

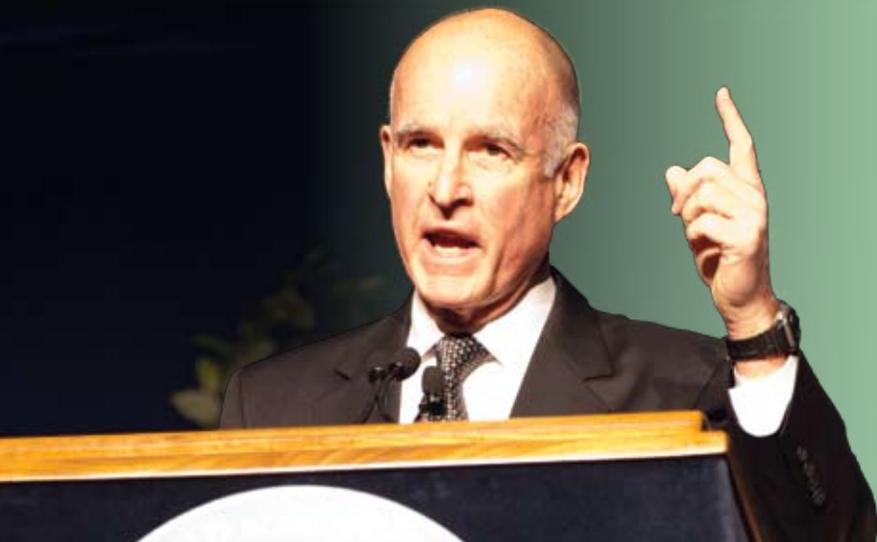
GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



CNG welcomes new commander in chief

9



*"The year ahead
will demand*

COURAGE

and

SACRIFICE."

— Governor Jerry Brown

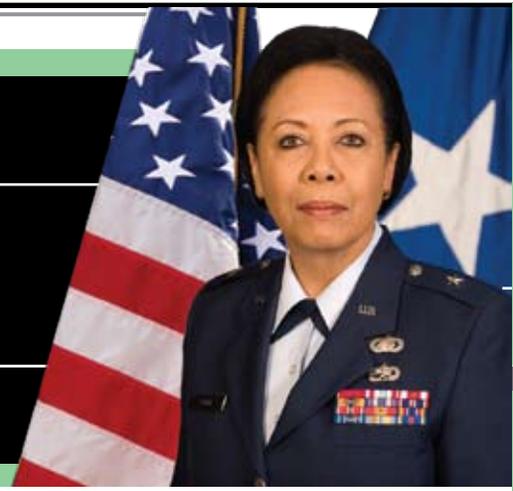
California National Guard Year In Review

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Commander's Corner

Changing of the Guard

Brigadier General Mary Kight



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER



On Jan. 3 the state of California welcomed a new governor, and the California National Guard welcomed a new commander in chief. We enter this period in our history with great anticipation of the events to come, as we ready ourselves to fulfill the vision of our new leader, Gov. Jerry Brown.

At the same time, we look back on seven years under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has done so much for the dedicated men and women of the California National Guard. It was a challenging time for the Guard, filled with contingency deployments overseas and emergency deployments in California. Along the way, we were encouraged by words of admiration from our commander in chief, who visited troops at homecomings and in theaters of war. We are thankful for Gov. Schwarzenegger's unwavering support and tireless pursuit of improved service member and family care.

We are grateful, however, to see Gov. Schwarzenegger succeeded by someone who knows what it means to be commander in chief. Gov. Brown served as the Guard's top commander from 1975 to 1983, and that experience will allow a seamless transition.

Gov. Brown has already made solid contributions to the Guard. Most notably he established one of our greatly successful youth programs, the Oakland Military Institute (OMI). While serving as mayor of Oakland in 2001, Brown founded OMI to provide a structured, rigorous academic program that develops cadets as leaders, scholars, critical thinkers and citizens. Through a military framework, the college preparatory academy inspires honor and pride in its cadets.

One-quarter of the graduates from the OMI Class of 2010 pursued higher education at University of California colleges, twice the average of public schools statewide and 20 times that of Oakland public schools. OMI cadets also provided more than 7,000 hours of service to organizations such as the American Red Cross and American Heart Association in 2010, and they participated in extensive leadership and personal fitness training. This exceptional record shows why OMI earned last year's prestigious western regional Jefferson Award for Public Service.

In December, California National Guard leadership began working with Gov. Brown's staff to acquaint him with the many changes in the Guard since 1983 and to learn his expectations and aspirations for us. Leaders at Joint Force Headquarters briefed the governor's transition team member, Mr. Jacob Applesmith, bureau chief, special assistant attorney general, on Army and Air capabilities and deployments, civil support, interagency engagement, youth and family programs, international partnerships, state and federal legislation, the Southwest border mission, the California State Military Reserve, the Emergency Shelter Program and many other topics. The conversation was interactive, and Gov. Brown's staff engaged the briefers, showing a sincere desire to learn more about our programs, capabilities and deployment process.

In his inaugural address, Gov. Brown spoke of the need for courage and sacrifice on the part of Californians to overcome the difficulties we face. He stressed, however, that these are conditions we have faced before, and we have continually shown the resolve to achieve solutions.

To meet our current challenges, Gov. Brown said, Californians must show "loyalty to the community, to what is larger than our individual needs." As members of the California National Guard, you have already shown yourselves willing to put your community, state and country before your self-interests. Time and again, CNG members have not only faced difficult situations head-on but sought them out, running toward danger when others might flee.

Public servants such as yourselves, Gov. Brown said, "give hope for an even more abundant future."

"Every Californian is heir to some form of powerful tradition, some history of overcoming challenges," Brown said. "From the native peoples who survived the total transformation of their way of life, to the most recent arrival, stories of courage abound. And it is not over."

You, the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard, epitomize that courage and inspire our state's citizens. With your selfless dedication, I have no doubt we will achieve every goal our new commander in chief sets for this organization.

TOP: Jerry Brown is sworn in as governor of California alongside his wife, Ann Gust Brown, in Sacramento on Jan. 3. **BOTTOM:** Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger accepts the California Legion of Merit from Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, during the National Guard birthday celebration in Sacramento on Dec. 14.

For more on Brown, see Page 9.

For more on Schwarzenegger and the National Guard birthday, see Page 8.

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- ★ 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

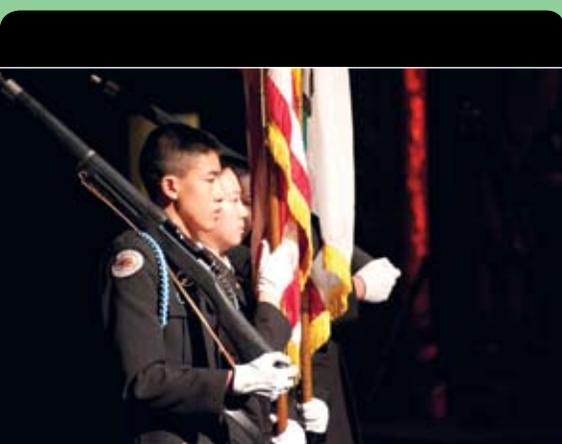
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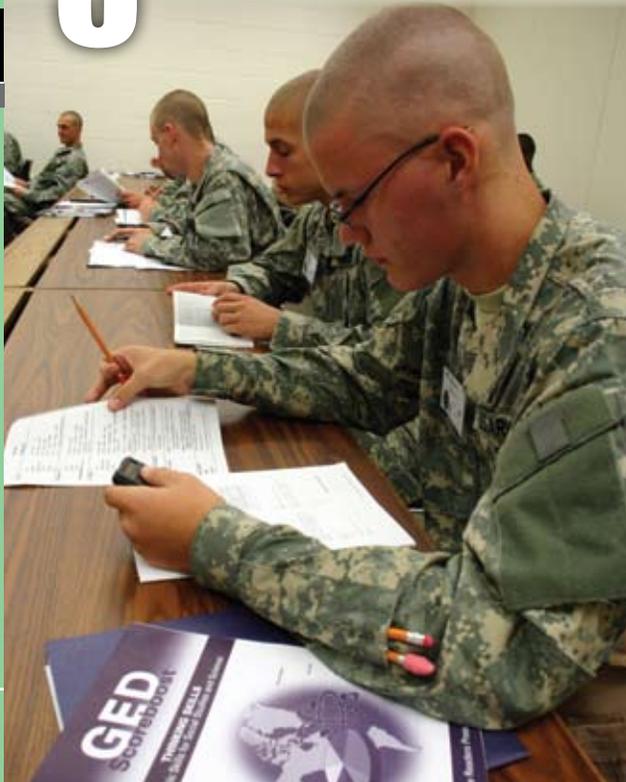


Photos by
Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler

Cadets from the California National Guard's Oakland Military Institute present the colors at the Jan. 3 inaugural ceremony of Gov. Jerry Brown in Sacramento. INSET PHOTO: Brown gives his inaugural address.

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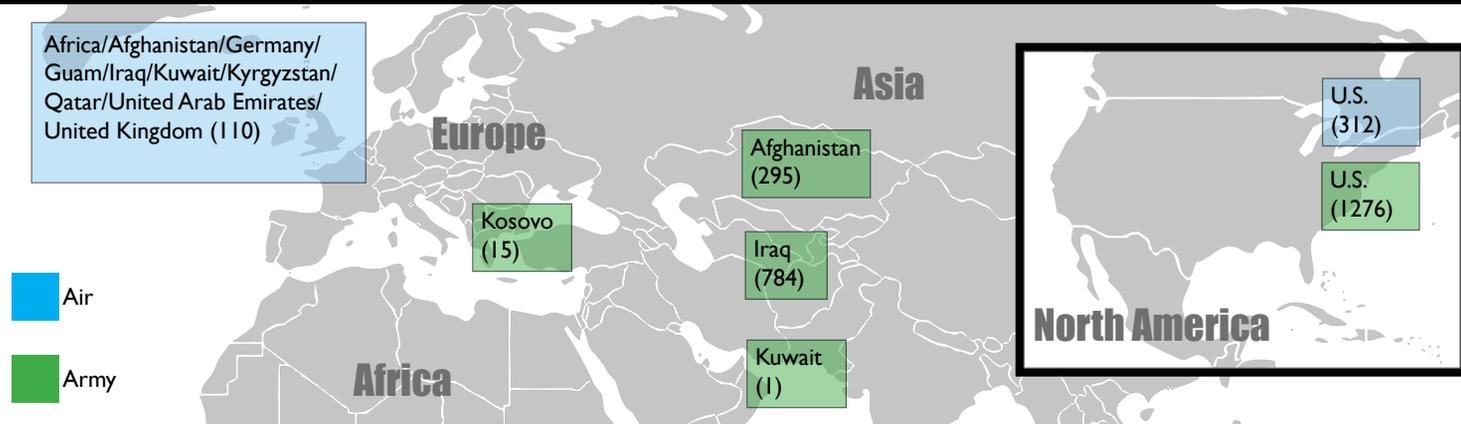
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The California National Guard as of December 2010



CNG deploys firefighting assets to Israel

By Maj. Kimberly Holman
146th Airlift Wing

Firefighting assets from the California National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing were called upon in December to assist with a wildfire burning out of control in Israel.

On Dec. 4, two C-130J aircraft equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems II (MAFFS), one of the world's newest and most effective technologies in firefighting, departed for Israel along with an Air Force Reserve C-130H aircraft based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The 146th scrambled together about 30 Airmen as news broke of the worst fire in Israel's history. The blaze killed 44 people and injured many more in less than four days before the fire was contained.

The California Air National Guard became part of an international effort to halt the wildfire and was one piece of a five-aircraft U.S. Defense Department package. In addition to the United States, the rest of the world displayed unprecedented support as



A California National Guard C-130J with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems II technology drops water over South Carolina treetops during training in April.

PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS NICHOLAS CARZIS

countries including Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Jordan, Russia, the United Kingdom and even Turkey sent aid. Relations between Turkey and Israel became tense last spring when Israeli

commandos boarded a Turkish ship carrying humanitarian aid for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, killing nine people.

"We were witness to some monumental bridges that were built — bridges that went beyond the fires," said Lt. Col. Bryan Allen, a MAFFS pilot for the 146th. "Adversarial countries dropped animosities to assist Israel during their crisis."

Col. Paul Hargrove, commander of the 146th, traveled to Israel with Allen and six other members of wing leadership in advance of the two C-130J aircraft and crews. Prior to the 146th aircraft arriving in Israel, however, nature intervened, and rain fell for the first time in six months, putting an end to the fires.

The fire started Dec. 2 in a wildlife preserve that seeks to protect and bring back native species mentioned in the Old Testament. Much of the preserve was destroyed in the fire, which spread rapidly, fueled by high winds and dry vegetation after an unusually hot summer and many months without rain.

Israel has been criticized for lacking firefighting assets that could combat a fire of this magnitude. Taking advantage of an opportunity to learn from officers with firefighting experience, the Israeli government asked the California Airmen who were already in Israel to brief mid- and upper-level leadership in Israel's military about CNG firefighting capabilities and the advantages of using military assets for firefighting. Hargrove and his staff briefed Lt. Col. Asaf Geva, the commander of Israel's 131st Squadron; Brig. Gen. Eden Attais, the commander of Nevatim Air Force Base; and Maj. Gen. Yohanan Locker, military secretary to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"They have C-130 aircraft and are very interested in the MAFFS II system that we employ," Hargrove said.

The Israeli Air Force is currently investigating if MAFFS II could be effectively employed on their own C-130 aircraft, Hargrove said. If so, the members of the 146th may be called upon again to provide expertise and assist the country in its endeavor to protect its citizens and resources.

Four Soldiers earn California Medal of Valor

Four members of the 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) earned California's silver Medal of Valor for extraordinary acts of heroism far above and beyond the normal call of duty or service during a high-altitude rescue of a Boy Scout who was pinned under a 10-ton boulder.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Randall Weatherhead, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cole Gould, Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Hughes and Staff Sgt. Rob Walters were recognized for their bravery by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger during a Dec. 16 ceremony in Sacramento.

At about 8:30 p.m. on June 26, 2008, while Army National Guard personnel were preparing to conduct a night-vision-goggle helicopter training mission in the Sacramento area, a call came in requesting support for a 10,000-foot-altitude rescue mission in the John Muir Wilderness. Earlier that day, while a Boy Scout troop was crossing a stream in the remote Wilson Lake area

of eastern Fresno County, a large boulder rolled and trapped a 14-year-old boy's leg between it and another boulder.

Though most of the crew members had been on duty for almost 12 hours, they agreed to the mission. The rescue posed several challenges, including reduced power capability due to the high altitude and restricted visibility due to darkness and smoke from a nearby fire. The crew flew to the Fresno airport, where they picked up a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection employee and equipment. They departed Fresno at 12:35 a.m., and had located the victim and landed by 1:15 a.m.

Weatherhead stayed with the aircraft while the rest of the crew, carrying rescue equipment and using only head lamps and compasses, set out under total darkness through steep rocky terrain to find the Boy Scout. After nearly three hours of rescue efforts, they were able to move the 10-ton boulder



Staff Sgt. Rob Walters, far right, Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Hughes, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cole Gould and retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Randall Weatherhead receive the California Medal of Valor from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, far left, during a Dec. 16 ceremony in Sacramento.

BY MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

enough to free the boy's leg.

The crew administered medical aid and carried the boy for more than an hour back to the helicopter. The crew arrived at the

Fresno airport at approximately 6:10 a.m., and the Boy Scout was then transported to the hospital. The crew's actions, without regard for their personal safety, saved his life.

Chief's Corner

What is the command chief warrant officer's job?

By Chief Warrant Officer 5 Artavia M. Edwards | CNG Command Chief Warrant Officer



Effective Aug. 1, I was selected to serve as the third state command chief warrant officer (CCWO) for California. I sincerely appreciate the many congratulatory remarks and votes of confidence I received from so many of you, some of whom I've not yet had the privilege to know.

Many of you asked, and continue to ask, "What is it the CCWO does?" Moreover, I continue to be surprised at many Soldiers' lack of awareness about the role of a warrant officer, in general. I intend to answer these

questions and many more, as well as to keep you apprised of the many great contributions made by California Army National Guard warrant officers. Please look for my articles in Grizzly on a regular basis.

As the CCWO, I am responsible for advising the state leadership on all warrant officer issues. This includes, but is not limited to: providing oversight of warrant officer strength management, career development, position vacancy projection management and warrant officer positions and personnel utilization;

coordinating all warrant officer actions with the Officer Personnel Management Branch and the National Guard Bureau (NGB); instituting a comprehensive warrant officer recruiting program; establishing and overseeing the State Warrant Officer Advisory Committee; establishing and maintaining warrant officer mentorship and counselor programs; coordinating warrant officer issues with NGB and Headquarters Department of the Army warrant officer program managers, Title 10 warrant officer assignment officers, the Warrant Officer Career

College and other agencies; and serving as a member of the Army National Guard Warrant Officer Senior Advisory Council, where I serve as secretary and parliamentarian.

In my next column, I will address the role of the warrant officer. You may be surprised at how history has belabored this topic. I intend to remove the veil of the "quiet professional," if you will, and introduce to you the ready, relevant and operational warrant officers who are serving in today's California Army National Guard.

GED Plus Program provides hope for the future

Pvt. Daniel J. Sanchez went from homeless to graduate

Story and photos by Capt. Kyle Key
National Guard Patriot Academy

Daniel J. Sanchez woke up one morning and knew this day was going to be different from the one before: Today would be the last day he would wake up on a park bench or worry where his next meal would come from.

Sanchez's mother was only 17 when she gave birth to him. With no money, job or support, she put him up for adoption. When he was 6 years old, Sanchez's adopted parents divorced and ping-ponged Sanchez for the next 11 years. Even when things were good, Sanchez lived below the poverty level in a trailer without running water or electricity in Apple Valley, Calif.

When he turned 17, Sanchez's adopted mother kicked him out of the house. He went into survival mode, dropped out of high school and took one dead-end job after another to make ends meet. He wandered from place to place, sleeping at friends' houses, shelters and under the stars.

According to the American Journal of Public Health, 1.5 million youths experience homelessness each year in the United States. In Los Angeles County alone, near where Sanchez grew up, there are currently 26,000 homeless youths.

After working as a ranch hand, Sanchez's adopted father asked him to move to San Diego, but things didn't work out as planned.

"It's just been really rough," Sanchez said. "My dad couldn't afford to have me in his house. I stayed at my sister's house, but it was the same situation."

Health issues and hard economic times hit his family, forcing Sanchez to go it alone. He hit the streets again.

Sanchez called 1-800-Go-Guard, and the operator transferred him to Sgt. Arkadiy Knopov in Kearny Mesa, Calif.

"He was ecstatic when I confirmed every-

thing that he read about GED Plus," Knopov said. "Part of the reason why I became a National Guard Recruiter is because I want to help young individuals like Private Sanchez get on the right track in life."

Sanchez did his homework. Only the Army National Guard had a program that would allow him to enlist and get full-time pay, benefits, housing and three square meals a day while going to school to earn his General Educational Development (GED) credential.

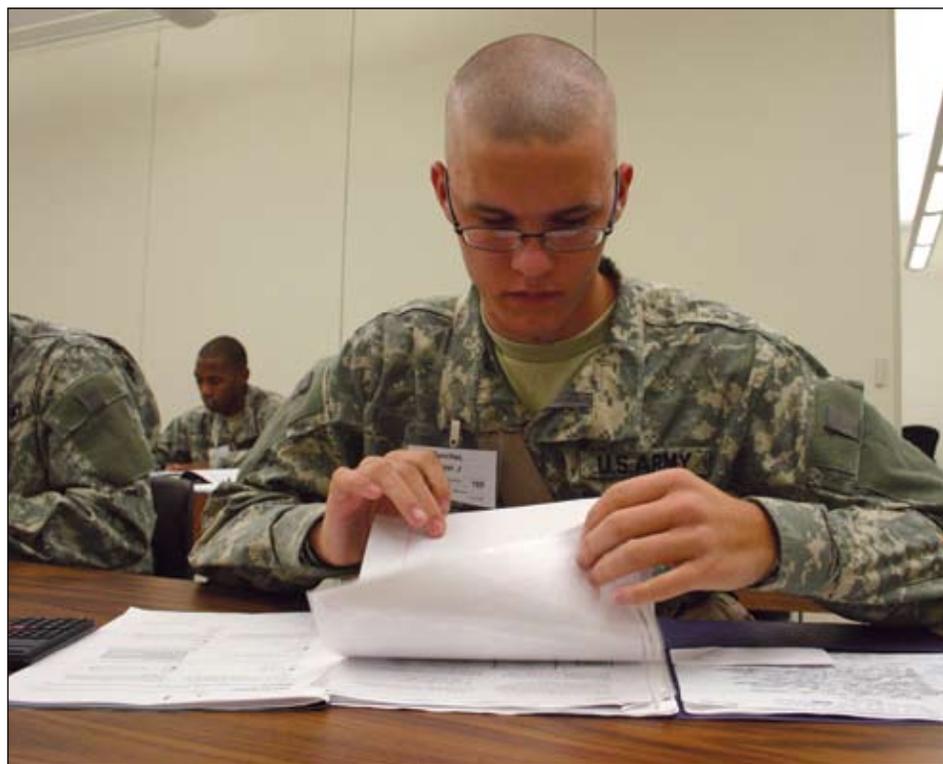
"I wasn't taking him seriously at first," Sanchez said. "But when he told me there actually was a program like this, I really started to get into it."

The National Guard GED Plus Program at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark., sounded like an opportunity that would enable Sanchez to support himself as a citizen and a Soldier. The resident program lasts from two to three weeks and prepares recruits for the GED examination, which is administered at the end of the course. Upon successful completion, recruits depart for Army Basic Training.

Sanchez took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Exam and scored a 78, well above average, allowing him to select fire support specialist as his military occupational specialty. After passing a physical examination and completing paperwork, he raised his right hand and became Pvt. Daniel J. Sanchez, the newest recruit in the California Army National Guard. But his problems weren't over.

"I was still living on the streets," Sanchez said. "So my recruiter, Sergeant Arkadiy Knopov, started working harder and went to extra lengths, from what I understand, to get me in the GED Plus Program as soon as possible."

Sanchez said Knopov managed to get him there within a couple of days instead of several months.



ABOVE: Pvt. Daniel J. Sanchez prepares for the General Educational Development (GED) examination on Camp Robinson, Ark., on Nov. 3. Sanchez failed math in high school, but with help from National Guard tutors, he passed the math and algebra section and received his GED credential Nov. 5. **BELOW:** Sgt. Maj. Elizabeth Causby of the GED Plus Program addresses Sanchez and 193 fellow graduates Nov. 5 on Camp Robinson.

Sgt. Maj. Elizabeth Causby of the National Guard GED Plus Program said Sanchez and recruits like him not only have a home now, but they have become part of something even greater.

"We're changing lives at the National Guard GED Plus Program," Causby said. "It's not unusual for us to be a source of refuge for young adults facing hardship, adverse conditions or dangerous situations."

"Many times we have coordinated to get family members or our recruits off the streets and into better living situations," she continued. "These warriors know the day they graduate that they have become a part of a huge family, the National Guard family, and we take care of our family."

Sanchez and 193 of his classmates gradu-

ated with GED credentials Nov. 5. His graduating class was the largest since the program opened in 2006.

Sanchez said he is grateful for a second chance at his education and a springboard for career opportunities.

"I want to make my recruiter proud, because he really, really helped me," Sanchez said. "I wasn't doing anything with my life."

"I haven't worked as hard as I could have throughout my life," he continued. "I was just screwing around and really didn't pay attention to what I was going to those around me. I needed to get out of there. I needed to get my life straight. This [was] not how a real man is supposed to live his life."

Sanchez reported to Fort Jackson, S.C., for basic training and will continue on to Fort Sill, Okla., for advanced individual training as a fire support specialist. When he returns to California, Sanchez has a mentor waiting for him back in Kearny Mesa.

"My work with him is far from over," Knopov said. "As a National Guard recruiting and retention noncommissioned officer, I am responsible for Soldiers during their entire career, from the day I meet them for the first time until the day they leave the military."

"Private Sanchez and I made an agreement that when he completes his [training] he will use me as a 'go to' person to help him enroll in college and begin his journey towards higher education. I see a lot of potential in this young individual."

Sanchez also has big plans.

"It's good to know that I have a bright future ahead of me," he said. "Right now, I just really want to support myself."



Skies of Iraq to be 40th CAB territory

**By 1st Lt. Jason Sweeney
40th Combat Aviation Brigade**

The news cameras were rolling as 136 Fresno-based National Guard Soldiers prepared to board a Texas-bound plane and head off on a yearlong mission in support of Operation New Dawn.

"It's going to be tough," a choked-up Jeremy Cates told a news crew as he said goodbye to his wife of three months, Sgt. 1st Class Renee Cates.

Sgt. 1st Class Cates and her fellow Soldiers of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company landed Dec. 1 at Fort Hood, Texas, where they and four aviation battalions have commenced pre-deployment training. The units are expected to complete their training in late January, when they will depart for Iraq.

Once in theater, the 40th CAB will coalesce into an aerial force of more than 200 aircraft and 3,000 Soldiers hailing from 22 states. The brigade consists of seven battalions, two of which — the 640th Aviation Support Battalion and 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment — call California home.

It will be the largest National Guard combat aviation brigade ever assembled in a combat environment, with forces operating throughout the entire theater.

The 40th CAB — call sign Task Force Condor — will perform full-spectrum aviation operations over the skies of Iraq for much of 2011. Air assets include AH-64 Apache, CH-47 Chinook, UH-60 Black Hawk and OH-58 Kiowa helicopters as well as unmanned aerial systems and fixed-wing aircraft that will do everything from medical evacuation to transport to force protection.

"The deployment of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Condor, has tremendous significance as it is the first mobilization of the CAB [headquarters] since its activation 25 years ago," said Col. Mitchell Medigovich, commander of the 40th CAB. "Mobilizing nearly 1,100-plus California Army National Guard Soldiers simultaneously from company to brigade level required tremendous energy and cooperation of all entities."

Some have called the 40th CAB's deployment historic because of the enormity of the mission and the fact that the brigade will be responsible for air operations during a crucial



Helicopters of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade fill a flight line Dec. 20 on Fort Hood, Texas, where 136 California National Guard Soldiers completed training in advance of a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

drawdown phase that is expected to close the book on seven years of hard-fought warfare. Also notable is the unique make-up of the CAB, which brings together National Guard, Army Reserve and active duty units.

"Overseeing hundreds of helicopters and thousands of Soldiers and undertaking some of the most critical mission-sets today is daunting, challenging and very rewarding," Medigovich said. "Task Force Condor has aggressively trained for the mission and is up to the challenge."

Before the 40th CAB's Headquarters and Headquarters Company left Fresno for Texas, a Yellow Ribbon farewell ceremony was held Nov. 28 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building in Clovis, Calif. At the event, the band played, the colors were cased and the berets worn in garrison were

replaced with patrol caps. Sgt. 1st Class David Coss, the 40th CAB's readiness noncommissioned officer, thanked family and friends in attendance for their support.

"You have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us during these difficult and often trying times, and in many cases shouldered burdens that would normally have been ours alone," Coss said.

Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, set the tone for the mission by recalling the accomplishments of Baron Friedrich Von Steuben, who transformed a ragtag collection of Revolutionary War militiamen into a professional fighting force.

"We're there to do what he did here," Harrel said.

PHOTO BY 1ST LT. JASON SWEENEY

BG Miller meets with 640th troops on Fort Hood

**Story and photo by Spc. Matthew Wright
640th Air Support Battalion**

Brig. Gen. Charlotte L. Miller, assistant adjutant general-Army for the California National Guard, visited the 640th Air Support Battalion (ASB) on Fort Hood, Texas, in December. The 640th is one of multiple units that will deploy to Iraq under the command of the CNG's 40th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Miller's objectives for the visit were to assess how the 640th Soldiers' morale was holding up and how their predeployment training was progressing.

"I wanted to address the Soldiers and see if the battalion is meeting its goals, and to sit on the briefings to see what the 640th ASB is all about," Miller said. "I believe it's not only meeting its goals, but also exceeding them."

She visited several sites where the troops trained on equipment such as a mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle, or MRAP, which may be used for convoys. She also watched Soldiers fuel helicopters and run the airfield, and she visited the battalion's tactical operation center for a briefing by the ASB commander, Lt. Col. Louis E. Carmona.

While on Fort Hood, Miller also spent time with Soldiers of the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), who were training for the CSSB's Iraq deployment.



Brig. Gen. Charlotte L. Miller, assistant adjutant general-Army for the California National Guard, addresses Soldiers of the 640th Aviation Support Battalion during a Dec. 10 visit to North Fort Hood, Texas, where the 640th was training for a deployment to Iraq.

National Guard chief visits troops on Southwest border mission

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

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) made a stop in California to visit the Soldiers and Airmen of the Southwest border mission Dec. 14.

Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley and a handful of other key leaders from NGB and Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento came together to discuss the future of the border operation and to get some face-time with the troops.

"It was great that he came out and wanted to know what we were doing on the front lines, instead of just staying back and talking about it," said Spc. Christopher Eade, who works as an entry identification team (EIT) member at a mobile radar truck in Point Loma, Calif. "Now he's got a firsthand look at exactly the things that we are doing."

The lasting impression of seeing the National Guard's top officer visit and test equipment at one of the 17 EIT sites manned by California National Guard members was enormous, Eade said.

"I came out to California to meet with the adjutant general this morning, but more importantly to get out and meet with the Soldiers and the Airmen who are performing this very vital mission for our national security," McKinley said at a coastal EIT site. He emphasized that he is "most impressed" with the work he saw from the California National Guard troops on the mission.

McKinley also met with Customs and Border Protection agents, Immigration and Custom Enforcement officials, Coast Guard members and Joint Task Force Sierra leadership.

"We've seen a bunch of interagency partners today. ... It's great to see

the collaboration," McKinley continued. "This whole mission of assisting our law enforcement agencies is very important to the National Guard."

After receiving several briefings on apprehension-assists (the CNG has assisted in more than 1,200 apprehensions in less than four months since the mission began) and contraband discoveries (including more than 50 tons of marijuana found through the Tunnel Task Force in November), McKinley joined JTF Sierra Commander Col. William "Rudy" Arruda for an aerial tour of the border and EIT sites.

"It was just wonderful having the chief of the National Guard Bureau come out here and see the ground-based operation of what Joint Task Force Sierra is all about," Arruda said after the tour. "Leadership visits like this always mean a lot to the men and women serving in the California National Guard."

This visit came on the heels of a similar visit from Assistant Secretary of Defense Dennis M. McCarthy and Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones, commander of Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos, earlier in December. McKinley said the opinions expressed by McCarthy

and Jones mirrored his own following his tour of the CNG border sites: superior motivation and excellence.

After their San Diego tour, McKinley and other NGB leaders headed to Arizona to further expand their view and knowledge of the Southwest border mission and visit with more of the 1,200 Soldiers and Airmen who have been activated across the four border states to assist in homeland security.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA INIGO

Crossings down, seizures up with NG on border

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

Illegal border crossings are down and narcotics and weapons seizures have increased since National Guard troops joined a multi-agency effort to boost Southwest border security, a National Guard leader said Nov. 3 in Washington.

In the last year, with National Guard support, illegal immigration has declined 23 percent, narcotics seizures have increased 16 percent and weapons seizures have increased 30 percent, according to Army Maj. Gen. Peter Aylward, special assistant to the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"There's some great work being done by the interagency partners, state and local as well, to get after, frankly, what is an unbelievable threat to our nation — that's narco-terrorism and transnational threats writ large," Aylward told the Defense Orientation Conference Association, which works with the Defense and State departments to increase citizens' understanding of national security issues.

Aylward's responsibilities include overseeing the deployment of about 1,200 National Guard troops to assist Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents securing the approximately 2,000-mile border from Texas to California. Those troops are in addition to the National Guard's counterdrug initiative, which has been active for more than 30 years.

The additional National Guard troops are assisting CBP with entry identification teams and ICE with criminal analysts. The entry identification teams use military-acquired skills at observation or listening posts and report criminal activity to CBP. Guard troops do not get involved in apprehension or prosecution. The criminal analysts draw on the linguistic strengths of the National Guard to assist ICE.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, three tools have been added to the traditional list of military, diplomatic, information and economic instruments of U.S. power, Aylward said. Those are intelligence, law enforcement and finance.

"If you follow the money, you'll eventually get yourself back to some of that criminal activity that funds some of the real bad — Hezbollah, Hamas — extremist groups around the world," Aylward said, referring to illegal activity on the Southwest border.

The United States has about 7,000 miles of border protected by almost 20,000 Customs and Border Protection agents.

Of the 250 million total annual Southwest border crossings, Aylward estimated about 650 involve bad actors from countries of special interest.

"The real challenge here ... is your nefarious actors, the rogue actors who come through the border, and it's the other-than-Mexican category that we're talking about here," he said. "It's this drug-related, narco-terrorism type activity that is the biggest concern."

The all-volunteer, yearlong deployment of National Guard troops is intended to support Customs and Border Protection while the agency recruits, trains and deploys 1,070 new agents.



TOP: Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, speaks with Mark Moody, a patrol agent in Customs and Border Protection's San Diego sector, about the agency's collaboration with the California National Guard during a California visit Dec. 14. LEFT: McKinley tests California National Guard surveillance equipment near San Diego.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JIM GREENHILL

National Guard celebrates 374 years of service

Gov. Schwarzenegger earns California Legion of Merit

By Brandon Honig

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

National Guard members in California marked 374 years of service to this country Dec. 14 in a ceremony that also celebrated the legacy of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, whose seven-year term as commander in chief of the California National Guard came to a close only a few weeks later.

On Dec. 13, 1636, a colonial act authorized the creation of the first three militia regiments in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Those regiments became the forerunners of the U.S. military and the foundation of the modern National Guard.

One day and 374 years later, Schwarzenegger credited the Guard for creating a country with extraordinary might and unparalleled opportunities for its people.

"You started with very little 374 years ago, and as America and California grew, so did you," he said. "America grew to become the most powerful country in world ... and it is only because of one reason: It is because of you. You have fought for hundreds of years to make this the greatest nation in history.

"No one understands that more than an immigrant like myself, who came over here, who had dreams at the age of 15 to come to America ... and then to see firsthand that it is the land of opportunity. It's not just some rap that is being talked about overseas. Everything I've accomplished in my life is because of California and America."

Schwarzenegger won 13 world bodybuilding titles and starred in numerous Hollywood blockbusters before being elected governor in 2003.

"As governor, I've had many pleasures," he continued, "but the greatest honor and pleasure has been to be your commander in chief."

Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, praised Schwarzenegger for his many initiatives to improve care for service members and their families. She pointed out his successful efforts to build veterans homes in California, establish an education benefit for CNG members and create Operation Welcome Home, a first-in-the-nation program to connect veterans with local,



state and federal benefits.

"Through your unwavering support and tireless pursuit of improved service member and family care, you have shown that your words of praise for the Guard were always heartfelt," Kight said. "You understand our sacrifice, you recognize our accomplishments, you acknowledge our achievements and you hail us as 'the real action heroes.' Now it's our turn ... to recognize you for your leadership."

Kight presented Schwarzenegger with the California Legion of Merit in recognition of his achievements as governor.

"Governor Schwarzenegger's distinctive service significantly furthered the interests of the uniformed men, women and civilians of the California Military Department and the citizens of the state of California," the award states. "His leadership at all levels directly contributed to ensuring that California never forgets the debt of gratitude we owe to all those who go in harm's way in the defense of liberty."



TOP: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, center, cuts the cake for the National Guard's 374th birthday at a Dec. 14 ceremony in Sacramento. He is assisted by a Soldier, an Airman, a Guard spouse and a civilian employer of Guard members. ABOVE: Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Nelan, right, and Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, center, enter the celebration.

PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

Shriver recognized with Order of St. Joan of Arc

California first lady Maria Shriver was honored with the Order of St. Joan of Arc during a Dec. 15 ceremony at the Capitol in Sacramento.

The Order of St. Joan of Arc is the top volunteerism award given by the United States Armor Association. It was established in 1986 to honor women who have made significant contributions to the morale, welfare and spirit of armor and cavalry units.

"I'm so honored to receive this," Shriver said. "[Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger] and I have such great respect for all of you who serve our country. I am glad for any small contribution I can make, and I will continue to work for our dedicated, brave service members after [Schwarzenegger] leaves office."

Among Shriver's contributions since her husband became governor in 2003, she procured and distributed thousands of pre-paid phone cards that were mailed to

troops overseas to keep in touch with their families. She hosted National Guard teen dependents who assisted in packing care packages for deployed troops. And she sponsored two Guard daughters — Moranda Hern and Kaylei Deakin — who had a vision to bring military daughters together for mutual support. That resulted in Shriver hosting the first Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs Teen Girls Conference last March.

"Ms. Shriver's sponsorship of the teen dependents and Soldiers of the California Army National Guard has helped them through the trials and tribulations of deployments and reunion," Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, wrote in a memorandum nominating Shriver for the award. "The First Lady's actions contributed significantly to the increased morale, spirit and welfare of our Armor and Cavalry units and Family Support organizations within the California Army National Guard."



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

Jerry Brown sworn in as California governor

By 1st Lt. Will Martin

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

With ranks of Oakland Military Institute cadets standing nearby, Edmund "Jerry" Brown was sworn in as California's governor and the CNG's new commander in chief at the state Capitol on Jan. 3. It is the 72-year-old political veteran's third term in gubernatorial office, the first beginning when he was just 36 in 1975.

He takes office in 2011 with a National Guard force that is fully engaged in armed conflicts, international partnerships and a host of domestic missions. Challenge, however, is something common to all of Californians, Brown said in his inaugural speech.

"(In 1975) it was the ending of the Vietnam War and a recession caused by the Middle East oil embargo. Now... it is our soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, and our economy caught in the undertow of a deep and prolonged recession," Brown said. "The year ahead will demand courage and sacrifice."

Rather than wallow in pessimism, however, Brown called his listening audience to action, reminding them of the Californian people's reputation for "pioneering

spirit" and "capacity to meet life's challenges."

Brown's history with the CNG is marked most clearly by his founding of the aforementioned Oakland Military Institute (full story below) while serving as that city's mayor, but the face of the Guard has changed considerably since he first took the governor's office 36 years ago.

Brown now commands a National Guard that has evolved into a full-spectrum fighting force, integral to contingency and domestic operations on the part of the U.S. armed forces. And the state's force is among the nation's largest, and arguably, its most dynamic.

Brown's comments seemed to intimate that a similar warrior ethos will be essential to all Californians in the days to come, and he called for the state's citizens to recreate a heritage of triumph amid struggles.

"Every Californian is heir to some form of powerful tradition, some history of overcoming challenges much more daunting than those we face today," said Brown. "Stories of courage abound. And it is not over."

Brown fought to bring OMI to fruition

By 1st Lt. Will Martin

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

In his recent inaugural address, Gov. Jerry Brown spoke to the need for resolve on the part of Californians, as the state faces some daunting challenges in the years ahead. Any question of Brown's own determination was answered a decade ago, when he spearheaded the founding of the Oakland Military Institute (OMI), despite overwhelming opposition from the city of which he was then mayor.

From the start, Brown faced an uphill battle in establishing a public charter school for "at-risk" youth based on military discipline and a college preparatory curriculum. The price tag — around \$3 million — was a tough sell to the Oakland school board and Alameda County officials. But with the help of then-Governor Gray Davis and the California National Guard, Brown realized his dream, and in 2001, was granted a charter by the state Board of Education to establish the institute.

The academy is based on the California Cadet Corps curriculum, and each OMI cadet is part of the Cadet Corps. Founded in 1911, the Cadet Corps, according to the OMI website, aims to "develop leadership, citizenship, scholarship, patriotism, basic military knowledge, and health and wellness."

Personnel from the California National Guard and State Military Re-



Cadets from the Oakland Military Institute (OMI) stand at attention on stage during the inaugural ceremony for incoming California Gov. Jerry Brown. Brown was instrumental in founding the OMI during his tenure as mayor of Oakland.

serve maintain and run the Institute, ensuring its standards of discipline and instructions are in keeping with the values common to the CNG and U.S. armed forces.

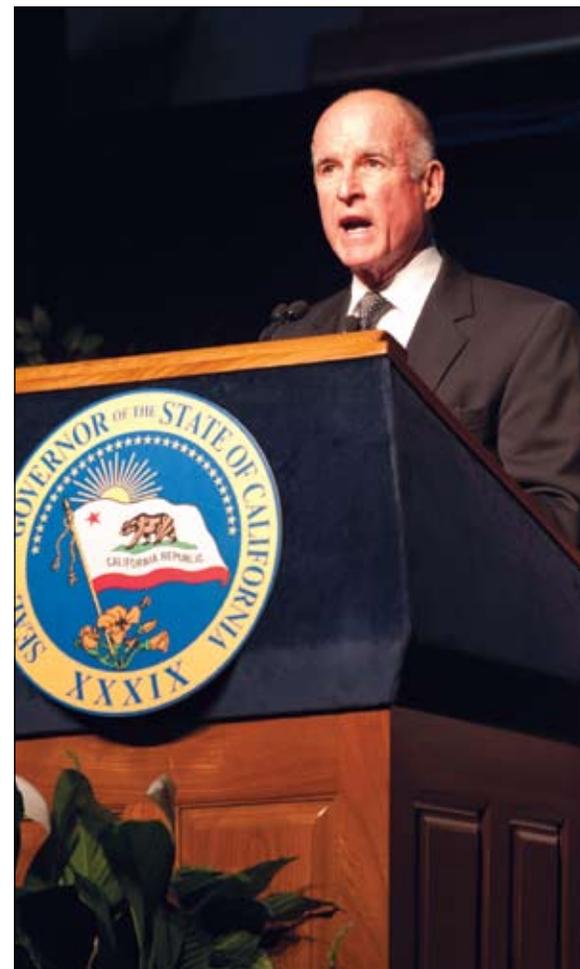
Brown's philosophy behind founding the school was both simple and noble: Since military academies have long benefitted children from wealthy families, why not provide poor families with the same chance?

And benefit, they have. Last year, about 25 percent of OMI graduates

attended University of California institutions — a rate 20 times that of other Oakland public schools — as well as other nationally prestigious colleges like Yale and West Point. The academy's commitment to character development has also reaped benefits for the surrounding community. In 2010 the cadets rendered more than 7,000 hours of community service, earning OMI the western regional Jefferson Award for Public Service.

"Young people like structure," Brown said in a 2001 interview, shortly after OMI's founding. "You gotta have structure where everyone knows the story. Form creates clarity."

One thing remains clear: The National Guard's commitment to its youth programs is reflected by their new commander in chief.



Gov. Jerry Brown addresses the crowd after a swearing-in ceremony Jan. 3 at the state Capitol in Sacramento. In his inaugural address, Brown made an appeal for character in tough economic times.

PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

Gov. Jerry Brown: A quick look back

- Edmund "Jerry" Brown was born in San Francisco on April 7, 1938.
- His father, Pat Brown, served as California's governor from 1959 to 1967.
- Brown first followed in his father's footsteps in 1974, when he was elected governor. He was re-elected in 1978. During his first administration, Brown defied labels, proving to be a mix of fiscal conservatism and liberal social policies.
- Brown returned to political success when he was elected mayor of Oakland in 1998. As mayor, he spearheaded the formation of the Oakland Military Institute in 2001.
- Brown served as state attorney general from 2007 until his recent swearing-in as governor and commander in chief of the California National Guard.

Sources: www.jerrybrown.org,
www.NPR.org
www.wikipedia.org

"I believe that had I been sent to a military academy as my mother and father threatened, I would have been president a long time ago."

— Then-Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown in 2002

Sgt. (CA) John Faulk receives a Purple Heart and Army Commendation Medal from Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, adjutant general of the California National Guard, on Dec. 12 at Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) in Sacramento. Faulk, formerly of Battery C, 1-143rd Field Artillery Regiment, received the Purple Heart in recognition of an injury sustained in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Faulk was serving as truck commander on a combat logistics patrol Nov. 11, 2007, when an improvised explosive device detonated on the driver's side of the vehicle. Faulk sustained a level II concussion and was evacuated to Germany, where he was treated for mild traumatic brain injury. After two months in Germany, he was transferred to Fort Dix, N.J., to receive treatment for another 12 months. After transferring back to California, he received another year of treatment at the Warrior Transition Unit in Sacramento. Faulk retired for medical reasons in January 2010 and joined the California State Military Reserve. He now works on the security force at JFHQ.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Flagg



Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, operations director at Joint Forces Command-Naples, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Response Force, prepares to board a helicopter at Sather Air Base, Iraq, to visit the troops of NATO Training Mission-Iraq, which is assisting in the development of Iraqi security forces' training structures and institutions. Wade, who served as adjutant general of the California National Guard from September 2005 to February 2010, is the sole member of the U.S. Army National Guard at the Naples, Italy, NATO headquarters.

Photo by Joint Forces Command-Naples

Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, presents the Order of St. Maurice to (left to right) Sgt. 1st Class John Martin of the 1-185th Combined Arms Battalion, Sgt. Maj. David Budek of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Syzdek, formerly the command sergeant major for Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos. The awards were presented during the 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Military Ball in San Diego on Dec. 4. The Order of St. Maurice is awarded by the National Infantry Association and the chief of infantry of the U.S. Army to individuals who have contributed significantly to the infantry in ways that stand out in the eyes of their seniors, subordinates and peers while demonstrating the highest standards of integrity, moral character and professional competence.

Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey



Roger Brautigan receives the... general of the California Na... the California Department of... other accomplishments, Bra... California, secured legislatio... service members and launch... connect veterans with the b... at the California Department... outreach," the award states... veterans throughout Califor... Photo by Master Sgt. David



...e California Legion of Merit from Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, adjutant
...tional Guard, for exceptionally meritorious service as secretary of
...of Veterans Affairs from June 2004 through December 2010. Among
...utigan oversaw the construction and upgrade of veterans homes in
...n that provides special license plates to family members of fallen
...ned Operation Welcome Home, a first-in-the-nation program to
...enefits they have earned. "Secretary Brautigan changed the culture
...nt of Veterans Affairs to a modern operation focused on aggressive
... "His leadership and selfless service has improved the well being of
...nia."

Photo by David J. Loeffler



Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Matey accepts a sword signifying the change of responsibility for 1st
Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, succeeding Command Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Almasy,
far right, during a Dec. 4 ceremony in Modesto, Calif. Matey accepted the sword from
Command Sgt. Maj. Harold London of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which is
the higher headquarters for the I-184th.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Vance.



Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Goff receives the U.S. Legion of Merit from Col. Robert Spano, commander of the
1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, during a ceremony June 5 in Sacramento. Goff was recognized
for exceptionally meritorious service while serving in various positions, most recently as aviation material maintenance
officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment. Goff received his
commission as a second lieutenant in the active duty Army in 1969. He served as an aero-rifle platoon leader from March
1971 to July 1972 in Vietnam, where he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge
and nine Air Medals. After leaving active duty, Goff served the National Guard in six states, finally settling in the California
National Guard. He became a warrant officer in 1980 to continue to serve as an aviator. Goff retired in 2009. During his
military and civilian medical evacuation pilot careers, Goff has amassed more than 15,000 accident-free flight hours.

Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler



Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Army chief of staff,
addresses troops Dec. 24 on Camp Arifjan,
Kuwait, thanking them and their families for
their continued sacrifice. In addition Chief Warrant
Officer 3 Anthony Lambert of the California
National Guard was promoted by Casey that day.
Lambert, a member of the 1106th Theater Aviation
Sustainment Maintenance Group, has contributed
23 years of military service. "It was truly an honor
to be promoted by the Army chief of staff, definitely
a once-in-a-lifetime event," the Clovis, Calif., native
said. "My family being present is the only thing that
could've made the day better."

Photo by 3rd Army Public Affairs

The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness

SAVE THE DATE



19-22 May 2011
San Diego, Calif.

California Military Ball



Save the date

Saturday, 21 May 2011

San Diego, Calif.

More information and invitation to come

Help for the Holidays

California's communities and its National Guard enjoy a close-knit relationship throughout every year. That kinship is rarely more evident, however, than during the holiday season, when the spirit of giving inspires civilians and service members alike to pitch in to take care of each other. The California National Guard is grateful for all the wonderful citizens and organizations who support our Soldiers and Airmen, and we are proud to give back.

One of our strongest supporters each holiday season is the Rancho Cordova Elks Lodge, which provided more than 1,800 Thanksgiving turkeys for California National Guard families and fed more than 1,000 CNG families on Christmas through its Catch the Spirit program.

Their Christmas efforts this year were combined with those of Yellow Ribbon America, a nonprofit that gives toys and gifts to families of National Guard, Reserve and active duty service members. Since its founding in 2003, Yellow Ribbon America has given more than 450,000 gifts to California military families. The organization's contributions this year helped more than 1,000 CNG families provide gifts for their children.

The CNG supported both of those organizations' efforts by transporting the items throughout the state on an Air Guard C-130J plane and in Army Guard vehicles.

CNG members also supported Operation Gratitude, a nonprofit that sends packages of food, hygiene products, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation to service members overseas. Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general, and other CNG personnel traveled to Van Nuys, Calif., to pack boxes to be sent overseas to brighten the troops' holidays away from home.

The Guard's holiday efforts, however, go far beyond helping nonprofits provide for our troops.

Each year, the Gold Rush Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association carries out two holiday events. Members of the chapter, which is almost entirely composed of CNG Soldiers, visit every patient at the Sacramento Veterans Affairs Medical Center and deliver gift bags of warm clothing and other items. Kight and Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, accompanied the Gold Rush warrant officers on the hospital visit.

The Gold Rush Chapter also delivers gifts each year to the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento, which cares for abused and neglected children and their families. This year, the chapter provided sneakers valued at \$1,500 for the children. That event is combined each year with toy and shoe donations from the Employees Council of the California Military Department. More than 40 employees of Joint Force Headquarters volunteered their time at the receiving home this year, including Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Ellsworth, who is welcomed each year as jolly St. Nick.

Employees at Joint Force Headquarters, including the Command Section, also volunteer each year at the Sacramento Food Bank, giving their time to sort clothes, food and other items for needy families in the capital.

One of the CNG's newest charity drives took place in San Diego this year. The troops of Joint Task Force Sierra, which was established in September to support Customs and Border Protection, spearheaded a toy drive and a food drive to ensure others have a better holiday season. The toys were delivered to the women and children of Becky's House, a YWCA facility that houses and protects victims of domestic violence. The food items, meanwhile, were provided to National Guard members who were having a tough time making ends meet during the holiday season.

These are just a few of the wonderful programs run by and for National Guard members across the state and throughout the year. The Guard appreciates all the contributions of this state's great citizens, and we look forward to serving them in the new year.

Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

Sacramento Food Bank



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

Operation Gratitude



PHOTO BY LT. COL. ANGEL M. ORTIZ

Catch the Spirit



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. (CA) JESSICA COOPER

Sacramento VA Medical Center



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

Joint Task Force Sierra



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA INIGO

January



MG Wade resigns as TAG

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II announced he would step down after more than four years as adjutant general. After taking the helm in September 2005, Wade started the most comprehensive shift in direction the California National Guard had ever attempted. The Guard needed to shift from a strategic reserve to a globally deployable operational force; long-standing equipment shortfalls had to be addressed; new programs needed to be created to sustain the mental health of service members facing multiple deployments; and family care programs had to be developed for deploying Soldiers and Airmen. Wade was able to reshape California's National Guard into one of the most effective in the country. In February 2010, he traveled to Italy to serve as deputy chief of staff for operations at Joint Forces Command-Naples, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Response Force.



162nd earns OUA

The 162nd Combat Communications Group won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its exceptionally meritorious service from Nov. 1, 2007, through Sept. 30, 2008. During that time, the group's Airmen spent more than 3,000 man-days supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Additionally during that period, one combat communications squadron received an "Excellent" grade on its Operation Readiness Inspection and three squadrons received "Outstanding" grades on their Communications Security Inspections.

February



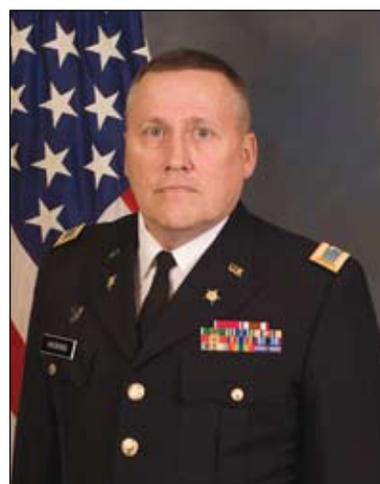
BG Kight leads CNG

Brig. Gen. Mary Kight assumed command of the California National Guard, breaking barriers for minorities and stepping into the shoes of a revered general. Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II relinquished command Feb. 2 during a ceremony at Mather Air Field, Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger then named Kight the new adjutant general, calling her a proven, courageous, loyal and honorable leader. Kight is the first woman to serve as adjutant general of the CNG; she formerly served as its first female assistant adjutant general. She is the first African-American woman to serve as an adjutant general in the United States. Kight joined the CNG in 1984 after serving in the active duty Air Force and the Nebraska Air National Guard.

March

Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs

After more than a year of planning and organizing, two daughters of California National Guardsmen brought teenage girls together from across California on March 12-14. Kaylei Deakin and Moranda Hern unveiled their Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs initiative during The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness in 2009. The next year, the Sisterhood attracted more than 100 girls to Clovis, Calif., to share their experiences as teenage daughters of service members.



Haskins named assistant adjutant general

Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, selected then-Colonel Lawrence A. Haskins to serve as the assistant adjutant general. Kight served in that role until she was sworn in as adjutant general in February. Haskins was promoted to brigadier general in May. Preceding his appointment as assistant adjutant general, Haskins served as chief of staff, California Army National Guard, and as assistant division commander, support, 40th Infantry Division.

Flaughter promoted to general

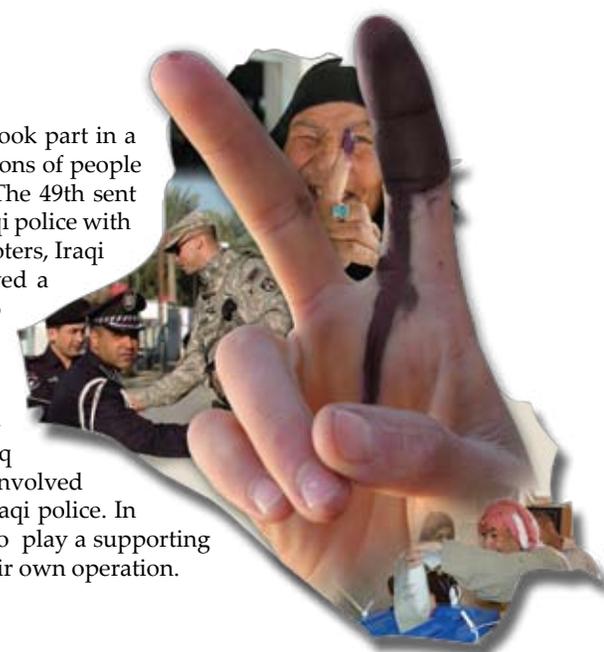
Jonathan S. Flaughter was promoted to brigadier general March 22 at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento.

Flaughter was commissioned in 1977 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at North Carolina State University. He was awarded a regular commission while on active duty in 1982. Flaughter became an Air National Guardsman in 1995 and has since served as a traditional Guardsman and as a full-time technician.



49th MPs support historic Iraq election

The 49th Military Police Brigade took part in a historic effort March 7, when millions of people voted in Iraq's national election. The 49th sent Soldiers into Baghdad to assist Iraqi police with various security operations. The voters, Iraqi police and 49th MP Soldiers braved a barrage of incidents intended to keep voters away from the polls. In Baghdad alone there were more than 120 incidents, including explosions and other types of attacks. When the 49th served in Iraq in 2005 and 2006, it was strongly involved with election security, directing Iraqi police. In 2010, however, the 49th was able to play a supporting role while Iraqi authorities ran their own operation.



April



CNG Soldier wins combatives tourney

Staff Sgt. Steven Elliot of the California National Guard won first place in the cruiser-weight division at the third annual Army National Guard Combatives Tournament on Fort Benning, Ga. Elliot forced a first-round submission to win the championship. A total of 97 Soldiers competed in seven weight classifications during the two-day event.

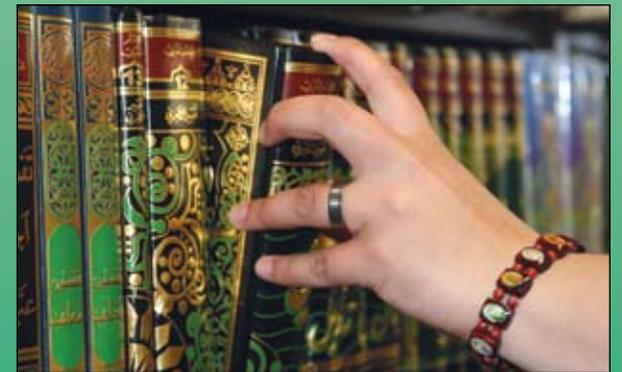


TAG visits troops in Iraq

Brig. Gen. Mary Kight visited Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 49th Military Police Brigade, on Camp Victory, Iraq, to confer with Soldiers and Airmen. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, said she wanted to meet the deployed CNG members and give them a chance to question her and voice their concerns. The Fairfield, Calif.-based HHC had been in Iraq since October 2009. Kight also met with Soldiers of the The CNG's 223rd Financial Management Detachment and Airmen of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing who were deployed to Iraq.

Learning Arabic in Los Alamitos

Soldiers of the 250th Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion hosted a two-week Arabic language immersion course on Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos, which drastically cut training costs while exceeding training goals. The course served as an alternative to various federal language schools around the country that run 30- to 180-day training cycles. The CNG saved money by using the lodging, classroom and catering facilities on JFTB-Los Alamitos instead. Seven student linguists attended the inaugural course. In addition to CNG Soldiers, Georgia, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Virginia National Guard members participated.



'Dragon Slayers' deploy

More than 300 "Dragon Slayers" of the 224th Sustainment Brigade departed for Fort Hood, Texas, where the Soldiers completed six weeks of training before deploying for a yearlong tour in Iraq. From Iraq's southern port of Basra to its northern border with Syria, the 224th was responsible for managing supplies, transportation and maintenance support for nearly two-thirds of the coalition's area of operation in Iraq.

SSG East wins Region 7

Staff Sgt. Michael East of the CNG's 95th Civil Support Team took top honors at the 2010 Army National Guard Region 7 Non-commissioned Officer of the Year competition in April, besting NCOs from seven other states and territories. East gained entry in the competition by winning the California Army National Guard's NCO of the Year competition in October 2009. Pfc. Joaquin Brambila Montero won the CNG's Soldier of the Year competition in October and earned a berth in the Regional Soldier of the Year competition, which was held concurrently with the NCO of the Year contest. With his victory, East moved on to the national Best Warrior Competition.



CNG prepares for fire season

CNG units began training for the annual fire season, dropping loads of water from helicopters and planes during exercises in California and South Carolina. The 146th Airlift Wing performed its weeklong annual training and certification with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems II (MAFFS) in South Carolina alongside nearly 400 Air National Guard and U.S. Forest Service personnel from around the country. MAFFS, which is loaded onto a C-130 plane, is capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant or water on wildfires. Meanwhile, eight CNG helicopter crews trained in April with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The CNG's UH-60 Black Hawk and Pave Hawk helicopters can drop 660 gallons of water per bucket, while its CH-47 Chinook helicopters can deliver 2,000 gallons of water.

May



670th MPs return from Afghanistan

In May, 175 Soldiers of the 670th Military Police Company returned from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. Among other duties, the 670th stood up elements of the new Detention Facility in Parwan while providing security at the facility's predecessor, Bagram Theater Internment Facility.



California launches Operation Welcome Home

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger launched Operation Welcome Home, a first-in-the-nation, statewide campaign to connect every returning veteran with the services they need to transition successfully from the battlefield to the home front. This operation will allow veterans straightforward and easy access to benefits and services including employment assistance, education opportunities, housing assistance, health care needs and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. Schwarzenegger appointed Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Nelan executive director of the program. Nelan is the assistant adjutant general, Army Division, California National Guard. As part of Operation Welcome Home, the governor introduced the California Veteran Corps, 325 veterans hired to directly contact each of California's returning veterans at least three times in the first six months of separation from active duty.

June



Medevac team earns top awards

Combat medic Staff Sgt. Emmett Spraktes was presented the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest award for valor, and three members of his crew from Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, received the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device in recognition of heroic actions in Afghanistan in 2009. Spraktes, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brandon Erdmann, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott St. Aubin and Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Gifford rescued five patients from a fire in the Pech River Valley despite heavy incoming fire during a mission that also earned the crew the Army Aviation Association of America's Air/Sea Rescue Award for 2010. Erdmann is a member of the Wyoming National Guard who served in Afghanistan with the California National Guard's Company C, 1-168th GSAB.



CNG youth academy is nation's most progressive

The Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy in Los Alamitos, Calif., was named the most progressive Youth Challenge Academy nationwide in 2010, the first year it was eligible for an award. Sunburst, the newer of two California academies, was recognized for its use of technology and for catapulting its cadets successfully into the future. There are 32 Youth Challenge Academies nationwide. Sunburst, which was established in 2007, is a 5 1/2-month, residential, military-style school to help troubled students earn high school credits while developing leadership skills and self-esteem.

July

49th MPs complete Iraqi police training mission

The 49th Military Police Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company furled its colors July 27 in Iraq and ended its nationwide police training mission. The 49th was the last brigade to have responsibility for training Iraqi officers at more than 1,200 police stations; training of Iraqi police was decentralized upon the HHC's departure. The HHC performed a similar police training mission in 2005 and 2006. Also during its recent deployment, the 49th had administrative responsibility for Cropper Theater Internment Facility, a 1,600-detainee facility that received \$48 million in new infrastructure before being transferred to Iraqi officials.



A growing problem

The California National Guard's Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug joined more than 20 federal, state and local agencies in July to eradicate illegally grown marijuana on public lands in Fresno, Madera and Tulare counties; reclaim the damaged forest; and educate youths about positive choices and a drug-free lifestyle. Operation Trident resulted in more than 100 arrests and the seizure of nearly 500,000 marijuana plants with a street value of about \$1.7 billion. Authorities also reclaimed 303 acres of public land that had been used for the illegal operations.

August



ADT returns

The 40th Infantry Division returned its 63-member Agribusiness Development Team from Afghanistan after spending a year helping Afghan farmers increase crop yield and treat livestock. In addition to educating farmers about farming techniques and setting up a demonstration farm, the team held 15 events to vaccinate animals, often treating more than 1,000 in a day.

Predator milestone

The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing again distinguished itself as a trailblazer for the Air National Guard's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) mission, surpassing 50,000 flying hours in the MQ-1 Predator UAV. The 50,000 hours includes 1,383 training hours flown by the 163rd's Predator Formal Training Unit, which stood up in March 2009 and has trained more than 60 active duty and Air National Guard Predator crews. In November 2006, the 163rd became the first Air National Guard unit to receive a UAV mission.



September



CNG supports Southwest border mission

About 260 CNG troops deployed to the California-Mexico border to support Customs and Border Protection. The deployment supported a plan presented by President Barack Obama in May to send 1,200 National Guard troops to the national border in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California to combat illicit networks trafficking in people, drugs, illegal weapons and money.



CA provides education benefit

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger presented a plaque to Sgt. Ryan Anderson of Joint Force Headquarters on Sept. 8 for being the first student to complete a degree using funds from the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (EAAP). Anderson used a grant from the EAAP to complete his Master of Arts degree in education from the University of California, Davis. He is one of 253 service members who received money for school through the EAAP during 2010, the first year of the new education assistance program. In total, they received about \$820,000.

October



Meritorious cavalry unit

After more than four years, 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment, was recognized with a Meritorious Unit Commendation for exceptional performance of its security operations mission in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2005 and 2006. The squadron's primary duty was to keep Camp Delta safe and secure and to ensure all detainees were treated fairly and humanely.



BG Antonetti steps down

Brig. Gen. Louis J. Antonetti retired after 39 years of service that included command of the California Army National Guard. At the time of his retirement, Antonetti was the deputy adjutant general, resource services division. Prior to that position, Antonetti served as director of plans, operations and security for the California Military Department. Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel succeeded Antonetti as commander of the California Army National Guard and deputy adjutant general.



New CA laws benefit service members

The California Military Department helped spur the passage of several state bills to benefit service members. Among the most noteworthy, AB 2365 ensures a deploying service member can recover damages, attorney fees and court costs if a mortgage lender fails to grant a loan deferment, as is required by law. Additionally, SB 1075 requires colleges to assist service members in making up coursework missed because of military service.

November



MG Lucas steps down

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. 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.



Resilience training contributes to Comprehensive Soldier Fitness

Capt. (CA) Lance Friis
CNG Behavioral Health Officer



Comprehensive Soldier Fitness (CSF) was introduced by the Army in the fall of 2009. The intent of CSF is to increase resilience and enhance performance by proactively developing five of the World Health Organization dimensions of strength: physical, emotional, social, spiritual and family. The Army has always emphasized physical strength, but the wear and tear on Soldiers and their families due to multiple deployments brought an awareness of the necessity to take a comprehensive approach to developing and sustaining effective Soldiers.

Resilience is the ability to bounce back after a setback or difficult experience. While times have changed, war has not. It is still a brutal business outside the realm of normal and desired experience. The goal of CSF is not to have Soldiers ignore or forget the trauma associated with combat, but rather to develop skills needed to cope and resolve these personal experiences. The idea is to replace post-traumatic stress with post-traumatic growth.

Military Resilience Training (MRT) is the mechanism used to teach these skills. This is not a one-time brief or a check-off-the-box requirement. After an introduction to the basic concepts, resilience is a skill that requires practice and encourages further learning. Re-

silience is about personal growth, and every experience in life — positive as well as negative — enhances our ability to face challenges and prevail.

MRT is now being taught in basic training and advanced individual training. By the end of 2011, these skills will be taught in all leadership courses.

The goal of MRT is not to create therapists out of Soldiers. Rather, giving Soldiers the skills needed to cope with difficult situations, both personal and professional, will result in a stronger and healthier force. Soldiers will bounce back more readily from crises, and the benefits will be experienced by them and their families.

There are six MRT competencies:

- **Self-awareness** is the ability to identify your thoughts, emotions and behaviors and to recognize the patterns in your thinking and behavior.
- **Self-regulation** describes your skill in controlling impulses, emotions and behaviors in order to achieve your goals.
- **Optimism** allows you to hunt for what

is good, remain realistic, maintain hope and have confidence in yourself and your team.

- **Mental agility** permits you to think flexibly, avoid unproductive distractions and accurately take other perspectives.
- **Strength of Character** includes the knowledge of your greatest strengths, as well as knowledge of personal aspects that require growth, and how to use your strengths to overcome challenges and meet goals.
- **Connections** describes the benefits of strong relationships, positive and effective communication, empathy and a willingness to ask for help and offer help to those you lead.

The skills taught in MRT expand and enhance these six competencies. Thinking styles that control emotions and behaviors are examined. Thinking traps that lead to poor decisions and ineffective communication and relationships are revealed. The ability to overcome a natural bias toward negativity and maintain a realistic and positive perspective is explored. The ability to

utilize your own strengths and the strengths of those you lead in order to meet mission objectives is examined. Participants learn to more effectively communicate with others and to listen more efficiently.

Victory University at Fort Jackson, S.C., is the home of the MRT program. Soldiers who complete this 10-day course will earn designation as master resilience trainers. A Soldier must hold a rank of E-6 or above to be considered for the course.

Master trainers will return to their units and teach resilience skills to their subordinates, peers and leaders. Under Army policy, there should be a master resilience trainer at each brigade and battalion. Visit the Army Training Requirements and Resources System at www.atrrs.army.mil for program dates and availability. For more on CSF, visit the CNG Behavioral Health Service website, www.calguard.ca.gov/mh.

The active duty Army requires four hours each month be devoted to resilience training. While this is not practical for the reserve force, guidance is being developed to effectively deliver this training. For further information, contact Capt. Lance Friis, CNG behavioral health officer at lance.friis@us.army.mil.

Trial Defense Service provides Soldiers counsel

By CNG Trial Defense Service

The California Army National Guard Trial Defense Service defends National Guard Soldiers in Title 32 status in California, Arizona, Hawaii and Guam. Services include representing Soldiers charged with military criminal offenses at trial; representing Soldiers during criminal investigations and before elimination or grade reduction boards; and counseling Soldiers regarding nonjudicial punishment and various adverse administrative actions.

Prior to 1978, Army defense attorneys worked for the staff judge advocate, who advised the convening authority on matters pertaining to military justice. Judge advocate officers provided defense counsel to Soldiers in need. A system in which the staff judge advocate simultaneously advised the convening authority and detailed defense counsel, however, had inherent conflicts of interest.

In 1978 the Army initiated the creation of a stand-alone organization of defense attorneys. In 1980 the Army Legal Services Agency formally established the Army Trial Defense Service (TDS) as part of the Judge Advocate General Corps. To ensure objectivity and fairness, TDS counsel were made completely independent of local commands and the commands' legal advisers.

Inception of the California Army National

Guard TDS began in 2004 as the brainchild of then-Colonel Roland Candee, who served as the state's staff judge advocate. Candee, now a brigadier general in the California State Military Reserve (CSMR), currently serves as commander of the CSMR.

Candee drafted a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that was signed in 2006 by Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, then the adjutant general of the California National Guard, and Col. Patricia J. McDaniel, commander of the 22nd Legal Support Organization, U.S. Army Reserve. It was the first MOA of its kind, and by all accounts, it has been an overwhelming success. On Jan. 8 of this year, operational control for the California TDS will transition from the U.S. Army Reserve model to the Army National Guard model, with subordinate units located in selected regions.

TDS does not provide defense counsel for Soldiers in Title 10 status. Title 10 Soldiers must contact the U.S. Army TDS for consultation and representation. TDS does not represent dual-status federal technicians who are facing adverse action based on events that occurred while in a technician status.

If adverse action is being taken against you, call 916-854-3496 or submit a request for counsel online at www.calguard.ca.gov/TDS.





Tech. Sgt. Lauren Johnson, a California Air National Guard biathlete, completes a lap Dec. 11 during a practice race on day four of the National Guard Biathlon All Regions Snow Camp in West Yellowstone, Mont. The 6-kilometer race challenged the competitors to apply all of the skills they learned during the first three days of camp. The four-day event provided skiing and marksmanship instruction usually available only to national-level athletes.

Photo by Spc. Joseph K. VonNida

Proper travel vouchers save time

For the traveler's convenience and to improve travel processing for everyone, it is imperative that all travelers who submit a hard-copy travel voucher specify how much of their travel entitlement should be paid to their government travel card (GTC), also known as the amount paid via split disbursement. This is for travelers who are not using the Defense Travel System.

Currently if a traveler writes anything other than a dollar amount in the Split Disbursement Box (box 1 of the voucher), \$5 will be sent directly to the traveler, while the balance of the entitlement will be applied to the GTC. For more information, contact Cathy McIntosh or Maureen Nettles at 805-594-6340 or 805-594-6244.

Counterdrug tours available

The California National Guard Joint Task Force Domestic Support—Counterdrug is accepting applications from Army and Air Guard members interested in filling full-time positions as a Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) specialist or a criminal analyst.

Twelve-month tours providing investigative case and analyst support and operational/investigative case support are available in the Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco areas. Among other duties, the analysts will review investigative intelligence reports from various agencies, maintain relationships with local, state and federal contacts in the intelligence and law-enforcement communities, and prepare finished intelligence reports.

Applications will be accepted from Soldiers and Airmen with a rank of E-3 through E-6. Guard members with military intelligence specialties are preferred. Applicants must have excellent written and verbal communication abilities as well as excellent computer skills.

DDR specialists are being sought for 12-month tours in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. Applications will be accepted from Soldiers and Airmen with a rank of E-4 through E-6. The specialists will coordinate military support in response to requests from community-based organizations, educational institutions and law enforcement agencies; disseminate information about illicit drugs and the abuse of legal drugs as well as their effect on individuals, families and communities; establish and maintain calendars; and prepare detailed after action reviews, or AARs.

Applicants should have excellent written and verbal communication skills and be comfortable presenting concepts to large groups. Travel and mastery of Microsoft Office programs are required.

To apply, visit www.calguard.ca.gov/JTFDSCD/Pages/TourOpportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Feb. 12-13 in Rancho Cordova, 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...

... Soldiers who are incapacitated may be eligible for incapacitation pay?

Incapacitation pay is granted for Soldiers who incur or aggravate an injury, illness or disease in the line of duty and therefore cannot perform their military duties and/or their civilian job.

The Soldier's unit is required to provide the Soldier with an incapacitation pay checklist and necessary forms. The Soldier must obtain required signatures from their physician and their employer and submit completed packets to their unit monthly for processing.

Incapacitation pay may be approved at Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) for six months. All requests for incapacitation pay beyond six months will be processed through JFHQ to the National Guard Bureau.

References: Army Regulation (AR) 608-4, AR 135-381, Department of the Army Pamphlet 135-381



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Dressed as "The Minuteman," Capt. Jay Kliewer recites the classic poem "I Am The Guard" in celebration of the National Guard's 374th birthday during a Dec. 14 ceremony in Sacramento. Seated to Kliewer's left are Hollywood director James Cameron, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr. and Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel. Cameron was the governor's guest for the day. For more on the National Guard birthday, see Page 8.

Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler

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