

GRIZZLY

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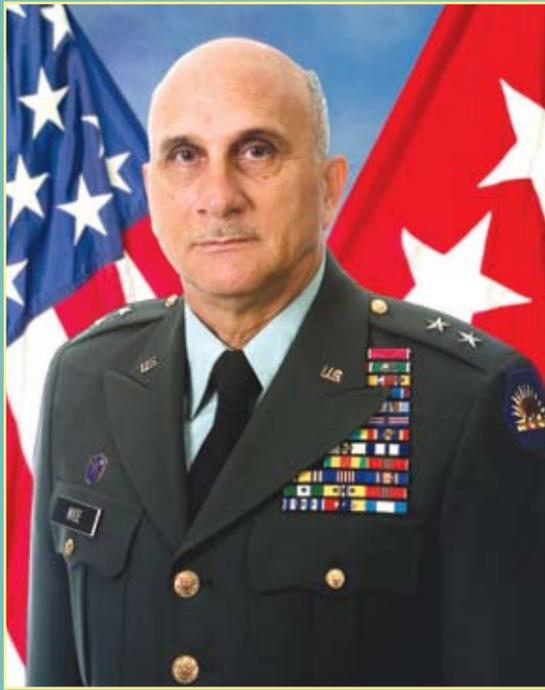
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Grizzly

The Official Newsletter of the
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FROM THE EDITOR

SUBMISSIONS

Since its inception, the National Guard has been marked by a dual calling, one that requires us to regularly face both domestic and international challenges. Last month, we were repeatedly reminded of the California National Guard's ability to respond effectively on both fronts.

In late August, Airmen from the 163d Medical Group returned from Guatemala, where they operated free medical clinics for thousands of that nation's poorest residents (page 18). In Ukraine, one of our allies in the Partnership for Peace program, California National Guardsmen participated in Rapid Trident, a two-week, multi-national military field exercise (page 14). And closer to home, the 129th Rescue Wing deployed to the Gulf Coast region to meet the threat of hurricanes Gustav and Ike, airlifting residents stranded by floodwaters left in Ike's wake (page 10).

In addition to ongoing deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo, these missions remind us that we serve in a National Guard force that is among the nation's most active, and certainly its most proud.

Articles:

- ★ 250 – 300 words for a half page, 600-800 words for a full-page article
- ★ Include first and last names, and *verify spelling*
- ★ If there is a Public Affairs officer assigned to your unit, ensure he/she reviews it.

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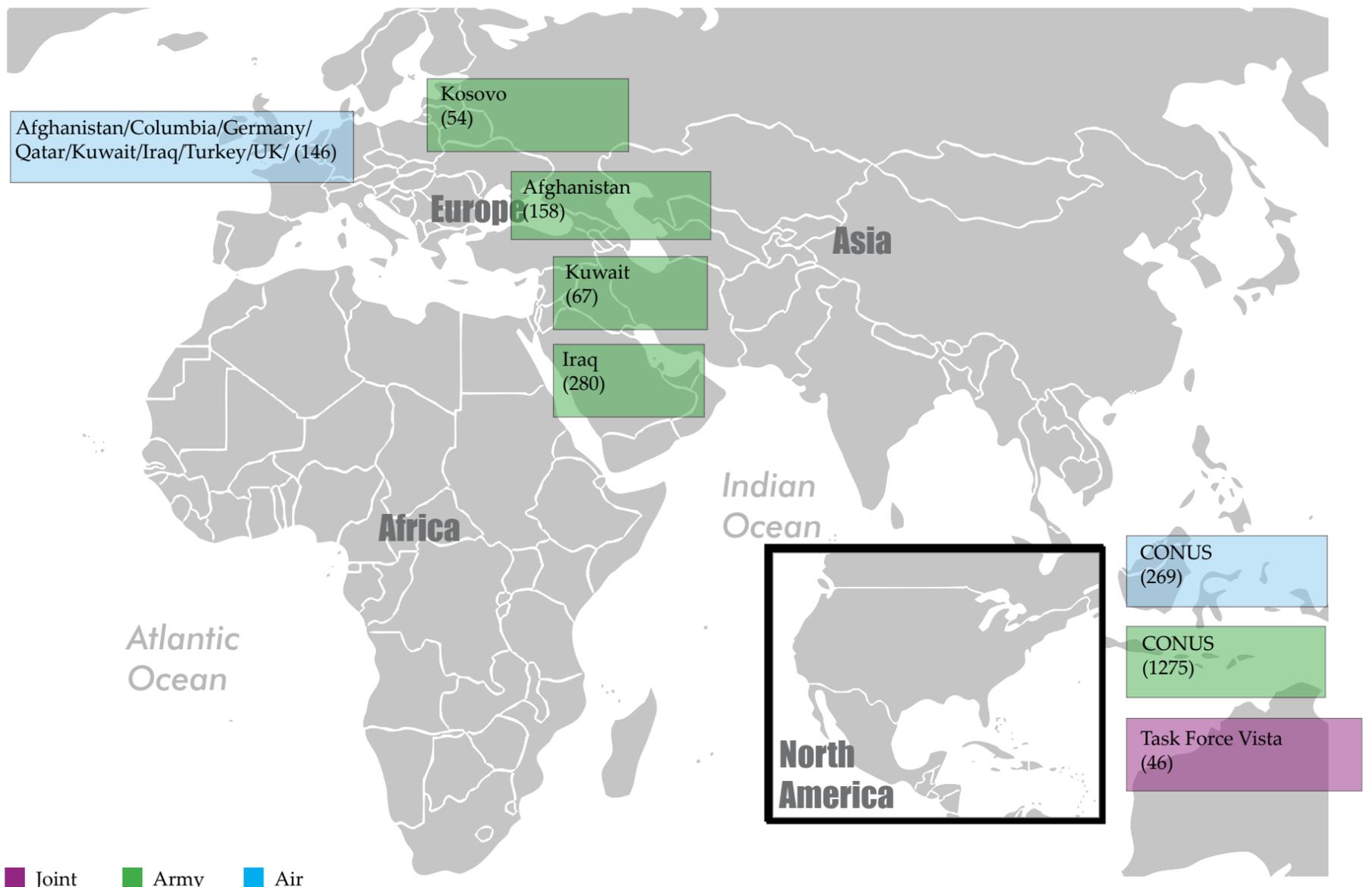
- ★ Highest resolution possible, minimum 300 dpi
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COVER PHOTO TECH. SGT. RAY AQUINO

Where We Are

THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD AS OF SEPTEMBER 2008



FATEFUL JOURNEY

CHANCE MEETINGS CONFIRM MEDEVAC PILOT'S CALLING

Then-Captain Daniel Anderson points to bullet holes in his Black Hawk helicopter after returning safely from a medevac mission in Iraq in 2005 during which he and his crew faced heavy enemy fire. Anderson, now a major and a pilot with Sacramento's 1-168th Charlie Company Medevac unit, received the Air Medal with Valor for his heroics during the mission.

BY 2ND LT. WILL MARTIN

Major Daniel Anderson joined the National Guard because he needed the money.

"It's the only reason I joined," said Anderson, now a Black Hawk helicopter pilot with the 1-168th Charlie Company MedEvac unit in Sacramento. "I joined the Guard because they gave me the most (college) money for the least amount of work."

But, as Anderson is quick to point out, he "found something much bigger": honor.

"If you look throughout the history of Medevac, you hear stories, some sound valorous, others sound crazy, the things people did to go in and get the wounded," said Anderson. "(But) it's all about saving lives ... it goes back to the dust-off guys in the days of Vietnam; we won't leave without your wounded."

Anderson's journey through the medevac ranks has been riddled with coincidence, the kind that confirm military service is more calling than career.

His first brush with the surreal came in 1999 shortly after he received his pilot's training as a second lieutenant. While working as a Wells Fargo banker in Sacramento, Anderson responded to a call for an injured climber.

"I did the Superman thing, jumped into my flight suit and showed up (at the Sacramento medevac armory)," said Anderson. "Three hours later, at 11,500 feet, we were pulling a lady off the side of Mount Shasta."

But the bigger thrill came the next day when a Wells Fargo senior manager approached Anderson at work.

"He said 'That woman was a friend of mine from San Francisco,'" said Anderson. "In the big world this is,

for me to have rescued a coworker's friend, the hair stands up on the back of my neck. I just made it real."

Fate would again rear its head in Salt Lake City just before the 2002 Olympics, where Anderson served with the medical support team. The local sheriff received a call that a teen had ruptured his spleen on some of the nearby rocks.

Anderson volunteered to handle the call – in a third of the time of his civilian counterparts – and upon learning that the parents didn't have insurance, he told the mother not to worry, that "this one's compliments of the U.S. Army," a line that made local newspaper headlines.

The next morning at breakfast, he encountered a Special Forces lieutenant colonel, who quickly pointed Anderson out of the crowd. His first thought – "Oh great, what did one of my guys do?" – quickly gave way to surprise.

"I want to say thank you," the lieutenant colonel said, evoking an "Excuse me, Sir?" from Anderson. "That boy you rescued, that was my son."

In 2005, Anderson volunteered for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and was stationed near the Syrian border. There, as a flight platoon leader, he led an Aug. 29 mission to rescue a downed OH-58 helicopter crew near Tal Afar, a flight that brought him and his crew into direct enemy fire.

"It was something like out of Star Wars," said Anderson of his landing at the site of the downed OH-58. "There was the smell of smoke and a flash in the cockpit. ... I thought a bullet had hit the helicopter when my seat jumped a few inches."

In fact, a bullet had, taking his M9 pistol off his leg before lodging in the radio just inches from the copilot's

elbow. Amid all the fury, Anderson's medic, Sgt. Kevin Doyle, ran headlong into enemy fire, eventually leading two litter teams back to safety.

"He'll always be my hero," Anderson said of Doyle, now a warrant officer in flight school.

Only after arriving in the safety of the rear did Anderson learn his aircraft had been peppered with enemy bullets. His efforts would earn him the esteemed Air Medal with Valor.

Back in California, Anderson would receive another reminder that his world was both small – and significant.

In August 2006, while attending a friend's birthday party at an Old Sacramento bar, Anderson noticed a group of Wounded Warriors walk in. In talking with the veterans, he came to realize that each of them had been carried on a Medevac platform during combat. Most surprising though, was the conversation with Nick, a young Soldier from Tennessee.

"On April 28, 2005 ... this kid lost his arm in an insurgent ambush, and had some other injuries," said Anderson, for whom Nick's story grew very familiar. "I remembered evacuating him. I remember the kid saying he must have died and gone to heaven, because he just saw an angel (Anderson's female medic at the time). He even tried to ask her out, despite his state of delirium and going into shock."

Nick began to cry, as Anderson fought to hold back tears. Nick's next words left Anderson speechless.

"He throws his one arm around me and says, 'Sir, you saved my life,'" said Anderson, who wept alongside Nick. "What are the chances that he happened to be in that program, happened to be in Sacramento and happened to go into the bar I happened to be at? ... If there was ever a question in my mind of the significance of what we do, it was thoroughly validated in my mind and heart that night."



Anderson is pinned with the Air Medal with Valor during his 2005 Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment with New England's 1159th Medevac unit.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAJ. DANIEL ANDERSON

PREDATOR SET TO TAKE OFF

163^D MAKES FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR FLIGHT-TRAINING OPS

A fleet of MQ-1 predators awaits munitions before taking off on missions last year in Iraq. The Predator is a medium-altitude, long-endurance aircraft that is piloted remotely. The Predator's primary mission is interdiction and conducting armed reconnaissance against critical, perishable targets. When the Predator is not actively pursuing its primary mission, it acts as a Joint Forces asset for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition.

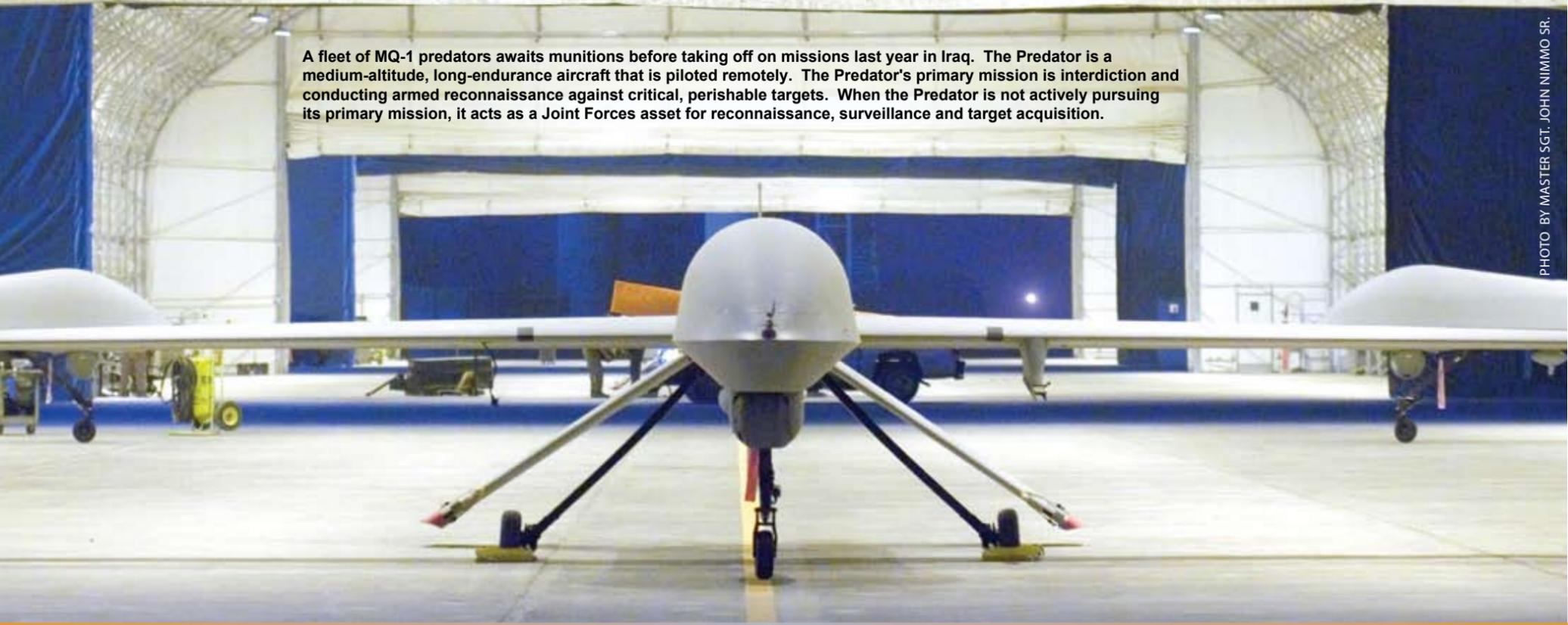


PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JOHN NIMMO SR.

BY CAPT. AL BOSCO

Having successfully surpassed two years of combat operations flying the MQ-1 Predator, the nation's first Air National Guard Predator unit is poised to spread its history-making wings once again.

With only minor details remaining, the 163d Reconnaissance Wing, based at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., is ready to begin training the Air Force's next generation of unmanned aerial system warriors. Beginning in January, the unit expects to fly its first live training sortie at home from the Southern California Logistics Airport, located about 40 miles from March.

"We are really excited about taking this critical next step in our employment of the Predator," said Col. Randall Ball, 163d Operations Group commander. "We've been working toward this since getting the Predator mission in 2006 and it has taken a total team effort to go from concept to reality as quickly as we have."

Since transitioning from its support mission flying the KC-135 Stratotanker to conducting active combat flying the Predator, the wing has proven itself capable of adapting to an ever-evolving Air Force. Shortly after beginning Predator flight operations the wing was charged to provide three continuous combat air patrols over Southwest Asia. As a result of the surge, the wing has amassed more than 21,000 flying hours supporting combat operations overseas by providing com-



From left, Lt. Col. Michael Lane, 163d Operations Support Flight commander, Col. Randall Ball, 163d Operations Group commander, and Lt. Col. Kirby Colas, 196th Reconnaissance Squadron commander, discuss preparations for the 163d Reconnaissance Wing's Predator flight-training operations scheduled to begin in 2009.

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL DUQUETTE

batant commanders with 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week aerial surveillance and precision strike capability.

"This has truly been an historic event for us," said Col. Al Aimar, 163d commander. "It's been quite an exciting time and we're eager to begin the next chapter in this remarkable mission."

Once the facilities and infrastructure needed to support the flying program at SCLA are in place, the wing will begin flying the Predator locally in preparation for its first class of Predator aviators, which is scheduled to begin in April 2009.

"We need to make sure we take a steady approach to starting the flight training program here so we can ensure we are training the best Predator pilots possible, able to step out of the classroom and into the combat theater providing the kind of support commanders need and have come to expect," said Lt. Col. Kirby Colas, 196th Reconnaissance Squadron commander.

Initially the wing will begin training Air National Guard personnel as Predator aircrews, but the program is expected to expand to include training active duty aviators, as well relieving some

of the load for Creech Air Force Base, Nev., the only base presently training Predator aircrews.

Since the wing already has extensive experience with the platform, providing the training to both Guard and active duty aircrews is expected to be a smooth process. In fact, several of the unit's current senior-level pilots and sensor operators have already gained valuable experience in the academic environment having served as instructor pilots and sensor operators at Creech.

"Our wing is really a unique organization," said Aimar. "We've gone through a tremendous amount of change over the past couple years, but the amazing thing is nobody complains. Every time a new mission or task has come up, everyone across the wing was quick to jump in to figure out how we could get it done. As a commander it makes me proud to see that kind of dedication, not only to our nation, but to the warfighters on the ground who rely on our support to accomplish their missions."

The wing conducts Predator maintenance training in its recently-established, state-of-the-art field training detachment operating under Creech's Detachment 13 as part of Air Education and Training Command. The fully-accredited maintenance training facility currently trains active duty and Guard Predator maintenance personnel.

"Nightstalkers" from the California National Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry (light) prepare to clear a building during recent training for their 2009 mission to Kosovo as part of KFOR11.

PHOTOS BY LT. COL. DIRK LEVY



184TH'S NIGHTSTALKERS PREPARE FOR KOSOVO

BY 184TH INFANTRY PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Once again, the "Nightstalkers" of the California National Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry (light), will deploy overseas in 2009 on a critical mission to Kosovo for KFOR11.

The Nightstalkers bring extensive experience from state and theatre operations to the KFOR11 mission. Many of the Soldiers have deployed both in state - in support of civilian agencies during Operation Fall Blaze in San Diego and fire-response training in Northern California - and abroad to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. In 2005, the unit earned the Valorous Unit Award supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom III before returning home in January 2006.

Over the past two years the unit has experienced a modular transformation from an air assault infantry battalion, as part of the 29th Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade in Hawaii, to a 'light' infantry battalion, as part of the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Doctrinally, the unit conducts operations much the same as it has in the past, but is now directly supported by Echo Company, 40th Brigade Support Battalion. The 1-184IN(L) still takes pride in its standards, strength, professionalism and soldiering abilities. The Northern California Ready Reaction Force is always ready to answer when called.

As the 1-184IN(L) transitions into a task force, and prepares for the upcoming Balkans deployment, it has attached maneuver elements to support other missions and received other attachments to its own task organization. Units ranging from Modesto, Oakdale, Bakersfield and El Centro will bring a unique combination of skill and expertise to the peace-keeping mission in Kosovo. As commanding officer Lt. Col. Dirk Levy said, "Task Force Night-

stalkers will be a truly multidimensional force."

The task force consists of a combination of Soldiers from the headquarters of the 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry (light), the mounted weapons of Delta Company, the Bradley infantry fighting vehicles of the 'Mechanized' Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, and the Sapper Engineers of Alpha Company, 40th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 40th IBCT.

The mission in Kosovo is of a different flavor than current security operations in Iraq, and Task Force Nightstalker Soldiers are training hard on the many Army warrior tasks and theater-specific tasks as they prepare for this challenging mission. The end state, of course, is to continue to provide a safe and secure environment for the newly independent people within the U.S.-lead multinational Task Force East area of responsibility.



A "Nightstalker" from the 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry (light) takes part in marksmanship training in preparation for next year's mission to Kosovo.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT...OR IS IT?

BY MAJ. ANNI MU LOEB AND CAPT. NATALIE ROWELL

Imagine another Katrina-scale hurricane hitting the Gulf Coast or Hawaii, robbing them of all communications. Staff at the 162nd Combat Communications Group (CCG) have spent a lot of time thinking about just such a scenario, and are turning to an old technology to meet modern crises.

The 162nd CCG, in coordination with the Arizona Air National Guard, has demonstrated the capability to deploy the Combat SkySat, a balloon platform providing much needed communications to affected areas. SkySat is a high-altitude communications relay system, which is ideally suited to support domestic homeland operations.

The purpose of disaster relief using SkySat is to rapidly establish initial command and control for civil authorities. Much like a low-flying satellite, the payload provides communications to the affected area and can provide coverage synchronized to a specific operation for up to eight hours. Additional balloons can be launched to extend coverage.

The Combat SkySat has the ability to provide cellular and landline phone service, Internet access, and handheld radio communications to mul-

iple locations, as demonstrated during recent exercises over the last two years.

In July 2008 in Gulfport, Miss., the 162nd CCG and 147th Combat Communications Squadron exercised their ability to respond rapidly to civilian and National Guard authorities who were providing disaster relief by utilizing the SkySat. When National Guardsmen are deployed to an affected region, communications support will transition from first responder to National Guard networks to support the growing military response utilizing this technology.

In June 2007, the 162nd Combat Communications Group and the Hawaii Air National Guard's 291st Combat Communications Squadron partnered with Arizona's Detachment 2 to demonstrate their ability to establish communications across the islands of Hawaii in the event of an earthquake or any other natural disaster that might cause communications capabilities to become inoperable.

SkySat could benefit the state of California by providing a communications system for first responders to use during emergencies or natural

disasters. The system has been successfully tested in both urban and mountainous environments. The system has very few line-of-sight problems because the balloon and payload operate at great heights.

In the end, the California Air National Guard's old-school techniques might be the best bet in meeting rapid-response needs of the future.



Major General Dennis G. Lucas, chief of the California National Guard's Air Division, takes part in recent 162nd Combat Communications Group training involving the Combat SkySat. The SkySat enables the Air Guard to set up emergency communications networks in the event of major natural disasters, such as hurricanes Katrina and Ike.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE 162ND COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

AIR GUARD HELPS CHILDREN COPE WITH PARENTS' DEPLOYMENT

STORY AND PHOTO BY BARB DRAUGHON



The 144th Fighter Wing's Chief Master Sgt. Johnny Leal demonstrates how to prepare a Meal-Ready-to-Eat to campers at the Purple Camp at the Sequoia Lake Camp Gaines YMCA. The Camp helps children of deployed service members learn to cope with their family members' absence.

Operation Purple Camp's Military Day at the Sequoia Lake Camp Gaines YMCA was designed to help the children of service members to have a fuller concept of what life is like for their deployed parents.

When military support was requested for this first-time central California camp, Family Program coordinators from the 129th Rescue Wing, 144th Fighter Wing and 146th Airlift Wing joined with the 144th's Chief Master Sgt. Johnny Leal and other volunteers to meet the need. They gathered uniforms, chemical gear, MREs and gave away items to create an inviting display to honor these young military dependents dealing with the challenges and often confusing concepts of deployment, separation and reintegration of their loved ones.

Representatives from all the Armed Forces components were present with military vehicles, equipment

and hands-on displays for the children to gain greater insight into their parent's jobs, and why they must sometimes deploy for training and the Global War on Terrorism.

Young campers who visited the canopied California Air National Guard display tried on uniforms and chemical gear, sampled MREs, and read through Airman's manuals. The 144th Fighter Wing's pilot and chemical-gear mannequins were also available for photo opportunities, while instructors explained how to use Air Force equipment and encouraged campers that their family members were participating in a valuable role of maintaining freedom in the United States and abroad.

For more information on 2009 Operation Purple Camps throughout California contact the California Child & Youth Program by e-mailing Rebecca.mcphetridge@us.army.mil or logging on at www.nmfa.org.

CALIFORNIA GUARDSMEN HIT THE MARK IN KOSOVO

STORY AND PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. RONALDO V. ZULUETA

More than 60 U.S. Soldiers and 65 of their German counterparts participated in mid-August in the German Armed Forces Marksmanship Badge for Weapons Proficiency challenge, also known as Schutzenschnur, at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

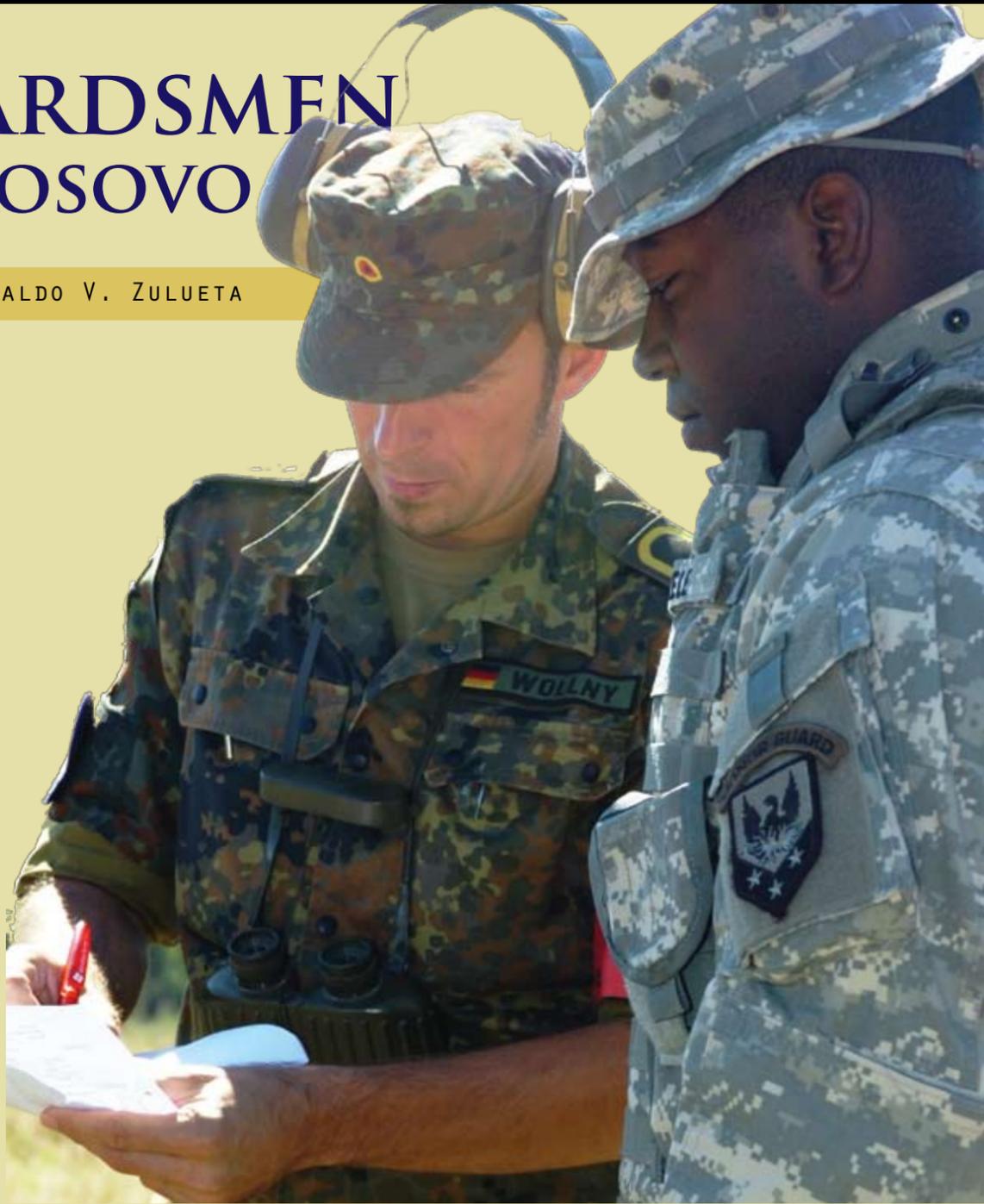
The joint American-German event allows both nations to train one another's soldiers on use of their respective weapons. Once the training is complete, the Americans have an opportunity to earn the gold, silver or bronze Schutzenschnur awards. Many of the U.S. Soldiers came from the California National Guard and were joined by other U.S. and international soldiers. However, all participants belonged to KFOR 10, the current Kosovo peacekeeping force.

The weapons with which they qualified were the HKP8 pistol, the MG3 machine gun and the Gewehr G36 rifle. Each weapon was unique and new to the Americans. The Germans, in turn, qualified on the M9 pistol, M4 rifle and M249 "Saw."

There are few foreign awards an American Soldier is authorized to wear with the U.S. Army uniform, and the Schutzenschnur is among them.

After the qualifications, U.S. Soldiers had an opportunity to talk at length with the German soldiers. Staff Sgt. Ronaldo Zulueta politely mentioned in passing to one German that the two used to be "enemies," but was quickly corrected.

"We were never enemies," replied the German soldier. "The politicians made us enemies."



Specialist Jeremy Steele, right, of the 235th Engineering Company, in Petaluma, Calif., calculates his scores with a member of the German Armed Forces. Steele earned a bronze Schutzenschnur in the German Armed Forces Marksmanship Badge for Weapons Proficiency challenge in Kosovo.

ARMY AWARDS SOLDIER'S MEDAL TO CAL GUARDSMAN FOR HEROISM

STORY AND PHOTO BY SUZANNE THOMAS



Brigadier General Louis J. Antonetti, chief of the California National Guard's Army Division, right, pins the Soldier's Medal on Damon H. White on Aug. 16 at Camp Roberts, Calif. White earned the medal by entering a burning house in Iraq on Nov. 1, 2005, to save an elderly Iraqi woman and child.

Specialist Damon H. White, who served with the 184th Infantry Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005 to 2006, was awarded the Soldier's Medal during a ceremony held at Camp Roberts, Calif., on Aug. 16.

White received the medal, which is the Army's highest non-combat award for heroism, for his brave actions on Nov. 1, 2005, when he entered a burning house to rescue an elderly Iraqi woman and child. He further ensured the house was free of any other victims before departing safely.

"We were on patrol and saw fire in a neighborhood. We responded to it, set up security around it so we would be safe while we dealt with it. There was definitely a sense there were people inside the building," said White, when asked about the events of that day. "I grabbed a fire extinguisher from the vehicle and ran inside the building. Everything happened instantaneously, I didn't think about it. I knew with my platoon, with that section out there with me, I had no fear. ... I could drop my guard in order to deal with the fire, because I knew they had my back."

Brig. Gen. Louis J. Antonetti, chief of the California National Guard's Army Division, presented the award to White, who returned with Charlie Company 1/184th in January 2006 from Operation Iraqi Freedom and currently resides in Corvallis, Ore. White was reunited with his unit for the presentation.

A WAY WITH WORDS

NEW PROGRAMS OFFER GUARDSMEN CULTURE AND LANGUAGE TRAINING

BY 2ND LT. WILL MARTIN



Iraqi and coalition forces discuss methods being used to search for weapons caches in Sabiat, Iraq, Aug. 9, 2008.

Duty calls, and for the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard, its call is frequent and far.

According to the National Guard Bureau, California boasts the most frequently mobilized Guard force in the nation. As of September 2008, more than 2,300 California Guardsmen were deployed on missions across the globe, many immersed in cultures familiar only from U.S. newscasts.

With many of those deployments centered on peacekeeping and rebuilding missions – Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo – the demand for language and cultural skills has grown immensely, as Guardsmen regularly find themselves interacting with international populations.

“There has been an institutional blindness toward other cultures in the Army,” said Capt. Daniel Bout, a California Guardsman who performed civil affairs missions while deployed as an infantry officer to Iraq from 2005-06.

Bout said such oversight is called “mirroring,” which occurs when “we assume the enemy we’re fighting is going to pattern themselves after ourselves.”

In the recent past, a number of programs have emerged to provide quick fixes to the military’s lack of language proficiency and cultural awareness.

Last year, Rosetta Stone Inc. contracted with the Army to expand

their 30 language instruction programs for Soldiers to include an Arabic-military version. The program is available to the entire Army and Army civilian employees, and is available along with the other languages free of charge through the Army e-Learning Web site.

At present, more than 40,000 Soldiers are learning Arabic through the Army’s Rosetta Stone partnership, and the recently released military edition focuses their training on key vocabulary, making it more mission-applicable.

Not to be outdone, the renowned Defense Language Institute (DLI) in Monterey, Calif., released its Language Materials Distribution System Web site in July. The site provides a wealth of language resources at no cost to deploying service members.

Among its offerings are Language Survival Kits, which include pocket-size booklets and audio CDs, and are available in more than 30 languages. In addition, the site offers Headstart language DVD materials that provide 80 hours of instruction in survival phrases in Iraqi Arabic and Afghan Dari and Pashto. iPod downloads for several languages are also available through the site.

Both the Rosetta Stone and DLI programs are self-paced and rely on innovative approaches. Rosetta Stone programs are built on what the company calls the “Dynamic Immersion” process, which rather than emphasizing rote memorization or grammar drills, utilizes realistic images and native speakers to

duplicate the experience of learning one’s first language.

The DLI philosophy is more holistic, recognizing, as their Web site states, “language is not learned in a cultural vacuum.” Language learning, according to the DLI methodology, must encompass “all aspects of the country where the language is spoken,” including religious, geographic, political and economic considerations.

The DLI can also send out Mobile Training Teams to teach the basics of Iraqi language and culture to mobilizing units during their pre-deployment cycle. The teams offer crash courses to lessen the culture shock deploying service members often face.

Members and civilian employees of the California Army National Guard can access Rosetta Stone programs by logging into the Army homepage at www.us.army.mil, and selecting the “Self Service” tab, followed by “My Education” and “Army e-Learning.” Guard members deploying to locations with unreliable Internet access may request a version of Rosetta Stone to download onto their computers by e-mailing intheaterrequest@rosettastone.com.

After registering and receiving account approval, deploying Soldiers and Airmen can download DLI materials at www.dliflc.edu by clicking on the “Products” tab. To schedule a DLI Mobile Training Team for your unit, contact Monica Junod at (831) 242-7476.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRIAN D. LEINHARDT



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MANUEL J. MARTINEZ

U.S. Soldiers interact with Iraqi children during two recent Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments. Due to the growth of international operations, the demand for language and cultural skills has increased among California National Guardsmen.

129TH RESCUE WING RESPONDS TO HURRICANE IKE

BY CAPT. ALYSON TEETER



129th Rescue Wing personnel prepare to perform search and rescue support during Hurricane Gustav on Sept. 3.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. RAY AQUINO

California Air National Guardsmen from Moffett Federal Airfield's 129th Rescue Wing deployed to Galveston, Texas, to search for stranded victims of Hurricane Ike in mid-September, only days after deploying in support of Hurricane Gustav search-and-rescue operations.

While the threat of Gustav passed over Louisiana with minimal impact, Ike's presence was more devastating, demanding swift action on the part of 129th Guardsmen.

Stationed at San Antonio's Kelly Field, four Joint Task Force 129 HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, including two from the 129th Rescue Wing, departed at 10 a.m. on Sept. 13. One day earlier, California Air Guardsmen had helped rescue 16 people, including several stranded on a bridge nearly submerged in Ike's waters. The crews knew this day would be even busier.

"We were told that more than two hundred 911 calls were made in the morning," said Maj. Rhys Hunt, 129th Rescue Wing pilot and co-pilot for Jolly 91. Hurricane Ike had passed through Galveston earlier in the day.

"When we got to Galveston, it looked like a war zone," Hunt said. "There were four or five houses on fire, Galveston Airport was completely underwater, most of the city was flooded, and several piers were demolished."

Instead of being tasked with picking up victims in specific locations, the helicopters trolled low and slow. The crews hoped the sound of the

rotor blades would prompt survivors to come out of their homes and seek help in evacuating the area. It wasn't long before survivors did just that.

Crews from Jolly 91 spotted a woman poking her head out from her porch. Two pararescuemen, also known as PJs, rappelled down to convince the woman to evacuate. Jolly 91 then landed in a baseball field near her house and discovered two elderly women and a middle-aged man stranded in the house. The survivors asked to be evacuated because one of the women was sick and needed treatment.

The three people loaded on the Pave Hawk and crews promptly transported them to Texas City High School, a main collection point for survivors.

Jolly 91 returned to the disaster area and proceeded to troll over the Bolivar Peninsula near Galveston. The crews were stunned by the destruction witnessed overhead.

"Half of the houses appeared flattened in Crystal Beach," Hunt said.

The crews continued their search for survivors and came across a man, woman and their dog wading through the water. Jolly 91 landed on a dry road near the trio and picked them up. Luckily, the crews spotted the group because they provided information about additional victims requiring evacuation.

Based on their tip, Jolly 91 took off and found the home – as suspected, an elderly man, two of his family members and a dog were stranded.

The PJs rappelled down to the house and used the hoist to pluck the family from danger.

After dropping off the group of survivors, Jolly 91's crew searched for people in Gilchrist on the Bolivar Peninsula. They came across small groups of people sitting on porches and balconies. Surprisingly for the crews, when asked to evacuate, the people opted to stay put.

At the end of the day, searching for survivors and performing rescues was a grueling but gratifying mission for the JTF 129 Airmen.

"All the crew members were glad to be there and help when people needed it most," Hunt said.

As of Sept. 15, JTF 129 personnel had saved 48 people and 13 dogs in response to Hurricane Ike.

"The task force members did an incredible job over the past 48 hours flying in extremely violent conditions," said Col. Mark Sheehy, 129th Rescue Wing Operations Group

Commander and JTF 129 Commander. "They epitomize the Air Force Rescue motto of 'These things we do that others may live.'"

Joint Task Force 129 is a self-contained search and rescue unit comprised of more than 100 people, including highly trained pararescuemen, four HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters, and two MC-130P Combat Shadow tankers. Air National Guardsmen from the 106th Rescue Wing, Gabreski Airport, N.Y., and 176th Wing, Kulis Air National Guard Base, Ala., are also part of the rescue task force.

As an Air National Guard unit, many of the 129th's past missions involved supporting state emergencies that included earthquakes, chemical spills, fires and floods. Equipped with MC-130P Combat Shadow tankers and HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters, the 129th has performed a wide variety of civilian search-and-rescue missions, including distressed persons aboard ships, lost or injured hikers, and medical evacuations.



Pararescuemen from the Joint Task Force 129 rescue a hurricane victim on Sept. 13 in Galveston, Texas.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. BROCK WOODWARD

VIGILANT GUARD

EXERCISE PREPARES CAL GUARDSMEN FOR DISASTER

BY GRIZZLY STAFF



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ULISES VILLALBA

California National Guard Soldiers participating in June's Vigilant Guard '08 exercise move a roleplayer to a decontamination station.

Sergeant Benjamin Molitor believes in getting his hands dirty. Quality training, said the bridging NCO from Mount Shasta's 132nd Engineering Company, requires realistic scenarios that require grit. So when he and about 1,750 other National Guardsmen took part in Nevada's Vigilant Guard '08 exercise in June, he walked away satisfied.

"I've worked scenarios like this before, once or twice," Molitor said, "but this is actually getting down into it and making us really think about what we are doing here."

The Reno exercise, the federal government's 11th Vigilant Guard, involved more than 2,000 civilian and military participants, including 400 National Guardsmen from across California. The scenario centered on a fictitious 7.1 magnitude earthquake along the Mount Rose Fault system, requiring a coordinated response from civilian and military agencies across the Western United States.

"This actually coordinates everybody as a task force and (gets everyone to) come together as one to accomplish a mission," said Staff Sgt. Sal Reyes, of the 149th Chemical Company in Stockton. "We have to work as one team to ensure that we take care of the civilian casualties in this type of environment."

Guardsmen treated casualties at mobile medical facilities and medevac helicopters, set up emergency communications, evacuated people by truck and assisted civilian agencies in containing hazardous materials. The exercise was large enough to merit \$1.5 million in federal funding.

"This is the first time I have done an interstate training and from what I'm getting from it, it's good training," said Staff Sgt. Ian Bones, part of the 270th Military Police Company in Sacramento. "They gotta remember events like Katrina, the San Diego fires, and now California in flames again ... we gotta train as we fight."

Vigilant Guard '09 begins in mid-November.

FIRE MISSION BECOMES RESCUE OPERATION FOR AIRCREW

BY CAPT. AL BOSCO

What began as a routine fire-suppression mission took an interesting turn for a National Guard aircrew in the Butte Lightning Complex on June 27.

The crew, consisting of a mix of California and Nevada National Guardsmen, was supporting California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection efforts to contain the massive fire sweeping through thousands of acres of land in Butte County. Flying a Nevada-based UH-60 Black Hawk, the crew was dropping water on the fires when they began to monitor radio traffic from a fire engine crew and noticed a team member had collapsed and was suffering from heat-related stress symptoms.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Joel Stevens, the crew listened while ground personnel were deciding the best course of action. Meanwhile, the flames were drawing nearer the firefighters, who were unwilling to leave their partner behind. That's when the Black Hawk crew decided to act.

"We quickly assessed the situation and determined that based on our



capabilities, we were in the best position to help," Stevens said. "The visibility was so bad it could have taken hours for ground personnel to reach the firefighter, so we contacted the California Highway Patrol and asked for permission to help."

Chief Warrant Officer Stevens added if it were another aircrew on-scene, they may not have been able to pull off a rescue mission.

"It was fortunate we had a Nevada

aircraft and crew, because they carry personnel and equipment that [California] doesn't," Stevens said. "We operate with only one crew chief, and we take the hoist off the aircraft when we're flying bucket missions so we can carry additional weight (water). But Nevada leaves the hoist on and not only do they bring two crew chiefs, they also bring a medic."

In this case, having the added capabilities was critical to making the save. After receiving per-

mission to assist, the crew headed toward the scene, but they still had a problem – the 660-gallon bucket slung beneath the aircraft.

"The first thing we had to do was drop the bucket," Stevens said. "We found a small clearing and were able to put the bucket on the ground. Then we configured the hoist and headed to where the firefighters were."

Once the Black Hawk was on scene, the medic was lowered to the firefighters below, who had already administered an IV, providing the firefighter with about two liters of liquid. Within 20 minutes of being lowered to the ground, the medic and firefighter were on the aircraft and headed toward the Chico Airport.

"Fortunately, the crew on the ground caught the situation in time and provided immediate assistance, so by the time we got him out of there, he didn't need to go to the hospital," Stevens said.

In fact, the firefighter was back at it, fighting fires the next day.



Actress Rosario Dawson, center, stands with members of the California National Guard in Riverside, Calif., during the filming of Eagle Eye, a major movie for which the CNG helped film some of the aerial scenes. The movie was released to theaters Sept. 26, and also stars Billy Bob Thornton and Shia LaBeouf.



COVER SHOT

Tech. Sgt. Eric Valdez, 129th Rescue Wing loadmaster, scans the ground in Louisiana for civilian victims in need of rescue Sept. 2 during Hurricane Gustav.



More than 100 National Guard Soldiers gathered for the Southern California Accession Task Force Retention Seminar in Anaheim on Sept. 13. Soldiers and their families were invited to participate in the daylong presentation from several agencies as to why they should continue their military service. Some of the agencies present were the Defense Commissary Agency, Helmets to Hardhats, TriCare and the Border Patrol.

"You don't know what you are going to need when you are age 60," Brig. Gen. Louis Antonetti, Army Division commander, said to the audience in speaking about their possible military retirements. "Your needs have changed from decade to decade. Why not stay in the military and get your 20-year letter. Join me for the adventure."



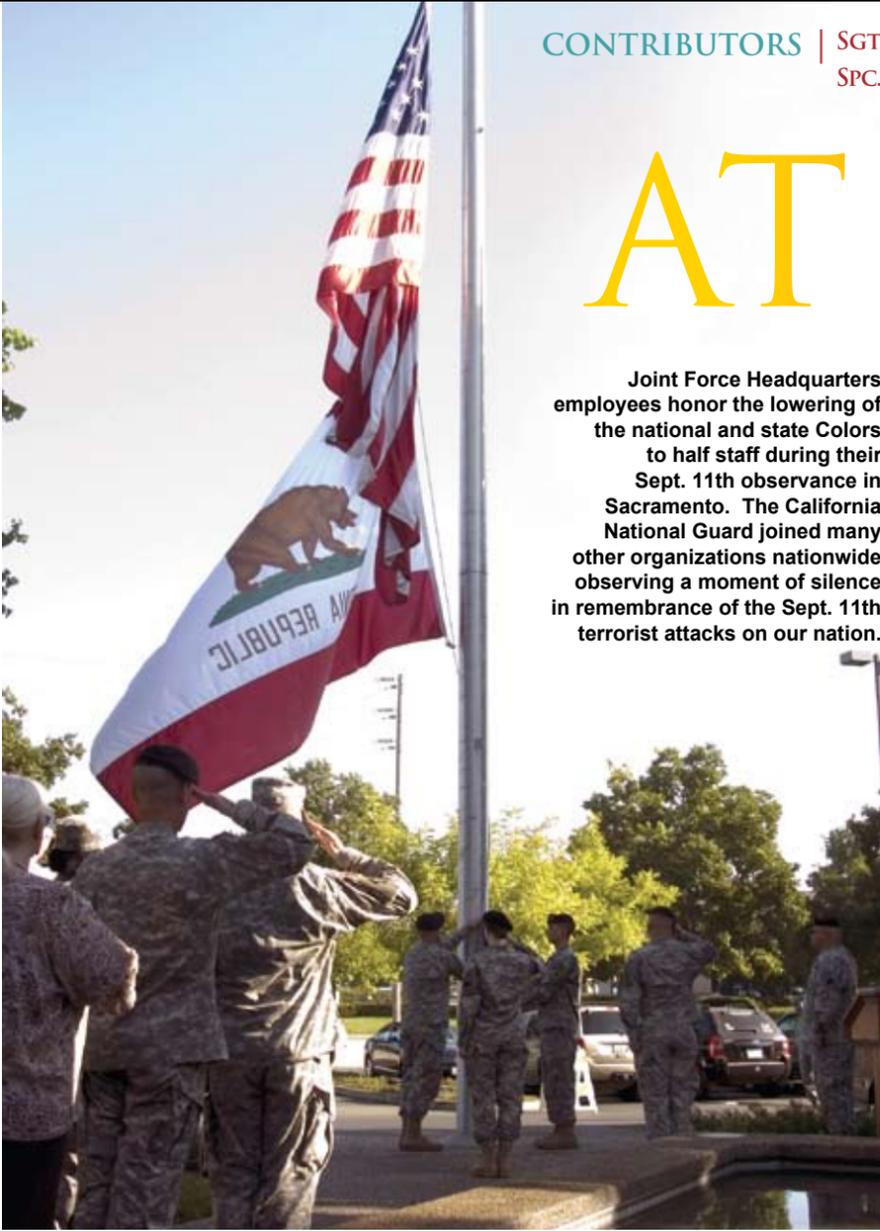
On Aug. 3, the 40th Military Police Company, from Los Alamitos, participated in a 5K Summer Breeze Run at Forward Operating Base Sykes, in Iraq. KBR, private contractors who help with day-to-day operations at FOB Sykes, hosted the race and awarded prizes to winners in the male, female and over-40 categories. The 40th MP's 2nd Lt. Iajaira Perez, front center, won first place among female participants, and when asked what inspires her to run, she responded, "It's the only time that it's just me. ... It's just you and whatever lies ahead of you. That, and tightening of the abs and legs."



CONTRIBUTORS | SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSE G. FLAGG JR. | MAJ. JEFFREY PRICE | MAJ. DAN CARLSON | SPC. DARRIEL SWATTS
 SPC. DANICA CHO | TECH. SGT. RAY AQUINO | TECH. SGT. LUIGGE ROMANILLO | 1ST LT. TRESA MORRIS

AT A GLANCE

Joint Force Headquarters employees honor the lowering of the national and state Colors to half staff during their Sept. 11th observance in Sacramento. The California National Guard joined many other organizations nationwide observing a moment of silence in remembrance of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks on our nation.



Employees of the California National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters observe a moment of silence during an early morning ceremony on Sept. 11 in honor of the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks.



Major Jeffrey Price, bilateral affairs officer for the California National Guard in Nigeria, pins his jump wings on a young Nigerian friend. Price recently attended a primary school graduation in Nigeria, one of the two nations involved in the California National Guard's Partnership for Peace program, the other being Ukraine. Price's office provided the funds to help build the school as part of the Department of Defense's Humanitarian Assistance Project.

Earlier this summer, 1st Sgt. Ivor Burton and other members of the California State Military Reserve were recognized and honored by the Colton City Council for being the first organization to officially adopt a portion of the Santa Ana River Trail. On July 1, Burton accepted a replica of the sign that is now posted along a portion of the 30-mile trail recognizing the State Military Reserve as its official caretaker. Seen here, from left, are Staff Sgt. Ivan Cruz, 1st Sgt. Ivor Burton, Spc. Ronald Labradee and Spc. Noelle Jewell.



California Army National Guard Lt. Col. Juanita E. Cobbs made military history on Sept. 11, 2008, when she assumed command of the Los Angeles Military Entrance Processing Station making her the first National Guard officer to command an element under direct responsibility to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The L.A. MEPS is the largest of the nation's 65 similar facilities, and each day receives about 75 applicants for all branches of the military.

Over Labor Day weekend, Homefront America reached out to provide backpacks and school supplies to more than 150 National Guard children from San Diego to Sacramento. In its third year, Homefront America's Pack for Success program has provided hundreds of backpacks, totaling thousands of dollars to ensure the children of service members have the necessary tools to help them start the school year off on the right foot. Log on to www.homefrontamerica.org for more information.

U.S. SOLDIERS TRAIN ALLIES OVERSEAS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. JENNIFER EDDY

During Rapid Trident 2008, Ukrainian and California Army National Guard Soldiers prepared for their upcoming dual-forces field training exercise at the Yavoriv training center.

The Ukrainian soldiers trained in American combat techniques while gaining firsthand experience in peacekeeping alongside foreign allies.

Ukrainian soldiers of the 13th Air Mobile Battalion, Air Assault, and the 95th Airborne Brigade performed combat drills to include sniper defense, convoy-ambush procedures and riot-control measures.

First Lieutenant Dillon Fike, of the Cal Guard's 235th Engineer Company, served as the main instructor for countersniper operations, and said the Ukrainian soldiers are "high speed."

"They do things a little differently," Fike said. "We're not trying to change their tactics, but offering suggestions where they can make improvements, to offer them something new."

"They're completely focused on interoperability," said Lt. Col. Kurt A. Schlichter, U.S. Officer in Charge for training, who has worked firsthand with the Ukrainians during two previous Peace Shield exercises in Kosovo. "Their training is all to NATO standards and they're performing NATO tasks."



California National Guard instructor Spc. Shawn Anderson, left, and Ukraine's 2nd Lt. Andrii Ushakov demonstrate proper use of the M16 assault rifle.

Schlichter said the motivation goes both ways.

"(American Soldiers) love working with the Ukrainians," Schlichter said. "The only problem my trainers have is they want more time. They want to spend more time with these troopers."

Specialist Shawn Anderson, Alpha Troop, 1-18th Cavalry, an assistant instructor in countersniper operations, admired the Ukrainians' desire.

"They want to learn," Anderson said. "They're using a lot of the tactics we're teaching them and performing them to a tee."

"They're very eager to learn what we have to do," said Capt. Bill Foss, rules of engagement trainer, with the 1-18th Cavalry. "It's kind of surreal, but surreal in a positive way in that in the grand scheme of things, both of our countries are now progressing on a parallel level together."



California Army National Guard instructor Sgt. 1st Class Luis Ferretti, of the 1/18th Cavalry, test fires a Ukrainian AKS74 assault rifle during countersniper operations training in Lviv, Ukraine.

Service members from the U.S., Ukraine, and 16 other countries present arms for the playing of the American and Ukrainian anthems during the Rapid Trident opening ceremony.



PHOTO BY PFC. JOSEPH WOOLLS

UKRAINE WELCOMES AMERICAN GUARDSMEN

BY PFC. JOSEPH WOOLLS

Soldiers from the California National Guard arrived at the Yavoriv Training Center in Lviv, Ukraine, on Aug. 30 in anticipation of Rapid Trident, which started the next week.

Rapid Trident is an annual training exercise which focuses on peacekeeping operations and multi-national cooperation.

A Partnership for Peace project created under the guidance of NATO, the exercise trains participants to conduct multi-national brigade and lower-level coalition operations. This year, Rapid Trident consisted of two separate exercises: a computer-assisted simulation and a field training exercise. Soldiers trained under a fictitious scenario tasked with peace enforcement in a Kosovo-like country.

With morale and anticipation running high, U.S. Soldiers said they look forward to the multi-national training.

"I'm excited about the mission," said Spc. John Cunningham, Bravo Company, 1/18th Cavalry. "We come with our training and we believe it's the best training in the world, so, hopefully, we can show the other countries how we do things."

Unsured of what to expect upon arriving in Ukraine, California Guardsmen also said they've been impressed by the host country's hospitality.

"We've been received with open arms," said 2nd Lt. Mark Phillips. "Everyone's been very helpful

getting across the language barrier."

Phillips also said he is excited to take in the countryside during his off-duty time.

"I want to absorb a lot of culture," he said. "As allies, it's good to

know who you're working with."

"I'd like to see some of the churches, maybe go through a couple museums," said Cunningham on the possibility of visiting Kiev. "If we could go out with some of the other troops, that would be fun."



PHOTO BY SPC. DARRIEL SWATTS

Ukrainian dancers perform a national dance with the Western Operational Command Band, the premier band of the Ukrainian military, during the opening ceremony of Rapid Trident 2008.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSISTS SAN DIEGO'S LA JOLLA TRIBE

STORY AND PHOTO BY CAPT. KIMBERLY HOLMAN

The California National Guard continues its fight to protect communities against wildfire damage.

Soldiers and Airmen participating in the Innovative Readiness Training program in Northern San Diego County recently completed several road and infrastructure improvement projects for the La Jolla Indian tribe.

After the fires of October 2007 swept through the tribe's reservation, erosion and mudflows from the ensuing rains washed out roads.

The Guard repaired two critical roads on the reservation - one leading to a water tower that supplies water to more than half the reservation's residents and another used for travel to a wastewater treatment facility.

The Guardsmen rebuilt the roads so that they are safer and will last longer. Substantial culverts and v-ditches now exist so that the roads will remain in good condition for years to come. The month-long project accomplished work on one and one-half miles of road, and utilized nearly 30 Guardsmen from California, Indiana, Rhode Island, Michigan and Nevada.

"The work the Guard has done is a blessing to all of us, and we thank you for all you have done," said Dr. John Castillo, executive director of Walking Shield American Indian Society Inc., a national nonprofit organization.

The IRT program has been around since 1994, and provides medical care, construction and other services to some of the state's most impoverished tribes. The Guard, in turn, is provided with opportunities to provide real-world humanitarian aid while practicing their military skill sets.

"This is a great partnership," said Col. Tim Swann, former commander of the counterdrug program. "The IRT program is utilizing the skills and talents of the California National Guard to rebuild ... and it has a lasting impact on these people's lives."



Members of the California National Guard assist the La Jolla Tribe with road-recovery projects in Northern San Diego County. Recent rains and mudslides destroyed many of the reservation's most critical roads.

GUARD A FAMILY AFFAIR FOR DUVALL AND SONS

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. ROBERT DAVISON



Dennis Duvall, center, a sergeant with the State Military Reserve, is the father of two sons serving in the California Army National Guard. Duvall and his two sons, Spc. Chris Pate, left, and Spc. Adam Duvall, enlisted together in 2004. Both sons have served in tours as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Adam will soon return for his second tour.

When it comes to military service, sometimes it takes a family.

Dennis Duvall, a sergeant with the State Military Reserve, is the proud father of two sons serving in the California Army National Guard.

The three decided in 2004 to join - or in Duvall's case, rejoin - the military after watching the video of the brutal execution of American businessman Nicholas Berg at the hand of Islamic militants.

The youngest son, Spc. Adam Duvall, 20, is currently serving with HHC, 1/185th Combined Arms Battalion, and will soon be returning to Iraq for his second tour of duty. He previously served overseas with the 1/143 Field Artillery, 40th Infantry Division, as a sharpshooter in a special weapons squad. He now serves as crew driver in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

The older son, Spc. Chris Pate, 27, with Delta Company, 1/160 IN, just returned from Camp Speicher, Iraq, in May. When asked if he had any advice for his younger brother, Pate stressed the need to always be ready. "Stay focused! Stay alert!" he said.

The father Duvall, a Riverside resident, fulfilled his prior military service as an MP in the Marine Corps and as a combat medic in the California Army National Guard.

When asked if he had any concerns for his sons, especially the one about to redeploy to Iraq, Duvall focused instead on the positive.

"I'm just pleased to have both boys home at the same time and want to enjoy the remaining summer months with them," Duvall said.

LEARNING TO LEAD

SUMMER WAS ONE OF GROWTH FOR AIR GUARD YOUTH

BY MORANDA HERN



My experiences over the past summer have been life-altering. The leadership training I received enables me to better lead and encourage other National Guard youth.

My summer began with a leadership summit with the National Rifle Association. The Air National Guard youth in Fresno have always been deeply involved with various shooting organizations, including the NRA. The youth have united with the NRA to participate in events such as black-powder shooting and quick draw events.

At the NRA Youth Education Summit held in Washington, D.C., I spent a week with 44 other youth from across the nation exploring America's right to bear arms under the Second Amendment. We formally debated assigned topics, prepared and delivered speeches, met with a U.S. congressman on the steps of the Capitol, engaged in training at Marine Base Quantico and shot rifles at the NRA headquarters.

After the NRA Summit, I participated in the Youth Summit for Air National Guard teens in Georgia. At the summit, I learned vital personal skills - patience, encouraging and developing

other budding leaders and self-control.

From Georgia I proceeded to the National Air and Army Youth Symposium in St. Louis. The symposium taught me the importance of acting on one's ideas. I learned how to effectively carry out an idea by planning, finding resources and implementing the plan in order to induce the desired results.

Earlier in the year, the Air National Guard named me the Air National Guard Youth of the Year. As a result, Air Force Services sent me to the General Hough Shelton Leadership Challenge in Raleigh, N.C.

The challenge taught me the many facets of leadership, including diversity. I learned to embrace others' different leadership styles, backgrounds, and personalities and use them to enrich the team. Furthermore, through the whole summer, I learned to lead by encouraging, motivating, and inspiring others to move to action.

I want to thank the Air National Guard and Air Force Services for choosing me to represent the Air National Guard Youth in many different events; I am deeply honored.

TEN RELIABLE RESOURCES FOR CAL GUARD YOUTH

1. National Guard Family Community Center & Youth Web site: www.guardfamily.org
2. National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agency (NACCRRA): www.naccrra.org or www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms
3. Our Military Kids, Inc.: www.ourmilitarykids.org
4. National Military Family Association: www.nmfa.org
5. Military Child Education Coalition: www.militarychild.org
6. National Fatherhood Initiative: www.fatherhood.org
7. Military One Source: www.militaryonesource.com
8. Military Parents of Children w/Special Needs: www.stompproject.org
9. Triwest Behavioral Health: www.triwest.com
10. CNG C&Y Coordinator: Call 805-431-0335 or e-mail at rebecca.mcphetridge1@us.army.mil

ADVENTURES ABOUND AT TEEN CAMP

BY 1ST LT. THERESA M. CHRYSTAL

This summer's sixth annual Teen Adventure Camp boasted new and exciting adventures that were a hit with teens as well as adults.

Held at Camp San Luis Obispo, the camp added a morning kayaking trip around Morro Bay, a water-safety class at a Paso Robles community pool, a land-navigation course taught by Task Force Warrior Soldiers and an overnight stay in the barracks at Camp Roberts.

One veteran camper, Stephanie Maloney, has attended every year since the camp's inception as a guest of a family friend who is in the California National Guard.

"I loved having so many different activities this year," said Maloney, "especially staying at Camp Roberts overnight and the kayaking."

Although she admitted she wasn't very good at the land-navigation course, Maloney, who will be attending college next year on a Reserve Officers Training Scholarship, did say that it was a good learning experience.

T.J. Eichorn, a first-year camper, said he really enjoyed the kayaking and networking with the staff. A guest of his uncle, 1st Sgt. Scott McLane of the 649th Military Police Company at Camp San Luis

Obispo, Eichorn was direct when asked about his favorite part of the camp: "The food was good."

The goal of the teen camp is to get Guard youth involved in something productive while making new friends who might have some of the same questions and face similar life issues.

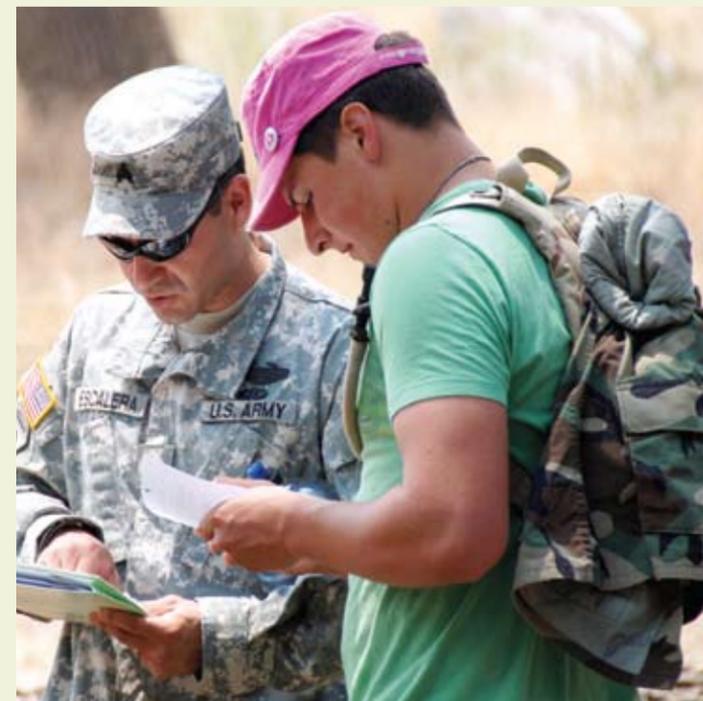
"This is not merely a summer camp," said 2nd Lt. Cyres Harrel, scout platoon leader for Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment. "Why? Because we're teaching you leadership - we're teaching you about the Guard and giving you a taste of what your service member goes through."

In his sixth year at the camp he helped develop, Harrel took time away from his duties at his unit to help mentor teens even as he prepares to deploy to Kosovo this fall.

"I want all of you to take something away from this camp," Harrel said in a talk with the campers, encouraging their networking and teambuilding skills. "You need to trade contact information and reach out to those that are here today."

According to Staff Sgt. Connie Mesta, an executive assistant for the 40th Infantry Division in Los Alamitos, 118 teens attended the camp.

"This is the most we've ever seen," said Mesta. "We had to turn away numerous teens, because we just don't have the space nor enough volunteers to handle them all."



Sergeant Felipe Escalera, an instructor assigned to Task Force Warrior at Camp Roberts, Calif., instructs a teen on the basics of land navigation during this summer's sixth annual Teen Adventure Camp.

CALIFORNIA'S AIR GUARD BRINGS HEALING TO GUATEMALA

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAPT. AL BOSCO



Dr. Vincent Dang, 163d Medical Group commander, presents a California flag to Maria Cortez Castellanos, principal of a school in Aldea Estanzuelas near Santa Rosa, Guatemala, after providing treatment for more than 1,000 of the town's citizens. The team also donated basketballs and soccerballs to the school.

Members of the California Air National Guard's 163d Medical Group returned from Santa Rosa, Guatemala, on Aug. 30, having completed a successful medical readiness training exercise.

Spending nine days in three of Santa Rosa's poorest communities, the 31-member team worked tirelessly providing medical care to more than 5,700 Guatemalans. The team, working in conjunction with the Guatemalan military, the departments of Health and Education, and operating from local schools in remote areas, established several small, makeshift

clinics from which the local citizens could receive medical care for a variety of ailments.

The team spent its first three days in the mountain community of Aldea Estanzuela, where they treated about two thirds of the population - an average of 500 patients each day - in one or more of the makeshift clinics established at a local school. The next stop was Santa Maria de Ixhuatan, where hundreds of Guatemalans awaited the group's arrival each day. After seeing about 1,800 citizens in Ixhuatan, the group traveled to Aldea Las Cabezas for the

last portion of the visit, which ended Aug. 28.

Throughout the nearly two-week mission the medical group treated a variety of ailments ranging from rashes to more serious maladies such as intestinal parasites and scarlet fever. In addition, several specialists, to include an optometrist, dentist and gynecologist, were on site to provide specialized care.

According to Col. David Walton, the California Air National Guard's state air surgeon who established women's health clinics

at the various sites, having medical specialists might have proved life-saving.

"At one of the sites we saw a young woman who knew she was pregnant and indicated she planned to give birth at home," Walton said. "We had a portable ultrasound machine designed for battlefield use, and using the ultrasound we discovered she was actually carrying twins. I immediately advised her to seek ongoing prenatal care and to deliver at a hospital rather than at home because there is a very good possibility that a home birth could have gone badly for one of the twins. She was incredibly grateful for the input we provided on her pregnancy care."

Another specialist included optometrist Lt. Col. Ron Short, who provided eye exams and distributed more than 1,200 pairs of glasses.

"It was amazing," Short said. "Some of the people we examined had extremely poor vision and had not seen in decades. We did the best we could and got them glasses that corrected their vision and the smiles on their faces said it all."

As word spread at each site of the American medics' arrival, lines began to form at the sites as early as 3 a.m. with as many as 800 people waiting for the team each day.

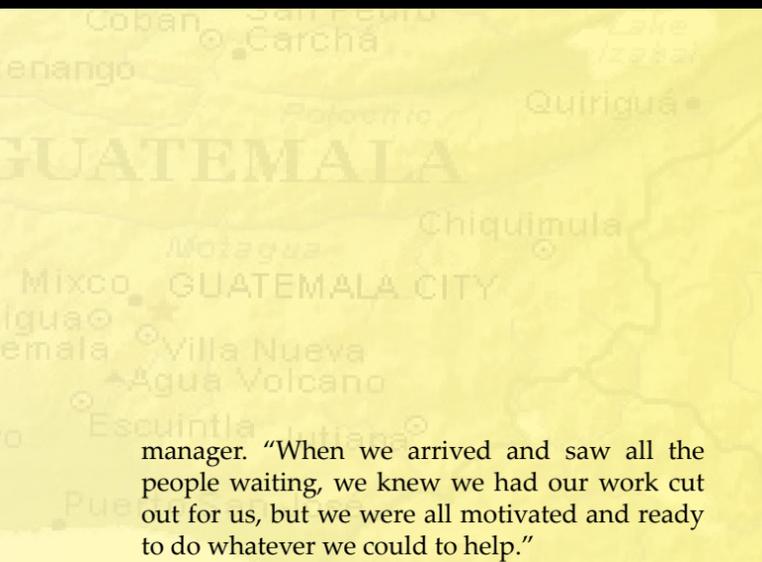
"We heard stories of people who actually hitchhiked from hundreds of miles away to see us," said Chief Master Sgt. Carol Barone, 163d Medical Group services



Dr. Philip Bales, 173d Medical Group, Oregon National Guard, gives Pedro Mayen, an 8-year-old Guatemalan child from Santa Rosa, an injection before extracting a tooth Aug. 18, while Tech. Sgt. Rose Hartzell, 163d Medical Group dental technician, comforts the boy.



Staff Sergeant Paige Whitworth checks a Guatemalan infant's ear Aug. 18 in Aldea Estanzuelas, Santa Rosa in Guatemala. Thirty one members of the 163d Reconnaissance Wing traveled to Guatemala to provide medical care to the citizens during a Medical Readiness Training Exercise in cooperation with Guatemala's military and health services personnel. The group provided treatment for more than 500 citizens on its first day.



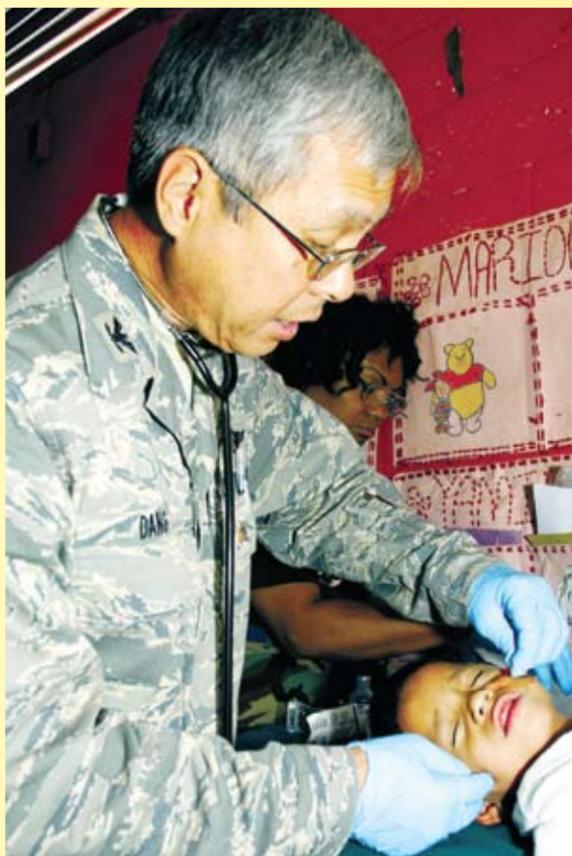
manager. "When we arrived and saw all the people waiting, we knew we had our work cut out for us, but we were all motivated and ready to do whatever we could to help."

While the group bonded with the citizenry during the exercise, camaraderie also grew between the Airmen and their Guatemalan colleagues. In fact, often one could find a Guatemalan soldier working alongside an Airman, or sharing stories about the two nations and cultures.

"It was a good experience to have worked alongside the Guatemalan army and with the people of Guatemala," said Tech. Sgt. Rosa Puente, 163d Medical Group medical technician. "They were very kind, respectful and grateful that we were there. It was a great learning experience overall, and the people were very happy to have the opportunity to be seen by an American doctor."

Despite not being able to treat everyone, the team still managed to amass some impressive statistics treating more than 2,000 people in each community and providing more than 6,000 prescriptions. In fact, according to Col. Vincent Dang, 163d Medical Group commander, the mission was a huge success.

"It was awe-inspiring to arrive at a site where several hundred people were waiting for us," Dang said. "But we knew we had a job to do and everyone on the team performed with the highest level of professionalism so we could bring these people the best care possible. The team certainly exceeded my expectations, and I know we made a difference in the lives of those we treated."



Dr. Vincent Dang, 163d Medical Group commander, cleans 6-year-old Lester Omar Raymundo's face before making an incision. The boy, a Guatemalan citizen in Aldea Estanzuelas near Santa Rosa, was sick for three months before the American medics arrived to provide treatment as part of a U.S. Air Forces South-sponsored Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE). The group spent three days in Estanzuelas, providing care for more than 1,000 citizens.



Tech. Sgt. Shirley Morales, 163d Reconnaissance Wing force development technician, reviews a script with U.S. and Guatemalan military members prior to an opening ceremony welcoming the 163d Medical Group to Guatemala.

MISSION GIVES GUARD AIRMAN A NEW PERSPECTIVE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAPT. AL BOSCO

The California Air National Guard's 163d Medical Group brought much-needed relief to thousands of Guatemalan citizens during its recent Medical Readiness Training Exercise, but for one Airman, the humanitarian mission meant more than just helping people – it was a walk down memory lane.

Born in Santa Rosa, Guatemala, Tech. Sgt. Shirley Morales, a 163d Reconnaissance Wing Force Development technician, once lived near many of these poverty-stricken communities. In 1992, at the age of 13, Morales left Santa Rosa with members of her family to seek a better life and new opportunities in the United States.

In 1996, Morales was still looking for opportunities, so she joined the U.S. Army and served on active duty for nine and one-half years as a logistics specialist. In 2007, wanting to spend more time with her family, she found a new home in the 163d Wing – a move she said she never thought would bring her back to her roots.

"I was excited when I learned the medical group was going to Santa Rosa on a humanitarian mission and was asked to translate for the team while in country," Morales said. "I haven't been back to Guatemala in three years, so I was especially thankful for the opportunity to help."

Attending local schools and running through the streets as a child, Morales was aware of the communities' plight, but didn't really understand it. The mission, she said, gave her a new perspective.

"When I was growing up, I didn't really see or understand the needs of the communities and how much the people needed help," Morales said. "When we arrived to

our first site and I saw the hundreds of people lined up, though, I saw it very differently than ever before. The people in these communities are hard working and many traveled great distances to be seen by American doctors. It filled me with hope and happiness that we could be there to do something for them."

And throughout the mission, Morales did as much as she could to help the people she once lived among. In fact, aside from performing her duties assisting with the advance planning and translating for the team, she assisted medical personnel in the women's health and general practice clinics.

And her efforts are applauded by the most important member of the community – her mother, Elizabeth, who said she was proud of her daughter and all she has accomplished.

"It was a big surprise to have [Tech Sgt. Morales] come here, and I am proud of all she has done for the people here," Elizabeth Morales said. "I know this is something big for her, to provide humanitarian assistance, because helping others has always been a big part of our family."

And although the visit was anything but a vacation, Morales said her time in her former homeland with the team was inspiring and she's looking forward to future opportunities to help other countries' citizens.

"The medical humanitarian mission is outstanding," Morales said. "The medical team is very dedicated to helping the people and I'm thankful to be a part of the team and the Air Force, because we're bringing hope and relief to thousands of people who really need it."

GETTING THE LEAD OUT

AMMO PROGRAM COULD SAVE ENDANGERED CONDORS

BY CHRISTOPHER J. DIEL

The California condor is at risk, and the California National Guard is taking aim at its greatest threat: lead ammunition.

On July 20 the Institute for Wildlife Studies, in partnership with the California Army National Guard and other government agencies, provided a non-lead ammunition educational program and demonstration at Camp Roberts, Calif.

The event allowed sportsmen of all ages the opportunity to evaluate the performance of non-lead ammunition using their own fire-

arms, free of cost. Demonstrations included a comparison of lead and non-lead ammunition fired into ballistics gel and the recovery of bullets shot into water barrels. Both displays showed how lead ammunition tends toward high fragmentation upon impact.

The majority of the participants indicated the non-lead ammunition performed as well as lead and were concerned by the fragmentation of lead bullets and the effects those fragments could have if consumed by wildlife or humans. Bullet fragments left behind in carcasses or gut-piles can pose a

serious risk for any scavenging animal that inadvertently ingests the fragments. Several California condors, both here and in Arizona, have died of lead poisoning, and every year several more undergo chelation treatment to reduce toxic lead levels in their blood. The condor is now an endangered species, and a recent study confirmed that lead-based ammunition was the leading cause in the species' lead poisoning.

Informational literature was provided to participants on the effects of lead on wildlife, in-depth studies on the ballistics of lead versus non-lead ammunition, and summaries on the natural history and status of sensitive wildlife species, particularly the California condor.

Representatives from the California Army National Guard were present to ensure firearm safety and to answer questions about the hunting program and regulations at Camp Roberts.

In early 2007, after informal conversations with the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, the California Army National Guard at Camp Roberts provided leadership in the conservation of California condors, and all wildlife, by prohibiting the use of lead bullets in its hunting program effective July 1, 2007, and all lead ammunition effective July 1, 2008. This regulation change was a voluntary commitment by the California Army National Guard and an example of their continued pro-active approach to conserving sensitive species and removing lead from the environment.

In October 2007, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Act that required the use of non-lead centerfire rifle and pistol ammunition for hunting big game and coyotes within the designated range of California condors; effective July 1, 2008. On Dec. 7, 2007, the California Fish and Game Commission adopted the act and expanded it to include all projectiles containing lead fired from a firearm, except .22 rimfire and smaller calibers for hunting small-game animals.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SUR PHOTO'S DANIEL BIANCHETTA



A California condor flies over the cliffs of Big Sur, Calif. To view more photos of the California condor, go to www.bigsurphoto.com.

GOING GREEN

ONLINE PROGRAM OFFERS MONEY TO TROOPS FOR RECYCLED GOODS

BY GRIZZLY STAFF

Thanks to the military exchanges, being green now means more green in Guardsmen's wallets.

A new Web site, www.militaryrecycling.com, offers service members money in exchange for their used electronic goods.

"With militaryrecycling.com's simple three-step process, authorized exchange shoppers can now get paid to safely recycle old electronics, cell phones and computers in an environmentally friendly way," said Army & Air Force Exchange Service Merchandise Manager Don Walker. "They just log on and get rewarded for their stuff."

Shoppers tell the site what they would like to recycle, and in turn receive a cash offer in the form of a prepaid Visa card. According to a recent AAFES search, a working cell phone generated a \$28 offer and a broken laptop brought in 10 dollars.

Airmen and Soldiers need only box up their product, and mail it with a packing slip and shipping label provided by AAFES. Once the item is received, it will either be refurbished, or broken down into raw materials for production use.

MilitaryRecycling.com takes care of everything," said Walker. "Added bonuses ... include free shipping and offers up to 10 percent more than those found through other recycling services."

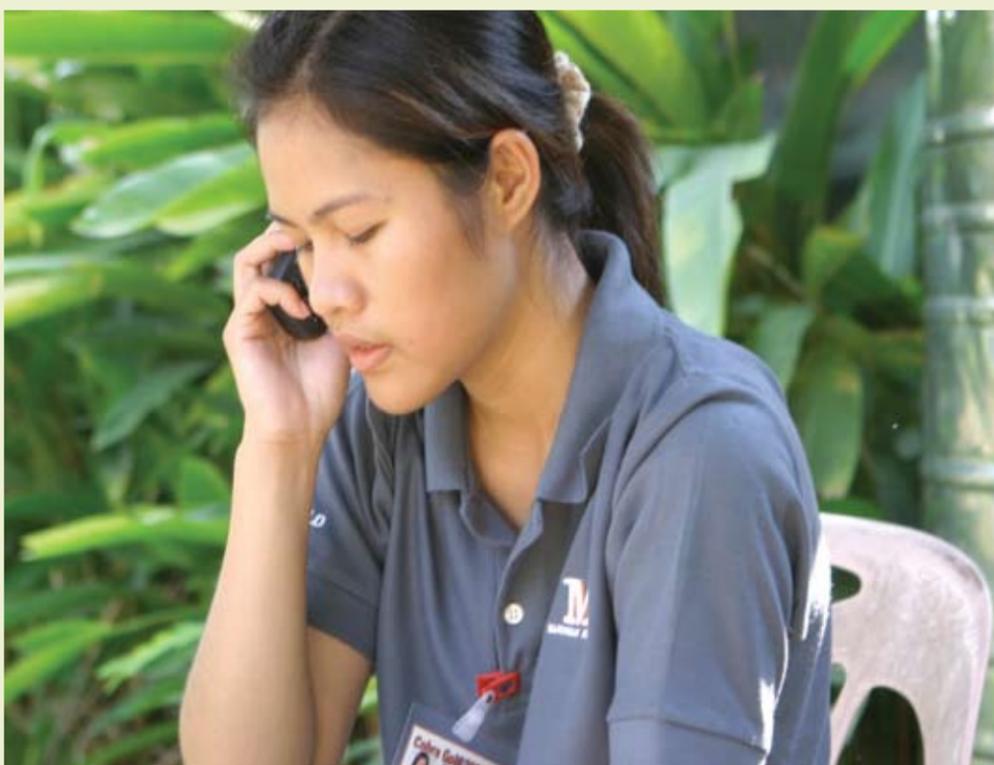


PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ELEGANCE B. BRATTON

A Thai translator for the U.S. military talks on her cell phone on April 16, 2008, in the Buriram Province of Thailand. Service members and civilian employees can now recycle their used electronics goods for money through military exchanges.

TRANSITION BENEFITS: DON'T DELAY!

BY MR. HORST LAUBE

According to a recent detailed report from the Veteran Administration's Office of the Inspector General, 37,000 National Guard and Reserve service members were not informed that they were eligible for VA benefits. This error occurred because the VA mistakenly thought these Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans were not eligible. Because of this error, it is increasingly important that veterans in the National Guard understand their benefits and use them in a timely manner.

Toward this end, Transition Assistance Advisors assist National Guard members with access to care and enrollment at VA healthcare facilities near their home of record. They also assist National Guard members and their Families in applying for other VA entitlements and benefits such as compensation and pension for disabilities, insurance, loan guarantee, vocational rehabilitation/employment (VRE) and educational benefits.

The Transition Assistance Advisors for the California National Guard are Mr. Horst Laube, who can be reached by phone at 916-854-3315, and Ms. Nicole Townsend, available at 916-826-6549.

Some of the benefits worth noting include:

Employment Benefits

Guard members who were employed prior to a deployment lasting longer than 180 days have 90 days from separation to apply for reemployment by their employer. For deployments under 180 days veterans must apply sooner. Veterans who lost their jobs due to their OIF/OEF tour should know that the ESGR is available to assist them in reestablishing their employment.

Lastly, veterans who were unemployed prior to deployment, or who have otherwise returned to a jobless situation, are eligible for unemployment compensation through the Department of Labor and the EDD. The Service members simply need to visit the State Employment Office and bring their DD-214.

Enrollment into the VA Health Care System

There are a wide range of benefits that the VA provides all for veterans. These benefits include treatment for military sexual trauma and for conditions possibly related to exposure to Agent Orange, ionizing radiation, and other environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf. However, veterans generally need to be actively enrolled in the VA system to receive this care.

The key that grants access to the VA medical system is the Service member's DD-214 accompanied with a completed VA Form 10-10EZ, which is then mailed to the regional VA facility where they choose to receive treatment. Upon receipt of these documents, the VA eligibility office will assign the veterans a priority group based on their service status and income level.

Combat Veterans

The VA offers free health care for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998, for any illness possibly related to their service in that theater. Combat Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf fall into two different categories. Veterans who were discharged from active duty on or after Jan. 28, 2003, have five years of medical benefits from the date of their active duty discharge. Combat Veterans who were discharged before Jan. 28, 2003, and were not enrolled as of Jan. 28, 2008, are eligible for health care until Jan. 27, 2011, or longer as dictated by Congress.

Disability Compensation and Pensions

The VA pays monthly compensation to veterans for disabilities incurred or aggravated during military service. These monthly payments are not subject to federal or state taxes. Entitlement to disability compensation is established from the date of separation if the claim is filed within one year from separation.

A disability pension is an income-based benefit paid to honorable, wartime veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to non service-connected disabilities. They must be 65 years or older.

Vet Centers

Vet Centers, while part of the VA, serve as an outreach function of the VA proper. As such, Vet Centers run autonomously from the VA. Vet Centers pride themselves in the level of autonomy they provide their clients, and many will not release personal information or treatment records even if subpoenaed by the courts. Vet Centers offer readjustment and transition counseling for Military members and their Families. Services that your local Vet Center provides include individual counseling, group counseling, marital and Fam-

ily counseling, bereavement counseling, medical referrals, assistance in applying for VA benefits, employment counseling, guidance and referral; alcohol and drug assessments, information and referral to community resources, military sexual trauma counseling and referral, and outreach and community education. Any Service members or families of service members who served in a combat zone and received a campaign ribbon are eligible for Vet Center services for life.

Grants Available through the CA-JFHQ-J1

There are two separate grants available through the J1: The California National Guard Financial Assistance Fund (CNGFAF) and the California Military Family Relief Fund (CMFRF).

While both funds were established to provide short-term, financial assistance for National Guard members and the families impacted by deployment in support of OIF/OEF, they have differing criteria for qualification.

To qualify for the CNGFAF, a service member must be able to demonstrate the following criteria: She or he must be a current or former member of the California National Guard in good standing; was or currently is on active duty status in connection with Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom since Sept. 11, 2001; and the member or family has a significant unmet need.

To qualify for the CMFRF, a service member must demonstrate the following criteria: he or she must be a California Guardsman in good standing, a California resident, must have participated in a deployment to active duty for at least 60 consecutive days in Title 10 USC status; and the member's military salary or household income of family must have decreased by 10 percent since deployment.



U.S. military veteran David Woodward, in white hat, shakes hands with Master Sgt. Alan P. Grinsteiner, of the 191st Military Police Company, in a mutual show of respect at an official send-off ceremony for the 191st MP company as they prepare to depart for a deployment to Iraq on Jan. 19, in Fargo, N.D.

PHOTO BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. DAVID H. LIPP

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESULTS

The primary missions of the Executive Personnel Councils are to recommend and select the service members who are the best qualified to fill existing as well as anticipated vacancies in the near future. Selections and or recommendations are made to TAG on Army and Joint Staff Division promotions, assignments, and reassignments to the grades of E-9, O5, and O6. Additionally recommendations for the selection of AGR Officers and SR NCOs with regard to "control grades." An Order of Merit List will be created from the selections/recommendations for the current applications to the War College and the Command and General Staff Officers Course.



Command.

Colonel Charles E. Bourbeau, USPFO for California, approved for a two-year extension in his current Title 10 position.

Lieutenant Colonel Grace E. Edinboro, Executive Officer 49th MP Brigade, reassigned and promoted as Deputy Commander/ FTUS Administrative Officer 49th MP Brigade, effective 1 Sep 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Debra M. Simpson, Title 10 Commander, CBHCO, promoted to Colonel in current assignment.

Colonel Vito D. Imbasicani, Deputy Commander CA Med Det, attached to JFHQ to serve as State Surgeon, effective 1 Dec 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Matthew L. Dana, Deputy SJA, JFHQ, reassigned as SJA, JFHQ without Control Grade, effective 1 Sep 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Angelito L. Gutierrez, Warrior Training Unit, Fort Riley, KS, promoted to Colonel in current assignment and transfer to USAR on release from Active Duty.

Note: All officers must complete their respective pre-command course (PCC) before they will be allowed to assume command.

Lieutenant Colonel John E. Burick, ACofS, G9 40ID, transferred to Commander 1-160 IN, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Louis E. Carmona, Airfield Commander, JFTB, transferred to Commander 640 ASB, effective 1 Dec 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter L. Goodwater, Defense Movement Coordinator, JFHQ, transferred to Commander Camp San Luis Obispo, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Judy M. Mavroleon, Director, Public Works, Camp Roberts, transferred to Chief, Mobilization Assistance Team, JFHQ, with duty as Commander 3-223rd Regt (TC).

Lieutenant Colonel Mark S. Morita, Logistics Officer, Det 1 TAC CP 40ID, transferred as Commander 185 QM, effective 1 Nov 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Patricia A. Navarro, Support Operations Officer, 224th SB, transferred to Commander, 746 CSSB, effective 1 Nov 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard A. Rabe, S2/S3 100TC, transferred to Commander 578 EN effective 1 Jun 2009.

Lieutenant Colonel Myles T. Williams, Commander 640ASB, transferred to Commander Flight Facility, JFTB, effective 1 Dec 2008.

Major Steven F. Weigel, Chief Investigator/IG, JFHQ, transferred to Commander Aviation Support Company (ASC)/1106 TASMG, effective 1 Oct 2008 and promote.

Colonel Steven P. Lauridsen, Surgeon, 40CAB, transferred to Surgeon, 224SB, effective 1 Nov 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey J. Antone, Commander 746 CSSB, transferred to Chief, Federal Property & Commodity Manager, USPFO-CA, effective 1 Nov 08 and deploy as part of Balkans 11.

Lieutenant Colonel William T. Arruda Jr, Family Program Manager, JFHQ, reassigned to Executive Officer, Joint Staff, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Bruce C. Balzano, Chief Aviation Operations, Training and Standardization, JFHQ, transferred to S3, 40CAB, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert M. Bettencourt, LNO, 40ID, transferred to Selective Service Officer, JFHQ, effective 2 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael A. Beyer, Commander BTB/224SB, reassigned to Support Operations Officer, 224SB, effective 1 Dec 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin W. Brown, Deputy Commander Camp Roberts, reassigned to Director, Public Works, Camp Roberts, with duty as Deputy Commander (due to TDA change), effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Gregory J. Clark, Fire Support Coordinator, 40IBCT, transferred to LNO, 40ID, effective 1 Oct 2008 and deploy to Balkans 11.

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Desautel, LNO, 40ID, reassigned to ACofS, G2, 40ID, effective 1 Nov 2008 and deploy to Balkans 11.

Lieutenant Colonel Frank D. Emanuel, Chief, Military Support Branch, JFHQ, transferred to Executive Officer, 100TC, effective 1 Nov 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel E. Ian Falk, Commander 1-143FA, reassigned as Chief, AGR Management Branch, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Albert E. Gordon, Commander, 2-223rd Reg, PCS to 223rd Reg, CSLO at FTUS Operations Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Gene Griffin, Operations Officer, Det 1 TAC CP 40ID, transferred to Executive Officer, Army Division, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel David L. Kauffman, SJA, 115 RSG, transferred to Deputy SJA, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel John J. Lonergan Jr, Aviation Officer, Tac CP(-) 40ID, transferred to Selective Service Officer, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Susan P. McKibbin, Chief, AGR Management Branch, JFHQ, reassigned to Chief, Surface Maintenance Branch, effective 1 Jan 2008 and deploy to Balkans 11.

Lieutenant Colonel Lisa A. Peake, Commander 185 QM, transferred to Logistics Officer, Det 1 TAC CP 40ID, effective 1 Nov 2008 and deploy to Balkans 11.

Lieutenant Colonel Salvador P. Renteria, CAARNG Med Det, transferred to Flight Surgeon, 40 CAB, effective 1 Nov 2008.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Oran L. Roberts, Chaplain 49MP Bde, transferred to Chaplain, 115RSG, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul C. Rogers, Director, DRM, Camp Roberts, transferred to EOA, 49MP Bde, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew H. Rosso, Commander, 1-160 IN, transferred to LNO, 40ID, effective 1 Nov 2008.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Pierre E. Saint-Fleur, Chaplain Camp Roberts, transferred to Chaplain 40CAB, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo J. Torres, Executive Officer, 100TC, transferred to Defense Movement Coordinator, JFHQ, effective 1 Nov 2008 and deploy to Balkans 11.

Lieutenant Colonel Keith D. Tresh, Chief, Operations Branch, JFHQ, reassigned to Chief, Information Systems, JFHQ, effective 1 Jun 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy D. Vincent, Effects Coordinator, Det 1 TAC CP 40ID, transferred to Fire Support Coordinator, 40IBCT, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Chaplain (Lt. Col) Daniel J. Viveros, Chaplain, 49 MP Bde, approved MRD extension to 28 Feb 2011.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael N. Wells, ACofS, G2, 40ID, reassigned as LNO 40ID, effective 1 Nov 2008 and deploy to Balkans 11.

Lieutenant Colonel Laura L. Yeager, Commander, 3-140 GSAB, transferred to Chief, Aviation Operations, Training & Standardization, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Major Brian D. Anderson, Civil Affairs Officer, 40IBCT, transferred to ACofS, G9 40ID, effective 1 Oct 2008 and promote.

Major Romulus K. Asenloo, Executive Officer, 340 BSB, transferred to Inspector General, 40ID, effective 1 Oct 2008 and promote.

Major Robert A. Burge, HR Management Officer, JFHQ, reassign as Chief Enlisted Personnel, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Major David A. Ceniti, S4, 115 RSG, reassigned as S2/S3, 115 RSG, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen E. Forsyth Jr, Assistant Chaplain, 40ID, reassigned as Chaplain, 40ID, effective 1 Oct 2008 and promote.

Major Eric J. Frye, HR Management Officer, JFHQ, reassigned as Occupational Health Officer, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 2008.

Major Andreas O. Garza, Defense Counsel, JFHQ, transferred to SJA, 115 RSG, effective 1 Oct 2008 and promote.

Major Bruce W. Jones, S5, 49 MP Bde, transferred to Provost Marshal, 40ID, effective 1 Oct 2008 and deploy to Balkans 11.

Warrant Officer Actions.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 James P. Davis, Aviation Safety officer, Det 32 OSAC, transferred to Aviation Safety Officer, 1106 TASMG, effective 1 Oct 2008 and promote to CW5.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kenneth L. Solis, Supply Systems Technician, 40ID, transfer to Supply Systems Technician, USPFO-CA, effective 1 Aug 2008 and promote to CW5.

AGR Control Grades.

Major Steven F. Weigel, allocated the one available 05 CG.

Major David A. Ceniti, placed on OML for the next available 05 CG.

Major Robert A. Burge, placed on OML for the second available 05 CG.

Captains Jeffrey S. Corella, Juan M. Mora, David L. Price and Earl D. Russell, allocated 04 CGs.

NEWS & BENEFITS

Dental benefits for OIF/OEF vets

If you are an OIF/OEF vet and your DD214 shows that you did not receive dental services within 90 days of discharge or that your dental treatment was not completed, then you have 180 days from REFRAD to apply for VA dental care and schedule an appointment. Even if you said that you had no need for a dental appointment at the demob station during your outprocessing, you are still entitled to this benefit.

Moving or traveling? It's all right. The VA's benefits are portable throughout the entire VA system. To make your appointment, call 1-877-222-8387, or ask your Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) for help. Even if you do not have your DD214, your TAA can help you take advantage of this great benefit at VA.

Free Outward Bound adventures

Any service member deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom is eligible to attend a five-day outdoor adventure at no cost. Outward Bound is a non-profit organization that offers outdoor adventure excursions including backpacking, rock climbing, canoeing and dog sledding. The adventures will take place from Sept. 8, 2008, through Feb. 9, 2009, with more to be scheduled in 2009. For more information about the military excursions or about the Outward Bound program, visit www.outwardboundwilderness.org/veterans.

Scholarships for family of fallen and disabled

The Folds of Honor Foundation has provided generous scholarship funding for 180 spouses or children of military service members who were either disabled or killed in the line of duty during the Global War on Terrorism.

The Foundation was created by Maj. Dan Rooney, an F-16 fighter pilot with the Oklahoma Air National Guard. To learn more about how to apply for the scholarships, visit the foundation's Web site at www.foldsofhonor.org.

TRICARE launches Web site in Spanish

As part of its ongoing effort to educate beneficiaries about available programs and healthcare plans, TRICARE has launched the TRICARE Beneficiary Web site "en Español." To experience the new site, go to www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/espanol/.

Finding M-Day jobs through the Web

Soldiers interested in finding available M-Day positions, or recruiters trying to find the latest information on M-Day job vacancies should take a look at the new Vacancy Report Web Part now available on the California National Guard Portal.

To add the Vacancy Report Web Part to your "My Site" page:

1. Start at the Portal Home Page <<https://portal.ca.ngb.army.mil/>>
2. Navigate to your "My Site"
3. Click on "Modify My Page" (located on the top right Side)
4. Move Mouse over "Add Web Parts"
5. Click on "Browse"
6. Click on "Virtual Server Gallery"
7. Continue to Click "Next" (Bottom right) until you find "Vacancy Report"
8. Click and drag the "Vacancy Report" Web Part to an area on your "My Page"
9. To close the "Add Web Part" section you will click on the "X" next to the "Add Web Parts"

Did you know?

You can receive confidential counseling concerning matters of mental health such as stress and depression?

Military OneSource provides a variety of articles, booklets & recordings, quick tips, resource guides, Web links and worksheets & checklists (including mental health crisis numbers) that can assist you in maintaining your mental fitness. Using this site to get assistance in tackling your issues or concerns is confidential. Furthermore, any assistance you receive through this site cannot be used against you or affect your military or civilian career.

Sign up today for a UserID and password @ www.militaryonesource.com and start feeling better about yourself, your job and your family.





129th Rescue Wing personnel perform search and rescue support during Hurricane Gustav on Sept.2, 2008.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino

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