

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



CNG Celebrates the Month of the Military Child

Artwork by Sara Bell, 14, whose father, 2nd Lt. Brian Bell, is deployed to Afghanistan with the CNG's 2668th Transportation Company. For more drawings and info, see page 14.

New CNG employment initiative

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Leadership Corner

Excellence is our standard

Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin



The past decade has been among the busiest in the California National Guard's history, with thousands of combat deployments in addition to our domestic emergency response operations. This has produced a generation of proven, experienced, battle-hardened troops that any officer would be proud to lead.

Apart from brief periods of traditional warfare at the beginning of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, our troops have been engaged in counterinsurgency operations that require different skills than traditional military fieldcraft. As a result the CNG has shifted its training focus in recent years, and many of our young Soldiers may have never practiced the basic soldiering skills associated with occupying a piece of land and defending a perimeter.

With the pace of deployments slowing down, it is time for us to return to those traditional soldiering skills, re-focus on the basics and ensure we are living up to Army and Air Force standards. As we execute this transition, our noncommissioned officers (NCO) will set the tone, enforcing rigorous guidelines that must be met every single day.

Our NCOs know that if a task is worth doing, it is worth doing right. We are trained to put service before self, and that means doing the right thing every time — even when nobody's looking. Each time a violation is ignored, it establishes a new standard of subpar performance. Only relentless attention to detail will ensure we meet the Army and Air Force standard in everything we do.

Each training weekend or annual training period is an opportunity to improve our skills and prepare our troops for the next conflict, wherever that may be. As a part-time force, we must take full advantage of all those

This renewed focus on the basics will develop alert, disciplined troops who exhibit the pride one would expect from our nation's premier Guard force. More importantly it will prepare our troops for whatever type of conflict may arise in the future.

***- Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin
The Adjutant General***

opportunities.

Every movement, for example, even a move to your home station following a training task, is a collective training opportunity, and we must train as we fight. At the end of a training day, don't turn on your lights and mosey back to your post: Use that opportunity to conduct night tactical movements and reinforce the warrior mindset.

Light and noise discipline must be maintained to protect our troops. These practices need to be enforced in training scenarios to ensure that they are engrained in

our troops.

Lax standards in training lead to lax operational performance. We need to re-emphasize safety practices such as designating sleeping areas, posting guards and using Soldiers to ground-guide our vehicles.

Just as they would upon leaving a forward operating base overseas, personnel should wear appropriate eye protection and gloves during training, and pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections should be executed before rolling out for a tactical field site occupation.

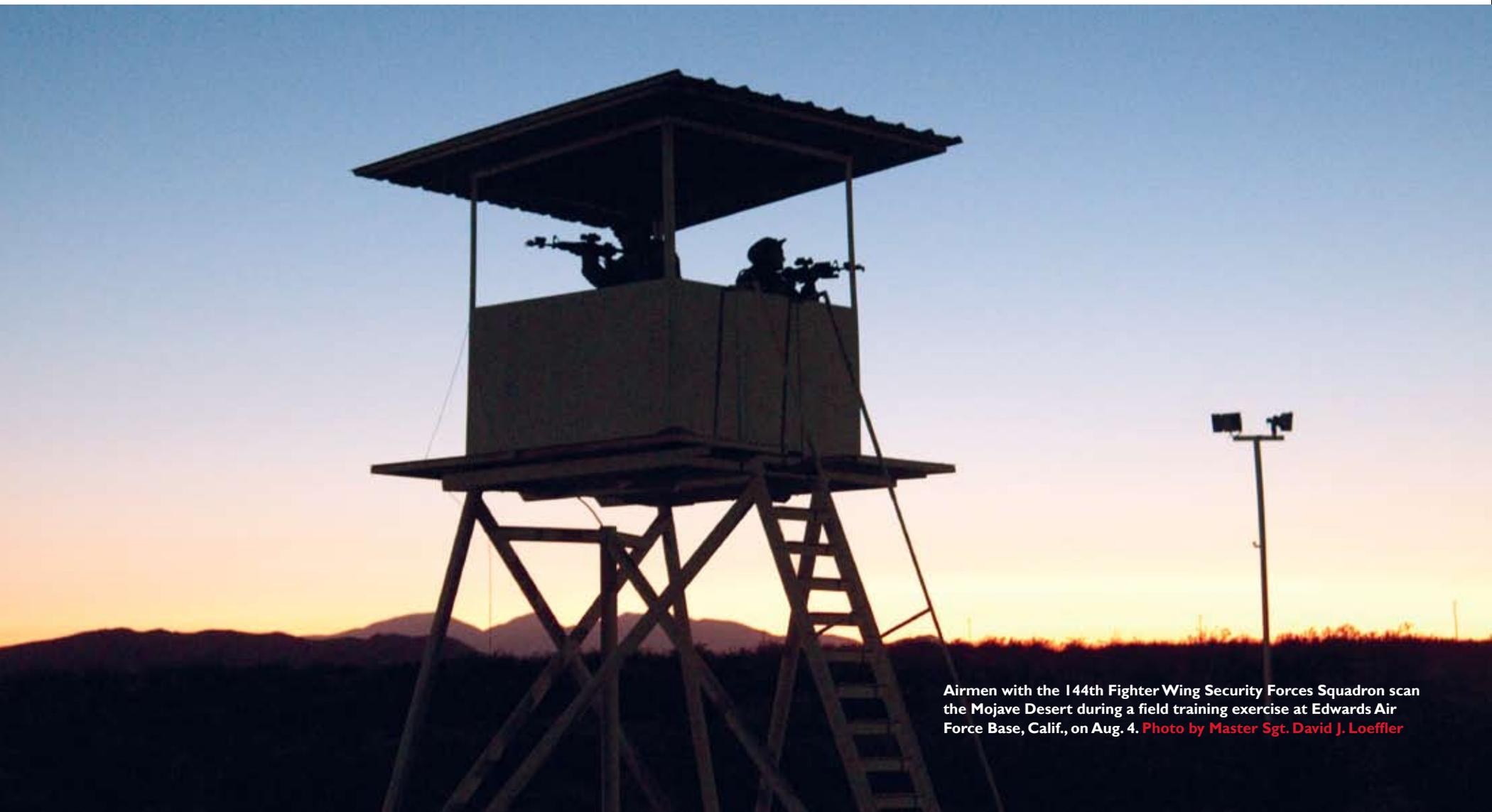
Checklist discipline is a must, but it is not enough. In-depth knowledge of equipment, weapon systems and procedures engenders the confidence necessary to perform those tasks under stress.

This renewed focus on the basics will develop alert, disciplined troops who exhibit the pride one would expect from our nation's premier Guard force. More importantly it will prepare our troops for whatever type of conflict may arise in the future and ensure their safety to the greatest degree possible.

NCOs are often referred to as the "backbone" of the armed forces. This is an accurate description, as they can determine whether a force will stand tall or fall short.

Our troops look to their NCOs to set the example and present the warrior image at all times. I expect each NCO to mentor, guide, teach and enforce the Army and Air Force standards, as this is the only way to set our organization up for success.

In the CNG, excellence is our standard, and it will be upheld at your home station, just as it is on deployment.



Airmen with the 144th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron scan the Mojave Desert during a field training exercise at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., on Aug. 4. Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler

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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: MB files, not KB
- ★ 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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Cover Shot



Drawing by Sara Bell

This drawing by Sara Bell, 14, was chosen from dozens of entries in our cover-design contest in celebration of the Month of the Military Child. Sara's father, 2nd Lt. Brian Bell, is currently in Afghanistan serving with the CNG's 2668th Transportation Company. For more on the Month of the Military Child, including more drawings by CNG children, turn to page 14.

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California National Guard mobilizations as of March 2012



Need a job? The Cal Guard can help!

By **BRANDON HONIG**
California Military Department Public Affairs

California's part-time warriors can now benefit from reinforcements in their efforts to find full-time employment through the new Work for Warriors program, introduced March 29 at the state Capitol by the California National Guard and Speaker of the State Assembly John A. Perez.

The one-year pilot program, which was made possible by the speaker's generosity and hard work, is a new office in the California Military Department that plans to cut unemployment among California National Guard members by at least 25 percent in the next year and ultimately reduce it to less than 5 percent.

"For more than 10 years, service members have faced deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq, some for multiple tours of duty. ... They deserve every opportunity as they make their transition back to civilian life," Perez said. "We also know it's critical that members of the National Guard remain ready to serve our country and assist our state during natural disasters or other major emergencies. The best way to do that is to ensure that they have steady jobs and that those jobs are available to them when they return home."

During the past decade, most California Guardsmen have deployed overseas at least once for a combat tour. When they return home, those brave service members often struggle to find full-time jobs.

The nationwide unemployment rate is 8.3 percent, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, and in California it is nearly 11 percent. Even worse for Guardsmen, a June 2011 analysis showed the rate of unemployment in some states is twice as high for Guard members who have recently re-

turned from overseas tours as it is for the general population.

"In some units we have unemployment as high as 50 percent," said Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, the adjutant general of the California National Guard. "That's a direct threat to our readiness, our ability to call upon our Soldiers when needed, because they have other stresses that are facing them and their families because they don't have jobs and they don't have access to good health care and all those things that a good career path [provides]."

The Work for Warriors mission is two-fold. First, the program's staff, based at California Military Department headquarters in Sacramento, is working with job-seekers to refine their resumes and interviewing skills to make them marketable to employers. Second, the staff is working every day to find employers that value the characteristics Guardsmen bring to their jobs — invaluable traits such as dedication, responsibility, loyalty, calm under pressure and a mission-oriented, no-fail mindset.

The Work for Warriors network already includes many top-notch employers such as Dollar General, Comcast, the California Conservation Corps, JPMorgan Chase, Berkeley National Laboratory, Solar City, Granite Construction and the California Chamber of Commerce that are seeking quality employees with a military background.

"We know [service members] represent the best that our young people and our citizens can offer," said Bob Ravener, chief people officer for retailer Dollar General. "We believe the military experience prepares individuals for challenging leadership roles. Things like leadership, teamwork, accountability and discipline on a daily basis are those things they exemplify."

3 Easy Steps to a New Job

1

SIGN UP

Sign Up with us to help you find a job. Go to www.calguard.ca.gov/EIP and submit your resume.

2

CONSULT

Work for Warriors will contact you **within 1 weekday** to assess your goals, refine your resume and provide interview coaching.

3

INTERVIEW

Meet with businesses in the Work for Warriors network that are **seeking employees with your skills.**

Dollar General has hired many California National Guardsmen since first partnering with the Guard in February, including Pfc. Diego Urena, who works at the company's distribution center in Bakersfield.

"Since high school I had bounced from part-time job to part-time job trying to find a job to not only put a roof over my head and food on my table but also to save enough money so that I could attend school and pursue my dream of becoming a music engineer," Urena said. "[My new job at Dollar General] covers all my expenses and gives me hope for a better future."

Guard members seeking employment should visit www.calguard.ca.gov/EIP, where you can submit your resume. A

Work for Warriors team member will contact you within one business day to assess your career goals, background, experience and education — both civilian and military — and counsel you on how to present those attributes. Then the staff will match you with hiring businesses for job interviews.

Employers interested in joining the Work for Warriors network should visit the same website and submit contact information. A Work for Warriors team member will promptly contact you to work out the details of connecting qualified Soldiers and Airmen with your business.

"If you are an employer, hire a National Guardsman," Baldwin said. "You will be stunned at your return on investment."

I 072nd Transportation Co., 649th MPs depart for Afghanistan

By **SENIOR MASTER SGT. CHRIS DRUDGE**
144th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Hundreds of family members and friends filled the Clovis East High

School gymnasium March 17 in a show of support for the California National Guard's 1072nd Transportation Company, which is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. Nearly 170 deploying Sol-

diers participated in a departure ceremony that day in which the Transportation Company's colors were cased and the unit was transferred from the National Guard to the active duty Army.

The Fresno-based company's Soldiers have been training for their upcoming mission for more than a year in California and are on their way to Fort Bliss, Texas, for another month of training before leaving for Afghanistan. Once in theater, the 1072nd will haul personnel and equipment for coalition forces in northern Afghanistan.

"The [departure] ceremony was overwhelming," said Capt. Donald Lipscomb, commander of the 1072nd. "Our Soldiers deserve the support from everyone here. It makes the deployment easier knowing that the whole community is behind us."

Civilians and Soldiers came to attention, the unit's color guard posted the U.S. flag, the national anthem was sung and words of encouragement were spoken before the guidon was rolled up and cased. "The most significant part of the ceremony is the casing of the colors," said Brig. Gen. Lawrence Haskins, deputy commander of the California Army Nation-

al Guard. "The colors will not be unfurled until the unit reaches Afghanistan."

The transportation unit will find it easier to focus their attention on the job at hand with the inclusion of about 50 members from the CNG's 649th Military Police (MP) Company out of San Luis Obispo, Calif., who will join the 1072nd Soldiers in Afghanistan. The highly trained and experienced MPs will provide security during convoys and other missions.

First Sergeant Howard Gilmore of the 1072 said the unit's predeployment training has been intense.

"We have pushed these Soldiers to their limit to see how they can sustain in a combat environment," he said. "The men and women of this company always prevail. It is a tribute to their intestinal fortitude."

The 1072nd deployed to Iraq for a year in 2005, but Lipscomb said most of the Soldiers deploying to Afghanistan are new to the unit.



Soldiers of the 1072nd Transportation Company and 649th Military Police Company salute the U.S. flag March 17 in Clovis, Calif., during a departure ceremony in advance of their deployment to Afghanistan.

MEDEVAC unit conducts high-angle rescue training

By CAPT. TODD BONNER; Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment

Photo by Greg Almos

Whether they're skiing, hiking or climbing, thousands of people visit the Sierra Nevada Mountains east of Sacramento each year. When a skier, hiker or climber finds themselves in trouble, the local sheriff's department's search-and-rescue team is the first to come to their aid. But if a rescue requires high-altitude expertise or carries into nighttime, the sheriff's department often turns to the National Guard for help.

During the past year, members of the California Army National Guard have been involved in rescue missions ranging from Mount Whitney in Southern California to the Lake Tahoe back country on the Nevada border and as far north as Mount Shasta. Located at Mather Field just outside Sacramento, members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment (Medevac), were often involved in those rescue missions.

To prepare for such challenging rescues, Soldiers from Company C, 1-168th, honed their skills near Lake Tahoe on Feb. 12 during a joint training exercise with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team.

"These types of events allow us to interface with local emergency-response agencies in a controlled environment, providing us with the opportunity to fine-tune joint techniques and procedures we'll use when working together on live rescues," said Maj. David Lovett, commander of Company C, 1-168th. "These training events are perfect. We are able to get training value for both our wartime and state support missions at the same time."

Company C is well-prepared to respond to calls for difficult rescue missions. Equipped with an external hoist capable of lifting up to 600 pounds, the unit's UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters are an ideal platform for high-altitude hoist missions.

"The UH-60 Black Hawk has the capability to execute these hoist rescues in excess of 11,000 feet," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Brockly, a pilot with Company C. "Having recently returned from Afghanistan, where we conducted numerous rescues at these altitudes, our crews are experienced and capable of safely executing these types of rescue missions."

Using a rescue hoist is one of the most technical and challenging rescue techniques Soldiers employ. Company C, or Charlie Company, therefore practices hoist insertions and extractions dozens of times a year.

"Rescue hoisting is a big part of what Charlie Company does, so we practice it almost every day. We make it look easy because we train hard," said Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Hughes, a crew chief and flight instructor for the unit, who has participated in 28 rescue missions above 10,000 feet. "People's lives depend on the hoist operator's competence and skill each time they ride the line. Every training flight that goes out, we want to see the crew chiefs and medics refining their skills with the hoist."

When extracting an injured person using a hoist, the patient is usually instructed to sit on a rescue strop or a jungle penetrator, a small device to which the patient can be strapped. If a patient requires stabilization on a backboard because of a neck or back injury, an alternate method of extraction is required. In these cases, a medic is lowered to the ground, where the Soldier packages the patient in a rescue basket for safe and secure extraction.

The medic remains on the ground while the rescue basket is being lifted and uses a cable attached to the basket to guide and control the patient on their way up to the helicopter.

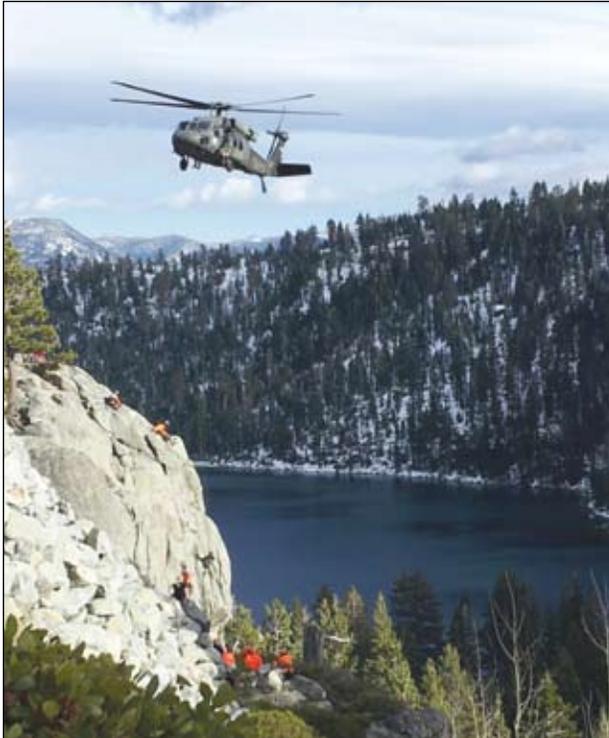


Photo by Capt. Todd Bonner

TOP: Members of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team prepare to descend a cliff face Feb. 12 near Lake Tahoe to package a patient with simulated injuries into a rescue basket. The patient was then hoisted up to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter operated by members of the California National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment. **ABOVE:** A Black Hawk from Company C, 1-168th, maneuvers into position to extract the patient after he was packaged for hoisting. **RIGHT:** Sgt. 1st Class Mike Feyh of Company C, 1-168th, top right, and Scott Gabler, technical team leader for the Tahoe Unit of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team, secure the patient into a rescue basket to be lifted to the Black Hawk hovering overhead.

The crew chief then brings the basket inside, secures the patient and sends the hoist back down to the medic.

In the Feb. 12 training event, a patient suffering from simulated injuries was extracted from the side of a cliff in a rescue basket. This required a climbing team to scale the rock face to package the patient, who was then lifted to a helicopter hovering overhead.

"One of the unique capabilities C Company brings is the ability to execute these high-angle and high-altitude hoist rescues. We are very pleased with the partnership we have established with C Company," said Scott Gabler, technical team leader for the Tahoe Unit of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team. "The high-angle hoist training we conducted today will increase our joint capabilities and our readiness to respond to complex rescue incidents in the future."

Gabler brought more than 20 team members to the training event, including a search-and-rescue dog. Gabler also provided Company C with detailed instruction on using ropes and climbing gear for rescues.

"Some of their gear is different than what we normally use," said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Feyh, a medic and flight instructor for Company C. "This partnership has been very beneficial. As a result of today's training event, we are going to modify the way we do things a bit. We'll take some of the things we learned today and incorporate it into our everyday training."

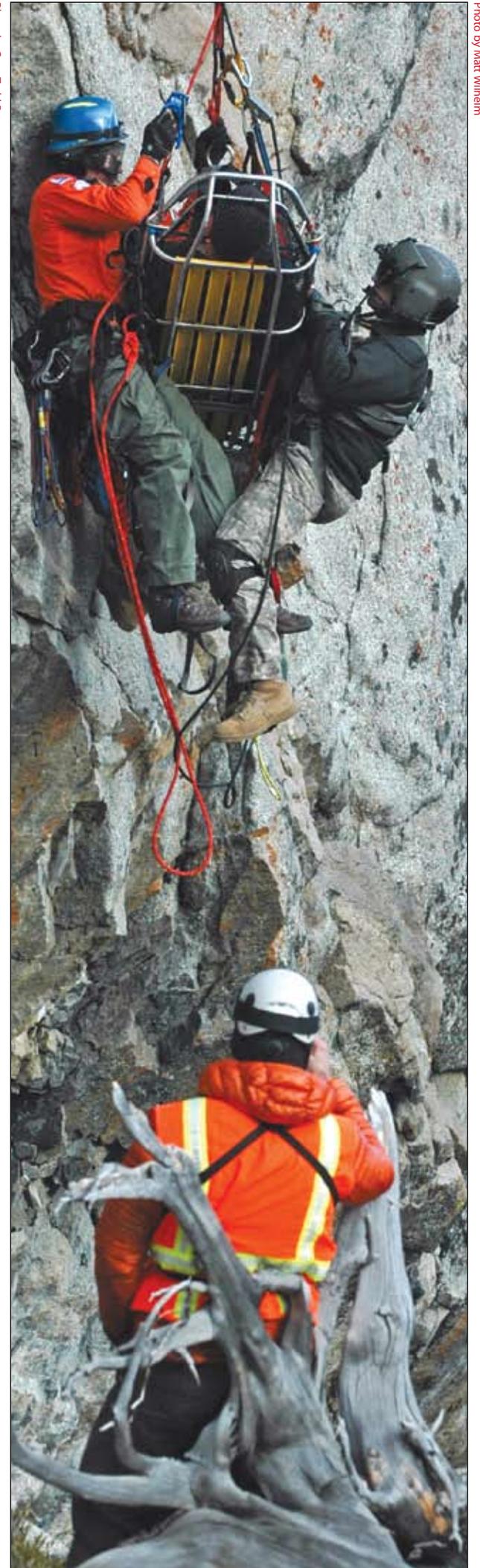


Photo by Matt Wilhelm

CERTIFIED • CNG Homeland Response Force

The 49th Military Police Brigade Homeland Response Force earned certification as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's key military operations element for Region IX during an exercise and external evaluation Feb. 26-March 2 on Camp Roberts, Calif.

By **SPC. GRANT LARSON**
69th Public Affairs Detachment

Following two years of intense training, a Cal Guard Homeland Response Force (HRF) with elements from several units earned certification as the key military operations element covering about one-tenth of the United States for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The approximately 570-member 49th Military Police Brigade HRF combines a command-and-control element, a battalion headquarters, a security company and a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive enhanced response force package (CERFP). The CERFP includes decontamination, search-and-extraction and medical capabilities to respond to any incident involving an airborne pathogen, "dirty bomb," nuclear detonation or other dangerous contaminant.

The HRF's capabilities were tested in March on Camp Roberts, Calif., where the force reacted to a training scenario in which a tractor-trailer crashed into a building in San Francisco and another vehicle exploded nearby, releasing a vapor cloud of hydrogen fluoride. The scenario was devised by the West Virginia-based Joint Interagency Training and Education Center (JITEC), which uses civilian and military evaluators to provide the Department of Homeland Security with training, mentoring and evaluation of response operations.

Hours after the vehicle explosion, an unknown chemical was released inside a San Francisco theater where thousands were attending a concert. Attendees began exhibiting signs of contamination and started fleeing, but a cargo truck carrying explosives detonated in front of the theater, causing widespread destruction. Authorities later discovered a clandestine manufacturing lab that linked the attacks to an unknown terrorist organization.

"As I watched the Brigade in action, there was a sense of pride and accomplishment," said Col. William T. Arruda Jr., commander of the Brigade. "Everyone knew their jobs, and once they got their rhythm, they executed and exceeded the standards. In fact, JITEC named the search-and-extraction team as the best they've seen in the nation."

The event was designed to create a sense of realism and urgency so HRF responders would be prepared to act swiftly and effectively in times of disaster. Preparedness is especially crucial in California, where environmental conditions are rife with potentially catastrophic events.

"Lying on the fault lines, we do have a lot of earthquakes and other natural disasters," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Caddy, a combat engineer and reconnaissance team leader for the 235th Engineer Company (Sapper). "And with the terrorist threat always out there, you never know what's going to

jump off. ... We take pride in [the HRF responsibility] as Guard members because it is truly a National Guard mission."

The HRF provides critical resources to civil authorities and serves as a stop-gap measure between first responders and active duty military forces. HRF units are trained to find and extract casualties caught in rubble piles, decontaminate survivors from harmful substances and treat citizens for all sorts of injuries.

Because of the chaos that could ensue following a catastrophic event, a security element is required to provide force protection, cordon-and-entry support and manpower to ensure the recovery effort is not hindered. The HRF stands ready to respond and arrive at their readiness centers within six hours of receiving a call to duty and to have all forces on the road within 12 hours.

"The HRF allows us to take federal resources and leverage them to protect the citizens of California," said Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, commander of the California Army National Guard. "The 49th MP Brigade has a technical competence to do its federal mission, and we leverage that preparedness. We have a mission to stand ready to respond to any civil emergency."

The MP Brigade received the HRF mission in August 2010. It serves as one of 10 regional FEMA forces, unifying the nation's resource-readiness for a swift response to save lives and mitigate human suffering.

The 49th MP Brigade HRF's area of responsibility is the 400,000-square-mile FEMA Region IX, which covers California, Arizona, Hawaii and Nevada, as well as the territories of American Samoa and Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. With the ability to integrate multiple CERFPs and civil support teams under its command, the HRF is ready to assist the 36 million residents of Region IX with a sizable, seamless response to any civil emergency.

Within the HRF's CERFP, the 579th Engineer Battalion provides command and control. The 235th, which is trained in digging, cutting and bracing, spearheads the search-and-recovery effort. The 149th Chemical Company showers any survivors and scrubs off harmful contaminants. Then the 144th Fighter Wing Medical Group treats the patients.

"We get to serve not just our country when called into combat, but we also get to serve the citizens of the state and our communities," Caddy said. "Now [with the HRF structure], everything's nationalized, or [on] one sheet of music, so we have enhanced interoperability between not just different CERFPs, but also with civilian agencies."



Members of the 49th Military Police Brigade Homeland Response Force search for survivors during an exercise Feb. 28 on Camp Roberts, Calif.

"Lying on the fault lines, we do have a lot of earthquakes and other natural disasters. And with the terrorist threat always out there, you never know what's going to jump off. We take pride in [the HRF responsibility] as Guard members because it is truly a National Guard mission."

**- Staff Sgt. Daniel Caddy
Reconnaissance Team Leader,
235th Engineer Company (Sapper)**



The Homeland Response Force was tested in March on Camp Roberts, Calif., where troops reacted to a scenario in which a tractor-trailer crashed into a building in San Francisco and another vehicle exploded nearby, releasing a vapor cloud of hydrogen fluoride.

California National Guard Homeland Response Force

The core of the HRF is its ability to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) situation, similar to that found in the country's 17 CBRNE enhanced response force packages (CERFP). HRFs, however, also have substantial command-and-control and security capabilities.

9th CERFP ready for any emergency

By SPC. GRANT LARSON
69th Public Affairs Detachment

When a state emergency occurs, those affected by the chaos look for signs that help is on the way. The men and women who arrive on the scene representing our National Guard are charged with lending that helping hand, and their steady resolve and commitment to aiding their fellow citizens is a welcome sight.

The members of the 9th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) prepared to provide that steady hand Feb. 26-March 2 during the 49th Military Police Brigade Homeland Response Force (HRF) External Evaluation on Camp Roberts, Calif.

The evaluation was the final step in a two-year process to validate the California National Guard's 49th MP Brigade as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region IX HRF, which specializes in identifying, decontaminating and treating people exposed to hazardous materials. The CERFP, which is a component of the HRF, comprises members from four CNG units.

During the evaluation, the HRF was required to respond to a scenario involving two vehicle explosions in San Francisco, one of which released a vapor cloud of hydrogen fluoride, followed by another chemical release at a theater in the city. To push the limits of the HRF, a cargo truck exploded outside the main entrance to the theater during its evacuation.

The final piece of the training scenario came a few hours later, when authorities discovered a clandestine manufacturing lab in San Francisco that was linked to the attacks.

"[The CERFP members] take the HRF's intent and put it into operation at the lowest level," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Caddy, a combat engineer and reconnaissance team leader for the 235th Engineer Company (Sapper), which is a component of the CERFP. "We're the guys that go in, boots on the ground, pull people out and get them to [decontamination centers]."

The chemical specialists made sure each team member knew their job well.

"This time, being part of the [decontamination] line, I'm in a reconnaissance platoon and getting to take part in a whole number of different areas," said Spc. Leland Gyr of the 149th Chemical Company, based out of Turlock. "Monitoring the showers and the litter carry were new to me and was kind of an impromptu position, but it was fun to train in new, challenging ways."

One task of the CERFP is to quickly prioritize victims and push them through a washing station. Once clean, the medical staff swoops in to begin treating wounds. Time is of the essence and containment of the harmful substances is crucial.

"Being able to provide unique capabilities such as conducting search and extraction and decontamination in a real world incident — it's a greater capability because we are able to operate in those [chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive] environments," Caddy said.

CERFPs work with local, state and federal agencies to quickly address any incident involving a weapon of mass destruction or other terrorist attack, as well as natural disasters. The CERFPs move out to affected areas in six hours or less with Soldiers and Airmen ready to assist citizens.

"We're able to train at the unit level and come together, and all the pieces fit, as it's done to a certain standard under the HRF," Caddy said. "That ensures that with any of the CERFPs, whether it's California, Washington or the Virginia CERFP, we can pick right up where they left off and everything's the same."

Ten states have accepted the great responsibility of leading a HRF mission. Each force covers a region spanning several states and/or territories, collectively covering all parts of the country.

"Now everything's nationalized, or [on] one sheet of music, so we have enhanced interoperability between not just different CERFPs, but also with civilian agencies," Caddy said.

Arizona • California • Hawaii • Nevada • American Samoa • Guam • Northern Mariana Islands • Federated States of Micronesia • Republic of the Marshall Islands

The HRF is responsible for the 400,000 square miles and more than 36 million citizens in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IX.



CNG HRF UNITS

-  49th Military Police Brigade HHC
- + 40th Military Police Company
- + 270th Military Police Company
-  + 185th Military Police Battalion
- + 579th Engineer Battalion (CERFP)
- + 235th Engineer Company (CERFP)
- + 149th Chemical Company (CERFP)
-  144th FW Medical Group (CERFP)
- 40th ID Operations Company

CNG HRF PERSONNEL

- The Force comprises about 570 people
- + Medical Team: 45 people
- + Search & Extraction Team: 50 people
- + Decontamination Team: 75 people
- + Security Team: 200 people
- + Command & Control: 200 people

REGION IX CHALLENGES

Earthquakes, wildfires, tropical storms, hurricanes, typhoons, landslides, floods



Youth finds 2nd chance, diploma, future in CNG

The National Guard's Patriot Academy enabled Travonce Covey to overcome the impact of economic recession

By CAPT. KYLE KEY

National Guard Professional Education Center

When Travonce Covey's mother lost her job and wanted to protect him from the hardships that could entail, she sent him to live with an aunt in Massillon, Ohio, interrupting his senior year at Helix Charter High School in La Mesa, Calif. But when he arrived in Ohio and tried to enroll in the local high school, the school counselor told him many of his credits would not transfer, and he would have to repeat part of his junior year and his entire senior year. That was the last thing Covey wanted.

Back in California, his mother lost her home and lived on the streets of San Diego until finding refuge through a mission church. When Covey returned to San Diego to visit two years later, he was shocked at what had transpired.

"The church took her in and got her a room in a house so she could get back on her feet," Covey said. "While I was away, she got really close to God. When we saw each other she said, 'Look, I've found God and I'm involved in this church.' I didn't believe her, because all her life she had been an atheist."

Covey decided to stay in San Diego, moved into the mission house and became active in the church. But without a job, a high school diploma or a GED certificate, his prospects were dim.

One day a man from the streets moved into the group home. "You're really young to be here," he told Covey. "This place is for ex-gangbangers, drug users and stuff. What are you doing here?"

Covey had never experimented with drugs and had little in common with the man, but they began talking. The man asked Covey what he wanted to be when he grew up. "I want to work in law enforcement," Covey answered.

"That's good," he told Covey. "I know a guy who can help you." He pulled out a card from his wallet for an Army National Guard recruiter. "You go talk to this guy," he said. "He can help you out with your future."

Covey met with Sgt. 1st Class Lane H. Stack, a recruiter for the California Army National Guard. The first thing Stack asked Covey was whether he had a diploma. When he shook his head no, Stack told him it was OK and told him about the Army National Guard's Patriot Academy.

Covey could attend the Patriot Academy after enlisting in the Guard and finishing basic training, Stack told him. While at the Academy, Covey would have an opportunity to work online to get his high school diploma and would earn active duty pay and benefits. "And as soon as you graduate," Stack added, "you can go to advanced individual training."

Covey began his paperwork on the spot. Once he was cleared for enlistment, he was transferred off the dropout roll at Helix Charter High School and had a seat reserved for him at the National Guard Patriot Academy High School in Butlerville, Ind. Covey left San Diego on June 20 and reported for basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

"Some of the guys at basic training had heard about the Patriot Academy," Covey said. "They were telling me that the physical training is really intense: 'It's going to be hard. You're not going to like it. You're going to be gone for months at a time.' So before I even got here I was like, 'Aw man, this is really going to suck.'"

Covey stuck it out, graduated from basic training and arrived at the Patriot Academy in early September to see that some of the rumors were dead-on accurate: Things had stepped up a notch from basic training. As Covey stepped off the bus, drill sergeants and cadre greeted him and his fellow enlistees with yelling, and soon the students were running and doing push-ups.

After his shock receded, Covey said, he realized he had landed in a goldmine.



Photo by Patriot Academy

Pvt. Travonce Covey, left, takes an online high school class Jan. 17 at the National Guard Patriot Academy in Butlerville, Ind. Covey earned his high school diploma March 2 through the Academy, which provides dropouts with an opportunity to join the National Guard and earn their diploma. It is the first and only accredited high school run by the U.S. military.

"I was like, 'Wow, this is an incredible program,'" he said. "The entire staff are taking their time and working their hardest to help people like me and high school dropouts who don't deserve a second chance."

Covey wasn't sure what to expect academically. The Patriot Academy looked like a school: Lockers lined the halls, bells rang to mark the beginning and end of periods, students participated in sports, and the student body was a stew of jock, nerd and prep stereotypes, he said. But as Covey soon learned, it was anything but an ordinary high school.

"We wake up at zero-five in the morning for physical training, and we all wear the exact same clothing," Covey said. "That might be like some private high schools, but here it's digital camouflage instead of ties and skirts."

When Soldiers complete their high school diploma requirements and pass the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress examination, they run the length of a particular hallway to ring a bell from an old ship on the other end. Students take a moment and congratulate each other as they achieve these important milestones.

"We do formations for people who graduate," Covey said. "Everyone goes around and shakes their hands. They get diplomas. We also have formations for Soldiers who get awards or get promoted."

After working for seven months on his diploma, conducting military science training and performing community service, Covey was a changed man. "It's been hard being away from family," he said. "I really appreciate all of the sacrifices everyone [at the Academy] has made for allowing me to get my high school diploma. The commandant and the sergeant major here really care about you, and the noncommissioned officers on post are really impressive."

Covey increased his physical fitness score, became a leader and increased his proficiency as a National Guard Soldier. "I credit that to all the staff that work here and my battle



buddies in 1st Platoon," he said.

Covey then reported to Fort Sill, Okla., to study his military occupational specialty as a tactical data systems specialist in field artillery. After he completes advanced individual training, Covey plans to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and gain his commission as an officer through the ROTC program. He earned 15 college credits at the Patriot Academy and will earn more for his military specialty training, bringing him closer to his goal.

"The Patriot Academy is a great program," he said. "I'm extremely thankful for this opportunity, and I'm looking forward to the rest of my life as a leader. I would recommend it to anyone who is looking not only for a career, but to finally tie up some loose ends in their lives as well."

As for his mother on the other side of the country, Covey said she could not be more proud of her son.

"My mom was so excited and proud of me for graduating," he said. "She tells everyone she knows, 'My son is defending our country. He's in training right now and sacrificing his time away from his family.' Even though she misses me, she knows I have to better myself and further my life so when I have a family later on, I can provide for them."

I 44th FW Airman earns Bronze Star

By **STAFF SGT. MICHAEL BARDEN**
I 44th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Jason Ganner, an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) craftsman with the CNG's 144th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, received the Bronze Star medal March 3 at the Wing's base in Fresno for actions performed while assigned to Joint Task Force Paladin East in the Parwan and Ghanzi provinces of Afghanistan from Aug. 1, 2011, through Jan. 31, 2012.

The Airman filled the critical role of EOD team leader while serving on his six-month deployment.

Ganner and his team had a difficult beginning to their tour, when they were required to safely remove ordnance and ammunition from two fallen Navy Sailors who were aboard a helicopter that was shot down in August.

"That wasn't the way I wanted to begin my deployment," Ganner said, "but it really put things into perspective for me right away."

According to the medal citation, Ganner and his team successfully executed 63 EOD

combat missions, completed 21 route-clearance patrols and effectively cleared more than 1,267 miles of main supply routes. He also mitigated 22 improvised explosive devices, initiated the biometric exploitation of recovered evidence that resulted in nine DNA matches and participated in two air assault missions.

His team also provided expert assistance to the Mine Action Center during a 360-acre clearance operation, which removed more than 200 pounds of volatile explosives.

"It's not like the movies. We're out on the road for 15 hours at a time, actively looking," Ganner said. "And it's not just the EOD team. We are working with a large team, from the Army canines to the Air Force [pararescue jumpers]."

During the deployment Ganner and his team repeatedly came into contact with opposition forces while conducting patrol operations, which resulted in ground fire-fights involving 107 mm rockets and small-arms fire.

For the first three months of his deployment, Ganner was assigned to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, where his team



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Chris Drudge

Tech. Sgt. Jason Ganner, an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) craftsman for the I 44th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), right, receives his Bronze Star medal from Lt. Col. Jeremy Simmons of the CES during a March 3 ceremony at the Wing's base in Fresno.

neutralized 11 improvised explosive devices, persevered through six enemy attacks and destroyed 5,300 pounds of enemy remnants of war and unserviceable munitions.

Ganner, however, said he was "only doing his job" and credited his success to the training he has received throughout his Air Force career and to the teammates he worked with both at home and abroad.

Crockett promoted to BG in ceremony at Capitol

By California Military Department Public Affairs

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. and the California National Guard proudly promoted Col. Sylvia R. Crockett to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony at the state Capitol in Sacramento on March 28. Brig. Gen. Crockett, who serves as director of strategic communications for the state's Military Department, is the first Latina to attain the rank of a general officer in the Cal Guard.

"Her example of breaking the glass ceiling, not only for Latinas but for women in general, I think she's a great role model. I'm going to talk to my daughter, who's 12 years old, about this great woman," said state Sen. Lou Correa, who chairs the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee. "I'm excited about working with this new general. I think it's going to be a great fit."

The U.S. military and the California National Guard have long led the way in recognizing the importance of women's and minorities' contributions and harnessing their skills. The military recognizes that service members' vision of what they can achieve in their careers is shaped by whether they see individuals of similar backgrounds excelling and earning recognition.

"With the amount of Hispanic people in California, it's a great opportunity to serve in a position that in many ways will serve as an example for many young women and men in the Latino or Latina community to realize that they too can reach the top," Crockett said. "You just have to work hard."

The U.S. military understands that diversity encompasses different cultural backgrounds but also different skills, experiences and talents. With proper leadership, therefore, diversity can increase military agility and responsiveness. This is especial-



Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. introduces then-Colonel Sylvia Crockett at the Capitol in Sacramento on March 28, moments before he participated in promotion ceremony recognizing her as the CNG's newest brigadier general.

ly important in today's complex, rapidly changing military environment, which requires collaborative work with many stakeholders, including international and civilian partners.

"[This position] takes a lot of skill, which you have, and we recognize that," said Brown, who hosted the event. "I'm very glad also that you'll be going back to our congressional delegation and beating the drum to support the National Guard, because it has been shortchanged with the wars that have been going on. We've been neglecting the kind of investment it takes to really have the kind of state militia that historically we have enjoyed and we need for all the things the Guard does."

Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, has expressed his commitment to ensuring the Guard increasingly reflects the racial, ethnic and gender diversity of the state it serves, both in its leadership and across its ranks.

"We are putting [Crockett] into a very, very prominent position in her full-time capacity, where she is going to take over for us all of our strategic communications, which includes the Public Affairs Directorate, our state legislation, working with our friends in the state Senate and Assembly and of course working with our enormous California congressional delegation," Baldwin said. "She will be helping us set the chart and the

way for the future in order to reshape the future force structure of the National Guard ... and help us address our Soldier, Airman, civilian and family care issues."

Crockett has served the Cal Guard since July 1982, when she joined the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing in Santa Clara County. She transferred to the California Army National Guard in 1984 and entered the California Military Academy. She earned her commission as an officer the following year.

After holding several critical Guard positions, in 1999 Crockett was assigned as the executive officer for the California Military Department. In 2004 she became the Department's deputy chief of staff, personnel; and in 2006 she took command of the 223rd Infantry Regiment (Combat Arms), making her the first woman to command that vital training element. Crockett later became the first woman to serve as the Military Department's director of plans and operations and the first to serve as the Military Department's chief of staff.

In addition to being the current director of strategic communications for the California Military Department, Crockett is also the assistant commander (support) for the CNG's 40th Infantry Division.

Crockett holds a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from Sacramento State University and a masters degree in national security strategy from the National War College. Among other awards, Crockett has earned the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and Army Reserve Component Overseas Service Ribbon.



TOP: Pfc. Ellie Ashworth of the San Bruno-based 2632nd Transportation Company fires at simulated opposition forces during a convoy exercise March 23 on Camp Roberts, Calif. **Photo by Spc. Scott Johnson**
 ABOVE: Airmen of the 144th Fighter Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron stand at ease March 3 prior to a ceremony in which Maj. Malissa Golubic assumed command of the unit at the Air National Guard Base in Fresno. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot**



TOP MIDDLE: A C-130J from the 146th Airlift Wing performs a water drop over the Angeles National Forest in California during Mobile Airborne Fire Fighting System training and certification March 7. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo**
 ABOVE: Retired Airman Jess Finder prepares to ride a hand cycle March 21 on Joint Forces Training Center Long Beach Veterans Affairs Hand Cycling Program exposed more than 40 disabled veterans and children from California Children Services of Los Angeles County to the adaptive sport that day. Hand cycling is an exercise to accommodate people with nearly any kind of disability or injury. Veterans who would benefit from this exercise should contact their local VA center. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo**



At a Glance



LEFT: Pfc. Diego Urena of the 340th Brigade Support Battalion expresses his gratitude for the job he found through the CNG's new Work for Warriors program, which was launched March 29 at the state Capitol in Sacramento by CNG Adjutant General Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, center, and Speaker of the State Assembly John A. Perez, far right. The program works with employers and job-seeking Guard members to meet both their needs. **Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler.** For more on Work for Warriors, see page 4.

BELOW: Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Dumlao of the 144th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) holds his 3-month-old daughter, Liane, for the first time Feb. 23 at Fresno Yosemite International Airport. Dumlao was deployed for a seven-month tour in Afghanistan when his wife, Fiane, left, gave birth. He was also welcomed home by Lt. Col. Jeremy Simmons of the CES. **Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Chris Drudge**



National Forest in Southern California. **Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alex Koenig**

...ining Base, Los Alamitos. The ... and a handful of disabled chil- ... land cycles can be modified ... t from alternative forms of



ABOVE: A role-player with simulated injuries awaits help from members of the CNG's 144th Fighter Wing and 163rd Reconnaissance Wing during a mass casualty exercise March 8 on March Air Reserve Base, Calif., that also included personnel from the Air Force Reserve's 452nd Air Mobility Wing. The exercise tested the coordination of response between the Air Force units and responders from Moreno Valley, Riverside County and local health professionals following a simulated collision of two Air Force F-16 Thunderbirds during an air show. **Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey**



ABOVE: Rep. Grace Napolitano and Brig. Gen. (CA) James L. Gabrielli, commander of the CNG's Youth and Community Programs Task Force, center, officially open a state-of-the-art, nine-classroom building March 16 on Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, for the Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy. The \$1.6 million facility, which was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, will provide a permanent home for the National Guard school, which instills values and fosters academic achievement in teens who have dropped out of high school or are at risk of dropping out. Among other dignitaries, the event included Nina Boyd, assistant superintendent of Orange County schools, second from left; Los Alamitos Mayor Troy Edgar, third from left; and then-Colonel Sylvia Crocket, director of CNG strategic communications, second from right. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo**

146th AW fills vital roles overseas and at home

BY SCOTT DWORKIN
Air Forces Monthly

In today's theater of operations, one role that doesn't get a lot of press is the airlift mission. While airlift may not hold the glamour that some of the jet and bomber missions garner, aircraft like the C-130 Hercules truly keep the battlefield moving. They do this 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with little glory or fanfare.

It is this mission that the men and women of the California Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing, based at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Ventura County, perform to perfection. The 146th flies the newest and most capable version of the venerable C-130 aircraft, the C-130J. The C-130J is not a rebuilt or strictly re-engine version of an existing C-130 platform, but is largely a brand new airplane with significantly improved performance.

The 146th's eight airframes are heavily tasked to fly airdrop, medical evacuation, special operations and resupply missions in overseas theaters and to fulfill the Wing's state-mandated mission of domestic emergency response and firefighting. In addition the unit teaches Canadian service members to fly the C-130J, supports the Weapons Instructor Course at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and performs various other missions.

As one of only four C-130 units with aerial firefighting capability in the U.S., the 146th can be mobilized for deployment to fight wildfires anywhere in the country and, if necessary, worldwide on short notice. The 146th flies the newest Mobile Airborne Fire Fighting System II (MAFFS) in the newest C-130s in the Air Force.

On a weekend there are typically one or two planes away doing airlift, and during the week two planes typically fly three times a day on training sorties. On monthly training weekends, the unit flies an average of two missions a day. "As a Guard unit, we have more than the standard [operational] tempo of an active duty squadron, with 30 percent of the manning," said Lt. Col. Brian Kelly of the 146th.

The Wing's specialty when deployed overseas is intra-theater airlift. The C-130J is perfectly suited to the mission profile routinely flown in support of forces in Afghanistan, as it is all-weather rated and capable of bringing supplies via precision airdrops directly to ground troops in remote areas of the country.

"In recent years the [improvised explosive device] has become the weapon of choice of the enemy combatants to disrupt the movement of convoys carrying supplies to the troops in the field,"

said Wing Commander Col. Paul Hargrove. "We are able, with the defensive systems in our aircraft, to now airdrop pallets or land in remote landing zones and austere dirt landing strips to bring in supplies, food and ammo to these forward operating areas, eliminating some of the threats to trucks and troops moving supplies on the ground."

Hargrove, who flew the C-130E in Iraq, said deployments have been very frequent for the Wing in recent years because of the demand for C-130J support in Afghanistan and Iraq. "We are typically on a 24-month cycle: We deploy for 120 days, are home for 24 months and then deploy again. This has been the cycle for the 146th AW for the past eight years."

Once overseas, the unit combines with other Hercules units. On its most recent deployment, to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, the 146th combined with the Rhode Island National Guard's 143rd Airlift Wing, which also flies the C-130J, to form the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

The 146th flies the stretched version of the J-model and is one of only three Air National Guard units equipped with the newest variation. The stretched C-130J adds 15 feet compared to the shorter version and carries eight standard pallets, 128 combat troops, 92 paratroopers or a combination of passengers and cargo.

The CNG aircraft also incorporate the newest state-of-the-art technology, such as a two-pilot flight station with digital avionics, a color multi-function display with digital moving maps and a heads-up display system that enables both crew members to keep their eyes looking out of the cockpit during most of the critical portions of the mission. Additionally the high-altitude, all-weather Joint Precision Airdrop System enables precision-guided airdrops from much higher and thus generally safer altitudes, and also allows the aircraft to drop multiple smaller bundles into tight drop zones.

"The C-130J brings a different concept into intra-theater airlift because of the computerized flight systems and automated airdrop systems," said Col. Greg Jones of the 146th. "You can save a lot of guesswork found on the older aircraft ... because of the flight management systems we have. Flight tracking, time on target and airdrop precision are all improved."

"One thing that is great about the J-model is that many Guard pilots are also airline pilots," he added, "and the transition from a two-person commercial aviation aircraft like a 757 or 767 into the C-130J is practically seamless."

Visibly noticeable on the C-130J



ABOVE: A crew and C-130J aircraft from the California National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing, based at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Ventura County, prepares to perform an airdrop Dec. 13 over Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. In addition to performing airdrops, the wing's eight C-130J aircraft are used for firefighting, medical evacuation, special operations and resupply missions. **LEFT:** Capt. Pat McBride, left, and 2nd Lt. James "Wes" Reagan of the 146th Airlift Wing maneuver a C-130J aircraft over the Santa Ynez Valley in California on Sept. 14.

is the six-bladed composite propeller system coupled to new Rolls-Royce turboprop engines. The new prop-and-engine system enables the C-130J to climb faster and higher, gives the aircraft better range with better fuel economy at a much higher cruise speed, and provides the ability to take off and land in much shorter distances. All of those characteristics are vitally important in a combat zone.

During fire season the unit's firefighting capability is available not only in California but anywhere in the country, if requested. The MAFFS II equipment on 146th aircraft are owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Along with the 146th, three other units in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve fly Forest Service MAFFS equipment. The 146th was the first C-130 unit in the country to transition to the new MAFFS II in 2008 and it remains the only unit flying the new system on the C-130J.

It takes approximately two hours to load the system into the air-

craft, and there are always two 146th aircraft available to respond to calls. The MAFFS II has a drop capacity of up to 3,400 gallons in one large tank with an onboard compressor. With the original MAFFS, loads were pressurized by a ground compressor during loading, but the ability of the MAFFS II to pressurize while in flight cuts down turnaround time significantly. The MAFFS II also releases fire retardant through a sealed plug in a modified paratroop drop door on the side of the aircraft rather than the aft cargo door, thereby cutting down the amount of corrosive retardant material that comes in contact with the aircraft's interior and its aft tail, and allowing the aircraft to remain pressurized during flight.

"We've got not only a vast experience base but a broad experience base here at the 146th Airlift Wing," Jones said. "We do so many different missions — from the traditional airlift and airdrop mission, the ability to respond to state and federal emergencies, and the

aeromedical evacuation mission — we can bring a lot to the table.

"We are involved in so many missions, and our op tempo is very high, when you factor in our operational overseas deployments supporting the active duty component of the Air Force along with what we do here in the state and across the country, we have become such an important part of the Air Force that the traditional view of the Air National Guard 'weekend warrior' doesn't hold true anymore," he continued. "We have gone from being a strategic reserve to an operational reserve component, and that probably will never change. Whenever the phone rings, we are able to get our people out to where they are needed right away, fully equipped and ready to support regardless of the requirements of the mission."

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State lauds Military Dept. for hiring practices

By California Military Department Public Affairs

A recent State Personnel Board (SPB) report recognized the efforts of the California Military Department (CMD) for its hiring of people with disabilities and providing upward mobility for employees in low-paying occupations.

As found in the report produced by the SPB Office of Civil Rights, the CMD's representation of employees with disabilities stands at 14 percent, which exceeds the SPB's set goal of 13.3 percent. The CMD also has committed to establishing a Disability Advisory Committee to solidify the gains it has made in this area and seek out further opportunities.

"The California Military Department is committed to not only achieving the state's goal of hiring employees with disabilities but exceeding that goal as a best business practice," said Col.

Robert Spano, director of the Joint Staff for the California Military Department. "This standard practice will also facilitate the hiring of veterans with disabilities who are pursuing state civil service careers with the Military Department."

The CMD was also recognized for its emphasis on providing upward mobility for employees in entry-level occupations. Last year the CMD hired three "personnel specialists," a position designated by the U.S. Armed Forces Personnel Offices as an "upward mobility classification because employees in low-paying classifications may advance into this classification," the SPB report stated.

The SPB also acknowledged the CMD's plan to continue to broaden its advertising of employment opportunities by engaging social media networks, local newspapers, job fairs and the department's website.



Counter-drug trains law officers in combat casualty care

Seven agencies in California Border Alliance Group participate in three-day course

By MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

The CNG's Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug conducted a tactical medical training seminar Feb. 21-23 in San Diego for law enforcement officers in support of the California Border Alliance Group (CBAG).

The CBAG's mission is to reduce drug trafficking. It assists in the coordination of joint operational and supporting initiatives to deter, disrupt, dismantle and diminish the effects of drug trafficking organizations and their supporting transportation and money laundering organizations.

"The primary training objective is to share our tactics, techniques and procedures for the management of casualties in a tactical setting," said Army Staff Sgt. Mark Karandang, Counterdrug medical liaison. "The Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug program is able to provide the instructions, equipment and scenarios to facilitate tactical medical training."

All military members are taught various techniques for treating and stabilizing injuries related to combat. The Combat Lifesaver Course taught prior to deployments is intended to increase survival in situations where a combat medic is not immediately available.

During the tactical medical training in San Diego, the Counterdrug Soldiers



Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

A member of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency applies a tourniquet to an injured role-player while his partner covers the area with fire support Feb. 23 during a tactical medical training seminar conducted in San Diego by members of the CNG's Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug.

and Airmen shared their military training and experiences with various law enforcement agencies through scenarios involving casualty care.

Thirteen members of seven local law enforcement agencies trained on emergency care during the three-day seminar. The course focused on initial emergency medical care, including how to control bleeding, apply emergency trauma dressing, manage open chest wounds and perform tactical casualty evacuations. The training also included casualty trauma assessment, shock principles and management, thoracic injury principles and management, triage principles, care under fire and tactical field care.

"Moulage kits added the realism necessary to make the training as real as possible," one participant said, referring to wound-simulation kits that include fake blood and other tools.

The course began with news footage from Jan. 8, 2011, when Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and 18 others were shot at a town hall-style meeting near Tucson, Ariz.

"We pride ourselves [on] our ability to train as we fight," Karandang said, "and on that January day, those law enforcement officers became better prepared to respond to a casualty in a tactical situation."

Officers who responded to the Arizona shooting described a scene of "si-

lent chaos" and said the carnage probably would have been much worse without the help of a first aid kit that had recently become standard issue. In the six minutes before paramedics were allowed to enter the scene, officers performed the duties of paramedics, managing open chest wounds, securing airways and controlling severe hemorrhaging through the use of tourniquets. As a result, 13 of those shot survived.

"We train using the same tactics, techniques, procedures and equipment," said Army Staff Sgt. Robert Gromley of the Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug. "The unprecedented survival rate of Soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan is due to the training we receive."

Spc. Vanessa Ascencio of the Task Force participated in the training exercises as a simulated victim.

"I work in an office, and when I have the chance to volunteer for these roles, I jump at the chance to be involved ... not only to educate others but for my own awareness of situations," she said.

Joseph Resko, a parole agent for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, said he found the training to be very beneficial. "The scenarios utilized reinforce the importance of this type of training," he said. "[It] better prepared me [to respond] during a trauma scene."

African Lion teaches HET

By SGT. GLEN BAKER
224th Sustainment Brigade

Lions won't be the only things moving around Africa this spring, as about 30 Soldiers from the CNG's 1498th Transportation Company will deploy this month for their annual heavy equipment transporter (HET) exercise, African Lion, in Morocco. Nearly 2,000 members of the U.S. Army and Marine Corps will participate along with 900 members of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces.

As the largest exercise in U.S. Africa Command's area of responsibility, African Lion is designed to foster a working relationship between the two nations and develop a mutual understanding of each other's tactics, techniques and procedures. "We're providing HET support to move all of their equipment, and then a HET Academy," said 1st Lt. Keith Wolowodiuk, commander of the 1498th. "It's designed to be a train-the-trainer mission. We're teaching them the basics of HET."

Sgt. Peter Mavropoulos, assistant truck master for the 1498th, said the training will cover combat exercises, emergency response exercises and humanitarian exercises. "The HET training is normally a two-week, 80-hour course, but we're going to do it in six days," said the nine-year HET instructor. "Their language is Arabic or French. ... There will be one translator per 10 students, so that's three translators for the 30 students. There will be a safety brief and step-by-step descriptions of components, and we'll do demonstrations and guide them through operations and loading."

The deserts and hills of Morocco can be challenging terrain, but Mavropoulos said it won't stop them. "My personal motto is, 'If it can fit on the trailer, then give me a minute and I'll chain it down and haul it.'"



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Peter Mavropoulos

An advance party from the 1498th Transportation Company loads a tank onto a heavy equipment transporter in Morocco, the site of exercise African Lion.

Thanks to all who participated in our cover contest for your wonderful submissions!



Skye Arens, age 12



Alexis Bracken, age 8

CNG, nonprofits care for our military children

Cal Guard's Child and Youth Program can help with resources and activities for children of CNG members

By **LT. COL. KIMBERLY LALLEY**
Operation Ready Families

Twenty-six years ago, Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger established April as the Defense Department's Month of the Military Child. This month is an opportunity to recognize military children and the sacrifices they make, because the families of service members clearly serve along with their Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

Military children whose parents have deployed overseas experience behavioral and emotional difficulties at rates above national averages, according to a 2008 analysis by nonprofit public policy group the Rand Corp. Those children often experience attachment issues and anxiety, and children whose parents deploy for longer tours have even greater difficulties than those whose parents deploy for short times. Overall about one-third of children in the 2008 study reported elevated anxiety symptoms — about twice the rate seen in studies of other children.

California is home to more than 158,000 military children, and those born since Sept. 11, 2001, have never experienced a family life that was not affected by war. We are fortunate to have a robust Child and Youth Program in the California National Guard that offers resources for children of all ages.

California was the first state whose National Guard offered training through Zero to Three, a national nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of infants and toddlers. Information to help you with your young ones can be found at www.zerotothree.org.

Another valuable resource is United Through Reading. The nonprofit has set up centers all over the world where service members can read a book aloud and have it recorded on a DVD and sent to their child free of charge. The DVD is comforting to the child, can be a welcome relief for their caregiver and gives the deployed parent an opportunity to make a lasting connection with their child. For more information, visit www.unitedthroughreading.org.

Our Military Kids is also a great program, which offers grants of up to \$500 for children of deployed service members to participate in sports, fine arts and tutoring programs. At least 60 days must remain on the parent's deployment, and checks are sent directly to the organization providing the activity or tutoring. The nonprofit can be found at www.ourmilitarykids.org.

In 2010, funding for military child and youth programs increased at the national level, and \$250,000 was invested in the CNG Child and Youth Program for infrastructure throughout the state. As a result, if you need fun stuff for CNG family days or other child-focused activities, you can check out equipment such as team-building kits, outdoor theatre systems, Nintendo Wiis and Xbox 360s. Contact your nearest family assistance specialist or family readiness support assistant to coordinate equipment use.

The CNG organizes activities for Guard children each quarter in northern, southern and central California. Two highlights from last year were a trip to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library near Los Angeles and an overnight experience at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. In addition, family assistance specialists host monthly "We Care" meetings for parents, where toys are available for



Photo by Jerica Lovett

CNG children enjoy a "lock-in" March 23 at the Walnut Creek Armory that was attended by 33 kids age 7 through 12 who watched movies, played video games, rode scooters on the armory floor and knocked each other around with Belly Bumpers.

kids to enjoy while they wait.

In celebration of the Month of the Military Child, the CNG will also host a Military Children's Appreciation Ball in Azusa as well as one in Fresno and one in Rancho Cordova on April 20 and 21. The balls will feature dinner, dancing, photographers and formal attire.

For information on any of the resources mentioned in this article as well as camps for military children, contact Jerica Lovett, Child and Youth Program coordinator, at jerica.e.lovet.ctr@us.army.mil or 916-369-4326.

NGB senior enlisted adviser visits Cal Guard

By SENIOR AIRMAN JESSICA GREEN
California Military Department Public Affairs

CNG members were praised for their hard work and vigilant service through a year of transition and development by the senior enlisted leader of the National Guard Bureau (NGB), Command Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, during a visit to California, March 1-4.

"2011 was a big year for the National Guard; it's important to pause and reflect on our accomplishments," she said. "The power of the National Guard is absolutely amazing, and with a force the size of California's in the fight every day, all over the place — wow. On behalf of [NGB Chief] General McKinley and myself, I want to say thank you for serving California and the United States, and please extend our gratitude for your service to your families."



For more on Jelinski-Hall, scan this QR code

Jelinski-Hall met with more than 1,200 Guardsmen during her whirlwind four-day, six-city tour of the California National Guard. She spoke with enlisted members at the headquarters of the California Military Department, the Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug, the Yellow Ribbon Program and the Incentives Task Force in Sacramento. She then spent time at the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, the 146th Airlift Wing in Ventura County and the 147th Combat Communications Squadron in San Diego, and she met with troops training at Camp Roberts in San Miguel and at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

Jelinski-Hall reminded Soldiers and Airmen to remain flexible and focused, being the best Guardsmen they can be, as the National Guard continues to adjust and work through threats of downsizing.

"This year started out with a bang. We are in the thick of things with leadership and transition. Big changes are coming to NGB, key leaders are retiring and new leaders will be stepping up," she said. "Let leadership worry about budget and personnel. Our Airmen and Soldiers need to worry about the mission and getting it done."

"Be that well-rounded Soldier or Airman," Jelinski-Hall added. "Focus on [physical

fitness] and [professional military education]. Get your civilian education done. Go above and beyond. Don't be victims to your own success."

Guardsmen today are likely to hold multiple occupational specialties, Jelinski-Hall said. Being a part of such a transitional force, Soldiers and Airmen need to continue to be dependable and reliable, willing to change plans and possibly re-train to continue to support the mission.

"Many Guardsmen are feeling the turbulence; nothing is guaranteed," she added. "What's your backup plan?"

The Army National Guard is following suit with its active duty counterpart by providing its Soldiers with noncommissioned officer evaluation reports. The Air National Guard is planning to implement the Air Force's enlisted performance report system as well, she said.

"It's our job to give our junior enlisted Guardsmen strong leadership. We owe it to them to hold them accountable for their responsibilities and provide feedback," the chief said while speaking to a group of senior enlisted members. "They need those moments of correction and congratulations."

During performance feedbacks and appraisals, she said, service members should ask, "What do I need to stop doing, what do I need to start doing and what do I need to continue to do?" Supervisors also need to take advantage of that touchstone moment and get to know their Soldiers and Airmen, ask them how things are at home, what their ideas or suggestions are to improve the workplace and ensure they are on track with their career goals and civilian lives, Jelinski-Hall said.

As the senior enlisted adviser to the chief of the National Guard Bureau, Jelinski-Hall counsels Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley on all matters affecting enlisted National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and reports directly to him. McKinley serves as a military adviser to the president, the secretary of defense and the National Security Council, and he is the Department of Defense's official channel of communication to the governors and adjutants general of each state.

"We need to hear your concerns and ideas," Jelinski-Hall said. "What you provide with your civilian expertise, along with your military training, is invaluable."

Both Army and Air National Guard units on Jelinski-Hall's trip were interested



Photo by Senior Airman Jessica Green

ABOVE: Command Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, the top enlisted leader of the National Guard, speaks with Soldiers attending technical training at Camp Roberts, Calif., on March 3. **BOTTOM:** Jelinski-Hall conducts a town hall meeting with Airmen assigned to the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno on March 3. Jelinski-Hall visited several training sites and spoke with more than 1,200 California National Guard Soldiers and Airmen during a four-day tour in March.

in her comments on ancillary training. Guardsmen are often required to complete 30 or more hours of ancillary training, though there are only 16 hours of training time during a typical drill weekend. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have been discussing this issue during their roundtable meetings, Jelinski-Hall said.

"An hour might come off, but we've just added three more. We get no traction, but we're fighting for you," she said. "Leaders will have to do a risk analysis to determine what tasks need to be done to complete the mission, whether it's ancillary training or technical training."

The chief also stressed the importance of professional associations and the support they can provide to service members and their families. "One of my main focuses is taking care of our people. We have a program and resource for every possible thing our Soldiers and Airmen need," Jelinski-Hall said. "We need to make sure we do all that we can to keep them running and keep them funded."

She mentioned organizations such as the Association of the U.S. Army, the Air Force Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Military Officers Association of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and most importantly the National Guard Association of the United States and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

"They are the ones fighting hard up on [Capitol] Hill for us and standing up for our rights," Jelinski-Hall said. "[Spend] that extra \$10 to \$15 to join an association

that is going to better benefit our families and careers."

Additionally, Jelinski-Hall reminded Guardsmen how essential the support of civilian employers is to their military career. "With about 75 percent of our force being traditional Guardsmen, it's imperative that we support and thank those civilian employers," she said. "We owe it to them to provide our drill, inspection and deployment schedules."

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, is a national Department of Defense committee that works with employers, service members, military leaders and volunteer committees to promote cooperation and understanding in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. ESGR also administers an awards program designed to recognize employers who support a strong National Guard and Reserve force.

"It makes a difference for your boss to have their Patriot Award hanging on their wall when you walk into their office with a set of orders saying you have to miss work," she said. "Those of us that serve our country have families that are serving in many ways too. The Patriot Award can be extended to your spouse's employers as well."

Wrapping up her tour, Jelinski-Hall said it was an honor to recognize many of the enlisted members she had met for excellence and a job well done.

"We [at NGB] will continue to fight the good fight for our National Guard members," she said.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Chris Drudge

OPERATION: RED SNOW

Nearly 100 California National Guard troops face below-freezing temperatures, early morning raids and simulated chemical weapons during a weeklong training mission in the Sierra Nevada Mountains

By **STAFF SGT. EMILY SUHR**, 69th Public Affairs Detachment; and **SENIOR AIRMAN JESSICA GREEN**, California Military Department Public Affairs

Photo by Senior Airman Jessica Green

During a 129th Rescue Wing recovery mission in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in February, crew members spotted an unusual camp where people appeared to be conducting military maneuvers and working with numerous weapon systems. The group didn't shoot at the 129th's helicopter but seemed concerned with its presence.

Following the Wing's discovery, the FBI conducted surveillance operations and established ties linking the camp to the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), a fictional anti-government group created for Operation Red Snow, a weeklong, multi-agency exercise designed to strengthen partnerships between federal, state and local authorities.



for more photos, scan this QR code

"The purpose of Red Snow is to exercise unified command, control and tactics during a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) multi-agency response to an incident of national significance," said 1st Lt. Ed Baon, medical operations officer for the 95th Civil Support Team (CST) and exercise director for Operation Red Snow, held Feb. 10-16. "This is evidence of the growing public safety partnership the 95th is cultivating with our civilian counterparts and first responders."

In the exercise scenario, the Bridgeport, Calif.-based RCP was utilizing lucrative drug networks to fund the creation of weapons of mass destruction and was training its members in the use of explosive and chemical weapons. The RCP was planning to cripple California's government.

A few days after the group was spotted by the 129th, a guard at the Truckee Glider Airport noticed an unconscious individual wearing personal protective equipment and a respirator. First responders from the Truckee and Placer County fire departments found two additional in-



Photo by Senior Airman Jessica Green

TOP: Staff Sgt. Esteban Peralta, left, and Sgt. Joshua Gould of the 95th Civil Support Team (CST) take samples of a potential weapon of mass destruction obtained from a simulated domestic terrorist lab Feb. 14 while participating in Operation Red Snow at Glider Airport in Truckee, Calif. ABOVE: Peralta, an entry team chief for the 95th CST, labels evidence bags containing samples of a potential weapon of mass destruction Feb. 14 at Glider Airport.

dividuals with similar equipment in a nearby field along with a 55-gallon drum of an unidentified substance.

The fire departments then notified the FBI's Hazardous Material Response Unit and the Cal Guard's 95th CST to

assist. The teams established an incident command post and decontamination site and began agency integration to secure the perimeter and investigate the situation.

"We've been tasked to survey the site and rescue the person down range," said Sgt. Joshua Gould, an entry team chief for the 95th CST, as he donned his gas mask and protective suit. "We're going to wear our level A ensemble, which is one of the highest levels of protection we have, because of the unknown substance."

The 95th CST entry team conducted multiple trips to the simulated camp, showcasing its ability to evaluate a CBRNE threat.

"After completing our first reconnaissance of the site, we assessed the photos from the scene and found evidence of propaganda, maps and potential weapons of mass destruction from the lab," said Staff Sgt. Esteban Peralta, an entry team chief for the 95th CST. "We are preparing to return to gather samples of the substance, suspected to be ricin."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention describes ricin as a potentially fatal poison found naturally in castor beans that prevents human cells from making proteins needed to survive. The effects of ricin, which has been used in past terrorist attacks, depend on whether it is inhaled, ingested or injected.

"When we receive the samples from the site, we extract the DNA to determine if the substance really is ricin," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Zuniga, a science and health care specialist for the 95th CST. "We make samples for our records and supply the FBI with samples for their analysis as well."

Meanwhile the 9th CST out of Los Alamitos, Calif., was uncovering a methamphetamine lab nearly 230 miles south of

Snow-covered scouts, snipers

By **MASTER SGT. PAUL WADE**
California Military Department Public Affairs

Citizen-Soldiers trained as scouts and snipers for 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, traded their Southern California vistas of palm trees for pine cones, below-freezing snow flurries and the Sierra Nevada Mountains when they participated in the Operation Red Snow exercise Feb. 10-16.

The infantrymen joined with fellow CNG Soldiers and Airmen from the 9th Civil Support Team (CST), 95th CST, 144th Fighter Wing and 146th Airlift Wing to create a training exercise structured around the task of taking down a domestic terrorist group in northeastern California. In the scenario, CNG troops from Inglewood and Glendale played the roles of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies that would spearhead the assault. FBI and SWAT personnel were also on-hand as advisers.

Airmen who are not part of the CSTs played the part of the terrorists, who were operating a drug-dealing ring to fund their ambitions of building "dirty bombs." The CSTs were prepared to swoop in and deal with the weapons of mass destruction once the area was clear.

About 30 Soldiers from the 1-160th's Company B and its Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) met up for the first time at the Joint Forces Training Base flight line in Los Alamitos, where they left for the mountains in style, riding in UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. "I always thought it would be like this," joked Spc. Craig Cooper, a patrol sergeant with the South Pasadena Police Department, who has served in the Cal Guard for two years. "First time in a Black Hawk, first time doing a mission like this. This is why I joined."

The Soldiers flew 300 miles from sea level to 4,000 feet in a few hours, landed in Bishop, Calif., due to an incoming weather front and drove the final 100 miles to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) about 20 miles from Bridgeport, Calif.

They weren't in Kansas anymore.

"When we arrived it felt like a different world; the area had a good covering of snow," Cooper said about the MWTC, a testing ground built at 6,700 feet in 1951 to train snow, rock and alpine specialists in the most extreme winter climates. Luckily for the men from the Los Angeles Basin, the temperatures were unseasonably high with little snowfall during their visit. However, they would quickly learn how harsh the mountains can be.

"Everything you do in higher elevations is harder," an MWTC instructor said during a mandatory briefing for the exercise participants. "You must acclimate properly or suffer anything from splitting headaches to altitude sickness, also known as acute mountain sickness. The flu-like symptoms can affect anyone and can lead to high altitude pulmonary or cerebral edema, which is fatal."

The troops sat through hours of classes emphasizing the importance of their location in the Toiyabe National Forest and learned about mountain medical evacuations, wildlife, environmental concerns and winter injuries.

Truckee in Mammoth Lakes, Calif. That discovery led Cal Guard troops to the same Bridgeport headquarters of the RCP that the FBI had linked to the military training camp in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

"What happens in Truckee and Mammoth tie into what happens here at Bridgeport," Baon said. "What we tried to do is establish an exercise on a large scale covering different locations to see what information is received from those locations, how it transpires and how the agencies put together their emergency response teams for this threat."

As the two CSTs worked with the FBI and local fire and police departments, the California Air National Guard's 144th and 146th Security Forces squadrons were busily setting up a mock terrorist camp at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center about 20 miles northwest of Bridgeport.

"Our part was to play the bad guys in the Red Snow exercise," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Bass of the 146th. "We set up our base camp, set up mock chemical and bomb-making tents, and were just bad guys. It was fun."

While the "terrorists" were setting up their camp, about 30 Soldiers from the California Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, were using intelligence from the CSTs and local civilian agencies to conduct reconnaissance, scout and sniper missions designed to take down the RCP.

Nestled deep within the Toiyabe National Forest, the Mountain Warfare Training Center provided sweeping mountain views, plenty of snow, and elevations between 6,400 and 11,000 feet. The members of the 1-160th, 144th and 146th therefore spent a few days on the ground at the Training Center to acclimatize themselves to the high elevations and below-freezing temperatures before they began their round-the-clock operations in the field.

"The Marine Corps has been very receptive, and some of the things we hadn't quite fully planned for, they've been more than happy to help resource us, especially in not planning for cold weather training before," said Maj. Eric Finch, executive officer for the 1-160th, who was also the officer in charge for the 1-160th's part in Red Snow. "You don't know what you don't know. They've been able to fill in the blanks and they've been very supportive."

The approximately 100 Guardsmen in the exercise also had the opportunity to learn from more than 30 civilian agencies that participated. Working side-by-side in the incident command post, the various agencies learned how each component responds as well as their functions, capabilities, expectations and resources.

"I think this exercise will go a long way to solidify the working relationship between the FBI and the California National Guard in response to terrorist incidents in the state, and to test our interoperability between [the National Guard's] resources and the resources the FBI can bring to that type of incident," said Special Agent Brian Jones, senior SWAT team leader for the FBI's Sacramento Division.

"The one most important thing is the relationship-building between the agencies that you very seldom get an opportunity to work with," Finch added. "When you have to do it for real, you're all thrown together, and you learn a lot when you go through that process. But if you had those relationships built ahead of time, you'd probably help save lives when something actually happens."

Red Snow was the brainchild of Baon, who has been in the Guard for four years and with the 95th CST for two. He spent more than a year designing the complex, large-scale exercise after being tasked by his deputy commander to design an exercise that was "bigger picture" and "outside the box."

"Doing things differently keeps people interested, works on skills and areas we need to touch up on, and challenges us in ways we've never been challenged before," Baon said. "I see a lot of areas where things need improvement, and I see a lot of areas where things have worked out great. Everything we're doing here is a learning experience, so I think the next exercise we do will be even bigger and better."



Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Wade

Spc. Carlos Camargo of the California National Guard's 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, participates in a dry run of the unit's assault on a mock terrorist camp Feb. 15 during Operation Red Snow at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, Calif.

"Everything is amplified up here," the instructor concluded.

During their first three days at the MWTC, the Soldiers acclimated to their surroundings by doing nothing but sleeping, walking around, performing light workouts, drinking plenty of water and eating. As they closed in on Day 1 of their mission, the infantrymen from the 1-160th, nicknamed the "Blackjacks," conducted low-key combat maneuvers and patient-extraction while constantly testing and adjusting their gear and the cold weather equipment issued by the MWTC.

"[The HHC] and [Company B] have never worked together before," said Staff Sgt. Justin Cruz, one of many Army Ranger-qualified members of the 1-160th, who is a police officer in Santa Barbara. "Luckily we have set standards and our [standard operating procedures] come into play."

"We add to our plan lessons learned from multiple deployments, go over the 'what if' game, and make sure each individual knows their part of the mission," continued Cruz, who led a scout element that gathered intelligence on the simulated terrorist camp. "This training is going to make us all better operators and give us vital experience in this type of environment."

Also sneaking and peeking were Sgt. Leif Devemark and Spc. Mark Matthews of the HHC. The sniper-and-spotter tandem ventured into high ridges daily to gain over-watch positions, moving slowly and silently to remain undetected as they blended in with their surroundings.

continued on page 18



Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr

HURTS ONE. AFFECTS ALL.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed each April to raise awareness and prevent sexual violence through special events and public education. 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 worldwide. Sexual assault is also a mission-readiness issue. It degrades the effectiveness of the service member and has the potential to degrade the effectiveness of the unit.

Our National Guard members deserve a quality of life that is commensurate with the great service they provide this country and state. They are entitled to a positive command climate that represents and upholds our Army and Air Force 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 need committed leaders who are dedicated to preventing sexual assault.

A person is sexually assaulted in the U.S. every two

minutes, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. By being prepared, alert and assertive, you can reduce your risk of being sexually assaulted. Visit the network's website, www.rainn.org, to learn tips to reduce your risk of being sexually assaulted or becoming a sexual assault offender.

A confidential, 24-hour sexual assault hotline for the Department of Defense can be reached at 877-995-5247 or www.SafeHelpline.org. Additional resources can be found at www.sapr.mil, www.myduty.mil and www.calguard.ca.gov/JI/pages/SPRP.aspx.

Contact Robert May with any questions or concerns.

Robert May
California National Guard

Sexual Assault
Response Coordinator

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PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS EVERYONE'S DUTY.

'Snipers' from page 17

The terrorist role-players knew snipers were out there and stared often into the tree line. With their camp completed, including fortified defenses and warming tents, the terrorist-portraying Airmen hunkered down for two days and waited.

"We knew they were going to attack us, but didn't know when," said Senior Airman Dustin Turner of the 144th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight. "We set up observation and listening posts and sent out roving patrols in hopes to flush them out."

Down in the valley 1,000 feet below, in warm barracks, scouts and snipers received their operation orders. It was time to go.

Each troop pumped themselves up as they tested their scopes and night vision goggles and loaded blank rounds into their M4 carbine magazines. Each troop would haul at least 40 pounds plus their rifle and ammo.

At 10:30 p.m. the men from the HHC and Company B, also known as "Joker" and "Bandit" companies, peered into the darkness at the unfamiliar landscape they would traverse over the next four hours. Armed with a map and GPS device and aided by a bright starry night, 1st Lt. Serguei Louchnikov, a Ranger-qualified platoon leader for the HHC, led his assault force across fields and streams and up and down steep ravines to close in on their objective.



Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Wade

Spc. Michael Olas, right, and Spc. Jan Cabanig of 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, conduct a patrol Feb. 15 to test conditions, battle load and clothing layers as they experience ever-changing weather during Operation Red Snow at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, Calif.

As Cruz and his scout team edged within meters of their final position before the attack, the two other squads from Company B and the HHC emerged from the woods and brought their assault teams on line.

The "terrorists" were on high alert, and their spotlights swept the snowfields.

The infantry Soldiers, who had just hiked silently and undetected using their night-

vision goggles, were staged within 50 yards to strike a blow to the terrorists. It was 2:30 a.m. and 19 degrees.

Then all hell broke loose. Cruz's team was spotted by the terrorists, shots rang out and the assault team went in guns a-blazing. It was all over in a matter of minutes.

In the aftermath, both attackers and defenders praised each other.

"You've got to give the Air Force credit," said Cpl. Javier Martinez, an assistant squad leader for the HHC. "Their patrols were effective and put us into action before we wanted to."

Staff Sgt. Joseph Villalobos of the 144th Fighter Wing said the terrorist role-players were happy when the attack finally came, because they were tired of looking for the enemy.

"We haven't slept in 48 hours," he said. "We heard they had Rangers and could have taken us out numerous ways, but luckily for us they gave us a fighting chance by assaulting us head-on."

The 1-160th normally wouldn't be involved in an event such as this assault — it just isn't their job — but it was a valuable chance to train nonetheless. Rather than domestic terrorists, the Airman role-players could have been enemy combatants and the 1-160th Soldiers could have been patrolling in Afghanistan's mountains. Despite not achieving an overwhelming victory, the operation was seen as a success.

"While we know we wouldn't typically attempt this kind of action, it provided us a rare opportunity to train with joint forces and act in a reverse role as our civil authorities," said Maj. Eric Finch, executive officer for the 1-160th. "We normally train at Camp Pendleton or Fort Irwin, so this helped stretch our knowledge in an environment we aren't used to operating in, and we are better for it."



Capt. Nathan Nowaski, a pilot for the 129th Rescue Squadron, prepares to navigate an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter under the Golden Gate Bridge on March 9 during a resupply mission to the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge located 28 miles off the Northern California coast. The nonprofit PRBO Conservation Science performs biological monitoring and research on marine life and wildlife in the refuge in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kim Ramirez

I-160th Infantry, 146th Airlift Wing earn TAG family readiness awards

Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, recognized the 146th Airlift Wing and 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, as the Air Guard and Army Guard winners, respectively, of The Adjutant General's Award for Excellence in Family Readiness.

"They each ... demonstrated clear excellence in their efforts to ensure the readiness and wellness of Families and loved ones within the command or unit," Baldwin wrote in a March 16 memorandum. "Their leadership teams fully support and actively integrate their Family Readiness Group into the mission. Both units have demonstrated what a force multiplier an effective Family Readiness program can add."

TAG's door is open

Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin issued a memorandum to clarify that his door is always open to all military and civilian personnel in the California Military Department (CMD) and their families. He said this policy also will serve as a foundation for open door policies throughout the CMD.

"All personnel are responsible to ensure that commanders and supervisors are aware of problems that affect discipline, morale, and mission effectiveness," he wrote March 9. "Effective communication between senior and subordinate personnel is crucial to the proper functioning of all units. Open door policies allow members of this command to present facts, concerns, and problems of a personal or professional nature or other issues that the individual has been unable to resolve."

Baldwin encouraged personnel to try to resolve problems at the lowest level possible within their military or supervisory chain of command. If redress is not available or appropriate, one can always seek outside assistance without prior approval. Aside from Baldwin's office, assistance may be sought from the CMD Inspector General, Equal Opportunity or Staff Judge Advocate offices or from the headquarters of the California Air National Guard, Army National Guard or State Military Reserve.

Downing named ANG command chief

Chief Master Sgt. Cindy L. Downing was appointed the command chief master sergeant for the California Air National Guard on March 23. She will continue serving as superintendent for the 144th Fighter Wing Force Support Squadron during the transition.

Downing enlisted in the Air Force in 1976 and served eight years on active duty. She later joined the Washington Air National Guard, then transferred to the CNG's 144th Fighter Wing in 1986. "The California Air National Guard will undoubtedly benefit from Cindy's experience and proven leadership," said Brig. Gen. James C. Witham, commander of the California Air National Guard.

Free SAT/ACT prep software

Active and retired Guard members are eligible to receive the SAT or ACT PowerPrep Program free of charge through a sponsorship program from eKnowledge Corp.

The software normally costs \$200 for a DVD with 11 hours of video instruction and 3,000 files of supplemental test preparation material. Soldiers and Airmen can obtain the program for \$17.55, which covers the cost of materials, support and shipping. Each program comes with a one-year license, which can be renewed for an additional year at the same donation rate. For more information or to order a test preparation package, call 951-256-4076 and reference Operation Military Kids or visit www.eKnowledge.com/OMK.

CORRECTION: The caption on page 14 of the March issue incorrectly identified the Soldiers, Staff Sgt. David Ingles, far left, and Sgt. Christian Swiggum.

DID YOU KNOW...

there are procedures that must be followed for commander-directed mental health evaluations?

Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 6490.1 and DoD Instruction 6490.4 establish the procedures commanders must follow when referring a service member for a mental health evaluation. These documents also explain the service member's rights regarding the mental health referral.

The procedures outlined in those documents protect the service member from referral to the mental health evaluation as a means of reprisal. This guidance only applies to commander-directed mental health evaluations, not routine evaluations that are required for administrative separations or to attend schools.

Airmen can find guidance in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 44-109, titled Mental Health, Confidentiality and Military Law. Additionally, AFI 90-301 provides information regarding the inspector general's process for commander-directed mental health evaluations.

Army Regulation 20-1 provides information for Soldiers regarding the inspector general's process for commander-directed mental health evaluations.



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A pararescue jumper, or PJ, from the California National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing is lifted off the Chinese fishing vessel Fu Yuan Yu #871 and onto one of the Wing's HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters March 12. Four PJs had parachuted from one of the wing's MC-130P airplanes into the Pacific Ocean more than 700 miles off the coast of Acapulco, Mexico, to assist two fishermen who had been badly burned in a diesel fire. The PJs provided medical care aboard the fishing vessel, then hoisted the patients onto Pave Hawks to be flown to Acapulco and then to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, where they were transferred to a nearby medical center. The rescue brings the total number of people saved by the 129th in its history to 950. Photo by Maj. Mat Wenthe

The Grizzly Newsmagazine

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