

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



The Cal Guard prepares for disaster



Commander's corner

December's history runs deep

Major General William H. Wade II



When you ask someone about the significance of December, the answer most often rendered will probably revolve around Christmas and New Year's holiday celebrations. However, there are many significant historical events attributable to the month of December. Some of the most notable are:

Dec. 1, 1906 – Theodore Roosevelt becomes the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dec. 1, 1955 – Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus, advancing the effort for civil rights.

Dec. 2, 1865 – The Thirteenth Amendment is adopted prohibiting slavery.

Dec. 3, 1775 – The first American flag is raised aboard the USS Alfred.

Dec. 7, 1941 – Japanese warplanes attack the United States at Pearl Harbor.

Dec. 8, 1941 – The United States enters World War II.

Dec. 10, 1869 – The first women's suffrage law in the United States is passed in Wyoming.

Dec. 16, 1773 – The Boston Tea Party occurs, setting the stage for the American Revolution.

Dec. 16, 1944 – The Battle of the Bulge begins in Germany.

Dec. 17, 1903 – Orville and Wilbur Wright complete the first successful manned power-aircraft flight.

Dec. 20, 1989 – The United States invades Panama and deposes dictator Manuel Noriega.

Dec. 21, 1945 – The infamous World War II commander, Gen. George S. Patton, dies from injuries incurred in an automobile accident.

Dec. 22, 1941 – Wake Island falls to the Japanese after a heroic 15-day stand by 400 U.S. Marines.

Dec. 25, 1943 – General Dwight D. Eisenhower is named Supreme Allied Commander of all forces for the invasion of Europe.

Dec. 27, 1944 – The Battle of the Bulge ends, and with it, the end of the second World War is in sight.

However, Dec. 13 seems to be a special day throughout history for many reasons:

Dec. 13, 1843 – Charles Dickens publishes "A Christmas Carol" and sells 6,000 copies.

Dec. 13, 1918 – Woodrow Wilson becomes the first president to make a foreign visit in order to head the American delegation at the Versailles Conference.

Dec. 13, 1920 – The League of

Nations establishes the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

Dec. 13, 1937 – After just four days of fighting, Japanese troops enter the city of Nanking with orders to "kill all captives," beginning several weeks of raping and killing that became known as the "Rape of Nanking".

Dec. 13, 1950 – Gene Autry's "Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer" tops the radio charts.

Dec. 13, 1966 – The first U.S. bombing of Hanoi commences.

Dec. 13, 1973 – Detroit became the first city to receive a franchise for the infamously unsuccessful World Football League.

Dec. 13, 1978 – The first coin to honor a woman is issued in honor of Susan B. Anthony.

Dec. 13, 1983 – Detroit and Denver play for three hours and 11 minutes in the longest game in professional basketball history with the Pistons winning in triple overtime 186-183: The contest set single-game records for most points scored by two teams, by one team, assists, and field goals, as well as most hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts, nachos and pennants sold.

Dec. 13, 1989 – The Polish government imposes martial law in an attempt to crush the Solidarity movement.

Dec. 13, 1989 – South African President F. W. de Klerk meets with Nelson Mandela for the first time.

Dec. 13, 1993 – Dow Jones hits record 3764.43.

Dec. 13, 2003 – American forces capture Saddam Hussein who had been hiding in a hole near his hometown of Tikrit.

Arguably, the most notable Dec. 13 event occurred in 1636, when the General Court of Boston organized three regiments for protection of the Colonies, effectively establishing the National Guard of the United States, America's oldest and longest serving armed force. This happens to be my favorite day in December, and therefore, makes the month extra special for this militiaman.

Happy Holidays and Happy Birthday to all my fellow Minutemen and Women.



Family, safety key during holidays

Command Sergeant Major William Clark Jr.

As you read this edition of the Grizzly, you are no doubt gearing up for the holiday season. While the winter holidays are foremost a time of sacred reflection and celebration of family, we would do well to remember they also call for good judgment on the part of our Soldiers and Airmen.

As of this writing, more than 1,800 California National Guardsmen are deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism, with about 800 more mobilized to active duty in the

States. For those recently returning from deployments, the holidays are especially meaningful - and challenging - as troops seek to reintegrate into family life and their civilian careers.

To ensure this reorientation goes smoothly, servicemembers should intentionally spend quality time with their families throughout the holidays. In addition, they should not try to tackle their vocational responsibilities all at once, but give themselves ample time to readjust to their work routines.

We must also remember that while family comes first, safety is also a must. As command sergeant major of the Cal Guard, I expect leaders at all levels to remind their troops of the hazards they might encounter as they drive through unpredictable weather. They should also encourage Soldiers and Airmen to abstain from alcohol, use their seat belts and get adequate rest when driving. Operating a vehicle at night or after a full day of duty are also hazards, as is driving more than eight hours in one day.

California is home to the nation's finest National Guardsmen, and those returning from deployments are especially deserving of our admiration. Equally amazing is the support our families continue to provide during these challenging times. They inspire us all to make further sacrifices, the kind that make our nation both strong and free.

I wish all who serve a well-deserved time of rest and celebration this holiday season.

Grizzly

The Official Newsmagazine of
the California National Guard

December

Vol 3. No.12 **2008**

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

2nd Lt. Will Martin

Editorial Staff

1st Lt. Theresa Chrystal
Jonathan Guibord

Photographers

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Prouse
Spc. Michael Amicy
Tech. Sgt. David Loeffler

Layout, Graphics, Photo Editing

Nida Chindalaksanalert



From the editor

The month of November kept California National Guardsmen on their game.

While a mass exercise provided critical disaster-response training, the outbreak of wildfires in Southern California reminded us all that Mother Nature needs no scenario to test our mettle.

Vigilant Guard '09 served as the California National Guard's part in the Golden Guardian exercise. Involved were more than 100 disaster-response and government agencies from across the state. By interacting with yet another exercise - the Great Southern California Shake Out - about 5,000 civilian and Guard personnel reacted to a notional 7.8-magnitude earthquake along the San Andreas fault. Observing in person were Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his Office of Emergency Services staff, as well as Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard.

The combined exercises put the Guard and civilian agencies' interdependency to the test, and they responded well under

pressure. In addition to airlift assistance, California's Airmen and Soldiers offered their expertise and manpower in providing medical, engineering and evacuation support. The governor left impressed.

"California has the best emergency operations and first responders in the world," said Schwarzenegger, "but we always want to get better, which is why this practice drill is so important."

In mid-November, fires raged from Santa Barbara to Orange County, burning more than 40,000 acres, and the Cal Guard stood ready to react before the fires ultimately died down.

In addition, the 1-185th Armor Company Soldiers landed in Iraq to carry out their yearlong deployment, a Cal Guard pilot passed a flight milestone and one Soldier continued to turn his Iraq deployment into a shot at musical stardom.



185th Armor

Cal Guardsman land in Iraq, ready to tackle their mission.

Music Man

Guardsman Greg Pitchford is turning his Iraq deployment into music - and maybe fame.



Holding Firm

Earthquakes are nothing new for Cal Guardsmen.

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*
- ★ If there is a public affairs officer assigned to your unit ensure he/she reviews it.

Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible, minimum 300 dpi
- ★ Credits (who took photograph)
- ★ Cutline (what action is taking place in the photograph and identify individuals in photograph)

Email story submissions by the 15th of every month to:

william.lee.martin@us.army.mil

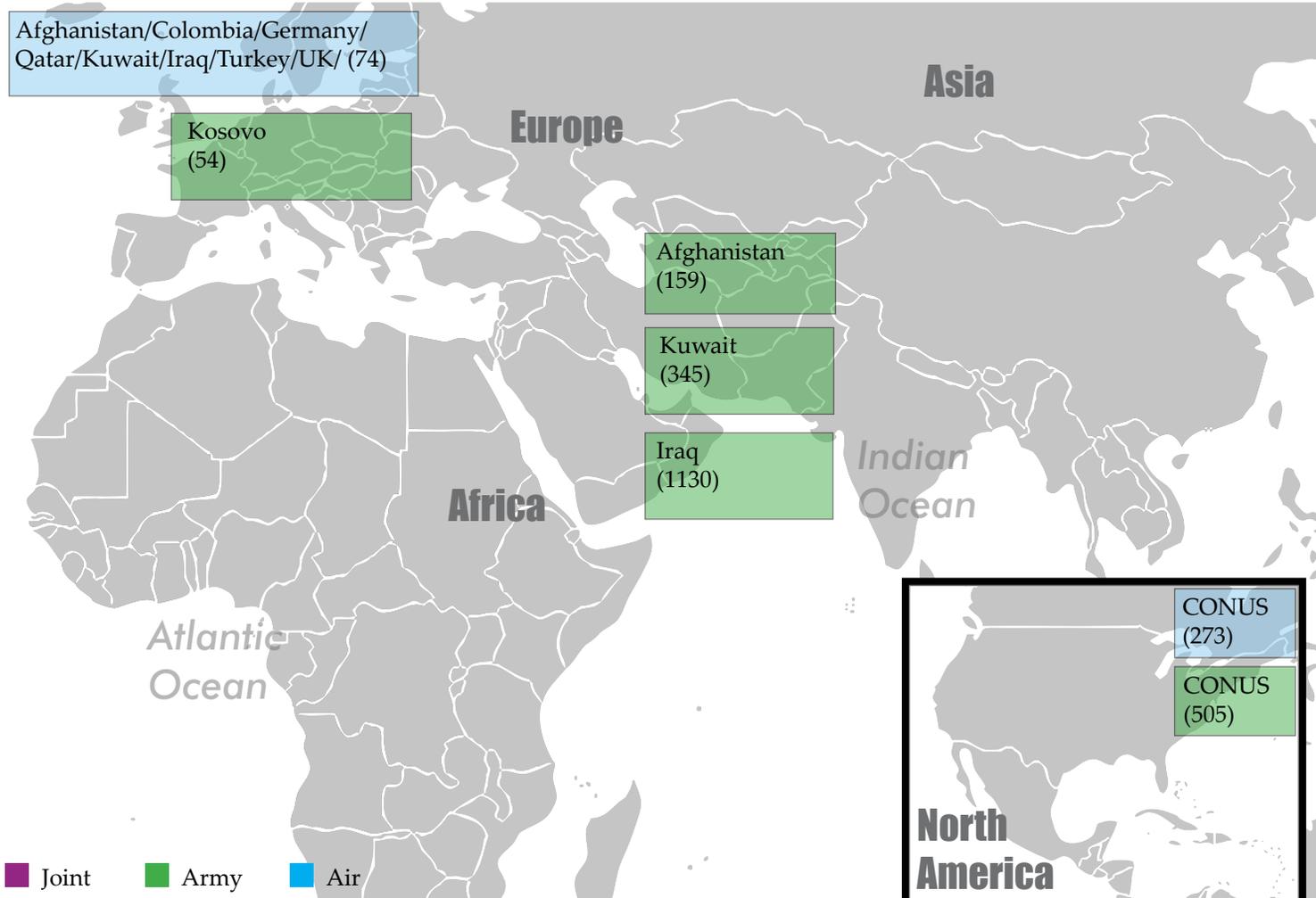
Cover Shot



Photo illustration by

Nida Chindalaksanalert

The California National Guard as of November 2008



1-185th Armor arrives in Iraq

Special to the Grizzly

The California Army National Guard's 1-185th Armor Battalion arrived safely in Iraq early in November. Soldiers appeared ready and eager to take on the challenges and excitement involved in their mission.

For the past month, 1-185th Soldiers had been receiving final training in Kuwait; driver's training on the armor vehicles was among the top priorities. Sgt. Cortez, the battalion safety NCOIC, explained why this training was so vital.

"These are new vehicles that our Soldiers are going to be using. They are the top-of-the-line protection for us when we are out on the road," said Cortez. "We don't want to lose a single Soldier because they didn't know how to drive this type of vehicle correctly."

The Soldiers flew into Iraq, and while a couple troops became airsick, for the most part the ride was a smooth one. Most would concur that flying into Iraq is much preferred to driving in, as many did during their first Operation Iraqi Freedom tour.

For many of the Soldiers, this was their first time going into a hostile area. Spc. Cruz, a 1-185th human resource specialist, expressed best the mixed feelings inherent to such first-time deployments.

"It was my first time over. I was kind of scared at first. I'm going into a combat zone for the first time in my life ... who wouldn't be scared about that," said Cruz. "But I have good leadership from my section leader to battalion commander. I'm pretty confident they'll take care of me."

Once on the ground, the Soldiers quickly began to unload their equipment, check in with the battalion and settle into their new "homes". The accommodations

exceeded returning veterans' expectations.

"The first time I was over here, I spent my time sleeping in a rundown building on a wooden box," said Sergeant 1st Class Lang, Delta Company operations sergeant. "Here we have rooms with actual beds ... and all the facilities we need. I'm really grateful for having this much. It is more than I expected."

In mid-November, Soldiers conducted on-the-job training with the current "in-country" unit so they could learn some of their best practices and get a feel for what their future missions will entail. Battalion leadership realizes the mission won't be without its personal challenges.

"These Soldiers are hard workers and very competent at their job. I have no doubt that they will pick things up quickly," said Capt. Vega, battalion chaplain. "However, during the next few months there will be times when they will be stressed, homesick, and be dealing with a ton of other issues. I just encourage them to stay focused, keep a positive attitude, and learn. We often grow in the most trying of times."

The 1-185th Armor Soldiers are confident that they will do an excellent job.

"During the next few months here, we will have traveled thousands of miles and will have protected thousands of pounds of cargo that will bring much benefit to Soldiers that rely on those shipments," said Capt. Rossignoli. "I think we have a pretty important job here; every Soldier in this battalion should be proud of what they are going to be doing here."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAPT. RENATO ROSSIGNOLI

Members of the 1-185th Armor Battalion gather their bearings after arriving in Iraq in November. The Soldiers will perform cargo-protection missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for the remainder of their deployment.



Soldiers from the California National Guard's 1-185th Armor Battalion gather outside a tent complex in Iraq.

SoCal MPs pursue excellence through civilian partnerships

Special to the Grizzly

Like a small island in the middle of the ocean that is the California Army National Guard, the 315th Military Police platoon stands alone.

As part of 40th Brigade Special Troops Battalion's HHC, the platoon does not belong to a military police company. The only MP platoon in the brigade, it shares space at San Diego's Kearny Mesa Readiness Center alongside support, medical and security platoons and sections within the HHC company.

Comprised of highly motivated Soldiers from a diversity of backgrounds, these MPs share one thing in common: a desire to excel at what they do and to be known throughout the California Army National Guard as a force ready to respond at a moment's notice.

Toward this end, all Soldiers in the platoon are encouraged to take at least one online or resident-education class each month, assuming, of course, they are not already enrolled full time in college.

Knowledge as power

Functioning in an environment of ever-decreasing training budgets, these Soldiers have begun training with some of the world's best civilian law enforcement agencies throughout the Los Angeles area.

Earlier this fall, members of the platoon attended a forensics course facilitated by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Detective Sgt. Edward Godfrey. The training was further facilitated by members of the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner's Office.

The Soldiers learned basic homicide-investigation techniques and crime-scene preservation, instruction not normally offered to military police. The training included a detailed and sobering tour of the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office, where Soldiers witnessed several autopsies.

Notably, the Soldiers attended the training out of their own initiative and on their own time, motivated simply by their desire to excel.

"If a catastrophic event were to hit California, we could be called upon to support our local law enforcement agencies; why not train with them now?" said Sergeant 1st Class Lorenzo Dominguez, 315th platoon sergeant. "I believe that by training with them now, it will greatly lessen the impact of suddenly being thrown into a situation where we have to work with agencies whose systems we know nothing about ... we speak a different language, per se."

The platoon has also partnered with the San Bernardino Police Department, where Special Weapons and Tactics Team, or SWAT, police officers have been training the Soldiers in Military Opera-

tions in Urban Environment operations for about the last 18 months.

In addition to MOUT, the SWAT team has also trained the MPs on the use of "less-lethal weapons", such as the Taser, 40MM gun, bean bag and pepper ball.

"Knowing full well that we cannot expose the California Army National Guard to any possible liability, when we train on our own, we do so literally," said Dominguez. "That is why I have worked diligently with my friends in the law enforcement sectors to enable my Soldiers to not only hone their skills, but to constantly acquire new ones. We do so at or above Army standard - nothing less."

A win-win relationship

One positive effect of these partnerships is what Dominguez calls the "portal of opportunity" within the platoon; that is, by closely working with civilian law enforcement agencies, their recruiters have direct access to National Guard Soldiers, and vice versa. In fact, the San Bernardino Police have hired two 315th Soldiers in the recent past, and more plan to follow suit. Aside from employing Soldiers, it contributes to low rates of attrition.

In addition, the Soldiers can attend most training courses offered by these law enforcement agencies, and even receive State of California Peace Officer Training and Standards, or POST, certification.

The platoon is now readying itself to deploy to Kosovo in support of the KFOR11 mission.

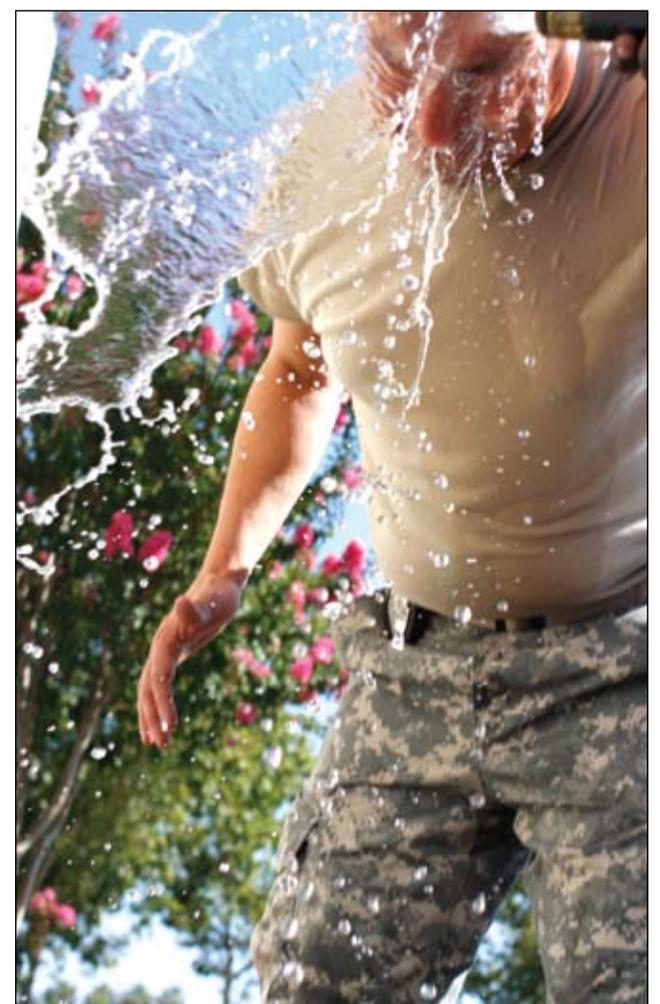


Above: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Clayton C. Stelter instructs a member of the 315th Military Police platoon on use of the 40mm gun, a "less lethal" weapon from which one can fire multiple types of ammunition, including sponge and rubber-baton rounds.

Far Right: A 315th MP douses himself with water after Officer Tom Shank of the San Bernardino Police Department's SWAT team sprayed him with pepper spray.

Bottom: Renee Grand Pre, field investigator for the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner's office, teaches a forensics class to 315th MPs. Grand Pre is also a major in the California Army National Guard.

Photos courtesy of Sergeant 1st Class Lorenzo Dominguez





Stirred, but not shaken

Cal Guardsmen respond to major quake at Vigilant Guard '09

By 1st Lt. Joe Luna and the Grizzly staff

Imagine a 7.8-magnitude earthquake along the San Andreas fault striking an area spanning from Palm Springs to Ventura. Major highways become impassible; still, more and more motorists cram lanes; major railroads are crippled, pipelines rupture and oil-tanker trucks overturn, fueling raging infernos and belching hazardous materials into the air. And as if all this isn't enough, terrorists seize an opportunity to attack first responders as they rush to aid tens of millions of Southern Californians. It is the very picture of catastrophe.

Such were the scenarios faced by Guardsmen from California and several other states Nov. 13-18 during Vigilant Guard '09, the National Guard's most recent disaster-response exercise. This year's training ran concurrently with similar mass scenarios - the statewide Golden Guardian and Southern California Great Shake

Out. All three exercises used the aforementioned 7.8-magnitude earthquake as their central scenario.

In some ways, the exercise was rooted in reality. A quake of the same magnitude struck San Francisco in 1906, devastating much of the city (see story, page 12). In addition, the U.S. Geological Survey reports that the San Andreas fault has about a 60 percent chance of experiencing an equally or higher-intensity earthquake over the next three decades.

The training was particularly applicable to real-world scenarios for all the Guardsmen and emergency personnel involved because it focused on major concerns for first responders: response to hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction. It also provided the Cal Guard's civil support teams and firefighters a rare

opportunity to work alongside one another.

Exercise participants included the Cal Guard's 9th and 95th civil support teams, Air and Army medical, engineering, operations teams and the Joint Force Headquarters command staff, who, in coordination with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, served as the state's first-line military responders.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger role played alongside other exercise participants, including being picked up at his home and flown by a National Guard helicopter to Southern California, where he joined his cabinet to establish a command and control center.

"Here in California we are determined to make preparation the difference between emergency and catastrophe," said Schwarzeneg-

ger, who made critical decisions alongside Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard. "We cannot make precise predictions about when an earthquake will happen, but we can be prepared."

"We are able to rely on the first responders to teach us a lot about HAZMAT response and everything from the nuances to the big picture of how things like this get done," said Capt. Keith Haviland, 9th CST operations officer.

In San Bernardino, Haviland's corner of the exercise, civil support teams confronted a terrorist attack, a scenario which benefitted participating firefighters. California's civil support teams regularly perform Weapons of Mass Destruction training, and based on the exercise's terrorist-attack scenario, these firefighters learned they can count on the Cal Guardsmen's expertise.

Top Left: An Airman participates in California's earthquake-response exercises in mid-November. The simulated earthquake served as the central scenario for the Southern California Great ShakeOut, Golden Guardian and Vigilant Guard '09 exercises.

Top Right: A convoy of Southern California ambulances responds to disaster during the Golden Guardian and Vigilant Guard '09 exercises.

Bottom Right : Civilian first responders escort an exercise roleplayer to a treatment center staffed by Cal Guard medical personnel.

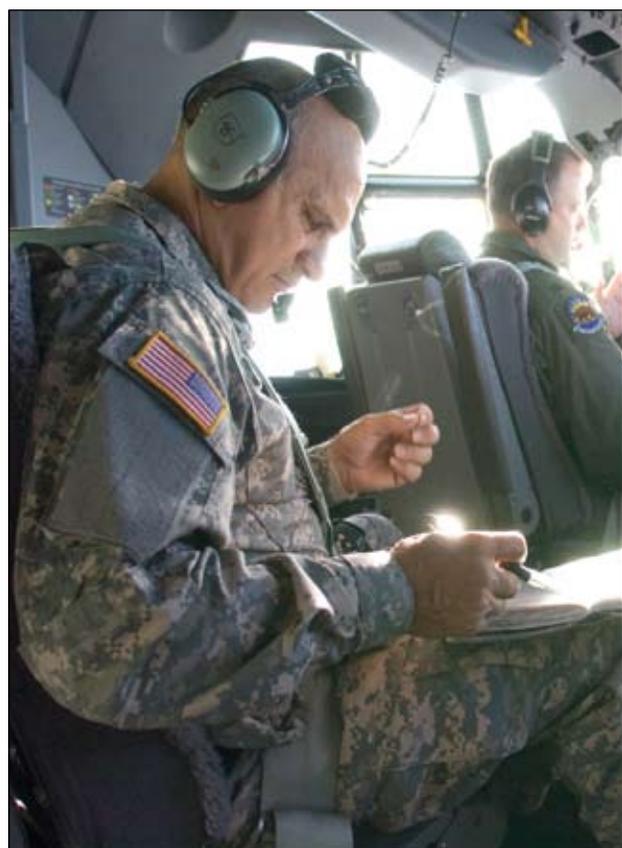
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Eli Pantil, Tech Sgt. David Loeffler and Senior Airman Julius Delos Reyes

"We got to learn more about how effective their capabilities are and know that we can rely on them for this support if this should ever happen," said Gail Beckham, Hazardous Materials Coordinator for the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

As for the community, the public can rest assured that this kind of exercise has a significant effect on their well-being.

"This training helps us quickly identify any gaps in the process and allows us to confirm the capabilities that we have in place should we be called upon to use these resources, which further aid in protecting people, their property and preventing any other kinds of harm to the public," said Lt. Col. Trey Johnson III, commander of the Hawaii's 93rd CST, which participated in the exercise.

Since its inception four years ago, Vigilant Guard continues to offer the California National Guard and coordinating civilian agencies numerous ways to improve upon techniques in the event of such real-world emergencies.



Major General William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard, looks over his notes during a flight to Southern California during the Vigilant Guard '09 disaster-response exercise.



PHOTO BY TECH SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

General Vasyl Kvashuk, director of the Ukrainian Army's Civil Protection Department, addresses Brig. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard, and other key leadership on Nov. 12, 2008, at the Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento. The Ukrainian team led by Kvashuk was in California to participate in Vigilant Guard '09, the National Guard's weeklong disaster-response exercise. Kvashuk discussed Ukraine's response to the July 2008 floods that decimated lives and homes in Western Ukraine.

Cal Guard discovers parallels in Ukraine's disaster-relief efforts

By 2nd Lt. Will Martin

For California National Guardsmen, the annual fire season has rendered moot the question of whether natural disasters will strike the state. No longer do they ask "if", but only "when" and "where".

On the eve of Vigilant Guard '09, the National Guard's weeklong emergency-response training exercise, Cal Guardsmen learned their Ukrainian counterparts face a similar burden on their own native soil. Each summer in Western Ukraine, floods hammer the region surrounding the Carpathian Mountains, and this July especially heavy rains brought a record deluge, causing the worst financial damage in more than 100 years.

On Nov. 12, 2008, at the Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, Ukrainian delegates prepared for Vigilant Guard by briefing Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, California National Guard's adjutant general, and other key leadership on the difficult lessons gleaned from the recent catastrophic floods.

"The damage was equal to approximately one billion U.S. dollars," said Maj. General Vasyl Kvashuk, director of the Ukrainian Army's Civil Protection Department, through a translator. "In my opinion, people were not informed [in a timely manner] about the flooding."

According to Kvashuk, many Ukrainian officials failed to disseminate information about the threat of floods, and more importantly, "how to behave" once heavy waters struck the villages at the base of the mountains.

"We lost 40 lives," said Kvashuk. "We lost both children and adult persons during the flood."

Many well-meaning citizens, said Kvashuk, actually caused further damage to life and property due to ignorance on how to respond properly. In one instance, a man overpopulated his small boat with neighbors, ultimately capsizing and drowning all eight passengers.

Ukraine is one of two nations participating in the California National Guard's Partnership for Peace program, the other being Nigeria. Like California, Ukrainian officials are learning to deal with their natural disasters through "real-world emergencies."

"It's not (ideal) to learn from your current emergencies," said Kvashuk, but also noted that the Transcarpathian region, the nation's most frequently flooded area, reacted best to the severe torrent in July. In short, they've embraced the inevitability of the floods as an opportunity to improve their responsiveness.

It is that desire to bolster their readiness that brought the Ukrainians – and a host of other nations – to California to participate in Vigilant Guard, which by simulating a major earthquake offers participants a close-to-real-world training environment.

"We initiated a partnership with the National Guard of California 15 years ago," said Kvashuk, expressing his gratitude for the training benefits generated by the alliance. "We have learned much from our partnership."

Iraq vet puts experience to

MUSIC

By 2nd Lt. Will Martin

When Sgt. Greg Pitchford decided to join the California National Guard in 2006, the prior service-member was "willing to go serve in Iraq," knowing "they needed guys out there." Ten days after enlisting, his willingness was tested when he was ordered to report to Camp Roberts.

"I didn't even have a uniform," said Pitchford. "I couldn't even remember how to tie my boots properly. It was just a shocker."

The 36-year-old Pitchford deployed with the Cal Guard to the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad as part of a detainee operations mission. He would spend the bulk of his duty day sitting in a watchtower trying to combat a Soldier's most dreaded enemy: sheer boredom.

"I would sit in the tower for three hours, then roam for three," said Pitchford. "I would sometimes be in the tower for six or seven hours straight."

Before long, Pitchford's sanity was on a precipice; he desperately needed an emotional outlet. His options limited by the confines of the tower, he turned to music, his steadfast companion since he first picked up a violin at age five.

"I started to doodle on a scratchpad (while in the tower)," said Pitchford. "Then I'd go into the chapel, where there was an old wooden piano, come up with chords and then a melody."

Between the boredom of the tower and serenity of the chapel, Pitchford's knack for songwriting emerged. None of this was new territory. A classically trained musician, he had performed with the San Francisco Boys Choir and learned to play the violin, alto saxophone and piano in his youth.

"It helped me with the time," said Pitchford. "Music is big to everybody out there. I just totally turned to it."

More than a hobby

Eventually, the makings of a soulful song materialized from Pitchford's scribbling. The post's Morale, Wellness and Recreation facility housed a small home studio where he soon busied himself recording samples of his single, "If Tomorrow were a Dream."

"I had written songs before," said Pitchford, "(but one of the Soldiers said to me) you gotta promise me when you get back to the States you'll pursue this."

Pitchford knew he had something special, his lyrics born of the angst and hope of a foreign combat deployment. Still, he waited some time upon his return to California before he took concrete action.

"I eventually went down to Fresno and got it copyrighted," said Pitchford. "Then I recorded it again and ... paid 45 bucks and put a little video to it."

For the song to gain momentum, Pitchford felt he needed a professional singer behind it. With limited finances, he turned to this generation's ultimate resource: Craigslist.

"I just started putting advertisements on the site," said Pitchford. "Within a week, I had about 200 replies. I didn't know it at the time, but that was a good response."

Very good, in fact. Among the aspiring singers, Pitchford chose two to demo his song – Jay Taylor and Casey Thompson, a rising star at the Grand Ole Opry. Between Taylor and Thompson, the song had the mettle to give it staying power.

Adept at self-promotion, Pitchford utilized Taylor's and Thompson's demos and Web sites like ourstage.com to push his song. Soon, the song started to pro-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. GREG PITCHFORD

California Army National Guardsman Sgt. Greg Pitchford hopes to have a future in music. His experiences in Iraq inspired him to write "If Tomorrow Were a Dream," a song which has garnered the attention of some top music industry names.

mote itself based on its own merits. Names as big as Lynyrd Skynyrd and producers Ricky Medlock and Rob Robinson began to take notice.

"They felt like it was more of a Southern rock sound. They wanted me to sing it," said Pitchford. "That wasn't the plan."

Intangible worth

This August, Pitchford flew out to spend five days with Robinson in his Fort Meyers, Fla., studio. Robinson, said Pitchford, gave the song a more "upbeat feel".

"The first recording (before Robinson) was kind of dark," said Pitchford. "I was pretty depressed when I was in Iraq. It doesn't hold back too much. He kind of lightened it up a bit."

The song, said Pitchford, might have a future, to include soundtracks and

TV, as well as the single itself gaining play. He's also exploring a partnership to place the single in post exchanges and is earning recognition at a number of national contests, to include second place at the Dallas Songwriters Association annual contest.

But for Pitchford, the song has already paid dividends worth the time and effort invested.

"I've been contacted by hundreds of families (of servicemembers) now," said Pitchford. "As soon as the Nashville version came out, I went straight to the house (of one family member) and gave them the first copy. She totally broke down and cried."

"This song is dedicated to all the family and friends across the whole wide world who have lost the lives of loved ones so that others may have a chance to live in freedom."

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.CASEYTHOMPSON.COM



Casey Thompson, a rising musical talent who performs regularly at the Grand Ole Opry, was one of two singers to demo Pitchford's song. To learn more about Thompson go to www.caseythompson.com.

Korean officer honors 40th ID warrior

Kapyong school still bears name of Cal Guard's Korean War vet

Story and photos by Spc. Jennifer Eddy

In late October, Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Division joined retired Korean Army Lt. Col. Hong Bae Kim in Inglewood to honor the legacy of Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kaiser Jr., the first member of the 40th Infantry Division to be killed in action in the Korean War. Kaiser, of Bravo Company, 160th Infantry Regiment, died on Jan. 20, 1952.

Today, a high school built in his memory still stands in Kapyong, Korea, one of many elements that strengthen the relationship between the Division and the Korean people.

In July 1952, much of the 40th Infantry Division moved into the war-torn area of Kapyong. The Soldiers noticed that local children attended school in tents, while using crates as desks. They initiated a plan to provide the children of Kapyong with a permanent school. Division chaplains solicited voluntary donations by means of a "Pass the Helmet" fundraising campaign.

Soldiers of the 578th Combat Engineer Battalion aided Korean workers in the construction of the original 10-room Kenneth Kaiser High School, which was dedicated to his honor on Oct. 18, 1952.

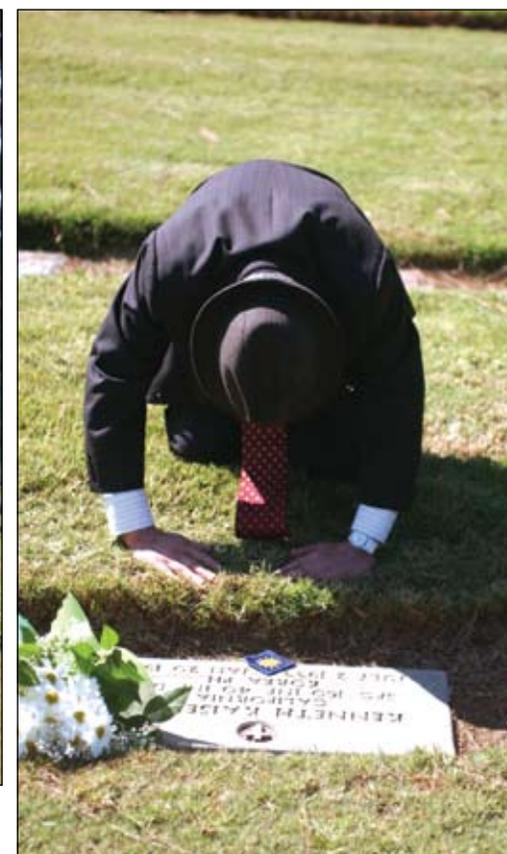
Kim was a refugee in middle school during the war and started attending Kenneth Kaiser High School shortly after the 1953 ceasefire. In fact, he was a member of the school's first graduating class.

"Many youths came to our school after it took the 578th Engineer Battalion six months to build," Kim said. "Kapyong is a very famous school, its our school."

Kim said "Armed Forces Korea Network comes every year to cover the graduation and other principles envy the school system we have. We will never forget Maj. Gen. Cleland and Sergeant 1st Class Kaiser."



Brigadier General Scott Johnson, retired South Korean Lt. Col. Hong Bae Kim and Lt. Col. Samuel Wallis discuss Sergeant 1st Class Kenneth Kaiser Jr.'s life, death and contributions to the 40th Infantry Division and the Korean people.



Kim pays his respects to Kaiser at his gravesite in Inglewood.

Brigadier General Scott Johnson has visited the Kapyong school and is determined to maintain the connection between the Division and its history. He recently reconnected with the family of Kaiser, including his brother.

"This Division history is important," said Johnson. "We need to remember those who served in the past and use their example to guide us in the future."

Mobilization a fiery experience for 235th Sappers

Story and photo by Sgt. Travis Finlay



An explosion is evidence of the 235th Sapper Company's handiwork on Nov. 13 at Camp Roberts during training before their upcoming Operation Enduring Freedom deployment.

Though it is nothing new for the California National Guard to be mobilizing another combat unit for the Global War on Terrorism, the 235th Sapper Company is headed to conduct route clearance in the far reaches of Afghanistan, marking the company's second combat tour since 2004.

The 235th just finished pre-mobilization training at Camp Roberts, and they did it with a bang - literally. The 235th Sappers have years of experience in demolition ranges and plenty of combat demolition time, as well, but the range on which they recently trained as part of their mobilization was a definite first.

The unit didn't settle for a basic demo; the action of the day was, "creative use with practical intent." As long as each demo team could back up the tactical reasoning behind use of an explosive charge, the Soldiers were allowed to combine ideas and use their experience as they saw fit.

Among of the charges the Sappers emplaced were explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, a suicide vest, and linear-door, water-impulse and silhouette charges. The Sapper Company's 3rd Platoon served as the range cadre and constructed an array of obstacles and objectives that required breaching, to include a fully framed doorway with a working latch.

Needless to say, once the Sappers detonated their charges, they wasn't enough left of the door to cause much of an obstacle.



On Nov. 12, at the Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, Maj. General Vasyl Kvashuk, director of the Ukrainian Army's Civil Protection Department, recognized two Cal Guardsmen for their part in Rough and Ready 2008, the Air National Guard's annual disaster-response exercise in partnership with Ukraine's Ministry of Emergencies. Kvashuk presented Maj. Denise Varner, international programs officer for the California Air National Guard, with Ukraine's Badge of Honor, and Master Sgt. Krista Hudson with the Certificate of Honor. The Air Guard has partnered with Ukraine for 10 years under the State Partnership Program, focusing on training in the areas of command and control, interagency coordination, mass-casualty events and exercise development.

Photos by Tech Sgt. David Loeffler



In honor of Veterans Day, California-based gourmet coffee roaster, the Rogers Family, asks Americans to write letters to our troops over the holidays, earn fun prizes for their efforts and plans to send more than 70,000 care packages to troops deployed overseas and home. To enter the contest, log on to www.dearhero.opgratitude.com.

At a deactivation ceremony earlier this Fall, the 160th Long Range Surveillance Detachment said farewell with a last series of jumps by California National Guard paratroopers out of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters at the Los Alamitos Army Airfield. The 160th LRSD shared their lineage during a ceremony; in attendance were 40th Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel and Company Commander Capt. Michael Anderson. Photo by Heather J. Hagan





The Sacramento-Sierra Chapter of the American Red Cross honored California Army National Guardsmen, from left, Hector Delgadillo, Robert Zellender and Derrick Boutie as Military Heroes at a Oct. 28 Hometown Heroes Luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel Grand Ballroom in Sacramento. The Red Cross honored the Soldiers, who served as part of Task Force Shovel, for their efforts in rescuing a civilian who suffered a heart attack during the summer wildfires in Northern California.

Photo courtesy of 1st Lt. Rosalva De La Cruz

ly Company, is partnering with Operation Gratitude in sponsoring a contest that encourages themselves and money for their favorite schools. This holiday season Operation Gratitude hopes to get enough submissions from the contest to include at least one letter in every



On Sept. 25, 49th Military Police Brigade commander Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Andres Roman dedicated a plaque to 49th MP Brigade Soldiers who have sacrificed everything in service to the United States of America at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., home of the Army's military police schools.

The plaque reads: "Dedicated with honor to those Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade who gave all to assist, protect and defend. All gave some – some gave all. Pride and Power."

The memorial was the project of the Golden State Chapter of the Military Police Regimental Association, which collected donations to have the plaque made and placed on Fort Leonard Wood's Memorial Wall. In addition to the plaque, Currier paid for a bench that honors the 14 Soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the 49th MP Brigade's deployment to Iraq from 2005 to 2006.

Photos courtesy of Col. Grace Edinboro



HOLDING FIRM

THE CAL GUARD'S HISTORY OF EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

Story by 2nd Lt. Michael Anthony Rodriguez



A 1906 photo of San Francisco's Mission District captures the fires and mayhem that consumed the city after the "Great Quake".

PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO

In November, the California National Guard participated in the Vigilant Guard '09 and Golden Guardian emergency-response exercises. Not only did they comprise the nation's largest state-sponsored emergency-preparedness exercise, but along with the Great Southern California Shake Out, they combined to form the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history.

The purpose of the exercises was to train the California National Guard in protecting the citizens of California in the event of a natural disaster, in this case, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake. The exercises were not, however, a test of whether the Cal Guard could perform if faced with a monster quake, because in 1906, the California National Guard proved itself in its assistance to the citizens of San Francisco.

"No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his body, to risk his well being, to risk his life, in a great cause."

**- Theodore Roosevelt,
26th President of the United States.**

On April 16th, 1906, at 5:15 a.m., a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the sleeping city of San Francisco and laid waste to the "city by the Bay". In the aftermath of the quake, fires erupted and began to engulf and consume much of the city.

From the onset, National Guardsman in San Francisco, acting solely from a sense of duty, began reporting to their respective armories even before the call had been sent out, knowing full well that discipline and hope were what was needed to combat the chaos and anarchy that might prevail. California Guardsman worked with local police and firefighters

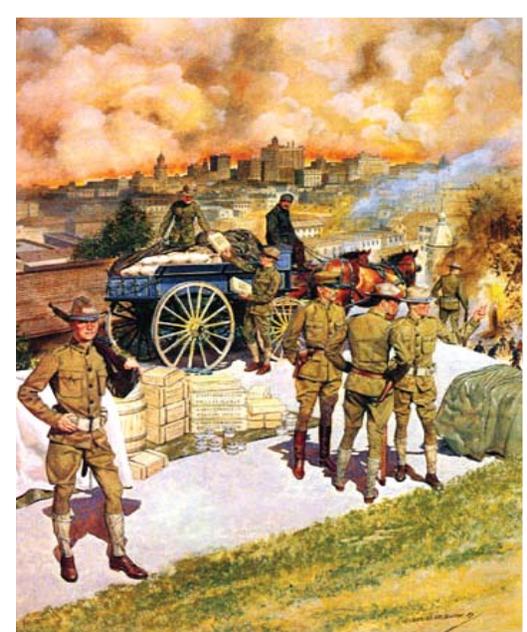
to keep order throughout the city, as well as assist with evacuations and create firelines to battle the flames.

Martial law was never declared and the National Guard Soldiers fell under the authority of civilian agencies. The mayor of San Francisco, Eugene Schmitz, immediately declared "The Federal Troops, the members of the Regular Police Force and all Special Police Officers have been authorized by me to KILL any and all persons found engaged in Looting or in the Commission of Any Other Crime."

The city was ultimately divided into military districts, the command of which was assigned to Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston, whose leadership philosophy was as direct as Schmitz's: "Nothing can take the place of training and discipline, and ... self-control and patience are as important as courage."

The California National Guard's assistance in sheltering and protecting San Francisco's citizens led to well-deserved pride by the Soldiers. Also, the San Francisco Call Newspaper printed an editorial on April 27, 1906, that heralded the Soldiers.

"The work done and still being done by the National Guard of California will be long and gratefully remembered by the people of San Francisco and the state," stated The Call. "The Minutemen and the Old Continentals were the National Guard of their day. They were the National Guard (militia) that fought through the Revolution. Our present National Guard is descended in direct official line from those citizen soldiers that stood, yielding not, at Saratoga, Ticonderoga, Stony Point and Yorktown, and have proved themselves worthy of their ancestors."



PAINTING COURTESY OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY MUSEUM

"Thank God for the Soldiers", a painting from the Army Art Collection, depicts California National Guardsmen responding to the catastrophic earthquake that struck San Francisco in 1906.

By the numbers

235 The price in millions of dollars paid by insurers for the property loss from the "Great Earthquake" of 1906 in San Francisco. When converted to current dollars, the figure totals nearly \$6 billion.

Fun Fact

In 1849, Article VII of the first California Constitution gave the governor the power "to call forth the militia, to execute the laws of the state, to suppress insurrections, and repel invasions" and made him commander in chief of the state militia.

Cal Guard pilot reaches milestone

144th Fighter Wing's Pofahl passes 3,000 flying hours

Story and photo by Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Drudge

On Oct. 17, 2008, what began as a normal, everyday mission turned into a milestone for one of the 144th Fighter Wing's very own. Lt. Col. Michael W. Pofahl, a pilot with the 194th Fighter Squadron, reached the 3,000 flying-hours mark in his F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Pofahl is the second pilot in the squadron to reach this career high point, but the first to do so at his home station. Lt. Col. Clay Garrison was the first to reach 3,000 flying hours, but achieved the feat while on duty overseas.

"Mike Pofahl is one of the most accomplished Air Force pilots I've known," said Lt. Col. Larry McKoane, 194th Fighter Squadron commander. "I can count on him for rock solid mission execution."

Lt. Col. Pofahl started his F-16 career in 1989 when he served as an active duty augmentee to the Air National Guard. He then separated from active duty and joined the 144th Fighter Wing as a traditional Guardsman while flying full-time for Delta Airlines.

Pofahl eventually switched from traditional Guardsman to air technician and began flying the F-16 exclusively. His career has been nonstop ever since. Pofahl has served as the operation support flight commander, alert detachment commander and at present is the standard evaluation branch chief. He attributes his accomplishments to "trying to stay as current and productive in the F-16 as possible."

"Reaching the 3,000-hour mark has always been a goal of mine," said Pofahl. "It seemed liked a nice round number to end my career on."



Lieutenant Colonel Michael Pofahl, pilot with the California Air National Guard's 144th Fighter Wing, gives a thumbs up sign from his F-16 after returning to Fresno from an Oct. 17 flight where he passed the 3,000-mile flying hours mark.

AMVETS honor fallen Cal Guardsman

By Grizzly staff



Sebastopol resident Mike Ottolini hauled hay to earn a living, but his passion lie with the California National Guard.

The truck driver, husband and father of two adult children served in the Cal Guard for 28 years before deploying to Iraq as an NCO with the 579th Engineer Battalion.

"Since he was a little boy, Mike wanted to follow me into the military," his father and World War II veteran, Daniel, told the L.A. Times in November 2004.

Mike was one of Daniel's five sons to serve in the Armed Forces. Unfortunately, he was the first to die in combat; on Nov. 10, 2004, a roadside bomb struck his Humvee in Balaad, Iraq, about 50 miles north of Baghdad.

Ottolini's aspirations as a Soldier, father and husband were cut short, but thanks to the Sonoma County AMVETS Post 40, his memory will live on.

Almost four years to the day after his death, the Sonoma County AMVETS renamed Post 40 in Ottolini's honor at



Ottolini

a Nov. 9, 2008, ceremony. The AMVETS organization established the Sonoma County chapter in March, and dedicating their post to a local service-member's heroism seemed fitting to its members.

"He epitomized the spirit of supporting the local community," AMVETS Post 40 member Jay Matthews told The Press Democrat in Santa Rosa. "As local vets, we want to support our community with that same spirit."

More than 50 people attended the ceremony held at the Santa Rosa National Guard Readiness Center, to include most of Ottolini's family, who were obviously moved by the dedication.

"It's an honor. He'll always be remembered now," his widow, Sharon Ottolini told The Press Democrat. "It's a heart-warming gesture."

National Guard State Chaplain Tom Sarciapone of Napa gives an invocation at the National Guard Readiness Center in Santa Rosa Sunday for the ceremony honoring Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ottolini.

A four-star future

Guard Bureau's first general ready to take Minutemen forward

By Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley officially became chief of the National Guard Bureau and was promoted to the rank of general by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates in a Nov. 17 ceremony at the Pentagon.

Gates and Navy Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as McKinley's wife, daughter and son helped add the fourth star to McKinley's uniform.

The crowd of more than 300 from all ranks, services and many states' National Guard forces then watched Gates administer the oath of office to McKinley, who swore in as the first four-star general to lead the National Guard in its 372-year history.

"The promotion of Gen. Craig McKinley to this rank, to serve in this post, is in recognition of his outstanding leadership abilities and shows the confidence the president and I have in him to be the nation's senior Guard officer at such a critical time," said Gates.

McKinley succeeds Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, who served five and one-half years as chief of the Bureau and in January will become deputy commander of U.S. North-



As his wife Cheryl McKinley holds a Bible, Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, center, is sworn in by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates as the 26th chief of the National Guard Bureau during a Nov. 17 ceremony at the Pentagon, where he was also promoted to his current rank. McKinley is the first National Guard officer to be promoted to the four-star rank.

ern Command, the first Guard officer to hold that position.

McKinley joins the ranks of Army generals George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant and two other former four-star officers who served as Guardsmen during their military careers.

"It's a rich and high honor to be the 26th chief of the National Guard Bureau," said McKinley. "I will give it every bit of energy, every bit of

heart and soul that I can possess to make sure that our National Guard and our Soldiers and Airmen are well taken care of, and I will work very closely and faithfully with the services."

Of the more than 460,000 Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, some 68,000 Army and 5,700 Air Guardmembers were on active duty for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom today. Furthermore, on any given day an aver-

age of 17 governors call out their National Guard for a variety of domestic needs.

McKinley is the fourth Air Guard officer to serve as CNGB. He most recently served as director for the Air National Guard. There, he was responsible for policies, plans and programs affecting more than 106,000 Airmen.

Gates credited McKinley for successfully leading the Air Guard during a time of severe manpower reductions and other major challenges from the Global War on Terrorism, Base Realignment and Closure implementation, budget changes and the transformation of the National Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force.

McKinley received his Air Force commission in 1974 after graduating from Southern Methodist University in Dallas with a degree in business administration. He holds master's degrees in management and economics and in national security strategy. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flight hours.

For more about McKinley, go to www.ngb.army.mil.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JON SOUCY

National Guard offers free motorcycle training

By 2nd Lt. Michael Anthony Rodriguez



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSE FLAGG

Specialist Grady Gatoloai, front, and Private 1st Class Joshua Flynn of the California Army National Guard negotiate the stop-and-go portion of the Motorcycle Safety Course given at Safetyville USA in Sacramento. The California National Guard Safety and Occupational Health Office funded the course fees for each of the 10 Soldiers attending the training.

Many Soldiers enjoy the thrill of riding a motorcycle. With that, a lot of responsibility and caution must be taken before you jump on a new bike and ride off into the sunset.

One expense that comes with motorcycle ownership is the cost of motorcycle safety classes that are required for military members. The benefits of these safety classes cannot be measured in dollars, however, because the tools they provide can save a rider's life.

The California Army National Guard has implemented an Army-sponsored motorcycle-safety program. Simply stated, if you wish to be one of the more than one million motorcycle riders in the state, the Cal Guard will pay for your Motorcycle Safety Course.

Earlier this month, a class in Sacramento graduated 10 Soldiers from the 115th Regional Support Group at the Safety Center Inc., which included skill-test monitoring and more than 10 hours of hands-on rider skills training. Through rain and shine these Soldiers learned invaluable lessons. Soldiers in Southern California are eligible and have local access as well, saving all Soldiers the \$200 price tag for these required classes. To date, the Army National Guard has funded training for 51 Soldiers in California.

For more information about how to sign up for these free courses, contact the California National Guard Safety and Occupational Health Office at 916-854-3039 or e-mail Lt. Col. Paul C. Rogers at paul.c.rogers@us.army.mil.



W omen's Conference 2008

Cal Guardsmen inspire at governor's and first lady's forum

By 1st Lt. Theresa M. Chrystal

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Rachael Ray, Bono, Christina Amanpour, Warren Buffett, Billie Jean King, and Jennifer Lopez – what do all of these names have in common? This lineup of newsmakers, visionaries and world leaders all attended this year's California Governor's and First Lady's Conference on Women held Oct. 22 at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Hosted by First Lady Maria Shriver, the event drew more than 14,000 women and was touted on the conference Web site as being the nation's premier forum to "unite thousands of diverse women everywhere with a shared conversation and a common purpose – to empower, inspire and educate women everywhere to be Architects of Change in their own lives, in their communities and around the world."

This year, more than 50 young women represented the several military branches that call California home. Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen joined young ladies from the state's National Guard youth programs to participate in the conference, their selection based on their leadership abilities, community service and volunteerism.

Commander Maureen Pennington from the Naval Medical Center San Diego, a recipient last year of a Minerva Award, was on hand to encourage this year's attendees. Pennington, who served in Fallujah, was the first Navy Nurse Corps officer to command a surgical company in Iraq. She was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in connection with combat operations involving conflict with opposing forces.

"The military leads the way in equality for not only minorities but also for females, and I think that's very empowering for all people," said Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general for the California National Guard. "This [conference] shows exactly how much women have taken their place in America's military and across the fabric of society as a whole."

Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight has attended

the past three years and has been an advocate for young military women to be included in the Minerva Leadership Program.

"These folks that are here representing the military are from throughout the state of California," said Kight. "We have the Minerva Leadership Program, which is the First Lady's special program which identifies those young women that are our future leaders."

Kathy Hersh, the program's director, said she was thrilled that participants in the program more than doubled this year.

"It was a wonderful presence to have so many branches of the military represented among the young women who were attending," said Hersh.

Hersh was also in awe of the presentation of the colors by the California National Guard: "The color guard was fabulous. I thought it just added a very special tone to the beginning of the day, and I'm just so glad that Maria wanted it to happen."

The conference provided women of all ages and backgrounds with a wealth of resources, inspiring and equipping them to become leaders of change. Karina Gomez, a teen selected from the Cal Guard's Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy, was grateful to be in attendance. Her goal is to one day become a Supreme Court justice, and she said she felt inspired by the female leaders and guest speakers in attendance.



California's First Lady Maria Shriver, left, and husband Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger talk with friends at "A Night of Gratitude."



California Air National Guardsmen Col. Marilyn Rios, left, and Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight enjoy "A Night of Gratitude," hosted by First Lady Maria Shriver at the Long Beach Convention Center on Oct. 21. The evening event kicked off the Women's Conference 2008 which drew more than 14,000 participants.

"I am greatly honored," said Gomez. "I just look at the ranks, and I'm so overwhelmed by everything."

During a public discussion between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and PepsiCo Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Indra Nooyi, Campbell Brown of CNN asked them both how they mentored up-and-coming women. Rice responded by saying, "There isn't really any particular road to success. You have to find the road that works for you. . . . Don't let somebody else define you. . . do what you love and forget the rest of it."

Colonel Diana Bodner, commander of the California National Guard's Accession Task Force, returned from last year's conference and passed on its lessons to her young nieces.

She wrote them each a note, telling them they could become whatever they wanted, if only they work hard enough and to never let anyone tell them "no".

Bodner provided insight on guiding the troops she leads: "I look at mentoring officers – male or female – and it inspires me to inspire them. Focus on doing the job the best you can, and you can go anywhere in this world."

"To me, it is an honor to be here with these powerful women," said Sgt. Gelin Veilman, a member of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. "I try to motivate my female Marines, and I love to meet new women who can inspire me to do bigger and better things."

After asking a question of Jennifer Lopez, Petty Officer Jill Lemon, of the Marine Safety Detachment Santa Barbara, said, "We can take strength and learn by having so many different voices and opinions come together in an event like this. It really touched me."

When asked how he felt the conference inspired young military attendees, Maj. Gen. Wade commented, "We've shattered all of those long-held beliefs that women can't serve in combat, that they can't hold certain jobs, and our women show every day that they have surpassed that. They can do anything they want to do and truly as the saying goes, 'today is the first day of the rest of their lives' and they control their destiny."



2009
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
EMPLOYER SUPPORT
FREEDOM AWARD



**To all National Guard and Reserve
members and their families—**

**Nominate your employer for the Secretary
of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award,
the highest award given by the U.S. Government
to employers for their exceptional support of
employees serving in the Guard and Reserve.**

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS
NOVEMBER 3, 2008 - JANUARY 19, 2009
AT WWW.FREEDOMAWARD.MIL

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through mediation.



Natural resources = sustainable training

By Douglas Bryceson

Sustainability is a term describing a state of community growth and development where present requirements are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Our most valuable natural resources are our training lands.

Camp Roberts is the primary training site for the California National Guard. As well as providing unparalleled military training opportunities, the installation's 43,000 acres offer superior natural resources that provide habitat for a wide variety of species, including several threatened or endangered plants and animals.

Bivouacking, land navigation, mounted and dismounted maneuvers, mechanized infantry, engineering, armor and artillery, live-fire exercise, large caliber weapons, driving, and helicopter and airborne operations -

when an installation offers this much in the way of training, the management of natural resources is critical.

Natural resources, whether they be grasslands, wooded areas, streams and rivers, or terrain features, are directly connected to troop training. Without the natural resources, the land cannot support military training scenarios that are realistic. And without realistic training, Soldiers cannot train as they fight.

Natural resources at Camp Roberts are managed through an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). This plan requires protection of natural resources as required by the law, while still allowing Soldiers to conduct necessary military training. Such a balancing act is possible only through the joint cooperation of the trainers and command staff and the natural resources pro-

fessionals assigned to Camp Roberts.

The Environmental Directorate, Conservation Branch is responsible for natural resource management and protection. This involves a variety of tasks including surveys for sensitive species before training or construction work, planting trees and other native plants to increase habitat values and providing tactical concealment, Soldier briefings, prescribed burning, management of the fishing and hunting program and discussions with state and federal agencies who enforce natural-resources protection laws. Much of this work goes on behind the scenes so that training and other activities can happen when and where they're needed.

If we don't manage and protect resources, erosion will degrade our training lands, trees and grasslands will be lost and the land will not

support military training. Loss or restriction of military-training lands are unacceptable given the California Army National Guard's current and future need to deploy troops overseas and into harm's way.

Sustaining the mission through conservation of natural resources is a critical challenge that is everyone's responsibility - Soldiers and environmental staff alike. Preventing loss of training capability is simple: coordinate your actions early and often with the Environmental Office (they're at your service), protect natural resources, follow all procedures and leave the land better than you found it. Doing so will safeguard our environment and ensure that future generations will have the training lands and resources they need to train and win on the battlefield.



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery conduct an early morning tactical road march at Camp Roberts, Nov. 18, 2006.

PHOTO BY MAJ. DANIEL MARKERT

Keeping an eye out for benefits

By Jon Wilson

J1 manpower and personnel executive officer

The J1 Office in the Joint Force Headquarters of the California National Guard has a team of experts to research and provide information in regards to benefits for our members and veterans. Some of these experts have retired from long careers in the California National Guard or are still active members. They are veterans who work well together to assist with issues and to provide informational briefings on benefits at pre- and post-deployment activities.

These benefits include but are not limited to veterans benefits, financial assistance, employer support, substance abuse and sexual assault prevention and response. To find out more information about these benefits and programs, please visit our Web site at <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/j1/Pages/default.aspx> or e-mail J1@ca.ngb.army.mil. The DoD Guard and Reserve Benefits Guide is also available at the following Web page:

<https://portal.ca.ngb.army.mil/sites/pbeb/Lists/Announcements/DispForm.aspx?ID=4>



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

The J-1 office team, from left, Robert May, California National Guard sexual assault response coordinator; Jerrold Jurin, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; Jon Wilson, J1 Manpower & Personnel executive officer; and Horst Laube, Cal Guard transition assistance advisor.

Financial assistance grants

There are two separate financial assistance grants available through the J1: the California Military Family Relief Fund (CMFRF) and the California National Guard Financial Assistance Fund (CNGFAF). Both of these funds were established to provide short-term financial assistance for National Guard members and the families impacted by deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001.

To qualify for the CMFRE, a servicemember must demonstrate the following criteria: He or she must be a California Guardsman in good standing, a California resident and have participated in a deployment to active duty for at least 60 consecutive days in Title 10 USC status. The member's military salary, combined with any ongoing partial receipt of civilian salary, or the household income of the member's family must have decreased by 10 percent or more from the member's income prior to deployment. This grant program is funded by California taxpayer donations and to date has granted over \$230,000 to 24 families in California. For more information about this program, please visit

<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/j1/Pages/CMFRE.aspx>
or call (916) 854-3409.

To qualify for a CNGFAF grant, a servicemember must be able to demonstrate the following criteria: The CNG member must be a current or former member of the California National Guard in good standing; was or currently on active duty status in connection with Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom since Sept. 11, 2001, and the member or family must have a significant, unmet need directly related to the deployment. This grant program is funded by a private donor organization and to date has granted over \$670,000 to 68 families from California. For more information about this program, please visit the following Web site:

<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/j1/Pages/CNGFAF.aspx>
or call (916) 854-3409.

The Chaplains Fund

The Chaplains Fund is a resource tool for California National Guard leaders to provide one-time, emergency financial assistance to their Soldiers and Airmen on a limited basis. This assistance comes in the form of small loans, grant/loans and grants to help remedy most hardships including food, utility bills, car repairs or other unforeseen circumstances. These funds are normally paid directly to the vendor or company to reduce delays that can be harmful in emergency situations. Any California National Guard Soldier or Airman who has an emergency financial need may request assistance through his or her immediate NCO chain (e.g. first sergeant, command sergeant major, etc.) by any means available. The family of a National Guard Soldier or Airman may request assistance by contacting the unit family support volunteer or representative. For more information, please visit the following Web site: <http://smaofcalifornia.org/chaplain.html> or call your home unit.

Military-friendly companies, vendors and organizations

We have found many patriotic individuals or organizations that are more than willing to assist our California National Guard members, no matter what status or in what capacity they have served their country. Military friendly banks offer discounted fees and charges plus additional benefits not available to the general public. Many restaurants offer discounts up to 50 percent off if you present a valid military ID. National auto parts stores offer 10-15 percent discounts when presented with a valid military ID. Cellular phone providers have military or government plans that offer significant discounts. Many independent companies, contractors, and small businesses have also shown how much they appreciate service to our country by offering discounted and sometimes free services, installations or products to military members.

These benefits can be found in many ways. A simple search on your favorite Internet search engine will answer many questions you may have. You may also visit Military One-Source at <http://www.militaryonesource.com> or call 1-800-342-9647 to find out about these local benefits. If you visit their Web site, click the "MySTATE" tab. On the next page, choose your state and a specific program or service to see what is available. Contact your nearest Community Family Assistance Network (FAN) Contractor for local and specific companies, contractors, vendors and organizations who are military friendly.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEFENSEIMAGERY.MIL



New GI Bill site

The American Legion has launched an informative new Web site to help veterans and their families understand the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which takes effect Aug. 1, 2009, and how it compares with other federal education benefits for veterans. The site www.mygibill.org includes clear explanations of the different GI Bill benefits, news alerts and updates, frequently asked questions, state-by-state benefits and online application opportunities.

Help starting a business

More help is available for veterans looking to launch a business. According to military.com, "The new Patriot Express Loan Initiative for Veterans centers on the military community including veterans, service-disabled, active duty in transition, Reserve and Guard, spouses and related groups. In addition, the VA created the Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE), which improves the business climate for veterans, to minimize access barriers and to inform the public about the benefits of working with veteran-owned small businesses." To learn more about these programs, visit the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development Web site at www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/ovbd/index.html.

Commissary scholarships

The Defense Commissary Agency began offering their annual scholarships to military children Nov. 3, 2008. Applications will be available in commissaries worldwide and online through a link at <https://www.commissaries.com/> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org/>. The program awards \$1,500 scholarships to well-rounded, accomplished children of military families.

Only dependent, unmarried children (under 23) of active-duty personnel, Guard or Reserve and retired military members, survivors of servicemembers who died while on active duty or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for a scholarship. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university full time in the fall of 2009, or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

DID YOU KNOW...

that while serving on active duty you earn leave days and your commander can grant you a pass?

Of course you knew that, but did you know that there are regulations and instructions on how you can take/use that leave and the definitions of "pass" and "special pass".

AR 600-8-10 and AFI 36-3003 explain that it is the commander's responsibility to manage the leave and pass program. You earn 2.5 days of leave each month and it's your responsibility to plan for the use of that leave through your chain of command. A pass is considered the following: a one- or two-day authorized absence normally consisting of the weekend. A special pass is considered the following: three or four days of authorized absence.

Now the question weighing on everyone's mind: can I use leave in conjunction with a pass? ALARACT 241-2006, Policy change on the use of leave in conjunction with a special pass answers this question. Yes, you can use leave in conjunction with a pass or special pass as long as the leave begins and ends on post, at the duty location or from where the Soldier normally commutes to duty. Again, it is the commander's responsibility to manage the leave and pass program; leave is earned but it is not a right to take leave. Both leave and passes are privileges that should be managed and not abused.



Photo illustration by **Nida Chindalaksanalert**

Grizzly Newsletter

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

Public Affairs Directorate California National Guard 9800 Goethe Road Sacramento CA 95827-3561



Grizzly Newsletter 2008

www.calguard.ca.gov/publicaffairs