

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD



YEAR IN
REVIEW 2009

Introduction

Two thousand nine offered even greater challenges for the California National Guard — both at home and abroad — than did 2008. The cumulative number of CNG Soldiers and Airmen deployed since Sept. 11, 2001, on federal missions within the United States or to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Nigeria, Ukraine and numerous other countries around the globe, exceeded 32,000 in 2009 and is fast approaching 33,000 — a contribution to the overseas contingency operations greater than any other state in the nation. In addition the California National Guard continued to respond to calls for support from civil authorities at home as well as from other states.

The California National Guard's Joint Task Force Domestic Support — Counterdrug continued its support to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, making improvements in border security by constructing additional new primary barriers, repairing existing secondary barriers and maintaining roads to enhance interior lines of communication. California National Guard aviators used their extensive flying skills and combat experience to continually insert border patrol agents into otherwise inaccessible terrain to interdict illegal drugs, assist in several search and rescue operations and support various federal agencies in securing America's southern border.

The Counterdrug Task Force once again set the standard for planning and supporting numerous missions in order to interdict and stem the flow of illegal drugs. Working in conjunction with a coalition of federal, state and local agencies, the California National Guard set new benchmarks for the interdiction, seizure and destruction of illicit drugs and marijuana grow sites; investigation and apprehension of drug-trafficking individuals; and removal of drug infrastructure on public lands throughout northern California. Working as part of a multi-agency coalition, the Guard was instrumental in eradicating more than 5.3 million marijuana plants in 2009 — a 355 percent increase over 2005. The Task Force also assisted law enforcement in seizing methamphetamine loads totaling 623 percent more than in 2005. The net result was a total of nearly \$27 billion worth of drugs seized, taken off the streets and destroyed — a net increase of 828 percent over the same period in 2005. In an effort to stem the flow of illegal weapons into Mexico, the Task Force increased its seizure rate 347 percent over 2005 figures. In order to win the hearts and minds of America's youth, the Task Force reached 264 percent more children and parents with the Drug Demand Reduction Team message than in 2005.

Overseas, the California Army National Guard continued its peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo and Bosnia, provided combat units to Operation Iraqi Freedom and contributed to nation-building efforts in Afghanistan with its agricultural-business development teams. Additionally, the California Air National Guard supported a myriad of missions around the globe, including combat search and rescue in Afghanistan, airlift in multiple theaters of operation and strategic worldwide support of Predator and Global Hawk operations. At home, the California State Military Reserve provides an adequately trained and organized state military reserve force under the exclusive control of the governor, capable of assisting civil authorities during domestic emergencies and assisting in the mobilization and demobilization of the National Guard.

Like so many times before, the Guard's success was a direct result of the selfless dedication and support of every participant — the military members, their families, the civilian employers, the community, and the state and federal civilian employees. Because of this very 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

MARY J. KIGHT
BRIGADIER GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



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Command Leadership



Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight



Brig. Gen. Lawrence A. Haskins



Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr.

Army Division

Air Division



Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael H. Winstead



Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas



Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael S. Koslow

State Military Reserve

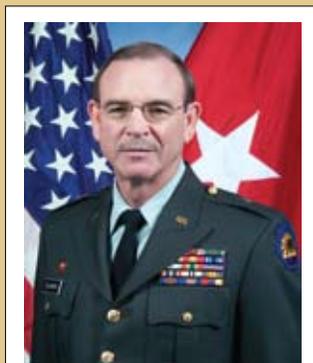
Joint staff



Brig. Gen. Roland L. Candee



Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Zell



Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth



Command Sgt. Maj. Jose J. Gomez

In Memoriam

*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- 2009

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)
Staff Sergeant Alfredo Silva (Det 1, HHB, 1st Bn, 487th FA)
Sergeant Mike T. Sonoda Jr. (Det 2, Co D, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Staff Sergeant Paul C. Neubauer (Co D, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Sergeant First Class Daniel R. Schiele (Det 1, Co D, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Staff Sergeant Jerry L. Bonifacio Jr. (Co B, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Captain Raymond Hill (HHC, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Sergeant Shakere T. Guy (Co D, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Sergeant Marcelino R. Corniel (Co A, 1st Bn, 184th Inf)
Sergeant 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)
Sergeant Dennis Sullen (HHC, 1st Bn, 185th Inf)
Chief Warrant Officer Arthur Laguna (Blackwater, USA)
Sergeant Rhys W. Klasno (1114th Transportation Company)
Major Rocco M. Barnes (40th ID)



Maj. Rocco M. Barnes
40th Infantry Division
1958 - 2009

Deployments to Date Since 9/11



Totals
ARMY 20,613
AIR 11,834



Economic Impact

Federal Allocations



- Youth Programs
 - Innovative Readiness Training
 - Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
 - Special Forces
- \$7.5 million**



Civil Support Teams
\$4.1 million



Joint Task Force Domestic Support
— Counterdrug
\$19 million



Federal Allocations



Top MILCON Spending	
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES/ ALLOCATIONS
17 & 22	\$20,744,538
11	\$11,624,808
40	\$5,927,978
47	\$4,295,098
03	\$1,392,806
18	\$741,000
05	\$534,259
25	\$532,640
41	\$347,000
35	\$270,067

• MILCON: Military Construction

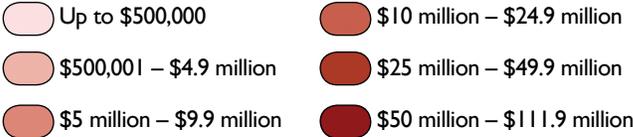
Military Construction Spending	
MILCON & SRM spending	\$30,639,265
ARRA spending	\$22,002,613
Total Construction	\$52,641,878

- Allocations can be spent over five years
- MILCON: Military Construction
- SRM: Sustainment, Restoration, Modernization
- ARRA: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Federal stimulus package)

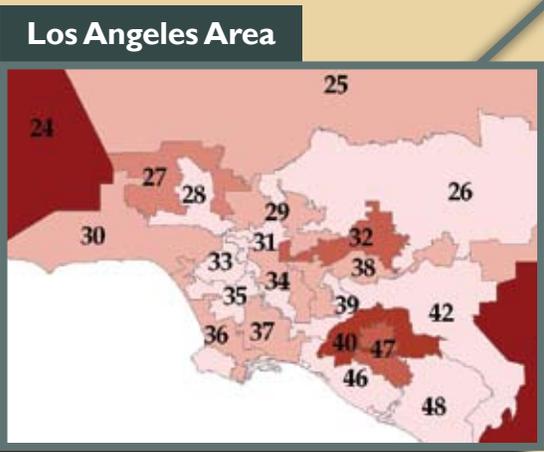
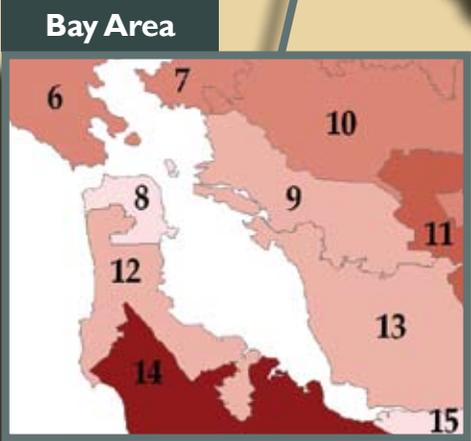
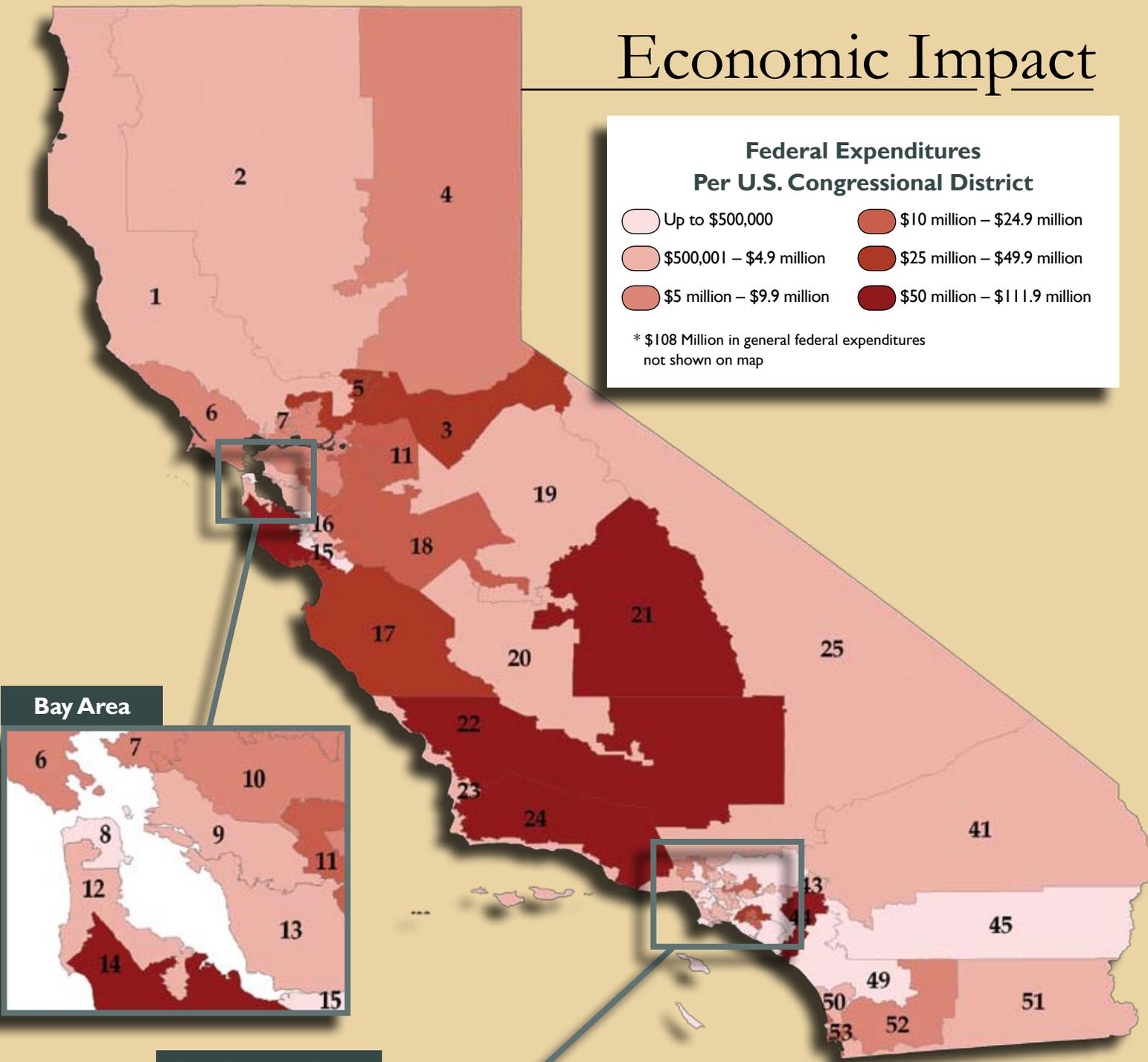


Economic Impact

Federal Expenditures Per U.S. Congressional District



* \$108 Million in general federal expenditures not shown on map



California National Guard Expenditures	
Federal	\$822,200,000
State	\$42,300,000
Total	\$864,500,000



Training Bases

Camp San Luis Obispo

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. To enhance training, a new Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) was constructed in 2009 to complement the alpine tower and ropes courses on the installation. The new LRC provides Soldiers an opportunity to develop team-building skills and enhance self-esteem.

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 and a complex of warehouses, workshops and maintenance facilities. Other supporting facilities include a chapel, two service clubs, a theater, a laundry facility, a barber shop and a post exchange.

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 Youth Challenge Academy, 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. Among the new ranges under construction at Camp SLO are a combat pistol qualifica-



tion range and modified record-fire range. Other training facilities include an Engagement Skills Trainer weapons training site; a reconstructed urban assault course; obstacle, land navigation and leadership challenge courses; a warrior tasks training area; and additional training areas suitable to conduct field-training exercises for about 1,000 personnel.

Camp SLO 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.

To honor the history of Camp SLO, the installation coordinated and worked closely with veterans of the 86th Infantry Division to host its final reunion ceremony in 2009. The 86th ID "Blackhawks" trained at Camp SLO in the 1940s before deploying to Europe and then Asia during World War II. In August surviving members of the 86th dedicated a monument of a bronze Soldier on Camp SLO, honoring their comrades in arms who died in the line of duty as well as POWs and MIAs.



Camp Roberts

Organization

Camp Roberts is the largest National Guard Maneuver Training Center-Heavy in the western United States. Its 43,000-plus acres are located on Highway 101 halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The camp was established in 1941, and since 1971 it has been licensed to the California National Guard by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Camp Roberts, with its rolling hills and steep mountainous terrain, is ideal for training. The installation hosted more than 450,000 service members from all military branches in fiscal year 2009. It is home to 550 full-time employees, including permanent tenant organizations such as the Central Issuing Facility, Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site, Regional Training Site Maintenance, U.S. Army Satellite Communication Station and U.S. Army Training Support Center.

Improvements

The California National Guard has implemented a master plan for constructing an installation of excellence at Camp Roberts,



strategically focusing on state-of-the-art ranges and facilities to support training. Base improvement plans include road and tank trails, airstrips, an unmanned aerial vehicle training site, electrical infrastructure, fiber optics, senior enlisted members' quarters and enhanced perimeter security. In addition to military construction funding, Camp Roberts was awarded \$19 million in stimulus funding in 2009 to be executed in 2010.

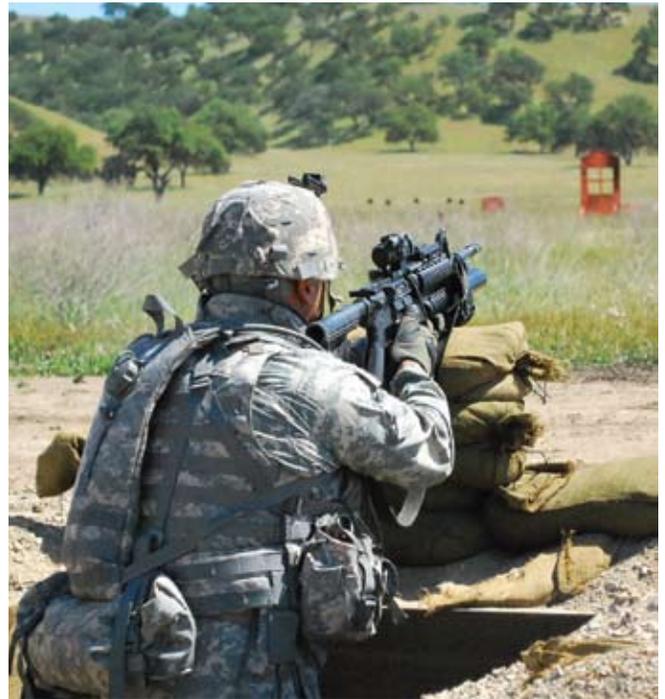
The National Guard, in conjunction with the Department of the Army, invested in range improvement projects totaling more than \$5.5 million during 2009. The improvements include an infantry squad battle course, infantry platoon battle course and urban assault course.

Camp Roberts' simulation training includes Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, a Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer, a Call for Fire Trainer, high-mobility multiwheeled vehicle (HMMWV) Egress Assistance Trainers, Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System 2000 and battle-command programs. A Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer facility is due to be constructed in fiscal year 2010, adding yet another element to the quality training available at Camp Roberts.

Future construction plans include a combined arms collective training facility, a multipurpose machine gun range and a tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) support facility for UAV training.

Responsibilities

Camp Roberts continues to enhance its state-of-the-art Soldier Readiness Processing Center, ensuring it fulfills its pre-mobilization requirements for the Cal Guard.



The Cal Guard continues to build relationships with local communities and local governments. These relationships ensure mutual aid agreements during emergency and critical situations, such as being the Congregate Care Center for the California Emergency Management Agency and collaborating with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

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

In addition to the multiple agencies that train at Camp Roberts, the site serves as home to Task Force Warrior, California's premobilization training assistance element. The group consists of more than 60 qualified instructors who certify Soldiers on Army Warrior Tasks and individual weapons qualification. Camp Roberts also provides joint forces training and has the capacity to house a brigade-sized element at any given time.

Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos

For more than 30 years, the California National Guard has managed Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos, providing service to the community while preparing our military forces for mobilization in support of national defense or in response to natural or man-made disasters.

The base is positioned to operate as a military installation and airfield, and it is able to provide support and training facilities for military units as well as other national, state and local organizations. The Los Alamitos Army Airfield is the last remaining military airfield in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County area, providing disaster support for southern California.

JFTB-Los Alamitos supports first responders in preparing local communities for disaster. Twice each year, community members are invited to attend disaster-preparedness seminars taught by local police, firefighters and first responders on the training base. The 2009 California wildfires served as a reminder to all of us that preparedness is essential when disaster strikes.

In the event of a major disaster, we may not see police, firefighters or first responders for up to a week, depending on the severity of the situation. It is therefore very important that the JFTB support first responders in preparing our neighbors to care for themselves, their families and other members of their community, as it will take time for the JFTB to stand up with emergency supplies when called to support.

Additionally local law enforcement officers and first responders use the installation throughout the year for training exercises. Partnerships like these will be vital during operations in the face of civil unrest, fires, floods, earthquakes or other disasters.

Each year the JFTB also works with local cities and nonprofits to provide community access to the military installation. This presents a unique opportunity for local citizens to learn about the base, support our citizen-Soldiers and enjoy numerous annual community events.

Early in 2009, President Barack Obama overturned a rule that had barred the public from participating in "Hero Missions" — the transfer of dignified remains — and placed the decision in the hands of the families of the fallen. In April, for the first time in more than a decade, media and community members were invited to the JFTB to pay their respects to a local fallen hero. Clouds covered the skies and a cool wind blew as hundreds of Soldiers stood at attention during a ceremony led by Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard.

"When you give all, when you lay your life down for this great country, then that's the part of the story of serving that I think should be told," said Brig. Gen. (CA) James Combs, JFTB commander.

The base's 22nd annual 4th of July spectacular drew more than 10,000



local residents. It also served as a retirement ceremony for Combs, who had served as commander of the JFTB since Nov. 1, 2005. The Independence Day event is co-hosted each year by the CNG, the cities of Cypress, Los Alamitos and Seal Beach and the community of Rossmoor.

In conjunction with the Long Beach Department of Veterans Affairs, JFTB-Los Alamitos celebrated Veterans Day with more than 3,000 veterans and family members during a day filled with entertainment, family activities and a special honor for a local World War II veteran. Harrel presented a Bronze Star to 84-year-old Manuel Diaz, who earned the medal for his role in ground combat during World War II but never formally received the award. Harrel said Diaz is among many veterans who are now being formally recognized for their service in past wars.

As 2009 came to a close, the U.S. Army Reserve and the National Guard partnered together with dozens of California employers to help facilitate access to employment opportunities for California Soldiers and veterans. By signing Employer Partnership Agreements with the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces, those businesses can now look to hundreds of thousands of talented Soldiers to fill their staffing needs. These potential employees have been pre-screened and fully trained — because of their military service — in the technical, specialized and professional capabilities that employers need. The opportunity for employer partners to hire from a skilled labor force has the potential to reduce business recruiting and training costs.

"This is an important partnership that plays an integral part for us to sustain our Soldiers' well-being and allows them to focus, knowing their families are cared for," Harrel said. "At any given time here in California we have close to 2,000 National Guard soldiers that are unemployed or underemployed."



Army National Guard

40th Combat Aviation Brigade

Training year 2009 seemed to be a continuous transition from one major event to another or from deployment to home for members of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade who have begun their transformation from civilians in peace to Soldiers at war.

California units that fall under the Fresno-based 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 routinely calls upon the expertise of the Soldiers of the 40th CAB to meet its annual weather- and disaster-related emergency needs, and 2009 was no different.

The 640th Aviation Support Battalion, headquartered in Long Beach, Calif., supported firefighting missions by providing 100 Emergency State Active Duty Soldiers to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to be trained and qualified as fire line hand-crews. The 640th also acquired the Army Battlefield Command Systems, which enables a digital battlefield that frames the architecture of every stationary and moving platform in the battlespace. It employs a mix of fixed/semi-fixed installations and mobile networks, and it is interoperable with theater, joint, and combined command and control systems.

The 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, welcomed home units that had been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This included Company B, 1-126th Aviation, and its ten CH-47 Chinook helicopters, which flew more than 7,200 combat hours, transported more than 46,700 Soldiers and moved more than 20.6 million pounds of cargo. Company C, 1-168th Aviation Regiment, returned 55 California Soldiers, who flew and maintained six UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and flew 5,600 combat hours, 3,400 medical evacuation patients and 51 combat hoist extractions.

Detachment 1, Company I, 185th Theatre Aviation Command, departed and returned from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The detachment's C-23 Sherpa airplane and six-man unit flew thousands of combat hours; moved generous amounts of cargo, personnel and equipment; and conducted cross-continent aircraft movements.

While some were arriving home, others were departing to serve tours of duty. Detachment 32, a C-12 Huron airplane detachment from Sacramento, departed in September for Kuwait, where the mission is to fly executive passengers. During preparation for deployment, the detachment was upgraded with the V-model aircraft, which is the most advanced cockpit design for the C-12.

Detachment 812, an HH-60 helicopter unit out of Mather Air Field near Sacramento, is preparing for a 2010 departure in support of the global war on terrorism.



In addition, the brigade received notification that it has been tasked to provide aviation support to combat operations in 2010. The brigade immediately began fielding its new combat support systems, including the Standardized Integrated Command Post, Blue Force Tracker, Command Post of the Future and Air Defense Airspace Management (ADAM) systems. During one of the hottest weeks on record, the brigade assembled in Fresno to begin fielding its new combat systems. During a two-week period, the Soldiers learned to begin operating their new equipment and to work together as a unified combat aviation brigade.

The training year culminated in a two-week period when personnel from California, Wisconsin, Georgia and Alaska came together in San Luis Obispo, Calif. There they began forming a combat aviation brigade that would be prepared to support full-spectrum aviation operations in support of the Multi-National Corps—Iraq mission. Dubbed Task Force Four Zero, the Soldiers were trained under the doctrine of theater immersion, while at the same time training for their primary duties in their assigned military occupational specialties. These Soldiers are not the first Army National Guard aviation brigade called to duty in support of the war on terrorism, but they are among the few that will bring together battalions from throughout the nation to augment the total force.

“The 40th CAB has stepped up and met every challenge thrown our way, both federal and state, and will continue to do so,” said David E. McFerrin, the brigade command sergeant major. “As we prepare for the possibility of mobilization, I have the utmost confidence in the Soldiers’ abilities, and this brigade will continue to hone itself to become the tip of our nation’s spear.”

“With tough, realistic training and capable Soldiers and leaders, we will show that in the 21st century, the 40th CAB is the premier combat aviation brigade in the Army National Guard.”

40th Infantry Division

The 40th Infantry Division (ID) began 2009 with a large portion of its troops overseas once more, this time in Kosovo under the command of Brig. Gen. Keith Jones as part of the Kosovo Force 11 mission. Kosovo was familiar ground for the division, as it had previously supplied participants to the Kosovo Force 6B mission in 2005 and 2006.

The ID's patch was seen at Camp Atterbury, Ind., where the division's forward element underwent pre-mobilization training, and then at Hohenfels, Germany, where its Soldiers validated before deploying into Kosovo. On the ground in the former Yugoslavia, commanding 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment; 40th ID Special Troops Battalion; and several other units, the division maintained peace and assisted Kosovars in developing their new nation in an atmosphere of security. The division also received some well-deserved publicity from radio host and columnist Hugh Hewitt, who visited Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, in July.

In the spring, the division formed and deployed the 40th ID Agribusiness Development Team under the command of Chief of Staff Col. Eric Grimm. The 58-Soldier unit leveraged the knowledge of the division's citizen-Soldiers to create a unique force able to assist the Afghan people in developing their agricultural programs and developing more effective ways for farmers to market their products. Soon after the team landed in country in September, it was already making a difference.

Back at home, the division was readying itself for future action. In February, Brig. Gen. Scott Johnson, then the assistant division commander, attended a graduation ceremony in South Korea at Kapyong High School, which was founded by 40th ID Soldiers during the Korean War.

In May, 40th ID Commander Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel honored Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kaiser, the first division Soldier killed in action during the Korean War, with a ceremony at Inglewood Cemetery



in Inglewood, Calif. Local dignitaries as well as South Korean officials, including the principal of Kapyong High School, attended the memorial.

In July, Harrel passed the division colors to Johnson in a ceremony attended by members of the public and the media. A month later, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger visited division headquarters in Los Alamitos, Calif., to announce he had signed a bill increasing education benefits and opportunities for California National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

Unfortunately, the annual Rapid Trident exercise in L'viv, Ukraine, was canceled.

However, the division's troops continued to train on their individual and collective skills as well as to accept an influx of new equipment that came with changes to the division's structure. In October the division welcomed back some old friends, assuming oversight of 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, Combined Arms Battalion; 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment; and the 578th Engineer Battalion.

In November the division (Forward) returned from Kosovo, its mission there once again complete and successful. And as 2010 approached, the division continued to prepare for any challenges it would face in the future.

49th Military Police Brigade

On Oct. 12th at Camp Liberty in Baghdad, the 49th Military Police Brigade of Fairfield, Calif., assumed authority for a police training mission that the brigade had played an important role in developing three years earlier. Led by Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, the 49th returned to finish the job it started during 2005 and 2006, which Multi-National Force-Iraq dubbed, "The Year of the Police." Six years after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime, the 49th MP Brigade is positioning itself to be the final military police brigade, active or reserve, to perform the Police Transition Team mission in Iraq.

During its current deployment, the 49th is building upon the foundation it put in place three years ago and upon the police training that was performed by MP units since. In 2006 the 49th provided Iraqi police with the basic skills and resources that every police force needs to police a community and protect its officers. In 2009 the 49th is working with Iraqi police officers to improve their ability to conduct crime scene investigations, which are expected to lead to convictions of terrorists and insurgents.

This advanced training takes place on American bases and at Iraqi police stations, and it will eventually take place at crime scenes. As much as possible, Iraqi police train their own officers under American supervision. The 49th, which has more than 30 MP companies operating in all regions of Iraq, is dedicated to ensuring that Iraqi police progress will continue until the last MP unit assisting Iraqi police returns home.

40th MP Company

The 40th MP Company of Los Alamitos, Calif., finished its training of Iraqi police in March. For nine months in northern Iraq, under the command of Capt. Erik Sharyer, the Soldiers of the 40th MP Company helped prepare Iraqi policemen to take the lead in securing law and order in their nation.

670th MP Company

In July of this year, at Bagram Air Base in



Afghanistan, the 670th MP Company of National City, Calif., began conducting a variety of detainee operations that support the control, custody and care of terrorist and insurgent leaders at Bagram's Theater Internment Facility. Soldiers of the 670th, working closely with the Afghan National Army, also secure the transport of detainees as they are flown from Bagram to the Afghanistan Detention Facility.

The 670th, commanded by Capt. Lionel Nolasco, also conducts detainee operations outside of Bagram. The 670th provides technical and tactical support to field detention sites at forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan. At these sites Soldiers of the 670th advise and assist combat units with the proper handling of captured enemy combatants as they are transferred to permanent detention facilities.

In addition to detainee operations, the 670th supports the Bagram Provost Marshal's Office by conducting customs inspections of all units returning to the United States from Bagram. The 670th also supports the security of civil affairs units as they provide medical assistance to Afghan women.

235th Engineer Company

For nine months in 2009, the 235th Engineer Company of Petaluma, Calif., cleared routes and areas in eastern Afghanistan, near the Pakistan border. During a year when American forces serving in Afghanistan were increasingly attacked, the 235th conducted a very dangerous mission in a very violent place.

While serving in eastern Afghanistan, the 235th cleared more than 650,000 square feet of land around a strategic air base, destroying 4,800 pieces of unexploded ordnance and land mines. The engineers cleared more than 6,000 miles of road, finding more than 54 roadside bombs before the explosives could harm American service members or allies. During more than 220 combat patrols, the 235th detained more than 600 named persons of interest. Thankfully no 235th Soldier lost their life during the deployment, but 31 Soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart, and the medics of the 235th participated in more than 30 mass casualty and emergency medical evacuations.

Eleven Soldiers of the 235th earned medals for valor and 87 earned combat action badges.

79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

California's largest combat brigade stormed into 2009 with a new name, when in early January the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was re-designated the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). Though the name changed, the Soldiers' expertise and the load they carry did not.

"We provide combat power on the ground to the division commander with the fire power of infantry, a cavalry squadron and artillery, as well as the aid of two support battalions," said Sgt. Maj. Harold London, command sergeant major for the 79th IBCT.

At the start of the year, Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Cavalry Regiment, as well as troops from 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, and Soldiers from Company A, 79th Special Troops Battalion, were several months into their yearlong deployment to Kosovo in support of the NATO-led peacekeeping mission there. This deployment pulled nearly 800 Soldiers from the IBCT's ranks, creating a shortage of leadership that demanded other Soldiers step up.

"We were forced to throw E-5s into squad leader positions and E-6s in acting first sergeant billets, and they've stepped up to the plate," London said.

In March, the 79th amassed all of its non-deployed Soldiers to conduct a Live Virtual Constructive exercise. Aimed at simulating a statewide natural disaster response, the brigade integrated the movement of all its drilling forces, some 2,000 Soldiers, from their home station armories into training areas throughout California. Simultaneously the 79th communicated with the Joint Operations Center at state headquarters and utilized its Blue Force Tracker capabilities to maintain a common operating picture.

The brigade pooled its resources once again in June for its annual training period, when the focus was ensuring personnel readiness. Reporting to Camp Roberts, the unit conducted non-mobilization Soldier Readiness Processing to determine the medical status of the brigade's Soldiers. While there, many

units took advantage of the camp's training areas and ranges, including 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, which fired its Howitzers down range for the first time in five years.

Only a month later, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, were called to Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, where they participated in Empire Challenge with Soldiers from Australia, New Zealand and other nations. Empire Challenge gave the IBCT an opportunity to integrate its Army Battle Command Systems with other forces in a tactical field environment while conducting live platoon-sized maneuvers.

Months later, when Ukraine fell short on funding and was forced to call off the annual Rapid Trident exercise, which is a regular part of the 79th's training calendar, the brigade's flexible mindset proved useful.

"We had trained all year with large force-on-force tactics, and last minute we had to do a 180," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Hegerle, acting first sergeant for Troop C, 1st Battalion, 18th Cavalry Regiment. "We ended up in Hohenfels, Germany, operating in much smaller elements. We role-played as Afghan forces to prepare active duty Army troops for a deployment. It was a great opportunity

for our junior [noncommissioned officers] to take the lead."

The brigade fielded several new systems in 2009, including the Battle Command Sustainment Support System, a logistics tracking program; the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System and Advanced Field Artillery Targeting Direction System, both of which are used to enhance artillery gunnery; and the Distributive Common Ground System, a program that allows for broader dissemination of intelligence.

When the 79th's Pfc. Joaquin Brambila Montero was named the 2009 California Army National Guard's Soldier of the Year in October, it marked the second consecutive year that the competition's winner had come from the 79th IBCT's ranks.

November was a time for reunions and reintegration as the unit welcomed hundreds home from Kosovo just in time for Thanksgiving. The 79th's leadership was also excited about the wealth of experience the returning troops brought back to their ranks.

As 2009 came to a close, the brigade worked hand-in-hand with civilian organizations to gather clothing, food and gifts to help needy Guard families through Operation Holiday Support.



100th Troop Command

The 100th Troop Command is one of the California Army National Guard's 10 senior commands and has a history that reaches back three decades. Since Sept. 11, 2001, most of the 100th Troop Command's Soldiers have deployed in support of disaster-relief, peacekeeping and national security missions to more than 30 countries around the world. In November, a new command team headed by Col. Matthew Beevers and Command Sgt. Maj. Burdette Shields assumed responsibility for the 100th Troop Command.

A diverse brigade with more than 3,000 soldiers, the 100th Troop Command's responsibilities include Task Force North Command and Control as well as Quick and Rapid Reaction Force allocation.

Early in 2009 the Troop Command received command and control of the 185th Military Police (MP) Battalion, 579th Engineer Battalion and 69th Public Affairs Detachment. The additional units tripled the brigade's assigned strength overnight. The growth also expanded the span of control more than 800 miles, from Redding to National City, Calif.

In 2009 the Medical Detachment administered more than 13,000 flu immunizations

and conducted 7,500 Periodic Health Assessments. The 59th Army Band performed in almost 100 parades, social functions and graduations. The 132nd Multi-Role Bridge Company received new bridges and boats, and the 185th Military Police Battalion received its enhanced armament high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV).

Federal Mobilizations & Demobilizations

- Mobilized the 670th Military Police Company, commanded by Capt. Jamie Long, for a 12-month tour in Iraq
- Mobilized specialized individual requirements for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom from the California Medical Detachment, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion and 142nd Chaplain Detachment
- Demobilized six teams from the 49th Personnel Services Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Renee MacDonald and Command Sgt. Maj. Leona Wheeler, which served 12 months in Iraq
- Demobilized the 235th Engineer Company (Sappers), commanded by Capt. Corey

Marks and 1st Sgt. Christopher Kramer, which served 12 months in Iraq

- Demobilized the 217th Explosive Ordnance Company, commanded by Capt. Eric Waddell and 1st Sgt. Timothy Shields, which served 12 months in Iraq
- Demobilized the 142nd Chaplain Team, commanded by Capt. Timothy Meier and Sgt. 1st Class Mathew McGee, which served 12 months in Iraq
- Demobilized the 40th MP Company, commanded by Capt. Eric Sharyer and 1st Sgt. Chad Byrd, which served 12 months in Iraq
- Demobilized the 69th Public Affairs Detachment, commanded by Capt. Jonathan Shiroma and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade, which served 12 months in Kosovo

State Mobilizations

- Mobilized individuals from the 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Graham Clark and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Antone, in support of California firefighting operations
- Validated the 149th Chemical Company, commanded by Capt. Jay Kliever and 1st Sgt. Payam Shannon, for Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package operations.
- Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 100th Troop Command, received and trained with two communication platforms that greatly enhance command and control during natural and man-made disasters: the Incident Commanders Command, Control and Communications Unit (IC4U) and the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC). The IC4U is a truck with audio, video or DVD players, telephones and fax machines, and its radio systems can cross-band to keep in constant contact with civilian emergency units and military responders. The JISCC provides voice, data, video and radio links between first responders and other local, state and federal agencies, addressing the problem of responders from different agencies being unable to talk on incompatible communications systems in the wake of a crisis. The 100th Troop Command has the only Soldiers in California who are trained to operate the JISCC.



115th Regional Support Group

Headquarters

In June, the 115th Regional Support Group conducted a change of command ceremony, with Col David B. Nickels handing the group flag to Col. John W. Lathrop. In November the 115th gave control of the 233rd Engineer Detachment (Firefighting) over to the 100th Troop Command. The 115th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment assisted many charity groups over the holidays with transportation of food and gifts for families throughout northern California.

340th BSB

The 340th Brigade Support Battalion changed commanders at the outset of the year, as outgoing Commander Lt. Col. Juanita Cobbs took charge of the Los Angeles Military Entrance Processing Station (a first for the National Guard). Maj. John C. Fell took charge and continued the transformation of the battalion from an armor battalion to a brigade support battalion. Fell focused the battalion's training on the individual level in accordance with the Army Force Generation cycle. The battalion increased its duty military occupational specialty qualification from 70 to 80 percent, licensed 54 Soldiers on the light medium tactical vehicle or high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV), certified 32 Soldiers as Combat Lifesavers, and trained 32 Soldiers on several Standard Army Maintenance Information Systems (STAMIS) critical to the success of the unit. The 340th BSB continued to be an active part of the community by supporting local organizations and fellow Guard units. It also maintained strong bonds with the 149th Armor Regiment, an organization of Soldiers with connections to the battalion's history, and with the 65th Fires Brigade of the Utah National Guard.

2632nd TC

The 2632nd Transportation Company had a tremendous year in 2009. It continued the Rancho Cordova Elks Lodge's "Catch the Spirit" campaign for the sixth year, despite the loss of the campaign's longtime director, Bob Burns, who died in August. The 2632nd also logged 22,000 miles without an accident, and it attained the state's retention goal rate of 85 percent for the second year in a row, while scoring a battalion-best 98 percent on the Command Maintenance Evaluation Team inspection. The unit scored at least 95 percent on all its inspections, setting an example for other companies to emulate. The unit

also established a relationship with Western Trucking School for Class A Licensing, and one Soldier won a full scholarship to the school. The 2632nd provides continuing support to the Accession Task Force Soldiers and their missions, and it remains poised for challenges that lie ahead in 2010.

749th CSSB

The 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion continued to support the community by participating in a Veterans Day parade, hosting a job fair and supporting the California State Prison System's annual softball fundraising tournament. The 749th conducted driver training on an up-armored extended-capacity HMMWV course with Task Force Warrior, which qualified more than 40 CSSB Soldiers on 20 Warrior Tasks. Additionally, the 749th hosted a Family Readiness Group training session at the Benicia Armory. The battalion continues to reconstitute its roster in preparation for its upcoming deployment.

349th QM

During 2009 the 349th Quartermaster Company "War Dawgs" provided several Soldiers to support Camp San Luis Obispo with operational logistics support during annual training. The unit also provided Soldiers and equipment for a recruiting event at an Oakland A's baseball game and at a Veterans Day Parade. The War Dawgs are also very proud of their 2009 Holiday Toy Drive. The War Dawgs collected more than 50 toys for donation to the Hope Haven Transitional Shelter for homeless women and children, a nonprofit funded by the city of Vallejo.

297th ASMC

The 297th Area Support Medical Company, based in San Mateo, Calif., provided medical support during field training exercises, live-fire exercises and deployment mobilizations for National Guard units and ROTC programs. Overseas medical support was provided for the Talisman Saber exercise in Rockhampton, Australia, and the 8th Army Command in Seoul, South Korea. Mobile strike teams vaccinated California National Guard units and conducted mobilization training for Soldiers deploying from Fort Bliss, Texas, in support of operations Iraqi



Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The company also conducted Combat Lifesaver certification and recertification courses. In addition to the company's intense medical training and numerous mission requests, its Soldiers were also trained in specialized areas such as water survival and SWAT close-quarters combat.

2668th TC

The 2668th Transportation Company went through a transition in 2009 as it merged with Company A, 297th Support Battalion. The 2668th also provided a platoon of Soldiers to deploy with the 1498th Transportation Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, the 2668th completed numerous missions throughout the state, supporting local schools, communities and governments.

185th QM

The 185th Quartermaster Battalion participated in Veteran's Day parades in Fresno, Bakersfield, San Jose and Stockton; the Oildale Toy Run; the Bakersfield Toy Run; and Operation Soulwinner, which raised donations exceeding 3,000 toys, two tons of food and \$38,000 for families in Bakersfield. The 185th conducted drivers training and licensed more than 200 Soldiers in their respective vehicles during annual training. In June the battalion provided transportation support for the Motor Transport Operator course for the 223rd Infantry Regiment. Additionally, equipment such as 27 expanded-capacity HMMWVs and 65 trailers was sent to subordinate units. In January 2010, subordinate units will receive 73 more trailers and 86 flat racks.

223rd Infantry Regiment

The 223rd Infantry Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI) provides training for National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to acquire the skills necessary to accomplish the missions of combatant commanders at the state and national levels. Whether providing a military occupational specialty-qualification, leadership or combat skill-related course, the 223rd RTI's mission is to provide exceptional training to the nation's warfighters. It is this drive for excellence that has made the 223rd RTI the premier training organization in the region.

In 2009, the 223rd RTI made significant strides in its continued effort to support the federal and state missions that characterize the spirit of the National Guard and the citizen-Soldier concept. While continuing to conduct numerous military occupational specialty (MOS) and non-MOS courses, the RTI also took on and prepared to conduct a number of new courses.

It was an exceptional year of training, with the 223rd RTI conducting MOS and advanced noncommissioned officer (NCO) course training for military police, motor transport operators, wheel mechanics, generator mechanics, track vehicle mechanics and Bradley Fighting Vehicle mechanics. The RTI trained a total of 554 Soldiers who then returned to their parent commands fully qualified and combat-ready. In addition, the 223rd RTI trained an additional 502 Soldiers in a number of leadership and combat skill-oriented courses, including the Army Basic Instructor, Small Group Instructor Trainer, Company Level Pre-Command, Combat Lifesaver, Additional Skill Identifier Recovery Operations and Combatives Level 1 courses. The training year at the 223rd RTI culminated with the Platoon Leaders Course, Officer Candidate School graduation and the Soldier of the Year competition.

The 223rd RTI also found time to get involved with the State Partnership Program and with training aimed at achieving Joint Vision 2020. California's newest state partner, Nigeria, sent delegates from its Army



to receive and observe Army Basic Instructor training and Combatives training conducted by 2nd Battalion, 223rd Infantry Regiment, in the summer. The Nigerian Soldiers were impressed with their training and took skills home to pass along and strengthen their NCO Corps. To further strengthen the relationship with Nigeria, the 223rd RTI sent two instructors to Nigeria to oversee training.

Also, 16 active-duty Airmen from the 30th Combat Engineer Squadron at nearby Vandenberg Air Force Base completed the Modern Army Combative Program Level 1 Course. The engineers deploy alongside members of the Army, and detachment leader Master Sgt. Derrill McDonald sought out the training because he felt it was crucial and keeping in line with Joint Vision 2020 that Airmen be trained to the same standard as their Army counterparts.

In keeping with its motto, "Siempre Adelante," or always forward, the 223rd RTI stands ready to provide exceptional training and support to both the state and national missions. In 2010, the 223rd RTI will add to its ever-expanding mission by providing unit-supply-specialist MOS training and a traditional Warrant Officer Candidate School as well as the Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced and Modern Army Combative Program Level II courses. Additionally, the RTI is looking forward to instructing active-duty-component Soldiers under the One Army School System concept, and it will continue to work diligently with the various accrediting components of the Army Training and Doctrine Command to meet the challenge of providing the skills necessary to fight terrorism and meet the nation's challenges at home and abroad.

224th Sustainment Brigade

The “Dragon Slayers” of the 224th Sustainment Brigade had an eventful 2009. The year began with notification that the unit would deploy in 2010. As the unit began to prepare for mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, many training and Soldier-readiness events lay ahead.

Many personnel were sent for train-the-trainer courses, and Soldiers participated in weapons qualification, driver training, land navigation exercises, battle drills and Combat Lifesaver Courses while performing many other essential Army Warrior Tasks. The dedication and hard work each Soldier put forth enabled the unit to be well-prepared for mobilization in the near future.

Soldier readiness plays a critical role in preparation for deployments. Several Soldier Readiness Processing missions were conducted throughout 2009 at Camp Roberts. More than 350 Soldiers from the 224th were processed. Through each step of the pre-mobilization period, the unit’s staff worked hard to ensure the success of the 2010 mobilization.

Also during 2009 the brigade’s 251st Financial Management Detachment (FMD) provided full-spectrum financial management operations in support of Kosovo Force 11, a NATO peacekeeping operation supported by many Cal Guard Soldiers. The 251st conducted more than 100 financial management support team missions and served 2,200 U.S. and allied military personnel, contractors and civilians. The unit maintained accountability of \$2.1 million with no loss of funds throughout the deployment while performing 4,200 currency conversions and 4,500 Stored Value Card transactions. It also cashed more than 1,800 checks and 34,500 cash collection vouchers, including 1,150 savings deposit program transactions and 3,100 contract payments. The 251st also managed military pay accounts for 1,364 Soldiers and temporary duty travel for more than 1,500 Soldiers and civilians.

While the 251st was deployed to Kosovo, another of the brigade’s finance detachments, the 223rd FMD, was preparing for deployment to Iraq. In addition to conducting the traditional Soldier Readiness Processing and train-the-trainer activities, the unit deployed to Ft. McCoy, Wisc., for finance training. However, the highlight of the FMD’s preparation was its premobilization training at Camp Roberts, where it achieved a 100 percent pass rate for every premobilization task. Families and the community provided a send off for the unit at the Azusa Armory in October, when the FMD again left for Ft. McCoy for further preparation followed by deployment to Iraq.

Recognizing that mission readiness is directly tied to family readiness, the Dragonslayers have worked to develop a comprehensive Family Readiness Group. During 2009, unit-level volunteer Family Readiness Group leaders were identified and trained, and they actively worked with all units to ensure Soldiers, families and employers were well-prepared for the rigors of deployment and extended absence. The Family Readiness Group supported multiple Yellow Ribbon premobilization programs, including the deployment ceremony for the 223rd FMD.

The Family Readiness Group is a visible presence in each of the brigade’s four armories on a monthly basis, with Family Readiness Group volunteers meeting on site with Soldiers and families. The Family Readiness Group has established educational resource centers at each armory, offering current briefing materials and other resources detailing Guard benefits and programs. The battalion Family Readiness Group leader contributes articles to the unit newsletter on a monthly basis and briefs unit leadership on Family Readiness Group activities and concerns. As 2009 drew to a close, the Family Readiness Group had grown from five key leaders to more than 40 volunteers.



1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group



In 2009 the 1106th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot transformed into the 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG). The new design restructured this diverse group into three organizations — the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Company A (aviation maintenance) and Company B (ground support), providing a self-sustaining command with units in Fresno and Santa Barbara, Calif.

The command supports year-round back-up aviation intermediate maintenance and limited depot maintenance for Army National Guard aviation units in 13 western states. The TASMG's mission is to provide a ready force to the federal government and a ready force to the citizens of California by providing military support to civilian authorities during natural disasters and other emergencies. In addition the TASMG provides service and support to local communities.

In March the 1106th AVCRAD mobilized and deployed in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The primary mission is sustaining Army aviation in the Southwest Asia Theater.

What makes the 1106th special is that it is one of only four TASMG units in the Army National Guard. The TASMG commitment continues to improve with every rotation, and contributions have impacted opera-

tions across the entire theater, from Kuwait and Iraq to Afghanistan. During its rotation in Southwest Asia, the 1106th has complet-

ed thousands of work orders and repaired countless aviation components, saving the government a great sum of money.





Air National Guard

129th Rescue Wing

After saving lives at home during natural disasters in 2008, members of the 129th Rescue Wing (RQW) deployed in 2009 to save hundreds of lives around the globe. As one of three Air National Guard rescue wings nationwide, the military and the state of California depend on the unique capabilities of the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, the MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft and the highly trained pararescue men of the 129th.

In April members of the 129th RQW began their incredible journey of saving lives in southern Afghanistan. One-hundred HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crew members, maintainers and support personnel from the 129th provided 24-hour rescue alert at Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion in Helmand province. Stationed close to combat zones, the unit improved its response time to meet the secretary of defense's mandate to recover critically injured patients from anywhere on the battlefield in less than one hour, which is known as "the golden hour." During the deployment, the 129th was in charge of battlefield combat medical evacuation of all joint, coalition and Afghan National forces operating within Regional Command South, Afghanistan. The 129th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (ERQS) also routinely provided time-critical life-saving medical attention to Afghan citizens who were either wounded by enemy fighters or simply injured in everyday incidents.



In May more than 50 Airmen, along with two MC-130P Combat Shadow tanker aircraft, deployed to Djibouti for approximately 40 days in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. The previous month, 23 pararescuemen returned from a four-month deployment to Djibouti, also in support of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa mission.

In preparation for deployment, the 129th trained and worked with multiple federal agencies. After wrapping up a day of vertical insertion training with Coast Guard members Jan. 29, an HH-60G helicopter crew and Coast Guardsmen saved a downed civilian pilot off the coast of Pillar Point, Calif. Unit members also assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in February by transporting critically needed facility batteries to the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge.

Nestled in the world's technology epicenter, it was fitting that the 129th Rescue Wing's 130th Rescue Squadron was the first to successfully demonstrate coalition personnel recovery operations using net-enabled data link capabilities during the U.S. Joint Forces Command exercise Bold Quest 2009. Because of the 129th's proactive technological efforts, rescue forces will no longer be constrained to voice-only communications in their lifesaving missions.

Glowing achievements and national recognition of the professionalism and excellence of 129th personnel kept rolling in throughout the year. The wing was the recipient of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the National Guard Association of the United States' Spaatz Trophy, which is presented to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard.

Numerous wing members also received national-level awards for their on- and off-duty accomplishments. Staff Sgt. Alejandro Alvarado was named the Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Reserve Airman of the Year; Master Sgt. Jessica Jackson received the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Outstanding Achievement Award (Local Category); Lt. Col. Susan Pangelinan received the Department of Defense Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Role Model Award; Tech. Sgt. Fernando Wilkins brought home two awards — the National Image Inc. Meritorious Service Award and the National Organization for Mexican American Rights Meritorious Service Award; and Staff Sgt. Sean Pellaton received the Staff Sgt. Henry E. "Red" Erwin Award (Airman Category). This long list of award recipients shows that professional and community efforts reflect a tradition of outstanding work and dedication to the 129th Rescue Wing motto, "These Things We Do, That Others May Live."



144th Fighter Wing

The 144th Fighter Wing concluded another year of outstanding accomplishments and unit recognition for its hard work and volunteerism in the spirit of the California Air National Guard. From preparing for an operational readiness inspection to deploying personnel in support of contingencies overseas, members of the 144th earned both state and national awards for their achievements in 2009.

The 144th's primary mission is to provide air defense for California, spanning 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 of California. The unit primarily operates out of the Air National Guard Base in Fresno, Calif., but also maintains a second alert detachment at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif.

In addition to the 24-hour-a-day operation of two alert sites, the 144th continued to support operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in 2009, with 44 personnel deployed to several bases throughout the world.

In February the unit deployed five F-16s and 90 maintenance personnel to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in support of the Weapons System Evaluation Program. The program is a high operations tempo exercise involving multiple aircraft models competing against each other in what is known as dissimilar air combat training. The F-16 aircraft from Fresno flew as enemy aircraft against the F-22 Raptors.

In August more than 50 members of the 144th Civil Engineering Squadron traveled to Guam to take part in a mission at a remote regional training site for the 554th Red Horse Squadron on Andersen Air Force Base.

Sixty-eight members of the Medical Group deployed to Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., for a week-long Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) exercise in April. The CERFP is a rapid response team responsible for quick reaction to a weapon of mass destruction incident or terrorist attack and also to any potentially hazardous man-made or natural disaster.

Air National Guard F-16 pilots from the 144th faced off against F-15 Eagle pilots from the 199th Fighter Squadron at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, in September during a two-week exercise called Sentry Aloha. The 144th deployed approximately 94 Airmen and seven F-16s to the exercise. After their arrival, both squadrons began a full flying schedule of training scenarios, flying more than 85 sorties during the two-week exercise.

The 144th Fighter Wing pilots flew a total of 2,676 sorties and 3,850 flight hours this past year. Since September 11, 2001, the 144th has flown more than 1,500 combat air patrol sorties in support of Operation Noble Eagle, the homeland security mission.



In the spirit of volunteerism, the 144th Fighter Wing continues to be an integral part of the local community. Wing members participated in numerous aircraft flyovers and community events in 2009 for organizations and events such as Habitat for Humanity, Tree Fresno, the Community Food Bank and the Children's Hospital Radiothon in addition to having a large presence at the Fresno Veteran's Day Parade. The wing also continued its long-time support for the holiday programs Toys for Tots and Silent Sleigh. Additionally in 2009, the wing's "Young Heroes" program presented medals to four children who have shown great strength in fighting a life-threatening illness.

The wing also received nationwide attention again this year for its outstanding Family Readiness Program and its award-winning Eagle Eyes antiterrorism program.

The state of California also recognized the accomplishments of several groups within the 144th for their outstanding service in 2009 by awarding them the Governor's Outstanding Unit Award: the 144th Mission Support Group, 144th Services Flight and 144th Security Forces Squadron.

146th Airlift Wing



The year 2009 was a time of extraordinary accomplishments for the 146th Airlift Wing. The unit was recognized for several outstanding achievements as it continued its support of stateside and overseas missions, executed numerous training events, and continued to demonstrate its ability to adapt and thrive within changing times.

The wing started off the year by executing a home-station operational readiness exercise followed by an operational readiness inspection in Alpena, Mich., under harsh cold-weather conditions in March. True to form, the unit earned an overall "excellent" rating, further proving that the Airmen's diligence, teamwork and years of dedicated preparation were worthwhile.

Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) training took place in late spring and resulted in the full certification of a next-generation, state-of-the-art airborne fire retardant delivery system, the MAFFS 2. This new equipment, coupled with the wing's C-130J aircraft, makes the 146th Airlift Wing the most modern fleet of military aerial fire-fighting aircraft in the world. Several high-ranking military delegations from around the world, including Slovenia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, visited the wing to learn about the new MAFFS 2 equipment and the C-130J platform.

In May and June the wing deployed an aviation package to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to participate in Operation Joint Endeavor, an annual deployment supporting airlift

needs for the United States European Command. The unit has participated in the mission for more than 15 years. While overseas the 146th was given the distinct honor of representing the Department of Defense, as well as the state of California, at the 100th annual Paris Airshow. Air crew members showed off the wing's new C-130J to high-level military members from around the world as the California flag waved proudly from the top hatch of the airplane.

The wing also deployed an aviation package in October to participate in Operation Cope India, an international joint exercise conducted out of Air Force Station Agra, India. The exercise focused on training for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Air crew from several countries shared valuable resources and information while performing tactical training missions.

The Security Forces Squadron and Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed a total of more than 60 members in late 2009 for a six-month tour in Iraq and Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In late December the wing began deploying a large aviation package of more than 70 Airmen to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

As 2009 was designated the "Year of the Noncommissioned Officer," the wing recognized more than 60 of its members who were promoted into the ranks of NCOs and Senior NCOs during two induction ceremonies.

The wing was also the first in the state to hold the "Hometown Heroes Salute," as more than 900 Airmen and their families were honored for their selfless service and were thanked for sacrifices made since September 11, 2001. Following the ceremony, more than 1,300 people who attended the event took part in a historic group photo on the flightline.

The 146th Airlift Wing's Logistics Readiness Squadron received national recognition in 2009, setting Air Force-wide records and winning four national awards and a combined 10 individual and unit awards. Awards bestowed upon the unit include the 2009 Verne Orr Award, awarded to the Air Force Unit that makes the most of its human resources and best use of its people to achieve its full potential to accomplish the mission; the 2008 Air Reserve Component Logistics Readiness Squadron of the Year; and the 2008 Air National Guard Logistics Readiness Squadron of the Year. Tech. Sgt. Brian Miliefsky, a loadmaster with the 115th Airlift Squadron, was honored with the Air Force Association's Earl T. Ricks Award for exceptional airmanship under hazardous combat conditions. The 146th Recruiting Office additionally received the California Commander's Cup for the second year in a row, along with four other individual awards won two years consecutively.

The success of the 146th Airlift Wing continues with a tradition of strength, teamwork and dedication, facing the future's challenges with confidence and resolve.

162nd Combat Communications Group

What a great year 2009 was for the 162nd Combat Communications Group. As it continued to transition from a strategic reserve to an operational force, the group was fully engaged in the war effort every time its Airmen reported for duty.

The 147th Combat Communications Squadron, located in San Diego, spent the year preparing for an operational readiness inspection scheduled for late January 2010. In addition the unit brought online a new Air Force-wide training application and received an “Outstanding” rating on its communications security inspection. Eagle Vision, a family of satellite ground stations that downlink commercial imagery, continued to be a tremendous asset supporting natural disasters and Air Force exercises throughout the year, downloading 8,362 satellite images in 2009.

In the area of space operations, the 148th Space Operations Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base worked hard in 2009 to prepare for the next generation of Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellites that will provide secure and jam-resistant communications for high-priority military users. The new operations center will provide command and control for these satellites, greatly increasing the Department of Defense’s capability to provide real-time video, battle-field maps and targeting data.

The 149th Combat Communications Squadron at North Highlands Air National Guard Station leaned forward to provide communications-maintenance support and expertise for the RQ-4 Global Hawk system at Beale Air Force Base. The squadron also supported the Defense Threat Reduction Agency’s mission at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., the Makani Pahili Hurricane Exercise in Hawaii, the Global Medic training mission at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., and numerous Air Expeditionary Force missions.

Also located at Vandenberg, the 216th Operations Support Squadron provided critical support for the continued success of U.S. Strategic Command’s Joint Space Operations Center. The squadron provided operational training; directed space support to military theaters around the globe; persistently tracked more than 20,000 man-made space objects in orbit around the earth; and enabled 100 percent command and control coverage of military satellite constellations.

The 222nd Communications Maintenance Flight, located at Beale, supported more than 400 RQ-4 Global Hawk operational missions worldwide and generated more than 100,000 images for the war fighters. The 222nd designed and supported circuits for 54 test flights, resolving long-standing operational issues in support of Mission Control Element operations. Tech Sgt. Tim Brennan became the first Air National Guard member to be dedicated crew chief on the RQ-4 Block 20 Mission Control Element.

Co-located at Beale is the 222nd Intelligence Support Squadron. This new squadron was designated and activated in April 2008, and it is already 90 percent manned. It has successfully integrated with the



Distributed Common Ground Systems enterprise. Operationally, members hold numerous key leadership positions within the active duty units at Beale. The squadron is recognized at Headquarters Air Force and the National Guard Bureau as a foremost example of a model for Total Force Integration.

The 222nd Operations Support Squadron at Beale has been a critical force provider for the Distributed Common Ground Systems. Unit members are pivotal to the success of imagery exploitation throughout the year. Twelve unit members served during an Air Guard partial mobilization in 2009, providing an unparalleled corporate knowledge base for the entire Distributed Common Ground Systems enterprise.

The 234th Intelligence Squadron, also located at Beale, continued to excel in its operational mission to work shoulder-to-shoulder with active duty counterparts; exploit data from U-2 aircraft, Global Hawk and Predator weapon systems; and provide near-real-time target and threat analysis to the warfighter around the clock. The 234th classic associate with active duty is another example of a successful Total Force Integration endeavor. The squadron is growing in strength and capability daily.

The 261st Combat Communications Squadron in Van Nuys, Calif., had a busy year as unit members prepared for a very successful unit compliance inspection. Additionally the squadron provided Air Expeditionary Forces and sent two tactical communications packages and 10 people to Hawaii in direct support of an annual hurricane exercise. The unit also sent a Joint Incident Site Communication Capability package in support of the 146th Airlift Wing during its annual Modular Airborne Firefighting System training and certification exercise for the C-130J aircraft.

Overall, it was another successful year of mission transformation for the 162nd Combat Communications Group, setting the standard for Air Force Total Force operations.

163rd Reconnaissance Wing

The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing started 2009 with another first for the Air National Guard, as an MQ-1 Predator lifted off the runway in February, marking the first Predator flight in the United States for a Guard unit. In March the first student from the wing's Flying Training Unit operated an MQ-1 Predator. This, coupled with the graduation of the unit's first Flying Training Unit class, solidified the wing as the first Air National Guard unit to stand up a Predator Flying Training Unit.

Throughout 2009 the wing's Operations Group maintained a combat presence in the global war on terrorism, providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support with precision strike capability. The 196th Reconnaissance Squadron amassed 40,000 combat support flying hours in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The maintenance group recently made history when it received three Block 15 MQ-1 Predators, making the wing the first Air National Guard unit to receive Block 15 Predators. The group passed three major inspections by the Air National Guard, Air Combat Command and Air Education and Training Command, all milestone inspections as the very first for an Air Force Predator Remotely Piloted Vehicle unit. Additionally the group incorporated five equipment installations, deployed five people in support of Predator combat operations and trained 310 maintainers at the Field Training Detachment.

The medical group was heavily involved in supporting Predator operations. Physicians and emergency medical technicians have been activated to fill the 196th Squadron Medical Element, with additional medical personnel deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Nevada and England. Air Force medical personnel have augmented the Chemical, Bio-

logical, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) medical unit and supported the civilian Golden Guardian disaster exercises.

The focus for the Security Forces Squadron was the safe return of nearly half of its personnel from Iraq in February after a six-month deployment. While in Iraq members conducted air base ground defense missions, which included working a security detail for the U.S. president. Unit members also deployed several times in support of detainee-transport security operations at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Members provided security for the state Airman of the Year banquet. Two squadron members were selected as Airmen of the Year, Master Sgt. Troy Deyo and Staff Sgt. Brian Uribe.

The Civil Engineer Squadron, responsible for more than 300,000 square feet of wing facilities, also hosts the Air National Guard's West Coast Regional Training Site, which provides critical civil engineering wartime training for active duty and reserve service members. The squadron also supported many construction projects, including facility renovations at Guantanamo Bay and the Department of Homeland Security's Mexico border fence project. The squadron continues to execute large military construction projects at March Air Reserve Base and the Southern California Logistics Airport.

The Logistics Readiness Squadron mobilized 168 wing members in support of Predator operations, 112 in support of Air Expeditionary Force operations and 64 in support of humanitarian missions in Bosnia and Guatemala. Additionally two members of the squadron won individual awards at the national level, with Staff Sgt. Richard Silva winning the 2009 Air Reserve Component Vehi-

cle Management Airman of the Year Award and Staff Sgt. Terrence Mananes winning the 2009 Air National Guard's Outstanding Honor Guard Airman of the Year Award.

The Force Support Squadron was activated Sept. 1, 2009, through the merger of the services and mission support flights. The squadron provided support to the wing, including personnel accountability for the operational Predator mission and assistance to units across the nation for readiness, training and mission requirements.

The Communications Flight continues to be an integral facet of day-to-day operational support, including the creation and execution of training programs, procedures and policies. The flight generated innovative communication remedies empowering the wing to ensure an aggressive combat authority overseas while concurrently providing support to the Field Training Detachment and Flying Training Unit.

Community involvement remained a cornerstone to ensuring public support for the Guard. The wing participated in several events, including a Memorial Day event honoring deceased veterans, the Riverside National Cemetery Roll Call, the Dr. Seuss National Reading Day Program, the Camp Pendleton Mud Run, the Los Angeles Marathon and the National Guard Biathlon trials.

As a testament to the 163rd's mission dedication, the wing received a 95 percent compliant rating during its August Air Combat Command Unit Compliance Inspection. Eighteen individual superior performance awards and four superior performance team awards were received. The Wing also was awarded its 8th National Guard Bureau Top Five Flying Unit Award.





California State Military Reserve

California State Military Reserve

The California State Military Reserve provides a trained, disciplined and ready force of 840 Soldiers and Airmen to the adjutant general to support the California Army and Air National Guard and the Joint Staff. During a change of command ceremony in January, Brig. Gen. Emory "Jack" Hagan handed over command of the CSMR to then-Colonel Roland Candee (he has since been promoted to brigadier general).

The CSMR graduated a class of officer candidates and warrant officer candidates Dec. 5. It was the fourth such CSMR class to graduate.

All members of the CSMR Air Component have prior Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard experience. At Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, the CSMR's 146th Airlift Wing Support Detachment provided assistance to the Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing in 2009, including preparation for its Operational Readiness Inspection. Support Detachment personnel also put the CSMR Family Readiness Program into operation, supporting Air Guard and CSMR families.

CSMR Airmen also acted as instructors for the 146th Combat Arms Training Team and trained new recruits in elements of drill and ceremony, Air Force history and military customs. Additionally CSMR Airmen instructed 146th Airlift Wing personnel on Islam and Arab culture and language. The training was originally geared toward Iraqi



Arabic, but CSMR instructors were able to supplement the material with Pashto and Modern Standard Arabic.

In 2009, for the first time, the California Air Force Association recognized the CSMR by presenting two members with military awards as CSMR officer and Airman of the year.



The CSMR's 100th Troop Command Support Brigade in November took part in a multi-agency search-and-rescue exercise at Camp Parks. The exercise included CSMR Soldiers, a squadron of Civil Air Patrol cadets and seniors, members of the Coast Guard, Soldiers from the Cal Guard's 1113th Transportation Company and mem-

bers of the Contra Costa County Search and Rescue Team.

The CSMR Small Arms Training Team's (SATT) contributions included range-qualifying for the 49th Military Police Brigade at Camp Roberts, Calif. The team also supervised marksmanship competitors from various Cal Guard units at Camp Roberts.

CSMR chaplains provided 24 casualty notifications for the active duty Army, 48 funerals for all branches of service and 86 briefings for Yellow Ribbon and Strong Bonds events or symposia. Additionally CSMR chaplains provided 284 counseling sessions, 25 hospital visitations, nine suicide interventions and 18 suicide, safety, stand-down briefings with ongoing support.

Installation Support Group South supported Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos in security, fire, public works and Color Guard missions. Installation Support Group security section Soldiers assisted JFTB-Los Alamitos with main-gate security, dispatch, traf-

fic control and patrolling of the installation. The Installation Support Group engineering section repaired buildings and completed construction projects such as installing new windows and picnic tables at the Veterans Service Center.

The Southern Region Support Command tasked Soldiers of the 4th Military Police Battalion to provide instruction, opposition force and observer/controller services for the 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion during its annual training on Camp Roberts.

The 4th MP Battalion also provided law enforcement operations training on Ft. Irwin, Calif., including instruction on traffic stops, field interview techniques, gun retention and takeaway as well as information on gang operations, dress, tattoos, history and impact on the military.

The California Center for Military History conducted a combined training assembly at Camp San Luis Obispo in March. Sessions during the assembly included "Military History Operations in Support of the Global War on Terrorism" and "The National Guard and CSMR Unit Historical Operations and Requirement."

CSMR judge advocate officers supported the Operation We Care family support program with legal briefings at local armories. Legal assistance operations continue in Fresno, Los Alamitos, San Diego, San Jose and Stockton. Judge advocate officers also provided Family Day and homecoming legal briefings at JTFB-Los Alamitos.

A draft CSMR Family Readiness Plan was prepared by the CSMR's public and civil affairs office and presented during The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness in Burlingame, Calif. Public affairs personnel also attended National Guard media relations training at JFTB-Los Alamitos in August.

Additionally, the CSMR's Youth Programs Support Group, based at four locations state-wide, trained at-risk youths and provided the Color Guard for a drug awareness event during an Oakland A's baseball game.





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.

www.esgr.org



Missions and Programs

Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug



The California National Guard counterdrug program saw its first operations in 1983, but it did not receive yearlong support until 1990. Since that time, the program has evolved to accommodate the increased demand to support community-based organizations and law enforcement agencies.

Fiscal year 2009 brought significant changes to the program. The greatest change was a transition to a more efficient program focused on achieving greater success with fewer resources. The transition of the program was captured with the change of its name from the Cal Guard Counterdrug Task Force to the Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug.

The task force in 2009 exceeded the previous year's accomplishments, despite having only 197 full-time personnel in the program — a large reduction from its highest point of 525 personnel. The task force's Drug Demand Reduction program, with only 19 personnel, provided support that impacted more than 68,000 children in California. That level of efficiency was achieved by establishing a partnership with the statewide coalition Forces United, which focuses on developing networks of community-based organizations to achieve greater success through a united focus of efforts.

The success of the Joint Task Force transition can also be seen through the success of Operation Save Our Sierras (SOS). The task force entered Operation SOS this year with 34 Guard personnel — fewer than half the number of military personnel utilized in previous focused operations. In 2009, Operation SOS met or exceeded all previous marks of success by making 90 arrests, seizing 32 weapons, eradicating more than 400,000 marijuana plants and extracting 18 dump truck loads of trash, including 4,050 pounds of fertilizer and



21.3 pounds of pesticide from national forests and public lands.

In fiscal year 2009, the counterdrug program saw a dramatic increase in drug seizures. The Joint Task Force supported operations that seized 1,639 pounds of methamphetamine, 5.3 million marijuana plants, 951 pounds of cocaine, 245 pounds of heroin and 31,013 pounds of processed marijuana. Those totals represented year-over-year increases ranging 65 percent to 819 percent.

While those numbers speak volumes for the accomplishments of the counterdrug program, the greatest success is the ever-growing number of children who have been given the example of a drug-free lifestyle through positive interactions with the California National Guard's finest service members.

Youth Programs

The California National Guard Youth Programs serve California communities and families by delivering national-level, high-quality educational programs within a military-structured environment. By concentrating efforts on youths who represent the greatest risk, these programs provide the foundation adolescents need to build better lives for themselves.

Sunburst Youth Academy

Sunburst Youth ChalleNGe Academy welcomed its largest group of cadets to the newly renovated academy headquarters and barracks building at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos in 2009. In only its second year, Sunburst has positioned itself as a model program delivering exceptional service to cadets. Sunburst serves students who have either dropped out of high school or are at risk of dropping out. Sunburst is a tremendous option for students who want a second chance to change their lives and finish high school.

Grizzly Youth Academy

Grizzly Youth ChalleNGe Academy received the coveted and prestigious California Department of Education's Golden Bell Award for Excellence in Education in 2009. Grizzly cadets were awarded 92 high school diplomas, 15 general educational development (GED) credentials, one alternative high school diploma and 17,600 high school credits. In addition, Grizzly Cadets completed more than



18,690 community service hours with an estimated value of \$140,175.

Judged the best Youth ChalleNGe Program in the country in 2005, Grizzly continues to offer a life-changing experience for youths aged 16 to 18. The mission of the academy is to intervene in the lives of at-risk youths and produce graduates with the values, skills and discipline to succeed as adults. The 17 ½-month program includes a 22-week residential phase on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Oakland Military Institute

A college prep academy that far exceeds the state average with more than 90 percent of graduates bound for college, Oakland Military Institute offers a positive learning environment that is enhanced by leadership, teamwork and the structured discipline of the military. The academy serves students in grades 6 through 12.

More than 70 percent of OMI's graduating seniors were placed in a four-year college or university in 2009. OMI began the 2009-10 school year with its largest enrollment in history, with 608 cadets. OMI received the California Cadet Corps Superior Unit Award and was awarded 1st Place in the Community Service Competition.

Alternative Placement Academy

The Santa Clara Alternative Placement Academy serves Santa Clara County students in grades 9 through 12 who are wards of the

court. It gives them an opportunity to continue their education in a closely supervised and disciplined school setting.

The academy saw nine students graduate in 2009. Recording artists Jay-Z and Tony Williams also visited the academy in February to encourage the cadets to stay focused on their education and future.

STARBASE

Since 1993 the nationwide STARBASE program has served 5th 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. More than 4,800 students participated in the California STARBASE program in 2009, the highest number in any single year. California's STARBASE enrollment accounts for almost 10 percent of all students and 14 percent of all schools that participate nationwide.

Cadet Corps

Established in 1911, the Cadet Corps is a school-based applied leadership program conducted within a military framework. The Cadet Corps is designed to provide maximum growth and leadership opportunities for cadets in middle school through high school. In 2009 the Cadet Corps partnered with the state legislature, Department of Education and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps to allow cadets to receive physical education credit for completing the curriculum.



Operation Ready Families



"The California National Guard requires active, participatory and sustained Family Readiness Groups to serve the needs of the unit, its members and their families. The mission of the California National Guard requires it, and the Soldiers, Airmen and the entire community-of-concern deserve it. ... The Family Readiness mission will not diminish as operational requirements moderate. In fact, new requirements will take the Guard across the ocean, into other states and into California cities. Another focus is providing support to returning warriors and their loved ones. Assistance through reintegration and reunion is paramount; failing them is not acceptable, and Family Readiness is a vital element of their support."

— Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II
The Adjutant General, 2005-10

Family Readiness Vision

A fully supportive military chain-of-command working with a fully functioning community-of-concern to enhance the wellness and readiness of the California National Guard.



Did you know Operation Ready Families offers something for everyone? If you're single, there are classes that teach the skills for finding the right partner and building a great relationship. For married couples, the Strong Bonds course strengthens the marital bond, giving couples the tools and information they need for better communication and relationship-building. And families can learn effective communication and listening skills from courses offered in 2010.

Check out the Operation Ready Families site at www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies. You can also find our page on Facebook.

Upcoming Events

Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs conference: March 12-14, 2010, in Clovis, Calif.

The Sisterhood aims to unite military daughters in sisterly support; inspire them with speakers, breakout sessions and symposia; and encourage military girls to lead in their communities. The Sisterhood will send attendees out into their communities as mentors, leaders, champions for military youths and glass-ceiling crashers. To register, visit www.sisterhoodbdus.org.

The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness: April 9-11 in San Diego

Family Training Day is a new component of the symposium weekend this year. The goal is to create a magical experience for families of the Cal Guard to get lost in the moment and be present while receiving valuable training they can utilize throughout the year. Stations will be set up for families to choose the courses that will benefit them most. The theme this year is "Living in the Moment" — creating better quality time with your family. Everyone could use better time management skills, conflict management skills, health and wellness tips, and team-building skills.





A Look Back at 2009

January



Year of the NCO

The U.S. Army recognized 2009 as “The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer,” and the California National Guard celebrated with events and tributes throughout the year to highlight accomplishments of its NCOs. “At the front of every mission in the United States or overseas, you’ll find a noncommissioned officer,” Secretary of the Army Pete Geren said when announcing the Year of the NCO initiative. “They know their mission, they know their equipment, but most importantly, they know their Soldiers.”

Ready to fight fires

The Cal Guard rolled out two new Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems II, three Tactical Fire Fighting Trucks and two High-Mobility Water Tenders during an event at McClellan Air Park near Sacramento on Jan. 30, greatly increasing the Guard’s ability to assist firefighting agencies statewide. “We are lucky to have the best and bravest firefighters and National Guard troops in the world, and they are even more prepared with this new equipment,” Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said.



February



163rd breaks barriers

The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing became the first National Guard wing to open a school to fly and operate the Predator unmanned aerial system. At the same time, it became the first Guard wing to fly the Predator in the United States. The 163rd had already been the first Guard wing to receive the Predator mission and the first to open a Predator-maintenance schoolhouse.

I-126th comes home

More than 100 Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, returned after a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, where they conducted airlift operations with various coalition military forces. The company and its twelve CH-47 Chinook helicopters flew 7,270 flight hours and 1,974 missions, and they transported more than 46,700 passengers, 11.4 million pounds of internal cargo and 9.7 million pounds of external cargo.

March

40th ID returns to Kosovo

The 40th Infantry Division assumed responsibility for providing a safe and secure environment in Kosovo for the second time in less than five years when Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones unfurled the 40th ID's colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on March 7. About 1,200 Cal Guard Soldiers deployed to Camp Bondsteel for nine months in 2009.



Rising to the Challenge

The National Guard Youth Challenge Program recognized Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, bestowing on him the Challenge Champions Award for his efforts to offer troubled youths a second chance. The Cal Guard opened its second youth academy for dropouts and at-risk youths in 2008; there are 33 such academies nationwide.

April



Nelan attains rank of brigadier general

Daniel J. Nelan, assistant adjutant general, Army Division, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general April 9. Nelan enlisted in the Army in 1970 and served a combat tour in Vietnam as an assault helicopter pilot. He joined the California National Guard in 1976 and was commissioned as an officer in 1981.



April



CNG's last Huey flies into sunset

The California National Guard's last UH-1 Iroquois helicopter, or "Huey," took off from Mather Air Field near Sacramento on its final National Guard flight April 20. The Cal Guard has replaced its Hueys with more advanced UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. The Huey was renowned during its 50 years of military service as the Swiss Army knife of helicopters.



Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs

Two daughters of California National Guardsmen unveiled their Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs initiative during The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness. The sisterhood, a project to bring military daughters together from across California to share their experiences, was founded by Moranda Hern, 17, daughter of Lt. Col. Rick Hern of the 144th Fighter Wing, and Kaylei Deakin, 16, daughter of Maj. Lorren Deakin of the 578th Engineer Battalion. Hern and Deakin appeared on several national television programs in 2009 to publicize the project, and they solidified plans for the first Sisterhood conference, which will be held March 12-14, 2010, in Clovis, Calif.

May



129th notches 600th save, seventh Outstanding Unit Award

Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing rescued two Afghan National Army Soldiers on May 15, raising the number of lives saved by the unit to 601. About 100 service members and three of the wing's HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters deployed to Afghanistan for two to four months, beginning in early May. Only days before deploying, the wing received notice that it had won the 2008 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, marking the seventh time the 129th had earned the award. The award was granted for meritorious service from December 2006 through November 2008; during that period, the 129th was credited with saving 40 lives under extreme conditions.

June



Maj. Barnes dies in Afghanistan

Maj. Rocco M. Barnes, 51, died in Afghanistan following a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle rollover June 4. The Marine Corps had requested in 2008 that Barnes, a member of the 40th Infantry Division, be sent to Afghanistan to augment the Marines' force there. His exceptional performance working with Marines in Iraq in 2004 had prompted the request, and Barnes persistently pushed his commander to allow him to deploy. Barnes was killed while returning from a successful combat mission in Kabul province. He posthumously received a Bronze Star — his third — for meritorious service. Barnes enlisted in the Army in 1978 and also served in the Army Reserve and the Florida National Guard before moving to California in 1999 and joining the Cal Guard.

670th MPs head to Afghanistan

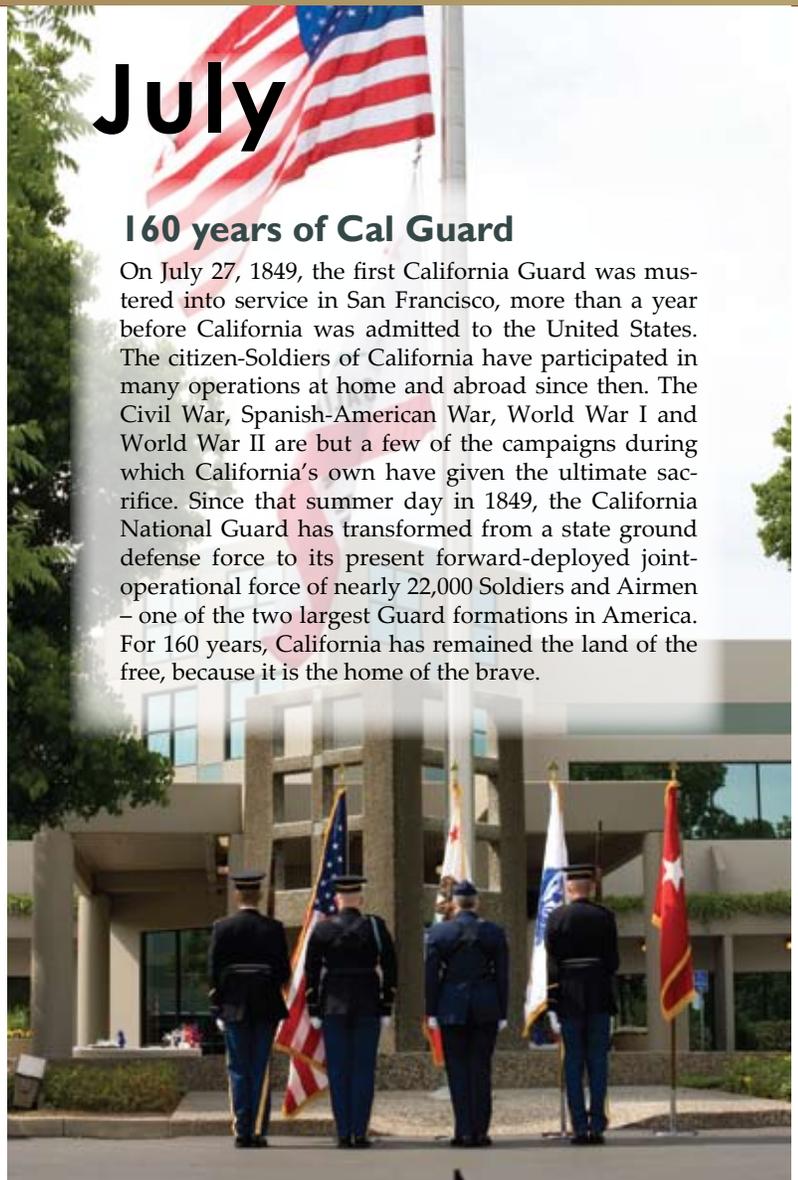
The "Street Fighters" of the 670th Military Police Company, 49th MP Brigade, sent 175 Soldiers to Fort Bliss, Texas, for two months of training followed by a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan to assist and train Afghan police in law enforcement and detainee-processing procedures.



July

160 years of Cal Guard

On July 27, 1849, the first California Guard was mustered into service in San Francisco, more than a year before California was admitted to the United States. The citizen-Soldiers of California have participated in many operations at home and abroad since then. The Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II are but a few of the campaigns during which California's own have given the ultimate sacrifice. Since that summer day in 1849, the California National Guard has transformed from a state ground defense force to its present forward-deployed joint-operational force of nearly 22,000 Soldiers and Airmen — one of the two largest Guard formations in America. For 160 years, California has remained the land of the free, because it is the home of the brave.

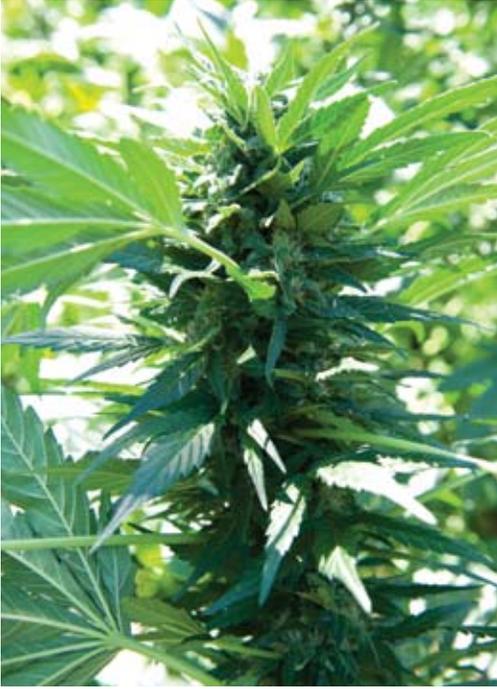


New education benefit

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program, which will provide a total of \$1.8 million for up to 1,000 service members to attend California colleges and universities in 2010. Prior to the signing, California had been the only state with no state-sponsored education benefit for its citizen-Soldiers.



July



Bud out!

Operation Save Our Sierra — an ongoing mission involving 17 local, state and federal agencies — raided marijuana gardens in state and public forests during July, resulting in the seizure of 32 weapons, 88 alleged criminals and 400,000 marijuana plants with a total value of more than \$1.1 billion. In addition the July haul included more than 30 miles of irrigation pipe, 17,000 pounds of garbage and 4,050 pounds of fertilizer, including toxic substances banned in the United States.

August



CNG names its first female Army general

Charlotte Miller made history in August, becoming the first female general officer in the California Army National Guard. Miller serves as assistant adjutant general for the California National Guard's Army Division. "Colonel Miller's promotion to general demonstrates her potential for positions of increased responsibility and complexity, demonstrating that the Army's 'band of brothers' is now a band of brothers and sisters," said Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard. Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, who is an officer in the state's Air National Guard and serves as assistant adjutant general for the California National Guard, is another shining example of equal opportunity for women in the Cal Guard. In the United States' reserve military components, there are 50 female general officers, including two from California.



Seeds of hope

A 63-member agricultural-business development team traveled to Afghanistan in August for a yearlong deployment to help plant seeds of hope. Farming experts, engineers, forestry professionals, power-generation specialists and animal consultants from the 40th Infantry Division deployed to teach Afghan farmers how to improve their business. President Barack Obama said during a December speech that the U.S. should focus its efforts in Afghanistan on areas such as agriculture, which can make an immediate impact on Afghans' lives.

Many happy returns

More than 1,000 Soldiers who supported Operation Iraqi Freedom returned to California in July and August, including 270 Soldiers of the 1498th Transportation Company, who spent a year in Iraq and Kuwait. The Cal Guard's 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, returned more than 800 Soldiers from a year-long tour in Iraq, including 260 Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, who were attached to the 1-185th. The 1498th transported equipment throughout Iraq, often recovering inoperable equipment such as M1 Battle Tanks. Using the Army's largest truck, the Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET), the company completed 123 combat logistics patrols, 24 transportation missions and 35 lead HET missions, hauling more than 181,000 tons and logging 1.9 million miles. The 1-185th performed a security force mission throughout Multi-National Division-North and executed more than 1,500 missions, totaling more than 1 million mission miles, without incident.



September

146th LRS wins national awards

The 146th Airlift Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS) earned the 2009 Verne Orr Award, which is awarded by the Air Force Association to the unit (active or reserve) that makes the best use of its human resources to achieve its full potential. Earlier in the year, the unit was also bestowed the 2008 Air National Guard LRS of the Year award and the 2008 Air Reserve Component Logistics Readiness Squadron of the Year award. Five members of the LRS were also recognized nationally for their individual achievements.



October



Meritorious engineering

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD), Engineer Brigade, 40th Infantry Division, was recognized with the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the HHD's performance in Iraq from May 13, 2006, to May 8, 2007. Among other projects during its deployment, the 29-Soldier unit built and renovated hospitals, police stations, roads, airports, electrical power stations and water treatment plants. The HHD doubled the proportion of the Iraqi population that had access to clean, potable water. The 40th ID Engineer Brigade was inactivated in 2007 after the HHD returned from Iraq.



1-168th evacuates 3,400 wounded

Seventy-five Soldiers of Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, returned from a 10-month tour in Afghanistan, during which they routinely rescued injured American service members and Afghan nationals. During the deployment, Company C transported and treated 3,400 patients, flew 2,200 missions and performed 51 combat hoists. During its 5,600 combat flight hours, Company C experienced no accidents and no injuries.



November

Governor's travels

Troops of the 49th Military Police Brigade received a pre-Thanksgiving treat when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Camp Victory, Iraq. Schwarzenegger ate breakfast with the troops, answered questions and spent time pumping iron with Soldiers. Upon his return to California, Schwarzenegger started an initiative, dubbed Operation Welcome Home, to help returning veterans obtain jobs and benefits for housing, education and health care, citing "a fundamental obligation to anyone who has shed or risked blood for this country."

Arabian flights

More than 40 Airmen of the 146th Airlift Wing's Security Forces Flight deployed Oct. 18 for a six-month tour in Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Airmen, who are trained in various areas of law enforcement, deployed to conduct routine air base defense. The flight also deployed to Iraq in 2007 and earned the governor's Outstanding Unit Award in 2007 and 2008.



December

TAG's new mission

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II announced he would step down as the adjutant general of the California National Guard to become deputy chief of staff for operations at Joint Forces Command-Naples, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Response Force. During his tenure as adjutant general, which began in September 2005, Wade oversaw the most comprehensive shift in direction the California National Guard had ever attempted: changing the organization from a strategic reserve to a globally deployable operational force. Among other tasks, Wade needed to solve long-standing equipment shortfalls, create family-care programs and found new initiatives to sustain mental health, all while Soldiers and Airmen were deploying overseas and protecting Californians and other Americans from natural disasters at home.



49th MP HHC returns to Iraq

More than 100 Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 49th Military Police (MP) Brigade, departed for a yearlong tour in Iraq, where the HHC assumed responsibility for the operation of five battalions comprising more than 5,000 Soldiers. The unit previously deployed in October 2005 for a year in Iraq; during that tour, the HHC created Iraq's first police transition teams (PTT), which combine civilians, brigade combat teams and MPs to streamline processes and improve communication between agencies. The company is expected to bring the PTT mission to a close during its current deployment.





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