

# GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard

## Guarding the homeland

The California National Guard will support federal authorities on the Southwest U.S. border

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49<sup>th</sup> hands last major U.S. detention facility to Iraq

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# California National Guard Leadership



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#### Articles:

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

#### Photographs:

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

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### Cover Shot



**Photo by**  
Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo

Border Patrol Agent J. Zimmerman points out to California National Guard Soldiers potential scope sites in the San Ysidro Mountains near the U.S.-Mexico border. About 260 California National Guard troops will deploy to support Border Patrol this fall.



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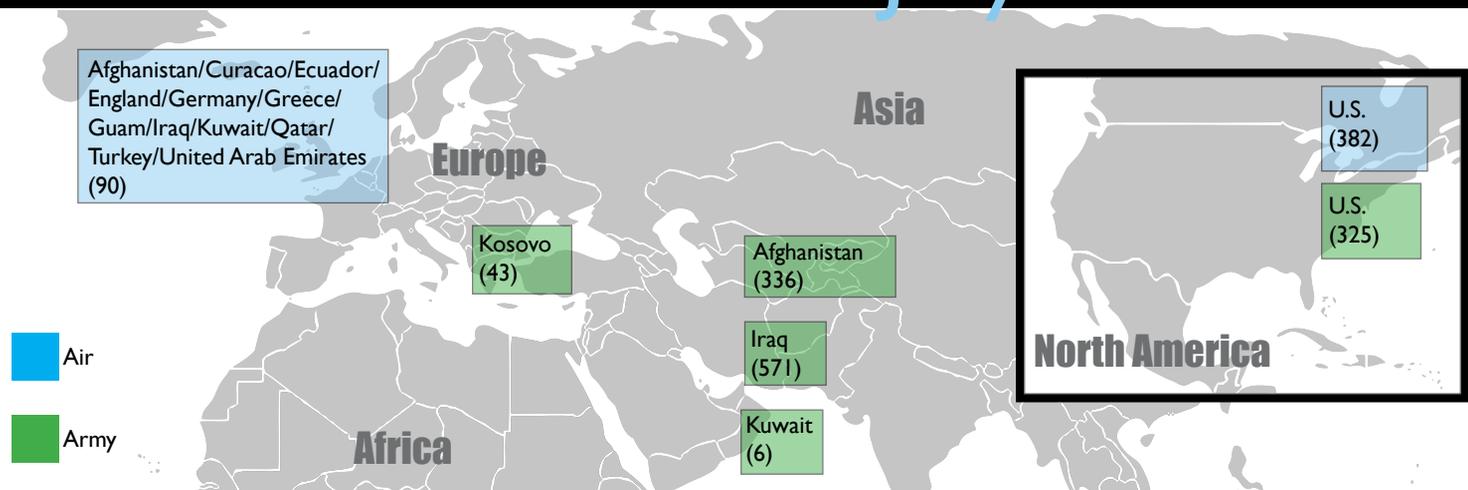
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# 144th completes Operational Readiness Inspection

By Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler  
144th Fighter Wing

Nearly 1,000 Airmen of the 144th Fighter Wing took part in a 72-hour Phase One Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) in June. The hard work and long hours of preparation resulted in a passing evaluation by the inspector general's team and reinforced that the 144th Fighter Wing's performance met mission requirements.

The inspection team consisted of 55 specialized inspectors from throughout the United States who visited the wing's Fresno, Calif., base June 3-5. The inspectors graded four major areas: initial response, employment, mission support and ability to survive and operate (ATSO).

The Phase One ORI challenged the wing to deploy nine F-16 aircraft, nearly 300 Airmen and more than 100 tons of cargo. All facets of the simulated deployment were scrutinized by the inspectors as personnel and equipment were sent to different theaters of operation. The members of the 144th met the challenges head-on, and although they were faced with tumultuous situations they received "outstanding" evaluations in 11 critical inspection areas.

"We took the test as a team and received the grade as a team," said Lt. Col. Doug "Spike" Weskamp, vice commander of the 144th Fighter Wing. "Even though we



LEFT: Staff Sgt. Johnny Martinez of the 144th Fighter Wing prepares to secure the external fuel tanks of an F-16C Fighting Falcon prior to its launch during an Operational Readiness Inspection at the 144th's base in Fresno, Calif., in June. BELOW: Airman 1st Class Tafoya Gabriel makes final preparations for launch of the F-16C Fighting Falcon.



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

stumbled in one area, we will work on that area as a wing, so we will be prepared for the Phase Two for an overall higher grade."

The inspection tested the fighter wing as a whole and tested individual Airmen as well. Mountains of mobility bags were scoured through, paperwork was analyzed and every nut, air intake and AIM-120 missile was pored over as the members of the fighter wing were tasked to complete the mission safely.

"During the ORI the inspectors checked

our personal bags, our mobility bags, training records, shot records, you name it," said one Airman preparing for simulated deployment. "They even counted my socks!

"Then they grilled us with questions, but it was OK because we studied our ATSO guides as a shop and we were well-prepared."

The green light on the Phase One ORI does not mean "stop" for the fighter wing's readiness training. The Phase Two inspection will take place in April 2011 and focus

on the fighter wing's ability to operate in a theater of operations with a heavy emphasis on self-aid and buddy-care, mission support and response to chemical, biological, nuclear and ground attacks.

"Our efforts paid off," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael W. McNiff. "We worked as a cohesive team to meet the challenges that were set before us during the Phase One ORI. We hit a few bumps along the road, but they will only make us stronger [and] more aware of what we need to do to pass the Phase Two ORI and to be even more mission-ready."

## 224th PSD provides convoy security in Iraq

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Nathan Lavy  
224th Sustainment Brigade

After months of training in the U.S. and overseas, the 224th Sustainment Brigade's Personal Security Detachment (PSD) rolled out from Contingency Operating Base (COB) Adder, Iraq, with high motivation and confidence to complete its first mission as convoy security July 2.

Sgt. Alan Sullivan of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 224th Sustainment Brigade, said the Soldiers moved out with vehicles of all types, mostly military flatbeds and commodity trucks.

"While en route we encountered a major sandstorm which engulfed the entire convoy, which was spread out over two miles of highway," Sullivan said. "After being in the sandstorm for about 10 minutes, the sky started to become amber, then orange. It was an amazing sight, but it heightened my situational awareness because the convoy had to slow way down due to safety concerns because of limited visibility."

After several hours of driving, the convoy arrived safely at Camp Basrah, Iraq, where the Soldiers filled their stomachs and their gas tanks before departing for COB Adder with new commodities at nightfall.

"The terrain and surrounding villages quickly slipped into darkness," Sullivan said. "Gunners played a key role, using spotlights to recon overpasses for threats."

Truck commanders kept in close contact to relay information about such hazards from vehicle to vehicle.

"I love being a gunner," said Sgt. Lynette Prendez of the HHC. "You can see everything, and basically you're the security for everyone. It keeps me alert and occupied."

All personnel and equipment returned safely to COB Ad-



Spc. Shavneel Nand of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 224th Sustainment Brigade, loads his weapon for a test fire July 2 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, before the 224th Personal Security Detachment's first convoy escort mission.

PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. NATHAN LAVY

der, completing a highly anticipated first PSD mission.

"Training is at least three to four months long for a Soldier on a PSD team," said 1st Lt. Manuel Arino, PSD officer-in-charge for the HHC. "It includes individual and collective tasks, roll-over drills, react to [improvised explosive devices] and weapons qualification."

Other training the unit completed before leaving California included performing 32 Army Warrior tasks, 12 Army battle drills and missions focused on downed helicopters, personnel recovery, spotting improvised explosive devic-

es and public relations.

The Soldiers also completed PSD training on Fort Hood, Texas; Camp Buering, Kuwait; and COB Adder, including a convoy live-fire drill and instruction on how to occupy a building with a principle — a person the PSD is protecting — as well as how to move a principle from a vehicle to a building and how to evacuate a principle.

"The training has been top of the line," said Sgt. Eric Barger, a gunner and driver with the HHC. "[It will] have a big impact on our mission."

# I-184th 'Nightstalkers' conquer challenges at AT

By 1st Lt. Patrick Bagley  
I-184th Infantry Battalion

For 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment (Light), annual training at Camp Roberts, Calif., was high-paced and action-packed. Having recently returned from both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Joint Guardian in the Balkans, the 1-184th "Nightstalkers" were eager to train together as a battalion for the first time since 2007.

"It is my duty in the next 24 months to make sure that this battalion is ready to fight and deploy should our nation call upon us," said Lt. Col. Jon Siepmann, commander of the 1-184th, which held its annual training June 5-19.

Unit commanders and staff were put through the paces in order to keep up with the well-planned, but full, training schedule, which included weapons qualification, land navigation and Periodic Health Assessments before moving to the field training exercise. The pace of the first days of training took many by surprise but set the tone for annual training.

Weather conditions at Camp Roberts in the summer can be a challenge. Soldiers dealt with temperature swings of 50 degrees on some days, requiring Soldiers and leaders to monitor water consumption in the day and to bundle up at night to battle the cold ocean winds.

While the majority of the battalion trained at Camp Roberts, all company and battalion mortar assets traveled to Camp Pendleton, Calif., to engage in live-fire mortar training.

"The effectiveness and the skills required employing our weapons as mortarmen has taken on a sense of urgency given the mission set in Afghanistan," said 1st Lt. Max Phillips, mortar platoon leader for the 1-184th, who will attend the Infantry Mortar Leader Course this fall at Ft. Benning, Ga.

While some Soldiers braved the elements on weapons-qualification ranges, others traveled to Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., for modern Army Combatives Level 1 training — a 40-hour course that would be one of the most grueling these Sol-



**ABOVE:** A vehicle is sling-loaded below a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during annual training for 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment (Light), at Camp Roberts, Calif., in June. **LEFT:** Sgt. 1st Class Lou Spinezze, the personnel and administration noncommissioned officer in charge for the 1-184th, zeroes in on a target on the weapons-qualification range. **BELOW:** Soldiers from Company B, 1-184th, board a Chinook during air-mobile operations training.

PHOTOS BY 1ST LT. PATRICK BAGLEY

diers have been through since basic training. Soldiers were instructed in a mixed martial arts style of Brazilian Jui-Jitsu to provide them with hand-to-hand combat skills. They learned a series of grappling techniques that allow them to subdue an enemy combatant and potentially render them unconscious.

The training culminated with a series of four student-on-instructor training bouts that saw some students receive blows from a boxing-glove-clad instructor. The object of the four bouts was for the student to achieve four different clinches on the instructor. The students were required to

achieve these clinches while dodging the instructor's swinging fists. Some students received blows that knocked them to the ground, but they were still required to advance and establish the clinch or receive the wrath of the senior instructor.

The two-week training period culminated with an air-mobile operation that involved moving the 1-184th by CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter to a forward operating base, or FOB, deep within the vast rolling terrain of Camp Roberts. Young soldiers who had never flown in a helicopter quietly asked questions to verify the training techniques for entering and exiting the Chinook,

which they had practiced that week. Then it was "go time."

Even without seeing the helicopter, one could hardly miss the signature thumping of the massive rotor blades and powerful engines as they reverberated off the hills that encircle the main post at Camp Roberts. Soldiers were instructed to sling their rucks and weapons and move to the landing zone to board the dual-rotor aircraft, which would take them to the spot that would be their home for the next 72 hours. The ride started with a quick exit from the heliport, then it snaked down the Salinas River and culminated with a simulated combat off-loading of troops to occupy the FOB.

With the base secured by the Nightstalkers, the operation was in full swing. Opposing forces proved very effective as they moved in and briefly captured a battalion retransmitting station, but forces from Company B, 1-184th, were then able to secure the site and ensure smooth communication for the duration of the exercise.

Meanwhile three Soldiers prepared to engage in the sometimes-precarious mission of sling-loading a vehicle. With tensions high and the big blades of the Chinook kicking up anything loose on the ground within 50 meters of the vehicle, the Soldiers of the 1-184th completed their mission of delivering critical assets to the FOB so their fellow Nightstalkers could win the battle.

The final push of the exercise came when "The Rock," better known as Company C, found the opposing force's base of operation and, led by Siepmann, made a coordinated two-company attack on the position to decimate the opposing force. Victory was at hand and would be celebrated with a traditional "dining in" — a formal meal for battalion members that honors past and present Nightstalkers and those who have perished in battle.

For the 1-184th this annual training (AT) was one that others can be measured by.

"In all my 20 years in this battalion, I have never done as much quality training in a two-week period than this AT," Siepmann said, "and all the Nightstalkers deserve praise for making it a success."



# ADT helps battle-torn Afghan village recover

Story by Combined Joint Task Force 101

After a violent battle between Taliban forces and a combined team of Afghan National Army forces and U.S. Army Soldiers, residents of Marawara district, Afghanistan, were left shaken and in need of assistance.

Following a shura, or consultation, with a district sub-governor and Daridam village elders, Soldiers from the California Army National Guard went to the village with Afghan Border Police to begin efforts to reinforce the local economy, which is almost entirely agriculture-based.

First Sergeant John A. Hanson of the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) led a team to repair a pipe that served as the residents' only source of water. Meanwhile, Sgt. Scott Flynn and Sgt. Jason Stevens led a group of Afghan Border Police officers and Soldiers on a patrol inside the village to assess the health of the local livestock and to speak with residents about their needs and concerns.

Flynn and Stevens found that the livestock suffered from malnutrition and parasites, both of which are common throughout Kunar province. They also examined a local watershed area, which is subject to periodic flooding that damages crops, and began developing a plan to control the problem.

"The people of Daridam have obviously been through a lot after having their village occupied by the Taliban," said Flynn, an ADT agronomist who works full-time for the U.S. Forest Service in northern California. "We were able to talk to a few villagers during our patrol, and they are mainly concerned about putting their lives back together and getting to planting. Our work will help them do that."

Before the ADT departed, the Afghan Border Police officers and Soldiers delivered agriculture supplies to the villagers so they can maximize the productivity of their fields and livestock as they recover from the battle. In addition to high-quality animal feed, anti-parasitic



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN NATHAN LIPSCOMB

**Staff Sgt. Philip Arnold of the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team guides vehicles in Marawara district, Afghanistan, days after a combined U.S. and Afghan National Army offensive against Taliban forces in the area. The ADT visited the district to help villagers recover as U.S. and Afghan forces work to restore government authority in the area.**

medication and nutritional supplements, the villagers received high-quality seed and tools such as pick-axes and shovels to help them re-plant fields damaged in the fighting.

"Daridam is one of the better areas of Kunar province in terms of its agriculture capabilities," said Stevens, who works as a horticulturalist with Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate in Virginia. "The supplies we delivered will

help them recover more quickly and strengthen their village to resist the Taliban's influence."

The ADT has coordinated with contractors for additional repairs to the village's irrigation systems. The Afghan Veterinarians Association will also go to Daridam to vaccinate livestock against diseases and to implement a program that would create a self-sufficient poultry business in the village.

## 146th AW douses Riverside County fire

By Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke  
National Guard Bureau

Two California Air National Guard aircraft equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems II (MAFFS) responded to a fire July 15 in Riverside County, Calif.

The U.S. Forest Service requested assistance from the CNG's 146th Airlift Wing after lightning caused a brush fire near Temecula, Calif.

Two C-130J aircraft based at Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Calif., flew for almost two hours and dropped 3,000 gallons of fire retardant on a blaze the Riverside County Fire Department has dubbed the Skinner Fire. The fire, which burned 503 acres, was fully contained July 17.

National Guard assistance is normally requested when federal civilian resources are committed to other fires and more resources are needed. The 146th was called to the Skinner Fire because the wing needs 13 drops on actual fires for certification on the new MAFFS II, Guard officials said. In 2008, the 146th Airlift Wing became the first National Guard wing to transition to the MAFFS II, and it remains the only unit flying the new system on the C-130J aircraft.

MAFFS II equipment, which is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and operated



**A C-130J aircraft from the 146th Airlift Wing based at Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Calif., drops water over treetops in South Carolina during annual training in April. On July 15, the wing responded to a U.S. Forest Service request for assistance containing a fire in Riverside County, Calif.**

PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS NICHOLAS CARZIS

on Air Guard and Air Force Reserve aircraft, incorporate design features and technology that provide advantages over the original MAFFS, including an on-board compressor, reduced corrosion of the aircraft, and improvements in safety features and retardant-coverage levels. The amount of retardant splashed on the exterior of the plane during aerial drops is also reduced with the new system, saving time and money, Forest Service officials said.

The system can carry up to 3,000 gallons of retardant or water to drop on wildfires. It can discharge the entire load in under five seconds or perform variable drops.

Along with the 146th, MAFFS equipment is operated by the 145th Airlift Wing of the North Carolina Air Guard, the 153rd Airlift Wing of the Wyoming Air Guard and the 302nd Airlift Wing of Air Force Reserve Command, based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

In May, the National Interagency Fire Center predicted an increase in wildfire activity for the western United States during the 2010 fire season.

During the past 10 years, military C-130 aircraft equipped with MAFFS have dropped 9.1 million gallons of retardant on wildfires. Since 1974, Guard and Reserve pilots have flown 6,500 firefighting missions, dropping 167 million pounds of fire retardant on the western United States.

# 49th hands last major U.S. detention facility to Iraq

By 1st Lt. William Marquez  
49th Military Police Brigade

In Baghdad, Iraq, another milestone in the partnership between the U.S. forces and the government of Iraq was reached with the transfer of control of Cropper Theater Internment Facility (TIF), which had been the last major U.S.-operated detention facility in Iraq.

In a July 15 ceremony at Cropper, which is now named Karkh Prison, more than 1,600 detainees and a facility with nearly \$48 million in new infrastructure were transferred to Iraqi officials.

"Our prisons of Iraq need to rise to the standards of American prisons," said Iraq Minister of Justice Dara Nur al-Deen. "We must train our staff to strive to prevent any misconduct or abuse against detainees. Correction and rehabilitation must be the cornerstones of the Iraqi Correctional Services."

The provost marshal general for U.S. Forces-Iraq, Maj. Gen. Nelson J. Cannon, remarked about the importance of maintaining long-term strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Justice and Iraqi Correctional Services.

"Progress takes time, teamwork and hard work. We've made steady improvement that will last," he said. "We've trained a correctional force with a modern, functional, well-built facility that will last for years to come."

A significant amount of this progress was accomplished during the final phase of the Cropper TIF transfer, while the TIF was controlled by the 49th Military Police Brigade Tactical Command Post, led by 49th Deputy Commander Col. Grace Edinboro. Although preparing the TIF for transfer was of great importance, Edinboro said her primary mission was to provide proper care for detainees.

"Our conduct of detainee operations had to be absolutely above board," she said. "This began with very good training of Soldiers working in the TIF and the continual reinforcement of well-understood rules. Leaders were continually in the facility monitoring what was going on."

"Every Soldier knew their job was to provide care, custody and control of detainees with dignity and respect," she continued. "They did this, even when dealing with unruly detainees. They set a great example for the Iraqi correctional officers working alongside them."



Maj. Gen. Nelson J. Cannon, deputy commanding general for detainee operations for U.S. Forces-Iraq, presents Iraqi officials with a ceremonial key to Karkh Prison, which until recently was known as Cropper Theater Internment Facility, on July 15.

The training of Iraqi correctional officers was also essential to a successful transfer, and the 49th expanded training of Iraqi officers once it took over in April.

The completion of infrastructure projects was also important to the TIF transfer. The 49th increased the physical security of the compound, which houses people who have been linked to al-Qaeda and former members of Saddam Hussein's regime, and built a new entry control point.

"It was an honor to help lead this mission," Edinboro said. "The 49th Tactical Command Post had the detention operations mission for U.S. Forces-Iraq for a short time, but we accomplished a tremendous amount."

"We are proud to have been the last brigade-sized element to command detention operations in Iraq, successfully finishing all the hard work, preparation and sacrifice of the many brigades that came before us."

## Three CA employers earn DoD Freedom Awards

By Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Three California employers will receive the 2010 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest recognition given to employers for their outstanding support of employees who serve in the National Guard or Reserve.

The Irvine Police Department, Bill Bragg Plumbing of San Francisco and Intuit of Mountain View, Calif., were among 15 honorees nationwide.

"Their superior and unselfish initiatives to support their Guard and Reserve employees make them indispensable partners in the defense efforts of this country," said James G. Rebholz, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) national chairman. "We are truly grateful for their unwavering support."

Almost 2,500 Guard and Reserve members or their family members nominated employers for exceptional support, which included providing full salary, continuation of benefits, care packages and even

family support to employees fulfilling their military obligations. The Freedom Awards will be presented to employers Sept. 23 in Washington, D.C.

Bill Bragg Plumbing has been providing plumbing and heating services in San Francisco, Marin and Sonoma counties since 1968. With only five employees, Bill Bragg Plumbing remains in constant contact with any deployed service member's family, offering help and support when needed. Upon a Guardsman or Reservist's deployment, the company owner steps in to fulfill the duties of the missing employee to alleviate additional stress or burden. Bill Bragg Plumbing has previously received the ESGR Above and Beyond Award.

Intuit provides business and financial management solutions for small and mid-sized businesses, banks, credit unions, consumers and accounting professionals. Named one of 100 military-friendly employers by G.I. Jobs Magazine, Intuit

offers its Guard and Reserve employees continued company bonuses during deployments. All service member employees are also eligible for the Employee Assistance Program, which provides confidential counseling. Intuit assigns each deployed service member a "military network leader" and a human resources representative to maintain contact and assist the employee and their family. The company is a past recipient of the ESGR Pro Patria Award and 18 Intuit managers have received the ESGR Seven Seals Award.

The Irvine Police Department sent care packages and newsletters to deployed employees and assisted families at home, including moving a deployed member's family. The department has a Veterans Preference Hiring Program and actively recruits service members at veterans job fairs. The Irvine Police Department has earned numerous ESGR awards, including the Pro Patria Award, Seven Seals Awards and several Patriot Awards.





**ABOVE:** Task Force Sierra Commander Col. Nate Reddicks walks with Border Patrol Agents Erik Stephany and J. Zimmerman in the San Ysidro Mountains in early August in preparation for the deployment of 260 California National Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border. Reddicks and the agents were scouting sites where Guard members could assist Border Patrol agents.

## CNG to support border security operations

**By Sgt. Jon Guibord, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs;  
and Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo, Task Force Sierra Public Affairs**

California National Guard leadership has begun coordinating with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and scouting locations to make best use of 260 CNG members who will deploy to the U.S.-Mexico border this fall.

President Barack Obama announced a plan in May to deploy 1,200 National Guard members to the Southwest border. In response, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger ordered approximately 260 California National Guard service members to active duty July 16.

Within two weeks of the order, Soldiers and Airmen began training at Camp Roberts, Calif., to contribute to Task Force Sierra, which will enhance border security in support of the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"It is a given that border security is important," said Col. Nate Reddicks, commander of Task Force Sierra. "It is of major concern, whether viewed from a state or federal perspective."

The deployment of National Guard troops is part of a multi-layered effort targeting illicit networks trafficking in people, drugs, illegal weapons and money, National Guard officials said. Obama said the plan was shaped last year. He called immigration "inherently the job of the federal government" and said sending Guard troops would be a basic step in securing the border.

"The California National Guard was asked by the gover-

nor, after much coordination with the national command authority, to once again deploy to the Southwest border," Reddicks said. "The California National Guard is leaning forward to ensure we provide 100 percent support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection as we did during Operation Jump Start from 2006 to 2008."

CNG Soldiers and Airmen will deploy to strategically selected areas along California's border with Mexico in a direct-support role. Troops will perform a variety of duties, including entry identification and criminal analysis. Entry identification teams (EIT) provide additional eyes and ears for Border Patrol, watching from remote sites and reporting suspicious activity to patrolling agents.

"Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen come from very diverse backgrounds in their civilian lives," Reddicks said. "That, coupled with numerous years of specialized training for military service and the specific mission training we are providing, ensure the California National Guard will provide mission-ready troops who bring a professional, disciplined perspective to the table as we support U.S. Customs and Border Protection."

Compared to previous years, this year's border mission will remain significantly smaller in scale, according to leadership. Skill sets will be limited to EITs and a handful of criminal analysts supporting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The operational force Task Force Sierra is scheduled for a yearlong mission. Its members

will begin supporting Customs and Border Protection by Oct. 1.

CNG leaders have already teamed with Border Patrol agents to review potential scope sites and mission-essential locations throughout San Diego County and other parts of California.

"This gives me a firsthand account of the sites so I know what kinds of risks the troops will be facing and what kinds of impacts we will have in supporting Border Patrol," said Capt. Daniel Fox, field operations company commander for Task Force Sierra, while viewing potential EIT sites in the San Ysidro Mountains.

The California National Guard was able to spring quickly into action for this mission because it has plans in place for many statewide contingencies.

"This is a great example of what our civil support planners do," said Col. Mathew Beevers, director of plans and operations for Joint Force Headquarters. "They have developed comprehensive plans to effectively meet a range of potential missions, including the ongoing Southwest border mission."

In order to quickly staff the mission with qualified volunteers, interested service members were directed to an easy-to-use public website where they could fill out an intuitive application.

"We utilized web-based technology to publicize the Southwest border mission as well as to screen, track and hire the best from more than 2,000 applicants for the 250 available positions," Beevers said.

# Troops prepare for Task Force Sierra deployment

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo  
Task Force Sierra Public Affairs

Waves of California National Guard troops descended upon Camp Roberts, Calif., in late July to prepare for the upcoming Southwest border mission and prove they are qualified and ready to participate in the yearlong Task Force Sierra effort.

Weeks of paperwork processing, mandatory briefings, medical reviews, in-field Warrior Tasks and M9 pistol tests singled out the fittest of the all-volunteer force during a month-long training ramp-up. Three waves of Soldiers and Airmen were processed, bringing in more than 300 troops for about 260 slots, ensuring a backup reserve pool remains if needed.

The briefing portion of the process, which troops affectionately referred to as “death by PowerPoint,” spanned several days, teaching service members the ins and outs of the border mission as well as meeting specific command training requirements.

Once out of the briefings and into the classrooms, troops dedicated their days to honing their warrior skills to prepare for anything the border mission could bring. Instructors with Task Force Warrior — a crew of specialty-trained experts in weapons, vehicles and infantry tactics — offered basic or refresher courses as well as advanced training for those who needed it.

“I’m excited and ready for the mission to get going,” said Spc. Chris Eade, a forward observer with the San Diego-based Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, during a break on an M9 pistol range. “This is the first time I’ve shot a 9-milimeter pistol. I liked that we got to fire at pop-up targets and then qualify on silhouettes and also fire with a [gas] mask on. For close-range firing, it’s a great weapon, but normally for my [job], I prefer the rifle over the pistol.”

Troops also conducted land navigation, vehicle roll-over training, Combat Life Saver courses and night-driving instruction with civilian vehicles similar to those they will use on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Air Guard troops trained along with their Army Guard counterparts throughout the ramp-up mission at Camp Roberts. Air Force Staff Sgt. Richard Badu, a personnel specialist with the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing out of March Air Reserve Base, Calif., said he is excited for his



**ABOVE:** Staff Sgt. Larry Milam, a Task Force Warrior instructor, takes Task Force Sierra troops for a spin in the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, or HEAT, during qualification training on Camp Roberts, Calif., in July. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Spc. Cesar Garcia of the San Diego-based 670th Military Police Company exits the HEAT following a training session that included a full 360-degree turn. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Soldiers qualifying with the M9 pistol walk toward their targets on Camp Roberts to see how well they fired after four hours of instruction from members of Task Force Warrior.

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA INIGO

first homeland security mission.

“It feels as if you’re protecting your home,” said Badu, who is originally from San Diego. “I’ve been overseas most of my career. This is the first time I’m working in California, and it really feels different to do a homeland mission.”

Leadership said all the initial training and qualifications needed to support Customs and Border Patrol for the upcoming mission were going smoothly.

“The first wave went well because of the cooperation between the services — the Army and the Air Force — and because Camp Roberts and Task Force Warrior opened their doors and helped us establish this task force,” said Lt. Col. Walter L. Goodwater, Task Force Sierra deputy commander.

Air Force Col. Nate Reddicks, Task Force Sierra commander, said California Army National Guard and Air Guard troops have worked together successfully on multiple missions in the past.

“The two California components worked jointly right after the events of 9/11 during the airport security mission; [during] the previous border mission, Operation Jump Start from 2006 to 2008; during Hurricane Katrina’s relief effort; and during the California wildfires of 2008.

“I expect that the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard will once again perform exceptionally well,” Reddicks said after the initial wave of troops completed their first week of training at Camp Roberts. “The Soldiers and Airmen have continued to work long, hard days through long hours. They understand the requirements and they are preparing themselves for the mission.”

The approximately 260 California National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who will support Task Force Sierra are part of a 1,200-member call-up of troops by President Barack Obama. The 1,200 Guard members will begin supporting U.S. Customs and Border Protection in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas by Oct. 1.

“This is a great opportunity for [Guard members] to support the state [in addition to] deploying around the world for different missions,” said Army Staff Sgt. Brooke Parras, who participated in Operation Jump Start.

Spc. Steven Thompson, a first-time border mission Soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, out of Santa Ana, Calif., agreed with Parras, adding “This mission helps to beat the stereotypes of what the military is all about.”





**ABOVE:** Spc. Marco Alamillo, a medical logistics specialist with the 224th Sustainment Brigade and a native of Redlands, Calif., applies a guillotine choke to an opponent during Fight Night, a mixed martial arts event held July 4 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. **LEFT:** Spc. Christopher Stafford, an intelligence analyst with the 224th and a native of Buena Park, Calif., punches an opponent during Fight Night.

**Photos by 2nd Lt. Nathan Lavy**



**Korean War veterans Ghun Soon Ko (left), James K. Yi and Yong Sup** ceremony in Los Angeles to mark the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. The 40th ID Infantry Division proudly wear the Korean Presidential Unit Citation for their service. “The bond between the division and Korean veterans, said 40th ID commander, is still strong.”

**Photo by Laura Herzog**



**LEFT:** Warrant Officer I Marty O’Clair, visual information branch chief for Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, and his son, Mason, enjoy JFHQ Family Day at Hagan Park in Rancho Cordova, Calif., on July 11. **BELOW:** A variety of activities, inflatables and military vehicles were on-hand for families to enjoy.

**Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Flagg**



**ABOVE:** Members of the 144th Fighter Wing prepare to launch an F-16C Fighting Falcon during an Operational Readiness Inspection at the wing’s base in Fresno, Calif., from June 4-7. **RIGHT:** An F-16C crew chief reviews an aircraft maintenance log during the inspection.

**Photos by Tech. Sgt. Robin D. Meredith**  
For more on the Operational Readiness Inspection, see page 4



# At a Glance



Lee sing the Korean national anthem during a training of the Korean War. Members of the 40th Infantry Division were honored for their service in the war, and "the bond is strong." Gen. Scott Johnson, Commander of the 40th Infantry Division, said.



Sgt. Wesley Gwisdala, left, and Capt. Michael Franklin show off their muscles with children from The Little Gym of Folsom, Calif., on July 9 during the gym's Hero Week. After leading children ages 5 to 10 in push-ups, flutter kicks and jumping jacks, the Soldiers spoke about the Army National Guard and the importance of nutrition, fitness, education and listening to one's parents.

Photo by Angela Gregory



The 40th Infantry Division Band performs before the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's change of command ceremony June 30 at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Photo by Sgt. David Alvarado



A photographer aboard an Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft in Hawaii homes in on an F-16C Fighting Falcon from the 194th Fighter Squadron, California Air National Guard, during the biennial Rim of the Pacific Exercise. The training included 14 countries and stressed the importance of interoperability between partner nations.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cohen Young

# City of Exeter honors Soldier who died saving others

By Reggie Ellis  
The Foothills Sun-Gazette

Sgt. Orlando Meza's heroic act of saving two friends from drowning in a river is forever etched in their minds. And after a July 10 ceremony, it has been forever etched into the history of his hometown.

Exeter, Calif., dedicated a plaque in Meza's honor at Daniel Unger Memorial Park last month. The plaque, which is fixed to a small stone wall next to Unger's plaque, reads in part, "Orlando gave his life saving his two friends from the raging waters of Chiquito Creek. There are those that rise above all others and thus create a void that can not be filled."

Meza died May 17, 2009, while saving two friends from whitewater rapids in Madera County. The 21-year-old Soldier and two friends had gone to Madera County to fish. Later that day, they went to Chiquito Creek, where the whitewater rapids made for good photo opportunities. Meza's friends Deryk Garrett and Lucas Padilla went to stand on the edge of the creek, and one of them lost their footing and fell in. The other jumped in to help his friend. Meza, who was holding the camera, jumped in after them.

An Iraq War veteran in the California Army National Guard, Meza was able to navigate the current long enough to help both friends out of the water. Unfortunately, he did not have enough strength left to save himself.

"Today we gather not only to thank Sergeant Meza for his service to country and support of freedom, but also for his love and ultimate sacrifice of his fellow man," Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Allwardt said.



**ABOVE: Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, attend a plaque dedication ceremony honoring Sgt. Orlando Meza at Daniel Unger Memorial Park in Exeter, Calif. Meza died saving two friends from whitewater rapids in Madera County. RIGHT: The plaque in remembrance of Meza.**



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. KEVIN CORCORAN

Both Garrett and Padilla were in attendance at the dedication. Garrett said he would probably use the park as a place to come and remember Meza for the kind of person he was and what he did.

"He was always true to his word," Garrett said. "And if you needed him, he was always there."

Meza had just completed sergeant's training after returning home from Iraq. It was his extensive training in the National Guard that helped him survive combat in

saved two lives without thinking about his own. That speaks volumes about the kind of person he was."

Spc. Adolfo Bejarano was among 18 National Guardsmen in attendance for the ceremony who served in Company A with Meza. Bejarano said he and Meza joined the National Guard a month apart and were both gunners for convoy security details in different platoons.

"He was Mr. Infantry," Bejarano said. "He was like the go-to guy. If you asked him to do something, you knew it would get done and it would be done right the first time."

Bejarano said Meza loved being in the military, was always smiling and joking, but took his job very seriously.

"He will always be missed and none of us will forget him," Bejarano said.

Meza is the second California National Guard Soldier to be honored with a plaque at the park. Spc. Daniel Unger, of 1st Battalion, 185th Armored Regiment, was killed May 24, 2004, when a mortar shell exploded near him about 25 miles south of Baghdad.

Unger, 19, was assigned to guard a group of Iraqi contractors doing plumbing and electrical work. The Iraqi civilians were afraid and bewildered so Unger ran to them and shoved them toward a bunker. Both civilians made it safely into the bunker but Unger did not.

Unger was the first California National Guardsman killed in combat in Iraq. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device, Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman Badge.

# Army's CSM visits 49th MPs in Iraq

By Spc. Eddie Siguenza  
49th Military Police Brigade

Close to 50 enlisted Soldiers in the 49th Military Police Brigade shared a rare opportunity with one of the Army's elite figures June 26 on Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston, the top enlisted leader in the U.S. Army, visited the California Army National Guard troops during a Middle East tour to meet Soldiers and hear their ideas for improving the Army.

"Preston is a true Soldier's Soldier," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles, the top enlisted leader for the 49th. "He's doing what a great command sergeant major does: visit the Soldiers who make it all happen."

For almost two hours, Preston briefed 49th MP Soldiers on upcoming events and answered questions.

"I wish you all the greatest success when you get back home," Preston said to the troops, who return to California this month. "Just remember to [not] get complacent. Stay focused on your current mission. It's not over until it's over. I've seen a lot of units that kind of let their

guard down in the past."

He encouraged all Soldiers to go online and complete the Global Assessment Tool, a survey that discusses four components of a Soldier's life: emotional, social, spiritual and family. He also touched on the subject of deployments, noting that the 12- to 15-month mobilization period that is now typical "may change in the near future."

"Very simply, this was a chance for junior Soldiers to have face-to-face questions and answers not just at an organizational level, but at a much larger scale and straight from the man himself," Liles said. "For the senior Noncommissioned Officer Corps, it's all about mentorship and professional development."

Preston ended his meeting by awarding coins to several Soldiers for their continuous efforts during this deployment. Additionally two Soldiers — Farrell Mapp and David Baynes — were promoted to sergeant that day, with Preston affixing their new E-5 stripes.

"It's an honor to become a sergeant, and a bigger honor to have the Army command sergeant major pin my rank," Baynes said.



**ABOVE: Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston speaks with Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade during a visit to Camp Liberty, Iraq, on June 26. RIGHT: Preston promotes 49th MP Farrell Mapp to the rank of sergeant.**



PHOTOS BY SGT. KENNETH BINCE

# Our Soldiers and Airmen are our No. 1 priority



**William Clark Jr.**  
**Command Sergeant Major**  
**California National Guard**

Execution of the duties and responsibilities of a noncommissioned officer (NCO) is critical to the good order and discipline of every unit. Senior NCOs have a crucial role to play as part of a command team at the state, division, brigade and wing level. The NCO is responsible for ensuring the Soldiers and Airmen of the organization are trained and prepared for federal and state mobilizations. We must also ensure our service members and families are aware of state and federal benefits they have earned while deployed. Our senior NCOs must lead from the front and take responsibility for the well-being of every member of their organization.

As part of the command team, we are advisers to the commander on all issues related to our service members. During the past eight years of conflict, our role has continued to be crucial to ensuring that command teams stay connected to our service members while at home, during deployments and after deployments.

Our Soldiers and Airmen have earned federal education benefits such as those included in the Post-9/11 G.I.-Bill. This year, for the first time, the California Military Department has augmented education benefits with the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program, or EAAP. It is important that this benefit information is communicated to every Soldier. Communication is both our strength and weakness, yet we always strive to keep you and your families informed.

Military and civilian education is the foundation of professional

development and self-improvement. Both are equally important and contribute to the total Soldier and a successful military career.

Another responsibility for our NCO-leaders is to care for service members who are returning from mobilizations. Soldiers and Airmen with known illnesses or injuries cannot leave the demobilization site or the wing without proper documentation and/or medical care. Line of Duty reports need to be completed and submitted in a timely manner through proper channels for approval. Upon the service member's return to their home station, he or she must fill out a DD Form 2796 (Post Deployment Health Assessment form) and have their medical representative review it. Another critical step to documenting the service member's health is the DD Form 2900 (Post Deployment Health Re-Assessment), which is completed within 90 days after returning from deployment.

Recognition of our service members is very important and rewarding to both the NCO-leader and the Soldier or Airman. Presenting awards and recognition for exemplary performance of duties is simply the right thing to do. Guard members have answered their nation's call by serving in the military during a time of war. Their families have supported our Soldiers and Airmen, and I personally appreciate their efforts.

Our Senior NCOs are appreciated and admired by many military forces throughout the world. Soldiers, Airmen and their families will continue to be the No. 1 priority of every senior NCO.

## CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED LEADERSHIP



**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**Michael H. Winstead**  
**Army National Guard**



**Chief Master Sgt.**  
**Michael S. Koslow**  
**Air National Guard**



**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**Jose J. Gomez**  
 Joint Staff



**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**David E. McFerrin**  
 40th Combat Aviation Brigade



**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**Andres H. Roman**  
 40th Infantry Division



**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**Robert D. Liles**  
 49th Military Police Brigade



**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**Harold E. London**  
 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team



**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**Burdette S. Shields**  
 100th Troop Command



**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**Randall J. Cady**  
 115th Regional Support Group



**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**Vickie M. Dunlap**  
 224th Sustainment Brigade



**Chief Master Sgt.**  
**Kristina P. Keck**  
 129th Rescue Wing



**Chief Master Sgt.**  
**Michael W. McNiff**  
 144th Fighter Wing



**Chief Master Sgt.**  
**Richard R. Onsgard**  
 146th Airlift Wing



**Chief Master Sgt.**  
**Debra L. Fordyce**  
 162nd Combat Comm. Group



**Chief Master Sgt.**  
**Edwin B. Clarke**  
 163rd Reconnaissance Wing

# Sunburst Academy wins national award

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The Sunburst Youth ChalleNGe Academy in Los Alamitos, Calif., was named the most progressive Youth ChalleNGe academy nationwide by its peers in 2010, the first year it was eligible for an award. It was presented June 24 in San Diego during the national Youth ChalleNGe Program workshop.

Sunburst, the newest of two California academies, was recognized for its use of technology and for catapulting its cadets successfully into the future. There are 32 Youth ChalleNGe academies nationwide.

Retired Col. James L. Gabrielli, director of California National Guard Youth Programs, said during a phone interview that he is very proud of California's shining example.

"I'm thrilled that the program in 2009, its first year eligible to receive an award, has done so," he said. "It's almost unprecedented for a new program to receive such an important award so early on."

Sunburst has been up-and-running for two years, and Gabrielli said receiving the honor will only make the academy work harder. He noted that both Sunburst and California's other academy — Grizzly Youth ChalleNGe Academy in San Luis Obispo — have received national recognition for their efforts.

"As a matter of fact, California has a long history of success," he said. "Between the Grizzly and the Sunburst [Youth Academies], we've received awards six out of the last eight years."



PHOTOS BY ROBERT KARLESKINT

**ABOVE:** A Sunburst Youth ChalleNGe Academy graduate shows her pride and happiness during a June 11 graduation ceremony in Los Alamitos, Calif. Sunburst provides a live-in, military-style school to help troubled students earn high school credits while developing leadership skills and self-esteem. **LEFT:** Rep. Grace Napolitano and Brig. Gen. Lawrence A. Haskins, assistant adjutant general of the California National Guard, congratulate cadets during a Sunburst Youth ChalleNGe Academy graduation ceremony June 11 in Los Alamitos, Calif.

The academy is a 5 ½-month-long, residential, military-style school structured to promote an academic environment in which students earn high school credits and also develop leadership, cooperation and academic skills, all while improving self-esteem, pride and confidence.

# 'CSI' actor shares ideas with Youth ChalleNGe leaders

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

When actor Hill Harper of "CSI: NY" was a teenager, a pivotal moment crossed his young life, after which he saw dreams and goals not as end-points but as launching pads to bigger and better things. Speaking to a crowd of like-minded leaders of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program during the program's annual workshop in San Diego on June 24, Harper recalled that crucial moment, when it seemed his world had fallen apart, but really it was just coming together.

He recounted for the crowd — which is known for turning around at-risk youths through live-in, military-style school programs across the United States — that after an especially successful high school football game, Hill was expecting a call offering him a full ride playing Pac-10 football for the University of California, Berkeley.

His dad received the call, handing it off to the young Harper, saying "Son, here's the phone." Harper prepared himself with the idea of playing as a Cal Bear. However, what the coach told him sank his heart to his feet: The coaches couldn't unanimously bring him on board with a scholarship because some of them thought he wasn't big enough. Standing at 5 feet 7 inches, the young athlete with a slight build felt the crushing weight of rejection make him feel even smaller.

Later, though, Harper received another call, which he said he would have never taken had his first choice not fallen through. It was Brown University offering him what Berkeley would not — a full scholarship, saying "We think you're big enough to play Ivy League football." He summed up the experience by saying, "Sometimes rejection is God's protection."

Thus the young athlete-turned-scholar began a different route, motivated by university mentors and steeped in the arts. Harper graduated magna cum laude from Brown with a Bachelor of Arts degree and continued on to graduate cum laude from Harvard Law School, as well as with a master's in public administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

After obtaining his degrees, Harper decided to broach the acting world with the same idea of not letting goals and dreams take him to end-points, but to see how far and how much more he could dream.

In June, between filming "CSI" and a movie in Atlanta, Harper took some personal time to fly to the San Diego workshop and speak with key leaders of the Youth ChalleNGe Program because they share a common goal: to help the future of America by affecting its youth.

Harper and the largely older crowd of Youth ChalleNGe officials seemed to initially regard each other tentatively. Harper wasn't necessarily an advocate of the Youth ChalleNGe Program, but he supported its efforts to set young people straight; and the Youth ChalleNGe leaders may not have been on board with how Harper relates to youths, but they liked that he recognized and supported mentoring and education.

By the end of the three-hour event, the two had made fans of each other. Both realized they are in the business of motivating youths to be the best they can, often encouraging them to rise above their current paths.

Harper discussed many of his personal thoughts on how to relate to the youth of America, using a language that military members understand: acronyms. He said everyone could better relate to youths by challenging their concept of FEAR (False Evidence Appearing Real) and uplifting their self-esteem by telling them that they are FINE (Fantastic, Interesting, Necessary and Exceptional).

In his motivational books, "Letters to a Young Brother" and "Letters to a Young Sister," both of which were autographed and given to workshop participants, Harper said teachers need to approach youths just like the entertainment business does. They need to listen to what the kids are listening to, be up on the same social media sites as their students, speak in a language they can understand, and then complement these with more influential conversations and motivational messages that can change lives.



**Actor Hill Harper of "CSI: NY" pauses for a photo after speaking with members of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program during a workshop in San Diego on June 24. Harper suggested mentors and teachers should try to connect with students on their level through today's culture. Youth ChalleNGe academies nationwide provide a live-in, military-style school for students who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out.**

He grilled the crowd about lyrics by musicians Kanye West and Bow Wow; he asked which audience members are actively Facebooking and tweeting; and then he turned a finger on himself, saying show business can act as a direct competitor to those who are trying to empower youths.

"So many young people are struggling," Harper said. "The entertainment business — it can disintegrate self-esteem in them more than any other business."

This is why, according to Harper, those in direct contact with youths need to use entertainment and its messages to grab teens' attention and then guide them onto the correct path by using that tool — the "bling" of the industry.

"Certainly many of the things Hill Harper said resonated with the beliefs I already have," said Gregg Ash, who works with the Youth ChalleNGe Program in Illinois. "However, one thing he did say was to push myself out of my comfort zone and really try to connect with students on their level. I'm going to go back and put that to the test."

# LT. COL. CHARLES C. LYDA DIES AT 57

Lt. Col. Charles Clinton Lyda, 57, died of cancer June 12, 2010, in Carmichael, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Carol Schick-Lyda, mother, Charmian Marie Lyda, sister, Laramie Craft, and brother, Grady Lyda.



Charles Lyda was born July 23, 1952, in San Diego. In 1983 he enlisted as part of the California National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 132nd Engineer Battalion. He attended Basic and Advanced Individual Training from September to December of that year and became a combat engineer. He was advanced to private first class in March 1984 and promoted to specialist five in August of the same year. Spc. Lyda was honorably discharged on Oct. 25, 1984, and appointed as a second lieutenant on Oct. 26, 1984.

In February 1985, Lyda was transferred to Detachment 1, Company A, 132nd Engineer Battalion, as platoon leader. On Jan. 29, 1988, he was promoted to first lieutenant. In November 1992, Lyda was transferred to Company C, 132nd Engineer Battalion, and in December 1992 he was promoted to captain. In April 1997, Lyda was transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 132nd Engineer Battalion, and in April 2001 he was promoted to major.

On July 1, 2001, Lyda was reassigned to the Camp Roberts Maneuver Training Center, where he served as the engineer officer. From April 2005 until May 2006, Lyda served as the force integration readiness officer for Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento.

On May 11, 2006, Lyda was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom. In May 2007 he was released from active duty and assigned as chief of the Joint Force Headquarters Mobilization and Readiness Branch. On Jan. 24, 2008, Lyda was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

Lyda's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (fourth award), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Mobilization Device), National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and California Drill Attendance Ribbon (fifth award).

Lyda was an Olympic competitor who also served as the head coach and assistant officer in charge for the Army's World Class Athlete Program biathlon team from 1995 to 2002.

Lyda was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Donations can be made in his name to Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, or to the American River Conservancy, P.O. Box 562, Coloma, CA 95613.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER



Many of the late Maj. Gen. W.A. Mason Sr.'s California National Guard mementos were recently donated to the California State Military Museum by Mason's granddaughter Janet Wertch Thor. Mason served the CNG during World War I, fighting in the Champagne-Marne Offensive, the St. Mihiel Offensive and the Battle of the Argonne Forest.

## Through the eyes of a Guardsman

Military museum receives WWI Soldier's personal effects

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

The story of the California National Guard is preserved in many ways. From the memorials and monuments dedicated to veterans, to the armories and installations, through the lineage and honors of the units themselves. Most importantly, however, the story is told through the Soldiers and their personal perspectives.

The California State Military Museum was fortunate to recently receive the personal effects and archive papers of a true patriot of the California National Guard, Maj. Gen. Wallace A. Mason Sr. Mason's granddaughter Janet Wertch Thor donated the late general's journals, pictures and other artifacts so future generations can learn from the Soldier's experiences.

"All of these things need to be where people

can see it," Thor said. "My grandfather was a great example of integrity, and I know this is what he would have wanted."

Mason had a storied career as a Soldier. As a captain with 2nd Battalion, 117th Engineers, 42nd Division, he went to the Mexican-American border during the crisis that arose when Pancho Villa attacked U.S. Forces on American soil.

Shortly thereafter Mason deployed to fight in World War I. He fought with distinction in numerous significant battles, such as the Champagne-Marne Offensive, in which the Germans attacked with great force and came close to breaking the Allied lines; the St. Mihiel Offensive, which was one of the first solo U.S. offensives in World War I; and the Battle of the Argonne Forest, which

involved the entire western front engaging the enemy. He was awarded a Meritorious Service Citation and Purple Heart for his actions during the Great War.

From 1924 to 1930, Mason commanded the 184th Infantry Battalion. In 1927 he led the 184th to Folsom Prison to put down a riot.

He took command of the 79th Brigade in 1930 and went on to command the 40th Infantry Division in 1937. He retired a year later.

Mason was a true patriot and tried repeatedly to come out of retirement at the start of World War II. Although he was unable to come back to the service, he dedicated the rest of his life to veterans issues with the same zeal he showed when he served.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JANET WERTCH THOR



W.A. Mason Sr., then a captain in the California National Guard, shortly after arriving in France during World War I.

### Armed Forces Fact

On July 1, 1916, the opening day of the Battle of the Somme, 58,000 British Soldiers were killed or wounded — more than the entire number of active U.S. Army members at the time.

### Perspective

"This is not peace. It is an armistice for 20 years."  
— French Marshall Ferdinand Foch, supreme Allied commander during World War I, upon seeing the final draft of the Treaty of Versailles.

### By the Numbers

# 16.5 million

The total number of deaths caused by World War I, including about 9.7 million military personnel and 6.8 million civilians. The U.S. military lost 116,708 service members.

# State Assembly luncheon honors veterans

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler  
144th Fighter Wing

Veterans from throughout the Golden State were honored by their state legislators June 23 during the California State Assembly's third annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon. The event, which continues to grow in size and support, brought together veterans who served during World War II up through the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"This year we focused on veterans from the Iraq and Afghan wars," said Assemblyman Paul Cook, who co-hosted the luncheon with Assemblywoman Mary Salas. "We must continue to recognize all veterans, regardless of when they served, for the sacrifices they've made to ensure that we continue to enjoy our freedom and the values that this nation stands for."

Cook, who is chairman of the State Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs, served as an infantry officer and retired as a colonel after 26 years in the Marine Corps. His honors include a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

Through the sea of battle-campaign-pinned Veterans of Foreign Wars hats in the audience, one could see a living history of this nation as speakers from different eras shared stories of the brave men and women who left their families and homes to fight tyranny wherever it was found.

"When I have the distinct pleasure of being around veterans and sharing in their stories, I learn from them," said Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard. "Veterans like Vi Cowden, who served in the United States Air Force Air Transport Command during World War II, are truly this nation's historical treasures. Ms. Cowden, like many of you here today, was a pioneer that blazed a path for me and for the men and women of the California National Guard."

More than an opportunity to recognize and honor veterans,



Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, thanks Vi Cowden for her military service. During World War II, Cowden was a member of the trailblazing Women Airforce Service Pilots program.

the luncheon also served as a launching pad to reach out and provide help and encouragement to veterans.

"Recognizing the brave men and women who bravely serve

our country to protect our American freedoms is not only the right thing to do but is indeed our duty as citizens," said Salas, vice-chairwoman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs. "We are eternally grateful for their sacrifices and service."

# JAG interns consider military careers

By Tiffany Apel and Samantha Hillman  
CNG Judge Advocate General Interns

On May 24, a group of 10 law students embarked on a 10-week journey at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos (JFTB). Our mission: To explore our interest in a military career.

A typical day in the JFTB Office of the Judge Advocate General, or JAG, begins with a briefing of the day's activities. Such activities include researching and debating legal issues, drafting motions and observing hearings. Capt. Dwight Stirling, the full-time judge advocate for the 40th Infantry Division, also serves as the internship director, and he structures the internship as a seminar in military law.

Interns work hand-in-hand with Stirling on each legal issue the JAG Office encounters. For example, interns contributed to Stirling's recent motions on sexual assault cases and his memorandum on JFTB's liability in regards to its civilian interactions. Furthermore, interns have explored the rights of detainees in Guantanamo Bay and the controversy surrounding former Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan Gen. Stanley McChrystal's interview with Rolling Stone magazine. Also, because Stirling thinks law schools' required reading of about 3,000 pages a semester is insufficient, each intern is required to read and report on two military-related books.

Although each day of the JAG internship was replete with academic legal work, no military experience would be complete without push-ups and machine guns. At JFTB, the interns regularly participate in physical fitness training and fire M-16 rifles in JFTB's simulation room. Interns are further exposed to military life through visits to various departments on base, like the public affairs office, the airfield and the office of Brig. Gen. Keith Jones, commander of the training base. Representatives from each of the staffs at JFTB also visit the JAG office to brief interns on their department's role in the Guard. In addition interns visited a federal district court and the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, where we witnessed a gang-related murder trial and a sentencing hearing for a drug lord.

The JAG internship program comprises 10 interns from law schools throughout southern California. The interns are arranged as a military squad, with a leadership team that rotates every week. This structure affords each intern the opportunity to be squad leader, supervise the squad and delegate tasks to two team leaders. The team leaders then delegate assignments to members of their teams.

"One of the most important things to impart to young people is leadership,"



Stirling said. "As those of us in the military know, there is no better way to learn leadership than to actually have to lead in pressure-filled situations."

Though the internship program seems well-established because of its efficiency and smooth operation, the program has only been in existence two years. Stirling began the program with four law students, two of whom have recently applied to be judge advocates for the California National Guard. Due to increasing interest, Stirling expanded the program from four people to 10, taking on stu-

dents who showed a genuine desire to contribute to public service.

"I want people who are seriously examining whether they want to do this for a living," he said, "but I take great pains not to put any pressure on them with regard to their joining the military after their completion of law school."

The program will continue with new interns during the fall and spring semesters of the next academic year. For more information, contact Stirling at 562-795-2689 or [dwight.stirling@us.army.mil](mailto:dwight.stirling@us.army.mil).

# Teen Adventure Camp gives Guard teens confidence, memories

By Taylor Johnson  
CNG Teen Adventure Camp Participant

More than 170 teens left home the morning of Friday, June 25, and by dinner we had met at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., for the eighth annual California National Guard Teen Adventure Camp.

The teens were greeted by adult volunteers, and everyone settled into their barracks. Then began team-building. Teens were split into four platoons: two from southern California and one each from northern and central California. After a barbecue dinner at the Officer's Club, everyone walked back to the barracks to prepare for the next day.

Camp activities began Saturday with two posts in Camp SLO: the rock and the high ropes course. Teens tried climbing multiple rock walls at different difficulties with an adult belayer and a teen assistant belayer. Belaying is a technique that uses a friction brake so a partner on the ground can stop a climber's fall with minimal effort. Next, on the high ropes course, the teens commando-crawled, tightroped, jumped across gaps, climbed up a cargo net and then zip-lined down from 34 feet off the ground. A teen partner on the ground ensured safety by communicating when to attach and detach crab-claws to the safety wire above.

"My favorite part of camp was probably the high ropes course because it made me feel like I can conquer anything I put my mind to," camper Thomas Kellam posted on Facebook after he returned home.

The second half of the day was spent at the Leadership Reaction Course, or LRC. In groups of six or seven, we were given war-like scenarios and materials that, with teamwork and creative problem-solving, could produce a solution. It encouraged teens to think, react, work together and solve a problem in a predetermined period of time. With mental and physical obstacles, the LRC presented a challenging, fun and unique learning experience.

Sunday's first activity was a camp favorite. Teens and adults played paintball in a mock village consisting of 9 one-room houses, a telephone booth and a gazebo. Teams of about 10 players formulated their strategies, which were usually, "Just don't get hit!" Players ran around with limited ammunition and a simple goal: Shoot before you're shot.

After paintball, teens went to the Engagement Skills Trainer, or EST 2000. This pro-

vided a safer alternative to the gun range with unlimited ammunition and combat simulations that cannot be easily recreated on a range. A short hike from the EST 2000 is a natural 50-foot rock wall where some teens and volunteers practiced rappelling, a method of descending a cliff using friction to control your speed.

On Monday the camp awoke early to move out to Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., home to the 14th Air Force (Air Forces Strategic) and the 30th Space Wing. Teens toured the base and learned about what the Airmen at Vandenberg do for our country. Among other tasks, they are the only U.S. service members who launch government and commercial satellites into polar orbit.

Teens were then brought to the Western Range Operations Control Center at Vandenberg, where we saw some of the logistics that go into a space launch. We also visited the fire department located on the runway; looked at two F-16C Fighting Falcon jets from the Fresno Air National Guard Base, which landed while we were at Vandenberg; and met Eddie, a 4-year-old German shepherd trained to sniff out explosives.

On Tuesday the camp got off the military bases and into the waters of the Pacific Coast. Teens and adults began the day kayaking in Morro Bay, where we observed wildlife such as otters, seals, crabs, cranes and seagulls. The rest of the day was spent in the ocean town of Cayucos.

On Wednesday the group traveled to Camp Roberts. Half of the group started at a maneuver area training equipment site, where we examined many different unloaded weapons and battle-ready vehicles. Then came the crowd pleaser: Groups of five went on rides in an armored personnel carrier! Then we tried a Humvee-roll-over simulator.

Thursday was full of laughs, goodbyes and cleaning. Teens were responsible for cleaning their barracks. Then the camp came together for an after action review, or AAR, and teens exchanged networking information, phone numbers and promises to come back next year.

Teen Adventure Camp is run by Air and Army National Guard members and is jam-packed with exciting activities. Registration information will be available in the spring from any California National Guard Base.

The California National Guard Teen Adventure Camp, held June 25 to July 1 at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., included activities such as (from top) tackling a high ropes course, trying out Camp SLO's Engagement Skills Trainer, climbing walls of several difficulty levels and playing paintball.

PHOTOS BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. BRUCE HINMAN



# ETS coming up soon? Re-enlist for a bonus

Are you an enlisted Soldier within 12 months of your Expiration of Term of Service (ETS)? Need some extra cash?

The fiscal year 2010 Selective Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) has just been published, and the re-enlistment bonus is back! If you are within 12 months of separation, you may be able to extend your enlistment now. Eligible members may receive bonuses from \$2,500 to \$5,000 while still earning drill pay.

## Requirements:

- Soldiers must be 91 to 365 days from ETS. If you have 90 days or fewer until separation, you are not eligible. Don't wait until the last minute!
- Officers and warrant officers are not eligible for a re-enlistment bonus.
- There are Time In Service requirements upon ETS expiration:
  - E-1 through E-4: less than eight years
  - E-5: less than 11 years
  - E-6 through E-7: less than 13 years
- Soldiers must be in a duty military occupational specialty-qualified (DMOSQ) position at the appropriate grade level, and the paragraph and line must not contain any excess positions.
- Soldiers who are not DMOSQ because of unit-transition are eligible as long as they become DMOSQ within 24 months.
- Soldiers cannot have any unexcused absences within the three months immediately preceding the effective date of the new contract.
- Soldiers who have failed their Army Physical Fitness Test or height-weight requirement are not eligible until they pass.
- Active Guard Reserve and military technician Soldiers are not eligible.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

## Combat Zone Tax Relief Area

Soldiers who are deployed outside the continental United States in a qualified Combat Zone Tax Relief Area can receive a lump sum, tax-free bonus (taxes will be deducted then paid back in a separate disbursement). Payment will be disbursed on the anniversary of the Soldier's ETS:

- \$5,000 for a six-year extension
- \$2,500 for a three-year extension

## 50-50 Payment

Traditional (M-Day) Soldiers or deployed Soldiers within the continental United States can receive a 50/50 payment, with the first payment on the anniversary of the original ETS:

- \$5,000 for a six-year extension
- \$2,500 for a three-year extension

## Contact Your Career Counselor

For more information on processing your extension, contact your unit or battalion career counselor. If you cannot locate your career counselor, contact the brigade career counselor:

40th Combat Aviation Brigade:	559-347-5852
40th Infantry Division or 224th Sustainment Brigade:	562-795-2426
49th Military Police Brigade or 100th Troop Command:	916-361-4392
79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team:	858-573-7058
115th Regional Support Group:	916-854-3460
1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group:	559-347-5655

# Brotherhood of the Badge sends needed gear overseas

Story by Brotherhood of the Badge

When Staff Sgt. Ken Carlson, who deployed to Iraq in 2003 with the 649th Military Police Company, wrote to his colleagues at the Fresno Police Department about the high casualty rate among police officers in Iraq, he could not have imagined the impact it would have.

"Just about every law-enforcement and fire agency in the United States has surplus and expired equipment," Fresno Police Officer Mike Harris said after reading emails from the deployed California National Guard Soldier. "This is perfectly good gear that for one reason or another is not being used."

Harris looked for surplus equipment within the Fresno Police Department then launched Brotherhood of the Badge International, a nonprofit whose mission is to stand up Iraqi and Afghan public safety forces, so that U.S. forces may stand down.

The group's first trip overseas was in response to a call for help from Gen. Waleed Khaled Abed Al-Salaam, chief of police for Diyala province, Iraq. Harris and the Brotherhood gathered 5,000 pounds of equipment, and then Harris, fellow Fresno Police Officer Brian Burry and retired Brig. Gen. Ed Munger of the California National Guard flew to Iraq with 1st Marine Division out of Camp Pendle-

ton, Calif., to deliver the gear.

In February 2008, the nonprofit made its first trip to Afghanistan. Ken Shockley of the Fresno Fire Department traveled with a Brotherhood team to Kabul, Afghanistan, to assess fire-service needs, while Fresno Police officers worked with National Guard forces to assess public safety needs and deliver police and fire equipment.

In Afghanistan the Brotherhood saw that police and fire departments lacked modern training. Brotherhood of the Badge therefore brought Afghan public safety forces to the United States to train with civil police and fire personnel in October 2009.

Brotherhood of the Badge has delivered almost 24,000 ballistic vests and thousands of sets of leather safety gear along with boots, radios, flashlights and helmets. The organization has also spent nearly \$3 million in cash donations.

Since the Brotherhood's founding, shipping of equipment has been a primary obstacle. The equipment is plentiful and easy to collect. The Brotherhood is continually seeking methods to move this lifesaving gear overseas. For more information or to assist with shipping, contact Michael Harris at [mikeharris52@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeharris52@hotmail.com) or 559-706-0503.



PHOTO BY JERRY DUNCAN

The son of the provincial governor tries on a ballistic vest provided by the Brotherhood of the Badge in Tikrit, Iraq, in May 2007.



Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment (Light), prepare to off-load a CH-47 Chinook helicopter and occupy a simulated forward operating base on Camp Roberts, Calif., during annual training in June. Photo by 1st Lt. Patrick Bagley For more on the 1-184th, see page 5.

## CNG to acquire homeland response force unit

California will be home to one of eight additional homeland response force units to be established in fiscal year 2012, Defense Department and National Guard Bureau officials said in June.

The units are regional forces that will cross state lines when needed. They are part of a restructuring of the nation's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive consequence management enterprise.

One unit will be based in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency regions. The units are expected to comprise 570 service members, and each will have a medical team, a search and extraction team, a decontamination team and robust command and control capabilities, officials said. The units are arranged so personnel will be able to drive to the site of an event within 12 hours.

## VA eases PTSD claims process

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a regulation in July intended to ease the claims process for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

The new rule relaxes the evidence requirement if a veteran claims a PTSD stressor that is linked to "fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and is consistent with the places, types and circumstances of the veteran's service," according to VA news release.

Previously, VA decision makers were required to confirm that a non-combat veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. Under the new rule, VA no longer will require substantiation of a stressor tied to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity as long as a VA psychiatrist or psychologist confirms that the experience recalled by a veteran supports a PTSD diagnosis and the veteran's symptoms are related to the stressor.

The regulation will eliminate the need to search for records to verify veterans' accounts, which VA Acting Undersecretary for Benefits Michael Walcoff said is "often a very involved and protracted process."

Dr. Robert A. Petzel, VA's undersecretary for health, said the regulation will be particularly beneficial for veterans who have had their military records damaged or destroyed, female veterans whose records don't specify they have combat experience and veterans who have experienced combat but have no record of it.

More than 400,000 veterans currently are receiving compensation benefits for PTSD.

## Sergeants major: Save the date

The Sergeants Major Association of California will hold its 43rd annual conference and banquet on Saturday, Oct. 9, on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

## Edwards to serve as CNG command chief warrant officer

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Artavia M. Edwards has been selected to serve as the command chief warrant officer for the California National Guard, succeeding Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Peterson, who has held the position since January 2003. One of her primary responsibilities will be to focus on the accession of quality individuals to fill warrant officer vacancies.

Edwards has been assigned for four years as the full-time senior legal administrator for the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, California Army National Guard. She previously served as a human resources technician. Edwards is a proven leader and outstanding role model who is fully engaged on the national level as an adviser and secretary to the National Warrant Officer Senior Advisory Council.

## DoD seeking your input on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy changes

The Defense Department is seeking service member input on the department's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" issue and recommendations for changes to the policy.

The Secretary of Defense has established a Comprehensive Review Working Group to study the issue, and the group has set up a website for service members and their families to share their thoughts.

Soldiers and Airmen may log on to the U.S. Government information system located at [www.defense.gov/dadt](http://www.defense.gov/dadt) to provide their input.

## DID YOU KNOW...

### ... there are restrictions on cell phone use in a military uniform?

Airmen and Soldiers are not authorized to walk in uniform while using a cell phone, radio or hands-free headset unless required in the performance of official duties using a government-issued device. Furthermore, the use of hands-free devices for cell phones or music equipment is not authorized for wear with any military uniform. Hands-free devices for cell phones are authorized while in uniform and operating a commercial or government vehicle.

Get familiar with Air Force Instruction 36-2903 and Army Regulation 670-1 to ensure you are presenting a professional military image, setting the proper example and following established policies.



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### Grizzly Newsmagazine

is published by the Directorate of Communications, California National Guard, 9800 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA 95827. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force or the California State Military Department. Grizzly is an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101.

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Maj. Gen. W.A. Mason paid for this stained glass window to be installed in All Saints Episcopal Church in Sacramento in the 1960s in honor of the California National Guard's 184th Infantry Regiment. The gift was presented in appreciation of the church's support after Mason's son was killed in Guam as part the first U.S. Marine wave during World War II. Maj. Gen. Mason Sr. and Pfc. W.A. Mason Jr. are both interred at East Lawn Cemetery in Sacramento. PHOTO BY TECH SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

For more on Maj. Gen. Mason, see page 14. For more on the 1-184th, see page 5.