

# GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



## 6 Neighborhood Watch

U.S. troops, Afghan Soldiers and Afghan villagers keep Taliban on other side of the border

PJs, gunners use speed to save lives

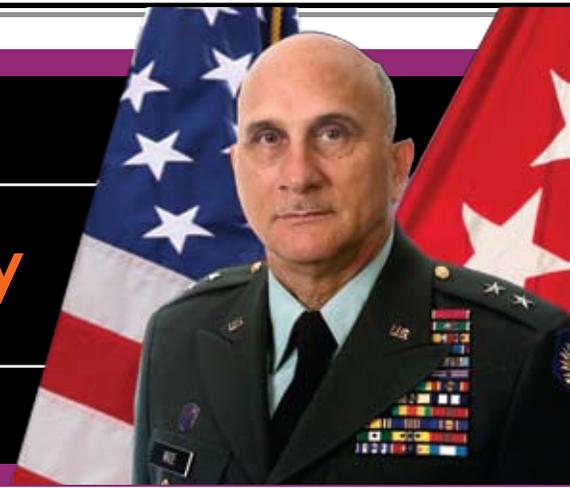
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# Commander's corner

## Remembering those who served in harm's way

### Major General William H. Wade II



As a new emerging country and military force, the United States and its Continental Army had no military awards or decorations of its own — only English institutional knowledge and history to guide it in recognition of military personnel and patriots.

On Aug. 7, the U.S. military celebrates the 227th anniversary of its first military decoration. The Fidelity Medallion is widely considered the oldest decoration of the U.S. military and was created by an act of the Continental Congress in 1780. Also known as the Andre Capture Medal, or simply the Andre Medal, it was awarded to the Soldiers who participated in the capture of Maj. John Andre of the British Army, who had been the point of contact for Benedict Arnold and helped organize Arnold's defection. Three Soldiers were awarded the Fidelity Medallion — all from the New York State Militia — and the medal was never used again.

However, it is the Badge of Military Merit that is accepted as the first official military combat badge of the U.S. Armed Forces, given to Soldiers of the Continental Army who displayed exceptional, meritorious service in battle. Created in 1782, it is most

often referred to as the Purple Heart — because of its color and shape. Only three people received the Badge of Military Merit during the American Revolutionary War, all of them noncommissioned officers.

In the writings of Gen. George Washington, he stated he was, "ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military Merit." He added that "whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with a narrow lace or binding ... not only for instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way."

The recognition was to include enlisted men, whose service in European armies was not routinely acknowledged or recognized.

Following the Revolutionary War, no further Purple Hearts were issued. However,

during World War I, starting on Sept. 6, 1917, there was a short-lived decoration called the Army Wound Ribbon, which was presented in recognition of Soldiers who had received combat wounds. It was only issued until Oct. 12, 1917 — a mere 42 days.



In 1918, a Wound Chevron was the new badge authorized for wearing on the Army uniform — displayed on the lower right cuff — which denoted wounds received in combat against an enemy force. This replaced the Wound Ribbon and remained in use until 1932.

By order of President Herbert Hoover, the Purple Heart was revived on the 200th Anniversary of Washington's birth, Feb. 22, 1932. Hoover authorized the Purple Heart for award to Soldiers, upon their request, who had been

awarded the Meritorious Service Citation Certificate, the Army Wound Ribbon or the Wound Chevron for action in any previous campaign.

The first Purple Heart of the 20th century

was awarded to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the chief of staff of the Army at that time. Later, with the establishment of the Legion of Merit, the practice of awarding the Purple Heart for meritorious service was discontinued.

Ten years later, in December 1942, by executive order, the awarding of the Purple Heart was extended to all branches of military service, government employees, members of the Red Cross and even war correspondents. One of the most notable recipients was newspaperman and wartime cartoonist Ernie Pyle, who was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart after being killed by a Japanese sniper in 1945. The only American military to have never received a Purple Heart are Confederate veterans; they are ineligible because they were not part of the U.S. Army.

On the eve of the 227th anniversary of the Purple Heart, please join with me in honoring and paying respect to the more than 1.6 million recipients of the Purple Heart who gave so much in service to their nation. And remember all those who currently serve in harm's way and man the ramparts of freedom that protect our free and democratic way of life.

## NCOs, LTs working together

### Command Sergeant Major William Clark Jr.



Noncommissioned officers (NCO) have many roles: One is to train and mentor our enlisted force. Another is to train and mentor second lieutenants. In the global war on terrorism, the battle on the ground is being led by platoon sergeants and platoon leaders. Many of the platoon leaders are second lieutenants.

In a platoon, the senior NCO, the platoon sergeant, is responsible for mentoring and training the new platoon leader. The relationship between a platoon leader and platoon sergeant is critical for the success of the platoon, the company and the entire organization. The platoon leader and platoon sergeant must work as a team.

The first hurdle they must both understand is that the platoon leader is the leader, but the platoon sergeant has the experience. The lieutenant must remember that he or she has two eyes, two ears and one mouth, and they should be used in the same proportion — and by listening, the lieutenant will gain an appreciation for the platoon

sergeant's role and challenges. At the same time, the platoon sergeant must remember that the platoon leader is the "commander" of the platoon and must make the final decisions for the good of the unit.

Platoon sergeants have an education from the school of hard knocks that is second to none. Platoon leaders have educations from institutions of higher learning. Fortunately, in today's Army, particularly in the National Guard, so do our NCOs. Platoon leaders come fresh from the doctrinal school house, but platoon sergeants receive institutional training from the NCO Academy. The platoon sergeant has the responsibilities to train the platoon as a whole and to guide the platoon leader. A platoon leader has the responsibility to ensure the platoon sergeant has the resources available to accomplish the mission.

Across the nation, the Army National Guard has a shortage of second lieutenants. As we deploy our units without second lieutenant platoon leaders, platoon sergeants

assume that role.

This creates the question: How do we increase recruitment of commissioned officers? NCOs play a major role in the recruitment of officers: NCOs identify, train and recruit the most qualified candidates from within the enlisted force to attend Officer Candidate School. The same is done when NCOs recruit potential candidates from outside the ranks (i.e. college) to attend Officer Candidate School.

Doctrine states: The NCO is grounded in heritage, values and tradition, embodies the warrior ethos, values perpetual learning and is capable of leading, training and motivating Soldiers. We accomplish these tasks through our training, experiences and mentorship.

NCOs, when your new lieutenant becomes part of your formation, that officer will need your mentorship and training. Remember, he or she is a part of your team, and our Soldiers deserve great command teams.

# Grizzly

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**Publisher**

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II  
The Adjutant General

**Director of Communications**

Lt. Col. Jon R. Siepmann

**Chief, Command Information**

Maj. Mirtha Villarreal

**Editor**

Brandon Honig

**Layout, Graphics, Photo Editing**

Erin Wetzelberger

**Editorial Staff**

Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo

Jonathan Guibord

**Photographers**

Tech. Sgt. David Loeffler

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Prouse

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

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

GrizzlyMag.ngca@ng.army.mil

**Feedback:**

brandon.honig@us.army.mil

## Cover Shot



Maj. Nicholas Fleischmann of the California National Guard exchanges good wishes with Haji Awar Khan, chief elder from the village of Sra Khandia, Afghanistan. Fleischmann and fellow Cal Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class Chad Rickard (not pictured) return this month from Spera Combat Outpost, a tiny, remote compound near the Pakistan border where they have been training and assisting Afghan National Army Soldiers since November.

Photo by Dianna Cahn. Used with permission from the Stars and Stripes. © 2009 Stars and Stripes



# TAKING THE LEAD

Aspiring NCOs test their Warrior Leader skills

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## FROM THE EDITOR

The term “weekend warrior” has sometimes been used derisively, as if “weekend” were more important than “warrior.” Tell that to Maj. Nicholas Fleischmann and Sgt. 1st Class Chad Rickard, who will return this month from Spera Combat Outpost in the hinterland of Afghanistan, where weekends are like any other day: “We know we are in the right place because the enemy attacks us.”

Rickard and Fleischmann are two of about 30 Soldiers at Spera, most of whom are Afghan. From their tiny compound, the U.S.-Afghan force monitors and disrupts the flow of Taliban fighters and weapons into Afghanistan over the Pakistan border, which lies only yards away.

Those Guardsmen are on the front lines of the battle against a regime that harbored terrorists who struck America on Sept. 11, 2001. And they are simultaneously ambassadors of goodwill, reaching out from our state and our nation to develop relationships with Afghan villagers who wish to see a peaceful, democratic regime reign in Afghanistan. Those warriors, who are now on their way home, have earned their weekends (page 6).

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, began their return home last month after executing more than 1,500 security missions and earning 111 combat badges during a nine-month tour in Iraq (page 17). They are joined in California by the 1498th Transportation Company, which recently completed a year in Iraq and Kuwait, earning 21 Combat Action Badges and a host of other awards, including 26 Bronze Stars and 33 Meritorious Service Medals (page 17).

Meanwhile in Afghanistan, members of the 129th Rescue Wing continue to race into battle, hold off enemy forces, and carry wounded troops to safety (page 10).

Those warriors all join a rich California National Guard history, which includes the legendary “Lost Battalion” of World War I, which lost 593 Soldiers in the Argonne Forest but saw 194 finally rescued due to their unyielding resolve and a brave, winged member of the U.S. Army (page 16).

The Guard also remembers another piece of its history this month, as it mourns the passing of a 32-year California Guardsman and assistant adjutant general, retired Brig. Gen. (CA) Ezell Ware Jr., whose military life and personal life inspired many to reach for their dreams and overcome seemingly unbeatable obstacles (page 21).

With such noble heritage, the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard can smile with pride as they join the ranks of those brave warriors.

## GOOD TRAINING, MATE

U.S., Australian militaries train down under

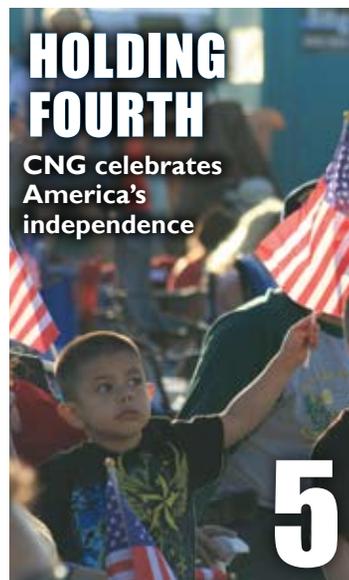
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## HOLDING FOURTH

CNG celebrates America's independence

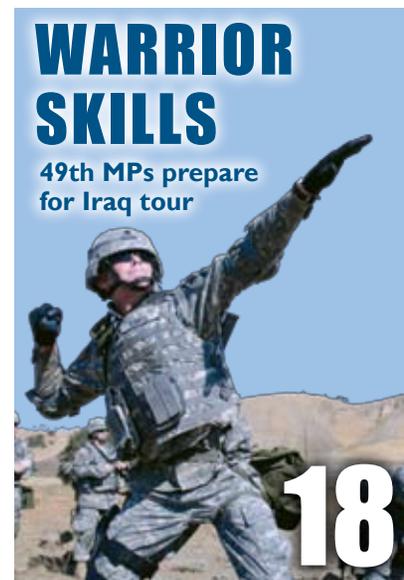
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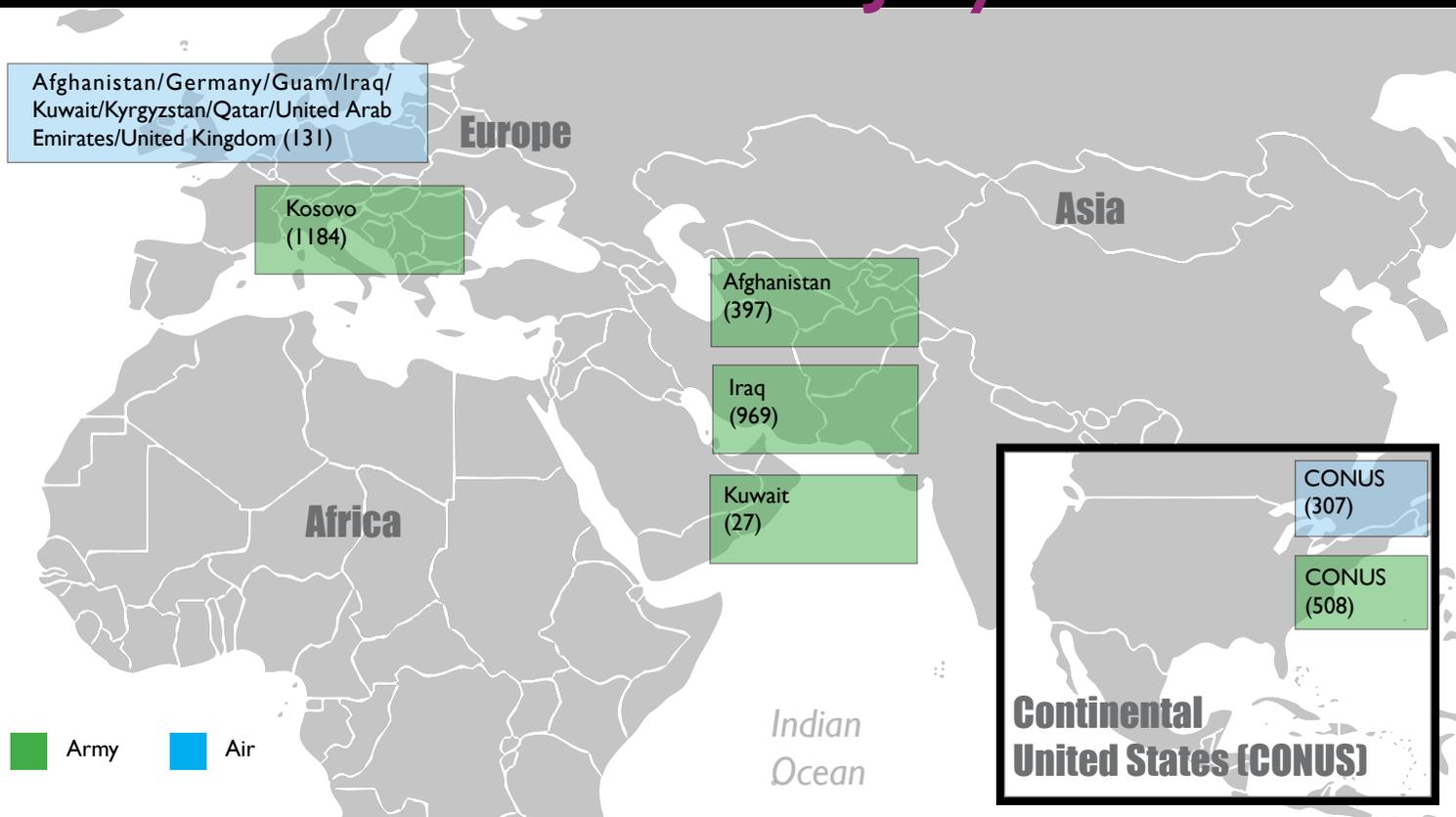
## WARRIOR SKILLS

49th MPs prepare for Iraq tour

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## The California National Guard as of July 2009



# Training, quick thinking save three lives in crash

**By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo**  
**Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

In April of last year, while flying during a counterdrug sting operation near Georgetown, Calif., Capt. Anthony Cooper saw the earth spiraling toward him rapidly.

Instead of seeing his life flash before his eyes, Cooper saw his training take hold. Quickly putting his knowledge to use during complete engine failure 500 feet above terra firma, Cooper successfully saved his life and the lives of his co-pilot and a law enforcement agent by bringing his helicopter down on a small path between an opening in the trees.

This year marks a year of change for the captain — he has a new baby boy, Grayson; he has a new job, flying full-time for U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials in Texas; and he has his future wide open while deciding his next move in the California National Guard.

During a July 6 ceremony at California National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, Cooper was honored for the skills and bravery it took for him to save three lives April 17, 2008. The Army Aviation Broken Wing Award was presented to the pilot, who through outstanding airmanship prevented death or injury to personnel during emergency situations, said Col. Mitch Medigovich, commander of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade.

The aircraft was destroyed during the crash, but lives were saved in a very dangerous location, which Medigovich said is “quite remarkable.” Everyone involved in the crash walked away with minor injuries, but walking away is the most important part.

Cooper, an Iraq war veteran, said he couldn’t have done it without his co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Eric Gussenhoven. He also specifically named two instructors from Fort Rucker, Ala., who were pivotal in his quick reactions — Chief Warrant Officers Kevin Croley and Michael Sheel.

“Without them, I wouldn’t be here,” Cooper said after the ceremony. “Obviously, this wouldn’t be here,” he added,



**TOP: Capt. Anthony Cooper of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade accepts the Army Aviation Broken Wing Award for outstanding airmanship that saved three lives April 17, 2008, during a Counterdrug Task Force mission. RIGHT: The OH-58 helicopter Cooper was flying with his co-pilot and a law enforcement agent near Georgetown, Calif., which was destroyed during an engine starvation accident caused by foreign object damage.**

motioning toward 1-month old Grayson in the arms of Cooper’s wife, Tabitha.

During the ceremony, Cooper also received the Army Aviation Safety coin and watch and various letters of recognition and appreciation.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

CALIFORNIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

# 129th, Canadian rescue forces train in B.C.

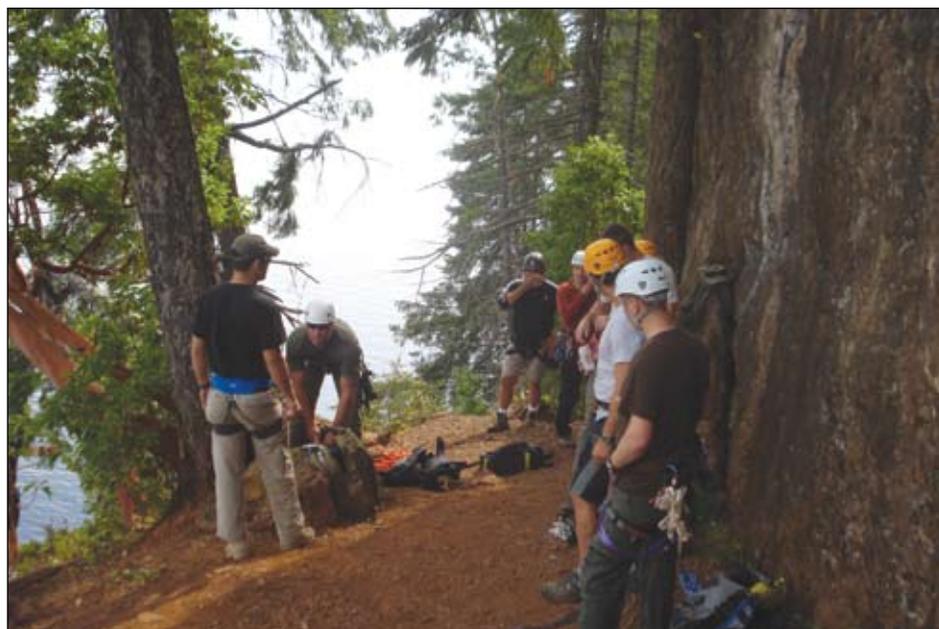
**By Capt. Alyson Teeter**  
**129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs**

Seven members of the 129th Rescue Wing trained with the 442nd Transport and Rescue Squadron, a Royal Canadian Air Force rescue unit, on Vancouver Island in Comox, British Columbia, June 21-27.

“The goal of the trip was to connect and re-establish ties with the Canadian rescue forces,” said Capt. Damon Foss, a pararescue jumper, or PJ, from the 131st Rescue Squadron, 129th Rescue Wing, who was project officer for the trip. “In the past we would participate in search-and-rescue exercises with the Canadians, but after 9/11, the joint training ceased because of our high operations tempo.”

The 442nd, which is based in Comox, operates CC-115 Buffalo fixed-wing aircraft and CH-149 Cormorant helicopters, both of which are fit for search and rescue in rugged terrain. According to Foss, the Canadian search-and-rescue technicians are similar to Air Force pararescuemen, except they do not perform combat search and rescue.

The 129th contingent and the 442nd had planned a robust exercise, but training events were scaled back because of real rescue missions and inclement weather, Foss



**Pararescue jumpers, or PJs, from the 129th Rescue Wing, California National Guard, train with members of the Royal Canadian Air Force’s 442nd Transport and Rescue Squadron in British Columbia, Canada, in June.**

said. The training was still worthwhile, however, as the rugged outdoors of British Columbia provided the ultimate location for high-angle mountain climbing and swift-

water rescue training.

For swift-water rescue training, the PJs and search-and-rescue techs traveled to Pun-

ledge River, where they used snag lines and rafts to simulate complex rescue scenarios. High-angle rescue training, which involves ropes and pulleys, was conducted at nearby Lake Comox, which features a 2,000-foot, multi-pitch ridge called Devil’s Ladder.

“It was the perfect place to train because the location was close to the 442nd and all of the components needed for a high-angle scenario were available,” said 129th pararescueman Tech. Sgt. Sean Kirsch. “Devil’s Ladder was also high enough to feel like a real-world rescue situation.”

Kirsch added that the Canadian search-and-rescue technicians bring knowledge to the table that is different from that of their American counterparts because of their differing backgrounds.

“In this type of environment you can glean little tricks while watching how people tackle problems. It gives you a different perspective,” Foss said.

Both countries’ Airmen gained valuable training during the event, and PJs anticipate joint training with Canadian units will become a regular occurrence.

PHOTO BY CAPT. DAMON FOSS

# A PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION

## JFTB-Los Alamitos marks U.S. independence, general's retirement

Story by 2nd Lt. (CA) Heather J. Hagan  
JFTB-Los Alamitos Public Affairs



PHOTO BY SGT. TINA VILLALOBOS

PHOTO BY 2ND LT. (CA) HEATHER J. HAGAN



**ABOVE:** Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel assumes command of JFTB-Los Alamitos during a ceremony July 4, succeeding Brig. Gen. James P. Combs, center, who retired after 42 years in the military. **TOP RIGHT:** Fireworks light up the sky above Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos on July 4, as the California National Guard celebrates our nation's independence. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** California State Military Reserve Soldiers present the colors for the parade of the flags July 4 on JFTB-Los Alamitos. **CENTER:** Soldiers and actors give more than 10,000 attendees a thrill during the July 4 festivities on JFTB-Los Alamitos, re-enacting the 1945 battle for Clark Field, Philippines, in which the 40th Infantry division liberated the base from Japanese warriors.

Soldiers and civilians who gathered at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos for the base's annual Independence Day celebration were treated to more than music and fireworks July 4, as retiring Brig. Gen. James P. Combs passed the baton, and scores of Soldiers donned 1940s gear to play out a battle from California National Guard history.

"The Joint Forces Training Base serves as the focal point for the celebration for the four adjacent communities," said Rep. Ed Royce. "This year in particular was memorable as we recognize a fine job Brigadier General Combs as base commander demonstrated."

Royce was joined at the celebration by Rep. Loretta Sanchez, state Assemblyman Jim Silva, Los Alamitos Mayor Troy Edgar, and Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel and Brig. Gen. Scott Johnson of the California National Guard. Harrel, the commander

of the California Army National Guard, has succeeded Combs as commander of JFTB-Los Alamitos.

"I feel personal and professional gratification, a sense of connection with the community, and anticipation and excitement of what the future will hold," Combs said.

Sanchez recognized Combs and thanked him for his service on the floor of the House of Representatives on June 24.

After the change of the baton, Harrel and Johnson conducted the 40th Infantry Division Band in patriotic tunes and then led the crowd of more than 10,000 people in a vocal rendition of "Old Soldiers Never Die."

"This is not an easy thing to do, to get in front of a band, in front of a large crowd and put yourself on the spot conducting a

popular march," said Chief Warrant Officer Eric Sukanuma, bandmaster and commander of the 40th ID band. "I greatly admire the bravery of our commanding generals, placing themselves in an unfamiliar situation in the full view of the masses."

Following the ceremony, a World War II reenactment started, with blank gunfire capturing the audience's attention during a battle that showed the 40th ID liberate Clark Field, Philippines, from actors playing the roles of Japanese fighters.

The event concluded with a bang as southern California's largest fireworks display filled the evening sky.

"The National Guard has proven year after year to be patriots for all the citizens of California," Silva said. "[July 4] is a day that we celebrate and declare our independence, so that we can live as free people."



PHOTO BY SGT. TINA VILLALOBOS



PHOTO BY 2ND LT. (CA) HEATHER J. HAGAN



# Guard team leads Taliban border fight

Story and photos by Dianna Cahn  
Stars and Stripes



Sgt. 1st Class Chad Rickard of the California National Guard, back right, and Soldiers of the Georgia National Guard overlook Spera District, Khowst province, Afghanistan, from Observation Post Yellow, a small post west of Spera Combat Outpost, near the Pakistan border. A dozen U.S. Soldiers are stationed at the outpost, where they assist and train 20 to 30 Afghan National Army Soldiers to disrupt Taliban crossings into Afghanistan.

A dot in a border valley surrounded by peaks and two Afghan observation posts, Spera Combat Outpost is a single point of U.S. military presence in the heart of Taliban terrain in Afghanistan, only meters from the Pakistan border. A dozen U.S. soldiers live at Spera in a tiny, rugged compound with 20 to 30 Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers.

"Two of the main Taliban routes into the whole theater are to the north and south of us," said Sgt. 1st Class Chad Rickard of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Force Headquarters, California National Guard. "That's why they want to get rid of us. They will try to overrun us. We are a big fat finger in the dam, just clogging their [infiltration] routes."

It's a full-time, multipronged mission to not only disrupt Taliban border crossings into Afghanistan, but also to engage the villagers and show them there is an alternative to the Taliban. At the same time, U.S. Soldiers on Spera must train Afghan security forces to one day do all this on their own.

Rickard has been in and out of Spera since November with Maj. Nicholas Fleischmann, a Fresno, Calif., police officer and member of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Along with 30 other California National Guard members who are parts of embedded transition teams (ETT) in Afghanistan, Fleischmann and Rickard are expected to return to California this month.

## Making friends in enemy territory

The greeting between the two men is a rich hug, a hand-holding "Asalaam alaykum" ("Peace be with you" in Arabic) and sometimes a hand over the heart for good measure. Fleischmann's warm smile is matched by that of his counterpart: a turbaned Afghan in traditional dress with long, bushy hair that gets lost in his thick black beard.

Except for his Nike sneakers, Musofor, as he is known, hardly looks the part of the best friend the Americans have in this Taliban-controlled valley. Yet little is ever as it seems at Spera Combat Outpost. At Spera, peaceful silence can explode into deadly battle in the blink of an eye, and placid villages with braying donkeys can conceal hostile Taliban strongholds — except in Sra Khanda, Musofor's village, just up the riverbed. The men in his village support the government.

"They are now hating the Taliban," Musofor told Fleischmann. "They are trying to find a way to fight them."

In these faraway mountains, Spera is the lone U.S. foothold for miles around. The Americans' time is divided between maintaining and defending the outpost against Taliban aggression and reaching out to ambivalent local villagers.

It is a land without government. Regional politicians refuse to venture here. Villagers don't have ID cards and they couldn't vote if they wanted to. The locals fend for themselves, and most give allegiance to the strongest force: the Taliban. Only Musofor and his father, Haji Awar Khan, share information and offer U.S. patrols safe passage up the wadi, or riverbed, for visits.

"See, the major left his country with its big buildings

to come help my country," Musofor said. "Shoulder-to-shoulder, we will bring security. With the help of Allah, I will be working with the U.S. to help my country."

In exchange, Sra Khanda receives a regular flow of humanitarian aid. Fleischmann set the balls rolling on several construction projects: a new school, a mosque, water wells and a small bazaar.

Fleischmann, 44, has forged a strong bond with Musofor. Each man has nine children — Musofor with his two wives, and Fleischmann through the adoption of five children in addition to his and his wife's four biological children.

"It is a dream of mine to one day come back here as a friend and not a Soldier," Fleischmann told Musofor during the Cal Guardsman's final week at Spera in late June. "I dream to one day board a plane in America with my family, fly to Kabul and then drive ... here for a visit."

But the relationship between Musofor and the Americans is not always easy. When Musofor comes to Spera, he is met outside the gates of the outpost. He has never been inside. And the new Afghan company commander questioned Musofor suspiciously during their first meeting.

It's not lost on Fleischmann and Rickard that Musofor manages to travel safely up and down the wadi from his village to the American outpost.

"There's a reason why Musofor can walk around totally unarmed, pick up stuff here and go back unharmed," Rickard said. "Could it be because his dad is so powerful and it would start a tribal war? Or is it

because they want him to come here and come back with information? You have to be careful."

A hero of the mujahedeen fight against the Russians in the 1980s, Musofo's father, Haji, is chief elder of the Waziri tribe here. He mediates between warring tribes and represented the region at the national Loya Jirga when Afghan President Hamid Kharzai's government was created. Pitting his influence against the tide of Taliban support, he has allied himself with the Americans. But the choice has come at a cost.

A year ago, Haji was called to Pakistan to take command of the border tribal areas, known as Waziristan. When he refused, two of Haji's sons were put in jail, Musofo said. The Taliban burned Haji's homes and took his cows and buffalo, he said, but Haji continued to refuse. Finally, he paid a ransom and his sons were released.

"This is my country. If they kill my two sons, I still can't leave my country," Haji said. "I was shot in the chest and hand [by the Russians]. They shot my wife in her eye.

"Now we want a secure Afghanistan, to rebuild our country."

During his last week at Spera, Fleischmann led the new unit commander on a patrol to Sra Khanda, where villagers came out in numbers to greet them. They drank tea with Haji and Musofo and promised the warm relationship would continue.

"I am going to miss 'Mus' and his dad. That was the fun part of the mission," Fleischmann said. "[People] always say the attacks of Sept. 11 were launched from these mountains we are looking at. It's truly the holy ground for this war. That's why I came here. But the people are really nice. They deserve the chance at a good life."

Article and photos used with permission from the Stars and Stripes. © 2009 Stars and Stripes



Sgt. 1st Class Chad Rickard, California National Guard, records notes needed to call for an artillery strike against a group of Taliban fighters near Spera Combat Outpost, Afghanistan.



LEFT: Musofo, son of a top elder from the village of Sra Khanda, Afghanistan, shares information with Maj. Nicholas Fleischmann, California National Guard, near Spera Combat Outpost, where American and Afghan Soldiers man a tiny camp in the heart of Taliban terrain near the Pakistan border.

BELOW: Twenty to 30 Afghan National Army Soldiers from the 203rd Corps share Spera Combat Outpost with a dozen U.S. Soldiers in a valley along the Pakistan border. The outpost is an obstacle to Taliban border crossing routes and a site of frequent battles.

## 'They will try to overrun us'

It started with mortars aimed at the outpost.

Rickard, two other U.S. soldiers and 10 ANA Soldiers were out on patrol, visiting villages south of Spera, when they heard the explosion.

ANA guards at Spera's border observation post — the outpost's only front line of defense — sent six Soldiers along the ridge on a mountain called TRP Red to see if they could determine where the enemy was firing from.

That's when the radio alarm calls came over.

"They realized there were 100 Taliban fighters pushing up the ridge," Rickard said of that day, March 8. "The ANA were asking permission to retreat. They were afraid of being overrun."

At this little combat outpost on the border with Pakistan, March 8 was another rough day in an escalating war. The Taliban came up in droves, and a handful of U.S. and Afghan forces simply did what they were there for: defend their outpost against a bitter enemy who wants them gone.

Spera sits at the crux of two key insurgent routes between Pakistan and Afghanistan, blocking their free flow of men and arms. To the Taliban, Spera's presence alone is a provocation.

"We know we are in the right place because the enemy attacks us," Rickard said. "The fact that we are continually attacked means we are a thorn in their side and we are right where we need to be."

Rickard heard the ANA Soldiers' panicked call that day. The patrol diverted east and began a fierce climb straight up the mountain. It was a race to the top, the Taliban on one side being held off by six Afghan Soldiers on the ridge, and Rickard's patrol pushing up the other side.

Back at Spera, mortars were landing. Fleischmann monitored the battle as American and ANA Soldiers assumed battle stations. They fired onto the backside of the mountain, and Fleischmann called for air sup-

port. He sent out a second patrol of reinforcements.

Taking heavy fire, the Taliban mortars ceased and Rickard's group made the ridge.

"It took a good 45 minutes of straight climbing," Rickard said. "I linked up with the head guy on Red. The six guys were doing an outstanding job of holding the Taliban back."

Moments later, the jets arrived. They dropped to tree level and fired their afterburners, sending the enemy to the ground. For the next hour, Rickard radioed coordinates to the jet bombers. It was a bitter fight. The Taliban were well-organized and determined, and the stakes were high.

"If they could get onto Red, they are already higher than [the eastern observation post]. And if they push [the ANA Soldiers] off of [the observation post], then they are shooting right down on the [combat outpost]."

The enemy lobbed close to 50 mortar rounds, and 13 struck the outpost, Fleischmann said. Troops on Spera fired as many as 100 rounds from their Mark 19 mortar launcher.

One ANA Soldier was wounded.

Rickard counted 10 Taliban fighters killed. Forces monitoring Taliban radio communications also heard Taliban fighters say their commander was among the dead, Rickard said. Another 10 were missing and 24 wounded, he added.

As the battle wound down, the insurgents retreated into Pakistan. Rickard and his men watched them withdraw into the homes that sit at the foot of Red, just across the border. The Americans said they regularly watch men with weapons flow in and out of those homes, supporting the belief that the buildings belong to a Taliban commander. On this day they saw the Taliban pull the wounded into those homes, while children played in the riverbed, Rickard said.

It was a classic success of the insurgency. On the battlefield, American and Afghan forces were victorious. But in the U.S. counterinsurgency mission — to win the support of the people for the government and its military — the Taliban had its say. Rickard's patrol was diverted from outreach and forced into battle. And when the enemy fighters retreated, they fell back behind civilians, so the Americans let them go.

"It would have been nice to get the 10 to 12 bad guys [going] in the house plus those already there," Rickard said. "But not at the expense of even one child."



PHOTO BY MAJ. NICHOLAS FLEISCHMANN

# CAL GUARD BRINGS THUNDER DOWN UNDER

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

Waiting in the trees bordering a military-owned beach on Shoalwater Bay in Queensland, Australia, troops of the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, waited for their prey to appear on the horizon.

Having taken over the beach, the 1-160th dug in for a fight with the Okinawa, Japan-based U.S. Marines of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) as part of the Talisman Saber Exercise July 6-26.

"We're [acting as] an insurgent-like aggressor to the amphibious landing," said 1st Lt. Christopher W. Parker, the assistant operations and plans officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-160th, out of Santa Ana, Calif. In addition to squad-level fighting forces, Parker said mine fields, bombs, ambushes, snipers, artillery forces and civilian protestors would be used against the Marines, "just to mess with them."

Along with more than 130 Cal Guard troops, thousands of U.S. Sailors and Marines based in Japan participated in Talisman Saber. In all, about 30,000 military personnel from the United States and Australia took part, including multi-national Navy and Air Force contingents.

The 1-160th was the only force opposing the 31st MEU during the Talisman Saber exercise, which included transitioning from combat operations into peacekeeping and other post-conflict operations. Waiting for the Marines and the battle's official start date, July 13, the Cal Guard troops prepared, rehearsed and enjoyed their week in Australia, Parker said. They also honed their warrior skills on live-fire ranges, burning up ammo like it was going out of style.

"We tore it up," said Staff Sgt. Chris Luzader of Company D, 1-160th, who was fresh off the range.

The Australian hosts offered pop-up target ranges with liberal ammunition for the M-4 rifle, the M-549 squad automatic weapon and the M-9 pistol.

Outside of training, the opportunity to interact with Australian forces — and to do it in the land down under — added another dimension for the Guard Soldiers. Their Australian partners entertained the Cal Guard troops with stories of kangaroo encounters, deadly snakes (27 of the world's 30 deadliest are in Australia) and a multitude of other wildlife.

After four days in-country, Sgt. 1st Class Candelario Carrizales, platoon sergeant for Platoon 2, Company D, 1-160th, said he was thoroughly enjoying the exercise.

"It's a nice country, and the Australians are nice people," he said. "More importantly, the training has been great."

Plus, learning how allies conduct business is a bonus on both ends.

"I've done a lot of these types of exercises around the world, and the great thing about them is that everyone goes away a lot smarter," said Australian Brigadier Michael Krause, commander of the 1st Brigade.

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, California National Guard adjutant general, added that this type of training for asymmetrical warfighting is key to future operations.

"Exercises like these are important to our modern-day



**TOP:** Pvt. David P. Gile of Company A, 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, camouflages himself in the brush near the beach on the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Facility in Queensland, Australia. **MIDDLE:** Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Shemenski, platoon leader for the Shadow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Platoon, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, monitors the Rover System, which is used to intercept video feed from enemies' unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). The California National Guard did not bring its UAVs to Australia, but Shemenski's platoon used the enemy's own UAVs against them by enabling Guardsmen to paint the picture they wanted the enemy to see. **BOTTOM:** Australian Sgt. Bruce McIntyre, left, who works range control at the Shoalwater Training Base, discusses weaponry with Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard. Members of the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, qualified with rifles, pistols and machine guns at the Australian range.



Guard because we no longer fight unilaterally — we're always part of a multi-national contingent, if not some sanctioned United Nations forces," Wade said upon returning from his three-day visit to the Talisman Saber exercise. "Since we fight in a joint/combined environment, we have to train in the same environment."

Overseas training missions act as a rehearsal to deployment, according to leadership, and are essential for troops as missions come up across the globe.

"It is my hope we will be invited back to this exercise every other year — it's invaluable," Wade said of Talisman Saber, which is held every two years. This was the California National Guard's first time participating.



# Amidst sea of change, Kosovar gratitude remains

By Lt. Col. Kurt Schlichter  
40th Infantry Division

PHOTOS BY COL. ERIC GRIMM



**ABOVE:** Lt. Col. Dirk Levy, commander, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, looks out over the Kosovo terrain. **TOP RIGHT:** Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander, California Army National Guard, left, and other Cal Guard Soldiers meet a Kosovar man on patrol in June. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Kosovo Force Soldiers remove protective barriers around a cultural center in Kamenica, Kosovo, on April 28. The barriers, which protected the center from bombs and air attacks during the 1990s, are no longer needed.

Even just flying over the newly independent Republic of Kosovo, it is obvious that more than the land's name has changed since California National Guard Soldiers first took charge of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) eastern region in 2005. There are new buildings, new roads and an energy and optimism that signal hope for a positive future in the region.

Things have also changed at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, where 1,200 California National Guard Soldiers are stationed. The years have smoothed off a few rough edges, there are new sand volleyball courts near the north chapel, the "bubble gym" has been replaced with a permanent theater, and flowers grow in pots and on barriers.

Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, visited Camp Bondsteel in June. It was something of a homecoming for Harrel, who was commander of KFOR's Multi-National Brigade-East during the 40th ID's yearlong KFOR 6B rotation in 2005 and 2006. Multi-National Brigade-East has been renamed Multi-National Task Force-East, and the current force — KFOR 11 — is under the command of Brig. Gen. Keith Jones of the 40th Infantry Division.

The mission, however, remains the same: Provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo to build a newly independent nation. Many of the old challenges remain as well, as KFOR 11 Soldiers face

friction between ethnic groups, problems with electrical power and concerns about the economy.

A key part of the mission entails patrolling and interacting with the local populace. During his visit, Harrel patrolled near the town of Vitina and in the countryside, ate lunch in the home of a local elder, met with the U.S. ambassador to Kosovo, spoke with prominent local leaders, endured a long radio interview and toured a women's shelter that KFOR Soldiers have supported for years in Kosovo's capital, Pristina.

Kosovo has changed much in the last four years. New buildings rise on the outskirts of the capital and along its new four-lane highway, and the people look healthier, more prosperous and more optimistic. But some important things have not changed, like the profound gratitude of the local people for the help and protection that California has given them in the form of its National Guard Soldiers. And that relationship is likely to continue for years to come.



## Non-military educations earned at Bondsteel

Story and photo by Spc. Rich Stowell  
69th Public Affairs Detachment

With textbooks in his hand and a rifle slung over his shoulder, a Soldier on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, enters a classroom, turns in his mid-term essay and sits down for a lecture about free speech in the military. The class, Introduction to Law and the Legal Profession, is offered by Central Texas College through the Army Continuing Education System (ACES).

The instructor is a member of the state bar of California and a former high school English teacher. He is also the chief of military justice for Kosovo Force 11 (KFOR) Multi-National Task Force-East (MNTF-E).

"I enjoy teaching in the Army because I get to see a different side of Soldiers," said Capt. Dwight Stirling, who lives in Long Beach, Calif., and works full-time as an attorney for the California Army National Guard.

The teacher-Soldiers of MNTF-E are putting their civilian experience to work in a way that will benefit the Soldiers in their classes long after their KFOR deployments and even their Army careers are over. Each of MNTF-E's three teacher-Soldiers has civilian teaching experience.

Stirling relishes working with students in a relationship that is distinct from a typical military dynamic. Likewise, students get to see a different side of their instructor-Soldiers, a side that highlights their creativity and cooperation.

"Soldiers here at Camp Bondsteel have a unique opportunity to benefit from a variety of course offerings and some of the best instructors," said Fitore Aliu, Central Texas College's field representative for Camp Bondsteel. "It is great to see Soldiers working together this way. ... They offer each other valuable opportunities to develop personally and academically."



**Master Sgt. Daniel Parrish, left, teaches accounting to Soldiers on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Parrish formerly taught accounting at the University of Maryland University College, but he is preparing for a move to Sacramento, where he will teach at Sacramento City College and serve the California National Guard.**

Camp Bondsteel has two Guardsmen and a Reservist who combine civilian teaching expertise with a Soldier's tenacity and discipline to help fellow Soldiers get ahead in life.

"I've got no more intelligence than anybody," said 1st Lt. Gregory Andrew, an emergency room nurse on Camp Bondsteel, "but I've got experience and I've got education. So that's how I approach these students."

A Reservist from Texas, Andrew teaches Central Texas College's Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Certification Course, which meets 12 hours a week. When not on deployment, Andrew is a clinical nursing instructor at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas.

"I feel an obligation to meet the students' needs," he said in

a low drawl. "That's my duty to them."

Fellow teacher Master Sgt. Daniel Parrish of Camp Bondsteel's Joint Visitors Bureau shares Andrew's enthusiasm.

"Teaching civilian stuff is like the icing on the cake," said Parrish, who taught accounting at the University of Maryland University College before deploying to Kosovo. He is now preparing for a move to Sacramento, where he will teach at Sacramento City College and serve the California National Guard. "When [I] get to teach a civilian course, now I'm teaching stuff that I'm more comfortable with, so I can teach accounting my way. It makes it more personal."

There are also advantages to having Soldiers in your classroom, Stirling added.

"Here in the deployed environment, my students are very respectful," he said. "Civilians in a normal classroom can be very undisciplined and can be very unruly."

Parrish agreed that most Soldiers he has taught were very eager to learn, and it's always easier to teach students who want to learn.

"My objective in teaching is both to communicate information [and] also to affect how students actually think — to examine their thinking process and how to improve or adjust that thinking process," Stirling said.

Stirling's students regularly participate in Socratic-style seminars, in which they toss ideas, questions and opinions back and forth. There is a thoughtfulness that is almost palpable, as the students process ideas and try to grasp the complex topics their instructor is sharing.

"All of our teachers are dedicated," Aliu said, "but the Soldiers who come to Kosovo in service to their country are a great addition to our faculty teams."



An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter manned by Airmen from the 129th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron takes off June 23 from Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, on a medical evacuation mission.

## 129th's 'golden' speed saves lives

By Staff Sgt. Stacia Zachary  
U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs

Racing against the clock, rescue flights launch into action to retrieve wounded service members and other battlefield casualties. As the helicopters hover over the hostile area, the Guardian Angel team rushes out to retrieve the wounded — often risking their own lives so that others may live.

The 129th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (ERQS) responds to emergency medical evacuation calls within Helmand province, Afghanistan. The detachment supports Regional Command South, responding to calls for U.S. and coalition forces as well as Afghan National Security Forces and local nationals.

"As Air Force rescue crews, we use our personnel recovery and combat search and rescue skill-set to conduct [casualty evacuation] quicker and better than anyone in theater," said Maj. Matt Wenthe, 129th ERQS detachment commander.

The rescue squadron comprises more than 60 Airmen accompanied by HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters. A rescue flight consists of two helicopters, each with a pilot, copilot, aerial gunner, flight engineer and two pararescuemen, or combat rescue officers.

"Our entire mindset is to bring an emergency medical platform, combined with offensive security capability, to the site for

quick and successful extraction of those who need us," Wenthe said.

Helmand province has recently seen an increase of insurgent activity as more coalition forces were moved into Afghanistan. As such, more calls come over the radio requesting rapid recovery of injured service members or innocent bystanders in locations that are extremely hostile. This type of mission demands a response team specialized in rapid insertion and egress.

"The [combat search-and-rescue] mission requires us to train going into hostile environments," Wenthe said. "That training allows us to execute medical evacuations in areas other units cannot get into."

The rescue teams must remain on high alert during their 12-hour shifts. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has instructed the Air Force that rescue teams need to respond and begin transferring a patient to a higher level of medical care within 60 minutes from the time a medical alert drops — a time period commonly referred to as the "golden hour."

"Speed is what's saving lives," Wenthe said. "If we are able to get to someone within the golden hour, then survival is pretty certain."

Recently, a Marine on foot patrol in



Staff Sgt. William Lawson, a pararescueman with the 129th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, cares for a patient while waiting for a wounded Afghan National Army Soldier to be loaded into an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on June 27.

Helmand province was seriously injured by the blast of an improvised explosive device.

"If our [combat search and rescue] guys hadn't gotten to the Marine when they did and started medical care on him, he wouldn't have survived — it's that simple,"

said Capt. Jac Solghan, Camp Bastion Role 3 Hospital Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Team flight clinical coordinator. "Following the golden rule is giving people a chance who otherwise would have had none, and the [rescue squadron] guys are giving us that hope for survival. Without them, countless people would now be dead."



**ABOVE:** Senior Airman Adrian Jarrin, an aerial gunner with the 129th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (ERQS), conducts a preflight inspection of a .50 caliber machine gun June 25 on Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. **BELOW:** Staff Sgt. Sean Pellaton, an aerial gunner with 129th ERQS, provides security during a medical evacuation mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on June 26.

## Lifesaving mission depends on aerial gunners

**By Staff Sgt. Stacia Zachary**  
**U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs**

Air National Guard combat search-and-rescue crews on HH-60G Pave Hawks fly throughout Afghanistan to provide airlift and medical care to service members wounded on the battlefield.

More often than not, this requires them to fly into and operate in extremely hostile and precarious situations and locations, so aerial gunners are charged with protecting their combat search-and-rescue teammates and helping bring everyone back safely.

"The HH-60s need to be able to land virtually on top of the [point of injury] to quickly recover the wounded," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Matthews, an aerial gunner with the 129th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (ERQS). "The helicopters are a huge target for the enemy, and we need to have our heads on a swivel, making sure the [pararescuemen] have the cover they need to recover injured people."

The rescue crews are successful in recovering the wounded largely because of the speed with which they can get to a location and extract the wounded on the ground.

"Speed is everything, so you need to be very familiar with your job so that you don't cause any delays," said Staff Sgt. Tim Chase, an active-duty aerial gunner attached to the 129th ERQS. "We constantly train for these missions. This allows us to work confidently and quickly when we are on a mission."

The irony of the aerial gunners' role in a rescue flight is that they are often required to take a life in order to save a life.



"The aspect of this job I love more than anything else is that we're here saving lives," Matthews said. "On the flip side, we need to make sure that when [pararescuemen] step off the bird to get the wounded, they have the protection they need. This may require taking out the bad guys so the good guys succeed."

For the crews, flexibility is important, as they never encounter the same situation twice.

"The challenges that come with being in the back are constantly changing and dynamic because the [combat search-and-rescue] platform changes according to whatever theater we operate in," said aerial gunner Staff Sgt. Sean Pellaton of the 129th ERQS.

Crews often find themselves in chaotic situations, but they must maintain their composure to execute the mission.

"When we're on a mission, we're seeing all this chaos, and right in the middle of that, there's this odd organization," Matthews said. "While we're observing what's going on all around us as thoroughly as possible for threats — whether natural or enemy — we're also playing an active part, using the radios and manning a weapon."

The teammates, through training and experience, are completely in sync with one another, allowing the mission to become a well-orchestrated symphony of events. Once the helicopter lands, the gunners relay the signal for the pararescuemen to disembark from the helicopter to recover the wounded, while the gunners alert the operations center that the aircraft has landed. The flight engineers and aerial gunners man their .50 caliber machine guns, providing 180 degrees of security on each side, while also monitoring the radios, updating the crew on activity outside and preparing ground forces for the helicopter's departure.

"It's all going down in a matter of seconds," Chase said. "In that time, I'm looking for bad guys, the [pararescuemen] are triaging their patients, I'm giving a 30-second call for liftoff, the [flight engineer] is making sure the systems are working, and the pilots are focusing on getting us out of there and back to base camp. I don't know how or why, but everything just comes together."

At the end of the day, it's the goal of the rescue mission that leaves the biggest impression on the crew.

"Being a gunner, I'm part of something much bigger than myself," Matthews said. "We go in and get guys who, if we weren't there, may not make it to the next day or even the next hour."



Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Paul W. George of the 185th Military Police Battalion, right, receives the NCO Sword from Command Sgt. Maj. James M. Coltrell during a ceremony July 19 on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. Coltrell succeeded George as leader of the 185th upon George's retirement after 27 years in the California National Guard.  
**Photo by Spc. David S. Choi**



Senior Master Sgt. Beth Sanders, right, a California National Guard musician, performs with other musicians in the Air National Guard's rock band Sonora at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.  
**Photo by Spc. Tyler Maulding**



Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, pins a Purple Heart on Sgt. David Leos, Company B, 184th Infantry Regiment, 30th Combat Sustainment Battalion, during a ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, on July 7. The San Jose, Calif., native earned the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during an improvised explosive device blast March 12.  
**Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam Shaw**



Joe Rosa of Fresno, Calif., right, and other potential officer candidates are tested on their leadership, problem-solving and motivational skills during the California National Guard's Officer Candidate Indoctrination Program, or OCIP, May 15-17 at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.  
**Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Payer**



Potential officer candidates rest after completing a motivational run in Morro Bay, Calif., near Camp San Luis Obispo, during the California National Guard's Officer Candidate Indoctrination Program, or OCIP, May 15-17. **Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Payer**



Member from Stockton, Calif., plays bass guitar with contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, on July 17.



On behalf of the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth accepts a certificate from U.S. Customs and Border Protection upon completion of the Smuggler's Gulch Project near the California-Mexico border July 6. The Cal Guard contributed to many elements of the Smuggler's Gulch Project, which included the construction of a 700-foot drainage structure, an earthen barrier across a canyon, all-weather roads and a secondary border fence.

Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey



Australian Capt. Will McDade explains to Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard, that the Australian Army modeled a large part of its standard operating procedures after the American armed forces. "You guys are the gods of urban warfare," McDade told Wade at the Urban Operation Training Facility of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland, Australia, on June 11. Wade was in Australia for the Talisman Saber exercise, which involved 30,000 service members from Australia and the United States.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo



A student at Alta Vista Elementary School in Redondo Beach, Calif., enjoys the inside of a Humvee brought to the school by Soldiers of the 578th Engineer Battalion in June. Alta Vista students, several of whose parents are deployed Soldiers, have written thousands of cards and letters to deployed service members during the past year as part of their "Character Counts" public service program.

Photo by Lt. Col. Kurt Schlichter



Cpl. Grant Henne of Detachment I, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, California Army National Guard, charges out of a mud pit during the Vandenberg Warrior Challenge Mud Run at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Kerelin Molina

*“Noncommissioned officers lead, train and take care of every one of those young Soldiers out there. The people who make the biggest contribution to the Army are the NCOs, so if you think the Army is accomplishing its mission, and the Soldiers are doing well, you have the Noncommissioned Officer Corps to thank for that.”*

— Robert E. Hall, Sergeant Major of the Army, 1997 to 2000



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 inspires fellow Soldiers

By Staff Sgt. Aaron Zuniga  
9th Civil Support Team

The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer recognizes those Soldiers who are the backbone of the U.S. Army. Staff Sgt. Jeremy R. Quinn has been an essential element in sustaining that backbone.

Throughout his endeavors, Quinn has continually accomplished his missions and has always put the welfare of his Soldiers first. Quinn’s uncanny leadership and devotion to duty remind me of the words of Aristotle: “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.”

At 6:47 a.m., I pull into the 9th Civil Support Team (CST) parking lot and see a rusted, almost dilapidated 1969 Datsun 510 with a 6-foot-4-inch Robert August surfboard protruding from the rear window. It is the only vehicle to be found. I walk into the unit and, to no surprise, observe Quinn, who is completely drenched in sweat, heading from the weight room to the latrine.

I make myself comfortable at my desk, and by the time I have my laptop powered on, a vivacious Quinn briskly walks into the office consuming his usual whole-grain cereal with soy milk, mixed with a spoonful of natural peanut butter.

“Sgt. Zuniga,” he starts in a calm, almost restful manner, “do you have or know of any issues with equipment that is not stated in our equipment status report?”

It’s 7:30 a.m., and I haven’t even sipped on my Pepsi Max yet, but the man is down to business. “Negative, no issues,” I reply.

Quinn serves as survey team chief for the 9th CST. Formerly (and forever) an infantryman, he served with the 25th Infantry Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1-5, scout/sniper section, in Fort Lewis, Wash. Shortly thereafter, an attachment to the 160th Long Range Surveillance Detachment, based at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos, Calif., served Quinn well, as he became a team leader and also deployed to Bosnia.

“This is the kind of guy that I would never want to see decorated in dress blues. ... I don’t think I could accept that level of intimidation,” 9th CST Staff Sgt. James Brunette said about Quinn, admiringly.

As a survey team chief, Quinn leads a three-



Staff Sgt. Jeremy R. Quinn, right, is an inspirational leader for Soldiers of the 9th Civil Support Team. As a survey team chief, Quinn leads a three-person team that is prepared to respond in the event of an incident involving a weapon of mass destruction.

Soldier team that is prepared to respond in the event of an incident involving a weapon of mass destruction. On top of his primary mission, the myriad of additional duties Quinn takes on — ranging from specific equipment knowledge to unit fitness and building fire safety — is virtually endless.

“[He is] a strong and well-balanced individual,” said 1st Sgt. James Fox of the 9th CST. “He is knowledgeable in doctrine, both military and civilian, that is crucial in sustaining our mission. And he just barely beats me in the 2-mile run as well.”

Quinn is a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist on top of being an infantryman — two illustrious specialties that have been combined in a Soldier who continues to find ways to make them work together.

Explaining his dedication to the Army, Quinn

said he is motivated by being a part of something bigger than himself, and he believes the direction the Army is headed is worth the fight.

Quinn is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in sports and health sciences from American Military University. He also aspires to become a chemical specialist for U.S. Special Operations Command.

Inspirational Soldiers give others motivation — the motivation to become something better — and in turn, the mission sustains and greatly improves. Soldiers become assets and core members of something that is worth the fight, both for their colleagues and, most importantly, for themselves.

Quinn has been an inspiration to all of us at the 9th CST, and the Army could not recognize anyone more vital to its backbone during the Year of the NCO.

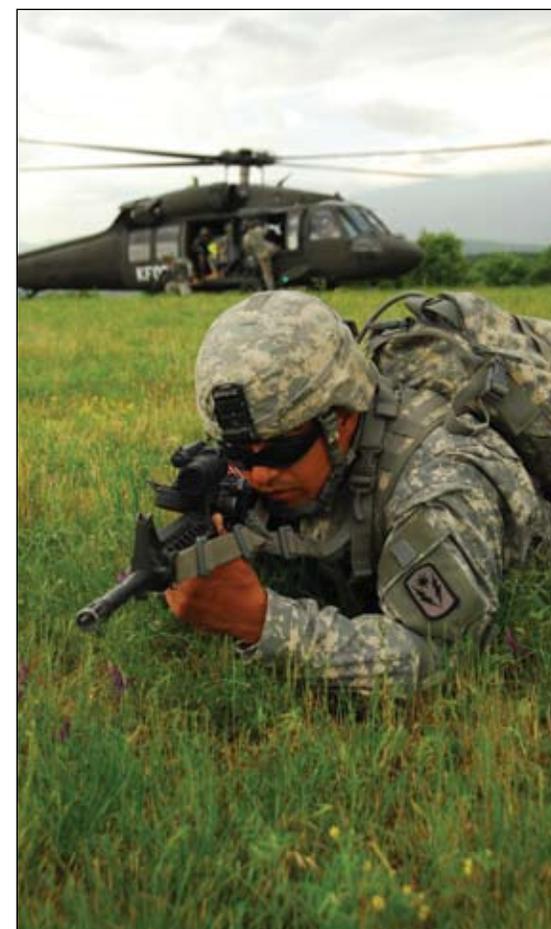
PHOTO COURTESY OF STAFF SGT. JEREMY R. QUINN



# New leaders earn their stripes

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade | 69th Public Affairs Detachment

Here is a recipe for disaster: Try to create a well-oiled fighting force with junior noncommissioned officers (NCO) and enlisted Soldiers who are from different states and have never worked together. Make sure to mix in various military occupational skills like finance, military intelligence, aviation and cavalry, and then have them conduct small unit combat operations. Finally, toss in daily leadership changes and expect positive results in two weeks.



“These young Soldiers we have here are going to make outstanding leaders.”

— Staff Sgt. Christopher Petty,  
154th Regional Training Institute

**TOP RIGHT:** Students assemble on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, for the Warrior Leader Course, which trains and evaluates Soldiers who aspire to enter the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Spc. Lee Caldwell of 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, California National Guard, lays prone while his Warrior Leader Course classmates are inserted into the training area behind him during the final phase of the Warrior Leader Course. **Center:** Students in the Warrior Leader Course carry a patient litter to a waiting UH-60 Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopter during a drill emergency. **LEFT:** Sgt. Christopher Johnen, left, of the Long Beach-Calif.-based 250th Military Intelligence Battalion and Spc. Rogelio Fiscal of the 5501st U.S. Army Hospital in San Antonio look for enemy contacts during the Warrior Leader course.

With these ingredients, it's easy to imagine a clash of opinions and a breakdown in team cohesion, but this is what future enlisted leaders are subjected to during the Army Warrior Leader Course, a melting pot of unique Soldiers and skills.

“This course is distinctive. It brings together different [military occupational skills], which combines our knowledge and helps in areas some might be rusty,” said Spc. Lee Caldwell, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, Combined Arms Battalion, which is deployed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. “[It] helps us better ourselves because we all need to be Soldiers first, and what it comes down to is working with other skill sets and knowing each other's part.”

The Warrior Leader Course is the testing ground for Soldiers who wish to enter the NCO Corps. Kosovo Force 11 (KFOR) Multi-National Task Force-East recently brought eight National Guard instructors from regional training institutes (RTI) across the United States to Camp Bondsteel to teach three classes.

“If we were in Iraq or Afghanistan, I would have had to send my guys [to this course] after we were done with our tour,” said Master Sgt. Edward Martinelli, Task Force Falcon training NCO in charge. “It really helps for ... Soldiers to knock it out here while family and work aren't affected.”

Each Soldier was evaluated on their tactical leadership in

the field, land navigation and performance around the garrison and living quarters as well as their ability to run a physical fitness training session, pass the Army Physical Fitness Test and teach a class.

The Cal Guard's 40th Infantry Division, which has been in charge of the Multi-National Task Force-East mission since March, planned the courses months before the 40th ID mobilized, and the efforts have paid off, as more than 160 National Guard Soldiers from California, Alaska, Maryland, Texas and West Virginia have graduated.

“These young Soldiers we have here are going to make outstanding leaders,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Petty of the 154th RTI, based in Camp Shelby, Miss. “They are learning to come together and be successful at it. They are adapting as we go and getting things done.”

The eight instructors, like many of their students, met each other only days before the first class.

“[The cadre] didn't know each other when we arrived, and we had four days to click,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Graham, 640th RTI, based in Camp Williams, Utah. “Luckily, we were already on the same page because we used the Course Management Plan and Program of Instruction.”

The cadre set aside the last few days of the course to bring the classroom concepts to raw reality: Each troop was sub-

jected to two field evaluations.

“The instructors and this course really hammer home the concept of what leadership is all about. We study counseling and all that it entails,” said Spc. William Tobin of the 1-169th General Support Aviation Battalion, based in Edgewood, Md. “We go over a lot of the things I've seen my leaders do, [and] now it makes a lot more sense why they do it.”

The action in the field hit a crescendo when platoons faced off against each other and were hit with mock casualties. Leaders responded with confidence and authority, combat lifesaver skills were tested and medical evacuations were called in.

“[The cadre] makes sure that we understand what it is like to be an NCO, to lead troops. That is what this is all about,” Tobin said.

It may take time for some of the new graduates to fully realize their responsibility and run with it in full stride, but when Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston paid a visit to Camp Bondsteel and conducted an NCO induction ceremony, the new sergeants got a huge kick start. Preston made it clear what he and the rest of the NCO Corps expect of the graduating class: “I am aware of my role as a non-commissioned officer,” the NCO Creed states. “I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role.”



# 'Lost Battalion'

## embodied courage, determination

**By 1st Lt. Michael Anthony Rodriguez**  
**Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

In the history of combat, there are individuals who displayed feats of heroism so selfless, so courageous, that even in war they make people remember the good in humanity. Our country recognizes those service members with the Medal of Honor to forever document their contributions to our nation.

Among the California Army National Guard Soldiers who have been bestowed the honor was Capt. Nelson Miles Holderman, who joined the Cal Guard and took his place as a citizen-Soldier in 1916. Soon after he enlisted, he found himself on patrol near the U.S.-Mexico border during the raids of Mexican Gen. Pancho Villa. Holderman later became a lieutenant, and by the time his unit deployed to Europe in 1918, he was a captain in command of Company K, 307th Infantry Regiment, 77th Division.

On Oct. 2, 1918, Allied forces rushed through the mist and fog of the Argonne Forest to break the German line. The forces under Maj. Charles White Whittlesey, including Holderman and Company K, were able to advance on their objective. American Soldiers on their right and French forces on their left, however, were unable to keep up, and Whittlesey's troops found themselves cut off and surrounded by enemy forces.

The next five days must have seemed an eternity as the Americans repelled numerous assaults by the German Army. Making matters worse, the troops were in possession of little water and ammunition. During all of this, artillery shells from friendly forces pounded the Americans' positions, while air drops of American supplies landed in German hands.

Still, with the sheer determination shown by Whittlesey, Holderman and the other commanding officers, the "Lost Battalion" held off the Germans and were relieved by the Allies. Of the 687 Soldiers under Whittlesey's command, 194 returned from the mission. Whittlesey, Holderman and three other officers were given the Medal of Honor for their actions.

"Captain Holderman commanded a company of a battalion which was cut off and surrounded by the enemy," the citation states. "He was wounded on 4, 5, and 7 October, but throughout the entire period, suffering great pain and subjected to fire of every character, he continued personally to lead and encourage the officers and men under his command with unflinching courage and with distinguished success. On 6 October, in a wounded condition, he rushed through enemy machine-gun and shell fire and carried 2 wounded men to a place of safety."

After the war, Holderman rejoined the California National Guard and was appointed commandant of Yountville Soldier's Home, where he cared for veterans and reached the rank of colonel. Whittlesey acted as a pall bearer at the burial of the Unknown Soldier in 1921. But later that year, overcome by grief, he committed suicide by leaping off a boat at sea.



PHOTO BY SGT. MAJ. CAMERON PORTER

French elementary school students prepare to lay wreaths at a memorial to the 77th Division's Lost Battalion during a ceremony Oct. 7, 2008, in Binarville, France, to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the division's service in the Argonne Forest.

## Fun Fact



A carrier pigeon launched by the Lost Battalion in 1918 delivered a message to American forces that the battalion was in dire straits and needed rescue. The pigeon, Cher Ami, which is French for "dear friend," completed his mission despite being shot through the chest, blinded in one eye and shot in the leg. When Cher Ami returned to his loft, the Lost Battalion's message was dangling from the ligaments of his shattered leg. Within hours, 194 survivors of the battalion were safe behind American lines. Army doctors fixed a wooden leg for Cher Ami, and he lived to be awarded the French Croix de Guerre. After he died, Cher Ami's body was stuffed and is on display in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.



## By the Numbers

Soldiers who were recognized with a Medal of Honor for their gallantry and heroism as part of the Lost Battalion: Lt. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, Maj. George G. McMurtry, Capt. Nelson M. Holderman of the California National Guard, Lt. Erwin R. Bleckley and Lt. Harold E. Goettler.

# I-185th Armor heads home

By Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr  
Washington National Guard

Col. Ronald M. Kapral and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert J. Sweeney rolled up the 81st Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) colors July 13 at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, and once again placed them in a protective case, signaling the brigade's return to the United States after nearly nine months serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Colonel Kapral, the performance of your team has been nothing less than inspirational," said Maj. Gen. Richard T. Tryon, U.S. Marine Corps, commanding general of Multi-National Force-West in Iraq. "Every Soldier of this unit is a shining example of all that is good in this military and all that is good in our country."

The 81st HBCT, made up of Soldiers from the California National Guard and the Washington National Guard, mobilized Aug. 18, 2008, and conducted roughly seven weeks of training at Fort McCoy, Wis., and in Kuwait before heading to Iraq in October. The 81st HBCT comprises six battalions and a headquarters company.

"I am in awe of these Soldiers," said Kapral, the commander of the 81st HBCT. "They come from all walks of life, many different professions, and yet when our nation and state called, they answered and performed their duty."



Col. Ronald M. Kapral, commander of the 81st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert J. Sweeney roll up the 81st HBCT colors during a traditional casing ceremony July 13 on Camp Ramadi, Iraq. Unit colors are cased for protection when traveling overseas. The 81st HBCT, comprising Guard Soldiers from Washington and California, began returning from its nine-month deployment in Iraq last month.

The California National Guard's 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, Combined Arms Battalion, performed a security force mission throughout Multi-National Division-North at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, near Tikrit. The battalion's three companies provided convoy security support to core assets.

The Soldiers of the 1-185th Armor proved their combat readiness, stamina and professionalism by executing more than 1,500 missions, totaling more than 1 million mission miles, without incident. Fifty-six Soldiers of Company B, based in Riverside, Calif., six Soldiers of Company C, based in Palmdale, Calif., and 49 Soldiers of Com-

pany D, based in Madera, Calif., were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge or Combat Action Badge. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, based in San Bernardino, Calif., provided command and control for all the missions.

"We have taken them away from their families, friends and jobs, and they did not complain or question," Kapral said. "They have lived in tents, barracks and containerized housing units, trained in temps below freezing to over 130 degrees, and still they perform their tasks without question."

The 81st HBCT lost one Soldier during its deployment: Spc. Samuel Stone, 20, of Port Orchard, Wash., died in a non-combat related incident May 30.

"I and the Soldiers of the 81st HBCT deeply regret the loss of Specialist Stone," Kapral said. "Specialist Stone was a fine Soldier who proudly served his country and state. He upheld the finest traditions of being a Soldier."

In July, Soldiers of the 81st HBCT began returning to Fort McCoy for five days of demobilization, including medical screenings and benefit briefings.

"I would like to thank [the Soldiers] for the work and sacrifices they have made," Kapral said. "They have left their mark in history as a unit that helped win the war in Iraq."

# I 498th TC returns from year in Iraq, Kuwait

By 2nd Lt. (CA) Heather J. Hagan  
JFTB-Los Alamitos Public Affairs



The sunrise greeted 270 Soldiers of the 1498th Transportation Company as their plane taxied under a celebratory arch of water provided by the Long Beach Fire Department on July 18 at Long Beach Airport, welcoming the troops home from a yearlong tour in Iraq and Kuwait.

Standing with 1,000 other family and community members, Sierra Morales, 9, wearing a princess hat and a T-shirt with a picture of her mother on it, grinned with excitement as the commander of the 1498th, Maj. Caroline Morales, stepped out of the plane.

"I can't believe she's here!" Sierra said before jumping into her mother's arms and hearing the commander whisper, "I love you."

After the second plane of Soldiers arrived around 10 a.m., Sgt. Timothy Pennock met his 5-month-old daughter, Isla, for the first time and held her tightly in his arms. Pennock's wife, Tiffany, said the sacrifice a Soldier gives is a sacrifice their whole family makes.

"Everyone helps raise the baby," she said, "and knowing the family is there to help [the spouse] helps the Soldier keep their mind on their job."

The 1498th transported equipment "First, do a couple of things for your fam-

ily," said Maj. Gen. John Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard. "Second, take time for your family. Third, don't be in a hurry to go back to work."

Morales said she missed her daughter's ninth birthday and her whole fourth grade school year, but military support organizations offered valuable assistance.

"My family stayed involved with our deployment through our Family Readiness Group, which I think helped my daughter deal with my absence and will make my re-integration easier," she said.

Soldiers of the 1498th live throughout California, though most are in Sacramento, South Los Angeles, Long Beach and the Riverside area.

"[The] 1498th is a unit filled with true American heroes," Morales said.

The following day, the Soldiers attended briefings hosted by the California Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, which stressed the importance of family life. The Yellow Ribbon program has provided benefit information to the Soldiers and their families throughout the deployment cycle as well as information on topics such as entitlements, marriage seminars and transition assistance.

"First, do a couple of things for your fam-

ily," said Maj. Gen. John Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard. "Second, take time for your family. Third, don't be in a hurry to go back to work."



TOP: Sierra Morales, 9, hugs her mom, Maj. Caroline Morales, commander of the 1498th Transportation Company (TC), at Long Beach Airport on July 18 during a long-awaited homecoming ceremony for the unit, which deployed to Iraq and Kuwait for a year. BOTTOM LEFT: With his wife, Tiffany, Sgt. Timothy Pennock of the 1498th TC meets his 5-month-old daughter, Isla, for the first time during the July 18 homecoming. RIGHT: Friends and family await the arrival of the 1498th TC at Long Beach Airport.

## 144th FW pilot reaches 3,000 hours

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Vaughn

Lt. Col. John Jensen, a pilot with the 194th Fighter Squadron, 144th Fighter Wing, flew his 3,000th hour in an F-16 in June, joining an exclusive club of pilots who have flown the equivalent of 125 days in the cockpit.

Jensen joins Lt. Col. Clay Garrison and Lt. Col. Mike Pofahl as the squadron's three pilots who have eclipsed the 3,000-hour mark.

"It's one of the ultimate accomplishments," said Lt. Col. Larry McKoane, commander of the 194th Fighter Squadron, "one only a few F-16 pilots have the privilege of reaching in their career."

Jensen began his military career in 1979, when he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He received his commission from the corps in 1982, joined the Montana Air National Guard in 1986 and switched to the 144th Fighter Wing, California National Guard, in October 2007.

Jensen has deployed 14 times to eight countries, including a combat tour in Iraq during the summer of 2002, enforcing the southern no-fly zone.

"It's been a privilege serving my country while doing something I love," he said.

Jensen will retire in October after 29 years of service.



Lt. Col. John Jensen, right, flew his 3,000th hour in an F-16 in June. Only two other members of the Fresno, Calif.-based 144th Fighter Wing have achieved that distinction. Jensen, who began his military career in the Marine Corps, will retire this year after 29 years of service.



Sgt. Bradley Daeda of the 49th Military Police Brigade tosses an M-203 grenade simulator down range during Task Force Warrior training at Camp Roberts, Calif., in June.

## 49th MPs hone warrior skills for Iraq tour

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

More than 100 Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade united on Camp Roberts, Calif., in June for annual training and to gain perspective on their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

The Soldiers underwent battle drills, performed warrior tasks and received instruction in lifesaving techniques, land navigation and combatives during their Task Force Warrior training at Camp Roberts. Other subjects covered in drills included troop movement, reacting to indirect fire and entry-control-point procedures.

The 49th has been preparing for Operation Iraqi Freedom for many months. Training schedules were geared toward the upcoming deployment, and deploying Soldiers are now situated in their respective roles.

The training provided during Task Force Warrior reduces the number of required tasks at the 49th's pre-mobilization station, Fort Dix, N.J. Task Force Warrior covers 37 warrior tasks and 11 battle drills that all Soldiers must complete prior to deployment.

During Task Force Warrior training, the 49th endured extreme weather conditions while performing weapons qualifications. Despite searing heat — with temperatures just over 100 degrees — every member qualified with a new M-4A2 rifle and an M-9 pistol. The 49th also traveled to nearby Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., for Tactical Iraqi Language Training, driver's training and other mandatory briefings.

The 49th will deploy in August to help train Iraqi police officers. The brigade will support Iraqi law enforcement in areas such as security, police operations and law and order, and it



Staff Sgt. Victor Rae of the 49th Military Police Brigade moves a claymore mine simulator into position during Task Force Warrior training at Camp Roberts, Calif., in June.

could be involved in detainee operations. The goal is to help create a self-supporting Iraqi police force, fully functional in handling the Iraqi government's effort to protect its citizens. The 49th also deployed in 2005-2006, and just over a dozen Soldiers from that mission will deploy in August.

# CNG gives Gitmo troops early Christmas

By Tech. Sgt. Joseph Prouse  
JFHQ Public Affairs

Forty-seven members of the 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) braved the heat, mosquitoes and torrential downpours of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from May 29 through June 13 to train and support Navy and Joint Task Force facilities.

Airmen from the 163rd refurbished and upgraded existing sites and built new ones. The 474th CES, a West Virginia Guard unit stationed at Guantanamo Bay for six months, worked alongside the 163rd.

"We are here for a full [Air and Space Expeditionary Force] rotation, so we get to see new units come in, we share what we know, get them up to speed, and along the way they teach us a few things," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Sims of the 474th.

The largest project for the 163rd was to demolish and rebuild two latrines for the 525th Military Police Battalion, which is assigned for duties pertaining to detainees. The communal bathrooms were gutted, and toilets, sinks, shower fixtures, water heaters, and heating and air conditioning units were replaced.

"These bathrooms get pretty beat up from use and the saltwater in the air," said an Army staff sergeant who can only be identified as Defender 12 because of security measures. "When I heard we are going to have hot showers again, it was like waiting for Christmas."

Other projects included building a target-storage shelter at a firing range and installing electrical conduit and wires to a new circuit breaker panel for a wood and metal shop, which is part of the station's morale, welfare and recreation center.

"This base and what is on it are all the people here have," said Airman 1st Class Cully Hopkins of the 163rd. "I feel an immense amount of selfless service and



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE



Airmen from the 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron, California National Guard, work in June to build and repair facilities for Soldiers and Sailors stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In all, 47 Airmen from the squadron spent about two weeks at Guantanamo Bay, providing electrical expertise and building latrines and other structures.

pride to come over and improve their quality of life."

In addition to common deployment challenges like basic logistics and climate adaptation, the Guantanamo Bay location creates a unique situation for Soldiers and

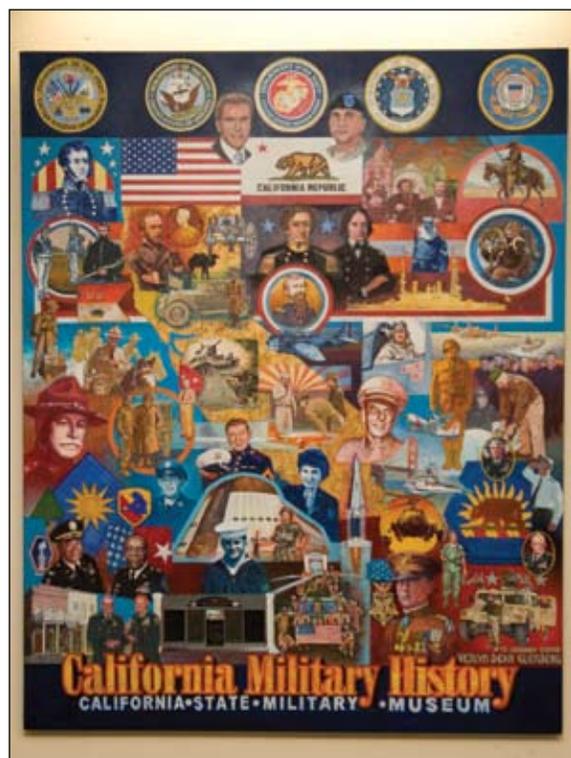
Airmen working on improvements.

"The hardest part about the mission here is being behind the wire: If the right nuts and bolts aren't here, it's not like we can go to Home Depot," said 1st Sgt. Greg Jackson of the 163rd, noting that items ordered

from the mainland take a week to arrive by barge.

Tying together aid and services from the Navy, Army, Coast Guard and civilian contractors, however, the 163rd established partnerships that enabled mission success.

## Retired Guardsman captures history on canvas



Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The California State Military Museum was honored to receive the latest addition to its vast collection of military memorabilia June 5. A 4-by-5-foot acrylic painting on canvas, the California Military History Mural depicts historical acts and figures from the period of Spanish Colonization of California through current events in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The piece consists of 66 separate images, including portraits of Gen. James H. Doolittle, Gen. George S. Patton and former U.S. President and California Gov. Ronald W. Reagan. Portraits of current Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the adjutant general of the California National Guard, William H. Wade II, adorn the top of the mural.

Artist Verlyn Dean Gleisberg was a member of the California Army National Guard's 69th Public Affairs Detachment from 1976 to 1979 and retired a staff sergeant. He had previously served in the U.S. Air Force. The Loomis, Calif., resident worked on the mural for almost four years and said many of the images have special meanings for him.

"The mural includes several images that are very person-

al to me: myself, depicted from my official graduation photo from Air Force basic training in April 1956; my father, Captain William R. Gleisberg, from a photograph taken during the Korean War; and the Vietnam era Navy seaman Ronald Starbuck, who was the docent at the Military Museum who invited me to paint the mural and who was the driving force behind the project," Gleisberg said.



Gleisberg

The mural is on permanent display at the California State Military Museum in Sacramento.

"The California National Guard was honored to take part of the dedication of the California Military History Mural," said Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth, director, Joint Staff, California National Guard. "The piece, which depicts such a varied history of the California military, will prove to be an asset to the California State Military Museum and to all those who view the work."

# 146th shows off C-130J at Paris Air Show



Airmen from the 146th Airlift Wing, based at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Calif., stand before one of the wing's C-130J Super Hercules aircraft while awaiting the arrival of distinguished guests, including three U.S. senators, at the 48th International Paris Air Show in June.

## By Capt. Kimberly Holman San Diego Regional Public Affairs

The California state flag waved proudly in the breeze from the hatch of a C-130J Super Hercules in June, parked of all places, at the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris.

The California Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing, based at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, participated in the 48th International Paris Air Show in Le Bourget, France, just outside of Paris, June 15-21. The air show is the largest and longest-running aerospace event in the world, dating back to 1909.

The 146th was invited to the 2009 air show to represent the Department of Defense with its new C-130J Super Hercules. The California aircrew was among more than 70 personnel at the show from military installations throughout Europe and the United States. Various U.S. military aircraft and weaponry were on exhibit to display our country's

continued commitment to international cooperation, security and U.S. foreign policy objectives.

"There is such a rich history here at the International Paris Air Show," said Lt. Col. Bryan Allen, aircraft commander for the 146th. "That history, combined with all the newest, most advanced technologies here on display, and on such a grand scale — it's really something to see."

Several U.S. senators and distinguished visitors toured the aircraft and were briefed on the C-130J's capabilities. California Guard members shook hands and visited with Sens. Thad Cochran of Mississippi, James Inhofe of Oklahoma and Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii. Also present were Gen. Roger A. Brady, U.S. Air Forces Europe commander, and Vice Adm. Richard Gallagher of the Navy, who is U.S. European Command deputy commander. On June 17, Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley arrived to wish the U.S. representatives well and thank them for their service.

"It's quite an honor to be here representing the entire Department of Defense," said Lt. Col. R.B. Allen, one of the pilots in the crew. "The opportunity to meet an actual Medal of Honor recipient is an extra I never expected," he said, referring to Inouye, the third most senior U.S. senator, whose heroic actions in combat during World War II earned him the medal.

The C-130J Super Hercules is the newest, most advanced tactical airlifter in the Defense Department's inventory. The 146th Airlift Wing is one of four U.S. units that fly the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) mission. The 146th recently completed annual certification and training with the newest MAFFS 2 equipment, and it is now the only unit worldwide that is flying a C-130J with a MAFFS 2 system. The unit has logged more than 15,000 hours in the C-130J since it received its first of eight C-130J aircraft in 2002. The wing has flown more than 300,000 hours without an accident or incident.

## Dispelling myths about the inspector general

### MYTH #1

The inspector general (IG) is the first place to go to solve my problems with the military.

**FACT:** The IG is usually the last place to go, short of calling your Congressional representative. Utilize your chain of command first. If a military member

or civilian doesn't feel comfortable working with the chain of command or doesn't have access to the chain of command, they may go directly to the IG.

### MYTH #2

The IG can fix all my problems.

**FACT:** The role of the IG entails four

primary functions: providing assistance, conducting investigations, doing inspections, and teaching and training. The IG looks into each case to determine what level of assistance is needed and to determine if an investigation or inspection is necessary. Not every person will receive the outcome they are seeking.

### MYTH #3

The IG will make sure justice is served.

**FACT:** The IG does not have command authority and therefore cannot direct an action to be accomplished. The IG is on the personal staff of the adjutant general/commander and can make recommendations. The commander has the final say on what action — if any — will be taken.

### MYTH #4

The Inspector General has the authority to direct corrective action.

**FACT:** The IG does not have authority to direct disciplinary action or policy/procedure changes. The IG recommends changes based on regulatory guidance pertaining to issues discovered during inspections and assistance inquiries. The decision rests with the command.

### MYTH #5

The IG is out to penalize commands during inspections.

**FACT:** Gen. George Washington stood up the Office of the Inspector General to create a common standard, the original "blue book," for the Continental Army to use to train to fight. Today, the IG conducts inspections to ensure each command is training and conducting operations using proper regulations, policies and procedures. Standardized checklists ensure all units are inspected the same way. Inspection reports do not normally include unit or individual names, but rather focus on overall trends in the command.

### MYTH #6

The IG serves the military member.

**FACT:** Inspectors general serve their commanders and their commands by executing the four IG functions for the specific purposes of enhancing the command's discipline, readiness and operational war-fighting capability.

### MYTH #7

The IG cannot access certain military documents and records.

**FACT:** Inspectors general are authorized to access all documents and evidentiary material needed to discharge their duties. This includes e-mails, medical records and classified information. Inspectors general must follow the permissions set by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) when accessing medical records, as re-disclosure is prohibited. Inspectors general must also have appropriate security clearance to view classified information. Inspectors general are not authorized to access material that is subject to attorney-client privilege or any other legally recognized privilege.

### MYTH #8

My commander can restrict me from going to the IG.

**FACT:** Commanders may not restrict subordinates from communication with the IG. Communications with the IG, the chain of command, members of Congress or any other agency created to receive reports of violations of regulations and law, gross waste and mismanagement, abuse of authority, or danger to public health and safety are considered protected communications.

# Retired Brig. Gen. (CA) Ezell Ware Jr. dies at 68



land, S.C.; Camp Lejeune, N.C.; and Camp Pendleton, Calif. He continued to serve in the Reserve as a lance corporal from Aug. 31, 1963, to Oct. 1, 1965.

On June 17, 1966, then-Sergeant Ware enlisted in the Army, on active duty, through June 5, 1967. From June 6, 1967, to Oct. 13, 1969, he served in the Army Reserve as a chief warrant officer 2. From June 7, 1967, to Sept. 5, 1968, Ware served as a combat helicopter gunship pilot in Vietnam with the 61st Helicopter Assault Company. Ware received a direct appointment as a first lieutenant on Oct. 13, 1969. On Oct. 13, 1970, Ware was promoted to captain. From Jan 1971 to March 1972, Ware served on active duty as a rotary wing pilot in Korea and on Fort Campbell, Ky.

On Nov. 1, 1972, Ware joined the California National Guard. He was promoted to major on May 1, 1976, and served in various Headquarters State Area Command positions, including administrative officer; race relations/equal opportunity operations; selective service officer; and deputy chief, selective service section.

Ware was promoted to lieutenant colonel

May 2, 1980, and served as selective service officer, movement officer and comptroller for Headquarters State Area Command, and as commander of the 49th Military Police (MP) Battalion from February 1985 to March 1987. From September 1989 to January 1990, Ware served as executive officer for the 49th MP Brigade. He was promoted to colonel in January 1990. From 1990 to 1996 he served in various positions, including director of intelligence and security, assistant chief of staff, deputy commander of the 49th MP Brigade and commander of the 49th MP Brigade. Ware received a state appointment to brigadier general on May 1, 1999, and served as the assistant adjutant general until May 16, 2003.

Ware's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with 12 oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and one oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Hourglass device, Army Reserve

Components Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon with numeral 4, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 device and the Overseas Service Bar. State awards include the Order of California, California Medal of Merit-3, California Service Medal-2, California State Service Ribbon, and California Drill Attendance Ribbon-5. Badges include the Army Aviation Badge and the Basic Recruiter Badge.

Ware was a graduate of the Air War College, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army Helicopter Flight School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in government from California State University and a Master of Science degree in human resources management from Troy State University.

A memorial service with full military honors was held July 9, 2009, at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, his family asked for donations to the Veterans Support Foundation, 8605 Cameron St., Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Retired Brig. Gen. (CA) Ezell Ware Jr., 68, died from cancer at his Texas home June 30, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Anita Cordero-Ware, and his children.

Ware was born in Critchin, Ala., on Feb. 6, 1941. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps as a private on Oct. 28, 1959, and served on active duty as a radio operator at Parris Is-

## Ware overcame poverty, racism, crash in enemy land

Courtesy of [www.bydutybound.com](http://www.bydutybound.com)

As a young, impoverished black man growing up in segregated Mississippi, Ezell Ware Jr.'s dream of becoming a pilot seemed like an impossibility. The house where he was raised had dirt floors and no running water, and no one in his community had a college degree or even a bank account.

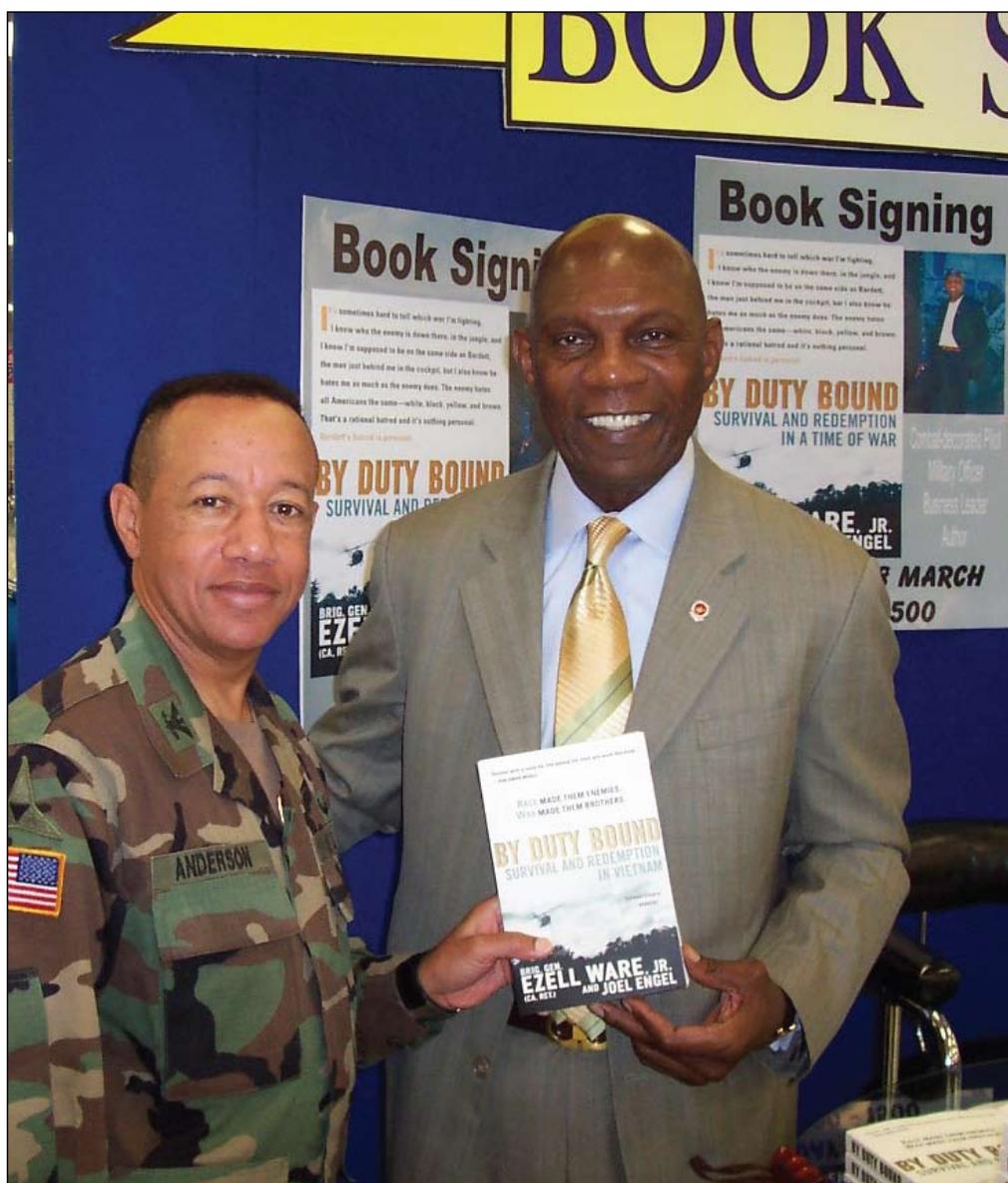
His determination to make his dream come true led him to serve first in the U. S. Marines (where he was the top recruit in his training class) and, after working as a policeman, to serve again in the military as an Army pilot. Flying helicopters in Vietnam, Ware traded the hardship of living under Jim Crow for the dangers of combat; nevertheless, with a single-mindedness that he would demonstrate throughout his whole life, he chose to pursue a lifelong Army career and even returned to the Far East when his first tour of duty ended.

It was on his last mission there, coming back from a troop deployment in Vietnam, that his helicopter was shot down, leaving him and his badly wounded commanding officer stranded in enemy territory. During his long trek back to safety, Ware faced armed enemies, starvation, monsoon rains and diseases — and learned that his injured captain, whom he was keeping alive, was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. The two men, tenaciously fighting to stay alive, would find themselves changed forever by their experience in the jungle together.

Ware's military career comprised four years in the Marine Corps, seven years in the U.S. Army and more than 30 years in the California Army National Guard. Brig. Gen. (CA) Ware retired from the military on May 1, 2003. His last assignment was as assistant adjutant general of the California National Guard.

Ware was also a motivational speaker and president of Ezell Ware & Associates, and his memoir, "By Duty Bound: Survival and Redemption in a Time of War," was released in March 2005.

The book is a firsthand account of the horrors of prejudice and war, told by a unique witness. It is also the sto-



Brig. Gen. Ezell Ware Jr., right, meets a fan at a book-signing event for Ware's memoir, "By Duty Bound: Survival and Redemption in a Time of War," which was released in 2005. Col. (Ret.) Ernie Zuick (not pictured) said Ware was a man who fought two wars simultaneously and emerged victorious. "Those who wonder where America's true heroes have gone need only read [Ware's] book."

PHOTO COURTESY OF BYDUTYBOUND.COM

ry of humanity, a humanity that Ware fought for and won on many different battlefields. It is Ware's tale of survival in terrifying circum-

stances, and of the upbringing that gave him the strength he needed to live for three weeks in the jungle.

# Guarding against sexual harassment, discrimination

Chief Master Sgt. Michael L. Hunt  
California National Guard Equal Employment Manager



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIEF MASTER SGT. MICHAEL L. HUNT

Members of the California National Guard equal employment opportunity office work to prevent sexual harassment and many other forms of workplace discrimination.

The California National Guard, as a professional military environment, must be free from discrimination, offensive language, physical abuse and verbal insults. All Airmen, Soldiers and civilian personnel are entitled to serve in surroundings free from discrimination and sexual harassment. In addition, pictures, cartoons or jokes that have the potential to be offensive must not be tolerated. Personal items displayed in our individual work places must also be free of prejudice and stereotypes.

One of the most common forms of discrimination is sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcome advances, requests for favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment violates acceptable standards of character and fairness required of all Airmen, Soldiers and civilian employees of the California National Guard. It also harms mission accomplishment and unit/workplace cohesion. There are two types of sexual harassment, "quid pro quo" and "environmental."

Quid pro quo sexual harassment is presented as a "bargain." Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature by one in a superior position – when submission by another is made either an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment – constitutes "bargained-for sexual harassment."

Sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other types of verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature are considered environmental sexual harassment when they have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment that unreasonably interferes with another's work. Environmental sexual harassment can inflict emotional and psychological harm on individuals and make relationships and work environments unpleasant, threatening and unproductive.

Environmental sexual harassment normally arises from a repeated and pervasive course of conduct, whereas

bargained-for sexual harassment can be based on a single act.

Some tips to remember:

- A victim or harasser may be male or female. A victim does not need to be a member of the opposite sex.
- Anyone could be a harasser – a supervisor, an agent of the employer, a supervisor in another section, a co-worker or even a non-employee.
- A person does not need to be directly harassed to be a victim. Anyone affected by an offensive action may be a victim.
- For harassment to occur, a victim does not need to be discharged or hurt financially.
- Conduct must be unwanted in order to be considered harassment.

Airmen, Soldiers and civilian employees who feel they are being harassed should make it immediately clear to the offender that the behavior is not invited or wanted. Do not remain silent. Victims may also report the alleged harasser to their supervisor, first sergeant, commander or director. Starting at the lowest level within the chain of command where a resolution could be reached is recommended. The Equal Employment Opportunity Office is also available to assist.

Inappropriate conduct will be dealt with swiftly, according to law and regulation, and responsible individuals are subject to "no-nonsense" disciplinary action. Furthermore, supervisors, managers and other leaders, both military and civilian, have a responsibility to guard the workplace against offensive behavior and are accountable for investigating sexual harassment allegations.

More information about sexual harassment is available from your local equal opportunity adviser or professional and from the Joint Force Headquarters Equal Employment Opportunity Office. Everyone shares in the responsibility to ensure the California National Guard maintains a workplace environment that fosters respect for all people as we fulfill our mission.

Sexual harassment is considered a form of sex discrimination, which violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Some other types of discrimination outlawed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission are listed below.

- **Sex-based discrimination:** It is unlawful to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of his or her sex in regard to hiring, termination, promotion, compensation, job training or any other term, condition or privilege of employment. The Civil Rights Act prohibits both intentional discrimination and neutral job policies that disproportionately exclude individuals on the basis of sex. Additionally, the Equal Pay Act requires that men and women be given equal pay for equal work in the same establishment. It is job content, not job titles, that determines whether jobs are substantially equal.

- **Pregnancy discrimination:** Discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions constitutes unlawful sex discrimination under the Civil Rights Act. Pregnancy-related protections extend to hiring practices, pregnancy and maternity leave, health insurance and fringe benefits.

- **Age discrimination:** The Age Discrimination in Employment Act protects individuals who are 40 or older from employment discrimination based on age.

- **Disability discrimination:** The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits employers from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities.

- **National origin discrimination:** Treating someone less favorably because he or she comes from a particular place; because of his or her ethnicity or accent; or because it is believed that he or she has a particular ethnic background violates the Civil Rights Act. Employers also may not discriminate because of marriage or other association with someone of a particular nationality.

- **Race-based discrimination:** Under the Civil Rights Act, equal employment opportunity cannot be denied to any person because of his or her racial group or perceived racial group; his or her race-linked characteristics (e.g., hair texture, color or facial features); or his or her marriage to or association with someone of a particular race or color.

- **Religious discrimination:** Employers may not treat employees or applicants more or less favorably because of their religious beliefs or practices — except to the extent that a religious accommodation is warranted. Employees cannot be forced to participate (or avert participation) in a religious activity as a condition of employment. An employer is not required to accommodate an employee's religious beliefs and practices if doing so would impose an undue hardship on the employer's legitimate business interests.

- **Retaliation:** An employer may not fire, demote, harass or otherwise retaliate against an individual for filing a discrimination charge, participating in a discrimination proceeding or otherwise opposing discrimination.

For more details, visit [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov).



**Pfc. Simon Chavez of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, right, and other California National Guard Soldiers train at Shoalwater Bay in Queensland, Australia (related story, page 8). Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo**

## College credit available for Guard service

Soldiers can receive college credit for education acquired through military training and experience, and a new publication from the American Council on Education (ACE) helps explain the process.

“A Transfer Guide: Understanding Your Military Transcript and ACE Credit Recommendations” is a free publication available at [www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu). It outlines factors that affect transfer of military credit, such as institutional policy, alignment with appropriate courses, procedures, requirements and application deadlines.

“Credit earned through military training and experience can provide service members and veterans with an important jump-start when pursuing higher education,” ACE President Molly Corbett Broad said in a press release.

More than 1,600 colleges and universities are members in ACE, which was founded in 1918, according to the council’s Web site.

## Cancer incidences may differ in military, civilian populations

Members of the U.S. military may have reduced risks of certain kinds of cancers and increased risks of other types, according to data published in the June issue of the medical journal *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*.

Using data from the Department of Defense and the National Cancer Institute, researchers compared the incidences of six types of cancer (breast, cervical, colorectal, lung, prostate and testicular) among people aged 20 to 59 years in the general U.S. population and in the active-duty military population.

Results showed the rates of breast cancer and prostate cancer were both statistically significantly higher in the military than in the general population, both for black people and white people.

Lung cancer was significantly less common among white men, black men and white women in the military than among those groups in the general population. Colorectal cancer was less common among white men in the military than in white civilian men, and cervical cancer was less common among black women in the military.

“Overall, these results suggest that cancer patterns may differ between

## DID YOU KNOW...

### the Army and the Air Force have different standards for physical fitness uniforms?

Members of the Army are not allowed to mix their physical fitness uniforms with civilian attire when on a military installation. This includes armories and headquarters. Soldiers may mix their physical fitness uniform with civilian clothes when off a military installation, but only if their commander authorizes it. Air Force personnel cannot mix civilian clothes with their physical fitness uniform during organized physical training (PT). At all other times, they may do so.

Air Force personnel may wear their PT shirt tucked in or out. Army personnel must wear the shirt tucked in at all times.

Army personnel, when authorized by their commander, may wear calf-high or ankle-high, plain white socks with no logos. Air Force personnel may wear white socks which are any length and may have small conservative trademark logos.

For more information, see AR 670-1 and AFI 36-2903.

military and nonmilitary populations,” the researchers wrote. “Further studies are needed to confirm these findings and explore contributing factors.”

The study can be found on the journal’s Web site, <http://cebp.aacrjournals.org>.

## Photos sought for Queensryche video

Rock band Queensryche is accepting submissions of service members’ photos at <http://americansoldieralbum.com/homeagain> for use in a video for the ballad “Home Again,” which was based on letters between a deployed Soldier and his daughter.

The band is seeking photos of service members, with their families, either deploying or returning from duty. All people who submit a photo will also be entered in a contest to win an autographed guitar.



Pvt. Richard Hillman of the California National Guard holds hands with his brother Adam, 9, after completing basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. on June 9.

Photo by Diana Hillman

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