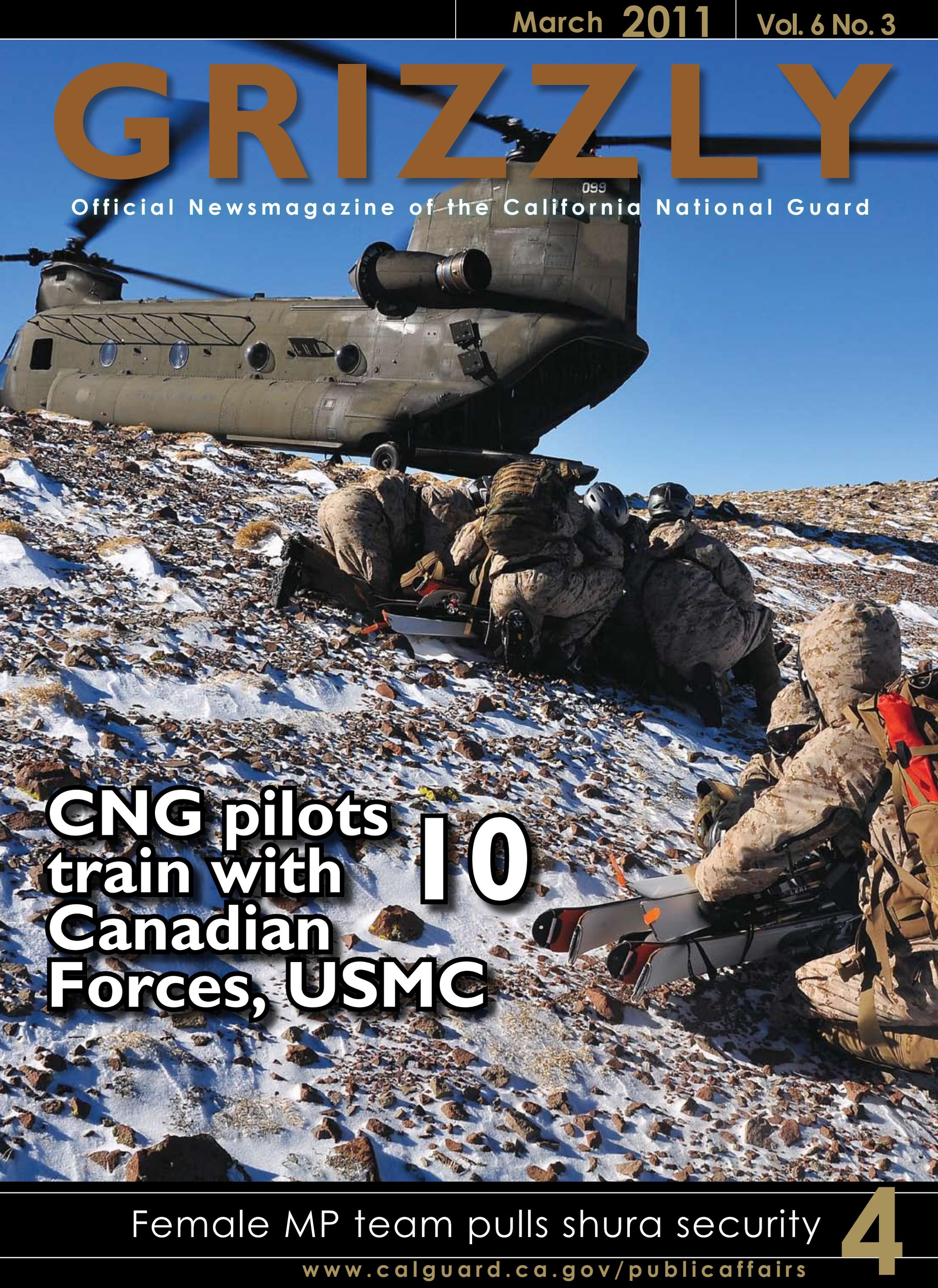


GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



**CNG pilots
train with
Canadian
Forces, USMC** | **10**

Female MP team pulls shura security

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California National Guard Leadership



Maj. Gen. Mary Kight
The Adjutant General



Brig. Gen. Lawrence Haskins
Assistant Adjutant General



CNG Command Sgt. Maj.
William Clark Jr.

Army Division



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Command Sgt. Maj.
Jose J. Gomez

NCOs must ensure units deploy at full strength

Command Sergeant Major William Clark Jr.



A decade and more ago, noncommissioned officers (NCO) were primarily consigned to running the day-to-day affairs of the Army. While their advice was sought, it was primarily relegated to questions about individual training, barracks and accountability. Today's NCOs have many more responsibilities than previous NCOs did. This is true at every level and is especially poignant for senior NCOs — sergeants first class through command sergeants major.

Senior NCOs are experienced in using benchmarks to measure the success or health of an organization, and they understand firsthand where their organizations' readiness levels are today and where they will be going in the future. No longer can senior NCOs wait for their leadership to tell them what to do. They must be able to identify shortfalls in personnel management, develop Soldiers for anticipated future vacancies and advise commanders

on personnel priorities. Personnel management is a requirement that many NCOs believe is someone else's responsibility. In reality, it is a huge part of every senior NCO's responsibility.

The secretary of defense supports the reserve components continuing to be an operational force. This means senior NCOs must be able to function at the operational, full-spectrum and strategic levels. Officers and NCOs join forces to lead units and teams, and serve as multi-dimensional experts on their division, corps, Army and Joint Staffs.

Senior NCOs must continue to ensure their Soldiers have opportunities for educational and assignment experiences, both inside and outside the tactical and operational areas, to prepare them for greater levels of responsibility. Command sergeants major are also responsible for assisting in

implementation of the Army Force Generation process. The purpose of Army Force Generation is to provide combatant commanders and civil authorities with a steady supply of trained and ready units that are task-organized in modular expeditionary force packages and tailored to joint mission requirements.

As we fully integrate into our operational force role, we must reverse the trend of deploying with vacancies or last-minute fillers, and instead deploy with complete units. Managing vacancies, excess personnel and military occupational specialty qualification (MOS-Q) prior to a deployment is a huge challenge for senior NCOs.

Command sergeants major and their senior NCO staffs play an indispensable part in the management of their Soldiers' careers. Their involvement in the overall management of their Soldiers' careers will ensure

commands are prepared to complete any peacetime or wartime mission. Moreover, the command sergeant major's role will ensure that his or her unit's NCO evaluation reports are completed with substance. All too often Soldiers do not receive appropriate initial counseling, which sets the stage for future success and excellence.

Command sergeants major must use recruiting, reclassification, lateral assignments, promotions and even command-directed moves to ensure all positions are filled throughout their command. The challenge comes when we do not have a Soldier with the requisite MOS or skills for the job. The National Guard Bureau and California are drafting policies to reduce or eliminate units' excess personnel and fill every one of their vacancies. Our goal is straightforward: send every deploying unit at or above authorized strength with no vacancies.

Grizzly

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Publisher
Maj. Gen. Mary Kight
The Adjutant General

Director of Communications
Maj. Thomas W. Keegan

Editor
Brandon Honig

Editorial Staff
1st Lt. Will Martin
2nd Lt. Jan Bender

Photographers
Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Prouse



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Submissions

Articles:

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

Photographs:

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

E-mail submissions by the 15th of the month to:
GrizzlyMag.ngca@ng.army.mil

Feedback:
brandon.honig@us.army.mil

Cover Shot



Photo by Skip Robinson
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Vertical/Vertical911 Magazine

Instructor pilots from the California National Guard's 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, and Canadian Forces pilots in training complete the tactical insertion of a U.S. Marine Corps ski/sniper team into a landing zone above 11,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in January.

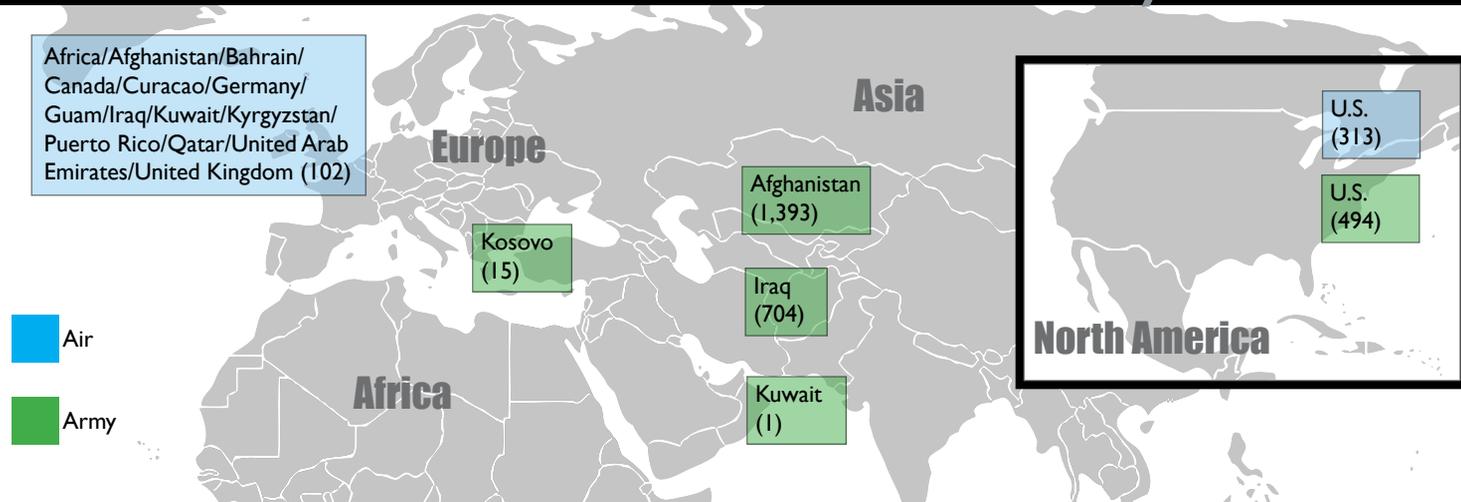
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The California National Guard as of February 2011



CAB moves 2,000 Soldiers, dozens of aircraft to Iraq

By 1st Lt. Jason Sweeney
40th Combat Aviation Brigade

The task was monumental. In fact, it was so big that giant Air Force C-17 and C-5 strategic airlift aircraft were involved. Even lumbering Antonov An-124 heavy lift cargo planes were in on the action.

Before the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) began its yearlong mission in Iraq, it first needed to get over there. More than 2,000 Soldiers, dozens of helicopters and tons of equipment had to be transported by land, sea and air from Fort Hood, Texas, to the other side of the planet.

"It's huge," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Amanda Fisher, who was in charge of organizing and overseeing the movement operations. "The challenge is that there are so many elements."

Five of the CAB's battalions and its Fresno, Calif.-based Headquarters and Headquarters Company wrapped up two months of pre-deployment training on Fort Hood at the end of January. The units conducted all manner of aviation and Soldier skills training as well as two weeklong exercises that simulated scenarios expected to be encountered in Iraq.

While participating in training such as convoy operations and helicopter-mounted gunnery, the brigade's unit movement officers worked overtime to document, palletize, load up and ship out a vast amount of military hardware.

Shipment of some helicopters and equipment

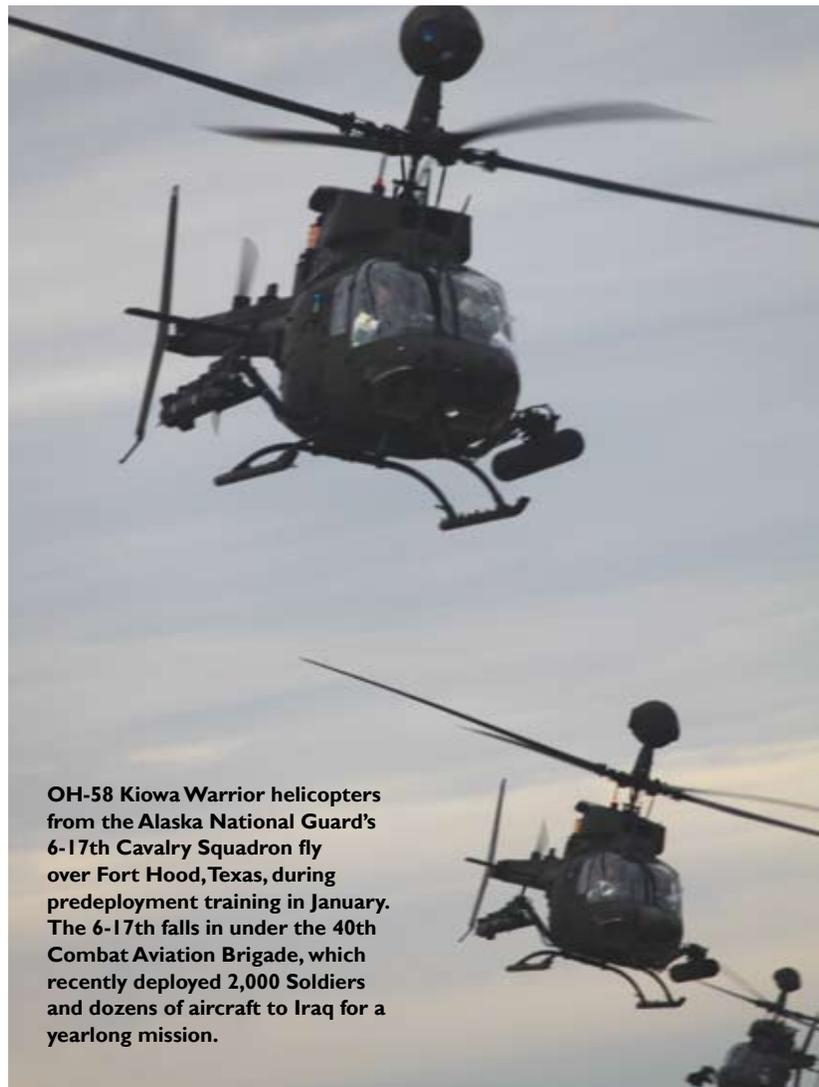
began in late December. Advance parties departed for Kuwait in mid-January. And once pre-deployment training finished at the end of January, the CAB's main body was on the move.

Adding to the complexity was the number of aircraft involved. The Soldiers departed on chartered airplanes, while the helicopters and containers of equipment were transported on C-17 and C-5 aircraft. In addition, five An-124 planes — aircraft larger than the C-5, which is the Air Force's biggest — were contracted from Russian companies. Also, two ships loaded with helicopters and containers departed from Texas.

The brigade's UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinook, OH-58 Kiowa and AH-64 Apache helicopters were broken down before being loaded onto the planes and ships. They were then rebuilt in Kuwait before being flown into Iraq.

"It's a very big deal — all these moving parts that are involved in projecting that combat power," said Lt. Col. Mark Kampa, who heads the brigade's logistics office. "It's an incredibly complex job that requires all the brigade's personnel."

The CAB will be responsible for full-spectrum aviation operations in Iraq for the remainder of 2011, including everything from medical evacuation to reconnaissance and force protection. The CAB is made up of National Guard, Army Reserve and active duty elements from 22 states.



OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopters from the Alaska National Guard's 6-17th Cavalry Squadron fly over Fort Hood, Texas, during predeployment training in January. The 6-17th falls in under the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, which recently deployed 2,000 Soldiers and dozens of aircraft to Iraq for a yearlong mission.

PHOTO BY SPC. DARRIEL SWATTS

Serving the military, serving the community

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Sheila Babot
749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

For seven California National Guardsmen in Iraq, selfless service goes beyond their Army commitment. It is a way of life, and one they will continue when they return from their yearlong tour on Contingency Operating Base Adder.

Staff Sgt. Gregory Crowe, a battle noncommissioned officer (NCO) with the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), is a correctional sergeant in his civilian life. The 10-year Army veteran and nine-year veteran of Susanville High Desert State Prison has many responsibilities in his civilian job, ranging from inspecting facilities and ensuring they are fully operational to assigning and supervising officers, arbitrating disputes and commanding instant response teams.

"The key is to remain firm, fair and consistent when dealing with the inmate population," Crowe said. "I enjoy working for the department as it allows me to do my part for the community."

Another of California's dual heroes is Sgt. 1st Class Jose Perez with the support operations section of the 749th CSSB. Originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, the 14-year Soldier and naturalized citizen now serves as a Monterey County juvenile institutions officer. He is also a 14-year veteran of the California Department of Corrections. Perez's duty positions include drug and alcohol counselor, truancy officer and juvenile hall high-security supervisor.

Perez has developed and implemented a mentoring program to instill team-building skills in rival gang members. The program has been successful, bringing rivals together to work toward common goals. Perez was recognized as the Monterey County Probation Department Officer of the Year in 2006. He is also a 15-year volunteer firefighter with the Salinas Fire Department.

1st Lt. Sean Birtcil, of the 749th and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, said one of the most fulfilling aspects of being a deputy is that no two days are alike. As a 749th battle captain, he is responsible for situational awareness and reporting of all incidents in the battalion.

"The Sheriff's Office offers unique and multiple ways to serve my community," he said. "Moreover, I feel like I provide a service to the community serving in both uniforms. I know that what I bring from logistics to the sheriff's office is training that I would have never received in the Sheriff's Office."

1st Lt. Chad Garton, a military intelligence officer with the 749th, said his three years in the Army have taught him to be a better Soldier and a better deputy sheriff for Santa Clara County. "I am able to apply aspects from both jobs together, like critical thinking, discipline, military bearing, command presence and attention to detail," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Jenkins, a supply

NCO with the 749th, has served for the last 14 years as a training officer with the Hayward Police Department. He trains incoming officers to conduct investigations, write reports and conduct patrols, and he teaches about court testimony and case law.

"Once I completed my college education, I sought a job opportunity that would bring similar camaraderie as my active duty military experience, and the police department provided the structure of a paramilitary organization," Jenkins said.

After 20 years of military service, Jenkins said he looks forward to retirement and the satisfaction of knowing he has helped shape and develop young leaders to fill his boots.

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Eaddy serves as the highway movement NCO for the 749th in Iraq. In California he is a parking enforcement officer and an eight-year veteran of the West Sacramento Police Department.

"Since childhood I always wanted to be a police officer, and when an opportunity came available, I jumped at the chance to fill a childhood dream," Eaddy said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching, teaching and mentoring Soldiers as an NCO. It is one of the highlights of my career."

Capt. Bertrand Barton, a logistics officer serving as a safety officer with the 749th, is a sergeant of the guard and supervisor at Shasta Dam in northern California, where he has served for the past nine years. Barton leads a crew that protects four major dams and a series of smaller dams and reservoirs, diversion tunnels, power plants and associated infrastructure inside a 100-mile radius.

All of these California Guardsmen wear two or more hats serving the citizens of California and the United States. They all understand the risk and responsibility associated with their service and are fulfilled with the paths they have chosen, exemplifying duty, loyalty and honor.



Sgt. 1st Class Jose Perez, a Monterey County juvenile institutions officer and California National Guard Soldier, is one of seven public servants supporting Operation New Dawn in Iraq with the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade.

163rd Airman named NGB Chaplain of the Year

By Staff Sgt. Paul Duquette
163rd Reconnaissance Wing

We all had childhood dreams and occupational aspirations. Whether it was to be a movie star, cowboy or astronaut, reality eventually set in and took most of us in different directions. But one CNG member's childhood dream of becoming a chaplain wasn't thrown away; instead it was embraced and has brought him national recognition.

Capt. David Sarmiento of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing Chaplain Corps was presented the National Guard Bureau Chaplain of the Year award Jan. 25 during the Joint Army and Air National Guard Bureau Chaplain Conference in Washington, D.C.

From the country's 50 states and four territories, there were eight candidates competing for the award.

Sarmiento was presented the award by the deputy director of the Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. William H. Etter. He later received a challenge coin from the chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Craig R. McKinley.

"I am very humbled to have received this award, considering there is great work being accomplished every day by so many chaplains and chaplain assistants all over the world," Sarmiento said.

"[Sarmiento's] presence and outstanding contributions cannot be overstated because of all the issues and stresses 163rd personnel have encountered due to mobilization and the extremely high operational tempo that the reach-back 24/7/365 [area of responsibility] combat support mission brings with it," said Col. Randall Ball, commander of

the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing.

Sarmiento has officiated approximately 200 wing-related events, including retirements, conferences, briefings, seminars, weddings and changes of command. He is also involved in death notifications and funerals for service members, and he is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"I have experienced so many beautiful moments through my time in the service and I've come to learn that no matter what my duties involve, it is an honor to serve, because God has allowed me to live out my childhood dream of becoming a chaplain," Sarmiento said. "Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your chaplain and for the confidence you have had in me and the support I have received."



Capt. David Sarmiento of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing receives congratulations from Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, after Sarmiento was named the National Guard Bureau's Chaplain of the Year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF 163RD RW CHAPLAIN CORPS



YOUTH IN ACTION

Believe in yourself

By Cadet Hubert Godinez
Honor Graduate, Grizzly Youth Academy Class 25

Starting off in life, I was never really good in school. I always hung out with the class clown and found myself in the principal's office. As I got into my teen years, I found myself with the wrong crowd. But thanks to my family, I soon realized that was not the life I wanted to live, and I decided to change for the better. But I still had my bad habits.

I would go to school, but by the time I got to class, it was half over. I ended up attending a truancy meeting and had to talk to a counselor. She noticed I was doing well in school but that I was lazy. She asked me what I wanted to do in my life, and I told her I was thinking about joining the military. She looked at me with a smile on her face and told me about Grizzly Youth Challenge Academy. That day, as soon as I got home, I got on the computer and checked out the Grizzly home page. I could not wait to get accepted.

The day I showed up at the Grizzly Youth Challenge Academy and said my goodbyes to my family, it really hit me. We went through tough times during those first two weeks, but all the letters from home and all the support we were getting from each other kept us motivated. One of the Second Platoon mottos was "One brother, all brothers," and we meant it.

The teachers were very supportive and showed us the life lessons we needed. They also taught us to always have a goal or plan for the future and gave us tools to further our education. Thanks to the staff at Grizzly, I know I have a path to succeed in life.

My hopes and dreams for all cadets are for them to succeed in life, but most importantly to be happy with themselves. Thank you to all the mothers and fathers who have been supporting cadets from Day 1, including my mom for never giving up on me and for showing me what it truly takes to be a man. Thank

you to all the mentors out there for leading us in the right direction. And thank you Commander Tanks, my mentor, for all the times you have helped me.

And a very special thank you to the Grizzly staff for giving us the tools we need to succeed in our lives. I also want to thank my cadre for never giving up on us and for holding us accountable to Grizzly Youth Academy's high standards.

Class 25, we always have to dream, believe and achieve. Like a wise man once told me, "Always follow your heart, and believe in yourself." Believe in yourself, follow your heart, and good things will come.



Cadet Hubert Godinez accepts his recognition as the honor graduate for Grizzly Youth Academy Class 25 in December.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIZZLY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

Psych embed earns CA commendation

By Private 1st Class Brandon K. Batchelor
79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Donald Alpert, an embedded mental health (EMH) expert with 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, earned the California Commendation Medal for seven years of selfless service caring for Soldiers' mental well-being.

The psychologist said he felt honored to receive the award, which was presented at the National Guard armory in Santa Ana, Calif., on Feb. 13. Alpert added that the medal was his first recognition from the military and he intends to stay with the 1-160th as long as he can.

"I'm very touched," Alpert said Feb. 13. "I'm not usually at a loss for words."

More than 50 armories in California have EMH experts like Alpert, who are civilian clinicians rather than service members.

"We become part of the unit just like the medics or any other integral part of the unit itself, so they get to know us," Alpert said. "We make referrals, we evaluate [and] at times we'll do our own therapy here."

They do not, however, deploy overseas or anywhere outside California with the unit.

The embedded provider initiative was launched by TriWest Healthcare Alliance in 2005 as a two-year pilot program in partnership with the California National Guard. Although the

intended two-year time frame has passed, TriWest has continued to fund it until the state can pick up the expense.

"[Alpert has] been a tremendous asset and comfort to the Soldiers on an individual and group basis," said Lt. Col. Nick Ducich, commander of the 1-160th. "The Soldiers are able to consult and confide on individual issues for the betterment of themselves, their families and the unit." The best part of the embedded provider program is the confidentiality, Ducich added.

Alpert said he believes the program's role is essential to the health of the Soldiers in the Guard.

"From a psychological point of view, I think that it is critical," he said. "I wish we could have more men involved directly with the Soldier before he leaves, as he's ready to deploy and when he comes home. In the first two months, it's critical to relieve some of that [post-traumatic stress disorder]."

Guard Soldiers also sometimes face additional challenges as compared with active duty troops, Alpert said, because they cannot count on the Guard for full-time pay.

Alpert said he will never turn a Soldier away, and the greatest return for his service is knowing he has been able to help an individual through a tough time.

CNG women pull security for historic Afghan shura

Khovst province meeting aims to promote women's role in business



LEFT: Members of a 330th Military Police Company personnel security detail and members of the Khovst Provincial Reconstruction Team enjoy chai tea and conversation with women of Jaji Maidan district in Khovst province Feb. 10. The women gathered for a shura, or formal meeting, with officials from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, including the director of women's affairs. **BELOW:** Government officials board a CH-47 Chinook after the shura in Jaji Maidan.

Story and photos by Spc. Tobey White Task Force Duke Public Affairs

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter touched down Feb. 10 on a patch of green Afghan farmland, which stood in stark contrast to the otherwise brown countryside, carrying eight Islamic Republic of Afghanistan government officials and a personnel security detail (PSD) composed of female soldiers from the California National Guard's 330th Military Police Company. They were joined on the helicopter by members of the Khovst Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and the 3-19th Agribusiness Development Team from Indiana. Local men and children lined the roads and hills, staring at the newcomers while military personnel secured the surrounding area.

The government officials on hand weren't the average Afghan official. They were all female and they were there for one purpose — to conduct the coalition's first women's shura, or formal meeting, in the last two years.

A TIME FOR FIRSTS

For the 11 CNG Soldiers attending, it was the first time they had conducted an all-female mission. The mission entailed escorting the VIPs to the meeting, clearing the building where the meeting was conducted and securing the immediate area from all threats. In Afghanistan only women can engage women, so the meeting planners needed to reach out to sister companies all over Khovst province to find the women they needed.

"It's important that the mission was conducted by females, because the Afghan women feel more comfortable with us," said Spc. Araceli Carrillo of San Diego, who served as point for the PSD. "This way they weren't intimidated by males."

It wasn't easy getting the number of women required for the mission, said Maj. Rosemary Reed of the Khovst PRT. The Army has no all-female companies. The meeting planners faced the challenge of gathering enough women who had the capabilities and specialties needed to secure the site, provide security for the government officials and women attending the meeting, and conduct the shura.

"It's hard to be a female in the military, period. So being able to come out here with no males, with only a few weeks training and not knowing the area to do this, feels pretty good," said Sgt. Priscilla Salazar of Santa Ana, Calif., non-commissioned officer in charge for the PSD.

To be part of the PSD, the women had to be at the top of their game. For Carrillo the mission was different from any she'd undertaken in the 10 months since she deployed to

Afghanistan. Being picked as point meant her team felt safe enough with her in that role.

"None of us had pulled high security on high females," Salazar said. "It lets Afghan women know that females are strong enough to do what we're here to accomplish."

JAJI MAIDAN

Jaji Maidan, a town in eastern Khovst province, was recently named a "peace district" because it experiences fewer attacks than surrounding territories. It is known locally as the land of milk and honey. The goal of the shura was to further the relative stability of the area by engaging members of the population who don't really have a voice, Reed said.

"We have some very important women here," said Lt. Col. Pam Moody of the 3-19th ADT. "It is important to show the women at Jaji Maidan that women can be strong, can be studious, can go to high school and better themselves and their families."

The women of Jaji Maidan possess the skill to turn a common plant in the territory into rope and use it to make intricate beadwork. It is a skill that coalition and government members hope can be leveraged into small business opportunities.

By bringing government representatives, such as the director of women's affairs, to Jaji Maidan, the shura participants hope to create a sustainable project. It gave the representatives a chance to speak directly to women in the region and hear the challenges and issues the women face.

"The shura is a very traditional way to solve problems," Reed said. Shuras are a way for elders and key leaders in the community to address issues in the area. In the U.S., it would be the equivalent of attending a meeting between council members of a town. Since the area is tribal, the members are elders who have been elected to represent the tribes and villages in the area. A shura can cover a wide range of topics, such as security, law and, in this case, women's rights.

LESSONS LEARNED

While simply having the shura was progress over previous

years, the participants found themselves having to take a step back once the meeting started. Although they had a turnout of about 60 women, the women had more urgent concerns than economic growth. Many of them were suffering from medical issues such as diarrhea, malaria, skin problems and asthma. For the next meeting, the team promised to bring a doctor to address health concerns.

One thing the Soldiers learned was how important it is for the women to have a meeting before the shura. There are 21 villages in Jaji Maidan. For everybody to have their voice heard, the Afghan women decided two representatives from each village would be elected to bring the concerns of their area to the director of women's affairs at the next meeting.

"I'm honored to give these women of the government the opportunity to engage members of the population," Reed said. "The dialogue has been initiated. Now these women have a better understanding of what these people need and will be able to develop projects to help them."

The meeting shed light on how best to conduct future women's shuras. While the original objective was to help the women of Jaji Maidan sell their products in larger bazaars and make money for their families, the focus had to be adjusted to take care of more pressing needs first. Reed said the meeting was a first step toward having regular meetings that would address women's needs.

"The shura is important so people know, not just Afghans but Americans too, that women are coming up, that they do have rights, are important and have a role in society," Carrillo said.



224th transfers eight buildings to Iraqi government

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Nathan Lavy
224th Sustainment Brigade

Leaders from the 224th Special Troops Battalion met with representatives from the government of Iraq and the Iraqi Air Force on Dec. 23 at Contingency Operating Base (COB) Adder, Iraq, to turn over several facilities to Iraqi officials.

Following the stand-up of Iraqi Air Force Squadron 70 on Nov. 23 at Ali Base, Iraq, which is also known as COB Adder, the December facilities transfer represented another step forward in the U.S. Army's partnership with the Iraqi Air Force. Lt. Col. Nicole Balliet of the 224th STB, who serves as COB Adder garrison commander, met with Brig. Gen. Hakeem Aboud, commander of Ali Air Base, and Mr. Hassan Hammoudeh, commander of logistics for the Iraq government, to sign the documents.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be part of such an historic event," Balliet said. "This signifies the continued transfer of authority to the government of Iraq. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Iraqi Air Force."

About then spoke about the significance of the transfer.

"Today we'll receive eight buildings. In the near future we'll receive more buildings. We hope to work together to succeed in our mission," he said. "I'd like to thank all U.S. Forces for their help from the beginning."



Lt. Col. Nicole Balliet of the 224th Special Troops Battalion, who serves as garrison commander for Contingency Operating Base (COB) Adder, Iraq, meets with Hassan Hammoudeh, commander of logistics for the government of Iraq, and Brig. Gen. Hakeem Aboud, commander of Ali Air Base, Iraq, far right, to sign documents marking the transfer of eight facilities to Iraqi officials Dec. 23 on COB Adder.

CNG Soldier in Iraq trains troops on customs, border clearance

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Nathan Lavy
224th Sustainment Brigade

Utilizing his civilian-acquired skills, Sgt. Maj. Jorge Ortiz of the 224th Sustainment Brigade provided Customs Border Clearance Agent training for Soldiers on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, in January. More than 30 Soldiers with 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade (AAB), 4th Infantry Division, received the training, qualifying them to inspect and certify redeploying Soldiers' equipment and vehicles heading back to the United States.

"What this training provides is for U.S. military — non-branch specific — the opportunity to search and inspect equipment, duffel bags, [boxes] and [containers], to include aircraft," said Ortiz, support operations sergeant major for the 224th. "They are looking for the same things that I look for at the border."

Ortiz is a supervisory customs and border protection officer at the Calexico, Calif., port of entry.

"We [at the ports of entry] ... use our targeting techniques, indicators and our questioning and searching techniques to see if people are legit," he said. "We are looking for terrorists, narcotics, illegals, stolen vehicles, ammunition, guns and money."

Ortiz is the only qualified instructor in Iraq. Trained Soldiers have full authority to do inspections in all countries that fall under Central Command. Certification is valid for the duration of the Soldier's deployment. The training conducted by Ortiz included a day of classroom instruction and a day of hands-on instruction.

"The hands-on training was the best part because we're actually out here doing it," said Sgt. Tommy Leath, a Chicago native and member of 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd AAB. "We want to make sure there is no ammo, rounds, weapons or brass that aren't authorized — and if there are any war trophies."

On the second day of training, students assisted in a live



Sgt. Maj. Jorge Ortiz, right, of the 224th Sustainment Brigade guides Staff Sgt. Nicky Cruzfargus of the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade during Customs Border Clearance Agent training Jan. 25 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

inspection conducted by three previously-trained CBCA Soldiers. Ortiz was on the scene to provide guidance.

"The training was excellent because we learned a lot of stuff relating to rules that protect the United States," said Staff Sgt. Nicky Cruzfargus of 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd AAB. "When we saw the pictures and videos that the instructor showed, we never expected to see all the crazy stuff people try to hide and bring back home. ... [Ortiz] is an outstanding instructor."

Ortiz said he loves his civilian job because it is like a soap opera. "Every day is not the same: People come across drunk, bleeding or a [baseball] bat in their windshield from fighting, people running or being chased," he said.

Ortiz said he is glad he was given the exception to policy to train Soldiers on COB Adder. He has already planned additional courses and said he expects to help several units in their redeployment process.

MRT combats excess in Iraq

By 1st Lt. Nathan Lavy
224th Sustainment Brigade

Soldiers with the 224th Sustainment Brigade are making a difference in the "War on Excess" with the brigade's mobile redistribution team (MRT) on Contingency Operating Base (COB) Adder, Iraq.

The MRT was created as a key component of Operation Clean Sweep and the United States' responsible drawdown of forces. The MRT assists units with the removal of non-mission-essential, non-property-book, non-theater-property equipment excess. Its fixed redistribution site has been operational since October.

"The MRT can operate as contact teams consisting of two to four Soldiers or up to 10 Soldiers depending on the type of mission," said San Diego native Capt. Vanessa Marrero of the 224th, support operation effects officer and MRT officer-in-charge. "These Soldiers have the capability to identify the proper disposition of equipment. [Military occupational specialties] include, but are not limited to, automated logistic specialists, vehicle repairers, transportation management coordinators, supply specialists and ammunition specialists."

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Keith Glenn, the MRT fixed-site and mobile team officer-in-charge, has the primary job of overseeing the MRT fixed-site yard and its daily operations. A native of Georgia, Glenn is a member of the 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), 224th Sustainment Brigade.

"[The MRT yard is] taking items out of hidden areas and putting them back into the system," Glenn said. "It's reducing the actual footprint of the material. We're trying to consolidate, and it is a collaborative effort. You're reducing transportation dollars, transportation assets — here we have consolidated our efforts and expedited equipment from the COBs."

The MRT yard can process about \$2 million worth of supplies on a weekly basis. The MRT yard Soldiers are members of various units in the 224th Sustainment Brigade.

"Currently there are 43 military [MRT Soldiers] and 13 civilians," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pierce, an Illinois native and the operations noncommissioned officer for the fixed site. "The Soldiers outside [in the yard] do all the paperwork, they evaluate each item that goes into each multipack, and from there it goes into my office. Then my guys will [log] it. If we cannot find it, we will look up manufacturer's data, demilitarized codes, recovery codes, class codes, then the Soldier will place it on the multipack to ship it."

Aside from saving the government money and removing excess equipment and supplies from Iraq, the yard places many serviceable items back into the Army's supply system or back into the units from which they originally came.

"When we run into serial number[ed] items ... if there was ever a commander looking for that equipment or there was a Financial Liability Investigation of Property Loss done, they actually try to contact that commander and get the property back to him or reimburse him the dollars that were taken from him," Glenn said.

Daily operations of the MRT fixed-site yard involves several organizations aside from the 224th Sustainment Brigade: the U.S. Navy-Joint Force, U.S. Air Force Redistribution Property Assistance Team, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, 15th Transportation Company, 110th CSSB, 632nd Maintenance Company, U.S. Forces-Iraq and Defense Logistics Agency as well as contractors and some Soldiers from other units on COB Adder.



Members of Joint Task Force Sierra, the CNG's contribution to the Southwest border mission, complete weapons qualification in February on a range near Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. Several times in February, JTF Sierra spotted groups of more than 30 people illegally entering the United States near Chula Vista, Calif., marking the largest personnel busts since the task force began in August 2010. To date, the Chula Vista sector has compiled more than 1,900 apprehension assists. Also in February, JTF troops spotted a group of individuals attempting to bring more than 380 pounds of marijuana into the U.S., and the JTF tracked a panga boat with 18 individuals attempting to illegally enter the country.

Photo by Maj. Kimberly Holman



LEFT: Lt. Col. Nick Ducich, right, takes command of 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, receiving the unit guidon from Col. Mark Malanka, commander of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), during a Jan. 9 ceremony on Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos. Ducich succeeded Lt. Col. John Burick. BELOW: Malanka hands the guidon for the 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB) to Lt. Col. Kevin Bender, new commander of the BSTB, March 5 in San Diego. Bender succeeded Lt. Col. George Leone.

Photos by Private 1st Class Brandon K. Batchelor



At a Glance

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Division-South in Iraq, administers the Oath of Re-enlistment to four Soldiers of the 224th Sustainment Brigade on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, on Dec. 1. Spc. David Molina, far left, re-enlisted for an additional six years, while Sgt. Roque Caprile, Master Sgt. Adais Garcia and Master Sgt. Dennis Evans re-enlisted for three years.

Photo by
1st Lt. Nathan Lavy



Lt. Col. Fred Foote, commander of the 130th Rescue Squadron, 129th Rescue Wing, is greeted by his family Jan. 12 at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., after Foote returned from a 50-day deployment to Djibouti. About 65 Airmen of the 129th Rescue Wing deployed to Djibouti to provide combat search and rescue support for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino

Maj. Daniel Markert conducts M4 carbine close-quarters combat drills with Special Forces Operational Detachment A 3314 in Pol E Charki, Afghanistan, on Dec. 31. Markert is a combat adviser to the Afghan National Army's 201st Corps.

Photo by Maj. Daren Runion



Staff Sgt. Omar Conger assists Sgt. Amanda Chaffin of Company D, I-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, with the fitting of her mask before she enters a gas chamber on Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., during training in February.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela M. Nolan



Members of the 129th Rescue Wing apply a splint to an Airman with a simulated injury during war skills training Feb. 5 at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif. The wing was preparing for an upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter and crew from 1st Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion, based in Stockton, Calif., perform a two-wheeled landing at an altitude of 11,200 feet while training Canadian Forces pilots in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Taking the high ground

Story and photo by Skip Robinson
Vertical/Vertical911 Magazine

In 2008, when the Canadian Forces decided to purchase six Chinook D-model helicopters from the United States Army to support Canadian operations in Afghanistan, it had been 16 years since the Canadian Forces had sold its previous Chinooks to the Netherlands. Consequently, there was no current Canadian Air Force experience on the CH-47 — no pilots, instructors, flight engineers, maintainers or avionics techs who had flown or worked on Chinooks. And, because Canada's only Chinooks were the ones actually in Afghanistan, there was no way for personnel to train on the CH-47D in Canada.

To overcome this hurdle, the Canadian Forces began working with the U.S. Army and National Guard. As a result, Canadian pilots and maintainers now attend U.S. Army qualification courses for their initial Chinook training, then go through a "Canadian seasoning program" at an Army National Guard flight facility. This seasoning program is spearheaded by the National Guard Bureau at the U.S. Department of Defense, which organizes the training through different states depending on operational tempo and aircraft availability.

BUILT TO SUIT

Although the seasoning program has a loosely followed curriculum, Company B of 1st Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), California Army National Guard, based out of Stockton, prefers to develop a training schedule based on an individual aviator's proficiency and what he or she would like to learn or practice. As one instructor pilot with Company B, whose Soldiers are known as the Delta Schooners, explained, "Whereas one pilot may want to simply work on [basic] tasks, others may be ready to jump into graduate-level maneuvers such as [night vision goggle] dust landings with an external load."

The typical seasoning program is a two-week curriculum that follows the "crawl, walk, run" process. The training program has evolved quickly since 2008 and includes all personnel involved in the Chinook program, from maintainers and avionics technicians to production control clerks and maintenance officers. On the operations side, training is given to pilots and flight engineers. Said the Company B instructor pilot, "It's nice when they bring their own [flight engineers], since they have slightly different call-and-response techniques, and they can help communicate with the American crews when Canadian crewmembers are speaking in French."

During the first week of training with the Delta Schooners, the instructors typically take things easy, giving the Canadian pilots a chance to adapt to the National Guard way of doing things and to get familiar with the aircraft. "There is

always a bit of a transition for the pilots, as they are used to flying tail-rotor-equipped aircraft," observed the instructor pilot, "as opposed to a tandem-rotor beast whose [automatic flight control system] does all the hard work. We have to re-teach and indoctrinate most guys on the intricacies of Chinook flying, which is very hands-off compared to other helicopters. Features of the [automatic flight control system] include heading hold, pitch attitude hold and airspeed hold. Once you learn to allow the aircraft to essentially fly itself, then the fun really begins."

"By the end of the first week, we try to incorporate some external-load and dust-landing operations, attempting to replicate what they will be faced with in Afghanistan. We'll do those types of maneuvers during the day, and then move into [night vision goggle] operations, again replicating the types of things they'll see in country. During the [after action report], the Canadians almost always say they enjoyed the [night vision goggle] dust landings and external-load training more than anything."

Concurrently, the visiting Canadians attend academic classes covering mission-planning tools, the electronic kneeboard, systems, preflight training, performance planning and high-altitude flying techniques. "The instructors at Stockton are able to share knowledge gained from a recent yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, particularly all of the lessons learned from hundreds of hours of flying in a combat environment," said the instructor pilot.

For those Canadians training with this California unit, the second week typically takes them into the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where they focus on high-altitude flying techniques and graduate-level performance-planning exercises. Although the Canadian Chinooks, which are based in Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, generally don't operate in the higher mountains found in the northern parts of the country, Canadian pilots do operate their machines at their limits and in difficult operating environments, which is where mountain flying exercises come in handy. "The training gained during mountain flying is invaluable," said the instructor pilot. "We are extremely lucky in northern California to have such a diverse training area, being able to practice dust landings on the coastal hills one day, and then to practice snow landings at 11,000 feet in the Sierra Nevadas the next."

The second week of training also involves a three- or four-day trip to the U.S. Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center to take advantage of the high mountains and rugged terrain there. Said the instructor pilot, "There are very specific techniques when it comes to mountain flying in every type of helicopter, and we try to ingrain these techniques in our students during the training. Not only

do we get into standard maneuvers like approaches and departures to a pinnacle or ridgeline at max gross weight, but we also move into tasks like combat maneuvering flight and aft two-wheel landings."

THE BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION

The purpose of the seasoning program is very basic: to make the Canadian Forces pilots as comfortable as possible in operating the aircraft at its limits in demanding flight modes, whether that means a night vision goggle approach to a high-altitude landing zone covered in fresh snow or completing a multi-ship tactical insertion of Marine Corps snipers. Throughout the training, National Guard instructors constantly share their experiences and attempt to impart as much knowledge to the Canadian pilots as possible. "The most important goal is to make the pilots aware of their performance limitations, and [how to] use those to their advantage while keeping the aircraft in a safe flight envelope at all times," said the Company B instructor pilot.

He added: "We always have great experiences with the Canadian pilots and crews, who, more often than not, are absolutely outstanding aviators. The recent group of pilots have been guys who already did a rotation overseas flying Chinooks, and it was very enjoyable to fly with them."

Said Maj. Dan Anderson, the operations officer for the State Aviation Office of the California Army National Guard: "War and conflict anywhere, anytime, is unfortunate. But the reality creates special needs and requirements that require international cooperation to work together and share in experiences."

"The Canadians recognized the U.S. Army, and in particular the Army National Guard, possessed over three decades of CH-47 experience. When the Canadians came to the Department of Defense, they and the Department of the Army knew the right place and right forum for training was nested in the Guard. Now, formally tasked to the Guard to [provide] support, the Canadian seasoning program has created a conduit to allow our experiences to be shared and taught to the Canadians in a permissive environment, allowing the [Canadian Air Force] to benefit from our mistakes and successes. This synergy and spirit of sharing is very typical of National Guard aviation units, and it is a honor to work with and train their pilots and maintenance personnel."

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EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL COUNCIL RESULTS, Q2 2011

Command

a. COL William Snow, Deputy Commander, D1, CA MED Detachment, transferred to Commander CA MED Detachment, effective NET 1 May 11.

b. COL Michael Wells, J2, Joint Force HQs, transferred to Commander 223rd Regiment effective NET 1 Oct 11.

c. LTC (P) Peter Kim, Deputy Commander 224th Sustainment Brigade, transferred to Commander, 224th Sustainment Brigade, and promote upon control grade availability effective 1 Aug 11.

d. LTC Nicole Balliet, Deputy Commander, STB, 224th Sustainment Brigade, transferred to Garrison Commander, Camp San Luis Obispo, effective 1 Dec 11.

e. LTC Jason Briggs, Executive Officer, transferred to Commander, STB 224th Sustainment Brigade, effective 1 Sep 11.

f. LTC Bruce Malarky, Airspace Management Officer, Intel and Sustainment CO, 40th ID, transferred to Army Airfield Commander, Los Alamitos, effective 1 Jun 11.

g. LTC Susan Russell, G1, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, transferred to Commander, Training Site (JFTB-Los Alamitos), effective 1 Sep 11.

h. LTC Lori Schanhals, Plans And Policy Branch Chief, transferred to Commander, 340th BSB, effective 1 Sep 11.

Staff

a. COL (P) David Baldwin, ETT Senior Mentor, reassigned to Chief of Staff, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, effective NLT 1 Oct 10. Colonel Baldwin will serve as the 40th ID Chief of Staff M-Day until replaced by Colonel Medigovich on/or about March of 2012. SAD Assignment is pending on TAG's decision after approval off the GOEPC notes.

b. COL Kelly Fisher, Commander, 223rd Regiment transferred to Deputy US Property and Fiscal Officer (MDay), effective 1 Oct 11.

c. COL (P) Tom Loomis, J4, JFHQs, assigned as the Title 32, Deputy Dual Status Commander. This will be his primary area of responsibility.

d. COL David Shaw transferred to J2, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 2011.

e. COL Debra Simpson, Case Manager, D1, CA MED Detachment, transferred to Deputy Commander CA MED Detachment, effective NET 1 May 11

f. LTC Frank Emanuel, Executive Officer, 100Th Troop Command, transferred to J3, JFHQs and promote upon control grade availability, effective 31 Aug 2011.

g. LTC John Andrews, Chief, KM, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, transferred to LNO, D1 OPS Company, 40th ID Effective 1 March 11.

h. LTC Matthew Brady, Chief of Operations, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, transferred to Chief, KM, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, effective 1 Mar 11.

i. LTC Peter Barajas, DPCA, Camp Roberts Maneuver training Center (-), transferred to Training Division Chief, JFHQ, effective 1 Jun 11.

j. LTC Louis Carmona, Commander, HSC (-), 640th ASB, transferred to Executive Officer, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, effective 1 March 12.

k. LTC Gregory Clark, Liaison Officer, Operations CO (-), 40th ID, transferred to Contract Team Leader, 1933rd CCT, effective 1 Sep 11.

l. LTC (P) Ian Falk, Deputy J-1, Joint Force Headquarters, transferred to Executive Officer, 100th Troop Command, effective 1 Sep 11.

m. LTC John Fell, Commander, HHD, 340th BSB, transferred to S3, 224th Sustainment Brigade, effective 1 Sep 11.

n. LTC John Frazier, Deputy G4 JFHQ-CA(-), transferred to Support Operations Officer, 224th Sustainment Brigade, effective 1 Aug 11.

o. LTC Jeffrey Holliday, Commander, 1-140th Aviation Battalion (ASLT), transferred to S3, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade.

p. LTC Mark Morita, Commander, 185th Quartermaster Battalion, transferred to Supply Management Branch Chief, JFHQ, effective 1 Oct 11.

q. LTC David Schmith, Family Programs Branch Chief, JFHQ-CA(-), transferred to State Inspector General, JFHQ, effective 1 Feb 12.

s. LTC Jeff Smiley, G3 Mentor, JFHQs, transferred to Chief of Operations, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, effective 1 Mar 11.

t. LTC Judy Mavroleon, Training Division Chief (Commander 3rd BN 223rd Regiment), transferred to Chief PSYOPS, &S Company 40th ID, effective date is 1 June 11.

u. LTC Jerrie Muir, Commander, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, transferred to LNO, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, effective 1 Jul 2011.

v. LTC Tim O'Reilly, Commander, Training Site (JFTB-Los Alamitos), transferred to LNO, Operations Company, 40th ID, effective 1 Sep 11.

w. LTC Mark Van Dyke, Executive Officer, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, transferred to Internal Review Branch Chief, USPFO for California, effective 1 Mar 12.

x. LTC VanProoyen, Interstate Transfer assigned to Airspace Management Officer I&S Company 40th ID, effective 1 June 11.

y. LTC Loren Weeks, Commander, JFHQ-CA(-), transferred to Deputy Commander, 224th Sustainment Brigade, effective 1 Feb 12.

z. LTC Myles Williams, Airfield Commander, CAARNG Training Site Detachment, transferred to Executive Officer, 1106th TASM, effective 1 July 11.

aa. MAJ (P) Mark Inaba, Law of Land Warfare Officer, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, transferred to Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, and promote effective 1 Mar 11.

ab. MAJ Jeff Kerns, Executive Officer, HHC 1-184th IN, transferred to ACoS G7, I&S Company 40th ID, effective 1 July 11.

ac. MAJ (P) Jeff Roach, Red Team Member, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, transferred to EW Officer, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, and promote upon control grade availability effective 1 Mar 11.

ad. MAJ (P) Greg Robillard, S2, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, transferred to Aviation Officer, Operations Company (HSC), 40th ID, and promote effective 1 Mar 12.

ae. MAJ (P) Craig Sandman, Executive Officer, HHB (-), 1-143rd FA, transferred to Current Operations Chief, JFHQ, effective 1 May 11.

af. MAJ (P) Alexander Sharpe, Strategic Plans Officer, Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 40th ID, transferred to Civil Affairs Officer ACoS G9, I&S Company 40th ID, effective 1 Sep 11.

Warrant Officer Actions

There were no Warrant Officer Actions.

AGR Control Grades

a. 06/COL CG Status: REQ: 6. AUTH (FY11): 7. Temp CG:1. Total: 8. Assigned: 9 (1 promoted using DA Mob Authority). Available: 0. Pending Losses (FY11): 2.

(1) LTC Peter Kim (DA-Select), upon assignment as Commander, 224th Sustainment Bde has been placed on the OML for the first available 06/COL CG.

(2) LTC Frank Emanuel (Unit Vacancy), upon assignment as J3, has been placed on the OML for the second available 06/COL CG.

b. 05/LTC CG Status: REQ: 29. AUTH (FY11): 29. Temp CG: 1 Total: 30. Assigned: 34 (1 promoted using DA Mob Authority). Available: 0. Pending Losses (FY11): 11.

Order of Merit List (OML).

(1) MAJ Jerald L. Clements II (DA-Select) – Command.

(2) MAJ Donnie M. Miller (DA-Select) – Staff.

(3) Major Jeff Roach, IN (DA-Select) – Staff.

c. 04/MAJ CG Status: REQ: 91. AUTH (FY11): 69. Temp CG: 0 Total: 69. Assigned: 58. Available: 11. Pending Losses (FY11): 4. The EPC allocated 04/MAJ CGs to the following individuals this quarter:

- (1) CPT Michael J. Christensen, AV
- (2) CPT Alvarez O. Cobos, AD
- (3) CPT Lucion P. Gyax, LG
- (4) CPT Donald D. Lovett, AV
- (5) CPT Robert Mariotti, Jr., AV
- (6) CPT Monique G. Pulley, LG

Nonprofits' baby showers support military moms

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey
San Diego Regional Public Affairs

Thirty-six expecting and recent military moms were given the baby shower they deserve Jan. 26 at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. More than a dozen California National Guard families attended and received gifts such as scholarships, cribs and baby gear.

Nonprofit organizations Operation Shower and the March of Dimes teamed up to host the event, which was held in San Diego for the first time. Courtney Faith Vera, 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Family Readiness Group leader, spoke about the importance of community support for the California National Guard.

"Our troops continue to serve overseas side-by-side with their active duty counterparts ... in addition to the California National Guard state mission," she said. "Programs like this

can and do make a difference in the lives of our military members and their families every day, allowing them to be mission-ready."

The March of Dimes and Operation Shower began their partnership in 2009 to recognize the sacrifices of military moms-to-be and to support military families. They produce and coordinate unit-wide baby showers and "showers in a box" for families during or near a deployment situation. For more information, call 914-997-4257 or visit www.operationshower.org.

"Operation Shower was founded because we know that moms in a military family hold it all together at home," Chief Shower Officer LeAnn Morrissey said in a press release. "These moms deserve our support, our thanks, our love, and of course, they deserve a party!"



Krystal Stevens and Sgt. John Garner of the 79th Brigade Special Troops Battalion react to the announcement that they will receive a specialized car seat for their 7-day-old son, Jack Monti Garner, during a baby shower for military families Jan. 26 at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. The event was hosted by nonprofits Operation Shower and the March of Dimes.

Col. Donaldson sworn in as CNG inspector general

By Capt. Peter Lewis
JFHQ Government Affairs

Col. Scott Donaldson and Master Sgt. Joe Knutsen are the new inspector general and inspector general noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) for the California National Guard.

The role of the inspector general is to serve the commander and the institution by assessing the discipline and efficiency of an organization, thereby enhancing its readiness to perform its mission. CNG inspector general is an active duty position.

To be selected as an inspector general, candidates are scrutinized at multiple levels up to the inspector general of the Army before being appointed. Inspectors general must be model Soldiers with excellent records that demonstrate character, leadership and professionalism.

Donaldson has been a model active duty Army Soldier his entire career. He was born in Santa Ana, Calif., and grew up in this state, then attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1986. Since being commissioned

as an air defense artillery officer, he has served in many different positions in the Army, including stints as the inspector general for the 1st Infantry Division and in Kosovo.

Donaldson's goal as inspector general is to "ensure Soldiers and Airmen get prompt service regarding their assistance requests, and that it's handled professionally and in a timely manner."

Knutsen was born in Washington but made his way to California in the 1990s. He served in Iraq as the truck master for the 2632nd Transportation Company in 2003 and 2004. He has since served as the first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Joint Force Headquarters, California National Guard.

Knutsen's goal as inspector general NCOIC is "to make the chain of command the heroes" by mentoring and helping command teams solve Soldier and Airmen issues. He added that he looks forward to this opportunity to help improve the organization.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

Col. Scott Donaldson, right, and Master Sgt. Joe Knutsen are sworn in as the new inspector general and inspector general noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) for the California National Guard by the adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Mary Kight.

Seminars highlight backbone of full-time CNG staff

By 2nd Lt. Jan Bender
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

The California National Guard employs thousands of full-time personnel who serve in vital positions throughout the state. Of those, more than 750 are employed as State Active Duty (SAD) Soldiers or State Civil Service (SCS) civilian employees. The rules and regulations that govern employees who fall under these two statuses vary slightly from those that apply to Guard employees who are paid through federal means, such as federal technicians, Active Guard Reserve employees and the various active duty statuses.

To improve the understanding of these key differences and similarities, the State Personnel Office has coordinated two distinct seminars that will be held throughout the state.

The Rank and File Conference is geared toward current or potential employees in non-supervisory positions. This one-day event will focus on the rules, regulations and laws that govern SAD and SCS employees as well as their rights and benefits. The two-day Supervisors Training Conference will cover much of same material, but will also give supervisors the tools to be successful while overseeing departments staffed with SAD and SCS employees.

"We've all heard it said that [noncommissioned officers] are the backbone of the Army. For the full-time component of the Guard, our SAD and SCS are just as crucial," said Maj. (CA) Mirtha Villarreal-Younger, deputy director of

the State Personnel Office. "Many times they serve in specialized positions as vital [subject matter experts], and they provide our organization continuity while other service members move on elsewhere in their careers."

Through these seminars, the State Personnel Office hopes to raise awareness among service members who have not explored the options available to them through SCS or SAD.

"Our goal with this training is to build a more cohesive team. We're truly interdependent on one another," Villarreal-Younger said.

SCS/SAD SEMINARS

March 30	Rank and File	Sacramento
May 3-4	Supervisors	San Luis Obispo
May 5	Rank and File	San Luis Obispo
Aug. 9-10	Supervisors	Los Alamitos
Aug. 11	Rank and File	Los Alamitos

Seats are limited. For reservations, contact Officer Candidate Shane Southerland at shane.southerland1@us.army.mil or 916-854-3682.

How to get an SCS job

BREAK THROUGH THE ICE

Though a statewide hiring freeze remains in effect for California government agencies through 2013, veterans have a unique advantage when applying for the critical State Civil Service (SCS) jobs that are exempt and are still being filled. Veterans are authorized to apply for SCS exams that otherwise are open only to current SCS employees. Lisa Williams, an associate personnel analyst with the California Military Department, offers the following advice for those seeking SCS opportunities:

CREATE AN ENGAGING PROFILE

Log on to www.dpa.ca.gov and complete your profile. Take your time, pay attention to detail and don't underestimate the importance of accurately translating your military training and experience into a marketable civilian skill set.

APPLY TO TAKE AN EXAM

To be entered in the qualified pool of potential employees, you must first take the exam specific to your desired SCS field. Individuals are selected to be interviewed for specific positions based on their exam scores and level of experience.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Some human resources personnel from other organizations may not be familiar with the opportunities open to veterans. Therefore it is very important to know the details of the advantages you're afforded. Refer to form SPB 1093 from the State Personnel Board's website, www.jobs.ca.gov, for the fine print.

For more details and suggestions to help you navigate the SCS hiring process, explore www.spb.ca.gov or contact Williams at lisa.williams22@us.army.mil.

Salute to the military and their families 2011



The Adjutant General's Family Symposium and California Military Ball

The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Readiness

Friday, 20 May 2011 – Saturday, 21 May 2011

To register, visit www.jointservicesupport.org and click on "Events"

The 2011 California Military Ball

Saturday, 21 May 2011

To register, visit www.ngac.org and click on "Military Ball Registration"

Both events will be held at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront

Camp SLO hosts 15-agency state IT exercise

By Danielle Quinton
California Technology Agency

During the last week in January, Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., was host to a unique training event. Twenty-three Information Technology Leadership Academy (ITLA) students representing the Army National Guard and 14 other California agencies converged upon Camp SLO to receive hands-on teamwork, project management and presentation skills training.

The ITLA is a nine-month development program for nominated IT leaders across the state. The course comprises 15 classes and events and a class project that allow the students to develop and practice their leadership skills. The Camp SLO event required students to apply what they had learned in the classes up to that point to complete a series of assignments.

"The ITLA program provides our strong IT

performers with the tools, experiences and network to become the IT leaders of tomorrow," said Christy Quinlan, acting secretary of the California Technology Agency.

Students of the ITLA tout the benefits of the program and the wealth of knowledge they have gained.

"In two years of business school, I never once was challenged like I was during the off-site presentation," said Jay Arendt, chief of the California National Guard's Information Systems Support Division. "That was an incredible experience."

Additionally, students have found that the rigor of the course and the sheer num-

ber of events creates a strong bond among the students and a lasting network of colleagues across the state.

"It really did a lot to bond our class in a more relaxed atmosphere" said Monica Hopelian of the California Technology Agency.

Officials said the facilities at Camp SLO were perfect for the event.

"Camp San Luis Obispo was very accommodating," said Scott McArdle of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. "The facilities were above what I had expected, the food was awesome and the training room was perfect, as it allowed us all a great view of the action every time."

"I think we've found the perfect home for the ITLA off-site (event)," Quinlan agreed.



Spice is dangerous — and illegal for service members

Synthetic marijuana may produce anxiety, agitation and seizures

By 2nd Lt. Kara Siepmann
Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug

Military and government officials nationwide are noting a rise in the use of a dangerous synthetic psychoactive drug called Spice. During the past three years there has been a nationwide effort to ban the substance and increase service member awareness of the dangers associated with the drug.

Spice is an olive-colored plant material laced with synthetic chemicals that mimic the effects of marijuana.

"It's an all-chemical drug, and those chemical ingredients are always changing," said Staff Sgt. J'neen Rice, a coordinator of the California National Guard's Joint Substance Abuse Prevention Program (JSAPP).

Synthetic marijuana can look like marijuana or oregano. The main ingredients are HU-210 or JWH-018, additives the Drug Enforcement Administration reports are hundreds of times more potent than THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. These ingredients cause "high" feelings by increasing heart rate and inducing hallucinations, feelings of paranoia and agitation.

"You never know what you're smoking," Rice said. "The chance of a bad high is increased because you're ingesting all foreign chemicals into your body."

The average cost of Spice is six times the cost of marijuana, around \$30 a gram. But it's much more accessible and more powerful. Studies show HU-210 is anywhere from 66 to 800 times more powerful than THC.

"Users may experience far more intense effects. Anxiety, agitation and even seizures have been reported as a result of smoking Spice," Rice said.

Spice has been marketed over the Internet and in tobacco shops as herbal incense since



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TECH. SGT. MICHAEL R. HOLZWORTH

2002. It is sold under a variety of brand names, including Spice, K2, Blaze and Red X Dawn. Street names include bliss, black mamba, Bombay blue, fake weed, genie and zohai.

Each bag contains a different mix of synthetic chemical substances. The packages do not list the substances.

Many people have become sick from using synthetic marijuana. USA Today reported in May 2010 that 352 cases had been reported in 35 states since the first week of February 2010.

Service members should be aware that synthetic marijuana can be even more dangerous than traditional drugs and is just as illegal.

Army Regulation 600-85 "prohibits the use

of substances, including naturally occurring substances, that are used for a primary purpose of inducing excitement, intoxication or stupefaction of the central nervous system."

"Because SPICE does affect your central nervous system," Rice explained, "users can be punished by the [Uniform Code of Military Justice] without the Army having to create a laundry list of banned substances."

Air Force officials issued a press release last June that added Spice to its list of illegal drugs.

"This revision is an addition to the already existing tools used by commanders to address the abuse of otherwise lawful substances such as salvia, inhalants, propellants, solvents, household chemicals and

others substances used for 'huffing,'" said Col. Elizabeth L. Schuchs-Gopaul, a judge advocate with the Air Force Judge Advocate General Action Group.

Violating this punitive memorandum is punishable by a dishonorable discharge, confinement for two years and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, Schuchs-Gopaul said. Enlisted members also face reduction to the lowest enlisted grade.

These actions are in step with multiple federal and state agencies.

While JWH-018 is not yet a controlled substance in the United States, on Nov. 24 the Drug Enforcement Agency announced it would make five synthetic cannabinoids Schedule I drugs using emergency powers. Additionally, at least 15 states have banned the substance, though synthetic marijuana is not illegal in California.

"There's a chance that service members may think it's legal," Rice said. But she stressed, "Synthetic marijuana use is illegal and punishable by the [Uniform Code of Military Justice], no matter which state you live in."

The California National Guard's JSAPP mission is to provide prevention training, outreach to military families and treatment resources to military members in an effort to increase military discipline, individual performance and combat-readiness.

Any service member can self-refer to the JSAPP. Together with the service member's commander, Soldiers and Airmen will receive help finding appropriate treatment. Coordinators at JSAPP are also available to talk with service members if they are concerned a family member or friend may be struggling with drug abuse or addiction.



An instructor pilot with the CNG's 1st Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion, and a Canadian Forces pilot in training prepare to land a CH-47 Chinook helicopter in the Sierra Nevada Mountains during tactical insertion training in December. Photo by Skip Robinson, reprinted with permission of Vertical/Vertical911 magazine. For more on the I-126th training Canadian pilots, see Page 10.

9/11 G.I. Bill changes may affect you

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Joint Task Force Sierra

There's some good news and some not-so-good news concerning gaining higher education under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Let's start with the good news. Under a bill signed for 2011, CNG members on Title 32 active duty orders will be included in higher-eligibility tiers for the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Formerly, only Title 10 active duty orders were considered.

This means Guardsmen like Airman 1st Class Eric Rivas of Joint Task Force Sierra, serving the Southwest border mission, will be eligible for 60 to 70 percent of the maximum benefit under the bill, depending on how the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determines his eligibility for the year he served on Title 32 orders. This also means some members who have served on Title 32 orders since Sept. 11, 2001, may now meet the requirement for 100 percent of the benefit. However, this benefit does not begin until October.

Therefore, Soldiers and Airmen who served the current and previous border missions or during other state emergencies should have compiled enough time on active duty orders to be able to go to school full-time under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill and get paid to do so. Fees are usually paid directly to the school, and then a book stipend and housing allowance are given to the service member at the start of the school semester. "I think it's a great opportunity because of the benefits it offers, as opposed to the Montgomery G.I. Bill, which only paid for school," said Rivas, who is enrolled in San Diego's Coleman University and working toward a degree in computer networking.

Lastly, anyone who is currently on active duty orders of any sort is eligible to transfer their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to their spouse. Anything from one month of unused benefits up to the entire benefit can be transferred, but it can only be given while on active duty orders.

Now for the not-so-good news: Some community colleges are asking students to pay for tuition up front, and the school will reimburse them once VA pays the school. This largely makes reimbursement payment a guessing game for service members, though their other benefits are still paid directly to them by VA. In a letter to students, the San Diego Community College District stated its policy that students will need to wait for reimbursement. VA officials at Mesa College, one of three schools in the district, however, said students are encouraged to apply for financial aid, which could waive some of the fees.

Also, students who have been using the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill will no longer receive "break pay." Previously students who were on recess between semesters could receive some money if they planned to return to school the next semester. Now, however, that money will be saved for use during actual semesters, VA officials said.

For the most current information, visit www.gibill.va.gov and call the VA office at the academic institution you would like to attend to see what their specific rules are in using the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. To speak directly to a VA education representative call 1-888-442-4551. "Keep an eye on the website; it's the best place to find out new information," said Jim Becker, a VA spokesman from Muskogee, Okla. That's where we look, since information is put up there first."

DID YOU KNOW...

... Soldiers injured in the line of duty may be eligible for ADME or MRP2?

Active Duty for Medical Extension (ADME) and Medical Readiness Processing 2 (MRP2) are Army programs that assist Soldiers with service-connected injuries that have been documented with Department of the Army Form 2173 and require additional medical treatment. ADME and MRP2 applications cannot be back-dated.

For ADME, a Soldier must have incurred their injury in the line of duty while in inactive duty training status or on Title 32 orders. The injury must require a recovery period longer than 30 days.

For MRP2, a Soldier must have incurred an injury in the line of duty while supporting contingency operations in Title 10 status. The Soldier must apply for MRP2 within six months of their release from active duty.

The Soldier's unit will provide the appropriate checklist and forms. The Soldier must complete the forms and obtain the required medical documents then submit the completed packet to their unit for processing. It will be processed through the Soldier's chain of command and forwarded to the Medical Service Branch. For further information, visit <https://portal.ca.ngb.army.mil/sites/G1/MSB/default.aspx>.

In the Air National Guard, the Incapacitation Pay program applies to Airmen on orders for 30 or fewer days, and the Command Man-day Allocation System applies for Airmen on orders for longer than 31 days. For additional information, Airmen should contact their medical group.

References: Department of the Army Warrior Transition Unit Consolidated Guidance, Air National Guard Handbook



Public Affairs Directorate, California National Guard

9800 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA 95827-3561



The rising sun illuminates an MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft Feb. 6 as members of the 129th Rescue Wing arrive for monthly training at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. KIM E. RAMIREZ

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Submissions: GrizzlyMag.ngca@ng.army.mil

Feedback: brandon.honig@us.army.mil

Address/subscription: Current Guard members must make all changes through their unit.

Retired Guard members, email GrizzlyMag.ngca@ng.army.mil.

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