



# California National Guard

## Fallen Comrades

The noted designations (hostile/non-hostile) of the service members honored on the CNG's Fallen Comrades page are those given by the Department of Defense under their authority and according to the following definitions.

**Hostile Casualty** – A person who is the victim of a terrorist activity or who becomes a casualty "in action." "In action" characterizes the casualty as having been the direct result of hostile action, sustained in combat or relating thereto, or sustained going to or returning from a combat mission provided that the occurrence was directly related to hostile action. Included are persons killed or wounded mistakenly or accidentally by friendly fire directed at a hostile force or what is thought to be a hostile force. However, not to be considered as sustained in action and not to be interpreted as hostile casualties are injuries or death due to the elements, self-inflicted wounds, combat fatigue, and except in unusual cases, wounds or death inflicted by a friendly force while the individual is in an absent-without-leave, deserter, or dropped-from-rolls status or is voluntarily absent from a place of duty.

**Non-Hostile Casualty** – A person who becomes a casualty due to circumstances not directly attributable to hostile action or terrorist activity. Casualties due to the elements, self-inflicted wounds (vehicle roll-overs), and combat fatigue are non-hostile casualties.

**Killed in Action (KIA)** – A casualty category applicable to a hostile casualty, other than the victim of a terrorist activity, who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching a medical treatment facility.

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### Factual Statements

\*The California National Guard (CNG) has deployed more than 36,000 Soldiers and airmen since 2001 in support of the global war on terror. Twenty-nine Soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice in that time serving in support of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

\*Since 2001, the California National Guard (CNG) has deployed thousands of Soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In that time, 3 CNG Soldiers have been killed while serving in support of combat operations in Afghanistan.

\*More than 15,000 California National Guardsmen deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. With elements on the ground from the initial invasion in 2003 through the withdrawal of combat troops in 2011, 26 CNG Soldiers were killed while serving in support of combat operations in Iraq.