

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



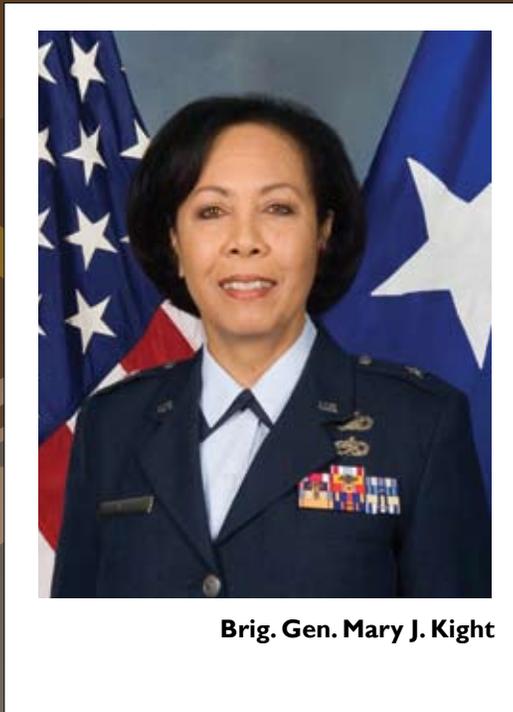
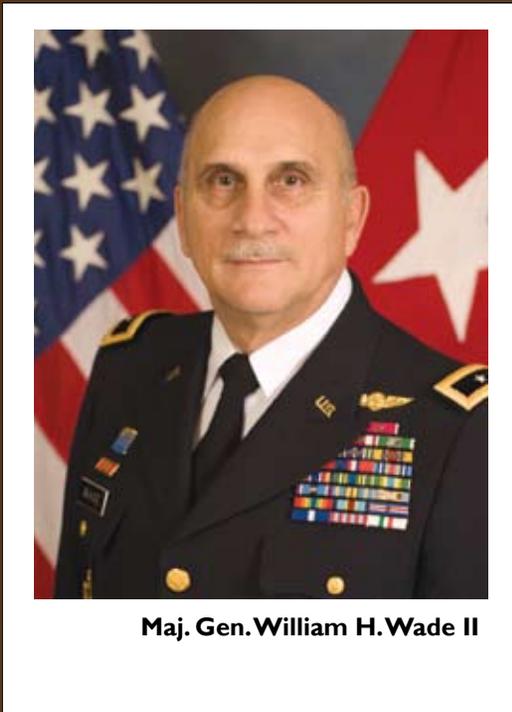
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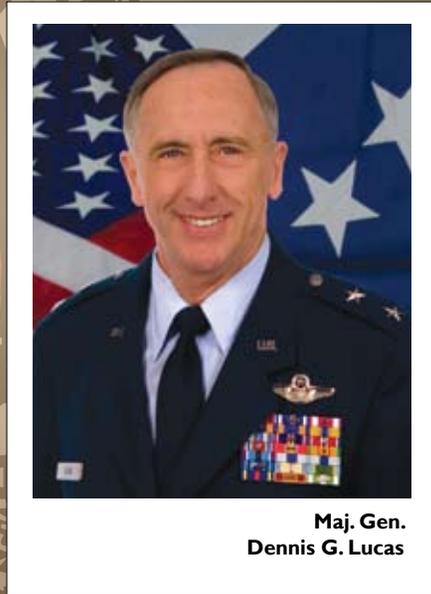
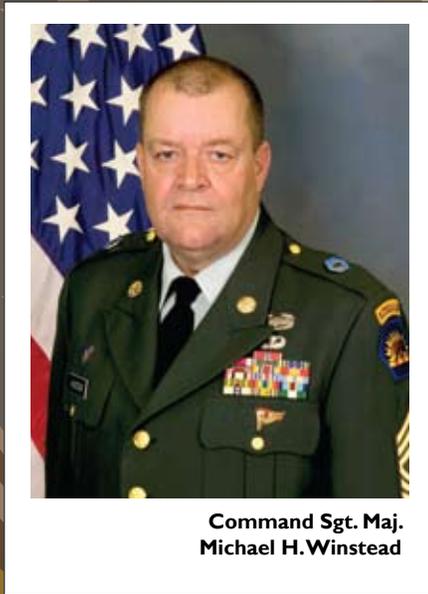
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California National Guard Leadership



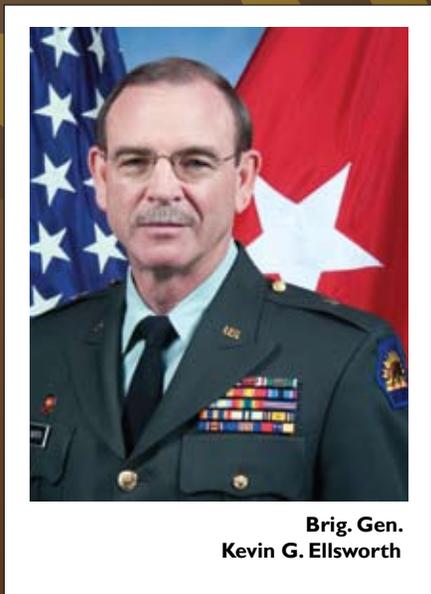
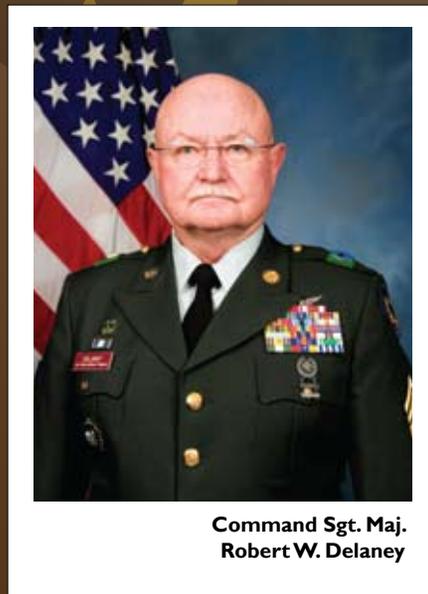
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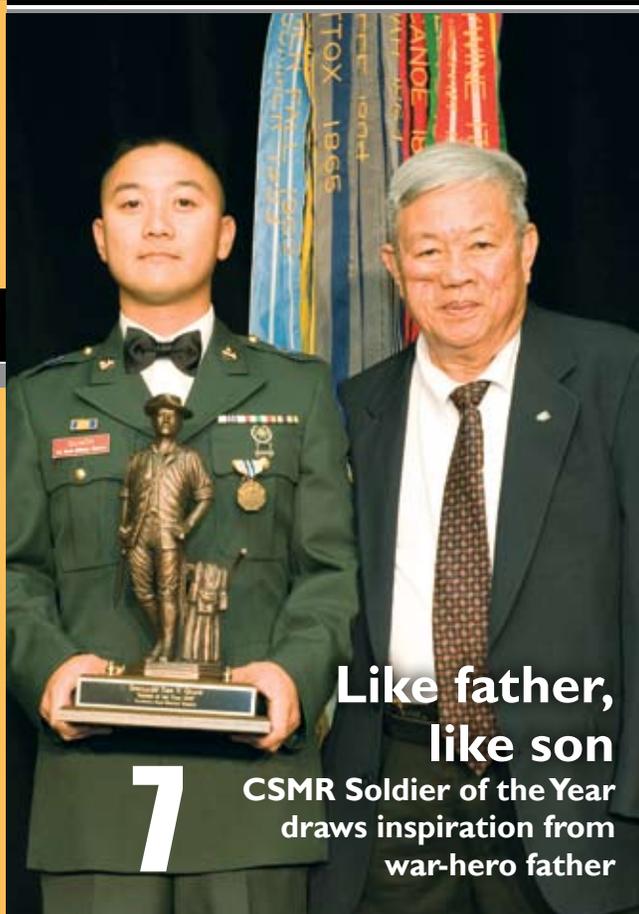
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Articles:

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

Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible
- ★ 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



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, salutes Old Glory and the flag of the state of California on Aug. 7, during California Purple Heart Veterans Day. Wade announced in December that he will step down as adjutant general of the Cal Guard to become deputy chief of staff for operations, Joint Forces Command-Naples, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Response Force in Italy.

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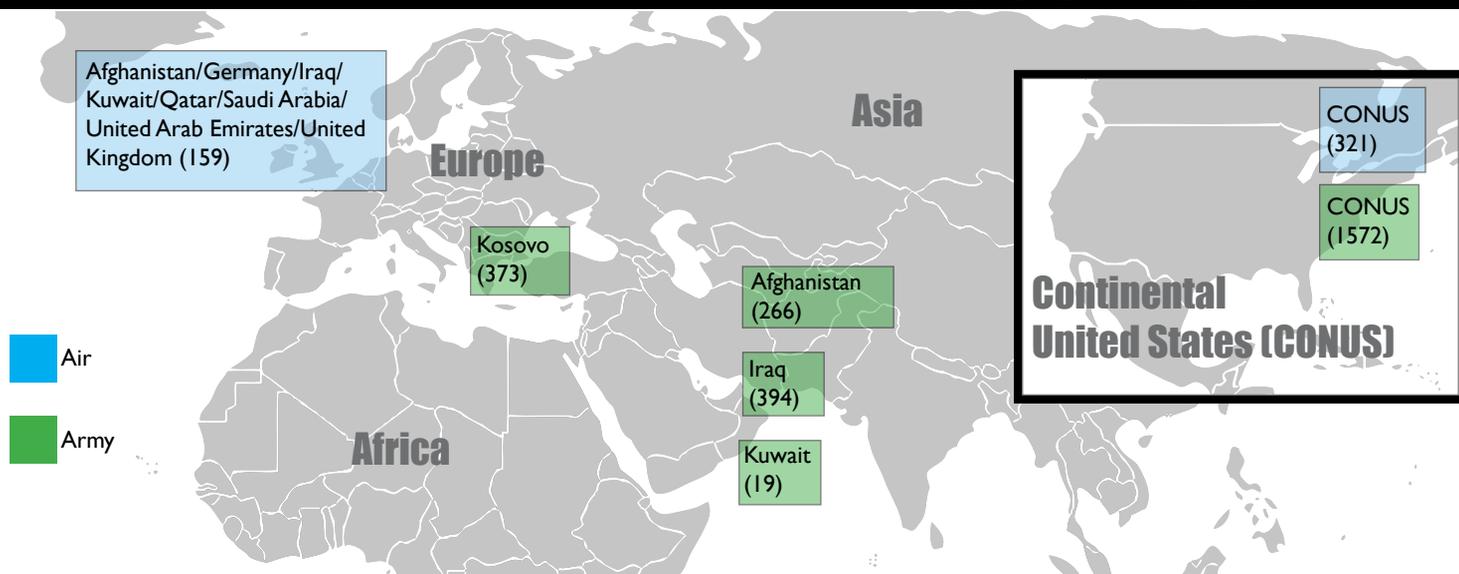
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The California National Guard as of December 2009



Governor awards medals to valorous Soldiers

Two CNG instructors risked their lives to save a motorist

By Brandon Honig

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

When members of the California National Guard deploy, they know they may be asked to do something heroic. The men and women who serve together are ready to put their lives on the line to help a Soldier or Airman in need. But heroes aren't only made on the battlefield. Sometimes duty calls as one is driving to work.

"My boss and I were traveling to work that morning and noticed a vehicle four or five cars ahead swerve from the slow lane across the fast line and hit the divider, then went almost 90 degrees [back across both lanes] and hit a tree before going down over the cliff," Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Davis remembered. He and his boss, Master Sgt. Cari L. Beetham, are Cal Guard military police (MP) instructors on Camp San Luis Obispo.

Beetham pulled over, and the two Soldiers sprinted to where the vehicle, a four-door sedan, had left the road. Davis quickly found his way in through the front passenger-side door — the only one that would open — and began tending to the driver, a 23-year-old elementary school teacher from nearby Morro Bay.

The driver, Emily, was unconscious, and her car's roof had caved in, pinning her head against her right shoulder and cutting off her airway. To make matters worse, her left arm was somehow pinned outside the door between the car and a tree.

Davis quickly removed Emily's seatbelt and maneuvered her body and head just enough to open her airway. He had entered the car so quickly, though, he hadn't realized how precariously it was perched on the embankment over Chorro Creek.

"There was a lot of foliage around, so I couldn't see far ahead of vehicle, and once I got in, because of the cracked glass, I couldn't really tell [what was in front of the car]," he said. "After I got everything stable,

I noticed we were parked on top of years and years of dead leaves. And it was a wet, soggy, foggy morning, really bad conditions — I knew that vehicle could slide."

While Davis was administering first aid and checking the patient's vitals, Beetham was racing around the site, looking for rocks to secure the vehicle's tires. Once that was accomplished, she checked on Davis and called 911. But nobody came to help from the sheriff's department across the street or from nearby Camp SLO.

Another driver had called 911 and reported a stalled vehicle in the middle of the freeway, Davis said, and miscommunication led responders to believe that was the only problem. The miscommunication meant Davis needed to prop open Emily's airway, and Beetham needed to direct and control the speeding highway traffic, for 20 minutes before help arrived.

"At about 15 minutes into the ordeal, Miss Emily started to regain consciousness. She was slurring, she couldn't tell where she was, and I was afraid she would move her neck around [and cause further] injury," Davis said. "At about 18 minutes, she started coming out of shock, and she let me have every name in the book. She was trying to push the tree away from her arm and was in extreme panic. So I was trying to keep her calm and help her through that pain. I can't even imagine [the pain], being pinned up against that tree."

When members of the local fire department and California Highway Patrol arrived, they put chains around the vehicle to stabilize it, then came in through the back to rescue Emily, who had endured a broken arm and wrist and still has glass in her arms.

More than a year after saving the young woman's life, Davis and Beetham were recognized by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger at a Medal of Valor ceremony in Sacramento that honored 27 state employees across



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (left), with assistance from Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, presents Medals of Valor to Master Sgt. Cari Beetham and Staff Sgt. Christopher Davis on Dec. 10 at the Sacramento Convention Center. The military police instructors were recognized for risking their own lives to provide lifesaving aid to a woman whose vehicle had gone over a steep embankment.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER

California who had "performed an extraordinary act of heroism above and beyond the normal call of duty, at great risk to their own personal safety or life, to save the life of another."

The 2009 ceremony marked the 50th anniversary of the state honoring its employees for "amazing stories of true bravery," Schwarzenegger said.

"This [ceremony] honors men and women who risked their lives to save a stranger," he said Dec. 10. "For most heroes, moments such as this — with accolades and medals — are not easy because they do what they do, not to be in the spotlight, not to get a medal ... but they do it because they feel it's their job. These 27 state employees put service and sacrifice above all else ... and

acted selflessly and out of compassion for others in their hour of need. What a fantastic example for our children. What a fantastic example for our state."

Davis, who was awarded a gold medal of valor, noted that he and Beetham have both served tours in Iraq, which along with their military training made their reactions in an emergency situation almost second nature. Beetham was awarded a silver medal of valor.

"I guess that's where being an MP instructor came into play: You've got to practice what you preach," Davis said. "It's almost instinct, really, to go and help."

For more information on the Medal of Valor, visit www.medalofvalor.ca.gov.

129th Airmen first to use digitally aided recovery

Bold Quest personnel-recovery exercise included forces from 11 nations

By Capt. Alyson Teeter

129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

California Air National Guardsmen successfully demonstrated coalition personnel recovery operations using net-enabled data link capabilities for the first time ever during the U.S. Joint Forces Command exercise Bold Quest 2009.

The 129th Rescue Wing (RQW) sent 23 Guardsmen and an MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft equipped with a prototype situation awareness system to Bold Quest at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., from Oct. 27 to Nov. 5. The exercise featured a series of demonstrations to assess technical and procedural solutions to improve combat effectiveness. In the past, rescuers were constrained to voice-only communications in lifesaving missions. Air Guard forces responding to Hurricane Ike last year identified data link capability as the highest-priority improvement for homeland emergency response operations on a large scale.

"Voice communications have always been an Achilles heel in the coordination of time-sensitive rescue operations," said Lt. Col. Steve Butow, deputy director of the 129th Operations Group and deployed commander during Bold Quest. "The voice communications frequencies rapidly become saturated during disasters because of the volume of information being passed."

The 129th RQW's operational experience provided momentum for generating a data link solution that underwent an operational utility evaluation in April at the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Test Center in Tucson, Ariz.

Bold Quest was an opportunity to integrate data link-enabled air and ground forces from joint and coalition components in a simulated battle space, Butow said. The architecture, forces and concept of operations were representative of Afghanistan, and scenarios involved austere, woodland and urban environments. The 129th crews flew eight missions as airborne mission commander (AMC), supporting more than 20 personnel recovery events.

"The crews were developing new tactics, techniques and procedures pretty much every time they flew," said Maj. Jose Agredano, 129th Operations Group chief of tactics and deployed director of operations during Bold Quest. "The system is new to rescue, so we were literally discovering different ways to utilize [it] every event."

The events involved a variety of aircraft and forces, including Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles, Air National Guard F-16C Fight Falcons, Canadian Air Force F-18CF Hornets and Quick Reaction Forces from the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Among other achievements, the exercise showed data link minimized voice communications, allowing more effective coordination of recovery tasks. The rescue MC-130P also streamed secure video during recoveries, increasing the ground force commander's situational awareness and relieving intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets that would normally perform this function.

ADTs key to Obama's Afghanistan farming initiative

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

The National Guard continues to make a significant contribution to the development of agriculture in Afghanistan, one of the initiatives President Barack Obama discussed in his Dec. 1 speech to the nation.

"We will ... focus our assistance in areas — such as agriculture — that can make an immediate impact in the lives of the Afghan people," Obama said during the speech at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has also told the Senate Armed Services Committee that civilian partnerships, in combination with military efforts, are crucial to success in Afghanistan.

Eight National Guard Agribusiness Development Teams (ADT) are on the ground in Afghanistan, and more teams are preparing to deploy, Guard officials said. The ADTs partner with U.S. colleges, federal agencies and state farm bureaus to help Afghans improve their agricultural practices.

Agricultural businesses provide the majority of Afghanistan's gross domestic product and employ more than 70 percent of its citizens, said Col. Martin A. Leppert, who oversees the ADT program for the director of the Army National Guard. The program was initiated by the Missouri National Guard in 2007.

"Nowhere does today's 21st-century Minuteman embody the citizen-Soldier promise better," said Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "We send Guardsmen, whose skills and livelihood are earned in agribusiness in the United States, to this war-torn country to help better its farming industry."

Guard members are "doing incredible work promoting sustainable farming practices and stimulating Afghan agriculture," McKinley said.

He cited two accomplishments by the ADTs: developing clean and sanitary meat-processing facilities powered by renewable energy sources, and teaching Afghans to build wind turbines to produce power.



ABOVE: Col. Eric Grimm, commander of the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team (ADT), left, speaks with farmer Haji Mohammad Amman, right, about methods to increase his wheat and orange production in Marawara, Afghanistan. While in Marawara in November, the ADT also gathered soil samples to learn how crop production can be maximized in the area. **BELOW:** Sgt. Todd Percival, an ADT geologist, gathers a sample while horticulturist Sgt. Jason Stevens maintains security.

"It's easy — and wrong — to see Afghanistan's natural condition as perpetual war," Leppert said. "And it's just as easy, and just as wrong, to think Americans have no common bond with the Afghan people. The National Guard may have found [that bond] and is working very hard to literally grow that bond in Afghanistan's remote rural farming regions."

Leppert noted that pomegranate trees were abundant in Afghanistan before the Soviet Union invaded in 1979, but during the decade-long conflict, the Soviets "practically denuded the nation" of pomegranates.

"And then came the ... National Guard," he continued.

"When the ADT teams discovered the pomegranate's history, it wasn't long before about 10,000 pomegranate saplings were being given to the Afghan farmers, who treated them as if they were made of gold."

"It will be a long time before all those saplings bear fruit, and longer still before pomegranate groves become common again in Afghanistan. But the connection with our ADTs and the replanting of the pomegranate will not be forgotten for as long as these farmers — and their children and grandchildren — tell the tale."

Maj. Deidre Musgrave of the Oklahoma National Guard contributed to this story.



TriWest donates \$49,000 to support Guard

By Brandon Honig
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

TriWest Healthcare Alliance, which administers TRICARE health benefits for military service members and their families in 21 states, donated a total of \$49,000 to organizations that support the California National Guard during a ceremony Dec. 7 at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento.

The Sergeants Major Association of California received the largest donation, \$31,000. The National Teen Leadership Program was given \$10,000, while the 40th Infantry Division (ID) Memorial Fund received \$6,500 and the Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs received \$1,500.

"[TriWest] is a team that's a part of our team," said Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, assistant adjutant general of the California National Guard. "It's so significant because our relationship with them is so solid, and the reason is because they provide benefits not only for those of us who are in uniform but also for our families.

"They are here today ... to continue to support organizations that support us."

The Sergeants Major Association supports the California National Guard through the Chaplain's Fund, which provides financial assistance to service members in unexpected emergency situations. The association has provided upwards of \$45,000 annually to assist those in need of essentials like rent, food, utilities and transportation in times of family emergency, regardless of rank.

TriWest Donations

\$31,000	Sergeants Major Association of California
\$10,000	National Teen Leadership Program
\$6,500	40th Infantry Division Memorial Fund
\$1,500	Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs

"Our forces are getting stressed from all of these deployments, and there's nothing like being deployed and knowing your family is being taken care of when [things] happen," said William Clark Jr., command sergeant major of the California National Guard. "[When] a Soldier is getting ready to go out on a mission, and there's the, 'Oh, I couldn't pay my rent,' ... they know that people here in the California National Guard are stepping up and the community is getting together to make sure that we stay connected to the families [and take care of them]."

The National Teen Leadership Program has organized annual three-day camps for teens in 8th through 12th grade for the past 18 years. Campers hear from motivational speakers and take part in interactive workshops and small group sessions focused on leadership, teamwork and diversity. The next camp will be held July 9-11 at Chapman University in Orange, Calif., followed



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

by another July 23-25 at the University of California, Davis. For more information, visit www.teenleader.org.

The 40th ID Memorial Fund also organizes an annual camp, bringing sons and daughters of deployed service members to Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., for a weeklong experience that simulates boot-camp and teaches children about their parents' training and roles in the military. Contact Staff Sgt. Connie Mesta at 562-795-1484 for details.

Children of service members face many challenges their peers may not understand

or recognize. To help military dependents cope and build relationships with teens who face similar situations, two daughters of Guard members – Kaylei Deakin and Moranda Hern – founded the Sisterhood of the Traveling BDUs last year. The goal is to bring military daughters together and give each the opportunity to grow in self-confidence, sisterly support and leadership. The organization will hold its first conference March 12-14 in Clovis, Calif. Female military dependents aged 13 to 18 and female service members who will serve as mentors should register at www.sisterhoodbdus.org.

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Children of service members face many challenges their peers may not understand

Japanese forces share culture with Guard Soldiers

By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Shepherd, U.S. Army;
and Sgt. Gerardo DeAvila, Georgia National Guard

Tea ceremonies, paper-folding and sword demonstrations aren't usually the first things that come to mind when thinking of a command post exercise with one of the U.S. military's strongest allies.

Yet the more than 1,500 U.S. troops participating in "Yama Sakura 57" had the opportunity to do just that as well as visit Japanese children with special needs and practice the arts of calligraphy and origami before the start of this year's exercise. Those events were part of a series of cultural exchanges designed to foster a better understanding of Japanese culture and traditions.

The Northern Army of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), the U.S. military's partner for this year's exercise, planned and executed the cultural series. Each day featured a different event, hosted on the Northern Army's camp on the island of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island.

One of the first cultural activities offered was a home visit, which was designed to let U.S. participants experience Japanese home life firsthand.

"I was humbled by this experience, and I love the respect and honor I felt being at



PHOTO BY PFC. ASHLEY FONTENOT

Sgt. Lizeth Reyes, center, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard, and Sgt. Johanna Zamora of the Hawaii-based 196th Infantry Brigade participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony Dec. 5 on Camp Higashi-Chitose, Japan, during the Yama Sakura 57 exercise. Yama Sakura, which means "mountain cherry blossom" in Japanese, is an annual exercise to strengthen military operations and ties between the U.S. Army and Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force.

my host's home," said Spc. Latangia Oliver, 40th Special Troops Battalion, California National Guard. "This is my first trip to Japan and did not know what to expect and felt a little apprehensive, but after tonight I feel right at home."

Sgt. Lizeth Reyes of the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division participated in a tea ceremony and enjoyed the attention to detail placed on this important part of Japanese life.

"This has given me a great appreciation in working with my counterparts, and I'm glad they made an effort to share their world with me," she said.

Other classes during the week included calligraphy, flower arranging, or kado, and the proper wear of a kimono.

For many, however, the best part of the cultural exchange was a trip to visit children with special needs. Twenty-nine U.S. troops and 29 JGSDF troops played wheelchair soccer during the visit and had a great time, said Command Sgt. Maj. Alveno Hodge of the U.S. Army's Pacific Special Troops Battalion.

More than 1,500 U.S. military personnel and nearly 3,500 members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force participated in the exercise Dec. 7-13. Yama Sakura, which means "mountain cherry blossom," is an annual, bilateral exercise designed to strengthen military operations and ties between the U.S. Army and the JGSDF.

"I saw lots of smiling," said Command Sgt. Maj. Hisanoria Honda, command sergeant major of the Northern Army, JGSDF. "I believe that the U.S. participants will have some good memories to bring home."

A family tradition of service

CSMR Soldier of the Year Spc. Tien Quach draws inspiration from his war-hero father

By Marc Yablonka

Last Oct. 23rd, when Spc. Tien Quach was selected as the California State Military Reserve's (CSMR) Soldier of the Year, he was simply but proudly carrying on a family tradition begun by his father a generation ago in the jungles and rice paddies of faraway Vietnam, where Spc. Quach was born, and where his father, Capt. Truong Vinh Quach, of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, bravely fought.

Capt. Quach's gallantry during the Vietnam War was not lost on his son as Spc. Quach accepted his award that night. How could it have been? His father had lost his left arm and leg as well as the thumb on his right hand and shattered his jawbone in order to save the Soldiers under his command.

"During a night operation, a grenade was thrown into my father's fighting position," said Spc. Quach of the Installation Support Group Security Force at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos. "He made the critical decision to throw himself upon the exploding grenade to shield his Soldiers from the shrapnel. He has never regretted his decision, insisting that his first job as the company commander was to ensure the safety of his Soldiers."

Spc. Quach's father recently recounted the ordeal to his 27-year-old son. One gets the impression that it was not the first time.

"He lay in a muddy field looking at his left leg, which was torn to pieces, his left arm missing and the thumb on his right hand hanging by the skin," Spc. Quach said. "He waited six hours for a helicopter to fly him back to Saigon for medical treatment. He was pronounced dead several times on the operating table but made it through the night."

Capt. Quach, who served in the 7th Infantry Division in IV Corps, based at My Tho, still carries shrapnel in his lungs today, according to his son. But all of his wounds of war could not prevent him from showing deep pride in his son's accomplishment.

"After receiving the Soldier of the Year award, my father hugged me and told me that he was very proud of me," Spc. Quach said. "He's glad that I chose to continue the military tradition in our family."

That is a tradition the San Diego State graduate, who majored in Asian Studies, intends to carry further; he plans to enlist in the California National Guard after completing his



Spc. Tien Quach, California State Military Reserve Soldier of the Year, provides security on Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos.

PHOTO BY SGT. (CA) GENE ARIAS

master's degree in social work and serve as a clinical social worker.

All of that is truly good news for Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, who was in attendance during the joint Cal Guard and CSMR Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year Awards banquet in Monterey, Calif., in October. Harrel said Quach is exemplary of the fact that devotion to state and country runs as high among CSMR troops as it does in the National Guard.

"The SMR does not operate at a lighter level or standard," he said.

"To see a family trained in military tradition was important," Harrel said about Quach, adding, "For a father who served in Vietnam, there is obviously no closure without service."

To say that Spc. Quach has truly honored his father with his service in the CSMR is something Spc. Quach's commanding officer, Col. Pete Seitz, would certainly agree with.

"After the banquet, I watched as Specialist Quach and his father posed for pictures, and the smiles on their faces said it all," Seitz recalled. "For Specialist Quach, it was the honor of being recognized as the Soldier of the Year for the State Military Reserve. For the former Captain Quach, it was the pride of a father seeing his son honored, and for him to again be among Soldiers and share in the brotherhood."

"When I was introduced to Truong Vinh Quach, I saw a former Soldier that had suffered major injuries, but despite them, the pride of having been a Soldier and being among Soldiers was strongly present," Seitz continued. "Captain Quach was humble yet proud as he walked into the banquet with his son. The applause was long and loud as he was introduced. As he took his seat, I could see the happiness in his face not only for his son's recognition but also that his service had been recognized."

Spc. Quach is quick to point out that he carries a deep sense of gratitude not only for his father, but for his mother, Bich-Kieu Nguyen, as well.

"I am an only child; my parents could only afford to feed one, so I didn't have siblings," he said. "I commend my mother for always supporting my father. My parents met after the war, thus after my father's injuries. My mother looked past his scars and fell in love with his charisma. My mother is very proud of me also. She has always said that I grew up to be just like my father."

However, for Spc. Quach, honoring the CSMR is equally important to honoring family.

"Being nominated to represent my unit was a great honor," Spc. Quach said. "I was surprised because I was relatively new to the unit compared to the other Soldiers. I had been in the SMR for less than a year. I was very nervous."

Preparing for the Soldier of the Year competition was something Quach dealt with seven days a week for weeks on end.

"I had to embody every attribute of a model Soldier: being physically fit, knowledgeable in all areas of the military. I carried flash cards and made daily trips to the gym," he said. "I competed to make my family and my unit proud."

It has been a long road for the young Soldier whose life swept him up from his native Saigon as a baby and placed him and his family in a refugee camp in Thailand, where he has vague memories of struggling to get a cup of rice and enduring meals of a handful of grapes until the Orderly Departure Program and sponsorship by a family in Delaware brought the Quach family to the United States.

And while Spc. Quach makes plans to earn a Master of Social Work degree and works as a media marketing coordinator for Saigon Broadcasting Television Network, an Orange County-based TV network that broadcasts nationwide, focusing on preserving and enriching the Vietnamese community here, his thoughts never stray far from his desire to serve his country.

"After receiving the Soldier of the Year Award, I felt a whole new responsibility and stage in my life," he said. "I knew that I would continue to serve the California State Military Reserve and the California National Guard until I retire."

But his pride in service does not stop with himself. Spc. Quach feels a deep sense of loyalty to those who serve as he does.

"All too often people fail to appreciate the luxuries that we have, like the opportunity to volunteer for the military," he said. "Young men and women across the globe do not have such luxury in countries that dictate mandatory military service. We should all stand proud of the men and women who serve in the U.S. and overseas: ordinary people making extraordinary sacrifices as they serve our nation."

Spc. Tien Quach and retired Capt. Truong Vinh Quach know all about extraordinary sacrifices, but ordinary they are not.

Marc Yablonka served the California State Military Reserve as a public affairs officer from 2001 to 2008 and retired as a chief warrant officer. He is the author of "Distant War: Recollections of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVE

Spc. (CA) Tien Quach poses with his father, retired Capt. Truong Vinh Quach of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, after receiving the Soldier of the Year award during a banquet Oct. 23 in Monterey, Calif. Capt. Quach, a company commander in Vietnam, lost an arm, leg and thumb when he threw himself on a grenade to save his Soldiers during the Vietnam War.



MG Wade leaves legacy of growth, change

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, who will step down as adjutant general this month, transformed the California National Guard from a strategic reserve to a globally deployable operational force



TOP: Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, delivers a Memorial Day address in 2008 in Mount Vernon, Calif. **ABOVE:** Wade in 1970 at the California Military Academy.

**By Maj. Danjel Bout
JFHQ Government Affairs**

During his tenure as the adjutant general of the California National Guard, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II served as the architect of fundamental changes to the California National Guard that have forever changed the role of California's citizen-Soldiers. To understand just how far the Cal Guard has come during Wade's tenure, one need only look at the state of the Guard in early 2005.

When Wade was appointed as the adjutant general by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2005, more than 5,000 California National Guard members were deployed to combat theaters across the globe. Although California's citizen-Soldiers were performing their overseas duties with professionalism and courage, a range of problems was cropping up, threatening the future utility of the Guard. The greatest hurdle stemmed from the decades-old policy of utilizing the National Guard as a strategic reserve. Under the strategic reserve policy, the Department of Defense purposely underfunded, under-resourced and under-equipped the National Guard. By late 2005 these decisions were starting to have a dramatic effect on almost every aspect of the California National Guard, from equipment-readiness to family support networks.

As soon as Wade took the helm of the Cal Guard, he started the most comprehensive shift in direction the California National Guard had ever attempted. The challenges he faced were almost too numerous to count: The Cal Guard needed to shift from a strategic reserve to a globally deployable operational force, long-standing equipment shortfalls had to be addressed, new programs needed to be cre-

ated to sustain the mental health of service members facing multiple deployments, and family care programs had to be developed and integrated for deploying Soldiers and Airmen. All of this had to be accomplished with thousands of Soldiers and Airmen deployed overseas, and without limiting the Cal Guard's ability to respond to domestic emergencies. Despite the numerous hurdles, Wade was able to address these concerns and reshape California's National Guard into one of the most effective in the country.

After visiting the Soldiers and Airmen deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, Wade set about creating one of the most comprehensive mental health programs in the country. In conjunction with TriWest, the Cal Guard started a pilot program that embedded mental health advisers with deploying units. Mental health professionals took part in every aspect of pre- and post-mobilization activities and ensured Guard members and their families were prepared to deal with the emotional turmoil of a combat deployment.

Under Wade's watch, family programs underwent a similar evolution as outreach efforts increased dramatically for spouses of deployed service members. In addition to implementing these groundbreaking programs, Wade also ensured that Cal Guardsmen receive a range of important new benefits in recognition of their service to the state and nation. These include the option to buy into the Department of Defense TRICARE health insurance program, the option to take part in the enormously expanded Post- 9/11 G.I. Bill, and the opportunity to apply for a groundbreaking new educational benefit, the California National Guard

Education Assistance Award Program.

This stunning increase in programs designed to support the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard during Wade's tenure was matched only by the massive increases in equipment funding. Since 2005 the California National Guard has received an influx of new equipment to start addressing decades of under-resourcing. Although re-equipping the Guard will continue for years, Cal Guard units are now better equipped than at any other time in recent memory, and vital resources continue to pour in. Gone are the days when units struggled to fully equip their Soldiers with weapons and gear prior to deployment.

The re-equipping of the California National Guard couldn't have come at a better time, because over the last four years, California's National Guard has been one of the most tasked in the nation. Just days after Wade took command of the Cal Guard, more than 1,000 Guardsmen deployed in response to Hurricane Katrina, providing critical support to the beleaguered population of New Orleans. When then-President George W. Bush ordered National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border, Wade created Joint Task Force Vista, and in less than a month there were several thousand Cal Guardsmen arrayed along the border to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

A little more than a year after Task Force Vista was created, the Cal Guard deployed troops to combat a disaster that struck far closer to home, the San Diego wildfires. The Cal Guardsmen taking part in Task Force Vista were on the scene in a matter of hours and helped secure thousands of families displaced by the raging wildfires. By the time the conflagration was contained, thousands of Guardsmen had joined the relief efforts, preventing devastated neighborhoods from being looted and providing critical support to their fellow Californians. The following year, when California was threatened by thousands of lightning-spawned wildfires, the Cal Guard was again asked to provide support. Over the next week, hundreds of National Guardsmen were trained in vital fire-eradication techniques and deployed across the state to assist with firefighting efforts. These deployments in support of the citizens of California were made all the more impressive by the fact that they occurred while thousands of Guardsmen were deployed overseas to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In four short years, Maj. Gen. Wade has guided the California National Guard through a comprehensive transformation that has redefined the role of the National Guard in California.

Early this year, Wade will embark on a new assignment to become the deputy chief of staff for operations at Joint Forces Command-Naples, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Response Force. The NATO Response Force is a highly ready and technologically advanced force made up of land, air, sea and special forces and is the cutting edge of NATO transformation. Although Wade will be sorely missed by the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard, he is superbly qualified for this challenging assignment and will provide a valuable service to our nation and to the NATO alliance. As Maj. Gen. Wade steps down as adjutant general, his legacy will be that of a transformed California National Guard, proven in combat and better equipped and manned than at any other time in history.



“Major General Wade has done an amazing job as a leader, working to keep our state and nation safe and our men and women in uniform trained for success. Major General Wade’s leadership has made outstanding contributions to California.”

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger



“Major General Wade leaves the California Military Department and the California National Guard with a strong legacy of confidence built on a solid foundation of ‘always doing the right thing’ while serving the citizens of this great state and nation. During my tenure as the assistant adjutant general, I witnessed his tenacity and graciousness when he rolled up his sleeves to do the hard work for the benefit of our Military Department and the National Guard. Members serving Joint Forces Command Naples will learn in a short period of time that Major General Wade is a visionary leader, results-oriented, compassionate and sincere. This Soldier will be missed, but we are excited about this new chapter in his life.”

Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, Assistant Adjutant General, California National Guard



TOP: Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, left, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger discuss the importance of collaboration between the California National Guard and firefighting agencies statewide. CENTER RIGHT: Wade and Schwarzenegger strategize with then-President George W. Bush during the 2008 wildfires near Redding, Calif. CENTER LEFT: Wade and his wife, Leslie, at the Airman of the Year ceremony in 2007 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. ABOVE: Wade, right, with his brother, then-Staff Sgt. Michael V. Wade, in 1978. Michael had just received the Military Cross; William had earlier received the Medal of Merit for Heroism. LEFT: Then-Lieutenant Colonel Wade spends time with his wife, Leslie, and son, William B. Wade, who now serves the Cal Guard as a specialist in the 132nd Engineer Battalion.



Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II presented the California Medal of Merit to state Sen. Dave Cogdill on Dec. 14 in recognition of his efforts and achievements to benefit service members. The medal is the second-highest merit award given by the Cal Guard. "In particular, we applaud his efforts to correct the inequity that made California the only state in the nation that did not provide an education benefit to its citizen-Soldiers," Wade said. A bill passed earlier this year and signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in July established an education benefit for the state's citizen-Soldiers (see page 13).

Photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler

Cal Guard Soldiers deployed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, battle members of the Ferizaj/Urosevac Kastrioti basketball club on the hardwood Dec. 27. An all-star team of Soldiers from Camp Bondsteel, coached by Spc. Gerald T. Thomas of the Los Angeles area-based I-144th Field Artillery Battalion, lost to the Kosovar club 63-51 but they continued a sporting tradition that has bolstered relations with Kosovo's people for years. Teams of Soldiers also compete against Kosovar teams in volleyball and soccer each year.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mike Hagburg



Alpha Company, I-144th Maneuver Task Force, assumes responsibility for protect duties at two Kosovo Force (KFOR) camps in Pristina, Kosovo, last month. The ta force, composed of Soldiers from the Guard's Los Angeles-area based I-144th Fie Artillery Battalion, will maintain security at Camp Vrelo and in and around Film C which is the site of KFOR's headquarters. The I-144th Soldiers are part of the KF 12 rotation, which arrived in Kosovo in November, relieving KFOR 11, which was headed by the Cal Guard's 40th Infantry Division.

Photo courtesy of I 16th Public Affairs Detachment

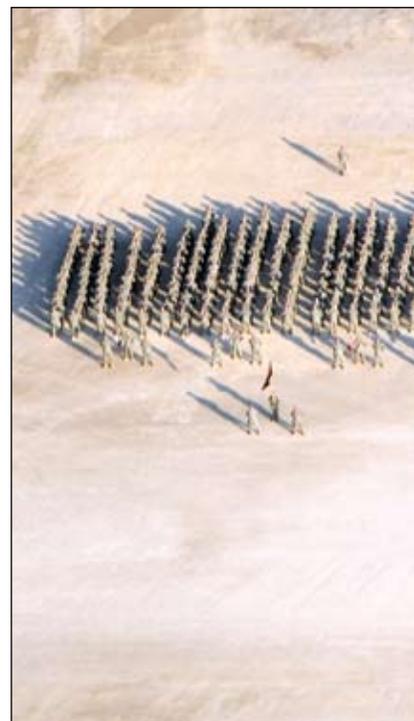


Soldiers of the Fairfield, Calif.-based Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, run 3.73 miles in Iraq on Dec. 13 to commemorate the National Guard's 373rd birthday. Many hundreds of runners participated, running through narrow, muddy roads to show their dedication to the Guard.

Photo by 1st Lt. William Marquez

Kosovo Force (KFOR) 11 Soldiers stand in formation during a transfer of authority ceremony on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The Cal Guard's 40th Infantry Division, which led KFOR 11 Multi-National Task Force-East, was relieved of authority by North Dakota's 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade on Nov. 14.

Photo by Spc. Chris Erickson





Check out our new Facebook page. Search "California National Guard"



Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, assistant adjutant general of the California National Guard, kicks off "Operation Christmas," a toy drive to benefit military families in California, on Dec. 8 at the Capitol in Sacramento. The toy drive was organized by Yellow Ribbon America, a nonprofit dedicated to helping service members and their families. The Guard supported the drive with vehicles to transport the donated toys.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler



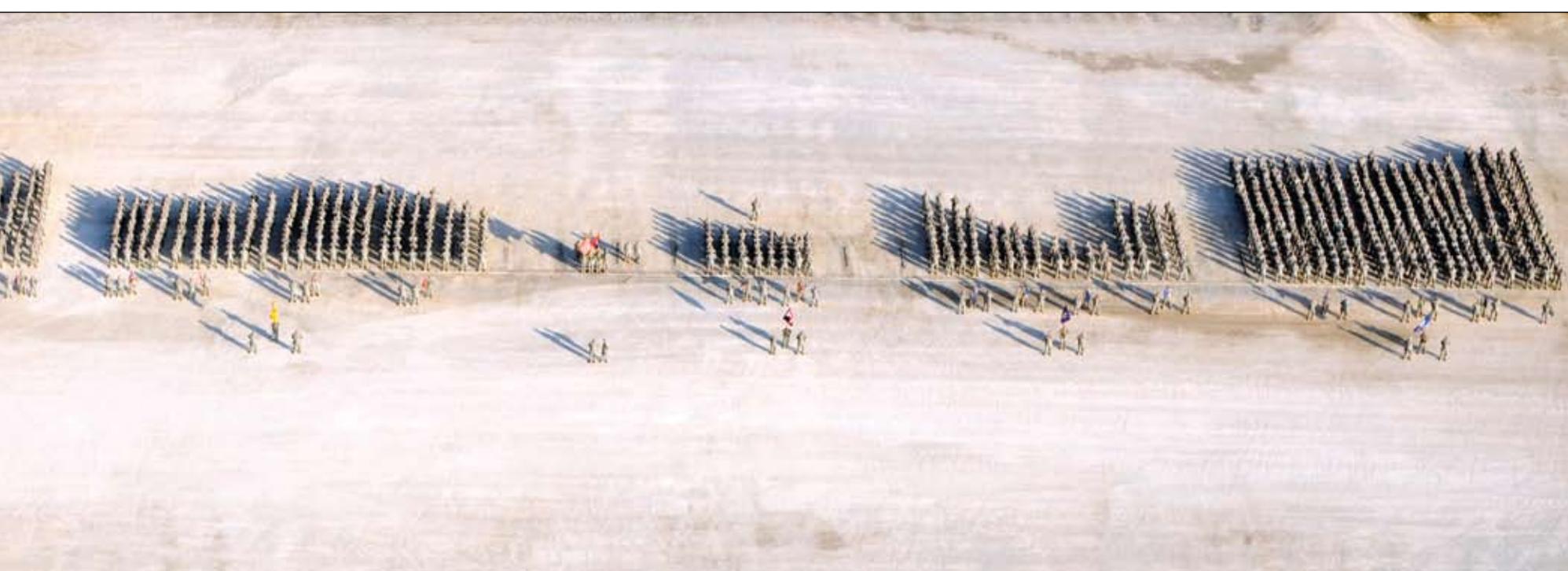
Master Sgt. Julie Avey of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing throws a grenade Dec. 11 on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., during training for deployment to Afghanistan.

Photo by Ryan Morton



Local children assist Spc. Jose Lopez, an irrigation specialist with the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team, in setting up a mobile veterinary clinic in Naray, Afghanistan, on Dec. 17. The team vaccinated 462 farm animals that were brought to the event by more than 100 local farmers. In addition, eight of the farmers received training on how to vaccinate animals in the future.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boisvert





Soldiers with 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment, hand out school supplies donated by stateside friends of the unit. Students at Ceres High School near Modesto, Calif., collected more than 47 boxes of supplies for children in Mogila, Kosovo, who participate in an English course taught by Soldiers of the 18th Cavalry.

18th Cav Soldiers donate time, supplies to school

**Story and photo by Spc. Nevada J. Smith
69th Public Affairs Detachment**

Close your eyes and picture your old grade-school classroom. Remember the dusty chalkboard and individual desks, your backpack filled with pens, paper and everything you might possibly need as a student.

Now picture the same classroom, this time taking away everything but the chalkboard. Add concrete walls, long tables with uneven legs and tattered carpet so thin you can almost see through it.

Those are the scholastic conditions the children of Mogila, Kosovo, are equipped with. The simple school supplies most of us took for granted are a precious resource to the children of the multicultural village. Upon seeing this, 1st Lt. Christopher Vanmeter, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry, decided to do something about it.

Vanmeter is a teacher at Ceres High School near Modesto, Calif. While speaking with a colleague at Ceres, the idea of donating school supplies came up.

"Within days, the students had collected over 47 boxes of school supplies," Vanmeter said.

Once the supplies had been gathered, the Soldiers needed to figure out who should be given the supplies.

"Captain Vo came to me and broached the idea about doing an English class in the village of Mogila," Vanmeter said.

English is a common language between the Serbian and Albanian cultures, and part of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) mission is to promote cooperation between the two groups.

Vanmeter and his troops began teaching English at the elementary school in Mogila. The classes were divided so Vanmeter taught the Serbian children in the morning and the Albanian children in the afternoon.

"The ethnically mixed children were a little hesitant at first, but now they are friends and stick together and help each other learn," Vanmeter said.

Vanmeter is proud of the work he has done and the impact he has had on his young students.

"We're hoping the next rotation will carry on with what we do," Vanmeter said. "We're not here for just the one class but for the long term."

Though the KFOR 11 rotation has headed home, the Soldiers have made an impact on the people. With good deeds like school donations, KFOR will continue to help the people of Kosovo.

"It's hard to sum up what you have done during a KFOR rotation, but I know when I leave here this will be a pivotal moment to remember for the rest of my life. Not only because I am a teacher, but because I think this is probably the best thing we can do here," Vanmeter said.

Building a better tomorrow

**Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade
69th Public Affairs Detachment**

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ardizone was one of about 1,400 Soldiers who made up the U.S. contingent of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) 11 multinational task force, which was charged with providing a safe and secure environment in Kosovo until KFOR 12 assumed responsibility late last year.

When he arrived in February, Ardizone began working in the tactical operations center, focused on command and control communications for his maneuver element, Task Force Sabre. He was not particularly fond of being behind a desk, and when his supervisor told him he was going to be moved to become part of the civil military operations (CMO) section, Ardizone knew he would be able to put his civilian skills to good use.

CMO teams leverage military capabilities and resources to improve public institutions in Kosovo. For example, they promote businesses that aid in the rebuilding of infrastructure and work with local residents to improve their way of living. A lot of the work is done through contracts, something Ardizone is familiar with as a business consultant for Verizon Wireless in Santa Clarita, Calif.

"Obviously it is a different situation here, but in the end it really came down to knowing how to ask the right questions," Ardizone said. "As soon as I dove into my first project, I knew I was sort of that final piece of a puzzle. This job was the perfect fit for me, and I'm glad I had the chance to do something for the people of Kosovo."

The two main CMO project categories are humanitarian assistance (HA) and humanitarian civic action (HCA).

"HA is where we find a project and we ask for the money through our U.S. Embassy. ... We are not guaranteed any funds; we have to compete for funds," said Lt. Col. Brian Anderson, the command group's CMO section officer-in-charge. "HCA projects are where we use military labor."

During the KFOR 11 rotation, Anderson oversaw a pair of three-person CMO teams, one from the Azusa, Calif.-based 18th Cavalry Regiment and one from the Modesto, Calif.-based 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment.

Their Soldiers rolled into villages every day, shaking hands, seeing issues firsthand and

planting the seeds that began most CMO projects. Schools, playgrounds and youth centers were frequently visited to identify needs for restoration and cleanup, and remote villages that hadn't seen a recent KFOR presence were given special attention.

When construction was necessary — like the recent rebuilding of five bridges so farmers could get their produce to the market — Guard engineers were called in. They considered factors such as weather, materials, cost, labor, location, environmental impact and aesthetics when drafting schematics with safety, quality and longevity in mind.

"Some projects have taken a few years and others can be quick," Anderson said. "It really depends on the scale, scope, cost and complexity of the project."

The CMO teams face some restrictions, such as limitations on spending and the requirement that each project benefit a public institution, but Ardizone said funding usually isn't difficult because many of the projects don't cost much.

KFOR also helps construction firms meet U.S. building standards, explains contracting procedures so the firms can compete for bigger projects and provides guidance on how to create a safe work environment.

"By focusing on education, we are helping ensure that the next generation will have the skills to be successful," Anderson said.

In addition local farmers and doctors have gained valuable knowledge observing and working alongside National Guard experts participating in HCA initiatives to improve health and agriculture.

CMO projects often focus on giving Kosovars tools and knowledge they can use to help themselves.

"After a while you take each project personally," Ardizone said. "It is very rewarding to see the final product knowing you saw it evolve from a problem to become a positive result."

"I know everyone in uniform who was involved in any of KFOR 11's projects made a difference, and that makes me proud to be a Soldier in the U.S. Army."



Soldiers and townspeople clean trash from a lot in Kosovo as part of a civil military operation (CMO) project spearheaded by a Cal Guard CMO team deployed with Kosovo Force 11, which returned home late last year. CMO projects benefit public institutions and often focus on giving Kosovars tools and knowledge they can use in the future.



How do I get money for school?

We answer your questions about a new education benefit for Cal Guard and CSMR members

I was previously on active duty and I am still using my active-duty education benefits. Am I eligible for the new California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (EAAP)?

Yes. You can concurrently use multiple education-assistance sources as long as the total financial assistance does not exceed the cost of attendance.



Sgt. Monica Estrada

Beck named coordinator for EAAP

Katrina M. Beck, the newest Cal Guard team member at Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, was brought on board in early December to oversee and administer the application process for the new California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (EAAP).

Beck earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Stanislaus, and worked at the California Department of Water Resources for more than two years before taking charge of the EAAP application process.



Katrina M. Beck

A self-described Air Force brat with a long family tradition of military service, Beck said she is excited to help service members attain higher levels of education and achieve their personal and career objectives.

"I've seen some of the sacrifices that service members make, and I've seen how service members band together in times of crisis to help each other and the community," said Beck, who is unable to serve in the Guard because of knee problems. "It is my pleasure to be able to give back to the men and women who work so hard to keep our country and state safe and protect our freedoms."

The EAAP will provide \$1.8 million for service members to attend California colleges and universities this year. For more information and to apply, visit www.calguard.ca.gov/education.

I'm considering attending a non-traditional institution like the University of Phoenix or National University. Are these schools eligible?

Yes. Both the University of Phoenix and National University, along with more than 400 other institutions, are eligible. For a full listing of eligible institutions, visit the California Student Aid Commission Web site, www.csac.ca.gov.



Sgt. Maj. Leona Wheeler

I already have a degree. Can I use the EAAP to earn an additional degree?

Yes. The EAAP can be used to obtain a certificate, degree or diploma that you do not hold at the time you apply for the award.

If I want to start college next fall, is there anything I need to do prior to filling out my EAAP application?

In order to be eligible for the EAAP, you must have completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, and you must be accepted to, registered at, or enrolled in a qualifying institution. In addition, you must be a resident of California and have served at least two years in the California National Guard, State Military Reserve or Naval militia.



Staff Sgt. Rebecca Wolkenhauer

I have other benefits available to me already. Why would I apply for this program?

As you start college or continue toward graduation, you may find it's not as expedient to use all your benefits now, especially ones that run out after a certain time period. Utilizing benefits like the EAAP may prove sufficient now for the cost of tuition, books, etc. However, later on, while pursuing upper-level or graduate studies, costs may go up and available funding may go down, depending on how much tuition assistance you used up completing lower-level requirements.



Sgt. Diane Morales

Will civilian education help me in my National Guard career?

Yes. You can earn promotion points as an enlisted service member and can become eligible for promotion in certain officer ranks. Skills and knowledge gained can also help in the performance of your military job, setting you apart from your peers and making you a better-trained service member.



Airman 1st Class Austin Ashy

Can my family members apply for the EAAP?

No. This benefit is only available to service members.

I have questions of my own ...

EAAP Coordinator
Katrina Beck, 916-854-4255
katrina.beck2@us.army.mil

Army National Guard Education Officer
Christine Waite, 916-854-3225

Air National Guard Base Education and Training Managers
129th Rescue Wing: Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Harris, 650-603-9186
144th Fighter Wing: Master Sgt. Stephanie Rendon, 559-454-5280
146th Airlift Wing: Master Sgt. Laurie Bestwick, 805-986-7464
162nd Combat Communications Group: Master Sgt. Teresa Stark, 916-569-2211
163rd Reconnaissance Wing: Senior Master Sgt. Heather Nester, 951-655-3072

CNG supporting state military museum

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

As the California National Guard has transformed, from a strategic reserve to a globally deployable operational force, so have its citizen-Soldiers, institutions and policies. The California Military Museum is also constantly changing and adapting, not only to preserve artifacts of our state's and nation's history, but also to teach about the citizen-Soldier's contributions to freedom. Located in Old Sacramento, near the Capitol, the museum is a diamond in the rough that provides a wealth of knowledge to all who walk through its doors.

The most recent change was the determination by National Guard leadership that the museum should be supported as would

any armory. This support includes increasing the security and safety of the museum.

Retired Lt. Col. Anthony Palumbo, museum program manager, said the change "has enhanced our ability to communicate to active [and] Reserve [troops] and to our National Guard museum partners while increasing our ability to tell the California military story."

The museum has other big plans for the coming year as well, such as continuing to publish its monthly newsletter, "Front & Center," and becoming active on Facebook and Twitter. Its library research center and conference room are also constantly in use.

The museum's California artifacts include items from the Spanish colonial era up through the global war on terrorism. Rifles and sabers from the Civil War era give visitors a glimpse of the hardships men endured while fighting a war of "brother versus brother." The museum also highlights the contributions women have given to the armed forces through their bravery, courage and leadership. It is an exciting place, and I encourage everyone to visit.

The museum is working hard to preserve California's military heritage. Although its appearance is being upgraded, the dedica-



PHOTO BY TECH, SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

The California Military Museum preserves artifacts of state and national history and teaches about citizen-Soldiers' contributions to freedom.

tion of its staff will not change. Their drive is as strong as ever to educate the public about the great things the California National Guard has done and is doing as citizen-Soldiers, proving they are "always ready, always there."

For further information, visit www.militarymuseum.org.

The Museum of the Confederacy, located in Richmond, Va., has many exhibits from the Civil War time period. One of the exhibits shows how during the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862, Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson marched his force of 16,000 men more than 600 miles in 35 days and defeated three Union armies totaling 63,000 men.

"The right of revolution is a inherent one. When people are oppressed by their government, it is a natural right they enjoy to relieve themselves of oppression, if they are strong enough, whether by withdrawal from it, or by overthrowing it, and substituting a government more acceptable."

— Gen. Ulysses S. Grant,
18th president of the United States

PHOTOS BY TECH, SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER



TOP:The California Consolidated Drum Band leads the presentation of the colors at a ceremony celebrating the 373rd birthday of the National Guard at the Capitol in Sacramento on Dec. 14. **BOTTOM LEFT:** State Sen. Abel Maldonado thanks Airmen and Soldiers for their service to the state and the nation. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Capt. Jay Kliewer and Sgt. 1st Class Yvonne Diaz portray the Minuteman and the Guard Wife for a recitation of "I am the Guard."

373 years of protection by citizen-Soldiers

By Erin Wetzberger
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

A colonial act passed Dec. 13, 1636, authorized the creation of the first three militia regiments in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Those regiments became the forerunners of the U.S. military and the foundation of the modern National Guard.

One day and 373 years later, Airmen, Soldiers and grateful citizens gathered on the west steps of the Capitol in Sacramento to celebrate the birthday of the National Guard in an afternoon ceremony punctuated with performances by the California Consolidated Drum Band and an F-16 fly-over courtesy of the 144th Fighter Wing. Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, also held an enlistment ceremony for 10 new members.

"Nearly 40 years ago, Brigadier General Louis Antonetti and I stood very much like you do, ready to take that oath," Wade said. Antonetti is the Cal Guard's deputy adjutant general and commander, Army Division. "We still remember it well."

State Sen. Abel Maldonado, the keynote speaker, described the impact of the Guard through the eyes of his children.

"I asked my kids if they knew the National

Guard, and I was surprised that two did. But two didn't," he said.

Maldonado, who sits on the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee, said the hard work of Soldiers often goes unnoticed by children far removed from the dangers of combat zones.

"In their comfort today of a safe classroom and a safe playground at school, they will forget Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said. "[But I will] never let them forget what you do, and in their comfort, never let them forget all the things they have because of you."

National Guard leadership in each state observed the Guard's birthday with their own ceremonies. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, thanked Guard members and their families for their service and support to the nation.

"Going back those 373 years, I don't think you've ever been better than you are right now," Mullen said in a message to all National Guard members. "You represent a wonderful organization that expands the ... width and breadth and depth of our country."

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Q & A

COL. MARTIN LEDWITZ
DIRECTOR, CSMR CIVIL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



The California State Military Reserve (CSMR) is an essential element of the California National Guard. Is the CSMR governed by the Department of the Army or the Department of the Air Force?

The CSMR follows Army regulations in general, and also follows Air Force regulations as they pertain to the CSMR Air component. The majority of CSMR personnel are in the Army component. In terms of Operation Ready Families, we implement the program as taught by the National Guard Operation Ready Families program led by Lt. Col. Kimberly Lalley of the 129th Rescue Wing.

Describe the structure of the CSMR as it relates to the Operation Ready Families program.

The Operation Ready Families program is run by the civil affairs section at Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ). All civil and public affairs troops at JFHQ have completed Operation Ready Families training. In addition, the CSMR chaplains, family counselors and judge advocates provide counseling for National Guard troops and families who are preparing for a deployment and period of separation.

The CSMR also deploys within the state to support the Guard. The same CSMR personnel who support the Guard also support CSMR troops and families. At each CSMR unit, there are staff who have completed Operation Ready Families training and are assigned Operation Ready Families responsibilities as an additional duty.

Does the commander of the CSMR command personnel throughout California or only those assigned to JFHQ?

The commander of the CSMR commands all CSMR troops in the state. The CSMR has subordinate commands that report to JFHQ and to the CSMR commander. There is not a direct reporting chain of Operation Ready Families staff between the units and JFHQ.



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ROBERT A. PACK
A Soldier with the 40th Personnel Service Detachment returns home to Sacramento from the Middle East in 2007.

What types of Family Readiness duties does the CSMR perform? What missions does it routinely support?

The CSMR takes part in National Guard and CSMR family days, troop departures and returns; provides briefings and counseling to Guard and CSMR families and troops as requested or directed; and plays an active role in the Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness. In addition, Col. (CA) Terry Knight produced a video on the Operation Ready Families program, which was shown at last year's symposium.

Since volunteerism plays such a key role for the command-

er of the CSMR, how does the CSMR execute its Family Readiness Program?

The CSMR program is led by our volunteer troops. At the subordinate units, the commanders have involved volunteer unit spouses.

How does the CSMR work with the California National Guard's Operation Ready Families program?

The Operation Ready Families program provides training to our troops, and we provide assistance to the program as requested. The direct liaison is between myself and Lt. Col. Lalley. As I mentioned earlier, we are also active participants in the Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness.

What are some of your greatest Family Readiness challenges?

The greatest challenges are getting subordinate CSMR units to implement programs for their troops, and getting the National Guard Operation Ready Families program local professional managers to use CSMR personnel in their programs.

Which Family Readiness program in the CSMR gives you the most pride?

The best CSMR family program is at the 146th Airlift Wing Support Detachment. There is a fully organized Operation Ready Families program group that is integrated into the 146th Airlift Wing's Operation Ready Families program and takes part in all family-related efforts. The CSMR group fills in for the wing's Operation Ready Families program staff as needed. Also, in December of each year the Southern Regional Support Command and the 100th Troop Command Support Brigade collect toys for the children of deployed National Guard troops, an outstanding effort in our family program.

California Military Ball

*Save
the date*

Saturday, 10 April 2010
San Diego, Calif.

More information and invitation to come





New year, new start: Make your well-being your priority

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

As 2009 comes to a close, we need to reflect on where we have been as a military family and where we are headed in the years to come. Although we have discussed issues important to maintaining behavioral health in past editions, this month's article will reinforce that thought as we consider behavioral health in the overall concept of maintaining wellness.

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness is the Army's latest vision for a complete Soldier-care model. Behavioral health is one critical aspect of that model as each of us focuses on maintaining our bodies and minds.

The Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program will focus on optimizing five dimensions of a Soldier's strength: physical, emotional, social, spiritual and family. This holistic approach to fitness will enhance the performance and resilience of the force in this era of persistent conflict and high operational tempo.

The new year should be looked at as an opportunity for renewal. Aside from the typical resolutions that we all have made in the past to lose weight, exercise more or give up smoking, etc., let's make 2010 the year that we take this new ideology to heart, look at ourselves and work toward an improvement of ourselves overall, whatever that might entail.

Seeking help is not a barrier to success

Keeping our word to ourselves that we will engage and seek help when needed requires that we also trust in our leadership and trust in any new policies or regulations that may affect our individual fitness.

In May 2008, a major change to Army policy amended a critical tool used to approve Soldiers for security clearances – Standard Form (SF) 86, the Questionnaire for National Security Positions. The change came in response to a widely held belief that pursuing behavioral health counseling, for any reason, was reason enough to deny a Sol-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

dier's security clearance. This is NOT the case.

SF 86 still asks whether a Soldier has consulted a professional or been hospitalized for an emotional or mental health condition in the past seven years. Since 2008, however, SF 86 has clearly stated, "Mental health counseling in and of itself is not a reason to revoke or deny a clearance."

"Our people deserve the best mental health care we can provide without the fear of hurting their career in the long run," Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen said when SF 86 was revised. "It's time we made everyone in uniform aware that the act of reaching out for help is one of the most courageous acts – and one of the

first steps – to reclaiming your career and future. All leaders must set an example by seeking help themselves and encouraging others to do so. Getting this question changed is a terrific first step."

Mullen was clear on this subject: Seeking behavioral health care must be looked at in the same way as maintaining any other aspect of overall wellness. Remember this as the take-away message for this new policy: Seeking assistance for behavioral health needs is not a barrier to securing or maintaining security clearance.

Behavioral health resources

Families seeking assistance with concerns throughout the deployment cycle can turn to several resources in their area. A selection of organizations offering behavioral health assistance for family members and dependents is listed below. A list of additional resources can be found at www.calguard.ca.gov/mh.

Military OneSource maintains a 24-hour lifeline at 800-342-9647. Short-term individual or family/dependent counseling is available at no cost: www.militaryonesource.com.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance provides clinical behavioral health services to Soldiers and family members insured under TriWest. For more information: www.triwest.com/beneficiary/BehavioralHealth.

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

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



The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness

SAVE THE DATE

10-11 April 2010
San Diego, Calif.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESULTS, FIRST QUARTER FY10

The primary mission of the Executive Personnel Council is to recommend and select the service members who are best qualified to fill existing and anticipated vacancies. The council informs the adjutant general of selections and/or recommendations on Army and Joint Staff Division promotions, assignments and reassignments to the grade of E-9, O-5 and O-6. In addition, the council makes recommendations on the selection of Active Guard Reserve officers and senior noncommissioned officers with regard to control grades. An Order of Merit List will be created from the selections/recommendations for the current applications to the War College and the Command and General Staff Officers Course.



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

Command

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin J. Bohn, Internal Review Branch Chief, USPFO-CA, transferred to Commander Camp San Luis Obispo, effective NET 1 Dec 09.

Lieutenant Colonel David A. Ceniti, S3 115th RSG, transferred to Commander 749th CSSB, with concurrent assignment as FTUS OIC 749th CSSB, effective NET 1 Jan 10.

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher L. Miller, S3, 1106th TASMG, transferred to Deputy Commander 223rd RTI, with concurrent assignment as FTUS OIC 223rd RTI, effective 1 May 10.

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel R. Rydberg, ACofS, G7 40th ID, transferred to Commander 2nd Bn 223rd RTI, effective NET 1 Sep 10.

Lieutenant Colonel Loren A. Weeks, Commander, 149th QM Team, transferred to Commander, Pre-Mobilization Training & Assessment Team (PTAE, TF WARRIOR), effective 1 Nov 09.

Major Zachariah S. Delwiche, Assistant IG, JFHQ, transferred to Commander 95th CST, effective 1 Jul 10. #5 on AGR 05/LTC Control Grade OML.

Staff

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey M. Antone, Chief Federal Property and Commodity Manager, USPFO-CA, reassigned to Comptroller, USPFO-CA, effective 4 Nov 09.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael A. Beyer, Support Operations Officer, 224th SB, transferred to Liaison Officer, 40th ID, effective 1 Feb 10.

Lieutenant Colonel Gregory V. DeBernard, Deputy Commander, 223rd RTI, transferred to Operations Branch Chief, Army Division G3, effective 1 Mar 10.

Lieutenant Colonel Early I. Falk, AGR Manager, J1, reassigned to Deputy J1, effective 4 Oct 09.

Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel G. Frumkin, Commander, 749th CSSB, transferred to Deputy J4, effective 1 Jan 10.

Lieutenant Colonel John R. Frazier, Chief, Technical Operations Branch, Army Division G4, reassigned to Deputy G4 Army Division, effective 4 Oct 09.

Lieutenant Colonel William C. Kagele, Chemical Officer, 40th ID, reassigned to Liaison Officer, 40th ID, effective on REFRAD.

Lieutenant Colonel Manuel A. Lascano, Aviation Officer, TCP 40th ID, transferred to Soldier Services Division Chief, Army Division G1, effective on REFRAD.

Lieutenant Colonel Dirk A. Levy, Commander, 1-184th Infantry, transferred to Director, DPSA, Camp Roberts, effective 1 Mar 10.

Lieutenant Colonel Suzanne P. McKibbin, Surface

Maintenance Division Chief, Army Division G4, reassigned to Support Service Division Chief, Army Division G1, effective on REFRAD.

Lieutenant Colonel Susan E. Minkema, Deputy G3, Army Division, reassigned to Deputy G1, Army Division, effective 1 Dec 09.

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony F. Noll, Current Operations Chief, J3, reassigned to Future Operations Chief, J3, effective 1 Dec 09.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael S. Piazzoni, ACofS, G8/DRM, 40th ID, transferred to Property and Commodity Branch Chief, USPFO-CA, effective on REFRAD.

Lieutenant Colonel Kurt M. Velte, Commander, PTAE, transferred to Chemical Officer, 40th ID effective on REFRAD.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Wise, Liaison Officer, 40th ID, reassigned to ACofS, G9/CMO, 40th ID, effective 1 Feb 10.

Lieutenant Colonel Stanley F. Zezotarski, Events Coordinator, Joint Staff, reassigned to J5 Plans Branch Chief, effective 1 Dec 09.

Major Frances L. Clader, Provost Marshal, 40th ID, transferred to Provost Marshal, Joint Staff and promote, effective 1 Dec 09.

Major Nick Ducich, FAO, J5, reassigned to Current Operations Chief, J3 and promote, effective Dec 09.

Major Kevin D. Eldridge (DA-Select). Assistant G7, 40th ID, reassigned to ACofS, G7, 40th ID, effective 1 Sep 10. #4 on AGR 05/LTC Control Grade OML.

Major David L. Hall, Assistant S3, 40th CAB, transferred to Aviation Officer, 40th ID, effective on REFRAD. #6 on AGR 05/LTC Control Grade OML.

Major John J. McBrearty (DA-Select), Professor Military Science, transferred to ACofS, G5, 40th ID, effective 1 Jul 10. #3 on AGR 05/LTC Control Grade OML.

Major Collins J. Sullivan (DA-Select), General Dentist, CA ARNG MED Det, reassigned to State Dental Officer, CA ARNG MED Det and promote, effective 1 Dec 09.

Major Marcus G. Tiggs (DA-Select), Finance Accounting Officer, Camp Roberts, reassigned to Director, DPTM, Camp Roberts and promote, effective on REFRAD.

Warrant Officer Actions

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Scott D. Ahrens, Aviation Standardization Officer, Co B, 1-126th Avn Regt, transferred to Aviation Material Officer. 1106th TASMG, effective 1 Jan 10.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 David L. Clark, Aviation Safety Officer, HHC, 1-140th Avn Battalion (AASLT), transferred to HHC. 640th DSAB and promote, effective 1 Dec 09.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeffrey A. Crandall, Aviation

Standardization Officer. HHC, 3-140th Avn S & S Battalion, transferred to Aviation Standardization Officer, 40th CAB and promote, effective 1 Feb 10.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Christopher C. Good, Aviation Master Gunner, 40th CAB, promote, effective 1 Dec 09.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 David K. Harvey, Aviation Maintenance Officer, Co B. 1-126th Avn Regt, transferred to Aviation Material Officer, 640th DSAB and promote, effective 1 Dec 09.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard W. Huber, Aviation Material Officer, HHC, 1-140th Avn Battalion (AASLT), transferred to Aviation Material Officer, 40th CAB and promote, effective 1 Dec 09.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 James P. Tardif, Aviation Logistics Technician, 1106th TASMG, reassigned to Section Leader and promote, effective 1 May 10.

AGR Control Grades

05/LTC CG Status: REQ: 26. AUTH (FY09): 30. Temp CG: 1 Total: 31. Assigned: 31 (1 promoted using DA Mob Authority). Available: 0. Pending Losses: 2.

Order of Merit List.

- (1) MAJ Angel M. Ortiz (DA-Select) - Command.
- (2) MAJ Kevin K. Bender (DA-Select) - Staff.
- (3) MAJ John J. McBrearty (DA-Select) - Staff.
- (4) MAJ Kevin D. Eldridge (DA-Select) - Staff.
- (5) MAJ Zachariah S. Delwiche - Command.
- (6) MAJ David L. Hall - Staff.

04/MAJ CG Status: REQ: 91. AUTH (FY09): 69. Temp CG: 0 Total: 69. Assigned: 61. Available: 8. Pending Losses: 2. Current OML: 0.

Vacancies

The projected date for the Executive Personnel Council for the 2nd Quarter of fiscal year 2010 is Jan. 21, 2010. The following 05/LTC positions are vacant or projected to be vacant in the next 12 months and will be considered:

Commander, 1-144 FA
ACofS, G8/DRM, 40th ID
Operations Officer, TCP 40th ID
S2/3, 115th RSG
Surgeon, 224th SB
TDS JAG, Army Division
Supply Management Br Chief, Army G4
Internal Review Branch Chief, USPFO-CA
Mobilization Plans Branch Chief, G3
Senior Space Opns Officer, 40th ID
EO Manager, JFHQ
Effects Coordinator, 40th ID
S3, 1106th TASMG
J6 Plans & Opns Chief, JFHQ
Deputy G3, Army Division
Surface Maintenance Div Chief, G4
Plans & Policy Branch Chief, G4
Chief Environmental Office, JFHQ

Female Airman named NGB's top enlisted leader

By Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

The first female and first Air Force senior enlisted adviser to the chief of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) says her new job is a calling.

"It's not about a job," Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall said after Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the NGB, announced her selection Nov. 19. "This is truly a calling and a passion – I have a passion for the National Guard."

Originally from Little Falls, Minn., Jelinski-Hall served the Guard in Nebraska and California before joining the Hawaii Air National Guard for 19 years. She has served as an air traffic controller, combat air space manager, wing command chief, state command chief and state senior enlisted leader, and she has been both a traditional Guard member and a technician.

In her new role, Jelinski-Hall is responsible for advising McKinley on the affairs of the 457,000 enlisted Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard.

"I see my role as advising Gen. McKinley on all matters affecting the enlisted corps, Army and Air, and their families," she said. "I see myself working on big, broad programs – Yellow Ribbon, family programs, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, anything that touches our enlisted men and women."

She added that one of her goals is to grow the field of senior enlisted leaders who can be tapped for the most senior positions.

"It is such an honor and privilege to be able to wear this uniform that represents the best military. It's a calling and a passion, and I believe that this is where I'm meant to be – wearing a uniform that represents the United States of America."



Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall

McChrystal: Guard is 'extraordinary'

By Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke
National Guard Bureau

Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal told Congress last month that the National Guard's contribution in Afghanistan has been "extraordinary."

"Well, they are extraordinary. But ... sometimes someone will ... say, 'Well, they're just as good as active-duty or active Army troops. ...' That's not the case," said McChrystal, the commander of U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan, in a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee.

"In many cases, they bring unique skills, like our agricultural development teams that are

around the country bring ... skills and maturity active components don't have."

In response to a question from Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, McChrystal said that despite their differences, the Guard, Reserve and active components are working together as a team.

"They're not exactly the same, but together they are much better," he said.

McChrystal also said the Guard is making many sacrifices in lives lost and time away from families and employers.

"I cannot say enough about their performance," he said.

DoD names Gipe senior enlisted adviser for reserve affairs

By Lt. Col. Matt Leonard
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs

The Department of Defense in November chose Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe of the Army National Guard to serve as the next senior enlisted adviser to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

Gipe succeeds Sgt. Maj. Joseph Staudt of the Marine Corps Reserve and will serve as adviser to the assistant secretary of defense on all matters related to enlisted personnel for the seven reserve component branches of the U.S. military.

"I'm delighted to have Sergeant Major Gipe join our team," said Dennis McCarthy, the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "I selected Sergeant Major Gipe from a field of very strong candidates from all the Reserve Components. His knowledge of the issues facing reserve component service members

and their families will serve our office well."

Gipe served as command sergeant major of the Army National Guard from June 2005 through July 2009. He began his career as a cavalry scout and served the first 19 years of his military career in traditional status with the Kentucky Army National Guard.

McCarthy serves as the principal staff assistant to the secretary of defense on all matters involving the 1.2 million members of the U.S. reserve components.



Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe

News & Benefits

Respite child care available

The Armed Services YMCA Respite Child Care program is now available in all 50 states. It provides up to 16 hours of child care for families of deployed Guard personnel. The child care is meant to provide a short break for the parent or guardian – it is not a substitute for full-time or daily care. For more information, visit www.asymca.org.

Free 'life coaching' for wounded warriors

The nonprofit Purple Heart Project provides free "life coaching" to service members injured while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Over phone and email, coaches help individuals lay out definitive goals, establish a strategic plan of action and make a successful transition to civilian life. For more information, visit www.thepurpleheartproject.org.

Family Readiness course in Fresno

A Family Readiness course will be held Jan. 23-24 in Fresno.

The course provides the essentials for establishing and maintaining a viable Family Readiness system in a CNG unit. Unit volunteers, commanders and other leaders, and military points of contact for Family Readiness are encouraged to attend. Topics will include fundraising and deployments.

For more information, contact June Sato at 916-361-4957.

DID YOU KNOW...

... if you are a Soldier in the rank of E-4 through E-8, you should be working on updating your promotion worksheet (NGB Form 4100) right now?

The timeline for promotion consideration, administrative points update and submission of promotion packets is March 31.

If you meet promotion eligibility, your commander must either accept or decline your promotion recommendation. If he or she accepts, you must compile a promotion packet for submission. If declined, your commander must counsel you in writing 30 days prior to the March 31 deadline.

Proactive Soldiers will plan to have their packets turned in during the February inactive duty training drill, unless the unit has a different deadline. The Military Personnel Office has provided your unit with information on how to compile your packet. Contact your NCO Support Channel and unit readiness NCO for more information.

Reference: Army Regulation 600-8-19, Chapter 7, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions, (RAR) Sept. 16, 2009.



Public Affairs Directorate, California National Guard

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Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II gazes out over Sacramento from the steps of the state Capitol. Wade, who has served as adjutant general of the California National Guard since 2005, announced last month that he would step down as adjutant general and take over as deputy chief of staff for operations, Joint Forces Command-Naples, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Response Force in Italy. PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

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