California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

The Informer

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California National Guard
Counterdrug Task Force

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Counterdrug Headquarters
Sacramento, CA

Public Affairs Note:
For reasons of operational security, the last names of most CDTF members are not published.

Message from HQ

LTC Richard M. H. Loesch
CDTF Commander

I trust and sincerely hope all of you had enjoyable holidays. We are fortunate to be serving our country and still be able to be with our families and loved ones. Please take some time each day to offer a prayer or good thoughts for those of us who are in harms way across the seas.

We are solidly in the midst of mission transition. The fine work of TPH has come to an end. We were able to transition most of the team into Teams DDR and TFO. TSH closed its doors in Long Beach with a very touching ceremony I had the honor to attend. The team is preparing to finish with the Cargo/Mail mission by the end of March. We are working diligently to provide as many employment opportunities as we can for those transitioning soldiers and airmen. Our Public Affairs NCO posted several job announcements back on the East Coast at NGB-CD and around Washington D.C. some of you may have an interest in. I encourage all of you to go to our web site, or have your Personnel Services NCO do so, to obtain these announcements. If you can move, these are great opportunities.

Another opportunity in our midst is with the Joint Harbor Operations Center (JHOC) down in San Diego. This is a consortium of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), San Diego Harbor Police, and remaining local law enforcement agencies to conduct maritime interdiction. We have been requested to support this effort with our personnel. This request leads me to conclude that the old maxim, "*When one door closes, another opens.*" still applies.

I noticed that our Safety Officer's relentless concentration on *"Safety through Communication"* is paying some dividends. We are actually stopping to think about doing things safely to meet our respective support missions AND THAT'S A GOOD THING! We are about to send the new Safety SOP out to the field. I urge each one of you to read it. This is our Safety Officer's effort and it is a fine one. Whatever you need to know to be safe in mission accomplishment is there. If it is not, let us know and we will amend the SOP to include it.

The CSM and I attended a couple days of the refresher training given to TWO, the BOG, and our Quick Reaction Force at Fort Hunter Liggett. This was some demanding, necessary, and critical training these soldiers and airmen need on a regular basis. The CSM and I were very proud of the efforts not only of our trainers but our trainees. They do set the standard.

In the welcome home arena, TCO returned from an OCONUS mission intact and we are grateful. TFA completed a successful OCONUS mission that highlighted their talents to a Unified Command. TEA also saw the return of their soldiers to us, family, and friends. Our CONUS based soldiers are also coming home and we are glad to welcome them. Sadly but, as a matter of the oath we take, we will watch as others of us depart for deployment

See "Message" on page 2

CSM's Message

By CSM Hal London
CDTF Command Sergeant Major

Welcome back from the Holiday season. To my knowledge everyone is back to duty at their worksite well rested and relaxed after the holidays. I hope that you and your family had a safe and joyous time during the holidays.

We have started into the New Year at a slow pace as far as missions but not as far as vehicle accidents and personal injury causing loss of man days. The Incident Reports seem to be flowing on pace or above already the first three weeks of the new calendar year. Personal injuries in the home seem to be on the upswing as well. **Soldiers and Airmen take notice on this**! I need every one of you to slow down and do each task, whether at home or on duty, safely. We have been very fortunate that there have been no fatalities, to my knowledge, to members on active duty with CD or deployed elsewhere. The California Army National Guard has lost two soldiers in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF). Both instances were in result to hostile fire.

The national news reported this week that since the start of OIF we have lost over 500 uniformed service members to either hostile fire or accidents. Hopefully all of you have taken a step back and looked in the mirror to see whether you are personally analyzing your risk management practices both at home with your family or in your work environment. The risk mitigation process must be an everyday mindset whether it involves your POV or your individual skill sets required at your work site.

As The Global War On Terrorism progresses the National Guard continues to deploy soldiers and airmen in support of the war effort. The Counterdrug program has been a constant revolving door for deploying and REFRAD soldiers and airmen almost on a daily basis. These deployments have actually helped you and this head-quarters with the mission transition, in that we have not had to layoff anyone as a result of the transition to date. I welcome back those of you that have returned from serving your country proudly. To you who are facing deployment know that you will be in our hearts and prayers every single day you are gone.

I have been on this program for over six months and everyday I am impressed by the resourcefulness, pride, and professionalism that are displayed by each of you. I ask that each of you continue to strive for excellence in everything you do. If you do make a mistake or have and incident stand up as a responsible Soldier/ Airmen and receive the corrective action as professionally as you would when performing any of your duties. **Always, always, always** have the candor to make the on-the-spot correction no matter what the severity may be.

"GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS OUR SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN THAT ARE DEPLOYED"

"Message" Cont.

assignments over this next FY. We wish them God speed.

We are holding our own with our budget. We are very fortunate to have the Resource Manager and Budget NCO that we have. While deployments help defray the personnel costs of our limited budget, their efforts have allowed us to transition without any mandated cut backs in personnel.

Many of you may have heard that the CDTF HQs will move to McClellan. This is likely but, not certain. We should know one way or the other by the end of February. Should this occur, we intend to have as minimal disruption in daily mission activity as possible. In the long run, this will be a benefit to our program as we will be able to co-locate our Joint Forces Language Information Center at this facility.

Finally, I ask for your prayers and good thoughts for our Budget NCO. She fell from a sixteen foot ladder and shattered a disk in her back. Her surgery was successful and she should be recovering at home by now. Nevertheless, we are fortunate to have her still with us. Since she is the brains behind executing our budget, we need her. We will have to hold her down however, as she is already asking for a laptop so she can work at home.

Every organization has its challenges. There are always hurdles to overcome. Take heart and look around you. I do. We are people who care about what we do. We will continue to do all we can to the best of our ability to meet our missions. This attitude is what all of you continually show me and for that you have my admiration. This is why I will work to resource us fully so we can be the task force that keeps *"Safe Guarding America's Future"*.

A Look at the CDTF Year in Review

MISSION STATEMENT/OVERVIEW: The Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) incorporates a two-pronged approach to combat both the supply of and demand for illegal drugs in our state and nation.

Drug Demand Reduction (DDR): During one of its many missions, DDR assisted the 40th Infantry Division's National Guard Youth Leadership Adventure Camp, held at Camp San Luis Obispo from 3-8 August, 2003. This camp involved 150 13-18 year olds in activities including the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), classes on the Every 15 Minutes curriculum, and Life Skills. The camp was co-sponsored by the California National Guard Family Support Program.

New Technologies: The CDTF fielded two significant pieces of new technologies during FY 03. The first is the improved ULTRA7500 FLIR system on the CDTF RAID OH-58s. This new system noticeably enhances the night observation capability with increased standoff and improved graphic resolution and tracking. Soon this system will be equipped with a video-down link capability to a ground-based command station. The CDTF successfully deployed this system in support of The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as part of OPERATION COBIJA last spring resulting in 47 arrests and the seizing of 7 weapons and 83 lbs. of processed marijuana.

The other unique piece of CDTF equipment is the fielding of a second Mobile Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS) along the international border in support of the U.S. CBP. The expansion of the MVIS unit is directly responsible for a 7,000 lbs. processed marijuana seizure at the Otay Mesa port-of-entry and a multi-state, multi-agency case resulting in the arrest of 316 violent felons and the seizure of 174 lbs. of 98% pure cocaine.

Continued Excellence: In FY03, the CDTF assisted with the seizure of over 1.3 billion dollars (estimated street value) in drugs to include: 534 lbs. of methamphetamine, 1,048 lbs. of cocaine, 67 lbs. of opium, 35 lbs. of heroin, 13 tbs. of ecstasy, 114,898 lbs. of processed marijuana, and 550, 050 marijuana plants. Additionally, the Task Force completed 538 missions and flew over 2,215 hours in support of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and community based organizations. In March of FY03 the CDTF successfully passed the periodic NGB-CD administered Counterdrug Performance Evaluation (CPE). The CPE evaluates levels of competency and compliance in the areas of operations and training, fiscal management, aviation, safety, logistics, administration, public affairs and CD management. The CDTF passed in all areas with an overall pass rate near 98%. This is highest first time pass rate of any of the National Guard CD program executing operations of this size and scope.

Transition Assistance and Job Vacancies

Below are the most recent job vacancies within the Counterdrug Task Force. Soldiers and Airmen returning from deployment have first priority on all internal vacancies. For more information and the forms needed to apply, please visit the CDTF website at www.calguard.ca.gov/CDTF

Tour #	Open / Close	Position	Location
CD 03-06	22 Jul 03 / Until filled	Foreign Language Translator / Transcriber (E-6, CW3, 0-3)	Los Alamitos
CD 03-12	15Dec03 / Until filled	Engineer Officer (O-1 to O-4, W-1 W-4)	San Diego
CD 04-06	16Jan04 / 4Feb04	Enlisted Engineer (E-1 to E-5)	San Diego
Internal	24Jul03 / Until Filled	Intellegence Analyst/Case Support	El Centro, San Diego, Fresno
Internal	20Jan04 / 28Feb04	Safety NCO (Max E-7)	San Diego

Follow these links for information on VA resources:

Department of Veterens Affairs website - http://www.va.gov/
California Department of Veterens Affairs - http://www.cdva.ca.gov/

CDTF Members Safe

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eGUARDing America

1. SGT April L. CD-USPFO and members of her unit gather around a painting of the former Iraqi leader Suddam Hussein.

2. Maj Tom R., a pilot with THA, prepares to fly the days sortie.

3. UH 60 Blackhawks prepare to take off in Northern Iraq. The helicopters are from Maj Tom R.'s 129th Rescue Wing.

4. Lt Sean B., TFO commander poses with some Kurdish soldiers in Northern Iraq.

5. SFC Pat J., CDHQ Ops. and SSG Clint L. from TWO, take a break from the heat. The pool is located in one of the palaces that formerly belonged to the late Uday Hussein.

6. TSgt. Leland S. from DDR, burns sensitive documents near the Turkish-Iraqi border.

CDTF joins forces with the Department of Homeland Security

Assist the The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection with the largest single Bust of TY04

The California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (CNG CDTF) assisted with a 4,829 pound marijuana seizure at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry on November 3, 2003. CNG CDTF members, working at the port, were instructed by a Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer to assist with the search of an empty tractor-trailer rig that entered the port early Monday morning at about 6 a.m.

The CDTF members and the CBP officer found 139 wrapped packages of the narcotic valued at $2.2 million hidden within a secret wall compartment inside the 48-foot trailer of the California-plated conveyance. They became suspicious after a check of the trailer's inside dimensions with a laser range finder indicated a discrepancy in the length of the empty trailer.

An intensive examination of the trailer with a gamma-ray non-invasive inspection system confirmed a false front wall. A drug-sniffing dog was also used to screen the trailer alerted to the front wall of the trailer.

Photo courtesy of U.S. CBP

The driver, 33-year-old Carlos Molina-Meza of Tijuana, was arrested by special agents of The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency and subsequently transported to the Metropolitan Correctional Center for processing.

CBP is a new agency within the Department of Homeland Security that unifies U.S. Customs, Immigration and Agriculture inspectors and the Border Patrol.

Safety Corner: Post Deployment POV Safety

Background: More soldiers die in POV accidents every year than were killed by enemy fire in OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. Soldiers survived the combat environment; now we want to be sure that they and their family members survive travel on the highway. Alcohol, speed, fatigue, and failure to use seat belts and airbags are primary factors in POV fatalities. Travel planning is another critical consideration since most individuals/units will have block leave following redeployment. The New POV Leader's Guide and Toolbox provide accident prevention tools and techniques to reduce DUI incidents, fatigue related accidents, hazards associated with driving, and accidents due to inadequate travel planning. Motorcycle operators have a much greater risk of fatal injury in POV accidents than 4-wheel drivers.

Seat Belts: Emphasize seat belt use. Using seat belts is not optional. Army standards require the use of seat belts both on and off duty and on and off-post. Some soldiers may have developed the habit of not wearing seat belts while operating or riding in vehicles in the area of responsibility. Convincing soldiers to use seat belts is the #1 prevention effort and will save more lives than any other prevention initiative.

Alcohol and POV accidents: Many soldiers want to "cut loose" after being in a restrictive environment. Driving under the influence is a serious violation of discipline and traffic laws. Plan ahead to assure that safe transportation is available. Alternatives to drinking and driving include using a designated driver, taxi or public transportation. The POV Toolbox includes information on the unit taxi fund, chain of command calling card, and designated driver program.

Travel Planning: Many redeployed soldiers will take the opportunity for block leave to travel and visit family and friends. Inadequate POV travel planning increases the potential for fatigue related POV accidents. The POV Toolbox contains tools to ensure the trip has been sufficiently planned to get safely to the destination and return. The Pre-Trip safety Checklist, POV Inspection Checklist, and Pre-Trip Safety Briefing Guide are designed to assist commanders and leaders in briefing soldiers before departure on planned trips outside the immediate local area and when soldiers are going on leave.

Accident Avoidance: Soldiers may be out of practice for highway driving since they may not have been driving or were driving under different driving conditions. Extra attention and focus on driving skills are needed to avoid an "at-fault" POV accident. Slow down, maintain situational awareness and be aware of driving distractions. To avoid being involved in a POV accident, take a break from driving if noisy children or other distractions create a hazard of inattention. Provide games, books, puzzles and other items to keep children busy while traveling. Pull over to a safe location to make cell phone calls.

The POV Risk Management Leader's Guide http://safety.army.mil contains scenarios and vignettes for discussion of POV accident risk factors. The POV safety briefing materials provide discussion points for post-deployment POV safety briefings.

Army begins distributiuon of new soldier's guide

Story by Jim Tice
***Army Times* Staf f Writer**

The Soldier's Guide, which last was updated in 1961, has been revised and will be distributed to active and reserve enlisted soldiers, noncommissioned officers, warrant officers and branch officers beginning in February.

The manual, officially titled Field Manual 7-21-13, is available online, and distribution of pocket-size manuals will begin next month at training centers, academies and through regular publication channels.

In an introduction to the manual, Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker writes that The Soldier's Guide condenses information from a number of sources and "describes your role in the Army, your obligations, and what you can expect from your leaders."

Other subject areas include Army history, training and professional development.

The Sergeants Major Academy oversaw the revision of this basic soldiering guide, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Clifford West of the academy.

The previous version of the manual has been out of print so long that only a couple of copies of the 1961 edition were available to the contractors who revised the guide, West said.

The manual had been slated for publication in October, but was delayed to include updated material on The Global War On Terrorism, and input from Schoomaker on the warrior ethos and changes to the Soldier's Creed that reflect the warrior ethos.

The new creed is posted in the "Army Leadership" section of the Army Knowledge Online Web site at *www.us.army.mil*. The new Soldier's Guide is available at *http://www.army.mil/usapa/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_a/pdf/fm7_21x13.pdf.*

TFA returns from first ever OCONUS deployment

Photos by TSgt. Jack Jernigan

The CDTF C-26 program recently returned from its first ever OCONUS deployment last November. This deployment was especially challenging since the deployment order was relatively short notice and the C-26 community was not in a World Wide Deployable status. Also, the C-26 aircraft required significant modifications in order to operate safely in the region.

The deployment lasted 90 days with a mid deployment rotation of personnel. The 144th Fighter Wing was designated as the lead unit for the second rotation and Lt Col Tony G. from CDJTF TFA was selected as the deployed detatchment commander. Six C-26 units as well as support personnel from 11 other Air National Guard units were "rainbowed in" to fill the deployment manning requirements.

The C-26 program responded to the deployment in magnificent form ensuring that all C-26 personnel were trained and equipped to world-wide deployable standards in a short period of time while continuing to perform their counterdrug mission at home.

The deployment itself was a complete success and exceeded all expectations. The Supported Unified Command was extremely happy with the results of the deployment and is looking forward to future use of the CDTF C-26 in theater.