

# GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard

## School for service

New state benefit reaches more Guard members

# 18



CELEBRATING  
160 YEARS OF SERVICE



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD



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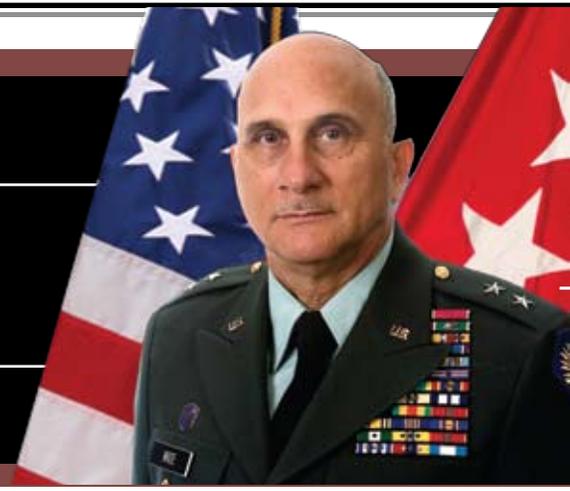
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# Commander's corner

## 9/11 altered course of history

Major General William H. Wade II



"December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy," are words well known to those of the "greatest generation," as well as to the baby boomers born following World War II. At that time, the unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan produced the largest American loss of life for a single incident — 2,403 killed. However, little did anyone know that 60 years later that number would pale in comparison to the events of September 11, 2001.

When you look at the numbers from that fateful day, the magnitude of the multiple tragedies is almost overwhelming:

- 2,974 victims (2,603 in the World Trade Center, 246 in the planes and 125 in the Pentagon)
- 90 countries with citizens among the victims
- 24 people remain missing
- 19 hijackers/terrorists involved
- 4 airliners destroyed
- 2 towers of the World Trade Center and a wing of the Pentagon destroyed
- 1 purpose — to terrorize and break the spirit of the United States of America

As in 1941, the events of September 11, 2001, have become one of those defining, irrevocable moments that have dramatically altered the course of world events. It ranks with such events as the fall of Rome in the late 5th century, which ushered in the Dark Ages; the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which started World War I ("the war to end all wars") and shaped the events that led up to the Second World War (and created the "greatest generation"); the Scopes Trial of 1925, which pitted creationists against evolutionists; the mass exterminations of Jews by Hitler and the Nazi Party; the dropping of atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan, launching the nuclear age; and global warming.



PHOTO BY CHERIE CULLEN

As I look back on the tragedies of September 11, 2001, I am struck by the enormity of the task that befell the current generation — to seek out and combat terrorism whenever and wherever it exists. Yet, America's armed forces — active and reserve — have carried that mantle of responsibility for eight years, enduring repeated deployments into combat zones and sacrificing time away from family, work and school.

What stands out the most is one fact that may be lost to all but those who wear the uniforms of America's Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard: Every service member, male or female, whether Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine or Coastie, is a volunteer. They are not drafted, conscripted or in any way forced to serve their nation. They are serving because of their own individual reasons. And yet, after years of sacrifice, and in some cases personal injury, they volunteer to return for subsequent deployments when a grateful nation would gladly say, "Thanks, you've done enough. You don't have to go back."

From California alone, more than 31,000 men and women from the Army and Air Guard have served overseas since September 11, 2001 — many of them multiple times — more than any other state or territory. California's Army Guard has deployed its division headquarters (twice), six brigade headquarters, 10 battalion headquarters, 13 full battalions, 39 companies and 13 detachments or teams. In addition, the California Air National Guard has deployed countless times with elements from every wing and group.

What makes this so amazing is that word "volunteer." These patriots continue to step forward, voluntarily going into harm's way to stand the wall against terrorism and man the ramparts of freedom. It is these patriots who make America the land of the free — because it is the home of the brave. It demonstrates why the National Guard is Americans at their best, and why it is the most important part-time job in America. But more importantly it is tangible proof that these men and women, and the families that support them, are America's NEXT greatest generation.

You are the best that America has to offer, and that is all that is needed for the task at hand. To all who have served during the past eight very difficult years, I thank you for your continued selfless service.

## Remember the fallen

Command Sergeant Major William Clark Jr.



On September 11, 2001, two planes crashed into the World Trade Center, another crashed into the Pentagon and a fourth, intended for the White House, crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

We will never forget the heroes who died trying to retake that Washington, D.C.-bound plane and stop the attack from occurring. We will never forget that day, when we listened in disbelief to the news of airplanes crashing and thousands of people dying by the hands of terrorists. We will never forget where we were or the disbelief we felt.

At 8:36 a.m. in New York, American Air-

lines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, the first of two planes that would crash into the World Trade Center that day. And at that moment, our world changed forever.

There were heroes at the World Trade Center — police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and civilians were running up and down the hallways, alerting everyone to get out of the building.

Flight 77 later crashed into the Pentagon. And finally, flight 93 crashed into a field in Pennsylvania, and there was speculation that the plane had been headed to the

White House, Capitol Hill or Camp David.

The attacks of September 11 were the first on U.S. soil in almost 60 years. The morning before the crash had been just another day. We were going to work, taking our children to school and enjoying our liberties.

As time passed on September 11, we thought about relatives we may have had in New York and if they were safe. We were in shock and disbelief. Some hoped it was just a bad dream and we would wake up to find that everything was fine.

Threat levels in the United States went

up immediately, installations were locked down and our lives became complicated. All of our armed forces went on alert, ready to respond, and Guard members began calling into their units, prepared to help if and where they were needed.

On September 11, 2009, say a prayer for the souls who lost their lives that day eight years ago and since then, and for the families and friends who survived the tragic loss of a loved one. Take a moment to reflect on the events of eight years ago, which left such a monumental impact on our country and our lives. Never forget those who sacrificed to save the lives of others.

# Grizzly

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### Articles:

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

### Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible ("raw" photos are best)
- ★ No retouched photos
- ★ Caption (what is happening, who is pictured and the date of the photo)
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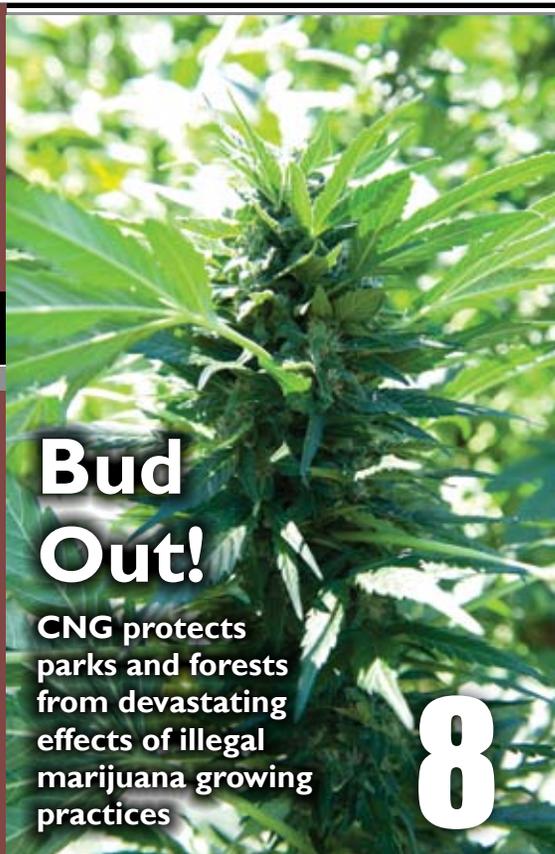
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## Cover Shot



**Photo by Peter Grigsby**  
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Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announces the signing of a new educational benefit for California Guard members at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos in southern California on July 31.



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**CNG protects parks and forests from devastating effects of illegal marijuana growing practices**

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## The California National Guard as of August 2009



PHOTO BY SPC. (CA) JAY EARL



# I-184th, I-185th enjoy tearful homecoming

By Spc. (CA) Jay Earl and National Guard public affairs staff

The desert surrounding March Air Reserve Base can be a dry, inhospitable place. Moisture from happy tears, however, filled the air near Riverside, Calif., on Aug. 11, as Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, returned from a year's duty in Iraq into the arms of their grateful and excited families. Hundreds of family members rejoiced after waiting patiently for buses to arrive with their long-awaited loved ones.

Similar scenes were seen that day in Fresno and San Jose, Calif., as cheers and applause erupted from throngs of family and friends as buses entered the parking lots, carrying Soldiers of the 1-185th and the 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment. As the bus doors opened, families rushed forward with outpourings of tears and emotion.

Soldiers were reunited with their families under homemade signs and American flags at those three sites Aug. 6 and again Aug. 11, and a final group returned to March on Aug. 16. Altogether, more than 800 Soldiers of the 1-185th returned from their yearlong deployment in August, including 260 Soldiers of the 1-184th who were attached to the 1-185th.

"Warriors of the 1-185th have courageously gone in harm's way, upholding the finest traditions of the citizen-Soldier, and despite numerous contacts with the enemy, have all returned safely home," Brig. Gen. Louis Antonetti, the Cal Guard's deputy adjutant general, Army Division, said Aug. 6 during a homecoming ceremony in Fresno.

Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, also commended the Soldiers for a job well done.

"The troops gave a stellar performance," he said at March. "Take advantage of the time now to be spent with your loved ones."



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY

Sgt. William Thomas of the I-185th hugs his daughter Rebeka on Aug. 6 at March Air Reserve Base after a yearlong Iraq deployment.

During the unit's deployment, which was its second to Iraq, the 1-185th augmented the 81st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, based out of Seattle.

The 1-185th performed a security force mission throughout Multi-National Division-North, based at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. The battalion's three companies provided convoy security support to core assets, executing more than 1,500 missions, totaling more than 1 million mission miles, without incident. Fifty-six Soldiers of 1-185th Company B, six Soldiers of Company C and 49 Soldiers of Company D earned a Combat Infantry or Combat Action badge.

The 1-185th contingent comprised companies based in Bakersfield, Banning, Barstow, Colton, Corona, Madera, National City, Palmdale, Porterville, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. The 1-184 companies were based in Visalia and Dublin.

Capt. Kimberly Holman, Lt. Col. John G. Cotter, Master Sgt. Julie Avey and Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr contributed to this article.

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY



ABOVE: Tears of joy flow freely as Spc. Andrew Sandoval of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, embraces his family Aug. 11 at March Air Reserve Base. He and more than 800 other members of the I-184th and the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, returned from yearlong deployments in August. LEFT: Spc. Robert Martin of the I-185th returns home to his girlfriend, Shannon Green, Aug. 6 at March Air Reserve Base.

## Yo, Joe! Guard adds real-life heroes to G.I. movie

By Capt. Kimberly Holman San Diego Regional Public Affairs

Seven real-life American heroes of the California National Guard help bring to life the story of some "real American heroes" in the new movie "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra." The Guard also helped bring joy to a "hometown hero" and his sons during the premiere of the movie.

Seven members of the Cal Guard's Veteran Honors Program — 2nd Lt. Joshua Fabricatore, Staff Sgt. Richard Aller, Staff Sgt. Aaron Krautkramer, Sgt. Rocky Stone, Sgt. Carl Trujillo, Spc. Jeramy Hano and Spc. Joseph Ortiz — appear as the firing party for a military funeral in the movie.

Members of the 670th Military Police Company in National City, Calif., and recruiters from the Accessions Task Force, Team Baja, also escorted "G.I. Joe" stars Marlon Wayans and Channing Tatum in National Guard Humvees to a red-carpet screening of the film

Aug. 5 in San Diego.

"We were fortunate to have the honor ... of playing Soldiers," Wayans said. "But today we are humbled by the presence of the men and women of our armed forces. You guys are the true American heroes."

Also present at the event was the winner of Paramount Pictures' Hometown Hero contest, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jose Velazquez, and his sons Raul and Justin. Velazquez was nominated by 7-year-old Justin for his courage and dedication after being involved in a helicopter crash in 2002 that left him with severe injuries.

"It is an honor to be here with you today," said California Assemblywoman Lori Saldana, who attended the screening. "We want to thank you for your service and all that you and your family sacrifice."

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY



Justin Velazquez, 7, tours a National Guard Humvee before the red-carpet premiere of "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra" in San Diego. Velazquez' father, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jose Velazquez, won Paramount Pictures' Hometown Hero contest in conjunction with the premiere.

PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSE FLAGG



Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, which received the governor's Outstanding Unit Citation (OUC) last month, attaches an OUC streamer to its guidon Aug. 12. The company left the following day for training at Fort Dix, N.J., followed by a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

## 49th MP HHC returns to Iraq

By Brandon Honig  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The name Gen. George Washington is known to every American child. After leading the Continental Army to victory over the heavily favored British, Washington was elected president of the United States. But without a lesser-known figure from America's history — Baron Friedrich von Steuben — Washington's name may have faded into obscurity.

"There was nothing wrong with [the Continental] Army. It could fight. It just couldn't win," said Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, on Aug. 12. "[Von Steuben] figured out a way to fix this. It was called 'training discipline.'"

Von Steuben, a former Prussian Army officer who volunteered to serve Washington in 1777, is credited with transforming the Continental Army from a raw band of patriots into a military force that could defeat the world's largest army.

"You are the Von Steubens of Iraq," Harrel told the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 49th Military Police Brigade. "Your job is to get those security forces so they can stand on their own two feet and win."

Harrel drew another parallel between Von Steuben's Revolutionary fighters and the Iraqi security forces as well: "The people fighting that war were fighting for something called liberty."

More than 100 Soldiers of the 49th MP Brigade HHC departed Aug. 13 for Fort Dix, N.J., where they will spend a month training before they deploy for a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Nearly 600 relatives, friends and community members wished them well at a deployment ceremony Aug. 12 on Travis Air Force Base near Fairfield, Calif. The festivities included renditions of "This Land is Your Land" and "God Bless America" by about 25 children of unit members and the induction of the unit's new morale dog, Sophie.

"Her job is to mingle with Soldiers after they come back from outside the wire and they're stressed and they've worked hard all day and they've faced the dangers of Iraq all day long," said Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the 49th MP Brigade. "She's a great morale dog."

The unit also received the Outstanding Unit Citation from the office of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Aug. 12, in recognition of the company's superior inspection results, training, attendance and unit strength from Oct. 1, 2007, to Sept. 30, 2008. It was the third such award given this year.

"The enemies of a free Iraq want to discourage and intimidate you and the government of Iraq that you are there to support," Currier told the Soldiers. "I know you will overcome these challenges."

Sgt. Anthony Pantazis said an emotional goodbye to his father, Manuel, after the ceremony.

"I'm very proud of my son, very proud of what he's doing," Manuel Pantazis said. "I'm going to miss him a great deal."

Sgt. Pantazis, a Guardsman since 2006, was preparing for his first deployment.

"I'm nervous but I'm excited, and I really want to go and help," he said. "[I joined the Guard] to support our nation and to help out the people of Iraq."

The unit previously deployed in October 2005 for a year in Iraq, where it led three MP battalions, 23 companies and five detachments in military police combat operations throughout the country. The company will return to Iraq in September to further assist in developing the Iraqi police.

During the HHC's first deployment, the company created the first police transition teams (PTT) in Iraq.

"We had civilians, brigade combat teams and MPs all going to the Iraqi police stations separately," Lt. Col. Peter Cross said Aug. 12, describing the situation when the 49th MP HHC arrived in Iraq in 2005. "So we took all of those experts and put them in one team, called the PTT."

The company built more than 200 PTTs during its year in Iraq, covering 14 of the country's 18 provinces.

"During that tenure, 2005 to 2006, security was really bad. So all we could do was form the teams up and have them start visiting the police stations," Cross said. "I don't think we made a lot of progress training the Iraqis in police work."

Soldiers who arrived on later deployments advanced the police training, however, and Iraqi leaders are now fully in charge of the police, Cross said. During the upcoming deployment, Cross expects the 49th MP HHC will help Iraq take another crucial step toward establishing law and order.

"The Iraqis are ready to now connect the rule-of-law institutions," Cross said, referring to the police, judicial and penal aspects of government. "I think we are going to spend a lot of our time linking up those various aspects of the rule-of-law cycle ... because they should all be talking to one another."

## 'Road Dawgs' train with CHP on MEDEVAC

By Capt. John J. McAlister  
756th Transportation Company

A transportation company in Iraq is conducting a routine fuel delivery to combat-Soldiers on the front lines, when without warning a roadside bomb explodes and brings the convoy to a screeching halt. One vehicle is disabled and one Soldier is severely injured. A firefight ensues, and several more Soldiers are severely injured. What should the company do next?

The 756th Transportation Company "Road Dawgs" made California National Guard history during annual training this year by recreating such events with the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Weeks of planning, coordination and training culminated July 20 as the Road Dawgs and CHP conducted the first ever joint training medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) operation between the two agencies.

At 9 a.m. the Road Dawgs conducted a combat logistic patrol from Camp Roberts, Calif., to the CHP Air Operations Center in nearby Paso Robles, Calif., where the Road Dawgs were briefed by CHP Officer Diane Clark and 2nd Lt. Dalia Sanchez of the Road Dawgs. The 756th then conducted a combat logistic patrol to the north shore of San Antonio Lake, where they were engaged by a mock enemy. The 756th sustained a damaged vehicle and a casualty with a sucking chest wound and severe head injury.

Immediately the Road Dawgs exited their vehicles, pulled security, provided medical aid to the injured Soldier, called for a MEDEVAC and recovered the damaged vehicle. Sgt. Mark Collins used a Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) bag to plug the chest wound and applied a field dressing until CHP paramedics arrived in a rescue helicopter. Once the injured Soldier was secure, the 756th hit the road again.

On the south shore of San Antonio Lake, the Road Dawgs were attacked by civilians on the battlefield and suffered a casualty with a severed leg and multiple shrapnel wounds. While Soldiers were pulling security, the civilians continued to attack, inflicting another Road Dawg with a flesh wound. Collins rendered emergency first aid to both casualties while the Road Dawgs returned fire and killed all enemy personnel.

The Soldiers continued to traverse dangerous terrain and conduct patrol operations and were hit once again near Nacimiento Lake on the side of a mountain. The Road Dawgs reacted to the enemy attack, which damaged a vehicle, then continued to march on in temperatures topping 110 degrees. Before the day was over, the troops would aid another injured Guardsman and recover another damaged vehicle.

The event ended with a joint review of the day's activities at the CHP airport, where the numerous high-fives and chest bumps were a clear indication the event was a success. "Train as you operate" is the Army motto for training, and the Road Dawgs are setting the standard.



Members of the 756th Transportation Company care for a Soldier with a mock wound during a training exercise with California Highway Patrol on July 20.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. FRANCISCO AVINA



# Planting for the future

A 63-member agricultural-business development team heads to Kunar province, Afghanistan, to aid local farmers

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

An agricultural-business development team made up of National Guard Soldiers from throughout California is heading to Afghanistan for a yearlong deployment to help plant the seeds of hope. The hope will come in the form of higher-yielding crops, which will provide more for Afghan farmers and for the entire country.

Farming experts, engineers, forestry professionals, power-generation specialists and even animal consultants contribute to the 63-member Agribusiness Development Team, which is part of the 40th Infantry Division. Other members not skilled in agricultural-related specialties bring other important fortes like medical and security knowledge.

Both practical agricultural experience and combat-zone readiness will help bring Afghan farmers into the 21st century, according to Col. Eric Grimm, commander of the California National Guard Agribusiness Development Team, which will deploy to Kunar province, Afghanistan, at the end of this month.

"You bring in people who have these specialties and get them to collaborate on projects — we're talking agribusiness and business practices — and things will improve," Grimm said. "It's not just the growing and distribution of agricultural products — all our people have different and multiple specialties. We have synergy."

Afghan farming techniques are considered outdated compared with those in the United States, he said, and the methods that Afghan farmers have historically used are now keeping them from reaching their full potential. Everything from the long-standing Afghan practice of storing seeds on rooftops to how farmers implement irrigation are hurdles the agribusiness team plans to address.

Methods to improve soil and irrigation, maintain crops, store crops and seeds, and care for livestock will be taught and are expected to produce better crop results. Afghan farmers will also be taught long-term methods that will allow them to continue to use their fields to yield and sell more crops.

"They have the ability to make their soil work for them, but they just don't have the infrastructure in place to do it right now," said soil science expert Sgt. Todd Percival.

Beyond crop rotation and seed storage issues, however, Guard members said they hope the agribusiness team will build trust among the Afghan people and, by helping develop the battle-scarred country, make improvements across the board.

Sgt. Rebecca Love, who is deploying as a medic, said she likes the "overall feeling of changing the hearts and minds of the locals."

As one of three female medics on the team, Love holds a critical position in-country, she said, because tradition holds that injured women can only be treated by other women. By having female medics, therefore, the team may save many more lives than they could as an all-male team.

"The whole situation with women and their religious beliefs and being treated by a male allows me the opportunity to tangibly help the people of Afghanistan," said Love,



State Assemblyman Isadore Hall III presents certificates of recognition to members of the 40th Infantry Division's Agribusiness Development Team during a ceremony at the state Capitol on June 22. The team left in August to help revitalize farming in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

who is working toward a physician's assistant degree at Sacramento City College. She hopes to log the patient-hours she needs for her civilian program while she is deployed to Afghanistan.

Grimm said that bringing expertise in so many different fields to the Afghan people could help their country once again become a large exporter of agricultural products. Afghanistan once exported fresh fruit, cereal, medicinal plants, animal products and cotton. The fields and crops, however, were overused, and the land is not as productive as it once was.

Now Afghanistan's main cash crop is opium, which can be used to make morphine and heroin. Government agencies and initiatives, however, are paving the way for a sustainable future, according to the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan.

"The increase in national exports over the past two years is largely due to major reforms the government has put into place to simplify and organize export procedures and the creation of a more cooperative business environment between the government and business community," according to the agency's Web site. "Numerous obstacles Afghan exporters faced, such as high export taxes, collection of illegal commission fees

and lack of capacity building, are now top government priorities."

Ultimately, building sustainable futures for Afghans is expected to discourage farmers from growing opium, which fuels the international drug trade and helps finance Afghanistan's Taliban-led insurgency.

Farming accounts for more than a third of Afghanistan's annual gross domestic product of \$23 billion, and nearly three-quarters of all Afghans rely on farming for their income, even though only about 12 percent of the land in the mountainous country is suitable for cultivation.

When the 40th Infantry Division's agribusiness team members arrive in Afghanistan, they will enter a situation where the know-how of American farming techniques has already begun to take hold. The California team has been preceded by Guard teams from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Tennessee and Texas, and Afghan farmers have since begun implementing more effective ways to grow local crops such as wheat, rice, nuts and fruit.

"We know that any project we start, we will not see the ultimate fruits of our labor," Grimm concluded, "but the groups after us and the country itself will reap the benefits."

# Task Force Warriors ready troops for deployment

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

All brawn and no brains makes Joe an easy target. That's why a crew of specialty-trained Soldiers are placing knowledge behind the power of the National Guard's fighting force.

Teams of highly qualified warriors are bringing tricks of the trade and a large dose of know-how to developing troops from around the state and around the country. Their goal is to make warrior skills come second-nature to Guard Soldiers, while at the same time getting the most out of their equipment, effectively saving lives.

Known as Task Force Warrior trainers, these California National Guard combat veterans have been working since June 2007 to live up to their motto, "No Soldier or unit deploys untrained." Experts in weapons, vehicles, infantry tactics and combatants, they have come together to give seamless instruction on true-to-life examples of what Soldiers can expect while deployed.

"We're the most important unit in the California National Guard right now," said Command Sgt. Maj. Scott A. Waterhouse, senior enlisted leader for the 65-man Task Force Warrior unit. "We're the leading edge of pre-mobilization training — the premier in the state."

The four main Task Force Warrior teams — Team Bayonet, Team Rifle, Team Wheel and Team Medical — join with additional combatives and language sections to fully prepare troops for deployment. Lessons cover 32 Army warrior tasks, 12 battle drills and 37 mandatory pre-mobilization briefings.

The trainers are National Guardsmen who not only offer insights to deploying troops but also teach other leaders to take knowledge back and share it with their Soldiers. When not running the three-week Task Force Warrior course, the instructors conduct Train The Trainer courses at Camp Roberts and go to units across the state to provide training in individual Army warrior tasks.

After a Soldier completes these courses, a Task Force Warrior instructor may accompany the recently taught trainer to observe as he teaches the skills to his unit. If taught to standard, the unit will be First Army-qualified in that course and will not be required to repeat the course if it deploys within the year. First Army, which is headquartered in Georgia, has the main mission to mobilize, train, validate and deploy Army Reserve and National Guard units.

Units that take courses with the Task Force Warriors at their site on Camp Roberts, near Paso Robles, Calif., are taught with a



**TOP:** Staff Sgt. Michael Yoon of Company C, 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion, out of San Rafael, Calif., breaks away as squad leader of his extended formation during war-simulation training with the Task Force Warriors at Camp Roberts, Calif., in June. Sgt. Ricardo Brizuela Jr., (standing) a trainer for Team Bayonet, made sure Yoon understood the importance of knowing the locations of his team members, keeping in communication and maintaining good cover. **BOTTOM:** During a Train The Trainer course, four-man teams move through "Hajji Village" using the proper techniques to enter and clear a building.

"All of our blood and sweat, it's out there."  
— Sgt. Ricardo Brizuela Jr.

very hands-on approach — what Waterhouse calls the crawl-walk-run method.

From the classroom, to a modified training structure that incrementally teaches about war environments, to a full-on war-like environment with elements of surprise, the Task Force Warriors have thought of everything. There are role-players, a roll-over vehicle that simulates a vehicle accident, and instruction on how to deal with civilians on the battlefield.

"It's a great thing, having these guys here," said Cpl. Tim Hardin of the Nevada National Guard, who had just completed a drill covering proper Soldier formation during a mission. "Some things I've seen here, I've never even done before."

Hardin said he now plans to enroll in a Train The Trainer course as well, so he can bring back knowledge to his troops.

Insights into real-life situations are imparted throughout the different courses offered by the Task Force Warriors.

"When rounds are coming down range, you don't do the 'cop' thing," Sgt. Ricardo Brizuela Jr. of Team Bayonet said, impersonating a police officer drawing their weapon without taking cover. Then, zig-zagging across the dirt to show how to properly move through fire, he said, "I'm up, they see me, I'm down. It's a three-second rush."

The epicenter of training on Camp Roberts is Soldier's Field, which includes 11 acres filled with obstacle courses that work a Soldier through towns, houses, blown-up vehicles and the simulated effects of war.

"We don't only think of meeting the standard. We're not just reading information," Waterhouse said. "We have actual [subject matter experts] who are motivated and enjoy what they are doing."

The Task Force Warriors gained valuable skills while in theater, but they also bring many personal skills to the table. They all pitch in to build and improve the obstacle courses and training environments, and unit members speak half-jokingly about having to beg, borrow and steal to complete the courses and get equipment needed to run the site.

"All of our blood and sweat," Brizuela said, motioning toward the 11-acre site, "it's out there."

Waterhouse noted that there is not much funding available from the state, so Task Force Warriors often spend out-of-pocket, in addition to giving their all each day.

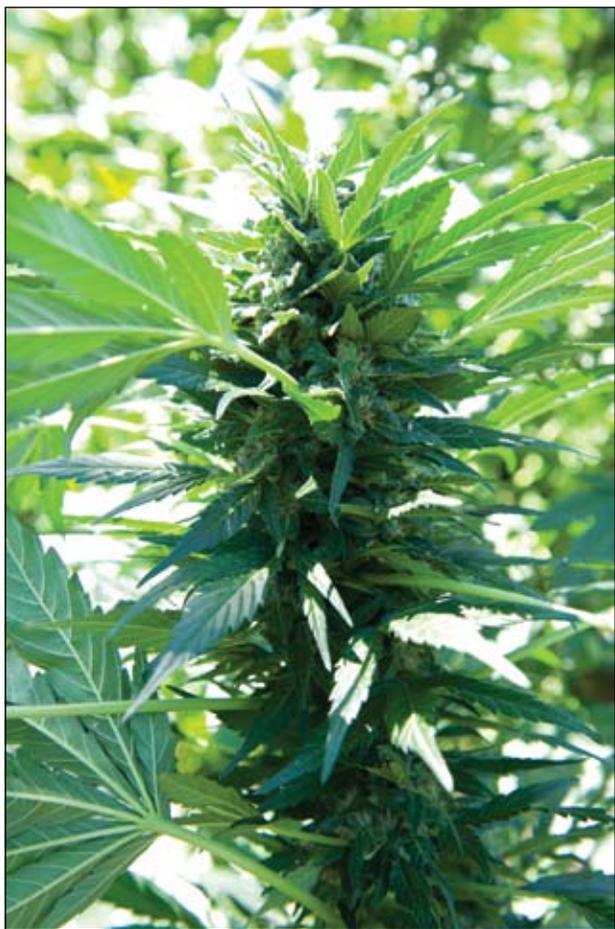
"All my guys feel as if they have failed a Soldier if they are not giving them their best," Waterhouse said. "That's what we owe these guys before they go in harm's way. We're saving lives."



# Saving our Sierra

## Cal Guard teams with other agencies to root out illegal marijuana gardens

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs



Operation Save Our Sierra removed more than \$1.1 billion worth of marijuana from California forests in July.

California is under attack. The attack isn't by air or by sea, but is an attack on one of California's greatest resources: our environment. The Sierra Nevada and her pristine wilderness are being damaged by people who illegally grow marijuana in our state and national parks, and the results are atrocious.

"The environmental impacts of the [marijuana] gardens include complete removal of vegetation, toxic materials which poison and contaminate California's watersheds, and the death of wildlife," said Special Agent Russ Arthur of the U.S. Forest Service. "Many of these sites will never go back to their original state."

Operation Save Our Sierra (S.O.S.) is the battle plan to stop the illegal growing of marijuana in our parks and put an end to the environmental damage caused by careless growing techniques used by many illegal growers. The ongoing operation involves more than 300 personnel from 17 local, state and federal agencies, including the California National Guard, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.

In east Fresno County in July, California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force members entered a marijuana garden after a challenging hike through rough terrain framed by poison oak and thorny brush. Large patches of marijuana were woven into the natural landscape in an attempt to conceal it from helicopter surveillance.

The marijuana looked strangely out of place in the once-pristine forest. Its color, a lighter shade of green than the native flora, stood out against the surrounding vegetation. The patches of marijuana appeared healthy, lush and manicured, while the surrounding plant life seemed languid in the 106-degree heat, struggling to survive.

The marijuana growers had clear-cut many of the native plants to make room for the illegal crop. Large piles of manzanita had been hacked down and stacked near the gardens, a clear indicator that often gives away the location of a marijuana garden. The air was thick and redolent with the sticky sweet smell of ripe marijuana.

Dangling from 100-foot lines attached to hovering helicopters, two-man teams dropped into the garden. In seconds, the teams detached themselves and started cutting down the marijuana with machetes, acting in unison with the precision of a machine making its collective way down the hillside. The marijuana, once hacked and stacked, was loaded into a large net and lifted by helicopter to an alternate location to be destroyed.

"By coordinating investigations and sharing intelligence and information, federal, state and local agencies are reclaiming national treasures from these criminal organizations," said Gil Kerlikowske, director of the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy, who toured the marijuana gardens with the Cal Guard Counterdrug Task Force in July.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

In the month of July, Operation S.O.S. removed the following from state and national forests:

- 400,000** marijuana plants
- 17,000 pounds** of garbage
- 4,050 pounds** of fertilizer
- 30 miles** of irrigation pipe
- 32** weapons

The patchwork of illegal growth in Fresno County was connected by intricately placed watering systems that stole water from local streams, rivers and aqueducts — water that should have nurtured native plants and animals. Fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides — many of which are banned in the United States because of their toxic ingredients — had also been abandoned in the forest, where they could leech into the ground, resulting in toxic levels of chemicals in the soil, streams and rivers.

Streams and rivers can become so polluted with toxic chemicals that the water becomes devoid of oxygen, resulting in the deaths of organisms that live in the bodies of water. Algae blooms become rampant, water becomes stagnant and forest animals are forced to search elsewhere for water.

“I’m absolutely appalled at the damage in the gardens,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth, director, Joint Staff of the California National Guard. “I’m proud of our team. It’s an essential part of the war on drugs.”

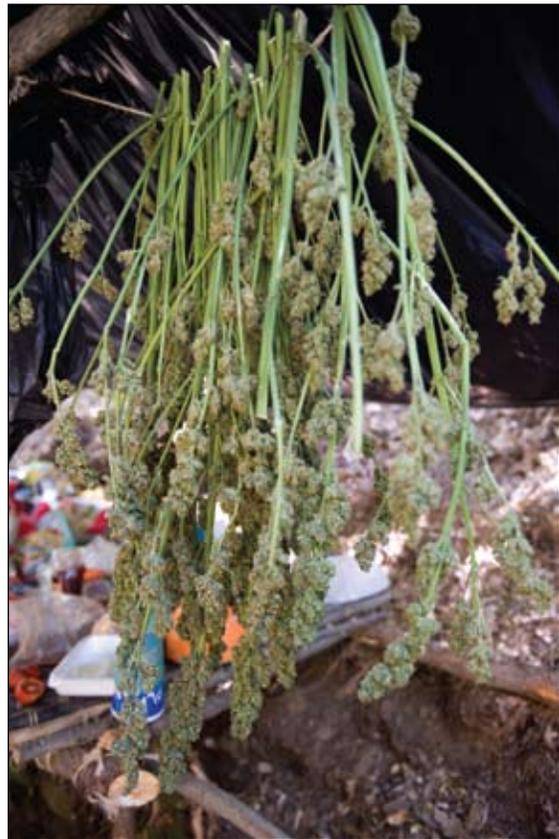
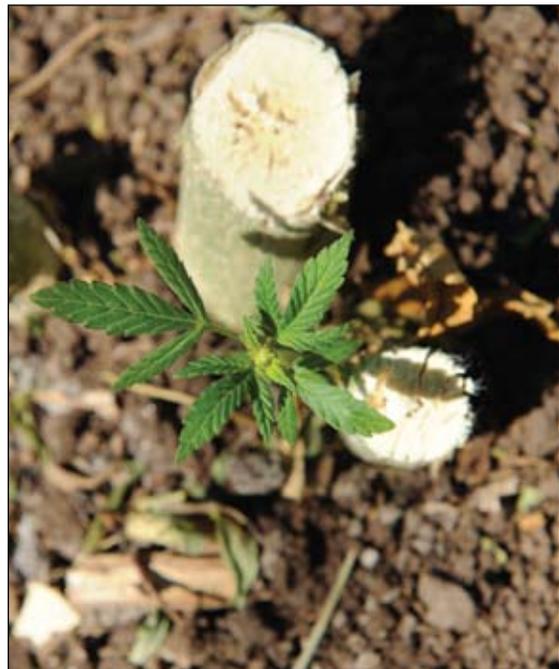
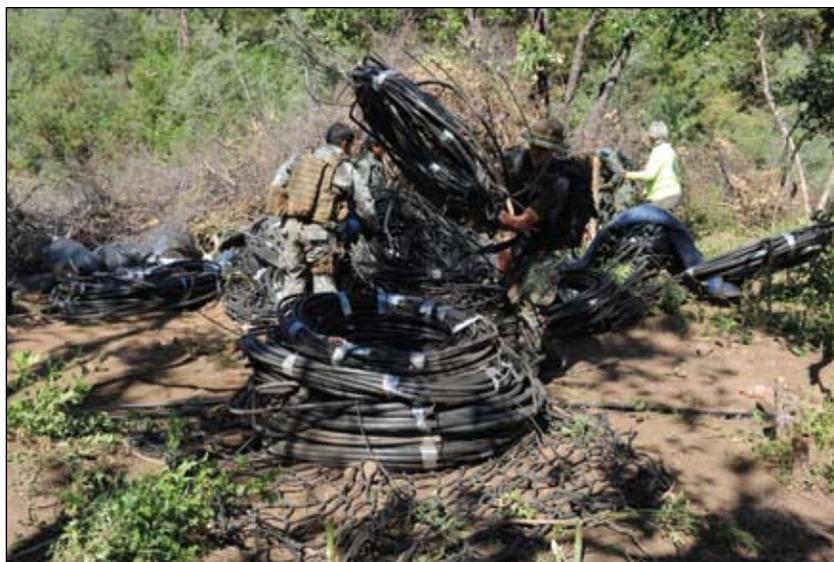
Operation S.O.S. removed more than 30 miles of irrigation pipe, 17,000 pounds of garbage and 4,050 pounds of fertilizer from state and national forests in July alone. Nonetheless, it will be years before the sites are returned to their natural states, and the cost of restoration can exceed \$10,000 per acre.

The operation also removed more than 400,000 marijuana plants with a total value of more than \$1.1 billion, seized 32 weapons and made 88 arrests.

The growers of these gardens are not stereotypical peace-loving hippie-types who are growing marijuana for medicinal purposes, according to officials. A common theme of the operation is that the mission is not about medical marijuana.

Instead the growers, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency, are predominately illegal aliens smuggled into the United States from Mexico specifically for the purpose of raising marijuana in the forests. Many growers spend the entire growing season, from April through October, in the gardens. They are often armed with weapons and have been known to set up booby traps to protect their gardens. Recently, hikers, campers and hunters have stumbled upon illegal gardens and been threatened and even shot at by the growers.

In addition to supplying manpower to remove the marijuana gardens, the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force has provided hundreds of hours of aerial support, intelligence-gathering, criminal analysis and photo interpretation for Operation S.O.S., working seamlessly with federal, state and local authorities.



**LEFT:** In addition to drugs and weapons, Operation Save Our Sierra turned up more than 30 miles of illegally placed irrigation pipe, 17,000 pounds of garbage and 4,050 pounds of fertilizer, including some that are toxic and illegal in the United States. **ABOVE:** After cutting down the marijuana stalks, growers hang them upside down to dry. **BELOW:** Confiscated materials are airlifted out of a forest by helicopter.





Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, and Staff Sgt. Arlyce Baty pet Sophie, the morale dog for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, after her induction Aug. 12 on Travis Air Force Base near Fairfield, Calif. Baty, Sophie and more than 100 other members of the HHC left the following day for Fort Dix, N.J., for a month of training before deploying for a yearlong tour in Iraq. **Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Flagg**



Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, poses for a photo before taking an exhilarating ride in a National Guard Indy race car in Sonoma, Calif., at the annual IndyCar Series race. Wade took an exhilarating ride in a National Guard Indy race car in Sonoma, Calif., at the annual IndyCar Series race. **Photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler**



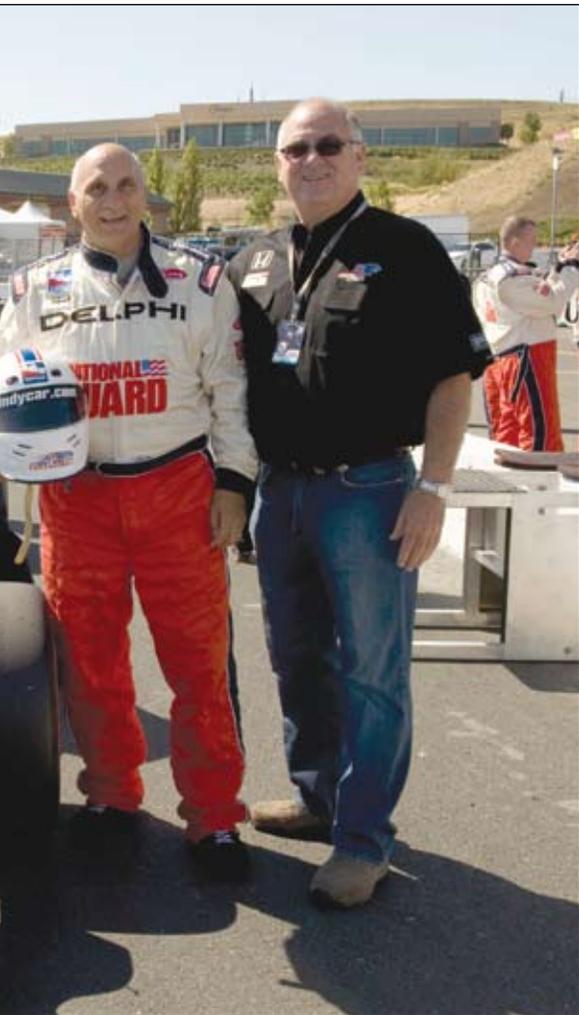
ABOVE: Col. (CA) Donald R. Tuross defends himself from would-be dunkers during the California National Guard's 160th anniversary celebration in Sacramento on July 24. LEFT: In addition to the dunk tank, Soldiers, Airmen and civilians enjoyed a barbecue, a car show and a selection of food and cultural items from various countries. The Cal Guard was founded July 27, 1849. **Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Flagg**



Members of the 756th Transportation Company secure a road near Paso Robles, Calif., during a medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) training exercise with California Highway Patrol on July 20. It was the first time the Guard and CHP had collaborated on a MEDEVAC exercise. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Francisco Avina**



# At a Glance

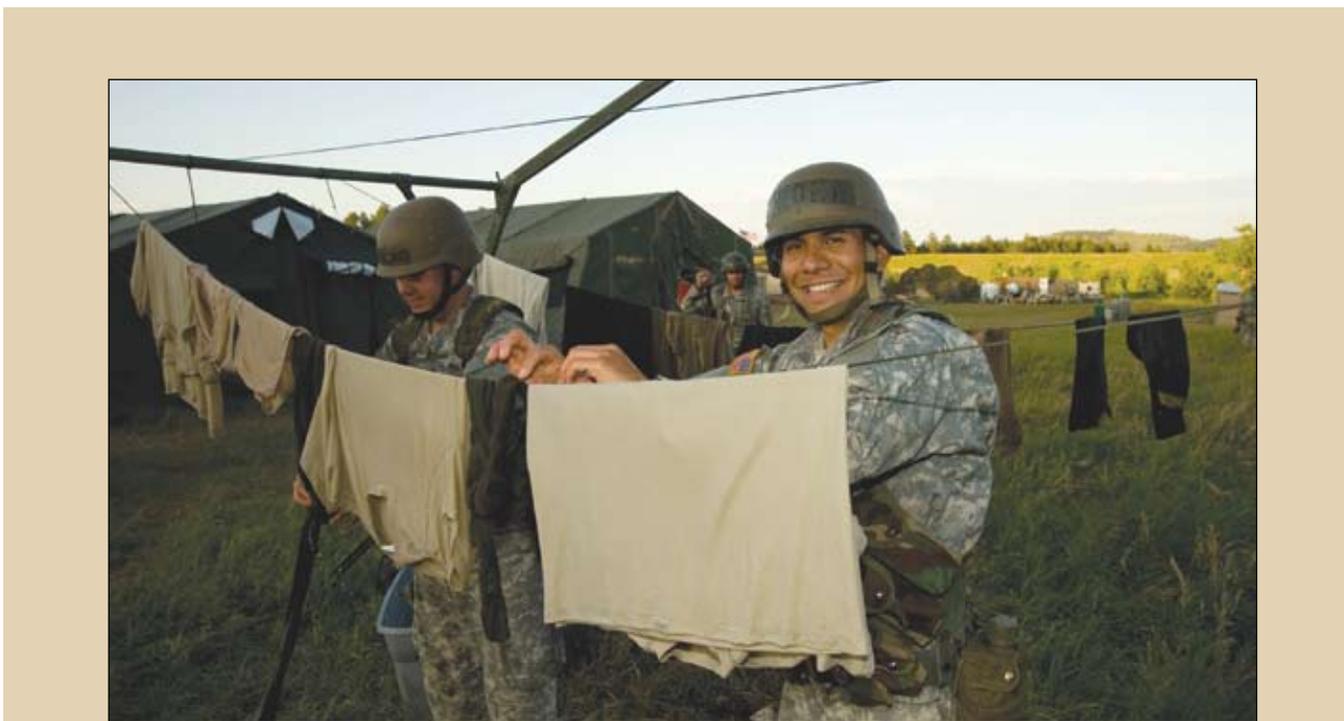


...ses with John Barnes, principal of Panther Racing, after an event organized for wounded warriors to experience



During an emotional presentation on Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26, at Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) in Sacramento, Kaylei Deakin, left, and Moranda Hern discuss the importance of sisterly support for daughters of service members. The teens first met after their fathers deployed to Afghanistan with their California National Guard units, and the girls were inspired to found The Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs. Deakin and Hern presented their project at JFHQ — where Deakin's father, Maj. Lorren T. Deakin, works as construction and facilities management officer — after jetsetting to New York and Los Angeles to appear on several national television programs. The Sisterhood is organizing a girls conference for next year and is seeking mentors for military dependents. For more information, visit [www.sisterhoodbdus.org](http://www.sisterhoodbdus.org).

Photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler



ABOVE: Officer Candidate Leobardo Orona hangs his laundry to dry July 19 during Phase III of Officer Candidate School on Fort Meade and West Camp Rapid, S.D. RIGHT: Officer Candidate Sean Woolridge takes notes July 19 during Phase III of Officer Candidate School. Woolridge and 17 other officer candidates completed Phase III in South Dakota before traveling to Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., to join 14 other new Cal Guard second lieutenants in a graduation ceremony Aug. 15.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Payer



Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson receives a National Guard backpack from Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Ellsworth, director, Joint Staff of the California National Guard, on July 30 during a tour of the California Military Museum in Sacramento.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler

PHOTO AND POSTERS COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION



Left to right: Frances Green, Margaret Kirchner, Ann Waldner and Blanche Osborn of the Women Airforce Service Pilots program, seen here in a 1944 photo taken at Lockbourne Army Air Field, Ohio, flew noncombat missions during World War II.

“The love of democracy is that of equality.”  
— Charles de Montesquieu



## 1,000

The approximate number of pilots who participated in the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program, which was established during World War II. WASP pilots flew 60 million miles of noncombat military missions from 1942 to 1943. President Barack Obama signed legislation July 1 that awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the WASP program. Three of the 300 living WASP pilots were present in the Oval Office when Obama signed the legislation.

# WASPs' trailblazing service honored

By 1st Lt. Michael A. Rodriguez  
Command Historian, California National Guard

For many of us, the month of August brings to mind hot days and cool nights that signal summer is coming to an end. August is also a time to recognize the service that women have provided and continue to provide. Aug. 26 has been designated Women's Equality Day by Congress, commemorating the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, finally giving women the right to vote. It seems fitting that this past August was also a time to recognize Brig. Gen. Charlotte Miller, who was promoted Aug. 18 to become the first female general officer in the California Army National Guard.

Presently, women serving in uniform is nothing new. But during the 1940s, women were making strides to bring attention and respect to the skills they possess. During World War II, with male pilots flying overseas, the military needed additional pilots to fly airplanes coming off the assembly lines to installations across the United States. In 1942 a program called the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) was founded to deal with this shortage of male pilots.

More than 1,000 women were trained to fly military planes through the WASP program, which ended in 1944. The WASPs' flying record was superb, showing that women could be exceptional pilots.

Thirty-eight women lost their lives during the program. The pilots were classified as civil servants, however, and did not receive veterans benefits or military honors. Their coffins were not draped with the U.S. flag, as the pilots were not



PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

President Barack Obama signs S.614 in the Oval Office of the White House on July 1, surrounded by female Airmen, including three members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program. The legislation awarded a Congressional Gold Medal for the WASP program, which flew noncombat missions in 1942 and 1943.

considered members of the military.

The WASP trailblazers were finally recognized with veteran status in 1977, and in 1984 they were awarded the World War II Service Medal. More recently President Barack Obama signed legislation July 1, which recognizes their outstanding contribution to our nation and awards a Congressional Gold Medal for the program.

World War II also initiated the service of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps,

which later became the Women's Army Corps (WAC). These women filled a variety of roles in the U.S. Army. Although many served stateside during the war, others went overseas to serve their country. The WAC was disbanded in 1978, and women have since served in the ranks alongside men.

These female pioneers have made great contributions to the nation, the military and the women who now wear the uniform.



## Fun Fact

The youngest U.S. serviceman in World War II was 12-year-old Calvin Graham of the Navy. He earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for wounds received in combat, but was then dishonorably discharged and sentenced to five months in the brig for lying about his age. He later served in the Marines for three years. Graham's record was eventually cleared by an act of Congress, but his Purple Heart was not reinstated until two years after his death.



**LEFT:** Brig. Gen. Charlotte Miller receives her general's epaulets from her husband, retired Col. Charles Miller of the California Army National Guard, left, and Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, during a promotion ceremony Aug. 18 in Sacramento. Miller was the first woman to attain the rank of brigadier general in the California Army National Guard. **BELOW:** Charlotte Miller poses with her husband, retired Col. Charles Miller, after her promotion to brigadier general last month.

## Anything men can do ...

Attitude, confidence key for California Army Guard's first female general officer

**By Barbara L. Kizer**  
**Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

When then-Sergeant Charlotte Miller decided in 1983 to attend the California Military Academy and train to be an officer, it wasn't because she had aspirations of reaching the top of the California Army National Guard.

"I did not initially join the program to become an officer; I was encouraged to go there as a leadership course," she recalled. "I was pretty introverted and liked to do things in the background. I thought maybe this would be more of an assertiveness training."

Miller had thought about becoming an officer a couple of years earlier, after she completed her two-year commitment to the active-duty Army, but she didn't have the confidence to try. Only after signing up, did Miller realize she could do it.

"As I progressed through the [officer training] program, it built a worth and a self confidence and a sense that I can do this," she said.

Since gaining her commission, Miller's abilities, attitude, drive and professionalism have proven she has the mettle to be an exceptional officer, and last month, she made history, becoming the first female general officer in the California Army National Guard. Miller serves as assistant adjutant general for the California National Guard's Army Division.

"Colonel Miller's promotion to general demonstrates her potential for positions of increased responsibility and complexity, demonstrating that the Army's 'band of brothers' is now a band of brothers and sisters," said Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, adjutant general of the California National Guard. "From platoon leader to assistant adjutant general, [Miller] consistently demonstrates her ability to lead from the front and produce results."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger also praised Miller's "tremendous achievement," calling her a source of pride for the entire state.

Miller, however, humbly deflected the accolades, saying her accomplishment was a result of great mentorship and a true sense of equal opportunity for women in the California National Guard. If Miller had not been the first general officer in the state's Army National Guard, she said, a number of other female officers could have soon been recognized for their attributes befitting a general.

She added that many female officers paved the way for her achievement, such as Brig. Gen. (CA) Elisabeth Robinson, who was posthumously promoted to brigadier general in the California State Military Reserve after years of service in the California Army National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, an officer in the state's Air National Guard, is another shining example of equal opportunity for women in the Guard and is one of Miller's closest mentors. In the United States' reserve military components, there are 50 female general officers, including two from California: Kight and Miller.

"[Miller] brings to the table not only her skills and experience but also her devotion to serve the Soldiers in the California National Guard," said Kight, who is the assistant adjutant general for the California National Guard. "Her commitment to readiness is a reflection of her service to the Soldiers and their families. [Miller] is without a doubt a decisive Soldier, committed to ensure that we all have the tools needed for success."

The daughter of an Air Force master sergeant, Miller was the only one of five children to join the military. After a two-year stint in Germany with the Army, she returned to California as a sergeant, proudly carrying on the family tradition in the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

After gaining her commission in 1983, Miller commanded several Cal Guard units, including the 349th Quartermaster Supply Company in Benicia, the 340th Forward Support Battalion in San Lorenzo, the 115th Area Support Group in Roseville and the Accession Task Force in Sacramento, which she took over in January 2005.

As commander of the Accession Task Force, Miller was in charge of recruiting and retaining Soldiers at a time when the state's Army National Guard was in need of troops. During 2004, the California Army National Guard had hit its lowest strength in 10 years.

"Change was essential. A major effort was needed to turn the tide," she said. "We needed to change from losing strength to having positive enlistment numbers."

With successful marketing of the California Army National Guard, Miller was able to start making gains, and the state is now exceeding its end-strength goal.

Throughout her Army and California National Guard career, family and service have been intertwined. Miller was inspired to join the service by her father, and for the past 20 years has been supported by her husband, retired Col. Charles Miller of the California Army National Guard. Charlotte Miller was promoted to brigadier general on her 20th wedding anniversary, Aug. 18.

Surrounded by friends, family and admiring colleagues at her promotion ceremony overlooking the Sacramento River, Miller quoted Dean Martin, expressing her gratitude for the support that helped her reach this historic milestone.

"You're nobody until somebody loves you," she said. "I feel a lot of love today."



**"Attitude garners  
the success  
needed in life."**

**— Brig. Gen.  
Charlotte Miller**

*"It is difficult to be a good noncommissioned officer. If it had been easy, they would have given it to the Officer Corps."*

— William A. Connelly, Sergeant Major of the Army, 1979 to 1983



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.

## NCOs must prepare for 'interesting times'

By Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wall  
223rd Regional Training Institute

The curse of the ancient Chinese was, "May you live in interesting times." And we do. Our nation and our state are beset by challenges and threats unlike any we have faced before. We are engaged in a two-front war against religious zealots who would see our nation destroyed, and the country faces an unprecedented fiscal challenge. And through all of this, we who wear the uniform must hold firm to our oaths and be the base upon which the nation may depend. And the rock on which that base must rest is the NCO Corps of the U.S. Army, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard.

The United States was repeatedly attacked during the 1990s by Islamic fundamentalists. As a result of those attacks, which culminated in the tragic events of September 11, 2001, we have been directly at war with radical Islamists for nearly eight years. This war has involved the National Guard to an extent not seen since World War II. Being at war for that long will strain any military organization, hence the need for the Guard.

Much of the requirement to bear up fell on the shoulders of the NCOs, the backbone of the Army. And there is little sign that the end is in sight. If anything, those requirements are likely to increase.

While conventional war is a large and impersonal affair, most forces have concluded that it would be suicidal to face the U.S. military in conventional conflict. So their choice is to use unconventional, or guerilla, warfare — a hit-and-run style of war.

Because the insurgent fighter must operate within the cover provided by the civilian population, the U.S. Army's counterinsurgency campaign must be a personal affair. And because Afghanistan and Iraq are tribal societies, it is important to know the key players, their families, their brothers, their cousins and their uncles.

NCOs are in the people business. They look after troops, train them and lead them. And NCOs are the front line in our counterinsurgency campaign: They build personal relationships that lead people to trust the U.S. military and to ultimately provide intelligence that allows our forces to close in on insurgents. Counterinsurgency is a hearts-and-minds business, and the NCO leading his squad down the street has the most contact — from



Noncommissioned officers like Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wall of the 223rd Regional Training Institute have taken on increased responsibilities since September 11, 2001, despite the fact that the Army NCO Corps already had more authority and responsibility than any NCO corps in the world.

a leadership position — with the indigenous population.

The community acknowledges that we know them, we are looking out for them and we are ensuring the police do their job. As a result, the community will learn to trust that their government will be there in the future and that terrorists will not be able to kill their fathers and mothers and children. That is why increased responsibility in counterinsurgency missions is a worthy goal for the NCO Corps — despite the fact that the Army NCO Corps already has more authority and responsibility than any other NCO corps in the world.

Out of the NCO's charge to train his or her Soldiers comes the need to ensure that those Soldiers can perform in the most toxic of environments — combat. Preparing Soldiers for that trial boils down to realistic training and creating small teams of Soldiers who work together and support each other mentally and physically. It is our job as NCOs to ensure that we have met those goals.

In guerilla warfare, there are no safe rear areas. Terrorists strike where they please. All NCOs need to understand at least the basic elements

of counterinsurgency operations. I believe the NCO professional reading list should be expanded to emphasize the reality of insurgent warfare and how to conduct counterinsurgency operations at the NCO level.

"When you are in the Army, you can be in the infantry at any given moment," Sgt. Michael Davis said in The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide.

Even a finance NCO driving from one forward operating base to another needs to know what it means when he or she sees mothers scooping up their children off the streets and running inside with them: Something is going down.

In the final analysis, it is the responsibility of NCOs to train and look out for the Army's most valuable resource, its Soldiers. This is an awesome and dread responsibility to place on the shoulders of young men and women, but we have a long history of young NCOs bearing this responsibility under the most trying conditions. It is our responsibility as NCOs to be as ready as possible to meet the trials to come. We know that battling insurgencies and revolutionary warfare will be a large part of our lives as NCOs, and we must prepare for it.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STAFF SGT. JEFFREY WALL



# Guardsmen honored for sacrifice in Iraq



**TOP RIGHT:** Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, pins a Purple Heart on Spc. Eduardo Rivera of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, during a ceremony Aug. 7 on the grounds of the state Capitol for California Purple Heart Veterans Day. Rivera and Sgt. 1st Class Phill Osbourn, right, were injured in 2005 when a vehicle packed with explosives was intentionally driven into their Humvee. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Wade salutes Old Glory and the flag of the state of California during California Purple Heart Veterans Day. **TOP LEFT:** Wade embraces Rivera, right, after presenting him the Purple Heart.

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA INIGO

## By Brandon Honig Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Iraqi drivers know they must pull off to the side of the road when they encounter a military convoy. Otherwise, the Soldiers may feel unsafe and employ "lead diplomacy." When patrol leader Sgt. 1st Class Phill Osbourn of the California National Guard saw a white Mercedes driving in the middle of the road toward his six-Humvee patrol on June 9, 2005, he knew the driver was a danger to his men.

"This is something that NEVER happens over here. So we knew he was up to no good," Osbourn wrote in a letter from Iraq two weeks later. "Sooo, we showed 9-10 rounds of 'diplomacy,' and he pulled over but did not stop."

The gunner behind that diplomacy was Cal Guardsman Spc. Eduardo Rivera.

"The Mercedes momentarily moved over to the other side of the road away from our convoy but then suddenly turned toward the convoy, sped up and crashed into the side of my Humvee," Rivera recalled.

Osbourn still vividly remembers the moment of impact.

"The amazing thing was I watched this guy drive into us, and he stared me right in the eye until the car detonated," he said. "He did not flinch, close his eyes or show any emotion. It was really surreal."

The Mercedes, which was loaded with artillery rounds, detonated on impact, sending the Humvee soaring more than 200 feet through the air. While the Soldiers were airborne, encased in their metal vehicle, the driver asked if everyone was OK. Before they hit the ground, he learned that Rivera was bleeding and Osbourn was on fire. The vehicle's fourth Soldier did not respond; he

had been ejected from the Humvee and sent skidding across the highway.

With help from other Soldiers in the convoy, the two Cal Guardsmen, who were attached to a unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard, escaped the burning vehicle before the ammunition inside began exploding. Rivera had endured multiple shrapnel wounds to his head, shoulder and arms and also experienced 2nd-degree burns. Osbourn had shrapnel wounds in his arm and legs as well as a broken hip, broken arm and 1st- and 2nd-degree burns on his face, hands, arms and legs.

Osbourn and Rivera recovered in Iraq then resumed full duties and completed their deployment, business as usual. It was a shock to both men when they were contacted earlier this year and asked to participate in a ceremony on the grounds of the state Capitol on California Purple Heart Veterans Day, during which they would be honored for their service and presented with their Purple Hearts by Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard.

"I believe the world must know that you not only gave a piece of yourself but quite probably a piece of your future for your comrades, and more importantly the world must know that you gave of yourself so that this generation and generations to come can bask in the sunshine of your sacrifice," Wade said. "I am humbled to be in your presence."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on that day proclaimed August to be Purple Heart Month in the state of California.

"The recipients of the Purple Heart have made exceptional sacrifices on behalf of our armed forces," Schwarzenegger said in

a prepared statement. "These courageous service members have defended and continue to defend our freedom at tremendous personal cost, and they truly have the gratitude of an entire nation."

Osbourn said he was "thunderstruck" that he was included in the ceremony and added that it is only fitting he receive the honor alongside his good friend Rivera. The two woke up in hospital beds next to each other in Iraq after the explosion and have remained in close contact since their return.

"Honestly, I never would have thought this would happen," Rivera said of the Aug. 7 ceremony in Sacramento. "We got back in 2005 and thought, 'Life goes on.' It's really an honor."

Rivera is a member of the 1st Battalion,

184th Infantry Regiment, while Osbourn, a 22-year veteran, has retired from the service. Osbourn will also receive a Bronze Star for his actions that day in Iraq, which helped bring all five wounded Soldiers home safely.

Roger Brautigan, acting secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, stressed on Purple Heart Day that each American should recognize all Purple Heart recipients for the sacrifice they have made on our behalf.

"We must always remember that while we are safe and secure in our lives at home here in America, that young men and women are dying and being disabled each day to keep it so," he said. "And we should not let a day go by when we do not think of our troopers in harm's way and the price that is being paid for our freedom."



**The Marine Corps League Honor Guard posts the colors during the California Purple Heart Veterans Day ceremony Aug. 7 on the grounds of the state Capitol.**

# Prepared to lead

From dedicated Soldiers, new officers emerge



Officer Candidate Jeff Chaix displays a determined grimace as he struggles through the final phases of an obstacle course on Fort Meade, S.D., on July 23.

**Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Payer  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

Thirty-two newly minted California Army National Guard lieutenants crossed the stage on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., on Aug. 15th to accept the hard-earned and long-deserved gold bar marking the beginning of their careers as Army National Guard officers.

“Becoming an officer is not done to better ourselves or for the challenge. It is about leadership, and leadership is not about the leader,” 2nd Lt. Michael Langton said Aug. 15 after receiving his gold bar. “It is predicated solely upon the recipient of such leadership. I need to be the best that I can be for those I serve and lead.”

Some of the new officers chose the traditional course route, an 18-month program to accomplish three phases of training on Camp San Luis Obispo. Others elected to go the accelerated route, which took place during an intense eight-week period that concluded with Phase III from July 10-25 on Fort Meade and West Camp Rapid, S.D. The 18-candidate California contingent on Fort Meade was part of a class of 187 Soldiers representing 25 states.

Additionally, a few Soldiers from the California graduating class completed their Officer Candidate School training with the active-duty Army at Fort Benning, Ga., before crossing the stage on Camp SLO with their fellow California National Guard officers.

Second Lieutenant Luchano B. Jones, who trained at Fort Benning, said he will bring energy and enthusiasm to his new position.

“I have an innate passion to protect the country that enabled me to reach this level of competencies and experiences, to develop leadership [skills] that are the core attributes of the officer candidate,” Jones said. “I am unconditionally committed as a leader for the needs of the U.S. Army.”

Officer Candidate School’s Phase I is physically challenging and puts candidates through a tough conditioning environment. It also stresses the importance of being a good leader, follower and teammate. People come together from a wide variety of backgrounds during OCS, and the

See the 2009  
Officer Candidate School  
Graduating Class

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Officer candidates board a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter on Fort Meade, S.D., on July 21. Eighteen candidates completed Officer Candidate School on Fort Meade and joined 14 other new lieutenants at a graduation ceremony on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., on Aug. 15.



# AWARD WINNERS



LEFT TO RIGHT: 2nd Lt. Rebecca J. Kipper, 2nd Lt. David Windhorst, 2nd Lt. Sarah Cooley and 2nd Lt. Michael A. Langton

*2nd Lt. Sarah Cooley*

**The Erickson Trophy**, presented to the graduate who demonstrated the greatest academic and leadership ability throughout Officer Candidate School

*2nd Lt. Michael A. Langton*

**The Association of the U.S. Army Leadership Award**, presented to the graduate who demonstrated the greatest leadership ability throughout Officer Candidate School

*2nd Lt. Rebecca J. Kipper*

**The National Guard Association of California Award**, presented to the graduate who demonstrated the greatest academic ability throughout Officer Candidate School

*2nd Lt. David Windhorst*

**The General Albert L. Lemay Annual Award**, presented to the graduate who was chosen to deliver the Candidate Response on behalf of the Class of 2009

bonds that are formed are greatly important to the candidates' success in the program. Stress and a certain fear factor are also introduced by the training, advising and counseling, or TAC, officers during Phase I.

In Phase II, the atmosphere is more academic. Training consists of a lot of classroom instruction and theory — the stuff of procedure and doctrine, as some call it.

The last phase, Phase III, is when the knowledge and capabilities of the two previous stages are put together and tested. On Fort Meade and West Camp Rapid, candidates were tested in a realistic, contemporary operation environment. The focus of the phase was on leadership and cohesive small-unit battle tactics. This phase was the most demanding part of Officer Candidate School, according to most candidates, and required a great deal of mental and physical fitness.

Second Lieutenant Enrique Garcia of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment, said he hopes to use his new skills to improve his unit.

"I want to promote teamwork within my unit and I want everyone to feel like a part of something greater than themselves," he said.

Second Lieutenant Sean Woolridge said he is looking forward to the challenge of being a leader and the reward of accomplishing the mission. All the new officers understand the importance of the role they have chosen.

"I will carry the weight of this responsibility on every patrol, yet unlike a rucksack or Kevlar helmet, I will never slip it off when we come back inside the wire," Langton said. "It will be there when I wake up, and it will be there when I return for another restless night of sleep. ... This is the price of a salute and a commitment I am proud to uphold."



LEFT: Officer Candidate William Chen clears a building of suspected terrorists during urban warfare training as part of Officer Candidate School on Fort Meade, S.D. BOTTOM RIGHT: Officer Candidate Michael Schumacher moves to engage an enemy during training in South Dakota. BOTTOM LEFT: Officer Candidate Rebecca Kipper guards her area during an Officer Candidate School exercise in South Dakota.



PHOTO BY PETER GRIGSBY © OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



# A class act for those who serve

## State law broadens Guard members' educational benefits

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo | Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs  
and Laura Herzog | JTFB-Los Alamitos Public Affairs

Getting deployed for the California National Guard doesn't always mean going overseas. Often Guard members are called to duty to assist in times of flood, fire or riots at home.

With the signing of new legislation by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on July 28, these Guard members who have served in domestic missions are now eligible to apply for educational assistance. Whereas participation in state missions was once insufficient to warrant education benefits from the state, this type of service now makes the grade.

"California's National Guard is on the front lines of every disaster. From protecting citizens from wildfires and floods here at home to serving the people of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, the Guard can be relied on in every emergency," Schwarzenegger said during a July 31 event at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos in southern California.

"These brave men and women are heroes, and now they will have the opportunity to get the college education they deserve."

Under the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program, up to 1,000 service members will receive a total of \$1.8 million to attend California colleges and universities while they are members of the California National Guard. The money will become

available next year.

Survey results show an overwhelming 74 percent of service members would extend their service in exchange for help with the costs of higher education, according to the California Military Department.

"I think this will help us retain our most qualified and experienced members," said Capt. Chris Weaver, the California National Guard legislative liaison officer.

Guard members who previously served on active duty or deployed for operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom are also eligible for benefits under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. That program pays for tuition, housing, books and incidentals. Federal tuition assistance is also available to service members.

Weaver said many Soldiers do not receive full benefits under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill because they were not on active duty for a long enough time, but the new California benefit will bridge the gap for some Soldiers seeking an education.

"This money could be used to help make up the difference," he said. "This bill puts us on a level playing field with the Reserves and the active duty component."

State Sen. Dave Cogdill, an Air National Guard veteran, said the \$1.8 million in benefits is a good investment.

PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSE FLAGG



**TOP:** Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, right, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, center, and California Secretary of Education Glen W. Thomas, left, honor Old Glory during an event July 31 at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos in southern California. Schwarzenegger traveled to Los Alamitos to announce a new educational benefit he signed July 28, which provides \$1.8 million for Guard members to attend California schools — even if the service member has participated only in domestic missions. **ABOVE:** Schwarzenegger greets Soldiers on JTFB-Los Alamitos.

"This legislation is a small token of our state's appreciation of our citizen-Soldiers who selflessly answer the call to defend our freedom," Cogdill said July 31 in Los Alamitos. "By investing in the education of our brave servicemen and women, we are investing in our overall economy."

In addition to the governor's announcement, the event in Los Alamitos included a change of command ceremony, as Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, the commander of the California Army National Guard, relinquished command of the 40th Infantry Division and passed the baton to Brig. Gen. Scott Johnson.

Senior military leadership are still hashing out the details of how to get the newly available money to deserving service members for their educations. The application process is expected to be finalized by the end of the year, enabling troops to access the funding in 2010. The application process will likely require letters of recommendation and performance reports.

Weaver, who is the liaison officer in charge of informing the state legislature on the merits of the program, said there definitely will be criteria to be met, but anyone who meets those criteria should apply for the money, regardless of whether they are already receiving funds from other sources.

"The adjutant general will identify the skills most needed by the Guard," Weaver said. "It will definitely be based on [their military occupational specialty] as well as their performance reports."

Staff Sgt. Frank J. Chavez of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Force Headquarters, said he may vie for an award and then begin work online to earn a bachelor's degree in general studies from Columbia College. Chavez, the training noncommissioned officer for his unit, has not yet deployed overseas, though he has served in Operation Noble Eagle for two years.

Operation Noble Eagle mobilized thousands of National Guard and Reserve troops immediately after the attacks of September 11, 2001, to patrol the airspace around cities; perform security missions on military installations, airports and other potential targets; and defend the northern border of North America alongside Canadian Forces.

"This is a great opportunity for the Guardsman who has not had the opportunity to mobilize overseas," Chavez said.



PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSE FLAGG



PHOTO BY 2ND LT. (CA) HEATHER J. HAGAN



**Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's visit to Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos to announce the state's new educational benefit for Guard members coincided with a change of command ceremony, as Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, the commander of the California Army National Guard, relinquished command of the 40th Infantry Division and passed the baton to Brig. Gen. Scott Johnson.**

# AF Teen Summit impacts lives

Military teens find common bond

Story and photo by Taylor Johnson

The Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summit was founded to inform teens about the benefits available to children of Airmen in the Guard or Reserve and to educate teens about what their parents' and other military forces do. What the brochure doesn't tell you is that the experience will change you forever.

Shortly after arriving at the Jekyll Island 4-H Center, which is part of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, the camp's 137 attendees were introduced to their counselors and the Southern humidity. We then moved into the dorms in which we would live from July 27-31.

Lunch and dinner the first day were spent over casual conversation as teens from 41 states — and one charming gal from a base in Germany — got to know each other. Introductions and small talk quickly morphed into serious conversations about similar interests and situations.

"It's really cool to see people from the Air Force who are in similar situations, and we all have that in common," said Jordan DeGraaf, who lives in Germany.

By the second day, we were ready to dive into activities. The Georgia Sea Turtle Center is located on Jekyll Island and proved to be very educational. The center's turtle hospital has about six large sea turtles and a few terrapins. Most of the sea turtles were having problems with their air blad-

ders when they were found floating in the ocean, unable to swim deeper.

While one group of teens was at the turtle hospital, other campers were on the docks on the opposite side of the island, hoping to see bottlenose dolphins, which are common around the island and aren't afraid to show their faces to eager tourists and locals.

"I will take with me the experiences I have taken part of in this camp, from sightseeing dolphins with my close friends to commanding a canoe with the assistance of my fellow leaders," said Mason Boschee of Tracy, Calif.

Wednesday, the third day, was bustling with activities. Campers chose two of five available classes about wildlife on the island. Far from boring classroom lectures, the classes included biking through the Historic District, canoeing in a natural pond, netting in the ocean, trekking through the marsh and walking along the beach. The afternoon was spent at a local water park, and that evening, we were in for a special treat. As if the day had not been exciting enough, the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve performed for us. The crowd screamed as guitarists laid down awesome solos and sang popular songs by artists such as Pink, U2 and Adele.

On Thursday, we were all feeling like the week was coming to a fast finish, but we ended with a bang. We crammed onto a boat for an hour-long ride to Cumberland



Campers board a tour boat for an hour-long sail to Cumberland Island near Saint Marys, Ga., during the The Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summit.

Island, a federal park known for its "leave no trace" forests, beaches and marshes. The island has a rich history that includes Timucua Indian settlements and a Revolutionary War hero who built on the Island in the late 18th century. Wild horses graze through the ruins of old homes, and foals frolic in the meadows. The Navy also used Cumberland's dense woods to forge the USS Constitution, which was nicknamed "Old Ironsides" in The War of 1812 because British canon fire bounced off the ship.

"My favorite activity was going to Cumberland Island, because I love seeing natural sites and wildlife as well as history," said Christina Reuter of Sacramento. "This [island] blended both magically. I would love to bring people to this place!"

Thursday night consisted of beach walks, a dance and movies that campers could enjoy at their own pace. The 4-H counselors were also a little emotional that night, when they read a poem, "If Once You Have Slept On

An Island," which I will not soon forget.

"This camp is different because the kids in it have more of a military connection with you than a civilian kid," said camper Andrew Donoghue of San Diego. "The military kids have a special personality that only other military [kids] can understand. The leaders also understand the problems that face us military children."

Friday rolled in too fast, and before we knew it, we were saying goodbye at the airport. After we all finally boarded the planes and parted ways, we were headed home. On the way, I couldn't help but flip through the photos on my camera. I looked at Cumberland, the stingray we caught, crazy pictures from the airport, and where my feet stepped on beautiful Jekyll Island.

I had a comical, delightful, priceless time at the Teen Summit, and I encourage all eligible teens to apply for this and other military camps for an unforgettable experience.

## 144th BEEFs up Guam base

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler | 144th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than 50 members of the 144th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) and four other members of the 144th Fighter Wing traveled to Guam — an island known for its pristine beaches, wildlife, natural beauty, diverse cultural history and rich military history — to take part in a mission at a remote regional training site for the Air Force's 554th Red Horse Squadron on Andersen Air Force Base.

Although they were challenged by stifling heat and erratic bursts of pouring rain, the 144th Airmen were able to greatly assist with a project to upgrade the base's Northwest Field. The upgrade included the construction of three K-span structures, which are pre-engineered steel buildings, from initial site surveys to finished electrical work.

The 5,000-square-foot structures are specially designed to withstand typhoons, which occur throughout the region, and will be used to store equipment for the 554th.

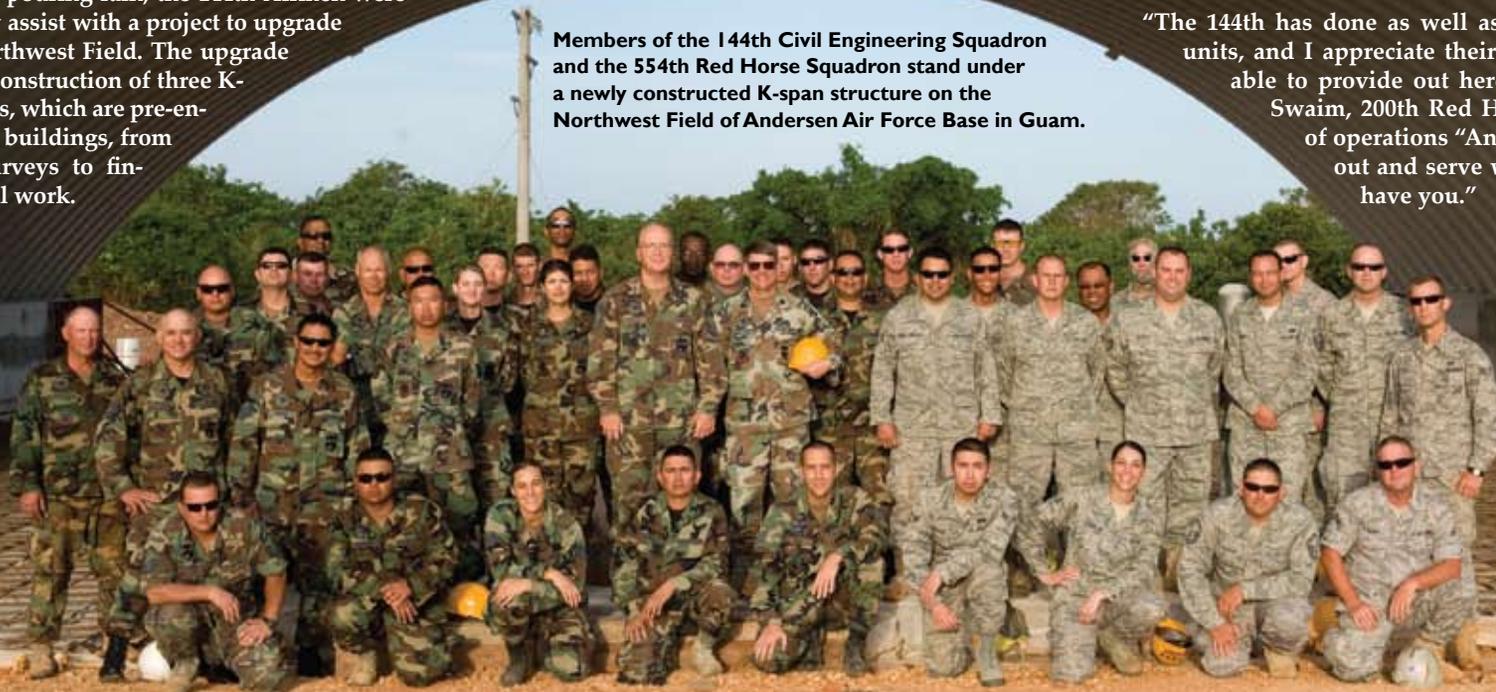
"It's been one of the best projects for the team, and it has been especially rich in training for us because we don't usually work with the variety of equipment being used on this K-span construction," said Lt. Col. Gary Kellogg,

commander of the 144th CES. "As a [Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF)] unit, it's normally not our forte to build K-spans, but we are getting valuable training on this project and we consider it an honor to be the only Prime BEEF unit tasked to this project."

The 15-day deployment was the 5th rotation to the site. The project is expected to require 10 rotations and be completed in mid-August.

"The 144th has done as well as any of the Red Horse units, and I appreciate their help that they've been able to provide out here," said Lt. Col. Joseph Swaim, 200th Red Horse Squadron director of operations "Anytime you want to come out and serve with us, we'd be glad to have you."

Members of the 144th Civil Engineering Squadron and the 554th Red Horse Squadron stand under a newly constructed K-span structure on the Northwest Field of Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.



# SOLDIER & NCO OF THE YEAR



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# Suicide prevention: One loss is too many



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen J. Haydt  
California National Guard Suicide Prevention Program Manager

During the past several months, all Soldiers have received the Army's latest suicide prevention training. The training began with an interactive video entitled "Beyond the Front," and the result of that intensive program was that all Soldiers have an enhanced knowledge of the warning signs and risk factors for someone who is in crisis. They also understand the need to eliminate the stigma associated with seeking help, so that Soldiers feel free to come forward and receive assistance when needed.

Once that training phase was completed, the focus narrowed to the platoon-sized level, providing Soldiers the opportunity to practice intervention techniques using the video "Shoulder-to-Shoulder: No Soldier Stands Alone" and several vignettes as a guide.

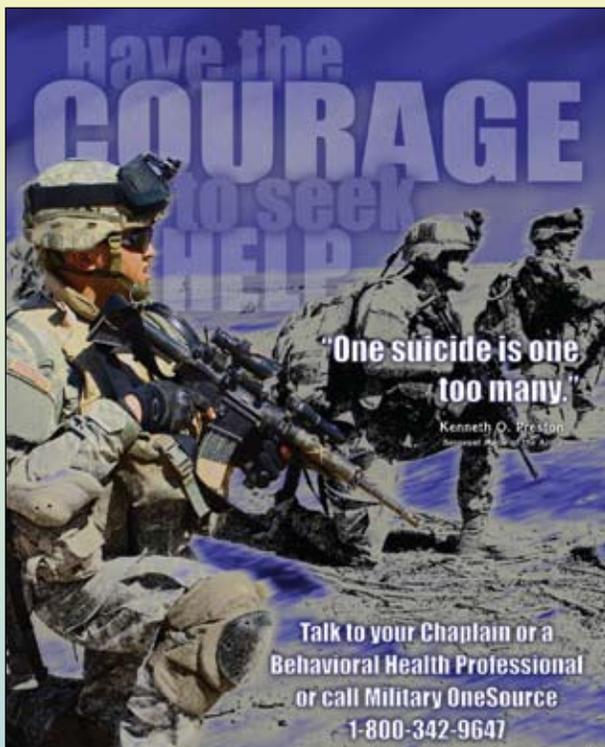
The final phase of the training, sustainment, will be conducted annually. The core emphasis of that program is the main intervention concept: Ask, Care and Escort, or ACE. There are ACE venues for all members of the military community — including Soldiers, families of Soldiers and civilian employees of the Department of Defense — to ensure that we are vigilant on all sides of the battlefield.

There are also many outstanding organizations to assist you with techniques to build resiliency or care for a Soldier or family member in crisis.

September is Suicide Prevention Month in the Army National Guard, and Sept. 6-12 is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Improving Our Soldiers' and Families' Health: A Healthy Force Combating High-Risk Behaviors."

All units have been encouraged to hold events during September to promote suicide-prevention awareness among Soldiers and their families. For example, Soldiers have organized prayer breakfasts, 5K runs and walks and other events involving local organizations such as the Veterans Administration and the American Red Cross.

Now that Soldiers are more adept at identifying fellow Soldiers in crisis, what is the process for intervention?



First and foremost, commanders must assure Soldiers that their main concern is the welfare of the Soldier. Then they should address the issues that have led the Soldier down the path of suicidal tendency and seek counsel from an appropriate agency, such as the California National Guard's Mental Health Office, Chaplain's Office or Joint Substance Abuse Program Office. Commanders must also ensure there is a safe, confidential environment that allows Soldiers to come forward to ask for help in their time of need.

If the Soldier requires hospital care, the commander will need to determine if a Fitness for Duty Evaluation (FFDE) is warranted upon completion of all follow-up treatments. This request should only be initiated if the commander believes the Soldier's condition is affecting his or her mission capabilities. The Mental Health Office is the commander's adviser in such a matter.

## Suicide Prevention Resources

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** is available 24 hours a day: (800) 273-TALK  
Para español: (888) 628-9454  
[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

- **California National Guard Mental Health Office** assists units and Soldiers in obtaining professional care and provides guidance 24 hours a day: (916) 854-4492  
[www.calguard.ca.gov/mh](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/mh)

- **Cal Guard Peer-to-Peer Training Program** educates Soldiers on posttraumatic emotions and factors leading to suicidal behavior: [www.calguard.ca.gov/jl](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/jl) (Peer-to-Peer Support link on left side of the page)

- **Cal Guard State Chaplain's Office** provides spiritual leadership, ministry and grief counseling : (916) 854-3398  
For 24-hour service: (888) 939-1754  
<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/Chaplain>

- **Give an Hour** provides free mental health services for military personnel: [www.giveanhour.org](http://www.giveanhour.org)

- **Military OneSource** will coordinate up to six free counseling sessions: (800) 342-9647  
[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

- **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors** provides grief support services: (800) 959-TAPS  
[www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)

The bottom line is that it takes personal courage to come forward to say, "I need help," or to ask a Soldier or family member, "Are you planning to kill yourself?" This trait should be admired — not shadowed by disgrace.



The 40th Combat Aviation Brigade spent 31 days training on the assembly and operation of the tactical operations center.

## 40th CAB trains on tactical operations center

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class David P. Coss  
40th Combat Aviation Brigade

On July 7, the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) fielded its newest piece of field equipment, the tactical operations center (TOC).

Select Soldiers from battalions throughout the 40th CAB converged in Fresno, Calif., to begin 31 days of intensive training on the new TOC. Training included management of trailer-mounted equipment; structure assembly, construction, disassembly and storage; forward arming and refueling point operations; generator maintenance operations; and support operations.

During the initial training phases, daily temperatures reached record highs for the Fresno area, with Soldiers working in temperatures in excess of 110 degrees most days. This situation placed Soldiers in a real world training environment and required a very high level of

attention to detail, said Sgt. 1st Class Norvell Watson, senior medic for the 40th CAB.

The TOC is based on the Standard Integrated Command Post System (SICPS) family of equipment, which integrates command, control, communication, computer, intelligence and reconnaissance technology into platforms supporting the CAB. SICPS will allow the brigade staff to plan, prepare and execute aviation operations digitally while simultaneously being able to collaborate and share information with subordinate organizations in near-real-time.

Within the SICPS center, the 40th CAB utilized some of the newest battlefield systems, including the Command Post of the Future, which enables Soldiers to visualize the operational environment and synchronize elements

of combat power. It also enables users to see and interact with one another's workspaces, tools, data and maps as if they were interacting with their own tools.

On July 21, annual training for the 40th CAB brought the remainder of the Fresno-based CAB headquarters into the picture, and operations turned from training into an evaluation event to ensure the CAB was fully prepared to begin operations on its own. Work days were typically 13 to 15 hours long and involved multiple battle drills that simulated real-world combat situations.

Members of the 640th Aviation Support Battalion provided logistical and fuel support to the operations, allowing environmental and communications systems to remain running for the duration of the event.

# 2009 OCS GRADUATES



Chris Browne



Jeff Chaix



William Chen



Phillip Clardy



Sarah Cooley



Jose Diaz-Valdez



Raymond Duchene



Sheila Fedor-Babot



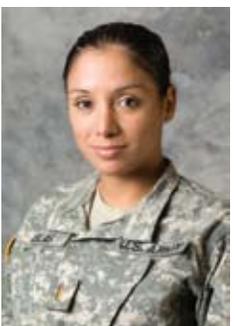
Enrique Garcia



Jose Gonzales



Rovertto Hernandez



Ericka Islas



Luchano B. Jones



Christyn Kidwell



Rebecca Kipper



Michael Langton



Mayra Ledesma



Esteban G. Lepe



Rotona Long



Aaron Montes



Jeremy Navarre



Leobardo Orona



Chris Price



Marcellus Richardson



Michael Schumacher



Steve Slattery



Steve Sonza



Rachel Sosa



Phetsvan Sullivan



Brian Vierria



David Windhorst



Sean Woolridge

## News & Benefits

### More than \$7m of 'green' job training available for veterans

The U.S. Department of Labor will provide approximately 3,000 veterans with a total of more than \$7.5 million of job training to help them succeed in civilian careers through 17 new grants established under the Labor Department's Veterans' Workforce Investment Program.

Training opportunities for "green" jobs in fields such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, modern electric-power development and clean vehicles will receive top priority under the program.

Grants are being awarded on a competitive basis to state and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies and nonprofits, including faith-based and community organizations.

Through the program, veterans receive skill assessments, job counseling, labor-market information, classroom or on-the-job training, skills upgrading and retraining, placement assistance and follow-up services.

For more information, visit [www.doleta.gov](http://www.doleta.gov) and look for the "Green Jobs" header.

### DID YOU KNOW...

**that military food served to family members must be purchased as a meal, and that food prepared at home cannot be served with military food?**

The installation commander is authorized to serve food to dependents of military personnel and other civilians as appropriate, as long as those meals are purchased from the military.

The military requires that military-prepared food and food prepared outside military facilities be served separately. For Army personnel, food prepared at home and brought into armories must be labeled as "home-prepared food." For Air Force personnel, military-prepared food cannot be co-mingled with food prepared outside a military facility. Military units may hold "potluck" events at which all food is prepared at outside sources.

For more information, see AR 30-22, AFI 34-239, TB MED 530 and DoD Instruction 1338.10, Department of Defense Food Service Program. Army personnel may also visit the Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence at [www.quartermaster.army.mil/aces](http://www.quartermaster.army.mil/aces). Air Force Personnel may visit the Air Force Services Agency headquarters at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil>.



First responders stand atop the Pentagon during the Pentagon Memorial dedication ceremony September, 11, 2008. The first responders in the ceremony were among the first firefighters, police officers and other rescue workers to arrive after American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.  
Photo by Robert D. Ward

## Grizzly Newsmagazine

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