

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



**CNG reaches out
on Veterans Day**

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Commander's corner

Thank you for your service

Brigadier General Mary Kight



December is a time for family, reflection and giving thanks for our blessings. Many California National Guard members, however, are unable to spend this holiday season with their families because of their commitment to protecting our state and nation.

More than 2,700 members of the California National Guard are currently deployed, including many in Iraq and Afghanistan. We cannot overestimate the sacrifice made by these brave warriors and their families who put duty ahead of personal concerns. I thank you all for your dedication and selflessness during this especially tough time of year to be separated from your loved ones.

CNG members are busy throughout the year, providing protection and security across the state and around the globe. During the past 12 months, we waved farewell to more than 2,300 Soldiers of the California Army National Guard from the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 1-140th Aviation Battalion, 330th Military Police (MP) Company, 749th Combat Service Support Battalion, 640th Aviation Support Battalion, 649th Engineer Company, 870th MP Company and other CNG units as they deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Kuwait and other countries.

The Army National Guard also concluded many overseas operations in 2010, as nearly 1,300 Soldiers returned to the United States after completing deployments for the 1106th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group, 1-144th Field Artillery Battalion, 670th MP Company, 49th MP Brigade, 40th Infantry Division and other units.

We also watched as the California Air National Guard's five major organizations — the 129th Rescue Wing, 144th Fighter Wing, 146th Airlift Wing, 162nd Combat Communications Group and 163rd Reconnaissance Wing — deployed 540 Airmen to more than 20 countries in 2010, including deployments to combat theaters for all five organizations.

Members in both the Army and Air components of the California National Guard received Purple Hearts in 2010 in recognition of wounds received defending their country.

During the past decade, members of the California National Guard and their families have become accustomed to such demands as we have been called upon to play a growing variety of roles in the fight against America's enemies. The 40th Infantry Division, for instance, returned its 63-member Agribusiness Development Team from Afghanistan in August after spending a year helping Afghan farmers increase crop yield and vaccinate livestock. This is one of many ways the CNG has contributed to the security and growth of Afghani-



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

stan and Iraq since the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Including multiple deployments for some individuals, CNG Soldiers have deployed more than 22,000 times since 2001, and CNG Airmen have deployed more than 12,000 times.

In addition, we are always ready to respond to natural disasters or other situations in California that require the Guard's unique capabilities. We prepare every year for California's dangerous wildfire season and respond to calls for rescues atop mountains and over the ocean. In 2010 we also deployed 260 personnel to the U.S.-Mexico border to support Customs and Border Protection.

In 2010 two CNG units received richly deserved commendations for their exceptional contributions. The CNG's 1-18th Cavalry Regiment was presented a long-awaited Meritorious Unit Commendation for its service in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2005 and 2006, and the CNG's 162nd Combat Communications Group received an Outstanding Unit Award for exemplary service in 2007 and 2008.

Additionally three CNG members of a 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion medical evacuation crew were recognized for heroic actions in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Emmett Spraktes received the Silver

Star, the nation's third-highest award for valor, while Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Gifford and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott St. Aubin earned the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brandon Erdmann of the Wyoming National Guard, who served with the 1-168th in Afghanistan, also earned the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device.

It was a busy year in Sacramento as well, as the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (EAAP) kicked off in January and Operation Welcome Home launched in June. The EAAP provided 253 service members with a total of \$820,000 for school in 2010; next year it will provide up to \$3.6 million. Operation Welcome Home, meanwhile, is a first-in-the-nation, statewide campaign to connect every returning veteran with services to help them transition from the battlefield to the home front. Information on these two programs can be found at www.calguard.ca.gov/education and www.veterans.ca.gov.

This year also brought the retirement of two general officers who provided great service to the California National Guard. Brig. Gen. Louis J. Antonetti, who served as commander of the California Army National Guard from April 2007 to June 2009, retired in October. At the time of his retirement, Antonetti was deputy adjutant general, California Army National Guard. Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel has succeeded Antonetti

as both commander and deputy adjutant general.

That news was followed in November by the retirement of Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas, who commanded the California Air National Guard from 2004 until his retirement. Both great warriors were invaluable assets to this organization, and their contributions will be missed.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Ellsworth also stepped down from his full-time position as director of the CNG Joint Staff. We are fortunate he will continue to serve as a traditional Guardsman as Joint Task Force Commander for Domestic Support.

Family is always a top priority for the California National Guard, which is why I am so pleased that Col. (CA) Linda Harrel took over this year as the senior volunteer representative for the CNG Family Readiness Program. Harrel is a longtime Guard member and the wife of the commander of the California Army National Guard. I look forward to sharing with you her new initiatives to further strengthen our family support.

Thank you all for your service throughout 2010, when the California National Guard again faced tough challenges and rose to the occasion. You continue to prove the California National Guard is always ready and always there.

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

Photographs:

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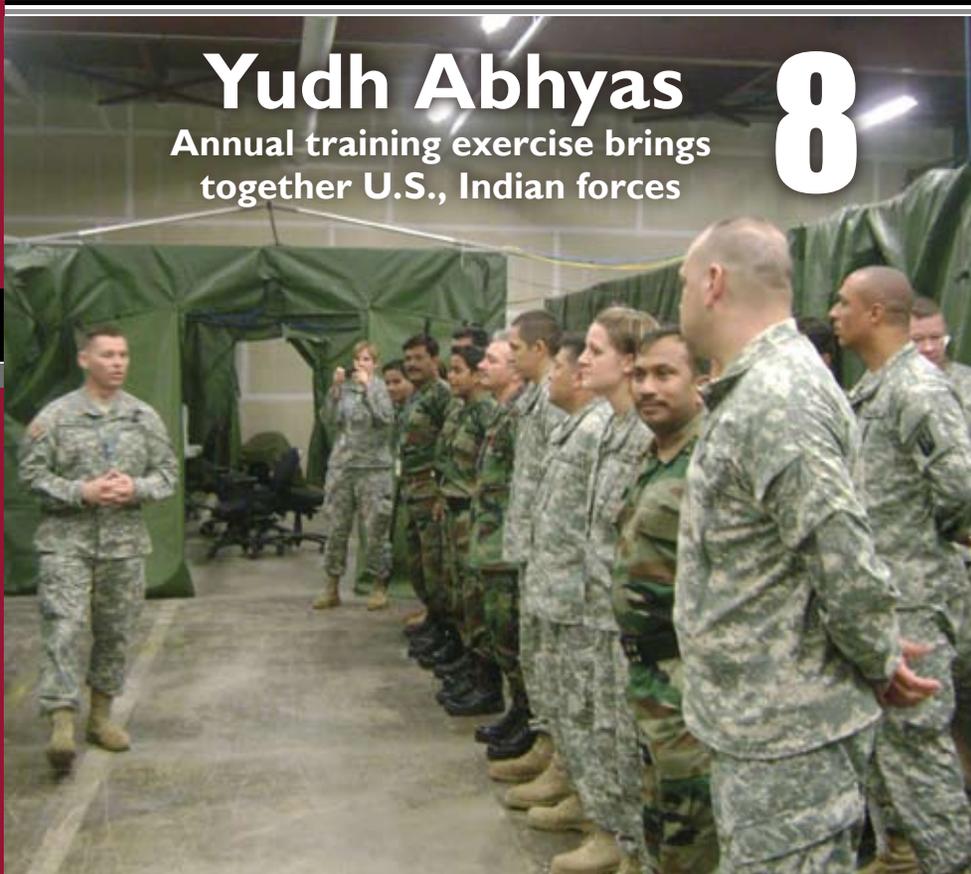
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Cover Shot



Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

Tech. Sgt. Doug Bailey of the 147th Combat Communications Group hands out American flags to children during the San Diego Veterans Day celebration Nov. 11.



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Annual training exercise brings together U.S., Indian forces



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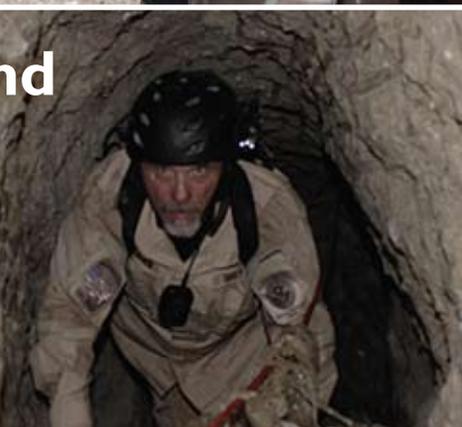


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640th ASB departs for yearlong Iraq deployment

By Master Sgt. Julie Avey
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

More than 500 members of the California National Guard's 640th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) departed California in November to complete training in advance of a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

The first Soldiers departed Nov. 14 for Fort Hood, Texas, where the 640th will train for eight weeks before leaving for Iraq.

"The 640th Aviation Support Battalion will be supporting over 200 helicopters ... across the entire country of Iraq," said Commander Lt. Col. Lou Carmona. "The 640th will provide supplies, fuel and communications support along with ground and aviation maintenance. Our Soldiers have spent the past two years preparing for this mission."

In Iraq, the battalion will serve a crucial role in supporting the troop drawdown taking place theater-wide. The 640th will provide logistical support for the California National Guard's 40th Combat Aviation Brigade. The 40th CAB's Headquarters and Headquarters Company sent 110 Soldiers to Fort Hood for predeployment training at the end of November.

Once the 40th CAB reaches Iraq, it will assume command of both the 640th ASB and the California National Guard's 1-140th ASB, which sent more than 300 Soldiers to Fort Hood for predeployment training in August.

"Everyone will go through the same feelings of anxiety, fear, sadness, excitement and enthusiasm," Carmona said during a deployment ceremony Nov. 13 in Anaheim. "Let's help each other as we sacrifice."

Thousands of friends and family members attended the ceremony to show support for the Soldiers and give them a proper farewell. Children in the audience were asked to raise their hands and pledge to study hard in support of their Soldier.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY

ABOVE: Soldiers of the 640th Aviation Support Battalion conduct a deployment ceremony Nov. 13 in Anaheim. **RIGHT:** The Soldiers depart Nov. 14 for Fort Hood, Texas, where they will train for eight weeks before deploying to Iraq.



PHOTOS BY LAURA HERZOG

Benicia-based unit to support Operation New Dawn

CSSB brings wealth of experience to Iraq mission

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Will Martin
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

When the 749th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion (CSSB) deploys to Iraq later this year, it won't lack experience.

"I'm looking at the right shoulder patches in the audience, and I can see many of you have already deployed once, maybe twice," said Brig. Gen. Daniel Nelan, assistant adjutant general for the California Army National Guard, at a Nov. 12 deployment ceremony for the battalion.

In fact more than half of the 80 Soldiers he addressed at the event on Travis Air Force Base, Calif., had deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan, 11 of them with two or three deployments under their belt.

"These veterans bring a depth of experience which only enhances the readiness of this organization," said Lt. Col. David Ceniti, commander of the Benicia, Calif.-based 749th CSSB. "[We have] four who have deployed three or even four times."

The battalion is slated to carry out a container-management mission, facilitating traffic at trailer transition points as the U.S. moves equipment out of Iraq as part of the transition to Operation New Dawn. New Dawn began Sept. 1, marking the close of Operation Iraqi Freedom and ending formal combat operations in Iraq on the part of the U.S. armed forces.

During such times of operational transition, the potential for uncertainty and stress is high, making the battalion's experience all the more essential. Ceniti seemed to grasp the depth of the challenges his Soldiers will soon face.

"You are truly extraordinary people doing extraordinary things in an extraordinary time," he said.

During its pre-mobilization training, the battalion completed a command post exercise at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where it was evaluated alongside 18 other CSSBs. The 749th ranked near the top fifth of its peers in the evaluation.

"We successfully transitioned from an analog operations center to a fully digital ops center," said Ceniti, referring to the changes made in preparation for the deployment. "We fully integrated secure Internet and video teleconferencing into our training and operations — the first time a California Army National Guard unit had attempted this, and we succeeded."

Among the battalion's other "firsts" is 1st Lt. Dana Durham, the first female chaplain to deploy to a theater of operations with the California Army National Guard.

Durham, who worked as a chaplain in hospitals before joining the Guard, spoke excitedly about a sense of calling to her position.

"This is my passion, being with the Soldiers, and I couldn't ask for a more supportive command and a bet



Sgt. Sharon Stallworth, supply noncommissioned officer for the 749th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, hugs her family during the unit's Nov. 12 deployment ceremony on Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Stallworth is deploying to Iraq for the second time.

ter mission," said Durham, a graduate of Yale Divinity School. "[To] see what God sees in them, and teaching and caring for them. ... I'm the only one authorized to be their mother."

The 749th is training on Fort Hood, Texas, before heading overseas.

870th gears up for Afghanistan police-training mission

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Will Martin
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

When Capt. James Smith assumed command of the 870th Military Police Company, he immediately began emphasizing readiness as one of his central themes. To him, deployment seemed not only possible but inevitable.

When he learned his California Army National Guard MP unit would deploy to Afghanistan in 2011 to conduct a police-training mission, his foresight and stress on preparation were confirmed.

"What I've been trying to do is immerse myself in the [counterinsurgency] doctrine," said Smith, whose troops will spend the December holidays training on Fort Hood, Texas, before heading overseas. "We've sent people out to classes on battlefield forensics, [special reaction team] training, courses at the Department of Justice and [courses on] security involving personal dignitaries."

An anti-terrorism and physical security officer at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, Smith has surrounded himself with a corps of senior noncommissioned officers and young officers whose civilian experience seems perfectly suited for this mission.

"We have numerous Soldiers with civilian law enforcement experience, which is perfect when you're focusing on training in community-oriented policing," Smith said of the unit's upcoming Operation Enduring Freedom mission. "We have lots of guys with a corrections background, from police departments and law enforcement."

First Lieutenant Antonia Ambriz, who serves as a platoon leader for the 870th, echoed her commander's confidence.

"I have several guys with policing experience, and one of my squad leaders has 10 or more years," said Ambriz, herself a deputy with the Contra Coast County Sheriff's Department. "They bring more to the table when it comes to this kind of mission."

Their mission in training Afghan police mirrors the efforts of California National Guard-led police transition teams in Iraq, which helped provide stability and civilian confidence as U.S. forces moved toward the end of combat operations in Iraq. Smith aims to repeat that success in Afghanistan.



"We'll be responsible for training the police in one of three main provinces," Smith said. "Community-oriented policing is the key over there right now. In training their police, we're helping them gain credibility with their people."

ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Robert Proffitt, left, and Sgt. Cody Grandi of the 870th Military Police Company out of Pittsburgh, Calif., fire a .50-caliber weapon Nov. 17 during training on Camp Roberts, Calif., for the unit's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. **RIGHT:** A Soldier with the 870th secures .50-caliber rounds during training at Camp Roberts on Nov. 12.



MG Lucas relinquishes command of ANG

Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas relinquished command of the California Air National Guard and retired Nov. 30. He had served as commander since September 2004.

Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, now also serves as commander of the California Air National Guard.

"This ceremony will mark the end of an extremely successful six-year tour as the Commander, California Air National Guard, and over 40 years of total military service," Kight wrote in a memo announcing Lucas' retirement. "Under his leadership, the California Air National Guard transformed into a relevant force that remains ready to meet the demands of our state and federal missions."

Lucas had also served as chief of staff and assistant adjutant general—Air prior to taking command of the California Air National Guard in 2004.

"Major General Lucas is a committed leader who performed exceptionally well," Kight continued. "His contributions are too numer-

ous and outstanding to mention in this memorandum, but I must say he leaves a legacy that guarantees the future relevance of the California Air National Guard and the safety of our nation."

Lucas graduated from Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 1971. He joined the California National Guard in 1980 and held a variety of operational assignments until 1987, when he transferred to state headquarters. In 1999 he was appointed director of command, control, communications and computers. Lucas' civilian education includes a bachelor's degree in biology from Duquesne University and a master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University.

Lucas is a master navigator with more than 2,400 flight hours in T-19 and F-4 aircraft, including 130 combat missions. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device and two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. PAUL DUQUETTE

Helping Afghan troops learn to share their message

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Julie Avey
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

The story was there to be told, but it was theirs to tell.

As a career public affairs specialist for the California Air National Guard, I am accustomed to diving behind a camera to cover the missions of our troops. But during my six-month tour in Afghanistan, I had to fight the urge to take the lead in telling Soldiers' stories and documenting their heroic actions. My job was to mentor Afghan Soldiers and teach them to document Afghan National Army missions and contributions.

My first assignment was as part of the five-person Public Affairs Advisory Team-South, a group of U.S. Airmen that mentored the Afghan National Army 205th Corps in building a strategic communications plan. We trained the 205th Soldiers to support press conferences — including those for the initial operation in Marja — and we developed and communicated messages of security, stability and sustainability to international media, local media and villagers.

Days were spent teaching Soldiers to write key messages, talking points and speeches as well as to process photos, write captions and develop video scripts. All of these tasks were accomplished through the use of a translator.

The Public Affairs Advisory Team and the 205th assisted in the delivery of food to local villages and supplies to flood victims; hosted shuras, or meetings with village elders; supported Afghan National Army leadership during morale visits; and provided media flights. Our Afghan counterparts documented their Soldiers accomplishing these missions while simultaneously conducting patrols and managing public relations.

The job was challenging, but our mentoring team really started to succeed when we stopped trying to impose our will on our students and adapted to Afghanistan, becoming friends more than instructors. The American and Afghan public affairs teams spent many hours sharing stories over chai tea and discussing our families and our countries' histories and cultures.

As our friendship was growing, however, duty called in another part of the country, and I was transferred to the Public Af-



Afghan National Army public affairs troops learn from their American counterparts, like CNG Master Sgt. Julie Avey, bottom left, how to properly document counterinsurgency operations and communicate a positive message to residents of Afghanistan.

fairs Advisory Team-Southwest to assist in the activation of the 215th Corps, the first new Afghan National Army Corps in five years.

The Public Affairs Advisory Team trained our Afghan National Army counterparts to produce radio messages and press releases countering Taliban propaganda efforts. We also taught photography and videography in the classroom and on the job.

Our goal was to help the Afghan National Army impress upon local residents that the Army is present in the area to defend Afghanistan and its capabilities are continuously progressing.

Through training and mentoring, we showed our Afghan counterparts how to stand on their own and competently produce public affairs products, letting them fish for themselves instead of catching the fish for them. Ultimately, Afghan Soldiers will train and mentor other Af-

ghan Soldiers to do the job.

Afghanistan is a land of proud warriors, and I am proud to have worked side-by-side with my Afghan counterparts to help them share their accomplishments with the people of their nation and the world.



'The crème de la crème of tactical infantrymen.'

U.S. Army Ranger School is a grueling, exhausting test of a Soldier's warrior skills, which 2nd Lt. Jorge Ramirez vowed to complete.

By 2nd Lt. Kara Siepmann
Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug

"Surrender is not a Ranger word." The newest California National Guard Ranger tab bearer, 2nd Lt. Jorge Ramirez, lived this part of the Ranger's creed years before graduating from the U.S. Army's premier leadership course.

Ramirez returned home from his first deployment to Iraq in 2004 energized and eager to improve his warrior skills. For his next deployment, the military intelligence specialist vowed to himself he'd return to the Middle East as a Ranger.

"It's the best training you can get," Ramirez said. "Rangers are the crème de la crème of tactical infantrymen."

Ramirez thought about Ranger school for nearly a year before he approached his chain of command with the request. Once he committed to the idea, earning his Ranger tab was all Ramirez could focus on, said his wife, Lisa.

"Lisa grew tired of me getting up at 4:45 in the morning for ruck marches," Ramirez said. "What a sight the neighbors had. She would often accompany me on training marches — me with a 75-pound rucksack, and her following along with our son Diego in a baby-carrier."

"She knew what this meant for me. The fact that she understood the importance of these schools was the biggest way she was supportive," Ramirez explained.

The Army National Guard sends relatively few Soldiers to Ranger School. Competition is high for the few slots available, and before being accepted, National Guard troops must attend a two-week Pre-Ranger School on Fort Benning, Ga.

The California National Guard has sent one Soldier to Ranger School each year since 2006.

"When the California National Guard does nominate a Soldier to attend Ranger School, he has already demonstrated he is one of the best," said Maj. Charles Hancock, who is a Ranger himself and is northern region commander for the CNG Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug.



Ramirez is also a member of the task force, for which he works as a linguist analyst.

Ramirez's journey was long and hard-fought. First he had to join an infantry unit. The buck sergeant completed an accelerated officer commission course and became a light infantry platoon leader with Company D, 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment. He then completed two officer leadership courses and returned to Fort Benning for Pre-Ranger and Ranger School.

After months of training, Ramirez was still focused on his goal. At 32 years old, the nine-year veteran was no stranger to Army schools. He recognized "there's a lot of luck involved."

"I wasn't without some doubt I'd get through," he said, "but I sure wasn't going to quit."

A Ranger student will average less than 3.5 hours of sleep a day for more than two months, Hancock said. The other 20 hours a day, the students are moving by foot and typically carrying upwards of 90 pounds of weapons, equipment and ammunition.

"I experienced exhaustion like never before in my life," Ramirez said. "I had blurry vision, ringing in the ears and headaches — common for a combo of dehydration, hunger and exhaustion. The stress caused from anxiety was also a factor."

Despite the pressure, Ramirez said he was 110 percent sure he would not quit.

"I would have had to die to leave that school," Ramirez said.

Ranger students plan and execute daily patrols and perform reconnaissance, ambushes and raids against dispersed targets, then move stealthily to new patrol bases to plan the next mission.

"Ranger students are given a clear mission," Hancock explained. "But it is up to them to determine how to best execute it — and they had better get it right."

Since food and sleep are at the bottom of an infantryman's priorities, it is the last thing many Ranger students do. Most students lose upwards of 20 pounds by the end of Ranger school, Hancock said.

After more than 60 days focusing on tactical leadership under severe combat conditions in wooded, mountain and swamp terrain in Georgia and Florida, Ramirez graduated July 16. His class started with more than 400 Soldiers, but by graduation day only 156 remained.

"Admittedly I'm old for a second lieutenant and to attend Ranger school," Ramirez said. "But I'm in shape. Everything I accomplish is because I work hard at it."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RAMIREZ FAMILY



ABOVE: Second Lieutenant Jorge Ramirez, the California National Guard's newest Ranger and a member of the CNG's Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug, is congratulated by his wife, Lisa, and son, Diego, at Ramirez's Ranger School graduation July 16 on Fort Benning, Ga. BELOW LEFT: Ramirez's mentor and fellow Ranger Maj. Charles Hancock pins Ramirez's Ranger tab.

"He has drive," Lisa said. "He pushes me because he's always on the go."

Ramirez recognizes that he hasn't always been a shining example of motivation. He graduated as valedictorian from high school and headed straight to the University of Southern California. But after three years, he was caught up in fraternity party scenes more than academics, he said.

"There's a big hole in my heart for not finishing at USC," Ramirez admitted. "Everything I do now, I push myself harder and harder to make up for that."

The California National Guard will reap the benefits of this new Army leader's training for years to come. Ramirez plans to make serving in the California National Guard a career.

To his Soldiers in the 1-160th, Ramirez has a message: "You can do anything you want. You just have to fight. Go out and get what you want!"

Ramirez hopes word of his accomplishment spreads throughout the California Army National Guard so that other deserving candidates can have the same opportunity.

"Having people who believed in me was half the battle," Ramirez said, noting that convincing his superiors to fund the investment was the other half. "But I'm a true believer of 'Where there is a will, there is a way.'"



Yudh Abhyas tests U.S., Indian cooperation

By Capt. Eric A. Nelson
79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Snowy Alaskan peaks provided the backdrop for Yudh Abhyas 2010, a training event that brought the U.S. and Indian armies together from Oct. 27 to Nov. 14. Held in a different location each year, Yudh Abhyas means “battle practice” in Hindi and is an opportunity for the two militaries to deepen their ties and exchange knowledge.

As part of the exercise, 21 Soldiers from the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team joined 11 officers from the Indian Army to simulate a United Nations headquarters responsible for overseeing a peacekeeping scenario. A field training exercise and paratrooper jump were also tied to the scenario. The Indian officers were pulled from regiments across the nation’s 1.1 million-man army to form a dream team ranging in rank from captain to colonel.

“This is the first time I have worked with the Indian Army, and as I expected due to their Army’s size and experience with operations, they were as professional as any officers I have ever worked with,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Koop, chief of staff for the exercise. “It was illuminating to see how they’ve taken their British military heritage and made it their own over the past 60 years.”

Several of the Indian officers had previously served in peacekeeping operations, making them a valuable resource to their American counterparts who were adjusting to the United Nations organizational framework. Soldiers from the 79th IBCT introduced their Indian counterparts to U.S. Army digital equipment and coached them on its use.

“Initially I was apprehensive about how to adjust to using U.S. language and equipment,” one of the senior Indian officers said. “But while the military jargon is different, in terms of what it means there is a lot of commonality. What really differs is the technology. The U.S. technology is much better.

“At the end, it was a lifetime experience and I will cherish the memories throughout my life,” he concluded.

The multinational team came together under the command of Indian Col. Sachin Malik, a witty and charismatic officer who completed professional military schooling in the U.S. as a young captain at Fort Benning, Ga. His newly formed staff received high marks from the directors of the exercise and other units training in the peacekeeping scenario.

The exercise directors and control group singled out the 79th IBCT Soldiers for going beyond the call of duty during the training and taking initiative in improving the scenario. “These guys did their homework before showing up,” said Joseph E. Andrade, the exercise program director. “They digested all the material and were even one step ahead of us.”

When asked about the praise heaped on his combined staff, Col. Andrew Flynn, deputy commander of both the 79th IBCT and the staff for the exercise, pointed to the “open and heartfelt cooperation and collaboration between the U.S. and Indian Soldiers.”

“Neither group was dogmatic during the exercise,” he said. “Both armies took the best of Indian, U.S. and U.N. operational practices and fused them together using a hybrid methodology. All stakeholders were impressed with the staff’s proactive preparation for the exercise.”

“Our families should know that the 79th IBCT did a fantastic job and that the separation during the two-week event was worthwhile,” Koop added.

There were a few opportunities for the combined staff to socialize during the exercise. On the evening of Nov. 5, the Indian contingent hosted a celebration for Diwali (pronounced “dee-VAH-lee”), an important Indian holiday. Roughly analogous to Christmas, the holiday is a festival of lights and the celebration area was festooned with candles. A variety of sweets were served and the Indian Soldiers insisted that their American guests consume as many as possible before opening up a dance floor with traditional and modern music.

Later in the exercise, the 79th hosted a dinner event with their Indian partners. “I really enjoyed the impromptu unit mess,” Koop said of the dinner. “It is a shared tradition that resonated with all of our Soldiers and went a long way to build unit cohesion. As with any event combined with foreign Soldiers, taking the other side’s perspective and learning their customs generates respect and goodwill. It was an interesting and exciting opportunity, and it was well-received by the Indians.”

The Indian officers were all fluent English speakers, and most of the infrequent misunderstandings resulted from



Indian and American Soldiers stand side-by-side during Yudh Abhyas, held Oct. 27 to Nov. 14 in Alaska. The annual training exercise is designed to strengthen ties between the two armies by expanding operational and cultural knowledge, with a focus on peacekeeping operations.

PHOTOS BY CAPT. PETE LEWIS



differences between American English and the British English taught in India.

Easing rare communication issues while showing off the California National Guard's diverse pool of talents and backgrounds, two medics from the 79th were instrumental in fostering a common understanding of the day-to-day terminology used in the exercise. Cpl. Balreet Kaur and Spc. Jasleen Kaur of the 79th are sisters who were born in India and speak Hindi. They also understand both U.S. and Indian cultural practices and explained the many differences to Yudh Abhyas participants.

"At first, the chai tea being served at the event was unpalatable to the Indian Soldiers because it was not prepared properly," Spc. Kaur said. "Once we went out and got the right tea and made it correctly, the Indians were lining up for it the same way the American caffeine addicts were for coffee." This was one of many incidents in which the Kaur sisters made the Indian guests feel comfortable and welcome at the exercise.

Spc. Kaur, Cpl. Kaur and four other CNG Soldiers were honored with the Army Achievement Medal for their contributions during Yudh Abhyas. The other awardees were 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Chaix, 2nd Lt. Andrew Gallagher, Sgt. Lindsay Ebert and Sgt. Dione Pellett.



After exchanging gifts and gathering for one last event to celebrate the successful exercise, the U.S. and Indian Soldiers left the Alaskan base to fly over the snow-covered mountains and back to their respective homes. They left with one another's contact information and some with plans for the future: "Come visit India," the Indian officers said to their counterparts in the 79th before flying home.



PHOTO BY SPC. ASHLEY M. ARMSTRONG

India-born sisters Cpl. Balreet Kaur, left, and Spc. Jasleen Kaur, both medics for the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, speak with an Indian Army Soldier before training exercise Yudh Abhyas on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. The two CNG Soldiers acted as cultural liaisons during the exercise Oct. 27-Nov. 14.

India-born CNG Soldiers bridge cultural gap

By Spc. Ashley M. Armstrong
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

Military operations between nations can be challenging with the diversity of language, cultures and traditions.

U.S. Army Alaska found a nontraditional method of alleviating those challenges when it discovered India-born sisters Cpl. Balreet Kaur and Spc. Jasleen Kaur, both medics for the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The CNG sisters served as cultural liaisons between the armies of India and the United States during Yudh Abhyas 2010.

The exercise at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, serves as an opportunity to strengthen military cooperation between the countries.

"This brings our two countries much closer together, and anytime we have experts from the other country it brings us much further along," said Col. Mark S. Lowe, acting exercise director, U.S. Army Alaska. "[Cpl. and Spc. Kaur] understand [Indian] customs and courtesies, so they help us out tremendously and make sure that we do not violate any of the normal policies that they follow."

The sisters also speak Hindi, which helped with communication.

"When we speak to [Indian Soldiers] in Hindi, they feel a little closer to home," Spc. Kaur said. "Their faces light up to know that ... one barrier is down."

The CNG Soldiers also were able to provide guidance on accommodations.

"In India we shower with buckets that we fill with tap water, and we use a mug to scoop the water out," Cpl. Kaur said. "So they wanted to make sure that the Indian Soldiers in the field had the right mugs."

"They really have given 110 percent here," Spc. Kaur added. "They have even offered Indian meals at the chow hall."

The sisters and their family left India in 2001 because of religious conflict, and they haven't returned.

"With this experience, we actually get to learn more about where we came from and we get to learn about the Indian military," Cpl. Kaur said. "For us to be ... exposed to this sort of setting is beneficial to us."

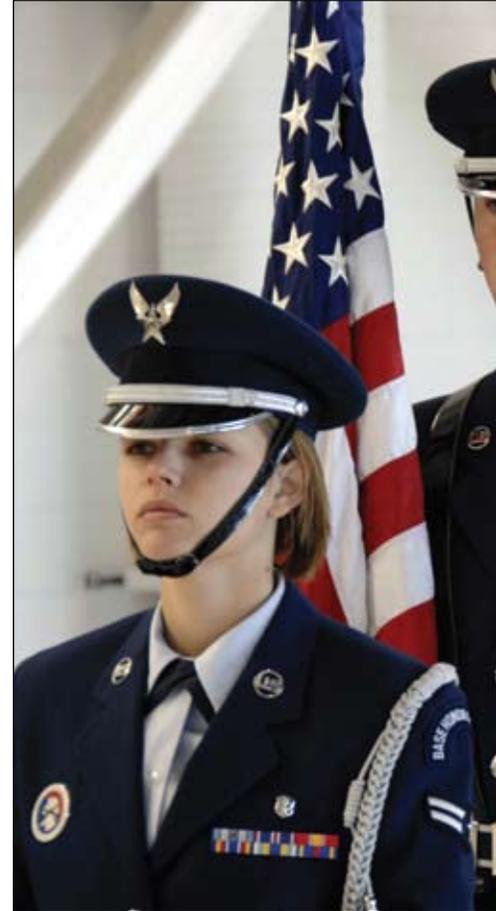
It was beneficial to many other Soldiers at Yudh Abhyas as well.

"Everyone knows those two young Soldiers, and they've been very helpful at the senior officer level, the [noncommissioned officer] level and the Soldier level," Lowe said. "They have established great rapport with the Indian Army and if anything it will bring our countries much closer."



Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, carry their gear across the tarmac Oct. 3 on Fort Hood, Texas, as they prepare to depart for Iraq. More than 300 of the unit's Soldiers will provide aviation support during a yearlong deployment in support of Operation New Dawn.

Photo by Ann M. Ciarico



Airman 1st Class Kayla Sather, left, Tech. Sgt. Ra Gaetos, the 129th Rescue Wing Base Honor Guard

Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Kacir

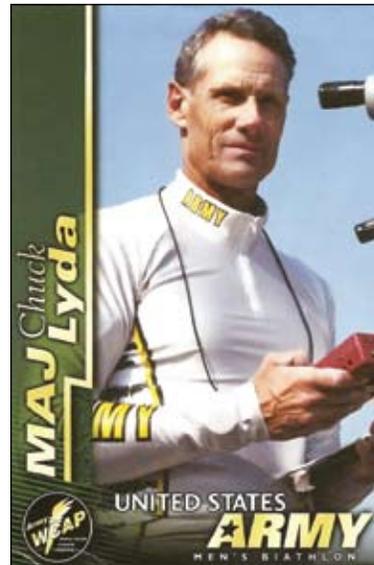


Senior Airman Jacob Ellwood, a flight engineer for the 129th Rescue Squadron, conducts a preflight check of an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter Nov. 6 at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kim E. Ramirez

FAR RIGHT: Austin Meng, 18, runs toward the finish line on his way to winning the junior division title at the Lt. Col. Chuck Lyda Memorial Summer Biathlon held Oct. 31 in Soda Springs, Calif. The event, which combines running and marksmanship, was a tribute to Lyda, who served the California National Guard from 1983 until his death from cancer in June at age 57. In addition to his dedicated military service, Lyda was a two-time Olympian and two-time world champion in the sport of canoe/kayak. He was also a member of the Olympic Biathlon Team coaching staff at the 1998 and 2002 games. He was a member of a U.S. national team in biathlon or canoe/kayak 28 times.

Photo by Mark Nadell



At a Glance



Androsław Ciesielski, Airman 1st Class Jessica Green and Senior Airman Karen [Name], prepare to present the colors at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., on Sept. 11.



Command Master Sgt. (CA) Charles Collier presents the California State Military Reserve's (CSMR) Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year awards to Sgt. (CA) Thames B. Leary, right, and Spc. (CA) Alexander J. Louie, center, Oct. 23 in Sacramento. Leary joined the CSMR's 100th Troop Command Support Brigade in February 2009. A training NCO, he has helped plan and execute a variety of missions, including the 49th Military Police Brigade's pre-mobilization land navigation training and multiple brigade-wide field training exercises. He is also a member of his unit's color guard. Louie enlisted in the CSMR in 2008 and serves as a security officer at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos. An emergency medical technician, he serves as an intern for the Orange County Bio-Terrorism Preparedness and Training Unit and the U.S. Public Health Service, and he is pursuing a dual bachelor's degree in public health science and nursing science at the University of California, Irvine, with the goal of becoming a search-and-rescue flight and tactical nurse.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Prouse



The California Army National Guard's "Call of Duty: Black Ops" team poses Nov. 4 with Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant during a video game launch event held by The Call of Duty Endowment, a nonprofit founded by video game publisher Activision Blizzard to help Soldiers transition to civilian life and establish careers. The CNG members competed against five other teams of service members and finished in second place to the Coast Guard team. The endowment donated \$1 million in the Coast Guard's name to help veterans. From left, Sgt. 1st Class Deborah Carter, Capt. Aaron Tom, Sgt. Christopher Todd, Spc. Juan Rivas, Bryant, Sgt. Bach Zavala, Sgt. Austin O'Neill and Sgt. Michael Graumann.

Photo by Laura Herzog



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Wood, who departed California last month with the Iraq-bound 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, speaks with a child during the annual Wings, Wheels and Rotors Exposition on Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos. The car and air show, which attracted about 30,000 visitors Oct. 23, is sponsored by the training base, the California National Guard and the Los Alamitos Area Chamber of Commerce.

Photo by Staff Sgt. (CA) Gene Arias



Spc. Andre Ybarra, an aviation operations specialist for the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, guides Sgt. 1st Class David Coss, the 40th CAB's readiness noncommissioned officer, as Coss loads equipment into a truck in preparation for the CAB's deployment to Iraq. The brigade sent 150 Soldiers to Fort Hood, Texas, last month for eight weeks of training before leaving for their yearlong Iraq tour.

Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts

MG West, California Column bolstered Union Army

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

California's contributions during the Civil War included historic military posts and distinguished units that fought to preserve the Union. It took volunteers to man the forts, and the units required brave men. Californians served as guards for installations as well as on the front lines and in combat support.

Although Maj. Gen. Joseph Rodman West (Sept. 19, 1822 to Oct. 31, 1898) was not born in California, he is often claimed as California's own. His military service began during the Mexican-American War, when he fought for the Maryland and District of Columbia Volunteers. He joined as a private and climbed the ranks to captain by war's end.

West moved to California after the war and worked as a civilian until the beginning of the Civil War. After gaining a commission as a lieutenant colonel, he joined the Union Army as part of the 1st California Volunteer Infantry. He was part of the Cali-

fornia Column that took part in the westernmost battle of the Civil War, engaged Cochise and the Apache Indians in battles, and secured the Southwest for the Union.

West is also infamous for ordering the torture and execution of Apache leader Mangas Coloradas, who had arrived under a white flag of truce. "Men, that old murderer has got away from every Soldier command and has left a trail of blood for 500 miles on the old stage line," West told his Soldiers. "I want him dead." West also participated in battles throughout the South, such as the Red River Campaign. He rose to the rank of major general and was honorably discharged after the war ended in 1866.

After the war, West served as senator for Louisiana from 1871-1877 and in various other government positions until his death in 1898. He is interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

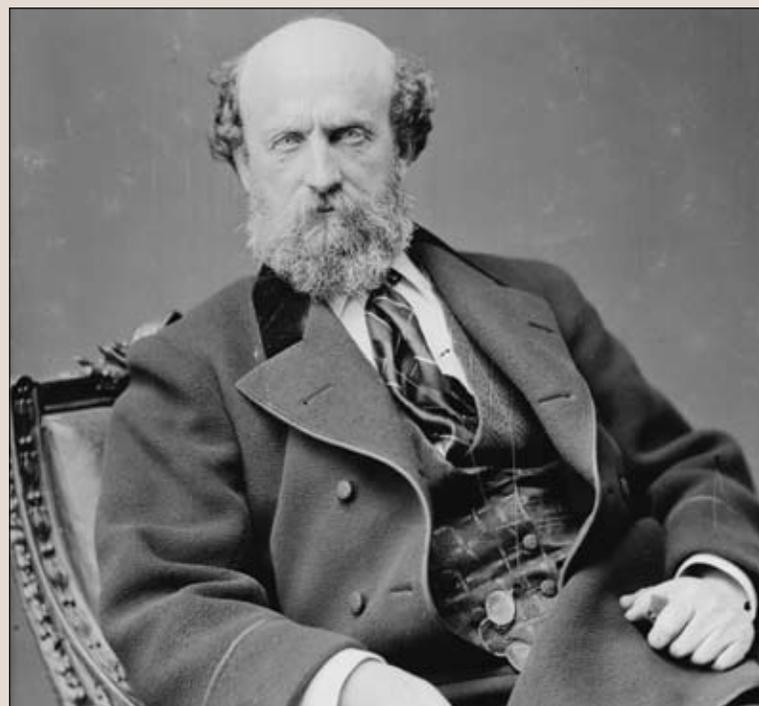


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY MUSEUM

Perspective "We'll fight them, sir, 'til hell freezes over, and then, sir, we will fight them on the ice." —A Confederate Soldier at Gettysburg, 1863

Armed Forces Fact



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY MUSEUM

About 1,100 ambulances were used during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. The medical director of the Union Army boasted that all the wounded were picked up from the field within 12 hours after the battle. This was a far cry from the Second Battle of Bull Run in 1862, when many wounded were left on the field for three or four days.

By The Numbers



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

9 The number of pounds the Springfield Model 1861 weighed. The most common rifle in the Civil War, it included a bayonet for hand-to-hand combat. The muzzle-loading rifle had a rifled barrel and could be loaded three times a minute. Its maximum range was about 1,000 yards. The high-speed spin of the .50-caliber French Minié soft lead rounds created terrible wounds, such as shattered bones, and in many cases the attending surgeon simply amputated a limb rather than risk an infection. The rifles could have been built with shorter barrels, but the military still fired by ranks and feared that shorter barrels would result in rear Soldiers accidentally shooting front-rank soldiers in the back of the head.

CNG Soldiers pitch in to Guard the Environment

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff McCloud
CNG Accession Task Force

The Army National Guard's core mission is to protect the United States, but just as important is the Guard's mission to serve and support the local communities that make up this country.

Beyond serving in times of emergencies and natural disasters, the Army National Guard puts a high priority on educating and training its members to be positive stewards of our environment. Educating Soldiers about the environment starts the moment recruits become a part of the Guard, which is why California National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) units are engaging in environmental activities during their monthly training weekends.

Approximately 200 Soldiers of the RSP participated in Guard the Environment, a nationwide National Guard event in October. The majority of those 200 Soldiers were newly enlisted in the National Guard, and most were recent high school graduates, according to Staff Sgt. Ryan Gislason of the RSP.

"This is a way of getting new recruits involved in their

community," he explained. "Our hope is they'll take this feeling back to their own communities."

This is the first year of the Guard the Environment initiative. More than 300 Army National Guard units across the country performed environmental activities the third and fourth weekends of October. California communities that benefited from the effort included Azusa, Camp Parks, Fresno, Los Alamitos, Redding, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego and San Luis Obispo. Activities included planting trees, cleaning up parks and beaches, and helping divers haul away sunken debris in Morro Bay, Calif.

The Sacramento detachment of the RSP partnered with Rocklin High School and Boy Scout Troop 29 to winterize trees and clean up Johnson-Springview Park in Rocklin, Calif.

"The Army National Guard is a part of the community," Gislason said as his group began pitching in at Johnson-Springview Park. "We are doing our job to help the community. We feel every little bit helps."



Members of the California Army National Guard clean up Johnson-Springview Park in Rocklin, Calif., as part of the nationwide Guard the Environment initiative in October. About 200 CNG Soldiers participated in the event statewide.

VETERANS DAY 2010

The California National Guard participated in more than 50 Veterans Day events and celebrations throughout the state from Nov. 3 through Nov. 17. The Guard provided numerous keynote speakers, flyovers, bands, color guards and static displays of aircraft and other equipment.

Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, appeared and spoke at the San Diego Veterans Day Parade. Other notable events supported by the Guard included the Palm Springs Veterans Day Parade, the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade, the Artesia Veterans Day Event, the San Francisco Mayor's Veterans Day Parade, the Elk Grove Veterans Day Parade and the Mather Veterans Affairs Hospital Veterans Day Event.

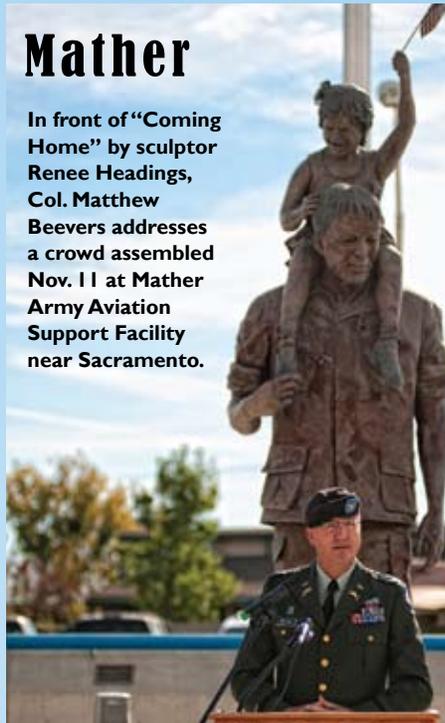
President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11, 1918, as the first Armistice Day, a year after fighting ceased in World War I on that date. In 1954, Congress officially recognized November 11 as Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars.

The California National Guard provides support for Veterans Day events every year in an effort to maintain its standing as a good neighbor and to reach out to the communities that support it. For more information, contact our community relations department at 916-854-3544.

PHOTO BY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 (CA) JON-NOLAN PARESA

Mather

In front of "Coming Home" by sculptor Renee Headings, Col. Matthew Beevers addresses a crowd assembled Nov. 11 at Mather Army Aviation Support Facility near Sacramento.



Elk Grove



PHOTO BY HENRY SANCHEZ

Soldiers of the 115th Regional Support Group carry the colors during the Elk Grove Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11 in Elk Grove, Calif. Staff Sgt. Emmett Spraktes, a combat medic with Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, who earned the Silver Star for heroic actions in Afghanistan, served as Grand Marshall of the parade.

San Diego

RIGHT: Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, prepares to present a trophy to the winners of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps drill team competition on Veterans Day in San Diego. **BELOW:** Senior Master Sgt. Danny Redmond, Tech. Sgt. Debbie Torres and Tech Sgt. Peter Mapanao wave Old Glory with pride during the San Diego Veterans Day Parade. **BOTTOM:** CNG family members enjoy the celebration.



PHOTO BY CARMENCITA SANNEBECK



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY



Long Beach



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. (CA) GENE ARIAS

Sgt. 1st Class (CA) Jerry Shultz, right, and Private 1st Class (CA) Kama Warren of the California State Military Reserve ride in the Long Beach Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 6. They were led by Staff Sgt. Robert Warren of 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment. **RIGHT:** About 150 cadets from the California National Guard's Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy march in the parade. The academy on JFTB-Los Alamitos provides a military-style school for teens who are at risk of dropping out.



CNG assists in 30-ton marijuana bust

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Task Force Sierra Public Affairs

Members of the California National Guard assisted civilian law enforcement agencies of the San Diego Tunnel Task Force in the discovery of a drug smuggling tunnel and eventual capture of 30 tons of marijuana Nov. 2.

The seizure was the largest U.S. drug bust associated with a tunnel and the second-largest overall in the nation's history, according to officials.

The 124th tunnel discovered leading into the United States since 1990, this is one of very few tunnels that was fully operational at the time of the bust. Authorities estimate the tunnel had been in service for about a month.

Initially military criminal analysts assisted in case support and link analysis for the investigation. Now with a wealth of information to sift through, those analysts are focusing their attention on continued investigative support, freeing up civilian agents to capture further information from the crime scene.

"They're definitely an asset to the team — something that we need," said Tim Durst, assistant special agent in charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigation, in San Diego. "I oversee several groups within the task force and I've seen the assistance they have given us in targeting specific locations."

CNG military criminal analysts with Joint Task Force Sierra are assisting ICE Homeland Security Investigations in linguistic translation support, case support and link analysis, report-writing and trend analysis.

Air Force Master Sgt. Laura Dzubin, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the criminal investigative analysts for Joint Task Force Sierra, said being part of such a significant seizure is important to her both as a San Diego native and as an analyst. "Growing up only eight miles from the border kept me right on the forefront of the drugs and violence that comes across the border every day. I've seen how drugs negatively affect many people's lives," she said.

"Being in the Air National Guard has provided me with many opportunities to work on successful counter-drug operations, but I have to say that this drug-tunnel seizure has been the highlight of my work on the border mission," she continued. "People sometimes forget that we are fighting a war right here at home. I served in Iraq in 2003, but serving in my home state of California and helping to make a difference in the war on drugs has been so much more rewarding."

The events that led to the bust began when a warehouse was deemed suspicious by the Tunnels Task Force and surveillance began, according to Lauren Mack, a spokeswoman for ICE. Later, the sudden appearance of a semi-trailer truck sparked agents' further interest. Eventually at a Border Patrol check-



TOP: Members of the California National Guard's Joint Task Force Sierra and civilian law enforcement agencies examine a drug smuggling tunnel and tons of marijuana discovered Nov. 2 outside San Diego. BELOW: The tunnel has a four-foot opening that serves as an entrance on the American side of the border. It is estimated to be the length of six football fields underground.

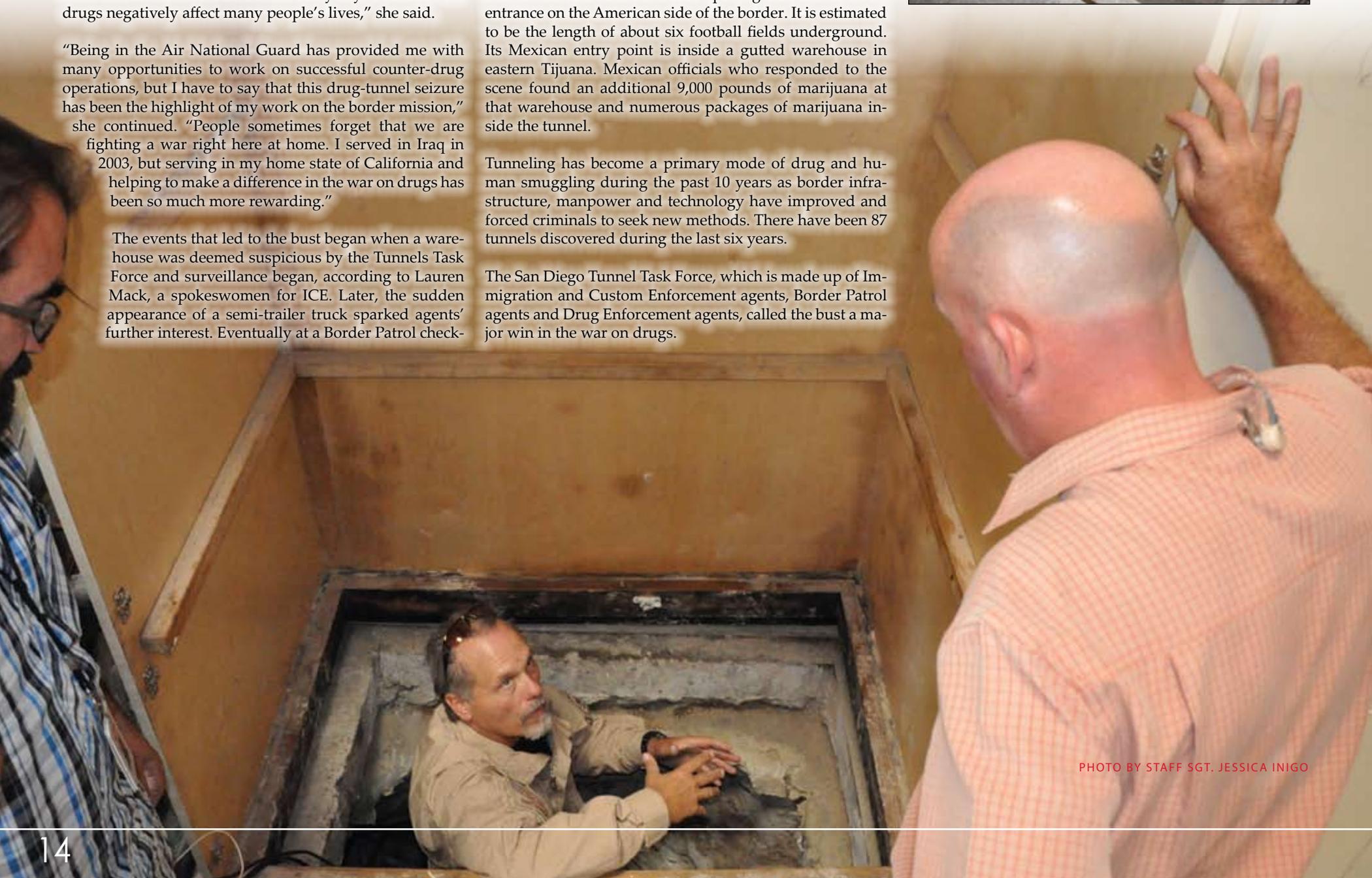
point in Temecula, Calif., about 75 miles from the originating warehouse, a K-9 agent conducted an exterior inspection of the truck and trailer, which yielded a positive alert. Upon further inspection agents discovered about 10 tons of marijuana inside. The driver, a U.S. citizen, and his wife, a Mexican citizen, were arrested.

Authorities obtained a federal search warrant to go inside the Otay Mesa warehouse, where they discovered approximately 15 tons of marijuana. In the end, ICE officials estimated the total value of the seized marijuana at \$20 million.

The tunnel has about a 4-foot opening that serves as an entrance on the American side of the border. It is estimated to be the length of about six football fields underground. Its Mexican entry point is inside a gutted warehouse in eastern Tijuana. Mexican officials who responded to the scene found an additional 9,000 pounds of marijuana at that warehouse and numerous packages of marijuana inside the tunnel.

Tunneling has become a primary mode of drug and human smuggling during the past 10 years as border infrastructure, manpower and technology have improved and forced criminals to seek new methods. There have been 87 tunnels discovered during the last six years.

The San Diego Tunnel Task Force, which is made up of Immigration and Custom Enforcement agents, Border Patrol agents and Drug Enforcement agents, called the bust a major win in the war on drugs.



PHOTOS BY IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA INIGO

DHS secretary visits Southwest border troops

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Task Force Sierra Public Affairs

The head of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) took a moment to catch up with the Guard members of Joint Task Force Sierra during a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) visit Oct. 18.

At a San Diego-area site overlooking the U.S.-Mexico border, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano made a pit stop during her whirlwind Southwest tour, ensuring she spoke with troops who man entry identification team (EIT) sites as well as with California National Guard leadership to gain a broad picture of the joint mission.

With more than two months under their belt supporting CBP, troops of the California National Guard have successfully assisted in the apprehension of nearly 800 criminal aliens, including more than 30 spotted by EIT members off coastal sites. Sgt. 1st Class Rich Ittner, a platoon sergeant on the Southwest border mission, spoke with Napolitano about gear, staffing and operation statistics.

"She was interested in the equipment we use and how effective the thermal and infrared [imaging equipment] is during different types of weather," he said. "Just having her here really validates all the hard work we're doing, and she went as far as to say that the president understands all the work that goes into this mission and appreciates what we're doing."

Another EIT staff sergeant, who requested anonymity for security reasons, agreed that Napolitano's presence made a difference to the troops. "She's really looking out for our interests while we're protecting our nation's borders," he said.

Napolitano, who had visited border sites in Arizona prior to arriving in California, invited Joint Task Force Sierra Commander Col. William "Rudy" Arruda to accompany her to Maritime Unified Command in San Diego to further define joint efforts and meet with key mission leaders such as Rear Admiral Charles Michel of the Coast Guard, the DHS secretary's top military adviser.

"We are very fortunate to have this opportunity to speak with Secretary Napolitano face-to-face and show her first-



Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano meets with members of the California National Guard on Oct. 18 near San Diego, where they are stationed in support of Customs and Border Protection. Napolitano visited CNG leadership and troops in the field as part of a multi-state tour of sites supporting the Southwest border mission.

hand the great impact we are having in support of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection," Arruda said. "this is a significant operation, and our troops have once again proven that they are ready to defend and are proud to serve in this mission of Homeland Security."

Special Operations Supervisor Justin De La Torre of Border Patrol said the DHS visit highlights the unprecedented lev-

el of operational control gained in the San Diego sector.

"The increased personnel provided by the California National Guard has aided in 740 detections that resulted in apprehensions by Border Patrol agents," he said. "The maritime smuggling attempts detected by the California National Guardsmen may have gone undetected without their support."

CNG supports Mount San Jacinto restoration project

By Sgt. Jon Guibord
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Pilots and crew from Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, supported Mount San Jacinto State Park personnel in restoring a uniquely picturesque meadow that was threatened by erosion in September.

The heavy-lifting CH-47 Chinook aircraft and skilled crew delivered an earth mover, a tractor with backhoe and two boxes filled with 40,000 pounds of other equipment needed to restore Round Valley Meadow. The meadow is an exceedingly uncommon and fragile wetland habitat, made all the more rare by its isolation high above the southern California desert, said Doug Rischbieter, an environmental scientist with Mount San Jacinto State Park.

The project restored a beautiful southern California landscape and provided an opportunity for California National Guard pilots to increase their proficiency in high-altitude equipment-lift scenarios.

"It is rare to jump off a 9,000-foot mountain at maximum gross weight with an external load and descend at maximum rate of descent to land into a parking lot in a box canyon," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 William D. Craig, a pilot with Company B, 1-126th. "This requires extensive pre-mission planning, briefing and rehearsal to ensure all goes according to plan with the parties involved.

"A fair amount of skill was needed as two of the loads displayed unstable flight characteristics," he added. "Even in

combat in Afghanistan we did not encounter such a demanding use of the aircraft in these conditions."

For pilots in the California National Guard, who are also citizens of this great state, flying missions at home is special.

"Any time we provide support for our fellow Californians you feel as though you are giving back to your local community and supporting those folks at home who support us overseas," said Craig, who lives in Stockton, Calif. "This also affords us the opportunity to interact with [the] local populace and give back to our beautiful state."

Maj. Dan Anderson, CNG aviation operations officer, said the mission enhanced Company B's readiness by providing an opportunity to practice lifting non-standard loads, utilizing high-altitude flying skills and planning for a mission. This type of mission is also key to preserving the organization's valuable relationships with other state agencies, he said.

"It was a unique opportunity ... to meet a critical need for [the State Parks Department] in protecting our environment, which is a major priority for the National Guard," Anderson said.

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter and crew from Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, move equipment to the 9,000-foot peak of Mount San Jacinto, Calif., on Sept. 9. The unit moved a tractor, earth mover and other equipment so State Parks Department employees could repair erosion.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA INIGO

PHOTO BY SKIP ROBINSON

Col. (CA) Harrel named Family Readiness senior rep

By Brandon Honig
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, appointed Col. (CA) Linda Harrel as the CNG Family Readiness Program senior volunteer representative last month.

Harrel will serve as the primary liaison between the Adjutant General's Family Readiness Working Group, military families and the Operation Ready Families Program. She will also coordinate with volunteers to define roles and opportunities to serve National Guard families.

"We rely on families as an asset multiplier," Harrel said after accepting the position at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento on Nov. 9. "It's so much easier to get things done when the family is on board."

"My experience is the families want to be involved and do something meaningful," she continued. "The question is leadership. The volunteers need direction."

Harrel knows something about leadership. A CNG Soldier from 1980 to 2005, she transferred to the California State Military Reserve (CSMR) when her husband earned his star as a general officer. Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel is the commander of the California Army National Guard. Both Harrel Soldiers were in the Judge Advocate General Corps, which could have created a conflict if Col. Harrel had remained in the Army National Guard.

Throughout her Guard and CSMR career, Harrel has been an integral part of the Family Readiness Groups at her units. Among her prior contributions, Harrel was one of the drivers behind establishing the CNG Teen Adventure Camp almost 10 years ago. She now serves as the camp's co-director.

"Family Readiness is a critical part of what we do," Col. (CA) Harrel said. "It's a triangle. We've got the Soldier, the employer and their families. Without all three, the stool



Col. (CA) Linda Harrel, right, signs on to become the senior volunteer representative for the California National Guard Family Readiness Program. Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general, left, asked Harrel to serve as senior volunteer representative because of her 30 years of exceptional service to the CNG Judge Advocate General Corps and the California State Military Reserve. Harrel's husband, Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, is the commander of the California Army National Guard.

will fall down."

Enlisting family members is easy, she said. Getting the word out is not hard, and with a relative's well-being at stake, "It's a given that the families are interested and energized and enthusiastic." Harrel said she will devote herself to organizing their efforts and enabling them to make

worthwhile contributions.

"Colonel Harrel has been part of our organization for a long time and in a family support role for a long time," Kight said. "I'm excited that she has decided to volunteer her time. She's extremely capable, and she's got bigger and better ideas."

Justices sworn in to serve CA Military Appeals Panel

By Erin Wetzberger
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The California Military Department gained a wealth of judicial experience Nov. 2 as three volunteer justices were sworn in to serve as the California Military Appeals Panel.

Chief Justice David Minier, Associate Justice Thomas Barth and Associate Justice Rene Roman each took an oath of service before donning their customary black judicial robes in a ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento.

The panel was formed in 2003 under the leadership of then-Col. Roland Candee during a revamping of the California Military Department's military justice process to bring it in line with the Uniform Military Code of Justice. Its role is that of an appellate court, reviewing courts-martial in California and ensuring the right of appeal for those convicted.

Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, led the swearing in ceremony.

"Our Military Justice system is what we use to maintain good order and discipline," she said. "And the appeals process is extremely important in that entire process."

Justice David Minier expressed gratitude



Chief Justice David Minier, center, speaks during a ceremony Nov. 2 to swear in Minier, Associate Justice Rene Roman, left, and Associate Justice Thomas Barth of the California Military Appeals Panel.

for the position and for the ability to continue serving the military.

"It's a pleasure and a privilege for all three of us to sit on this panel," he said.

The panel's first order of business during

the special session was to swear in Capt. Nicklas Akers as clerk of court.

Minier is a retired judge of the Madera County Superior Court with 37 years of public service as an elected official, including positions as a city councilman, district

attorney and municipal court judge. He is a native of Ventura, Calif., and a graduate of Princeton University and the Stanford Law School. Minier previously served on the panel as an associate justice.

Barth, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the Georgetown School of Law, served five years in the active duty Army as a judge advocate in Germany and on Fort Ord, Calif. He joined the California Army National Guard in 1994 and dedicated eight years to the Guard as a judge advocate. He currently practices law in Sacramento as a founding partner of Barth & Tozer LLP.

Roman was appointed to the Sacramento Superior Court in May 2007. He has served as an administrative law judge, a California deputy attorney general and a deputy district attorney in Solano County. Roman is a 28-year veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve; he retired in 2007 following service as a military police officer and as a judge advocate. He holds a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College, a juris doctor from the Hastings School of Law, a master's degree in international banking law from Boston University and a master's in strategic studies from the Army War College.

EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL COUNCIL RESULTS, Q1 2011

Command

All officers must complete their respective pre-command course before they can assume command.

Col. William T. Arruda Jr., J7, JFHQ, transferred to Deputy Commander 49th MP Brigade Special, effective 1 Dec 10.

Lt. Col. Bruce C. Balzano, S3, 40th CAB, transferred to Commander 640th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB), effective NET 1 Mar 12.

Lt. Col. William T. Breeze, Commander, A/1106th TASMG, transferred to Commander 3-140th AVN S & S Battalion, effective 1 Feb 11.

Lt. Col. Kelly K. Greenhaw, ACofS, G6, Signal Company, 40th ID, reassigned to Commander, Headquarters & Headquarters Battalion (HHB) 40th ID, effective 1 Jul 11.

Maj. David L. Hall, Aviation Officer, Operations Company, 40th ID, transferred to Commander, 1-140th AVN Battalion (AASLT) and promote, effective NET 1 Mar 12.

Maj. Nader S. Araj, Maintenance Division Chief, 1106th TASMG, reassigned to Commander, A/1106th TASMG and promote, effective 1 Feb 11.

Staff

Col. Philip A. Butch, Chief of Staff, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, reassigned to ACofS, G3, Operations Company, 40th ID, effective 1 Oct 10.

Col. Eric B. Grimm, Commander, Agri-Business Development Team (ADT), 40th ID, reassigned to Chief of Staff, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, effective NLT 1 Oct 10.

Col. Curt R. Salvesson, ACofS, G3, Operations Company, 40th ID, reassigned Fire Effects Coordinator (DFSCO-ORD), Operations Company, 40th ID, effective 1 Oct 10.

Lt. Col. Brian D. Anderson, Civil Affairs Officer (CMO), Operations Company, 40th ID, transferred to Chief, En-

vironmental Officer, Army Division, JFHQ, effective NET 14 Nov 10.

Lt. Col. Todd W. Lewis, Commander, 3-140th AVN S & S Battalion, transferred to Aviation Standards Branch Chief, Army Division, JFHQ, effective 1 Feb 11.

Lt. Col. Rudolph M. Soto, General Dental Officer, C Company (MED) 40th BSB, transferred to Dental Officer, California MED DET, effective 1 Dec 10.

Lt. Col. Samuel R. Wallis, S3, 224th SB, transferred to ACofS, G5 (Chief of Plans), Operations Company, 40th ID, effective 1 Sep 11.

Lt. Col. Raymond V. Watts, Aviation Standards Branch Chief, Army Division, JFHQ, reassigned to G3 Mentor ETT REG CORPS, Army Division, JFHQ, effective 1 Feb 11.

Maj. Kevin J. Desmond, Executive Officer, 579th EN Battalion, transferred to Director of Public Works, Camp Roberts and promote, effective 1 Mar 11.

Warrant Officer Actions

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Shawn F. O'Neill, Tactical Operations Officer, HHC 40th CAB, transferred to TAC Operations Officer, HSC, 40th ID, effective 1 Dec 10.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lewis H. Johnson, Command Group, Army Division, JFHQ, Mandatory Retirement Date (MRD), extended from 30 Jun 11 to 31 Aug 13.

Vacancies

The date for the 2nd quarter fiscal year 2011 Executive Personnel Council is Feb. 5 at the Mather Army Aviation Support Facility near Sacramento. The next General Officer Executive Personnel Council is scheduled for Jan. 8 at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos.

The following 06/COL and 05/LTC positions are vacant



or projected to be vacant in the next 12-18 months and will be considered at the 2nd quarter meeting :

06/COL.

J3 (01A) JFHQ
Army Aviation Division Chief (15B)
Commander, Medical Detachment (05A)
Commander, 40th CAB (15B)
Chief of Staff, 40th ID (02A)
J7 (01A), JFHQ
Deputy USPFO-CA (01A)
Commander, 223rd RTI (01A)
Commander, 224th SB (90A)

05/LTC.

S3, 224th SB (90A)
Inspector General (IG), JFHQ (01A)
Mental Health Officer, JFHQ (60W)
Deputy SJA, 40th ID (27A)
Liaison Officer, 40th ID (02A)
Operations Officer, AMS 40th ID (14A)
Medical Operations Officer, 40th ID (70H67)
Field Surgeon, CA Med Det (62B)
Deputy Commander, CA Med Det (67A)
Surgeon, 224th SB (60A)
Chief Data Processing, USPFO-CA (01A)
Internal Rev Br Chf, USPFO-CA (01A)
Chief PSYOPS, 40th ID (38A)
ACofS, G6, 40th ID (25A)

Triathlete: Perseverance key to reaching goals

By Maj. Kimberly Holman
Joint Task Force Sierra Public Affairs

"It's important to set goals. It keeps you focused and gets you motivated," said Spc. Michael Bernstein, a member of Joint Task Force Sierra, the California National Guard's Southwest border mission.

Speaking words of wisdom beyond his years perhaps, the 20-year-old knows something about achieving goals, having completed the San Diego Triathlon Classic on Sept. 18.

Bernstein saw a flyer for the San Diego Triathlon Classic at an athletic shoe store shortly before the event and decided to give it a try.

"I knew I would be pressed for time to train for it because I had to be at Camp Roberts for training to start the border mission," he said.

After a couple of weeks at Camp Roberts, he went to an additional week of follow-on training as a criminal-analyst in Phoenix.

"When I do this next time, I will allow more time to prepare and train," Bernstein said. "Most people train for like six months, but I wasn't able to be as regular with it as I should have, and altogether I trained for maybe two months."

He reached deep within himself, calling upon the utmost in perseverance and discipline while accomplishing the

1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bike ride and 10-kilometer run, measurements that make up an Olympic-distance competition.

"My legs were cramping up on me as soon as I got off the bike to start the run portion," Bernstein recalled. "But I made it through the run with the cramps, all six miles."

He finished the race somewhere in the middle of the pack, he said, with a time of 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Bernstein said he plans to train soon for another Olympic-distance triathlon but he'll leave the Ironman triathlon, which includes marathon distances, for some date in the future.

"I recommend this type for anyone starting out, interested in just trying a triathlon," he said. "Anyone can do it, really."

Bernstein, who is a member of the 340th Brigade Support Battalion out of Seaside, Calif., ran cross country and track in high school in his hometown of Fremont, Calif.

Before he started training for the triathlon, he ran a few miles every other day or so, but he increased the distance to five or six miles several times a week prior to the race. He included several long-distance bike rides and swam about three miles in the ocean every other day.

Friends of Bernstein came out to watch the triathlon and



Spc. Michael Bernstein of the 340th Brigade Support Battalion shows off his souvenirs from the San Diego Triathlon Classic, which he completed in September. The race comprises a 1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bike ride and 10-kilometer run.

cheer him on to the finish line.

"After the race we all went out to Phil's Barbeque, and I just ate and ate," he said. "Then I went home and slept for a whole day."

Holiday Wishes



During this holiday season, we are especially thankful for our men and women in uniform who, together with their families, sacrifice so much in defense of our country. Wherever the California National Guard's forces were needed this year — whether helping Californians or coming to the aid of people in other countries — you performed, as always, to the highest standard.

Christmas has always been my favorite time of the year. As a child, I remember the excitement when I saw the tree and our presents for the first time on Christmas Eve. I couldn't wait to rip through the paper to see what I had gotten, if it was ice skates or a sweater or a soccer ball or maybe even a sled.

I know that most of you in the California National Guard have spent at least one holiday season overseas in Afghanistan, Iraq or Kosovo. Holidays without your loved ones can be especially difficult. Maria and I pray for the continued safety of those deployed, and we express our deepest sympathies to the families of service members who made the ultimate sacrifice this year.

It is truly a privilege to work with such outstanding men and women. I thank you for your steadfast service to our state and nation, and I wish you and your families health, happiness and serenity in the new year.

GOV. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

The governor and I wish a safe and wonderful holiday season for our California National Guard members who are deployed or here at home. I am in awe of your service and dedication to our state. You should be incredibly proud of your extraordinary efforts.

I also want to take time to thank and wish your families happy holidays. Your loved ones share you with us each and every day, and I hope you know that we recognize

their service as well. The holidays can be an especially difficult time for families who are apart.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you, and I hope you are surrounded with love and support this holiday season.

God Bless,

FIRST LADY MARIA SHRIVER



As the holiday season approaches, most Americans are preoccupied with holiday preparations, travel plans or shopping strategies. However, for those of you who are mobilized, your focus may differ. While others prepare for the holiday meal, you prepare for combat. While others set their DVR to record the holiday bowl game, you rehearse battle drills. While other families meet for long-anticipated reunions, your family misses you terribly.

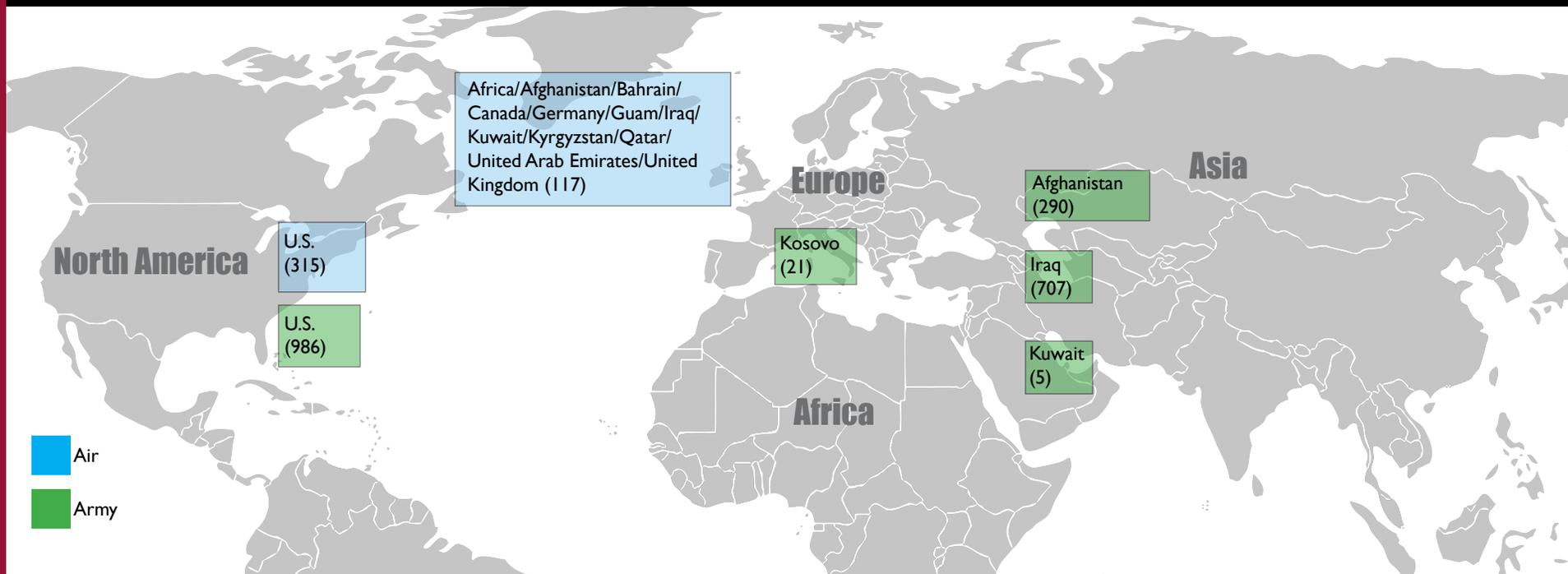
The California National Guard will miss you as well during the holiday season. In your honor, we will pause Dec. 25 at noon to remember that you, our brothers and sisters, are in harm's way. Your Guard family will lift our glasses in celebration of your noble accomplishments and reflect on the freedom that mobilized service members guarantee.

We will not let the trappings of the holiday season cause us to forget the sacrifices that you and your family members endure. Whether you are reprogramming a computer, on patrol, manning a windowless operations center, flying in a Black Hawk or turning a wrench in the motor pool, we are committed to providing you and your family members with support. And we await your safe return.

Enjoy the holiday season and accept my personal thanks to you and your family for giving our nation your best!

BRIG. GEN. MARY KIGHT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

The California National Guard as of **November** 2010





A CH-47D Chinook helicopter from 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, and crew members from the 1-126th and the 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion prepare to depart Mount Whitney, Calif., on Oct. 21 with three Nebraskan hikers who had become stranded atop the 15,000-foot peak when a storm hit Oct. 18. The search-and-rescue mission, which included State Parks and Inyo County personnel, delivered the hikers to waiting ambulances. One hiker was treated for severe dehydration. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Neil

Are you a veteran?

Both the state of California and the United States offer significant benefits to veterans and their dependents, including college tuition waivers for dependents, car-registration waivers, farm and home loans, employment resources and unemployment insurance assistance.

To qualify for one or more of these and other benefits, a service member must first meet the overall definition of a "veteran." In general terms a veteran is any person who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard, and received a discharge.

However, each time Congress or the State Legislature has passed a law creating a new veterans benefit, they have included specific eligibility requirements for that particular benefit. Therefore the more meaningful issue is whether someone qualifies for a particular veterans benefit. Whether a service member is considered a "veteran" by the federal or state government depends entirely upon which veterans program or benefit one is applying for at the time.

Some benefits, such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, require active duty service under Title 10 of the U.S. Code. Other benefits, such as tuition waivers for dependents at public California universities and community colleges, require a service-connected disability. Many benefits also require an honorable or general discharge.

Simply stated, if you have served in the National Guard, the nature and duration of your service will determine your eligibility for a particular type of benefit. For more information on federal benefits, visit www.vba.va.gov/VBA. For information on state benefits, see www.cdva.ca.gov/VetService/Overview.aspx.

Is your employer outstanding?

The Secretary of Defense is accepting nominations for the Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to businesses that employ members of the National Guard and Reserve. If your employer has provided exceptional support, you can nominate the business online at www.freedomaward.mil. Nominations must be submitted by Jan. 17.

Walker earns DOD award

Sgt. 1st Class Robert T. Walker was recognized with the Outstanding Department of Defense Employee with a Disability Award. Walker is part of the California National Guard Wounded Warriors Program because of several injuries he sustained during deployment to Iraq. Those resulted in numerous surgeries and years of physical therapy, but Walker does not let that deter him from supporting and fulfilling the organization's mission, according to his citation.

Born in Fresno, Walker attended Mount San Antonio Junior College in Walnut, Calif., and Central Texas College at Fort Hood, Texas. During his approximately 30-year armed services career, Walker's military education has focused on noncommissioned officer courses, armament elect systems repair, aviation survival, aircraft armament/missile subsystems and helicopter weapon system repair, among other topics. His decorations and awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 10-Year Device, United Nations Mission in Haiti Ribbon, California Commendation Medal, California National Guard Federal Service Ribbon, Master Aircraft Crew Member Badge, Governor's Outstanding Unit Citation and Commanding General's Meritorious Unit Citation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 15 in Fresno, CA:

Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet

Contact/register: <http://tinyurl.com/OAY2011>

Jan. 15-16 in San Luis Obispo, CA:

CNG Family Readiness Group Volunteer Only Course

Contact/register: www.calguard.ca.gov/ReadyFamilies or June Sato at 916-361-4956

Jan. 22-23 in San Diego, CA:

Marriage Enrichment Seminar

Contact/register: Maj. Christopher Guadiz, chaplain, at 916-854-3398 or June Sato at 916-361-4956 or www.calguard.ca.gov/ReadyFamilies

DID YOU KNOW...

you must complete tasks to ensure your service records are accurate prior to your expiration of term of service or retirement?

These tasks include:

1. Review your total retirement points and ensure they are accurate. The automated Retirement Point Accounting System provides an annual list of creditable military service through the previous retirement year for Army National Guard personnel. Air National Guard personnel use the Point Credit Summary.
2. Resolve any identified retirement-point-record discrepancies by providing documents to substantiate points that were not credited. Acceptable documents for Soldiers are Department of the Army (DA) Form 1380, DA Form 1379, a Commander's Certification of Detail Attendance including Unit Identification Code, Department of Defense (DD) Form 214, military pay vouchers or orders with a Commander's Certification of Attendance. Acceptable documents for Airmen are DD 214, National Guard Bureau (NGB) Form 23B, Sister Service Point Summary, leave and earning statement, certified travel voucher or certified orders.
3. Confirm the reasons for your separation on your discharge orders/certificate (NGB Form 22 or DD Form 214 for Soldiers, and DD Form 256AF or NGB Form 438 for Airmen) and work with your chain of command to resolve any discrepancies. This will eliminate the need for records corrections after the fact and help ensure you receive all the benefits you qualify for in the timeliest manner possible.

References: DA Pamphlet 600-8-11, Army Regulation (AR) 135-178, AR 135-180, National Guard Regulation 600-200, Air Force Instruction 36-3209, Air Force Fact Sheet for Discharge and Point Information.



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California National Guard Airmen furl Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas' flag during a relinquishment-of-command ceremony Nov. 30 in McClellan, Calif. The commander of the California Air National Guard, Lucas retired after more than 40 years of military service. Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, far left, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, now also serves as commander of the California Air National Guard. [For more on Lucas' retirement, see Page 5.](#)

Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CA) Jon-Nolan Paresa

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Retired Guard members, email GrizzlyMag.ngca@ng.army.mil.

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