

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



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Leadership Corner

Selfless service defines our way ahead

Brig. Gen. David S. Baldwin



Soldiers and Airmen, I am honored to serve with you as your adjutant general. When I enlisted as a medic in the California Army National Guard nearly 30 years ago, I didn't expect to rise to be commander of this organization, nor did I want the job. I joined to be a part of something greater, to contribute to the lives saved and progress brought by our presence in California, across the country and around the world.

Selfless service, or service before self, is at the core of all we do. It's the reason I signed up, and I hope that when each of you examines your motivations, you remember your commitment to the state and country that we love.

As service members, our values are clear. They bind us together as a band of brothers and sisters. Anyone who does not share our vision has no place among us, and eth-

ical issues will be dealt with swiftly and decisively under my command.

I ask you to put the mission first and do your duty with honor. Together we accomplish great things, and you make me proud to call myself a California National Guardsman. There is only one standard in our military, and that standard is excellence.

To maintain that standard, we must continuously target our weaknesses and progress as an organization and as individuals. Under my direction, we will not be stagnant. We will move into the future with strong commanders who live by our values and have proven themselves at home and abroad.

Leaders in this organization set the example. We lead

from the front and take care of our troops and their families. I will never ask anything of you that I would not do myself.

As the adjutant general, I have the great responsibility of ensuring you are trained, equipped and prepared to respond to domestic emergencies and foreign contingencies. That includes ensuring you are delivered top-notch health and family programs before, during and after deployment so you can focus on your mission. Mission-readiness and Soldier and Airman care will always be top priorities while I am in command.

It is my privilege to serve alongside the outstanding men and women of the California National Guard. You know your job. You know what is expected of you. Let's get it done.

Our Creeds

Soldier's Creed



**I am an American Soldier.
I am a Warrior and a member of a team.
I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.
I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.
I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.
I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.
I am an expert and I am a professional.
I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy, the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
I am an American Soldier.**

Airman's Creed

**I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my nation's call.
I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage,
a tradition of honor,
and a legacy of valor.
I am an American Airman,
Guardian of freedom and justice,
My nation's sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.
I am an American Airman:
Wingman, Leader, Warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind.
I will never falter,
and I will not fail.**



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Articles:

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

Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible: MB files, not KB
- ★ No retouched photos
- ★ Caption (what is happening, who is pictured and the date of the photo)
- ★ Credit (who took the photo)

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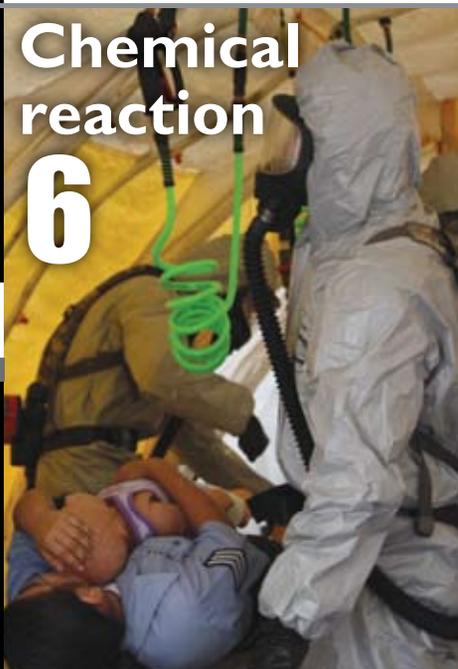


Photo by Al Golub, golubphoto.com

A California National Guard Soldier watches as his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew's "Bambi Bucket" is dipped in a reservoir near Lone, Calif., and filled with more than 600 gallons of water for firefighting training with other state agencies.

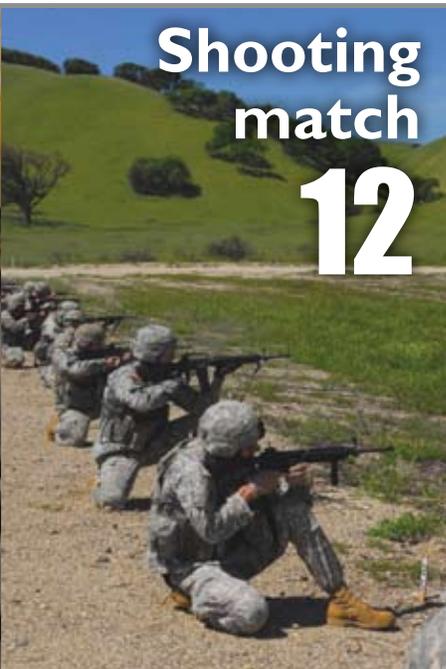
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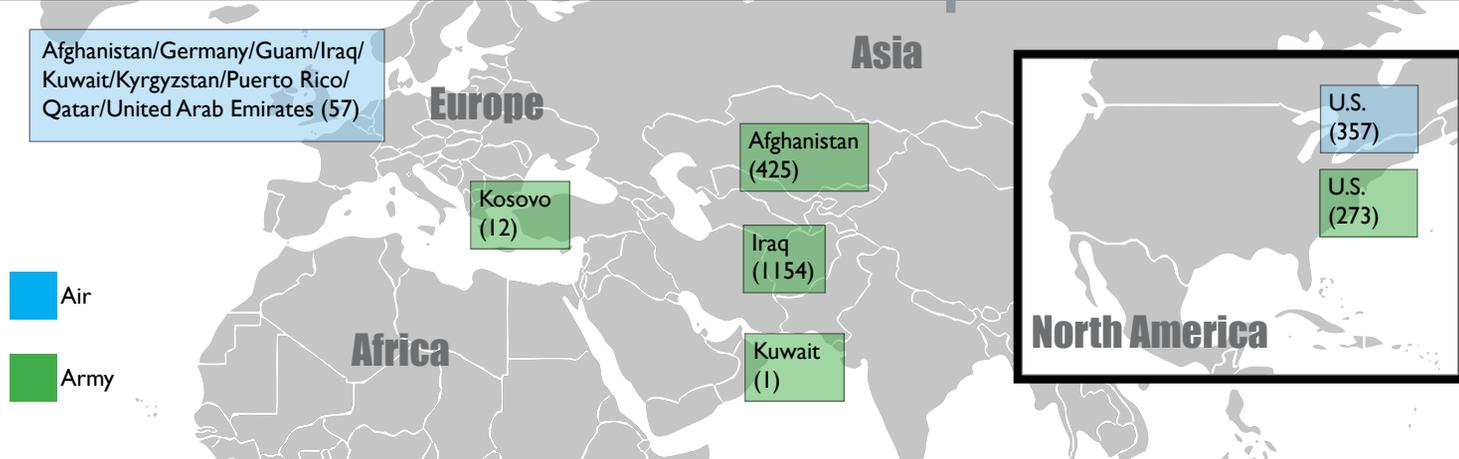
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4 CNG women prep to deploy with Special Forces

Landmark new program creates all-women cultural support teams

By Master Sgt. Julie Avey
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

U.S. Army Special Operations Command has a new capability for use on its missions, and four California Army National Guard women are making a strong contribution to the historic initiative.

Thirty-seven women graduated from the Cultural Support Team Training Course on Fort Bragg, N.C., on March 26, only the second class to complete the course. All 37 were National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers; the first class, which graduated in December, was for active duty Soldiers.

Cultural support teams are composed solely of women who have been specially trained in the cultural nuances of interacting with women in theater. The teams will accompany Army special operations units on missions and operate alongside them.

"This is a landmark moment," Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland Jr., commander of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, said during the December graduation. "This is a significant step that is long overdue."

While ad hoc groups similar to cultural support teams have been formed in the past for particular situations, the new course has set a standard of excellence that Mulholland expects will be examined and copied.

Maj. Richard Colpitts, U.S. Army Special Operations Command mobilization officer, noted that the success rate was much higher for the National Guard and Reserve women than in the active duty class.

"The demanding two-week course was the most difficult experience I have undertaken in my 12 years in being in both the United States Marine Corps and the Army," said 1st Lt. Gladys Balderas of the CNG's 224th Sustainment



Brigade. "The evaluation was physically and mentally challenging, requiring capabilities to solve problems in demanding situations."

The training focuses on Soldiers' mental and emotional endurance as well as civil information management, team-

work and use of interpreters. Students are also educated on basic human behavior and on specific cultures and regions where they may operate.

"We were tasked and evaluated throughout our 10-day stay at Fort Bragg. We were told they were looking for something within us, but they did not elaborate on what it was," said Capt. Serena Seddio of the CNG's 579th Engineer Battalion. "I think it was our drive to continue conquering, personality and heart to push through the mental processes."

In Iraq and Afghanistan, it is culturally inappropriate for a male who is not related to a female to approach her and speak with her. Female cultural support teams are able to engage women in those countries and discuss their needs.

"I am motivated to be a part of the new mission," said Spc. Shirley Wu of the 40th Military Police Company. "I worked as a medic in Iraq and saw firsthand the need to reach out to women in the community to build rapport."

The four CNG women will report to Fort Bragg on May 21 to resume their training with a six-week Phase Two program that will include language and culture education as well as more physical training.

Once they have completed Phase Two, the women will be assigned to special operations units or Army Ranger task forces in theatre.

"I am thankful that we had to go through this selection process," said Spc. Barbara Kizer of Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento. "If women want to be able to participate in combat military occupational specialties, then we as women should show that we are up to the challenge and have to work hard for our goals."

330th MP 'Punishers' return from Afghanistan

Yearlong deployment included more than 700 combat patrols

Story and photo by Sgt. Kenneth Bince
49th Military Police Brigade

As the 330th Military Police Company Soldiers marched down a U.S. flag-decorated walkway March 24, applause and cheering began to erupt. Their yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan had ended, and troops and family members were reunited.

"It feels great to be home with family and friends," Commander Maj. James Riehl said.

The company began its mobilization process in February 2010, spent a month at Camp Roberts, Calif., and then went to Camp Shelby, Miss., for 60 days. Once their training was complete, the company deployed to Afghanistan, arriving in theater May 18. During its 10-month deployment to Khowst province, Afghanistan, the 330th MP Company completed more than 700 combat patrols.

"These patrols supported Afghan security efforts and were instrumental in seizures of weapons [and] investigations of bombings in the largest city in eastern Afghanistan, as well as bettering the lives of both our Afghan partners in the security agencies and

the people who live throughout the Khowst province," Riehl said. "The deployment was incredibly challenging, as we often were tasked for missions that fell outside of the normal duties of military police."

The Soldiers were nonetheless able to complete every mission they were given and exceeded expectations, Riehl said. "The bottom line is that everybody in the company had a role in the success, and the number of achievement medals given out over the last 10 months is a testament to the work done by these Soldiers and the total effort required to make the mission happen," he added.

The Ontario, Calif.-based 330th awarded more than 200 merit awards, ranging from the Army Achievement Medal to the Bronze Star, and it also had the opportunity to award numerous Navy Achievement Medals.

"[The deployment] has been an amazing journey," Riehl concluded, "and I am humbled to have been a part of it with these Soldiers and leaders. I would not trade the experience for anything."



Sgt. Priscilla Salazar of the 330th Military Police Company hugs her daughter March 24 at L.A./Ontario International Airport after returning from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

CNG, CalFire, CalEMA team up for fire drill

By Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs



PHOTO BY AL GOLUB, GOLUBPHOTO.COM

With the wildfire season in California rapidly approaching, more than 115 Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard teamed with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) and other first responders to conduct joint training near Lone, Calif., on April 15-16.

The California Interagency Military Helicopter Fire Fighting training program started in 1995 and has steadily grown in numbers and substance. The detailed instruction covers strategy and techniques of firefighting, communications and dispatch of assets and in-depth training in fire traffic area (FTA), which is a new method of air traffic control that provides safety measures for all aircraft in the wildfire area.

"FTA was developed by aerial firefighting personnel to optimize the initial wildfire fighting response," said Maj. Thomas W. Keegan, an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter pilot for the 129th Rescue Wing. "It is essentially a multi-leveled circular flight path around the latitudinal and longitudinal point of the fire. Aircraft are assigned specific elevations and flight paths, and all flight and firefighting activity is monitored and controlled by the [air tactical group supervisor] or by the [helicopter coordinator]."

"The FTA program works hand-in-hand with [temporary flight restrictions] when it becomes necessary to protect civilian aircraft near the wildfires," he continued. "FTA is a safe and effective method to battle California's wildfires."



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

Aviation assets were brought in from both the California Army National Guard and the California Air National Guard and included UH-60 Black Hawks, CH-47 Chinooks, OH-58 Kiowas and HH-60 Pave Hawks. Once gathered, the CNG members shared techniques from years of military aviation experience and gleaned new techniques from the CalFire, CalEMA and other agencies' personnel.



PHOTO BY AL GOLUB, GOLUBPHOTO.COM

TOP:A California Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter drops water on the site of a simulated fire near Lone, Calif., in April. **LEFT:** Staff Sgt. Jessie Swift, left, and Tech. Sgt. Tony Yanez of the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing prepare a "Bambi Bucket," which will be attached to a UH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and brought to a nearby reservoir to be filled with up to 660 gallons of water. **RIGHT:**A California Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter fills its bucket before heading to the drop site.

"It is always a great opportunity to train with our counterpart on the Army side and with CalFire," a 129th Pave Hawk crew member said. "We might have slightly different ways of doing things, but in the end it is all about working together to put out the wildfires."

The training was put to the test when the crews were required to respond to a simulated wildfire. Within moments service members were preparing their helicopters and "Bambi Buckets," which hold up to 660 gallons of water. The air tactical group supervisor directed the crews to fill their

buckets at a local reservoir and dump the water at the site of the simulated fire.

"One of the major functions of the California National Guard is to support the Golden State in times of crisis," said Col. Robert A. Spano, director of the CNG Joint Staff and commander of the 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group. "The CalFire training that over 115 of California's finest Soldiers and Airmen just completed strengthens and proves again the value that the citizens of California receive from the California National Guard."

Whether to fly depends on weather squadron

22nd EWXS is supporting 40th Combat Aviation Brigade in Iraq

Story and photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts
40th Combat Aviation Brigade

A pilot sits in his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter on the airfield at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, and calls in for a preflight weather check. The staff weather officer (SWO) tells him a dust storm is en route and there will be zero visibility at Camp Taji. Flying there is not recommended. The pilot heeds the SWO's warning and goes into a holding area until the weather clears, possibly saving his own life and the lives of his crew and passengers.

Several Airmen from the California Air National Guard are deployed to Iraq to support the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade and other air and ground assets in the country with just that type of information.

"The Army needs to know what's going on with the weather throughout its area of operations," said Master Sgt. Hilario Flores of the 22nd Expeditionary Weather Squadron (EWXS) out of March Air Reserve Base, Calif.,

which is currently deployed to Camp Taji and Joint Base Balad. "If something pops up, we have to let them know immediately so they can adjust fire accordingly and go from there."

The weather plays a big factor in all military operations, in the air and on the ground. From when a mission starts to when it is finished, the weather may change two or more times. A change in the weather can make a smooth operation grind to a screeching halt in a matter of seconds.

"The weather here in Iraq can change drastically in an instant," said Flores. "We always have to stay vigilant when we're at our post and we're always on our toes looking to ensure our forecasts stay accurate."

The 22nd EWXS uses a vast array of techniques to gather information. "We use satellite imagery and live

feeds; we have automated sensors out at different locations that gather information; we send people up to the roof every hour to physically look at and feel the weather; plus, we use intel that we get from Soldiers out in the field," said Maj. Jeffery Johnson, staff weather officer in charge for the 22nd EWXS. "We by no means have a lack of intel to forecast the weather accurately up to four to seven days in advance."

The 22nd EWXS also makes sure the troops benefit from their forecasts.

"We brief the pilots before takeoff, during takeoff, when they're en route and before they land on the most current, up-to-date weather conditions," said Master Sgt. Carlos Coronado, staff weather noncommissioned officer in charge for the 22nd. "We also brief the command on what is going on and what's about to happen so they can disseminate it to the troops."



Maj. Jeffery Johnson, staff weather officer in charge for the 22nd Expeditionary Weather Squadron, examines a TMQ-53 Weather Observation Station on the roof of a building on Camp Taji, Iraq. The TMQ-53 records temperature, air quality and clarity, wind speed and direction, cloud presence and atmospheric pressure, providing vital information to pilots in the air and troops on the ground.

149th performs CERFP decontamination exercise

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Anna Yribe
149th Chemical Company

The Soldiers of the 149th Chemical Company are no strangers to chemical decontamination operations. The unit supports the region's chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear and explosive enhanced response force package (CERFP) in addition to its Army decontamination mission. The unit is validated on its civil support mission by the National Guard Bureau (NGB).

The 149th couldn't complete its CERFP mission without fine-tuning essential skills and teaching the newest members of the unit about the decontamination process. On March 5 the members of the 149th did just that through training on the CERFP mission in Turlock, Calif., where the unit's armory is located. The end result was a small collective exercise supported by local firefighters, paramedics, sheriff's deputies and State Military Reserve medics, with U.S. Naval Sea Cadets acting as casualties.



A casualty role-player is thoroughly checked for contaminants by members of the 149th Chemical Company during a chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear and explosive enhanced response force package (CERFP) exercise March 5 in Turlock Calif.

The exercise was designed around a crawl-walk-run philosophy of training. March 5 was designed to be the crawl phase of the training, with ample time allotted for set-up, walk-through and tear-down. During validation with NGB, the CERFP has 90 minutes to set up the decontamination lanes and get them running. The newest of the Soldiers quickly picked up the steps of setting up and running the lanes, surpassing the crawl phase and quickly moving into the walk and run phases of training.

"They are going to be more than ready by the time validation rolls around," said Sgt. 1st Class Sal Reyes, readiness

noncommissioned officer (NCO) for the unit. "They won't have any trouble meeting the 90-minute deadline."

The Soldiers and NCOs capitalized on individual strengths to quickly complete the task well before the allotted timeline. This allowed for some additional decontamination training from the NCOs: a deconstructed look at the lanes and a dissection of the tasks at each station.

A decontamination site has numerous moving pieces that are a complex balance of Soldiers, equipment and casualties. At the beginning of the decontamination lane, the ca-

sualties are triaged into two groups, ambulatory and non-ambulatory.

Those who can walk (ambulatory) are guided through the site as they are carefully instructed to remove all contaminated clothing, clean themselves with the available warm soapy water and rinse. They are then monitored for any chemical agent residue on their body. If an individual reads hot for any chemical agent, he or she is guided back to the wash area and moved through the process again until they are free of contaminants. The final stages of the site are the recovery and medic sites. The recovery site provides blankets for the casualties as they are moved down the line to receive medical attention.

Casualties who are non-ambulatory are strapped down to backboards. They are then moved through the same steps as the ambulatory patients and are turned to wash underneath their bodies and to clean the backboard.

The goal of the decontamination portion of the CERFP is to prevent the spread of any existing contaminant. The underlying mission is to be a friendly voice for a frightened individual and to serve as a calming agent in a chaotic environment.

The Soldiers of the 149th Chemical Company are relied on for quick and calm reaction to a contaminated environment and its casualties. They practice to perfect a mission that requires a mental, emotional and physical balance to ensure they meet the overall and underlying mission of the CERFP.

CNG, first responders prepare for Bay Area terror attack

95th Civil Support Team is ready for a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident

Story and photos by Spc. Douglas A. Saunders
69th Public Affairs Detachment

When disaster strikes, the citizens of California look to first responders to jump into action, save lives and maintain order. One component of these responders is the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team (CST), based in Hayward.



The CST is a highly trained, specialized unit prepared to counter and respond to chemical and biological terrorist threats. The CST trained with an FBI SWAT team from San Francisco and local authorities from police and fire agen-

cies in the Bay Area during a recent multi-agency exercise, BAYEX 2011. The exercise comprised a series of training scenarios that allowed inter-agency emergency crews to prepare for a possible disaster situation.

"We continuously train to improve our response behaviors in order to be unrivaled in our vigilance to react to several different possible disasters, natural or otherwise, throughout northern California," said Army Lt. Col. Zac Delwiche, commander of the CST.

BAYEX was conducted at various locations April 8-12 to test first responders and the CST's ability to work in unison like a well-oiled machine. The first day of the exercise was held at Camp Parks in Dublin, Calif., where local and federal authorities were called to react to a suspicious package that had been sent to a wrong address.

In the scenario, investigators traced the package to a group of domestic terrorists — played by volunteer role-players — planning a biological attack.

When the SWAT team swarmed in to apprehend the terrorists, the federal agents were potentially affected by a biological weapon.

The CST's chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear team, donning their space-like hazardous material suits, and the CST's medical team were on standby to decontaminate victims of exposure to weapons of mass destruction and to provide medical assistance to the wounded.

"The CST is a unique unit that you're not going to find anywhere else in the Guard," said Army Staff Sgt. Dane R. Hagan, entry team member. "It feels great to be part of something that's so prevalent right here on the homefront and has an active everyday role."

The exercise switched scenarios a few days later by creating a mock incident involving a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) train in the Oakland BART maintenance yard. Six individuals carrying suitcases filled with ricin nerve agents got on the train, and as the daily commuters boarded, the terrorists got off the train and left the deadly chemical behind.

"Mass population and transit in the San Francisco Bay Area

is one of the many reasons we as a team need to consistently train and be prepared for any disaster," Delwiche said.

The suitcases were equipped with dispersal devices built in to spray the nerve agent on passengers and train cars.

"We have to be able to breathe and work in suits that protect us from biological, chemical and nuclear threats, so we all need to be in tip-top shape," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Laura E. Miller, operations noncommissioned officer (NCO) for the CST.

BART Police officers responded to the incident and discovered the suitcases on the train. They contained the incident until Oakland and Alameda County fire personnel arrived on the scene and determined the best way to handle the incident.

Patients were evacuated, decontaminated and sent to a triage area to be evaluated then transported to several local hospitals. After the patients were transferred to medical facilities, the 95th CST, along with the 85th CST out of Salt Lake City, analyzed which nerve agent was used.

"In order for us to be any good to the citizens of California, we need to train to life-like scenarios," said Army Staff Sgt. Aaron W. Zuniga, 95th CST medical NCO.

The men and women of the CST train every day, Delwiche said. "This is their full-time job, and they do it exceptionally well."

The CST is a distinctive element that is on call 24 hours a day, every day, and is not deployable to foreign countries.

"The best part is knowing that I'm securing the safety of my family and everyone here in northern California," Hagan said. "People can look to us to solve problems when something does occur here."

Miller expressed similar confidence in the CST.

"If a disaster occurred and I needed a group of people to take action, I would want this team of men and women to be that group," she said. "The professionalism and outstanding character of this team is above any that I have worked with in my military career."



TOP RIGHT: Maj. David A. Dominguez, senior medical officer for the 95th Civil Support Team, California Army National Guard, performs medical trauma procedures on an FBI SWAT team member April 8 during BAYEX 2011, an inter-agency exercise to prepare first responders to work together in the event a disaster should strike the northern California area. **ABOVE:** A member of the Utah National Guard's 85th Civil Support Team undergoes decontamination procedures April 12 after exiting a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) train that was targeted with a simulated nerve agent during BAYEX.

Late Ft. Hood hero Gaffaney awarded Soldier's Medal

Long-time CNG Soldier died attempting to stop shooting rampage

Story and photo by Maj. Matt Lawrence
807th Medical Command Public Affairs

Capt. John A. Gaffaney was posthumously awarded the Soldier's Medal on Nov. 5 on Fort Hood, Texas, in recognition of actions one year earlier that cost him his life during a Fort Hood shooting rampage that killed 13 people and injured 19 more.

Gaffaney, according to numerous eyewitnesses, threw a chair at the gunman and attempted to rush him to stop the attack. While his courageous efforts saved the lives of others, Gaffaney, who was 51, was shot five times and lost his life that day.

A year after, Gaffaney's widow, Christine, said she was not surprised by his actions. "He would have been helping others, and if he wasn't wounded, he would have continued helping until every Soldier was taken care of," she said assuredly.

Gaffaney was a career Soldier and had retired as a major in the California National Guard. He had served honorably but felt compelled to volunteer — and even took a reduction in rank — to serve in Afghanistan with the Army Reserves.

Christine was also a veteran, and they had met when they were both young medical specialists in the Navy. Christine served as an operating room technician, and John was a neuropsychological technician.

John's lifetime of service was not something Christine would have anticipated when they first met. She fondly re-



Christine Gaffaney accepts the Soldier's Medal on behalf of her deceased husband, Capt. John A. Gaffaney, during a ceremony on Fort Hood, Texas, one year after the shooting incident that took his life. Capt. Gaffaney was killed attempting to disarm the shooter during an attack that claimed 13 lives on Fort Hood.

membered a different side of John.

"Of all the people you would think would re-enlist, you would have never guessed John would be one of them," she said. "He and his friends were such trouble-makers."

As 33 years of marriage passed, Christine realized how much serving his country was a part of who John was. "John was just so comfortable being in the military," she said. "It was made for him, and he was made for the military."



Capt. John A. Gaffaney

The Soldier's Medal is the U.S. Army's highest peacetime award for Soldiers who distinguish themselves by heroism not involving conflict with the enemy.

While John was comfortable with the military, he would not have been comfortable with the recognition he so honorably earned, Christine said. Her husband hated ceremonies and making a big deal out of things, she said, and he would have thought the award was much ado about nothing.

"He would have said 'you're causing too much trouble over something I would have normally done,'" Christine said, choking back her tears. "He wanted to use his nursing degree and work with [post-traumatic stress disorder], and go with his unit."

WWII service earns CNG vet top French honor

By Brandon Honig
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

After receiving the Chevalier medal of the French Legion of Honor in March, Richard Denison said it's appropriate the award was founded by Napoleon, who said men in dangerous situations often accomplish seemingly impossible tasks. Denison's first bombing mission, in France during World War II, frightened him so much, he said, he was sure he couldn't go through it again.

"We flew to Cannes to bomb armored groups, and the sky was dark," Denison remembered about the daytime mission. "Then we realized, that's just so much bursting flak" turning the sky black.

As the lead plane in Denison's group dropped its bombs, a shaking Denison prepared to depress the bomb switch in his B-26 "Widowmaker."

"I had to take both hands to throw that stupid, damn switch," he said, recalling his trembling. "I closed the bomb bay doors, and the plane just ahead of me blew up, and six men I'd had breakfast with that day died. I said, 'My God, I can't do this again.'"

But he did do it again — 41 more times.

Under a program initiated by former French President Jacques Chirac in 2005, France is honoring U.S. veterans with its highest military award as thanks for their service in World War II. A French friend of Denison's submitted his name to France's government as a possible recipient.

"We want to testify to our gratitude," said Romain Serman, French consul general in San Francisco, who presented Denison his medal March 4 at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. "We know what we owe to the American people. Without you, we would not be a free country."

Denison's 42 missions included several near misses, includ-

ing instances in which flak struck his compass, sunglasses and gun sight, and embedded plexiglass in his face.

"I was supposed to go to the hospital overnight, but I turned it down because I didn't want to leave my crew," he said. "I turned down a Purple Heart too. I'd just gotten my face scratched — some men died for [a Purple Heart]."

He also earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for a mission in which both of the Widowmaker's engines went out, and Denison nearly jumped from the plane with a parachute before the pilot got one of the engines going again.

Denison had moved to California from Indiana to study aeronautical engineering and was drafted into the Army in 1942. He served on active duty as a squadron navigator for "the best damn bomb group in the European Theater of Operations" until December 1946.

The next month, he joined the California National Guard and went on State Active Duty as an adjutant for the 146th Fighter Group. Aside from a 21-month stint in Georgia during the Korean War, Denison would remain on State Active Duty until his retirement in 1976. Among his many accomplishments, Denison was the project officer for the 146th's transition from a fighter mission to a transport mission. The unit is now known as the 146th Airlift Wing.

He was also the project officer for development of a "water-bombing system," which would later become known as the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, or MAFFS. MAFFS-equipped planes are called upon regularly to fight fires in California and other states.

Denison attained the rank of colonel in the California National Guard. Upon his retirement from federal service, Denison entered the California State Military Reserve and was promoted to brigadier general.

"I think the Air National Guard is the best body the nation has ever had," he said March 25 during a visit to CNG Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento. "I have been very fortunate to have worked with Guard people."

Denison lost many friends during World War II, but he does not regret his service or America's participation in the war. "A Frenchman at the [award] ceremony said to me, 'Terrible things happen in war, but this is the price of freedom,'" Denison recalled March 25, fighting back tears.

"I'm just a normal G.I.," he concluded. "We saw our duty and we did it."



Retired Brig. Gen. (CA) Richard Denison meets with California National Guard personnel March 25 at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento. Denison recently received France's highest military honor for his service to the U.S. military during World War II

Pilot's third Iraq tour coincides with Kuwait liberation anniversary

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Richard Huber, who was in Iraq for the Persian Gulf War success in 1991, returns with the 40th CAB

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

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Richard Huber was driving across a desolate Kuwait desert in February when he noticed the number 20 was displayed on numerous banners lining the road. His companion told him the banners were part of a national celebration to commemorate the Feb. 26, 1991, liberation of Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War.

"That's when the light bulb went off," Huber said. "I'm here for the 20th anniversary and I was here for the liberation."

Like many Soldiers in theater for Operation New Dawn, this is not Huber's first rodeo. The Iraq War entered its eighth year March 20, and Soldiers with multiple deployments are commonplace. But for some Soldiers, such as Huber, their first combat patches were earned in the region long before Operation Iraqi Freedom began.

THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

Huber has vivid memories of being a 22-year-old helicopter pilot sent to fly the hostile skies of Iraq during the Persian Gulf War — a full 12 years before the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. At that time Huber was a young active duty warrant officer 1 trained to fight Soviet tank divisions if they invaded West Germany.

Instead, it was Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard that invaded Kuwait, and Huber found himself flying his EH-60 Black Hawk electronic warfare helicopter over unfamiliar desert terrain where sand and dust played havoc with his aircraft and illumination at night fell to nearly zero.

"There were a lot of unknowns then," Huber said. "We didn't know what we were up against, how we were going to fight. We didn't know how long we were going to be gone. This was a completely different ball game for us and there were a lot of things to learn as we went."

In February 1991 coalition forces advanced from Saudi Arabia into Iraq and made a right turn into Kuwait, cutting off fleeing Iraqi forces. Huber's helicopter witnessed the action from above, intercepting radio transmissions from Iraqi leadership. Three Kuwaitis were riding in Huber's Black Hawk, monitoring radio intercepts for military intelligence analysts. The U.S. government had recruited the Kuwaitis from American colleges to serve as interpreters.

The war quickly turned into a rout as Iraqi forces surrendered en masse or fled for their lives out of Kuwait.

"Right at the end, when they said the war was over and Kuwait City had been liberat-

ed, we were [on the ground] in the western edge of Kuwait," Huber said. "The interpreters heard on the radio that the conflict was over, and the three guys that we had with us put their M16s down and started walking across the desert to Kuwait City. It took us a while to convince them to come back, that it would be a few days, but we would get them into Kuwait City. They had families there, so they wanted to go."

With Kuwait liberated, coalition forces halted their advance and pulled out of Iraq.

"I remember when we were leaving Kuwait in 1991. ... We landed, and I looked over at my co-pilot and said, 'Thank God we're out of here and we'll never have to fly in this place again.' I've had to eat my words twice now."

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Huber left the Army in 2000 and turned his attention to the restaurant business, becoming a part-owner of three restaurants in the San Francisco area.

After three years of busing tables, bartending, covering costs and making payroll, he realized he would rather be flying.

"The restaurant business wasn't for me," he said. "I was not doing what I wanted to do. I've always wanted to fly, so I went back to aviation."

In 2004 he rejoined the military, flying helicopters one weekend a month and two weeks a year for the California Army National Guard. In September of that year, he was called up to deploy to Iraq with 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, based out of Los Alamitos, Calif.

Nearly 15 years after the end of the Persian Gulf War, Huber again found himself in the Middle East, this time at Forward Operating Base Speicher near the city of Tikrit, flying the skies of Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Unlike the Persian Gulf War, which was full of unknowns for Huber, Operation Iraqi Freedom became about routines.

"We had a set pattern of what the mission was, what our jobs were and where we would be flying," he said. "We fell into an ongoing mission and pretty much knew what we had to do once we got there."

As a maintenance test pilot for the unit, he got plenty of flying time.

"I was probably doing three troubleshooting test flights a day," Huber recalled. "I'd get in an aircraft, check it out, go fly it, bring



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Richard Huber of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade says goodbye to his wife, Lisanne, in Fresno, Calif., prior to leaving for a yearlong deployment to Iraq. It is his third deployment to the Middle East and his second with the California National Guard.

it back, sign it off, release it, go to the next aircraft, figure out what was wrong with it, pre-flight it, go fly it, bring it back, close it out. It was a lot of short flights in a short amount of time."

In 2005, Huber returned from Iraq unscathed and took a job as a civilian test pilot for the Aeroflightdynamics Directorate at Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View, Calif. When not at work, he spent time at home in San Jose with his young son and daughter from a previous marriage while continuing to attend National Guard drills one weekend a month.

In May 2010, he married his sweetheart Lisanne shortly before he was called up to return to the Middle East in support of Operation New Dawn.

OPERATION NEW DAWN

On Nov. 28, 2010, the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade was mobilized for a yearlong tour in Iraq. The 40th CAB is made up of units from the National Guard, Army Reserve and active duty Army, with elements from 22 states, all led by a California Army National Guard headquarters company based out of Fresno. The CAB has been tasked to perform full-spectrum aviation operations in the skies of Iraq for much of 2011, performing all manner of aviation missions, from evacuating wounded personnel to transporting high-level government officials and force protection.

Huber, now a chief warrant officer 5, is a maintenance test pilot for the CAB and

serves as the brigade aviation maintenance officer. With about 200 helicopters and 3,600 Soldiers spread across Iraq, the CAB has a big job during a critical year in the country — a year that could close the book on the war in Iraq. American forces in Iraq have fallen from a high of about 170,000 in 2007 to fewer than 50,000 now. Nearly all American military forces could be out of Iraq by December, leaving only a handful of advisers. The 40th CAB could be one of the last U.S. units in the country.

For several weeks in February, Huber lived in a tent city at Camp Buerhing, Kuwait, 15 miles from the Iraq border, shuttling to and from Kuwaiti ports to supervise the arrival of the CAB's aircraft. On a hazy afternoon at Camp Buehring, Huber sat on his cot in his 70-man tent and wondered how his current mission will compare to those in his past.

"This deployment is going to be a lot more challenging, because our mission is going to literally change daily," Huber said. "Every day could be a very exciting or terrifying day, if you want to look at it that way. I feel like we are on a fence where things could go either way."

"What we did here and the people that have died here and the people who have sacrificed years of their lives for our country and for Iraq and Kuwait—my hope is that the timing is right, that we get out safely—and being the last ones out, that it's been a success."



Staff Sgt. Willeams Roldan of the CNG's 146th Airlift Wing marshals a C-130J Hercules aircraft April 24 on Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. The 146th deployed two C-130J Hercules to battle wildfires in southern Texas in April. The aircraft arrived on April 17 and dropped at least 48,000 gallons of fire retardant during their first three days in the state. The planes are equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems II, which can discharge 3,000 gallons of water or retardant in less than five seconds, covering an area 1/4-mile long by 60 feet wide.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Harris



Members of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing tend to a mock casualty April 3 during a chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear and high-yield explosives exercise at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Prouse



Pvt. Shikika Anderson of the 270th Military Police Company demonstrates to actor Jude Law the operation of a Humvee gunner's turret Feb. 11 in San Francisco during filming for "Contagion," a movie that will feature extras and equipment from the California National Guard.

Photo by 1st Lt. Will Martin



Staff Sgt. Curtis Cooksey of the California Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug, explain the task force's Drug Demand Reduction to a school administrator at the National School Principals conference in San Francisco.

Photo by Capt. Amanda Ellison

At a Glance



Capt. Douglas McEldowney of the 224th Sustainment Brigade hugs his daughter, Kayla, at San Diego International Airport on March 24 after he returned from a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

TOP: A C-130J aircraft from the California National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing drops heavy loads and bundles into a drop zone at Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), Calif., on April 2. The 146th teamed with the 317th Airlift Wing from Dyess AFB, Texas, to perform a five-ship tactical exercise, an integral part of proficiency training for personnel transporting supplies in a combat environment. BOTTOM: Tech. Sgt. Lionel Baker of the 146th, which is based at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Calif., recovers a parachute from a C-130J airdrop at Edwards AFB on April 2.

Photos by Senior Airman Nick Carzis



California National Guard Joint Task Force 1-21 (left), and Capt. Ruel Fuentecilla of the 146th Airlift Wing, California National Guard, during the 2008 National Association of Secondary Education Program capabilities presentation in San Francisco in February.



Soldiers of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade display their new combat patch on March 28 at Camp Taji, Iraq. The 40th CAB, which is led by its Fresno-based Headquarters and Headquarters Company, brought about 3,000 Soldiers and 200 helicopters to Iraq in February and is now conducting full-spectrum aviation operations across the country in support of Operation New Dawn.

Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts

Train as you fight

Combat Match teaches irreplaceable skills

By Spc. Nevada J. Smith
69th Public Affairs Detachment

PHOTO BY SPC. GRANT J. LARSON



The staccato burst of weapons fire was a familiar sound April 4-8 on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., as California National Guard members competed in the third annual California Combat Match.

"This competition mimics the actions you would take in combat," said Lt. Col. Loren A. Weeks, commander of Task Force Warrior, the training program that prepares units for deployment and hosts the Combat Match. "This allows Soldiers and Airmen to be more confident of their skills when in an actual combat situation."

The competition was intense for the service members participating. Each match was designed to test them in different ways. The first round, the Expert in Rifle competition, had troops firing at targets well past the standard 300-meter range. The competitors then advanced toward their targets, sprinting to the next firing line.

"I learned that I could shoot targets with my iron sights at over 400 yards," said Cpl. Balreet Kaur, a medic with the San Diego-based 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

The Expert in Rifle and Expert in Pistol competitions were considered the most intense by many participants. These matches enable competitors to earn "leg points" toward a distinguished marksman medal. Though some service members were in it for the win, many more were simply grateful for the chance to compete and receive such advanced training.

"The competitiveness is fun, but it is the training that makes this competition great," said Spc. Vincent Torres, 24, of the 49th Military Police Brigade. "It has improved my skills by far, and I now know that I can move and shoot with a purpose."

Many of the matches were designed to test troops in ways they had not expected. One competition, the Devil's Playground, saw troops sprinting to a fortified position while carrying a large ammunition can. Once there, each service member fired at alternating 100- and 25-meter targets, all while either moving to a secondary firing position or switching their fire between their left and right shoulders.

"The training it gives you really tests your ability to move and shoot while using both your dominant and non-dominant hand," Torres said.

With awards like a new rifle, a trip to a professional marksmanship training seminar and the ability to purchase certain weapons at cost from their manufacturers, the prizes for the individual matches proved to be great incentive for many hopeful sharpshooters. Even so, most service members said

competing was prize enough.

"This is definitely great marksmanship training," Kaur said. "This may be a competition, but even if you don't win you are still taking home irreplaceable skills."

At the end of the week, many competitors were singled out for their achievements. The aggregate winner of the competition was Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey Applegate, an infantryman with the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who had the highest overall score in the match.

"It's a huge honor, first of all, just to be able to shoot here," Applegate said. "The level of competition was pretty steep. There were some good shooters. To be honest, I'm surprised that I won anything."

Winning was only half the battle. The competition's secondary objective was to identify the California National Guard's best marksmen in the hopes of forming a combat match team.

"We have multiple opportunities for follow-on competitions," Weeks said. "The ultimate goal is to have a team that can compete at the regional and national levels."



PHOTO BY SPC. NEVADA J. SMITH

TOP: Private 1st Class Bryan M. Seesangrit of the 330th Military Police (MP) Company takes aim during the Matrix event of the third annual California Combat Match on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., in April. MIDDLE: Guard members sprint to their next firing positions during the Expert in Competition rifle event. BOTTOM RIGHT: A 49th MP Brigade Soldier fires at a target during the Fight to Your Rifle event.



PHOTO BY SPC. NEVADA J. SMITH

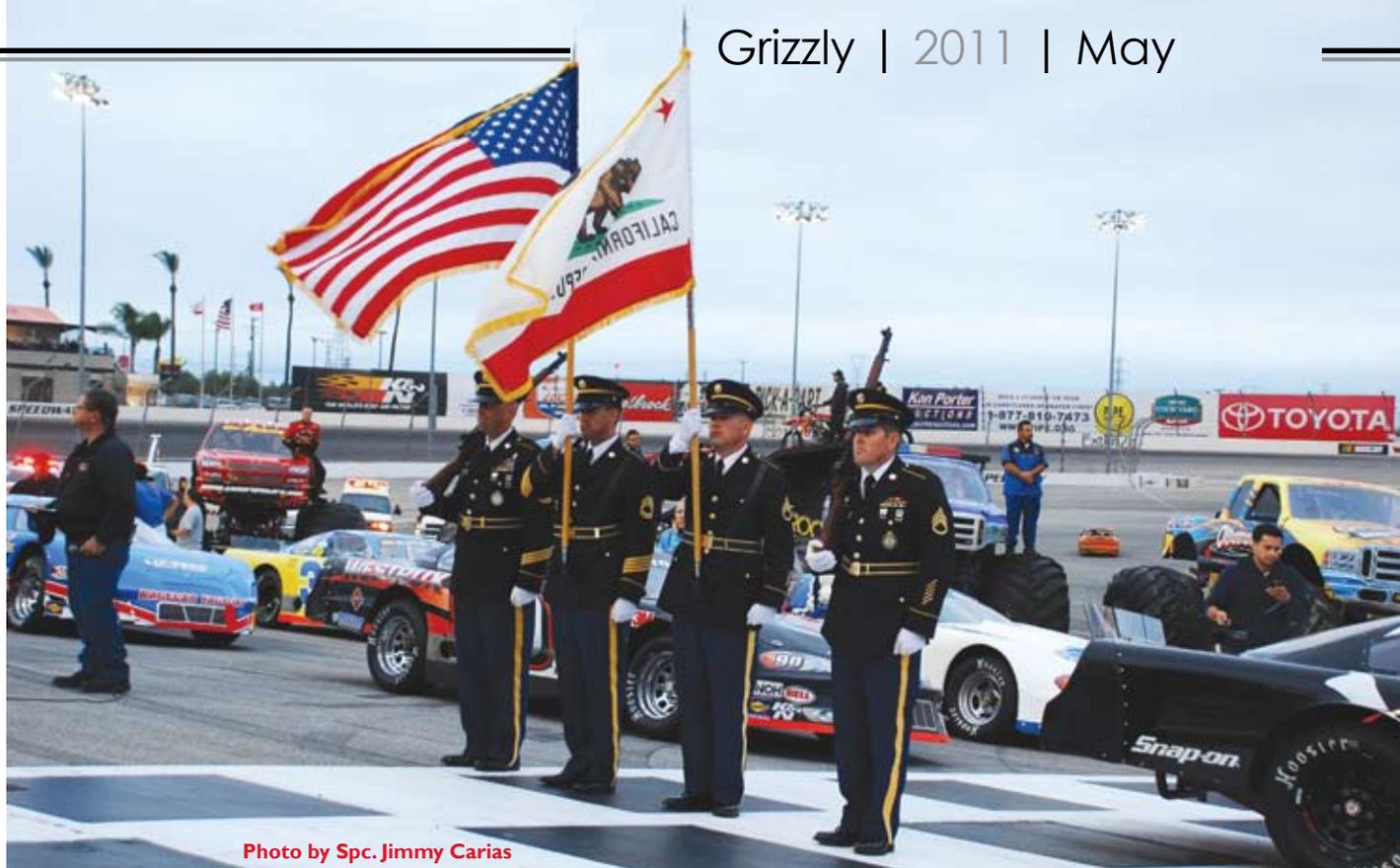


Photo by Spc. Jimmy Carias

Color guard brings touch of patriotism, symbol of freedom

By Staff Sgt. Joseph Brito
CNG Accession Task Force

Southern California NASCAR fans have a well-deserved reputation for displaying red, white and blue patriotism, so California Army National Guard Soldiers in dress blue uniforms were an appropriate addition to the festive atmosphere surrounding pre-race ceremonies for Toyota Speedway at Irwindale's 2011 season opener.

With spectators, drivers and race officials standing at respectful attention, and the notes of "The Star-Spangled Banner" ring-

ing out across the San Gabriel Valley, all eyes were focused on four non-commissioned officers representing Team Azusa of the Centurions Battalion, Accession Task Force, presenting our nation's colors.

"I think it is important that every citizen be reminded of how awesome it is that we live in America and that we never forget those men and women who have given their lives for freedom," said Sgt. 1st Class Noah Ronquillo, who was joined in the color guard

by Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Ferretti, Staff Sgt. Jason Bennett and Staff Sgt. Bradley Logo. "A color guard is sometimes the only military presence that people throughout the community ever see," Logo added. "It gives me a tremendous feeling of pride when I am marching down the track for them, and it is always very gratifying when they express their feelings that we represented our country and the California Guard well."

Soldiers representing the Accession Task

Force will present the colors and showcase the California National Guard, its missions and equipment to race fans at numerous Toyota Speedway events in 2011. "NASCAR has a great respect for the men and women of our armed forces, whose commitment and sacrifices permit us to enjoy our freedom and way of life — especially the National Guard that responds when our region is affected by wildfires and other state emergencies," said Bob DeFazio, chief operating officer of Toyota Speedway.

129th Airmen hone combat skills at 'War College'

By Senior Airman Jessica Green
129th Rescue Wing

The 129th Rescue Wing held war skills training at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., on Feb. 5 to prepare for an operational readiness inspection (ORI) slated for December.

Traditional Guard members progressed through six stations of war skills training, also known as "War College," to hone their mission-essential combat defense skills, which are considered necessary to respond appropriately during scenarios that will be tested during the December ORI. Air Combat Command inspectors will evaluate the combat readiness of the 129th in December and validate the wing's ability to execute assigned missions and tasks.

The ability to survive and operate, or ATSO, is one of the major grading areas in the ORI. In this area, inspectors evaluate a unit's ability to sustain its mission at deployed locations following a chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear or explosive (CBRNE) attack.

The War College curriculum trained personnel in ATSO areas relating to communications, awareness and employment of protective measures, individual and resource protection, self-aid and buddy care (SABC), and contamination avoidance and control.

Beginning with communications training, Airmen were taught the basic etiquette and communication terms for correct and effective verbal radio communication. Given scenarios for before, during and after attacks, Airmen put their training to the test with challenging procedures and reporting.

"This college is excellent training, and the timing is perfect for everyone to get up to speed," said Tech. Sgt. Tracey Fey, personal wireless communication systems manager for the 129th Force Support Flight. "Not only will it help ensure our success during the ORI, it will also help resolve many issues our real world mission may have with effective communication."

Proceeding to the attack actions station, Airmen were taught to correctly configure their protective gear, successfully undergo entry control procedures and respond to enemy challenges.

Shelter operations instructors taught Airmen actions for dispersal, covering and entry control point procedures to protect themselves before, during and after an attack. The instructors also described the importance of post-attack reconnaissance (PAR) teams.

"We provide a PAR kit to teams, allowing them to walk the area and look for casualties, unexploded ordnances, and check M8 [chemical-agent detector] paper after an attack," said Master Sgt. Duncan Collier, alternate building manager for the 129th Mission Support Group. "A lot of what we're covering is in our CBRNE computer-based training. However, this type of interactive training allows Airmen to learn in an ungraded environment where they have the opportunity to ask questions and receive constructive feedback."

Following shelter operations, Airmen con-



Master Sgt. Summer Mize, a senior health technician for the 129th Medical Group, demonstrates proper head restraint technique to Staff Sgt. Byron Estrada, a client systems technician for the 129th Communications Flight, during war skills training at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., on Feb. 5.

tinued on to sector transitioning training, where they learned to limit the spread of contamination when transitioning between contaminated and uncontaminated areas. Airmen were also briefed on contamination control area processing.

Lastly, Airmen worked on a modified SABC training refresher to ensure they were able to provide simple lifesaving treatments to wounded wing members while transporting them to proper medical facilities.

More than 240 Airmen successfully completed the training in full force-protection gear.

"I was very impressed with the quality of instruction," said Master Sgt. Kkoby Griffin, emergency management program manager with the 129th Civil Engineering Flight. "The level of effort and attention displayed by exercise planners, emergency control staff, instructors and students was great for this high-priority ORI training."

Don't tell this Soldier he Kant do it

CNG member enlists, earns GED credential after years of perseverance

Story and photo by Capt. Kyle Key
National Guard Bureau

When Pvt. Jeffrey P. Kant tried to enlist in the military two years ago at an Orange County, Calif., recruiting station, recruiters laughed at the tattoo-laden, high school dropout and told him to move along. But that didn't dissuade him from trying again.

Kant had a large scorpion and three other tattoos that reached from the back of his ears to both collar bones. The Army bans enlistment of recruits with tattoos on the face or sides of the neck. Kant then began what would be six painful and expensive laser treatments to remove the tattoos.

Kant went back to the recruiting station and showed his blistering progress. He was now ready to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test to see if he could qualify to enlist. Kant scored a 16 on the ASVAB but needed at least a 31 to join the military. He was devastated. He knew math was his greatest weakness, so he worked weekly with a tutor to help him increase his scores. Six months later, Kant re-tested and made a 33.

Kant applied for a tattoo waiver and it was denied. He scrounged more money together and continued laser treatments. The recruiters sent him to the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) for a physical and he passed. But discouraging news would come with his results, as he was told the minimum ASVAB score to enter the military had been increased to 50.

Distressed, Kant talked to a friend who told him about a program in the Army National Guard called GED Plus, which allows applicants to join with a 31 ASVAB score as long as they pass the General Educational Development examination. He gave Kant a number for Staff Sgt. Rhiannon Carlucci, a recruiting and retention specialist for the California Army National Guard in Riverside, Calif. She processed a tattoo waiver and 72 hours later had an approval from MEPS. Kant was sworn in and kissed his family goodbye before shipping out to the GED Plus Program in Little Rock, Ark. Kant and his wife, Amy, have a son, Devon, and two daughters, Bella and Becca. They live in Temecula, Calif.

As he touched down at the Little Rock airport, Kant received a gift from a stranger. "The day I left to come here, there was a guy standing outside the door and gave me a Bible," he said. "I hadn't read a Bible since I was 10 years old. I took it and placed it in my left [chest] pocket. I keep it right there with a picture that my 2-year-old daughter drew me. That's been my motivation every day. It's not easy to be here and be away from your family."

Kant failed on his first attempt at the GED examination at GED Plus. He and others who



Pvt. Jeffrey P. Kant, right, receives his General Educational Development (GED) credential Jan. 28 on Camp Robinson, Ark., after years attempting to join the National Guard, undergoing laser treatments on tattoos and studying to improve his math skills.

failed were brought in, told the results and counseled on areas they needed to improve.

"I was looking around and everyone was crying," Kant said. "I wasn't crying. I wasn't upset. This program gives you three chances to pass. I looked at my test results and said 'Holy Moley!'" Kant pulled out a piece of paper from his pocket. "I got a 390 in math and that was the only subject I failed. I only needed a 410 to pass and a 450 average overall. I was so proud of myself! I blew everything else out of the water, except for math. Never in my life would I have thought I would be able to do that. That motivated me."

Kant took remedial math classes with GED Plus instructor Dwain Prosser, a retired Soldier with 24 years active duty service in the National Guard. "That man is a genius," Kant said. He listened intently, asked Prosser questions and worked out equations.

"He was very eager to learn mathematical concepts, and his motivation level was up there," said Prosser, who has worked as an instructor with GED Plus for three years. "I just took those qualities and channeled them to help him grasp concepts and improve his learning process. He took it and ran with it."

After two days in Prosser's class, Kant's score improved by about 80 points on the first exam. Students must pass two exams in the section they failed before being eligible to take the GED exam again. Five days later, Kant scored a 470, enabling him to take the exam.

Kant went in positive that he would do well on the exam. The results came back, and Kant and his battle buddy were both told that they passed. "I said, 'Thank the Lord!'" Kant said. "I looked at him, and we both started crying. I was blown away."

"We were going through our graduation ceremony, and I was trying to hold it in. I had tears coming down my eyes but I didn't care. This is my moment. I worked my tush off for this! They called my name and instantly I started crying. The minute the company commander put the diploma in my hand, it meant the world. I've never graduated from anything in my life. I've never succeeded in anything in my life — ever. I'm still in shock! I did it!"

Kant reported to Ft. Jackson, S.C., for basic training and will attend the U.S. Army Quartermaster School at Ft. Lee, Va., to learn his job as a petroleum supply specialist. "I feel amazing right now," Kant said. "I feel like I'm on top of the world."

Soldier becomes professor in spare time in Iraq

By 224th Sustainment Brigade

Many opportunities arise for deployed Soldiers, whether they are educational or just fun things to do in one's spare time.

Staff Sgt. Eric Callagher, sustainment automation support management office non-commissioned officer in charge with the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, is taking hold of an opportunity to better himself and his fellow Soldiers on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Callagher decided to challenge himself by becoming a professor for the University of Maryland University College.

"Now, at 45, I feel that it is my purpose to return to school to inspire the next generation of thinkers," Callagher said. "I am eager to develop future professionals, scientists and colleagues who will travel through life in search of greatness. I also

feel that teaching is a noble profession — a service to humanity."

Callagher is teaching Information Systems Management 201, an introduction to computer-based systems, at the COB Adder Education Center. The eight-week class is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. This is Callagher's first major experience as a teacher, and he is very eager to mentor his students.

"While my approach to teaching is not developed, I will experiment with three basic principles: inspire a creative mindset, embrace change and expect projects to be relevant," Callagher said. "My decision to teach is a life-changing goal and it is a personal challenge."

Callagher started working toward his bachel-

or's degree in geology with a concentration in hydrology at Pierce College in Woodland Hills, Calif., in 1990, after returning to California from being stationed in Hawaii with the Marines. In 1991 he continued his education at California State University-Stanislaus, and several years later he enrolled at Sonoma State University.

While working on his bachelor's degree in 2000, Callagher made his final school change and best academic choice, he said, when he enrolled at the University of San Francisco. He enrolled as an information technology major and completed both his bachelor of science and master of science degrees at USF. Callagher said he is considering attending UMUC or Carnegie Mellon University after his deployment to study for his doctorate degree in information systems security.



While deployed to Iraq, Staff Sgt. Eric Callagher of the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion taught a college course for the first time.

CNG criminals beware: 170th CID is everywhere

California Guard's most overlooked unit is watching

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

The men and women of the California National Guard swear to defend the U.S. Constitution against foreign and domestic enemies. The special agents and investigators of the 170th Criminal Investigation Detachment (CID) swear to make sure those CNG members are doing it legitimately.

"There is nothing glamorous about being a CID special agent. The realities of the profession are long hours, much time away from home, missed birthdays and anniversaries," said Special Agent Rick Russell, agent in charge for the Sacramento-based 170th CID. "Each special agent pulls double-duty in that we must maintain and follow military orders while juggling a real-world mission every day."

It's a tough job in a straight-arrow organization, and it requires dedication to duty, Russell said.

"We provide a service unlike any other unit in the California National Guard," he added. "The 170th is the only unit affiliated with the California National Guard that is able to work side-by-side with local, state and federal law enforcement authorities. We are able to obtain official information not released to the public and report our findings directly to the adjutant general."

The mission of the 170th CID is simple, said Special Agent Patrick Hernandez.

"We review criminal cases relating to the California National Guard, get answers and present those findings to upper com-

mand. Members work together to not only investigate crimes, but to deter them."

CID members also provide special presentations to Guard units that inform and remind Soldiers and Airmen about their legal military commitments.

The 170th CID investigates an average of 100 cases a year. Some are misdemeanors, some are felonies and some involve civilians. Anything criminal that is of California National Guard interest falls under the CID's jurisdiction, as do homeland security issues, Hernandez said.

"The 170th CID is a vital resource that complements the whole of the 49th Military Police Brigade," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles, top enlisted member of the 49th MP Brigade, the 170th CID's higher headquarters. "The CID plays an intricate role. It brings forensic fact and investigation resource skills to totality. The expertise provides commanders empirical evidence so he or she can execute [Uniform Code of Military Justice] authority in criminal matters."

A military crime occurs every hour, according to the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIC). More than 9,000 cases are investigated each year worldwide, and CID investigators helped recover more than \$1.6 billion in the past decade, with more than \$411 million returned directly to the Army.

"The CID Army reserve component Sol-

dier plays a vital role in the overall accomplishment of the CID mission and the Army," USACIC spokesman Jeffrey Castro said. "The Army community [comprises] more than 1 million active duty and reserve Soldiers, their family members, civilian employees and contractors worldwide. Unfortunately in a population of that size, crime will occur, but CID special agents, the very backbone of CID, are sworn and dedicated to making the Army community as safe as possible."

Locally the work is done with exceptional cooperation within minimal assets. The 170th is one of the smallest California National Guard units, but when it comes to finding answers, the 170th CID's reach is endless.

"I can't tell you how many agents we have," Russell said, noting the confidentiality of his operation. "But I can tell you this: We're everywhere."

The 170th CID has direct communication with many federal law agencies such as the FBI and Secret Service. Likewise local law enforcement agencies regularly exchange information with the 170th CID.

Russell and Hernandez said their doors are open to new agents. Be wary, though: It's a busy and risky business.

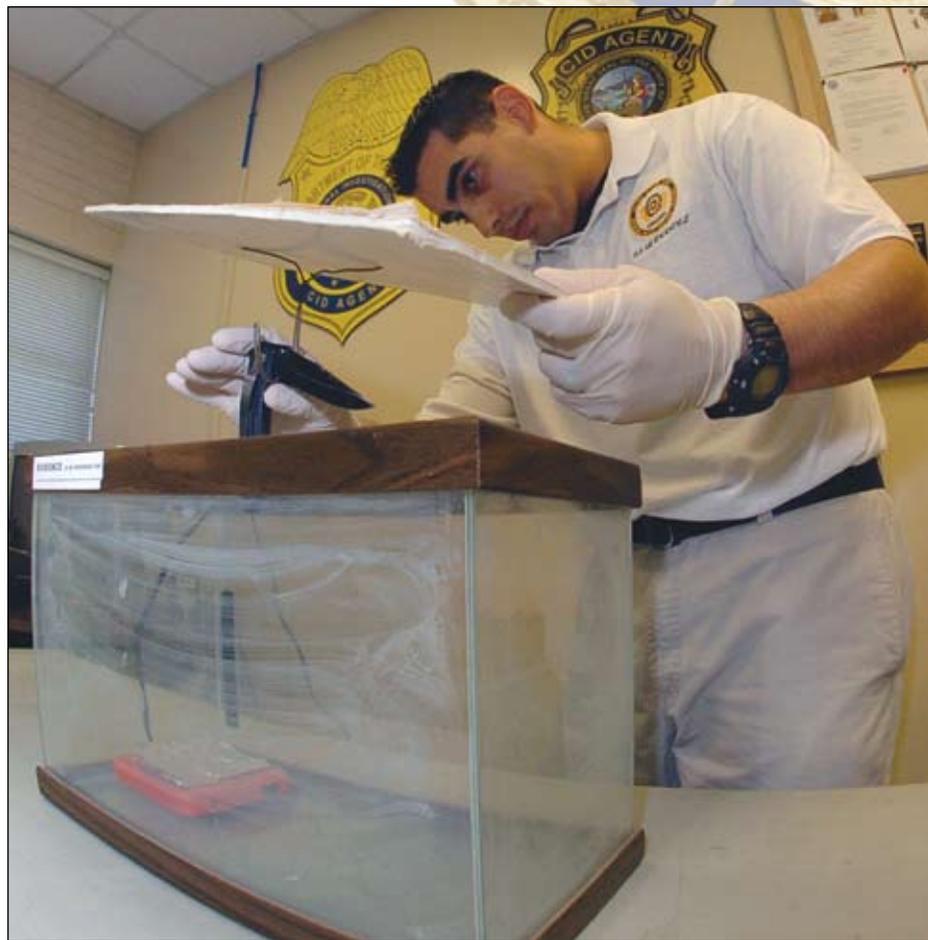
"The hardest thing about the job is learning, knowing and maintaining skill sets of multiple military occupational specialties," Hernandez said. "The CID's organizational structure does not allow support personnel to be assigned. Therefore special agents must learn many trades on the fly in order

for the unit to be successful."

The job is also prestigious, however, and it comes with the gratification of knowing you're doing something to help your fellow Guard members.

"Regrettably, the 170th is an over-tasked asset. The agents are so busy and their skills are in demand," Liles said. "Most of these agents are civilian law enforcement professionals with years of experience and are extremely dedicated professionals."

"I would characterize CID as the most overlooked unit within the California National Guard," Russell added. "Many Soldiers and maybe even some commanders have never heard of CID or know what our capabilities are."



TOP RIGHT: Special agents of the 170th Criminal Investigation Detachment prepare to breach a door during a training run at their Sacramento facility. Many agents must conceal their identity as a member of the CID. **ABOVE:** Special Agent Patrick Hernandez uses a glue fuming device, which detects fingerprints and other evidence that is often difficult to obtain. The process involves heating and releasing a chemical called cyanoacetate, usually found in super glue, which leaves behind a compound that outlines fingerprints.

Join the 170th CID

Seek diligently to discover the truth, deterred by neither fear nor prejudice

To learn more, visit www.cid.army.mil

To apply, contact Special Agent Patrick Hernandez at 916-854-1983 or patrick.r.hernandez@us.army.mil

Raven UAV gives I-143rd Field Artillery a new look

By Cadet Trent Janes and Cadet Timothy Nicolazzi
Reserve Officer Training Corps, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Engines whirred and planes flew during the weekend of March 5 on Camp Roberts, Calif., but they were not your typical planes or pilots operating them. The pilots were artillerymen who traveled to Camp Roberts for a mission that included much more than firing their M-119 Howitzers. They were there to test their newly acquired Raven unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) system

Battery B, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, traveled to Camp Roberts to conduct live-fire artillery missions. Staff Sgt. Steven Demott and Sgt. David Johnson, the battery's UAV team, flew the Raven and coordinated several missions with fire direction control. This brought together two very different weapon systems and gave the commanders a glimpse of what can be done in combat.

The UAV team spent the training weekend completing a variety of tasks, such as force

protection, forward reconnaissance and night missions using the UAV's infrared camera.

"Because of Camp Roberts' airspace, diverse terrain and numerous points of interest, it was extremely high-quality and realistic training," Demott said.

Two days of continuous flight missions were flown to prepare for situations that could arise during the battery's overseas deployment. In one such mission, Demott used the Raven to circle the firing line and provide 360 degrees of security. This gave the commander a bird's eye view of battery resources, gaps in security and possible enemy movement.

The team had previously completed Raven Basic Flight Training on Camp Roberts. The two-week course requires at least 10 hours of flight time plus classroom sessions that covered weather patterns, airspace management, airplane maintenance and mission planning.



A Soldier with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, observes the impact of a blast from an M119 Howitzer during a training exercise on Camp Roberts, Calif., in March.

California Cadet Corps celebrates 100 years

By 1st Lt. Kenneth M. Cook-Askins Jr.
California Cadet Corps Public Affairs

On April 5, 1911, Gov. Hiram Johnson signed the High School Cadet Law, establishing the California High School Cadets. On April 9, 2011, nearly 1,000 cadets traveled from across the state to Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos to celebrate the California Cadet Corps' centennial with a combination of state-level events that normally take place at different times throughout the year, as well as some new activities and competitions.

The activities of Friday, April 8, included the Individual Major Awards, which is equivalent to a cadet of the year competition, in which cadets are asked a series of

questions regarding the cadet curriculum. Other activities included air rifle matches, a soccer competition, a 5K run and an academic competition. Topics for the academic competition included algebra, California Cadet Corps history, commonly misspelled words, systems of the human body and U.S. geography.

Saturday's activities included the State Drill Competition and the Pass in Review. The drill competition included squad and platoon events with and without arms, as well as an individual drilldown.

The Pass in Review was the highlight of the weekend, in which Gov. Jerry Brown swore in then-Colonel David S. Baldwin as the new adjutant general, Col. Matthew P. Beevers as the new assistant adjutant general and Col. James Gabrielli as the new commander of the Youth and Community Programs Task Force. Baldwin has since been promoted to brigadier general.

Brown also spoke to cadets about continuing to be the leaders for the state and country. Brown was a cadet in the California Cadet Corps during high school

The California Cadet Corps remains the only program of its type conducted by a state military department. It continues to be the premier youth leadership development program in the state of California.

The California Cadet Corps is the largest and oldest of the California National Guard's youth programs. Currently in more than 60 elementary, middle and high schools across the state, the California Cadet Corps serves approximately 6,000 students annually. For additional information, visit the Corps' website at www.cadet.org.



A Grizzly Youth Challenge Academy color guard presents the colors April 5 during the centennial celebration for the California Cadet Corps on Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos.

40th CAB Soldiers use art to brighten desert landscape

Story and photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts
40th Combat Aviation Brigade

Soldiers of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) are adding a little color to the monochromatic landscape of Camp Taji, Iraq.

"It's nice to be able to add some color and personality out here," said Spc. Melody MacMurray, an administrative assistant for the 40th CAB's 640th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB). "It helps make you feel better about everything when everything is not of the same color."

Soldiers from the various units that make up the CAB are not only identifying who they are as a unit through art but are adding a little personality to their work space as well.

"The unit logo I'm painting right now is definitely unique," said Spc. Michael Kelly, a flight medic for Company C, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment (Air Ambulance). "I created the design originally for our unit T-shirt, and since everybody liked it so much, we decided to paint it, making it our unit logo while we're here."

Some of the artists in the 40th CAB have professional experience, making them stand out when being chosen to do their unit's artwork.

"Back home I work for Sony Pictures as a concept artist and an assistant art director," said Spc. Adriano Baek, command team driver for the 640th ASB. Among other projects, Baek worked on the drawings of Dr. Otto Octavius' mechanical arms for the movie "Spider-man 2."



Staff Sgt. Josua Glover, future operations and plans noncommissioned officer for the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, stands beside one of many murals he has painted for the 40th CAB on Camp Taji, Iraq.

Others said they enjoy creating artwork because it reminds them of their families back home.

The artists added that their paintings appear to be having an effect.

"It's nice to see how having these paintings up helps boost morale amongst the Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Josua Glover, future operations and plans noncommissioned officer for the 40th CAB.

A warrior and a man of God

Lt. Col. Dan Viveros served CNG Chaplaincy Corps for more than 25 years

By 1st Lt. Will Martin

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

On Sunday, Feb. 13, at the 49th Military Police Brigade headquarters in Fairfield, Calif., Lt. Col. Dan Viveros needed a passage for what would be his last sermon as a chaplain in an Army uniform. He chose the Book of Acts and the life of Saul.

Saul, the story goes, was a Hebrew religious leader on his way to harass some Christians for their uncompromising devotion to Christ, when he was struck by a heavenly light and a thunderous voice — the former left him blind and the latter awakened him to faith. Saul would go on to regain his sight before taking the name Paul and spreading Christianity across much of the civilized world.

Viveros has his own conversion story to tell, and though less dramatic, it has borne life-changing consequences all its own for those under his care during the past 24 years.

HIS CONVERSION

Dan Viveros wasn't always a man of God, but he's long been a warrior. His conversion story begins in the jungles of Vietnam, where as a junior enlisted rifleman with the 101st Airborne Division, the threat of death was his steady companion.

"I wanted to believe God was in control," Viveros said, recalling his youthful doubt, "that people didn't just die by chance."

Adding insult to the constant threat of injury, Viveros received a "Dear John" letter while on one of his seemingly countless patrols. It was enough to push his desire for meaning to a frantic search. He borrowed another grunt's Bible, opened it and read,

"For you have been called to this purpose," and further on, "I will never leave you, nor will I forsake you."

"I knew he was in control," Viveros said, referring to his newfound faith in Christ. "I experienced a peace I had never felt before."

Buoyed by spiritual rebirth, it wasn't long before he experienced further encouragement that bordered on the miraculous. "I wanted a Bible of my own," said Viveros, who remembers praying for one the day before a search-and-destroy mission. As he looked for a spot to bed down after the mission, he felt his prayer had been answered.

"When I moved off the path and looked to sit down, there was a Bible, wet and soiled. At first, I thought, 'This is a coincidence,' and then I realized that can't be — it was God. I was no longer fearful of dying, and if I lived, I knew He had a plan for my life."

HIS CALLING

That plan took Viveros back to his native southern California, where he ultimately ended up at a Los Angeles seminary in an effort to expand his faith. Upon graduation he entered the ministry, pastoring small churches in California and Oregon, and gaining a wife and two children along the way. Despite his service, something was missing.

"I never felt right in the pastorate," Viveros said. "I just knew God's vineyard was wider for me."

Fluent in Spanish, Viveros found a broader "ministry" in teaching foreign language at

high schools in Avanel and Tulare, where he remains a teacher today. In 1985 yet another ministry opportunity arose, when after several years of pestering by a friend, he joined the California National Guard Chaplaincy Corps.

Since joining, Viveros has deployed three times as a chaplain — in support of Operation Noble Eagle in the United States, a yearlong tour in Kosovo and most recently for 10 months in Iraq with the 49th MP Bri-

gade. Whether at home or abroad, experiencing the gratitude of his Soldiers has been Viveros' joy.

"Counseling Soldiers with marital or other problems and seeing them experience healing growth," has been a highlight of his career, Viveros said. "I've had some people of other faiths come in with different issues and tension, and more often than not, they come in to say thanks and let me know it really encouraged them."



Lt. Col. Dan Viveros accepts a token of appreciation from the 49th Military Police Brigade during Viveros' retirement ceremony Feb. 13 at the brigade's armory in Fairfield, Calif. Viveros had served the California National Guard Chaplaincy Corps since 1985.

PHOTO BY SGT. KENNETH BINCE

163rd RW team runs ninth L.A. Marathon

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

As a rainstorm raged at this year's Los Angeles Marathon, 163rd Reconnaissance Wing runners paced themselves to complete the race for the ninth consecutive year.

"I was targeting to run the course within four hours, and my time was 3:54," Staff Sgt. Miguel Anguiano of the 163rd Communications Flight said after the race March 20. "It was challenging to stick to my training regimen with a busy family and work schedule. I am going to continue to train and I will be running the Air Force Marathon for the first time in September."

The Wing's 22-person team secured the starting line, acting as a human chain while more than 23,000 participants stood behind them, eagerly waiting to run the 26.2-mile course. This year's team was the largest in the unit's history. It included nine CNG Airmen and 13 friends or family members.

"It is a tradition for the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing Team to hold the line of thousands of runners at the start of the race and to begin the race shortly after the elite runners," said Lt. Col. Brenda Hendricksen,



Members of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing marathon team form a human chain to separate the elite runners from the 23,000 other participants in the 26th annual L.A. Marathon. The team has participated nine straight years and annually takes responsibility for holding the line.

captain of the unit's race team.

The team comprised seven L.A. marathon

veterans, seven new marathoners and eight members who had run other marathons. Times ranged from 3:54 to 7:10.

"Out of 22 runners who started the race, 18 finished," said Hendricksen, a veteran of 16 marathons. "This year's race was very challenging because of the rain and the wind."

The race started at Dodger Stadium, continued through Little Tokyo and downtown before heading west through Hollywood and ending in Santa Monica. The spectators cheered from under umbrellas along the route as the runners splashed through the streets mile by mile.

"The furthest I had run before finishing this marathon was 14 miles straight," said Joseph Simpson, team member and son of 163rd recruiter Master Sgt. Matt Simpson. "I feel I trained adequately. With so much work to do in college, finding the time to get a good run in was hard."

In addition to Hendricksen and Anguiano, the Airmen who participated were 1st Lt. Matt Feucht, Tech. Sgt. Keith Ericson, Tech. Sgt. Samuel Ruiz, Staff Sgt. Megan Crusher, Senior Airman William Bartlett, Senior Airman Luis Tovar and Senior Airman Doug Witherspoon.

CNG, ANA units celebrate Afghan New Year

Soldiers plant fruit trees at home of ANA's 201st Flood Corps

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Bart Major
210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

California National Guardsmen and Afghan National Army Soldiers planted trees to celebrate Nowruz (pronounced now-rose) on March 22. Nowruz is the traditional New Year for Afghanistan, which uses the Islamic solar calendar, making the current year 1390.

The Guardsmen of Combined Joint Task Force-101 Toccoa TAC and members of the Afghan National Army's 201st Flood Corps planted 30 orange and grapefruit trees at Gamberi Garrison, the new home of the 201st Corps. Toccoa TAC has been partnered with the 201st Flood Corps for the past six months.

Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from the ANA and Toccoa TAC planted most of the trees on a dry, warm day before Nowruz, breaking the rock-solid ground with a pickaxe to till the dirt and plant the trees.

"The planting of this tree is a Nowruz tradition symbolizing growth and developing prosperity, much like the ongoing partnership between the Afghan National Army and coalition forces," said Brig. Gen. Warren Phipps of Fort Campbell, Ky., who serves as Toccoa TAC commander.

The last tree was saved ceremoniously for

Phipps to plant with Maj. Gen. Abdullah, the 201st Corps commander. Afterward the two units bustled over to the American dining facility, where an Afghan meal had been prepared.

"I think the Afghans appreciated the fact that we cooked some of their dishes," said Maj. John Griffis, the Toccoa TAC personnel officer and a California National Guardsman. "You can only make so much progress talking about work all the time.

"A meal goes really far because it emphasizes the common human link we have: We need to eat!" laughed Griffis, who is from Woodland, Calif.

The original 15 core members of Toccoa TAC are Army National Guardsmen from California, Nebraska, North Carolina, Vermont and Texas, but the TAC also includes five Army Reservists, 27 active duty Army Soldiers, a Marine officer, a French Army officer and five civilian contractors.

"The core of our mission is to provide synchronization and coordination between the 201st Corps ANA, Regional Command East and the battle-space owners that occupy the 201st Corps area of responsibility," said Toccoa TAC Deputy Commander



California National Guardsmen Maj. Daniel Markert, left, and Maj. Darren Runion await a helicopter Feb. 25 on Camp Blackhorse, Afghanistan. Both are members of Combined Joint Task Force-101 Toccoa TAC, which works with the Afghan National Army's 201st Flood Corps.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Smiley, an Army National Guardsman from Sacramento.

Toccoa TAC also receives support from more than 40 local residents who serve as linguists to help bridge the gap between Afghan and American service members.

"The Corps is growing, and with this move

they are also realigning combat power and concentrating troops for operations in eastern Afghanistan," said then-Colonel David Baldwin, former Toccoa TAC deputy commanding officer. Baldwin was called back from Afghanistan in April to take command of the California National Guard and was promoted to brigadier general. "They're taking the fight to the enemy."

Salute to the Military and their Families 2011



*California National Guard
Family Symposium
and Awards Banquet*



The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness

Friday, 20 May 2011 – Saturday, 21 May 2011

To register, visit www.calguard.ca.gov/ReadyFamilies

The 2011 Family Readiness Awards Banquet

Saturday, 21 May 2011

To register, visit www.ngac.org

Both events will be held at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront



A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, gears up to film a scene for Hollywood movie "Contagion" on Feb. 11 outside City Hall in San Francisco. California National Guard members spent three days in San Francisco in February filming for the upcoming feature. Photo by 1st Lt. Will Martin

GoArmyEd will serve all NG Soldiers

GoArmyEd, the Army's enterprise education system, will begin serving all Army National Guard Soldiers in June. GoArmyEd currently supports active duty Soldiers, Army Reservists and mobilized Army National Guard Soldiers.

The website, www.goarmyed.com, will provide the online capability to register for classes, identify courses that will advance you toward your degree, view your Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) balance and contact your school and Army Education counselor. Soldiers will also be able to withdraw from classes, request military withdrawals, resolve recoupments and holds, and request tuition assistance, as well as review their degree plan, student record, course history and grades.

DoD launches Safe Helpline

The Defense Department has three new ways to help victims of sexual assault. As part of the Pentagon's initiative to support such victims, the DoD Safe Helpline enables service members to click, call or text for services for themselves or others.

The resource is free, anonymous and confidential. It is available 24 hours a day, and those who call will be connected instantly with sexual assault support professionals. The program is designed to help people who are victims of sexual assault and to encourage victims to come forward.

To click: <http://SafeHelpline.org>

To call: 877-995-5247

To text: 55247 (or 202-470-5546 outside the United States)

CORRECTION: An article in the March issue of Grizzly about changes to the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill should have stated that service members are now eligible for higher-eligibility tiers if they served on Title 32 USC 502(f) orders or Title 32 for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training in the National Guard. All CNG members serving on the Southwest border mission qualify under this requirement. Additionally, the Department of Veterans Affairs now allows Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to be transferred to a spouse while on active duty orders, but service members must meet certain requirements such as time in service and time remaining in service, and their unit will determine transferability. Visit www.gibill.va.gov for current information or call a Veterans Affairs education representative at 1-888-442-4551.

Gravett appointed CDVA secretary

Gov. Jerry Brown appointed retired Maj. Gen. Peter J. Gravett to be secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Gravett retired from the California National Guard in 2002 after more than 35 years of service. He served as commander of the 40th Infantry Division from 1999 until 2002, becoming the first African-American division commander in the nationwide history of the National Guard.

DID YOU KNOW...

... physical fitness performance can have a significant impact on your military career?

The Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) is a three-event test consisting of a 2-mile run, two minutes of push-ups and two minutes of sit-ups. The scoring is based on age and gender. Service members must pass all three events to pass the APFT. Failure requires the initiation of a suspension of favorable personnel actions, or flag, and a re-test within 90 days. Consecutive failures can result in a bar to reenlistment and a separation from service. Further info can be found in Army Regulation (AR) 350-1, AR 135-178, AR 600-8-2 and Training Circular 3-22.20.

The Air Force Fitness Assessment is based on four components: body composition, 1½ mile run, one minute of push-ups and one minute of sit-ups. Three of the four components' minimum requirements are based on age and gender; the fourth, body composition, is gender-based. In addition to meeting the minimum standards for each component, service members are required to meet a minimum overall score. Additionally, a minimum score in each component will not achieve the minimum composite score needed to pass, regardless of age or gender. Administrative actions taken for an unsatisfactory Fitness Assessment range from an oral reprimand to a letter of reprimand. Failure to achieve Fitness Assessment standards can ultimately result in adverse actions including removal from a duty assignment or promotion list and separation from the service. Further information can be found in Air Force Instruction 36-2905.



Public Affairs Directorate, California National Guard

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Staff Sgt. James F. Emery and the 59th Army Band provide music for the opening of the Sacramento Readiness Center on April 8.

PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSE FLAGG

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