doubled in length and content. Basic, Advanced and Senior NCO courses have been expanded and improved. An Officer Basic Development Course for attorneys, doctors, dentists, nurses, psychologists, family and marriage therapists and chaplains who are directly commissioned into their specialty branches was developed. Work also began on the development of an Advanced Officer Course and a Command and General Staff Course for the CSMR.

CSMR Soldiers and Airmen were also assigned in direct support of the Joint Staff in 2008. These direct-support personnel drill and train with their Joint Staff counterparts and are then available to augment their sections whenever exercises or emergencies require expanded manning.

Clearly the biggest demand on the CSMR in 2008 was Operation Lightning Strike. The CSMR called up more than 155 Soldiers and Airmen to Emergency State Active Duty through most of the summer. CSMR troops augmented the Joint Staff, the Joint Operations Center at Joint Force Headquarters, the State Operations Center, State Regional Emergency Operations Centers and fire bases across the state.

CSMR duties included manning advanced mobile communications and data platforms, mobilization and deployment planning, logistic coordination between agencies, command post operations, purchasing and contracting, photography and media relations, chaplain services and medical and legal services. The CSMR also organized and administered the mobilization and demobilization point for all California National Guard and CSMR personnel assigned to Operation Lightning Strike at the Sacramento headquarters.

The Incident Commander's Command, Control and Communications Units, known as IC4Us, operated primarily by CSMR personnel, were a significant part of the California Military Department's support during Operation Lightning Strike. Responding to requests from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, CSMR IC4U teams provided air-to-ground video streams through an RC-26 downlink via the Air Force Dragoon system to California Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service Incident Command Teams. This provided communications capabilities, where none previously existed, for monitoring real-time fire behavior and determining onsite resource allocation. In the



end, CSMR personnel served more than 4,240 man-days in support of Operation Lightning Strike.

Aside from Operation Lightning Strike, CSMR public affairs teams supported the return of National Guard units from overseas deployments. They also supported the Welcome Home 2008 program at Veteran Administration Medical Centers, Speed TV camera crews interviewing Soldiers for recruiting programs and press coverage of the governor's visit to Santa Barbara.

Forty-five Airmen constitute the CSMR's Air component. CSMR Airmen supported Air National Guard units by providing convoy tactics and improvised explosive device recognition and countermeasures instruction, Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems training and mobilization support of Air Guard units to United States Central Command.

Though critical in supporting California in times of emergency, the CSMR is primarily a ready force for the California National Guard. CSMR personnel processed more than 1,000 National Guard troops deploying to Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The CSMR provides 12 chaplains to support the religious needs of the CSMR and National Guard. Their efforts in 2008 included 25 funeral and memorial services for active and retired troops and CSMR members, 18 casualty notifications to active and reserve families, 184 family-counseling sessions and 23 hospital visits.

For Task Force Victory, the CSMR provided Train the Trainer programs, in which CSMR members instructed Guardsmen in battle drill and Training and Doctrine Command standards, small arms and automatic weapons training, convoy operations, voice communications and urban warfare.

In 2008, the CSMR made plans to reactivate the California Naval Militia in 2009. The organization will provide California with access to U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard reservists in times of state emergencies.

The year 2008 will go down as one of the most dynamic and exciting years in the CSMR's history, with record growth, increased professionalism and extended deployments.



WWW.ESGR.ORG



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), 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.



MISSIONS

COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE

The Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force made history in 2008.

During fiscal year 2008, Counterdrug personnel ripped 3.5 million marijuana plants – with a street value of about \$14 billion – from California’s mountains and rural regions. This new record for the task force maintained California’s status as the state with the highest number of marijuana plants seized.

In addition, more than 9,600 pounds of processed marijuana, 1,450 pounds of cocaine, 200 pounds of methamphetamine and 427,290 ecstasy tablets were removed from California’s streets through the combined efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and the California Counterdrug Task Force. In all, task force personnel supported law enforcement agents in seizing \$15 billion worth of drugs, vehicles, weapons and other property during the fiscal year.

During one “focused operation,” more than 70 Soldiers and Airmen arrived in Tulare County to provide aerial reconnaissance, airlift, logistical, operational, intelligence, drug-demand reduction and personnel support to 15 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and community organizations.

Such operations represent a new approach for the task force: By bringing as many support elements as strategically possible into one area, the task force saturates that area with marijuana-suppression support. The operation in Tulare County resulted in raids on 87 illicit grow sites and the seizure of more than 527,000 marijuana plants, 300 pounds of processed marijuana, 2.5 pounds of methamphetamine, four vehicles and 38 weapons. The total street value of the drugs and property seized was about \$1.9 billion. To date, 32 law enforcement cases and 42 arrests have resulted from the operation.

The operation was not only concerned with the removal of drugs from California streets but served as an example of



the nation’s Public Land Management agencies’ focus on protecting public lands from the devastating effects that illicit marijuana cultivation has on the environment. In addition to the drugs and weapons, more than 33 miles of irrigation pipe, 1,800 pounds of fertilizer, 33 gallons of liquid chemicals and 22 pounds of pesticides were removed from public and private lands in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This operation gained national recognition and was brought to the attention of President George W. Bush, who received a briefing from the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Tulare Coun-

ty Sheriff’s Office representatives regarding the success of the operation.

The Counterdrug Task Force employs Soldiers and Airmen from a wide variety of career fields found in the California Army and Air National Guard. These Guardsmen perform a wide range of missions, all with the objective of removing illicit drugs from the streets of California and the nation. As members of the Cal Guard, these Soldiers and Airmen bring with them training and skills that are used as a “force multiplier” for law enforcement agencies throughout California.



OPERATION JUMP START

“It seemed only appropriate for the president to call on his National Guard to defend the homeland, as it had been organized from the beginning to protect America’s borders.”

Major General William H. Wade II, adjutant general for the California National Guard, spoke those words in 2008 as he reflected on Operation Jump Start, the National Guard’s southwest border mission.

In May 2006, President George W. Bush called upon the National Guard – the country’s oldest and longest-serving armed force – to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel in securing our nation’s border. Guardsmen were charged with providing security, order and justice and with welcoming lawful immigration while fixing the problems caused by illegal immigration.

The National Guard deployed to the southwest border for Operation Jump Start, or OJS, in the summer of 2006. Six thousand Soldiers and Airmen from across the four border states – California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas – mobilized in the mission’s first year, 1,200 of them from California.

The Guard’s mission was to support CBP in its effort to secure the U.S.-Mexico border; to relieve badged agents of their supplemental duties, allowing them to return to their primary law enforcement duties; and to improve border infrastructure by building roads, fences and drainage systems, which increased border security as a force multiplier and allowed agents greater access to the border. All law enforcement activities and apprehensions were carried out by CBP agents.

CBP and the Guard formed a successful

partnership. Both agencies benefited from the integration, working side-by-side to improve national security.

California’s all-volunteer force, Joint Task Force Vista, augmented CBP in a wide variety of support roles and yielded real and tangible results. It provided additional eyes and ears on the border and aided in apprehending and turning back tens of thousands of illegal bordercrossers. It also improved

border infrastructure, granting greater access to the border. Most importantly, the operation allowed badged agents to return to their primary mission – patrolling the U.S. border and enforcing immigration and border laws.

During this unique mission to protect and defend our border, the California National Guard proved once again that its Soldiers and Airmen are always ready and always there.



OPERATION LIGHTNING STRIKE



More than 1 million acres of California woodlands fell victim to wildfires in 2008. The California National Guard played a critical role in suppressing the flames that spread across much of northern and central California after a series of lightning storms ravaged the region in early June.

Operation Lightning Strike, the California National Guard's wildfire mission, called upon thousands of Army, Air and State Military Reserve forces to man firelines, drop water and retardant from the skies and provide medical and engineering support throughout the 2008 fire season. California Soldiers and Airmen were joined by Guardsmen from across the United States in a massive effort to contain the fires, which finally died out in early August.



PROGRAMS

YOUTH PROGRAMS



The year 2008 was an exciting time for students attending the six youth programs served by the men and women of the California National Guard. Sunburst Youth Academy celebrated its first graduating class with U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano in attendance as keynote speaker, the Oakland Military Institute successfully placed 75 percent of its graduating seniors in a four-year college or university and the Grizzly Youth Academy received its fifth national award: the coveted USO Award for Post-Residential Performance.

The California National Guard Youth Programs serve California communities and families, which entrust students to their care by delivering national-level, high-quality educational programs within a military-style academic environment. By concentrating efforts on youths who represent the greatest risk – and the greatest hope – for our future, the youth programs provide the foundation those adolescents need to build better lives for themselves.

California Cadet Corps

Established in 1911, the Cadet Corps is a school-based, applied-leadership program conducted within a military framework. The Corps is designed to provide maximum growth and leadership opportunities for cadets in middle school through high school.

Alternative Placement Academy

The academy serves students in grades nine through 12 in Santa Clara County. This community-based program offers young men and women who are wards of the court an opportunity to continue their education in a closely supervised and disciplined school setting.

Sunburst Youth Academy

California's newest Youth ChalleNGe Program serves students who have either dropped out of high school or are at risk of dropping out. For students wanting a second chance to change their lives and finish high school, Sunburst Youth Academy is a tremendous option. The new academy is located in southern California at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos.

Oakland Military Institute

Oakland is a college preparatory academy that far exceeds the state average, with more than 80 percent of its graduates bound for college. The academy offers a positive learning environment, enhanced by leadership, teamwork and the safe and structured discipline of the military. It serves students in grades six through 12.

STARBASE

Since 1993, STARBASE has served fifth-grade students in the greater Sacramento area. Students participate in exciting, hands-on activities in aviation and space exploration and interact with military personnel to explore careers and make connections with the "real world."

Grizzly Youth Academy

Judged the best Youth ChalleNGe Program in the country in 2005, Grizzly academy continues to offer a life-changing experience for youths aged 16 to 18. The academy's mission is to intervene in the lives of at-risk youths and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. This 17 1/2 month program includes a 22-week residential phase at Camp San Luis Obispo.



OPERATION Ready Families

For members of the California National Guard's Operation Ready Families Program, 2008 was a year of constant activity and growth. With the mission of supporting families of Guard members, the program established and continued several programs designed to bring resources and tools to leaders and Family Readiness Group, or FRG, volunteers.

The Operation Ready Families program offers training to Guard members and FRG volunteers. Three volunteer-only courses were conducted in which FRG leaders received leadership and life-skills training. Family Readiness Courses were also held at both state and unit levels. These courses, which are led by the state Family Readiness Assistant training team, help those on the front lines of Family Readiness develop their skills and motivation.

The state Child and Youth Programs, or CYP, continue to enhance the services and partnerships that assist Guard parents and their children. The programs work with the Military Child Education Coalition and Los Angeles Unified School District to develop a system of helping children, as well as training teachers, counselors and administrators to help meet the needs of military families. Through involvement in Soldier Readiness Processing at Camp Roberts, CYP personnel provided information and resources to more than 4,000 Guard children each month in 2008.

California sent a 43-person delegation to the National Guard Bureau National Volunteer Workshop July 21 through July 24 in St. Louis. The delegation included Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National

Guard, and his wife Leslie; Brig. Gen. Louis J. Antonetti, commander, California Army National Guard, and his wife Trish; and a number of other military leaders and FRG volunteers. The workshop provided attendees with training opportunities and peer networking and resource building with representatives from the 54 states and territories.

Family Readiness Support Assistants, or FRSSAs, became a new resource for the California Army National Guard. Placed at brigade-level commands, the FRSSAs were charged with helping to establish and maintain vital family-readiness systems. Their positions include duties similar to those of the Wing Family Program Coordinators in the Air National Guard.

The annual Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness was held April 19 and 20 in Los Angeles. Among those attending were 240 commanders, senior enlisted service members and FRG volunteers from across the state. The symposium gave personnel an opportunity to concentrate on their Family Readiness missions. During the symposium, The Adjutant General's Award for Excellence in Family Readiness was presented to the 144th Fighter Wing and the 1-143rd Field Artillery Battalion for their work in establishing effective Family Readiness programs throughout their commands. The 144th Fighter Wing went on to become the Air National Guard recipient of the Department of Defense's Reserve Family Readiness Award.

The Adjutant General's Working Group on Family Readiness met quarterly in 2008. The group concentrates on key leadership issues that affect fam-

ily readiness at all levels in the chain of command. Chaired by Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, assistant adjutant general of the California National Guard, the Working Group is made up of military and volunteer representatives from each component and division within the California National Guard.

The state Family Assistance Network, or FAN, continues to provide information, referral and follow-up services to military families and loved ones. In addition to working assistance cases, FAN members conduct Operation We Care meetings that provide a support group setting for families and loved ones who are not plugged into their unit's FRG. The FAN is made up of 19 contractors spread throughout California.

California was one of the pilot states for the Department of Defense Joint Family Support Assistance Program, which provides additional resources to Joint Force Headquarters personnel who assist families that are geographically distant from military installations and Family Assistance Centers.

Having learned lessons from the 2007 Fall Blaze fires in San Diego, FAN personnel provided effective support to units and families affected by Operation Lightning Strike and Angel Blaze fires throughout California. Using assessment forms completed by Soldiers during the predeployment Soldier Readiness Processing at Camp Roberts, FAN members and the Child and Youth Program office made wellness calls to those troops to determine their status. They were then able to provide resource and referral information to those needing assistance.

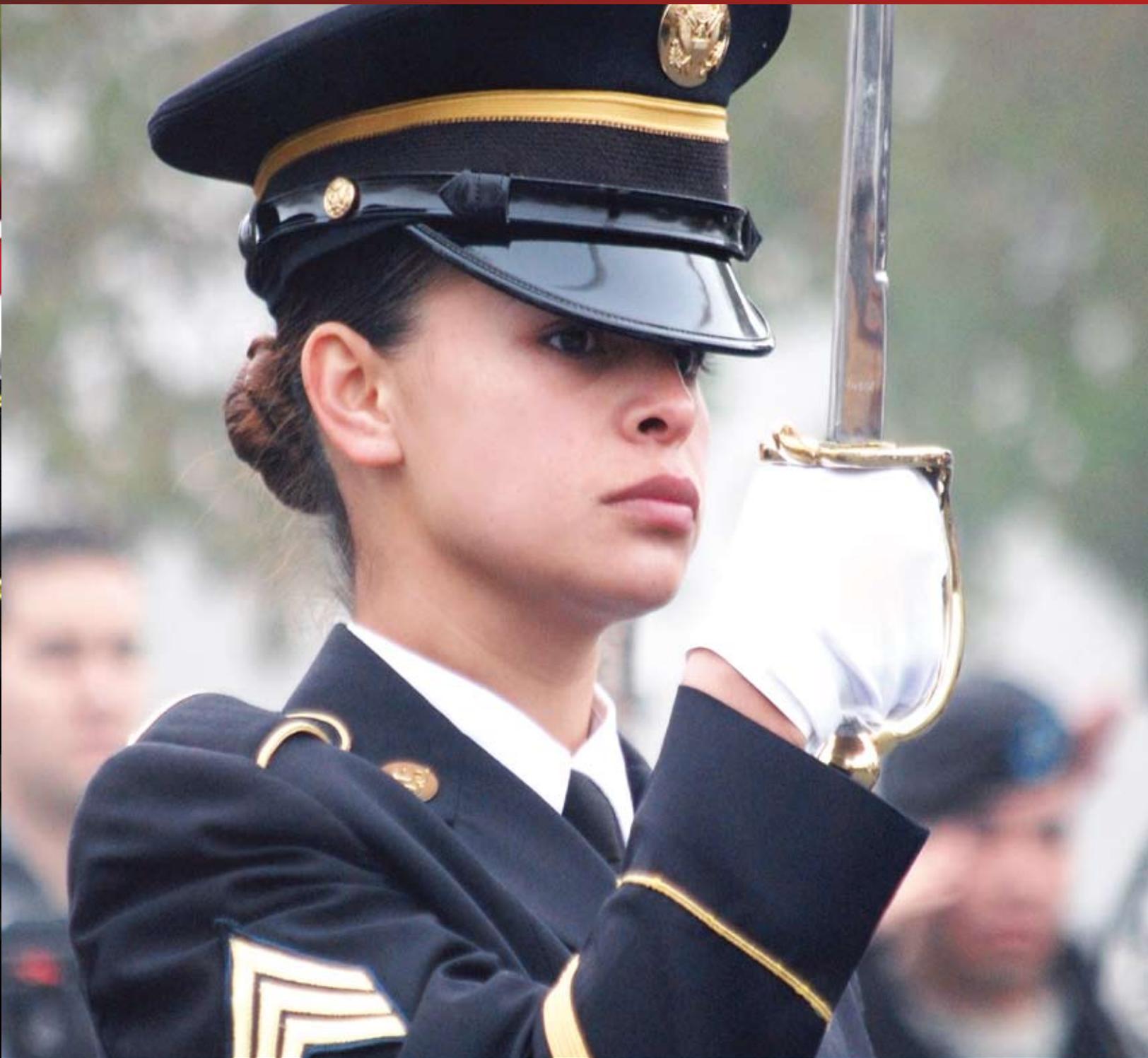
IN MEMORIAM

All Gave Some, Some Gave All

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

IN REMEMBRANCE 2001- 2008

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)
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 First 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 (AASLT))
Staff Sergeant Alfredo Silva (Det 1 HHB, 1st Bn 487th FA)
Sergeant Mike T. Sonoda Jr. (Det 2, Co D, 1st Bn 184th Inf (AASLT))
Staff Sergeant Paul C. Neubauer (Co D, (-) 1st Bn 184th Inf (AASLT))
Sergeant First Class Daniel R. Schiele (Det 1 Co D, 1st Bn 184th Inf (AASLT))
Staff Sergeant Jerry L. Bonifacio Jr. (Co B (-), 1st Bn 184th Inf (AASLT))
Captain Raymond Hill (HHC, 1st Bn 184th Inf (AASLT))
Sergeant Shakere T. Guy (Co D, 1st Bn 184th Inf (AASLT))
Sergeant Marcelino R. Corniel (Co A, 1st Bn, 184th Inf (AASLT))
Sergeant First Class Isaac S. Lawson (HHD, 49th MP Brigade)
Sergeant First Class Rudy Salcido (1114th Transportation Co)
Sergeant Dwayne Young (Co C, 3rd Bn, 160th Inf)
Chief Warrant Officer Arthur Laguna (Blackwater, USA)
Sergeant Rhys W. Klasno (1114th Transportation Company)



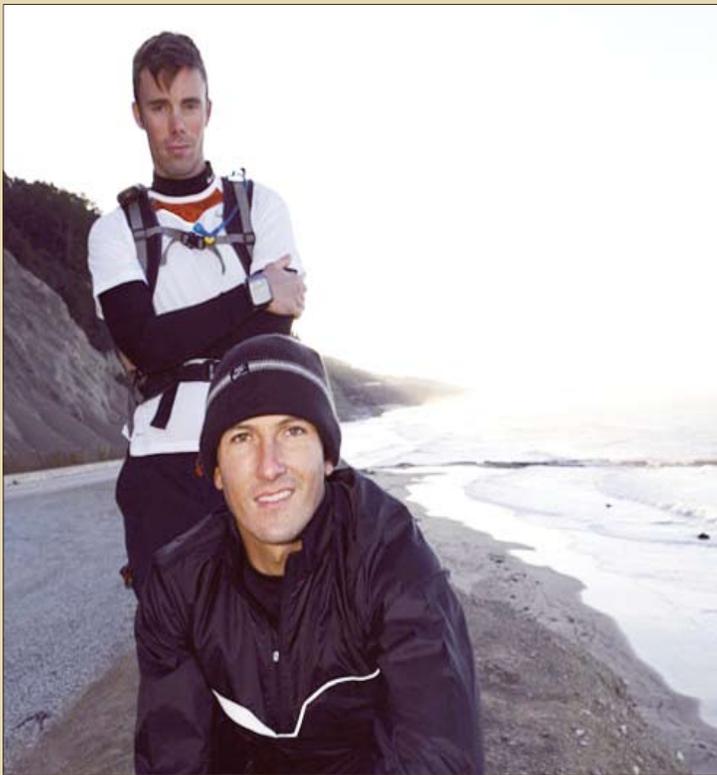
AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

Counterdrug Guardsmen set standard

On Jan. 17, the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy presented the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of Operation ALESIA, part of the National Marijuana Eradication Initiative, or NMEI.

During the Operation, the Guard Task Force joined the Shasta County Sheriff's Office and a coalition of 18 federal, state and local agencies on a mission to remove existing marijuana and apprehend drug traffickers in Shasta County. The operation eradicated more marijuana in a three-week period than four other NMEI states accomplished during all of 2007.



Run-in-a-million Airman

A California National Guard Airman battled physical, mental and social challenges to raise awareness about AIDS and HIV testing for black Americans by running from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 14 days.

Technical Sergeant Lejon Boudreaux, a California Air National Guard pararescueman from the 131st Rescue Squadron, covered about 26 miles – roughly the distance of a marathon – each day for two weeks. Through participation in “Run in a Million,” Boudreaux helped publicize the AIDS epidemic as everyone’s problem. His goal was to encourage 1 million black Americans to be tested by June 27, 2009, which is National HIV Testing Day.



Peak performance

On Feb. 13, Army Guardsman Maj. Kevin McMahan reached the Western Hemisphere’s highest point, on Argentina’s 22,841-foot Mount Aconcagua. The climb was the second of what McMahan hopes will be seven, as he pursues each continent’s highest peak.

“It’s the same thing that would drive an endurance athlete to do an ultramarathon,” said McMahan, who works at the 40th Infantry Division’s headquarters in Los Alamitos. “It’s just the challenge.”

McMahan said Alaska’s Mount McKinley might be his next stop, but another team’s mission will come first: He deployed with the 40th Infantry Division to Kosovo this year, putting his mountaineering aspirations on hold.

“I’m in the Guard,” McMahan stated plainly when asked about his service, adding that while he doesn’t know how he’ll train while deployed, he still has an eye toward future climbs. “I’m looking forward to doing the four other peaks, but I don’t know about Everest.”

FEBRUARY



126th heads to Afghanistan

About 80 Cal Guard Soldiers said goodbye to family and friends at a Feb. 24 farewell ceremony for Company B, 1-126th Aviation Regiment, in Stockton. The Soldiers left for Afghanistan to perform combat and combat-support missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

MARCH

146th AW dedicates new C-130Js

On March 1, the 146th Airlift Wing dedicated its eight new J-model C-130s to individual cities in Ventura County. The C-130 Hercules aircraft were fresh off the Lockheed Martin factory lines and boasted the latest in aerospace technology. Each aircraft bears the name of a city in Ventura County in recognition of the wing's relationship with the surrounding communities.

"These communities have been incredibly supportive of our troops and their families over the years, and this is our way of thanking them," said Vice Wing Commander Col. Marilyn Rios.

"Receiving all of the C-130 J-model aircraft is a real milestone for the California National Guard," said Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard. "It's just another example of how prepared our National Guard is in California."

Networking with Nigeria

Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing Maintenance Group put down their wrenches to help promote democracy and build relations with their Nigerian counterparts during an early March visit.

A five-person Nigerian delegation arrived in California for a weeklong visit. During their stay, the officers interacted with personnel, toured maintenance and operations facilities and observed a squadron change-of-command ceremony.

"We are here as part of an aircraft maintenance familiarization workshop," said Group Capt. Son Igwe. "We came to understand how your logistics and maintenance operates. We've seen how information technology has aided aircraft maintenance, how you continue to improve, achieve perfection and consistency."

The exchange was part of a California State Partnership Program, which brings Nigerian and Ukrainian officers to the United States to share information and assist their armed forces in restructuring, modernizing and strengthening the principles of democracy and free market economies.



APRIL

Smoking Guns deploy

Family members, friends and distinguished military members gathered April 6 at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos to say farewell to the 40th Military Police Company "Smoking Guns."

The 175-member team departed for Iraq to support self-sustainment training for the Iraqi people.

"Every single one of you is going to make a difference in Iraq, from this private all the way to the company commander," said 40th Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel. "The Iraqi people are ready and want to fight their own battles, they just have to be taught how to win."



160th LRSD and 1-143rd FA end OIF tours

More than 50 Soldiers of the 160th Long Range Surveillance Detachment celebrated their return from a 12-month combat tour in Iraq at an April 27 homecoming ceremony in Los Alamitos.

During their deployment, the Soldiers conducted security missions around Camp Slayer as Task Force Shield's Quick Reaction Force. They conducted presence patrols, search missions and civil military operations, while also supporting humanitarian care-package drops to the neighboring towns' local children.

Also returning in April were about 340 Soldiers from the 1-143rd Field Artillery Battalion, who made their way to several cities' airports throughout California after a nine-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The remainder of the 820 Soldiers who deployed with the 1-143rd returned home throughout the year.

While in Iraq, the 1-143rd FA conducted a variety of missions, including convoy security, detainee processing and operating checkpoints.

MAY

Sidewinders come home

As the surge strategy continued to stabilize sectarian violence in Iraq, the men of the 1st Battalion, 160th Light Infantry, 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, returned to California from their critical role in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in May.

The battalion provided security escorts to convoys, and its Soldiers remained steadfast during their time in a combat zone. The majority of their missions were led by junior noncommissioned officers, which afforded them opportunities to make real-world decisions that in past conflicts were made by platoon sergeants and platoon leaders.

Building a cohesive fighting unit from the ground up proved challenging and rewarding. Most Soldiers did not know each other prior to mobilization; they were a mix of Soldiers from numerous military occupational specialties from across the state.

Operation Triangle

On April 29, members of the California National Guard's 9th Civil Support Team joined emergency responders from the Los Angeles Fire and Police departments, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and several other agencies at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for Operation Triangle, a terrorism, mass-casualty exercise.

The coliseum, according to the scenario, was struck during a University of Southern California Trojans football game by a series of terrorist activities, including the release of toxic substances into the arena's airspace.

Made up of Air and Army Guardsmen, the 9th CST, which specializes in reacting to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, spent the day responding to human suffering on a massive scale, as portrayed by USC student roleplayers.

JUNE

Many happy returns

California Army National Guardsmen from the 1113th Transportation Company, the 19th Special Forces Group and the 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion returned from Middle East deployments as part of the Global War on Terrorism in June.

More than 30 Soldiers of the 223rd MI returned to California following a nine-month deployment during which they worked interrogation operations across Afghanistan. About 80 Special Forces Soldiers from the Cal Guard's Company A, 5th Battalion, completed a yearlong combat tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Additionally, more than 100 Soldiers from the 1113th returned from Kuwait, the host nation from which they executed 270 provision-transport missions in Iraq, covering 7.3 million miles of travel.



Lightning strikes, the Guard strikes back

The annual fire season began for the California National Guard in late June when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called for air assistance in battling wildfires in Napa County. Numerous thunderstorms would soon cause more than 1,800 fires to break out across northern and central California, to which the Guard responded by launching Operation Lightning Strike.

The fires would consume more than 1 million acres before being extinguished in early August. The Guard's response included several waves of Army and Air Force aircraft that helped contain the fires by dropping more than 4 million gallons of retardant and water. On the ground, thousands of Guard members worked the fire lines alongside civilian emergency-response personnel, while service members from California and several neighboring states performed supporting roles away from the flames. The California National Guard's Soldiers and Airmen also provided engineering and medical assistance in support of the mission.

JULY

Back in Iraq

More than 300 Soldiers from the California Army National Guard's 1498th Transportation Company departed from March Air Reserve Base on July 22 for a yearlong deployment to Iraq. The company's Soldiers are presently conducting convoy security operations. The deployment is the unit's second in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Border mission ends

The California National Guard's role in Operation Jump Start, the mission securing the Mexico-U.S. border, came to an end in June. The mission began in the summer of 2006, when about 6,000 Soldiers and Airmen from across the nation deployed to the four southwest border states, including 1,200 from the California National Guard.

Their mission was to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel in their efforts to secure the nearly 2,000 miles that make up the U.S.-Mexico border and improve border infrastructure with roads, fences and drainage.



AUGUST

Deploying compassion

Thirty-one members of the California Air National Guard's 163rd Medical Group honed their skills while providing aid to more than 5,700 Guatemalans during a two-week Medical Readiness Training Exercise. The MEDRETE mission was conducted among Guatemala's most impoverished communities and often drew more than 500 patients in a given day.



Historic deployment

The California Army National Guard conducted its largest unit deployment since the Korean War in August. Nearly 900 Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, said farewell at an Aug. 21 ceremony in San Bernardino. The yearlong deployment is the unit's second to Iraq, during which its Soldiers are conducting convoy-security missions



SEPTEMBER



Calm amid the storms

Air National Guardsmen from the 129th Rescue Wing saved 34 people and 11 dogs in response to Hurricane Ike in mid-September. The Bay Area pilots and pararescuemen initially mobilized to Texas to confront the effects of Hurricane Gustav but stayed on to rescue stranded residents as part of Task Force 129 after Ike struck the Galveston coast.

Cobbs in command

Lieutenant Colonel Juanita E. Cobbs became the first Cal Guard officer to hold a permanent command of an element under direct responsibility of the Secretary of Defense when she assumed control of the Los Angeles Military Entrance Processing Station. The facility is the largest MEPS station in the nation and processes about 170 future service members each day.

Simulator flies its last flight

The California National Guard closed the doors on its historic UH-1 flight simulator during a Sept. 29 ceremony on the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. The simulator was dedicated Sept. 3, 1992, and was utilized by military and emergency-services pilots from California, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Hawaii and the Kwajalein Islands.

OCTOBER

"Dust off" unit departs

Guardsmen from Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, departed in mid-October for a yearlong medevac mission to Afghanistan. The "dust off" Soldiers of the 1-168th had stayed active throughout the year by conducting search and rescue, firefighting and relief missions across the Western United States. More than 70 Soldiers deployed with the unit in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

NOVEMBER



Brigadier General Currier

Colonel Donald J. Currier, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade in Fairfield, was promoted to brigadier general during a Nov. 21 ceremony in Sacramento. During his 32 years of service, Brig. Gen. Currier has served during Operation Desert Storm, the Los Angeles riots, and most recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he earned the Bronze Star Medal and Combat Action Badge.



Vigilant Guard '09

In mid-November, California National Guard members participated in Vigilant Guard '09, a weeklong disaster-preparedness exercise, as part of Golden Guardian, a statewide training event. The exercise included the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history, as California National Guard Soldiers and Airmen worked alongside about 5,000 emergency-response professionals from more than 100 civilian agencies in response to a notional 7.8-magnitude earthquake along the San Andreas fault.

DECEMBER

KFOR 11

More than 1,100 Cal Guard Soldiers began mobilizing for peacekeeping operations in Kosovo in December. The 40th Infantry Division and subordinate elements from across the state will lead and command Task Force Falcon as part of the NATO-led Kosovo Force. The mission marks the second time in four years that the 40th ID has commanded Task Force Falcon in Kosovo. U.S. Armed Forces have been part of the NATO peacekeeping forces since 1999.



Happy 372nd!!

The National Guard turned 372 years old on Dec. 13. Guard members in California and across the world marked the day with celebrations, including a ceremony at the California National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento.





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