

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard

Change is Good

Air Guard's 129th reaches new heights

4

Year of the NCO

Vietnam Vet reflects on legacy of service

16



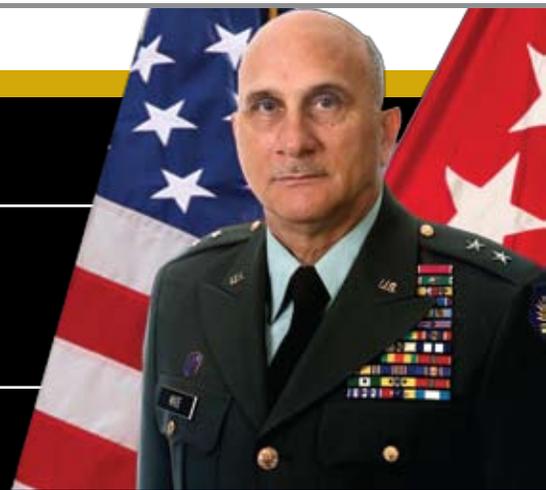
The Cal Guard in Kosovo

7

Commander's corner

The Army nurse: A legacy of caring

Major General William H. Wade II



February is an interesting month in history. In addition to President Lincoln's and President Washington's birthdays (on the 12th and 22nd, respectively), the establishment of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (Feb. 6, 1962) and the revival of the Purple Heart Medal (Feb. 22, 1932), the second day in February stands out as an especially noteworthy day.

From the insignificant establishment of Ground Hog Day in Punxsatawney, Penn., in 1887, to the world-altering ending of Apartheid by F. W. de Klerk in 1990, when he allowed the African National Congress to legally function and promised to release Nelson Mandela, the second day in February is known for many significant historical events.

Not least among these events are the U.S. Supreme Court convening for the first time in 1790; the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, which ended the Mexican-American War; the first dogsled to reach Nome, Alaska, in 1925 with diphtheria serum (inspiring the annual Iditarod race); Adolf Hitler dissolving the German Parliament in 1933 – two days after becoming

chancellor; and the day the last Soviet armored column left Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1989, ending 10 years of war.

However, one of the lesser known, yet militarily historic events, was the establishment of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps on Feb. 2, 1901. Although "the sick suffered much for want of good female nurses" during the Revolutionary War, and Gen. George Washington asked Congress for "a matron to supervise the nurses" and "attend the sick," as well as many women serving as nurses in both Union and Confederate hospitals during the War Between the States and the U.S. surgeon general receiving approval from Congress to appoint contract nurses during the Spanish-American War, it wasn't until 1901 that the Nurse Corps became a permanent part of the Army's Medical Department.

Second in seniority to the Medical Department, the Army Nurse Corps predates the Dental Corps, the Veterinary Corps, the Medical Service Corps and the Army Medical Specialist Corps. On March 15, 1901, Dita H. Kinney was appointed the first superintendent

of the Nurse Corps; however, she was not afforded any rank. It was not until 1967, when Anna Mae Hays was appointed a brigadier general, that the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps became a ranked position.

From that auspicious day in February 1901, Army nurses have played a pivotal role in all Army campaigns. In World War I, 12,186 nurses served on active duty at 198 stations worldwide. The Nurse Corps was one of the first Army units to fly the United States flag from their base hospitals in France. At this early stage, nurses were appointed and not afforded officer status. When the worldwide influenza epidemic broke out in 1918, Army nurses played a critical role in combating the flu, which took the lives of more than 200 nurses who contracted influenza while tending to their patients.

During World War II, Army nurses served in every theater of operation, from Alaska to the Philippines and from England to Europe; and as a result of their combat service, they were prisoners of war of the Japanese, injured as a result of enemy fire,

and spent time behind enemy lines and in concentration camps.

During the Korean War, nurses were the only military females authorized in the theater of operation. In Vietnam, the Army removed the restrictions against female officers within the Army Nurse Corps and they were finally authorized appointment and promotion consideration under the same regulations applicable to males.

On Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, 1993, near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the first national monument was unveiled honoring the military service of women. An understated, yet moving memorial, it depicts three women – one of whom is an Army nurse – providing comfort to a fallen Soldier. Although women occupy many other positions and perform countless duties within our military, this simple, yet poignant scene speaks to the countless sacrifices and selfless service rendered by Army nurses.

"Ready, caring and proud" – the United States Army Nurse Corps.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SAMUEL ROGERS



"I may be compelled to face danger, but never fear it, and while our soldiers can stand and fight, I can stand and feed and nurse them."

-Clara Barton, founder, American Red Cross

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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*
- ★ 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)
- ★ Outline (what action is taking place in the photograph and identify individuals in photograph)

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

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Cover Shot

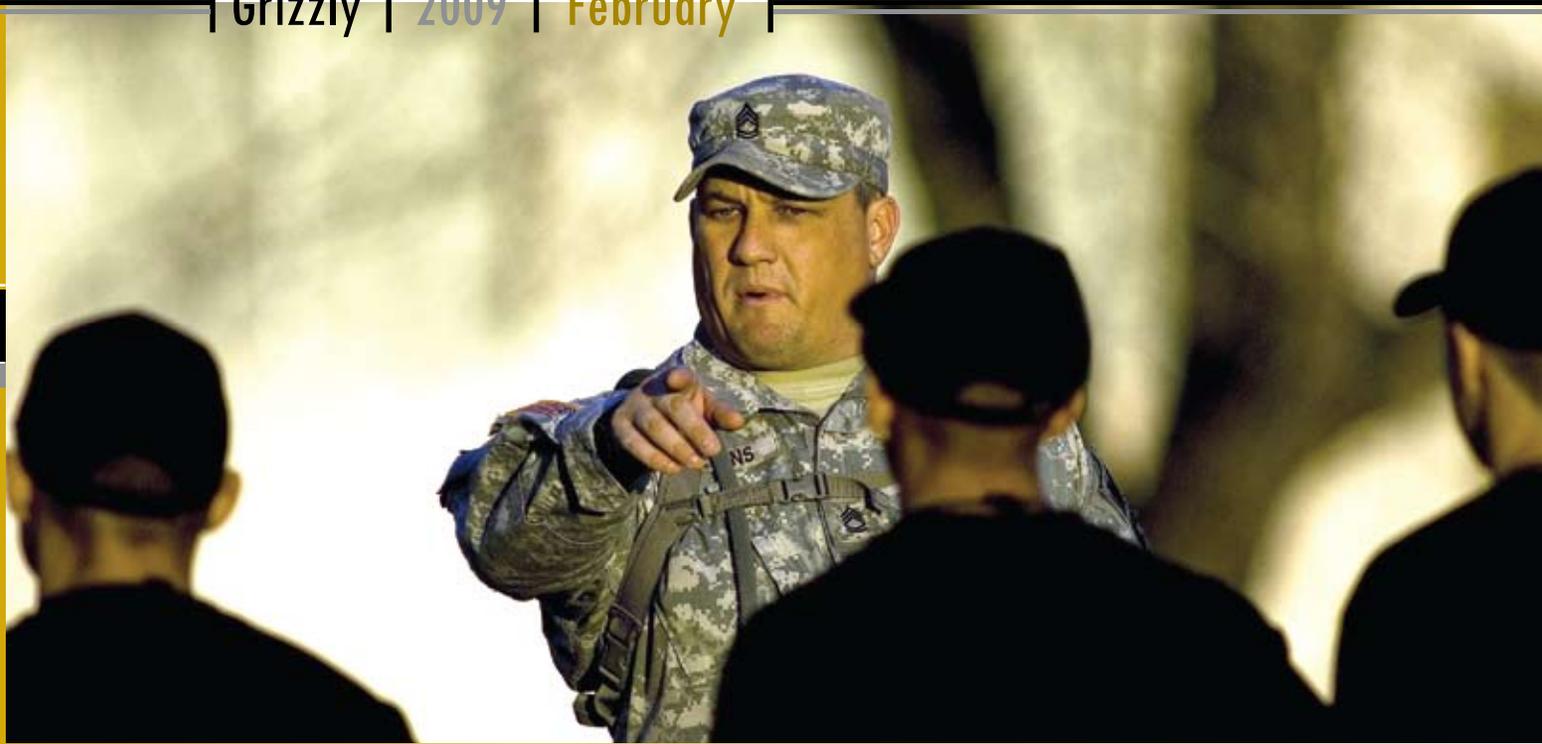


Photo by

Sagar Pathak

California Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Andrew Hedin prepares to raise the hoist aboard a 129th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pave Hawk during a search-and-rescue exercise in the San Francisco Bay. The hoist, capable of lifting a 600-pound load from a hover height of 200 feet, allows the crew to raise sick or stranded victims in situations where the Pave Hawk is unable to land.

See more of Pathak's 129th pics on page 11 and at www.horizontalrain.com.



From the editor

As the editor of the Grizzly, I would like to thank our readers for your interest in the publication as well as your feedback and contributions. My name is Brandon Honig, and I am taking over as editor while 2nd Lt. Will Martin is away for training and an overseas deployment.

From the Public Affairs Office at the Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, our staff monitors Airmen's and Soldiers' activities across California and around the globe, but there is no substitute for your eyes on the ground. Please help inform our readers about the services, sacrifices and talents of California National Guard Soldiers and Airmen by sending articles, photographs and story ideas to me directly at brandon.honig@us.army.mil or 916-854-3304. Submissions must be received by the 15th of each month to be considered for publication in the next issue.

Your comments and criticisms are also, of course, welcome. I look forward to serving you and upholding the tradition of excellence expected from the Grizzly and the California National Guard.

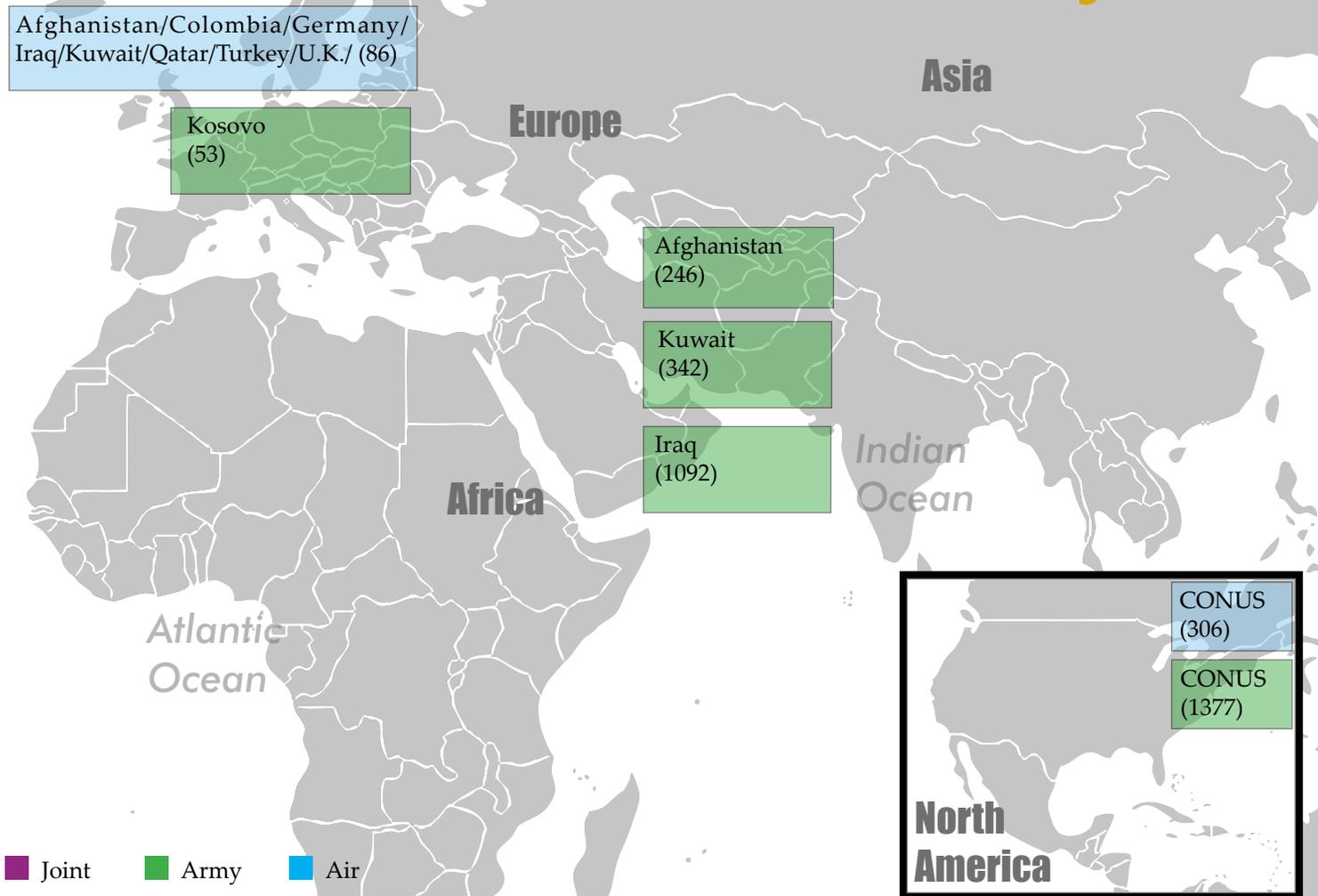
VIPs 6
Top Army officers pay visits to Cal Guard Soldiers in Iraq.

15
GUEST OF HONOR
49th MP reflects on Army All-American Bowl experience

Go Green
What you and the Guard can do to protect the planet

18

The California National Guard as of **January** 2009



'Port Dogs' form 129TH's first Aerial

By Capt. Alyson Teeter
129th Rescue Wing

PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN JOSHUA KAUFFMAN



Senior Airman Sonea of the 129th Rescue Wing's Aerial Port Flight operates a forklift while Staff Sgt. Mancera demonstrates safety procedures at Moffett Federal Airfield, California Air National Guard, Jan. 4.



The Aerial Port Flight at the 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett Federal Airfield, California Air National Guard, Jan. 4. From left, Master Sgt. Bilinski, Senior Airman Renteria, Senior Airman Sonea, Tech. Sgt. Hicks, Tech. Sgt. Tayao, Senior Airman Martinez, Master Sgt. Niday, Senior Airman Dela Cruz, Staff Sgt. Mancera, Staff Sgt. Enriquez, Senior Master Sgt. Dyson.

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. - The 129th Logistics Readiness Squadron's (LRS) Aerial Port Flight stood up here Nov. 1, effectively transforming the way the wing deploys Airmen at home and abroad.

129th Aerial Port personnel, also known as the "Port Dogs," are Airmen trained to manage in-transit passenger and cargo movements for state-directed missions and Air Expeditionary Force deployments, redeployments and exercises. In the past, the LRS tasked personnel from various squadrons and diverse career fields to help process equipment through the Cargo Deployment Function.

The National Guard Bureau redistributed Aerial Port resources from Air Mobility Command so that flights could be formed at all units, according to Capt. Al Yeh, LRS Operations Officer. Like the 129th, Air Guard units now have a streamlined, specialized and global deployment capability.

The LRS Traffic Management Flight spearheaded the conversion. To quickly get the flight up and running, LRS personnel recruited aerial porters from active duty, reserve and Guard units, in addition to bringing in several future recruits scheduled for basic training and technical school.

Port Flight

"We now have seasoned professionals that have loaded planes from all over the world," said Senior Master Sgt. Darryl Dyson, 129th Aerial Port Flight Superintendent. "These Port Dogs are professional and well-motivated and have stepped up to the plate every time to support our search-and-rescue mission."

Aerial porters play multiple roles during a deployment. Port Dogs form into pre-deployment "Tiger Teams" to help assist units during pallet build-up. After the cargo is palletized, they perform joint inspections with each unit to ensure safe and secure air worthiness.

"Once our flight is fully formed and trained, teams can also deploy with the unit into theater to form a Redeployment Action Team," Dyson said.

Deploying trained aerial porters is an added benefit because the unit coordinates with joint and civilian agencies during deployments and exercises, Yeh said: "The aerial porters can speak the same language with the joint personnel and can more easily integrate and work together than in the past."

Besides processing cargo, the APF has two other key responsibilities: managing the passenger terminal and Air Terminal Ops Center. The passenger terminal function supports the military support flight with processing Airmen through the Personnel Deployment Function.

The ATOC consists of several unique functional areas working together to coordinate each step of moving people and cargo into and out of the base in a timely manner. There are multiple elements to the center's mission, ranging from loading, unloading and manifesting cargo and equipment to ensuring that each person and item is tracked during the travel process.

Even though the Port Dogs are experts in deploying cargo and personnel, deployments remain a team effort within the wing.

"Units are still responsible for ensuring that both passengers and cargo are ready to deploy," Yeh said. "Unit Deployment Managers and Cargo Increment Monitors are still critical to the deployment process."

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel for the 129th Rescue Wing. The channel name is "129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard" with a "Subscribe" button. The channel description states: "129thRescueWing Style: News Joined: June 09, 2008 Last Sign In: 3 weeks ago Videos Watched: 119 Subscribers: 23 Channel Views: 987". It also includes contact information: "City: Moffett Federal Airfield, Mountain View, CA Country: United States Occupation: Search and Rescue Companies: California Air National Guard Website: http://www.129rgw.ang.af.mil/". The "Connect with 129thRescueWing" section includes links for "Send Message", "Share Channel", and "Add to iGoogle". The "Recent Activity" section shows "129thRescueWing favorited a video (1 weeks ago)". The "Favorites" section shows three video thumbnails: "108th Rescue Wing, Long Island, NY", "Mail Call Episode about 2.5%", and "Crews Prepare to 'Save Lives' As".

Wing dives into the online world of YouTube

129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs Office

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. - Striving to spread the 129th Rescue Wing's rescue story to an audience on a global scale, the wing's Public Affairs Office recently launched a 129th YouTube channel.

YouTube.com is a popular video-sharing Web site where users can upload, view and share video clips for free. Videos are tagged with key words that make the videos searchable on YouTube and throughout the Internet.

"There is a massive audience that doesn't watch television news or read the newspaper because they seek out information online where they want it, when they want it," said Capt. Alyson M. Teeter, 129th Rescue Wing public affairs officer. "We're missing the boat and neglecting these audiences if we don't have a presence on new media sites like YouTube."

The public affairs office started using the service in 2008 to upload footage from the wing's participation in Operation Lightning Strike and rescue work during Hurricane Ike. The hurricane videos alone garnered more than 16,000 views and overwhelmingly posi-

tive comments from around the world. One user commented after watching a 129th rescue-hoist video, "Bravo! from Switzerland (Geneva)."

Mission-capability videos, such as a video montage profiling the 129th Security Forces Squadron, are also posted on the channel. Unit personnel are encouraged to assist the public affairs office with formulating and storyboarding YouTube videos.

"In the past, 129th personnel never had a way to view the video captured during historical or newsworthy wing events," said Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino, 129th Base Multimedia Manager. "YouTube gives our Airmen an opportunity to see broadcasts of themselves and the unit mission. They can also share this footage with friends and family."

Though not accessible from military computers, the 129th's YouTube channel can be viewed from home at www.youtube.com/129thRescueWing.

The Air Force also has a YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/afbluetube.

Top generals pay holiday visits to 1-185th Armor Soldiers in Iraq

By Capt. Renato Rossignoli
1-185th Armor Battalion

For members of the California Army National Guard's 1-185th Armor Battalion, the Christmas holidays brought out the brass. Three high-ranking Army generals, including Gen. David Petraeus, commander of the U.S. Central Command, paid visits in late December to the "Thunderbolts" of the 1-185th, who are currently deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brigadier General Michael J. Lally, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in Iraq, presented commander's coins to 10 Soldiers from the 1-185th on Dec. 23 in recognition of their outstanding individual performance.

"After the ceremony my commander shook my hand and told me thanks for all the hard work," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Scott, a native of Phelan, Calif. "I am grateful and appreciated the instant recognition. It's great that a general officer took the time to visit our unit during the

Christmas season."

The following day, the 25th Infantry Division commander, Maj. Gen. Robert Caslen, also visited the soldiers, and he brought along the 24th Infantry Division Band.

As the band played Christmas music and sang carols, Caslen spoke with Soldiers, stressing four things — his thankfulness for their willingness to answer their nation's call, the necessity of their mission to a successful Global War on Terrorism, the equality of active duty and National Guard Soldiers and how good leadership leads to re-enlistment of quality Soldiers, like those of the 1-185th.

On Christmas morning, 10 Battalion Soldiers arrived at a ceremony on Camp Speicher. They participated in a re-enlistment ceremony presided over by Petraeus, who afterward presented commander's coins for excellence to nine Soldiers from across Multi-National Division —



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEFENSEIMAGERYMIL

General David Petraeus, commander of the U.S. Central command, paid a visit to the California Army National Guard's 1-185th Armor Battalion in Iraq in mid-December.

North. Petraeus then took pictures with all of the Soldiers who had either received a coin or re-enlisted.

Among those receiving a coin from Petraeus was Cal Guardsmen Pfc. William White, who represented the 1-185th "Thunderbolts." Petraeus awarded White the coin for per-

forming the duties of a staff sergeant in an exemplary manner.

"It was surreal. I felt very honored and taken back that Gen. Petraeus would give me a coin," said White, a native of Atascadero, Calif. "It is not often that this happens; it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

'We are still Soldiers'

Pathway offers renewed hope to veterans of Global War on Terrorism

Story and photo by By Sgt. (CA) Jessica Cooper
Joint Force Headquarters

During the week leading up to Christmas, most peoples' minds are preoccupied with shopping and stocking up for holiday parties. But for some very important — but often forgotten — members of our communities, the holidays are plagued by concerns for comrades lost in battle or their own post-traumatic stress disorder.

Thankfully, a new program offers substantial help to our combat veterans, and on Dec. 23, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general for the California National Guard, led a Servicemember Support Team to The Pathway Home, a new residential rehabilitation program located at the California Veterans Home in Yountville.

The Pathway Home offers "New Warriors" — veterans from the Global War on Terrorism — an opportunity to recover from the internal and external wounds that might be preventing them from what Pathway terms as "optimal functioning." Open to veterans from all branches and statuses, the program's founders recognized a gap in mental health care for these veterans.

In 2007, 100 Cal Guard Soldiers from the 579th Engineer Battalion retrofitted an aging building at the Veterans Home in Yountville in order to make it a suitable setting for the Pathway Home. The program opened its doors in January 2008 and has since supported more than 60 returning veterans, giving them the knowledge and confidence to overcome their combat-related stress and grow into productive members of society.

The Pathway Home utilizes state-of-the-art technology to assess and treat its residents, like Braincheckers, a PDA application that assesses neurological and psychological damage. This product, said Fred Gusman, director at Pathway, is the Department of Defense standard for computer neurophysiology assessments.

But the veterans aren't the only ones to benefit at Pathway. As a "therapeutic community" that understands servicemembers' families may also suffer during deployments, Pathway per-



Major General William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard, speaks to residents of the Pathway Home, a new residential rehabilitation program located at the California Veterans Home in Yountville.

sonnel make every effort to involve families in the veterans' treatment, as well as provide on-site accommodations. For families that cannot stay at the facility, they offer teleconference and Web-seminar counseling.

Some of the highest praise for this program comes from the residents themselves. During his visit to Pathway, Wade sat down with residents to have a roundtable discussion about their experiences and hear their opinions on the program.

"[They] help you with the practical application of transitional knowledge," said Marine Cpl. David Wells. Nods and other gestures of agreement from around the room were evidence of the veterans' appreciation for all Pathway has to offer.

"We are still Soldiers," said Army Cpl. Ruth David Dashun. "[This Program] is designed to get us back into the world or transition back to the military."

KEEPING THE PEACE IN KOSOVO



California National Guard Soldiers from the 40th Infantry Brigade's Kosovo Forces 11 team take control of a "detainee" during an extraction-by-force exercise held at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. KFOR 11 trained at Camp Atterbury, Ind., for a recent deployment to Kosovo.

PHOTO BY SPC. JOSEPH RIVERA REBOLLEDO

More than 1,300 Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers of Kosovo Forces 11 departed Jan. 19 from Camp Atterbury, Ind., for deployment to Kosovo. The Soldiers are receiving training in Germany before traveling to Kosovo in the spring to conduct peace-enforcement operations in the U.S.-led, Multi-National Task Force-East sector of Kosovo.

The 40th Infantry Division of the California Army National Guard, based in Los Alamitos, Calif., will lead Task Force Falcon in Multi-National Task Force-East as part of the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR). The 40th ID led a similar one-year deployment of U.S. Soldiers supporting the Kosovo mission in 2005. The U.S. Armed Forces have been part of the NATO peacekeeping forces in the region since 1999.

The division's instruction at Camp Atterbury ranged from individual Army Warrior task training to battalion and task force staff proficiency. Staff elements worked through intense command post exercises and subordinate units were challenged by urban operations training and nonlethal training at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, a subinstallation of Camp Atterbury.

California National Guard Soldiers make up most of Task Force Falcon, but they will be joined by the 1-207th Aviation Regiment, Company C, of the Alaska Army National Guard; the 1-169th General Support Aviation Battalion, of the Maryland National Guard; the 753rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, of the West Virginia National Guard; and the U.S. Army Reserve's 176th Medical Group based in Garden Grove, Calif.



Sgt. Marcos Dejesus, a nonlethal weapons instructor with the 205th Infantry Brigade, observes the close-range, subject-control portion of nonlethal weapons training at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. In addition to hand-to-hand instruction, Soldiers in the course also receive training on nonlethal weapons such as firing foam and rubber bullets, tear gas, pepper spray and stun guns.

Peacekeepers learn nonlethal techniques

By Sgt. Robert G. Cooper III
Camp Atterbury Public Affairs

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – In the present state of affairs throughout the world, a military presence is often associated with the idea of deadly force. Battlefields in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan can conjure up images of Soldiers engaged in deadly combat using the latest in lethal weapons technology.

But what about Soldiers deployed to countries where peacekeeping, instead of war-fighting, is the focus? In such instances, the U.S. Army mandates nonlethal weapons instruction as part of deployment training. Rather than full-metal-jacketed ammunition and other deadly weaponry, Soldiers learn to use equipment such as pepper spray, rubber bullets, tear gas grenades, stun guns and batons. Soldiers from the 40th ID received such training at MUTC in preparation for their peacekeeping missions in Kosovo.

"First and foremost, we are ambassadors of goodwill," said Sgt. 1st Class Lorenzo Dominguez, a platoon sergeant and military policeman with the 40th ID. "As such, we have to exert the minimum amount of force required. We want to show the people of Kosovo and Serbia that we are consummate professionals, since it's our job to ensure that peace prevails for their nations to grow."

Though the systems used during nonlethal weapons training at MUTC are significantly less lethal than their combat counterparts, they are extremely effective, said Staff Sgt. Ismael

Arroya, a nonlethal weapons instructor with the 205th Infantry Brigade at Camp Atterbury. During one phase of training, Soldiers learn to control subjects at close range. Army hand-to-hand close-range combat training, or combatives, typically focuses on techniques that can injure or kill. But nonlethal techniques are used when the subject doesn't pose an imminent threat.

"In combatives, you want to finish the fight," Arroya said. "Here, you want to gain compliance."

Although Soldiers still receive lethal combat training required for any overseas deployment, the nonlethal weapons instruction impresses upon each individual the importance of maintaining peace, Dominguez said.

"The Kosovo population is very supportive of our presence," he said. "If we went in there with a battlemind focus, we'd risk turning that support against us. You never lose your edge, but we don't need to go there and show it off."

Cpl. Steve Faecke of KFOR 11 agreed that a nonlethal approach can help foster goodwill in a region where a lethal show of force might tarnish the image of the peacekeeping forces.

"If you go in aggressively, you're making the wrong impression," he said. "It's like walking on ice; you want to step slowly so as not to break through it."



Private 1st Class Ji Chong, left, puts a submission hold on Pfc. Andrew Bituin during nonlethal weapons training at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Indiana. The training, designed to induce compliance and control rather than injury, was part of deployment training for Chong and Bituin's unit, the California Army National Guard's 40th Infantry Division. The task force deployed for Kosovo in late January, where they will be conducting law-and-order and security missions at Camp Bondsteel.

PHOTO BY SGT. ROBERT G. COOPER III

PHOTO BY SGT. ROBERT G. COOPER III



California National Guardsmen with Task Force Falcon exit a Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, or HEAT, as part of their pre-deployment training for KFOR 11.

Soldiers shake, rattle and roll through training

By Spc. Darriel Swatts
69th Public Affairs Detachment

Shouts of excitement are followed by sounds of panic as an uparmored Humvee filled with Soldiers rolls over. Those sounds typically signal bad news, but this time everyone walks away safely, emerging from a new training simulator at Camp Atterbury.

Members of Task Force Falcon were rolled around in the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, or HEAT, as part of their pre-deployment training for KFOR 11. Soldiers were trained to protect themselves with bracing techniques during the roll and also learned to egress, or evacuate from the vehicle, safely when it is at a 90- or 180-degree angle.

"The training staff was very professional and told you exactly what to do and when to do it," said Sgt. Scott Wilcox, who is assigned to the 251st Financial Management Detachment in Azusa, Calif.

Soldiers strap into the HEAT, which has an interior like a real Humvee, and then the operator tilts the simulator to

Kosovo History

Kosovo declared independence Feb. 17, 2008. The region had been controlled by Serbia since the First Balkan War of 1912.

Led by Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia carried out repressive measures against Albanians in Kosovo in the 1990s. A three-month NATO bombing campaign in 1999 forced Serbia to withdraw its forces.

United Nations-led negotiations to determine Kosovo's final status failed because Serbia was unwilling to grant independence, while Kosovo would accept nothing less.

More than 50 countries have recognized Kosovo since February 2008, but Serbia continues to reject Kosovo's independence.

25, 30, 90 and 180 degrees, followed by a full spin. After a quick safety check, the Soldiers are put through a scenario that requires them to perform either a 90-degree water egress or a 180-degree land egress.

"It feels like being a monkey hanging in a tree," Wilcox said upon completing the simulation.

That feeling is as close as a Soldier can get to "the real thing" dur-

ing training, the instructors say, and Soldiers with firsthand experience expect their time in the HEAT machine to be valuable in a real-life emergency.

"Many Soldiers who have been deployed before and have experienced a real rollover say they wish they had this kind of training before they shipped out," HEAT instructor Staff Sgt. Rajendra Chandan said. "This training is necessary for Sol-

diers to achieve self-control and overcome the natural fear and panic following the catastrophic event which led to the vehicle rollover."

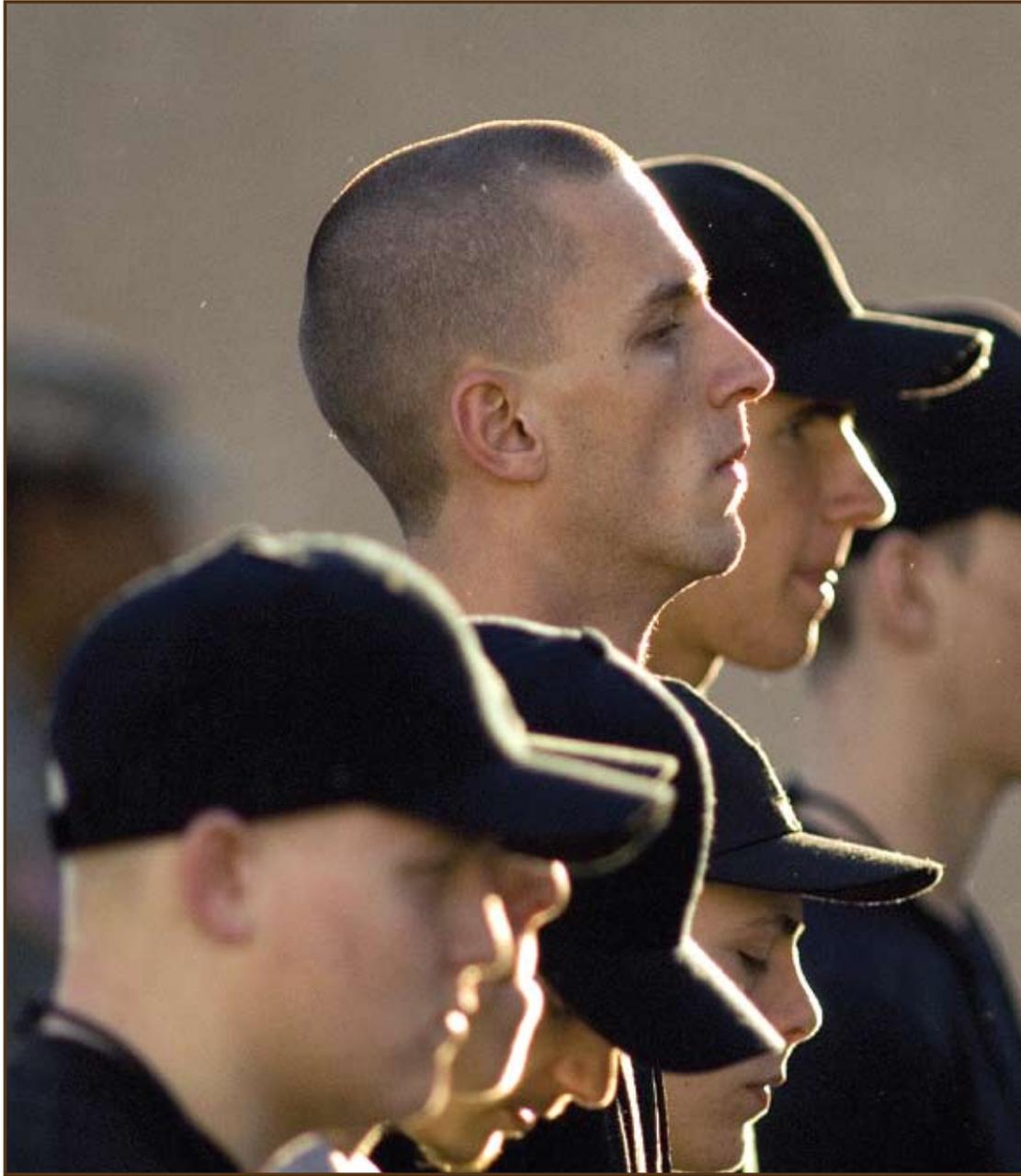
When the simulator stops moving, and the instructors call out "egress, egress, egress," Soldiers must work as a team to help each other safely evacuate the Humvee. Situational awareness is critical. As they exit the overturned Humvee and set up a perimeter, Soldiers must look out for hazards such as unexploded ordinances, Improvised Explosive Devices and instructors posing as enemy forces. A lack of awareness or failure to identify a threat elicits a yell of "BOOM!" from the instructors.

"Going through this exercise, I now feel prepared in case this happens to me in the real world," said Spc. Vincent Bancroft, Civil Affairs Team, 40th ID. "I'm an Ambulance EMT on the civilian side, and I have helped with many rollovers. I now know what these people have gone through."



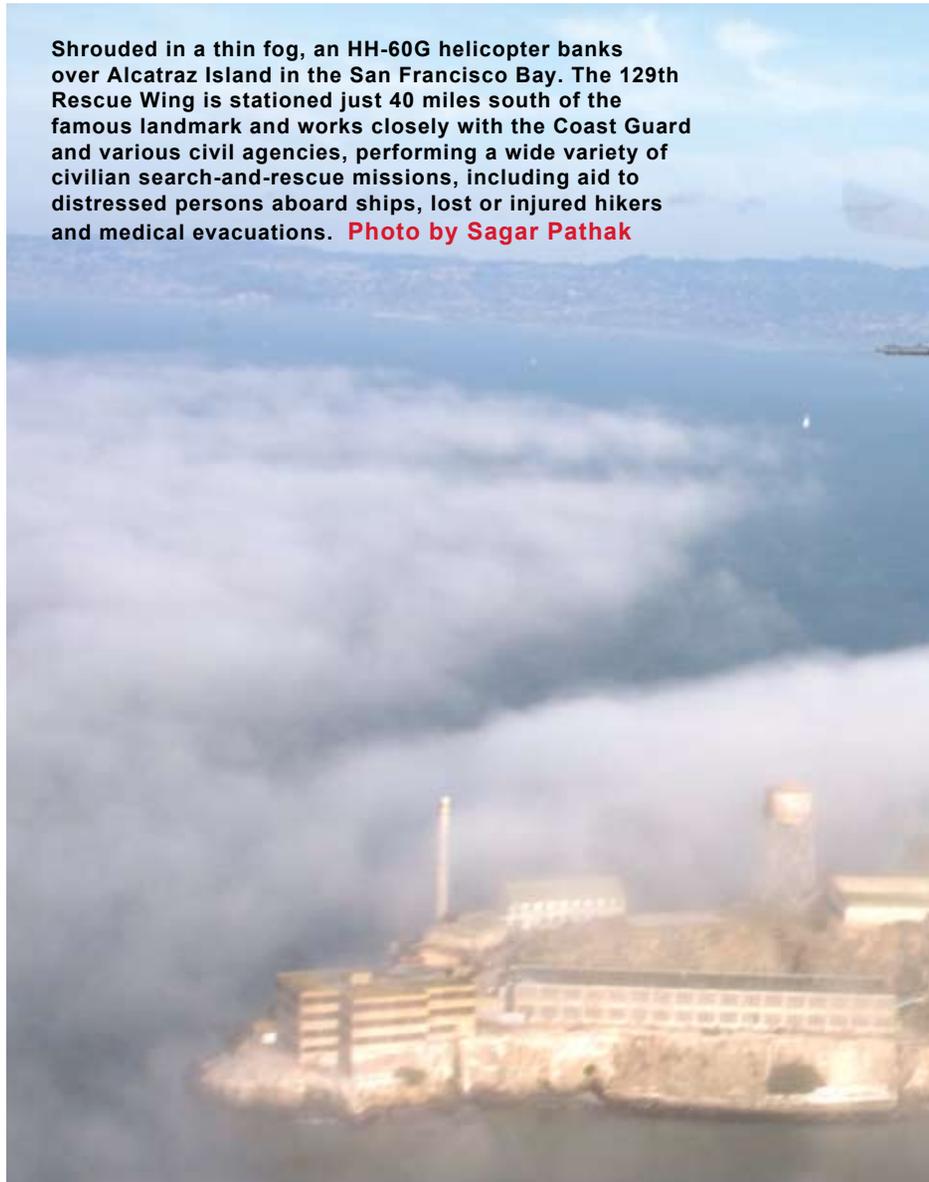
Technical Sergeants Joe Robles, kneeling, and Sean Kirsch, both of the California Air National Guard's 131st Rescue Squadron, spot a parachute landing zone while aboard an HC-130P combat search-and-rescue aircraft as part of a deployment to Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, Jan. 10.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joe Zuccaro



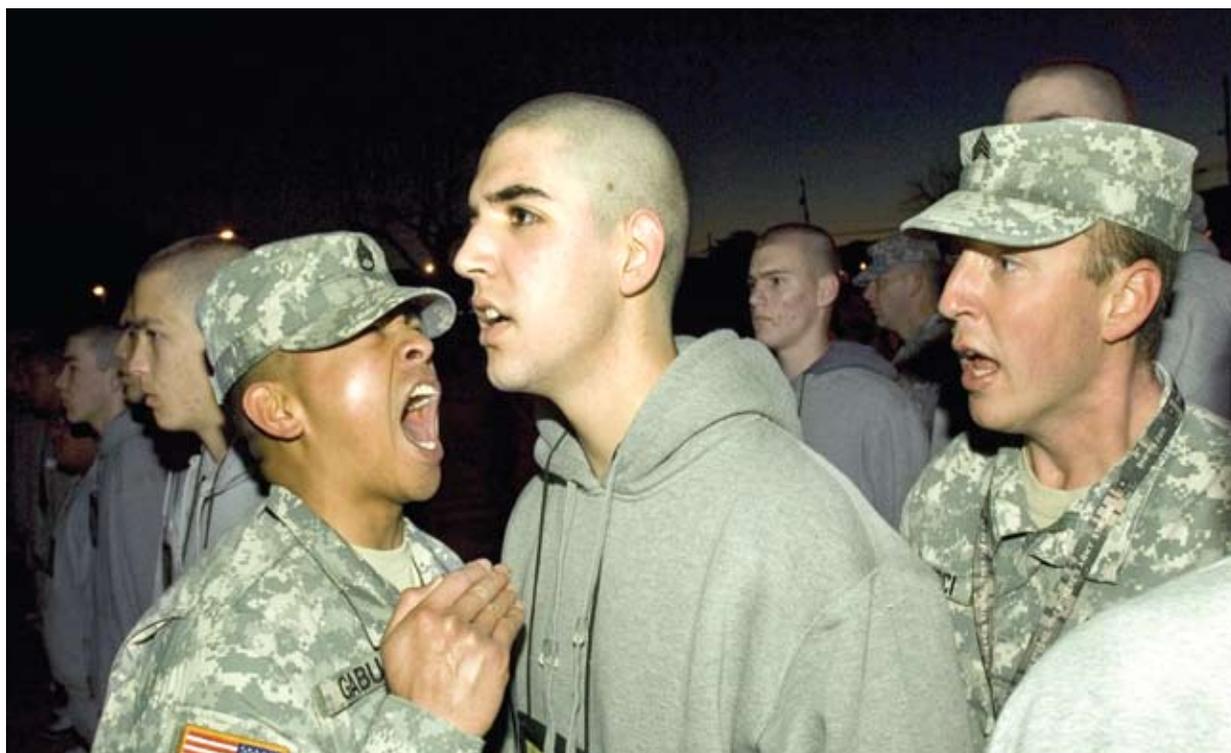
A California Air National Guardsman guides a pallet of food onto a C-130 at Mather Airfield in Sacramento in late December as part of Operation Food Basket. Heavy snow prevented delivery of the food by truck, but Guardsmen from the Joint Force Headquarters coordinated air delivery of more than 200 baskets to Southern California families in need.

Photo by Spc. Michael Amicy



Shrouded in a thin fog, an HH-60G helicopter banks over Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay. The 129th Rescue Wing is stationed just 40 miles south of the famous landmark and works closely with the Coast Guard and various civil agencies, performing a wide variety of civilian search-and-rescue missions, including aid to distressed persons aboard ships, lost or injured hikers and medical evacuations. Photo by Sagar Pathak

AT A GLANCE



The Grizzly Youth Academy began class No. 22 with a pre-challenge phase on Jan 17, with 220 students. The entire academy consists of three phases, beginning with a two-week pre-challenge phase, followed by a five-month residential phase and a one-year post-residential, or "mentor," phase. Centered on a military-boarding environment, the academy is a charter high school, run by the California National Guard and chartered through the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education. It encourages at-risk youths to develop the personal and educational skills necessary to succeed academically and contribute to society in a positive manner.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Payer



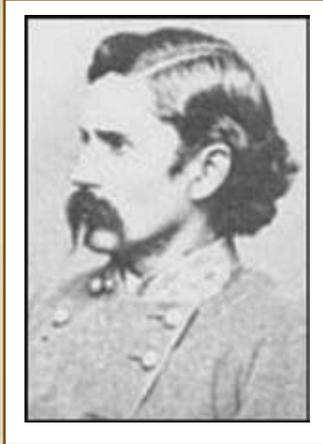
Soldiers from the California Army National Guard's 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion joined members of the San Rafael community in making the Santa Cop program a success over the holidays. The 223rd MI provided space, equipment and personnel to the program, which provides goods and gifts to individuals in need during the winter season.

Photo by Spc. Michael Amicy

FULL CIRCLE

General Cosby held positions with Union, Confederacy and Cal Guard

By 2nd Lt. Michael Anthony Rodriguez



During the Civil War, California was not home to the pitched battles typical to the East and the Midwest. California's ties to the "War between the States," however, do run deep, and the Cal Guard holds a direct link to a commander among "Johnny Reb's" forces.

Major General George B. Cosby, who served from 1883 to 1887 as the ninth adjutant general of the California National Guard, was once also a cavalry general for the Confederate States of America.

Cosby was born in Louisville, Ky., on Jan. 19, 1830. While his early schooling was geared toward work as a merchant, he instead entered the U.S. Military Acad-

emy at West Point at age 17, and earned his commission in 1852. It was as a Union officer during his early years of service on the Great Plains that he suffered a wound to his arm during a fight with Comanche Indians.

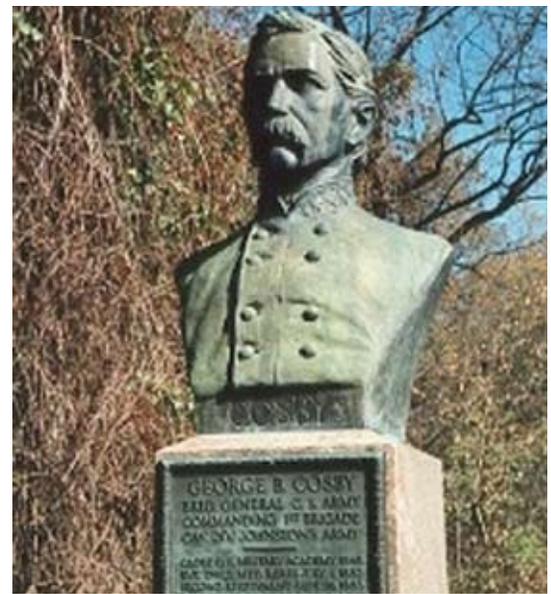
Near the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, he resigned from the Union to join the Confederate Army. A highlight of his Confederate service occurred on Feb. 15, 1862, at Fort Donelson, Tenn., when Cosby carried a message of surrender on behalf of Brig. Gen. Simon B. Buckner to Union Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Grant sent Cosby back to his old friend Buckner with a message of unconditional surrender. From this episode, Grant earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant." Buckner spoke highly of his subordinate, noting in his official report that "George B. Cosby, my chief of staff, deserves the highest commendation for the gallant and intelligent discharge of his duties."

After the surrender, Cosby became a prisoner of war but was freed shortly thereafter in a prisoner exchange. He also took part in offensive campaigns in Tennessee, including the battle of Thompson's Station; the Vicksburg and Jackson campaign of 1863; and other operations throughout the South. He continued to serve the Rebel cause until the defeat of the Confederacy.

After the war, Cosby moved to California to take up farming and settle into private life. He eventually re-entered public service by serving as secretary of the state Board of Engineers from 1878 to 1883. It was in 1883 that he was selected by Gov. George Stoneman to serve as the state's adjutant general. Both Stoneman and Cosby were West Point graduates and cavalry veterans of the Civil War. Stoneman, however, had served on the opposite side of Cosby as a Union officer.

Cosby served as the adjutant general until 1887, after which he spent time as a member of the board of visitors at West Point. In 1903, Cosby suffered a stroke that took a major toll on his physical and mental health. Many believe that this injury, along with the aforementioned injury he suffered years earlier at the hands of the Comanche Indians, led Cosby to take his own life in 1909.

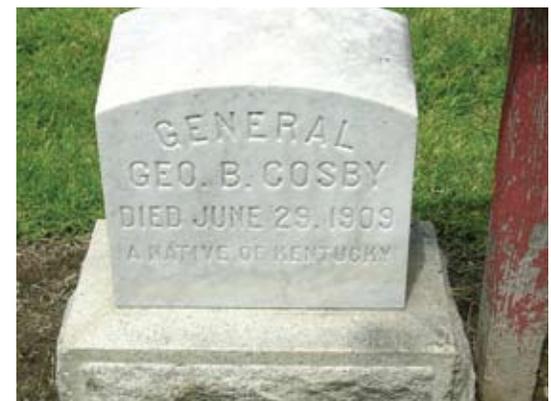
He is buried in the Old Historic Cemetery in Sacramento next to his wife, son and daughter-in-law. Visitors to the site can take part in a monthly tour during which a reenactor details Cosby's diverse military service and life.



Major General George Blake Cosby, ninth adjutant general of the California National Guard, is memorialized in Virginia National Park with a bronze bust and a plaque commemorating his service to the Confederate States of America.

"Without a sign his sword the brave man draws, and asks no omen but his country's cause."

- Homer, "The Iliad"



Cosby was buried in the Old Historic Cemetery in Sacramento. He is buried in Lot 19, where two headstones bear his name.

Fun Fact

After the Battle of Gettysburg, the discarded rifles were sent back to Union forces to be inspected and reissued. Of the 34,574 recovered, more than 24,000 were still loaded.

By the Numbers

10 Major General John Clem's age when he joined the Union Army. He served as a drummer boy and at the Battle of Chickamauga where he wielded a musket trimmed to his size. During the course of a Union retreat, he shot a Confederate colonel who had demanded his surrender. After the battle, the "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga" was promoted to sergeant, the youngest Soldier ever to become a noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army. He was also the last Civil War veteran to retire, having reached the rank of major general.

Passion for all things historic drives Military Museum's director

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Force Headquarters

SACRAMENTO – When Dan Sebby peeks out from under a pile of old military flags, war photos and stiff uniforms, he sees a portal through history.

Despite hurdles, Sebby, the curator and director of the California Military Museum in Old Town Sacramento, said he's bound to keep this history alive. Sebby, a veritable walking museum himself, painstakingly rummages through old U.S. memorabilia with a discerning eye.

"I'm simply running out of room," he huffs from behind his desk, which is loaded with crumpled and faded Army unit colors from the Korean War that he's readying for archival. "I actually have to turn things away."

Aside from not being able to keep every gem given to the museum, he also has scores of storage units at armories across California, filled with dated unit memorabilia, all waiting to be archived, and all too important to toss.

What would look like a pack-rat's paradise is actually Sebby's livelihood, something into which he's invested 17 years – first as a volunteer, and, finally, working his way up to museum director, a post he's held for the past 1 1/2 half years. And he does this all for the love of state, military and country.

The retired Army National Guard first sergeant said there is a method to his madness. He has chronologically arranged the four-floor museum to cover much of the state's history,

and now his eye is toward making it bigger and better.

The museum serves two purposes, Sebby said: First, to teach Soldiers about their military heritage in California, providing a sense of esprit de corps; and second, to collect, interpret and display military history as it pertains to California.

Sebby said he loves the opportunity to teach through visual history. Upcoming events include a static display outside the Capitol on May 22, which will showcase rare California flags from the Civil War, and a wreath-laying ceremony scheduled for Memorial Day.

The museum will also see a lot of change from within, Sebby said. Renovations and upgrades will include a new library, display improvements, artifact additions and a new photographic image library. However, all those changes cost money and need actual physical space, which is limited in the old wooden building the museum calls home.

"We're trying to raise money," said Sebby, who is also a 10-year veteran and sergeant major with the volunteer California State Military Reserve. "We get operational money, some state money and grants for specific projects, but grants don't pay the bills."

Museum admission costs \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors. All servicemembers and their families get in free by showing their ID cards. The modest fees can hardly rake in enough dough to make the museum the top military research facility in California – which is exactly what Sebby envisions.

Sebby said the museum is asking for donations from organizations and private individuals to help lift the museum to a higher standard. Those donations, coupled with Sebby's knack for telling history through artifacts, are the door to the museum's future.

Sebby, a fourth-generation Californian, may owe his love of California military history to his San Luis Obispo upbringing, or maybe that debt is owed to his father, a Soldier during the Korean War. But it is actually the museum and the current Soldiers, Sebby said, that keep his passion alive.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA INIGO



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA INIGO



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

Old Town Sacramento acts as an ideal backdrop to the California Military Museum, where a bullet-riddled HMMWV windshield shows some of the danger troops face during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Weapons from across the centuries are also showcased, including swords, rifles and a 19th century Gatling Gun.

"This is your museum," Sebby tells the thousands of uniformed servicemembers across the state, country and world. "Give us your information. Send us your photos from Iraq and Afghanistan, give us your oral history, start a program now so your history is saved."

If Sebby has anything to do with it, the military's past will definitely have a future in our state's capital.

For more information on the museum or to make a donation, visit its Web site at

www.militarymuseum.org.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE



Monetary contributions are not the only way to support the Military Museum. Director Dan Sebby said there is also a need for volunteers in everything from historical archives to photographic knowledge and exhibit design.



The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness

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Soldiers continue partnership with Iraqi school for the deaf

Story by 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs Office

COB Adder, Iraq – Soldiers from the 287th Sustainment Brigade and the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment brought smiles and hope to the Al Amal School for the Deaf and Mute in the city of Ar Rumaythah on Jan. 14.

Lieutenant Colonel Clint Moyer, chief of the 287th Sust. Bde. Civilian Military Operations, and Lt. Col. Richard White, audiologist and 287th Medical Operations Director, spearheaded the visit. The trip followed up on the “Operation Voice of Hope” audiology exams the Kansas-based Sustainers provided for 17 deaf female Al Amal students recently.

“We wanted to touch base with the students and parents that we conducted exams on, see what the conditions were in the school and see what else we could do to help,” Moyer said.

Parents and children excitedly surrounded White as he walked through a gate into the school courtyard. They were eager to learn if they would receive hearing aids after their recent exams.

“We’re looking at various funding sources for hearing aids and hope to

have them within the next three months or so,” said White.

One of the unique challenges White faces is finding hearing aids that will not interfere with the girl’s head coverings. “Most of these girls’ hearing loss is significant enough to rate behind-the-ear hearing aids. Unfortunately, the scarves they wear would create interference and feedback. We’re looking at hearing aids they can wear at their waists with wires that attach to ear molds they can wear under their headscarves.”

In addition to the 17 girls, there are also 22 hearing-impaired boys who need hearing exams. White intends to conduct exams on the boys when a colleague from another base visits with more sophisticated audiology equipment.

“The equipment we have at Adder is very basic,” said White. “I would like to test the boys with the new equipment for more accurate results.”

After initial greetings, Al Amal teachers gave the group a tour of the facility. The classrooms were full of smiling students happy to see the visiting Americans.



Iraqi schoolgirls stand outside the Al Amal School for the Deaf and Mute in Ar Rumaythah, Iraq, on Jan. 14.

PHOTO BY COURTESY OF THE 3RD SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY) PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

All-American Bowl fields experiences for Cal Guardsman

By Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund

I had mixed feelings when I was notified via e-mail that I had been chosen to represent the Army National Guard as a "Soldier Hero" at the 2009 Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio. I wasn't comfortable with the "hero" moniker, because, like most Soldiers, wounded or not, I don't see myself in that light. I was also concerned I would be paraded around with other Soldiers as a marketing tool for the Army, but I couldn't have been more wrong.

Upon arrival at the hotel, which was decked out with wall-to-wall Army posters inside and out, the Soldier Heroes were ushered into a conference room and briefed on what to expect during the weeklong event. We were also given the names of the high school football players with whom each Soldier Hero would be paired for events such as push-up and sit-up contests, eating contests and a BBQ dinner featuring a rodeo.

The guidance given by the event coordinators was straightforward: "Don't worry about trying to recruit your players into the Army. The players all have plans to attend college, and some will go on to careers in the National Football League. Your goal is to share your Army story, and in turn, your players may share with their friends what they learned about the Army." It was those friends that the promoters were hoping would take an interest in joining the Army. That was a welcome bit of advice – it took the heat off of us as we got to know our players.

I had wondered who these players were, and it turned out they were the best of the best. Three independent scouting agencies had identified and

nominated them from among all high school seniors in the country. If history repeats itself, I was standing among our next generation of great college and pro football players. In the nine years since the Army All-American Bowl debuted, 80 NFL athletes, two Heisman Trophy winners, eight Heisman Trophy nominees and more than 600 NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly known as Division I-A) athletes have played in the game.

When I was told I would be paired with Randall Carroll from Cathedral High School in Los Angeles, I realized I already knew something about him, as he had been featured in an article in the previous week's "Sports Illustrated" as one of the "Top Ten Players to Watch" from the West. "Carroll's World Class Speed is what separates him from other wide receivers in the class of 2009," according to the scouting report. Randall had also been selected as one of six finalists for the prestigious 2009 U.S. Army Player of the Year Award, given to the nation's most outstanding player who participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

What the report and the game's glossy program failed to mention was that Carroll is a polite young man who strives to excel at whatever he does, on the football field or off.

"Industrial engineer, that's what I want to be," Carroll shared one evening, adding that he has an interest in working on solutions for cleaner air. I almost forgot that Carroll was an 18-year-old kid as he attempted to explain to me how he wants to make a difference by exploring new ways to "scrub air." Frankly, most of it went over my head. It was clear that



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SGT. 1ST CLASS ARNE EASTLUND

Sergeant First Class Arne Eastlund of the California Army National Guard poses alongside Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Chiarelli during New Year festivities surrounding the Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio.

these teenagers have much more to offer our society than just entertainment on the field.

While the players practiced and scrimmaged in preparation for game day, the Army held several events for the Soldier Heroes. A highlight for me was eating breakfast with Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Chiarelli and Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston.

The breakfast culminated with a group photograph, handshakes and coin presentations by all the above. I was especially pleased to be able to chat with Gen. Chiarelli. I shared with him that it was he who signed my Purple Heart and Bronze Star personnel actions as well as the same awards (posthumously) for my battle buddy, Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Lawson, who lost his life to an improvised explosive device. Gen. Chiarelli was gregarious and kindhearted in the same breath, and at my request, he pressed a second coin into my hand so that I may present it to Lawson's widow.

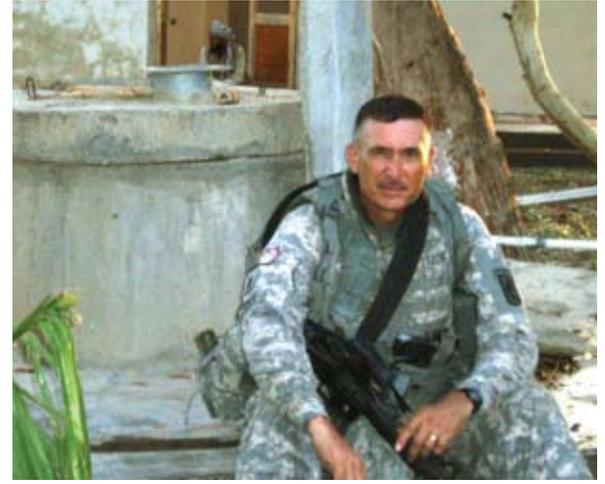
Sergeant First Class Arne Eastlund serves with the 49th Military Police Brigade in Fairfield, Calif. He is also an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for Meritorious Service medals.



Left: The crowd enjoys performances by a number of Army bands during halftime of the Army All-American Bowl on Jan. 3 in San Antonio.

Above: Sergeant First Class Arne Eastlund of the California Army National Guard poses alongside Randall Carroll from Cathedral High School in Los Angeles. Eastlund was paired as a mentor to Carroll, who was named one of the "Top Ten Players to Watch" in the West by "Sports Illustrated."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMMAND SGT. MAJ. MICHAEL J. SYZDEK



Command Sergeant Major Michael Syzdek is currently deployed to Afghanistan with the California National Guard in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Changes in equipment and tactics abound throughout the Army's history, but one constant for success has been the leadership and quality of the NCO Corps."

- Command Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Syzdek

Year of the NCO

NCOs: the backbone of armies, young and old

By Command Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Syzdek

As I write this, it's Jan. 1, traditionally a time for reflecting on accomplishments and planning for the future. What makes this New Year's Day personally poignant is the inevitable end of my military career this year, a day that always seemed far away but now looms on the horizon. I have said many times that my last day in the Army will be among the saddest of my life, but every end marks a new beginning.

While my career as a noncommissioned officer is coming to a close, I serve as an Embedded Training Team adviser to the Afghan National Army (ANA), 2nd Infantry Brigade, 201st Corps in Jalalabad. My main mission is to assist the ANA in establishing a competent, professional NCO Corps.

Serving with the ANA is like going back in time to when our young Army must have experienced similar growing pains. The challenges are many. Fortunately the ANA has realized, as our country did 233 years ago, that the only way to build and sustain a competent army is through a strong NCO Corps.

The ANA recently initiated courses that mirror our NCO Education System (NCOES) levels. The ANA has a long way to go, but will become a

modern, competent fighting force as a result of its desire to create a strong NCO Corps — the glue that holds units together.

Our own Army has come a long way since I enlisted in February 1970. In one infantry platoon, I served as squad leader as a "Spec 4" because of our lack of NCOs. There was no NCOES. Our NCOs came up through the ranks or attended the only NCO course available, dubbed by Soldiers as the "Shake and Bake School" at Fort Benning, Ga., which produced many competent NCOs.

Changes in equipment and tactics abound throughout the Army's history, but one constant for success has been the leadership and quality of the NCO Corps.

The military influenced me at an early age, as "Baby Boomers" were continually reminded of America's military history. Our grandfathers were World War I vets; our fathers were World War II vets. War movies were standard fare, and intermissions were World War II newsreels. Americans were unabashed patriots, as it hadn't yet become unfashionable.

Another early influence was my father's eldest brother, Walter, who

enlisted in the New York National Guard in 1929 in a Field Artillery unit. Uncle Walter was activated at the start of World War II and, as a combat engineer, participated in every major campaign. He retired in 1959 as a sergeant 1st class. He and I spent much time together, talking about war, the Army and what it meant to be an NCO.

I enlisted in the Army as an Airborne infantryman, volunteered for Vietnam and served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division and 101st Airborne Division. I remember with pride the first time I wrote to my uncle from Vietnam with "Sgt." in front of my name. After my return, we were closer than ever as fellow Army combat veterans. I later served in the U.S. Army Reserve and the New York Army National Guard before my civilian employment brought me to California in 1976. I was promoted to Sergeant Major in 1996, the year before Walter died.

I reflect with satisfaction on the assignments that shaped me as an NCO and allowed me to influence others during my service in the California Army National Guard. Over the years, I witnessed our NCO Corps accomplish numerous daunting tasks with determination and

professionalism.

The rewards have been many. I have had great command team relationships. I have taught, counseled and mentored many Soldiers who later attained the highest commissioned officer and NCO ranks. I have worked with thousands of our Soldiers, as well as those from 15 different countries, and have remained in contact with many. The camaraderie gained in combat arms units through shared misery and danger has been priceless. My son, Brian, is a U.S. Army Reserve officer, and in August, I was honored to attend his graduation and give him his first salute.

There are many ways to become a good leader. I advise current and future NCOs to strive for tactical and technical proficiency, lead by example and lead from the front. Treat others as you wish to be treated. Be proud that you're an NCO and never take that responsibility lightly. Families trust us to train, take care of, lead into battle and return their loved ones safely.

I am honored to be a member of the NCO Corps and proud of our accomplishments. I hope I have given the Army and the NCO Corps as much as I have gained.



California Military Ball 2009

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GUEST(S) NAME _____ NUMBER IN PARTY _____

INDICATE THE NUMBER OF DESIRED ENTREES :

___ CHAR-GRILLED HANGAR STEAK WITH MASHED POTATOES

___ BREAST OF CHICKEN WITH FETTUCCHINE

___ MUSHROOM STRUDEL WITH TOMATOES FONDUE

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CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
9800 GOETHE ROAD (BOX 10)
SACRAMENTO, CA 95826-9101
PHONE : (916) 870-3133
EMAIL : IRMA.GARRETT@US.ARMY.MIL

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

More than drug testing

Joint Substance Abuse Program a resource for change

By Master Sgt. Stephanie Weaver
Coordinator, CNG Joint Substance Abuse Prevention Program

The mission of the Joint Substance Abuse Program, or JSAP, is to provide prevention training, outreach to families and treatment resources to military members in an effort to increase military discipline, individual performance and combat readiness.

The JSAP has two major functions.

1. Collections - This is the testing portion of the program. We train unit and wing personnel to properly collect specimens for urinalysis testing, provide supplies, process positive results and track testing statistics.

2. Education — This includes prevention, treatment and outreach:

- Prevention — providing prevention education to units, wings and families
- Treatment — assisting servicemembers and their families with finding proper treatment facilities, with both self and mandatory referrals

- Outreach — working with servicemembers and their families to reduce the abuse of substances

JSAP is often linked to drug testing; however, the JSAP offers much more than that. Did you know, for instance, there are certain protections afforded those who request help before testing positive? It's true, and the JSAP office can help!

The New Year brings resolutions to the minds of those wanting change. The JSAP office can provide guidance for programs to quit smoking, quit or cut back on drinking, stop the use of illegal drugs, prevent the abuse of prescription drugs and help family members entangled in such situations.

Commanders, are you interested in identifying your unit's risk level for substance abuse and other mental health concerns? We have anonymous surveys to help you identify the risk levels both prior to and after deployment. The surveys are called Unit Risk Inventories (URI) or Reintegration Unit Risk Inven-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPC. DARRIEL SWATTS

tory (R-URI). Once the risks are identified, we can provide science-based prevention education to your unit.

The JSAP understands the importance of family support and knows how stressful life can be supporting a National Guard Soldier or Airman. The JSAP also offers prevention education to family members, both youth and adult.

Another tool the JSAP provides is a free self-assessment, in English and Spanish, for concerns with

depression, bipolar disorder, alcohol, generalized anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder, and parents can also conduct a brief screen for adolescent depression. The Web site is www.military.mentalhealthscreening.org/login.asp?keyword=CA-ARNG.

If you are interested in learning more about the programs offered or would like assistance, please contact the JSAP office at 916-366-4732 or toll free at 1-877-479-0427. You can also email us at ngcasubstanceabuse@ng.army.mil.

Green procurement good for the Guard

By Karen Andris-Garcia

Executive Order 13101, signed by Pres. Bill Clinton in 1998, mandates the greening of government through waste prevention, recycling and federal acquisition. The Department of Defense, in an effort to align mission and environmental stewardship, issued a new green procurement policy. California law also requires the state government to practice Environmentally Preferable Purchasing. So, just what is EPP?

EPP, as identified by California statute, is the procurement of goods and services that have a reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared to competing goods and services serving the same purpose; in other words, the selection of goods and services that do little or no harm to humans and the environment.

Some of the factors taken into consideration when selecting such goods and services include raw materials acquisition, manufactur-

ing, packaging, distribution, reuse, disposal and product performance. Environmentally preferable products use less materials, water and energy, which minimizes the impact on California's natural environment. They are also long-lasting, less toxic, reusable and easy to recycle.

Aside from being a state and federal requirement, EPP also provides a variety of other benefits. While low costs may be one of the biggest motivating factors in these economically challenged times, the sustainability aspects of buying green are numerous; they include reduced air pollution, water emissions and soil contamination, reduction in greenhouses gas emissions, more efficient use of raw materials, less material consumption, energy efficiency and reduced landfill waste. In addition, EPP improves public and occupational health and safety by reducing the amount of toxic and hazardous substances in the workplace and the environment.

How, then, can you as a Guardsman meet EPP requirements and make a difference? Here are a few ideas:

- Identify ways you can reduce waste in your office, shop or facility.
- Write environmental specifications into your contract-bid solicitations.
- Purchase copiers that are capable of duplex printing to reduce paper waste and cost.
- Locate surplus and reuse programs for used equipment and supplies.
- Most importantly, buy products that you know are environmentally preferred.

One of the best ways to find a green product or service is through the Green Seal program. Green Seal (www.greenseal.org) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 that provides science-based environmental certification standards. In an ever-increasing marketplace, everyone

wants to profit from being "green." Unfortunately, many green-marketed products do not meet EPP requirements. This is why it is important to have a reliable reference source to help purchasers make the most informed choice.

Green Seal does this by providing user-friendly lists of certified products and services in categories from food service to office products to facility maintenance and operations and even green-certified lodging properties. They are used extensively by government agencies and advise and assist them in their efforts to green their procurement operations.

The government is one of the nation's largest procurers of goods and services. By practicing Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, we can meet our sustainability goals and truly make a difference to our health, our economy and our environment.



Photo credit: <http://j-ouroboros.deviantart.com>

Decorated California vets gain parking privileges

The state of California issues special license plates to decorated veterans who are verified recipients of the Medal of Honor, Legion of Valor or Purple Heart and to Pearl Harbor survivors and prisoners of war. A new state law provides even more vehicle privileges for decorated veterans.

According to a recent California state law, cities and counties may now offer free parking at metered spots to decorated veterans with license plates that bear their special status. It is up to each participating city and county to authorize the parking privilege with the state. Information on which plates qualify can be found at www.cdva.ca.gov/VetService/Plates.aspx.

Disney salutes Activated Guardsmen

The "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" promotion allows activated members of the National Guard complimentary, multiday passes into Disney's U.S. theme parks, as well as ticket discounts for family members and friends.

Through June 12, each active or retired member of the U.S. Armed Forces can receive one complimentary three-day Park Hopper ticket valid for admission to both Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure parks.

During the offer period, active or retired U.S. military personnel also may make a one-time purchase of an adult or child three-day Park Hopper ticket for up to five family members or friends for the price of one adult one-day Park Hopper ticket. Disneyland Resort hotels are also offering special room rates for active or retired military personnel.

At the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., through Dec. 23, each active or retired member of the U.S. military may obtain one free five-day "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" ticket. Shades of Green, a hotel at the resort, is open exclusively to servicemembers, retirees, defense civilians and their families.

For more information, visit your installation's ITT/ITR office or log on to www.mickeynews.com and search "Armed Forces Salute."

DID YOU KNOW...

that there is a maximum involuntary commuting distance for an M-day Guard member?

The maximum involuntary commuting distance for an M-day Guard member is 50 miles from the home of record to the duty site, or for enlisted Guard members, a 100-mile radius of an inactive duty training site where meals and lodging are provided by the unit.

Did you also know that if your residence has changed, it is your responsibility to provide that information to your unit? If your residence moves outside the reasonable commuting distance, contact your chain of command with the information and request a transfer to a local unit in your area.

Financial help for struggling vets

Veterans struggling financially because of a job loss or decreased income can seek help from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system on a hardship status, assuming their present income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds.

Those veterans who qualify may be eligible for free health care. Veterans who recently returned from a combat zone are also eligible for no-cost VA care. For more information, contact the VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (8387) or visit its Web site at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

Correction: In the December issue of the Grizzly, Maj. Nicole Balliet was unintentionally left off the Executive Personnel Council list. The position for which Maj. Balliet should have been listed was the commander of the 224th Sustainment Brigade, an O-5 position.



Pictured are three familiar San Francisco images - the Golden Gate Bridge, dense fog and an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Squadron. To view more of Sagar Pathak's photos of the Cal Guard's 129th Rescue Wing, turn to page 11 or log onto www.horizontalrain.com.

Photo by Sagar Pathak

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