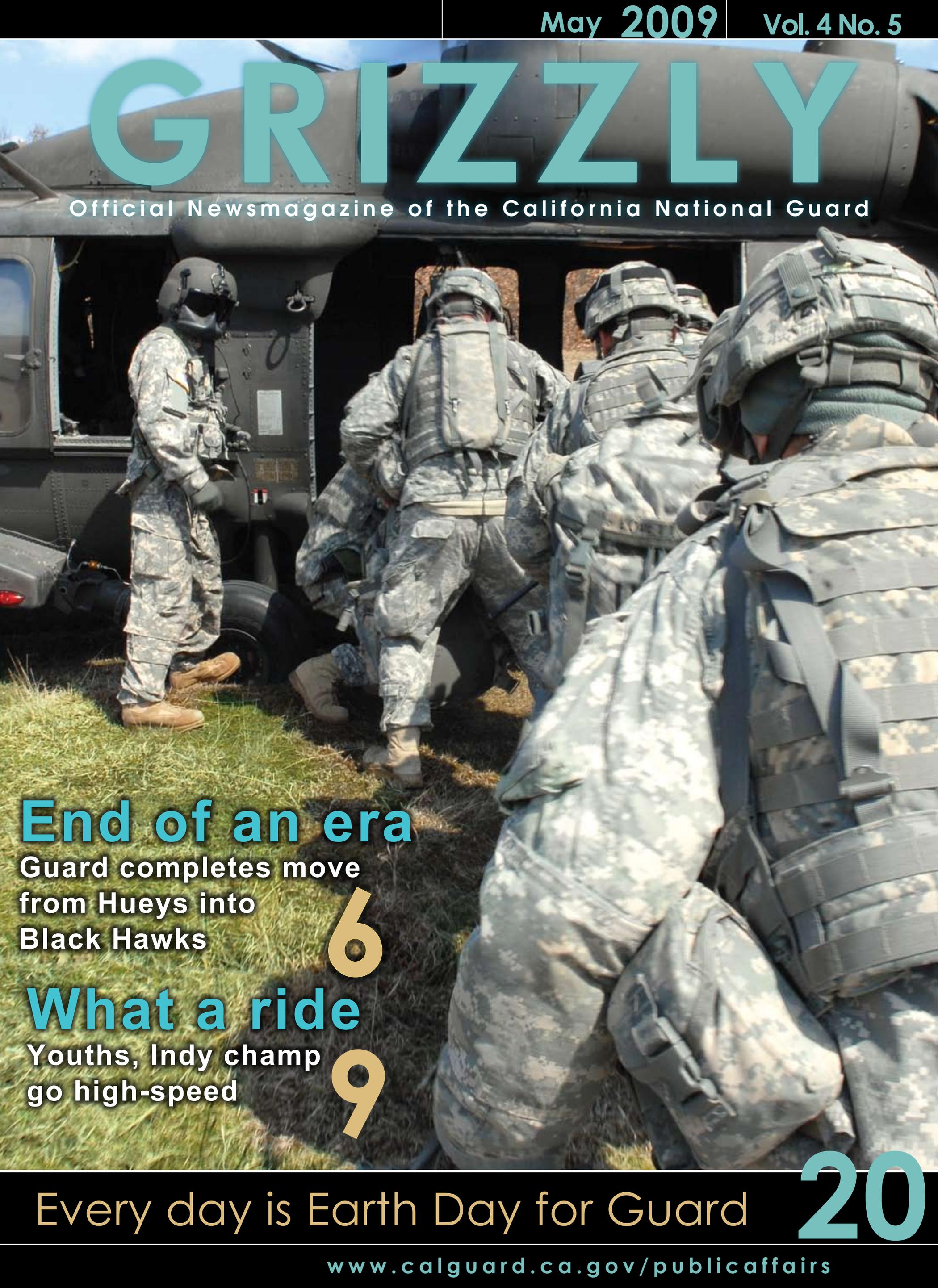


GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



End of an era

Guard completes move from Hueys into Black Hawks

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What a ride

Youths, Indy champ go high-speed

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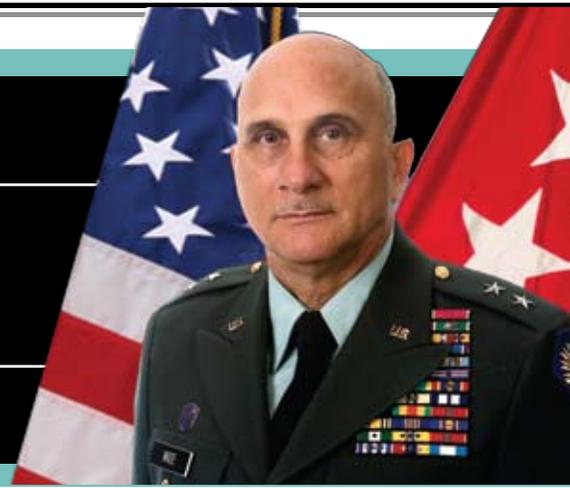
Every day is Earth Day for Guard

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Commander's corner

A band of brothers and sisters

Major General William H. Wade II



The month of May is full of militarily historical significance from World War II. For example, on May 2, 1945, Axis forces in Italy surrendered; on May 6, 1942, Gen. Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright IV surrendered all American forces in the Philippines; on May 7, 1942, was the epic battle of Midway; on May 8, 1945, was V-E Day and the surrender of Germany; and on May 13, 1943, Axis forces surrendered in North Africa.

Arguably the most significant event was the establishment of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). Notwithstanding the establishment of the Army Nurse Corps in February 1901, the creation of the WAAC was the defining moment for what would lead to the key roles that women play in modern-day U.S. military formations.

In 1941, Rep. Edith Rogers of Massachusetts introduced a bill to establish an Army women's corps to support the "inevitable" war effort. Women had worked overseas during World War I without the benefit of any type of official status; they had to pay for their own food and quarters, received no legal protection or medical care and were not entitled to disability benefits or pensions.

On May 14, 1941, a bill was signed into law creating the WAAC to work *with* the Army. The WAACs were to be provided food, uniforms, living quarters, pay and medical care – although they received less pay than their male counterparts – but they were not to be afforded overseas pay, government life insurance, veterans medical coverage or death benefits granted regular Army soldiers. Oveta Culp Hobby was appointed as the first Director of the WAAC and given the rank of major.

Each auxiliary member was trained in noncombatant military jobs, thus "freeing a man for combat." The first units and personnel to reach the field went to the Aircraft Warning Service to operate its stations 24 hours a day. Initially, most WAACs worked as clerks, typists, stenographers or motor pool drivers; however, that would change with increased demands for personnel to aid the war effort. The Army Air Force assigned women to work as weather observers and forecasters, cryptographers, radio operators and repairwomen, sheet metal work-

ers, parachute riggers, link trainer instructors, bombsight maintenance specialists, aerial photograph analysts and control tower operators. A few WAACs were even assigned flying duties.

Some women assigned to the Ordnance Corps computed the velocity of bullets, mixed gunpowder and loaded shells. Others worked as draftspeople, mechanics and electricians. In the Chemical Warfare Service, they worked in laboratories and they field-tested equipment. The Quartermaster Corps used them for inspection, procurement, stock control and storage. In the Signal Corps, women worked as operators for telephone switchboards, radios and telegraphs, and also as cryptologists and photo and map analysts. Within the Army Medical Department, women were used as laboratory, surgical, x-ray and dental technicians.

In 1943, Congress conducted hearings on converting the WAAC to regular Army status. On July 3, 1943, a bill was passed creating the Women's Army Corps (WAC), and all WAACs were offered the opportunity to join the Army or return to civilian life. Seventy-five percent chose to stay with the Army. Traditional values changed and restrictions were lifted on females in the workforce and in the military as a result of the labor shortage during World War II – and

things would never be the same.

In June 1948, President Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, permitting women to not only be in the Army but also enjoy regular Army status. Things continued to change for women in the military, and on Nov. 8, 1967, Congress removed promotion restrictions for female officers, making it possible to achieve a general officer rank. The first WAC promoted to brigadier general was Elizabeth Hoisington on June 11, 1970. To complete the assimilation of women into the Army, the WAC was disestablished as a separate corps on Oct. 29, 1978, and women became part of "the Army."

Today, 164,000 women serve in America's Army – making up 15.4 percent of the total Army. They serve in 93 percent of all Army occupations, and 98 percent of officer specialties are open to women. In the fall of 2008, the United States Army for the first time promoted a female – Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of U.S. Army Materiel Command – to the rank of GENERAL (the first woman of four-star rank in any branch of the service). Today, women serve in all branches of the military – both active and reserve – occupying key leadership and staff positions. The band of brothers is now a band of brothers and sisters, creating a synergistic effect that is virtually incalculable.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOE PROUSE



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

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FROM THE EDITOR

The California National Guard's heritage takes center stage in this month's Grizzly, as service members look back on the history and traditions that made the Guard the force it is today.

One of the Army's most recognized and cherished pieces of equipment – the UH-1 Iriquois, or "Huey," helicopter – flew for the Cal Guard for the last time in April (page 6). The Huey has been replaced by more advanced UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. The Huey had served the California Guard since 1971 and the U.S. military since 1959.

Staff Sgt. David W. Underhill looked back centuries further to explore his Guard heritage, tracing his family line to the First Muster of the East Regiment in 1637 in Salem, Mass., where Underhill's ancestor Capt. John Underhill offered his services to defend the colonies (page 12). Also this month, state historian 1st Lt. Michael Anthony Rodriguez examines a unique unit in California National Guard history, the Sacramento Hussars, who served the Guard in flashy, expensive uniforms from 1863 to 1874 (page 13).

The California Guard is making history this year as well, as it takes strides to protect our natural resources and environment (page 20).

And finally, the Guard said goodbye to a longtime friend and leader, Maj. Gen. Daniel J. Hernandez, last month, as he died at age 75, following 44 years of service (page 19).

By exploring these aspects of the California National Guard's history, Soldiers and Airmen gain a greater appreciation for the Guard's role in our state and our nation today.

6 HUEY'S LAST FLIGHT

Guard retires UH-1



15 VISITING THE TROOPS

NGB's top enlisted leader lends an ear



8 'HOT' CAR

Guard-themed car a hit

Submissions

Articles:

- ★ 250-300 words for a half-page story; 600-800 words for a full-page article
- ★ Include first and last names, and verify spelling
- ★ Spell out all 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
- ★ Caption (what is happening, who is pictured and the date of the photo)
- ★ Credit (who took photo)

E-mail submissions by the 15th of every month to:

brandon.honig@us.army.mil

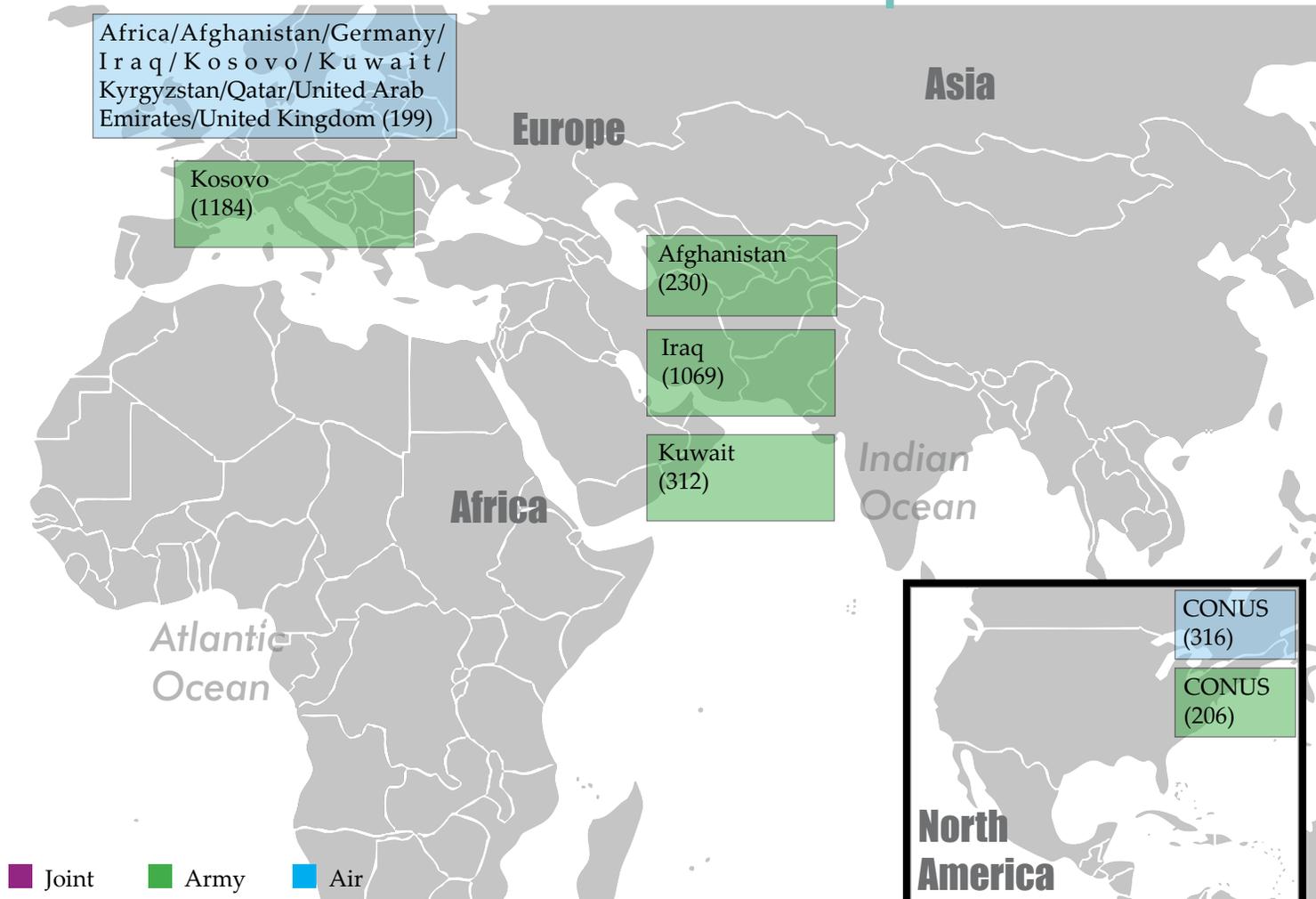
Cover Shot



Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts

Soldiers from Company A, 1-185th Combined Arms Battalion (CAB), board a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter outside Kamenica, Kosovo, on March 27. Black Hawks have replaced all of the California National Guard's UH-1 "Hueys." The 1-185th CAB is deployed in support of Multi-National Task Force-East, Kosovo Force 11.

The California National Guard as of April 2009



Nelan attains rank of brigadier general

Daniel J. Nelan was promoted to the rank of brigadier general April 9 at Folsom Community Center in Folsom, Calif. Nelan is the assistant adjutant general, Army Division, California National Guard.

Nelan enlisted in the Army in March 1970, completed the Warrant Officer Rotary Wing Flight Program at Fort Rucker, Ala., in 1971 and was subsequently assigned a combat tour in the Republic of South Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division as an assault helicopter pilot. Upon returning from Southeast Asia in 1972, Nelan was assigned as an air cavalry pilot at Fort Knox, Ky., and then as a flight instructor at Fort Rucker until his release from active duty in 1974.

In 1976, Nelan received an appointment in the California Army National Guard as an evacuation pilot in the 126th Medical Company in Sacramento. In 1981, after completing Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Nelan held several positions in Company A, 40th Aviation Battalion, culminating in appointment as commander in 1986.

He then held various staff assignments at the battalion and brigade levels, including intelligence, opera-



Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II (left) presents Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Nelan a general officer belt April 9 at Folsom Community Center in Folsom, Calif. A general officer belt has been presented to new brigadier generals since 1943. Nelan, assistant adjutant general, Army Division, California National Guard, has served in the Guard since 1976.

tions and logistics officer for the 40th Aviation Brigade, and executive officer and operations officer for the 1-140th Attack Helicopter Battalion. In 1996, Nelan assumed command of the 3-140th Aviation Battalion. Upon leaving battalion command in 1998, he was selected for the resident U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn. Upon his return in August 1999, Nelan assumed the duties of executive officer for the 40th Aviation Brigade; he took command

of the brigade in December 1999. Upon leaving the brigade command in 2003, Nelan served as director of Army Aviation and Safety; deputy chief of staff, operations; and most recently, chief of the Joint Staff at Joint Force Headquarters.

Nelan has served as a full-time support technician for the California Army Guard since 1980. His technician assignments have included flight instructor, operations officer and

Army Aviation Support Facility commander at Mather Air Park and Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos.

His civilian education includes an Associate of Arts degree from Sacramento City College, a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from National University in San Diego and a Master of Aviation Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla. His military education includes the Rotary Wing Aviator Qualification Course and the Aviation Warrant Officer Advanced Course at Fort Rucker; Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning; the Aviation Officer Advanced Course; U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; the U.S. Army War College; and numerous aircraft qualification and technical courses.

Among various other federal and state awards, Nelan has received the Meritorious Service Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Air Medal (15 awards), Army Commendation Medal and Master Army Aviator Badge, with more than 6,500 hours flying both rotary and fixed-wing aircraft.

Nelan is married to Dr. Kathy Anderson and has two sons, Matthew Nelan and Pfc. Jeffrey Nelan of the Army.

PHOTO BY TECH SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

129th staff sergeant named Air Force Security Forces Reserve Airman of the Year

by Staff Sgt. Eric M. Hamilton
Special to the Grizzly

Staff Sgt. Alejandro "Alex" C. Alvarado joined the California Air National Guard Security Forces in September 2003 because he wanted to serve before he committed himself further to his education.

"As a kid, I always wanted to be law enforcement," he said

Alvarado's childhood goal was validated this year when he was recognized as the Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Reserve Airman of the Year. He was nominated by Senior Master Sgt. Richard M. Rodriguez, 129th Security Forces Squadron operations superintendent.

"Sergeant Alvarado was selected as our Airman of the year because of his balanced, superior performance," Rodriguez said.

"A deployed and decorated security forces member, a qualified security forces control-center controller, a musician for ministry services at a deployed location and a volunteer peer counselor on the home front for people in his community ... he is the true representation of the citizen Soldier."

Alvarado has deployed twice. He volunteered for deployment to Iraq from February 2005 to May 2005, and he moved up his wedding plans to get married before leaving for Iraq. Alvarado was mobilized for his second deployment, to Saudi Arabia, from November 2007 to May 2008.

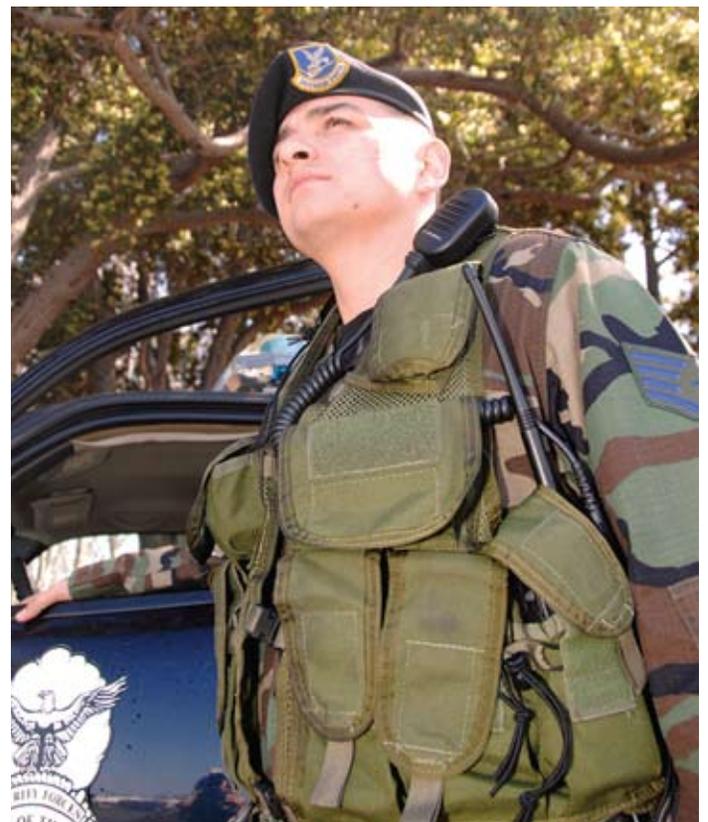
"This last deployment helped me realize a lot and understand myself better," he said.

He lost 60 pounds, completed college courses, received recognitions and awards and realized some long-term military goals.

"I was more focused on what I wanted to do, because of the time to myself," Alvarado said.

After graduating high school in 2000, Alvarado attended DeAnza College in Cupertino, Calif., as a music student. Since then, music has become "more of a hobby," he said, though he still works with local artists as a session musician at a studio in Hayward, Calif.

He also volunteers with youths at a non-denominational Christian church and works in a men's ministry at the church.



Staff Sgt. Alejandro "Alex" C. Alvarado, 129th Security Forces, is the 2008 Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Reserve Airman of the Year.

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAN KACIR

Controlling the crowd before it controls you

**Story and photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts
69th Public Affairs Detachment**

A young man, no more than 21, sits on a packed bus, knowing he is about to participate in a riot. He doesn't know how the day will turn out; all he knows is his role in the upcoming chaos. The bus stops and his leader shouts one last bit of instruction to the 85 eager passengers: "Go out there and see if you can get one of their shields or try to get one of them. Let's show them what we're made of."

That was the experience of the Soldiers from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Sabre, in early March as they took part in a multi-national riot-control training exercise with French and Portuguese troops at Camp Vrelo, which is in the Multi-National Task Force-Central sector of Kosovo. The cavalry Soldiers, who exchanged their combat equipment and uniforms for civilian clothes and essential body armor, acted as rioters and allowed the foreign Soldiers to practice riot control.

The Azusa, Calif.-based unit participated in the event so its Soldiers could gain an idea of what it is like to be part of a group of rioters. The new

perspective helped prepare them in case they come face-to-face with individuals bent on making a scene.

"It allows us to anticipate what the crowd may or may not do," said 1st Sgt. John Wheeler.

The day started with a peaceful demonstration by the California National Guard Soldiers, who were pitted against the Portuguese first-responding riot-control team. The Portuguese team tried to calm the demonstrators with words, but when negotiations failed, the French team was brought in to suppress the crowd. French Soldiers, who were visiting from the Multi-National Task Force-North sector, began lobbing tear gas canisters to disperse the unruly crowd.

"They made it impossible to do anything because they kept gassing us," Spc. Joshua Navarro said.

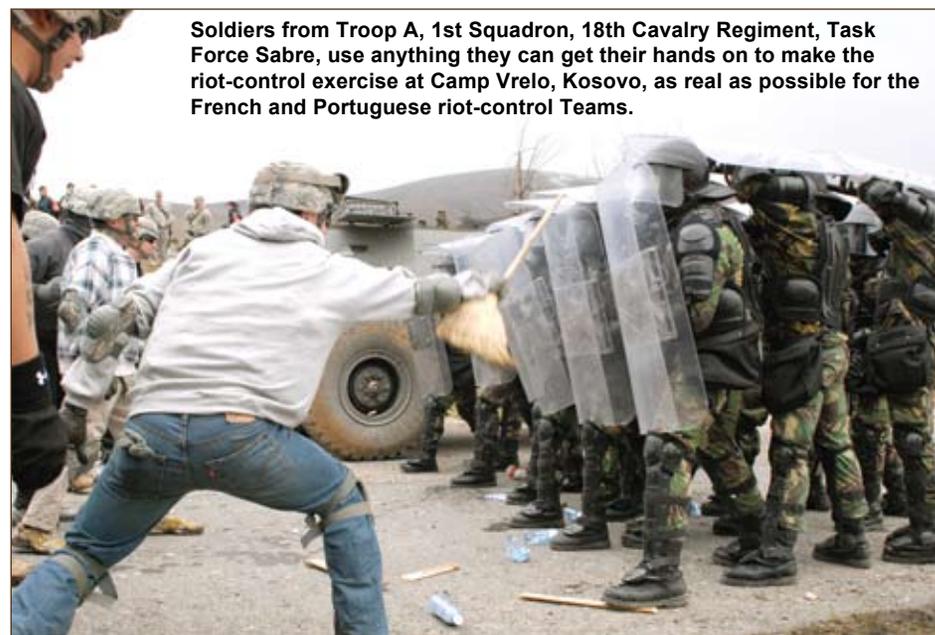
During the second phase, the cavalry Soldiers were told to hold nothing back and go full strength against the riot-controllers. The adrenaline-filled Sabre troops gathered sticks, half-full water bottles and whatever else they

could get their hands on to use in the upcoming riot, and they rushed out to confront the French troops again. Once again a wall of gas went up, and the Guard Soldiers encountered razor wire that had been newly laid to block them from getting too close.

Mother Nature was on the cavalry's side this time as wind swept the gas harmlessly aside and the wire was moved, turning the tide in favor of the

rioters. The French Soldiers started to get overwhelmed, so a vehicle was brought in to push the mob back, just one of many techniques that were used and evaluated that day.

"This training gave my guys an opportunity to see and experience what it is like on the opposing force," Wheeler said. "Ultimately, the purpose of learning how to control a riot is being able to restore peace."



Soldiers from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Sabre, use anything they can get their hands on to make the riot-control exercise at Camp Vrelo, Kosovo, as real as possible for the French and Portuguese riot-control Teams.

Bad things can come in small packages

**By Spc. Louis Smith and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade
69th Public Affairs Detachment**

PHOTO BY SPC. LOUIS SMITH



A Soldier from an Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit removes a suspicious package from the Army Post Office on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, during a training exercise in March.

Terrorism can be unleashed in many ways and its destructive potential delivered in many formats. Sometimes those formats are delivered through the U.S. Postal Service. The threat is real and can reach anywhere, which is why the postal detachment on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, conducts bomb-handling exercises.

"You can never tell when a [situation] like this will take place, and the one time you relax and don't take it seriously is when someone will get hurt," said 1st Lt. Kristopher Speegle, postal detachment officer-in-charge, after a March exercise.

Camp Bondsteel postal workers sort through 60 to 90 parcels daily.

"We work from Sunday through Saturday to make sure that all of the post gets to the troops as soon as it arrives," said Speegle, who is assigned to the 49th Personnel Services Battalion. "It may take four weeks for a Soldier to finally get their parcel here, but it's worth it. One care package can make a huge difference to a Soldier's morale."

But what happens if one of those love letters smells of a toxic odor instead of perfume or if a care package is leaking a strange fluid that isn't shampoo?

"We always look for suspicious packages," said Spc. Melissa Duran of the 40th Infantry Division. "We're trained to detect odors, signs of leaking parcels and other indicators."

During the March training exercise, a questionable package was placed on a shelf. Staff Sgt. Lando – a 7-year-old Belgian Malinois – then came in with his unique ability to detect explosives. Within minutes, the dog had zeroed in on the package.

"Code red!" Speegle yelled, and his troops dashed for the exits.

"We did not know if this was the real thing or training," Duran said. "We went quickly to our rally point and started calling the appropriate units."

Military police circled the Post Office, and firefighters positioned themselves nearby. Then the Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit arrived. Donning a 70-pound bomb suit, an explosives expert moved in and disposed of the threat with precision handling.

"We had a lot of training to bring us to this point," Speegle said after the "all clear" was given. "Our team has it down to a science, and I'm very proud of them."

CAL GUARD'S LAST HUEY FLIES OFF

By Brandon Honig
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The distinctive hum of the UH-1 Iroquois helicopter, or "Huey," faded into the distance April 20 as the California National Guard's last Huey took off from Mather Air Field near Sacramento on its final National Guard flight.

The Huey has been renowned during its 50 years of military service as "the sound of freedom," the Swiss Army knife of helicopters and a symbol of America's efforts in Vietnam. The California National Guard has retired its Hueys and replaced them with more advanced UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

"This is kind of a sad day for me, but also an important day, as we mark the end of an era for a tremendous machine that has contributed so much for the freedom of the United States and become a symbol of Army Aviation," said Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Nelan, assistant adjutant general of

the California Army National Guard, who has flown more than 3,500 hours in UH-1 aircraft. "The Huey has been the backbone of Army Aviation for a number of years."

The U.S. military first used the Huey in 1959, and the last Huey rolled off the production lines in 1976. More than 16,000 of the aircraft were produced, including 7,000 that were used during the Vietnam War. The California National Guard had used the Huey since 1971.

"This aircraft, the Huey, has been an icon of Army Aviation since the late '50s, definitely an icon of the Vietnam War," said Chief Warrant Officer Randall Weatherhead, who piloted the California Guard's last Huey to Fort Hood, Texas, on the helicopter's final Guard flight. The helicopter will be turned



over to Army Materiel Command.

Approximately 100 people turned out April 20 to witness the Huey's final flight from Mather Air Field, including many who had flown in the aircraft during military and civilian operations.

"So many people have an emotional attachment to this aircraft," said Lt. Col. Laura L. Yeager, commander of Army Aviation Support Facility Sacramento. "The sound of the rotors brings back a lot of memories for those who have served or have family who have served ... and many of us [in the Guard] learned how to fly on UH-1s."

"Folks like me, we fly the Black Hawk, but our heart is with the Huey," she added.

The UH-60 Black Hawk has replaced the UH-1 in the California National Guard because it is larger, has greater carrying capacity, operates better at high altitude and has two engines instead of one. For firefighting operations, the UH-60 can carry 660 gallons of water, compared with 325 gallons carried by the UH-1.

The UH-1 continues to be used by many militaries worldwide and by U.S. fire departments, police departments and other public safety agencies for firefighting, search-and-rescue and medical transport operations.

"The image of the Huey is recognized by most people in this country, and it's been a very utilitarian [aircraft]," Weatherhead said. "It's just a good ol' bird."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA MILITARY MUSEUM



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA MILITARY MUSEUM



INTO SUNSET



The California National Guard's last Huey helicopter flies over the Capitol in Sacramento before heading to Fort Hood, Texas, on its final Guard flight.

PHOTO BY KEN JAMES, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA MILITARY MUSEUM



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

Chief Pilot Mike Phillips (left) and Training Officer Chuck Smith were all smiles March 25 after receiving a UH-1 Huey from the California Army National Guard, which doubled the Sacramento Metro Fire Department's aerial fleet

A \$1.75 MILLION HAND-ME-DOWN

**By Brandon Honig
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

The California National Guard donated a helicopter valued at \$1.75 million to the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department March 25, renewing the Guard's commitment to support agencies that protect California residents.

The Huey, which belonged to the F/2-135th Medical Company, is being replaced with a more advanced UH-60 Black Hawk aircraft that is better suited to perform at high altitudes and in extreme temperatures. The unit's Black Hawks will be mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom next spring.

Through a federal program, surplus Department of Defense equipment can be transferred to other government agencies for a nominal cost. The Sacramento Metro Fire Department paid about \$1 for the 39-year-old Huey.

"We are grateful to the California Army National Guard in these hard economic times," Sacramento Metro Fire Chief Don Mette said during a transfer ceremony at McLellan Air Park near Sacramento. "This is an opportunity for Metro Fire to publicly accept this important resource and publicly commit that we will be good stewards of this resource and that [Metro Fire and the California National Guard] will be working together to keep citizens safe."

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard, said that upgrading the Guard's fleet while keeping the older aircraft in service for Californians provides a double benefit for the state.

"This is a win-win situation for the state of California as it retains the UH-1 aircraft

as a public safety asset while upgrading the capabilities of its National Guard," Wade said. "It's a very economically efficient use of resources, and the state will be safer because of it."

Metro Fire's only other aircraft, Copter 1, is also a UH-1 Huey.

"This is not just another helicopter. It's doubling our fleet, giving us so much more capacity," said David Brennan, chief of special operations for Metro Fire. "I can't emphasize enough how important this is for strengthening our air operations."

He added that the Huey's capacity to deliver 325 gallons of water and its multi-mission capability – the Huey can be used for firefighting, search-and-rescue and medical transport – make it an extremely valuable aircraft. Chief Pilot Mike Phillips said Metro Fire now plans to use Copter 1 solely for firefighting, while the new Huey will be used for training missions, search-and-rescue operations and transporting personnel and equipment.

The division of duties will relieve the pressure on Copter 1 and eliminate fears that the department's air program could be shut down because of maintenance issues, Phillips said. He added that it will be cheaper for Metro Fire to maintain two Hueys with divided duties than to maintain a single helicopter flying every department mission.

"Currently there is no way we could afford an aircraft of this quality without this program," Phillips said. "I'm like a kid in a candy store. ... It's just remarkable what this will do for our citizens and our department."

Soldier, car enthusiasts connect through Guard-themed car

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

Hot Import Night at Angel Stadium of Anaheim is where I found Sgt. Nick Ashby of the 216th Engineer Mobility Augmentation Company, 578th Engineer Battalion, on Saturday, March 14.

If you're not between the ages of 18 and 30, you're probably thinking, "Is this something that should be publicized?" You're probably looking at the publication in your hands and wondering if it is the Grizzly. But you read those words, "Hot Import Night," correctly.

"Hot Import Nights" is the hottest car show in the United States and the country's largest touring automotive lifestyle event. And the National Guard is right where it's at. During the Anaheim event, Ashby unveiled the third car he has built in honor of Guard Soldiers.

Black Ops 350Z is his latest build. Artwork on the sides of the matte black, carbon-fiber body depicts the National Guard's state missions and the wars in which Guard members have served. The poem "I am the Guard" is printed on the hood.

Ashby dedicated the car to everyone in the Guard. Ashby's first National Guard-themed car was dedicated to fallen Soldiers, and his second was in honor of the citizen Soldier.

Hot Import Night attendees not only learned about the Guard's fallen heroes and missions through these cars, but they also gained respect for citizen Soldiers such as Ashby, whose charisma

and passion for building cars helps him connect with the younger crowd.

At the Anaheim event, Ashby served as a judge for the Ultimate Unlimited Class award, which will be presented by the National Guard to three vehicles this year. He also showcased Black Ops 350Z, which he referred to as a "show and go car that builds respect between racers and show-car enthusiasts."

In addition, Ashby had some friendly competition going with attendees, challenging them in arm wrestling, push-up and pull-up contests. The crowd had a true appreciation for his talents as well as his sense of duty to his country, and several people signed up for more information on joining the National Guard.

"This is a clean competition with zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol, and that is why I like being a part of this action," said Ashby, who is a framing superintendent as a civilian and a combat engineer for the National Guard.

"I wanted to help out abroad and in my community," he continued. "The National Guard is one force that does this both home and abroad."

Ashby is also part of the Guard's Rev-it-up speaker program to mentor California high school automotive technical school students, and the Army National Guard's "Hooah!" magazine will soon begin publishing a monthly column by Ashby about cars.



Sgt. Nick Ashby meets with a fan of his work during Hot Import Night at Angel Stadium of Anaheim on March 14. Ashby's third National Guard-themed car, Black Ops 350Z, was unveiled during the event.



When attendees weren't admiring Ashby's car, they were entertained by service members who organized arm wrestling and other physical competitions.



Artwork on the right side of Black Ops 350Z, which depicts domestic Guard missions, glows under the lights at Hot Import Night. The left side depicts service in wars.



Among other features, Black Ops 350Z features artwork along the sides and the poem "I am the Guard" on the hood.



Indy champ teams with Guard youth academies

By Capt. Kimberly Holman
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

Indianapolis 500 champion driver Dan Wheldon visited Sunburst Youth Academy in April to spend time with at-risk teens enrolled in the academy and to announce his new role as the National Guard Youth Challenge Program's national spokesman.

Wheldon will team with the Guard to promote awareness of the nationwide high school dropout epidemic. Sunburst, located at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, is one of 33 National Guard Youth Challenge academies in the United States and Puerto Rico, including two in California. The academies provide at-risk teens a live-in, military-style school that promotes discipline balanced with positive reinforcement. Cadets at the academies are encouraged to graduate high school and prepare for life's challenges.

"It's very inspiring to someone like myself to see the commitment the cadets have made," Wheldon said. "For me, it's a privilege to be here."

During his trip to Sunburst, Wheldon visited several classrooms to speak with students and share his experiences as an IndyCar driver. Cadets listened attentively as Wheldon told how his racing career began with go-karts at age 4 and how he followed his dreams with courage and commitment. Wheldon finally raced with Indy at age 21, was named Rookie of the Year in 2005 and won the Indy 500 in 2005. Among other topics, students asked Wheldon about his career, what it feels like to go that fast and what it feels like to crash.

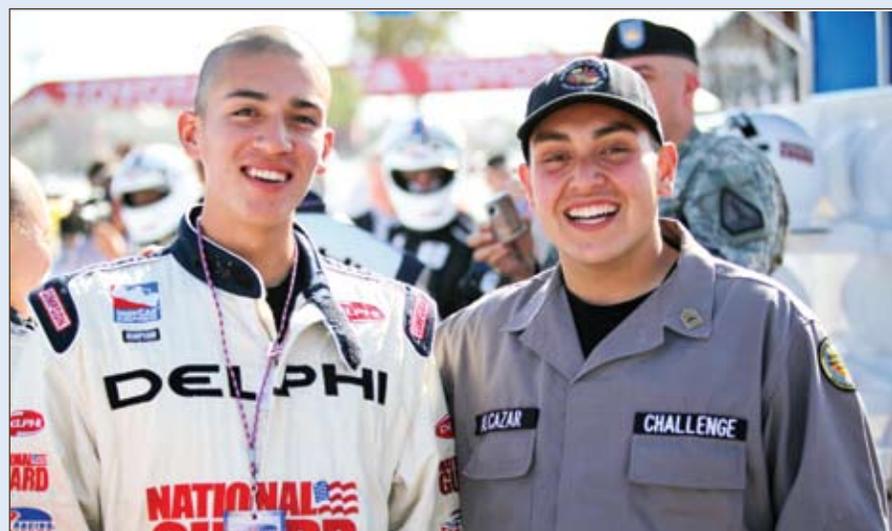
"Taking a car around a corner at that speed is like other commitments we make in life," Wheldon told the students. "You turn the corner and



TOP LEFT
Indy 500 champion driver Dan Wheldon (far right) speaks to Sunburst Youth Academy cadets April 16 about the parallels between driving an IndyCar at 240 mph and facing life's challenges.

BOTTOM LEFT
Cadets Abelardo Angel and Christian Alcazar had big smiles and lots of adrenaline after riding in the back of one of Panther Racing's National Guard-sponsored tandem Indy race cars. The cadets also toured the garage and pits at Long Beach Racetrack.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Sunburst Youth Academy cadets lead Wheldon on a tour of the academy. Wheldon announced his role as spokesman for the National Guard Youth Challenge Program during his visit.



hope that the tires stick to the track, and you hold on to the wheel.

"You have made a commitment to bettering your lives and continuing your education."

Several cadets were then given an opportunity to visit Long Beach Racetrack, where they were offered high-speed tandem rides in one of Panther Racing's National Guard-sponsored tandem cars. They also visited the Panther Racing and National Guard Infield Racing Unit to seek autographs from Wheldon

and other souvenirs.

Wheldon and Panther Racing will continue to involve cadets from National Guard Youth Challenge academies in races throughout the season. Panther Racing also plans to create an internship program, which will provide cadets with opportunities to work within various careers in the motor sports industry.

"I can't think of anyone who has been more inspiring to me than these students," said John Barnes, founder and owner of Panther Rac-



ing. "They have shown such strength in character and courage to succeed in life."

The National Guard Youth Challenge Program was founded in 1993 and is funded through a partnership between the Department of Defense and state and local governments. More than 84,700 students have graduated from Youth Challenge academies, with 80 percent earning their General Educational Development (GED) credential, nearly double the rate of other adult education programs.

Master Sgt. Javier Carranco, human resources manager for the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, participates in his first duathlon, the Camp Pendleton Devil Dog Duathlon, on March 28. The race consists of a 5K run, 10K bike ride and then another 5K run to the finish line. Carranco placed seventh in his age group (40 to 44 years) with a time of 1 hour and 51 minutes. Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey



▲ Chief Warrant Officer Michael Aguirre poses with Brendolyn Davis after each were inducted into the Laurel Elementary School Hall of Fame on April 10. Aguirre graduated from Laurel in 1972 and is now chief of logistics for the California Army National Guard. He and Davis, who owns a beauty salon in Oceanside, Calif., joined 74 other Laurel alumni who have been inducted. Photo by Palenaku Aguirre



▲ Command Sgt. Maj. Andres H. Roman receives the Sunburst Division colors from Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commanding general of the 40th Infantry Division, during a change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Eddy



▲ Members of Girl Scout Troop 73, representing the Roseville and Antelope, Calif., area, team with Soldiers at Mather Flight Facility near Sacramento to load more than 2,800 boxes of Girl Scout cookies onto a Guard vehicle. From January through March, the Girl Scout Sierra Rose Service Unit sought donations from community members, who bought the Girl Scout cookies so they could be sent to deployed Soldiers. The Girl Scout Area Council also contributed 1,200 of the 2,800 boxes. The treats will be sent to Afghanistan for distribution to members of the Petaluma, Calif.-based 235th Engineer Company, the Silicon-Valley, Calif.-based 129th Rescue Wing and the 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, based out of Mather. Photo by Brandon Honig



Members of the California National Guard's Facilities and Engineering Branch on March 23 analyze Folsom Lake Crossing, a 970-foot bridge built by the Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with other federal, state and local agencies. The next phases of the project call for a 1,100-foot approach channel, a control structure with six submerged gates, a 3,000-foot spillway chute and a stilling basin to manage water flow. The project is expected to be completed in 2015 and substantially reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding in the Sacramento metropolitan area.

Photo by Sgt. Maj. Adam B. Walker

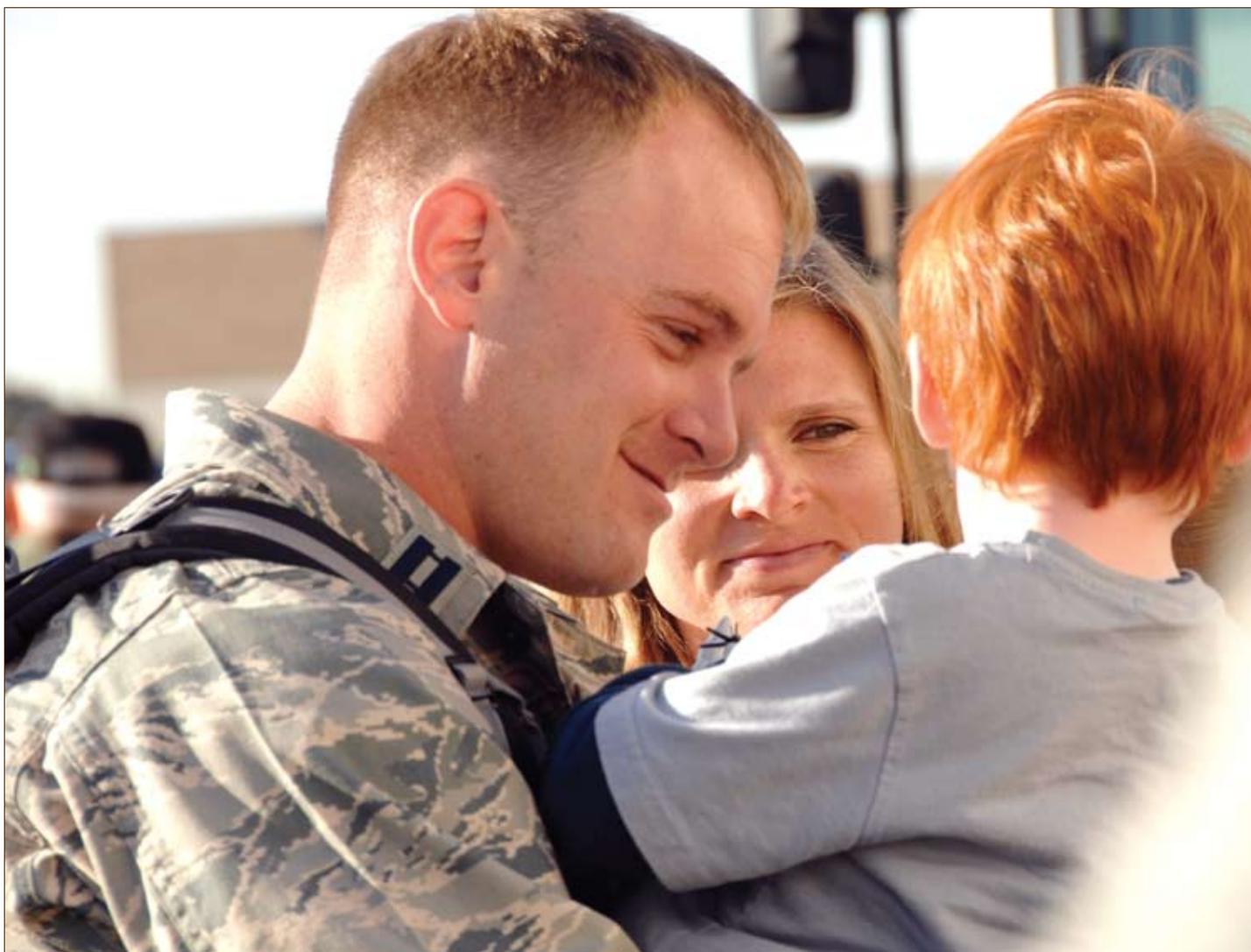


Ohio National Guard Staff Sgt. Ada Milby and her civilian teammate, Dan Mast of Oak Park, Calif., enjoy their victory in "Warrior Challenge," a reality show sponsored by the National Guard and held on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., in October. The weeklong competition, which was modeled after Army basic combat training, paired six civilians with six National Guard Soldiers to compete in events such as an obstacle course, a search-and-rescue mission, a 9 mm pistol test, a sniper rappel and a high-ropes course. The inaugural season of "Warrior Challenge" can be found on RipeTv's Web site, www.ripetv.com.

Photo by Spc. Sam Beavers

Sgt. 1st Class Scot Miller of Company B, 1106th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group, hurdles an obstacle on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. The Santa Barbara, Calif.-based unit, which stood up in October, traveled to Camp San Luis Obispo in March for its first training outside its armory walls.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Deborah Wiggins



Capt. Robert Effler reunites with his family at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., after a three-month deployment to Djibouti. Effler, a combat rescue officer with the 131st Rescue Squadron, 129th Rescue Wing, returned to Moffett with 22 other Airmen on April 6.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino

SACRAMENTO HUSSARS BROUGHT STYLE TO CAL GUARD

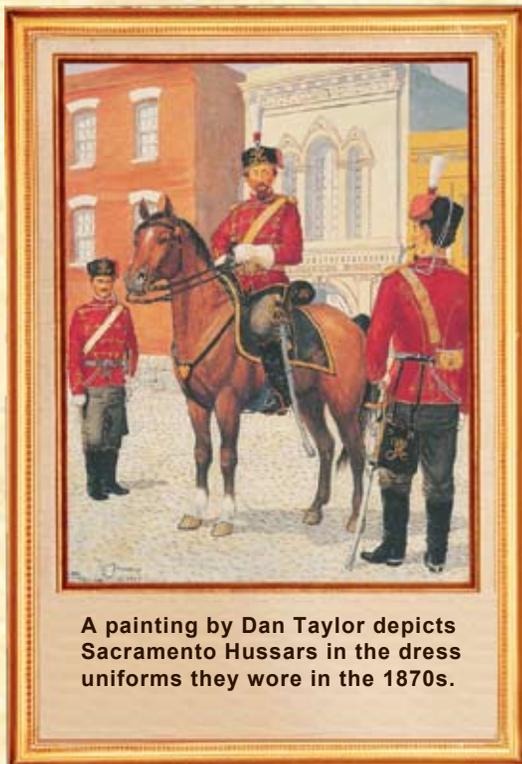
BY 1ST LT. MICHAEL ANTHONY RODRIQUEZ
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Many early units of the California National Guard were created not only for community defense but as fraternal social clubs. This was the case in Sacramento, with the formation of the Sacramento Hussars.

The term "Hussar" was coined to describe light-cavalry horsemen from Hungary. They originated in the 15th century, and soon the rest of Europe took notice and formed their own Hussar units. Hussars were known for their flamboyant uniforms, which included a busby (a high, cylindrical cloth cap), a jacket with heavy braiding and a dolman (a loose coat worn hanging from the left shoulder).

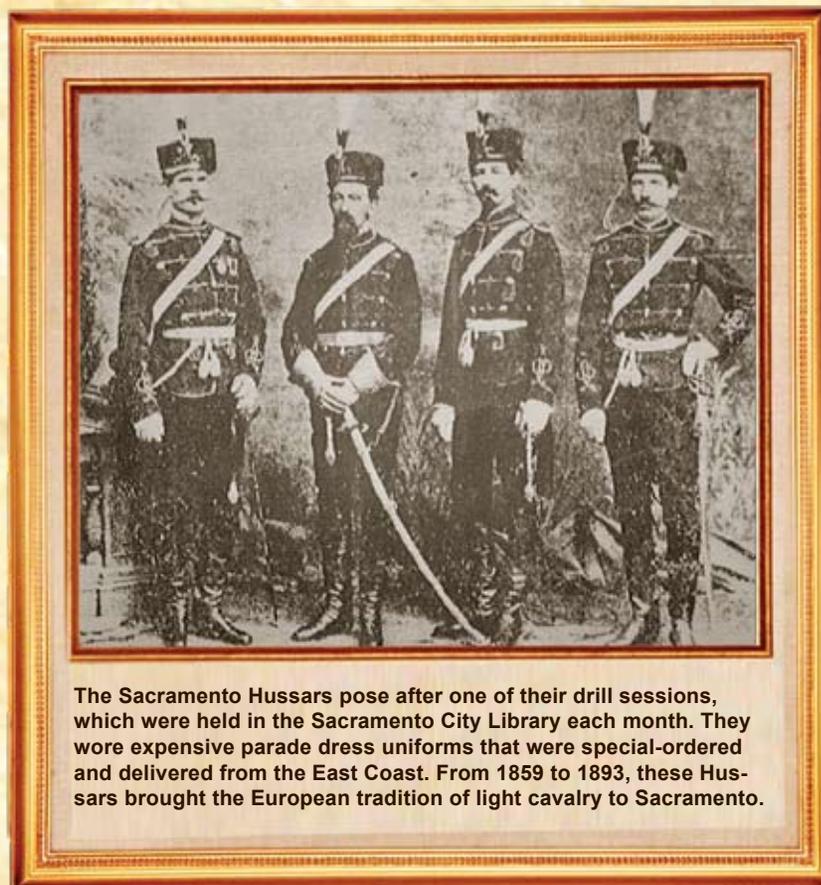
"At last, awaiting your gracious answer, I have no wish greater than to leave forthwith, to be where I am needed most, to serve and die in everlasting obedience to Your Excellency and the [Continental] Congress. Most faithful unto death..."

- Col. Commandant Michael Kovats, Hungarian Hussar cavalry officer and "father of U.S. cavalry," in a letter to Benjamin Franklin in 1777.



A painting by Dan Taylor depicts Sacramento Hussars in the dress uniforms they wore in the 1870s.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA MILITARY MUSEUM



The Sacramento Hussars pose after one of their drill sessions, which were held in the Sacramento City Library each month. They wore expensive parade dress uniforms that were special-ordered and delivered from the East Coast. From 1859 to 1893, these Hussars brought the European tradition of light cavalry to Sacramento.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA MILITARY MUSEUM

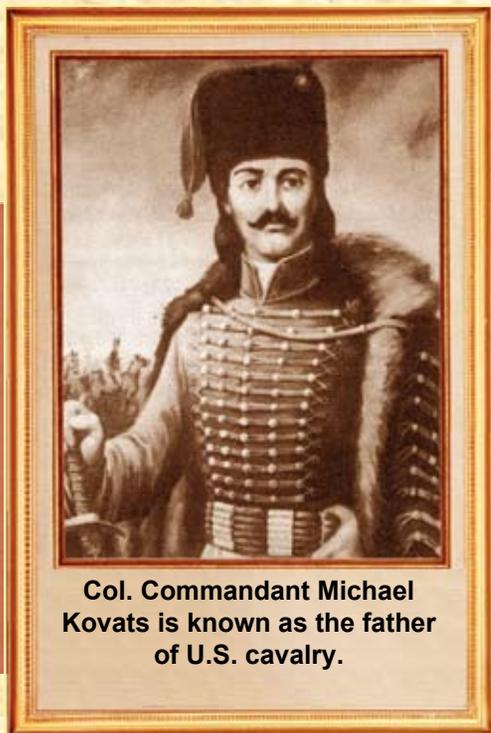
The "father of U.S. cavalry" was a Hungarian Hussar named Michael Kovats, who volunteered his service to the Continental Army in 1777 in a letter to Benjamin Franklin. He ended the correspondence with "Fidelissimus ad mortem," or "Most faithful unto death."

In 1859, ethnic and native-born Germans began the Sacramento Hussars as an independent military organization in the tradition of their European counterparts. Meeting every Wednesday at the city library for "drill," their activities included toasting, drinking and smoking cigars.

The Sacramento Hussars originally numbered around 26 men but over time grew to about 62. A limiting factor was the

cost accompanying membership in the group. Parade dress uniforms cost \$400 for officers and \$150 for enlisted men, while regular uniforms cost \$100 and \$50, respectively. Add in the cost of a fine horse along with saddle and saber, and it got very expensive. Because of their style, the Hussars were chosen to escort the first Pony Express delivery into Sacramento on March 3, 1860.

On June 11, 1863, the Sacramento Hussars were mustered into the California National Guard as part of the 4th Brigade. In August 1874, the Sacramento Hussars chose to once again become an independent state militia. Until 1893, they continued to be a part of the community, generously caring for the sick and burying the dead. Although many years have passed since the Sacramento Hussars paraded the streets of Sacramento, the Hussar legacy lives on, with Hussar units in many modern armies.



Col. Commandant Michael Kovats is known as the father of U.S. cavalry.

FUN FACT

The "father of U.S. cavalry" was Hungarian Hussar officer Michael Kovats (1724 to 1779). He served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and recruited, trained, organized and led the first American cavalry into battle. The Continental Congress awarded him the rank of colonel commandant. He was killed in action against the British in South Carolina. Part of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, is named in his honor. The name Hussar refers to a number of types of light cavalry created in Hungary in the 15th century and used throughout Europe and also in America since the 18th century. The name is translated as "pirate."

BY THE NUMBERS

9 The number of countries with Hussar military units in their current armed forces. Known for their highly decorative uniforms and parade dress, some modern military units retain the Hussar title for tradition. The countries are Argentina, Canada, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

"The constant in our Army's history has been the indispensable role of skilled, courageous sergeants, both in battlefield victory and in peacetime preparedness. ... Our Army cannot function for a minute without the expertise of its sergeants of every grade and specialty."

- Gen. (ret.) Carl E. Vuono, Army chief of staff, 1987 to 1991



The Army has designated 2009 "The Year of the NCO" to recognize its enlisted leaders at all levels of command. Grizzly will feature an exemplary noncommissioned officer each month in 2009 to commemorate The Year of the NCO.

SACRIFICE, DETERMINATION SET NCO APART

By Command Sgt. Maj. Ron D. Cabrera
1106th TASMG

The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer recognizes Soldiers who make a difference and remind us to lead by example. In many instances, the heart of an NCO Corps is the sergeants and staff sergeants. This level is where guidance turns into action and a mission is executed. It's also where skills are honed and potential is realized.

A combination of junior NCO vitality and technical expertise are some of the key attributes currently raising the caliber of our corps. Striving to be exceptional NCOs, Soldiers seek challenges, learn and grow

while living up to Army values.

Being such an NCO and living the creed can serve as a basis for changing a life. Staff Sgt. Javier Diaz Payno of the 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG) is an example of how the Army National Guard can create future leaders. The significant odds he overcame to establish himself as an American citizen and a Soldier serves as an inspiration to those in his unit. Fellow NCOs praise Diaz Payno's "can-do" attitude and say he produces results.

"His work ethic and ambition to excel in the Army aviation community are admirable," one NCO noted.

On a given day at the 1106th, Diaz Payno might be found in the flight operations office or the aviation life support equipment office, on the hangar floor or in the sky, crewing a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. He expects maximum endurance from his crew chiefs and ensures drill weekends benefit the citizen Soldiers.

"I delegate and participate, letting my Soldiers know I care, followed by rewarding them accordingly,"

Diaz Payno said of his leadership style.

With 13 years of proud service, Diaz Payno's sights are set on rising to the top of the enlisted ranks. His drive to succeed and maintain cutting-edge knowledge in his military occupational specialty, and his progressive leadership skills, resonate among his peers.

Diaz Payno signifies what the NCO Corps can do to change a life and mold a leader for tomorrow. His motivation, sacrifice and sheer determination to succeed set him apart.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STAFF SGT. JAVIER DIAZ PAYNO



Staff Sgt. Javier Diaz Payno stands before a UH-60 Black Hawk, which he crews for the 1106th TASMG. During his 13 years of service, Diaz Payno has been praised for his exemplary work ethic and "can-do" attitude, which consistently lead to great results.

NGB's top NCO assessing Cal Guard troops' needs

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The National Guard Bureau's senior enlisted leader took planes, trains and automobiles to travel across California in late March and see firsthand how California National Guard members are holding up.

Well, actually, there were no trains, but there was a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that took Command Sgt. Maj. David Ray Hudson and his "entourage" to various Air and Army Guard installations during a four-day trip.

The whirlwind tour began with a Year of the NCO kickoff celebration at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, where Hudson was the keynote speaker March 23. From there Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., the senior enlisted adviser to the adjutant general of the California Guard; and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael H. Winstead, command sergeant major, Army Division, California National Guard, joined Hudson and his executive NCO, Air Force Master Sgt. Donald W. Morris, on a trip to learn how the needs of California troops and installations are being met.

"This was a great opportunity to see joint operations between the Air and Army Guard [members] within California," Hudson said.

Hudson spoke to commanders, Soldiers and Airmen at various installations across the state, exploring the intricacies and needs at each site. Highlights included a stop at Vandenberg Air Force Base and a tour of the base's Space Military Command and its outlying Milstar satellite communications system site. Next, Hudson spoke to key leaders at Camp Roberts about its construction needs and met with trainers from Camp Roberts' Task Force Warrior program, which readies troops for deployment.

At Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, Hudson spoke to community leaders about the sprawling civilian community outside the base's gates and discussed how to best serve the citizens while making best use of the land within the base. Also, Hudson flew into March Air Reserve Base and toured the rising Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle training and operations program.

Of central concern during Hudson's trip were California's "four seasons": floods, fires, earthquakes and riots.

Leadership explained what their needs are and how they can hold up against the volatile seasons. Additionally, Hudson discussed everything from installation funding and construction improvements to career options, workload, training needs and Guard history.

Hudson wanted to explore how the needs of traditional National Guard members compare with those of service members who work in full-time Guard positions. He took care to set aside face-time with troops, and he lengthened his visits at many installations to answer troops' questions and concerns so he could bring back pertinent information to Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

As the senior enlisted leader for the bureau, Hudson is in a unique position to communicate Soldiers' issues directly to key leaders.

"When I hear things that I think need to be brought to [McKinley's] attention, I can really be an avenue for change," Hudson said. "He's really interested in really knowing what the needs of the National Guard are."

Before flying out to visit National Guard troops throughout Central America and the Dominican Republic, Hudson made a promise to California Guard members that he would return to his desk in Washington and review issues that concern each California National Guard site.



Trainers from Camp Roberts' Task Force Warrior program, who are responsible for providing mobilization training to deploying Soldiers from California and other states, speak to Command Sgt. Maj. David Ray Hudson during Hudson's March tour of California National Guard facilities.



Senior Master Sgt. Ronnie J. Egan, field training detachment chief, explains the intricacies of the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to Hudson during a recent visit to March Air Reserve Base.



Command Sgt. Maj. David Ray Hudson, the National Guard Bureau's senior enlisted leader, arrives March 25 at March Air Reserve Base, one of many stops during his tour of California National Guard facilities in late March.

California Guardsmen strengthen bond with local Iraqis

**By Sgt. 1st Class Paul W. McKenna Jr.
1-184th Infantry Regiment**

California and Tennessee National Guardsmen from Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, brought soccer balls, school supplies and medical attention to Debecka, Iraq, on April 1.

A child from the Debecka community had run in front of a vehicle from Company A, 1-184th Infantry Regiment, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, during a patrol in March and was struck by the vehicle's mirror, causing some superficial head trauma and a depressed skull fracture.

After the boy ran into the road, the driver was able to pull off to the right, which may have saved the boy's life.

The purpose of the April 1 mission was to check on the condition of the child and his family and to re-enforce relations with the community.

"It was important to check on the young boy to ensure he is getting the proper medical treatment from the local authorities and to demonstrate our care and concern for the local

populace and their well-being," said Lt. Col. Tommy Baker, commander of the 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

The unit delivered a claims card to the boy's family and explained the procedures for them to follow in order to be compensated for the boy's medical bills and associated expenses.

"He appeared well when we visited him," said Maj. Michael Price, a surgeon with the 16th Sustainment Brigade. "I believe he is going to make a complete recovery with no permanent neurologic deficits."

Spc. Michael Rankin, the driver of the vehicle, spent some time with the child in April while doctors from the 16th Sustainment Brigade Surgeons Cell re-examined him.

"It was good to see how well the young man was doing and to have the chance to show him that we care," Rankin said.

Company A Soldiers and 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



PHOTO COURTESY OF 16TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

Spc. Michael Rankin, a driver for Company A, 1-184th Infantry, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, poses with an Iraqi child who ran into the street and was struck by a vehicle's mirror during one of the unit's patrols. The boy suffered superficial head trauma and a depressed skull fracture but is expected to make a complete recovery.

leaders also brought a dozen soccer balls, pens, pencils, school supplies and many treats to the children of the community.

"The village was extremely receptive to our visit and our troops had

a chance to interact with the locals, which is always good for building stronger relationships," Baker said. "Overall, this mission will strengthen relationships between coalition forces and the local populace in that area of Multi-National Division-North."

Platoon sergeant, artist brings Ninjutsu spirit to life

**By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson
16th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs**

When Sgt. 1st Class Robert Tackett isn't training medics to save lives, he's training to inflict injury on his enemies through a form of fighting called Bujinkan Ninjutsu.

During his current deployment to Iraq, Tackett branched out to Ninjutsu artist, painting a mural on an old card table to present to his sensei, or martial arts teacher, eighth Shodan Ryan Lowe.

"I recognized the potential immediately and began to turn this discarded tabletop into something much more," said Tackett, medical platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment.

Painting the table with elements of the Bujinkan Ninjutsu fighting discipline was a way for Tackett to relax during his down time on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, he said, and it helped remind him of the important concepts of Bujinkan Ninjutsu.

"I think that it is very important for me to be reminded of these elements, which represent more spiritual concepts such as balance, adapting, instincts, tenacity and perseverance," he said.

Tackett spent more than a month painting the four-foot, hexagonal mural, which Tackett said brings the spirit of Bujinkan Ninjutsu to life.

"It is one big circle in the middle with six smaller circles surrounding it at the edges," he said. "The large, center kanji translates to 'Bujinkan Ninjutsu.' ... The six smaller circles, starting from the top and progressing in a clockwise manner, translate to earth, water, emptiness, scorpion, fire and air."

The Scorpion kanji represents Tackett's sensei. Tackett plans to send the table to his wife in California, who will then present it to Sensei Lowe in person.



PHOTO BY CAPT. RENATO ROSSIGNOLI

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Tackett, medical platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, stands next to the mural he painted on an old card table as a gift for his sensei, Ryan Lowe, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

129th Rescue Wing C-130s going digital

By Capt. Alyson M. Teeter
129th Rescue Wing

Nestled in the world's technology epicenter is the Silicon Valley-based 129th Rescue Wing. Search and rescue is the wing's primary mission, which often involves low-tech but courageous lifesaving actions. The mission, however, is about to get a high-tech boost from an innovative communication system called the Situation Awareness Data Link, or SADL.

A test version of the system was recently installed and evaluated on an MC-130P Combat Shadow tanker for the 129th. SADL is a military communications system that supports the exchange of tactical information between air and land assets in near-real time. Operators can digitally access the information from command and control systems instead of receiving verbal reports and then annotating the information on paper. The system is already in use on California Air National Guard F-16C Fighting Falcons.

"When the 129th Rescue Wing responded to crises such as the California wildfires and Hurricane Ike last year, a significant observation

was the need for a self-contained airborne network capability to facilitate digital communications between rescue aircraft, pararescue forces and distant command centers," said Lt. Col. Steve Butow, 129th Operations Group deputy commander. "These rescue forces will no longer be constrained to voice-only communications."

Also recognizing the need for digital airborne communications were participants in the Guard and Reserve Weapons and Tactics Conference, or WEPTAC, which takes place annually at the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Test Center (AATC) in Tucson, Ariz.

"The [SADL] was on the primary objective list during WEPTAC the past four years," said Maj. Jose Agredano, 129th Operations Group chief of tactics and 2008 WEPTAC chairman. "We were able to bring the major players together last year and brainstorm a walk-on solution."

The 129th, along with the West Virginia Air National Guard's 130th Airlift Wing and the Air Force



Two MC-130P Combat Shadow tanker aircraft from the 129th Rescue Wing taxi on the flightline at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif. A test version of the Situation Awareness Data Link, or SADL, communication format was recently installed and evaluated on an MC-130P Combat Shadow tanker for the 129th.

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAN KACIR

Reserve Command's 910th Airlift Wing from Ohio, participated in an operational utility evaluation with the AATC at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., April 13 to 17. After testing SADL at Davis-Monthan, 129th operators came home excited about the positive impact SADL will have on the

wing's future missions.

"Rescue MC-130Ps will serve as a digital gateway for other military aircraft and land forces during disaster response operations," Butow said. "It is only fitting that Silicon Valley's specialized rescue force be amongst the first to go digital."

79th IBCT adds topographic imagery system

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

The 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) in San Diego gained new technology in March to support Full Spectrum Operations, continuing the journey from down-in-the-dirt drawings to eye-in-the-sky reconnaissance.

Digital Topographical Support System (DTSS) provides critical geospatial information to support mission planning and execution. The system interprets all spectrums of light to determine terrain features.

"This is essentially an enhanced version of the drawing in the sandbox that has been used for centuries for route analysis," said Staff Sgt. John Faircloth, team leader of the 79th IBCT's DTSS mission.

DTSS operators can manipulate imagery to include mission-specific requirements. Software can be utilized to generate a variety of mobility, visibility and special purpose tactical decision aids, and digital imagery can be processed to perform imagery rectification, image map generation, thematic layer



Staff Sgt. John Faircloth (far right) of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Sgt. Glenn Streiff of the 40th Infantry Division train on the Digital Topographical Support System (DTSS) with Army Corps of Engineers instructors on March 2. Faircloth and Streiff are the first members of the California Guard to be fully qualified on the DTSS.

generation, limited digital database creation and three-dimensional terrain perspective viewing.

Operators can also create products based on the area of operation and other available data, including helicopter landing zones, bivouac sites

and lines of communication. The DTSS is capable of providing satellite imagery, including Buckeye imagery and unmanned aircraft system imagery.

"We can now offer automated geodetic survey control for accurate

terrain analysis, real-time weather and high-volume, color, large format, digital reproduction capability," said Dennis L. Scholl Jr., an instructor from the Army Corps of Engineers, Combat Terrain Information System, in Fort Belvoir, Va. "This information system provides commanders with tactical decision aids and has provided consistent, proven results across battle command architectures."

Scholl and colleague Tom Cox arrived at Kearny Mesa Armory in San Diego the week of March 9 and began training Faircloth and Sgt. Glenn Streiff of the 40th Infantry Division on the DTSS. Faircloth had previously completed eight months of training at the School of Geospatial Intelligence in Fort Belvoir.

Faircloth and Streiff, the first California Guard members to be fully trained on the DTSS, operated the system supporting the 79th IBCT for the first time at Camp Pendleton, March 26 through 29, during drill weekend.

Soldier credits Camp SLO RSP for early success

**By Master Sgt. Joe Knutsen
State Recruit Sustainment Program**

The recruit sustainment program (RSP) at Camp San Luis Obispo is the smallest in the state, with an average drill attendance of 15 to 20 Soldiers. This might appear to be an inefficient use of resources until one recognizes that the RSP's cadre-to-warrior ratio enables its Soldiers to receive individual training that delivers maximum results, like those experienced by Spc. William White of Atascadero, Calif.

A year ago, then-Pfc. White shipped out to Fort Knox, Ky., for one site unit training, and then he trained with the 1-185th Armor Battalion at Camp Roberts, Calif. He is now in Iraq, serving as a cavalry scout.

On Christmas, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, White's performance was recognized by Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. Central Command, who presented commander's coins to nine Soldiers from Multi-National Division-North. Though White was only a private first class, Petraeus said White performed the duties of a staff sergeant in an exemplary manner.

White also recently was accepted to



Spc. William White (right) was one of nine Soldiers from Multi-National Division-North who were presented commander's coins by Gen. David Petraeus (foreground), commander of U.S. Central Command, on Christmas Day at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon learning of his acceptance, White contacted his former RSP site coordinator, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Winch.

"He called to personally thank me

for the influence my staff and I had on him while he was with us at RSP. He accredited his recent success to the personal attention, discipline and Soldier care he received with us."

White, who spent eight months in

the RSP, said the program helped him in many ways.

"It allowed me to gain a basic level of knowledge on warrior tasks that I would be expected to perform at [one site unit training] and that I am required to maintain in my current duty in the National Guard," White said. "This has allowed me to be one step ahead of the curve."

White said using the engagement skills trainer at Camp San Luis Obispo to familiarize himself with the M-16 gave him the initial "trigger time" needed to eventually qualify as an expert. He qualified as an expert with the M-4 earlier this year. He added that the land-navigation training he received in the RSP allowed him to perform at the highest level every time he was required to train or test.

"There were many other training events that helped as well, such as dismounted patrolling techniques, first aid, maintenance of M-16, Modern Army Combative, physical fitness and military bearing," White said. "If I had not received the head start, I am sure [I would not be where I am today]."

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPC. WILLIAM WHITE

Oregon, California team up for new OCIE process

**By Chief Warrant Officer Alan D. Alexander
California National Guard Central Issue Facility**

On April 13, members of the Oregon National Guard Central Issue Facility arrived at Camp Roberts, Calif., after months of planning and preparation to help coordinate a mission that was the first of its kind.

Soldiers from Oregon's 41st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), who had been stationed on Camp Roberts for pre-mobilization training, turned in their organizational clothing and individual equipment (OCIE) to the California National Guard Central Issue Facility. The OCIE was then retained by the California National Guard, so it could be issued to California Guard members, instead of being sent back to Oregon.

Within two days of the turn-in, the 41st BCT was issued new OCIE from a Rapid Fielding Initiative team, providing the Soldiers with mobilization equipment.

At completion of the mission, on April 18, more than 1,800 Oregon Soldiers had passed through the California Central Issue Facility, turned in OCIE and received new OCIE from a Rapid Fielding Initiative team. The California Central Issue Facility received more than 9,000 OCIE items for direct issue to California Guard members.

Keri Mroz, manager of the Oregon Central Issue Facility, and Capt. Thomas Murphy, manager of the California Central Issue Facility, guided the mission through to completion while the facilities' support staffs worked hand-in-hand.

In its early stages, the mission had met some resistance from planners who thought the logistics and automation-program obstacles involved would be too great to overcome. But the success of the mission prompted many to exclaim on April 18, "They said it couldn't be done."



Oregon National Guard Soldiers turn in their organizational clothing and individual equipment (OCIE) to the California Central Issue Facility after pre-mobilization training on Camp Roberts, Calif., in April. For the first time, the OCIE was issued to California Guard members instead of being sent back to Oregon.

PHOTO BY KERI MROZ

Maj. Gen. Daniel J. Hernandez dies at 75

The California National Guard lost a longtime friend and leader April 20, 2009, as Maj. Gen. (ret.) Daniel Jesse Hernandez died at age 75.

Born Dec. 11, 1933, in Pasadena, Calif., Hernandez enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve on Nov. 29, 1949. In September 1950, Spc. Hernandez enlisted in the 223rd Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division, and was mobilized until July 1951. He remained an active Guardsman following his release from active duty, and during this period, he was promoted to the grade of E-8. He attended the California Military Academy and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps in June 1958.

During his long and illustrious career, Hernandez served as a platoon leader, unit commander, battalion supply officer, separate brigade supply officer, support battalion executive officer, infantry battalion operations officer, division management center commander, 540th Main Support Battalion commander, mechanized infantry brigade executive officer, 40th Infantry Division logistician, commander of the 40th Infantry Division Support Command, commander of State Area Command Detachment 3, division chief of staff, assistant division commander of both maneuver and support, and finally as the 40th Infantry Division commander. Hernandez was separated from the Army National Guard on Aug. 8, 1993, and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve

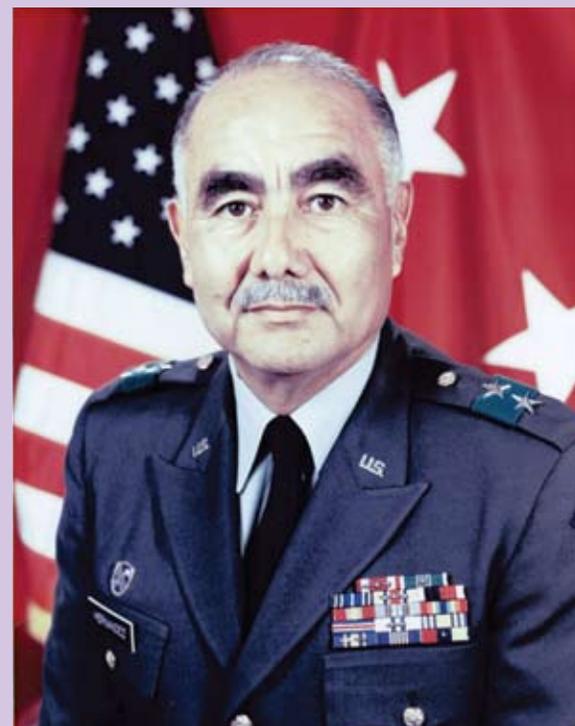
Control Group (ret.).

Among other awards reflecting his 44 years of service, Hernandez' decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Order of California and California Commendation Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters.

He was an active member of the Association of the United States Army, the National Guard Association of the United States, the National Guard Association of California, the California Military Academy Alumni Association and Lions Club International. He was also on the boards of directors for Casa Youth Shelter in Los Alamitos, Calif., and the American Red Cross, Long Beach Chapter.

Hernandez was preceded in death by his mother and father, Maria and Ignacio Hernandez; his brother, Gregory; his sister, Margaret (Trigueros); and his youngest son, Richard. He is survived by Dorothy, his wife of 55 years; his sons Michael, Matthew, Mark and Dan; and his daughters-in-law, Kathleen (Rodarte), Diane and Elizabeth. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Among all his achievements, Hernandez



believed that raising his family was his greatest accomplishment.

Hernandez was laid to rest April 27 in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, Calif. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to Casa Youth Shelter, 10911 Reagan St., Los Alamitos, Calif., 90720.

Military associations offer array of benefits

By Col. Kelly Fisher,
President, National Guard Association of California

No matter what your military branch or occupational specialty, as a military professional you want to remain in the mainstream of your service. One great way to accomplish this is by joining a professional association.

The National Guard Association of California (NGAC), since its inception in 1968, has realized the importance of professional organizations. One organization with which NGAC has a long-standing relationship is The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS). These two organizations focus on improving readiness, quality of life and benefits for service members through state and federal legislation.

Organizations like NGAUS have produced great results on Capitol Hill in recent years, thanks in large part to the grassroots support of local chapters and state associations. Improvements in health care and increases in active-

duty, retired and survivor benefit pay are a small sampling of recent legislative successes.

When Guard members join a local chapter or state association, they add their voice to the state's network, which is working hard to pass legislation for items such as education benefits for California National Guard members. In addition, the more dues-paying California National Guard members there are in NGAUS, the greater number of votes the California National Guard enjoys at the NGAUS annual meetings. With more members comes more influence in prioritizing federal legislative efforts.

NGAUS is a national organization for Guard officers, while the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States is for enlisted Guard members.

NGAC is a California Association

Guard members are eligible for many professional associations, including:

National Guard Association of California www.ngac.org

National Guard Association of the United States www.ngaus.org

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States www.eangus.org

Association of the United States Army www.ausa.org

The Air Force Association www.afa.org

Military Officers Association of America www.moaa.org

for officers and enlisted personnel. In addition to providing information about the National Guard, NGAC can enhance your professional development and provide networking opportunities. The association can also provide survivor benefits and tuition assistance. Association memberships are also excellent supplements for a resume, because they convey dedication to a field of study.

Other professional military organizations are available for almost any branch of service or occupational specialty.

For more information about NGAC and NGAUS, visit the Web sites listed above. Battalion and brigade commanders can also provide you with resources for establishing a local NGAC chapter.

Ready, set, green!

The Guard is working to preserve Mother Earth. Are you?

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

It doesn't take an Army to get the California National Guard to go green. In fact, with all of its environmental initiatives past, present and future, the California National Guard is a regular tree-hugger.

In a memo sent to Guard members on Earth Day, April 22, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the California National Guard's adjutant general, reminded Soldiers and Airmen of the importance of environmental stewardship. Along with the reminder, Wade noted that in 2008 he assembled representatives from across the California National Guard to coordinate initiatives that make sustainability an everyday activity and requirement.

"As a result, specific environmental goals and objectives have been written into the Strategic Plan of the California Military Department that support the mission, community and environment," the memo states. "I am proud of their accomplishments."

Though the memo did not fully describe the strategic plan, leadership in the Guard's Environmental Programs Directorate at Mather Flight Facility near Sacramento said they know what the future holds, and it looks green.

Wade signed a new recycling policy April 22 and is soon expected to sign a policy regarding environmentally friendly purchasing practices, or "green procurement." The procurement policy will include guidelines about where to purchase goods and which goods to purchase, while the recycling policy calls for the Guard to recycle waste material whenever economically feasible.

Greening the Guard:

- The California National Guard's 144th Fighter Wing received a \$1.4 million rebate from utility Pacific Gas and Electric this year for setting up environmentally sound solar panels.
- A "green waste" compost site on Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, will provide on-site compost for a 190-acre strawberry field. The compost could also provide energy to the base in the future.
- A hydrogen fuel cell is providing electricity on Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos. The base is also exploring a partnership for a hydrogen fueling station to curb gasoline use in Guard vehicles.
- The Guard is making a move to buy recycled products from environmentally conscious vendors whenever possible.
- Vehicle wash racks are being used to separate oil from water and increase the amount of water conserved for continued use.
- Xeriscaping, landscaping that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental irrigation, is being introduced to military installations.

The policies will be implemented later this year, according to Guard officials, and will include programs that not only support but also encourage service member involvement.

Air Force Lt. Col. Reuben Sendejas, acting deputy director for environmental programs, said the policy letters will reinforce new initiatives to make recycling easier in the workplace and to provide financial incentives for units to turn in recyclable materials.

"We know there's a lot that Soldiers out there want to do, recycling-wise," Sendejas said. "But they don't know how to do it within the confines of our organization, unless they're doing it on their own, bagging recyclables and taking them home."

He added that financial constraints

can sometimes hinder environmental efforts, so the Guard is looking for partnerships with external organizations to support big-item initiatives.

However, there is always more that service members can do – on a personal level – to help the environment.

"There are 22,000 Soldiers and Airmen in the California National

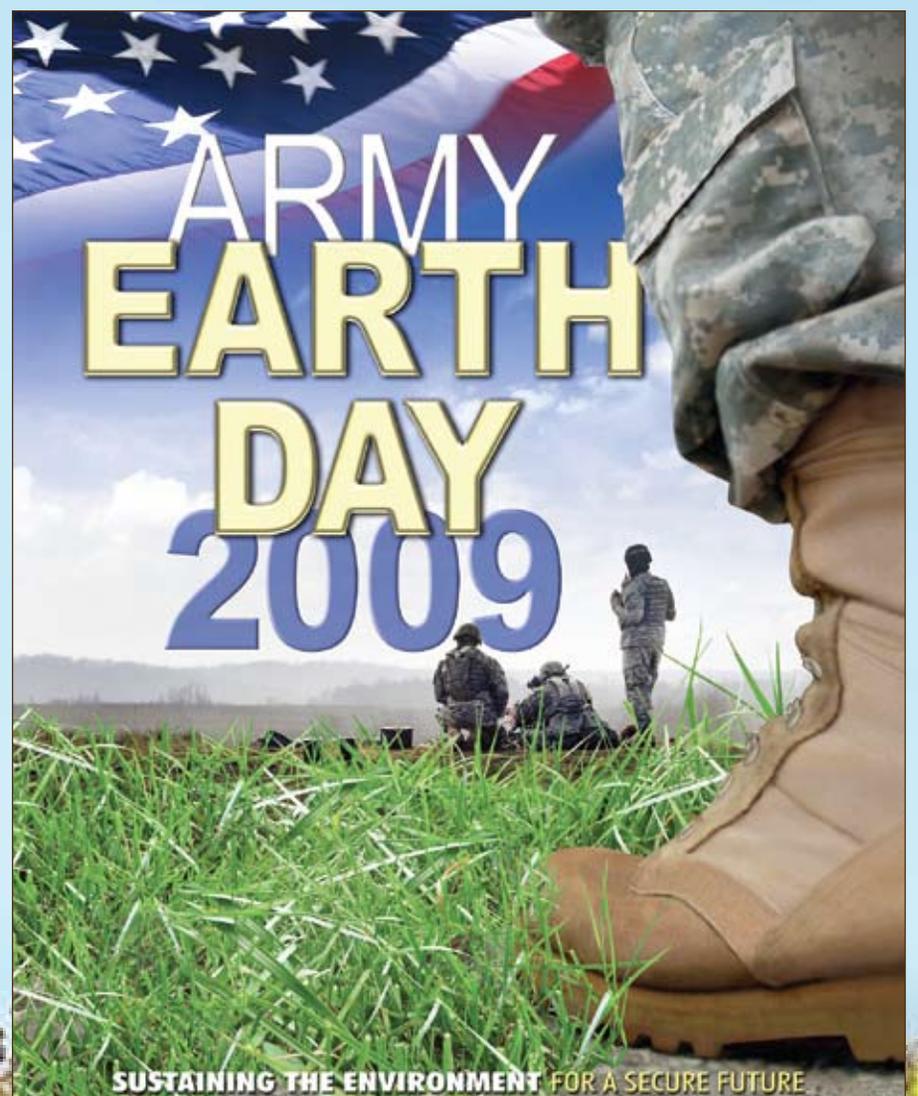
Guard, and if each does a little, it could make for big changes," said Army Capt. Marc L. Anderson, environmental compliance officer at Mather Flight Facility, on Earth Day.

Plus, as an added bonus during tough economic times, being green saves money, according to Mather Flight Facility's green team.

Douglas Bryceson, conservation program manager, brainstormed some earth-friendly ideas for Guard members to use in their daily lives, such as turning off computer monitors before leaving the office; printing only when necessary, and then printing double-sided copies; using ceramic coffee cups instead of disposable cups; and turning off lights when not in use.

"This is a good day to set some time aside and think about being environmentally responsible," Anderson suggested on Earth Day.

Earth Day is celebrated in the United States and many other countries on April 22 each year and is designed to inspire awareness and appreciation of the Earth's environment. It was founded by Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin in 1970 and is recognized by all U.S. military services.



Don't forget to turn off the lights

By Capt. Marc L. Anderson
California National Guard Environmental Programs Directorate

The California National Guard has just completed an important task for the first time in its history. The Environmental Programs Directorate has calculated and reported the carbon footprint of the entire California National Guard.

A carbon footprint is simply a measure of how much carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere as a product of our organization. In today's newer and more environmentally friendly military, it is more important than ever to quantify these parameters so we can work towards our directive of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The goal, as directed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, is to achieve 1990 emission levels by the year 2020.

The California National Guard joined the California Climate Action Registry in 2008 and has calculated and reported greenhouse gas emissions to the registry for 2007.

The biggest portion of the Guard's carbon footprint came from purchased electricity, meaning we can reduce our emissions by simply turning off the lights in rooms and buildings that are not in use. We already do this at home, but are we as careful when we are at work? It's easy to not take a personal interest in the cost associated with energy use at work because you don't pay the bill ... directly. But you do ultimately pay for that energy use through your taxes. In 2007 our electric bill was almost \$7 million.

You may think of electricity as clean energy, but more than half of the electricity produced in the United States comes from coal-fired plants. As we use electricity, we are required to account for a certain percentage of the pollution that is involved with the production of that electricity.

Our carbon footprint for 2007 was 27,822 metric tons of carbon dioxide. By comparison, that is about 4 percent of the footprint produced by AT&T and about five times more than the footprint of the city of Woodland, Calif. (population, 54,235).

When calculating our carbon footprint, we take into consideration the use of electricity, fuel for vehicles, natural gas for heaters and water heaters, welding gases and emissions, painting, food services and even the burned powder from munitions expended in down-range training. The calculations are verified by a third-party, independent contractor. For our efforts to count and report the carbon footprint, the California National Guard has been awarded the status of Climate Action Leader by the California Climate Action Registry.

The California National Guard's goals and directives have been set at the highest levels, but the results are realized through the actions of individual Guard members. Let's all do our part to use electricity more efficiently at home and at work by doing some of the following things:

- Unplug unused appliances or turn them off at the power strip when not in use.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR® rating when purchasing new appliances.
- Turn off your computer monitor when not in use.
- Adjust your thermostat to a moderate temperature and dress for comfort.
- Replace air-conditioner filters every month.
- Reduce air-conditioner use by using fans.
- Close your fireplace damper when not in use.
- Use motion sensors or timers for outdoor lighting.
- Turn lights off when you leave a room.
- Use energy-efficient light bulbs.
- Consider using a laptop computer, which uses 90 percent less energy than a desktop computer.

If we all look for a few simple things we can do to conserve electricity, together we can make a big difference. Look for ways to start saving today.



Families serve too: Don't face deployments alone

BY MAJ. ERIC FRYE

California National Guard Mental Health Service

In April, the Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness highlighted many services and resources available to our military families during deployments. Seeking mental health care early in the deployment process was a primary theme throughout the symposium: You do not have to face your Guard member's deployment alone!

We all need to recognize that when a service member deploys, and the family is left to manage without that key person, all members of the family deploy (and change) as well. Service members and their families experience many physical and emotional changes during the course of a deployment. The family dynamic is altered, and roles and responsibilities change.

Depending on what family members experienced prior to deployment, they may have difficulty managing altered roles and environments. In addition, service members and their families must understand that the family unit goes through inevitable pattern shifts, and would do so even if a family member was not deploying. Difficulties, therefore, can often be the result of the absent service member missing those inevitable and natural shifts.

Because these deployments are a routine part of military life for service members and their families, most military families have accepted them as "part of the job." Although all families respond somewhat differently, the National Center for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) has outlined five distinct stages of the emotional cycle of deployment: pre-deployment, deployment, sustainment, re-deployment and post-deployment. Each stage is characterized by specific emotional challenges that must be addressed.

FIVE EMOTIONAL STAGES

Pre-deployment is the phase from the time of notification of deployment to the actual departure of the service member. It is often a time of psychological denial of the event, intense preparation and anticipation of the departure.

Deployment is the phase from the time of departure through the first month of deployment. It can be a time of significant emotional turmoil as the

family tries to regain its equilibrium after the departure of a parent. Feelings can include numbness, sadness, isolation and abandonment. Many of the day-to-day responsibilities of the deployed parent need to be absorbed by the remaining members of the family, and a new balance is therefore established. Communication from the deployed service member can be tremendously reassuring. Any unrealistic worries that preoccupied family members in the pre-deployment phase are reduced during the deployment phase as they develop a more realistic view of the deployment.

Sustainment is the phase that spans from one month after deployment until one month prior to the service member's return. In most adaptive families, this phase is marked by settling into the new routine and going on about regular business, utilizing whatever resources are available within or outside of the family. Should a family not be able to return to business-as-usual, this could negatively impact the development of children within the family. Some children have a difficult time during the sustainment period, in the absence of a parent, and develop symptoms that should be readily identified and appropriately dealt with. Conflict between the service member and their spouse can result in emotional turmoil, particularly because restraints on communication may not allow full resolution of disagreements.

Re-deployment is the phase that spans from one month prior to the service member's return home until the actual return of the service member to their family. This is a period of intense anticipation, with conflicting emotions and possibly some anxiety accompanying excitement.

Post-deployment is the phase that begins with the return of the service member and ends with the re-establishment of family equilibrium. Generally, this period may take from one to several months. The homecoming can be a time of great excitement and jubilation. But it also can result in frustration and feeling let-down because of unrealistic fantasies about the reunion. Service members may become frustrated after finding that their family has moved on in their absence and that changes have been made in



Lt. Col. Susan Pangelinan, joint staff medical adviser, and Maj. Eric Frye, director of the California National Guard Mental Health Service (seated), discuss the resources available to military families during The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness, which was held in Burlingame, Calif., on April 18 and 19.

Resources for families

Families with concerns during deployments can turn to several resources in their area for assistance. A few agencies offering mental health assistance for family members and dependents are listed below, and a complete list of resources can be found on the Mental Health Office's Web page at www.calguard.ca.gov/mh.

Military One Source maintains a 24-hour lifeline at 1-800-342-9647, which provides short-term individual and family or dependent counseling at no cost: www.militaryonesource.com.

Give an Hour is a nonprofit that provides licensed professional individual care to military families. Services include treatment for anxiety, PTSD and traumatic brain injury; grief and loss counseling; child and adolescent assistance; and help with depression, substance abuse and sexual health and intimacy concerns: www.giveanhour.org.

Soldier's Project maintains offices in the Los Angeles area and in Sacramento. Their services include mental health counseling for service members and their families: www.thesoldiersproject.org.

family-functioning without their involvement. Additionally, the parent who remained behind during the deployment may experience a loss of independence with the return of their spouse, who begins to again exercise autonomy.

Married couples may require time to re-establish physical and emo-

tional intimacy, which can lead to a sense of disappointment or disillusionment. Ultimately, it is important that the deployed service member reasserts his or her role within the family and re-establishes a healthy equilibrium. Most families and children manage successfully during deployments, despite inherent challenges.



Deployed federal employees receive salary supplements

Under a newly enacted law, federally employed Guard members who previously took pay cuts when mobilized now receive salary supplements to make up the difference between their civilian and military paychecks. The supplement began March 15.

To determine the amount of supplemental payments, the Office of Personnel Management will consider locality pay and special rate supplements. It will also consider housing and subsistence allowances.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve said about 20 percent of Guard and Reserve members are federal employees, but there is no way to determine how many will benefit from the new law.

In 2006, the Department of Defense initiated the Reserve Income Replacement Program (RIRP), which pays the difference between National Guard and Reserve members' civilian incomes and their military compensations when mobilized for extended or frequent periods.

To qualify for RIRP, service members must be serving on active duty in an involuntary status; have completed 18 continuous months of involuntary active duty; have completed 24 cumulative months of involuntary active duty within the last 60 months; or be serving on involuntary active duty for a period of 180 days or more that started within six months of separation from a previous period on involuntary active duty for at least 180 days.

Airmen can receive retirement pay before 60

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials at the 129th Rescue Wing are finalizing procedures for validating the receipt of retirement pay before Airmen in the National Guard or Air Force Reserve turn 60.

Airmen can reduce the age at which they receive retirement pay by three months for each aggregate 90-day period of qualifying active duty served in any fiscal year. Retirement pay cannot be received before age 50.

For more information, call 800-525-0102.

DID YOU KNOW...

there is a new way to show pride in your military service while wearing civilian clothes?

Recent changes in federal law allow rendering of the military hand salute at all events honoring the nation's flag. Military personnel as well as U.S. veterans may now render the military hand salute during the playing of the national anthem and during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag. For information on the rendering of a proper military hand salute with or without headgear, refer to AR 600-25 and AFI 34-1201.

License plates recognize Gold Star Families

On Sept. 26, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 1455, which enables families of service members who were killed while on active duty to obtain a Gold Star Family License Plate honoring the sacrifices their families have endured. The plate bears a gold star and the words "Gold Star Family."

The Gold Star Family License Plates will be produced at no cost to the state of California; therefore funds need to be raised. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) is seeking donations to pay the approximately \$300,000 cost of producing the plates.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Roz Jaurequi at 916-503-8095 or visit the CDVA Web Site at www.calvet.ca.gov. Checks can also be made payable to CDVA Project Gold Star and mailed to Project Gold Star, 1227 O St, Room 314, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Show the Guard's power

The Military National Powerlifting Championship is scheduled for May 23 in Venice Beach, Calif., and the California National Guard is forming a team. Each lifter's entry fee is \$65.

There will be a powerlifting competition (squat, bench press and deadlift), a bench press competition and a deadlift competition. The Guard can field six lifters in each competition.

For more information, contact Maj. Steve Denison at 805-238-8203.



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Soldiers from Company A, 1-185th Combined Arms Battalion (CAB), exit a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during training at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on March 26. The 1-185th CAB is deployed in support of Multi-National Task Force-East, Kosovo Force 11.

Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts

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