

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



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Leadership Corner

The National Guard: A sound investment

Major General David S. Baldwin



The U.S. military is the strongest in the world, and it has been for decades. But it is not a one-size-fits-all force.

After the Allies' historic victory in World War II, our objective was clear: Defend this great nation against the Soviet threat. For nearly half a century, the Cold War defined our military and drove the decision-making process as our leaders built the Armed Forces to protect us against that enemy.

Thanks in large part to the might of our military, Soviet influence throughout the world waned in the second half of the 20th century, and the Iron Curtain fell more than 20 years ago, bringing the Cold War to a close. But unfortunately, that historic threat continues to drive many of the decisions affecting our Armed Forces.

For 70 years, the Defense Department has been building up our active components while simply filling in at the margins with the National Guard and Reserves. That is a model from a bygone era.

A congressional mechanism commonly referred to as sequestration will trigger across-the-board spending cuts on Jan. 2 if lawmakers are unable to agree on a plan to reduce the federal deficit. Sequestration would require the Defense Department to slash \$500 billion from its projected budget for the next 10 years, forcing military leaders to make tough decisions.

Unfortunately, recent moves by the Defense Department indicate leadership remains locked into its Cold War paradigm of maintaining maximum capabilities on active duty

at the expense of the reserve component. It's time to turn that model on its head.

The past 11 years of conflict have seen unprecedented reliance on the reserve components, as Guardsmen and Reservists have been heavily integrated into overseas contingency operations, working side-by-side with our active duty brethren. Putting the reserve component on a shelf and allowing the skill and experience we have gained to dwindle over time would be a huge national security mistake. Furthermore, it would be a huge fiscal mistake, as the reserve component has been proven to bring capabilities to the fight at only one-third the cost of our active duty counterparts.

This exceptional return on investment necessitates that we break the Cold War paradigm and approach the looming budget crisis from a requirements-based standpoint. When our leaders determine each commander's requirements, they should then determine if that need can be met by the Guard or Reserve. If the answer is yes, that requirement must be filled by the reserve component.

Our active components are needed to maintain an institutional base, provide a steady supply of trained and ready units to meet mission requirements and fill certain roles that are not appropriate for a part-time force. But if we can buy proven combat capabilities through the reserve component at a fraction of the price, we must do so at every opportunity, for the good of our nation's economy.

Contrary to what some leaders might think, our part-time forces are not battle-weary and are not running from de-

ployments. In fact the most common complaint I hear from CNG Soldiers and Airmen is that there are too few opportunities for these brave warriors to deploy. They joined the military because they want to serve this state and nation, and they hope our leaders at the Pentagon are listening.

Increasing the reserve component's role would come at a cost. To maintain a true operational reserve, we must increase our time spent training for contingency operations. Rather than a traditional two-week annual training period, units may need to spend as much as seven weeks in training, depending on where their unit falls in the deployment or readiness cycle.

We are very grateful to the businesses that employ our National Guardsmen and Reservists and accommodate their training schedules, and we understand the challenges an expanded training schedule would present. Nonetheless we believe employers would continue to support our patriotic citizen-warriors, and we plan to work with federal and state policymakers to create tax breaks and other incentives for businesses to employ National Guardsmen and Reservists.

Relegating our reserve forces to solely a domestic-response role would waste the experience gained during the past 11 years and ignore the potential cost savings our country desperately needs. Only with the help of our governors and congressional representatives can we influence our leaders at the Defense Department to do what needs to be done: Return our nation to its militia roots and keep the National Guard and Reserves at the forefront of our national defense.

Good leadership requires work

Command Sergeant Major William Clark Jr.



When I joined the California Army National Guard some 30 years ago, noncommissioned officers (NCO) carried leader's books that included their Soldiers' and Soldiers' families' information. Soon after 9/11, however, the National Guard increased the practice of mobilizing individual troops to fill open slots in mobilizing units. This "cross-leveling" caused a loss in unit integrity. We have gotten so good at deploying individual Soldiers and Airmen that we have gotten away from the fundamentals that make the NCO Corps the "backbone" of the Armed Forces.

I remember when a National Guard NCO's primary role was to monitor the logistics of their unit's annual training and monthly drill weekends. It was the NCO's responsibility to make sure their troops had food, water and serviceable uniforms. This will not be a distant memory any longer: I expect to see it from this day forward in every CNG unit. I expect NCOs to live it and breathe it.

One of my favorite quotes, which I have carried with me for more than 30 years, is from John C. Maxwell, an author who has written extensively on leadership. He stated that,

"A leader is the one who knows the ways, goes the way and shows the way."

Since 1948, Army Field Manual 22-100 on military leadership has guided officers and NCOs in leading their Soldiers. Since well before I went to basic training, the principles of leadership in that Manual have remained virtually the same. What has changed is the accelerated pace at which leaders are promoted and put into leadership positions. In many cases, the Guard has lost NCOs with years of experience and gained new, younger leaders. With this opportunity comes the responsibility to learn from doctrine and from other strong leaders. This knowledge must be coupled with the determination to lead from the front with passion. Know your troops, mentor them, enforce military standards and be fit for duty.

Leaders also must be ethical. Troops will not follow you if they don't trust you. Enlisted members may follow a leader's direction because of their rank or position for a while. But in the long term, Soldiers and Airmen follow leaders whom they aspire to be like. Do your troops want to be like you?

Another critical component of leadership is communication, so while we are working on getting back to basics, we also need to embrace new and different modes of communication, including social media. Did I ever think I'd blog, tweet or post on Facebook? NO! But here I am. Why? Because that is where our Soldiers are and where their families are. I use social media to share resources and information with our Guardsmen and their families.

Finally and most importantly, leaders take risks. They are willing to take risks because they can visualize how things can be done better, and they create change, which requires risk. The most important risk is the willingness to expose yourself to the possibility of a negative outcome in order to carry out your vision. Risk does not mean betting on the long shots; in order to be a risk-taker, one needs some record of success. Troops will not take risks if they fail repeatedly.

The adjutant general and I expect our NCOs to be ethical, take-charge leaders. Read and reread your leadership doctrine and hone your leadership skills. Your troops deserve the best you can give them.

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- ★ 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
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- ★ Caption (what is happening, who is pictured and the date of the photo)
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Cover Shot



Photo by Master Sgt. David Loeffler

A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and crew with the California Army National Guard drop water on the Ponderosa Fire near Redding, Calif., on Aug. 24.

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California National Guard mobilizations as of August 2012



40th ID hones skills during AT

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA INIGO**
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

Annual training (AT) for the 40th Infantry Division kept an eye toward the future but had solid grounding in essential training at Camp Roberts, Calif., from July 21-Aug. 5.

At the staff level, key leadership had their sights set on preparing for next year's Warfighter exercise at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., while at the lower level, mandatory training and qualifications were met throughout the two-week period.

The main party began their training with a drill at their home station on Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, before heading for Camp Roberts. However, once they arrived at Camp Roberts, all levels dispersed to different locations to accomplish their missions.

Staff leadership largely remained behind closed doors in a secure building, working to establish the military decision-making process and begin the order production for Warfighter.

"I called it the coal mine," Col. Phillip Butch, operations officer for the Division, said of the work being done in Building 209. "We wouldn't leave that place until the sun went down."

All participating units from around the continent were invited to participate in establishing the initial processes for the 2013 Warfighter exercise, in which they will attempt to restore a fictional nation-state by role-playing different scenarios to see how they would pan out in a real-world environment, Butch said.

The Warfighter scenario is based on the fictional country Atropia. The 40th ID's role in Warfighter is to simulate the processes of going into the country by creating an operations order, planning the mission to help restore Atropia's sovereignty and estab-

lishing a coalition to give the nation-state legitimacy.

"To help restore sovereignty to this fictional country, we use the proven, time-tested and deliberate military decision-making process to produce a Division order," Butch said. "This is no different than what we did in Iraq."

Preparing for Warfighter was not the Division's only mission at AT, however. The Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion's (HQB) four main companies all assigned company-level warfighting components to utilize the Army Battle Command System and military decision-making process together in a suite of networked digital components. This gave commanders a better perspective of their operating environment in order to make better decisions. Each component was also required to accomplish specific taskings and exercises that are essential to operations within the HQB, according to Commander Lt. Col. Kelly Greenhaw.

"We had a very successful annual training event," Greenhaw said, making note of the separate missions at the staff level and company level, the readiness level within the Division and a Command Maintenance Evaluation Team inspection that went very well. "We did everything we had to do and we had a good time."

Separately from those missions, the 40th ID Headquarters Support Company out of Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos; the Operations Company out of Sacramento and its Operations Detachment out of Camp Roberts; the Intelligence and Sustainment Company out of Los Angeles; and the Signal Company out of Long Beach and its Signal Detachment out of Lancaster worked to conduct collective training and perform essential personnel actions.

The training included resiliency instruction, suicide prevention classes and brief-



Photo by Sgt. Matthew Wright

ings on sexual-harassment and sexual-assault response and prevention. Soldiers also headed to the range with their M9 pistols, M4 carbine assault rifles and M249 Squad Automatic Weapons. Other training included land navigation exercises, Humvee and Light Medium Tactical Vehicle drivers training and vehicle maintenance. Medics from the 40th ID also conducted Combat Lifesaver certification and retraining for Soldiers in their Division and other CNG units.

Personnel actions performed during annual training included the completion of evaluation reports for officers and noncommissioned officers, the presentation of awards and ribbons, and the promotion of multiple Soldiers.

Each of the companies had individual jobs to focus on throughout AT, but they all worked together to use the two weeks to be ready for the fight.

"The whole year you train on individual tasks, and then during annual training you train on collective tasks," said Sgt. 1st Class Konstantin Nikolaychuk, Headquarters Support Company action first sergeant.

"Camp Roberts provided the necessary training area and equipment in order for the unit to accomplish the commander's intent."

In addition to their AT mission, a handful of Soldiers completed a three-day Attack the Network course given by a team of technical instructors from the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga. The course taught the 40th ID members to recognize potential terror network threats when deployed to Afghanistan and intercept them. This included everything from drug-smuggling operations to bomb-emplacement scenarios.

During the same time period, the Division supported the peacekeeping command post exercise at the annual Rapid Trident event in Ukraine, which is part of the CNG's continuing State Partnership Program mission.

On the last day of AT, the HQB companies came together for a morning fun run to build camaraderie, and they were later treated to a barbecue. A convoy then brought the troops back to JFTB to complete their annual training with a family day on the base.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Salli Curchin

TOP: Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Division qualify with their M4 carbine assault rifles July 30 at Camp Roberts, Calif., during the Division's two-week annual training period, July 21-Aug. 5. **ABOVE:** Private 1st Class Rishell Nourse gains a dominant position over Sgt. John Sarver on July 31 at Camp Roberts during combatives training conducted by instructor Spc. Joseph Stokes. **LEFT:** Pvt. John Kim, far left, and Spc. James Lee of the CNG's 224th Sustainment Brigade assist the 224th's Spc. Merlyn Conwell, who has sustained a simulated injury, during a Combat Lifesaver skills validation course taught by 40th ID medics July 28 at Camp Roberts.

756th Transportation Co. home from Afghanistan

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA INIGO**
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

The anticipation along the Los Alamitos Army Airfield flight line was palpable Aug. 8 as families and friends eagerly waited for two planes to unload more than 130 Soldiers of the Lancaster, Calif.-based 756th Transportation Company onto the sunny tarmac.

As each bird landed and the passengers spilled out, searching eyes raced across the crowds, and shrieks of joy were heard once eyes finally met.

"I want to see Daddy," cried Trevor Hampel, 7, who held up a sign with his 5-year-old brother Zak, welcoming their father home. Once the boys spotted their dad, Staff Sgt. Brian Hampel, they raced toward him for some hugs before moving aside to allow him some alone time with their mother, Kassi, who is pregnant with the couple's third child.

The Soldiers arrived in Southern California after completing a yearlong mission to Afghanistan. Throughout the deployment, 169 Soldiers of the 756th provided critical logistical support, moving needed supplies and equipment throughout Afghanistan. A few dozen of the Soldiers returned home on flights separate from the two at Los Alamitos Army Airfield on Aug. 8.

Highlights of the deployment included performing 421 convoy missions, escorting 952 Afghan trucks, completing nearly 900 logistical movement requests that comprised more than 4,000 pieces of cargo, and



Spc. Oscar Perez of the 756th Transportation Company hugs his grandmother Esperanza Martinez, who ran out to greet him Aug. 8 before he could get through the official receiving line at Los Alamitos Army Airfield. Perez and about 130 other Soldiers of the 756th returned home that day following a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Inigo

moving 11,523 personnel throughout the Kabul Base Cluster.

The two planes carrying returning Soldiers

arrived in Los Alamitos within 15 minutes of each other Aug. 8. Each group was accepted in waves by military leadership and members of the Patriot Guard Riders mo-

torcycle club, who formed a receiving line for the Soldiers as they exited the aircraft.

One grandmother who couldn't contain herself broke past the receiving line to greet her grandson with a bouquet of patriotic balloons and a great big hug. "Let me go!" Esperanza Martinez cried in Spanish as family members tried to hold her back. She then cut loose and made a mad dash toward Spc. Oscar Perez, who accepted her with a smile.

"It feels good to be back," Perez said as he was surrounded by generations of family members. "I'm looking forward to spending some time with my kids and going to Disneyland." First, though, Perez said he planned to celebrate with a good old-fashioned Mexican cookout once he got back to his Realto, Calif., home.

Once the initial hugs and kisses were out of the way, the 756th Command Section officially welcomed home the troops with a brief ceremony on the tarmac. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California's 46th District was part of the ceremony, both welcoming the Soldiers home and honoring the memory of Sgt. Carlo F. Eugenio, a 756th Soldier who was killed by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Afghanistan last October.

The Company's Lancaster Readiness Center will be rededicated in Eugenio's honor during an official homecoming ceremony Sept. 8. Members of the 756th who were injured during the recent deployment will also receive their Purple Heart medals during the ceremony.

I-126th begins third overseas tour since 2003

CNG unit sends 12 helicopters, 100 Soldiers to perform air-assault and transportation missions in Afghanistan

By **1ST LT. AARON GATZKE**
California Military Department Public Affairs

A Stockton, Calif.-based Army National Guard unit bid farewell to about 100 Soldiers and a dozen CH-47 Chinook helicopters Aug. 18 and 19 as they made their way to pre-mobilization training in Texas followed by deployment to Afghanistan.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, and its heavy-lift, tandem-rotor helicopters took off from the Stockton airport Aug. 19 en route to Fort Hood, where the unit will train for its third deployment to the Middle East in recent years. The company previously deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and it deployed to Iraq in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the 2003 deployment, the unit was known as Company G, 140th Aviation Regiment; its designation was changed in 2007.

"I am so proud of [Company B's] performance during its previous deployments and am confident its Soldiers will represent the state with distinction again," Col. Laura Yeager said during a farewell ceremony Aug. 18 at the Stockton Flight Facility. Yeager is the commander of the CNG's 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, higher headquarters for the 1-126th. "This superb company provides essential heavy-lift support to the ground tactical commander using 12 [Chinook] aircraft. Their ability to move massive amounts of supplies, equipment and Soldiers into difficult terrain cannot be duplicated by any other aviation asset in theater."

Company B Commander Capt. Benjamin Bowman said his approximately 100 Soldiers live all over the state, from Redding in the north down to Southern California,



Photo by Master Sgt. Blanca Gonzalez-Fryor

with the majority hailing from the Central Valley.

"It's nice knowing that every one of our pilots in command has deployed to the [Middle East] before," Bowman said. "We've got a lot of experience as far as pilots in command and air crews, as well as Soldiers deploying for the first time."

While deployed to Afghanistan, the unit will be tasked with air-assault missions and transportation of personnel and equipment throughout the theater.

"Our mission, in a nutshell, is to support the ground commanders," Bowman said. "Anything that needs to get moved that is more than one or two passengers will go by Chinook."

Company B is the largest National Guard Chinook unit in the contiguous United States.



Photo by 1st Lt. Aaron Gatzke

ABOVE: Sgt. Perfecto Degala and his 1-year-old daughter Kalea share some time together during a farewell event Aug. 18 at the Stockton Flight Facility, the day before Degala and his unit, Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, deployed to Afghanistan. LEFT: The sun rises over Company B's CH-47 Chinooks on Aug. 17 in Stockton.



California's Scorched Summer

Cal Guard Aviators engage in statewide fire fight

By SENIOR AIRMAN JESSICA GREEN
California Military Department Public Affairs

With more than 450,000 acres of the Golden State burnt or ablaze, California National Guard personnel continue to join forces with the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) to assist in efforts to extinguish wildfires.

California had five wildfires burning throughout the state with varying levels of containment as of Sept. 4, when CNG personnel were busy drenching the Bagley, Fort Complex and Ponderosa fires in Northern California. They had been released from fighting fires in Southern California in August. Eight CNG helicopters and one CNG Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS)-equipped C-130J airplane were being used to battle the Northern California blazes.

CNG helicopter crews have flown nearly 714 hours and conducted 2,075 water bucket missions, dropping more than 1.37 million gallons, or 11.5 million pounds, of water across the state since being activated Aug. 7.

A MAFFS-equipped C-130J and crew from the CNG's 146th Airlift Wing (AW) has been working in California alongside an

Air National Guard MAFFS crew from North Carolina since Aug. 14. Together they have completed more than 75 drops with their 3,000-gallon MAFFS and released nearly 200,000 gallons of fire retardant on California fires.

California Army National Guard assets involved in the fight include an HH-60L Black Hawk helicopter used for medical evacuation support, a UH-72 Lakota helicopter for infrared mapping operations, four UH-60 Black Hawks for water bucket operations and two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters for water bucket drops. The Pave Hawks and Black Hawks are equipped with 660-gallon buckets for aerial firefighting.

"This has been a very busy fire season. Our crews are not only dropping water, but we're providing [Cal Fire] with medical evacuation capabilities as well," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Brockly, a pilot with Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion. "Our Black Hawks are very well-suited for the mission. In recent years, we've been able to upgrade to stronger engines on a number of our aircraft, and we're fielding a more advanced water bucket. This allows us to carry more water to the fire and utilize shallow dip sites [to fill the bucket]."

Recent overseas deployments, such as Company C's tour in Afghanistan in 2008 and 2009, provide aviators with invaluable experience for firefighting missions. Similarly, the crews' firefighting experience will assist in preparing newer pilots for upcoming overseas tours.

"The environment in which we fight fire is usually high and hot, very similar to the mountain conditions in Afghanistan," Brockly said. "These conditions coupled with a stressful real world mission teach the crews many lessons which can be used on deployment."

Joint firefighting efforts between the Army and Air Guard crews have been "seamless," said Maj. David Weidman, a Pave Hawk pilot for the 129th Rescue Wing. "Our training in the off season has really allowed us to bring the CNG's full aerial firefighting capabilities to bear when our state needs us most," he said.

When CNG troops respond to a wildfire threat in California, emergency-response personnel from the active duty Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps are sometimes called in to support as well. California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. on Aug. 12 secured approval from Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta to mobilize all firefighting military troops and aircraft in California to fight under a single commander, Col. Robert Spano of the California National Guard.

"Too often the response to fires is wrapped up in red tape, with each military branch reporting to a different commander," Brown said. "When fires are burning, every second counts. By unifying the command, this agreement will allow us to fight fires, not bureaucracy."

The approval from the Defense Department allows the state to unify efforts under a new structure known as Dual Status Command, which places all military responders, including reserve and active duty components, under the leadership of a National Guard commander. Additional troops have not yet been called upon to support California's firefighting efforts, but the Dual Status command construct will enable a smooth integration of those forces if they are needed later this fire season.

Guardsmen take pride in protecting their home state



Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

Tech. Sgt. Mike Porter, an aerial gunner for the 129th Rescue Wing, releases water from a "Bambi bucket" attached to an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter while battling the Jawbone Complex Fire on Aug. 14 in Kern County, Calif.

By MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

Californians have come to expect news alerts each summer that show horrific scenes of distress as fires tear across the state. Often as towns evacuate, the CNG's citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen are headed the other way, racing toward the fires to save lives and property.

"Growing up in a few places in California, I see us as one community, which I call home," said 1st Lt. Tyler Gibson of the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing. "I was born in Victorville, not far from the fires we fought [this summer] in Tehachapi. The fires in Chico are 45 minutes from where I grew up. To be able to serve close to home and help in my own state is an honor."

Tech Sgt. Mike Porter of the 129th received a call from his unit just after getting off work Aug. 10 at his civilian job for the Navy. "I reported for duty within hours and went straight to work the next day," he said. Soon his air crew and others lifted off to fight the fires wreaking havoc on the state, dropping water on the flames from above in support of

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Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

TOP: Helicopter crews from the CNG's 129th Rescue Wing and 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment, prepare to battle a wildfire in Kern County, Calif., on Aug. 15. ABOVE: Sgt. Chris Boni of the 1-140th Aviation Battalion, left, and Bob Innes, fire manager for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, prepare a 660-gallon "Bambi bucket" to be attached to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, which the 1-140th used to drop water on the Rim and Jawbone Complex fires near Tehachapi, Calif., on Aug. 14.

330th MPs train for any emergency

By SHANNON ARLEDGE
Center for Domestic Preparedness

The California National Guard's Quick Reaction Force-South (QRF-S) spent the first two weeks of August in the Appalachian foothills of northern Alabama, receiving its annual training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston. The CDP plays a leading role in preparing the United States to protect its citizens and respond to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, civil disorder, accidents involving hazardous or toxic materials and events resulting in mass casualties.

Each state and territory is home to one or more QRFs, military units specially trained to respond to emergencies on short notice. QRFs protect critical infrastructure and focus on security threats, natural disasters and civil disturbances. The QRFs comprise Army National Guard Soldiers with all the specialties necessary to respond to state requests for emergency assistance.

"This training is very relevant to our current events," said Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the California Army National Guard. "I think the Soldiers have been impressed, and I certainly have been impressed by the quality of training. It is exactly what they need to provide [them] the confidence to respond in times of domestic or other emergency situations."

Nearly 120 Soldiers from Southern California's 330th Military Police Company QRF arrived in Alabama for law enforcement, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, high-yield explosive and other training to



Photo by Shannon Arledge

Members of the 330th Military Police Company execute a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive drill in August during their two-week annual training period at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness, in Anniston, Ala.

protect citizens and property.

"Our level of effectiveness has increased," said Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Whitaker, the unit's readiness noncommissioned officer. "All state Guard units need this training. This was cost-free for the unit and saved the state of California thousands of training dollars — and our state is more prepared and mission-ready."

A highlight of the training was a mass casualty triage exercise at the CDP Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological Training Facility, which incorporated the use of toxic nerve agents in a safe and secure environment. This training demonstrated the effectiveness of personal protective equipment and improved the Soldiers' confidence operating in a contaminated environment.

"We are a huge force-multiplier because of this training," said Capt. Andrew Hanson, 330th MP Company commander. "After this training, I do not believe there is another unit [in California] that has the solid foundation for civil-disturbance and crowd-control response in a defense security environment like the 330th."

The training also consisted of crowd control, extrication techniques for protesters and protective measures in response to terrorist or hazardous material events. According to 1st Sgt. Andraus Williams, the company's first sergeant, the training will benefit not only his Soldiers but all California response agencies.

"This training reinforced our ability to communicate with civilian responders," he said. "We [all] speak one language and can work side-by-side with our civilian counterparts during an emergency response. This is not offered anywhere else and it has made our unit more ready and capable to support our state."

The training was diverse, versatile and fits into all aspects of emergency response, Soldiers said. "Compared to my military and civilian training, I can tell you that this training fits into any spectrum of law enforcement," said Spc. Ashley Jordan of the 330th, who has also served as a civilian law enforcement officer for nine years. "It can be molded into any environment. This was an amazing educational opportunity."

"I felt ready before I came here, but I feel more empowered and confident in my abilities now."

Earthquake-response drill tests Predator unit

By CAPT. PERRY L. COVINGTON
163rd Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs

The ground rumbles beneath your feet, dishes crash to the floor and bookshelves topple over. You gather your family and run for shelter, and as the wrenching tremor subsides, you peer out the window to see telephone poles toppled over, leaving stumps cemented to the ground. A chorus of car alarms blares incessantly,

almost drowning out the shouts for help.

In that type of situation, citizens expect every possible asset to be called in for recovery operations, including remotely piloted aircraft such as the MQ-1 Predators operated by the CNG's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing.

In Grizzly Field Exercise 2012, which simulated an earthquake in Southern Califor-

nia on July 25, the 163rd was tasked to provide full-motion video of the destruction to the state's Joint Operations Center; U.S. Northern Command; the 601st Air Operations Center in Florida; the CNG's 234th Intelligence Squadron; and nongovernmental agencies. The video feed, provided by cameras mounted on two Predators, supported efforts to rescue survivors.

"It was extremely rewarding to see the integration of the California Joint Operations Center into the command and control for interagency disaster response," said Col. Randall Ball, 163rd Reconnaissance Wing commander. "This exercise established a baseline for further integration of civilian response agencies, and through the use of two Predators, established a large full-motion video footprint that is accessible by all military and civilian disaster-relief communities."

A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and crew from the CNG's 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment, flew two role-playing survivors to Fort Irwin, Calif., where they were told to hold their position. A Predator flown remotely by pilots at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., then began its search for survivors so the helicopter pilots could initiate a rescue.

"A lot of planning and test runs have come before this exercise to help prepare us, and I think all of our hard work has paid off," said Lt. Col. Keith Ward, 163rd

Operations Support Squadron commander. "As with any exercise, we have some good lessons learned that we can refine, but the intent of the exercise was met with dazzling results."

The success of disaster response is measured by reaction time and lives saved. The many moving parts that compose a disaster-response machine can be effective only if communication is optimal. During times of calamity, first responders and the National Guard come together to form a driving force for those in need.

"At the federal level we are always looking to use all assets available," said Maj. Dawn Junk, chief of domestic operations and special missions for the 163rd. "We need to constantly scan for all components available to make an operation of this scale a success."

Tech. Sgt. Robert Davis, 163rd network administrator, said California Army National Guard and State Military Reserve personnel were vital to maintaining communications during the exercise.

"They bring capabilities and experience that have been invaluable," he said. "Remotely piloted aircraft operation has a large communications piece, and ... at every step of the way, the support we have received from our Army National Guard and State Military Reserve counterparts has been exceptional."



An MQ-1 Predator pilot with the CNG's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing searches for survivors following a simulated earthquake in Southern California using a video feed provided by the remotely piloted Predator.

Mad Dog, Afghan engineers complete massive project

By Task Force Mad Dog Public Affairs

Spc. Christopher Taylor stood huddled with other Soldiers on the flight line, while icy wind from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter's dual rotary blades blasted over him. It was the middle of the night on Nov. 28, 2011, the beginning of the coldest winter Afghanistan had seen in 15 years.

Four hours earlier, Task Force Mad Dog troops didn't know they would be going anywhere, let alone moving out to a small combat outpost most of them had never heard of. But the order had come down. They got ready to move.

Helicopters hovered and landed, barely visible in the darkness but easily identifiable by their thunderous wind and screaming engines. The crew chief for the bird closest to the Mad Dog troops waved his hand, signaling them to board the aircraft. Operation Devil Hammer had begun.

"All I could think was, 'Where are we going, what is the security, what are the living conditions going to be like?'" Taylor recalled.

Highway 1 in Afghanistan, also known as the "Ring Route," traverses the entire country, connecting most of Afghanistan's major cities. The stretch of Highway 1 in Regional Command-East, where TF Mad Dog is stationed, links Kabul to Kandahar, key terrain for the country. To silence the insurgent network along Highway 1, the U.S. Army planned to bring in 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, to flush the enemy out of their holes. The 1st BCT was scheduled to arrive just as the final snows of winter were melting, but first they would need a home.

TF Mad Dog, which had been in Afghanistan less than two weeks, was given the task of simultaneously building five combat outposts and expanding three forward operating bases for the BCT — the largest construction effort in the region's history — in the dead of winter, with supply routes closing and aerial operations diminishing.

The CNG's Manhattan Beach-based 578th Engineer Battalion commanded the Task Force, which included two construction companies, four route clearance companies and one forward support company. The magnitude of Operation Devil Hammer, however, required engineer units from all over Afghanistan to descend on the project: Before the mission was complete, the 578th had tactical control of five units from the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy in addition to the components of TF Mad Dog.

Furthermore, Mad Dog leadership made the decision to bring in another force-multiplier: Afghan National Army (ANA) engineers. Not only could Afghan troops support the massive construction project, this was a tremendous opportunity for training and partnering with the ANA.

"We realized that this was a perfect training opportunity to co-locate an Afghan engineer unit at a priority build site," said Capt. Joe Lee of the 578th, who serves as TF Mad Dog's ANA coordinator.



Photo by 1st Lt. Adam Carrington

A Task Force Mad Dog Soldier fills barricades at Combat Outpost Giro, Afghanistan, as part of a mission to simultaneously build five combat outposts and expand three forward operating bases last winter.

Once the ANA engineer platoon arrived with their heavy equipment, they immediately got to work under TF Mad Dog's direction. The ANA Soldiers had very little experience using their equipment, mostly because of a lack of fuel and exposure to engineer missions. Now that the ANA engineers had both, they quickly became proficient and contributed significantly to the build.

"In one day we were able to put up 633 linear feet of installation walls," said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Flatmoe of the South Dakota National Guard's 842nd Horizontal Construction Company, TF Mad Dog. "I was really impressed."

TF Mad Dog's greatest asset during the mission, however, was the real-world experience and knowledge of its National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, leadership said. Many of the troops have civilian experience in their trades, making them invaluable in the construction process.

"My experience as a construction project manager for the Disneyland Resort helped prepare me for this challenge," said 1st Lt. Russell Fenton of TF Mad Dog. "Having a civil engineering license gave me the tools needed to manage and influence the design process for the entire operation."

Needing to build bases simultaneously, TF Mad Dog ensured that it quickly shared lessons learned across the battlefield. By the end of the build, all of the original designs had been modified based on shared information vetted throughout the Task Force. "Engineers quickly became 'solutioneers' by adapting to the lack of construction materials, adverse weather and time restraints," said Capt. Austin Bird, commander of the 236th Vertical Construction Company, a Texas National Guard unit that was attached to the Task Force.

As the winter snows melted and the sound of bulldozers faded, the 1st BCT arrived and brought the fight to the enemy. "Task Force Mad Dog heroically built numerous bases for Task Force Devil in the high-altitude, sub-zero winter," said Maj. Stephen Peterson, operations officer for Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st BCT. "Like true sappers, they found solutions to frozen ground and material shortages."

"They displayed true grit and courage in an area with no U.S. forces and limited coalition forces," he continued. "They set the conditions for the 1-82nd to immediately eliminate the Taliban influence ... and stayed on to support us with tactical construction missions."

Operation Devil Hammer has since significantly degraded the insurgents' ability to operate. Emplacement of improvised explosive devices has decreased, and Highway 1 continues to support Afghanistan's economy and logistical needs.

Afghan intelligence makes strides with Mad Dog support

By CAPT. BOB COUTURE and PFC. TYMOTHY QUIGG
578th Engineer Battalion

Afghanistan was recently declared a major non-NATO ally, which affords special privileges for training, equipment and surveillance capabilities. As that status matures and coalition forces continue to transition Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) into the lead in their home country, there are many hurdles to overcome for intelligence-sharing to become a reality.

The coalition forces in Afghanistan conduct operations involving 86 nations and rely heavily upon technology and time-sensitive information management. In a country with substantially less infrastructure than the U.S. and a literacy rate lower than 30 percent, it is difficult to implement automated processes. Transferring data is not as simple as translating it from English into Dari or Pashtu.

Observing how Afghans develop intelligence and seeking creative means to support their operations is vital to enabling Afghans to own the security mission in their country. At least until 2014, coalition forces will perform a supporting role for Afghan intelligence by collecting and managing data, often through Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel and reporting systems.

"The ability for the ANSF to develop and manage their intelligence program is a critical step in the right direction," said Capt. Joe Lee of the Cal Guard's 578th Engineer Battalion, who serves as the ANA partnership coordinator for Task Force Mad Dog in Afghanistan. "The Afghan National Army does not have a robust intelligence management program that consistently provides intelligence products to their [subordinate] elements. Many of the missions that the route clearance [companies] conduct are without pertinent intelligence like enemy threat analysis of the area of operations."

The Intelligence Section for the 578th Engineer Battalion and TF Mad Dog, based in Manhattan Beach, Calif., has been publishing intelligence products specifically for sharing with Afghan counterparts. The weekly intelligence summaries support embedded transition teams (ETT) of U.S. troops who work with Afghan engineer and route clearance companies. The ETT mentors then discuss the products with their Afghan partners to support mission planning.

"Leaving the Afghans out of the [intelligence] loop is not the right answer. My [Intelligence] Section continues to seek means to make our Afghan partners part of the information-receiving, -collecting and -reporting process," said Lt. Col. Richard Rabe of the 578th, who is serving as TF Mad Dog commander. "If we expect the Afghans to conduct unilateral [intelligence]-based missions, then it is incumbent on us to prepare them. ... Until the Afghans get their systems in place, developing 'display only' products is a great way to leverage our technology resources to share information right now."

As U.S. troops maintain and analyze intelligence data in the short term, Afghans must be encouraged to make use of the available intelligence for mission planning, TF Mad Dog leaders said. The way ahead is to implement the means for ANSF to manage their own intelligence systems through receipt and dissemination of standardized reports and production of predictive analyses for subordinate units.



Photo by 1st Lt. Alexander Jansen

Capt. Mirwais of the Afghan National Army discusses intelligence products July 3 at Forward Operating Base Vulcan, Afghanistan, with Capt. Bob Couture of the CNG's 578th Engineer Battalion, far right, Staff Sgt. Richard Brown of a U.S. Army embedded transition team and Pfc. Timothy Quigg of the 578th.

Spc. Benjamin Pleitez, 25, laid to rest

By SENIOR AIRMAN JESSICA GREEN
California Military Department Public Affairs

California National Guardsmen and other veterans and military supporters gathered to honor Spc. Benjamin Pleitez and his family Aug. 7 as the Soldier's remains were delivered to his family at the Modesto City-County Airport.

Pleitez, 25, a medic for the CNG's 649th Military Police Company, died July 27 while deployed to Afghanistan with the CNG's 1072nd Transportation Company. The cause of death has not yet been determined.

"He always had a good smile. He was an outstanding Soldier," said Staff Sgt. Justin Flood, an operations noncommissioned officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, out of Modesto. "We could ask him to do something and he'd run to do it. It's a sad loss."

The Paradise, Calif., native enlisted in the National Guard with Detachment 1, 145th Engineer Company, in September 2006. After earning the military occupational specialty of heavy construction equipment operator, he transferred to the 1401st Engineer Detachment as a vehicle driver.



Photo by Senior Airman Jessica Green

The remains of CNG Soldier Spc. Benjamin Pleitez arrive at the Modesto City-County Airport on Aug. 7. Pleitez, a 25-year-old medic, died July 27 in Afghanistan, where he was attached to the CNG's 1072nd Transportation Company.

"He had set his mind to becoming an [emergency medical technician]. However, after difficulty finding a job, he decided to join the [Veterans Honors Program]," said Frank Clementi, worship coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Turlock, Calif., during a funeral service at the church Aug. 8. "It was there that he began to realize that he belonged to an important

group of people who were making a difference in the world."

After multiple assignments with the California National Guard, Pleitez became a health care specialist and was assigned in December 2011 to serve as a medic for the 649th Military Police Company out of San Luis Obispo, Calif.

"It's hard to say exactly what it was about [his job] that just clicked, but it did," Gabe Velez, a childhood friend of Pleitez, said Aug. 8. "You could see it when he talked about it; it was like a little kid talking about Disneyland."

"He loved what he did," Velez added. "He was there for his brothers over there and willing to do anything."

Pleitez was activated in March to deploy to Mazar E Sharif, Afghanistan, attached to the CNG's 1072nd Transportation Company from Van Nuys, Calif.

"He was caring, compassionate and he would make you feel at ease. He laughed easily and made others laugh just as easily," Clementi added. "He's leaving behind many good friends and a family that will miss him."

Among other awards and decorations, Pleitez earned the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal and California Enlisted Trainer's Excellence Ribbon.

Pleitez is survived by his parents, Diana and Salvador Pleitez, and his brothers, Evan and John Pleitez.

Fleet Week tests inter-agency uplink

By MASTER SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER
California Military Department Public Affairs

Thick San Francisco fog was no match for a CNG Incident Commander's Command-and-Control Communications Unit (IC4U) and Joint Force Headquarters-based IC4U team when they were tasked with providing handheld radios and satellite-based phone and Internet communications on Aug. 14 during the San Francisco Fleet Week Communications Drill.

The drill tested the ability of federal, state and local agencies to establish and maintain emergency communications that would enable all 16 agencies in the exercise to operate at a high tempo. The scenario was based in the aftermath of a catastrophic simulated earthquake.

"Currently we are cross-banded with the San Francisco Police Department, the Fire Department, the Coast Guard, the Navy, the Marines, the city of San Francisco and other agencies," said Capt. Artena Houston, chief of the CNG's Tactical and Emergency Communications Branch. "We are also cross-banded with a California National Guard UH-72 helicopter, which has the ability to send real-time, high-definition video feeds through our rovers to the IC4U. ... This capability can save lives."

The ability to provide video, text and photographs has been tested during search-and-rescue operations, firefighting missions, catastrophic events and counterdrug efforts throughout California. Any information sent over the IC4U



Photo by Master Sgt. David Loeffler

Spc. Benny Thorp, a CNG telecommunications specialist, checks a handheld radio Aug. 14 during the San Francisco Fleet Week Communications Drill, which focused on interoperability between local, state and federal authorities following a natural disaster.

can reach its intended audience within seconds. "With the IC4U, we can take any information that we get here on the ground and push it back over our satellite to the Joint Operations Center, so they can ... use the information to make critical decisions."

The IC4U had its first real trial during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when all methods of communication were affected and IC4U teams provided communications to make rescue and recovery possible. Since then the IC4U has been an integral part of the CNG's mission.

"What we bring to the fight is the ability to link in all of the agencies ... so we can communicate on one network," said 1st Lt. Edward Baon of the CNG's 95th Civil Support Team. "Communication is one of the key pieces in a successful response."

95th backfills Alaska CST, gains valuable training

By STAFF SGT. KARIMA TURNER
Alaska Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs

The Hayward, Calif.-based 95th Civil Support Team (CST) traveled to Alaska in July for training and to provide support to Alaska, whose own CST was out of state for an exercise.

"California, Florida and New York have the luxury of having two civil support teams each, whereas the rest of the states and territories have one," said Lt. Col. Zac Delwiche, 95th CST commander. "This allows us the opportunity to backfill Alaska."

The 95th CST took advantage of Alaska's unique environment to conduct a joint exercise with the active duty 95th Chemical Company, based at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. The exercise scenario focused on a chemical explosion; reconnaissance of the location; identification of chemicals; and evaluation, evacuation and decontamination of casualties.

"The exercise gave us a variety of skill sets to interact with," Delwiche said. "We're a civil support team for the National Guard, yet we're interacting with an active duty Army chemical company. They're used to operating in more of a tactical environment, whereas we're used to working with an incident commander in a civil authority's environment. ... In a real-world event, it's likely that the incident commander could call upon both types of units to respond to a mass casualty chemical incident."

In addition the CST's Soldiers and Airmen were required to travel to a clandestine laboratory in which simulated biological

weapons had been created with the intention of poisoning a salmon run.

"I thought the exercise was put together very well," said Spc. Kristopher Chelini of the 95th CST. "It's nice to be able to work with another unit and see how we can bolster each other's strengths and cover each other's weaknesses."

During the lab mission, the 95th CST sent in survey teams to collect samples of potentially hazardous materials, enabling civilian authorities to react appropriately.

"Whether it's a civilian agency working with the military or different military components working together, the integration of different teams working together is by far the best benefit of any of these drills," said Maj. Michael Sather, 95th CST deputy commander.



Photo by Percy Jones

Members of the CNG's 95th Civil Support Team and the active duty 95th Chemical Company, based at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska, conduct decontamination training July 17 in Alaska.



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Crystal Toyne of the 146th Airlift Wing Civil Engineering Squadron surveys an area that will be excavated to build a storage compound July 29 at Canadian Forces Base in Alberta, Canada, where the Squadron conducted its annual training. **Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alex Koenig** **RIGHT:** Brig. Gen. Rodney Barham, left, is joined by Army National Guard Director Lt. Gen. William Ingram Jr. at Barham's retirement ceremony Aug. 22 following a 33-year career that included three years as commander of the Cal Guard's 49th Military Police Brigade. He most recently served as deputy commander of reserve components for Army Forces Command. **Photo by Ashley Cross** **ABOVE RIGHT:** A Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems II-equipped C-130J from the Cal Guard's 146th Airlift Wing drops fire retardant on a fire near Twin Falls, Idaho, on Aug. 8. **For more on CNG firefighting efforts, see page 6. Photo by Mike Freer**



The CNG's 561st Air Force Band plays "The U.S. Air Force Song" in Santa Clara on July 6 during the band's final performance of 2012, which was also the final performance in the Band's 70-year history. The 561st, a unit of the 129th Rescue Wing, will be deactivated next year. **Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kim A. Rodriguez**

At a Glance



ABOVE: California State Military Reserve Soldiers carry the colors of the U.S. Army's combined 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo on Aug. 12 during the 72nd annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival Grand Parade. The 100th and 442nd were segregated Japanese-American units that gained fame for serving with uncommon valor during World War II. **Photo by Sgt. 1st Class (CA) Robert Davison** **LEFT:** Spc. David Rojo of Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, shows his nephew Emilio around one of the unit's CH-47 Chinook helicopters during a unit family day in Stockton, Calif. The unit recently deployed 12 Chinooks and about 100 Soldiers to Fort Hood, Texas, where they will train before departing for a yearlong tour in Afghanistan. **For more on the I-126th, see page 5. Photo by Ashley Rojo**



ABOVE: Sgt. Keith Dempsey, the 49th Military Police Brigade's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, speaks with Panther Racing driver J.R. Hildebrand, who drives the National Guard-sponsored IndyCar, before the Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma on Aug. 26. Dempsey was honored during the race's opening ceremony as a "Hometown Hero." **Photo by 1st Lt. Will Martin** **LEFT:** El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini shows a marijuana plant grown on public land in the El Dorado National Forest to Benjamin Tucker, deputy director of state, local and tribal affairs for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), far right, Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the Cal Guard, and Gil Kerlikowske, director of the ONDCP, on Aug. 21 during Operation Mountain Sweep, a multi-agency, multi-state initiative to rid public lands of illegal marijuana cultivation. **Photo by Master Sgt. David Loeffler**

TASMG hits reset button on post-tour Black Hawks

By **CAPT. SEAN C. CONNOR**
1106th TASMG

The 1106th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group (TASMG) received a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter for "reset" June 26 under a program that supports Army aviation units nationwide.

A C-5 Galaxy airplane from U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command landed at Fresno Yosemite International Airport loaded with four Black Hawks that had just returned from Afghanistan. The Black Hawks belong to Company A, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion, of the Utah Army National Guard, which recently completed a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

One helicopter was inducted into the 1106th TASMG's Reset Program, and another helicopter with significant corrosion was inducted into the 1106th's On Condition Maintenance Program. The remaining two aircraft were sent to Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas, for a full overhaul, or recapitalization.

The Army's Reset Program was established nationally in 2004 to inspect, re-



Soldiers of the 1106th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group (TASMG) unload a battle-worn UH-60 Black Hawk from a C-5 Galaxy airplane June 26 in Fresno. The TASMG will evaluate the airframe and more than 1,000 inspection points and perform any repairs or replacements necessary to return the Black Hawk to deployable status.

pair and return aircraft to deployable status following combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Due to the high number of missions overseas, active duty sites were unable to accept all the returning aircraft, and assistance was requested from National Guard TASMGs. The 1106th TASMG initiated a two-year, \$19.2 million Aviation Reset Program in January of this year.

Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Command has established an 80- to 83-day quick target turnaround time for helicopter reset. Comparable maintenance inspections and component replacements would be expected to take five to six months under normal circumstances.

During a reset, the aircraft is complete-

ly disassembled and its components are removed, thoroughly cleaned and inspected. This detailed and comprehensive inspection process includes 1,034 inspection points along with an airframe conditioning evaluation inspection. Many components are then repaired or replaced, with all structural faults corrected. Eighty-seven quality assurance checks are conducted throughout the process to reinforce overall operational safety. On average, the cost to reset an aircraft that is worth approximately \$6 million dollars is \$1.2 million dollars towards labor and aircraft parts.

The 1106th TASMG has completed the first of 16 aircraft it has scheduled for reset. The aircraft had extensive damage, but the reset was completed within three months.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy M. Hawkins

CNG, Ukraine strengthen ties at Rapid Trident



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brooks Fletcher

Canadian Army Capt. Rob Johnson stands in formation with California Army National Guard soldiers during the July 16 opening ceremony for the 2012 Rapid Trident exercise near Yavoriv, Ukraine.

By U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

Every year, the multinational exercise Rapid Trident in Ukraine promotes regional stability, strengthens international military partnerships and improves interoperability between participating nations. It also provides a unique opportunity for U.S. Soldiers of eastern European descent.

"It's an amazing opportunity. It's just incredible," said 1st Lt. Serguei Louchnikov of the CNG's 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, out of Southern California, who is of Russian and Ukrainian descent. "It is a beautiful place with a fantastic facility and excellent staff. You couldn't ask for a better joint environment."

Conducted at the International Peacekeeping and Security Center near Yavoriv in western Ukraine, Rapid Trident 2012 included a multinational command post and field training exercise. Units engaged in a week of situational drills focused on tasks such as countering improvised explosive devices, performing convoy missions and patrol operations, and training with helicopters and mortars. "One of the goals for me is to get some experience at the staff levels, working with joint forces," Louchnikov said. "There may be things that we can adopt and incorporate into our operations."

Rapid Trident welcomes about 1,300 service members from a multitude of countries each year. This year it included Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Sweden. The U.S. Army has been represented all 17 years of Rapid Trident, with a contingent from the California National Guard included in each exercise.

In 1993 the CNG established a relationship with Ukraine through the National Guard's State Partnership Program. The program has helped Ukraine develop its military and civilian capacities for security, emergency management and organization. California established a second State Partnership Program relationship, with Nigeria, in 2006.

"Together, in the spirit of friendship and partnership for peace, 16 countries worked together as one team to perform many tasks to improve interoperability, strengthen partnership and foster trust between our countries," said Col. David Markowski of U.S. Army Europe, one of the directors of the exercise along with Ukrainian Army Gen. Maj. Veaceslav Nazarkin. "We have been planning for over a year to offer the best possible training for all who participate. Ukraine has set the highest of standards in support of our partner nations, setting the conditions for an excellent exercise."

49th MPs, Travis AFB team up for training

By **1ST LT. WILL MARTIN**
49th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs

The 49th Military Police Brigade headquarters sits only a stone's throw from Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif. Though the two have long shared a zip code, a new joint training effort will ensure they grow to become the best of neighbors. Service members from both components have begun training alongside each other to enhance their ability to carry out their respective missions.

As the center of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IX Homeland Response Force (HRF), the 49th MP Brigade stands ready to rapidly mobilize its troops to anywhere in the nearly 400,000 square miles that make up Region IX. Some of those sites rest on islands as remote as Hawaii, Guam and Micronesia. For the 49th HRF, ground travel is not always an option.

In an effort to improve the HRF's air mobility, 1st Sgt. Ger-

ald Davis of the Brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company arranged for Brigade Soldiers to join Travis flight missions in order to train on aircraft operations. Usually the missions are straightforward, for instance calling for several troops from the Brigade to learn how to quickly load, lock down and unload their vehicles from Travis aircraft — the kind of skill that needs to be second nature if a HRF-related incident occurs.

"We're trying to rock this part of the joint mission," Davis said. "We need to be able to preload our vehicles at the unit level so that whether we go by air or land, we're ready."

In return Travis air crews and loaders receive training and certification on vehicles they rarely see outside of combat tours. The training is essential to their preparation for both domestic and overseas missions.

"A lot of our aircraft and crews are in the desert," said flight engineer Tech Sgt. Rex Hawkins of the 60th Air Mobility Wing before one such training mission July 25. "We have to seize every opportunity for quality training."

Travis personnel have also begun earning licenses to drive Army vehicles at the Brigade's headquarters as part of the cooperative effort. The training could be very beneficial during a HRF mission.

"It would be a huge help if they are licensed to drive our vehicles," said Sgt. William R. Steinbrook. "We only have so many personnel we can spare during training and real-world operations."

Ultimately, Davis hopes the endeavor will set a precedent for similar training efforts across the state.

"Our goal is to be as air mobile as any active duty unit," he said. "I know civil response is a priority for our state leadership, so eventually we'd like to expand this to other units across the California National Guard."



Photo by 1st Lt. Will Martin

Soldiers from the California National Guard's 49th Military Police Brigade join Airmen from the active duty 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., to conduct air transportation training July 25.

22 nations work for maritime security

By **MASS COMM. SPC. 3RD CLASS STEPHANIE SMITH** and
MASS COMM. SPC. 3RD CLASS KAITLYN BREITKREUTZ
U.S. Navy Public Affairs

The world's largest international maritime exercise, Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), concluded Aug. 3 in Hawaii following participation from more than 25,000 service members from 22 nations, more than 40 ships and submarines and 200 aircraft.

The U.S. contingent included eight F-16C Fighting Falcon jets and 110 Airmen from the CNG's 144th Fighter Wing as well as two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and about 40 Airmen from the CNG's Silicon Valley-based 129th Rescue Wing. The 129th Airmen arrived in Hawaii on July 11 to perform personnel recovery efforts. The 129th was the only helicopter unit at RIMPAC, and this was the first time a helicopter unit was included in the exercise. The 144th Airmen arrived July 13 with plans to fly more than 140 sorties totaling 300 hours of flight time, including fighting in a joint dissimilar air combat environment with other U.S. Air Force and Navy units as well as Canadian Airmen.

RIMPAC was designed to foster relationships critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. This was the 23rd iteration of the biennial exercise. "It is a testament to the power of RIMPAC that we can bring a record number of nations together and then conduct complex and purposeful training in challenging scenarios," said Adm. Cecil Haney, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. "The partnerships, cooperation and camaraderie forged during this exercise are essential to the promotion of peace in the Pacific region and will be invaluable during future contingencies."

This year's exercise included several historic firsts, including the first time non-U.S. officers commanded components of the combined task force. "I am truly pleased with what we have achieved," said Canadian Rear Adm. Ron Lloyd, deputy commander of the Combined Task Force. "The challenging scenarios allowed Canadians and our Pacific Rim partners to develop the skills we will need to work successfully with each other."

This year also featured RIMPAC's first humanitarian assistance, disaster-relief event, which facilitated training and certification for expeditionary forces to respond to foreign disasters. Other components of the training included military operations on urban terrain, live-fire exercises, surface-to-air engagements, air-to-air engagements, amphibious assaults, explosive ordnance disposal, air-to-air refuelings and mine clearance.

"If you talk to anyone who lives within the Rim of the Pacific, they will tell you it's not a matter of 'if,' it's a matter of 'when' the next natural disaster or crisis may affect one of the countries," said Vice Adm. Gerald R. Beaman, U.S. Navy 3rd Fleet commander. "[RIMPAC nations] are forming a team. In ... the next crisis or disaster, this team will have worked with each other and understand the processes that a coalition will have to go through."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Wang



Photo by Tech Sgt. Bradley Church

ABOVE: An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the CNG's 129th Rescue Wing flies near the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii, in July during a personnel recovery mission that was part of the multinational Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. **LEFT:** An F-16C Fighting Falcon with the CNG's 144th Fighter Wing receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker with the Oklahoma National Guard's 137th Air Refueling Wing during RIMPAC on July 24.

I 29th RQW, I 44th FW collaborate on search-and-rescue mission

By **MASTER SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER**
I 44th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In a multi-service, multi-national training event, pararescue jumpers, or PJs, from the CNG's 129th Rescue Wing emerged through a cloud of red dust July 23 to lo-

cate, rescue and treat a downed pilot from the CNG's 144th Fighter Wing.

The pilot was the subject of a search-and-rescue training mission during the 2012 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. The scenario began with the pilot, Capt. Rob-

ert Spencer, being blindfolded and taken to an isolated location on a remote part of the island Kauai. "The rescue personnel did a great job, and everyone on the radios coordinated well," Spencer said. "The joint effort was impressive. If this happens in real life, it's good to know that there will be a team of consummate professionals on our side."

Members of the U.S. Navy's 3rd Fleet out of San Diego provided Spencer's initial instructions and played the roles of aggressors attempting to locate and capture the downed aviator.

"When word of a survivor gets to the Combined Personnel Recovery Center, they look to the combat search-and-rescue assets available and determine who is most capable to effect the rescue," said Capt. Dave Englehart of the 3rd Fleet.

In this case the most capable assets belonged to the 129th Rescue Wing, which deployed two UH-60 Pave Hawk rescue helicopters and about 40 Airmen to Hawaii to support RIMPAC.

"We came here to perform personnel recovery missions and combat search-and-rescue missions in a joint theater with coalition partners," said Lt. Col. Thomas

Keegan, a pilot with the 129th.

The PJs, an elite group of Airmen with training in survival, field medicine, rescue and defense operations, often confront situations that include environmental hazards such as dense brush, rough terrain, extreme heat and icy waters. After recovering a survivor, the PJs treat urgent medical needs and transport the patient to the nearest medical facility.

"These guys are great at what they do," Keegan said. "They go through extensive medical training to ensure that they can provide the en route care and the emergency medical treatment that some of the survivors might [need]."

Personnel recovery missions often require additional support high above the location where rescue personnel are inserted. On July 23, F-16C Fighting Falcon jets from the 144th ripped across the sky, providing protection for the rescuers below.

"A combat search and rescue is a really large-force exercise," said Lt. Col. Scott Seyfarth, project officer for the 144th. "Our pilots ... keep enemy aircraft from interfering with the personnel recovery mission. It is all about locating the downed Airman and bringing him back safely."



Photo by Master Sgt. David Loeffler

Pararescuemen from the CNG's 129th Rescue Wing search for an F-16C Fighting Falcon pilot from the CNG's 144th Fighter Wing in an isolated area on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, as part of a July 23 training event during the multinational Rim of the Pacific exercise.

Cal Guard maintenance programs set national standard

By **IST LT. IAN MCNEAR**
CA Military Dept. Surface Maintenance Office

"If our infantrymen and our tanks and our aviation, if those assets are the teeth of our military might, then the logistics is the muscle, the tendons, the sinew that makes the teeth bite down and hold," Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, Army vice chief of staff, said June 5 during the Army's annual Combined Logistics Excellence Awards (CLEA) banquet in Washington, D. C. "And so logistics is the jawbone ... and I like that."

The CLEA highlight the critical link between the Army maintenance jawbone and operational success, and this year's awards included a significant showing from the California Army National Guard.

California's full-time federal technician maintenance programs were honored for their participation in the 2011 Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) competition, the Cal Guard's second year taking part in the contest. AAME is part of the larger CLEA family of competitions, which also includes supply and deployment excellence categories.

The California Army National Guard was proud to have two organizations — the California Field Maintenance Shop (FMS) Network and the Stockton Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) — place at or near the top of the National Guard Bureau in their respective categories. The FMS Network earned 1st place in the "Large" category of the Army National Guard-wide competition and the CSMS took 2nd place in the "Small" category.

The CNG's Stockton Supply Support Activity also earned CLEA recognition this year, placing 2nd in the Army National Guard-wide Level IV Supply Excellence Award category.

The AAME competition is sponsored by the Army Chief of Staff to recognize the best maintenance programs in the Army. The competition also encourages friendly competition among maintenance programs and identifies innovative maintenance practices that can be implemented across the force.

California's maintenance network has aggressively increased its presence in the awards competition during the past two years. The Cal Guard aims to place even more units in the winner's circle for the 2012 competition.

"Only a few states have ever won the AAME program on the very first try. Typically it takes three to five years of involvement for states to win," said Robert Norman, CLEA program manager for the National Guard Bureau. "California secured two wins in their second year in the program, which warrants a high mark on the grading scale."

The awards process has motivated the CNG's maintenance shops and pushed



Photo by Sgt. Meaghe Luu

Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Guerrero of the award-winning CNG Field Maintenance Shop Network repairs a vehicle Aug. 30 in Sacramento.

them to improve even further, said Capt. Kelly Rutherford, supervisor of the CSMS.

"[Submitting an AAME packet has] made us want to do better in production control and want to be more involved in the community," she said. "I think, personally, it has made me more competitive."

Units participating in the AAME competition begin the process by assembling a packet covering a wide variety of maintenance information, procedures and summaries. Once completed, the packet is graded at the regional level on a variety of standards including support provided to local National Guard units, deployment support, procedure innovation, cost avoidance and annual inspection results. Implementation of reward programs, compliance with recycling and other environmental initiatives, and employee involvement in the community are also considered.

Exceptional packets are then nominated by their regional boards to compete against all other National Guard units and organizations and are evaluated during a thorough visit from an Army inspection team.

California's FMS, CSMS and Maneuver Area Training and Equipment Site (MATES) networks keep the equipment of the California Army National Guard mission-ready. The FMS network, which specializes in vehicle repairs, extends from Eureka in Northern California to San Diego in the south, with numerous shops in between. CSMS facilities in Stockton and Long Beach serve Northern and Southern California, respectively, specializing in reset, resupply and maintenance. Meanwhile, Northern and Southern California are served by MATES facilities at Camp Roberts and Fort Irwin, specializing in storage, repair and maintenance of maneuver vehicles and assets.

Those networks mirror the organization of the CNG's readiness centers and ensure every unit in the state is within reach of maintenance personnel capable of providing scheduled and unscheduled service. The shops are staffed by federal technicians and shop supervisors who hold dual status as traditional Guardsmen and federal employees.

To view a video about California Army National Guard maintenance personnel, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CNGvideoFMS>.

SSA takes 2nd in national competition

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

Most of the Cal Guard's full-time workers are also traditional Guard members with commitments to deploy when their unit calls. Full-timers therefore often look around their offices to find empty chairs and desks, though that doesn't mean the office's workload has changed.

For much of 2011, the CNG's Stockton Supply Support Activity (SSA) functioned with only three workers out of its allotted seven, but they didn't let that stop them from distinguishing the SSA as one of the best in the country. In June the SSA placed 2nd in the Level IV Supply Excellence Award category of the Army's annual Combined Logistics Excellence Awards program, which pitted the SSA against National Guard organizations from across the country.

"They were below 50 percent of manning and still supporting the same customer base," said Master Sgt. Christina Eggros, supervisor of the SSA, who was deployed to Camp Adder, Iraq, with the CNG's 224th Sustainment Brigade for part of 2011. "It makes coming in 2nd so much more amazing."

The shop was pulling an average of 200 items out of inventory each day, packaging them, shipping them and completing the associated paperwork. In addition they were dealing with items that were coming into the shop each day. "These people were working and working hard," Eggros said.

The SSA earned its 2nd place award in only its second year competing. The organization earned a 3rd place honorable mention in its debut last year, a rare distinction that is only awarded when evaluators make a special exception.

Eggros was in California long enough in 2010 to complete the awards submission packet, but she left for Iraq before the Army evaluators came to Stockton to inspect the facility. In 2011 she returned to California after the packet had been submitted, but she was there for the in-person inspection. Warrant Officer 1 Rose

Petersen completed the awards process in Eggros' absence both years and "did a wonderful, excellent job," Eggros said.

The three-person inspection team spent eight hours at the SSA in 2011, poring over documents and examining every aspect of the operation. At its conclusion, the team presented challenge coins to Petersen and both of the workers in the warehouse who had picked up the slack during their shorthanded year. Eggros said it was a departure from the team's protocol to present more than two coins.

"The [SSA employees] are professionals, and they take extreme pride in what they do, how the warehouse is run and how others perceive us," she said. "I would put my group of people up against any unit."

Maj. Barbara Beegles, who supervises SSAs in Stockton and Long Beach, said the Stockton crew holds itself to a higher standard than the Army or the National Guard requires. "The Army standard is 15 days to have a requisition arrive [from an SSA], and the National Guard Bureau standard is 12 days," she said. "The Stockton SSA's goal is three days. Requests are filled and shipped and received by the customer within three days."

Beegles said an internal analysis of items ordered by one CNG facility showed it had received all its items within three days and most within one day. In addition to serving CNG shops, the SSA ships items to facilities across the nation.

"Customer support is [the SSA's] main concern, because if a mechanic can't get their parts [for example], they can't get the vehicles fixed, and it may affect a unit's readiness," she said.

The Army inspectors told Beegles the SSA is doing a great job, but they did not provide guidance on what needs to be done to achieve the elusive 1st place award. "I don't like to lose," she said, noting that the SSA plans to take a year away from the competition and come back with renewed vigor in 2013. "[We will try to] improve on what we need to improve on. Where we're lacking, I'm not sure, but we're going to try to find out."



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Christina Eggros

Sgt. Mohamath Ham, far left, Sgt. Ernesto Rodriguez and Master Sgt. Christina Eggros of the Stockton Supply Support Activity attend the Combined Logistics Excellence Awards banquet June 5 in Washington, D.C.

Job fair benefits I-160th 'Blackjack' Soldiers

By **1ST LT. TIMOTHY KEMP**
1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment

"I just want to get a job, sir," Spc. Luigi Mencini told a representative from the Vet Center at a July job fair in Inglewood, Calif., sponsored by the Family Readiness Group for 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, and presented by the U.S. Department of Labor's One-Stop Career Centers and CNG Operation Ready Families.

Armed with more talent than just the ability to provide firepower downrange, Soldiers of the "Blackjack Battalion" are looking to use their skills in leadership, organization and teamwork to secure steady employment. It is not simply a matter of linking Soldiers with potential employers that have openings, though. Rather, the job fair during the 1-160th's July training weekend focused on the best ways to market citizen-Soldiers' skill sets.

"The National Guard has put a tremendous focus on providing em-

ployment and assistance to our veterans," said Lt. Col. Nick Ducich, commander of the 1-160th. "The focus of our event today is on enhancing the capabilities of developing resumes and interview skills that will help our Soldiers present themselves to employers."

Booths were set up for experts to assist Blackjack Soldiers in reviewing and editing their resumes. "I received some feedback from the Vet Center, and now I see my resume in a new light," said Spc. Steven Thompson. "There is no doubt that I have a clearer idea of where my strengths are when speaking with employers."

Soldiers were also given a chance to network with local professionals like Jaelyn Paxton, business development manager for U.S. Vets. Spc. John Fernlund met with Paxton regarding positions at California Edison and at an organic distillery in Los Angeles. Limited in his availability to work regular hours, he found it helpful to make contact



Photo by 1st Lt. Timothy Kemp

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, seek employment assistance during a July job fair organized by the I-160th Family Readiness Group at the unit's readiness center in Inglewood, Calif.

with Paxton, who will help him apply for night shifts and part-time work on weekends while he attends school at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Pfc. Christopher Manzano said he also benefitted from interacting with Paxton. "I was given a chance to further my career in the banking industry," Manzano said. "I met with Jaelyn, who has contacts that will improve my current part-time job into full-time."

Get home, get a job

Staff from the Cal Guard's new service member employment initiative, Work for Warriors (WFW), are meeting troops at their demobilization sites as they return from overseas tours to make them aware of the employment assistance and job opportunities available to them.

On Aug. 15, a WFW team met Soldiers of the CNG's 756th Transportation Company on Fort Bliss, Texas, following their deployment to Afghanistan. "We are addressing unemployment issues immediately and not waiting 90 or 120 days," said Capt. Aaron Roggoff of WFW.

As of mid-August, 1,400 CNG members had contacted WFW for job-placement assistance and resume and interviewing tips, and more than 100 had secured employment. Check out the WFW web site by visiting www.calguard.ca.gov and clicking the "Jobs" tab at the top center of the page.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Kirk

Capt. Brandon Hill briefs troops of the 756th Transportation Company about CNG efforts to find jobs for unemployed service members Aug. 15 at Fort Bliss, Texas, the 756th's demobilization site following deployment to Afghanistan.

HeartsApart bridges gap for deployed troops

Nonprofit's free professional photo sessions, durable waterproof prints prove invaluable for service members

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

When service members deploy, any memento from home can become a lifeline, deterring loneliness and reminding them what they're fighting for. National nonprofit HeartsApart.org was founded to provide troops that memento while also giving them and their families a one-of-a-kind experience and memory to cherish.

Two years ago, HeartsApart began conducting photo shoots for service members who were scheduled to deploy or were home on leave from deployment. In addition to a DVD of all the photos, service members are provided a vinyl bi-folded card featuring four photos from the shoot. Made of the same material as outdoor banners, the cards are waterproof and made to last.

"The bi-fold is special because I can take it with me on missions," said Sgt. Jason Salcedo Sr. of the CNG's 578th Engineer Battalion, whose family received a HeartsApart session in May while he was home on leave from Afghanistan. "Other pictures would fall apart, but the bi-fold is tough and durable, so now I can keep my family with me when I'm outside the wire."

The bi-fold is a unique treasure for service members, but it is not the only benefit of HeartsApart's free service. The nonprofit has enlisted dozens of top photographers — including multiple Pulitzer Prize winners such as Southern California's David Hume Kennerly — who take care to create a memorable experience for the family.

The Salcedo family was photographed by Krista Kennell, who Karen Salcedo met at an event organized by the 578th's Fam-



Photo by Krista Kennell

Karen and Sgt. Jason Salcedo Sr. enjoy their a photo shoot through nonprofit HeartsApart.org, which provides durable bi-fold photo collections for deployed service members.

ily Readiness Group in recognition of the Month of the Military Child in April.

"Krista's the most loving person I've ever met," said Karen Salcedo, who married Jason 17 years ago. "She was nice enough to have us to her house for the photo shoot, and she was full of surprises. She knew exactly what to do, where to go, how she wanted me to pose and wear. It almost makes you feel ... like a model."

Karen noted that producing good photos of her family can be challenging because her youngest son, who is 5 1/2, has autism and is blind in one eye. Kennell and her assistant were wonderful with both the Salcedo children, Karen said, and the photos turned

out fabulously.

"The surroundings were very relaxing, and Krista took her time," Jason said. "She made us feel at home. She was very professional and extremely helpful — more than she had to be — and now she is a dear friend."

Kennell became involved with HeartsApart after meeting one of the organization's founders, Brownie Harris, at a funeral for mutual friend Chris Hondros, a Pulitzer-nominated photographer who was killed in 2011 while covering the conflict in Libya.

"In Chris' honor, I jumped on the chance to help," Kennell said. "He often embedded with the military and thought highly of the

military, so helping out with the project really helped me channel my grief and continues to help me."

Including hair and makeup, paperwork, photo editing and production of the DVD and bi-fold, each shoot takes about 12 man-hours, Harris said. But Kennell is glad to volunteer her time to the organization that has "completely changed" her life.

"I didn't have much experience with the military before I started this; it's like I've adopted a very big, very wonderful family," she said. "It's amazing to see how strong the families are, what great people the military people I've met are. They're just phenomenal, loyal, honest, really intelligent people."

Kennell said male service members almost never want a HeartsApart photo shoot, but their wives are persuasive enough to get them there. Then the men are often the most appreciative. "We go through the shoot, and they always have good time. Then he leaves, and all of a sudden I start getting Facebook messages saying, 'Oh my gosh, I look at this card every day and cry,'" she said. "These big strong men who were not willing — the bi-fold card becomes extremely valuable to the people overseas."

Jason was a willing participant in his photo shoot, but he too was surprised at how meaningful the experience was.

"The pictures mean so much to my family and me. It's not every day that someone does something that nice for us — in fact, I can't think of anyone who has done something this nice for us," Jason said. "That day will always be remembered, not just by me but all of my family."

Army training saves the day July 4

By **1ST SGT. (CA) JERRY L. SHULTZ**
California State Military Reserve

What began as a leisurely stroll down Main Street on a beautiful, balmy 4th of July ended with members of the California State Military Reserve's (CSMR) Recruiting Task Force-South testing their mettle and their motto, "Always Ready, Always There."

Participating in the Huntington Beach 4th of July parade is an annual event for the Recruiting Task Force. This year the California Military Department presence also included two National Guard Humvees from Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, as well as 12 uniformed Soldiers.

After completing a 3-mile walk down the parade route before 250,000 appreciative spectators, the CSMR team was alerted to a medical emergency. A young girl was lying in the street, her frantic mother beside her, looking for help and finding none.

The CSMR team sprang into action, calling paramedics and providing first aid and comfort. Sgt. 1st Class (CA) Eric Anderson, an 82nd Airborne Division combat veteran, used his combat lifesaver skills to stabilize the girl until help arrived. He was assisted by Sgt. 1st Class (CA) Robert Brennan, who elevated her legs until paramedics arrived.

Due to the large crowd and closed



Photo by Staff Sgt. (CA) Gene Arias

Sgt. 1st Class (CA) Eric Anderson of the California State Military Reserve Recruiting Task Force-South assists a young girl who experienced health problems following the Independence Day parade in Huntington Beach, Calif.

streets, the paramedics had an extended response time of nearly 25 minutes.

"We sincerely appreciate your unit's assistance with this medical emergency on the day of celebrating our nation's independence," Jane Cameron, Huntington Beach Fire Department fire medical coordinator, wrote in an email. "As you are so highly trained to do in any situation, your unit acted quickly and appropriately to help someone in need until we could arrive."

The patient's mother also expressed her gratitude in an email after the event.

"Thank God I saw a military man, and he just came to us and he started to help us and he called the other guys," she said. "I really want to say thank you to you and to all of your guys who helped me and my daughter that day."

In typical CSMR fashion, the Soldiers humbly credited their military background for saving the day.

"I just did what I was trained to do," Brennan said, "and I am honored to have done it."

CSMR troops get CERTified

By **SGT. (CA) MARK OLSON**
California State Military Reserve

San Rafael's Office of Emergency Services held a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) session for Soldiers of the California State Military Reserve (CSMR) on July 28. Members of CSMR Regional Support Command-North from Fairfield, Modesto and San Rafael participated in the training, which included fire suppression, treatment of injuries, and search and rescue.

"We're really excited that the city of San Rafael was able to offer this CERT class for our unit," said Col. (CA) Scott Lefaver, commander of Regional Support Command-North. "We feel it's really important to understand what the city is working toward with community emergency preparedness and response."

"We're very likely be a resource working with the community during a disaster," he added. "With this valuable training, another step will be taken to ensure the State Military Reserve is ready to assist the community and carry out the CERT

mission: to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people."

CSMR troops worked as a team during the session, using the skills they had learned to perform fire suppression, conduct search-and-rescue operations, treat injuries and set up a treatment area. CERT also includes instruction on evaluating a situation, turning off utilities, evacuating hazardous areas, assessing structural integrity and collecting and relaying information to professional responders.

"Given the recent events in Haiti and Chile, we have seen the level of devastation an earthquake can present to a community," said Steven Hancock, San Rafael Emergency Services manager. "CERT training is vital for the community to learn the skills to be better able to deal with a situation such as we are seeing in those devastated areas, because when it comes down to it, first responders will be overwhelmed and it will have to be neighbors helping neighbors."

So far the San Rafael CERT program has trained more than 150 CSMR Soldiers.



Photo by Sgt. (CA) Mark Olson

California State Military Reserve (CSMR) Soldiers receive emergency-response training from members of the San Rafael Office of Emergency Services on July 28. To date, more than 150 CSMR troops have been trained by the San Rafael department.

State photog has federal experience – in the White House

By **STAFF SGT. (CA) JIM TORTOLANO**
California State Military Reserve

If a picture is worth 1,000 words, it might take 1,000 pictures to tell the story of Staff Sgt. (CA) Gene Arias, a renowned photographer whose journeys from the White House to Mount Everest to Antarctica eventually landed him in the California State Military Reserve (CSMR).

Currently working in public affairs for the Installation Support Command at Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), Los Alamitos, Arias, 65, has traveled the world and seen much of it through the lens of his camera. He has worked with Hollywood icons and superstar athletes and been a close friend of a presidential family.

Born in Colorado, Arias started his military career in the Navy, serving from 1969 to 1972 in Hawaii, where he started as a photographer. Basically self-taught, he has taken courses at a variety of colleges and universities, but he was always too busy with his career to complete a degree.

After his Navy career, Arias landed a job with KNBC-TV in Los Angeles as a still photographer, and by 1973 he had moved up to the network, shooting publicity photos for everything from sporting events to soap operas. In that role he worked with celebrities such as Johnny Carson, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra and John Wayne.

"They were all nice people," Arias said, "but my favorite was Bob Hope for what he did to entertain the troops."

On one publicity shoot, a producer asked Arias if he would take some photos for a friend who was running for office. That friend turned out to be Bill Clinton, and that photo shoot began a long relationship with the Clintons, who would later become the "first family." When Clinton won the presidency, Arias became the family photographer and had the run of the White House. "Bill Clinton and Hillary are the best people in the world," Arias said. "They're intelligent, polite and cared about people. Not to get too political, but I think he genuinely cared about all Americans."

Arias joined the CSMR in 2007 after spotting a group of men in uniform during an air show at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. He approached the group simply to thank them for their service, and they turned out to be recruiters for the CSMR. Their pitch worked almost right away.

"It's great," he said. "I've had opportunities I never thought I would have: I never thought I'd be doing air operations or get a license to drive a Humvee." Arias also recently qualified with the M-9 pistol and M-4 rifle and earned certification as a security augmentee for JFTB.

Although Arias has been around the world, one of his biggest thrills came just a short distance from the main gate at



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class (CA) Robert Brennan

Staff Sgt. (CA) Gene Arias of the State Military Reserve has honed his photography skills during a 44-year career that included working as family photographer for then-President Bill Clinton and current Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

JFTB: "I was in the Katella Deli, dressed in my [Army combat uniform], and a sweet little girl of no more than 4 or 5 came up to me and tugged on my uniform."

"What is it, sweetheart?" Arias asked, and she responded, "I want to thank you for protecting us." That's a mental picture the accomplished photographer will always keep.

'Stand-down' highlights Suicide Prevention Month

Sept. 27 event will inform Soldiers, employees about available resources

Full-time members and employees of the California Army National Guard will join personnel from all other U.S. Army organizations in observing a "stand-down" from regular work Sept. 27 to take part in a two-phase suicide prevention program. Traditional part-time National Guard members will begin the program during their regularly scheduled October training weekend.

The stand-down will familiarize Soldiers with the health-promotion, risk-reduction, suicide-prevention and comprehensive fitness resources available through the Army. It will also focus on improving the health and discipline of the force and reducing the stigma associated with seeking care for behavioral health issues.

"Despite the tough enemies our Army encountered in Iraq and Afghanistan, suicide is the toughest enemy we've faced, and I'm confident we will defeat this enemy," said Joseph Westphal, under secretary of the Army.

In addition to the stand-down activities, the California Army National Guard has set a goal of certifying 1,650 Soldiers as Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Unit "gatekeepers." Those gatekeepers will comprise enlisted members ranking from E-5 through E-8, officers ranking O-1 through O-4 and warrant officers ranking WO-1 through CWO-4. All commanders are expected to complete the two-day intervention skills course as soon as possible. The California Army National Guard is also preparing to train at least 500 additional resilience trainer assistants.

To sign up for the suicide-intervention or resilience-trainer-assistant course, contact the Resilience, Risk Reduction, Suicide Prevention Program Team at 916-854-3894 or NGCAR3SP@ng.army.mil.

The Sept. 27 stand-down was ordered by Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, vice chief of staff of the Army, after he visited several Army installations and listened to Soldier feedback, said Walter O. Morales, chief of the Army Suicide Prevention Program.

The last Army-wide suicide prevention stand-down took place in 2009. During that event, Morales said, the Army used the "chain teach" approach to push information to Soldiers. This time, he said, the stand-down will be different: "Activities and training will be less prescriptive. Commanders now have the flexibility to assess the needs of their units and customize the training and activities."

Some commanders might opt for a "fun run" to get Soldiers, civilians and their families involved, Morales said, and they might follow that with an afternoon town hall-style meeting. Others may conduct risk assessments to help guide training requirements for the stand-down.

Although the stand-down will last only one day, associated training and activities will continue throughout September, which is recognized in the Army as Suicide Prevention Month. The activities will also continue into October, particularly for the Guard and Reserve.

One of the main events slated for Sept. 27 is a "terrain walk," during which Army leaders will tour their respective service support organizations and visit the caregivers there, "who are in excellent positions to help Soldiers and their families who are most at risk," Morales said.

Those providers include chaplains, clinicians, lawyers, social workers, financial advisers, family therapists, substance abuse counselors, military life consultants and psychologists. The purpose of the terrain walks, Morales said, is to inform

commanders about available resources so they can, in turn, inform their Soldiers.

"We have so many good programs out there, but people often get lost in the shuffle," Morales said. "They know there's help available, but it's sometimes difficult finding out how to access it."

The theme for Suicide Prevention Month this year — "A healthy force is a ready force" — reflects the Army's awareness that healthy people and mission success go together, Morales said. "We're not just worried about suicides. We're concerned with the overall fitness and well-being of our Soldiers, Army civilians and family members," he said. "It is especially important that leaders lead the charge in changing the Army culture wherever seeking help for suicide or other issues is stigmatized."

In recent years the Army has expanded access to services that help Soldiers and families cope with the stresses associated with military service, and statistics show Soldiers and families are taking advantage. Over the past five years, the number of Soldiers who have been seen in behavioral health clinics has steadily increased. The number of Soldiers seeking treatment for substance abuse has also steadily increased.

The stigma surrounding Soldiers seeking behavioral health support is taken very seriously by the Army. Surveys indicate some Soldiers are reluctant to seek help because they view it as a sign of weakness, or they believe their leaders will view it as a sign of weakness. However, over the past several years there has been a decrease in the percentage of Soldiers who hold those views.

For more on Suicide Prevention Month, visit www.preventsuicide.army.mil.

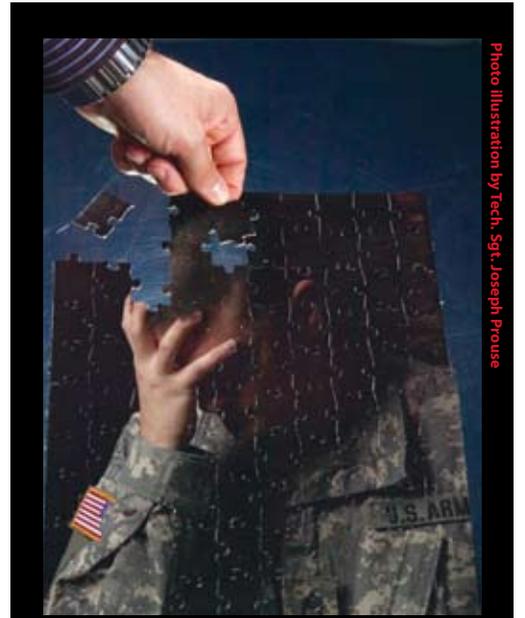


Photo illustration by Tech Sgt. Joseph Prouse

Army Suicide Prevention Month Resources

www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/spmonth/default.asp

Army Suicide Prevention Website

www.preventsuicide.army.mil

Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline

www.VeteransCrisisLine.net
1-800-273-8255

CNG Behavioral Health Directorate

www.calguard.ca.gov/mh

CNG Chaplains

www.calguard.ca.gov/chaplain
1-877-700-5662

Radar crews keep night watch for airborne smugglers

By **MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY**
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

California National Guard troops and U.S. Border Patrol agents increased their nighttime chatter over radios in June, as radar operators from the CNG's Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug and 40th Infantry Division tracked ultralight aircraft used to smuggle drugs across the U.S.-Mexico border.

CNG members operated a Sentinel Battlefield Air Defense Radar system June 5-28 in the remote farming community of El Centro, Calif., to help Customs and Border Patrol hunt elusive drug traffickers who have been crossing the border in hard-to-detect aircraft.

"The tracking for high-altitude, high-speed incursions of our borders are covered by other agencies. However, by flying low and slow [in ultralight aircraft], the drug traffickers are not picked up," said Capt. Jaime Chiem, officer in charge of the 40th Infantry Division Air Missile Defense Operations Section. "But if they fly while the Sentinel is operating, we can see them."

The radar crews detected three to nine ultralight aircraft per night during the mission, including several aircraft whose pilots turned around before dropping their cargo because they saw Border Patrol agents had been directed



Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

Spc. Sandra Trejo of the 40th Infantry Division prepares a Sentinel Battlefield Air Defense Radar system to conduct air surveillance in support of the CNG's Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug on June 26 in El Centro, Calif.

to the drop zone by the Sentinel team. CNG Soldiers also positively identified low-flying aircraft whose pilots did drop bundles of narcotics over the border, enabling authorities to arrest the pilots upon their return to Mexico.

Additional arrests were made north of the border as well, and the Sentinel operation resulted in two marijuana seizures totaling 400 pounds worth \$2 million in street value.

Several Soldiers from the CNG's 40th Infantry Division had the opportunity to train with Counterdrug troops on this mission and gain proficiency and experience on the Sentinel system. The 40th ID troops served as a valuable force-multiplier, increasing the scope of air surveillance capabilities in the El Centro Sector.

"The Sentinel mission has been impactful on stopping drugs from entering our country, and [that] made it one of the most meaningful jobs for me," said Pfc. David Anderson of the 40th ID. "It was the most significant mission of my military career so far."

Ultralight aircraft weigh less than 254 pounds and carry only one pilot. Smugglers have increasingly resorted to using the planes because of a steep increase in interdiction at border crossings and in hidden underground tunnels.

"The National Guard heightened our operational capabilities against the drug trafficking organizations," said Border Patrol's El Centro Sector Chief Jeffrey Calhoun. "Integrated efforts of this nature bolster our border security and put the bad guys on notice."

Haskins, Kelk step into new leadership roles

The California National Guard filled two top leadership positions in August, with Brig. Gen. Lawrence Haskins assuming command of the California Army National Guard and Brig. Gen. Jon Kelk joining the California Air National Guard leadership team as assistant adjutant general.

Haskins enlisted in the CNG in July 1975 and has since held many positions in both staff and command roles. From 2002 to 2005, he commanded 2nd Brigade, 40th Infantry Division, and he was mobilized from 2003 to 2004 as commander of Task Force Guardian, which provided force protection for installations across the western U.S. In 2005, Haskins was assigned as chief of staff for the 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and in 2008 he became the chief of staff for the California Army National Guard. In June 2009, he was assigned as assistant division commander, support, 40th Infantry Division. He most recently served as deputy commander of the California Army National Guard.

"Haskins is enthusiastic about this new challenge and wholeheartedly accepts the increased responsibility," Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the Cal Guard, wrote in a memo announcing the leadership change. "His experience and skills developed during his 37-year career as a California Guardsman, including distinguished service as the deputy commander of the 40th Infantry Division and most recently as deputy commander, California Army National Guard, make him the ideal officer for this assignment."

Haskins succeeds Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, who will soon retire following a career that featured multiple deployments, including tours in Iraq as deputy commander and commander of the CNG's 49th Military Police Brigade. In his civilian career, Currier serves as a Sacramento Superior Court judge.

"I want to thank Brigadier General Donald J. Currier for his superb leadership and I am extremely grateful for his sacrifices and

substantial contributions to the California Army National Guard and the nation during his 37-year career," Baldwin wrote. "Under his leadership, the public faith in the California Army National Guard has been restored, and Soldier morale has been significantly improved."

Kelk comes to the California National Guard from Missouri, where he most recently served as chief of staff for that state's Air National Guard. He has served in the Air Force since 1981, including a tour in support of Operation Desert Storm in Iraq, where he achieved the first aerial victory of that conflict, defeating a MiG-29 and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross.

"Kelk is a proven senior leader and fighter pilot with an impressive record of accomplishment," Baldwin wrote. "We are indeed fortunate to capitalize on General Kelk's experience and will undoubtedly benefit from his proven leadership at the state and national levels."



Brig. Gen. Lawrence Haskins is the new commander of the California Army National Guard. He succeeds Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, who will retire later this year.

BG John Gong dies at age 65

Retired Brig. Gen. John Shon Gong died July 29, 2012, at age 65. He is survived by his wife, Betty, daughters Kristie Machen and Harmony Gong, brothers Michael and Terry Gong, and sister Linda Austin.



Gong was born in Canton, China, on June 16, 1947. At age 8 he immigrated to the United States to live in Dos Palos, Calif. He enlisted in the California Army National Guard's 1498th Transportation Company in 1968 and graduated from the California Military Academy as a second lieutenant in 1971. Gong was then transferred to Detachment 1, 118th Maintenance Company, as a heavy maintenance platoon leader.

In August 1974, Gong was promoted to first lieutenant, and in December he transferred to the 351st Supply and Service Company as a supply platoon leader. In 1975 he was reassigned as the supply officer. In April 1976 Gong transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, California Army National Guard, as the supply officer, and on Aug. 14, 1976, he was promoted to captain. In October 1976, Gong transferred to Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, as the supply officer; he would later serve as the transportation officer and the traffic management officer.

In 1981, Gong was promoted to major and reassigned as comptroller. In 1983 he was reassigned as the contracting officer, and in 1986 he was reassigned as the supply management officer. Gong was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1987 and reassigned as chief of the Internal Review Division. In 1990, Gong was reassigned as supply management officer and later as executive officer. In 1992 he was reassigned as chief of the supply division, and later transferred to the 240th Support Battalion as its commander. He was ordered to active duty May 1-9, 1992, for Operation Garden Plot.

In 1994, Gong was transferred to the 40th

Infantry Division Support Command as the executive officer. In 1996 he was transferred to Detachment 1, State Area Command, as chief of the supply division. Gong was promoted to colonel on Sept. 3, 1996, and reassigned as director of the supply division. On July 1, 1999, Gong was transferred to the 40th Infantry Division Support Command as its commander, and on Oct. 1, 2001, he was appointed deputy commander of the 40th Infantry Division. On Oct. 16, 2001, Gong was promoted to brigadier general.

Gong was ordered to active duty in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from Feb. 2, 2005, to March 28, 2006, serving as deputy commander. He was transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group on Oct. 16, 2006.

Gong's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal (2nd award), Meritorious Service Medal (3rd award), Army Commendation Medal (2nd award), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (8th award), National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star (2nd award), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Mobilization Device), Air Force Commendation Medal, Order of Saint Martin from the Quartermasters Association of the United States and the Order of California.

'Home state' from page 6

hand crews on the ground.

"I am gaining experience on each mission and I like the fact I am giving back to our state," said Airman 1st Class Matthew Rathbun, a crew chief for the 129th. "It is my first time on the fires, and the sense of purpose for my state is great."

Rathbun said he almost joined the active duty Air Force, but he enlisted in the Air National Guard instead so he could contribute to this type of mission. "I was able to become a crew chief in the Air National Guard to give back locally, and it feels good," he said. "Part of joining the National Guard means you are signing up to serve your state and fellow citizens."

Porter also said it is rewarding to be called out on a mission in his home state, "whether it is saving someone, pulling them off a mountain or fighting fires," and he enjoys working with the Guard's partners in civilian state agencies. "The first day on the Jawbone Complex Fire, the smoke was pretty thick, and we were up against low visibility to see other aircraft around us," he said. "I had trained, but this was my first active fire. Training

with the Cal Fire personnel prior to the actual fire fight made for smooth communications for everyone."

Porter, an aerial gunner for the 129th, said his crew is accustomed to flying at high altitudes in mountainous areas because of their experience in Afghanistan, so the Airmen were well-prepared for the fire-suppression mission.

Spc. Martin Talavera, a refueler with the California Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, based in Los Alamitos, said overseas deployment experience helped his performance on the fire mission as well. "We bring our knowledge from working in a deployed environment fueling several different types of aircraft," he said. "Being deployed to Iraq prepared me and enhanced my knowledge."

Sgt. Franklin Ross, who also serves as a refueler with the 1-140th, said the fire mission in California has a special significance. "My duty to assist and support in these operations is not just a job but a passion to serve others," he said. "We work in these towns, our children go to schools in these communities, and we walk our dogs in these parks."



Sgt. Ross Franklin of Company E, 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, refuels an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing during joint firefighting efforts on the Rim Fire near Tehachapi, Calif., on Aug. 14.

Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avery



An MC-130P Combat Shadow plane from the CNG's 129th Rescue Wing refuels two of the Wing's HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters Sept. 5 over the Pacific Ocean. The Pave Hawks, still marked with pink numbers from a firefighting mission in Northern California the previous week, were flying toward an Ecuadorian fishing vessel 1,400 miles off the coast of Acapulco, Mexico, where two passengers had fallen ill and required treatment and transportation to land-based medical facilities. Photo by Airman 1st Class John D Pharr III.

Army not changing Physical Fitness Test Tix for sporting events, concerts, more

The Army will retain its three-event Army Physical Fitness Test instead of switching to a five-event test the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) has been testing since last year, pending a study to determine the best method of measuring physical readiness.

TRADOC has suggested Soldiers would be better prepared if they train how they fight. This prompted development of the Army Physical Readiness Test, which comprises a 1.5-mile run, 60-yard shuttle run, 1-minute row, 1 minute of push-ups and a standing long jump. More than 10,000 Soldiers have participated in pilot testing of the new format, and an independent panel of fitness experts has reviewed the data. The panel recommended against moving forward with the changes so TRADOC could further study the issue. The panel said the new test has "face validity" only, meaning it appears to measure what it claims to measure, but further study is required.

A comprehensive study is slated to begin in October. In addition to accurately measuring fitness, the events suggested by the study are expected to have a functional connection to Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, which are the fundamental skills all Soldiers must perform in order to fight and win on the battlefield, TRADOC said in a news release.

NGB swears in new chief

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta hosted a change-of-responsibility ceremony Sept. 7 in Washington, D.C., swearing in Army Gen. Frank Grass as the new National Guard Bureau chief and paying tribute to the outgoing chief, Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley.

Grass is a Missouri native with 42 years of experience as both an enlisted Soldier and an officer. Since 2010 he has served as deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command and as vice commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, responsible for monitoring air and maritime approaches to the United States. "Today we entrust General Grass with a national treasure, a force that has been transformed from a strategic reserve to an essential part of the operational military and whose ranks are now filled with skilled combat veterans," Panetta said.

Free online parenting course

Guard members are eligible to receive free one-year access to the Positive Parenting Solutions online course, which teaches step-by-step solutions for parents of toddlers up through teens to eliminate backtalk, whining, tantrums, sibling rivalries, battles over homework and chores, and other power struggles. The online course, which typically costs \$199, includes 42 video segments, live web seminars, detailed note-taking guides, frequently asked questions and a "toolbox" with more than 25 useful tools. To learn more or to enroll, visit www.positiveparentingsolutions.com/giving-back.

CNG seeking CID agents

The 170th Criminal Investigation Detachment, part of the 49th Military Police Brigade, is seeking mature Soldiers who wish to gain broad law enforcement experience. Duties include investigating felonies, protecting personnel and working with the staff judge advocate, district attorneys, local commanders and local, state, federal and military law enforcement agencies. For more information on the 170th and the requirements to become a CID agent, visit www.calguard.ca.gov/49mp/Pages/170thCID.aspx or call 916-854-1983.

Looking for a fun, free night out? The nonprofit Veteran Tickets Foundation accepts tax-deductible ticket donations for a wide variety of events and turns them over to our nation's veterans.

"Every day, in every city, there are events with empty seats that could be filled by those who serve or served," the Foundation states on its website. "More than that, many event tickets are simply unaffordable for average people. We believe the events that bring Americans together in the spirit of celebration, competition and camaraderie — those all-American moments — are the times we need to welcome and acknowledge our Veterans. ... An empty seat doesn't do anyone any good."

To obtain tickets or to donate tickets and receive a receipt for tax-deduction purposes, visit www.vettix.org.

CORRECTIONS: Airman 1st Class John D. Pharr III photographed the owl on page 21 of the July/August issue, and Spc. Grant Larson took the combatives photo on page 8 of the June issue.

DID YOU KNOW...

fraternization can damage morale, order, discipline and unit cohesion, and it can negatively impact your career ?

Fraternization, as defined by the Manual for Courts Martial, is a personal relationship between an officer and an enlisted member that violates the customary bounds of acceptable behavior. This type of relationship may prejudice good order and discipline, discredit the armed services and lead to personal disgrace or dishonor for those involved.

All relationships between service members of different ranks are prohibited if they compromise — or appear to compromise — the integrity of supervisory authority or the chain of command. This type of situation can have an adverse impact on discipline, authority and the ability of the command to accomplish its mission. It is incumbent upon all service members to maintain relationships at a professional level.

For more information, see Army Regulation 600-20, paragraph 4-14 through 4-16; Air Force Instruction 36-2909, paragraph 2.2.1; and the Manual for Courts Martial.



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Members of the 330th Military Police Company practice riot control techniques during their two-week annual training period at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness, in Anniston, Ala., in August. For more on the 330th annual training, see page 7. Photo by Shannon Arledge

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