

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



Drench from above

146th Airlift Wing trains for firefighting season

7

235 years of military might

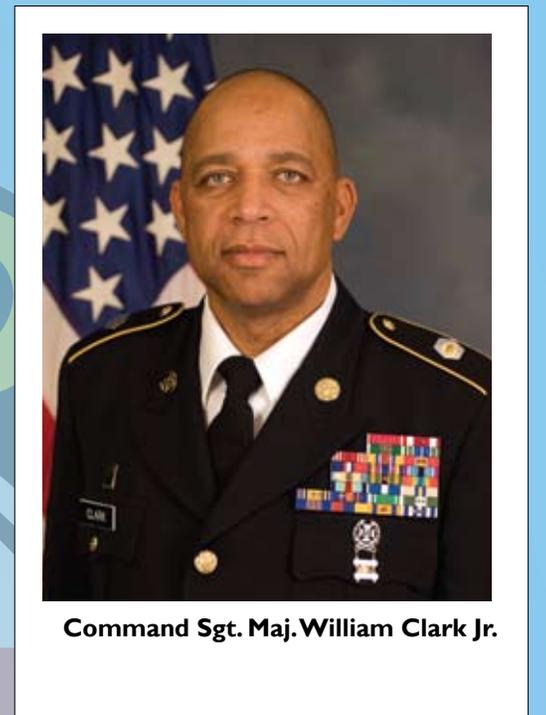
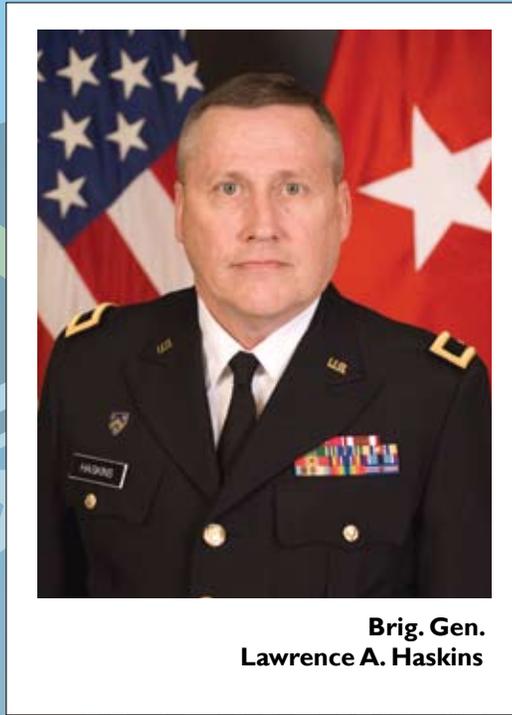
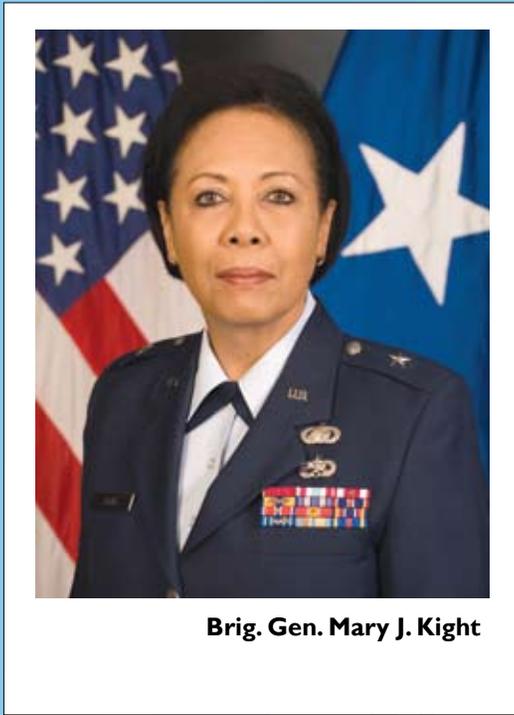
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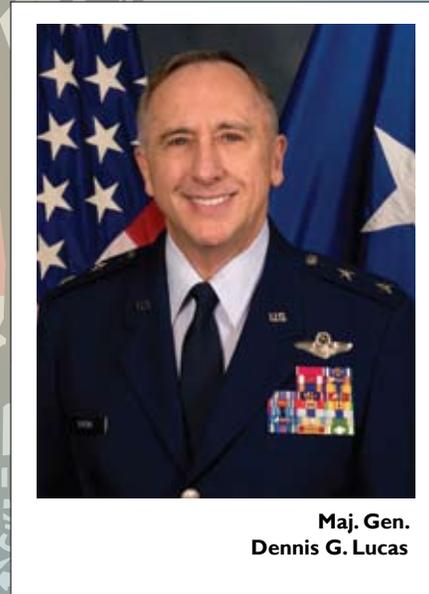
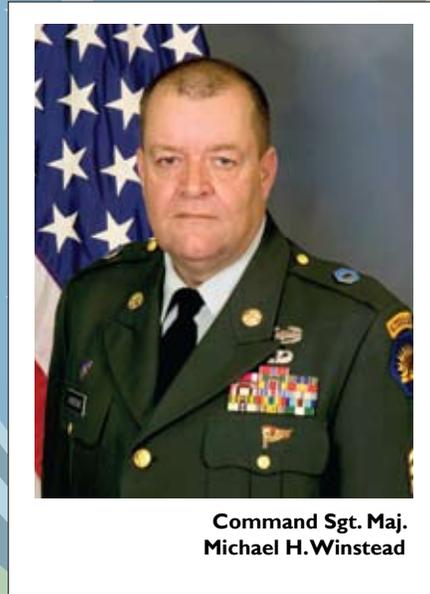
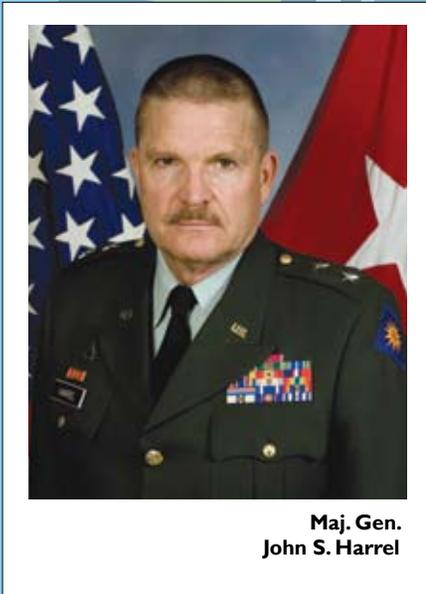
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California National Guard Leadership



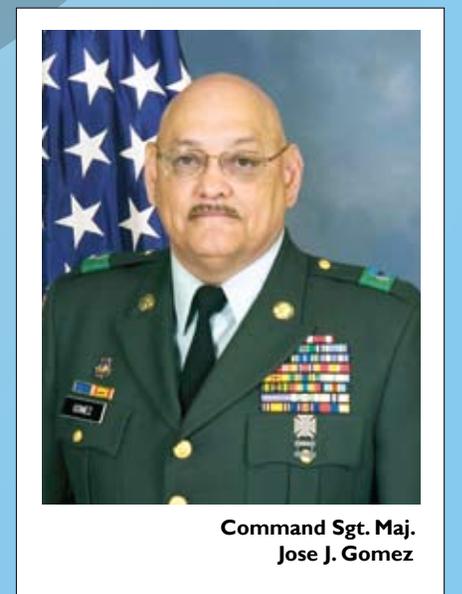
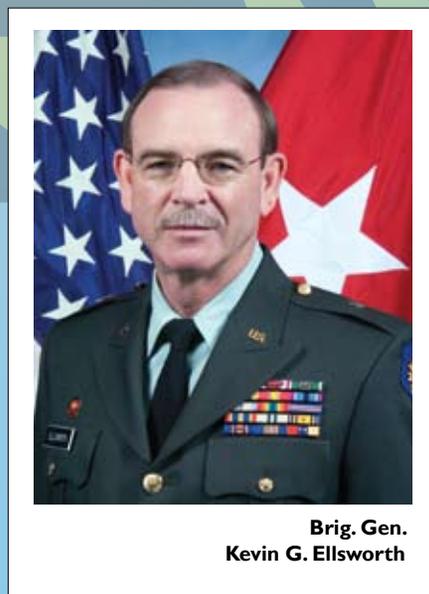
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- ★ Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference
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Photographs:

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- ★ Caption (what is happening, who is pictured and the date of the photo)
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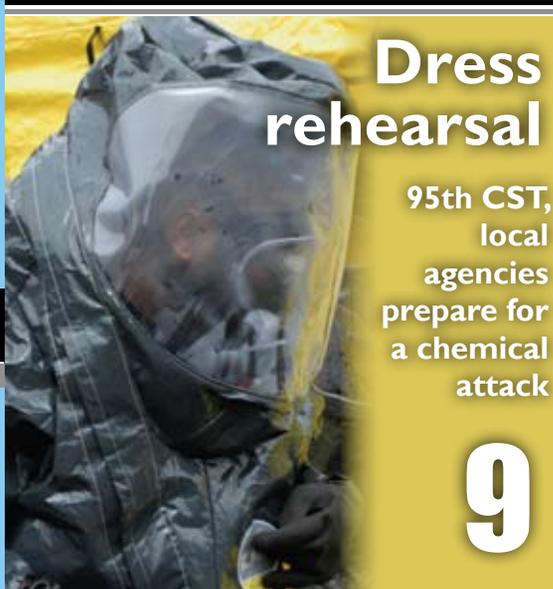
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Cover Shot



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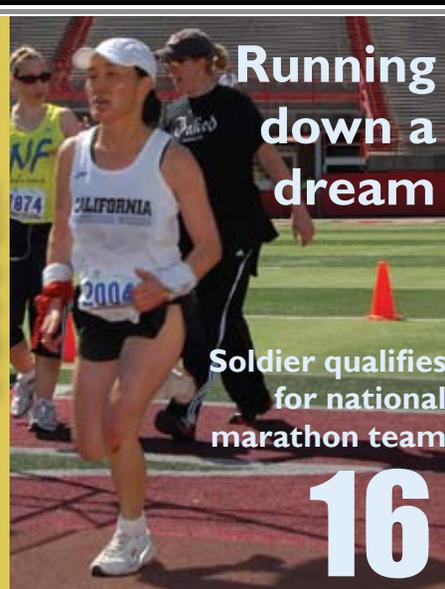
A C-130J from the California National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing drops water over treetops in South Carolina during annual training and certification for Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, or MAFFS, units in April.



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*Dream*Believe*Achieve

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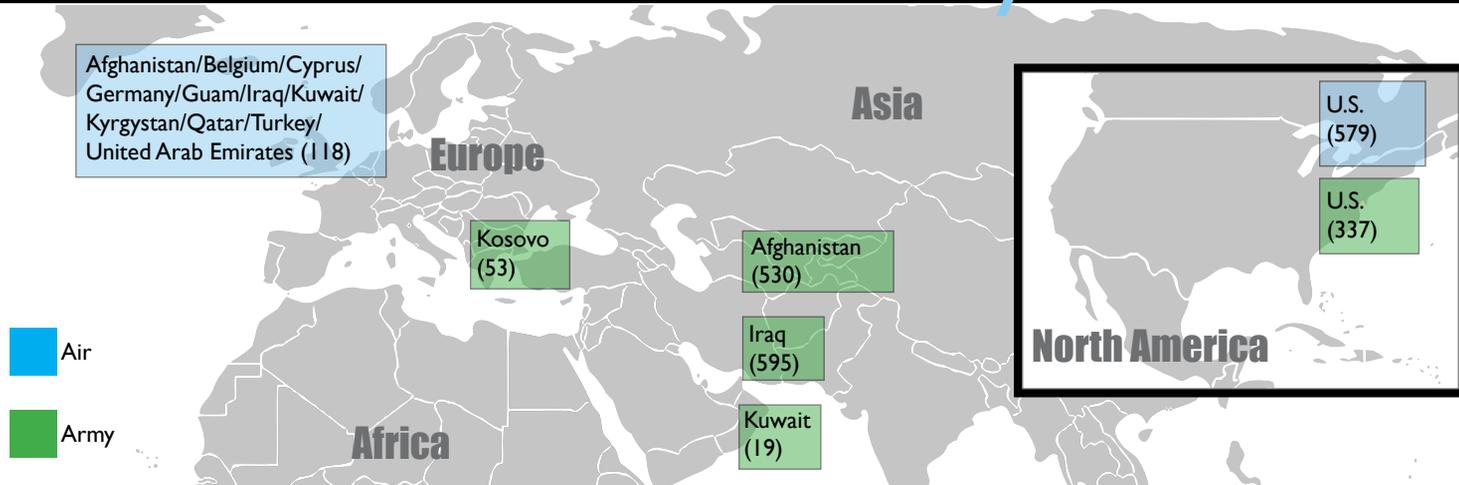
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



CNG Soldier wins Region 7 NCO of the Year

**By Staff Sgt. Aaron Rognstad
Colorado National Guard**

Staff Sgt. Michael East of the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team took top honors at the 2010 Army National Guard Region 7 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition in April, besting NCOs from seven other states and territories.

East gained entry in the competition by winning the California Army National Guard's NCO of the Year competition in October.

Pfc. Joaquin Brambila Montero won the CNG's Soldier of the Year competition in October and earned a berth in the Region 7 Soldier of the Year competition, which was held concurrently with the NCO of the Year contest. Spc. Ryan Teter of the 5-19th Special Forces Group, Colorado Army National Guard, won the Region 7 competition.

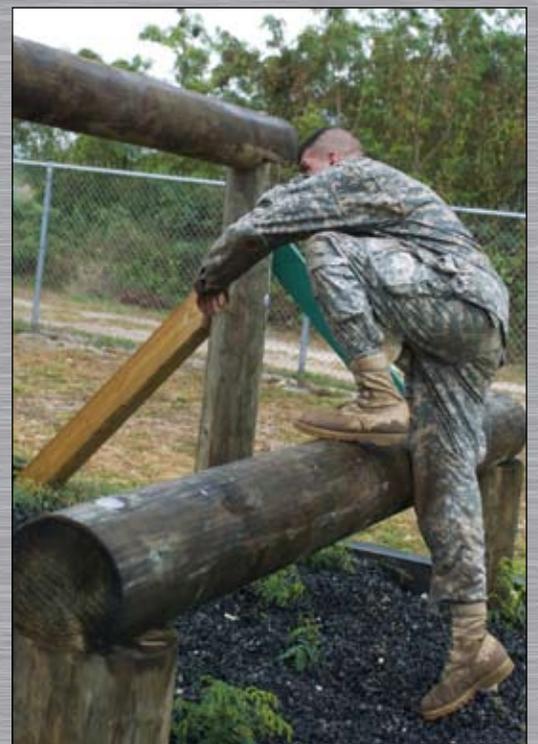
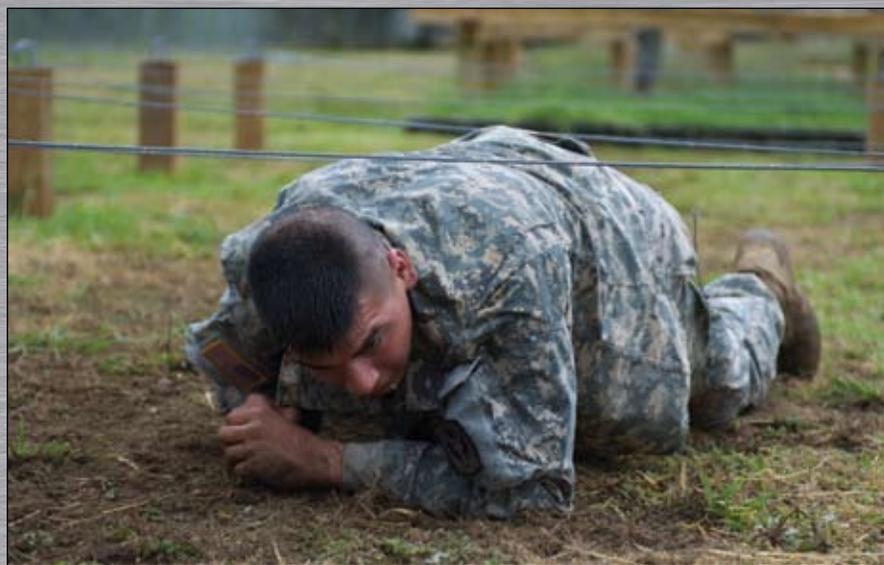
East, Brambila and their fellow NCOs and Soldiers from eight states and territories participated in the competition, which included Army Warrior Tasks and events that tested their physical and mental abilities.

"I gave it my best and was lucky to be selected. The competitors here were the best of the best, and it just so happens that I pulled through," East said. "But truly this award shouldn't be given to just one person; it represents the NCO Corps."

Conducted at Bellows Air Station and Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, the competition featured seven events: a physical fitness test, weapons qualification, written exam, day and night land navigation, hands-on Army Warrior Tasks, a mystery event that intertwined a ruck march and a run through an obstacle course, and an appearance board.

One Soldier and one NCO from the eight states and territories represented — Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Guam — ran through the gauntlet of tasks during a fast-paced three-day competition hosted by the Hawaii Army National Guard.

East and Teter will move on to the national Best Warrior Competition in October in Washington, D.C., to vie for the Army National Guard's top Soldier and NCO honors.



LEFT: Staff Sgt. Michael East of the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team competes in the NCO of the Year competition for Region 7, which includes eight states and territories. East won the April competition and will represent Region 7 in the national Best Warrior Competition in October. **RIGHT:** Pfc. Joaquin Brambila Montero of the CNG's 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion competes in the Region 7 Soldier of the Year competition, which was won by Spc. Ryan Teter of the Colorado National Guard.

79th IBCT members vie to be NCO/Soldier of 2010

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

Units of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) sent representatives from across California to San Diego in April to vie for a spot in the California National Guard's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year competitions to be held in September.

A handful of troops showed their mettle by completing several days of physically exhausting tests, trips to the firing range and land navigation courses April 9-11.

The IBCT's NCO and Soldier of the Year will be announced in August, after the competitors make one final push toward the finish by showing off their hours of studying and practice to a board.

"Once we identify who will be the representatives for the brigade, we will know which areas they need to work on through this selection process," said Sgt. 1st Class Brock Kelly, operations NCO for the brigade. "We will expound on what they know and conduct extra training on skills they may need work on. That's a good reason to do the selection process this way, because we know the Soldiers' strengths and weaknesses."

To lift the morale of the competitors and to get in some good training, last year's California National Guard NCO and Soldier of the Year also went through the selection process. Staff Sgt. Michael East of the 95th Civil Support Team and Pfc. Joaquin Brambila Montero of Special Troops Battalion, 79th IBCT, led the pack in all competitions, showing what a year of training and winning competitions can do.

"Bambi and I are here in preparation for the regional NCO and Soldier of Year competition in Hawaii at the end of April," East said, using a nickname for Montero, since they have spent so much time together practicing and preparing for the regional



Soldiers of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team compete in April to represent the IBCT in the California National Guard's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year competitions to be held in September.



competition. "This is great because it's exactly the competition we will be facing in Hawaii, so it's really helpful. Plus, we've been working as a team, so hopefully one of us will win."

East went on to win the Region 7 competition and will represent California in the Army National Guard's NCO of the Year competition in Washington, D.C., in October.

Kelly said the turnout was good for the IBCT's selection weekend, and the competitors never lost steam.

"Overall, they've been very motivated.

They haven't been sleeping much and they've been moving a lot, so they're physically exhausted," Kelly said. "This pro-

cess definitely improves morale because it shows if you work hard, you can be the Soldier of the Year."

Asian Pacific council recognizes Cal Guardsman

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

Senior Airman Jonathan Jung Koo Bass of the California Air National Guard received a Military Meritorious Service Award from the Federal Asian Pacific American Council last month during a Department of Defense celebration of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

Nine service members, including two National Guardsmen, received awards during a ceremony in National Harbor, Md., on May 6. The awards were given to service members who "proved themselves as role models to their communities and advocates to the advancement of minorities," Defense Department officials said.

Bass was unable to attend the ceremony because he is serving in Saudi Arabia as a security forces specialist. Bass' mother accepted the award on his behalf.

Bass was adopted from Korea when he was 4, his mother recalled, and he faced many obstacles in adapting to his new home.

"He had to go through a lot of challenges to get where he's at, and we are very proud of him," she said.

Officials said Bass has continually strived for personal development since his enlistment in the California Air National Guard. Among other distinctions, he has qualified for the Air Force's elite "Phoenix Raven" security forces, which provide "close-in security for aircraft transiting airfields where security is unknown or additional security is needed to counter local threats."

Bass is also involved in a variety of community outreach and assistance programs.



Senior Airman Jonathan Jung Koo Bass of the California National Guard (not pictured) was one of nine service members honored by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council on May 6, during Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, for being role models to their communities and advocates for the advancement of minorities. Bass could not attend the Maryland ceremony because he is serving in Saudi Arabia as a security forces specialist.

224th Sustainment Brigade prepares for Iraq tour

By Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback
Division West Public Affairs

Individual rifle reports and bursts of fire shattered the stillness of a central Texas night April 16 on Fort Hood as California National Guard Soldiers with Personal Security Detail (PSD), 224th Sustainment Brigade, conducted a night live-fire exercise — one of many tasks the PSD needed to complete before deploying to Iraq in May.

Special concern and extreme attention to detail must be applied when wielding lethal weapons in the dark.

“What we’re hoping to see is that the Soldiers understand that when they’re doing a live-fire [exercise], safety is paramount,” said Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Stone, a trainer with the 2-395th Training Support Battalion, 120th Infantry Brigade. “They need to engage the targets as they come up and they need to get a positive [identification]. At night they’re going to be using night-vision [devices].”

During the sun-soaked hours of the day, Soldiers learned about the intent of the training and the hazards on the range, then performed pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections. After ensuring their vehicles, personnel and equipment were ready to go, the Soldiers were given blank adaptors for their weapons and performed the mission firing only blank ammunition. Under the vigilant watch of the trainers, the 224th Soldiers performed their mission and received instant feedback for any unsafe actions.

With the blank-fire mission behind them, and armed with lessons learned during an after-action review, it was time for the PSD to engage targets on the range with more than sound and smoke.

“You could really see it in the faces, the attitudes and the motivation of the Soldiers once they moved from dry- and blank- to live-fire operations and the reality of the situation set in. They get a lot more motivated when they’re firing live rounds,” said Capt. Brian Hamilton, officer-in-charge of the training range for the 2-395th.

“This live-fire range gives them the chance to exercise all their capabilities and find out their shortcomings so they can work on it and become better as a unit.”



ABOVE: California National Guard Soldiers with Personal Security Detail, (PSD) 224th Sustainment Brigade, engage targets after a simulated attack during live-fire convoy training on Fort Hood on April 16. The exercise was one of many preparing the 224th to deploy to Iraq in May. **RIGHT:** A 224th PSD Soldier engages pop-up targets during night live-fire convoy training on Fort Hood.



PHOTOS BY SGT. CESAR CORTES

ADT Soldiers recognized for valor

By 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team

Five Soldiers from the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) were recently decorated for valor displayed during a lengthy fire fight in Afghanistan’s Kunar province.

On Jan. 23, ADT Soldiers convoyed to Ghaziabad district, Kunar province, to help Afghan veterinarians treat 500 livestock in a strategically important area just a few miles from Pakistan. Despite a minor harassing attack from insurgents, the effort was a great success.

However, while returning through Kunar’s Asmar district, the ADT convoy was ambushed with small arms fire from hill-tops overlooking the road, immobilizing a mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle (MRAP) in the kill zone. As the MRAP’s commander, Sgt. Daniel Diaz, dismounted under fire to connect a tow bar to the MRAP in front of his, Sgt. Leonard Contreras joined him, acting as a human shield. When the truck couldn’t be towed, a mechanic driving a light medium tactical vehicle (LMTV) in the middle of the convoy, Staff Sgt. John W. Carter, realized his experience could aid the situation. Carter performed a U-turn on the narrow cliffside

road and drove back into the kill zone, then dismounted and ran to assist Diaz, along with Sgt. Jeffrey Johanson.

While Carter and Diaz worked to repair the truck, which couldn’t be towed, Johanson and Contreras stood between them and the enemy, suppressing the enemy positions with their M-4 carbines and M203 grenade launchers.

“I saw a round strike about 10 inches from Sgt. Contreras’ head,” Johanson said, “but he never flinched.”

The damage to Diaz’s MRAP had totally immobilized it in the kill zone until a wrecker could respond with a quick reaction force (QRF). The ADT was locked in a fight on unfavorable terrain, and it would be for a long time.

During the four-hour engagement, OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters made numerous gun and rocket runs, adding to artillery fire that the convoy commander called to suppress the enemy. When the ADT and QRF Soldiers ran low on ammunition, the Kiowa was flew in close proximity to the enemy to make resupply runs.

Spc. Andrew Coffman and Cpl. David DeRouen ran to the drop zone and collected the cans of ammunition to distribute to Soldiers suppressing the enemy positions. Coffman and DeRouen repeatedly ran the full 600-meter length of the convoy, distributing ammunition, moving in the beaten zone of enemy machine gun fire and through positions where other Soldiers had been pinned down. The pair also marked and ran into the drop zone several times, in plain view of insurgent fighters. Their actions kept numerous Soldiers supplied to suppress enemy positions.

After four hours mechanics and a wrecker managed to repair the MRAP enough to move it, and the convoy got under way again, having suffered only one minor casualty.

Carter, Contreras, Johanson, DeRouen and Coffman were each awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device by Col. Randy George, commander of 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, the ADT’s parent unit. In addition several Kiowa pilots were awarded the Air Medal with Valor Device.



Spc. Andrew Coffman stands at attention while 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team Commander Col. Eric B. Grimm presents him and four other Soldiers the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device for actions under fire in Kunar province, Afghanistan, on Jan. 23.

“The actions of these Soldiers were both courageous and mission-oriented,” said ADT Commander Col. Eric B. Grimm. “They acted to assist their fellow Soldiers, despite significant danger, and ensured that we were not stopped from helping the people of Kunar province.”

CNG wing prepares to snuff fires from above

By Maj. Kimberly Holman
146th Airlift Wing

The skies above Nantahala Forest in South Carolina were filled with a special kind of air show in late April as Air National Guard and U.S. Forest Service crews trained together to fight fires. The massive military C-130 aircraft dwarfed the tiny King Air lead planes they followed, flying just above the treetops and spraying a white tail of water along the ridge crests. While the dense Carolina forests offer some of the most picturesque terrain in the country, they also serve as some of the most challenging locations for air crews to fly in preparation for fire season.

The California National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing performed its weeklong annual training and certification with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) in South Carolina this year alongside nearly 400 pilots, loadmasters and ground and support crews from around the country. Firefighters conducted classroom training, discussed interagency coordination and performed about 75 water drops a day.

"This interagency training sharpens our proficiency and is crucial for proper preparation for the upcoming fire season," said Col. Paul Hargrove, 146th Airlift Wing commander. "We will be ready when called to execute the mission safely."

The 153rd Airlift Wing of the Wyoming National Guard, the 145th Airlift Wing of the North Carolina National Guard and the 302nd Airlift Wing of Air Force Reserve Command in Colorado also participated in the training alongside aviators and MAFFS mission support specialists from the North Carolina Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection,

the U.S. Forest Service and the federal Department of the Interior.

The MAFFS mission is a coveted and special assignment in the firefighting community, perhaps because of its rich 30-year history and the relationships formed between agencies over the years. MAFFS is a portable fire-retardant delivery system that is loaded into a C-130 cargo compartment. The system is capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant or water on wildfires. It can discharge its entire load in less than five seconds or perform variable drops.

MAFFS-trained Air National Guard and Reserve units are available to supplement civilian firefighting assets when needed during periods of high wildfire activity. The CNG's MAFFS units can be activated for use on California fires by the governor of California. The federal government can activate MAFFS units for use on fires outside the state. During the last 10 years, MAFFS-equipped military C-130s have dropped 9.1 million gallons of retardant on wildfires.

The Forest Service owns eight MAFFS and is transitioning from systems developed in the 1970s to a new system, MAFFS II. Last year the 146th Airlift Wing became the first unit to transition to the MAFFS II system; it remains the only unit flying MAFFS II on the new C-130J aircraft. Together this system and airframe provide California the best firefighting technology available.

"The MAFFS II, with its built-in on-board compressor system, saves time and money by eliminating the need for ground support compressors, adding flexibility to where aircraft can land to reload retardant before their next drop," said U.S. Forest Service

spokesman Lynn Ballard.

In addition, engineering designs have reduced the amount of retardant splashed on the exterior of the plane during aerial drops, which saves time and money previously allocated to cleaning the highly corrosive retardant from the plane, he said.

Since 1974, National Guard and Air Force Reserve pilots have flown 6,500 firefighting missions, dropping 167 million pounds of retardant on the western United States.



TOP: A C-130J Hercules from the 146th Airlift Wing based in Port Hueneme, Calif., drops water over treetops in South Carolina during the wing's annual Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) training and certification April 26-30. **INSET:** A C-130J drops fire retardant near Tucson, Ariz., on May 8 to finalize its MAFFS certification by the U.S. Forestry Service.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. ALEX KOENIG

PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS NICHOLAS CARZIS

49th takes command of 2,500-detainee Iraq facility

By Spc. Eddie Siguenza
49th Military Police Brigade

Seven months into its Operation Iraqi Freedom tour, the 49th Military Police Brigade accepted another critical challenge. The 49th replaced the 89th MP Brigade during a transfer-of-authority ceremony on Camp Cropper, Iraq, on April 24, taking command of an additional 3,000 Soldiers and three battalions, and assuming responsibility for the last Iraqi detention center operated by the U.S.

The unit's focus now shifts to Camp Cropper's theatre internment facility, or TIF, which the 49th plans to transfer to the Iraqi government by July. Camp Cropper houses more than 2,500 detainees.

"We have, in our charge, people who have been detained for various reasons," said Col. Grace Edinboro, commander of the 49th Tactical Command Post, which was established in April to provide command and control for the new mission. "America has always been the good guy, certainly since World War II. We have taken care of prisoners of war, in this case detainees, better than any nation in the world. It's our charge to continue to do that."

Edinboro said the unit has never performed detention operations, so the new responsibility is a great way to expand troops' knowledge of MP missions and prepare them for future tasks that might come down the road.

"To the 49th MP Brigade Tactical Command Post, I want to thank you for stepping up and jumping into the breach and getting on board this train travelling at 100 miles per hour," said Maj. Gen. Nelson Cannon, U.S. Forces-Iraq provost marshal general and deputy commander for detainee operations. "Transitions are challenging, and in this business it brings great risk. But you've all proven yourselves up to the task."

In addition to its new roles, the 49th has held responsibility for a 4,800-troop, four-battalion command since it arrived in Iraq in October, and its subordinate units continue to perform missions that support local police as Iraqis assume responsibility for maintaining order and security in their own country.



Maj. Gen. Nelson Cannon, detainee operations deputy commander and provost marshal general for United States Forces-Iraq, speaks during an April 24 ceremony at Camp Cropper, Iraq, to transfer authority for the 2,500-detainee facility from the 89th Military Police Brigade to the California National Guard's 49th MP Brigade.

PHOTO BY SPC. EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th MPs train Iraqi Traffic Police instructors

Story and photo by Sgt. Kenneth Bince
49th Military Police Brigade

A landmark for Iraqi law enforcement took place April 29 at the Iraqi Traffic Police Directorate headquarters in Baghdad, as 15 traffic police officers graduated a three-week instructors course supported by the 49th Military Police Brigade.

The graduating class consisted of young officers fresh out of the Baghdad Police College as well as a few veteran officers. Proudly wearing their pressed white and black uniforms, the officers enthusiastically received their certificates and shared congratulatory handshakes with Iraqi and American general officers. This notable day was the culmination of more than 2 1/2 years of cooperation between U.S. Forces and the Iraqi Traffic Police.

"Not since 1988 has the traffic police had its own separate headquarters and training site," said Maj. Gen. Imad Khaleel, commandant of the Iraqi Traffic Police headquarters. "Now the traffic police can focus on specific training for our officers that will add to the academic and professional development of the traffic police force."

The 49th established its relationship with the Iraqi Traffic Police in November 2009, shortly after arriving in Iraq. Visits with police officials highlighted the need for instructors, which was determined to be the most critical shortage to address.

Once the Iraqi national elections were completed March 7, the 49th National Transition Team (NTT) focused on getting a train-the-trainer course off the ground for the Iraqi Traffic Police. NTT members paid weekly visits to Iraqi Traffic Police officials and kept in daily contact via email and phone.

"The [NTT] worked furiously to get all of the planning implemented," said Sgt. Trevor Butters, noncommissioned officer in charge of the NTT.

The course was broken down into theory and practical exercises, and the final test was to present a 15-minute detailed block of instruction.

"I have given classes before, but I never knew the step-by-step planning involved



49th Military Police Brigade Commander Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier shakes the hand of Ist Lt. Ali Ra'ad, the top student in a three-week instructors course held at the Iraqi Traffic Police headquarters in Baghdad, during a graduation ceremony April 29.

to give an interesting and well-balanced class," said 2nd Lt. Ali Sallal of the Iraqi Traffic Police. "Here we learned the

correct way to develop a training plan and to interact, react and readjust the class to suit your audience."

CST, first responders prepare for bioterror attack

By Spc. James M. Wilton
69th Public Affairs Detachment

Protecting Americans at home while deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan or another foreign nation is an important role the U.S. Army plays, but it is not the only one. One of the roles played by a California Army National Guard unit out of Hayward, Calif., the 95th Civil Support Team, is to train and support local authorities who respond to natural or man-made disasters.

Hospital and emergency response personnel in Paradise, Calif., benefitted from the CST's experience and expertise April 21, when a mock chemical attack hit Paradise Adventist Academy, whose students range from kindergarten through high school. Members of a fictional extremist group dispersed fake smoke bombs into an Adventist building that was occupied by about 30 students.

First responders were called in, including hazardous-material specialists from the Paradise Fire and Public Works departments, local police and ambulance services and responders from the nearby town of Oroville, Calif. The 95th CST supported the first responders' efforts by sending in the CST's decontamination team, which is trained to deal with nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological attacks.

"The fire department was called, and then the incident commander called us to support, because from the report they received, they knew that it was going to be a large incident, which would tax their response team's size and ability," said Lt. Col. Greg Potter, 95th CST commander. "Part of the 95th's mission is to help local first responders when their resources or manpower are inadequate to handle a situation."

The men and women in uniform set up decontamination stations and administered triage to the student role-players on scene. Ambulances then transported injured role-players to area hospitals that were also being tested in the scenario. The Feather River Hospital in Paradise, the Oroville Hospital medical staff and the Enloe Hospital in Chico, Calif., set up their own decontamination and triage centers for the drill.

"This exercise is a multiple-agency response effort designed to familiarize our various departments with the



Sgt. Estaban Peralta, a survey team member with the 95th Civil Support Team (CST), treats a student role-player at Paradise Adventist Academy in Paradise, Calif., during a combined training exercise April 21 in response to a mock bioterrorist attack. In addition to the CST, the exercise included local hospitals, firefighters, police officers and other first responders and public officials.

unified incident command system, and I feel it has bettered our readiness and ability to respond effectively if a similar disaster occurs in our area," said Joanna Gutierrez, spokeswoman for the city of Paradise.

The event was designed and directed by the CST in conjunction with Feather River Hospital pre-hospital care coordinator Wendy VanCott, who had seen the CST in action during a training exercise in Marysville, Calif., last year. She felt her community and her hospital would benefit from the training and expertise of the Guard, so the CST command group and VanCott drafted a training exercise

and contacted the school and local agencies to put the plan into action.

In addition to the 95th, the Cal Guard has a second CST, the 9th CST, in Los Angeles. The Hayward unit is staffed with 22 National Guard members, who are on operational status 24 hours a day to rapidly respond to any incident in northern California.

"Before today, I doubt most people even realized that the National Guard did such things," VanCott said. "I know I didn't."

CNG adjutant general visits 224th on Fort Hood

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Nathan Lavy
224th Sustainment Brigade

Soldiers of the 224th Sustainment Brigade enjoyed a visit from Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the California National Guard's adjutant general, and Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., the CNG's top enlisted member, April 30th on Fort Hood, Texas.

After eating breakfast with the troops, Kight and Clark spoke at town hall meetings and offered words of inspiration. "The Guard is part of a team, earning the respect that has been gained over time," Kight said. "We will play a role in the emphasis towards the responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq."

The brigade will manage supplies, transportation and maintenance support for nearly two-thirds of the coalition's area of operation in Iraq during its yearlong deployment, which began in May. The Soldiers were on Fort Hood for predeployment training.

Kight said the unit is well-equipped and

able to accomplish the mission, while Clark added that the unit has had more than enough training and goes to Iraq with excellent leadership.

Kight and Clark took time during their meetings to address Soldiers' individual concerns and questions about issues such as employment, education assistance, promotions, upcoming California missions and Active Guard Reserve or technician jobs.

Col. Lisa Costanza, brigade commander, then gave Kight and Clark an overview of the 224th's mission and took them on a tour of the site for the unit's final training event, which will mirror work Soldiers of the 224th are expected to perform in Iraq.

In her final comments, Kight commended the Soldiers on their high level of readiness and morale and their ability to come together as a team.



Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, adjutant general of the California National Guard, speaks with Soldiers of the 224th Sustainment Brigade in the North Fort Hood Chapel on Fort Hood, Texas, where the brigade trained in preparation for its May deployment to Iraq.



The crew of an HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter with Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, practices hoisting operations with members of the Sacramento Fire Department over land and water at the Van Vleck Ranch, approximately 20 miles outside Sacramento, on May 5.
Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Guibord



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ABOVE: Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy Cadets stop for a photo with Rep. Grace Napolitano and members of the Panther Racing team on qualifying race day, April 17, at the Long Beach Grand Prix. **LEFT:** Cadet Janette Silva, left, and Cadet Nicole Morrisroe meet Dan Wheldon, spokesman for the National Guard Youth ChallengeNGE Program and 2005 Indianapolis 500 champion.
Photos by Chief Warrant Officer Robert Karleskint



Sgt. 1st Class Ralph Blatz and Sgt. Robert Pitts from Team Bayonet, Task Force Warrior, paint Will Lindsey's face during Youth Day on Camp Roberts, Calif., on April 17. In celebration of the Month of the Military Child, children from Fresno, Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties were greeted by Task Force Warrior Soldiers who painted their faces with camouflage colors, answered questions about the weapons on display and allowed children to sit in the camp's vehicles.
Photo by Sue Miguel



Chaplain 1st Lt
 March 5 for 1st
 Angeles during
 in May, promp
 State Beach ar
Photo by Staff

Members of the Van Nuys, California-based 746th Combat Helicopter Squadron performed the colors during a change of command ceremony on April 14. Lt. Col. Patricia A. ... who has served the California National Guard for 10 years, relinquished command to Maj. Angel M. ... whose service began with the Puerto Rico National Guard in 1985.

Photo by Spc. Lynn Gettman



Active duty Army Soldiers load two CH-47 Chinook helicopters onto a Russian AN-124 cargo jet under the supervision and guidance of California National Guard Soldiers at Stockton Metropolitan Airport on April 30. The AN-124 is one of the largest aircraft in the world, and only two are currently in operation. The active duty unit, which is based in Alaska, needed to move its Chinooks using strategic air cargo assets as part of its pre-mobilization training. The California National Guard was selected to assist in the training because it has experience moving Chinooks to Iraq in 2003 and to Afghanistan in 2008.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler



Staff Sgt. David Sarmiento of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing speaks during a memorial service for Lt. Paul Smith and 1st Lt. Richard Theiler, T-33A pilots who crashed off the coast of Los Angeles during an Air Force training mission in 1955. The wreckage from their crash was found last year during the March 5 service to deliver military honors for the crew members at Dockweiler Beach and at the site of the crash, about three miles off the coast.

Photo by Sgt. Paul Duquette



Staff Sgt. Jon Schon, a flight engineer with the 1-126th Aviation Regiment, shares the interior of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter with children from Contra Costa County who participated in a Service Integration Program event in Richmond, Calif. Schon joined Lt. Col. Raymond Watts of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade and Chief Warrant Officer Eric Aguilar and Spc. Chris Iniguez of the 1-126th on a flight to Richmond to teach children about the National Guard and about employment opportunities in navigation and aviation. The Service Integration Program aims to educate children in low-income communities about opportunities for their future.

Photo by Linetta Cooper



ARMY CELEBRATES 235 YEARS

CNG Army Leadership



Maj. Gen.
John S. Harrel



Brig. Gen. (CA)
Louis J. Antonetti



Command Sgt. Maj.
Michael H. Winstead



Brig. Gen.
Kevin G. Ellsworth



Brig. Gen.
Scott W. Johnson



Brig. Gen.
Keith D. Jones



Brig. Gen.
Donald J. Currier



Brig. Gen.
Daniel J. Nelan



Brig. Gen.
Charlotte L. Miller



Brig. Gen.
Mary J. Kight

The Army Seal was used during the American Revolution (1775 to 1783) to authenticate documents. The designation "War Office" was synonymous with Headquarters of the Army, and the first time it was used was in 1778 (Roman date MDCCLXXVIII). The Army Seal was changed in 1974, when "War Office" was replaced with "Department of the Army." The year 1778 was also changed to 1775, the year in which the Army was established. History explains that the Army Seal expresses the Army's ideals of loyalty, vigilance, perseverance, truth, courage, zeal, fortitude, remembrance, determination, achievement, dignity and honor.

The Army Seal and the ideals that it captures best describe the Soldiers that served in the past and those who serve today. Without reaching too far back in history, focus on the Soldiers who serve in our great California National Guard. Those ideals translate into qualities embodied by our Soldiers.

Over time our Soldiers of today and yesterday successfully respond to the call from our state and nation. Our Army installations are rich in capability from the training bases — Camp San Luis Obispo, Camp Roberts and Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos — to our large organizations and their subordinate units: the 40th Infantry Division, 49th Military Police Brigade, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, 115th Regional Support Group, 100th Troop Command and 223rd Infantry Regiment.

These forces support federal and state missions. Our officers and enlisted Soldiers are very adept at balancing those demands while keeping a watchful eye on our comrades with an emphasis on Soldier care. The demands may be challenging, but the loyalties to mission requirements are internalized and remain paramount to our future freedoms. Our Soldiers will always respond to the call.

Since that September 11, 2001, cowardly attempt to cause our nation to crumble, the California Army National Guard has deployed 21,240 Soldiers, and the current deployment number exceeds 1,500. With nearly 17,000 Soldiers assigned to our California Army National Guard today, our Soldiers have a proven record of supporting federal and state missions with aviators, maintainers and support personnel for CH-47, UH-60, OH-58, C-23 and C-12 aircraft. Search-and-rescue crews and aircraft include specially designed medical evacuation aircraft and medics who can triage many medical conditions. The same team can hoist injured or stranded personnel. Military occupational specialties vary throughout our force, and our Soldiers train to maintain a high state of readiness and response.

Our Soldiers volunteer to serve this state and nation. Our great state benefits from the training that our Soldiers receive and are more than willing to utilize in a time of need or emergency. Members of the California Army National Guard are the local citizen-Soldiers living in almost every community of our state. Commitment to serve and loyalty to our country makes me proud to say that I serve with great Soldiers. Take time to learn more about your Army and celebrate this very long and impressive history of victories and heroes.

Our Army represents duty, honor, courage and strength. Our Army created foundations of freedoms that the American people experience today. It is very fitting to take the time on the birthday of this respected organization to acknowledge, celebrate and learn more about the Army and the Soldiers that make the Army strong. Formally recognized by Congress on June 14, 1775, the Army's birthday is our point of reference as its "beginning," but there is no doubt the Army was fighting for our freedoms well before that date.

One of the most important responsibilities of noncommissioned officers in the United States Army is to train the Soldiers they lead. Today's NCO Corps reflects America's increased education and professionalism. During the past nine years of persistent conflict the role of the NCO has expanded to include preparing Soldiers to deploy and conduct full-spectrum operations.

Today NCOs working within the commander's intent and collective training plan are responsible for the individual training of Soldiers through the collective training of sections, squads, teams and crews. The NCO is responsible for ensuring Soldiers in their units attend professional military education. The Noncommissioned Officer Education System has been re-written to support the future education requirement for the NCO Corps.

The NCO Corps also bears a responsibility to ensure service members' families are prepared before, during and after deployments. This can only be accomplished by knowing their Soldiers and their families and by knowing the resources that are available to support our families: resources such as Military OneSource, chaplain support, family support volunteers and the Yellow Ribbon Program. Rear detachments are critical for communication and providing support to families as the link with the deployed Soldier. We must never forget the sacrifice of our families, employers and communities.

While the NCO Corps still faces challenges, the U.S. Army continues to field the most professional, educated and revered noncommissioned officers in the world today. It is truly an honor to serve as an NCO in the United States Army.



Command Sgt. Maj.
William Clark Jr.



Brig. Gen.
Lawrence A. Haskins

force, and like any human endeavor, our success is anchored in a foundation of strong values and beliefs, beginning with our Constitution. Our Army's seven basic values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage are encapsulated in the acronym LDRSHIP:

LOYALTY

- Bear true faith and allegiance in the correct order to the Constitution, the Army and the organization.
- Observe higher headquarters' priorities.
- Work within the system without manipulating it for personal gain.

We celebrate the 235th birthday of the United States Army on June 14. Since 1775 our Army has distinguished itself in conflicts and battlefields across the globe, from the American Revolution through our Civil War, two world wars and the Cold War. With the end of the Cold War and the events of 9/11, we have been engaged in a different type of conflict that spans the spectrum of operations from homeland defense and security to peacekeeping and peace enforcement to full-scale combat and counterinsurgency operations. We are a people-based



More than two centuries of military might

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

In order for the 13 American colonies to consolidate their military strength against the might of Great Britain, the Continental Army was formed on June 14, 1775. Shortly after hostilities began with England, the Second Continental Congress, which was the government of the rebellion, authorized a permanent force that would be supplemented by local militias to engage King George III's forces.

One of the first orders of business was to decide who would be the commander in chief. The committee members

chose George Washington, who was from Virginia. Washington was a veteran of the French and Indian War. Along with his combat experience, he also had the respect of the delegates, who trusted Washington to lead the colonial Soldiers to victory against the British, the mightiest army in the world. Washington had been active in the Continental Congress' military planning committees, and by late May he had taken to wearing his old military uniform. His colleagues believed his modesty and competence qualified him to adjust to the "Temper & Genius" of the New England troops. Washington was given the rank of general and appointed commander in chief.

For 235 years, the United States Army has dedicated itself to fighting the nation's wars. During this span, the Army has fought in numerous conflicts around the globe in defense of the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. As the nation moves into the future, it will be imperative that the U.S. Army continues to play a pivotal role in securing the defense of our country.

The Army has always been more than the Soldiers who wear the uniform; it is also the families who support them at the home front. "This We'll Defend" is not only the motto of our organization: It is a way of life. Just as Uncle Sam is representative of the U.S. government and Lady Liberty is a symbol of the freedom we esteem, the Army is the symbol of our country's military might.

Fun Fact

The Army Seal of the United States is rich in symbolism. The central element, the Roman cuirass, is a symbol of strength and defense. The es-ponton (a type of half-pike formerly used by subordinate officers), sword, musket, bayonet, cannon, cannon balls, mortar and mortar bombs are representative of Army implements. The drum and drum sticks symbolize public notification of the Army's purpose and intent to serve the nation and its people. The Phrygian cap (often called the Cap of Liberty) supported on the point of an unsheathed sword, accompanied by the motto "This We'll Defend" on a scroll held by a rattlesnake, was depicted on some American colonial flags to signify the Army's constant readiness.

235

The number of years the United States Army has served the nation in peace and at war. The land force of the United States was born June 14, 1775.

"We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would harm us."

— George Orwell

DUTY

- Fulfill obligations — professional, legal and moral.
- Carry out mission requirements.
- Meet professional standards.
- Set the example.
- Comply with policies and directives.
- Continually pursue excellence.

RESPECT

- Treat people as they should be treated.
- Create a climate of fairness and equal opportunity.
- Be discreet and tactful when correcting or questioning others.
- Show concern for and make an effort to check on the safety and well-being of others.
- Be courteous.
- Don't take advantage of positions of authority.

SELFLESS SERVICE

- Put the welfare of the nation, the Army and subordinates before your own.
- Sustain team morale.
- Share subordinates' hardships.
- Give credit for success to others and accept responsibility for failure yourself.

HONOR

- Live up to Army values.
- Don't lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those actions by others.

INTEGRITY

- Do what is right legally and morally.
- Possess high personal moral standards.
- Be honest in word and deed.
- Show consistently good moral judgment and behavior.
- Put being right ahead of being popular.

PERSONAL COURAGE

- Show physical and moral bravery.
- Take responsibility for decisions and actions.
- Accept responsibility for mistakes and shortcomings.

Our Army has always been successful, regardless of the challenges encountered, when we have lived and been guided by these values. Since 9/11, our California Army National Guard has mobilized 21,236 Soldiers in support of operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. More than 150 of our Soldiers have been wounded and 29 have paid the ultimate price. Throughout, our units have received high praise for their actions.

Our future success requires a renewed commitment to never accept actions inconsistent with Army Values. As we celebrate our Army's birthday this month and prepare to celebrate the 374th Birthday of the National Guard on Dec. 13, I challenge all of us to recommit to understanding and living Army Values in all we do.

49th MPs in Iraq aiding Afghan war effort

CNG unit is sending MRAPs to support Operation Enduring Freedom

Story and photo by Spc. Eddie Siguenza
49th Military Police Brigade

As its Operation Iraqi Freedom mission nears closure, the 49th Military Police Brigade has begun a logistical partnership to aid service members in Afghanistan.

The brigade's logistics officer, Maj. Donnie Miller, spearheads the unit's effort to send mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, or MRAPs, to U.S. forces supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. This effort coincides with President Barack Obama's plan to reduce and ultimately eliminate the U.S. military's presence in Iraq. Obama has said he plans to reduce the American presence to 50,000 troops by Aug. 31 and remove all U.S. troops by the end of 2011. There were about 94,000 U.S. troops in Iraq in mid-May.

"With the reduction of forces in Iraq, we also must account for all associated equipment and vehicles that we have utilized during operations and ensure they are returned to the Army's supply system,

saving taxpayers millions of dollars," Miller said.

The 49th oversees four battalions and more than 25 companies, accounting for about 4,800 Soldiers. The MRAPs are coming from subordinate units. Miller said the mission in Iraq will not be impacted, as there are more than enough up-armored MRAPs in Iraq to continue established missions there.

"This is not our biggest tasking, but it has a direct impact on whether or not our comrades in arms have the proper equipment to conduct their critical mission in Afghanistan," Miller said. "It gives us great pleasure to turn in these vehicles knowing that Soldiers and Marines in Afghanistan will benefit and be able to perform their missions."

Nearly half of the equipment coming out of Iraq so far has been marked to go to Afghanistan for the buildup there,



Mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles (MRAP) in the 49th Military Police Brigade's compound at Camp Liberty, Iraq, await shipment to Afghanistan. The vehicles are being repurposed as part of the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq.

said Lt. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Army commander. Other equipment will return to the United States to be reinte-

grated into the Army, while some will be left in Iraq to equip Iraq's security forces.

Home, home on the base

49th MP newlyweds share housing on Camp Liberty, Iraq

By Capt. Charon Camarasa
49th Military Police Brigade

On June 27, 2009, Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McDonald and Staff Sgt. Jonathan McDonald of the 49th Military Police Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) tied the knot in front of family and friends at a church in their hometown of Vacaville, Calif.

Without time for a traditional honeymoon near the sandy beaches of Hawaii, the couple settled for a C-17 flight to Baghdad, with a final destination of Camp Liberty, Iraq. The McDonalds arrived with the rest of the HHC in early October, and their arrival was celebrated by the unit's advance party, which ensured the newlyweds received accommodations in a combined housing unit (CHU), or trailer, on base.

Despite the opportunity to share living accommodations, the McDonalds have very little time to spend together. With their busy schedules, demanding responsibilities and separate work shifts, the couple is afforded only four hours a week of quality time.

"The best part of having separate schedules is that there is no time for discord," Melissa said. "During our precious moments together, Jonathan and I share microwave snacks, movies, and Skype the family."

"The rest of the time, we are like two ships in the night because of our odd work schedules," Jonathan said.

He added that to make their relationship work, the couple invested in eye masks and earplugs.

"These cool gadgets help us get a good night's rest while one or the other is up watching TV or working on the computer," he said.

Communication is the preventive maintenance in every healthy relationship, the couple said, and they are working to ensure their communication does not suffer because of their separate work shifts. They communicate via Facebook and e-mail, and they leave loving messages



Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McDonald and Staff Sgt. Jonathan McDonald of the 49th Military Police Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company serve together on Camp Liberty, Iraq, which has served as a makeshift honeymoon destination following their marriage in June of last year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCDONALD FAMILY

on sticky notes.

"Every morning, before I leave the CHU, I leave a message for Melissa," Jonathan said. "The messages serve as small tokens of love and appreciation that I have for my wife."

Melissa, a long-range plans noncommissioned officer (NCO), holds multiple positions in the brigade, including customs program manager, unit victim advocate, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Council NCO. Jonathan is the fragmentary orders NCO-in-charge, a non-lethal weapons instructor and a unit victim advocate.

After work they complement each other as professional mentors and peers. With three Iraq tours under his belt, Jonathan helps his wife with tactical training, while Melissa gives her husband advice on professional development.

Without a doubt, Camp Liberty is not one of the 50 best honeymoon vacation spots. However, the couple said this deployment has been a wonderful adventure and a great test for their marriage.

"The more hurdles we have overcome, the stronger the relationship has become," Melissa said. "If we can get through a deployment, we can get through anything."

Cadets, alums inspire at Sunburst Academy Family Day

Story and photos by Spc. Lynn Gettman
40th Infantry Division

Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy Family Day at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos was full of Soldiers, family members and Sunburst alumni who came to encourage and inspire the cadets to continue moving forward.

Sunburst Academy is a 5 ½-month program for at-risk youths to get back on track. The cadets live on the training base during the program, and Family Day is held at the halfway point of each class' term at JTFB-Los Alamitos. The most recent Family Day, on March 4, featured raffles, music and other entertainment.

Stacey Vingerelli, mother of Cadet Trevor Grobe, said Sunburst offers hope for students who have gotten into trouble for skipping class, doing drugs or getting poor grades. Parents and courts cannot force a child to participate, she added: A student must want to change and choose to participate in the program.

Grobe said his Sunburst experience has helped him get caught up on his high school credits and has taught him "how to be a man."

"Trevor is back to his old self," Vingerelli said. "He's more mature and independent. I don't know where he'd be without it. It saved his life."

In order to become and remain a Sunburst cadet, each candidate must pass an oral interview, write a one-page essay stating why they wish to become a cadet, agree to drug testing and remain drug-free.

Bryan Caseres, a Sunburst graduate who returned to JTFB-Los Alamitos for Family Day, said that before enrolling in Sunburst, he skipped school, earned poor grades, drank alcohol and got in trouble with the police.

"Now I see that I've got potential, integrity," he said. "In September, I'll be a senior, and after high school I want to continue my education."



Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy welcomed friends, relatives and former cadets to Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos on March 4 for Family Day, featuring music, raffles, face painting and other festivities. Visitors offered words of encouragement for the cadets, who had all dropped out of school or were at risk of dropping out before finding a second chance to succeed at the California National Guard's Sunburst Academy.



Caseres also offered advice for cadets just starting at the academy: "Don't give up, and remember you have potential."



California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program



CNG members awarded \$418K for 2009-10 school year

By Capt. Bevin Stokesberry
HHD, Joint Force Headquarters

Checks are now being sent to academic institutions on behalf of service members participating in the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (EAAP). Nearly 300 service members will receive assistance for the 2009-2010 academic year through the newly implemented state program, which provides up to \$3.6 million annually for service members to attend California colleges and universities.

Awardees will receive acceptance letters in the mail from the adjutant general. Any inquiries about the acceptance letters can be addressed to Katrina Beck at 916-854-4255 or katrina.beck2@us.army.mil.

To continue in the EAAP, current award recipients need to complete a Renewal Statement of Understanding, which can be found at www.calguard.ca.gov/Education. This document must be completed each academic year.

For service members interested in applying, the priority application period for the 2010-11 academic year has been extended to June 15. Applications will be accepted after June 15 as well.

Congratulations to all awardees, and good luck to all new applicants!

It Takes Three

1. Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
2. Complete the CNG EAAP Application
3. Download and print the Statement of Understanding and have it signed by your commander

Get details and forms at:

www.calguard.ca.gov/Education

CNG team runs Lincoln NG marathon

Capt. Sunnhee Watt qualified for All Guard national team

By Lt. Col. Brenda Hendricksen
163rd Reconnaissance Wing

The California National Guard Marathon Team competed in the 33rd annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon on May 2 in Lincoln, Neb. The five-member team raced against nearly 8,000 other runners, including 260 National Guard members representing 47 states and territories.

New team member Capt. Sunnhee Watt of the 340th Base Support Battalion completed her second marathon with a time of 3 hours and 42 minutes. That pace landed her a spot on the All Guard Marathon Team, which accepts the top 15 female finishers and top 40 male finishers.

"It was an unbelievable feeling, finding out I made the team," she said. "My goal was to break my personal record, and I did that."

In addition to Watt, the team consisted of Lt. Col. Brenda Hendricksen of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing, Capt. Angela Delwiche of Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), Chief Warrant Officer Artavia Edwards of JFHQ and Chief Warrant Officer Brian Peterson of JFHQ. It was California's largest team at the marathon in more than five years.

Team leader Peterson, who has run more than 70 marathons, completed his 27th Lincoln Marathon in May. He is the only Guard member to run in every Lincoln Marathon since the Guard designated the annual event its premier race. Peterson made the national team 19 of those 27 years.

"I keep coming back because of the camaraderie," he said. "It's nice to see and race with friends each year."

This year's course featured some changes from previous marathons, most notably the finish line. For the first time, the finish line was on the 50-yard-line of the University of Nebraska's Memorial Stadium, and images of the runners racing toward the finish were shown on the stadium's giant television for the crowd to enjoy.

"It was extremely motivating to be out there representing the California National Guard," said Delwiche, who ran her fourth mara-



LEFT: Capt. Sunnhee Watt of the California National Guard Marathon Team runs in the National Guard's premier race, the Lincoln National Guard Marathon, on May 2 in Lincoln, Neb. Watt's time of 3 hours and 42 minutes earned her a spot on the All Guard national marathon team. ABOVE: The CNG Marathon Team gears up for the May 2 race. The team members, from left: Chief Warrant Officer Artavia Edwards, Capt. Angela Delwiche, Chief Warrant Officer Brian Peterson, Watt and Lt. Col. Brenda Hendricksen.

thon. "I wasn't sure what to expect from the course. I enjoyed the scenery, but not the hills or the wind."

Edwards, who has run about 50 marathons, became a member of the Lucky 13 Club and was awarded a jacket for completing 13 Lincoln Marathons.

To qualify for the CNG team, men must complete a marathon in less than 4 hours and 15 minutes during the 18 months before the Lincoln Marathon. Women must complete a marathon in less than 4 hours and 30 minutes. If funds are available, team members can go to the race on orders.

"We are always looking for new recruits," Peterson said. "Running a marathon isn't as impossible as one might think. The key is training."

Soldiers interested in running next year's Lincoln National Guard Marathon should contact Edwards at artavia.edwards@us.army.mil. Airmen, contact Hendricksen at brenda.hendricksen@ang.af.mil.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD



163rd RW team completes eighth L.A. Marathon

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Diane Ducat
163rd Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs

Continuing an eight-year tradition of participation, the California National Guard's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing fielded six runners in the Los Angeles Marathon on March 21, joining 26,000 other runners and overcoming obstacles to complete the 26.2-mile course.

In addition to Guard members Lt. Col. Brenda Hendricksen, 1st Lt. Kel Thede, Tech. Sgt. Ed Uribe, Senior Airman William Barlett, Senior Airman Luis Tovar and Senior Airman Douglas Witherspoon, the team included one Air Force Reserve member, Sgt. Kyle Platt, and three civilians, Larry Boyer, Matt Nolasco and Carolyn Terashi.

The CNG team once again held a special place at the beginning of the race. The runners created a human chain to hold back the crowd of general entrants, allowing the elite runners and wheelchair competitors to have an uninterrupted start.

"I love being part of the human chain," said

Nolasco, a second-time L.A. Marathoner. "It's a real sense of importance that gears you up for the 26.2 miles ahead of you. And fellow runners like the fact that the Air Force is the human chain."

A California National Guard color guard proudly presented the colors during the national anthem before the official start of the race. And for the first time, the marathon started at Dodger Stadium and ended at the Santa Monica Pier.

"The course was challenging, but we ran the icons," said Platt, a first-time marathon finisher. "It was awesome to run through the most famous parts of L.A. without any traffic."

CNG team participants varied in skill and experience, but all 10 runners completed the race. During the 163rd's eight years of participation in the L.A. Marathon, the size of the team has ranged from eight to 20 people.



Members of the California National Guard's Los Angeles Marathon team help create a human chain separating the elite runners from the general entrants before the start of the race March 21. From left to right, in white Air Force T-shirts: Larry Boyer, Carolyn Terashi, 1st Lt. Kel Thede and Senior Airman William Barlett.

"I encourage wing members, friends and family to join our team," said Hendricksen, who has been the team coordinator since 2003. "We start training about four to six months out. The training isn't as hard as you may think. Contact me and I will

put you on a good [training] plan. In all the years we've had a team, no one has competed and not finished the race."

Hendricksen can be reached via email at brenda.hendricksen@ang.af.mil.

RETIRED MAJ. GEN. (CA) DONALD EARL MATTSON DIES AT 80

Maj. Gen. (CA) Donald Earl Mattson, 80, died May 3, 2010. He is survived by stepsons Arden and Patrick Heffernan; grandchildren Meg Sabini, William Bagley Jr., Catherine Bagley, Anne Bagley and 1st Lt. Patrick Bagley of the California National Guard; and nephews and nieces Marvin, Michael, Betty, Beverly and Carol.

Mattson was born Sept. 2, 1929, in Chicago and began his military service in 1945 as a member of the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Lake View High School. At age 16, near the end of World War II, he joined the Illinois State Militia. In 1948, Mattson joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, and in 1950 he enlisted in the Illinois National Guard, where he advanced to the rank of staff sergeant before receiving his commission as a second lieutenant.

In 1955, Mattson entered active duty and served as an infantry and military intelligence officer. He retired from active duty in 1974 as a lieutenant colonel. His career to that point included service in Korea, Vietnam and Europe. He had completed 16 armed forces schools and served more than 10 years of command time in company and battalion-level organizations.

His most memorable accomplishments were his superior performance amongst active-duty peers, the contributions he made to orphans in Korea (for whom he helped acquire brass instruments) and his influence on policymakers to relieve American prisoners of war of culpability.

In June 1977, Mattson joined the newly activated California State Military Reserve (CSMR) and became instrumen-

tal in its development. In October 1977 he was promoted to colonel, and on Dec. 1, 1981, he was promoted to brigadier general.

Mattson was designated to establish the Center for Military History and serve as its first commander. He also served as director of the California State Military Museum and as president of the California State Military Museum Foundation. Mattson retired from the CSMR on Feb. 2, 2002. On Feb. 4, 2009, he was promoted to the honorary rank of major general on the CSMR Retired List.

Mattson's numerous awards and decorations include the Cold War Medal, Korean Service Medal, Order of California, Gold Grizzly Device to SMR Service Ribbon and California Medal of Merit.



Haskins promoted to brigadier general

By Laura Herzog
JTFB-Los Alamitos Public Affairs

A day of celebration at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos brought family, friends and fellow Soldiers of Lawrence A. Haskins together for his promotion to brigadier general May 1.

Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the California National Guard's adjutant general, conducted the promotion ceremony for Haskins, who earlier this year was selected for the No. 2 command position in the California National Guard. Kight is the top commanding general in the California National Guard and reports directly to the governor.

Haskins, the CNG's assistant adjutant general, enlisted in the California Army National Guard in July 1975 and served five years as a cavalry scout and noncommissioned officer before earning his commission as a second lieutenant in August 1980. During his 30-year career as an officer, Haskins has held numerous positions, including three company commands: 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment; 29th Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade; and assistant chief of staff, plans and operations, 40th Infantry Division.

Mobilized from 2003 to 2004, he served as commander of Task Force Guardian, a 7,500-Soldier brigade in support of Operation Noble Eagle III at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, providing additional force protection for 88 Army and Air Force Installations across the 21 western States. He served as chief of staff for the 40th Infantry Division through its restructuring into a more self-sustained and expeditionary organization, and in 2008 he was assigned as the chief of staff, California Army National Guard, responsible for the readiness, mobilization, reset and welfare of the 17,000 Soldiers of the California Army National Guard. Last summer he was assigned concurrently as assistant division commander, 40th Infantry Division, and in March of this year he was selected to be the assistant adjutant general, California National Guard.

Haskins has earned bachelor's degrees in geography and American history, and has earned master's degrees in military history and strategic studies.



ABOVE: Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, right, and Michael H. Winstead, command sergeant major of the California Army National Guard, unfurl the flag of Brig. Gen. Lawrence A. Haskins on May 1, the day of his promotion to brigadier general. Haskins is the assistant adjutant general of the California National Guard. **RIGHT:** Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, right, congratulates Haskins on his promotion.



PHOTOS BY SGT. (CA) GENE ARIAS

Fill out the form: Get the benefits you've earned

By Horst Laube
CNG Transition Assistance Advisor



According to the latest National Guard Bureau statistics, unemployment among members of the California National Guard is 30 percent; overall in the National Guard, unemployment is 24 percent. While those numbers may sound bleak, there is a very important program in place that will help hundreds, if not thousands, of California veterans connect with unemployment insurance and other benefits available to veterans and members of the California National Guard.

The program, Operation Welcome Home, which was launched Jan. 6, puts veterans directly in touch with people and services that can assist them in obtaining benefits they have earned.

Operation Welcome Home is a collaborative effort of three state offices: the Employment Development Department, Labor and Workforce Development Department and California Volunteers, a department that aims to increase the number of Californians engaged in service and volunteering. The program provides one-stop shopping efficiency as veterans search for and apply for benefits.

To take advantage of the program, service

members and veterans must complete the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) Reintegration Form, which can be found in the CDVA Veterans Resource Book, at Yellow Ribbon events and at www.cdva.ca.gov/VetService/reintegration.aspx.

Just minutes after completing the form online, veterans will receive an e-mail introducing them to their county's veteran services officer and providing a wide range of information on state benefits and services, traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, available home loans for veterans, legal services and much more.

The most exciting piece of this program is employment assistance. Veterans will receive a letter from the Employment Development Department, inviting them to call or make an appointment to speak with a CalVet Corps member to discuss a myriad of employment and training options. Furthermore, by utilizing this program, the veterans can be assured they are taking advantage of any veteran status preferences available to them in their job searches. Additionally, veterans will be contacted several times throughout the reintegration pro-



cess by a CalVet Corps employee to assist in clearing any obstacles that arise in the job search process.

Never has there been such a comprehensive plan to identify each and every California

veteran and personally connect them to the benefits available. However, in order for the program to be successful, every veteran must fill out the reintegration form so they can begin receiving the benefits they have earned.

670th MPs help stand up Afghan detention facility

Story and photo by 670th Military Police Company

Arriving in the dark of a mid-July night in 2009, the 670th Military Police Company was the first unit to occupy what would become known as Camp Sabalu-Harrison, Afghanistan. At that time the camp, a former Soviet minefield, consisted of only four rows of tents, a few latrines and a couple of shower tents.

Quickly organizing and standing up a base defense force for Camp Sabalu-Harrison, the 670th manned the towers and provided mobile perimeter patrols and a quick reaction force. Among its regular responsibilities, the base defense force was responsible for oversight of the screening of local nationals working on the Detention Facility in Parwan (DFIP), which was still under construction.

Additionally the 670th was assigned as the Bagram Airfield customs force and sent Soldiers to the field detention sites at Kandahar Airfield and Forward Operating Base Shank. The customs force received accolades for its diligent and efficient service, and the remote detention operations teams were recognized for their outstanding performance.

The company's main task, however, was to provide a guard force for regular duty at

Bagram Theater Internment Facility (BTIF), the long-standing predecessor to DFIP. The company also supported the BTIF infirmary, supply and kitchen operations; stood up a dining facility dubbed The Street Fighter Café, which operated until a permanent facility was brought on line in November; and stood up Detention Housing Unit Bravo on time for the DFIP opening in December.

"Words cannot adequately describe the environment at the BTIF," 670th MP Commander Capt. Leo Nolasco said. "Without the experience of working there, no one could ever appreciate its overwhelmingly oppressive atmosphere.

"Those who have only worked at DFIP ... should count themselves fortunate and not underestimate the fantastic facility that the DFIP is."

Since the opening of the DFIP, the 670th has pioneered an unrestrained movement plan, education program and vocational, trade and technical program at the DFIP.

"The company and the Soldiers of the 670th have come a long way with its assigned mission and achieved many great accomplishments as a team," Nolasco said. "I am extremely proud of [them] all."



Soldiers of the 670th Military Police Company oversee the screening of local nationals working on construction of the new Detention Facility in Parwan during their recent tour in Afghanistan. The MP company recently returned from a yearlong deployment, during which it stood up elements of the facility while providing security at the facility's predecessor, Bagram Theater Internment Facility.



Spc. Kathy Tanson of the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team holds a young goat during a veterinary outreach operation in the Barbur Valley on May 2 in Kunar province, Afghanistan.
Photo by Spc. Lorenzo Ware

Don't marry a jerk!

For the first time, CNG chaplains are offering a course for single Airmen and Soldiers so they don't pick a jerk. PICK is a research-based program designed to equip singles to ask the right questions, look for the right (and wrong) characteristics in a potential spouse and keep relationships at a proper pace. Other relationship seminars focus on issues such as communication, intimacy, trust and problem solving, but the PICK program, July 17-18 in Rancho Cordova, Calif., helps singles find the right person in the first place.

For more information visit www.calguard.ca.gov/ReadyFamilies or contact June Sato at 916-361-4957.

CA Combat Match, marksmanship clinic registering participants

CNG Soldiers are invited to participate in the 2010 California Combat Match in September at Camp Roberts, Calif.

Team California will offer a four-day marksmanship clinic beginning Monday, Sept. 20, at Camp Roberts, followed by the Combat Match that weekend, Sept. 25-26. Competition is the final step in the marksmanship training cycle; it is validation of the Soldier's training.

The top 10 percent of competitors will be awarded a Bronze Distinguished Badge from the commander of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. The top six CNG shooters will earn a spot on Team California and will be offered opportunities for additional training and to represent the state at regional and national competitions. Prizes will also be awarded to top competitors.

Participants must be on orders to attend the marksmanship clinic. Attendance at all four days of the clinic is not mandatory but is encouraged. Rifle, pistol and machine gun events will be included. Soldiers must use their assigned weapons (rifle and pistol) from their units during the events. Machine guns will be provided.

Entry is limited to the first 150 competitors unless otherwise directed. It is not necessary that you are a great shooter: Come to the clinics, and we will make you competitive.

For more information and to register for the clinic and competition, contact Sgt. 1st Class Jose Garcia at jose.a.garcia1@us.army.mil.

Non-military volunteer course in June

The volunteer course June 26-27 in Rancho Cordova, Calif., is a follow-up to the Family Readiness Course, providing leadership skills and training for unit and command volunteer coordinators. Sessions include: My Life in a Box, Leadership Skills, Operation Eagle Eyes, Compassion Fatigue, The Media & You, Community Relations and Be a Part of the Solution — A Practical Exercise for Volunteers. For more information visit www.calguard.ca.gov/ReadyFamilies or contact June Sato at 916-361-4957.

Public affairs rep training next month

The Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Office will host a Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) Training Conference July 17-18 on Camp Roberts, Calif., to support the requirement that each company-level unit have at least one trained UPAR.

UPARs must arrive by 12 noon on Saturday, July 17. The conference will conclude at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 18. Meals and lodging will be provided. UPARs will attend in inactive duty (IDT) or IDT with travel status. Soldiers already performing annual training (AT) on Camp Roberts or Camp San Luis Obispo can attend in AT status. To register, email Lt. Col. Bob Stern at robert.a.stern@us.army.mil.

DID YOU KNOW...

... California National Guard armories can be used for housing personnel only in certain situations?

California National Guard armories will not be used for quartering of personnel except when those service members are participating in authorized, scheduled military training, including military convoy stopovers.

If the armory commander permits Soldiers to sleep in the armory, an approved smoke detector must be installed. Alternatively the armory commander may require the posting of Soldiers to act as a fire watch.

Reference: CAARNG 210-1, Paragraph 2-07



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PHOTO BY SGT. JONATHAN GUIBORD

Staff Sgt. Rob Walters, an HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flight medic with Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, practices hoisting operations with members of the Sacramento Fire Department at the Van Vleck Ranch, approximately 20 miles outside Sacramento, on May 5. For more, see page 10.

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