

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard

Guard kids:
Design April's cover!
See page 19.



Mission complete



CNG contributions enabled Iraqi progress

6



CNG mourns Spc. Sean Walsh, KIA

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Leadership Corner

Battling bureaucracy head-on

Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin



On the battlefield and in emergency response operations, CNG troops are focused and determined. Quitting or accepting defeat is not in our culture. When a challenge presents itself, we find a way over, around or through that obstacle, and we get the job done.

Our mission at home is two-fold — training and service member care — and we must bring the same operational “make it happen” attitude to those duties that we bring to the war fight.

The California Military Department has made great strides in the past year, but we still see staff processes and policies that are vestiges of another era. Soldiers and Airmen have encountered bureaucratic red tape that slows down or stalls actions vital to their well-being.

Our full-time service members and employees of the California Military Department work throughout the week to support our traditional National Guard force. I expect those full-time Soldiers and Airmen, who cannot be stopped when lives are on the line in their M-Day roles, to bring that same perseverance to tearing down red tape in their office duties. Your mindset should be the same when you come to work every day as it would be in the-

If you find yourself explaining to a service member that the system is broken, you must seize that opportunity to engage the issue with the service member and find a way to improve the system for your fellow service members.

**- Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin
The Adjutant General**

ater: selfless service.

When unique or recurring problems arise, the California National Guard way is to aggressively pursue alternative solutions. This should be doubly true when caring for our

brothers in arms and their families. If you find yourself explaining to a service member that the system is broken, you must seize that opportunity to engage the issue *with* the service member and find a way to improve the system for your fellow service members.

Support staffs should aim to proactively identify and resolve service member and civil service employee issues in an effective and timely manner. This requires hard work to build on the progress we’ve made in the past year, but I am confident we will succeed. If you are a Soldier or Airman facing a bureaucratic difficulty impeding your care, help us identify the problem and offer recommendations to fix it.

I also challenge leaders at every level of the California Guard to reduce obstacles to service member care, within regulatory and ethical guidance, through unit-level policy and attitude.

We cannot be one force in the field and another in the office. We are a unified California National Guard that works full-speed and full-bore to accomplish our goals. Do not succumb to obstacles in our way; turn them into paths to success.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Sahr

Spc. Brian Quinonez competes Sept. 14 in the CNG’s annual Best Warrior Competition, showing the determination that is emblematic of the California National Guard force. Full-time Guard members and administrative personnel should bring that same determination to their jobs in support of traditional National Guard members, said Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the California National Guard.



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Submissions

Articles:

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

Photographs:

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

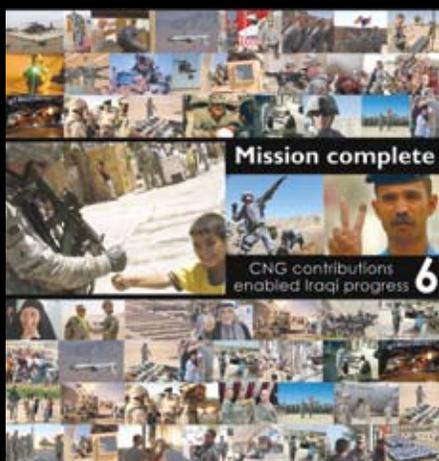
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Cover Shot



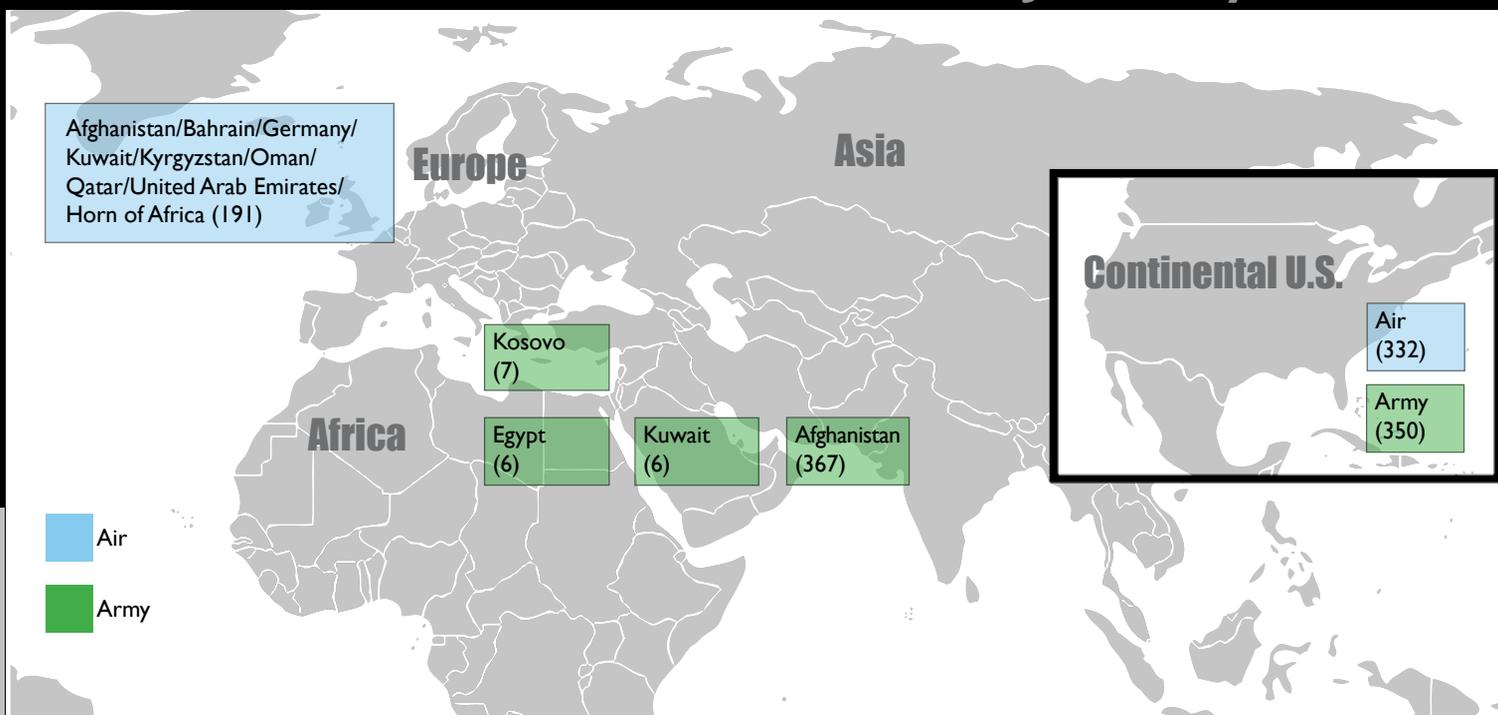
Mission complete

CNG contributions enabled Iraqi progress

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Photo Illustration by
Senior Airman Jessica Green

California National Guard mobilizations as of January 2012



The California National Guard mobilized more than 13,500 service members during the course of nearly nine years of conflict in Iraq. Their varied missions contributed to Iraq's future in countless ways.

Guardisman gave all for his country

Spc. Sean Michael Walsh, killed by indirect fire in Afghanistan, was due to return home in one month

By **SPC. EDDIE SIGUENZA**
69th Public Affairs Detachment

Gripping a U.S. flag, one of nearly 70 peacefully flying as the casket of Spc. Sean Michael Walsh passed by, Greg Grace almost imperceptibly reached out his free hand. Eyes closed, he mumbled words no one heard, not even his fellow Patriot Guard Riders flanking him. "I reached out to touch him," the Army veteran said. "I just prayed, prayed for him and his family. I wanted him to know he has our respect. He risked his life for the sake of others. He truly has our respect."

Walsh, 21, gave his life Nov. 16 in Afghanistan while serving with the California National Guard's 870th Military Police Company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Killed by indirect fire, he was laid to rest Dec. 3 in San Jose with full military honors. Sadly, Walsh died only a month before the 870th was due to return home.

"It's the hardest day of my life, not the worst," the Soldier's mother, Cheryl Walsh, said at his funeral. "The worst is the day he died. The hardest is saying goodbye to him."

She will never say goodbye, however, to the cherished memories of her boy, who became a man and developed passions for the military and law enforcement.

In addition to being a dedicated Soldier, Walsh was an enthusiastic member of the Santa Clara Police Activities League's Police Explorers program, which prepares youngsters for careers in law enforcement. Walsh joined the Explorers in 2007 and had since contributed hundreds of hours of community service and taken part in many ride-alongs through the program. Walsh had planned to enter college and apply to the Santa Clara Police Department's cadet program upon returning from Afghanistan.

"Sean was a team player and knew what it meant to support the people he worked with," said Officer Bill Davis, executive director of the Santa Clara Police Activities League. "Sean could just as easily have stayed at home, gone to school and have pursued his goal of being a police officer. Instead, by running toward danger — just as police

officers do every day — Sean found one more way to serve not only his community but his country."

According to Davis, Walsh said he joined the Explorers Program, "because I love law enforcement and I want to learn more about the profession."

Explorer cadet Brian Garcia, one of Walsh's closest friends, said Walsh will be remembered as a great person who was liked by everyone. "Every time that he found somebody in a stressful situation or just having a down day, he'd always find a way to make you laugh," Garcia said. "No matter what the situation was, he'd always find a way to get your spirit up."

Walsh followed three previous generations of military service in his family, including a grandfather who served with the Army in World War II.

California National Guard leaders joined police officers, community leaders, friends and relatives as Walsh was remembered Dec. 3 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Saratoga, Calif. He received his final prayers and respects, and Cheryl Walsh accepted her son's Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal and California Meritorious Service Medal.

Walsh took his final resting place that day only a few feet from a memorial topped by an eagle with the words "Let's Roll" etched in marble. The memorial honors the victims of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001 — one of the incidents that ignited Operation Enduring Freedom and ultimately sent Walsh to war in Afghanistan.

"Today we honor the courage and sacrifice [Walsh] took upon himself when he joined his fellow military policemen and headed over to make Afghanistan a safer place," Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the California National Guard, said Dec. 3. "Take some comfort in knowing that all Americans are deeply indebted for his sacrifice."

Less than an hour later, Cheryl Walsh tearfully accepted her son's flag, presented by Baldwin in a traditional mili-



Photo courtesy of Cheryl Walsh

Spc. Sean M. Walsh

Spc. Sean Michael Walsh died Nov. 16, 2011, from the impact of an indirect fire round while conducting physical training on the outskirts of Camp Clark, Afghanistan. He is survived by his mother, Cheryl Walsh, and father, Kenneth Walsh, as well as many other family members.

Walsh was born in Upland, Calif., on Aug. 8, 1990. He enlisted in Detachment 2, 870th Military Police Company, California Army National Guard, in Sunnyvale, Calif., on Oct. 20, 2008. On Nov. 5, 2008, then-Private Walsh was attached to Detachment 2, Recruit Sustainment Program, at Camp Parks, Calif. He attended Basic and Advanced Individual Training in 2009, and during this period was advanced to private first class and awarded the military occupational specialty of military police. On Nov. 12, 2009, Walsh was advanced to specialist.

In December 2010, Walsh was ordered to active duty for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with the 870th Military Police Company.

Among other awards and decorations, Walsh earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal and Combat Action Badge.

tary sign of gratitude. She then quoted her son, reading to the mourners a message from Sean's Facebook page: "I learned to live life and not just take things for granted. Live for today, because you might not see tomorrow."



LEFT: Members of the CNG Veterans Honors Program prepare to fold a flag to be presented to Cheryl Walsh, mother of Spc. Sean M. Walsh, during the Soldier's funeral Dec. 3 at Oak Hill Funeral Home in San Jose. Walsh was killed by indirect fire Nov. 16 while conducting physical training on Camp Clark, Afghanistan. **RIGHT:** Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the California National Guard, presents the flag to Cheryl Walsh.

Photos by SPC. Eddie Siguenza

578th takes over for 1249th

Task Force Mad Dog assumes Afghanistan engineering mission

By **1ST LT. ADAM CARRINGTON** and
SPC. MARIO CALIX
578th Engineer Battalion Public Affairs

The 578th Engineer Battalion from Manhattan Beach, Calif., and the 1249th Engineer Battalion of Salem, Ore., held a transfer of authority ceremony to mark the end of the 1249th's participation in Operation Enduring Freedom and the start of the 578th assuming duty as the 1249th's replacement in Paktika province, Afghanistan.

A Soldier from the Afghan National Army participated in the event as a member of a color guard. The flags of the United States and Afghanistan were raised side-by-side to symbolize the countries' partnership.

"Because of our hard work here, this country has changed for the better, and we are proud about it," said Lt. Col. Kevin Dial, commander of the 1249th. "Our partnership [with the Afghan National Army] has come a long way. "I hope that it will continue to grow with the 578th."

The partnership between Afghan and U.S. engineers is a critical part of operations, officials said, because of the heavy demand for route clearance assets to remove improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from the roads of Afghanistan. IEDs are the No. 1 cause of U.S. casualties in the country.

Members of the 578th Engineer Battalion, known as Task Force Mad Dog, recently came together with Afghan National Army engineers at Forward Operating Base Sharana to discuss the continued importance of a strong partnership between American and Afghan forces as the 1249th Engineers return home.

After exchanging gifts and words of gratitude, Lt. Col. Richard Rabe, commander of the 578th, Dial and Brig. Gen. Zamaray Khan of the ANA's 2nd Brigade enjoyed an authentic Afghan meal prepared by the ANA.

"We have enjoyed working with the 1249th and look forward to working with the 578th," Khan said.



Lt. Col. Richard Rabe, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Baker unveil the 578th Engineer Battalion colors at Forward Operating Base Sharana, Afghanistan, on Nov 23.

Photo by 1st Lt. Adam Carrington

E! celebrity Ashlan Gorse parties with 79th BSTB

By **MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY**
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

The trend of celebrities appearing at military balls continued last month as a CNG unit brought Hollywood to the dance floor. Ashlan Gorse, a host for E! News, attended the 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Ball at the San Diego Air & Space Museum on Dec. 4 after accepting an invitation from the unit.

"I was in the receiving line before entering the event and saw a tall woman I didn't recognize as one of our commanders," said Spc. Angelique Tanner. "When I was introduced, she treated me like Hollywood and said thank you for what I do."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel Shemanski, Staff Sgt. Carlos Altamirano, Sgt. Scott Boatwright and Spc. Rudy Rangel of the 79th BSTB asked Gorse to attend after hearing of other Hollywood stars attending recent Marine Corps balls as service members' dates. "We joked around about some of the male stars not looking good in ball gowns and then the conversation led to inviting someone who would look good in a dress," Boatwright said.

A YouTube video quickly emerged, which within the same day had several hits, including Gorse herself. The video request soon turned into a date with a celebrity. "I said yes because of what they do for our country, and they are cool guys," she said at the ball. "This is an amazing honor."

The troops have been fans of Gorse for years and figured it was a longshot that she would attend. They worked on their video for several days and produced three versions before posting it to the Internet. "The first [version] was a two-minute comedy, and we finally were able to reduce it to a simple, to-the-point, 15-second message," Altamirano said. "We even have a bloop video we posted afterwards on how we made the video, including Chief Shemanski warming his vocals and staring in the mirror for a half an hour."

The E! News host heard about the invitation through singer Michelle Penn, a friend of Gorse's who also attended the ball and performed as a part of her Welcome Me Home project to help military families support their injured warriors. "It was a no-brainer," Gorse said. "I try to give back as much as I can."



E! News anchor Ashlan Gorse enjoys the 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Ball with Sgt. Scott Boatwright, left, Staff Sgt. Carlos Altamirano and Spc. Rudy Rangel on Dec. 4.

Photo by 1st Lt. Adam Carrington

Family night preps support system for deployment

By **MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY**
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

The last block was set on top of a tower as children gathered around with smiles after completing the project together Nov. 4 on March Air Reserve Base, Calif. Building blocks of childhood are sometimes missed by parents in the National Guard as deployments come and go, but during the 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) family night, bonds were built and no blocks were missed. Camouflage netting and other items that reminded attendees of the CES' upcoming deployment were visible throughout the event, yet the room was filled with laughter. The CES will deploy more than 50 Airmen to Afghanistan early this year.

"Plans are being made to keep our families strong and ... resilient," said Beth Villafranca, wife of Tech Sgt. Anthony Villafranca. "I believe we can make this a positive time in our lives and allow our families to grow out of this experience through bringing each other together."

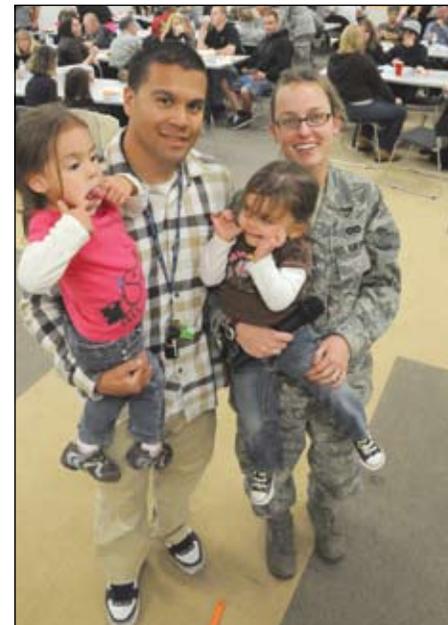
As squadron members are called to duty eight time zones away, their families will support them on the homefront — a support system much like the tower of blocks on family night, officials said. The blocks symbolize the strength of the deploying Airmen as well as the relationships being built throughout the Guard family. "We are going to have some creative outings amongst our families," said Jan Winchester, wife of Maj. Philip Winchester. "It will help us to speak about things we are all going through and will help our children see they are not the only ones."

Spouses such as Blanca Martinez met with other spouses during the event as well as with CES members who will stay in California when the CES deploys. Martinez plans to stay connected with the unit so her son will know what his dad is doing for his country and will have other children to relate to during his father's time away.

Family members are planning several

gatherings during the deployment so they can come together as a support system. The Guard's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program will host some of the events. "It's amazing to see the family members bond with each other during the Yellow Ribbon events. Many of them find lifelong friendships," said Master Sgt. Donald Hedge, family readiness assistant for the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing, the CES' higher headquarters. "The Yellow Ribbon events ... help [family members] cope with the challenges that arise while their loved ones are deployed."

Having met at the pre-mobilization family night, spouses will likely be more comfortable seeking support from each other, said Senior Airman Jessica Abrego, lead coordinator for the event. "Everyone in the room can relate to each other and their emotions they are experiencing right now," she said. "This was a way to bring them together to meet each other prior to deployment ... and not just strangers calling one another after the plane takes off."



Senior Airman Jessica Abrego of the 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron and her family enjoy a pre-deployment event Nov. 5 on March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey

A new dawn in Iraq

CNG helped shape the future for fledgling democracy

By **BRANDON HONIG**
California Military Department Public Affairs

For the first time in almost nine years, the CNG has no units deployed to Iraq. For many service members and their families, such as those who met the 297th Area Support Medical Company at its homecoming in December, the end of operations in Iraq may come as a relief. For others, including so many who served there, the transition marks the end of an era that saw the National Guard transform from a force focused on the homeland to one that was routinely deployed to the front lines of combat. Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn (September 2010 through December 2011) demanded great risks and great cost from the U.S. military, as starkly evidenced by the 26 CNG Soldiers who paid the ultimate price, sacrificing their own lives to secure the lives and safety of others, and ultimately to provide a future for a new nation.

During this time, the California Army National Guard sent more than 12,000 troops to Iraq and Kuwait, mostly for yearlong tours. The California Air National Guard mobilized 1,500 members at home and abroad in support of operations in Iraq and continued a presence in the Middle East that began in 1991 at the end of the Persian Gulf War.

The sacrifices of those Soldiers were part of a broad effort to oust a tyrannical dictator, create institutions of government that could support and care for a country of 30 million people, and build infrastructure that would enable its people to thrive. "Without the contribution of the California National Guard, the U.S. Army could not have had the accomplishments it did, could not have met the goals that it set, could not have achieved the success that it had in Iraq," said Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, commander of the California Army National Guard, who served two year-long tours in Iraq with the 49th Military Police (MP) Brigade. "What we did collectively is to give the country of Iraq a chance to succeed. They had no chance before, with Saddam Hussein, and they would have had no chance had the Army not tried to give them a lift."

THE COST OF WAR

U.S. combat operations in Iraq began March 19, 2003, and Baghdad was taken by coalition forces April 9. Unfortunately the violence was just beginning, and the CNG experienced its first fatality in Iraq on Aug. 11, 2003, as Staff Sgt. David Perry of the 649th Military Police Company was killed when a suspicious package he was inspecting exploded. Six more CNG Soldiers were killed in action in 2004, including MPs, infantrymen and engineers, as U.S. forces tried to control the sectarian violence that raged across Iraq in the wake of Saddam Hussein's ouster.

The CNG experienced its greatest loss of life in 2005, as 10 Cal Guard Soldiers died in action, including nine serving with the Cal Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment. The year was much worse than that for the 1-184th, however, as eight Soldiers from outside the CNG who were assigned to serve with the 1-184th were killed as well, bringing the battalion's tragic death toll to 17.

"Every inch of ground we held was very expensive – not with money, but by the blood our brothers-in-arms shed," Capt. Guillermo Adame, then the commander of Company A, 1-184th, said in 2008 after the 1-184th received the Valorous Unit Award and Earned-Honor Device. The award is the unit equivalent of the Silver Star and is the second-highest unit decoration given by the Army, following only the Presidential Unit Citation. "We regret the price that some of our brothers had to pay – the ultimate sacrifice,

the real price of freedom – but we are proud their sacrifice will be remembered forever."

Sgt. Maj. Robert Matey, who served in Iraq as first sergeant for Company A, 1-184th, said the veterans of that Iraq tour share a bond that will never be broken. "The main thing is making sure [our fallen brothers] remain remembered," he said in January 2012. "We keep in touch with their families the best we can. [Battalion] Soldiers are very involved with their children they left behind. And one armory has been named after a 184 fallen Soldier in Auburn."

"We experienced great hardships, and some people are still living those hardships, but the brotherhood network reaches far and wide," Matey continued. "I don't think you'll find a tighter-knit unit or alumni than the 184."

In the southern Baghdad area, 1-184th Soldiers cleared routes, operated checkpoints, improved civic infrastructure, trained Iraqi security forces, provided humanitarian assistance and critical site security, and performed cordon-and-search operations and air assault raids. The battalion's stability and security operations enabled Iraq to hold elections that established its first democratic government in decades. During the constitutional referendum in October 2005, the 1-184th conducted its largest combat operation, Operation Clean Sweep, which was recognized by then-President George W. Bush in his Veterans Day address.

"In our area, it was the No. 1 al-Qaeda hot spot of Baghdad," Matey said. "Some of the most wanted people in Iraq [were in] our sector ... but by the time we left, there was a significant drop in [improvised explosive device detonations] and we had captured at least three major bomb-making cells."

In addition to the 26 CNG lives lost in Iraq, 246 Cal Guard members were wounded in action, and many more carry with them the memories of traumatic events.

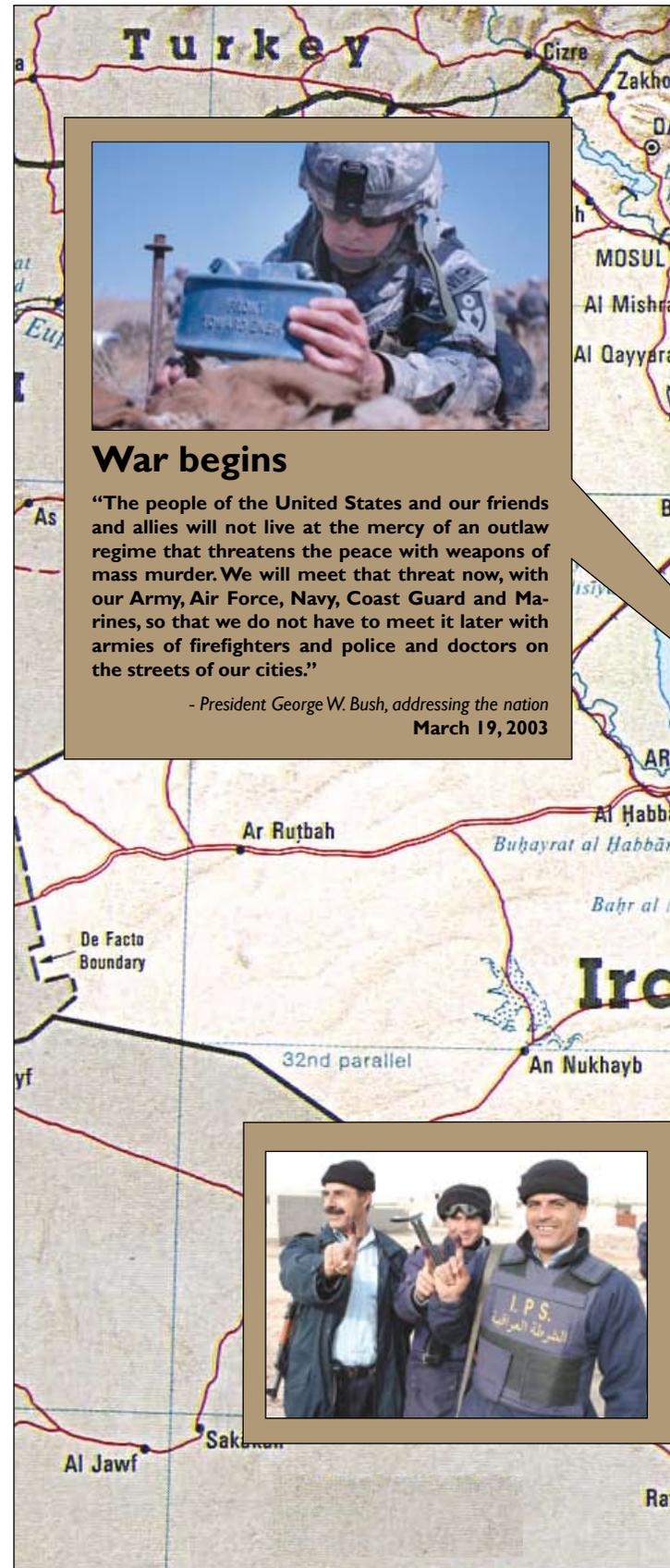
THE YEAR OF THE POLICE

The Defense Department and State Department designated 2006 as The Year of the Police in Iraq, and the CNG played a major role. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th MP Brigade, reached Iraq in October 2005 and took over a mission that included more than 3,000 troops under its command. The brigade created and distributed 200 police transition teams, or PTTs, to 15 of Iraq's 18 provinces. The PTTs comprised military policemen, international police liaison officers and linguists who worked at the station, district and provincial levels to assist Iraqi police in every aspect of developing a professional police force.

"What we did was contribute to the infrastructure in the country of Iraq that formed the basis of some really huge improvements," Currier said. "What the 49th MP Brigade did is to coach, mentor and train Iraqi police at every echelon, from every patrol car to the minister of the interior."

Outside of its daunting mission, the brigade faced additional challenges because it had been deactivated after the Persian Gulf War. The brigade was reactivated in January 2005 to perform its mission in Iraq and deployed to Texas for pre-mobilization training in June of that year. "We just didn't have an MP brigade and people with MP experience, so we had to draw on MPs at every echelon left in the Cal Guard and bring people in from other units that had never been MPs before," Currier said.

Currier and the brigade returned to Iraq in 2009 with an



War begins

"The people of the United States and our friends and allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder. We will meet that threat now, with our Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines, so that we do not have to meet it later with armies of firefighters and police and doctors on the streets of our cities."

- President George W. Bush, addressing the nation
March 19, 2003



even broader mission that included police training and prisoner detention. The 49th was the only MP brigade ever tasked with both those facets of the MP mission in Iraq.

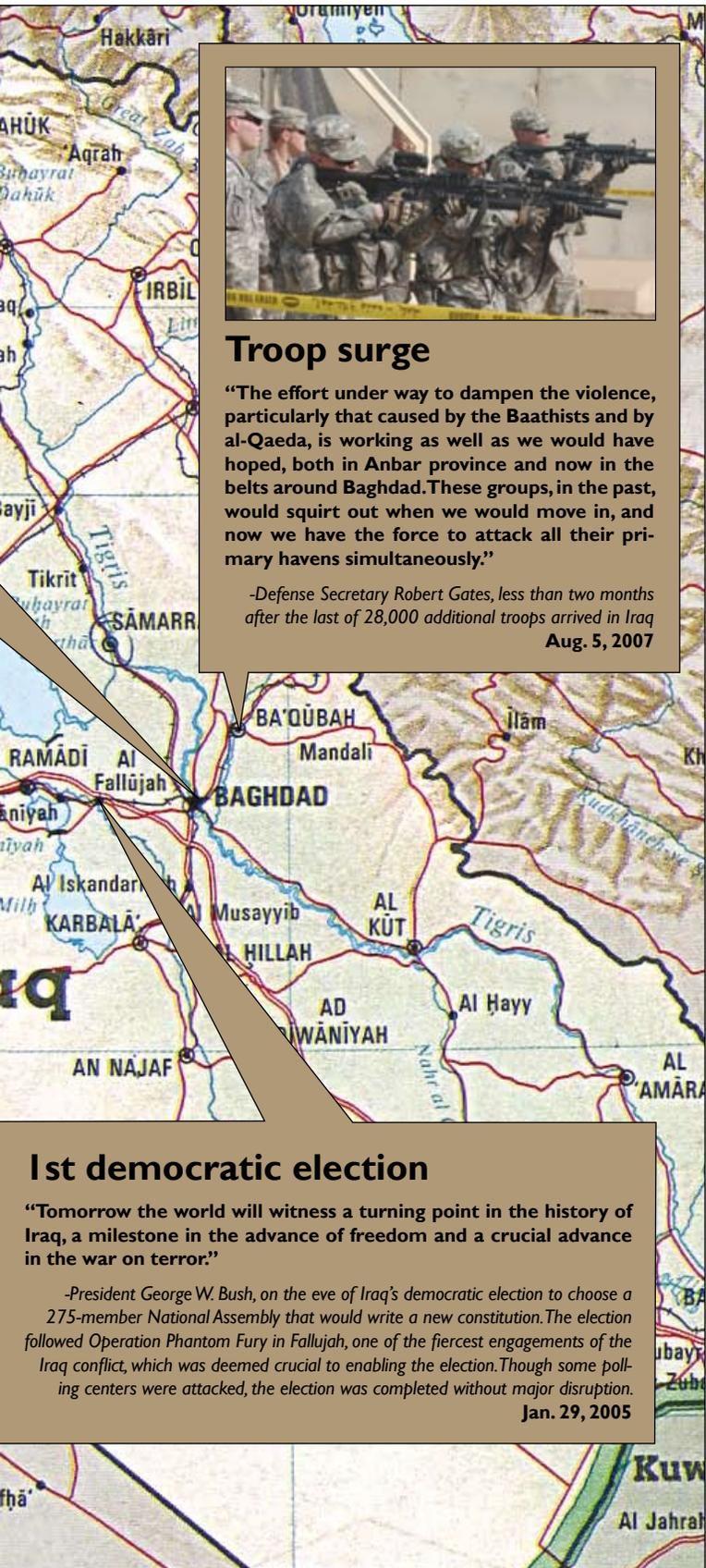
Upon arriving in Iraq in 2009, Currier noticed a vast improvement in security from his previous tour. "Four years ago, the security situation was terrible. The police were not capable, and all we could teach were basic survival and tactical skills," he said July 27, 2010, at the end of his second tour. "During this tour, on the other hand, the security situation is greatly improved. We were actually able to help them learn techniques of policing in a free society."

Lt. Gen. Robert W. Cone, deputy commander of operations for U.S. Forces-Iraq, said the brigade's achievements had made a great impression on the Iraqi people. "In 2007, only 44 percent of the Iraqi people had confidence in the Iraqi

9 years
in Iraq



<p>March 19 War Begins U.S. initiates combat operations in Iraq.</p>	<p>April 9 Baghdad Falls U.S. forces move into central Baghdad and take control of Iraq's capital city.</p>	<p>January 30 Free Elections Held Iraq holds its first democratic elections in 50 years (see map above). The biggest winner is the United Iraqi Alliance, a broad coalition of Shiite politicians.</p>	<p>April 22 New Prime Minister Shiite leaders select Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, one of their more conservative, forceful and outspoken, as prime minister.</p>	<p>April 11 Tour of Duty Defense Secretary Robert Gates announces a 3-month extension of duty for all Soldiers serving year-long tours in Iraq or Afghanistan.</p>
<p>2003</p>	<p>2004</p>	<p>2005</p>	<p>2006</p>	<p>2007</p>
<p>December 13 Saddam Captured With intelligence obtained from bodyguards and relatives, U.S. forces find dictator Saddam Hussein in a "spider hole" in Tikrit.</p>	<p>November 7 Battle for Fallujah Operation Phantom Fury, a U.S.-led attack against insurgent strongholds in Fallujah, results in a victory for the coalition.</p>	<p>December 15 First Parliamentary Elections Millions of Iraqis cast ballots to elect a parliament for a four-year term.</p>	<p>November 5 Saddam's Day in Court Hussein's trial ends with a death sentence. He is hanged Dec. 30 after being found guilty of crimes against humanity.</p>	<p>January 10 Troop Surge President Bush declares that the only way to quell sectarian violence is to send more than 20,000 additional troops into combat.</p>



Troop surge

“The effort under way to dampen the violence, particularly that caused by the Baathists and by al-Qaeda, is working as well as we would have hoped, both in Anbar province and now in the belts around Baghdad. These groups, in the past, would squirt out when we would move in, and now we have the force to attack all their primary havens simultaneously.”

-Defense Secretary Robert Gates, less than two months after the last of 28,000 additional troops arrived in Iraq
Aug. 5, 2007

1st democratic election

“Tomorrow the world will witness a turning point in the history of Iraq, a milestone in the advance of freedom and a crucial advance in the war on terror.”

-President George W. Bush, on the eve of Iraq’s democratic election to choose a 275-member National Assembly that would write a new constitution. The election followed Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah, one of the fiercest engagements of the Iraq conflict, which was deemed crucial to enabling the election. Though some polling centers were attacked, the election was completed without major disruption.
Jan. 29, 2005

police’s ability to provide security,” he said in 2010. “Today that level has risen to 72 percent. ... The 49th’s PTTs helped build that trust by showing their Iraqi counterparts how to do it right.”

SUPPORTING UNITS, CITIZENS

One of the largest CNG deployments of 2010 saw 300 “Dragon Slayers” of the 224th Sustainment Brigade depart for the unit’s second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Responsible for managing supplies, transportation and maintenance for nearly 2/3 of the coalition’s area of operations, the 224th served as the command element for five battalions. Prior to the 224th’s arrival, two brigades were handling the same responsibilities.

Their mission was further complicated by the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq: When the 224th arrived, it was tasked with helping close nearly 200 military bases, which included moving 20,000 vehicles out of the country and setting up 20 smaller

bases and six hubs. “It was challenging, and we worked a lot of long hours to be able to support and meet the mission and synchronize in helping base closures,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Magda Mayo, who worked in support operations. “But once the drawdown began and we were able to establish lines of communication with units throughout the region, it went well.”

Outside of her duty assignment, Mayo contributed to the well-being of local citizens by spearheading an effort to send clothes, toiletries and school supplies to poor communities near Contingency Operating Base Adder, where the 224th was stationed. She collaborated in the effort with two interpreters who worked on the base and lived nearby. “It was gratifying to give to the community and help out the interpreters in assisting their community,” she said. “In addition to being able to help people who need it, then [the Iraqis] have a good feeling about us. Let’s face it, U.S. Soldiers get a bad rap — that we’re not humanized and don’t care — but we do want to help them out.”

Mayo’s initiative was one of many charitable efforts undertaken by CNG Soldiers who took time away from their busy schedules to solicit donations from back home and arrange logistics to deliver toys, shoes, medical supplies and other essentials to Iraqi adults and children in need. Lt. Col. Robert Blessing, the brigade chaplain, for example, led an effort to acquire 220 soccer balls for Iraqi children while the 224th was there in 2010 and 2011. He had previously served with the 1-184th Infantry Battalion when it deployed to Iraq in 2005, and he saw members of that unit initiate many other charitable drives, such as expeditions to bring medical attention to up to 500 patients in a single day in a nearby village and an effort to create a four-wheel cycle for a child who had lost his legs. “Bringing ourselves out there to help those people also helped Soldiers get a grasp that these were real people — family members like our kids and families,” Blessing said. “It made us realize we were fighting for the health of these families, not just a country or a political party. We were trying to keep our friends who we developed alive.”

Another way CNG units helped keep their Iraqi friends alive was by building and renovating hospitals, water treatment plants, electrical power stations, police stations, roads and airports throughout the country. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD), Engineer Brigade, 40th Infantry Division (ID), earned a Meritorious Unit Commendation from the secretary of the U.S. Army for completing those types of projects while deployed from May 13, 2006, to May 8, 2007.

Col. (CA) Michael L. Herman, who commanded the HHD, said he is most proud that his unit doubled the proportion of the Iraqi population with access to clean, potable water. “In the U.S. we’re used to turning on the tap and having the water come out clean, but that’s not something they’re used to in Iraq,” Herman said in 2009, when the unit received its commendation. “Clean water affects infant mortality, it affects health, it affects the ability of children to grow into healthy adults with strong bodies and strong bones. It affects their control of disease.”

UP IN THE AIR

As the U.S. Army’s mission in Iraq began to draw to a close in 2010 and 2011, the CNG’s operational tempo remained high and even picked up in some areas, notably in the aviation realm.

In October 2010, more than 300 Soldiers of the CNG’s 1st Battalion (Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment, arrived in Iraq, where the unit controlled about thirty UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and 20 fixed-wing aircraft. Operating from three bases, the 1-140th was tasked with flying the command staff of U.S. Forces-Iraq, operating two forward arming and refueling points, and providing direct support to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force.

While 1-140th pilots were amassing 20,000 flight hours, they were joined by more than 500 members of the CNG’s 640th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB), who reached Iraq in January 2011. The 640th was the only unit of its kind in Iraq, playing a vital role in

continued on page 18

CNG troops come home
 Last unit returns from Iraq



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Loeffler

Capt. Donald Nodora, commander of the 297th Area Support Medical Company, is greeted by his wife, Kimberly, and son during the unit’s homecoming at the San Mateo National Guard armory Dec. 2. More than 60 Soldiers of the 297th returned Dec. 2 from Iraq.

By MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER
 California Military Department Public Affairs

The California National Guard’s final unit to return home from Iraq was welcomed by a sea of waving flags, hand-painted banners and the long-awaited affection of their loved ones Dec. 2 in San Mateo.

“I am waiting for my daughter. She’s been deployed to Iraq for a year and she’s coming home,” said Bud Romero, father of Pfc. Chloe Romero of the 297th Area Support Medical Company. “She’s a combat medic. She is 4-foot-11 and she’s a little combat stud. I am very, very proud of her.”

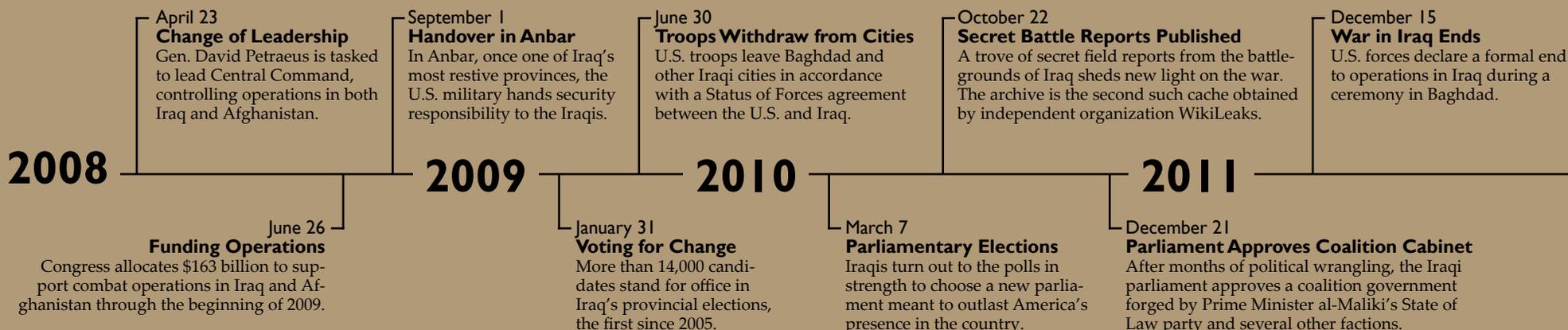
More than 60 Soldiers of the 297th returned home Dec. 2, including doctors, nurses, medics, pharmacists, X-ray technicians, dentists and medical support personnel.

“My brother just got back from Iraq, where he was a combat medic,” said Cathy Dang, sister of Spc. Duy Dang. “And that makes me extremely proud because I know how much effort it takes and how selfless you have to be to be a combat medic.”

In Iraq the 297th provided medical and dental care to coalition forces throughout Iraq. In addition they trained Iraqi forces in modern battlefield medicine.

“I am waiting for my husband, Capt. Donald Nodora,” Kimberly Nodora said. “It is very exciting and kind of surreal after being without him and wishing for this day to come all year long. ... It’s finally here.”

After a final formation, the troops were released to their eagerly waiting families and friends. “A year ago, it was a sad day,” Capt. Nodora, the 297th commander, said of the unit’s deployment ceremony. “But here in the armory, today is indeed a happy day.”



649th completes Afghanistan deployment

By **SGT. KENNETH BINCE**
49th Military Police Brigade

Applause and cheering exploded from more than 200 civilian and military personnel just seconds after a 15-motorcycle escort rode across a concrete strip at the Chico Armory followed by two buses full of homebound Soldiers.

More than 60 California Army National Guard Soldiers from the 649th Engineer Company arrived in Chico, Calif., a little past 2 p.m. on Dec. 13, returning home from a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan. Those Soldiers were preceded by another group of highly dedicated 649th troops who arrived at the same location Dec. 9.



For more, scan this QR code

In all, more than 170 Soldiers of the 649th completed a long and intense deployment that included more than 80 successful horizontal construction missions throughout all of Regional Command-East.

"The 649th had platoons operating out of [Forward Operating Base (FOB)] Fenty, FOB Orgun-E and FOB Sharana while performing every aspect of horizontal engineering," said 1st Lt. Thomas O. Murphy, commander of the 649th. "Horizontal engineering consists of earth-moving operations using graders, scoop loaders, dozers, dump trucks and scrapers."

With more than \$63 million of heavy equipment assets, the 649th was responsible for the construction of 15 checkpoints and observation posts, 22 route improvements, and force protection improvements at 30 bases manned by NATO-led coalition forces. The unit's missions also included construction of low water crossings, rapid



Photo by Staff Sgt. Douglas Shaw
Afghan children vie for a treat from Spc. Breen Beck of the 649th Engineer Company during a recent deployment. The 649th returned from Afghanistan in December after a yearlong tour.

crater repairs, crane operations, helicopter landing zone improvements, drainage improvements, emergency equipment recovery, and demolition and site preparation for buildings.

The highly motivated Soldiers put in more than 60,000 equipment hours, constructed more than 50,000 linear feet of HESCO Concertainers — temporary barriers with a welded mesh framework that are filled with sand or other materials — and placed 220,000 cubic yards of fill.

The 649th supported numerous units during its deployment, including the 101st Air-

borne Division, 25th Infantry Division and 172nd Infantry Brigade as well as Polish coalition forces, Afghan National Army Soldiers and Afghan Border Police.

"Based on mission requirements, we had Soldiers at as many as 12 different bases at one time," Murphy said. "There was so much demand for engineer work throughout our area of operations [that] every day was a busy day. On top of that, roads in Afghanistan are incredibly underdeveloped."

Just moving the equipment from Point A to Point B required extraordinary time, effort and skill from the 649th's tractor-trailer

drivers, he added. "On one mission we had to fly extra spare tires to a convoy because they used all 20 they had brought with them," Murphy said.

Many checkpoints the engineers built secured areas with a high insurgent presence. Soldiers of the 649th regularly faced threats from small-arms fire, indirect fire and improvised explosive devices. "[On] another mission, the 649th improved blast protection at a base that received 104 indirect fire attacks in a single day," Murphy said.

Adding to the formidable challenge of this deployment, the 649th was essentially a brand new unit assembled for this tour in Afghanistan with Soldiers from all across California — as far south as Azusa and San Diego and as far north as Redding and Mount Shasta.

"I was really impressed by the way the 649th troops met the challenges of pre-mobilization, mobilization and then deployment," Murphy said. "In our final months in Afghanistan, you wouldn't have recognized us compared to the green company we were in March 2010."

By the end of the tour, the 649th Soldiers knew their jobs inside and out, and they knew they had to depend on one another, Murphy said.

"It was great to see Soldiers of all ranks step up to the challenges put before them."

The tight-knit unit gained immeasurable experience operating engineer equipment in Afghanistan and completed numerous projects under challenging conditions. The majority of the 649th Soldiers will now return to their previous units, spreading valuable engineer knowledge and experience.

870th MPs return from Afghanistan mission

More than 160 troops performed security forces operations in Khowst, Paktia and Paktika provinces

By **MASTER SGT. JULIE AVEY**
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

More than 160 Soldiers of the 870th Military Police Company enjoyed holiday season homecomings from Sacramento to San Diego on Dec. 18 following an 11-month deployment to Afghanistan.

"This is my home. There's nothing like San Diego," said Spc. Alicia Leos. "It feels great to be home."

The Soldier's mother, Barbara Leos, was ecstatic to have her daughter back for Christmas.

"Alicia left for Afghanistan the same exact date her dad left for Operation Desert Storm when she was only 1, and now she is returning to the San Diego airport just as he did in 1991," she said. "I am the proudest mom and I am so happy she is home safe."

Hundreds of relatives, friends and community members anxiously awaited the arrival of 870th Soldiers at airports across the state as they returned to their hometowns. Several were war veterans who saluted the 870th Soldiers as they returned with a common bond.

"Seeing these veterans pay tribute to the young Soldiers coming back is just very heartwarming," said Joe Leos, Spc. Leos' father. "The 870th MP Company recently experienced the loss of one of their Soldiers. ... He was a

good friend to many of the Soldiers arriving this evening, and we would like to take time to remember him and his sacrifice."

Spc. Sean M. Walsh, 21, was killed by indirect fire Nov. 16 while conducting physical training on Camp Clark, Afghanistan. (For more on Spc. Walsh, see page 4.)

The 870th deployed in January 2011 in support of the Police Combined Action Team (PCAT) mission. The Soldiers were responsible for conducting security forces operations in three provinces: Khowst, Paktia and Paktika. During their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the 870th played a vital security role for the three provinces with an emphasis on mentoring and developing Afghan police.

"We responded to only one coordinated attack in our area as the designated quick response force, and this attack was directed at the Afghan government traffic office," said 1st Sgt. Gary Cooper. "Our partnership secured the area and did not allow the enemy to set up."

Designated as the quick reaction force in Khowst province, the 870th responded to an insurgent attack in May, and the unit's coordinated actions thwarted an attempt to detonate a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, which could have killed numerous civilians.

"Because of our presence on patrols and our partnership



Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey
Spc. Alicia Leos of the 870th Military Police Company speaks with reporters Dec. 18 at San Diego International Airport after returning from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, where the 870th was responsible for security forces operations.

with the Afghan Uniform Police along with the Afghan National Army, the province of Khowst was secure," Cooper said.

The 870th Soldiers and their families are now secure at home and will be together for the winter season.

"I am so grateful to have him home safe with me for the holidays," said Spc. Lance Wright's wife, Alicia.

Kight's historic career continues to inspire

Former adjutant general broke new ground for minorities and for overall service member and family care

Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler



By BRANDON HONIG
California Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Mary Kight, who retired late last year, undoubtedly will have a lasting legacy in the National Guard.

"I will be remembered by the Airmen that I helped bring up, and they will carry my legacy on," Kight told a member of the 146th Airlift Wing during a July question-and-answer session. "They will carry the Guard forward."

Her response came as no surprise to those who know Kight, a humble leader who goes out of her way to assist up-and-coming service members and praise those who helped her rise to the top. But Kight's assessment doesn't tell the whole story of her career — one of singular significance, not only in California but throughout the National Guard.

During her 37 years in the military, Kight made numerous contributions to national security and domestic response, including serving in multiple command roles. Arguably her greatest influence, however, was as an inspiration to women and minorities, and as evidence of the opportunities that military service provides to all members.

In February 2010, after four years as the CNG's assistant adjutant general, Kight was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve as the adjutant general, making her the first African-American woman to serve as adjutant general in the United States. She was the first woman of any background to serve as adjutant general or assistant adjutant general of the Cal Guard.

"Mary Kight is a proven courageous, loyal and honorable leader," the governor said. "General Kight has been described as a strong leader, a hard worker, a pioneer. Everybody who's served with her says, 'You're doing such an unbelievable job.' She says, 'I'm just doing my job.'"

At her 2010 swearing-in, Kight referenced her minority status, saying, "I heard some words before this ceremony about changes

and some of the 'firsts.' But this is about *us*. This is about acknowledgement of the California National Guard." She added that her background includes Filipino, Native American and Spanish heritage as well as African. "So it's not so much, from my perspective, more opportunities for African-Americans, more opportunities for women — it's just that there are more opportunities [in the Cal Guard] for people overall."

Kight's contributions to the Cal Guard go far beyond her status as a glass-ceiling-buster. Among a slew of other commendations, Kight's accomplishments during her 14-month term as adjutant general earned her the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM), the Order of California, the California Legislative Women's Caucus Woman of the Year and a Certificate of Appreciation from President Barack Obama.

The citation accompanying her DSM described Kight as "a stalwart supporter and advocate in the area of family readiness and personnel support," as evidenced by the creation of regional suicide prevention small action groups during her tenure and by her tireless work to establish the CNG Education Assistance Award Program (EAAP). Kight's Order of California noted that her "warrior statesman approach" to working with the state legislature was exceptionally effective and was instrumental to the passage of the EAAP, which disbursed more than \$2.7 million to defray the cost of higher education for nearly 500 CNG members during her term.

The CNG also made tremendous strides in civil response during Kight's tenure as adjutant general, such as standing up a Homeland Response Force (HRF) for Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX. The 556-member HRF combines a chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear and high-yield explosive enhanced response force package with a command-and-control element, a battalion headquarters and a security company. Its area of responsibility encompasses nearly 400,000 square miles in California, Arizona, Hawaii and Nevada as well as American Samoa, Guam and other Pacific islands.

The CNG also established one of the nation's two domestic all-hazards response teams (DART) under her command. The 23-person DART is a modular, deployable command-and-control headquarters that synchronizes the flow of National Guard forces into and out of a disaster area.

"Through her efforts, the California National Guard was able to bring a quicker, more robust, coordinated effort to civil support service response when called upon," the DSM citation states. Her "singularly distinctive accomplishments" also include guiding the CNG's State Partnership Program with Ukraine to a new level, "promoting goodwill and contributing to strategic threat reduction goals," according to the DSM citation.

Among the people she served with, though, Kight will be remembered for her dedication to the men and women of the armed forces and their families.

"Thank you for everything you did for the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Corps, empowering NCOs to do what they need to do to do their jobs," Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., the CNG's top enlisted member, said during Kight's retirement ceremony at McClellan Park near Sacramento in December. "You were never too busy to talk to Soldiers and Airmen and always took time to stop and say hello and listen to what they had to say."

Yet another great achievement for CNG families, Clark praised Kight's work with the Sisterhood of the Travelling BDUs, an initiative undertaken by two CNG daughters to establish a peer network among California's military children. With Kight's help, the Sisterhood raised \$30,000 through corporate sponsors and hosted an all-expenses-paid conference in Clovis, Calif., for more than 100 teen military daughters.

"It took hard work, and you probably didn't think we would get it done," Clark said. "But in the end, it got done, and what started from a ground roots organization in California grew to a nationwide [media] event everyone wanted to try to emulate."

Kight, as usual, used her moment in the sun to shine the light on others. "There were opportunities that availed themselves to me in large part due to the professional challenges afforded to me by senior NCOs and senior officers who placed me in assignments that demanded performance," she said at her retirement. "My sense of military service was shaped by military members who believed in my potential, members who challenged me, and members who were so proud of their own abilities — as they should be — that they took the time to teach me what they knew."

An exceptional mentor, Kight took that same approach to her own dealings with subordinate service members. "Our people coming up through the ranks are tomorrow's leaders and remain my focus," Kight said in July. "They are our greatest assets and essential to meeting current and future challenges. We owe them our unwavering commitment, encouragement and support as they take the Guard in new and exciting directions."

Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, the current ad-

jutant general, said the Guard would benefit from Kight's continued mentorship in her retirement.

"I am very hopeful that you continue to stay engaged with us and, more importantly, continue to serve as a role model for female officers and enlisted Soldiers and Airmen, because you truly set the bar high and have shown what can be done — that they can break through that ceiling and achieve whatever they want to achieve," he said at the retirement ceremony.

Sgt. Maj. Daniel DeGeorge, NCO in charge of the CNG Honor Guard, pointed to four CNG women who broke new ground last year as testament to Kight's value as a role model. "We now have four women Guardsmen serving with active duty Army Ranger battalions and Special Forces battalions as the first [ever] augmentees in their role in coordinating with their female counterparts in Afghanistan," he said. "That is a direct reflection of the courage that you gave them to step out and do something that wasn't always [possible for women]. ... They stepped up mostly because of your leadership and your example that you set."

Kight served with the active duty Air Force from 1974 to 1981, then joined the Nebraska Air National Guard. She transferred to the California Guard in 1984 to be near her family. Among other duties, she served as commander of the CNG's 144th Aircraft Generation Squadron, 144th Mission Support Group and 201st Mission Support Squadron Title 10 Detachment. In November 2004, Kight was appointed assistant adjutant general for the CNG's Air Division. She became the adjutant general's top adviser in 2006 and the adjutant general in 2010. Among other decorations, Kight earned the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with four Oak Leaf Clusters and Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.



TOP LEFT: Maj. Gen. Mary Kight, who served as CNG adjutant general in 2010 and 2011, enjoys her retirement ceremony Dec. 5 at McClellan Park near Sacramento. **ABOVE:** Kight serves as a captain in the Air Force.

Photo courtesy of Maj. Gen. Mary Kight

Sgt. Richard Metcalf, crew chief with Company B, I-126th General Support Aviation Battalion, exits his aircraft during a Jan. 5 mission to assist aviators from the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center in Fallon, Nev., whose MH-60S Seahawk helicopter had crashed in the Toiyabe National Forest during a training exercise. All Seahawk crew members walked away from the crash, but the Navy requested help from the CNG's I-126th and the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in retrieving the aircraft.
Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Wade



An Airman with the 144th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron battles a simulated aircraft fire on a mobile live fire trainer in Fresno on Jan. 7.
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robin Meredith



ABOVE: Sgt. Kevin Glancy, left, and Staff Sgt. Michael Yambro play "The Governor's Own" 59th Army Band play during the Dec. 7 Christmas ceremony at the Capitol in Sacramento. **Photo by Master Sgt. [Name]**
RIGHT: Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. and Maj. Gen. David S. Ball, general of the California National Guard, prepare to eat birthday cake in celebration of the National Guard marking 375 years of service at the Capitol. **Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler**



At a Glance



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Members of the 330th Military Police Company practice riot control Jan. 7 during training led by the California State Military Reserve's 1st Battalion Civil Support Task Force. The battalion, which is largely composed of Soldiers with law enforcement backgrounds, provided eight-hour training sessions to 100 Soldiers from three platoons that day.

Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CA) Rick de la Torre



Family and friends enjoy a tour of a C-130J airplane that carried members of the 146th Airlift Wing home to Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Port Hueneme, Calif., on Nov. 23 following a 90-day deployment in which about 250 wing members served in Afghanistan.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alex Koenig



ABOVE: Dignitaries cut a ribbon Dec. 2, opening the 28,000-square-foot Camp Parks Readiness Center in Dublin, Calif., which will serve more than 200 Soldiers during monthly training weekends. Pictured are California Military Department Vice Chief of Staff Col. Michael Herman, far left, California National Guard senior enlisted adviser Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., CNG Adjutant General David S. Baldwin, Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area Garrison Commander Lt. Col. David James and Lucie Titus, a brigadier general in the 1st U.S. Volunteers, which conducts memorial honors for veterans. Titus' late husband, Maj. Gen. (CA) George Titus, commanded the CNG's 49th Military Police Brigade and the California State Military Reserve. Photo by Spc. Eddie Siguenza
LEFT: Niko Nesbeth, far left, Taron Lamkin, Xavier Mora, Jessie Tavares and Daniel Ibarra of the Inglewood High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps present the colors Dec. 9 during the annual ball for the CNG's 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment. Photo by Sgt. Aaron Ricca

Mock courts martial try assault case

By **LT. COL. BOB STERN**

California Military Department Public Affairs

It wasn't "A Few Good Men" — it was many good men, and women, from the California National Guard, Army Reserve and active duty Army who attended judge advocate general (JAG) training Nov. 4-6 at the Sacramento County Juvenile Justice Center.

More than 80 Soldiers, mostly from the CNG, participated in the training along with 25 law student volunteers from nearby University of California, Davis, as well as the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law and Lincoln Law School of Sacramento. The Guard plans to conduct similar exercises annually.

"This training is important because the National Guard and Army Reserve judge advocates don't get enough opportunities to perform a court martial," said Lt. Col. James McFetridge, a military judge with the California National Guard. "When they are deployed as trial counsels, they are expected to perform without substantial experience. This training gives them that experience."

"Active duty judge advocates are doing this every day, so their participation in the training is invaluable," he added.

During the first day of the three-day event planned by the CNG and its 40th Infantry Division (ID), the JAGs prepared their cases as either defense counsel or prosecu-



Photo by Capt. Cody Gallo

Instructor 1st Lt. Roger Frederickson of the California Army National Guard Judge Advocate General's Office demonstrates how to cross-examine a witness Jan. 7 in Sacramento.

tors, working closely with their assigned paralegal Soldiers. On the second day, they headed to the Sacramento County Juvenile Justice Center to argue their cases in six courtroom settings with local law students and judges from the National Guard and Army Reserve making up the mock court martial panels. Each of the six courtrooms tried the same case, an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The case followed a fictional fact pattern based on real events.

"We are the only National Guard in the

country doing this type of trial training," said Capt. Dwight Stirling, 40th ID judge advocate.

The main goal of the training was to give new judge advocates an opportunity to conduct a court martial, he said. Another goal was for judge advocates and paralegals to train together. "They tend to operate in their own worlds," Stirling said. "We have developed a program so that they have to prepare cases together, gather evidence, write the charges, interview witnesses and

prepare defenses. When they conduct the trial, they have a new appreciation and understanding of their roles and jobs."

Master Sgt. Adrian Rancudo, chief paralegal noncommissioned officer with the 40th ID, couldn't agree more. "This year we incorporated paralegal Soldier training, which consisted of preparing charge sheets and court documents for the judge advocates," he said. "And while the training enhanced judge advocates on their advocacy skills, it also enhanced paralegal Soldier skills, especially in their court work."

McFetridge, a judge for Sacramento Juvenile Superior Court as well as a military judge, said paralegals play an integral role in court martial proceedings, but many judge advocates don't know how to use them. "This training teaches them how to work closely with their paralegals," he said.

Daniel Shimmell, a 25-year-old law student at the University of California, Davis, said he was intrigued by how different the court martial proceedings are compared with what he's seen in civilian courts. "It's a lot different than civilian juries [in which all members must agree on a verdict]," he said. "Once you get 2/3 of the panel to determine guilt or innocence, you're done."

"It was enlightening in seeing how the [court martial] process works," he added. "It wasn't like watching 'A Few Good Men.'"

Rabbi joins State Military Reserve

1st Lt. Friedman is believed to be the California Military Department's first Jewish chaplain

By **SPC. (CA) JANET BARBIERI**

California State Military Reserve Public Affairs

Rabbi Matthew Friedman made history in January when he joined the California State Military Reserve (CSMR) as its first Jewish chaplain. He is believed to be the first rabbi to serve as a chaplain in the California Military Department (CMD).

First Lieutenant Friedman, who was ordained in 1990, has served as a full-time pulpit rabbi and currently leads the Antelope Roseville Jewish Congregation. He is a planner for the California Department of Transportation and a part-time instructor at the University of Phoenix, teaching religion, history, philosophy, public speaking and ethics.

Friedman's desire to join the CSMR stems from a profound sense of duty. "I come from people who left their homelands to escape religious persecution," he said. "The ones who didn't leave didn't survive. This country has been very good to us, and I want to give back through service."

Nationally, as well as in California, there is a shortage of military chaplains of all faiths, but particularly so for the Jewish faith. Although the country's first Jewish chaplain dates back to the Civil War, there are only about 55 active duty Jewish chaplains today serving approximately 10,000 active duty Jewish troops, according to according to retired Rear Adm. Harold L. Robinson, director of the Jewish Welfare Board's Jew-

ish Chaplains Council. The numbers are even more pronounced for state military departments.

Friedman said the dearth of Rabbis serving as military chaplains in California mirrors this trend, but he added there are additional challenges for chaplains in the National Guard or CSMR. "With Saturday being the main day of [Jewish] worship, there is a conflict with drill," he said of the Guard's monthly training commitment. "But there are folks out there who are interested. Once they see the first one, they'll start to volunteer."

Friedman also acknowledged a challenge for the Orthodox Jewish community due to Army grooming regulations that prohibit facial hair. Currently there are only seven Orthodox Jewish chaplains in the Army.

Robinson said the Jewish Community has not been fully aware of the need for Jewish chaplains for long, but things are changing. "Many people who came of age with 9/11 are just now being ordained," he said. "So we are seeing a little bump. It's a good thing; it's an important thing."

Capt. Marc Unger, CSMR Headquarters chaplain, said many troops have asked him to recruit a Jewish chaplain. "They ask me all the time: When are we going to get a Jewish chaplain? So Chaplain Friedman is filling a vital need," he said.

Friedman expects his presence, by virtue of

his very public display of faith, to encourage Jewish troops to take advantage of ministerial services. "Faith isn't something that people often talk about," he said. "Folks here have a job to do, and faith doesn't really come up. I think that when they see me, someone of their own faith, they will open up more and come forward."

At any given time, about 2/3 of the short-staffed CNG chaplains are deployed or training for deployment, leaving only 1/3

to minister to troops and families at home. CSMR chaplains have played a crucial role by stepping in on the homefront.

Friedman said he wants to be helpful to the troops and also to the other chaplains. "I hope to be a resource to them and be there to serve those needs," he said. "There are different levels of knowledge about Judaism history and theology, and I can be there as a source for them. I also hope to bring other folks in down the road."



Photo by Tech Sgt. Joseph Prouse

Chaplain 1st Lt. (CA) Matthew Friedman is sworn in by California State Military Reserve Commander Brig. Gen. (CA) Roland Candee on Jan. 7 in Sacramento. Friedman is the only Jewish chaplain serving the California Military Department.

Behavioral Health Office adds third 24-hour provider

By Lt. Col. Eric Frye, Director, CNG Behavioral Health Service



In the wake of multiple behavioral health crises, a continued high operational tempo, unit deployments and redeployments, and increased positive responses to behavioral health surveys, the California National Guard Behavioral Health Office has steadily increased full-time resources to enhance troops' access to care and quicken its emergent-response capability throughout the state. First Lieutenant Dustin Harris, a licensed clinical social worker and CNG behavioral health officer, is the latest addition to the CNG's team of full-time, 24-hour-accessible providers.

With the expanding operational role of the 42,000-acre Camp Roberts training center, the need for additional full-time support in that geographic area has become apparent. The sheer numbers of personnel either assigned to or training in the area justifies assigning a behavioral health officer to the Central Coast region.

Harris' primary mission will be to work in an assigned coverage area spanning Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz counties. His Central Coast area of responsibility will include support to both Camp

Roberts and Camp San Luis Obispo. Working in cooperation with community and county behavioral health resources, Harris' full-time presence will solidify consultation and referral connections to ensure the Central Coast region is supported and prepared to meet the challenges ahead.

Harris will be assigned to Building 5001, across the street from Phoenix Recreation Center, and will be available there Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1630. He is available for routine and emergent behavioral health referrals and for command consultation assistance on a 24-hour basis. Harris also has resources available for troops seeking longer-term therapeutic care and will help ensure a smooth transition to services that fit the needs of the service member and their dependents.

To contact Harris, email dustin.t.harris@us.army.mil or call 805-540-4460. For the Northern California clinical officer, Capt. (CA) Lance Friis: lance.friis@us.army.mil or 925-207-5367. For the Southern California clinical officer, Capt. (CA) Dana Timmermans: dana.timmermans@us.army.mil or 562-965-6563.



First Lieutenant Dustin Harris, a licensed clinical social worker, is based at Camp Roberts and ready to provide 24-hour assistance to CNG members in the Central Coast region. Two other members of the CNG Behavioral Health Office cover the northern and southern regions of the state.



Chief's Corner

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5
ARTAVIA M. EDWARDS
CNG Command Chief Warrant Officer

WOCs face tough Phase II challenge

While I was running the 26.2-mile California International Marathon in December, I had lots of time to think about the message for this article. The senior training, advising and counseling (TAC) officer for Warrant Officer Candidate School, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Miche Norton, and I are very excited about our preparations for Phase II of Warrant Officer Candidate School.

"In order for candidates to be successful, they need to arrive in the best shape of their absolute lives," Norton said. "This is not a course that you attend to get in shape, but rather you must come in shape."

The honeymoon period is over for the candidates. It's time for them to remember all the reasons they aspired to become warrant officers, and if they stay focused and fixed on this goal, they will be successful. They will not get any mercy from the TAC officers if they show up unprepared.

If you see a warrant officer candidate with their "W.O.C." rank on their uniform, feel free to encourage them. When I'm running, I always see myself crossing the finish line, no matter what it takes. If you really want something bad enough, there is nothing that will stop you. Anything the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve.

To achieve this goal, candidates must arrive at Camp San Luis Obispo (SLO), Calif., mentally focused on the task at hand and prepared with an internal motivation to succeed.

"This will be one of the most challenging weekend courses that you will ever attend in your entire military career," Norton said. However, she said she is confident Warrant Officer Candidate School will prepare candidates to become successful warrant officers in the California Army National Guard.

When I speak with warrant officers who successfully completed Warrant Officer Candidate School at the 223rd Regional Training Institute (RTI) on Camp SLO, they offer nothing but high praise and overwhelming gratitude for their Warrant Officer Candidate School experience.

Candidates should know that the RTI commander, staff, senior TAC officer and I have nothing but the highest expectations for the candidates. In order to receive a warrant officer appointment, they must cross the finish line. I hope I've inspired all the warrant officer candidates to show up focused and fixed with the undisturbed composure and mental and physical toughness to earn appointments as warrant officers in the California National Guard. Then they will be able to motivate, inspire and encourage the Warrant Officer Candidate School Class of 2013.

As always, the invitation is open-ended for all qualified noncommissioned officers to join the ranks of candidates for the California Army National Guard's ready, relevant, operational warrant officer force. In Northern California, call 916-854-1331. For aviation positions or Southern California, call 916-710-2230 or 916-206-8127.

Camp SLO, DoD program conserve local land, resources

By CHRIS LONG
Camp SLO Sustainable Range Program

While the public is familiar with the Department of Defense's mission to protect the security of our country, very few are aware of the department's contributions to the conservation and protection of our nation's natural resources and open spaces.

One program with this mission is the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), which provides funding for the establishment of conservation easements around installations. REPI provides the framework to develop partnerships between the military and private conservation groups or state and local governments for the purpose of preserving military testing and training capabilities while also conserving land.

In 2006 the National Guard Bureau signed a cooperative agreement with The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo to establish the Camp San Luis Obispo Army

Compatibility Use Buffer Program to identify conservation easements that benefit the California Army National Guard's training mission at Camp SLO. Since then the partnership has been awarded close to \$3 million toward projects with an expected value of about \$5 million. The result has been the permanent protection of more than 1,390 acres surrounding and buffering Camp SLO from environmental or developmental encroachment.

"Funding provided by REPI has allowed the Land Conservancy to significantly leverage other project partners' limited resources to permanently protect valuable environmental, cultural and scenic landscapes in San Luis Obispo and surrounding Camp San Luis Obispo," said Bob Hill, executive director of the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo. "We are proud of our partnership with Camp San Luis Obispo and the National Guard Bureau."

For more information about REPI, visit www.repi.mil. For info about the Land Conservancy, visit www.LCSLO.org.

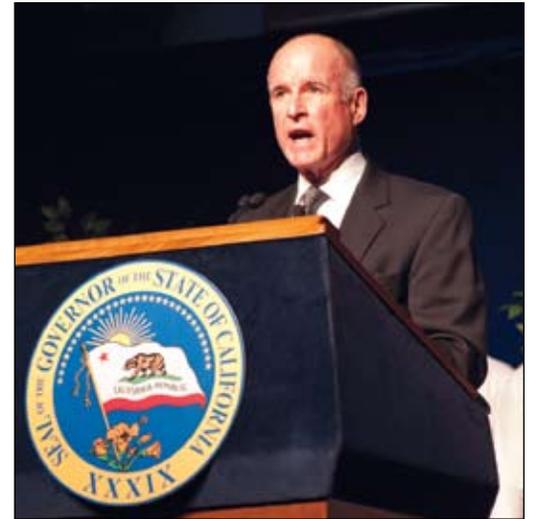


Permanent protection of the 189-acre O'Connor Ranch adjacent to Camp San Luis Obispo, shown in the left half of this photo, was partially funded by the federal REPI program in 2010.

January

Edmund G. Brown Jr. CNG commander in chief

Edmund G. Brown Jr. was sworn in as California's 39th governor and the CNG's new commander in chief. Following Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the 72-year-old political veteran began his third gubernatorial term with a National Guard force that was fully engaged in armed conflicts, international partnerships and a host of domestic missions. Brown's history with the CNG is marked most clearly by his founding of the Oakland Military Institute while serving as Oakland mayor in 2001, but the face of the Guard has changed considerably since he first took the governor's office in 1975, when he was just 36 years old. While Brown continues to be an avid supporter of National Guard youth programs, he now commands a National Guard that has evolved into a full-spectrum fighting force integral to contingency and domestic operations for the U.S. armed forces. California's National Guard is among the nation's largest and is arguably its most dynamic.



"Gold Miners" in Iraq 749th CSSB takes command



The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), 224th Sustainment Brigade, based in Benicia, assumed their mission of providing administrative, logistical, munitions, transportation and maintenance support for all units in the CSSB's area of operations in Iraq. Authority was transferred on Contingency Operating Base Adder from the Georgia National Guard's HHC, 110th CSSB. The CNG Soldiers worked closely with their active duty counterparts in Iraq to provide seamless support for units of any military branch that were rotating out of the theater in accordance with President Barack Obama's commitment to remove all troops by the end of 2011. A total of 78 Soldiers from the 749th CSSB returned home to California in November from the 63-year-old "Gold Miner" battalion's first deployment.

February

Centennial Celebration

California Cadet Corps

The California Cadet Corps celebrated 100 years of fulfilling its mission "to provide California schools and students with a quality educational and leadership development program that prepares students for success in college and the workforce." Founded in 1911 as the California High School Cadet Corps to recruit and train National Guard officers during the World War I period, the institution evolved through the years, becoming the California Cadet Corps in 1935 and welcoming girls and middle-school units by the 1970s. Other changes include a greater leadership- and character-development focus. Today the Corps incorporates summer encampments, bivouacs, land navigation and marksmanship training, drill competitions, first aid training and leadership schools. The Corps is in more than 60 schools, serving more than 6,000 students annually.



March

On the Move CAB deploys to Iraq

Before the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) began its yearlong mission in Iraq, it first needed to get over there. More than 2,000 Soldiers, dozens of helicopters and tons of equipment had to be transported by land, sea and air from Fort Hood, Texas, to the other side of the planet. The move required help from Air Force C-17 and C-5 strategic airlift aircraft and lumbering Russian Antonov An-124 heavy lift cargo planes. The 40th CAB assumed command during a critical year in Iraq. American forces began drawing down as the government of Iraq and Iraqi Security Forces took responsibility for their country's security. The 40th CAB is a unique collection of five battalions from the National Guard, Army Reserve and active duty Army, with elements from 22 states. The brigade's headquarters company is a California Army National Guard unit from Fresno. The CAB was responsible for full-spectrum aviation operations in Iraq for the remainder of 2011, including everything from medical evacuation to reconnaissance and force protection.



"Dragon Slayers" Come Home 224th SB returns from yearlong deployment

The 224th Sustainment Brigade returned from Iraq in March. When the 224th arrived at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, in 2010, its Soldiers cross-trained with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, the unit they replaced, to absorb the sustainment mission for the southern and central regions of Iraq. The 224th managed supplies, transportation and maintenance support for nearly two-thirds of the coalition's area of operations.



"Punishers" Safeguard Freedom 330th MPs return home from Afghanistan



The 330th Military Police Company returned from its yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in March. The Ontario, Calif.-based MPs completed more than 700 combat patrols during their deployment. Commander Maj. James Riehl said their patrols supported Afghan security efforts and were instrumental in seizures of weapons and investigations of bombings as well as bettering the lives of our Afghan partners in security agencies and the people who live throughout Khowst province.

April

David S. Baldwin

New CNG adjutant general

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed then-Colonel David S. Baldwin as the California National Guard's 46th adjutant general. Brown said he chose Baldwin based on his exceptional experience, which includes two combat tours and 29 years of service. Baldwin was called back from a combat deployment in Afghanistan to serve as adjutant general, testimony to a career that has been marked by mobilizations, including a tour in Kuwait in 2001 and subsequent tours in Afghanistan in 2004 and 2011 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brown also appointed then-Colonel Matthew Beevers, another veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, as assistant adjutant general. Aside from their combat tours, both men brought to their posts extensive experience in stateside leadership, which served them well as they assumed command of one of the nation's most dynamic and heavily tasked National Guard forces in the country. The CNG has deployed nearly 37,000 Soldiers and Airmen to Afghanistan, Iraq and throughout the world since Sept. 11, 2001.



May

"Dustoff" Heroes

2-135th GSAB lifesavers return



For the Soldiers of the California Guard's Detachment 1, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, known as "Bayou Dustoff," the detachment's yearlong mission in Afghanistan could not have been more meaningful — saving lives on the battlefield. The Soldiers transported 609 patients during their deployment: 134 U.S. Soldiers, 184 Afghan National Army Soldiers, 99 other coalition Soldiers, 175 civilians and 17 enemy troops.

Modern Aircraft

3-140th gets fleet of Lakotas

The 3-140th Aviation Security and Support Battalion received eight LUH-72A Lakota light utility helicopters. The Lakotas will replace the battalion's OH-58 Kiowa helicopters. The new aircraft also free up the CNG's UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, allowing them to focus on bigger operational missions. The Lakota is designed to fly general support operations such as civil search and rescue, personnel recovery, evacuation, counterdrug and passenger transportation support. After receiving two Lakotas in May, the 3-140th trained and prepared their pilots, crew chiefs and maintainers to remain mission-ready while transitioning aircraft. With the exception of awaiting their final aircraft to be delivered, the unit expects to be fully functioning in January.

June

Fighting the Flames

CNG fights fires in CA, AZ, NM and TX



June began one of the most active wildfire seasons the CNG has experienced. The Wildcat Fire, about 10 miles north of San Angelo, Texas, first called for the 146th Airlift Wing to deploy 40 Guardsmen and two C-130J aircraft in response to wildfires that were devastating much of southern Texas. Air National Guard and Reserve units from four states worked to contain many of the state's fires, which burned more than 2 million acres. July brought the largest fires in Arizona history, which burned more than 500,000 acres, spread over borders into Colorado and New Mexico and screamed their way through forested lands near hundreds of homes. C-130Js from the 146th were there with others from around the country to fight the fires, which were eventually extinguished. Also in July, 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, deployed two CH-47 Chinook helicopters to support the effort to extinguish flames in northeast San Diego County. The Eagle Fire, which charred 14,100 acres, was 100 percent contained on July 30. In September, both the 146th and the 3-140th fought fires raging across Kern County near Bakersfield, Calif. The fires burned nearly 55,000 acres and threatened 2,300 homes, but no structures were destroyed. In total the CNG flew more than 140 missions and dropped more than 250,000 gallons of water and 419,000 gallons of fire retardant in 2011.

July

Weed Whackers

Operation Full Court Press

The "Emerald Triangle," known for decades for its cultivation of high-grade marijuana, was the target for a multi-agency marijuana eradication effort known as Operation Full Court Press in July. The operation targeted large-scale, illegal grow sites in and around Mendocino National Forest, with participation from 25 local, state and federal agencies. Full Court Press resulted in the seizure or eradication of 632,000 marijuana plants and 2,000 pounds of processed marijuana, according to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. Agents also seized \$28,000 in U.S. currency, 38 weapons 20 vehicles, and arrested 132 individuals. More than 51,000 pounds of garbage, 40 miles of irrigation line and 5,500 pounds of fertilizer and pesticides were removed from the forest.



July

Safe Skies

Airmen train in Ukraine

More than 140 members of the Air National Guard traveled to Mirgorod Air Base, Ukraine, in July to participate in Safe Skies, a U.S. European Command-sponsored aerial military-to-military exchange event. The two-week exercise provided an opportunity for Ukrainian, Polish and American personnel to fly together and help prepare the Polish and Ukrainian forces for enhanced air supremacy and air sovereignty operations. It was also intended to foster improved communication and collaboration between the countries. The National Guard provided invaluable training for the Polish and Ukrainian forces, completing about 120 intercept missions.



August

James C. Witham

New California Air National Guard commander



Brig. Gen. James C. Witham, a seasoned fighter pilot and combat veteran, was named the new commander of the California Air National Guard. Witham has served in several command and staff positions, including director of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and director of air, space and cyberspace operations for the National Guard Bureau. He most recently served as chief of staff for the New Jersey Air National Guard. As commander, Witham will ensure that the California Air National Guard's four flying wings and one combat communications group are mission-capable and able to fulfill their state and federal missions.

Guardsmen Journey to War

Soldiers and Airmen deploy to Afghanistan



Superior Aviators

1-140th welcomed home

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, known as Task Force Long Knife, completed a yearlong tour at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in late July and arrived in Los Alamitos in early August. The helicopter assault battalion's 350 Soldiers, thirty UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and 20 fixed-wing aircraft performed a variety of missions in support of Operation New Dawn. The unit served a crucial role in supporting the troop drawdown taking place theater-wide, providing a variety of aviation support to personnel throughout the country, primarily in Iraq's central region. The 1-140th also operated two forward arming and refueling points for Army aviation assets and returned home with no casualties and more than 15,000 hours of flight time logged on the deployment.



Airmen assigned to the 146th Airlift Wing loaded a C-130J Hercules bound for Afghanistan in August. The Port Hueneme, Calif.-based unit set off on a three-month deployment in support of ground troops. Among other duties, the C-130J aircraft of the 146th, which can travel at speeds of more than 300 mph and haul more than 45,000 pounds, provided medical evacuations and rapid air transport of goods and troops, which helped reduce the number of convoys crisscrossing dangerous Afghan roads. The five planes that were deployed composed the largest of a series of summer departures for the 146th, which included the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Civil Engineering Squadron and Air Terminal Operations Squadron. The Army National Guard's 756th Transportation Company also deployed to Afghanistan for a yearlong mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in August. The "Road Dawgs," based in Van Nuys, had less than six months notice in advance of their mission. With training and their families in the forefront of their minds, the unit quickly banded together to prepare themselves and their loved ones for their August deployment.

September

Never Forget

CNG honors 9/11 victims, fallen troops

A decade after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard gathered across the state to pay tribute to those who perished during the terrorist assault and the subsequent operations in the war on terrorism. Since 9/11 the CNG has lost 29 members in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The CNG has also implemented new training, techniques and technologies to defeat 21st century enemies on distant battlefields and on our home turf. The National Guard that serves California today is vastly superior to the force in place 10 years ago. The need to remain vigilant is engraved in the minds of CNG service members, even with the passing of time. Cal Guardsmen will not be satisfied until Americans can live their lives safe in the knowledge that they are protected from all threats foreign or domestic.

Building a Foundation

578th engineers Afghan construction

Nearly 175 Soldiers from the 578th Engineer Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, left California in mid-September to begin pre-mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas, in advance of their yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon arriving in Afghanistan, the 578th Headquarters and Headquarters Company based out of Manhattan Beach, Calif., and the Forward Support Company based out of Pomona, Calif., began route clearance and construction projects.



October

United Response

CNG dual status command exercise



The California National Guard tested its responsiveness to a “no-notice” simulated disaster — a 7.8-magnitude earthquake centered in the El Cajon Pass in Southern California — during Exercise United Response at California Military Department headquarters in Sacramento. The exercise tested the construct of a dual-status commander, who has authority to simultaneously direct both Title 32 National Guard troops and Title 10 active duty service members. The California National Guard joined Wisconsin as the first National Guard organizations to implement the concept in full-scale disaster simulations.

Iraq Drawdown

CNG's largest homecoming

Nearly 500 Soldiers of the 640th Aviation Support Battalion returned to California in late November. During their yearlong deployment in support of Operation New Dawn on Camp Taji, Iraq, the 640th was the only unit of its kind, playing a vital role in the maintenance, fueling and logistical requirements for more than 250 helicopters. The 640th also trained Iraqi Army personnel, helping to build and reinforce their aviation logistical capabilities to ensure Iraq's success as a nation.



November

Vigilant Guard

49th MP Homeland Response Force

The 270th and 40th Military Police companies serve one of 10 regional forces in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Homeland Response Force (HRF) infrastructure to streamline the nation's capacity for responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) incidents. The Fairfield-based 49th Military Police Brigade will have responsibility for deploying the FEMA Region IX HRF, which is expected to be fully mission capable in March 2012. Its 556 members will combine a CBRNE enhanced response force package (CERFP) with a command-and-control element, a battalion headquarters and a security company. Each CERFP includes decontamination, search-and-extraction and medical capabilities to respond to any incident involving dangerous contaminants. The CNG's HRF was evaluated in November during Vigilant Guard, a full-scale, statewide exercise in Arizona designed to ensure effective coordination between local, state, federal, private sector and nongovernmental organizations in preparation for a domestic emergency.



Extraordinary Airmen

Distinguished Flying Cross recipients

Eleven Airmen of the CNG's 129th Rescue Wing were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for combat search-and-rescue missions conducted in Afghanistan. Three additional 129th Airmen were recognized with the Air Medal. Both awards honor heroic or meritorious achievement in an aerial mission or missions by armed forces members. Providing 24-hour alert in Helmand province, Afghanistan, and performing up to eight rescue missions each day in active combat zones, Airmen of the 129th Rescue Wing were credited with saving 345 injured people, including U.S. forces, coalition personnel and Afghan nationals, during their 2009 and 2010 deployments. Members of the 129th Rescue Wing have served in every major conflict since World War II and have saved a total of 947 lives.



Fallen Comrades

Thank you for your service

With a humble heart, the CNG honors these service members who fought and died with honor keeping freedom alive for America.



**Sergeant
Carlo F. Eugenio**

1982 - 2011
Riverside, CA
756th Transportation Co.
Operation Enduring Freedom



**Specialist
Sean M. Walsh**

1990 - 2011
San Jose, CA
870th Military Police Co.
Operation Enduring Freedom

Sgt. Carlo Francisco Eugenio, a California Army National Guardsman, was killed Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011, from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his vehicle in Kabul province, Afghanistan, with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 756th Transportation Company, 746th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade.

Spc. Sean Michael Walsh, a California Army National Guardsman, died Nov. 16, 2011, in Khowst province, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained from indirect fire engagement. He was assigned to the 870th Military Police Company, 185th MP Battalion, 49th MP Brigade. The 870th, based out of Pittsburg, Calif., returned from its yearlong tour only one month after Walsh's death.

CNG remembers civil rights leader King

California Military Department (CMD) headquarters celebrated the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 13 with a ceremony themed, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!"

"Each year we commemorate the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one of America's brightest and most influential civil rights leaders," Maj. Gen. Da-

vid S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the California National Guard, wrote in a Jan. 12 memo to service members and employees of the California Military Department. "Dr. King's tireless campaign for individual rights and equality among men and women produced transformative social, religious, racial and ethnic changes in both America and our armed forces."

CMD Officials noted that the U.S. military has been at the forefront of racial equality in our nation's history. Long before public schools were desegregated or King organized the March on Washington, the color lines had blurred among the ranks of our armed forces, and character had conquered prejudice. Like King, service members believe that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." As his untimely death demonstrated, King was willing to die for the cause in which he so deeply believed, and his sacrifice is reflected by the tens of thousands of Guardsmen who have deployed to combat, knowing they might lose their lives fighting for a cause bigger than themselves.

Col. Michael Wells, CMD director of human resources and keynote speaker for the Jan. 13 event, recalled traveling to the National Civil Rights Museum, which is located at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, the site of King's assassination.

"I was trying to explain to my son why it was so important for him to step up, to be the man that I had taught him to be," Wells said. "After observing an extraordinary video documentary at the National Civil Rights Center about Dr. King and the civil rights struggle, I slowly walked over to [my son] Bryan and said, 'That is why I have been so tough on you. There are many, many people who have sac-

rificed to give you the opportunity to have and be where you are.'

"As I walked away, I heard my son slowly begin to sob," Wells continued. "It was a very emotional documentary that reawakened old images from my childhood. As I went back to him and hugged him to reassure him that I and all the angels of our past were with him and believed in him, I realized it was a crucial moment as one generation to the next came to understand what Dr. King's message was all about."

Wells emphasized that King's message was not just about making life better for black Americans. "No, I think his message was much bigger, broader and grander than that," he said. "He sought to cash a check from the architects of our republic. The words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence represented a promissory note to every American, black men as well as white men, guaranteed by 'unalienable Rights' of 'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.' ... By insisting on cashing the moral check of liberty, he demanded the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

"Dr. King had come to realize that ... our freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of each other."

Wells concluded with another anecdote from the museum at the site of King's death. "As I departed the National Civil Rights Museum store, I saw a sign, a simplistic and poetic sign, a sign that rang true to me," he recalled. "So I take you back to that sign, which simply read 'You can kill the dreamer, but you can't kill the dream.'"



Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler

Col. Michael Wells, director of human resources for the California Military Department (CMD), delivers a speech Jan. 13 at CMD headquarters in Sacramento in recognition of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

'Iraq mission' from page 7

maintenance, fueling and logistics for more than 250 helicopters nationwide. The ASB also trained Iraqi Army personnel to take over aviation logistical capabilities at the conclusion of Operation New Dawn.

"The 640th was asked to do what no other ASB has been asked during the current operations: We were designed to support four aviation battalions, and the Army asked us to support seven," Command Sgt. Maj. Bryon Robinson of the 640th said upon returning to San Diego in November 2011. "We fell into the fast-paced [operational] tempo and never failed a mission. Each and every Soldier's dedication to duty and professionalism has made me very proud."

Finally, in March, the CNG's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), sent about 140 Soldiers to Iraq, where they commanded more than 3,000 troops. From March through December 2011, the CAB performed more than 19,000 aviation missions, including medical evacuations, VIP flights, movement of cargo and personnel, reconnaissance missions and convoy security. Its 275 fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft logged more than 121,000 flight hours in Iraq.

"It is worth noting that the 40th CAB commanded the largest aviation brigade ever mobilized," Maj. Gen. Bernard Champoux, commander of United States Division-Center in Iraq, said on Camp Taji, Iraq, at the end of the CAB's mission. "From March to May 2011, the 40th CAB was the only aviation brigade in all of Iraq."

The CAB's vital mission in 2011 was merely the culmination of Army aviation operations that saw thousands of CNG troops deploy to Iraq throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, providing vital lifesaving, tactical and logistical capabilities anywhere in Iraq.

"The 40th CAB performed full-spectrum operational support with incredible tenacity and effectiveness," said Col. Mitch Medigovich, 40th CAB commander and chief of the California Military Department Joint Staff. "Every day, the Soldiers superbly provided the best aerial support in the world to our fellow service members. Providing flawless kinetic and non-kinetic effects in harsh conditions with an exceptional safety record is a testament to the professionalism of the aviation branch."

TWO DECADES OF AIR SUPPORT

The CNG's Army aviation assets made tremendous contributions to operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, but the California National Guard's presence in Iraqi skies dates back much further than 2003.

In 1991, at the conclusion of the Persian Gulf War, the United States and its partners launched Operation Northern Watch to enforce a United Nations-mandated no-fly zone above the 36th parallel in Iraq and to monitor Iraqi compliance with U.N. directives. The coalition partners maintained a steady state force of more than 50 aircraft and 1,400 personnel, including assets and Airmen from the CNG's 129th Rescue Wing, 146th Airlift Wing and 163rd Air Refueling Wing, which has since been re-designated the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing.

The following year, the U.S. and its allies launched Operation Southern Watch to enforce U.N. sanctions against Iraq and patrol a no-fly zone south of the 33rd parallel. The 129th, 146th and 163rd also deployed aircraft and personnel for Operation Southern Watch, which flew more than 153,000 missions before Operation Iraqi Freedom.

With a steady string of deployments, the California Air National Guard sent nearly as many Airmen to the Middle East for Iraq operations during the period between the two wars as it did from 2003 to 2011.

When Operation Iraqi Freedom began, the California Air National Guard kicked into a higher gear. Members of the 129th had begun 2003 in Turkey and Kuwait in support of Northern Watch and Southern Watch, but Operation Iraqi Freedom brought them to Cyprus and then northwest Iraq, where they established Camp Horton.

The 144th deployed more than 100 members for combat support in 2003, and the 146th mobilized nearly 400 Airmen, including five who earned Bronze Stars for combat service. The 163rd Air Refueling Wing sent 240 members overseas that year and accumulated 1,272 flight-hours.

The 163rd transitioned to a reconnaissance wing in November 2006, when it became the first Air National Guard unit to fly the MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle. Since then the wing has flown multiple daily intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, amassing more than 70,000 flight-hours.

"The California Air National Guard has been engaged for nearly 20 years in support of our country's prosecution of Iraqi no-fly-zone enforcement and combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Lt. Col. Nate Reddicks, chief of staff for CNG Air Division. "California Air National Guard mission sets are very diverse, and as a result, we have provided combat search-and-rescue/personnel-recovery support, full-spectrum airlift support, expeditionary combat support and 24/7/365 intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities through [Predator] combat air patrols executed through global reach-back systems [in California]."

"Finally, we have maintained oversight for the ultimate high-ground, including ISR imagery services, intelligence and MILSTAR Satellite management through the efforts of personnel assigned to the 162nd Combat

Communications Group," he continued. "The California Air National Guard has been and will continue to be ready and able to conduct state-of-the-art military operations in support of our nation and its goals."

THE ROAD AHEAD

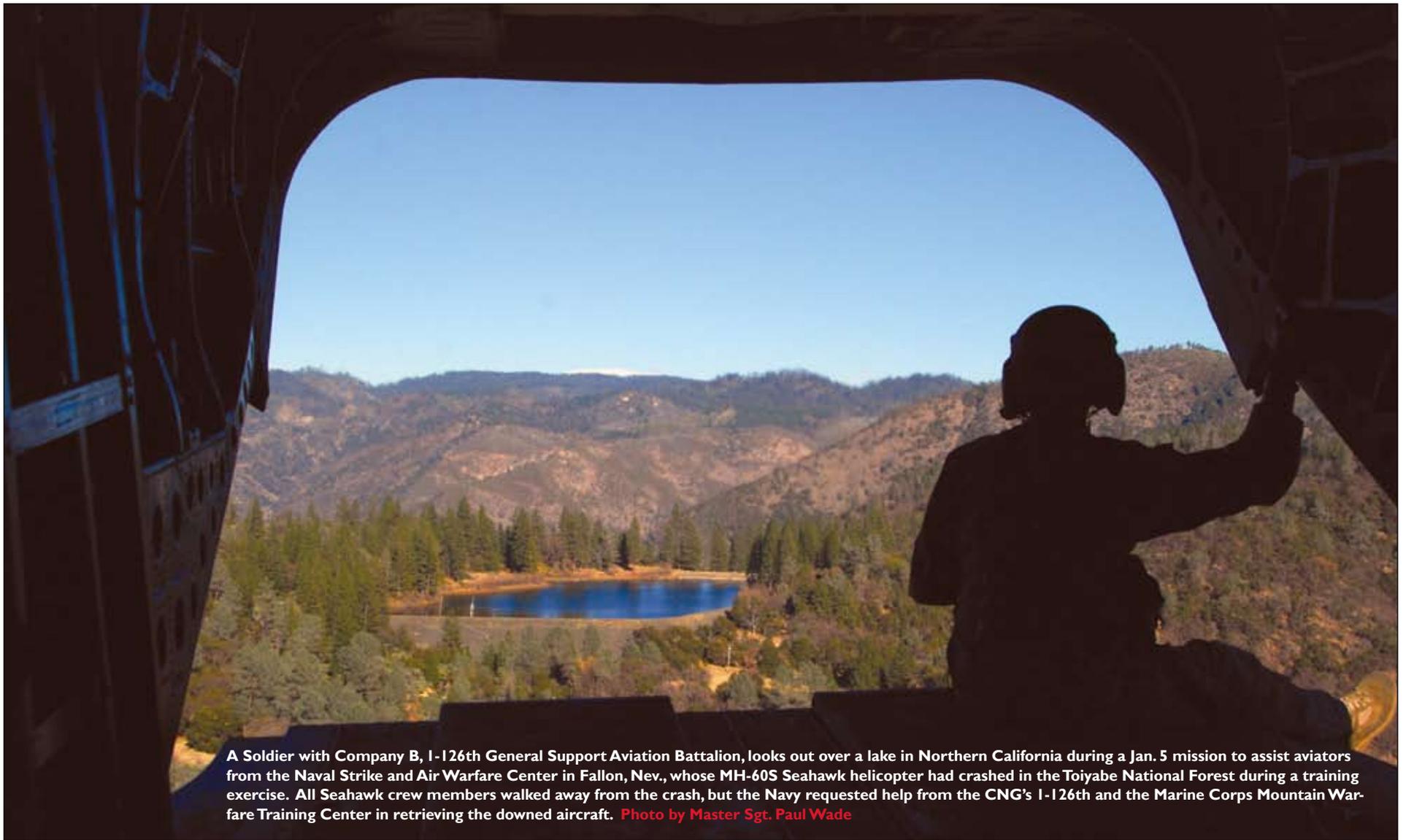
The past decade was a time of great change and impressive accomplishments for the California National Guard, and its impact will be felt by the people of Iraq for decades to come.

"With the help of the Cal Guard and the U.S. military, Iraq changed its course and now looks forward to a future rooted in democracy and cooperation with partner states," Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, said in January. "This would not have been possible without the initiative, perseverance and relationship-building demonstrated by CNG Soldiers and Airmen and their brothers-in-arms in the U.S. and coalition militaries.

He added that the conclusion of Operation New Dawn closes the book on one of the most significant chapters in CNG history.

"Our varied roles, achievements and sacrifices during the past nine years are a shining testament to the character, courage and capabilities of the men and women of the California National Guard," Baldwin said. "Our troops showed once again that they will selflessly put their lives on the line to make the world a better place, and they should be commended for completing this mission with the skill and bravery of true warriors."

Editor's Note: Too many CNG units made significant contributions to mention them all in this brief space. The anecdotes shared in this article represent a fraction of the many stories and experiences shared by the thousands of CNG members who served in this conflict and will remember it always.



Grizzly mag seeks creative Guard youths to design April cover

In celebration of the Month of the Military Child, which is recognized each April by the Department of Defense, The Grizzly Newsmagazine is asking children of California National Guard members to submit their artwork for potential publication inside or on the front cover of the April issue. Submissions should illustrate what it means to the artist to be a military child.

Winners will be chosen in three age groups: 5 to 8 years, 9 to 12 and 13 to 18. All winners will receive a CNG prize package and have their design published in The Grizzly, with the overall winner's design published on the cover.

Please mail 8.5-by-11-inch submissions to Brandon Honig, CNG Public Affairs, Box 3, 9800 Goethe Rd., Sacramento, CA 95826. All submissions must be postmarked no later than March 20 and will not be returned. Please do not fold artwork for mailing.

Military Saves Week in February

The Department of Defense will observe Military Saves Week, Feb. 19-26, to motivate and educate service members and their families to save money each month and to teach military children about good financial habits.

Military installations worldwide will encourage members to take the Saver Pledge at www.militarysaves.org and to take advantage of the military's financial-readiness resources. Those who take the pledge can enroll to receive e-newsletters with military-specific financial information.

Military Saves is a yearlong social marketing campaign with a week of observation each February. The theme for 2012 is, "Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Save Automatically!"

Northern Trust Open PGA Tour event free for service members

Active duty, reserve component and retired military personnel and their dependents can gain free admission to the Northern Trust Open with valid identification Tuesday, Feb. 14, through Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles. Complimentary parking and shuttles will be provided at the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, located at 11301 Wilshire Blvd. Free food and beverages will be provided at the Birdies for the Brave Patriots Outpost tent, presented by the Annenberg Foundation. Additionally, Saturday is Military Appreciation Day. For more information, contact Kristi Lee Fowlks at 503.320.4317 or kristifowlks@pgatourhq.com.

Harold London named CSM for California Army National Guard

Command Sgt. Maj. Harold London was selected to serve as the command sergeant major for the California Army National Guard, the organization's top enlisted adviser. London's previous assignments include serving as command sergeant major of the 40th Infantry Division, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 1106th Aviation Classification and Repair Depot, which has since been re-designated the 1106th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group. London succeeds Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Winstead, who recently retired. Winstead had served the Army since 1976 and the California National Guard since 1980.

DID YOU KNOW...

fraternization can damage morale, order, discipline and unit cohesion, and can have a serious negative impact on your career?

Fraternization, as defined by the Manual for Courts-Martial, is a personal relationship between an officer and an enlisted member that violates the customary bounds of acceptable behavior. This type of relationship usually prejudices good order and discipline, discredits the armed services and can lead to the personal disgrace or dishonor of those involved.

All relationships between service members of different ranks are prohibited if they compromise — or appear to compromise — the integrity of supervisory authority or the chain of command. This can create an actual or clearly predictable adverse impact on discipline, authority and the ability of the command to accomplish its mission.

It is incumbent upon all service members to maintain relationships at a professional level.

For more information, read Army Regulation 600-20, paragraph 4-14 thru 4-16; Air Force Instruction 36-2909, paragraph 2.2.1; and the Manual for Courts-Martial.



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Members of the California Cadet Corps, a California National Guard youth development program, present the colors Dec. 7 to kick off the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony at the Capitol in Sacramento. Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler

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