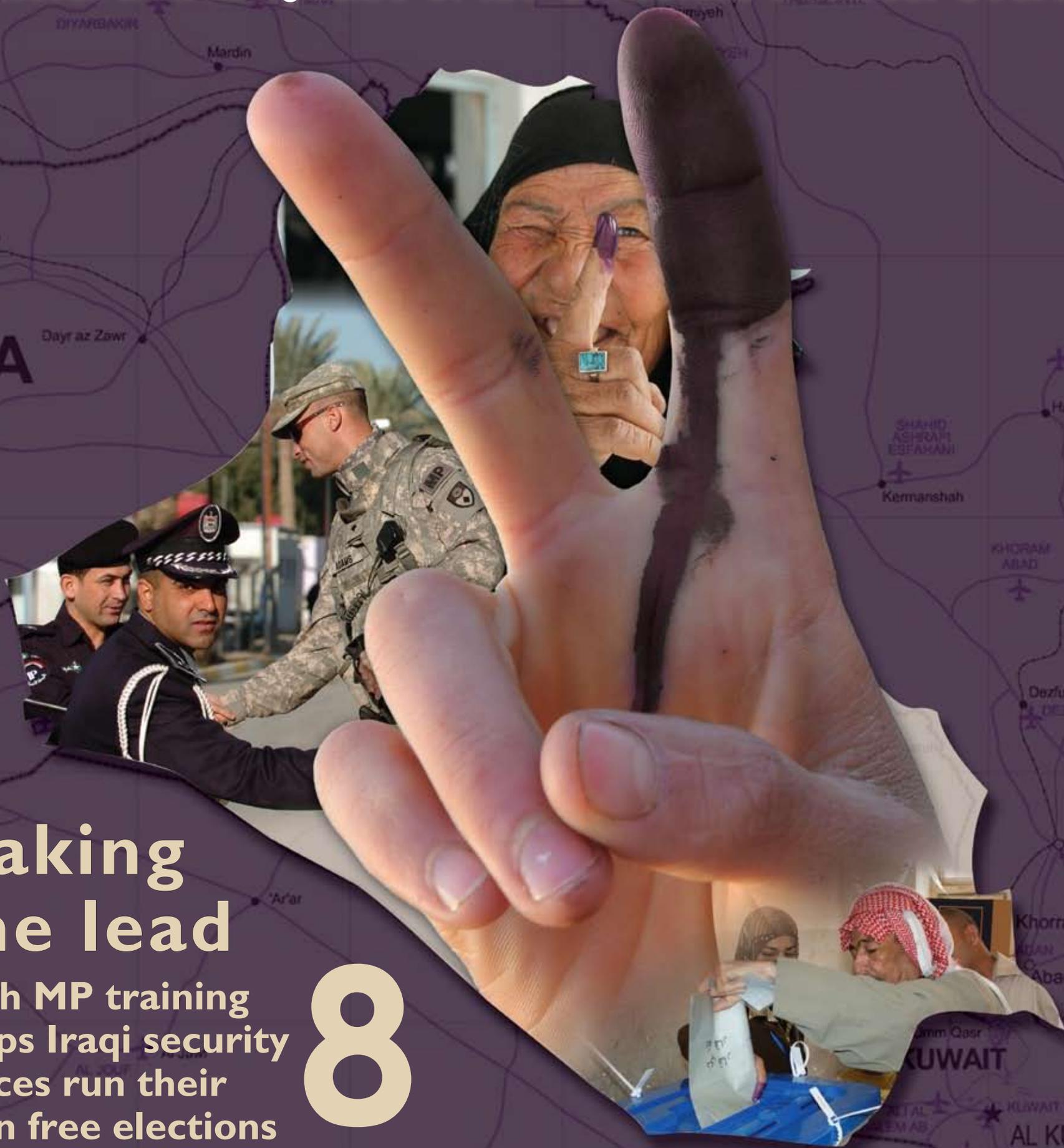


GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard

SYRIA



Taking the lead

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Volunteer service strengthens our Guard

Brigadier General Mary J. Kight



The California National Guard provides an essential source of trained Soldiers and Airmen for America's military. A necessary element of the entire force, the Guard is increasingly relied upon to balance its support of state and national commitments, and individually each of us manages our personal lives, which include our families.

Our families are precious, and while Guard families are geographically dispersed and live and work in hundreds of communities across the state, changes in family structure and responsibilities may be especially challenging for military families because of the frequency in which these transitions occur. The possible impact of a new duty assignment, deployment, separation, change in child care

or transition between civilian- and military-employment status are a few of the life events that can increase the number of challenges facing our families. Necessary for families to survive, support systems play a vital role in helping families cope with the unique needs that surface throughout our military careers. Support systems are available within the California National Guard's Operation Ready Families programs, local community groups and national volunteer organizations as well as from friends and families.

Volunteer service is vital to the accomplishment of our adopted mission, which requires maintaining a state of readiness in order to serve our communities, state and na-

tion. The month of April is designated as National Volunteer Month, and our Operation Ready Families Program (www.calguard.ca.gov/ReadyFamilies) is successful because of the effort and valuable time given to our family programs by our volunteers. While National Volunteer Month encourages volunteerism, I take this opportunity on behalf of every California National Guard member to say "Thank You" to our volunteers, whether you routinely participate in a family program, occasionally support unit functions or provide that important one-on-one support to another family member, Soldier or Airman. Your precious time, regardless of the amount, and your devotion to Soldier, Airman and family care are very much appreciated. Thank You for your service and dedicated support.



Volunteers such as the Patriot Guard Riders, the Rancho Cordova Elks, the California State Military Reserve, the Girl Scouts and numerous others make vital contributions to the California National Guard. Thank a volunteer during National Volunteer Month.



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Articles:

- ★ 250-300 words for a half-page story; 600-800 words for a full-page article
- ★ Include first and last names, and verify spelling
- ★ Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference
- ★ If there is a public affairs officer assigned to your unit, ensure he or she reviews it

Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible
- ★ No retouched photos
- ★ Caption (what is happening, who is pictured and the date of the photo)
- ★ Credit (who took the photo)

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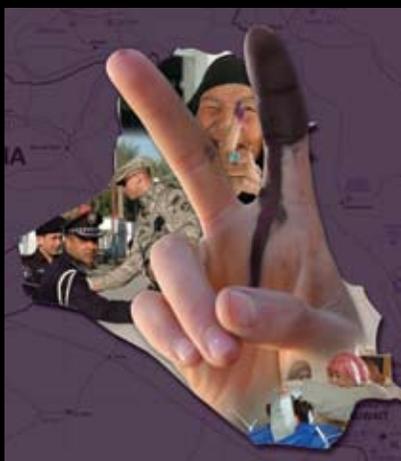


Photo illustration by
Erin Wetzelberger

The 49th Military Police Brigade, which directed Iraqi security forces during Iraq's 2005 general election, supported a historic effort March 7, when Iraqi police successfully ran their own security for millions of people voting in a national election.



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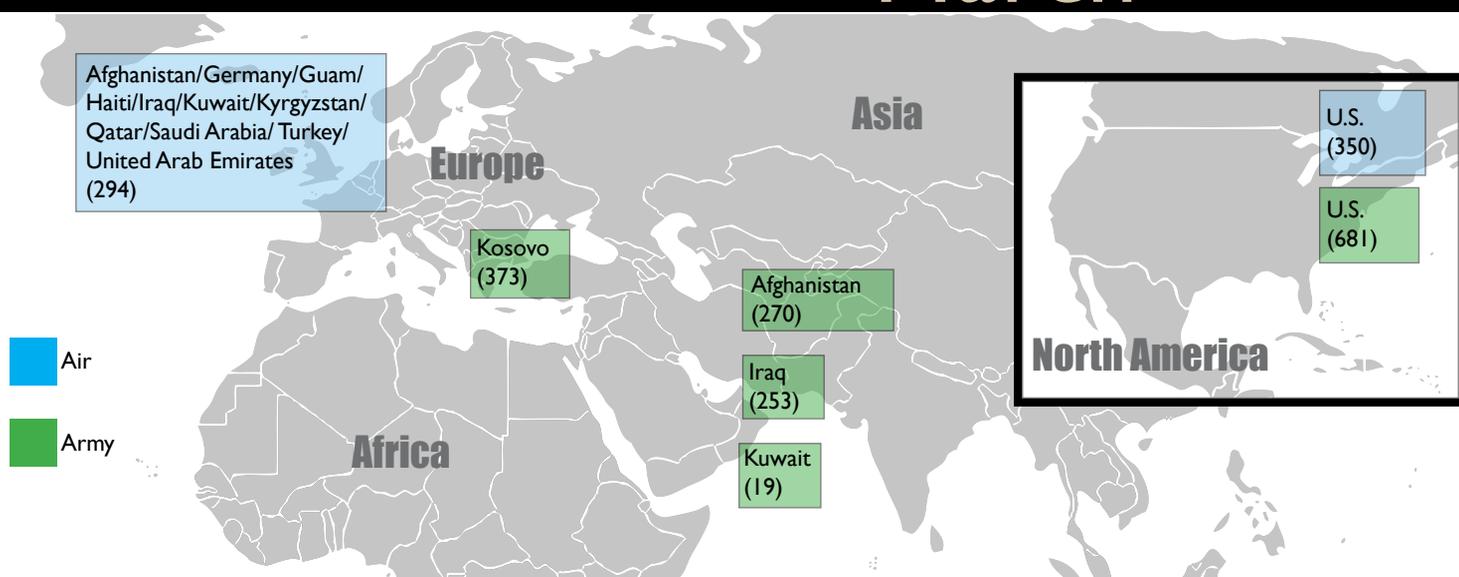
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The California National Guard as of **March** 2010



Haskins appointed assistant adjutant general

Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, selected Col. Lawrence A. Haskins to serve as the assistant adjutant general of the Cal Guard. Kight served in that role until she was sworn in as adjutant general in February.

"Col. Haskins is an experienced Soldier who brings a wealth of knowledge to his new position," Kight said. "I am grateful for Col. Haskins' answer to the call of service, and I look forward to working with him and every member in this fine military organization."

Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth served as assistant adjutant general on an interim basis after Kight's appointment as adjutant general. Ellsworth is the director of the Joint Staff of the California National Guard and continued to serve in that role while performing the duties of the assistant adjutant general.

Haskins' appointment as assistant adjutant general was effective April 1. He is expected to be promoted to brigadier general in the coming months.

Haskins enlisted in the California National Guard in July 1975 as a private and gained his commission as an officer in August 1980. From 1980 to 2001 he held many positions, including three company commands: 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment; 29th Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade; and assistant chief of staff, plans and operations, 40th Infantry Division.

From 2002 to 2005, Haskins commanded 2nd Brigade, 40th Infantry Division, and was mobilized in 2003-2004 as the commander of Task Force Guardian, a 7,500-Sol-

dier brigade in support of Operation Noble Eagle III at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, providing force protection for 88 Army and Air Force Installations across the 21 Western States.

In 2005, Haskins was assigned as the chief of staff for the 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized) through its transformation to a modular division, and in 2008 he became the chief of staff, California Army National Guard. As chief of staff for the California Army National Guard, Haskins was responsible for the readiness, mobilization, reset and welfare of the organization's 17,000 Soldiers. Haskins now serves as assistant division commander, support, 40th Infantry Division.

Haskins was the California Military Academy Outstanding Academic Honor Graduate in 1980 and was recognized on the Commandant's List at the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1994. He has earned bachelor's degrees in geography and American history, and has earned master's degrees in military history and strategic studies.

His major awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with two Gold Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with "M" Device and Gold Hourglass), Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon (with Numeral 3 Device), California Medal of Merit, California



Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), California Good Conduct Medal, California Service Medal (with one Gold Redwood Cluster and one Bronze Redwood Cluster), California National Guard Federal Service Ribbon, California State Service Ribbon (with three Bronze Diamonds), Enlisted Excellence Ribbon, Drill Attendance Ribbon (with one Gold Star) and the Hawaiian Medal of Merit.

California legislators address Guard issues

The following four bills have been introduced by members of the California State Legislature. To become law the bills must be approved by both houses of the Legislature, the Senate and the Assembly. The bills would then be sent to the governor, who could sign them into law, veto them or allow them to become law without his signature. For more information, visit www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html or contact the California Military Department State Legislative Team at 916-854-3705.

Academic, financial protection for students

SB 1075 by Sen. Lou Correa

This bill would ensure that students who are Guard or Reserve members are not penalized academically or financially when ordered to serve on emergency state active duty or federal active duty.

The Armory Fund

SB 1481 by the Senate Governmental Organization Committee (Sen. Rod Wright, Chairman)

Proceeds from the sale or lease of National Guard armories are deposited in the state's Armory Fund to finance the construction of new armories and

the renovation of existing armories. An amendment to California Military and Veterans Code §435 is required to ensure that money from the sale of armory properties that are no longer utilized by the California National Guard continue to be deposited into the Armory Fund.

Car loan deferment

AB 2455 by Assemblyman Pedro Nava

These proposed revisions to Military and Veterans Code §§800-811 would authorize the deferment of all car loans for service members deployed in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and would extend the protections to their spouses and dependents.

Recovery of attorney's fees for violating statutory protections to service members

AB 2365 by Assemblyman Ted Lieu

This legislation would enable Guard and Reserve members to receive court-awarded damages, including reasonable attorney fees and court costs, incurred while pursuing certain protections under specified sections of the Military and Veterans Code.

162nd CCG earns Outstanding Unit Award

The 162nd Combat Communications Group won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its exceptionally meritorious service from Nov. 1, 2007, through Oct. 31, 2009.

During that time, the group's Airmen spent more than 3,000 man-days supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. At the same time, one combat communications squadron received an "Excellent" grade on its Operation Readiness Inspection, and three squadrons received "Outstanding" grades on their Communications Security Inspections.

The 148th Space Operations Squadron was and continues to be engaged in round-the-clock command and control of the Milstar satellite constellation, providing secure, protected communications to the war-fighter.

The 162nd, headquartered in North Highlands, Calif., also has units fully engaged in training, standardization/evaluation, and weapons and tactics support for the Joint Space Operations Center and Distributed Ground Station-2. Units of the 162nd also provide imagery analysis for the exploitation of data gathered by U-2, Global Hawk and Predator aircraft and real-time distribution of those data to troops in the field. The 222nd Communications Maintenance Flight, meanwhile, provides support for Global Hawk operations.

"During this period the highly motivated and professional members of the 162nd Combat Communications Group continued their fine tradition of excellent and exemplary mission accomplishments," the award citation states. "The distinctive accomplishments of the members of the 162nd Combat Communications Group reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force."

All subordinate units of the 162nd Combat Communications Group also earned the Outstanding Unit Award for their achievements from Nov. 1, 2007, through Oct. 31, 2009:

- 147th Combat Communications Squadron, San Diego Air National Guard Station
- 148th Space Operations Squadron, Vandenberg Air Force Base
- 149th Combat Communications Squadron, North Highlands Air National Guard Station
- 216th Operational Support Squadron, Vandenberg Air Force Base
- 222nd Intelligence Support Squadron, Beale Air Force Base
- 222nd Operational Support Squadron, Beale Air Force Base
- 234th Intelligence Squadron, Beale Air Force Base
- 261st Combat Communications Squadron, Sepulveda Air National Guard Station



PHOTO COURTESY OF 162ND COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Colin Grain, far left, Master Sgt. Doug Warren, Senior Airman Steve Sandoval, Master Sgt. Michelle Roberts and Staff Sgt. Sande Penuliar march down Harbor Boulevard in San Diego during the city's Veterans Day Parade last year.

BELOW: Members of the newly established 216th Operations Support Squadron gather in front of "Missile V" at Vandenberg Air Force Base, where they provide critical support for U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Space Operations Center.



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JOSH GEISMAR

Airmen bring Dr. Seuss to the classroom

163rd Reconnaissance Wing participates in Read Across America

**By Staff Sgt. Paul Duquette
163rd Reconnaissance Wing**

Members of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing volunteered to read Dr. Seuss books to elementary school students as part of Read Across America on March 2, marking the fifth consecutive year 163rd Airmen have participated.

For the second straight year, the unit members found themselves at Tomas Rivera Elementary School, where they were joined by former L.A. Dodger Derrel Thomas. As a way to say thank you to their guests, the students performed a short play taken from the book "The Lorax" and sang their school song. The students also decorated their doors in Dr. Seuss style, and the volunteers chose the best entry.

After the performance, the students and readers made their way to the classrooms. Each volunteer was scheduled to read in two separate classrooms, in 15-minute blocks. The students ranged from kindergarten through 6th grade.

This annual reading event was created in 1997 as a motivational and awareness program, which calls for children in every community across the nation to read books. The day, March 2, was chosen because it is the birthday of children's book author Dr. Seuss.

"I read the book 'Green Eggs and Ham' to the kids. I really loved just interacting with the kids, before and after I read," Airman Debbie Hambrick said. "This was my first time participating, and I definitely will do it again."

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Rodriguez participated in 2009 and again this year.

"I love to see the kids' smiles and their excitement when they spot us," he said. "It was a great experience for me and the kids, and I will absolutely do it again next year."

According to the National Education Association Web



Tech. Sgt. Anthony Rodriguez of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing reads to 1st and 2nd grade students at Tomas Rivera Elementary School during the Read Across America event on March 2. Ten members of the 163rd participated in Read Across America, which coincides with Dr. Seuss' birthday.

site, research shows that children perform better in school if they are motivated and spend more time reading. The National Education Association's Read Across America re-

source materials offer numerous opportunities for involvement in children's reading throughout the year. For more information visit www.nea.org.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. PAUL DUQUETTE

129th recruiters earn NGB recognition

**By Airman 1st Class Jessica Green
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs**

The 129th Rescue Wing's recruiting team earned two National Guard Bureau awards for its performance in the first quarter of fiscal year 2010, gaining recognition for having the most critical accessions and the highest average accessions during that period.

The wing's recruiting team was also named the California Air National Guard Recruiting Office of the Year in 2009, after bringing more than 180 new Airmen to the unit.

The wing's maintenance group currently has the most job openings at the 129th. Every month more than 50 percent of the applicants brought into the 129th go into a maintenance career field, said Master Sgt. Michael Vargas, the 129th recruiting office supervisor.

"Our focus right now is what we call precision recruiting," he said. "It's all about finding the right person at the right time for the right career field."

Contrary to popular belief, recruiters are looking out for their applicants' best interest. They aren't paid on commission,

and they are the first people new recruits should trust and seek out for help.

"Sometimes the hardest thing is making the applicant see what you're trying to explain to them," Vargas said. "It's hard to convince those people that we're going to take care of them, how marketable their career field will be in the civilian world and what their [military] job will be like."

With new recruits from Belize, Bulgaria, Jamaica, India, Ukraine and Vietnam, the 129th's Airmen are extremely diverse. Once a month the 129th recruiting team attends events like professional and college football games, local air shows, job fairs and high school visits.

"I think recruiting is the weirdest job, because it's like farming: You have to plant seeds," said Tech. Sgt. Rick Williams. "When first speaking to students at high school or college events, they don't make a decision at that moment whether or not they want to join the military. They'll go home and think about it for two, three or maybe even six months before we ever hear from them. The information-seeds you plant now will bear fruit later."



The 129th Rescue Wing recruiting team, seen here with the Cal Guard adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, far right, and the commander of the California Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas, far left, won National Guard Bureau awards for most critical accessions and highest average accessions during the first quarter of 2010.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER



Military Sisterhood conference fosters girl power

By Maj. Kimberly Holman
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

In a popular movie, "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants," a group of teenage girls keep in contact with each other by sharing a pair of jeans. That theme provided the inspiration for an idea by two California National Guard daughters, but instead of a pair of jeans, battle dress uniforms (BDU) became the shared bond between more than 100 girls.

Kaylei Deakin and Moranda Hern are both 17, and they met at California first lady Maria Shriver's 2008 Women's Conference. The girls found they had many things in common, including a need to feel understood while going through the challenges that military deployments bring to families. After more than a year of planning and organizing, Kaylei and Moranda brought teenage girls together from across California on March 12-14, a weekend that coincidentally marked the seventh anniversary of the beginning of the war in Iraq.

"I remember watching stories about the war in class, and people would giggle and laugh as the bombs were going off," said Kaylei, whose father left to fight in Afghanistan a few years later, when she was 13. "I was so worried ... thinking about what was going on over there."

She said her father's deployment affected her family long before and long after he left California. She felt like no one really understood the empty feeling she had inside as she watched her world change dramatically while her dad was deployed. For the two years he was gone, Kaylei felt depressed and lonely, and she felt she needed to step up in her father's absence to provide strength beside her mother and take over in areas of sibling discipline.

When Kaylei met Moranda, they found

they shared similar experiences. Moranda's father is in the Air Guard, while Kaylei's father is in the Army Guard. And at times when the girls needed their friends' support the most, Kaylei and Moranda felt very alone.

"People saw a big change in me after my dad left, and a lot of them just stopped coming around because they weren't sure of what to say or how to act around me," said Moranda, whose father deployed to Afghanistan on very short notice when she was 15. "I felt like I was just some weird person who couldn't get it together."

Realizing there were thousands of girls going through similar experiences, Kaylei and Moranda decided to form a support network and organize a conference for daughters of military members. The girls put together a proposal and brought a presentation to Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, whom the girls had met at the 2008 Women's Conference when Kight was the assistant adjutant general of the Cal Guard. Kight was impressed and vowed to do everything she could to support the effort.

"The Guard provided the Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs with the structure, and the girls provided all the innovation, imagination and creativity," Kight said. "I am so proud of them for seeing this through, and what a wonderful program they have founded."

The two high schoolers raised \$30,000 through various corporate sponsors to provide an all-expenses-paid weekend for girls ages 13-17.

The conference theme was "Unite, Inspire, Lead," and girl-power was ever-present throughout the weekend. The girls arrived



TOP: Moranda Hern, fourth from left, and Kaylei Deakin, third from right, greet participants on the purple carpet during The Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs' first conference for military daughters in Clovis, Calif. Deakin and Hern founded the sisterhood as a way for girls to find support and bond over the challenges faced by family deployments. **ABOVE:** Hern and Deakin answer questions from the audience.

at the conference in semi-formal attire on the first evening for a "purple carpet" event, complete with flashing cameras and a receiving line that included Kaylei, Moranda and Kight, who is now the adjutant general.

The weekend featured several guest speakers, including an Olympic gold medalist, a Hollywood image consultant and corporate executives. Workshops and break-out sessions brought girls together on issues ranging from self-esteem, self-image and career plans, to boys and relationships. The venue provided a non-threatening environment, while the sisterly support provided teens an opportunity to reach out and share stories and get to know each other.

Many of the girls discussed their fear that something could happen to a parent in combat. Others shared the experience of attempting to console a worried mother while Dad is away, or knowing that one of

their parents won't be able to see them go to prom or graduate from high school.

Kaylei plans to enlist in the Marines after graduating from high school in June, and Moranda has been accepted into the Air Force Academy. Many other girls at the conference also have plans to follow in their parents' footsteps.

"I hope that the girls come away from this knowing that the next time a deployment rolls around that they will be supported, and that they have a network — it won't have to be the way it's always been," Moranda said on the last night of the conference.

Kaylei and Moranda hope other teens will keep the Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs alive and will call upon each other for help when they need it. They plan to go national with the organization and create chapters in other states during the next year.

49th MP Brigade assists in Iraq national election

Iraqi forces directed their own election security for the first time

Story and photos by Spc. Eddie Siguenza
49th Military Police Brigade

The Fairfield, Calif.-based 49th Military Police Brigade took part in a historic effort March 7, when millions of people voted in Iraq's national election.

The 49th sent Soldiers into Baghdad to assist Iraqi police with various security operations. And like the voters, the Iraqi police and the 49th Soldiers braved a barrage of incidents intended to keep voters away from polls.

"The role of the 49th was to provide backup as an on-site security force in the event one was needed," said Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th commander. "Our role was to provide a back-up direct communications link with maneuver units and to provide advice and mentorship to [Iraqi police] leaders."

Several California Army National Guard members were personally involved on election day. With assistance from the 229th Military Police Company of the Virginia Army National Guard — one of two subordinate units under the 49th at Camp Liberty, Iraq — elements were situated at two locations: Patrol Headquarters and Provincial Directorate of Police (PDOP) headquarters. The American Soldiers lived with their Iraqi counterparts for days leading up to the election.

Maj. Jeanette Stuart of the 49th, officer in charge of the Iraqi Police Services National Transition Team, led the Patrol Headquarters element. Her team of six Soldiers served as a conduit for getting information to and from United States Forces-Iraq and the Iraqi Patrol Police.

"The 49th has been partnering with various [Iraqi police] agencies in Baghdad to provide mentoring, training, support and assistance, as required," said the Reno, Nev., resident. "The Iraqi police services successfully assisted in providing security for the ... elections. They were able to prevent violent extremists from influencing or disrupting the Iraqi election process. The public gained confidence in the Iraqi police's ability to provide civil security."

In Baghdad alone there were more than 120 incidents, including explosions and other types of attacks. Most incidents occurred within two or three hours after voting sites opened. U.S. President Barack Obama praised the Iraqi people for continuing to vote, rather than being intimidated.

"Today, in the face of violence from those who would only destroy, Iraqis took a step forward in the hard work of building up their country," Obama said. "Today's voting makes it clear that the future of Iraq belongs to the people of Iraq."

Staff Sgt. Clinton Bayoneta, 49th MP Personal Security Detachment (PSD) noncommissioned officer in charge, and more than a dozen PSD members escorted Currier to PDOP and Patrol Headquarters. They drove more than 35 miles through Baghdad, and all returned unscathed and ready for another mission.



Spc. Wesley Adams, left, and Spc. Rommel Vazquez of the 49th Military Police Brigade greet Iraqi police officers March 7, the day of Iraq's national election.

"Most of the explosions were small explosions, un-aimed rockets and mortars, and sporadic small arms fire designed to scare voters away from the polls," Bayoneta said. "It kind of sounded like the Fourth of July, as we lost count of the number of explosions we heard, but I think it helped my team get a little more focused on what they needed to do."

When the 49th served in Iraq in 2005 and 2006, Currier witnessed the December 2005 general election. The 49th was strongly involved with that process by directing Iraqi police, Currier said. But this year, the 49th was in a supporting role. It observed and provided advice but let the Iraqis run their own operation.

"The fact that they were able to coordinate their planning and execution with other security forces demonstrated a capability that they did not have a short time ago," Currier said. "The Iraqi police demonstrated their ability to plan and execute security operations for the elections in Baghdad. That entailed a comprehensive effort to plan and execute polling station security, checkpoints, curfew enforcement, effective vehicle movement restriction and a public information campaign that reassured its citizens that they were as safe as possible."

The role of the 49th was similar to that of U.S. forces throughout Iraq. At PDOP, the 229th Soldiers overwatched checkpoints manned by Iraqi police. The Iraqi police executed all vehicle and personnel searches. At Patrol Headquarters, the 229th served as a 24-hour security unit. Both elements were on standby in case there was a need for investigative assistance.

Neither the 49th nor the 229th was called upon, demonstrating that the Iraqi police had control of their operation.

"The take-away from this event is that the Iraqi police have dramatically increased their professionalism, capabilities and leadership," Currier said. "They can still benefit from U.S. partnership, but that is no longer a junior-senior partnership. It is a partnership of equals — each with strengths that benefit one another."

Election preparation was extensive. Stuart set her mission up in three stages, beginning weeks before the March 7 election.

"When our team first arrived, [the Iraqis] were a little hesitant to have a female [officer in charge] living and working with them in close quarters," Stuart said. "After the first day, the barriers disappeared, and they would freely ask me questions and give me information."

Bayoneta prepped his PSD by having them check and re-check vehicles and weapons, complete battle drills, verify their electronic warfare systems and equipment were properly functioning, and secure proper documentation to be on the road.

"We knew about this mission about a week out and focused on preparing for it daily," Bayoneta said. "We went through extensive battle drills, from downed vehicle recovery to every member of our team successfully sticking each other [intravenously] the day prior."

Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund, the 49th's noncommissioned officer in charge at PDOP, took the majority of his team to PDOP two weeks before the election. They unloaded cots, water and food, and coordinated with Iraqi police on the team's responsibilities and role during the election.

"If we were to do less than what we prepared to do, that's a positive thing for the Iraqi police," Eastlund said. "This is their show. It's their mission. They need to understand we're not going to be here much longer. So they have to work amongst themselves, work together to make it happen."

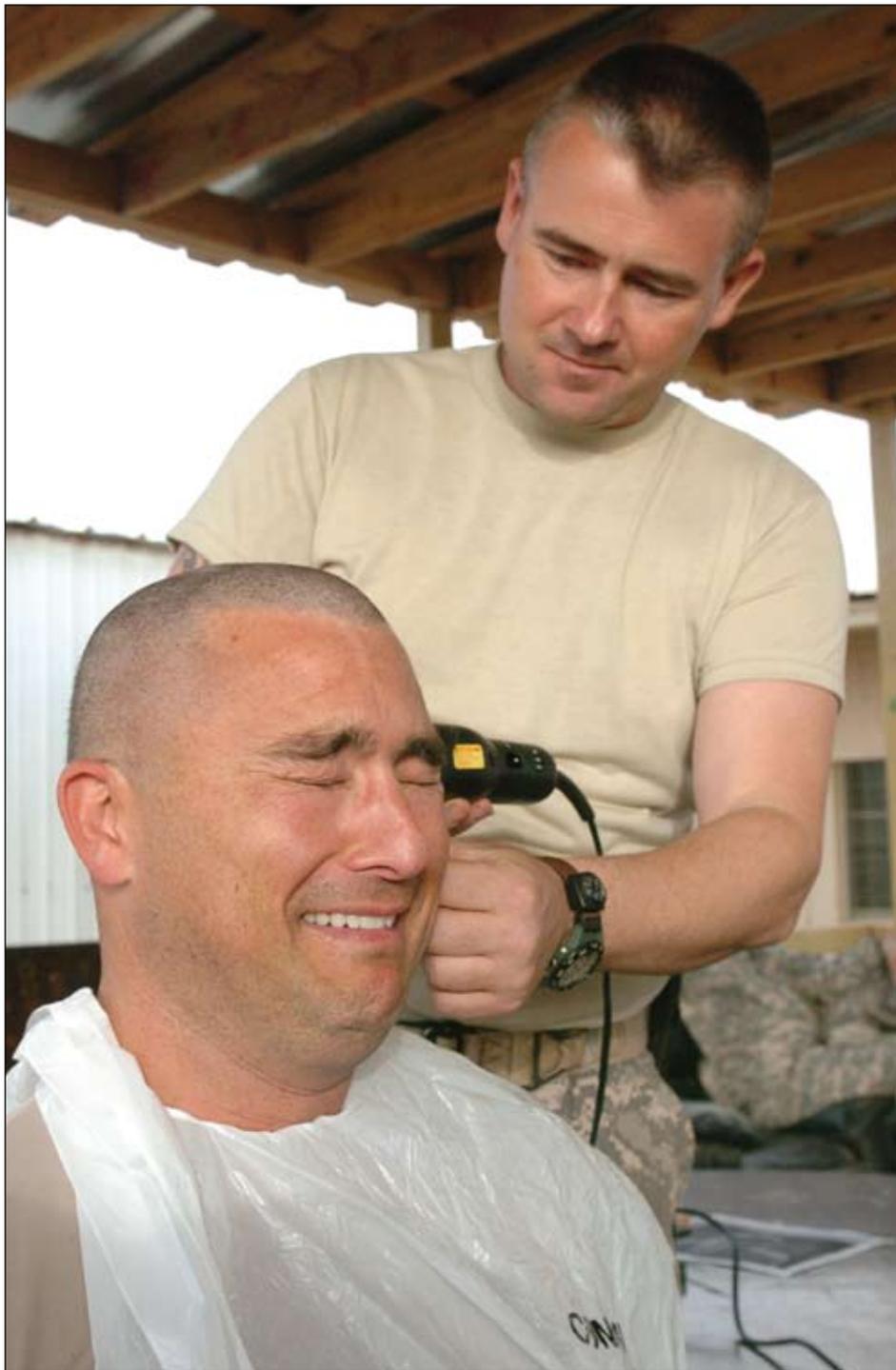
Back at Camp Liberty, the rest of the 49th tended to daily operations while listening to the distant blasts and explosions. Many said it was the sound of a new era in Iraq; it was the sound of courage — of people not deterred by bombs but determined to better their country by voting.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the California Army National Guard has deployed more than 10,500 Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund of the 49th Military Police Brigade assists Iraqi police during the country's March 7 national election.

PHOTO BY SPC. EDDIE SIGUENZA



49th MPs shave to support a friend

By Spc. Eddie Siguenza
49th Military Police Brigade

More than a dozen Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade broke from their Operation Iraqi Freedom responsibilities on March 19 to make a bald statement in support of a California resident who is battling leukemia.

The initiative was headed-up by Maj. Robert Paoletti, chief of operations for the 49th MP Brigade, a close friend of Mike Blafus, who is dealing with the side effects of chemotherapy.

"We're going to get a picture, sign it and send it off to Mikey," said Paoletti of Stockton, Calif. "When he's in the hospital, he'll know that Soldiers here in Baghdad support him and his fight against cancer."

"I thought, what better way to show support for Mike while we're over here? We'll do this for him [and] send him photos so he can enjoy seeing me bald. If this vain friend of his can do this to support him, hopefully it'll give him some strength to continue his fight."

Blafus, of Lodi, Calif., runs a convalescent home and is battling chronic myelogenous leukemia, or CML, a cancer of the white blood cells. Hair loss is one of several side

effects of chemotherapy. Paoletti asked other members of the 49th to join him in his tribute to Blafus. Some responded without even inquiring to know more about Blafus. All they knew was that a friend-of-a-friend needed support.

"No money or donations involved," said the barber, Staff Sgt. Brian Bullock from Morro Bay, Calif. "This is all for a good cause."

Some of the Soldiers of the 49th had not been bald since basic training more than two decades ago.

"Hey, Mike, we don't know you, but good luck," Capt. Steven Jester said. "The 49th is behind you."

Based in Fairfield, Calif., the 49th deployed to Iraq in October. It oversees four battalions and almost 5,000 Soldiers. The unit previously deployed to Iraq in 2005.

"The 49th Military Police Brigade is a great unit that cares a lot. Not just about their fellow Soldiers, but other people," Paoletti said. "To have so many of my friends come do this with me so that I don't have to be the only bald one walking around here, it means a lot. It means a lot to see my fellow Soldiers do this for a friend of mine, somebody they don't even know."

Maj. Robert Paoletti, chief of operations for the 49th Military Police Brigade, grimaces as Staff Sgt. Brian Bullock shaves Paoletti's head in Iraq. Paoletti enlisted fellow Soldiers to also shave their heads in support of Paoletti's friend Mike Blafus, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer in California.

Drug Demand Reduction team earns CADCA award

By Senior Airman Jessica Donnelly
National Guard Bureau

The California National Guard Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program earned the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Outstanding State National Guard DDR Program Award for superior support to community-based organizations, law enforcement agencies and educational institutions with an anti-drug mission across the state.

"The California DDR Program makes every effort to engage and be a productive member of existing coalitions and collaborative efforts," said Maj. Jeffery Moore, California DDR administrator. "Further, the California DDR forms synergistic partnerships with state and local government agencies in order to ... bring about environmental changes which facilitate a drug-free environment for youth in our communities and in our state."

John Redmond, executive director of Californians for Drug-Free Youth (CADFY), nominated the California DDR Program for the CADCA award after collaborating with the Cal Guard on multiple community events.

"Their program partnered with CADFY, and what they did that was different was they focused on the community enhancement, instead of just focusing on the educational mission," Redmond said.

By partnering with community-based organizations and law enforcement agencies, the Cal Guard helps expand and improve all of the groups involved and increases their capabilities, Redmond said. The DDR program's primary mission is to work in schools to educate students, but by supporting community-based organizations, the Guard helps create a presence in the community that enhances the success of the program.

He added that bringing educational awareness to schools only goes so far: Children are told often that they should not do drugs, and though it is important to educate them on the dangers, it's also important to reduce the availability.

For children whose parents move frequently and enroll them in new schools, it's hard to fit in with cliques that have al-



On behalf of California's Drug Demand Reduction team, 1st Lt. Ruel Fuentecilla accepts the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America award for Outstanding State National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program during a February ceremony in Washington, D.C.

ready been established. To fit in with the jocks they have to be good at sports, and to fit in with the honor students they have to be smart; but to fit in with the "druggies" all they have to do is smoke weed.

"The coalitions bring the strategic plan, and the National Guard brings the logistical knowledge," Redmond said. "And through working together, if a [child] has a substance abuse problem, we can now

provide the needed aid and support."

First Lieutenant Ruel Fuentecilla of the Cal Guard DDR program accepted the CADCA award during a February ceremony in Washington D.C.

"We along with the National Guard are trying to bring awareness, and that's very important," Redmond said. "It's been an amazing partnership."

PHOTO BY PHILIPPE NOBILE

Multinational chaplains make pilgrimage in Kosovo

By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hagburg
116th Public Affairs Detachment

An international group of chaplains visited one of Kosovo's holiest sites Feb. 19 as part of the monthly Kosovo Force chaplains' conference.

Kosovo Force (KFOR) Multinational Battle Group-East's (MNBG-E) chaplains hosted the conference, which featured a worship service, luncheon and a bus trip to the Church of the Black Madonna in Letnica.

"Many of the chaplains had never seen the church before," said Staff Sgt. Laton Lohmann, a chaplain's assistant for MNBG-E. "Making a pilgrimage to such a sacred site was a great way to start Lent and to set the tone for the season."

The Church of the Black Madonna is said to be the place where famed humanitarian Mother Teresa received her calling.

Twenty-eight chaplains and chaplain's assistants from 10 countries attended the conference, said Maj. Maury Millican, command chaplain for MNBG-E. Countries represented included the United States, France, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine.

Millican said the conferences build camaraderie among the international chaplaincy.

"It helps the chaplains from each country feel that the doors of communication are open if we need to reach out and ask for ministry assistance," he said.

The conference started with an ecumenical worship service at Camp Bondsteel, where MNBG-E is based, featuring the camp's gospel dance team, Heaven's Angels.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity for our international partners to see worship expressed in the form of dance," said 1st Lt. Anthony Williams, a chaplain for MNBG-E. "Dance brings to worship the ability to express visually the words of the song that the members of the dance team are performing to."

Williams said the visiting chaplains were impressed by the performance and took many pictures and videos.

Capt. Timothy Meier of Los Altos, Calif., chaplain for MNBG-E's 1-144th Maneuver Task Force, conducted the service jointly with German Army Chaplain Matthias Ebinger, the coordinating chaplain for KFOR Headquarters.

Lunch at Camp Bondsteel gave the chaplains a chance to talk informally about issues relevant to their mission in KFOR. Williams said the conference was valuable for all the participants.



Capt. Timothy Meier of Los Altos, Calif., right, chaplain for the 1-144th Maneuver Task Force, and German Army Chaplain Matthias Ebinger, coordinating chaplain for Kosovo Force (KFOR) Headquarters, jointly conduct a worship service Feb. 19 during the monthly KFOR chaplains' conference.

PHOTO BY SGT. JORDAN HUWE

163rd RW Airmen salute hospitalized vets

By Staff Sgt. Paul Duquette
163rd Reconnaissance Wing

Members of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing gave veterans at the Loma Linda Veterans Affairs Medical Center an early Valentine's Day gift, handing out cards at the hospital Feb. 10 as part of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans program was established in March 1978 and is celebrated each year during the week of Feb. 14. An official Department of Veterans Affairs program, its purpose is to pay tribute and express appreciation to hospitalized veterans; to increase community awareness of the role of the medical center; and to encourage individuals to visit hospitalized veterans and become involved as volunteers.

"This is the first year the hospital has had uniformed service members come out as part of this special event," said Diana Gellentien, chief of volunteer services at the Loma Linda VA Medical Center. "During this weeklong event, we set aside one day for our service members to come visit the veterans."

Gellentien, a seven-year Air Force veteran, said the response was overwhelming and she expected more than 100 service members from all branches to participate in the medical center's military day.

The cards volunteers handed out were donated to the hospital by local schools. Some of the cards were handmade by students.

"I met vets from all branches, and I really enjoyed being able to bring smiles to the veterans' faces and learning about their stories while they served their country," said Staff Sgt. Al Dupont of the 163rd Force Support Squadron. "If I have the opportunity next year to volunteer, I will definitely do it again."

As a courtesy, members of the Red Cross assembled gift bags and gave them to the veterans and the service member volunteers as they finished their shifts.



"It's truly been an incredible day. The veterans love to see and hear from members currently serving," Gellentien said. "They also love hearing, 'Thank you for your service.' I'm definitely going to do this again next year."

ABOVE: Senior Airman Ryan Dennis of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing presents a card to stroke victim Steven Shriker at the Loma Linda Veterans Affairs Medical Center on Feb. 10 as part of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. RIGHT: Loma Linda patient Ben Martin B. Rice accepts a card from Staff Sgt. Al Dupont of the 163rd.



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. PAUL DUQUETTE



Soldiers of the 1-144th Maneuver Task Force, Multinational Battle Group-East in Kosovo, engage in crowd-and-riot-control maneuvers with other Soldiers playing the role of rioters, on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

PHOTO BY SPC. CHRIS ERICKSON

KFOR Soldiers prove ready for battle group mission

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hagburg
116th Public Affairs Detachment

The Soldiers of Multinational Battle Group-East (MNBG-E) proved their ability to operate as an agile, mobile and flexible force across Kosovo during an exercise Feb. 23-24.

The exercise began at approximately 6 p.m. on Feb. 23 and wrapped up nearly 24 hours later, after an intense period in which MNBG-E Soldiers were forced to react to various simulated incidents in Kosovo. The purpose of the exercise was to validate MNBG-E's ability to operate as a battle group. Commanded by Brig. Gen. Al Dohrmann, MNBG-E was designated a battle group Feb. 1 — a change from its previous designation as a task force — as part of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) transition to a "deterrent presence" posture in Kosovo.

MNBG-E was the last of KFOR's five current battle groups to undergo the Full Operational Capable (FOC) exercise.

"Our main goal is that we emphasize our mobility, agility and flexibility as battle groups," said German Army Lt. Gen. Markus Bentler, commander of KFOR. "We have changed

from an omnipresent force that could be found in every corner in Kosovo to more of a reactionary force, going where we need to be in a very swift manner."

During the first evening of the FOC exercise, Soldiers in the MNBG-E command staff were confronted with a scenario involving simulated disturbances, fires, robberies and attacks taking place across the MNBG-E area of operations. They were required to create a plan to deal with the problems and to convey that plan directly to the companies through a detailed order.

Very early the next morning, the maneuver units rolled out of Camp Bondsteel to carry out their orders, while facing a wide variety of unexpected simulated incidents. The incidents tested the units' ability to react to different situations, employ crowd- and riot-control techniques, send out reserve forces when and where needed and evacuate wounded Soldiers back to Camp Bondsteel.

American, Polish and Ukrainian Soldiers who are part of MNBG-E were involved in the exercise.

"I would like to thank everyone in Multinational Battle

Group-East for their hard work in getting as much benefit as possible out of this exercise," Dohrmann said. "We've had a lot to do in the past month as we've transitioned from a task force to a battle group, and our performance during this exercise shows that we are ready."

Col. Robert Fode, deputy commander, maneuver, for MNBG-E, said the exercise was a valuable experience for the unit and its Soldiers.

"This was an exercise, but ... we need to treat these exercises like they are real life," he said. "I think we learned a lot; truly, I know I did. We can use these experiences to make us even better."

While MNBG-E has now been validated as a battle group, its mission has not changed: to provide a safe and secure environment in Kosovo as a third responder behind the Kosovo Police and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo.

"It was a very valuable exercise. I would say we are in very good shape," Bentler said. "We have proven that we are doing a great job but we must continue to train for our mission."

Flaugher attains rank of brigadier general

Jonathan S. Flaugher was promoted to brigadier general March 22 at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento. He serves as the assistant adjutant general—Air, California National Guard, and also serves as chief of staff, California Air National Guard. He monitors mission-effectiveness, programs and activities involving five major field-level organizations comprising nearly 5,000 personnel at 10 California locations.

Flaugher was commissioned in 1977 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at North Carolina State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He was awarded a regular commission while on active duty in 1982. He spent several years in the tactical air weapons control field before graduating from undergraduate pilot training in 1980.

His first few flying assignments developed a fundamental understanding of continental air defense concepts before he moved to a "Hunter Killer" anti-surface-to-air-missile role in Germany toward the end of the Cold War. While stationed in Germany, Flaugher was selected to help develop and execute the air campaign during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Following that conflict, while assigned to U.S. Air Forces in Europe Headquarters at Ramstein Air Base, he was tasked to reorganize all war reserve materiel and manage a large reduction in U.S. fighter wings and bases in the European area of responsibility.

In 1993, Flaugher was transferred to the Fresno Air National Guard Base to serve as the active duty adviser to the Cal Guard's 144th Fighter Wing. After nearly 18 years of active-duty service, Flaugher became an Air National



Brig. Gen. Jonathan S. Flaugher, seen here in the cockpit of the F-16 he flew for the 144th Fighter Wing, currently serves as the assistant adjutant general—Air, California National Guard, and as chief of staff, California Air National Guard.

Guardsman in 1995 and has since served as a traditional Guardsman and as a full-time technician. While in Fresno, Flaugher participated in the war on drugs, flying many missions out of bases in the Southern Command and Northern Air Defense Area of Responsibility; flown missions over Iraq, enforcing United Nations sanctions dur-

ing two Operation Southern Watch deployments; and spearheaded air defense and air sovereignty reactions to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the ensuing Operation Noble Eagle. With the 144th Fighter Wing, Flaugher served as logistics group commander, maintenance group commander, operations group commander and wing commander.

He attended Air War College in residence at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in 1997-1998. Rated as a command pilot, Flaugher has flown more than 4,500 hours in T-33, T-37, T-38, F-16 and F-106 aircraft.

Flaugher's major awards include the Legion of Merit (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Aerial Achievement Medal (with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Force Commendation Medal (with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Force Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with Valor and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Combat Readiness Medal (with eight Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (with three Service Stars), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Long, Air Force Longevity Service (with service Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with two "M" Devices and Gold Hourglass), Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Training Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait).



Brig. Gen. Charlotte L. Miller receives a certificate of appreciation alongside retired Army nurse Marie Durham during a March 16 celebration of Women's History Month at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento. The presentation included a video based on a poem Durham wrote during her service with the Army Nurse Corps during World War II.

Photo by Tech Sgt. David J. Loeffler



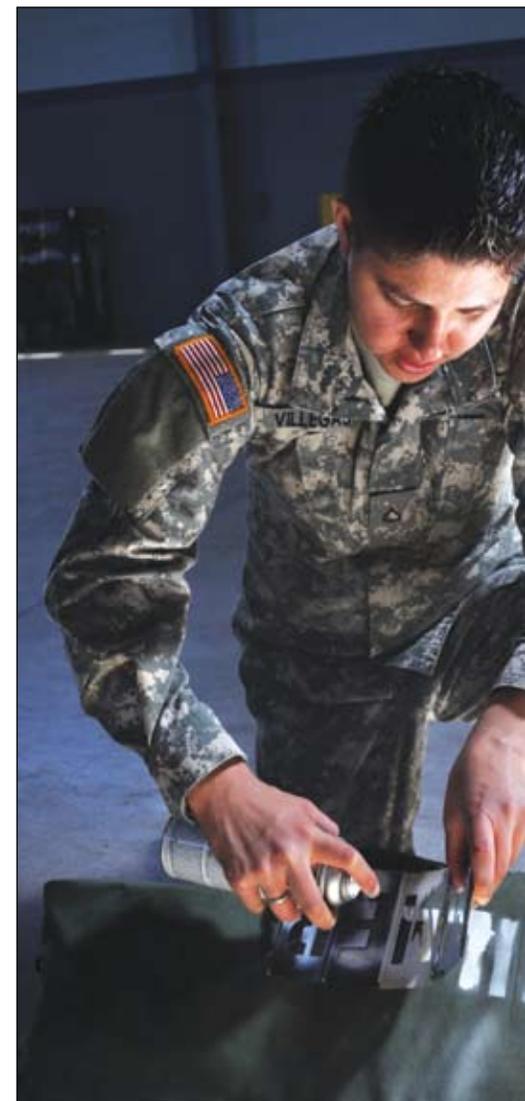
Soldiers of the 224th Sustainment Brigade train in preparation for deployment to Tallil Air Base, Iraq. During its yearlong deployment, the brigade provides transportation and maintenance-support for nearly 100,000 personnel.

Photo by Master Sgt. Reynaldo Herevia

RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wall of the California National Guard's 223rd Infantry Regiment receives an award for being the top overall shooter in the Open Classification category at the All-Army Championships held Feb. 21-27 at Fort Benning, Ga. BELOW: A team of California National Guardsmen prepares to run in the 400-yard assault portion of a team rifle match during the All-Army Championships.



Photos by 1st Lt. Barry Eason



At a Glance

Tech. Sgt. Marc Trujillo of the 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron receives a Certificate of Emergency Manager from the International Association of Emergency Managers Europa, making Trujillo one of only six certified emergency managers in the Air Force.

Photo courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Marc Trujillo



January on Camp Roberts, Calif., in preparation for the unit's May deployment, the brigade will be responsible for managing supplies, two-thirds of the coalition forces' area of operation in Iraq.



Pfc. Belinda Villegas of the 330th Military Police Company stencils her name on her equipment March 20 before leaving for pre-deployment training at Camp Shelby, Miss. During the unit's yearlong deployment to Khost province, Afghanistan, it will train Afghan police in methods of democratic law enforcement.

Photo by Spc. Joseph Samudio



ABOVE: Lt. Col. Jon R. Siepman, left, Lt. Col. Dirk A. Levy, Maj. Jeffery C. Kerns and Col. Mark G. Malanka, review the troops during a change of command ceremony for 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, on March 7 at Camp Roberts, Calif.

Levy relinquished command to Siepman after four years leading the battalion, which is a unit of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade



RIGHT: Col. Timothy J. Swann, outgoing commander of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, hands the guidon to Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, while the incoming commander, Col. Mark G. Malanka, far left, awaits the transfer of authority during a January ceremony in San Diego.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Charles L. Boeche

Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, takes a March trip in a flight simulator at the 144th Fighter Wing's Fresno Air National Guard Base, while Capt. Charlie Schmarin relays valuable flight training information.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler



By the numbers

1974

The California Military Academy first graduated and commissioned female officers from its program in 1974, six years before the U.S. Military Academy at West Point started doing so.



Fun Fact

Actor Tom Selleck (pictured above, far left), who is best known for the title role in the hit TV show "Magnum P.I.," attends the California Military Academy in the 1960s. Selleck served in the 160th Infantry of the California Army National Guard and was activated during the Watts Riots of 1965. He received the honorary rank of first lieutenant during a ceremony in 2002.

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."

— John F. Kennedy,
35th U.S. President

California Military Academy mints new leaders

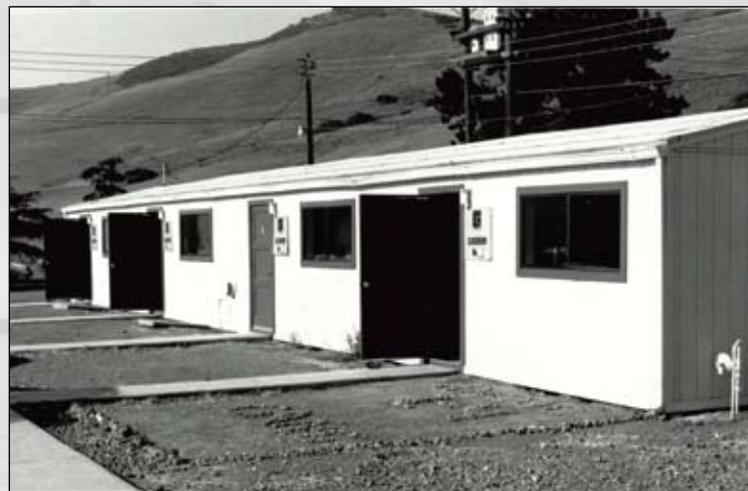
By 1st Lt. Michael Anthony Rodriguez
Command Historian, California National Guard

In the profession of arms, leaders are needed to command Soldiers through the rigors of combat. Becoming an officer is more than having authority to issue directives; it is about inspiring confidence and trust in your subordinates. For more than 50 years, the California National Guard has been training future officers.

The Officer Candidate School of the California National Guard was founded by Maj. Gen. Curtis D. O'Sullivan. Recognizing a shortage of junior officers, he wanted to start a program that provided the same training offered by the active-duty Army in California. Working hard throughout 1950, the general began preparations for the first class of cadets, with Camp San Luis Obispo as the chosen location. In 1951 the first class of candidates received their commissions as second lieutenants.

In 1961 the Officer Candidate School was renamed the California Military Academy (CMA). For more than 35 years, and with thousands of graduates gaining their commissions, CMA established traditions that last to the present day. One of the strongest traditions is the singing of a modified version of The Ames Brothers' 1955 hit "My Bonnie Lassie." All CMA alumni have these words engrained in their memories: "Drums in my heart are drumming, I hear the cadence calling, my bonnie cadence corps is calling to me. ... Some nations have great sons, but ours have the greatest ones, my bonnie cadence corps is calling to me. We'll meet upon the shore, wade through the blood and gore, all for the honor and the glory of the corps. The corps!"

Another lasting symbol of the CMA is



These buildings served as classrooms for the Officer Candidate School on Camp San Luis Obispo in the 1950s. In 1961, Officer Candidate School was renamed the California Military Academy.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA MILITARY MUSEUM

the eagle formed of rocks on the side of a mountain next to Camp San Luis Obispo. The Camp SLO eagle is a lasting reminder to all officer candidates of the cadets who came before them. Each year before the graduating class leaves Camp SLO, the seniors climb Eagle Hill to paint some rocks and rearrange others into numbers showing the class year. Looking up at the eagle from Camp SLO, this may seem like an easy task, but once there, the Soldiers realize the eagle is spread over 1/2-acre and the rocks are actually boulders.

In 1996 the Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) instituted a change to the Total Army School System, and the California National Guard was permitted to rename its officer training school a regional training institute, (RTI) a historic unit designation. For its RTI, Cali-

fornia chose the 223rd Infantry Regiment, which has a long tradition of valorous service members, including three Soldiers who won the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions during the Korean War.

Although there are multiple ways to become an officer, such as participating in ROTC or attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, officer training on Camp SLO is a unique experience. For the individuals who entered as enlisted Soldiers and left as second lieutenants, a bond was forged through shared experience.

Names change, but no matter if you were a cadet at the California Military Academy or an officer candidate in OCS at the 223rd RTI, Camp SLO is where leaders of the Cal Guard are made — past, present and future.

To contribute to a California Military Academy history project, see page 19.

49th MPs celebrate women's history in Baghdad

By Sgt. Kenneth Bince
49th Military Police Brigade

With the theme of "Writing Women Back into History," United States Forces-Iraq (USF-I) celebrated National Women's History Month with a 90-minute ceremony highlighting the contributions of women in world history — and in the U.S. military — at Al Faw Palace in Baghdad on March 3.

Al Faw Palace is home to USF-I headquarters and is often used for events such as presidential visits, military promotions and U.S. naturalization ceremonies. On March 3, Saddam Hussein's former vacation spot was the backdrop for more than 50 service members and civilians to recognize the contributions of women to world history.

Twelve general officers from the U.S. Army and Air Force attended the event, including Lt. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker, deputy commanding general for support, USF-I.

"Growing out of a small-town school event in California, Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society," said Master Sgt. Steve Melton, the event's master of ceremonies.

The event included the viewing of an eight-minute video highlighting women in the U.S. Armed Forces and the Iraqi police. Additionally an essay contest had been initiated a month prior to the women's history event, with the winner to read their essay during the ceremony. First Lieutenant Kristen Johnson, the 472nd Signal Company's executive officer, won top honors and read her essay, which incorporated works of literature and current accomplishments of women in the military.

Four female guest speakers lectured on a variety of experiences and historic women. Spc. Jakeya French, human resources specialist for the 49th, spoke about witnessing in November the first class of Iraqi women to graduate as police officers.

Sgt. Deleal Gladney, human resources sergeant for the 49th, spoke about four female family members who played pivotal roles in her personal development as a woman and as a Soldier.

The 151st Military Police Battalion executive officer, Maj. Teresa James, spoke about a special group of women in the history of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Lioness Team, and how those women changed the face of the combat Soldier.



During a Women's History Month event at Al Faw Palace, Iraq, on March 3, Spc. Jakeya French of the 49th Military Police Brigade speaks about witnessing the graduation last year of the first Iraqi women to become police officers.

PHOTO BY SGT. KENNETH BINCE

"The Lioness team originated out of ... the need to search the Iraqi women during missions," James said. "Mechanics, signal Soldiers ... administrative clerks were assembled, trained and conducted side-by-side operations with Army and Marine combat units.

"These women went beyond their scope of their trained specialties to accomplish the mission."

Col. Grace Edinboro, deputy commander of the 49th MP Brigade, addressed the role of women in world history.

"Perhaps there is not the need to write women back into history, but include the study of significant women in our history — something Women's History Month encourages us to do," Edinboro said.

Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th MP Brigade commander, said he thought all in attendance learned valuable insights about women's history during the event.

"When you think about it, we have a lot of female service members making history right here, right now," he said. "I'm proud of every one of them."

Gov, first lady honor female service members

By Erin Wetzelberger
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The California Museum in Sacramento opened its doors to the public March 4 in celebration of Women's History Month as California's governor, first lady and adjutant general paid homage to women in uniform across the state.

Day at the Museum, presented by California first lady Maria Shriver and sponsored by her project The Women's Conference, was dedicated to women's empowerment, inspiration and education. The free program featured guest speakers, artists, designers and chefs from throughout California.

Amid a full day of beauty demonstrations, volunteer exhibits and an interactive kids' planting demonstration in the museum courtyard, the afternoon was set aside to recognize women in the military. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the first lady joined with Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight to highlight the achievements of female service members past and present. In the spirit of the occasion, the colors were presented by The Adjutant General's Own Color Guard, composed entirely of women.

"How about that, an all-female color guard?" Shriver said. "I never saw that growing up, so times are a-changing."

Schwarzenegger praised the military and assured service members of his commitment to veterans resources through programs such as Operation Welcome Home and the Cal Guard Education Assistance Award Program.

"I just want to say thank you ... for the great work that you've done for this state and for this country," Schwarzenegger said. "Thank you for protecting our safety and thank you for preserving our freedom. We owe you a debt that can never be repaid."

Kight, who earlier this year became the first female adjutant general of the California National Guard and the first African-American female adjutant general in the country, expressed her gratitude for female veterans' service and made special note of the trailblazers who came before her.

"If it wasn't for our veterans, I would not be standing here right now," she said. "You paved the way for me and all



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

Sgt. Kelly Rogers of the Cal Guard's 59th Army Band, "The Governor's Own," sings the national anthem before a salute to female service members at The California Museum in Sacramento. The March 4 event organized by California first lady Maria Shriver also featured "The Adjutant General's Own" all-female color guard and addresses from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Cal Guard Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, highlighting the achievements of women in the military.

others that are in uniform."

Kight briefly outlined the history of women's service to this country, including Revolutionary War-era wives fighting alongside their husbands and Civil War Soldiers who concealed their identity to join the battle.

"I will tell you that these military women — and so many more who will go unnamed because there's not enough time in the day to celebrate them all — contributed immensely to the formation of this country," Kight said.

National women's clothing retailer Talbots also announced that day a special partnership with the first lady's We Support program to provide 600 gift cards worth \$200 each to military veterans, as well as offering a 30 percent discount on merchandise for the wives of service members.

"We are so excited about this opportunity and look forward to supporting and dressing women who are returning and ... rejoining the civilian life and returning to the workforce," said Judy Holmes of Talbots.

Andrade honored with DoD Role Model Award

A CNG member won STEM award for second straight year

Story and photo courtesy of National Guard Bureau

For the second year in a row, a California National Guard member was recognized with one of the Defense Department's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Role Model Awards, which are presented to 10 women each year during Women's History Month.

Chief Warrant Officer Sandy Andrade was the National Guard Bureau nominee for this year's award, which recognizes military and civilian personnel who have distinguished themselves in support of the Defense Department mission or the global war on terrorism, or whose activities best epitomize the core values of their branch of service or organization. The awards were presented March 18 during a Women's History Month program at the Pentagon.

Andrade was recognized for "her demonstrated initiative to bring much needed transportation technology courses to the California Army National Guard," her citation states. "These courses enabled deploying units of the California Army National Guard to be properly trained and prepared to provide critical transportation-requirements information to military planners."

The citation further states that Andrade's focus on technical training enhanced unit-readiness, and her understanding of mobilization requirements directly contributed to

the "Commendable" rating awarded to a state aviation unit during its rigorous Aircraft Reliability and Maintainability Simulation inspection by Army Forces Command.

"CW2 Andrade's selfless service also includes annual participation in gift-giving at the Sacramento Children's Home and the [Department of Veterans Affairs] Hospital in Rancho Cordova during the holiday season," the citation adds. "CW2 Andrade's passion for people and technology makes her a role model for all and reflects great credit upon herself, the United States Army and the California Army National Guard."

Lt. Col. Susan Pangelinan of the California Air National Guard won a STEM award last year for her accomplishments as medical adviser for the Cal Guard.

Chief Warrant Officer Sandy Andrade of the California National Guard, center, alongside Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Nelan, assistant adjutant general of the California Army National Guard, accepts the Defense Department's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Role Model Award from Gail McGinn, deputy undersecretary of defense for plans, March 18 at the Pentagon.



The deadline is looming!

California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program

Application period for the upcoming 2010-11 academic year will open in late April

Apply online

www.calguard.ca.gov/education



Q&A with Katrina Beck

Education Assistance Award Program Coordinator

Do I still have time to apply for the Education Assistance Award Program for the 2009-2010 academic year?

Yes, the application period closes April 14.

What has been the most difficult part of the application period for service members?

Service members have run into two main issues: Some have submitted the 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) instead of the 2009-2010 FAFSA. Only the 2009-2010 FAFSA will show in the database and be accepted.

The other issue is completing the Statement of Understanding (SOU). Some service members have waited for drill to get the SOU signed by their unit commander. We recommend service members contact their unit commander and ask permission to e-mail a scanned copy or fax a copy to the unit commander. Once the unit commander's signature has been obtained, the completed SOU can be faxed or e-mailed to me at 916-854-3439 or katrina.beck2@us.army.mil.

Katrina Beck can be reached at 916-854-4255 or katrina.beck2@us.army.mil.

Can I submit my FAFSA on April 14 and be accepted?

No, I must have confirmation of your FAFSA submission by April 14. It can take three to five days for your FAFSA to be processed. I recommend you submit the FAFSA by April 9.

How can I be sure my SOU was received?

If you scan and e-mail your SOU, I will send a reply to let you know I received it. If you fax it, you should call or e-mail me to make sure it went through.

I applied but decided to attend another institution. Do I need to do anything?

Yes. You need to contact me if you make any changes to your institution, decide not to participate in the program or your G.I. Bill amount has changed.

Any final comments?

Make sure to get all three components of the application in by April 14. We would like to see everyone who is eligible get an award!



Williams named EAAP analyst

Larry W. Williams joined the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (EAAP) team as an EAAP analyst.

Williams ensures students are enrolled in eligible scholastic institutions, are taking the necessary course load and maintaining the required grades, and he ensures students receive their EAAP checks.

"I honestly believe that we can never repay the troops enough for what they do," Williams said. "This is a great opportunity for them to earn some money to enhance their education, and I will work hard to help them get what they deserve."

Williams is a member of the Air National Guard with 22 years of military experience that includes service in the active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Navy Reserve. He recently returned to his home state of California after serving the Oregon National Guard for more than a decade. While in Oregon, Williams taught business and marketing at South Medford High School for 11 years. He holds a master's degree in business education from Southern Oregon University.

Among other responsibilities, Williams has served the military as a medical laboratory technician, medical training manager, avionics maintenance technician and first sergeant.

The EAAP will provide up to \$1.8 million for service members to attend California colleges and universities this year. For more information and to apply, visit www.calguard.ca.gov/education.

It Takes Three

1. Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
2. Complete the CNG EAAP Application
3. Download and print the Statement of Understanding and have it signed by your commander

Get details and forms at:

www.calguard.ca.gov/education

American, German Soldiers aim for badges

Story and photos by Spc. Drew Balstad
I 16th Public Affairs Detachment

American and German Soldiers of Kosovo Force 12 are getting used to each other's weapons through a series of joint marksmanship events that have been held throughout Kosovo.

On March 8, California National Guard members of the 1-144th Maneuver Task Force, part of Multinational Battle Group-East, once again gave German troops the opportunity to qualify with American

weapons. The Soldiers were able to earn a badge by qualifying on three American weapons: the M9 pistol, M249 machine gun and M4 rifle.

The 1-144th has hosted five such marksmanship events with German Soldiers stationed around Kosovo. The event is called the Schützenschnur, which means "shooter's badge" in German. Both German and American Soldiers are authorized to wear their marksmanship badges from the other country on their dress uniforms.

Second Lieutenant Don Engel of Atwater, Calif., said his command has made these marksmanship events a priority and has extended an open invitation for any German troops in Kosovo to participate.

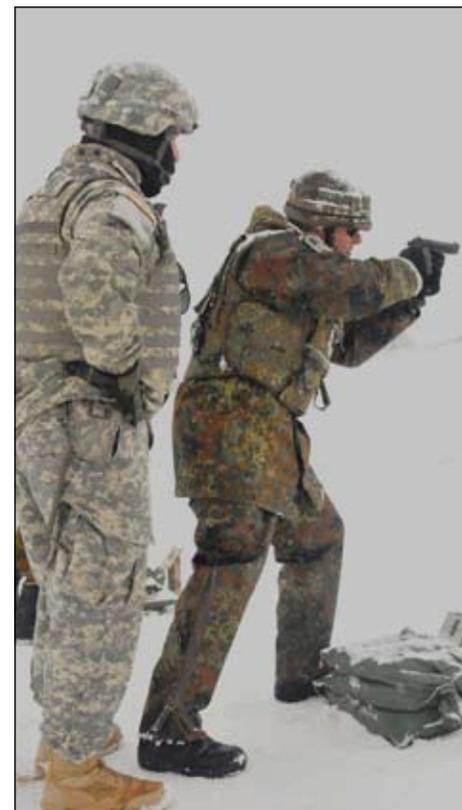
"I hope to get as many people through the Schützenschnur as possible," Engel said. "It's a rare privilege and honor for both armies."

First Lieutenant Andreas Heinemann of the German Air Force agreed and said the events are very important.

"We don't have many opportunities to share connections with American Soldiers," he said. "It is always great fun to work with other nations, especially Americans."

Engel said every German Soldier qualified on all three weapons.

"I have the greatest respect and admiration for the German Soldiers," he said. "They carry themselves as professionals."



ABOVE:A California National Guard Soldier with the 1-144th Maneuver Task Force coaches a German Soldier while he fires the M9 pistol during a joint marksmanship event with American Soldiers on March 8 at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. **LEFT:**A German Soldier fires an M4 rifle during the event.

So far, 70 Soldiers of the 1-144th have participated in marksmanship qualifications with the German Soldiers.

"I'd like to afford the opportunity to every Soldier in the task force and as many German Soldiers as possible," Engel said.



Iraq's next combat aviation brigade prepares to deploy

Story and photo by Sgt. Aaron Gott
I 66th Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

The California Army National Guard's 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, slated to deploy as Iraq's combat aviation brigade in 2011, exercised its staff during a premobilization exercise at Fort Rucker, Ala., in March.

"It was an opportunity to bring the battalions together in task-force configuration to give them the opportunity to execute the mission as they will in theater," said Col. Mitchell Medigovich, commander of the 40th CAB.

The exercise was conducted at the Aviation Warfighter Simulation Center, a state-of-the-art facility that puts the brigade headquarters and subordinate battalion staffs into a simulation of full-spectrum aviation operations. It was supervised by the 166th Aviation Brigade.

The CAB's staff took its orders from 1st Brigade, 75th Training Support Division, which played the role of Multinational Corps-Iraq. The exercise required the CAB to execute the tasks identified as part of the commander's training objectives, which were organized into battle

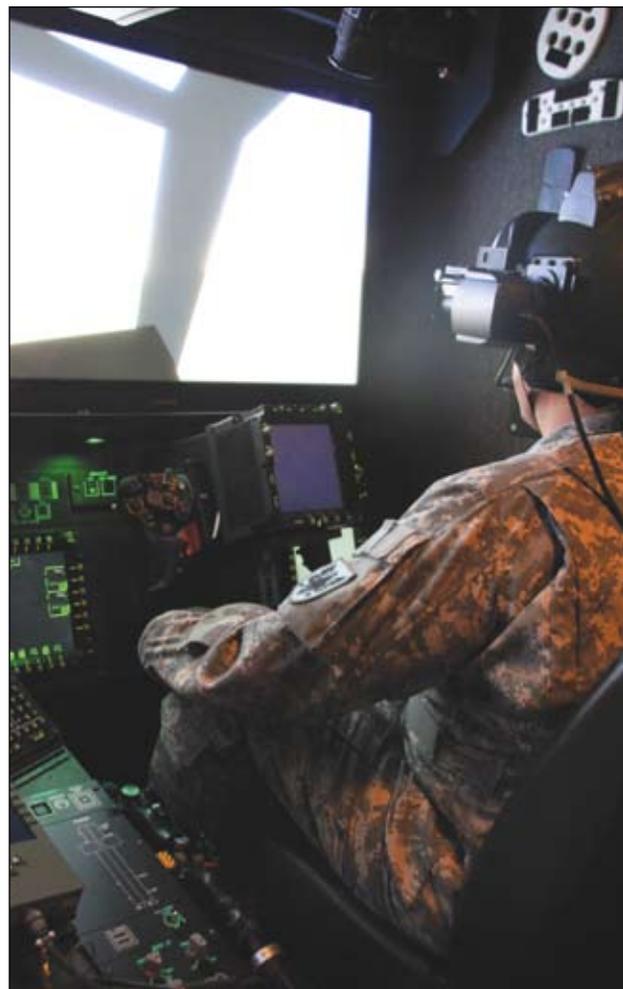
drills for staff sections involved in each task.

"The simulation is driven by a list of events they'll encounter in Iraq," said Maj. Brett Criqui of the 166th. "That includes everything from air mission requests to Soldiers who need to go on emergency leave because they have a death in the family."

Because of the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq, the 40th CAB will be the only major unit in theater providing aviation services, a job formerly handled by three CABs.

The unit will deploy as Task Force 40, a unique combination of Army National Guard and Army Reserve units from 16 states, resulting in what's been dubbed a "Super CAB" by leaders involved with the exercise.

"This event was another milestone we couldn't accomplish without the 166th Aviation Brigade," said Medigovich. "It was critical in preparing the staff for the rigors of deployment."



A pilot with the California Army National Guard's 40th Combat Aviation Brigade flies a mission in an Aviation Combined Arms Simulator during an aviation training exercise at Fort Rucker, Ala., on March 6. The unit is slated to deploy to Iraq in 2011.

Sexual assault hurts one, affects all

By Robert May
CNG Sexual Assault Response Coordinator



This year's theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "Hurts one. Affects all." It is intended to remind us that sexual assault not only affects the victim but impacts all of us as well. Every service member, starting with senior leadership, must understand the importance of safely intervening and preventing sexual assault.

Sexual assault prevention is critical to the safety and well-being of our service members. Prevention is also a mission-readiness issue. Sexual assault degrades the effectiveness of the service member and has the potential to degrade the effectiveness of the unit.

Our California National Guard members deserve a quality-of-life that is commensurate with the great service they provide this country and state. They deserve a positive command climate that represents and upholds our Army and Air core values. We need to continue to develop a military climate that ensures our Soldiers and Airmen are protected, both at home and when they deploy. They deserve committed leaders who are dedicated to preventing sexual assault.

Sexual assault is a crime punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It violates Military Core Values. Sexual assault is characterized by the use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or by a lack of consent or ability to consent. Sexual assault includes rape; nonconsensual oral or anal sex; unwanted or inappropriate sexual contact or fondling; and attempts to commit those acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship or age of the victim. Failure by the victim to offer physical resistance shall not be deemed or construed as "consent." Consent is not given when a person uses force or coercion or when a victim is asleep, incapacitated or unconscious.

How can I reduce my risk of being sexually assaulted?

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, someone is sexually assaulted in the United States every two minutes. By being prepared, alert and assertive, you can reduce your risk of being sexually assaulted.

Be Assertive

- Being assertive means that you state

what you want. Remember: "No" means "No."

- If you do not want to be intimate with another person, tell him or her clearly.
- Use a confident voice and body posture. Match your body language to your words — don't laugh and smile while saying "No."
- Do not just "go along" for the wrong reasons.
- Watch out for warning signs or "red flags" from your partner in intimate situations.

Red Flags to Watch Out For

You should be especially alert if the person you are with:

- Ignores, interrupts or makes fun of you
- Sits or stands too close to you or stares at you
- Has a reputation for being a "player"
- Drinks too much, uses drugs or tries to get you to use drugs or alcohol
- Tries to touch or kiss you or get into your "personal space" when you barely know him or her
- Wants to be alone with you before getting to know you or pressures you to be alone together
- Does what he or she wants without asking what you want
- Gets angry or sulks if he or she doesn't get what he or she wants
- Pressures you to have sex or tries to make you feel guilty for saying "No"

Be Prepared

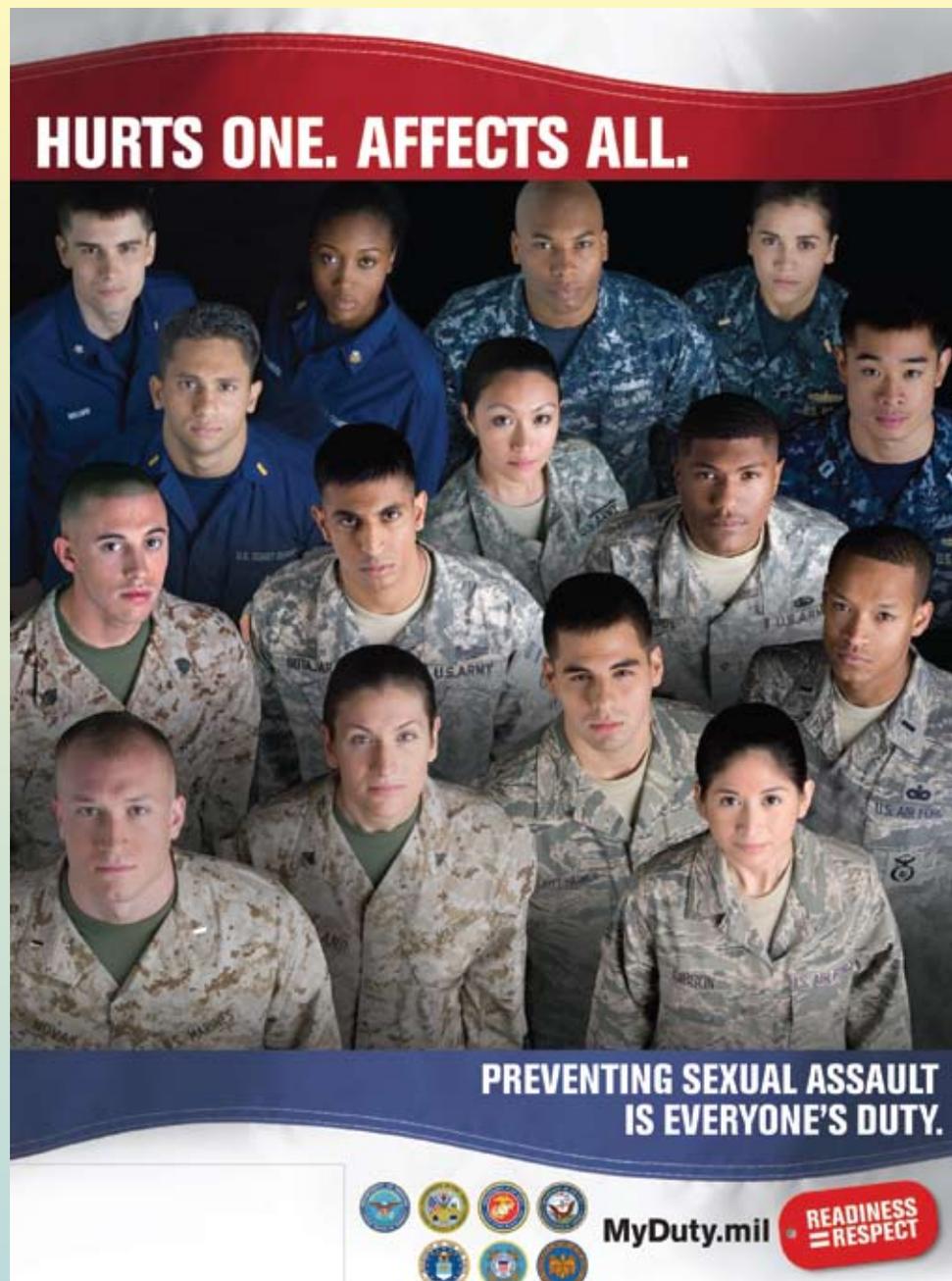
- Travel with a buddy.
- Stay in groups, as there is safety in numbers.
- Plan your outings and avoid getting into bad situations.
- Stay sober. Studies indicate that about half of all U.S. sexual assaults involve the use of alcohol by the offender, the victim or both.
- Never leave a drink unattended. Educate yourself about date-rape drugs.
- Walk only in lighted areas after dark.
- Keep the doors to homes, barracks and cars locked.
- Know where the phone is located.
- Don't go anywhere alone with someone unless you know and trust the person very well.

Be Alert

- Trust your instincts. If a person or place feels unsafe, it probably is.
- Watch for signs of trouble such as strangers in private areas or people loitering in places where they shouldn't be.
- If you sense trouble, get to a safe place as soon as possible.
- If you feel you are in danger, attract help any way you can.
- Don't dress in view of a window.
- Report any unauthorized or suspicious people in the barracks. The Acting Secretary of the Army's Task Force Report on Sexual Assault Policies showed 67 percent of assaults involving Army personnel from 1999 to 2004 occurred on post.

How can I reduce my risk of becoming a sexual assault offender?

Sexual assault involves two or more people.



To reduce your risk of being accused of sexual assault:

- Remember: Sexual assault is a crime. You will be held responsible for your actions.
- Ensure that your partner consents to sexual activity. You must have consent from your partner before you can legally engage in sexual activity.
- If someone is passed out, unconscious or asleep from alcohol, drugs or fatigue, they are legally unable to give their consent.
- Ensure a potential partner is of legal age. Ignorance is no excuse. The age at which someone can legally give consent for sexual activity varies by state. It is as high as 18 years in some states.
- Communicate your expectations to your potential partner. Misunderstandings and lack of communication, especially between people who don't know each other very well, can lead to dangerous and career-threatening situations.
- Avoid using drugs or excessive amounts of alcohol. People under the influence often have different memories of how an event occurs.

Remember that "No" means "No," even if the other person:

- Says yes, but changes his or her mind
- Has been kissing or "making out" with you
- Has had sex with you before
- Has been drinking alcohol
- Wears provocative clothing

If you're not sure how your partner feels, ask!

For more about sexual assault prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month, visit:
www.sapr.mil
www.MyDuty.mil
www.calguard.ca.gov/j1/pages/SAPRP.aspx
<http://www.sexualassault.army.mil>

Robert May, the Cal Guard sexual assault response coordinator, is available to address any questions or concerns. He can be reached at 916-854-3448 or via email at robert.may7@us.army.mil.



California National Guardsmen compete in a team rifle match during the All-Army Championships held Feb. 21-27 at Fort Benning, Ga. Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wall of the Cal Guard's 223rd Infantry Regiment was recognized as the top overall shooter in the Open Classification category during the competition. For more information and photos, see page 12.
Photo by 1st Lt. Barry Eason

News & Benefits

West Point slots go unfilled

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point reserves 85 slots in each year's freshman class for National Guard and Reserve members, yet only about 50 of those slots are filled annually.

"I know the 85 Soldiers are out there, we just have to reach them," said Maj. Brian Easley, the Soldier-admissions officer at the academy.

Applying to West Point as a prior-service Soldier has its benefits: Current active-duty or reserve-component Soldiers don't need a congressional nomination. Prior-service Soldiers must simply request a service-connected nomination from their commander, which means they don't have to compete for a congressional-appointed slot.

Also, while a good high school grade point average is important, Easley explained that the admissions staff is willing to work with current Soldiers who may have less than desirable grades.

"It's an amazing opportunity for Soldiers to reach their full potential," Easley said.

Requirements for admission include being between 17 and 22 years old, a U.S. citizen, single and without dependents, with an above-average academic record, in good physical health and able to pass the Candidate Fitness Assessment.

For more information, visit <http://admissions.usma.edu>.

Seeking California Military Academy memories, mementos

The 223rd Infantry Regiment is seeking stories, photos, cards and other memorabilia from students and employees of the California Military Academy or the 223rd Regional Training Institute since the academy was founded in 1951.

The 223rd Infantry Regiment is hoping to capture the history of the California Military Academy, including its Soldiers, families, groups and institutions. In addition to the schools at Camp San Luis Obispo, the California Military Academy included companies throughout the state, which are also of interest to the historians of the 223rd Infantry Regiment.

Clean out your drawers, empty those boxes in the garage and send the 223rd your mementos. Be sure to note if you want your items returned to you. Detailed information such as dates and names written on backs of photos is greatly appreciated.

Please send your materials to:
100th Troop Command
ATTN: Lt. Col. Frank Emanuel
10620 Mather Boulevard
Mather, CA 95655

Contact Emanuel at frank.emanuel@us.army.mil or 916-361-4351 with any questions.

For more on The California Military Academy, see page 16.

Strong Bonds retreat in July

The Strong Bonds program will hold a marriage enrichment class in Rancho Cordova on June 12-13.

Whether you've celebrated one anniversary or 20, as a Guard couple you can expect more excitement and more challenges than the average civilian couple. Long separations, frequent relocations and the stress of deployments can subject military marriages to extreme hardship. Strong Bonds Marriage Enrichment is a viable skill-building tool for developing resiliency in couples. For more information or to register, visit www.calguard.ca.gov/ReadyFamilies.

Correction: A caption on page 12 of the March issue incorrectly identified a Soldier as Command Sgt. Maj. Charles A. Jolicouer. The Soldier was Maj. Kris Kough.

DID YOU KNOW...

... commanders may involuntarily discharge service members for failing to have a family care plan?

Both the Army and the Air Force require active and reserve component members who meet Family Care Plan requirements to complete a Family Care Plan. Failing to do so will render a military member non-deployable and make the member eligible for involuntary separation, regardless of status.

Commanders are required to ensure Family Care Plans are completed by all single parents; dual military couples with family members for whom the service members bear responsibility; and service members with civilian spouses who have unique family situations, as determined by the commander or first sergeant. Commanders must adequately test the validity and durability of the Family Care Plan, to include contacting the designated guardian or guardians prior to final approval or recertification.

Family Care Plans ensure family members are properly and adequately cared for while the military member is deployed, on temporary duty or otherwise unavailable because of military requirements. Service members will implement Family Care Plans during any period of absence for annual training, regularly scheduled unit training assemblies, emergency mobilizations and deployments or other type of active duty.

For the complete list of Family Care Plan requirements, refer to Air Force Instruction 36-2908 or Army Regulation 600-20.



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PHOTO BY SGT. JAN M. BENDER

Staff Sgt. Robert Randall of the Cal Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Team instructs an Orange County Junior High School student during a March orienteering course at Irvine Regional Park. The students learned and used basic land navigation skills to find a series of objectives, and the lesson reinforced the need for students to set goals and stay on course in life. The Drug Demand Reduction Team recently won a national award for its support of schools, law enforcement agencies and community organizations. See page 9.

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