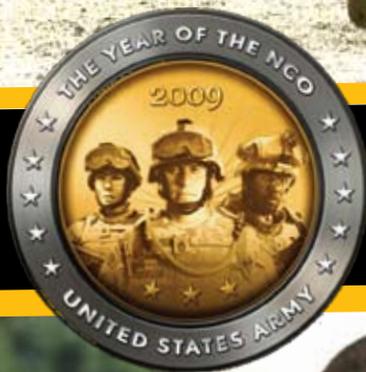


GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



YEAR OF THE NCO



4 163rd, ANG break barriers

6 Guard shapes at-risk youths

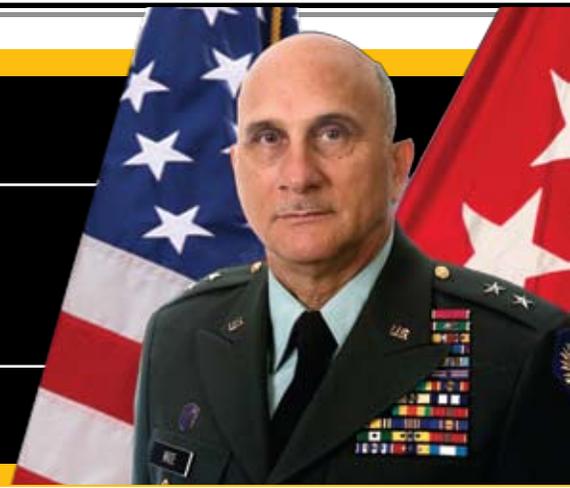
40th ID, Korean school renew bond

12

Commander's corner

Honoring our first citizen Soldiers

Major General William H. Wade II



There are two days in the calendar year that are very special to those of us who serve, or have served, in America's original army and longest-serving military institution – the National Guard of the United States. The most popular and widely known is Dec. 13th, 1636, the commonly accepted birthday of the National Guard; that day when the General Court of Boston authorized the organization of a militia to defend the colonies in case of attack. Drawn from units of Saugus, Salem, Ipswich and Newbury, the colonies organized their defense around three regiments, forming the basis of a community-based defense force concept that survives to this day.

The lesser-known, yet no less important, day is April 19th – Patriots' Day – commemorating the battles of Lexington and Concord, the first battles of the Revolutionary War. Patriots (also known as Whigs, Revolutionaries, Rebels and Congress-Men) were colonists who rebelled against British oppression and control. The term Patriot was actually used more than a decade prior to the Revolution in reference to the

American Patriot Party – a group that identified itself with the British Whig Party, which favored similar colonial policies. Prominent Patriots included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Paine and Paul Revere. Patriots came from varied backgrounds. Although most were highly educated and fairly wealthy, their ranks included ordinary people such as farmers, lawyers, mechanics, seamstresses, shopkeepers, mothers and ministers. Many were active in the Sons of Liberty – initially a group of artisans, tradesmen and common workers – an underground organization that resisted oppressive British laws and taxes.

Patriots existed in every colony and were managed by leading men in the community, either in secret or actually led by them. Patriots' most effective work was usually done in print because many were printers and publishers. Nearly every colonial newspaper carried daily stories of the activities of Patriots, and the ultimate effect was extensive propaganda that emboldened not only the citizens, but the legislatures of each

colony. So effective was the propaganda, and the ensuing acts of civil disobedience, that many royal governors went into hiding, allowing the colonialist Patriots to displace British rule in nearly every colony.

On that fateful day in 1775, the first shots were fired at Lexington at sunrise. The patriot militiamen were outnumbered and fell back, and the British regulars continued on to Concord. At the North Bridge in Concord, a few hundred militiamen defeated three companies of British regulars in a pitched battle in open territory. More Minutemen arrived and inflicted heavy casualties on the outnumbered "lobsterbacks," forcing them to withdraw and march back towards Boston. Upon returning to Lexington, the British regulars were rescued by reinforcements under the command of Earl Hugh Percy, eventually reaching the safety of Charlestown. With the drawing of this first blood, the Revolutionary War had begun. As John Adams said the next day, "The Die was cast, the Rubicon crossed."

In 1969, state laws directed holi-

day observance on the third Monday in April, creating a three-day weekend. Although only observed in Maine, Massachusetts and Wisconsin as a holiday, it is marked by re-enactments at Lexington Green and The Old North Bridge. To add to the celebration, the Boston Marathon is run on this day every year. Additionally, the Boston Red Sox are habitually scheduled to play a home game at Fenway Park – a tradition since 1959. Occasionally, tax day (April 15th) falls on this Monday, giving tax payers one more day to file their taxes, because the IRS processing center is located in Massachusetts and, therefore, closed.

So, on Patriot's Day, remember and cherish those words first penned in 1758, in Massachusetts Bay, Boston, that "Everyman, therefore, that wishes to secure his own freedom, and think it his duty to defend that of his country, should, as he prides himself in being a free citizen, think it his truest honor to be a soldier citizen." To all you citizen Soldiers, and the families that support them, thank you for your continued service and HAPPY PATRIOT'S DAY.

Ensure continuity of care

Command Sergeant Major William Clark Jr.



In today's National Guard, leaders are responsible for more than beans and bullets, training requirements and NCO evaluations. In February, the adjutant general and I visited deployed Soldiers and Airmen in Iraq. During this trip we visited the trauma center in Balad and saw how medical professionals save service members' lives. I have never met such caring and committed caregivers. As I reflect on the care received in Iraq, I want to ensure the continuity of that care upon service members' returns home; not just physically but holistically, mind, body and spirit.

As the senior enlisted adviser, I challenge all leaders to become intimately knowledgeable with their

Soldiers and Airmen and the programs that support them. Not only must we ensure they attend drills, we are required to train, motivate and be ready at all times, mentally and physically. We must track them not just for accountability, but to ensure their well-being. It is especially important to identify members who have been rostered outside their units of assignment; accepted special assignments or extended their active duty mobilizations; or been placed in Warrior Transition Units/Community-Based Warrior Transition Units, which are located throughout the country to care for injured Soldiers and Airmen. Guard members' health issues are addressed at the closest military treatment facility where their fami-

lies can be part of the healing process. Communication is vital and will ensure continuity of care as Soldiers and Airmen return home.

Congress has instituted a new law called the Deployment Cycle Support Yellow Ribbon Program. This provides service members and their families training, education and resources to support their health and well-being through the phases of the deployment cycle: pre-mobilization, mobilization, redeployment and reintegration. The California National Guard Yellow Ribbon Team has partnered with Operation Ready Families, the State Transition Assistance Office and other agencies to provide support and resources to Guard families. The resources cover

a wide range of benefits for service members and their spouses and children. More information can be found in the Cal Guard portal Army Division G1, Medical Service Branch. As leaders, please learn about these programs, share the information and use the resources. If your unit is preparing to mobilize, the National Guard Bureau has Team Mobilization and Retention Now toolkits that address all aspects of mobilization and prepare Guard members for the transition. The materials can be provided by a brigade career counselor or Yellow Ribbon staff member.

Let us not forget that the commitment to serve our Soldiers and Airmen provides in return a committed Soldier or Airman.

Grizzly

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FROM THE EDITOR

Being a California National Guard member doesn't just mean training one weekend a month and two weeks a year. And it doesn't just mean fighting natural disasters and foreign enemies. More than ever, service members are being asked to develop relationships.

The 40th Infantry Division has taken command of NATO's Multi-National Task Force East in Kosovo, where Soldiers are called upon to interact with Kosovars and build rapport between troops and residents (page 5). If the 40th ID's history is any indication, the relationship between Kosovars and California Soldiers could be a long one, as evidenced by the unique friendship between the division and the students and staff of Kapyong High School, which the 40th ID built in Kapyong, Korea, more than 50 years ago (pages 12 and 13).

Closer to home, Guard members have been working tirelessly to develop relationships with troubled youths (pages 6 and 7) and with Guard members' children and families (pages 18 and 19). And last month the Department of Defense recognized a California Guard member for being a role model for women everywhere (page 9); the secretary of the Army recognized Camp Roberts for its consideration of the environment (page 16); the senior enlisted leader of the National Guard Bureau encouraged California NCOs to build strong bonds with their Soldiers (page 14); and California's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing solidified its role as a trailblazer within the Air National Guard (page 4).

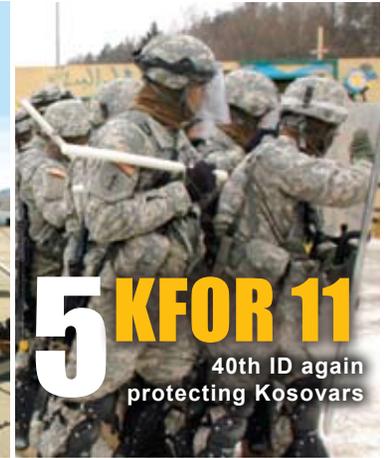
Every day, California National Guard members prove they contribute much more than one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

NEW MISSION

163rd RW training
Predator pilots,
operators



4



5

KFOR 11

40th ID again
protecting Kosovars



YEAR OF THE NCO

NGB's top NCO
leads celebration

14

Submissions

Articles:

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

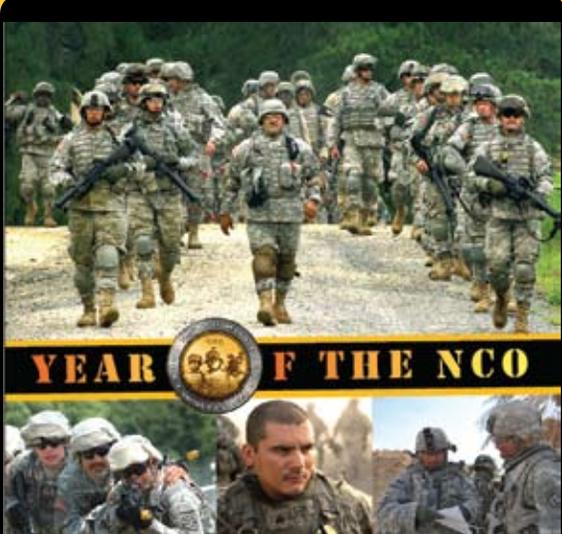
Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible
- ★ Caption (who is in the photograph, what action is taking place and what date the photo was taken)
- ★ Credit (who took photograph)

E-mail submissions by the 15th of every month to:

brandon.honig@us.army.mil

Cover Shot



YEAR OF THE NCO

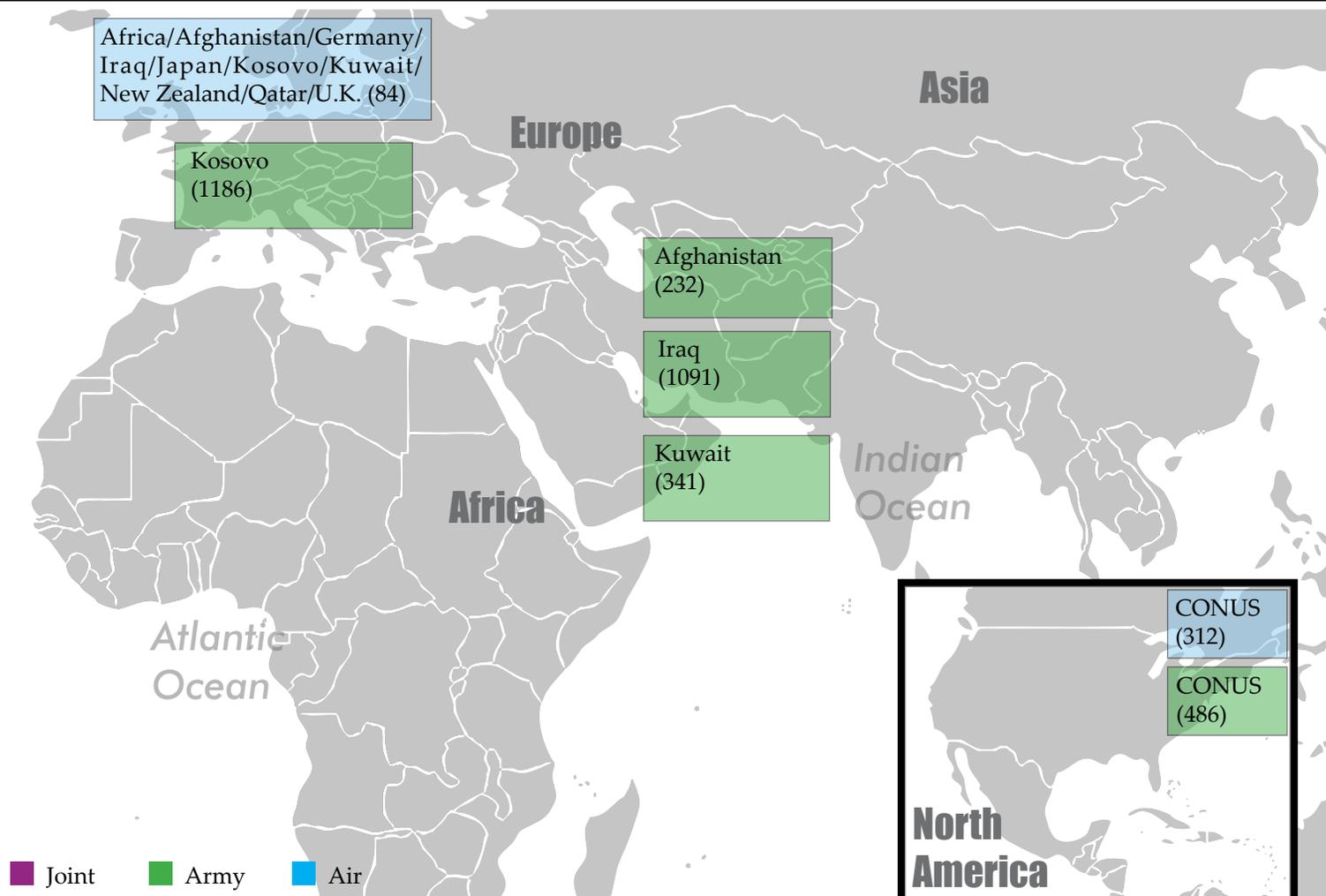
Design by Nida Chindalaksanalert

Photos courtesy of www.Defensemagery.mil

The California National Guard as of

March

2009



A SERIES OF FIRSTS

163RD RW OPENS PREDATOR FTU, LAUNCHES NATIONAL GUARD'S FIRST U.S. PREDATOR FLIGHT



**Story and photos by Senior Airman Paul Duquette
163rd Reconnaissance Wing**

Master Sergeant Ron Doyle marshals in a Predator MQ-1 after its first flight.

The sounds of cheers and applause filled the air Feb. 25 as an MQ-1 Predator lifted off the runway at Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) in Victorville, Calif., marking the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing's – and the Air National Guard's – first Predator flight in the United States.

The Predator, an unmanned aerial system (UAS), has been in use for more than 10 years, but only active-duty Air Force operated the system until the 163rd received the mission in 2006. Since then the unit has been a trailblazer for the National Guard: It was the first Guard wing to receive the Predator mission and the first to open a Predator-maintenance schoolhouse. Now the wing has added to its accomplishments that it is the first Guard wing to fly the Predator in the United States and the first to open a school to instruct Airmen to fly and operate the aircraft.

The Predator's maiden U.S. voyage for the 163rd was piloted by 196th Reconnaissance Squadron (RS) pilot Maj. Eric Fagerland, whose main objectives on the flight were to scout the surrounding area for factors that might hinder future operations and to evaluate the aircraft's equipment and functionality. The 196th is a squadron within the 163rd.

During the flight, Master Sgt. Justin Ciasullo of the 196th operated the "sensor ball," which houses the Predator's optics, lasers and video cameras. Ciasullo used the sensor ball to explore the airport's four run-

ways and to ensure the Predator's approach and landing systems were properly configured for the airfield.

"The aircraft performed as advertised, and the main goals of the mission were accomplished," Ciasullo said.

He and Fagerland had planned to hand control of the aircraft over to a crew at March Air Reserve Base about 40 miles away, but weather constraints prevented them from completing that part of the mission.

"We didn't accomplish everything we wanted to on this flight due to the weather; however, the impact of this first flight to the Formal Training Unit's (FTU) development is as important as anything we've done so far," said Lt. Col. Kirby Colas, 196th RS commander. "It definitely feels good to have a tangible success under our belt to validate the years of effort we've put into making the FTU happen."

During the Feb. 25 flight, the Predator was flown in the immediate area of SCLA. Since then the aircraft's route of travel has included the restricted airspace over Edwards Air Force Base, 20 miles north of SCLA, and the unpopulated desert between Edwards and SCLA.

The first FTU class began in late March and will last nine weeks. The 163rd is planning to hold five classes each year, with about 10 students per class. The only other



Master Sgt. Justin Ciasullo operates the Predator's sensor ball during its maiden flight.

training unit for flying MQ-1 Predators is run by active-duty Airmen at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

There are two operational Predators based at SCLA, though only one aircraft flies at a time. The 163rd has received a third Predator, but leadership has not decided if the aircraft will be stored at SCLA or at March Air Reserve Base.

Colonel Randall Ball, 163rd Operations Group commander, said the first Predator flight at SCLA was

a great display of "Grizzly can-do attitude, innovation and teamwork," which he expects to continue as UAS technology advances.

"As the Predator production line closes, we look forward to transitioning to the MQ-9 Reaper, which is a more capable and advanced [UAS] platform," he said. "The horizon is wide open for the UAS. It's a growing industry, which eventually could encompass aerial combat, electronic warfare and cargo platforms."

40th ID again leads Kosovo Force

**Story and photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts
69th Public Affairs Detachment**

The 40th Infantry Division assumed responsibility for providing a safe and secure environment in Kosovo for the second time in less than five years when Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones unfurled the 40th ID's colors and Brig. Gen. Larry D. Kay cased the 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on March 7.

"As the commander of Multi-National Task Force East (MNTF-E), my goal is to continue building upon the work done by KFOR (Kosovo Force) 10 and their predecessors," Jones said during his assumption-of-command speech.

The two- to three-week relief-in-place process, when KFOR 10 personnel showed KFOR 11 Soldiers what they have done and what they have learned during their nine months at Camp Bondsteel, provided a smooth transition between the two rotations. And now that the 110th MEB has flown home, KFOR 11 is able to conduct its missions with the knowledge they have gained from their counterparts and the skills they have picked up through several months of training at Camp Roberts, Calif., Camp Atterbury, Ind., and the Joint Multi-National Readiness Center at Camp Albertshof, Germany.

"Our Soldiers are well-trained, flexible, disciplined and ready to join our [Task Force Helias (Greek) and Task Force POL/UKR (Polish and Ukrainian)] Soldiers to deliver unity of effort and to accomplish the mission," Jones said.

KFOR is a multinational force under unified command and control, with substantial NATO and non-NATO participation. MNTF-E is one of four designated areas of operation. This is its 17th MNTF-E rotation and the second time the 40th ID has participated in this mission.

"In 2005 and 2006, California National Guard Soldiers spent one year walking the streets of local cities, towns and villages, getting to know the population," Jones said. "They worked with local and international officials to maintain safety and security in MNTF-E."

With the transfer of authority complete, the Soldiers of the 40th ID stand ready to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo once again.

"I look forward to supporting [the people of Kosovo] in this significant and essential endeavor," Jones concluded.



Brigadier General Keith D. Jones and Command Sgt. Major Robert R. Whittle unfurl the colors of the 40th Infantry Division during a transfer-of-authority ceremony at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on March 7.

Citizen interaction key to KFOR training

**By Dave Melancon and Spc. Louis Smith
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs and 69th Public Affairs Detachment**

Just three months after returning to the United States from a 15-month tour in Iraq with the 29th Infantry Division, Spc. Sean Evans of the 1st Battalion-185th Armor, jumped at the opportunity to deploy again. However, instead of another tour in Iraq, he joined 1,300 other members of the 40th Infantry Division for a 10-month peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

While the basic missions in Iraq and Kosovo are the same – to help people build their country in a safe and secure environment – the attitude and stance Soldiers carry with them to Kosovo is different.

"I am going from straight-legged [infantry] – humping and driving in a Humvee turret in Iraq – to a completely different mindset in a non-violent area," Evans said. "You're not expecting mortar attacks. ... You're out there in the towns with the civilians and talking with them."

Evans said his unit's change in perspective began during its training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in December. Simulated street patrols were less confrontational



Soldiers practice riot control at Camp Albertshof in Hohenfels, Germany.

and more relaxed, and instead of looking for improvised explosive devices and snipers, he and his fellow Soldiers learned to observe a community's day-to-day routine and prepare reports on those observations.

The Soldiers also trained for detainee operations and familiarized themselves with the Albanian and Serbian languages. Instead

of training for raids and convoy support operations, they studied and practiced crowd control, using shields, batons and other non-lethal weapons. Trainers also emphasized how to conduct proper engagements with Kosovars, including managing their weapons posture and body language, to the point of suppressing the Californian urge to wear sunglasses.

"We were not in the attack mindset," Evans said.

After Camp Atterbury, the Soldiers trained at Camp Albertshof in Hohenfels, Germany, where a training area was built to simulate towns and villages, and role-players and interpreters helped Soldiers grow accustomed to interacting with civilians in a foreign country. In the mock towns, Soldiers tested their skills by reacting to virtual situations like an outbreak of livestock deaths due to a tick-borne disease and a riot caused by food and power shortages.

Evans' change in outlook is typical for many KFOR-bound Soldiers, and his attitude reflects the mission, said Col. Philip Butch, the task force's deputy commander for civil and military operations.

"Some of these Soldiers have been in an insurgency environment where people are trying to kill them," he said. "Soldiers are not getting killed in Kosovo nor are they getting blown up. So the mindset we give these Soldiers right off the bat is to treat everyone with dignity and respect."

PHOTO BY SPC. LOUIS SMITH

Guard helps transform troubled teens

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

During the days leading up to the ChalleNGe Champions Gala in Washington on Feb. 24, seven California cadets shined as examples of what encouragement and hard work can do for teenagers.

The stars of the gala spent just under a week touring the nation's capital and preparing to headline the event, which included an award for the California National Guard adjutant general, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, for his efforts to open a second youth academy for troubled teens in California.

The seven California teens were joined by 93 other cadets from the 33 youth academies in the United States and Puerto Rico. Each cadet had a story to tell. Sometimes they were tales of tragedy, woe or failure, but all of them ended with strength.

Cadet Arthur Cabral, 16, of Cypress, Calif., said the most important aspect of his time at Sunburst Youth Academy in Los Alamitos, Calif., was that it built his self-esteem through proving self-worth, because he had previously battled issues of self-loathing and disrespect.

"I completely had no pride in what I did, how I dressed or even how I treated my parents," he said.

The words fell strangely out of Cabral, as if they were foreign to him now. One of the most decorated members of the bunch, with a crisply ironed uniform adorned with special leadership badges and awards, Cabral is a different person than he was before he attended Sunburst.

"I never had any intention of doing anything," Cabral said, "and I had good parents. They would push me. But I would just let them down every time."

Now, Cabral, who sees his life through new eyes, said the U.S. Marine Corps is in his future. He is proud that he has proven his worth to his parents as well as himself.

Cadet Tatiana Barnett, 18, of San Luis Obispo, Calif., agreed the youth academy experience is valuable, saying Grizzly Youth Academy in San Luis Obispo helped



Cadet Arthur Cabral, 16, who recently graduated from Sunburst Youth Academy, took in the sights in Washington before attending the 2009 ChalleNGe Champions Gala on Feb. 24. Cabral was one of seven California cadets selected to attend the Gala to demonstrate the positive outcomes of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program.

her mature more than she thought possible. She explained that after an adoption at a very young age, subsequent abuse and then mental health problems, she had simply stopped applying herself.

"I've come a long way. [At the academy], they really reinforce what you can do and push you to be better," said Barnett, who hopes to become a veterinarian.

Many of the California cadets shared stories related to alcohol- and drug-fueled partying and lack of respect and guidance. Most said they knew they were heading down a dangerous path, and that's when they decided to use a youth academy to spark a change.

"It was the first time I ever made my mom cry tears of joy, instead of making her sad because I got in trouble or because the cops were coming," recalled Cadet Rueben Ramos, 18, of his graduation from Sunburst Youth Academy.

Ramos, who lives in Norwalk,

Calif., said he decided to enroll after seeing his older brother get picked up at home by the police.

"I saw my mom's face and I didn't want to be the one to do that to her again," he said.

The discipline learned at the academy has already started to spill over into the cadets' "civilian" lives, said Cadet Armando Rodriguez, 17, of Parris, Calif. The Grizzly Youth Academy graduate said he has tried to steer clear of certain old friendships, "because if you hang with dogs, you get fleas."

"I went out with my homies one night to a party. Right when we got there they wanted to get down with some fools because they looked at us," explained Rodriguez. "But I thought, 'Man, if we go around trying to beat up everyone who looked at us, we'd be black and blue for days.' It's just not worth it."

Helping curb disciplinary problems is key, according to academy staff. However, the other side of that coin

is academics. The instructors for the academies work in a unique environment where discipline problems are the least of their concerns in the classroom, so teaching becomes priority No. 1, said Col. (CA) Jim Gabrielli, director of California National Guard youth programs.

Cadet Pajkub Vang, 17, of Sacramento, who recently graduated from Grizzly Youth Academy, said academics was the reason she decided to attend the academy, but she attained much more.

"It made me look at life in a different perspective," she said. "It made me want to do something better. Not just go with the flow, doing whatever."

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is voluntary and includes a structured 5 1/2-month residential phase focusing on education and practical life skills. A 12-month post-residential phase follows, utilizing trained mentors who encourage graduates to stay on the path toward success.



The California National Guard adjutant general, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, gathers with youth academy graduates (from left) Arthur Cabral, Lysett Villagrana, Pajkub Vang, Rieben Ramos and Armando Rodriguez during the ChalleNGe Champions Gala in Washington on Feb. 24. During the gala, Wade received the ChalleNGe Champions Award for his efforts to open a second youth academy in California.

Adjutant General recognized for youth efforts

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The moment the adjutant general of the California National Guard accepted the ChalleNGe Champions Award for his efforts to offer at-risk youth a second chance, he gave it away. Though Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II was the driving force behind obtaining funding for California's second military-style, live-in youth academy for high school drop-outs, he said that others deserved the thanks.

During the ChalleNGe Champion's Gala on Feb. 24, Wade credited Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who approved funding in 2007 to open a second academy after seeing the success of 10-year-old Grizzly Youth Academy. Wade also lauded Col. (CA) Jim Gabrielli, director of California National Guard youth programs, pointing to him in the crowd and saying the program couldn't run without Gabrielli and his staff. Because of their efforts, it was easy to enlist Schwarzenegger in opening the second academy, Wade said.

Then Cadet Lysett Villagrana, a 17-year-old high-school dropout-turned-future-military-leader from Lancaster, Calif., heard her name.

"Cadet Villagrana, this award is really to you," Wade said, pointing to her at the head table, "because you



California National Guard youth programs director Col. Jim Gabrielli, U.S. Rep. Grace F. Napolitano of California's 38th district, recent Sunburst graduate Cadet Lysett Villagrana and Sunburst director Lt. Col. Chad Vogelsang meet at the ChalleNGe Champions Gala, where 100 cadets from National Guard youth academies nationwide mingled with lawmakers to show the academies' importance.

had the courage to dream, you had the courage to believe in yourself and you had the courage to achieve. So this is really all about you and all the other cadets who are a part of this program."

To this, Villagrana was overcome

with emotion and began to cry. Receiving praise from the California National Guard adjutant general in the nation's capital was wholly unexpected for the girl who only a year earlier was skipping school to drink alcohol and take drugs with friends. She, and the six other cadets from

California youth academies who joined her at the gala, had changed.

"There's nothing better we can invest in than you," Wade continued, "as you are America's most precious resources."

Wade said it costs the state too much when youths in California remain on the streets, getting pregnant or engaging in illegal activity. At the two California National Guard youth academies, about 90 percent of enrollees get their high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) credential. From there, a third of those students go on to college, another third join the military and the final third go directly into the workforce, becoming contributing members of society, Wade said.

More than 1.2 million U.S. students drop out of high school each year, costing the economy \$329 billion in lost productivity and earnings, according to the National Guard Youth Foundation. But through the support of Wade and other California leaders, hundreds of students who pass through the California National Guard youth academies each year have a fighting chance at making their futures – and the future of America – better.

CANG names 129th maintainer NCO of the Year

by Staff Sgt. Eric M. Hamilton
Special to the Grizzly

Technical Sergeant Fernando Wilkins was in Iraq when he got the word that he was nominated as the 129th Maintenance Group's candidate for the California Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

"I didn't even ask to be nominated," said Wilkins, who previously served five years in the active-duty Air Force and five years in the Air Force Reserve. "I was just doing my job like anybody else."

But his supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Michael S. Hill, the 129th quality assurance superintendent, said the recognition Wilkins received was well-deserved. In addition to "just doing his job," Wilkins had found time to complete eight separate training schools along with a 75-day deployment to Iraq, where he worked as the sole military liaison for contractors there. Wilkins had also earned a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University the previous year.

If that's not enough, he also finds



Technical Sergeant Fernando Wilkins receives the California Air National Guard's NCO of the Year award from Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas, commander of the California Air National Guard, and Chief Master Sgt. Deborah K. Lott, California Air National Guard command chief, during the Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet on Jan. 17 in Riverside, Calif.

time to be a single father for his 7-year-old daughter and perform as a singer in a salsa band, as he has done for nearly 10 years. In May, one of the bands he performs with, "Orquesta Bakan," will release a

CD, with more than half of its songs written and sung by Wilkins.

A technician who works as a quality assurance inspector for C-130 aircraft, Wilkins said he called his

parents in Panama as soon as he learned he had been nominated.

"They agreed to come, but until they got here, I don't think they knew just how big a deal it was," he said.

After it sunk in, Wilkins' father, who retired after 35 years in the California Air National Guard, was very impressed.

"My mom told me it brought tears to his eyes," Wilkins said.

After Wilkins' stint in the active-duty Air Force, he tried the civilian sector for four years, but he found it didn't offer everything the National Guard does.

"The opportunities I get for being in this job – going on trips, promotion, job security – the opportunity is there; you just have to take it," he said. "The Guard put me through school and helped me get my degree."

After winning the NCO of the Year competition, Wilkins said, "I'm a lifer now. I'm really enjoying it."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Pararescuemen provide lifesaving aid to crash victim

By Capt. Alyson Teeter
129th Rescue Wing

Pararescuemen from the 129th Rescue Wing are accustomed to rappelling out of helicopters, jumping onto boats and performing other physical feats to pull people from harm's way and administer lifesaving aid. But sometimes the need for lifesaving skills arises in more mundane environments, such as March 9, when six Airmen pulled over on I-80 to help a car crash victim near Suisun, Calif.

Airmen in two vehicles were headed toward Gold Run, Calif., to survey a potential parachute drop zone, when those in the lead vehicle noticed a car flipped over on the other side of the freeway. The driver was still in the car, hanging upside down, with the weight of her body on her neck.

"The woman was trapped in the vehicle and her head was wounded," Tech. Sgt. Sean Kirsch said. "I grabbed the [medical rucksack] and oxygen kit and gave them to Sgt. Pon."

Pon immediately started treating the head wound to stop the bleeding, while Kirsch stabilized her neck and

checked for other injuries.

The car was also in a precarious position – the woman was trapped and could have sustained additional injuries if the car had moved – so Senior Master Sgt. Larry Hiyakumoto stabilized the vehicle to keep it from moving, while Kirsch and Pon tended to the patient.

Minutes after the first group of pararescuemen, also known as PJs, stopped to provide aid, the second vehicle in the 129th caravan came upon the scene. Captain Damon Foss, 2nd Lt. Kyle Wells and Senior Master Sgt. Eric Degner then joined the effort to provide medical assistance to the injured woman.

"Captain Foss delegated responsibilities and prioritized what needed to be accomplished," Kirsch said. "We functioned as we would during a rescue mission. ... It was a team collaboration."

Pararescuemen endure some of the toughest training offered in the U.S.



military and must maintain emergency medical technician-paramedic qualification throughout their careers. Their training includes confined-space and extrication training, which proved valuable March 9.

"Her body weight was upside down on her neck and she was pinned by metal. She was trapped in her seat," Foss said. "We didn't want to rush to do anything further because the Fire Department would have the equipment to get her out. She was conscious, and we tried to keep her calm and stabilized."

Once members of the Suisun Fire Department arrived, the PJs informed them of the patient's status and provided additional support, transferring care of the victim to the emergency personnel.

After an hour at the scene of the accident, the pararescue team continued on the road to accomplish its original mission, scouting a potential drop zone near Gold Run.

"Rescue is our job and what we're trained to do," Kirsch said. "We were happy to provide our support and expertise."

Pangelinan honored with DoD Role Model Award

**Story and photo by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau**

Department of Defense leaders recognized Lt. Col. Susan Pangelinan of the California Air National Guard as someone all women can look up to last month, honoring her with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Role Model Award. Pangelinan distinguished herself as medical adviser to the California National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters.

The event, held March 19 at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Va., also honored nine other service members who have worked for the advancement of women and minorities in foreign language and STEM fields. The event was part of the Defense Department's celebration of Women's History Month in March.

"All the things that I do for the military and the National Guard are really a privilege for me," Pangelinan said after receiving the award.

In 2002, Pangelinan joined the California Air National Guard after serving as an Air Force medical administrator in the active-duty and reserve Air Force. She is an Operation Desert Storm veteran who deployed to the Pentagon in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to help manage medical resources during the nation's response. More recently, she served as the medical operations officer during last summer's California wildfires. She reported injuries, tracked medical supplies and supported military responders as part of a multi-state,

multi-agency disaster-response mission.

Pangelinan said large efforts such as the 2008 wildfire response require a balanced knowledge of technology, engineering and math to comprehend the challenges and plan a response.

"It's not so much what you know, but it's more your ability to apply what you know in such situations," she said. "I do that using science and math to assess the environment."

Pangelinan was born on an Air Force base and grew up in a military family, allowing her to learn firsthand about the efforts of women in the military, such as those trailblazers honored at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, where Pangelinan received her Role Model Award.

"It's an amazing honor to be recognized here," she said.

Defense Department officials noted that Pangelinan encourages junior officers and enlisted members to pursue advanced degrees and professional military education, and she serves as a sounding board for women who face challenges in their military careers.

"Today it's a matter of showing women those opportunities in the military where skill is more essential now than anything else," she said.



The Department of Defense awarded Lt. Col. Susan Pangelinan of the California Air National Guard with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Role Model award March 19 at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Va., for her accomplishments as a medical adviser. The awards ceremony honored 10 service members who have worked toward the development of women and minorities in foreign languages and the STEM fields.

Army Guard to end stop-loss in September

**By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service**

The Army will phase out use of the so-called "stop-loss" program between now and January, and use of the program for the Army National Guard will cease in September, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said.

Since the beginning of his term as defense secretary, Gates has called on the services to eliminate their dependence on the program, which allows the involuntary extension of service members' active duty past the scheduled end of their terms of service.

The Army currently has 13,000 soldiers whose active-duty status was extended through the program. The Army is the only service using the program. Because of strong recruiting, the California National Guard has not needed to rely heavily on the stop-loss program.

"We have the legal authority to do it," Gates said. "But ... I felt, particularly in these numbers, that it was breaking faith. It wasn't a violation of the enlistment contract. But I believe that



Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates responds to a reporter's question during a press conference at the Pentagon on March 18. Gates announced a comprehensive plan to eliminate the current use of "stop-loss" policy while retaining the authority for future use under extraordinary circumstances.

when somebody's end date of service comes up, to hold them against their will, if you will, is just not the right thing to do."

Gates said there will always be a

need to hold people in the service, but it should be a small number.

"I would like to get it down to scores, not thousands," he said. "Effective this August, the U.S. Army Reserve

will no longer mobilize units under stop-loss. The Army National Guard will stop doing so in September, and active Army units will cease employing stop-loss in January."

The goal is to cut the number of soldiers remaining in the Army under stop-loss by 50 percent by June 2010 and to near zero by March 2011.

"We will retain the authority to use stop-loss under extraordinary circumstances," Gates added.

The Army is able to make this change because of changing conditions in Iraq, a new unit-rotation program that is being put in place and the increase in the size of the Army. Over the next 18 months, the drawdown in Iraq will far outnumber the increase in Afghanistan, Gates said.

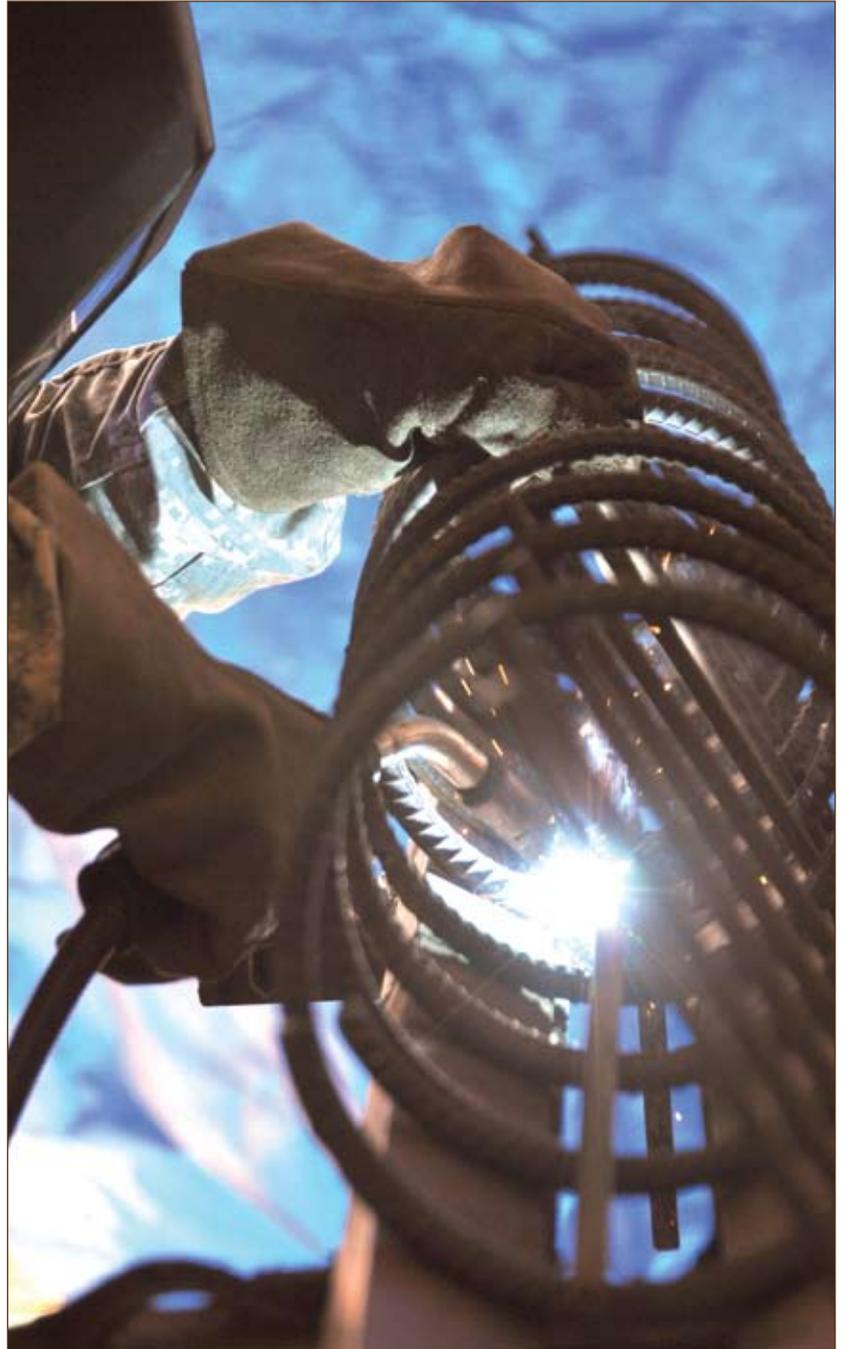
The Air Force used stop-loss sparingly in 2001, 2002 and 2003. It implemented stop-loss for 43 officers and 56 enlisted Airmen for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and ended it on June 23, 2003.

PHOTO BY ROBERT D. WARD



▲ Six members of the Command, Control, Communications and Computers Directorate at Joint Force Headquarters were recognized Feb. 26 by California's Chief Information Officer for their outstanding achievement in the field of Information Technology. A CIO Award for Outstanding IT Leader Award was awarded to Lt. Col. Keith Tresh and accepted by Col. Don Turos on his behalf. CIO Awards for Outstanding IT Manager were presented to Karen Ouimet, Col. Eric Grimm, Warrant Officer Candidate Marty O'Clair, Warrant Officer Candidate Mark Miller and Master Sgt. Randolph Orpe. **Photo by Tech. Sgt. David Loeffler**

Sergeant Vladimir Layon of the 640th Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Detachment 1, welds rebar into circular structures to be used as reinforcement on a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border near San Diego. **Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey**



▼ During an Inspector General inspection, members of the 146th Airlift Wing show off their gloves, an important safety item to be worn while loading cargo. **Photo by Master Sgt. David Buttner**





▲ First Lieutenant Joey Burke and Chief Warrant Officer 2nd Class Todd Bonner of Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, stand atop Eagle Tower on Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan with their beloved California flag.
Photo By Staff Sgt. Angela M Nolan



▲ Brigadier General Sabato Errico, commander of NATO Headquarters Sarajevo (NHQ Sa), presents an NHQ Sa plaque to Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard, during a March 10 meeting in Errico's office in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Brennan



▲ First Lieutenant Jason Little Owl of the 185th Quartermaster Battalion, center, skis to 23rd place at the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships on March 4 in Jericho, Vt. Little Owl covered the 20-kilometer course in 1 hour and 19 minutes, and he hit 11 of his 20 targets. Little Owl was the only Californian at the championships.
Photo courtesy of Spc. Brandon Pulst



▲ Brigadier General Keith D. Jones, commander of Kosovo Force 11, gets his first taste of dealing with the Kosovar media during a "press coffee" at Restaurant Lindi in Viti/Vitina, Kosovo, on Feb. 26. Jones took over command of KFOR from Brig. Gen. Larry D. Kay on March 7. Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts



▲ Colonel Ryan Orian, 144th Fighter Wing vice commander, presented Thomas Vidmar the Patrick Henry Award on March 6 for his support of the California National Guard. The award recognizes local and civic leaders who distinguish themselves with service to the armed forces. As owner of Anlin Window Systems in Clovis, Calif., Vidmar has often packaged and shipped donated goods to deployed Soldiers and Airmen worldwide; contributed decorations, food and refreshments for deployment and welcome home ceremonies; supported the Marine Corps in its Toys for Tots program; and donated dress uniforms for members of the Association of the United States Army band, among other contributions.
Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Chris Drudge

Soldiers of 40th ID visit Korean School it built in 1952

By Lt. Col. Kurt Schlichter
40th Infantry Division

The rural village of Kapyong was decimated by fighting during the Korean War, but it has grown into a modern town, and its high school has grown with it. Kapyong High School has a modern campus with high-tech classrooms, a large auditorium and a brand new dining facility. Yet the front of the campus is dominated by a memorial to a man who died in 1952 – Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kaiser of the California National Guard.

A member of Company B, 160th Infantry Battalion, 40th Infantry Division, Kaiser was the first California Army National Guard 40th ID soldier killed in combat during the Korean War, Jan. 20, 1952, in Kum-song, Korea. Months later, when Kaiser's division was pulled south to regroup near Kapyong, the Soldiers were startled to see the difficult conditions for local children, who were attending school in run-down tents.

The Soldiers began a "pass the helmet" campaign to raise money, and the 578th Multifunctional Engineer Battalion built the children a 10-room schoolhouse. The Soldiers named the school The Kenneth Kaiser High School, but it has since been renamed.

Since the school was built, the 40th ID has continued to support Kapyong's children, providing an annual scholarship for worthy students. Over the years, the school has produced many prominent military, government and business leaders.

In February of this year, representatives of the 40th ID attended the graduation of Kapyong High School's class of 2009. Brigadier General Scott Johnson, assistant division commander, led the delegation along with Lt. Col. Richard Rabe, incoming commander of the 578th, which built the original school.

The delegation was hosted by a legendary friend of the division, retired Col. "Tiger" Kim of the Republic of South Korea. A graduate of Kapyong High School, Kim commanded a Korean special forces battalion in Vietnam and has visited California as a guest of nearly every 40th ID commander since the 1980s.

"This is a great chance to reconnect with the battalion's history," Rabe said.

The school houses a small museum



Top left and right: A memorial in front of Kapyong High School honors Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kaiser, the first California Army National Guard 40th Infantry Division Soldier to die during the Korean War, and Kaiser's commander in 1952, Maj. Gen. Joseph P. Cleland.

Bottom: Brigadier General Scott Johnson of the 40th Infantry Division presents a plaque to the principal of Kapyong High School. The 40th ID built Kapyong High School, then known as The Kenneth Kaiser High School, in 1952.

PHOTOS BY 1ST LT. RYAN KAM



of photos and artifacts detailing the story of the school's origin, its growth and its lasting relationship with the 40th ID.

"It is really moving how the students and faculty take such care to remember the Soldiers of the division,"

Johnson said. "These kinds of bonds are critically important."

Before the ceremony, which was attended by hundreds from the Kapyong community, Johnson met with the mayor of Kapyong; the brigadier general in command of

the Republic of Korea's 66th Infantry Division, which has responsibility for the defense of the Kapyong region; and other local dignitaries. Johnson presented the assembled military and civilian leaders with a letter from Kaiser's brother, thanking the school for helping keep Kaiser's memory alive. Rabe also presented the school with a plaque showing the colors of the 578th.

The Kapyong High School faculty and students have not forgotten their school's roots with the citizen Soldiers of California, and they warmly greeted the delegation, erupting into cheers as Johnson entered the auditorium for the graduation ceremony.

"We are proud of how far Kapyong High School has come, and the Division looks forward to maintaining these ties in the future," he told the crowd.

He later added, "The very best memorial to [Sgt. 1st Class] Kaiser and the rest of the men of the 40th who fought here is that this land is free, prosperous and peaceful."

Remembering a fallen brother

BY 1ST LT. MICHAEL ANTHONY RODRIQUEZ
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As I look over some pictures that are laid out along the table, I notice the newspaper clippings underneath.

"Those are of Ken's funeral. He had a 34-car procession with five Army generals and the mayor of Inglewood present." Keith Kaiser speaks slowly as he tells of when his brother Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kaiser Jr. was laid to rest. Kaiser was the first soldier of the California Army National Guard's 40th Infantry Division (ID) to be killed during the Korean War.

After graduating from Manual Arts High School in Inglewood, Calif., Kaiser enlisted in the California Army National Guard, joining Company B, 160th Infantry Battalion. With the support of his family and his high school sweetheart, he set off for basic training with hopes of being a great citizen Soldier and plans to marry his fiancée.

On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces invaded South Korea in an attempt to crush resistance to a unified Korea under communist rule. In July, the 40th ID received a secret alert for mobilization, and in November, the 40th ID began training. By March 1951, the 40th ID's main body departed for Honshu, Japan. In keeping with the strategy of the U.S. Army to confuse North Korea about troop movements, the 40th ID received a secret notification to be ready to deploy into Korea on Nov. 16, 1951.

By January, moving mostly at night, the 40th ID relieved and switched places with the 24th ID. While engaging in battle Jan. 20 in Kumsong, Korea, communist forces lobbed a lone mortar that killed Kaiser.

Six days later his mother received the news that every Soldier's parents dread: A Western-Union telegram, delivered by a representative of the Army, informed her that her son had lost his life in combat. Two days later Maj. Gen. William E. Bergin, the adjutant general of the Army, followed up with a letter from the Department of the Army, confirming the worst. Along with the heartbreak felt by Kaiser's family and his comrades, many friends were devastated, including Patricia Spence, his high school sweetheart and fiancée.

In July 1952, Kaiser's division moved to Kapyong, Korea, to continue training. The city had been devastated by war and its school had been destroyed. Soldiers of the 40th ID decided to build a permanent school in Kapyong, and on Oct. 18, 1952, it was dedicated The Kenneth Kaiser High School. It has since been renamed Kapyong High School.

As I put down the newspaper article, I ask the younger Kaiser if there is one memory that stands out of his brother. His eyes well up as he looks upon a picture of his big brother. Perhaps a floodgate of memories opens up, for Kaiser simply says, "It was so long ago, but I still really miss him. He was two years older than me, but we did so much together. I have so many memories it's hard to put into words."



Sergeant First Class Kenneth Kaiser Jr. and his fiancée, Patricia Spence, stop for a moment to take a picture.



Photos courtesy of the Kaiser family

Kaiser poses for a picture following completion of basic training. A member of Company B, 160th Infantry Battalion, 40th Infantry Division, Kaiser was the first California Army National Guard 40th ID Soldier killed in combat during the Korean War.

fun fact

Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH) were first used during the Korean War. The MASH units saved thousands of lives. Once a Soldier arrived at a MASH unit, he or she had a 97 percent chance of survival. The U.S. Army inactivated the last MASH unit Feb. 16, 2006.

By the Numbers

1950 During the Korean War, while in an F-80, U.S. Air Force Lt. Russell J. Brown intercepted two North Korean MiG-15s near the Yalu River and shot them down in the first ever jet-to-jet dogfight. Currently, although there is a cease-fire along the demilitarized zone, the U.S. and North Korea are still at war.

TOP NGB ENLISTED LEADER KICKS OFF YEAR OF THE NCO

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The National Guard Bureau's senior enlisted leader kicked off The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer during a ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento on March 20.

Soldiers spanning all ranks within Joint Force Headquarters as well as at 10 video teleconferencing sites throughout California watched as Command Sgt. Maj. David Ray Hudson led the way in giving due respect to the Army's "backbone." Hudson is responsible for advising the chief of the National Guard Bureau on the affairs of the 457,000 enlisted Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard.

"The NCO Corps realizes that we did not get where we are today overnight," Hudson said before offering advice on ways to increase NCOs' military and civilian knowledge, improve their physical fitness and encourage them to volunteer in their communities.

Hudson added that part of being a good NCO is acknowledging problems and being a spearhead for change. He specifically mentioned the need for better awareness of sexual harassment issues and improved focus on Soldiers' mental wellness.

The Army has designated 2009 "The Year of the NCO" to recognize its enlisted leaders at all levels of command, and the California National Guard will highlight the contributions of its NCO corps throughout the year.

Major General William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National

Guard, opened the March 20 ceremony by reciting the third paragraph of the NCO Creed, which states, "Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine." Wade said he would not be able to complete his essential duties without the help of his enlisted staff.

"I can tell you one thing you'll never be: commanders," Wade said during the ceremony. "I don't want your job, and you definitely don't want mine."

Throughout the ceremony, speakers reflected on the example set by Army NCOs worldwide, saying that Soldiers from many countries look on U.S. Army NCOs with a sense of awe, recognizing their leadership, knowledge and motivation in support of their officers.

Hudson stressed that outstanding leadership doesn't just happen; it is the result of hard work and great mentoring. He added that exceptional leadership is especially important in the National Guard because "weekend warriors" depend on their NCOs to guide them during their one weekend a month and two weeks a year. That is where "the backbone of the National Guard" really comes into play.

"As you can imagine, it's more difficult for noncommissioned officers in the National Guard when compared to their counterparts on the full-time side of the house, where they live and breathe with their team," Hudson explained.



Command Sergeant Major David Ray Hudson, left, the senior enlisted leader of the National Guard Bureau, and Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., the senior Army adviser to the commander of the California National Guard, lead fellow NCOs in reciting the NCO Creed during a Year of the NCO kickoff ceremony March 20 at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento.



Command Sergeant Major David Ray Hudson and Spc. David Baynes of the 143rd Field Artillery Regiment cut a cake adorned with the Year of the NCO emblem on March 20.

"But as an NCO in the National Guard, more often than not, we come together during training and drills without a hitch because these guys are more forward-thinking and motivated – they're looking two months down the road for training and they're looking six months down when

[annual training] might be happening," he continued. "They take the time to know their team better and let them know what they should be preparing for."

Events are being scheduled throughout California in 2009 to celebrate The Year of the NCO.

"As I travel around the Army and I look at what we've accomplished over the past seven years at war, it's clearer and clearer to me that it is our noncommissioned officer corps that is providing the glue that's not only holding this force together at a difficult time but enabling us to accomplish the near impossible every day."

- Gen. George W. Casey, Army chief of staff



The Army has designated 2009 "The Year of the NCO" to recognize its enlisted leaders at all levels of command. Grizzly will feature an exemplary noncommissioned officer each month in 2009 to commemorate The Year of the NCO.

NCO PASSES ALONG LEADERSHIP LESSONS

Story by Command Sgt. Maj. Earnestine Judge
3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment

As 1st Sgt. Lionel M. Kellam was advancing up through the ranks, he never gave much thought to how far he would go. He joined the National Guard in 1980 as a way to obtain an education. He had an interest in working with metal, so he began his career as an aircraft structural repairman with the 49th Transportation Company.

Becoming a full-time technician in 1983 resulted in a move to Fresno, Calif., and a transfer to the 1106th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD). A specialist at the time, he began to take advantage of every opportunity to attend any school. He went through a UH-1H helicopter mechanics course, an instructor trainer course and a small-group leaders course, and he also progressed through each level of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System, not with the initial intent of being promoted but with the mindset that he would be ready if a promotion was offered. During his time with the 1106th AVCRAD, while he worked his way up to staff sergeant, he received mentorship from several great NCOs, and he still carries on some of their leadership styles today.

In 1997, Kellam was offered a position as the component repair platoon sergeant with the 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment. This required him to change units and travel more than 250 miles to attend drill. There he met some of his biggest challenges, having been

empowered to make decisions that would affect the outcome of the unit's mission and influence the careers of young Soldiers.

In 1999, Kellam transferred to 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, at Mather Field, continuing as a platoon sergeant and taking with him the lessons he had learned about Soldier care and encouraging others to accept challenges and take opportunities. The regiment was deployed in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, again bringing new challenges.

Challenges seems to be a natural part of Kellam's Guard life, he said, noting that in April 2007, he was selected to be first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment.

"I didn't know if I was ready to accept such a position, but reflecting back over the last several years – with the schools, training and mentorship that I had received from many great NCOs – I felt this was my chance to give back to other Soldiers what had been given to me, to mentor them and empower them to take ownership of their unit and to instill pride and respect within," Kellam said.

What happened next was unexpected; he was asked to deploy to Afghanistan with Company B, 1-126th Aviation Regiment.

"My first thought: more challenges," Kellam remembered.



First Sergeant Lionel M. Kellam re-enlists for three more years during a ceremony this year on Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

PHOTO BY CPL. ALEX SMITH

The position, however, was very rewarding. Kellam was able to watch Soldiers develop and grow into leaders, accepting their own challenges and making their own decisions. The deployment was also a learning opportunity for Kellam; he discovered that to be an effective leader, one must not only have the ability to mentor, but also must listen to their Soldiers, show compassion and have the desire to help them in almost any situation.

"Sometimes a leader needs to get in right alongside their Soldiers and work with them," he

said. "I did that to gain further understanding of the challenges they face and to let them know I wouldn't ask them to do anything I wouldn't do myself."

Kellam's unit returned home Feb. 28 (see page 17) after flying more than 7,000 hours of supply, troop transport and other types of combat missions.

"The success of this deployment is attributed to the unit's Soldiers accepting the challenges and taking ownership and responsibility for themselves, not just the leadership," Kellam said. "Without my Soldiers, I would be nothing."

Camp Roberts excels in conservation

By Brandon Honig
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Camp Roberts' efforts to conserve natural resources in 2008 merited a Secretary of the Army Environmental Award runner-up honor, marking the second straight year a California Army National Guard installation has been recognized for its environmental stewardship.

Camp San Luis Obispo won a first place Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for natural resource conservation in 2007.

Geoffrey Prosch, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army, installations and environment, presented the runner-up award to Lt. Col. Kevin W. Brown, Camp Roberts commander, on March 27 at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento. The Minnesota Army National Guard's Camp Ripley Maneuver and Training Center won first place.

"Your efforts protect what is perishing ... and establish sound practices that will enable the Army to conduct its mission now and for generations to come," Prosch said during the March 27 ceremony. "Installations throughout the Army can benefit from your efforts to enhance ecological diversity and still directly support

the training mission."

Among other environmental achievements at the 43,000-acre training base, Camp Roberts was recognized for establishing a condor preservation program, introducing a streamlined process and computer module for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, and planting trees and native plants.

In 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service raised concerns about condor fatalities due to ingestion of lead bullet fragments from the remains of hunted animals. Though there was no evidence fragments from Camp Roberts had caused any deaths, the camp prohibited use of lead ammunition by hunters.

"Based on Camp Roberts' lead, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has insisted that all other state and federal landholders in California adopt similar measures," Prosch said.

Camp Roberts is again leading the way, having recently completed a NEPA analysis to find a location for a new range where the impact on natural resources would be minimized. The screening activities also enabled



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

Camp Roberts' commander, Lt. Col. Kevin W. Brown, and its senior environmental planner, Douglas Bryceson, accept the runner-up 2008 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for natural resources conservation from Geoffrey Prosch, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army, installations and environment, March 27 at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento.

Camp Roberts to streamline the environmental assessment process.

"I hope you can pass on your automated, paperless, Web-based NEPA module that will simplify the communication and review processes between Camp Roberts and California Army National Guard offices, eliminate redundancy, generate compliance reminders, track projects and create reports," Prosch said.

Camp Roberts' eight-person NRC staff, which secured this award

with support from the Conservation Branch of the California National Guard's Environmental Programs Directorate, has also helped provide habitats for threatened and endangered species like the San Joaquin kit fox and the purple amole plant.

Hundreds of trees were also planted last year, as old buildings were replaced with new saplings. The base also replaced non-native plants with native species that would improve water quality and reduce the negative impacts of certain birds.

Guard saves water in time of drought

By Scott Hilyard and Capt. Marc L. Anderson
California National Guard Environmental Programs Directorate

You don't have to watch the news very long before you hear the word "drought." State officials are reporting that California's snow pack is only about 80 percent of what it should be. Add to that the fact that the last two years' precipitation were below average, and the realization sets in that we may be facing a real drought problem. Major reservoirs are only about half as full as they should be, indicating that it is going to be a long, dry summer.

When water becomes scarce, as it has been this year, conservation is not only fashionable, it is required. The California National Guard has been proactive in water conservation. A newly discovered way to conserve is to recycle water used in our oil-water separators.

An oil-water separator system consists of an underground holding tank that catches wash water and separates waste oil from the washing of vehicles. In the past, when it was time for the system to be serviced, the oil and water were

drawn out together and treated as hazardous waste. In the new system, the waste products are separated out from the water and handled as hazardous waste, while the water is cleaned on site and returned to the system – a huge improvement over carting off the water and waste products together.

The California National Guard has 44 oil-water separators, and thanks to the new process, the Guard has saved more than 150,000 gallons of water and more than \$100,000 in hazardous waste disposal fees. This is a new example of how the California National Guard continues to lead by example in sustainability and water conservation.

Besides the oil-water separators, the California National Guard has also taken multiple steps to conserve water statewide, including:

- Replacing shower heads, toilets and urinals with low-flow models;
- Modifying turf plants and landscape to use less water;
- Replacing distribution lines to

eliminate leaks;

- Discontinuing use of a swimming pool at Camp Roberts;
- Limiting the areas to be irrigated;
- Limiting the washing of vehicles;
- Harvesting storm-water runoff; and
- Installing efficient irrigation.

All of these measures save hundreds of thousands of gallons of water each month, in addition to reducing our water bills. Some suggestions for saving water at home include:

- Adjust your lawn sprinklers and set them for morning and evening use;

- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when full;
- Monitor your water bill;
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk;
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting, because a taller lawn holds more moisture;
- Install an on-off flow switch in the shower; and
- Turn off the water while you wash your hair.

Make a smart choice by looking for ways to conserve water today. YOU can make a difference!



PHOTO BY AIRMAN FIRST CLASS KELLY TIMNEY

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

After a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, the more than 100 returning soldiers of Company B, 1-126th Aviation Regiment, were surprised with an earlier-than-expected flight into Stockton Municipal Airport on Feb. 28.

The returning troops had more than a one-hour head start on family and friends who hoped to meet them as they got off the plane, making for continual mini-celebrations all morning long. An official homecoming celebration is being planned for the beginning of May, according to unit leadership.

While deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Soldiers conducted airlift operations with various coalition military forces. Company B troops were attached to the 101st Infantry Division (Air Assault) while deployed. Their twelve CH-47 Chinooks were divided between Bagram, Forward Operating Base Salerno and Kandahar. The company flew 7,270 flight hours and 1,974 missions, and it transported more than 46,700 passengers, 11.4 million pounds of internal cargo and 9.7 million pounds of external cargo.



Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Jake Wiebe was all smiles as he welcomed back his father, 1st Lt. Dennis Wiebe, at Stockton Municipal Airport. The troops of Company B, 1-126th Aviation Regiment, returned Feb. 28 after a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

"The mission was very successful. My pilots, crew members and maintainers all did a fantastic job," said Capt. Emil Popov, company commander. "We assisted in reconstruction efforts, we assisted in war efforts. ... You name it, we did it."

Soldiers mirrored their commander's sentiment, explaining that the mission was "a good learning experience."

Specialist Justin Russell, who is originally from New York but has been serving with the California Army

National Guard for about 1 1/2 years, added, "It's been long, and I'm just happy to be home now."

He and the rest of his unit will take some much deserved rest and recuperation now, getting reacquainted with the civilian-side of life again.

49th MP Brigade learns lifesaving skills

By Spc. David S. Choi and Spc. Eddie Siguenza
69th Public Affairs Detachment

From properly dressing a wound to placing a distress call to the appropriate channel, Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade gained essential knowledge during a recent 26-hour Combat Lifesaver Course.

"The main thing to retain from this course is to have the skills to help each other and come back alive," said 1st Lt. Edward L. Bombita, company commander. "This is one of the most critical courses in the Army. ... You don't know when it is necessary to save a life. Anything can happen."

The Fairfield, Calif.-based 49th MP is preparing for an upcoming deployment to Baghdad.

The Combat Lifesaver Course provides valuable pre-deployment training and also boosts confidence and fosters positive attitudes, Sgt. Jefferson J. Austrie said. Practicing different methods of carrying a simulated casualty and preparing a mannequin for needle chest decompression gives service members a chance to perform tasks that someday may enable them to keep a Soldier alive.



PHOTO BY SPC. DAVID S. CHOI

Staff Sergeant Christopher L. Boutain, a Soldier with the 49th Military Police Brigade out of Fairfield, Calif., begins to insert a catheter into another Soldier's vein during the Combat Lifesaver Course.

"It's just staying with the basics of how to save a life," said Sgt. Jacinta Mello, one of four Combat Lifesaver Course instructors from Company C, 297th Area Support Medical Company, who trained

49th Soldiers on March 21. "There's so much more to learn. But [Combat Lifesaver] is very important."

Private First Class Melvin N. Brunson of the 49th said the course

instructors were very knowledgeable and he is glad he and his fellow Soldiers received the training.

"If I were to fall," he said, "It's good to know someone has my back."



THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S SYMPOSIUM ON FAMILY READINESS

It is a pleasure and a privilege to welcome and invite all of you to The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness. The Guard's mission is "Always Ready" and plays a vital role in our nation's defense. The Family Readiness Group parallels that fundamental role by preparing our families for stresses related to deployment through essential services. I am grateful for the opportunity to be the senior volunteer for this group and I hope you can all be part of this dynamic event.

-Leslie Wade, Senior Volunteer Representative, Family Readiness Program

**18-19 April 2009
Burlingame, CA**

For more information about the Operation Ready Families Program, visit its Web site:

www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies

To register online for the symposium, visit the site of the California National Guard:

www.calguard.ca.gov

Youth events ease military-specific challenges

**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

About 20 families gathered in conference rooms in a Sacramento hotel March 21 to learn about military-specific programs in the community and to have a little fun. It was the first of many Military Youth Outreach Events scheduled for this year that were designed with the children of service members in mind.

These Joint Forces Support Assistance Program events, hosted by the California National Guard Child and Youth Program, are intended to help members of all branches of service come together to take advantage of available services, according to Steven Read, director of the Operation Ready Families program at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento.

Read said the main point of the conference was to get kids together with other kids who are going through similar challenges. Service members' children go to school with civilian children and often don't have an outlet to express their feelings and discuss their experiences, which are unique to military families.

"We don't even scratch the surface here," Read said.



Samantha Doffo of the Young Women's Christian Association works with 15-year-old activity partner Kiki Henry during a coloring leadership activity at the Military Youth Outreach event March 21 in Sacramento.

Parents and children came together to work through issues during the day-long summit, but for topics that require deeper discussion, community resources like Military One Source, the National Teen Leadership Program and the Military Family Consultant Program provided literature and contact information.

The day's program also included a diversity workshop that examined stereotypes, biases and real-world situations that children encounter as well as a seminar discussing the needs of military families, which was facilitated by a licensed marriage and family therapist.

"My mom wanted me to try [the program] out and see how I liked it," said Kiki Henry, 15, of Sacramento during a coloring activity. "It's a lot of fun."

Parents in attendance participated in each exercise with their children, including hands-on activities and listening to speakers. But the main purpose of the parents' involvement was to provide them with resources available in their community.

"In life there are different situations," said Angie Villanueva, senior staff member for the National Team Leadership Program, during a team-building exercise. "There comes a time when there's a leader and you have to get out of their way or you have to be the one who takes charge. A good leader also is a good follower."

The next Military Youth Outreach Event is scheduled for May 18 in Fresno, Calif. For more information, call Janson Bellen, youth specialist for the Joint Forces Support Assistance Program, at 805-558-7080.

Q & A

WITH MONIKA JOHNSON,
LEADER, FAMILY READINESS GROUP,
1498TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY



Why is the California National Guard's family readiness program, Operation Ready Families, successful?

The volunteers and their commitment to Soldiers' families. We [at the 1498th Transportation Company] have a great group of people who are committed to stick with me for the entire deployment time. I know I can count on them to see it through.

We have quite a large Family Readiness Group (FRG). They are a wonderfully varied bunch, from all walks of life. Some are spouses or family members of deployed Soldiers. Some are civilians, and this is their first encounter with the military; they even had to learn a new language. They had never heard of FRG, POC (point of contact), LES (leave and earnings statement) or SRP (Soldier Readiness Processing).

How do you reach subordinate elements and units so they know what Operation Ready Families offers? How do you get them involved?

We are part of a large unit (more than 380 Soldiers) and I was fortunate to be able to recruit a large group of volunteers. To better manage all those families, I divided them into platoons corresponding to their service member's platoon. I then assigned several volunteers to each platoon (depending on the size) and designated a platoon family readiness leader. We also have a couple of volunteers assigned to help with Spanish-speaking families.

Whenever information pertinent to the families is received, it is distributed via email and/or telephone to the platoon family readiness leaders and other volunteers. We heavily emphasize the chain of command, chain of concern and geographical support concept.

What has been your most satisfying experience in dealing with Operation Ready Families?

My own personal growth. I have had the privilege to work with people of all ages and all types of personalities and have learned to appreciate each for what they have to offer. Additionally, [I have seen that] everyone has special skill sets

and talents that can be utilized for the good of the entire organization. Volunteering has been a very rewarding experience and one of my life's greatest lessons.

Did you personalize your program to meet your mission?

Our mission is to keep in touch with the families. We personalized this program by committing to make monthly morale calls to the families. Each volunteer has a designated group of families whom they call each month (or more frequently, if needed) to provide updates or details of programs offered, information received, upcoming events, or just to keep in touch.

As a volunteer, what do you value most in your program?

The support of our company commander, Maj. Caroline Morales. She made it a priority to establish the FRG for our unit, and it was established prior to our deployment. She wanted to be sure our families were well-informed and prepared and would know where to turn in time of need during this deployment. Her support has been outstanding.

Just like the Soldiers, where 'No one is left behind,' we believe that 'No one should be left alone.'

She has kept in steady contact with our FRG and continues to send periodic updates on how the unit is doing, which in turn gets distributed to the families. Maj. Morales' synchronization has mitigated potential challenges at home so the Soldiers can concentrate on their mission.

What tools do you use to assist with the "up and down" flow of communication?

E-mail – it's the best! I keep in contact with my families, volunteers and military personnel by e-mail and by phone. Telephone and regional meetings provide invaluable personal connections. Additionally we have set up an Internet support group to ensure communication and connectivity 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Just like the Soldiers, where "No one is left behind," we believe that "No one should be left alone."

Describe activities that enhance and



PHOTO BY LAURA BURMASTER

Volunteers of the 1498th Transportation Company's Family Readiness Group. From top left, Raeni Marty, Kama Warren, Miriam Atanaya, Amy Frahn, Alisha Gravett, Monika Johnson, Ruth Torres, Marie Golesh, Kristy Boe, Karla Avalos, Debbie Selle, Roxanne Russell, Monica Davis, Eleanor Felt, Jackie Weatherspoon and Marina Morales. Volunteers Monica Cunningham, Julie Hernandez, Misty Jolly and Kim Viens are not pictured.

build relationships between military personnel, families and Operation Ready Families volunteers.

Since our unit is composed of Soldiers from all over California, building relationships with the families has been a challenge. Many families live too far away to attend local meetings, but the volunteers have formed bonds with the people they call every month, and the families look forward to hearing from them. I have more than 200 e-mail contacts I send information to whenever I receive anything.

We have monthly FRG meetings, which the Military POC attends. The purpose of these meetings is to plan the details of family events, update volunteers on various issues and brainstorm to find resources to support our events. Prior to deployment the company commander attended these meetings and provided information on important dates and events.

We have organized family days, a farewell ceremony with more than 1,400 people and a Christmas party, which also had great attendance. We try our best with the resources available. The more families there are, the harder it is to fund events.

What events and programs are offered for youths in the ORF program?

Due to the families being located all over California, structured events for youths are not possible. We do

send families information regarding programs sponsored by the California National Guard Child and Youth Program whenever it is received. We also have provided information on Child Care Assistance Programs, free YMCA memberships during deployment times and camps offered to youths of deployed military members, among other initiatives.

What type of resources would enhance your overall ORF program?

a) FRG should be part of SRP, so contact information can be gathered directly from Soldiers. Illegible, incorrect or outdated information is the primary reason for families not being informed or supported by their FRG. If we don't know they exist, we can't help them.

b) Develop a better way to promote FRG and inform families that they have an FRG to turn to. Unfortunately, obliviousness and disinterest on the part of the Soldier can cause the family to be uninformed.

c) Government funding. Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, business owners have tired of volunteers asking for donations. It is getting more difficult to find a person or business to donate anything.

d) Offer effective and comprehensive information on how to build a successful FRG at the unit, battalion or brigade level.

OUR STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING

By Robert May, Joint Force Headquarters Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

This year's theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "Our strength is for defending." It is intended to highlight the fact that our mission not only involves national defense but the protection and safety of the Americans who voluntarily risk their lives to protect us.

Every service member, starting with senior leadership, must understand the importance of safely intervening and preventing sexual assault. Service members must intervene when they identify behaviors that may lead to a sexual assault.

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

The California National Guard is committed to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. For more information on Sexual Assault Prevention, visit the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Web site at www.sapr.mil.

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

MY STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.

So when I saw she was drunk, I told my wingman:
ASK HER WHEN SHE'S SOBER.

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PART OF MY DUTY.

Your Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):
1-800-123-4567 (24/7)

myduty.mil

READINESS = RESPECT

Swift separation required after positive drug test

By Joint Force Headquarters Manpower and Personnel Directorate

Once a Soldier receives a positive result from a unit urinalysis test, the Soldier must be processed for separation. During this process, the command can request retention or discharge.

When the commander initiates an adverse flag, the Soldier is barred from receiving advancements, promotions or awards. A flagged Soldier cannot extend, retire or deploy. It is imperative for the Guard's readiness that these cases are processed immediately. Each commander receives notification from the Joint Substance Abuse Program (JSAP) office of the separation process and has 90 days to complete and return the separation packet to the JSAP office.

To complete the separation process, a packet must be generated by the commander to notify the Soldier that he or she is being processed for separation. Many times the packets may seem overwhelming. That is why we recommend using the separation checklist created by the JSAP.

There are varied checklists depending on the Soldier's time in service. If a Soldier has less than six years in service, according to their Pay Entry Base Date, the packet requires only a few documents. If the Soldier has more than six years in service, the packet requires a few more documents. The good news is that all the documents are available on the JSAP Web portal, <https://portal.ca.ngb.army.mil/sites/G1/ddr/default.aspx>

Brigades can also request classes to train their unit command staff on how to properly process positive results. If any unit needs assistance processing a separation packet, please contact the JSAP office at 916-366-4732 or 916-366-4736.





California Military Ball 2009

APRIL 18, 2009
SATURDAY

MARRIOTT SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT
1800 OLD BAYSHORE HIGHWAY
BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA 94010
(650) 692-9100

NO-HOST COCKTAIL HOUR AT SIX O'CLOCK
SEATING AT SEVEN O'CLOCK

CALL FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 8, 2009
MENTION THE GROUP CODE "FSM"
FOR THE GOVERNMENT RATE

MILITARY: MESS DRESS/FORMAL UNIFORM
CIVILIAN: BLACK TIE

NAME AND RANK _____ PHONE _____

GUEST(S) NAME _____

DETERMINE :

CHAR-GRILLED HANGAR STEAK WITH MASHED POTATOES

BREAST OF CHICKEN WITH FETTUCCHINE

MUSHROOM STRUDEL WITH TOMATOES FONDUE

COST - \$65 PER PERSON.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ TO SPONSOR A
MILITARY SERVICEMEMBER'S ATTENDANCE AT THE MILITARY BALL

SEND THIS RSVP WITH PAYMENT BY APRIL 8, 2009 (MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO MILITARY DEPARTMENT MWR)

MAIL TO: JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ATTN: MRS. IRMA GARRETT
CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
9800 GOETHE ROAD (BOX 58)
SACRAMENTO, CA 95826-9101
PHONE : (916) 870-3133
EMAIL : IRMA.GARRETT@US.ARMY.MIL

To register online go to https://www.ca.ang.af.mil/symposium_ball/

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESULTS, 2ND QUARTER FY09

GENERAL OFFICER EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL COUNCIL

a. Command. Note: All Officers must complete their respective pre-command course (PCC) before they will be allowed to assume command.

(1) **COL John W. Lathrop**, ACofS, G3, Army Division, transferred to Commander 115th RSG, effective upon completion of PCC.

(2) **COL Mark G. Malanka**, ACofS, G3, 40ID, transferred to Commander 79th IBCT, effective upon REFRAD.

(3) **COL Timothy J. Swann**, Deputy Commander, 79th IBCT assumes interim command of 79th IBCT, effective 1 Apr 2009 to 30 Nov 09.

(4) **COL Eric B. Grimm**, Chief of Staff, 40ID, concurrently assigned as Commander, CA Agribusiness Development Team (ADT), effective immediately and deploy to OEF.

(5) **COL Jane M. Anderholt**, ACofS, G2, Army Division, mobilized and assigned as Commander, Community Based Warrior Transition Unit (CBWTU) Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, TX, effective 19 Jan 09.

(6) **LTC Jodee A. Rowe**, Commander, Southern Recruiting & Retention Battalion, reassigned as Commander Accessions Task Force (ATF), pending final determination of revised ATF organization, effective in line with item 2.a.(1).

b. Staff.

(1) **COL David S. Baldwin**, Commander, 79th IBCT, transferred to Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, effective 1 Apr 09.

(2) **COL David B. Nickels**, Commander, 115th RSG, transferred to ACofS, J1, effective in line with item 1.a.(1).

(3) **COL Diana L. Bodner**, Commander, Accessions Task Force (ATF), transferred to ACofS, G3, Army Division, effective in line with item 1.a.(1).

(4) **COL David R. Shaw**, Commander, 5th Bde/104th Div, USAR, transferred to ACofS, G2, effective 1 Feb 09.

EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL COUNCIL

a. Command. Note: All Officers must complete their respective pre-command course (PCC) before they will be allowed to assume command.

(1) **LTC John M. Murphey**, Operations Officer, TCP 40ID, transferred to Commander 1-185 CAB, effective 1 Jan 10.

(2) **LTC Jon R. Siepmann**, S3, 79th IBCT, transferred to Commander 1-184 IN, effective 1 Mar 2010.

(3) **LTC George A. Leone**, Team Chief, CORP 2 ETT, transferred to Commander 79th BSTB, effective upon REFRAD.

(4) **MAJ Steven L. Martinelli**, Executive Officer, 185 QM BN, transferred to Commander 579th EN and promote, effective 1 May 2009.

(5) **MAJ Julian H. Bond**, Executive Officer, 746th CSSB, transferred to Commander 40th BSB and promote, effective 1 Apr 09.

(6) **MAJ Michael A. Kozak**, Executive Officer, 250th MI, reassigned to Commander 250th MI and promote, effective 1 Sep 09.

b. Staff.

(1) **LTC Daniel T. Monaghan**, Commander, 250th MI, reassigned to EOA Officer, 40ID, effective 1 Sep 09.

(2) **LTC Julio L. Lima**, EOA, 40ID, reassigned to Inspector General (IG), 40ID, effective 1 May 09.

(3) **LTC Thomas Tinti**, Deputy SJA, 40ID, reassigned to Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), 40ID, effective 1 Jun 09.

(4) **LTC Terrall V. Thompson**, Team Chief, Bde 3 ETT, transferred to Liaison Officer (LNO), 40ID, effective 1 Apr 09.

(5) **LTC Seth M. Goldberg**, Commander, 1-185 CAB, transferred to Operations Officer, TCP, 40ID, effective 1 Jan 10.

(6) **LTC William H. Poppler**, Commander 40th BSB, transferred to S2/S3 Officer, 100TC, effective 1 Apr 09.

(7) **LTC Loren A. Weeks**, Team Chief, ETT BDE 3, transferred to Petroleum Officer, 149th QM Team, effective 1 Apr 09.

(8) **LTC Thor W. Iljana**, Commander, 579th EN, transferred to Chief, Operations Branch, G3, Army Division, effective 1 May 09.

(9) **LTC Gene Griffin**, Executive Officer, Army Division, transferred to Director, Public Works (DPW), Camp Roberts, effective 1 Jul 09.

(10) **MAJ Jeffrey D. Newman**, S2/S3, 100TC, transferred to Executive Officer, Office of the Adjutant General and promote, effective 1 Apr 09.

(11) **MAJ Mimi Y.H. McEwing**, Operations Officer, G3, Army Division, reassigned to Evaluation Team Chief, G3, Army Division and promote, effective 1 Apr 09.

(12) **MAJ Jason E. Briggs**, Assistant Support Operations Officer, 224SB, transferred to Chief, Plans & Policy Branch, G4, Army Division and promote, effective 1 Aug 09.



c. Warrant Officer Actions.

(1) **CW5 Kenneth L. Solis**, Chief Supply System Tech, Det1 JFHQ (USPFO), Mandatory Removal Date (MRD) extended from 31 Jan 10 until 31 Mar 12, age 62 and two months.

d. AGR Control Grades (CG).

(1) **COL Matthew L. Dana**, allocated next available 06 CG.

(2) **MAJ Julian H. Bond**, placed on the OML for the next available 05 CG.

(3) **CPT Douglas S. Williams & CPT Timothy S. Grimes**, allocated 04 CGs.

(4) Status of Control Grades.

(a) 06/COL: REQ: 6. AUTH: 7 + 2 Temp CGs. ASGN: 9.

(b) 05/LTC: REQ: 30. AUTH: 30. ASGN: 30. On OML: 1.

(c) 04/MAJ: REQ: 91. AUTH: 69. ASGN: 60. AVAIL: 9.

(d) E9/SGM: REQ: 24. AUTH: 24. ASGN: 25. On OML: 4.

(e) E8/MSG: REQ: 85. AUTH: 93. ASGN: 80. On OML: 0. AVAIL: 13.

4TH QUARTER FY09

The projected date for the 4th FY09 Quarter Executive Personnel Council is 16 Jul 09. The following 4 06/COL and 9 LTC/05 positions are vacant or projected to be vacant and will be considered:

Strategic Planner, J7 Director, Civil/Mil Relations, J5 ACofS, G3, 40ID Director, Installation Management

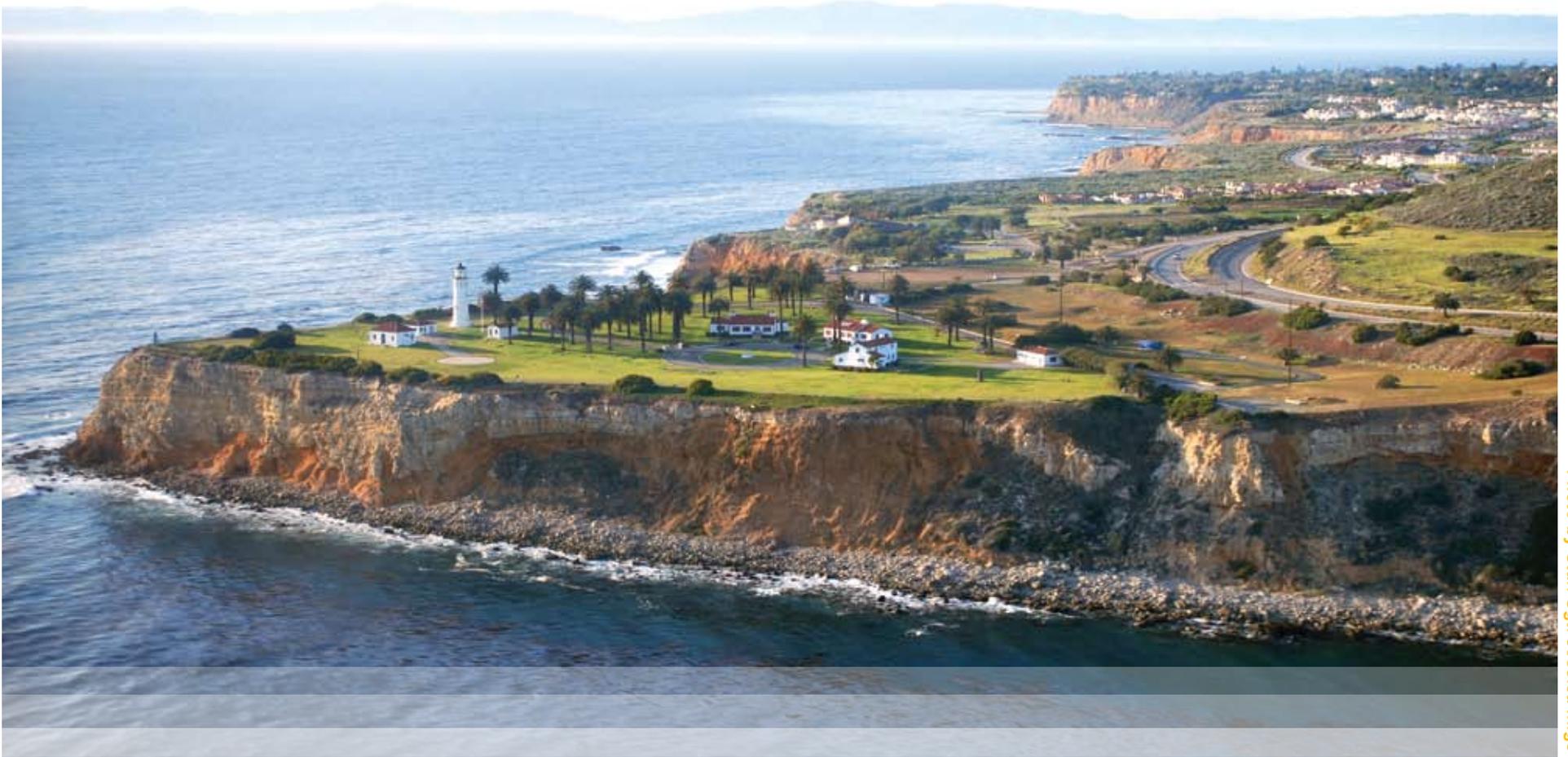


Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo

Teen adventure at Camp San Luis Obispo

The seventh annual California National Guard Teen Adventure Camp at Camp San Luis Obispo will begin Saturday, June 20, and end Friday, June 26. Slots for the weeklong camp will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The camp costs \$100, including meals. Physical activities are part of the program, and full participation is encouraged. A beach and kayaking trip is planned. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Connie Mesta at 562-795-1484 or connie.mesta@us.army.mil.

Operation Purple camp accepting applicants

The National Military Family Association's Operation Purple camp program is accepting applications online at www.operationpurple.org.

The free weeklong program in 62 locations aims to help kids experience carefree fun while learning skills to cope with war-related stress. It fosters relationships between children who have had similar experiences and helps kids gain confidence and learn to be stewards of the community and environment. The camp is supported by the Sierra Club.

Any child of a service member can apply, but priority is given to those with a parent, guardian or family household member deployed between September 2008 and December 2009.

ID cards losing SSN

The Department of Defense has begun removing Social Security numbers from issued identification (ID) cards in an effort to prevent identity theft.

The printed numbers are being removed from dependents' IDs first. Later this year, the Defense Department will begin removing printed numbers for military and retired cardholders. By the end of 2012, Social Security numbers will be removed from the data embedded in cards' barcodes.

Cardholders should wait until their cards are in need of renewal before seeking a replacement that does not show their Social Security number. Retirees with indefinite expiration dates on their cards may begin replacing them in January.

Geneva Convention ID cards will continue to carry the last four digits of the cardholder's Social Security number.

DID YOU KNOW...

Army mobilization promotion regulations and policies have changed over time?

For example, promotions to the ranks of sergeant first class through sergeant major based on Operational Deployment Documents are not authorized. Exceptions may be requested through Joint Force Headquarters to be submitted to the National Guard Bureau. Below are two additional examples of current changes.

Mobilized E-5s can still compete for promotion to E-6 without having completed their Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC); however, a waiver must be obtained to do so. Soldiers not completing their Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) requirement and not deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq or Kuwait must submit a waiver for promotion through the chain of command. Soldiers who are deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq or Kuwait can request a waiver through their servicing personnel support battalion. Upon approval, Soldiers are granted a one-year grace period to complete NCOES.

Active Guard and Reserve promotions while mobilized are not necessarily permanent. While mobilized, Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers are authorized to compete for assignments and promotions within their mobilized units or for Full Time Military Force positions in non-mobilized units. Active Guard and Reserve control grade restriction will be suspended for Soldiers who are promoted under this policy. Upon release from active duty, states will have 12 months to assign promoted Soldiers to a valid vacancy commensurate with their grade or be subject to reduction. States are not authorized additional controlled grades solely for the purpose of reassessing into the AGR program Soldiers who were promoted while mobilized.

For a complete review of current policy on mobilization promotions, read the personnel policy guidance dated February 2009 online at <https://gko.ngb.army.mil/>.

Remember, just because you are mobilized does not mean you will be promoted. Ensure you know the proper procedures for mobilization promotions. This will prevent confusion for yourself, your Soldiers and your unit.

Correction: The "Did You Know ..." item in the February issue of Grizzly should have noted that California Air National Guard members must check with their local services flight for policy information about maximum involuntary commuting distances for M-day duty.



Sergeant Richard Merenda, Spc. Kathleen Hall and Staff Sgt. Ralph Pasillas of the 115th Regional Support Group field questions from fourth- and fifth-graders at First Street School in Lincoln, Calif., on March 24. The focus of the Soldiers' presentation was respect, determination and perseverance.

Photo by Sgt. (CA) Jessica Cooper

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