

GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



CNG brings home fallen hiker

4

Deployed Soldiers take citizenship oath

8

Quake victims recovered in Haiti

6

Brig. Gen. Kight visits Camp Liberty, Iraq

7

Commander's corner

Memorial Day a time to honor the fallen

Brigadier General Mary J. Kight



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER



Memorial Day takes us to days gone past but not forgotten. It is a day to salute all of the men and women from all branches of the military who have sacrificed their lives while defending this great country. These men and women stepped forward, raised their hand and pledged to sacrifice all they had to ensure we keep our freedom.

Throughout our nation's history, America has been blessed with brave service members ready to risk all against any threat to our way of life. These courageous and selfless warriors protected the nation they loved, fought for America's highest ideals and showed millions that a future of liberty is possible. Freedom comes at great costs, yet the world has been transformed in unimaginable ways because of the noble service and devotion to duty of these brave service members. Our country honors the sacrifices made by those who have given their lives to spread the blessings of liberty and lay the foundations of peace. But we also mourn their loss.

On Memorial Day we display the Stars and Stripes to commemorate those who carried Old Glory into battle. The flag reminds us of the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guard members who fought for freedom.

It is on this day that we remember the War of Independence was fought by an all-volunteer force. Back then they were families, fighting for their freedom from colonial rule. Today they are our finest men and women, fighting for our freedom from terrorist rule.

Memorial Day is a placeholder on calendars around the world to remind the living to take time to remember to give gratitude and thanks to our loved ones for preserving our way of life. It is one day each year that we set aside to reflect on the true price of freedom. We also reflect on the cherished lives of generations of young men and women in uniform.

A federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May, Memorial Day was once known as Decoration Day. In the 1800s, graves of our fallen comrades were decorated as a reminder of their sacrifice, hence Decoration Day. There are stories of organized groups before the end of the Civil War that decorated graves. After the Civil War, many communities marked the end of the war with a day of remembrance. That day served as a memorial to fallen comrades. Soon thereafter many of these observances were officially recognized when Decoration Day was proclaimed on May 5, 1868.

The name Decoration Day changed over time to Memorial Day, and the reference to Memorial Day became more common after World War II. While the name of the day evolved over time, it is interesting to note that the purpose of the day remained the same — to honor those who served and paid the ultimate price.

Most of us will stop on Memorial Day to take a moment and celebrate the lives of the countless Americans who contributed to the freedoms that exist in our country today. Your family may decide to celebrate this day with a picnic and share the stories of those great Americans with the younger generation. Many people will visit cemeteries and memorials. Some of us will post flags, and let us not forget Memorial Day parades with bands, songs and people cheering or perhaps shedding a few tears in silence while they remember the men and women who carried that flag into battle. Others may stop for a few minutes during their hectic day and privately acknowledge those Americans who built the foundation of this country with bravery and determination to keep its citizens free.

No matter how you choose to acknowledge the sacrifice of those American heroes, take time to remember, reflect and honor them. They served us and protected our freedom.

Never Forget

Command Sergeant Major William Clark Jr.



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in their nation's service. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. The Grand Army was an advocacy group composed of veterans of the Union Army who had served in the Civil War. Today we continue a day of remembrance on Memorial Day for those who have died in service to our great nation.

As we remember our fallen comrades in arms— our brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers — on Memorial Day, take a moment to include in your thoughts all service members who have given the ultimate sacrifice to their state and nation, not only during our

current conflict but also past wars.

What can we do in remembrance of our fallen heroes on Memorial Day? We can visit cemeteries and place flags or flowers on the graves of our fallen heroes. We can visit memorials throughout our towns, cities, states and nation in remembrance. We can fly the POW/MIA Flag, and we can participate in the National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Today in the current conflict, our service members are all too frequently called upon to give the ultimate sacrifice. As our service members respond to the call to duty, we must continue to support their families — which are also our families, the families of our fallen heroes — and never

forget their contributions to our nation.

We must continue to support and aid the widows, widowers and children of our fallen service-men and -women. And we must never forget our disabled veterans, who continue to face challenges today and into the future.

Harry Truman once said: "I think I know the American soldier. ... He does not want gratitude or sympathy. He had a job to do. He did not like it. But he did it. And how he did it. Now he wants to come back home and start again the life he loved."

On Memorial Day take time to participate in a Memorial Day observance. We must never forget our fallen service members.

Grizzly

The Official Newsmagazine of
the California National Guard

May

Vol. 5 No. 5 **2010**

Publisher
Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight
The Adjutant General

Director of Communications
Maj. Thomas W. Keegan

Editor
Brandon Honig

Layout, Graphics, Photo Editing
Erin Wetzberger

Editorial Staff
Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Sgt. Jonathan Guibord

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

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
- ★ 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
Sgt. Jonathan Guibord

Cal Guard members and civilian first responders return to a Guard CH-47D Chinook helicopter after finding fallen hiker Thomas Bennett near the summit of 14,000-foot Mount Shasta. Bennett had unfortunately already died, but the Guard members reunited Bennett's body with his family.



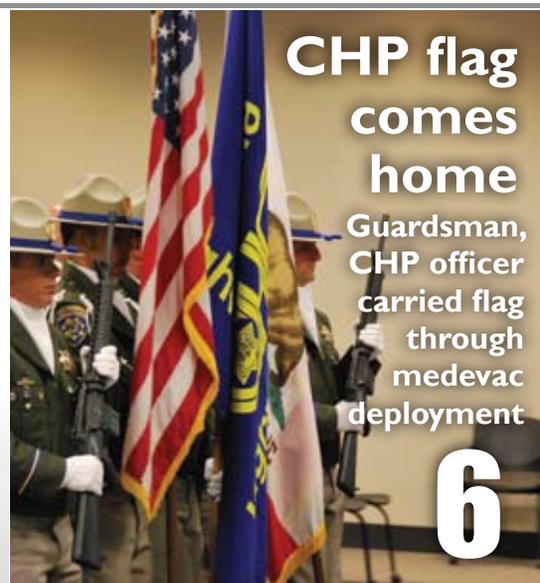
Dragon Slayers deploy

12



A drop from the bucket

5



CHP flag comes home

Guardsmen, CHP officer carried flag through medevac deployment

6

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Recovery mission on Mount Shasta

Cal Guard Soldiers attempted a high-altitude rescue on 14,000-foot Mount Shasta

Sailor saved in the Pacific

The 129th Rescue Wing brought a sailor to safety off the coast of Baja California

5 Preparing for fire season

Cal Fire and Cal Guard train on water-bucket ops

6 Proudly carrying the flag

Company C, 1-168th GSAB, medic brought California Highway Patrol flag through Afghanistan deployment

Search for Haiti quake victims

CNG Airmen helped out in quake-torn Haiti

7 TAG tours Iraq

The adjutant general visited troops on Camp Liberty

8 Citizenship oaths in Kosovo

Eight Soldiers became U.S. citizens while serving abroad

Security transfer at Nothing Hill

Turkish Soldiers took over security in northern Kosovo

9 KFOR march in memory of Bataan

More than 120 Soldiers commemorated Philippine warriors with a 15- or 26-mile march

Preston visits KFOR troops

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston visited Soldiers on Camp Bondsteel

12 Living history

The California State Military Museum offers a growing wealth of resources

224th heads to Iraq

The 224th Sustainment Brigade deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

13 Historic high school graduation

The military's only accredited high school graduated its first class, and a Cal Guardsman took top honors

13 On the road

146th Airlift Wing staff sergeant supports vehicle ops

14 Iraq equipment haul

The Cal Guard's 49th MP Brigade donated surplus riot gear to Iraqi police

Tracking down terrorists

A 49th MP Brigade Joint Investigative Team assisted Baghdad police investigating Easter suicide bombings

15 Nonlethal options

A CNG Soldier leads riot-control training in Iraq

16 ADT performs air assault mission

The 40th ID Agribusiness Development Team took to the skies to bring water to an Afghan village

Combatives victory

A Cal Guardsman took the cruiserweight title at the Army National Guard Combatives Tournament

17 Putting New Jersey on ICE

Lt. Col. Ricardo Cobian credits Cal Guard experience for success as immigration agent

Military Kid of the Year

A daughter of a CNG Soldier received recognition from a national nonprofit

18 Help where you need it

Landmark CNG behavioral health program reaches out to Soldiers

Signing up students

Participation is strong in the new CNG Education Assistance Award Program

FEATURES

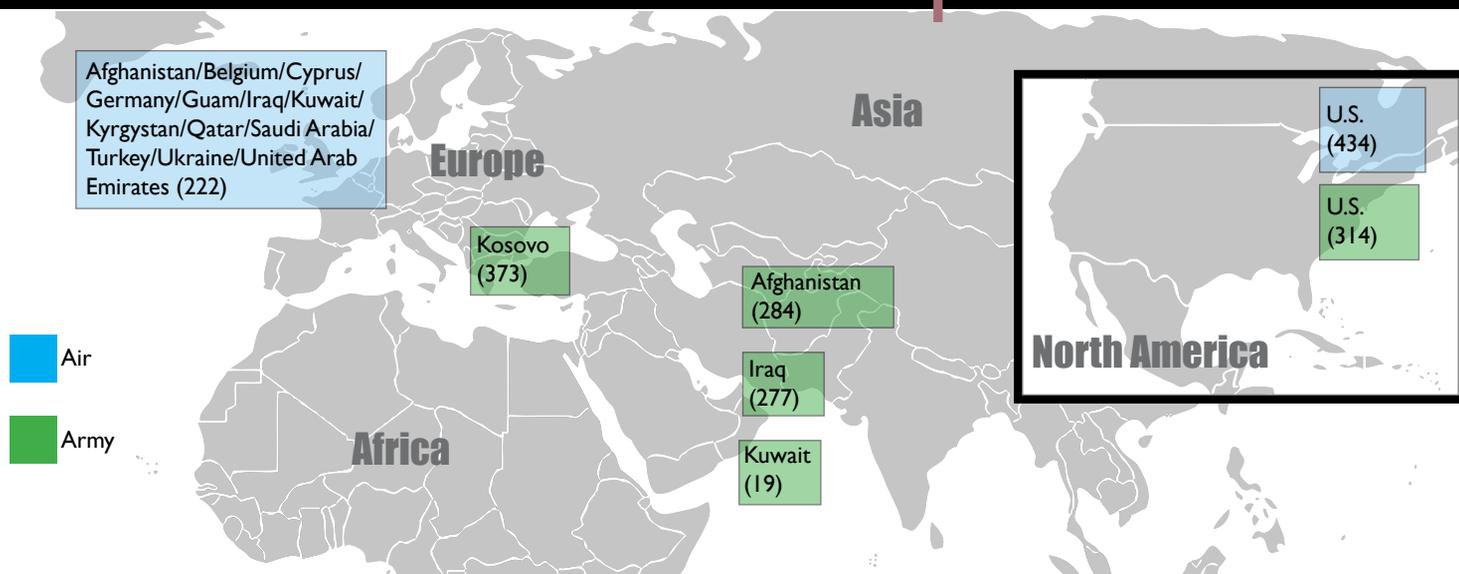
2 Commander's Corner

19 News & Benefits

10 At A Glance

Did You Know?

The California National Guard as of April 2010



Rescue attempt reunites deceased hiker, family

Several state and federal agencies contributed to Mount Shasta mission

Story and photo by Sgt. Jonathan Guibord
Company C, I-168th GSAB

A California National Guard CH-47D Chinook helicopter and crew based out of Stockton, Calif., took part in a bittersweet recovery mission at the summit of Mount Shasta, where they assisted first responders recovering the body of a 26-year-old hiker April 1.

Thomas Bennett of Oakland, Calif., and Mark Thomas of Berkeley, Calif., set off Thursday, March 25, to conquer Mount Shasta, as the two experienced hikers had done twice together in the past few months. The forecast predicted no severe weather in the coming days.

The next day, both men reached the top of Mount Shasta, a 14,179-foot mountain 50 miles south of the California-Oregon border. In the next 48 hours, severe weather swept the mountain, limiting visibility to an arm's length. Also slowing their descent, Bennett was feeling a loss of balance and vision, which are common signs of cerebral edema, or brain swelling caused by high-altitude sickness, according to the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office.

Sunday morning Bennett was unable to descend on his own power and was eventually unresponsive. Thomas performed CPR on his climbing partner to no avail. Before descending, he left food, used Bennett's pack to block the entrance to the snow cave they had dug and marked the position with an avalanche marker. Rescuers were able to reach Thomas and escort him off the mountain Monday, but poor weather prevented rescuers from continuing up the mountain in search of Bennett.

Eric White, lead climbing ranger for the U.S. Forest Service on Mount Shasta, led a team on foot Monday and Tuesday, but weather did not allow them to climb above 7,000 feet. On Wednesday two helicopters from California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection joined the search, but they were unable to fly above 12,000 feet because of high winds, low clouds and low visibility.

Wednesday morning, after the California Office of Emergency Services put in a request to the California National Guard for a high-powered

aircraft that could operate at high altitude in high winds, a Chinook and crew from Company B, 1-126th Aviation Regiment, was on its way to Mount Shasta. Limited visibility restricted the dual-rotor aircraft to the ground Wednesday, but early Thursday morning the crew began preparing to bring the search-and-rescue team to the mountain's summit. The summit's altitude, adjusted for air pressure, was right at the crew's maximum capability for conducting a search and rescue without the assistance of oxygen, said Capt. Alan Nydegger, Company B commander.

"For the amount of time Tom [Bennett] had been up there and the severe cold weather and high altitude, we knew that there were high odds that we would not find him alive," Nydegger said. "There is always a glimmer of hope. We went up there to do our part to get him and bring him back regardless of his condition."

When the aircraft reached the top of the mountain, the five rescue team members deplaned and began their search, while the aircraft returned to the airport in Weed, Calif., to await word from the rescue crew. After searching and probing the snow for about half an hour, the rescue team found the avalanche probe, which had snapped in two from the formation of wind-hardened ice. They then found Bennett, deceased.

The crew then called the California Army National Guard aircraft back to the summit to carry Bennett and the crew to the airport, where Bennett's family was eagerly awaiting word on his condition. Having the family present during the recovery added a new perspective to the job for many of the Army aviators.

"It brought it home. It made it personal to have them talk about their son, their brother," Nydegger said. "It was comforting to talk to them. It makes me personally feel that we were able to make a difference and help them get closure."

Although the outcome was tragic, the mission was considered a success, as a mother got her wish to hold her son once more time before laying him to rest.

Civilian first responders and Sgt. Michael Ferguson, a medic with Company C, I-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, accompanied Capt. Alan Nydegger, Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Rosamond, Staff Sgt. Brandon Wright and Spc. Cristoval Iniguez of Company B, I-126th Aviation Regiment, on a recovery mission atop Mount Shasta, Calif., on April 1.

Coast Guard, USMC aid 129th in Pacific Ocean rescue

By Capt. Alyson Teeter
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Air National Guardsmen from the 129th Rescue Wing completed a four-day mission to rescue an injured sailor approximately 650 miles off the coast of Baja California on April 4.

Accompanied by a Marine Corps KC-130J Super Hercules tanker from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, the 129th sent two HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters and an MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft April 4 to pick up Michael Kalahar, a 56-year-old sailor from Port Angeles, Wash., who had suffered life-threatening head and neck injuries aboard his sailing vessel Wind Child. The 129th aircraft also recovered a four-man pararescue team from the 129th, which had boarded the injured sailor's boat days earlier.

Responding to a call from the Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center in Alameda, Calif., on April 1, four 129th pararescuemen, or PJs, were picked up by a Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules and flown to the Wind Child about 1,400 miles southwest of La Paz, Mexico. With limited fuel and no other means of recovery, the PJs parachuted into the ocean with a Zodiac inflatable boat and enough medical supplies to sustain the injured sailor's life for several days.

On April 2, the Coast Guard diverted a Liberian merchant vessel, the Cap Palmerston, to rendezvous with the Wind Child and

pick up the PJs and their patient. The Cap Palmerston participates in the Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue system, a voluntary, Coast Guard-sponsored, global ship-reporting system used by authorities worldwide to assist to people in distress at sea.

Because of the distance from shore, strong winds and high seas, officials decided to bring the vessel closer to the coast, enabling them to send additional aircraft to retrieve Kalahar and the PJs. After they were transferred from the small sailboat to the large container vessel, the Cap Palmerston set course for San Diego.

On April 4, the rescue package of two HH-60Gs, one MC-130P and one Marine KC-130J made contact with the Cap Palmerston. An HH-60 crew hoisted the patient and the PJs from the ship to the helicopter, while the KC-130 and MC-130 served as refueling platforms and command and control for the search-and-rescue task force.

Kalahar was transferred to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, Calif., at approximately 9 p.m. on April 4.

"With the Air Guard, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard working together over the course of four days, this was truly a joint forces lifesaving effort," said Col. Amos Bagdasarian, 129th Rescue Wing commander. "From the mountains of Afghanistan to the high seas of the Pacific, 129th rescuers never cease to live up to their creed: That Others May Live."



Pararescuemen from the 129th Rescue Wing jump from a Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules about 1,400 miles southwest of San Diego on April 1. The Airmen then used an inflatable boat to reach and aid an injured sailor.

PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS HENRY G. DUNPHY

Guard aviators prep for a firefight

The California National Guard joined with Cal Fire to train for the upcoming fire season

By Sgt. Jan M. Bender
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

Sworn to defend against all enemies foreign and domestic, California National Guard pilots and air crews spent several days in early April training with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), preparing to face off against a domestic threat that seems to blacken and scar the Golden State annually. An equation stacked with highly volatile variables stretches the length of the coast.

"Growth for brush and grasses are at an all-time high. The dead-to-live ratio of the fuels out there is also at an all-time high," said Michael Ramirez, a battalion chief with Cal Fire. "As far north as Fresno, we've already experienced wild land fires this year, so we expect it to be a real busy year, and we're working together."

The Cal Guard and Cal Fire have synergized their firefighting efforts in the past, yet both organizations have personnel who are new to the mix. The training was designed to bring newcomers into the fold, while refreshing seasoned veterans on the importance of maximizing their collaboration as operators and communicators on the fire line.

Eight California National Guard helicopters with their pilots and air crews from various units and facilities across state gathered at Cal Fire's training center in Ione, Calif., to kick off the exercise with a day of academics focused on wildfire nomenclature, interagency communication and lessons learned in previous years.

"We learned how to label a fire, left shoulder versus right shoulder, the heel, the head and how they divide the whole area up to fight the fire. All that was big for me," said Capt. David Weidman, an HH-60G pilot with the 129th Rescue Wing. "Listening to all the Army aviators who've fought fires for many years in the past, their experiences, their lessons learned, that was huge. We got a lot of cross-talk going on in the classroom, and I know I will benefit from that."

Not only did the pilots and crews have to learn a bit of new vocabulary and command structure, but they had to make room for another body aboard their aircraft.

"We have a military liaison on board every aircraft. It's crucial," Ramirez said. "It brings the air crew knowledge and experience of wild land firefighting and completely breaks down any communication barriers that might have existed between our two agencies."

The following morning pilots and air crews took to the skies with their new team member onboard to enact a scrimmage of sorts.

Army Guard Soldiers flying CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60L Black Hawks worked in conjunction with Air Guard pilots and crews flying HH-60G Pave Hawks. After grabbing water from a nearby

lake, the pilots and crews took instruction from their Cal Fire military liaisons as to where and how they should let loose their water on the surrounding foothills. Several hundred feet overhead, serving as an ad hoc air traffic control tower, a Cal Fire air operations officer was perched aboard an Army Guard OH-58 Kiowa Warrior to orchestrate the whirling water works below.

The Black Hawk and Pave Hawk are nearly identical aircraft that are capable of dropping 660 gallons of water per bucket on the challenging terrain that fires many times scale. The much larger Chinook can not only heave 2,000 gallons of water per drop but is often employed in the extraction or insertion of firefighting personnel on the front lines. The Kiowa Warrior, a much more nimble and light-duty airframe, is primarily used for scouting or command and control operations. If called upon, these aircraft, pilots and crews from around the state bring to bear an impressive capability and a desire to be where they're needed.

"It's a local mission. Most of us just got back from Afghanistan, were we had a chance to serve our country, but this is something that hits a little closer to home. We get to serve the state," said Chief Warrant Officer Robert Brockly, a UH-60L Black Hawk pilot for Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion. "There's not too many guys out there, pilots or air crew, that I know who do not like to fight fires. It's a challenging mission. Aside from combat it's one of the things that's a little bit more intense."

Cal Fire's ability to employ its own resources and those on call will be crucial in the coming months.

"If you look back within the last three to four years we've had 11 of the largest fires in California's history," Ramirez said. "When we're talking over a thousand fires in the state at one time, it's impossible for us to cover them all. It taps our resources really quickly, and we have to call back-up. The National Guard steps in; they assist us."

In addition to these rotary-wing assets and crews, the Cal Guard can provide two C-130J airplanes equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems II; each is capable of carrying 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant. To aid in the ground fight, last year the Guard also acquired several state-of-the-art, mountain-ready fire trucks, and as always, units statewide stand ready to provide service members for hand crews.

"The bottom line is that we all work for the citizens of California," Ramirez said. "By marrying us together we share resources, we share personnel and we become an unstoppable force out there. It really enhances our ability to put out and control wildfires, to save lives and property."



PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSE G. FLAGG

TOP: Sergeant First Class Kelly Hughes and Sgt. Anthony Corrales of Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, load a 660-gallon bucket onto a Black Hawk. **MIDDLE:** A Pave Hawk takes off April 10 from a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection training center in Ione, Calif. **BOTTOM:** Hughes directs pilots while filling a bucket.

PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSE G. FLAGG

PHOTO BY SGT. JONATHAN GUIBORD

PHOTO BY SGT. JONATHAN GUIBORD

CHP flag brings medic comfort in Afghanistan

Story and photo by **Brandon Honig**
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

When Staff Sgt. Emmett Spraktes left Jalalabad Air Field, Afghanistan, on a mission, he was prepared with his M-4 rifle, M-9 pistol and a variety of medical gear. As a medic for Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, those items were necessary to protect his life and the lives of others.

Along with those items of necessity, Spraktes carried a piece of home — a reminder of the support and commitment from his fellow California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers eagerly awaiting his return.

"[Spraktes] was presented a CHP flag to carry into battle," Assistant Commissioner Kevin Greene said April 1 at CHP Headquarters in Sacramento. "The flag represented his CHP family, but most importantly our wishes for his safe return."

Spraktes packed the flag in his flight bag and brought it on every medevac mission during his 10 months in Afghanistan. It stayed with him during 250 combat hours, while he treated 184 patients and performed 12 combat hoists. The flag witnessed many victories and lives saved, Spraktes said, but it also saw hard losses and came under fire many times.

"At one point I e-mailed [Assistant Commissioner Max Santiago] and I wrote, 'Things are picking up here. Don't be offended, but I think it best that I return [the flag] now. I don't want it lost.'"

The commissioner's response was clear: "No. You return with it. You bring it back to us." That e-mail from Santiago reminded Spraktes of the future and renewed his hope.

"That flag gave me comfort just knowing it was there," he said. "Like this flag, this department saw me through some dark times."

Spraktes and the flag eventually returned safely and were greeted by CHP officers when Spraktes' plane touched down on California soil. He also soon received calls from the CHP Military Deployment Program, which assists members returning from deployments.

"I was unaware of this program, but they were aware of me and demonstrated the Patrol's commitment to their service members," Spraktes said.

He officially returned the CHP flag to its rightful place at CHP Headquarters in Sacramento during an April 1 ceremony attended by Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard.

"Today is about a celebration of duty, whether it's duty here at home or duty abroad. It's about the work that we do," Kight said. "Thank you for your service, everyone in here that's a veteran and served. And for those that support us who perhaps did not put on a military uniform, but you wear another uniform — equally as important."

She added that cooperation between the Cal Guard and CHP has created a relationship that will benefit service members and California residents for ages to come.

"The bond we have ... is a bond that lasts," she said.

For his service in Afghanistan, Spraktes received the Air Medal with Valor Device and one Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device and one Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Combat Medic Badge. Company C earned the Unit Commendation Medal and was recognized by



Staff Sgt. Emmett Spraktes, a California Highway Patrol officer and a medic with Company C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, returns a CHP flag to its home at CHP Headquarters in Sacramento. The flag accompanied Spraktes on medevac missions in Afghanistan totaling 250 hours and helped him through tough times while deployed.

the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) with its 2009 Air/Sea Rescue Award. Spraktes was individually recognized as the AAAA's Medic of the Year.

Searching for peace in the rubble of Haiti

A Cal Guardsman reflects on his tour in quake-torn Port-au-Prince

By **Lt. Col. John Connolly**
Regional Headquarters Command and Control

On Jan. 12, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The aftershocks reverberated around the world as nations united to assist the Haitian people. First responders hoped to rescue live victims trapped in the tons of rubble. They were followed by second responders who rushed food and water to the struggling people. Then there were third responders, whose job involved extracting deceased victims from layers of granite. That's where we came in.

We had watched the television in horror Jan. 12, and like so many others, we wanted to help. After two weeks and a 72-hour notification, our three-person Command and Control, Regional Headquarters, team based out of Sacramento received our orders to respond. We left California on Jan. 26, and three days later, this Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster response team arrived in Port-au-Prince.

Before long we were speaking with an Army Mortuary Affairs team at the other end of the airstrip from where we stayed. They allowed us to tag along on their journey to the devastated Hotel Montana.

Over the next several days, we built strong camaraderie with the Army team, which soon asked us to invite more National Guard personnel. We responded by bringing nine to 20 Air National Guard person-

nel each day from our tent city next to the airport. On the 45-minute trip through the windy, dusty, crowded roads of Port-au-Prince, we viewed the utter destruction of an entire city.

The essence of our job was to extract human remains from the rubble. We acted as spotters, looking for evidence of remains; investigators, attaching personal effects to the victims; and morticians, assisting with the processing of the deceased. A large number of victims in the four-star hotel were American citizens. Our goal was to treat each victim with the utmost dignity and respect.

This was a tremendous experience for joint operations. The Army has a terrific mortuary team, and we learned volumes from them. The airfield mortuary consisted of a small group of paleontologists, dentists and DNA experts. Teams from Canada, France and Mexico, along with experienced civilian disaster mortuary operational response teams (DMORTs), also brought a great deal to the table. DMORT teams treated each individual extracted from the rubble with great care and dignity.

As the search for victims proceeded, earth-moving machines worked slowly and meticulously to remove each piece of debris. Spotters watched carefully to ensure there



Master Sgt. Alan Leon-Guerrero, far left, Lt. Col. John Connolly and Senior Master Sgt. Mark Colangelo pause for a moment at a work site in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. The three Cal Guard Airmen spent six weeks digging through the rubble of the Hotel Montana, searching for victims of a devastating Jan. 12 earthquake that measured at 7.0 on the Richter Scale.

was no damage to victims or their personal effects. And every individual found was successfully identified.

One of the most stirring moments was freeing fallen victim Air Force Maj. Ken Bourland of U.S. Southern Command. Air National Guard troops surrounded the major and brought him down from the rubble. Even before he was transported off the heap, there was an on-site ceremony for the officer, and more ceremonies would

follow for the missed Airman.

More than 90 victims were extracted from the hotel rubble, including 20 American citizens. After each victim was removed, many wondered whether it was appropriate to be happy to have found them or if we should have felt more somber. But knowing families now have full closure, we found a strong, spiritual peace in simply bringing the victims home.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LT. COL. JOHN CONNOLLY



BG Kight visits Cal Guard troops in Iraq

By Spc. Eddie Siguenza
49th Military Police Brigade

The 49th Military Police Brigade brought out the welcome mat for Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, adjutant general of the California National Guard, in April as the Golden State's newest commander made a historic visit to confer with Soldiers and Airmen in Iraq.

"I want to meet our Guardsmen, talk to them and give them a chance to explain their concerns," Kight said. "It was an incredible honor to do this."

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Fairfield, Calif.-based 49th MP Brigade, which has been in Iraq since October, greeted Kight and Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., the Cal Guard's top enlisted member, upon arrival at Sather Air Base. The Cal Guard's Los Angeles-based 223rd Financial Management Detachment is also deployed to Camp Liberty and spent time with Kight during her trip April 7-8.

Kight and Clark later ate lunch with six Airmen from the Riverside, Calif.-based 163rd Reconnaissance Wing who are serving as security forces for Sather's 447th Air Expeditionary Group. The general and command sergeant major then met with 12 Airmen from the 55th Aerial Port Squadron, based out of Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, who are also assigned to the 447th.

It was a busy Iraq experience, Kight said, but every minute was worthwhile, especially interacting with troops.

"I'm most impressed with the pride that our Soldiers and Airmen display in telling me about their mission," Kight said. "It's somewhat difficult to put into words because you can't put your hand on pride. But certainly our people are very proud of

their accomplishments here.

"I know that they believe their accomplishments are positively impacting the country right now," she continued. "But they also understand their contributions are long-term for the stability of Iraq. They know they've given all that they can to make sure this country can stand on its own."

Kight's visit came five months after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Camp Liberty.

"The governor had the best time out here," Kight said. "We all know he's extremely sincere about his military members. He goes [to visit hospitalized service members], but he goes on his own. It's not publicized because he wants to spend time with them."

Kight said her trip to Iraq was "greatly motivating," and the Soldiers and Airmen based there echoed her sentiments.

"This is nothing but a good thing," said Lt. Col. Daniel Viveros, chaplain for the 49th. "It's a win-win situation. I'm sure she wants to learn what deployed Soldiers are doing. In turn, we get to know her. We can see what our adjutant general's philosophy is."

While in Iraq, Kight rode in a mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle, or MRAP; observed a demonstration of the 447th's working dog team; and operated a robot used to defuse improvised explosive devices. Perhaps most importantly she gained operational knowledge of how the 49th is being utilized in an operational theater that is drawing down and shifting its focus to Operation Enduring Freedom. And she communicated to the deployed troops that she is mindful of their concerns and well-being.

For Clark, this was the latest of several missions to visit deployed and mobilizing Sol-



TOP: Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, and her top enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., right, are greeted at Sather Air Base, Iraq, on April 7 by Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles of the 49th Military Police Brigade, far left, and Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th MP commander. **ABOVE:** Currier, Kight, Liles and Clark, left to right, share traditional Iraqi tea and snacks while conducting business on Camp Victory, Iraq.

diers and Airmen. It was an honor, he said, to return to Iraq and meet old friends.

"We've seen how much hard work our Soldiers and Airmen put out," Clark said. "We also see how much sacrifices their families go through when they are deployed."

"More than anything, the Soldiers and Airmen really understand what their jobs are and what their mission is in Iraq," he continued. "They know they can effect change."

Kight replaced Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II as adjutant general in February. She is the first woman to head the Cal Guard and

the nation's first African-American female adjutant general. Wade accepted the position of deputy chief of staff for operations, Joint Forces Command-Naples, NATO.

Kight said her first trip to Iraq as adjutant general instilled a great sense of pride.

"I am almost overwhelmed because of the number of different duties that each individual performs," she said. "They all do it in an outstanding manner."

"I am proud. I am proud of them. I am proud to be a part of the military. I know that in the future it will be demonstrated that we have made a difference."

NATO partners take over Nothing Hill mission

Turkish Soldiers assume responsibility for security in northern Kosovo

Story and photos by Spc. Drew Balstad
I 16th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of Multinational Battle Group-East's 1-144th Maneuver Task Force (MTF) turned over security responsibilities in northern Kosovo, including Camp Nothing Hill near the Administrative Boundary Line with Serbia, to forces of the Turkish army during a ceremony March 29 in Leposavić, Kosovo.

Company C, 1-144th MTF, had been at Camp Nothing Hill for almost a month after taking over for a contingent of Italian Soldiers. Company C served as a Quick Reaction Force, trained to respond to situations in its sector of responsibility in less than 60 minutes. The Soldiers also kept watch in guard towers around Camp Nothing Hill.

"We did an outstanding job for a very busy month," said Capt. George Burchuk of Sylmar, Calif., commander of Company C. "We had to do a lot preparation and a lot of exercises."

"I thought they did a professional job during what is usually the most tense month in Kosovo," said Lt. Col. David Brady of Modesto, Calif., commander of the 1-144th MTF, who was in attendance during the ceremony. "They continued the work that was started by others building good relationships with the municipality of Leposavić. It was key that they were able to improve those relationships."

Soldiers from MNBG-E rotate to Camp Nothing Hill periodically to support security in northern Kosovo. The rotations play an important part in the Kosovo Force (KFOR) transition to a battle-group structure, which is designed to create a more mobile, flexible and agile force that can act quickly and decisively anywhere as a third responder if needed.

Burchuk emphasized his faith in the Turkish contingent that is taking over.



LEFT: Soldiers of the 1-144th Maneuver Task Force lower the U.S. flag March 29 during a ceremony to transfer responsibility for security at Camp Nothing Hill, Kosovo, to Soldiers from Turkey. RIGHT: Turkish Soldiers raise their nation's flag.



"I have confidence the Turkish Soldiers will be able to take on the mission successfully," said Burchuk. "They looked sharp."

The 1-144th is part of the California National Guard's

1-144th Field Artillery Battalion, based in the Los Angeles area.

The unit deployed as part of the U.S. contingent of KFOR Rotation 12 for peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

CNG Soldiers take citizenship oath in Kosovo

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hagburg
I 16th Public Affairs Detachment

Eight Soldiers of Multinational Battle Group-East (MNBG-E), originally from countries as far away as El Salvador, Iran and the Philippines, came together on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on March 25 to become citizens of the United States.

All the new citizens live in California and deployed to Kosovo as members of the 1-144th Maneuver Task Force (MTF).

Spc. Marisela Romero of Simi Valley, Calif., opened the ceremony with congratulations to the new citizens.

"I myself became a citizen when I was serving in Iraq," she said. "I can imagine what's going on in your minds right now, having the privilege, the opportunity and the honor to become a citizen. Many doors will open for you now as a citizen. Use the opportunity wisely."

Col. Robert Fode of Bismarck, N.D., deputy commander, maneuver, for MNBG-E, praised the new citizens for their hard work and achievement.

"I just can't fathom the idea of becoming a citizen while deployed and away from home and family; I can't fathom the sacrifices you

made to be here and be a part of this," he said. "My hat's off to you, and I want to be the first to say, 'Welcome to the home of the brave.'"

Cpl. Gerald Thomas of Pasadena, Calif., served as the master of ceremonies for the event, and Capt. Timothy Meier, a chaplain from Los Altos, Calif., gave the invocation. Robert Daum, the field office director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Rome, swore in the Soldiers as citizens.

The 1-144th MTF's commander, Lt. Col. David Brady of Modesto, Calif., urged the Soldiers to fulfill all the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.

"One of the things that makes America great is that it's a melting pot. We all come from different lands, and it doesn't matter if you've been here 300 years or just a couple of generations like my family," he said. "I challenge each and every one of you to strive to be citizens of character, morals, honor and integrity. This is what the country needs."

Spc. Rostom Sahakian of Glendale, Calif., originally of Iran, said becoming a U.S. citizen while in Kosovo was not something he was expecting.



New citizens Spc. Paul Acainaguilar of Van Nuys, Calif.; Spc. Cristian Alfaro of Encino, Calif.; Spc. Roberto Arteaga of Los Angeles; Spc. Nestor Fajota of Reseda, Calif.; Spc. Juan Medrano of Los Angeles; Spc. Salvador Murilloflores of Los Angeles; Spc. Rostom Sahakian of Glendale, Calif.; and Spc. Manuel Zapata of North Hollywood, Calif., lead the Pledge of Allegiance at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on March 25.

"It's kind of odd, but it feels good," he said. "I'm with my brothers in arms."

Sahakian's parents are Armenian but were born in Iran. They immigrated to the U.S. with him, seeking religious freedom.

"When I got over here, I decided to join the service. I wanted to give back something, to serve my country," he said. "When they say it's the land of the free and the home of the brave, it is really. If you lived in the country that I did, you would see the difference."

KFOR Soldiers commemorate Bataan March

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hagburg
116th Public Affairs Detachment

More than 120 people, including many Kosovo Force (KFOR) Multinational Battle Group-East troops, challenged themselves March 21 in the inaugural Bataan Memorial March on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

The march took the participants up and over the hills of Camp Bondsteel and along trails surrounding the base.

"This march is in commemoration of those that gave their all defending the Philippines in World War II and also in remembrance of the survivors," said Renee Favors of Camp Bondsteel's Morale Welfare and Recreation office, which sponsored the event.

The event featured four march categories: a 26-mile team march, a 15-mile team march, a 26-mile individual march and 15-mile individual march.

"We had some people who run marathons back in the states, and so we made an individual event for the runners, said Favors. "But it was mostly a team event."

The team marchers carried 35-pound rucksacks and their weapons. Run and march participants came from the United States, Denmark, Finland, Poland and Ukraine.

"The main thing about having it as a team event is for everyone in your team to cross the line and to help each other," Favors said. "You don't leave anyone behind."

Second Lieutenant Jay Sheldon, an information officer for Multinational Battle Group-East, completed the 15-mile march.



Maj. Terry Belter of Lancaster, Calif., far left, 1st Lt. Kevin Marshall of West Covina, Calif., Capt. Jeffrey Rosenberg of Sacramento, Sgt. Christina Sung of Montclair, Calif., and 1st Lt. Edward Simangan of Long Beach, Calif., display the flags of the United States and the Philippines as they complete the 15-mile Bataan Memorial March on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on March 21. The day's events also included a 26-mile march.

"I've got one pretty good blister but other than that I'm just a little sore," he said. "I'm glad we got to go down the big hills instead of up them. The road going up wasn't quite as steep as the road down."

Lt. Col. David Skalicky of Bismarck, N.D., that day ran his sixth marathon.

"It was awesome," he said. "The coolest part was that there were four first-time

marathoners."

Another marathon is planned at Camp Bondsteel for May 2, to be run in conjunction with the National Guard Marathon.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army visits CNG troops in Kosovo

Story and photo by Sgt. Joshua Dodds
116th Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, the senior enlisted Soldier in the U.S. Army, visited Soldiers participating in the U.S.-led NATO mission on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on March 27-28.

Preston was accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Roger P. Blackwood, acting command sergeant major for U.S. Army Europe.

Preston and Blackwood arrived at Camp Bondsteel in time for a lunch with Command Sgt. Maj. Jack W. Cripe, senior enlisted Soldier for Multinational Battle Group-East (MNBG-E). After lunch Preston, Blackwood and Cripe flew by helicopter to Camp Nothing Hill in northern Kosovo to visit Company C, 1-144th Maneuver Task Force, of the California National Guard.

The sergeants major then traveled to Vitina, Kosovo, to visit Soldiers in MNBG-E's Liaison Monitoring Team and its 231st Maneuver Task Force and to tour the area of responsibility.

Preston served in Kosovo during Kosovo Force Rotation 2A/2B in 2000-2001 while he was a command sergeant major in the 1st Armored Division. The number of U.S. troops in Kosovo has been reduced from around 14,000 to around 1,000 in the 10 years since his service there.

Speaking at a town hall meeting for Camp Bondsteel's enlisted Soldiers on March 28, Preston said the Army's role

in the current "era of persistent conflict" is to move into a trouble spot "and work our way out of a job so that we can go home."

"You have been very effective in helping us work our way out of a job here," he said.

Preston makes an annual stop in Kosovo to get a feel for Soldiers' issues and concerns. At the town hall meeting, he observed that since his last visit there has been positive change within Kosovo, which sparked the ongoing move to a "deterrent presence" posture.

"I am proud of your accomplishments, proud of what you've done. Even since I was down here last year I've seen a lot of change, a lot of improvements," he said.

Preston gave a slideshow presentation at the town hall meeting on changes in the Army and the importance of Reserve and National Guard Soldiers. He also answered questions from MNBG-E Soldiers.

Preston said that with more than 250,000 Soldiers deployed or forward-stationed in nearly 80 countries overseas, which is a higher level than during the 2007 surge in Iraq, the Army is working to increase time between deployments so Soldiers and units can reset.

"Thanks for your service, thanks for what you do each and every day. I'm very proud of what you've accomplished



Sgt. Gabriel J. Sanchez, left, of El Monte, Calif., explains his duties to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, center, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Cripe of Multinational Battle Group-East while on duty at Camp Nothing Hill, Kosovo. Preston visits Kosovo each year to hear Soldiers' questions and concerns.

out here and all that you continue to do," Preston said. "You are great role models out there and great ambassadors for the United States."

After the meeting, Preston visited units and sections on Camp Bondsteel to learn more about Soldiers' jobs. He also had an office call with Brig. Gen. Al Dohrmann, MNBG-E's commander. Preston praised the "disciplined and professional" Soldiers he had seen on his visit and told Dohrmann that it was clear the battle group was "operating on all cylinders."



ABOVE: A Marine Corps funeral detail carries the casket of Lance Cpl. Rick Centanni across the flight line at the Cal Guard's Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos on April 2nd. A resident of Yorba Linda, Calif., Centanni was killed in Afghanistan on March 24 by an improvised explosive device that also took the life of fellow Marine and Yorba Linda resident Sgt. Maj. Robert Cottle. Both were deployed with Company A, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division. **LEFT:** Maj. Gen. John S. Harrel, commander of the California Army National Guard, center, and Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones, commander of JFTB-Los Alamitos, right, were joined by hundreds of police officers from Los Angeles and Orange counties, roughly 150 Patriot Guard Riders and many community members who attended to pay their respects. "The honor at the Joint Forces Training Base ... was amazing and it showed what our country is all about," said Centanni's father, Jon Centanni.

Photos by Sgt. (CA) Gene Arias



Col. (CA) Michael L. Herman accepts the Legion of Merit award from Lt. Col. Kurt Max Velte, during a March 30 ceremony at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos. Herman, a retired Army aviator and engineering for Joint Force Headquarters, has served in multiple theaters of operations throughout his career, the citation states. His service was particularly noteworthy, significantly improving working conditions for his subordinates. Photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler



An Afghan boy carrying a new pair of sneakers leads his reluctant calf home after a Veterinary Civic Action Program held by the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) outside the village of Reche Lam in Kunar province March 22. During the event, Afghan veterinarians inoculated more than 300 animals. ADT members also handed out to needy children free shoes and lead ropes for livestock. More than 500 pairs of shoes and 1,000 lead ropes have been distributed by the team, which is accepting donations. To make a financial donation, visit www.spiritofamerica.net. Shoes can be mailed to: Lt. Col. Kurt Max Velte, 40th ID ADT/Kunar, Camp Wright, Asadabad, APO AE 09354

Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Witte



Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Hughes of Company A, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, is a member of the Association of America's Noncommissioned Officers. He completed a combat tour during the global war on terrorism with more than 3,000 flight hours, with 600 in a combat role. Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Guibord

At a Glance

First Lieutenant Ruel Fuentecilla of the California Air National Guard accepts the DARE Officer of the Year award from California DARE Officer's Association President Sgt. Dave Cassidy of the Huntington Park Police Department during an April 6 ceremony in Irvine, Calif. Fuentecilla was the first military officer to ever receive the award, which is typically given to a civilian law enforcement officer. Fuentecilla is a member of the CNG's Drug Demand Reduction Team, which is part of its Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug. He was recognized for his dedication as a DARE instructor at the Huntington Park Police Department's Juveniles-at-Risk Boot Camp and for his willingness to go above and beyond as an asset and innovator within the DARE program.

Photo courtesy of Drug Demand Reduction Team



...Merit award with his daughter, Miranda, and wife, Deanna McClure
 Headquarters in Sacramento. Herman, the director of facilities
 served with distinction as an officer for the Corps of Engineers
 e in the facilities and engineering arena has been especially
 ons and facilities for all Soldiers of the California National Guard.



California Cadet Corps members compete in the annual State Drill Championship at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos on April 10. The competition consists of precision squad, platoon and color guard drill routines, with Soldiers from the Cal Guard, California State Military Reserve and the Cadet Corps serving as judges. The California Cadet Corps, founded in 1911, is the oldest school-based youth leadership development program of its kind in the United States. It annually serves nearly 6,000 cadets in grades 2 through 12 in more than 60 public and private schools across the state. For more info, visit <http://cadet.org>.
 Photos by Staff Sgt. (CA) Richard Bergquist



...C, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, was selected as the Army Aviation
 ned Officer of the Year. Hughes recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan, his third
 rrorism and his fifth overseas tour during a 26-year career. Hughes has accumulated more
 bat or imminent danger environment.



Friends and relatives wave farewell to the crew of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter following a March 18 deployment ceremony for Company F, 2nd Battalion, 135th General Support Aviation Battalion, at Mather Flight Facility near Sacramento. About 60 Company F Soldiers departed for a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, where they will perform medical evacuation duties.
 Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Guibord

By the numbers

30,000

The number of artifacts housed by the California State Military Museum in addition to its substantial library and archives collection.



"A library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas — a place where history comes to life."

— Norman Cousins



Fun Fact

You can become a friend of the museum! Although the California State Military Museum is a part of the Army Museum System and is partially funded by the state of California, the museum does not receive enough permanent financial support to operate effectively. It depends on the generosity of individuals, groups and corporations to keep the doors open. Donations to the museum are tax-deductible, and the museum offers several membership plans, which can be viewed at <http://militarymuseum.org>.

Museum resources expanding daily

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

From its humble beginnings in 1991, the California State Military Museum has grown to hold numerous artifacts and archives. The last year has seen the museum receive a much needed facelift. Besides the physical changes the museum is experiencing, many of its contents are being updated as well.

One example is the digital image library that is constantly being updated. Scanning these pictures is a time-consuming and tedious process but ensures that future generations will be able to view the pictures and use them for research. Having the pictures in a digital format also makes it easier for archivists and historians to share and send these military pictures.

Along with pictures, the museum is also actively looking for new books to fill its shelves. Current hardcover, nonfiction military history and national security volumes are the most desired titles. Researchers are welcome to sit down and research the museum's current titles downstairs in the library.

A recent highlight for the California State Military Museum was the acquisition of two World War II H&R M-50 Reising Submachine Guns from the Hawthorne Police Department. The M-50 was used by the Allies during WWII. Another recently acquired item is the original blueprints for the Benicia Barracks, dated 1878.



The California State Military Museum recently acquired new World War II artifacts. Though described as a submachine gun, the Reising M-50 Submachine Gun was designed as a compact, lightweight, semi-automatic carbine capable of fully automatic fire. The M-50 could fire 750 to 850 rounds a minute. Unlike the Thompson submachine gun, the Reising fired from a closed bolt. At \$50 per M-50 as opposed to \$225 per Thompson, the M-50 was more economical as well.

Support for the museum comes in many forms. Although partially funded by the State of California, the museum depends on the generosity of individuals, groups and corporations to keep the doors open. There are numerous levels of membership, from a \$25 individual one-year membership up to enhanced lifetime membership for \$500. Corporate memberships are also available, with the added bonus of VIP after-hours visitation.

The museum is continually receiving new items for display and renovating its location. So if it's been a while since you last visited, bring the family. Military members enjoy free admission.

Books and pictures can be sent to:
The Maj. Gen. Walter Story Memorial Library
1119 2nd St.
Sacramento, CA 95814-3202
<http://militarymuseum.org>

224th Sustainment Brigade deploys to Iraq

Family, friends bid farewell in Sacramento, Garden Grove

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Kara M. Greene
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Nearly 500 family members and friends gathered in Sacramento and Garden Grove, Calif., on April 2 for two ceremonies bidding farewell to members of the 224th Sustainment Brigade.

The "Dragon Slayers" conducted the two farewell ceremonies three days before leaving for Fort Hood, Texas, to complete six weeks of training in preparation for their yearlong deployment.

More than 300 California National Guard members make up the brigade from several units throughout the state. Together under the 224th's guidon, they will reach Iraq in early May to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

From Iraq's southern port of Basra to the northern border with Syria, the 224th will be responsible for managing supplies, transportation and maintenance support for nearly two-thirds of the coalition's area of operation in Iraq.

"The unit will serve a crucial role in supporting the troop drawdown taking place theater-wide," said Col. Lisa Costanza, 224th commander.

Loved ones said goodbye to their Soldiers in many heartfelt ways.

Nine-year-old Kaitlyn Del Mundo hopped onto her father's lap and started a thumb war immediately following the ceremony. Master Sgt. Jason Del Mundo of Vacaville beamed with pride while his daughter explained his upcoming mission overseas.

"My daddy is going somewhere in Iraq," she said. "He's probably going to help people by saving the world."

Pati Montemayor, one of the unit's Family Readiness Group volunteers, was on hand to offer the group's support and remind family members of the resources available to them.

"Every deployment is painful," she said. "But every homecoming is sweet."

Col. Lawrence A. Haskins, assistant adjutant general of the California National Guard, told the more than 200 guests at the Sacramento ceremony that he could think of no better unit to send to Iraq to fulfill the mission's objectives. Haskins is expected to be promoted to general this month.

Nearly 200 bases in Iraq are expected to close, and the 224th Soldiers will help set up 20 smaller bases and six hubs in their place. About 20,000 vehicles must leave Iraq, and the 224th will help by sending



Master Sgt. Jason Del Mundo of Vacaville thumb-wrestles his daughter, Kaitlyn, at a farewell ceremony for the 224th Sustainment Brigade on April 2 in Sacramento. The 224th will arrive in Iraq in early May to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

2,000 of those vehicles out of theater each month.

The 224th will serve as the command element for five subordinate combat battalions. In addition to providing command and control for these units, the Soldiers will use their expertise in bulk fuel management, mortuary affairs operations and many other fields to support the needs of

more than half the troops in Iraq.

"I have the highest level of confidence in our Soldiers; they're the best and the brightest," Costanza said. "Both our Soldiers and Iraq will no doubt be better and stronger as a result of the mission that lies ahead of us."

The unit last deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005.

DoD's 1st accredited high school graduates inaugural class

Cal Guardsman is top student at Patriot Academy's first graduation

Story and photo by John Crosby
Camp Atterbury Public Affairs Office

The military's first accredited high school, the Patriot Academy, graduated its first class March 18 at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC) near Butlerville, Ind., where a Cal Guardsman took valedictorian honors ahead of 42 other National Guard Soldiers.

The Patriot Academy aims to combat the nation's growing high school dropout rate by providing troubled youths an opportunity to earn their high school diplomas, join the Army National Guard and contribute to their communities.

"This is about the young men and women who will have a second chance," said Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, on the program's opening day in August. "Our mission at the Patriot Academy, very simply, is to educate and train these young [people] to become the best citizen-Soldiers in the Army National Guard."

Students of the Patriot Academy go to MUTC after completing Army Basic Training. They continue to collect active-duty pay, taking classes to earn their high school diplomas while simultaneously honing their military skills. Each student also provides eight hours of community service in an area near Patriot Academy.

"It's really a good opportunity," said Sgt. 1st Class William Long, an instructor at the academy. "The average National Guard Soldier drills one weekend a month, two weeks a year. These guys do almost a year of active duty before they meet their unit. These guys are going to have a better head start."

The graduating class comprised 43 of the 47 student-Soldiers who started the course, originating from 16 states. Each Soldier will return to their respective state's National Guard after receiving training in their military occupational specialty.

"We are trying to diversify our next class," said Col. Perry Sarver, Patriot Academy commandant. "What we want to do is grow our enrollment from 47 from this past year to try to graduate 300 men and women from the 54 states and territories."

The graduates' families, command sergeants major and recruiters attended the graduation ceremony to show their support.



Staff Sgt. Carroll Nance, assistant platoon sergeant and instructor at the Patriot Academy, shakes the hand of a graduating student-Soldier on March 18 at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Ind. The Patriot Academy is the U.S. military's first accredited high school.

The class valedictorian said his newly earned high school diploma felt like a new beginning for him.

"It's a great opportunity to be here," said Pvt. Mario Guillen of the California National Guard. "I hope to make the best of it."

"Before I came into the Patriot Academy, I worked for a low salary," he continued. "[The course] has changed my life. I can pass the obstacles that I have in front of me. Now I have a better view of my future because of the education I got here."

Guillen will now train at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to earn his military occupational specialty qualification as a truck driver.

Fellow student Pvt. 1st Class Scott Mix of Fort Wayne, Ind., said he enrolled to better himself by getting his diploma and expanding his opportunities and horizons.

"It's been an adventure," Mix said. "A lot of military train-

ing and a lot of schooling and [physical training], but it was definitely worth it."

Mix's mother, Christa Wilfong, who attended the graduation, said she couldn't agree more.

"He is a lot more disciplined," she said. "I've noticed he has a lot more respect for others. He seems to really be looking toward the future instead of just living for the day. He is setting a lot more goals."

As the first graduating class packed their bags, including their new high school diplomas, the instructors, commanders and creators of the Patriot Academy stayed committed to taking misguided potential and molding it into positive contributions to society.

"They get a chance for a do-over," Sarver said. "Society has given up on some of these young people for whatever reason, and they were led to believe that they would never achieve their high school diploma. When they leave here, they believe they can accomplish anything."

Setting the wheels in motion

146th AW staff sergeant supports vehicle ops

By Master Sgt. Scott Sturkol
380th Air Expeditionary Wing

One day he might be taking a KC-10 Extender flight crew to its operations area, and the next he may be operating a forklift, moving cargo. Staff Sgt. Samuel Tumey takes care of business no matter what he's called to do.

Tumey is a vehicle operator for the 380th Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron at a non-disclosed base in southwest Asia that supports operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as well as Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. As a vehicle operator, he's expected to drive a variety of military and contract vehicles including tractor-trailers, forklifts, buses, sedans and any other vehicle needed to get the mission completed.

"One of the things we do as vehicle operators is move air crews from their dormitories to the aircraft and back," said Tumey, who is deployed from the 146th Airlift Wing. "We also pick up and deliver products from the base's front gates to our operating area, and we carry the distinguished visitors on their tours of base operations."

The 17-year military veteran — 15 years in the Army and two in the Air Force — said it takes people like him to keep the wheels turning for the deployed mission.

"Without vehicle operators, the mission would not succeed," said Tumey, a Bakersfield, Calif., native.

"The air crews carry a lot of equipment, and it would make it very difficult to get to their aircraft without the use of a vehicle," he continued. "Without vehicles and people to drive them, base operations would grind to a halt."

Tumey previously deployed in support of Operation Restore Hope, when he served in Somalia for two tours with the Army, and he supported Operation Iraqi Freedom in an extended tour in Iraq. His current deployment is his first with the Air Force, but he's been proud to serve with some of the best during all of them.

"I'm honored to serve in the best military in the world," Tumey said. "I feel a great sense of pride to do what I do and what I have done while deployed."



Vehicle operator Staff Sgt. Samuel Tumey of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing drives a variety of military and contract vehicles to support missions in southwest Asia.

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JENIFER CALHOUN

Surplus CNG riot gear benefits Iraqi police

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

In a remote warehouse on Camp Liberty, Iraq, more than 700 pounds of batons, helmets, shields and body padding sat unused. Staff Sgt. Victor Rae of the Police Transition Team (PTT), 49th Military Police Brigade, knew of a better use.

"I know this is what the Iraqi police need. They don't have it," he said. "It's surplus riot gear that we use to train our military police. We've moved on. We have more advanced gear now. So we're going to give this to our partners, the Iraqi police."

In the days before Iraq's national election, the equipment was delivered to a section of Baghdad's Provincial Directorate of Police (PDOP) headquarters. Iraqi policemen met Rae and a 49th MP security team just outside of Camp Liberty, where the equipment and hundreds of rolls of police barrier tape were transferred to two Iraqi vehicles.

Since deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in October, the 49th has often provided Iraqi police with training, facilities, equipment and other necessities for their operations.

"Right now the Iraqi police have the toughest job in Iraq, if not the world," said Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund, the 49th PTT's noncommissioned officer in charge. "There is a lot relying on them to stabilize their country. We're doing our best to help them accomplish that."

This was an opportune time for Iraqi police to receive civil-disturbance equipment, Rae added. The Iraq national election would be held days later, and Iraq's security forces were on alert for possible rioting and outbreaks.



An Iraqi police officer unloads shields, helmets, batons and other riot-control gear donated by the Cal Guard's 49th Military Police Brigade days before the March 7 Iraq national election.

"Now is the right time for us to help our partners out in this area," Rae said. "Our partners need this kind of gear. They don't have it available to them. It takes a large amount of time for them to receive this type of equipment."

While loading the gear, an Iraqi policeman tried on a helmet. The officer gave a thumbs-up, and his partners applauded.

"They're very appreciative. You can tell this was something they can use because

they just don't have enough," Rae said. "I think it's great we can provide them some protection. The majority of these guys have families, and they do have a tough job. They need our help, and we're doing the best we can."

49th MPs aid Iraqi investigation of Easter bombings

Story and photo by 1st Lt. William Marquez
49th Military Police Brigade

On April 4, Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade assisted and advised Iraqi Police officials as they investigated multiple blast sites created from vehicle-borne, suicide-bomb attacks against foreign embassies in Baghdad.

Responding to two bombings that caused severe property damage, multiple deaths and dozens of injuries, Joint Investigative Teams (JIT) from the 49th linked up with Baghdad Police officials at the blast sites to conduct investigations that may lead to the arrest of people involved in planning the attacks. At each site, American investigators worked with Iraqi police to secure the crime scene, collect and protect evidence and interview witnesses.

As soon as the leadership of the 49th became aware of the Easter bombings, the JIT security element began preparing to respond, and Maj. Dillon Haynes, officer in charge of one of the JITs, called Baghdad's Provincial Department of Police (PDOP) to offer assistance.

"When we heard there was a major bombing in Baghdad, we immediately called PDOP to see if they would like us to assist with the investigation," said Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund, the senior noncommissioned officer on Haynes' JIT. "When [the PDOP commander] said yes, and the Baghdad Operations Center approved, we linked up with our security elements and we were ready to roll."

Since the 49th reached Iraq in October, Haynes and East-

lund have worked closely with Baghdad's PDOP on a variety of issues and have built a level of trust.

"They think we will have their best interests at heart," Eastlund said. "They trust that we will advise, not dictate."

Iraqi security forces have led and commanded all security efforts in Iraq since the implementation of a security agreement between the United States and Iraq last summer. However, those forces will still accept assistance and advice from the American military.

"There is a huge success when it comes to investigations between the 49th, PDOP and the Baghdad Operations Center," said Lt. Col. Shaker Lafta, the chief investigating officer at PDOP. "We push for these missions where we work together. The 49th has always supported us. They always do their job."

During its 2005-2006 tour, as in its current deployment, the 49th directed the training of police throughout Iraq. However, during the previous deployment, the 49th focused on developing basic skills and obtaining basic resources.

"Now we are assisting them with advanced investigations," said Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, commander of the 49th. "Our partnership with the Iraqi police has come a long way."



Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade secure the site of a vehicle-borne suicide-bomb attack and search for evidence near a foreign embassy April 4 in Baghdad.

One important goal of further developing the Iraqi police's capacity to conduct advanced investigations is to strengthen its credibility in the eyes of the Iraqi judiciary, said Lt. Col. Timothy Rieger, staff judge advocate and rule of law coordinator for the 49th.

"The Ministry of Justice has just implemented a forensic evidence protocol that is consistent with international principles," Rieger said. "Since JIT investigators and the Iraqi police who partner with them use these protocols as a guide, these types of investigations can help integrate the Iraqi police and Iraq's judiciary."

AIMING TO SUBDUE



Camp Liberty Soldiers learn less lethal crowd-control methods

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

Even thousands of miles from California, citizen-Soldiers still emphasize responsibilities to their state.

While the 49th Military Police Brigade continues its Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment on Camp Liberty, Iraq, Soldiers have found time to fit in training related to other National Guard duties. Staff Sgt. Jonathan McDonald of Vacaville, Calif., for instance, leads a nonlethal weapons training program, which has included National Guard units from Virginia and Alabama.

"Nonlethal weapons training is outlined in our [military occupational specialty] and is the scope of our civic duties," said Robert Liles, command sergeant major for the 49th. "Not every situation requires a military policeman to utilize deadly force. This training helps MPs choose the appropriate level of force."

The Cal Guard has not been activated for a civil disturbance since the 1992 Los Angeles riots. But in keeping with the Guard's motto, "Always Ready, Always There," the training offered on Camp Liberty prepares Soldiers in case the need arises.

"It gives you another option, rather than lethal force, to control a situation that could ultimately be non-deadly," McDonald said. "You could have a situation where you can use non-lethal rounds and control it, [and] you can have a better outcome using a force that's not deadly."

McDonald and Staff Sgt. Pete Daugherty of the Alabama National Guard have taught classes on Camp Liberty since February. Participants are familiarized with various nonlethal weapons and munitions. After passing a written test, the students head to a range to fire nonlethal weapons.

"The training is important because it gives

commanders an extra level of force to use in their rules of engagement," Daugherty said. "There are different situations, such as riots, where crowd control is needed. You wouldn't want innocent civilians hurt by lethal munitions, so you can employ nonlethal [weapons]."

So far the training has been limited to firing projectiles, notably blunt-trauma rounds that cause physical discomfort. Participants fire rubber bullets and projectiles from compressed-air rifles and military small arms rifles.

"These rounds won't penetrate skin, but they will give painful discomfort," McDonald said. "The intent is not to kill anyone but to neutralize a situation so people become compliant and order can be restored."

Law enforcement's most popular nonlethal method is the electroshock weapon, Daugherty said. Instructors plan to shock volunteers in future training sessions.

Participants also learn about stun grenades, which deploy rubber shrapnel; chemical agents such as pepper spray, tear gas and mace; and older nonlethal weapons such as water cannons, darts and batons.

Liles, who works as a sergeant at the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi, Calif., said he has used all those nonlethal methods in his civilian occupation.

"I hope the participants get a clear understanding that their consequences are everlasting. It would be great if we never had to utilize these options, but history proves that force will have to be used at some point," Liles said. "Deadly force is the last option. Therefore, the MP must exercise the right decision to use nonlethal actions."



TOP: Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade fire rubber projectiles from standard military-issued weapons during nonlethal weapons training on Camp Liberty, Iraq. **ABOVE:** Staff Sgt. Jonathan McDonald of the 49th MP Brigade, who leads the nonlethal weapons program, charges a compressed-air weapon on Camp Liberty's firing range.

ADT air assault mission completes water project

By 1st Lt. Robert Parry
40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team

When the Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) mobilized for their deployment to Afghanistan last summer, air assault missions did not seem to be in their future.

Yet an air assault mission is exactly what 20 Task Force Reaper Soldiers recently performed to successfully complete their first project.

In January, ADT Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Max Velte met with elders from the local village of Woch-Now, who needed a pipe scheme to run water from a natural spring at the top of a mountain. Velte and ADT engineer Lt. Col. Dave Kelly took a security squad, led by Staff Sgt. Philip Arnold, to check out the spring and see what could be done. They found the terrain arduous going up and dangerously steep on the return.

Unfazed by the challenge, Velte and Kelly designed the system, purchased components and taught the villagers how to install it. That was when the challenge arose.

In order to document the project's funding and officially complete it, regulations require ADT personnel to physically inspect the installation for quality control, which meant going back up the cliff face. Further complicating matters, the elders reported that they had interrupted insurgents with heavy weapons at the spring, which is adjacent to an area from which indirect fire attacks have been launched. That meant the inspection team might climb up a cliff and into a fight with a well-armed enemy.

With AH-64 Apache attack helicopters orbiting for security, two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters of the 3rd Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade inserted 20 Task Force Reaper Soldiers on a nearby spur on the morning of March 15. The landing zone was so small that the Blackhawks could only land their front wheels — their tails dangled over the side of the hill as the Soldiers piled out. One element took up overwatch positions using M-14 rifles to isolate the landing zone and secure the objective from potential enemy battle positions. The other headed to the spring.

Fortunately there was no enemy contact during the mission, though the overwatch element did find an apparent insurgent battle position near the landing zone. The



Spc. Rebecca Larson of the 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team watches as an AH-64 Apache helicopter takes a close look at a potential enemy position near the objective of an ADT air assault operation March 15.

inspection was a success and the project was officially deemed complete. An entire village now has water for crops, animals, cooking and cleaning.

"An ADT has a non-standard mission, to be sure, but we

are still Soldiers first, and we use military methods to accomplish our tasks," said Col. Eric Grimm, commander of the ADT. "An air assault may not seem like a logical ADT method, but [the mission] dictated that approach, and it worked."

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE 40TH INFANTRY DIVISION AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Cal Guardsman wins Army NG Combatives Tourney

Story and photo by Vince Little
Fort Benning Bayonet

Staff Sgt. Steven Elliot of the California National Guard won first place in the cruiserweight division at the third annual Army National Guard Combatives Tournament on Fort Benning, Ga., last month.

Elliot forced a first-round submission from Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Chroninger of the Idaho National Guard to win the championship.

A total of 97 Soldiers competed during the two-day event at Briant Wells Fieldhouse on Fort Benning, home of the U.S. Army Combatives School. About 35 competitors turned out last year after nearly 50 took part in the inaugural event in 2008.

The talk of the tournament was Spc. Elisha Helsper of the Idaho National Guard, who took on the men at the flyweight level and made history as the first woman to reach the finals of an Army combatives tournament.

"I came here expecting to take first," she

said. "I felt like I should win it."

Her face swollen, Helsper sent a message for female Soldiers who are hesitant about combatives.

"You can do it," she said. "You've just got to have heart and motivation. It's the Army values — never quit. That's what pushed me through it today."

The top four fighters in seven weight classifications moved on from Saturday's preliminary rounds, when limited striking was allowed under standard and intermediate rules. The cage was brought out for Sunday's third-place and finals bouts, when the Soldiers battled in three 5-minute rounds using advanced techniques.

This marked the first time a cage was used in a tournament at the Army level. The All-Army Combatives Championship previously has held finals matches in a ring but might start using a cage this fall.



Staff Sgt. Steven Elliot, right, of the California National Guard prepares to lock up with Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Chroninger of the Idaho Guard during the Army National Guard Combatives Tournament in April. Elliot defeated Chroninger to win the cruiserweight championship.

Guard experience produces top ICE agent

Armor officer credits success in Immigration and Customs to Cal Guard preparation

By Harold Ort

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Ricardo Cobian came to the United States when he was 17 with the intent of getting a job, joining the Army and going to college. His father had died two years earlier, and the Mexican government took over most of the family business. Being the eldest son, Cobian started looking for ways to support the family and continue his studies at the same time.

He joined the Army in 1983, and after finishing his three-year enlistment, Cobian transferred to the California National Guard. He enrolled in the California Military Academy and graduated as an armor officer in 1989.

"I had originally asked for aviation, military intelligence [or] the medical corps branch, thinking that since I didn't have any medical background, I wouldn't be assigned as a medical officer, increasing my chances of getting aviation or military intelligence," Cobian recalled. "But just prior to graduation I was handed armor as my branch and told to give it a try and see how you like it."

Looking back, Cobian said armor training gave him the basic tools he needed to succeed in his current role as a senior immigration enforcement agent in New Jersey for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He also now serves the Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel.

"As you learn and remember, 'Shoot, move and communicate' [as an armor officer], you're managing several tanks at a time with a map, pencil and radio, while managing your own tank," he said. "That's mostly what I do in my present job with ICE — minus the tanks."

Cobian supervises up to nine agents

who assist in the processing and deporting or escorting of aliens to their country of citizenship. The agents ensure aliens' physical, mental and civil rights, counsel them on personal and family matters, and supervise and transport them.

Although Cobian has a comfortable office, he seldom uses it — or even sees it. Most of his work is in the field with his agents, managing assignments on the move. A key element of leadership, Cobian says, is to lead by example.

"Never ask your subordinates to do something you are not willing to do," he said. "My ICE agents know that I get dirty just like they do, and when we're short on personnel, I'm in my cruiser and take on the same assignments as my agents."

He added that a leader needs to be willing to go to bat for their subordinates, take care of them, mentor them and develop them.

"When you show honest concern for them and look after them, they will accomplish the mission and take care of you," he said.

Cobian's supervisor, Assistant Field Office Director Michael Melendez, said Cobian is realistically enthusiastic and displays a strong competitive drive.

"Daily he demonstrates tact and diplomacy and is always courteous when interacting with outside agencies, foreign governments, the general public and fellow employees," Melendez said. "Ricardo has the ability to handle the most complex issues."

Cobian said he can plan around any obstacle or problem quickly and effectively, largely because of his military background.



Ricardo Cobian, second from right, works on a multinational road-construction project in Kosovo while deployed as a major with the California National Guard in 2005. Cobian, now a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves, serves full-time as a senior immigration enforcement agent for Immigration and Customs Enforcement in New Jersey.

"On several occasions my subordinates have tested me, telling me there is a problem with the operation or assignment we are working on. After about five seconds of ranting and raving, I give a few orders ... then they tell me to settle down: It was a joke, and they only wanted to see how fast my wheels spin."

Cobian said effective planning is a skill one develops from training and experiences throughout their career, and he was fortunate to have been given "many opportunities and enough rope to hang myself" by leaders such as Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, who stepped down as adjutant general of the Cal Guard earlier this year.

"Ric has a natural ability to connect with people that allows him to succeed where others might fail," said Wade, who now serves as deputy chief of staff for operations, Joint Forces Command-Naples, NATO. "His interpersonal skills and easy-going manner are unique in a world of power politics."

"He used these skills with great success while performing peacekeeping duties in the Balkans with the California National Guard," he continued. "I could always count on Ric to bring all concerned parties to the table for meaningful dialogue. He truly exemplified the command's motto: Peacemakers — Can Do!"

CNG daughter named Military Kid of the Year

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

When 9-year-old Valerie Gonzalez's father deployed to Kosovo with the California Army National Guard, Valerie received a grant to help her participate in extracurricular activities.

She took tap dancing classes, paid for in part by a nonprofit called Our Military Kids, which provides grants for activities and tutoring that nurture children during the time a parent is away serving our country.

Valerie was inspired to give back, so with the help of a teacher she created an "Adopt a Soldier" program at her school. The program collected items for troops serving overseas, and Valerie and her teacher made a bulletin board about her father and his unit.

Valerie and four other Guard and Reserve children were recognized for their efforts by the national nonprofit April 13 with 2010 Our Military Kid of the Year awards at a ceremony on Capitol Hill.

"The youngest members of our families face unique challenges associated with the deployment of a parent," said Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the Na-

tional Guard Bureau. "Programs like Our Military Kids offer constructive and useful outlets for children of citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen who are away serving their country."

The program has given grants to more than 17,000 children of deployed National Guard and Reserve members for activities such as sports, fine arts and tutoring, said Greg O'Brien, a spokesman for Our Military Kids.

"National Guard and Reserve children have the added challenge of being geographically dispersed across the country, often too far from military installations to take advantage of support services," said Linda Davidson, executive director of Our Military Kids. "By providing grants to sponsor activities for these kids, they're better able to cope with the challenges experienced during a parent's deployment."

Recent studies have found participation in extracurricular activities distracts from negative feelings associated with a parent's deployment, O'Brien said. Studies suggest it is also important that children feel their parent is making a difference in the world.



Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, presents a 2010 Our Military Kid of the Year award to Valerie Gonzalez during a ceremony in the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., on April 13. The daughter of a deployed California National Guard Soldier, Valerie received a grant from the nonprofit Our Military Kids, which helped pay for extracurricular activities while her father was overseas. She, in turn, created an "Adopt a Soldier" program at her school that collected items to be sent to troops abroad.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LT. COL. RICARDO COBIAN

CNG launches landmark Behavioral Health Outreach program



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

The California National Guard Behavioral Health Service initiated the Outreach Liaison Program in December 2009 to target Soldiers and Airmen needing behavioral health services. The funding for this landmark cooperative program resulted from the passage of Proposition 63, The California Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), in 2004. The program is the result of a collaborative effort involving the state departments of Mental Health and Veterans Affairs and county behavioral health departments and veteran service officers throughout the state.

The funding improves service delivery, early intervention and prevention services. The Behavioral Health Outreach Liaison Program will focus on service delivery to Soldiers and Airmen with no medical coverage, those who are underinsured and those living in rural areas.

The new program fields two additional licensed clinicians in full-time status to the Cal Guard's Behavioral Health Service. A third clinician, employed under contract from the National Guard Bureau, will augment the new program with coverage in central California. These new providers will provide 24-hour behavioral health coverage for our state and will provide commanders in the field with immediate resources for behavioral health emergencies, command consultations, pre-deployment concerns and training opportunities. These clinicians will also be available for direct support of Soldiers and Airmen requesting them, a service not available before this program's implementation.

In a state with 58 counties and more than 160,000 square miles, this program was the obvious choice to provide a new direct service option to Soldiers and Airmen wherever they live in California.

The three clinical officers are each assigned to support one geographical region:

Northern California

Capt. (CA) Lance Friis is stationed at the Concord Armory, 2925 Willow Pass Road, Concord, CA 94519, and can be reached at 925-207-5367 or Lance.Friis@us.army.mil.

Central California

Lt. Col. (CA) Roger Duke is stationed at the Modesto Armory, 933 Kansas Avenue, Modesto, CA 95351, and can be reached at 209-499-9189 or Roger.Duke@ceridian.com.

Southern California

Capt. (CA) Dana Timmermans is stationed at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos, 40th Infantry Division Headquarters, Los Alamitos, CA 90720, and can be reached at 562-965-6563 or Dana.Timmermans@us.army.mil.

Additional resources

Families seeking assistance with concerns throughout the deployment cycle can turn to several resources in their area. A selection of organizations offering behavioral health assistance for family members and dependents is listed below.

A more complete list of resources can be found at www.calguard.ca.gov/mh.

Network of Care maintains resources for behavioral health services available by state. For California, individual counties' Web sites are accessible through Network of Care, highlighting the services offered in each: www.networkofcare.org

Military OneSource maintains a 24-hour lifeline at 1-800-342-9647 and provides short-term individual and family or dependent counseling at no cost: www.militaryonesource.com

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

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

The Soldiers Project maintains offices in the Los Angeles area and in Sacramento. Its services include mental health counseling for service members and their families: www.thesoldiersproject.org

CNG Education Assistance Award Program deemed a success after initial application period

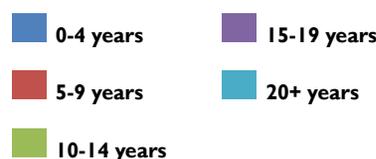
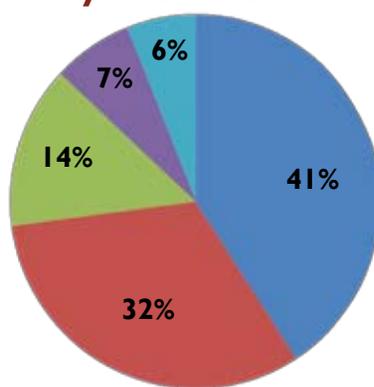


Nearly 600 service members applied for the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (EAAP) during the program's initial application period, which ended April 14. The greatest participation came from junior to mid-grade enlisted personnel and from service members with up to nine years of service.

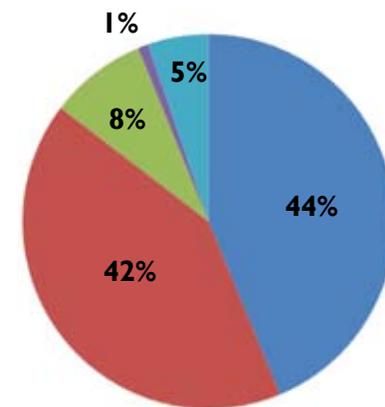
As the EAAP is aimed at retaining service members, Cal Guard officials said they are very pleased with the amount of participation so far and they look forward to receiving more applications for the upcoming summer and fall terms. Applications for the 2010-2011 academic year are available at www.calguard.ca.gov/Education along with a fact sheet and answers to frequently asked questions.

Signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last July, the EAAP will provide up to \$3.6 million annually for service members to attend California colleges and universities.

Applicants by years of service



Applicants by rank



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



Black Hawk helicopters from Detachment 1, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 135th General Support Aviation Battalion, fly over the state Capitol in Sacramento en route to Fort Hood, Texas, on March 30. The detachment will train on Fort Hood before deploying for a year to Afghanistan, where they will perform medical evacuation duties.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler

News & Benefits

LA County Sheriff's Dept. hosts May 10K and Fun Run for American heroes

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Military Activation Committee and Commercial Crimes Bureau will host an American Heroes 10K and Family Fun Run (3K) in Whittier, Calif., on Saturday, May 15, at 8 a.m.

The event was organized to honor the men and women who serve our country and communities through service in the U.S. military and in police and fire departments.

Race-day registration begins at 6:30 a.m. and costs \$25 for the 10K and \$15 for the Family Fun Run. The course starts at the Sheriff's Training and Regional Services Center, 11515 S. Colima Rd. For more details, visit www.AmericanHeroes10K.com.

I-185th ball scheduled for June

The annual ball for 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, will be held at the Anaheim Hilton on Saturday, June 5, at 6 p.m.

Entry is free for Soldiers with a rank of specialist or below who served the 1-185th or the 184th Infantry Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Entry costs \$55 for sergeants, \$65 for staff sergeants, \$75 for sergeants first class and \$85 for those with ranks of master sergeant or higher. Attire is military dress uniform or civilian black tie formal.

RSVP and check should be sent by May 15 to:
1-185th Armor (CA) Soldier Fund
Attn: MSG McNabb
266 E. 3rd St.
San Bernardino, CA 92410

CMA Class of '85 reunion in August

The California Military Academy Class of 1985 will hold its 25th reunion Aug. 14 on Camp San Luis Obispo. For more information, contact Lt. Col. Frank Emanuel at 916-361-4351 or frank.emanuel@us.army.mil.

Save the date for Soldier and NCO of the Year Banquet

The California Army National Guard has scheduled its Soldier and NCO of the Year Banquet for Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. To reserve a room, call 916-922-2020. Further details will be published as they become available.

Strong bonds retreat next month

The Strong Bonds program will hold a marriage enrichment class in Rancho Cordova, Calif., on June 12-13. Separations, relocations and deployments can subject military marriages to hardship. Strong Bonds is a viable tool for developing resiliency in couples. For more information or to register, visit www.calguard.ca.gov/ReadyFamilies.

DID YOU KNOW...

... each Soldier or Airman is responsible for the maintenance of their medical, physical and mental fitness?

Soldiers and Airmen are responsible for seeking medical advice quickly when they believe their physical well-being is in question. Any illness, disease or injury that occurs, whether off- or on-duty, should be reported to the unit commander or first sergeant as soon as possible. Soldiers are required to provide medical documents for significant medical events to their unit; Airmen are required to provide the medical documents to their medical group.

Army: Soldiers with injuries that restrict them from duties should submit to their unit a CA ARNG 40-7 Medical Determination/Physical Profile Request from their primary care provider. The unit will provide the document to the brigade medical liaison, who will coordinate with the State Surgeon's Office for profile, medical determination, Military Occupational Specialty Medical Review Board, Fitness for Duty Evaluation or Medical Evaluation Board as appropriate. The State Surgeon's Office will determine the Soldier's profile according to the recommendation and medical documentation from the Soldier's primary care physician.

Air Force: In accordance with Air Force Instruction 48-123, Medical Examination and Standards, Airmen need to report any change in their health to their servicing medical group within 30 days. Airmen who contract an illness or sustain an injury should contact their local wing medical group health care provider for an assessment of their condition. Should a physical profile be indicated based on this assessment, one will be generated at this appointment (Air Force Form 469, Duty Limiting Conditions). Any civilian medical documentation related to the injury or illness should be brought to the assessment appointment.

All CNG members: Civilian or Department of Veterans Affairs doctors cannot limit a Soldier or Airman's military duties. However, they can make recommendations.



Public Affairs Directorate, California National Guard

9800 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA 95827-3561

Grizzly Newsmagazine

is published by the Directorate of Communications, California National Guard, 9800 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA 95827. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force or the California State Military Department. Grizzly is an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101.

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.

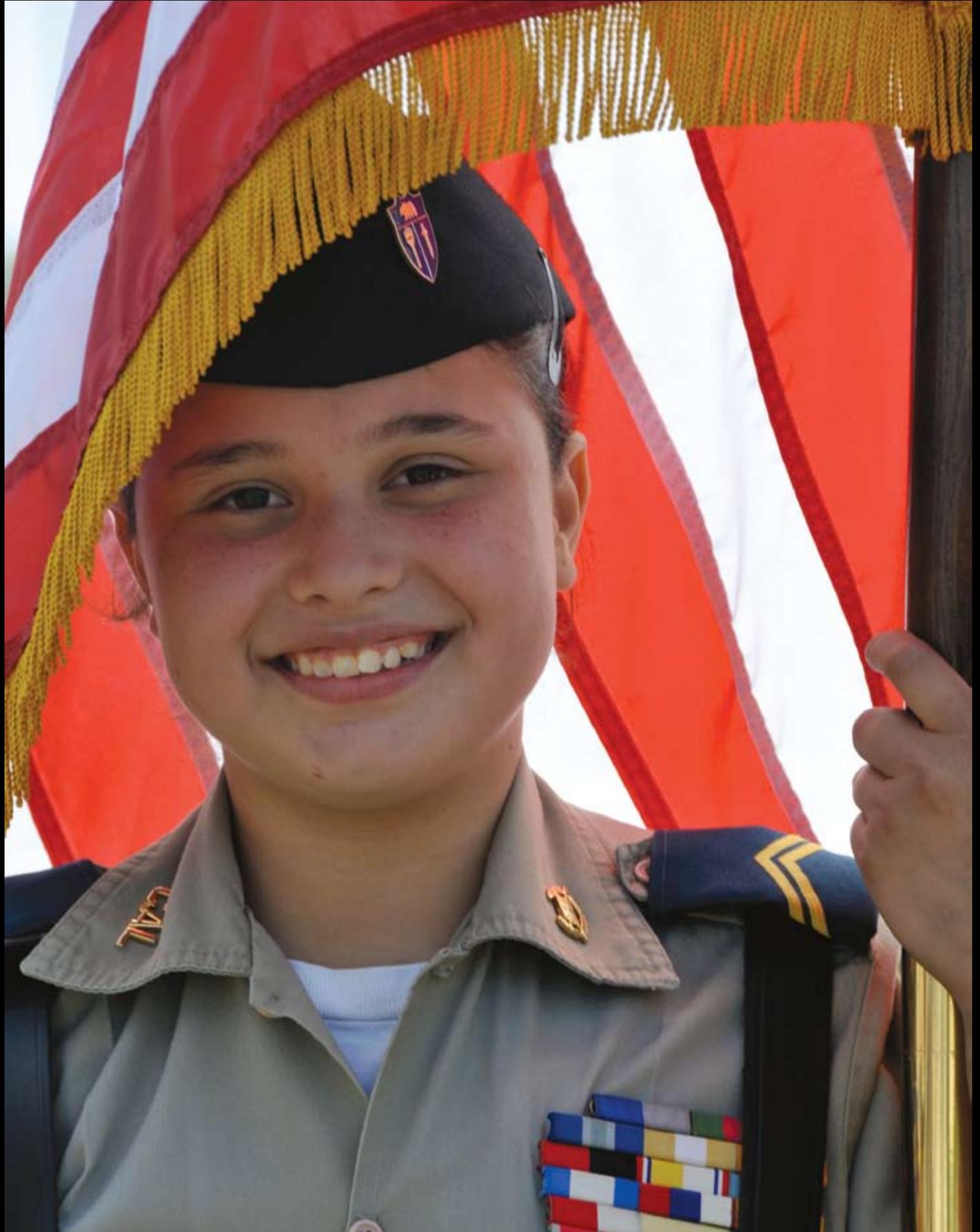


PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. (CA) RICHARD BERGQUIST

A member of the California Cadet Corps smiles after competing in the annual State Drill Championship at Joint Forces Training Base-Los Alamitos on April 10. The competition consisted of precision squad, platoon and color guard precision drill routines, with Soldiers from the California National Guard, California State Military Reserve and California Cadet Corps serving as judges. The California Cadet Corps, founded in 1911, is the oldest school-based youth leadership development program of its kind in the United States. It annually serves nearly 6,000 cadets in grades 2 through 12 in more than 60 public and private schools across the state. For more, see page 11.

GRIZZLY NEWSMAGAZINE 2010

www.calguard.ca.gov/publicaffairs