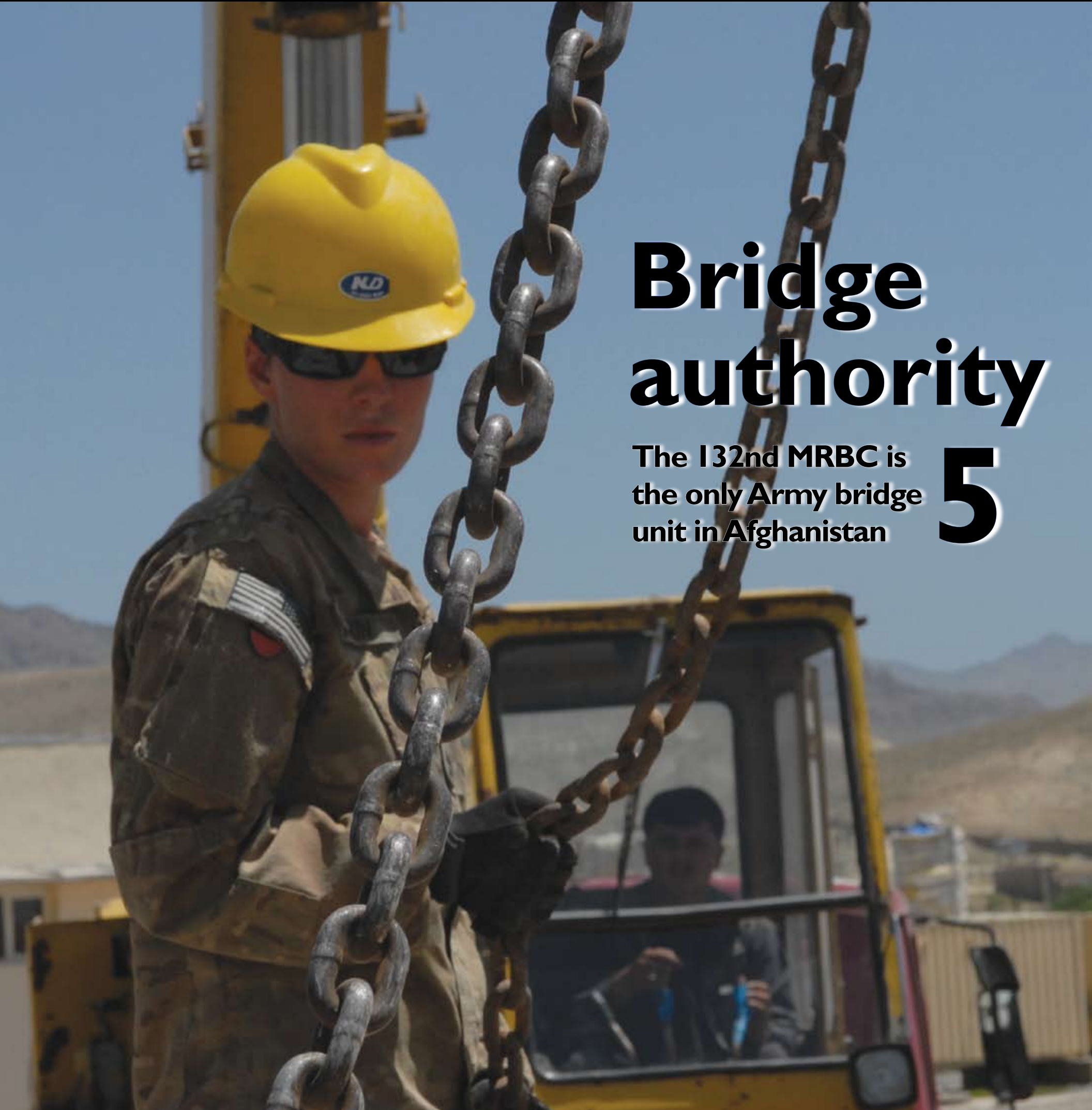


GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard



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The 132nd MRBC is the only Army bridge unit in Afghanistan

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Leadership Corner

Guarding the state, nation and each other

Major General David S. Baldwin



As I look back on the past year, I draw great pride from being a part of an organization that has done so much to help Californians, residents of other states and people in countries around the globe.

More than 1,200 Soldiers of the California Army National Guard supported operations overseas in 2012. Our engineers, military police, aviators, chemical experts, military intelligence troops, financial managers and transportation specialists made tremendous contributions in Afghanistan, where U.S. troops are preparing our Afghan counterparts to assume responsibility for their country's own security. The California Army National Guard also deployed troops to the Sinai Peninsula in 2012 to monitor compliance with a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, and it sent members of the 217th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company and the 3-140th Aviation Security and Support Battalion to Kosovo for peacekeeping operations.

The California Air National Guard, meanwhile, deployed more than 300 Airmen to foreign locations and also mobilized 350 troops to support overseas operations while staying in the U.S. to fulfill "reachback" missions such as piloting MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles, performing intelligence duties and working on satellite communications. In Afghanistan, Airmen from our civil engineering squadrons completed many engineering tasks, managed multiple construction projects and established a high-altitude surveillance system. Meanwhile, security forces from the California Air National Guard supported the flow of troops to and from Afghanistan through Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. Members of all five of the California Air National Guard's major components participated in overseas deployments in 2012, including about 50 Airmen who supported Operation Coronet Oak, which provides airlift services for U.S. operations across the Caribbean Sea, Central America and South America.

Of course, support of overseas contingency operations is only part of our story. As is often the case, the Cal Guard was heavily involved in firefighting operations this summer, both in California and around the country. In California alone, our aviators flew more than 1,000 hours and dropped more than 2 million gallons of water and fire retardant on wildfires while also performing medical evacuations.

This year also brought opportunities to assist stranded hikers, boaters and other citizens with our search-and-rescue capabilities. This year our unique skills and assets were called into play three times to assist sailors in international waters west of Mexico, where no other organization, including the U.S. Coast Guard, was prepared to go. Within the state, rescue missions ranged from Mount Whitney in Southern California to the Lake Tahoe back country on the Nevada border and as far north as Mount Shasta.

Our always robust domestic-response capabilities increased in 2012, as the Cal Guard's 49th Military Police Brigade Homeland Response Force (HRF) earned certification as the key military operations element covering the 36 million residents of Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX, which includes Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada and several Pacific islands and U.S. territories. The approximately 600-member HRF combines a command-and-control element, a battalion headquarters, a security company and the 9th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, which includes decontamination, search-and-extraction and medical capabilities to respond to any incident involving an airborne pathogen, "dirty bomb," nuclear detonation or other dangerous contaminant.

While our Soldiers and Airmen were taking care of their duties at home and abroad, the California Military Department was working hard to take care of our troops. This includes the new Work for Warriors (WFW) jobs program introduced March 29 by the Guard and Speaker of the State Assembly John Perez. In addition to working with Guard members to refine their resumes and interviewing skills, the WFW staff actively seeks out employers that value characteristics Guard members bring to their jobs and establishes relationships that lead to interviews and job opportunities. The program is designed to cut unemployment among CNG members by at least 25 percent in its first year and ultimately reduce unemployment to less than 5 percent. So far, more than 325 Cal Guard members have gained employment through the program.

The Cal Guard also broke new ground in family outreach in 2012, opening a first-of-its-kind Family Wellness Center on Sept. 8 in San Diego. Located in the community, rather than on a military base like many wellness centers, the facility is open to members of all branches of the military and offers assistance with everything from career counseling and financial advice to tutoring for children and help with post-traumatic-stress-related family problems.

Two months ago, during our October training weekend, every unit of the California Army National Guard conducted a "Suicide Stand Down" in conjunction with a similar Army-wide program at the national level. Among other skills, we learned how to spot signs that someone might be considering suicide and how to react in that situation.

Being part of a family — and the California National Guard is just that — means not just looking out for yourself but also being vigilant about the well-being of those in your care. As a member of the Guard, you must be on the lookout for signs of trouble in the lives of people you serve with, and you must be willing to broach that subject and offer help, whether that be a willing ear or a referral to someone with professional expertise.

It is easy for unit leaders to lose contact with their troops during this time of year, but maintaining those relationships during these often-trying times is as essential as ever. Many of our men and women are coping with financial difficulties, loneliness, family strife and unemployment during a season when those issues are only accentuated. I expect each of you to put your training to work and look out for each other this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

The communication and stress-management training we all have received can help each of us achieve balance in our military, work and home lives. Perhaps the most important piece of information we must hold onto from that training is to recognize that none of us is equipped to go it alone, and there should be no reluctance to seek help when needed. Asking for help does not show weakness: It shows courage and responsibility.

One source of strength in the National Guard is our teamwork and our vigilant care for our battle buddies and wingmen. That is a responsibility we must never forget, even in times of celebration.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication and service to this state and nation in 2012. I expect nothing less than your best effort once again in 2013.



The California National Guard fulfilled a wide variety of missions around the globe and around the country in 2012, including dropping millions of gallons of water and fire retardant on wildfires in California and other U.S. locations. Above, a Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems II-equipped C-130J airplane from the Cal Guard's 146th Airlift Wing drops retardant on a fire near Twin Falls, Idaho, on Aug. 8. Photo by Mike Freer

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Articles:

- ★ Articles range from 350 to 2,000 words. All articles must be accompanied by multiple high-resolution images.
- ★ Include first names, last names and military ranks. Always verify spelling.
- ★ Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference.
- ★ Only submit articles that have been approved by your unit's public affairs officer.

Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible: MB files, not KB.
- ★ No retouched photos, no special effects.
- ★ Include the photographer's name and rank and a caption: what is happening in the photo, who is pictured and the date and location.

E-mail submissions by the 15th
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Cover Shot



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Koktan

Pfc. Sarah Braun of the 132nd Multi-Role Bridge Company guides pieces of a bridge into place June 1 during a course at Camp Ghazi, Afghanistan, in which 132nd engineers helped instruct coalition and Afghan forces to build bridges. The 132nd is currently the only U.S. Army bridge unit in Afghanistan.

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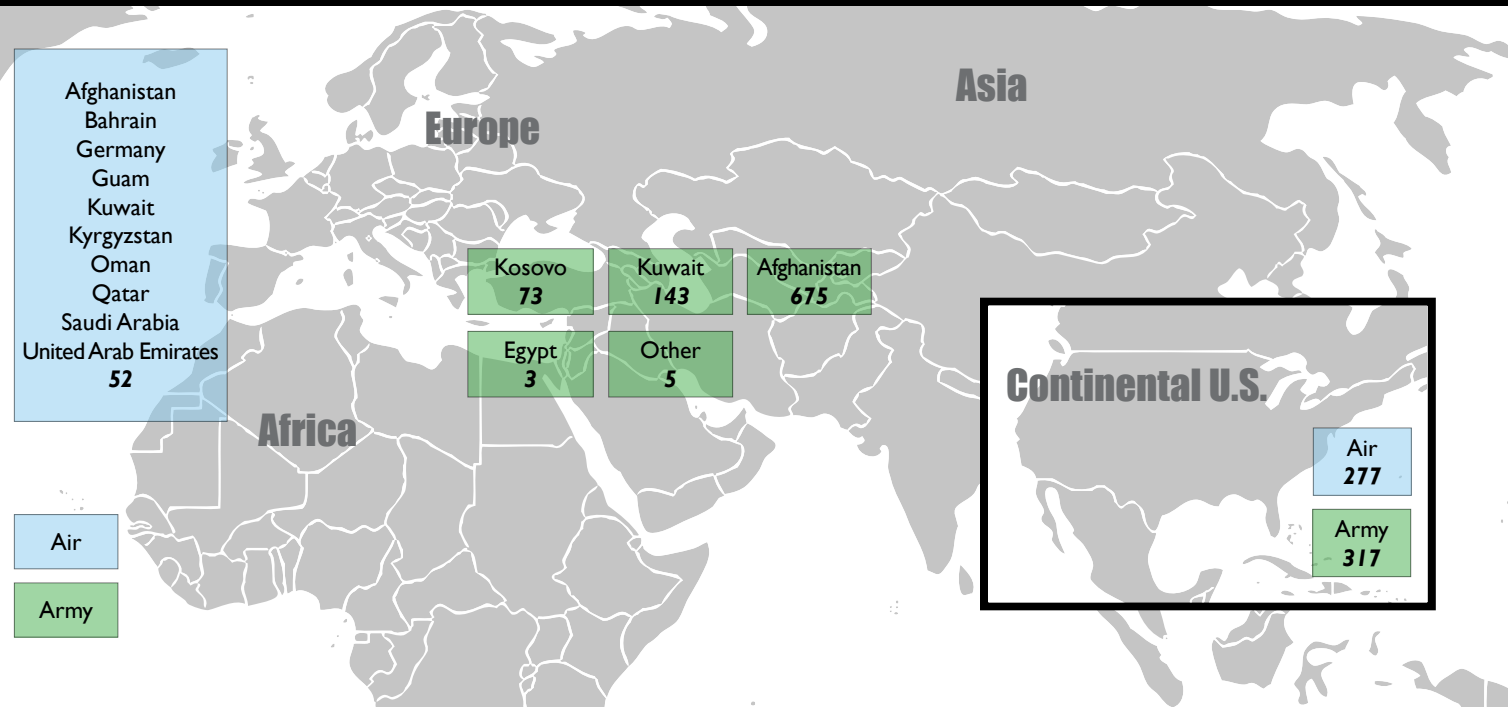
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His light shines on

870th MPs immortalize sacrifice and service of Spc. Sean Walsh through Pittsburg readiness center dedication

By **1ST LT. WILL MARTIN**
49th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs

While deployed to Afghanistan, Spc. Sean Walsh embodied joyful encouragement to his peers and superiors in the 870th Military Police Company.

"There was often a lot of stress in our mission and carrying out our responsibilities," said Capt. James Smith, company commander during the unit's 2011 Operation Enduring Freedom deployment. "But Sean would go out of his way to make sure people were happy.

"Hey sir! It's a great day to be in Afghanistan!" Smith remembers Walsh buoyantly calling out upon crossing his commander's path. "He was a reminder of why I serve."

Though killed by indirect enemy fire Nov. 16, 2011, Walsh will continue to remind others of his spirit and service through the National Guard's Pittsburg, Calif., readiness center, which now bears his name. On Dec. 1 of this year, Soldiers from across the California Army National Guard joined Walsh's family and community to dedicate the Pittsburg readiness center in his memory.

"He was a bright light in that organization, that MP Company," said Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the California National Guard, before challenging the audience to carry on Walsh's legacy. "What are you going to do with the memory and to respect all that Sean stood for?"

Baldwin's challenge was largely inspired, he said, by the

example of Walsh's mother. Only months after losing her only child to war, Cheryl Walsh decided to mirror her son's commitment to service.

She stepped up to serve as a Family Readiness Group volunteer in the CNG's military police community and then established a foundation in Sean's honor that raised enough money to purchase a dog for the Santa Clara Police Department K-9 Unit, a program Sean volunteered with as an "Explorer" during high school.

"You are all my kids," she said through tears Dec. 1, looking over the MPs and law enforcement personnel in the audience.

Argo, the dog purchased through Cheryl's efforts, was present to witness the building dedication, as were several members of the Santa Clara Police Department. Officer Bill Davis, who mentored Sean through his time as an Explorer, spoke about the impression the teenage Walsh made on his own life.

"He amassed hundreds of hours [of] volunteer time," Davis said. "It was his way of serving his community and country. The military was a natural progression for Sean. [He understood] freedom isn't free."

That willingness to serve — even to the point of death — was a call few are willing to answer, Smith reminded the audience.

"This is the highest form of heroism you can possibly imagine," he said. "National Guardsmen such as Sean rise to the occasion. Sean, and so many others like him, are the gatekeepers to our nation."



Photo by 1st Lt. Will Martin

Cheryl Walsh and Capt. James Smith remember Spc. Sean Walsh, Cheryl's son, who was killed while serving in Afghanistan last year, during a Dec. 1 ceremony in which the National Guard's Pittsburg, Calif., readiness center was renamed in Spc. Walsh's memory.



Cal Guard Airmen respond to Hurricane Sandy

By California Military Department Public Affairs

The Cal Guard immediately mobilized more than 100 Airmen after "Superstorm" Sandy made landfall in the U.S. on Oct. 29, sending members of the 129th Rescue Wing and 146th Airlift Wing to the East Coast along with three planes, two helicopters and an inflatable rescue boat.

The troops and equipment landed in North Carolina and later moved to New Castle Air National Guard Base, Del., to be at the ready to assist in the aftermath of one of the worst storms in U.S. history.

Hurricane Sandy transformed into Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy with hurricane-force winds shortly before reaching the U.S. coast Oct. 29, slamming into the Southern New Jersey shore and causing water levels to rise as much as 12.5 feet above normal in parts of the Northeast. The storm then collided with a cold front flowing south from the Arctic, dumping up to 3 feet of snow on the hardest-hit areas.

The storm killed at least 125 Americans and caused \$62 billion in damage and other losses, making it the second-costliest storm in United States history, following 2005's Hurricane Katrina, according to the Associated Press.

Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley, the sergeant major of the Army National Guard, met with many of the responding troops throughout the region and said he was impressed by their work, their dedicated response and their desire to assist those in need.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino

Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing Maintenance Group load an HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopter into a C-17 Globemaster III airplane from the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing on Oct. 29. The helicopter was then flown to the East Coast to be ready to provide rescue capabilities in the aftermath of "Superstorm" Sandy. The 129th sent two helicopters, two MC-130P Combat Shadow refueling planes and two teams of pararescuemen to the mid-Atlantic coast to assist residents affected by the storm.

"They joined [the Guard] because they wanted to be a part of things. They wanted to be engaged in missions at home and overseas, but they also wanted to stay in their communities and help their state," Conley said.

"I think that's universal throughout the Guard. Those are your neighbors. That's your state. That's part of what you signed up for," he added. "These young kids, these young Americans, are the true epitome of the Citizen-Soldier."

More than 12,000 National Guard troops from 21 states and Washington, D.C., were involved in the nation's response to the storm, performing duties such as removing debris, distributing food and water, flying reconnaissance flights and knocking on doors to check on residents.

The search-and-rescue capabilities of the 129th Rescue Wing and the airlift and medical evacuation capabilities of the 146th Airlift Wing were not requested for any missions by U.S. Northern Command after the Airmen responded to the initial call to mobilize to the East Coast.

Guard officials said past experience has shown that troops must deploy in advance of a catastrophe, when possible, to be in place and ready to respond when called upon to assist victims of natural disasters. Though CNG forces were not requested for any rescue missions, staging on the East Coast was necessary to provide a timely response if needed, they said. The air crews took advantage of their time on the East Coast by performing training missions while awaiting the call to come home.

In Sandy's aftermath, the governors of six states reached agreements with Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta that enabled the appointment of a dual-status commander (DCSC) in each state. Under the construct, a National Guard officer is placed in charge of all military troops responding to a domestic emergency in that state, enabling a smooth integration of reserve and active duty forces. Earlier this year the Cal Guard's Col. Robert Spano was similarly appointed the DSC for California's wildfire response.

California engineers bridge to fight

132nd Multi-Role Bridge Company provides bridging support throughout Afghanistan

By 132nd MRBC Public Affairs

Deployed to Afghanistan since April, the California Guard's 132nd Multi-Role Bridge Company (MRBC) is the only Army bridge unit in the country and therefore supports the entire Operation Enduring Freedom theater.

"Since our arrival, we have conducted operations in every single regional command in the country," said Capt. Adam Rix, commander of the 132nd. "Supporting an entire country is a unique challenge for a single company; it keeps us in a high [operational tempo] and demands the most from our Soldiers in terms of planning, risk management and individual work ethic."

The Redding-based unit is charged with emplacing, inspecting, repairing and removing all bridges in the theater as well as conducting bridge reconnaissance and supporting other engineer projects throughout Afghanistan. "We've stayed busy, that is for sure," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Hatten, the unit's operations non-commissioned officer.

So far the 132nd has emplaced nine bridges, conducted seven removals and executed 59 repairs, along with 15 reconnaissance operations. Each bridge mission is different. The 132nd conducts deliberate, named bridging operations as well as emergency repairs and construction.

"You never know when and where your next mission will be," said 1st Lt. Jose Torres, the unit's executive officer. "Most of our bridge operations stem from destruction or damage by [improvised explosive devices] or washout from flooding and weather."

The 132nd is well-postured for theater bridging and maintains four separate bridge yards in different regional commands. Each yard is stocked with the variety of bridge systems the 132nd employs. As an MRBC, the 132nd is expected to maintain proficiency in all the U.S. Army's fixed and floating bridge systems.

During its current tour, the 132nd has utilized most of the systems in its inventory to meet the demands for tactical, support and permanent line-of-communication (LOC) bridges. These systems include the Improved Ribbon Float Bridge, the Rapidly Employed Bridge System, the Dry Support Bridge, multiple LOC bridges and the Medium Girder Bridge commonly used by the U.S. Marine Corps. Each bridge system has multiple configurations and construction processes. "Mastering six different and unique bridge systems demands a lot of training and skill from every Soldier," remarked 1st Sgt. Paul Thomsen. "I am proud of what our Soldiers have achieved here."

The most frequent mission for the 132nd is to provide bridging support on Main Supply Route 1, or "Highway 1," where the high volume of civilian traffic and military cargo trucks requires the highest load class available for long-term sustainability. The unit has been called out for multiple short-notice and no-notice missions to construct, repair and remove bridges on Highway 1.

Once the 132nd begins a bridge-building project, the troops do not stop until the bridge is ready for traffic. "You can be out on a build site for 24 to 72 hours, working straight through with only a few 10-minute breaks," said Staff Sgt. Scott Flynn of 1st



Photos by 132nd Multi-Role Bridge Company

Soldiers from the 132nd Multi-Role Bridge Company (MRBC) work to remove a U.S. Marine Corps Medium Girder Bridge, which was missing parts because of theft, and replace it with a Mabey Johnson Bridge in Helmand province, Afghanistan, in September. Below: Soldiers from the 132nd work on bridges in Urozgan province (bottom), Zabul province (inset left), Kandahar province (inset center left and right) and Helmand province during their current tour.

Bridge Platoon, 132nd MRBC. "It is hard work, but there is satisfaction in seeing the tangible efforts of your work when that first vehicle crosses the new bridge."

Now near the end of their tour, the 132nd Soldiers have contributed to non-bridging operations as well. From May until October, a hand-picked detachment of 20 Soldiers from 2nd Platoon provided daily convoy security to escort local gravel trucks supporting road construction efforts deep in the Horn of Panjwai, a highly contested area known as the original home of the Taliban and referred to locally as the "Heart of Darkness."

"It wasn't 'if' but 'when' the next engagement would take place," remarked Spc. Jared Sahlbeg, a vehicle gunner with 2nd

Platoon. "You had to be at the top of your game mentally and physically every time you rolled out the gate. Complacency was not an option."

The 132nd also supported multiple transportation missions and forward operating base deconstructions and closures, and it provided a dedicated cadre to train Afghanistan National Army engineers on the use and maintenance of various heavy engineer equipment, including cranes, dozers and hydraulic excavators.

"We've had a diverse set of missions and accomplishments," Rix said, "but we are not done yet. The winter season will keep us hard at work until the day we leave." The 132nd MRBC is expected to return from Afghanistan in January.



Cal Guard aviators train for Afghanistan

Stockton-based Chinook unit prepares for deployment with active duty, Reserve forces

Story and photos by CAPT. JACOB J. RING
351st Aviation Regiment

The California Army National Guard's Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, one of the oldest Chinook helicopter units in the Army, is no stranger to Afghanistan. The unit deployed to Regional Command (RC)-East five years ago, and all of the unit's pilots-in-command and flight engineers were either on that deployment or had previously deployed to Afghanistan while on active duty.

Although the unit from Stockton, Calif., has ample experience in Afghanistan, its Soldiers recently mobilized for the first time to Fort Hood, Texas, where they trained for their upcoming deployment.

"It's a lot different to deploy in the Guard than in active duty," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lucas Eggers, tactical operations officer for the 1-126th "Delta Schooners." Before mobilizing to Fort Hood to be trained by Division West's 166th Aviation Brigade, the Schooners conducted three two-week training events focused on pre-deployment training tasks at Camp Roberts, Calif. This enabled them to focus specifically on flight training once in Texas. In fact, the group amassed more than 400 flight hours at Fort Hood, including more than 150 hours of night flying.

Much of the Schooners' exercises focused on both individual as well as collective flight training, particularly air assault missions. The focus on individual training was the result of two senior flight engineers, including the Schooners' first sergeant, being declared unable to deploy because of medical reasons in the week prior to mobilization.

Despite the challenges, the Schooners rose to the occasion and quickly advanced several members of the team to fill out 12 fully mission-qualified crews.

First Sergeant Jeff Stanfield, who met up with his unit at Fort Hood one week after the others mobilized, was glad



"This gets me a little bit more oriented. I'm getting used to people jumping on and off the aircraft, what to be aware of."

—Spc. Jesus Camacho
1-126th Aviation Regiment

to have the opportunity to assist the group. "Luckily I'm already part of the family," Stanfield said.

After several days of Soldier-processing and deployment-readiness activities, the Delta Schooners began flight training with local area orientations, then started individual readiness-level progression training, maximizing their training by supporting active duty 3rd Corps units. In particular, the 166th Aviation Brigade arranged for the 1-126th to support the 85th Civil Affairs Brigade; a civil affairs battalion that was conducting deployment readiness certification; and two companies from 1st Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, that were conducting company-level collective training in preparation for a deployment next summer.

"The [1-8th Cavalry Squadron] mission was basically the typical mission set that we're going to be doing once we're overseas," said 1-126th platoon leader 1st Lt. Chase Ross. "We'll pick them up and then we'll drop them on another target. We're practicing time-on-target, navigation and talking on the radios."

The Schooners also supported the 120th Infantry Brigade's training of the Army Reserve's 993rd Transportation Company by conducting casualty evacuation operations, enabling 993rd Soldiers to practice calling in medical evacuation requests and communicating with aircraft. This also enabled the Schooners to familiarize themselves with the special requirements involved with a Chinook helicopter casualty evacuation.

After completing aerial gunnery training with their newest crew members, the Schooners deployed seven of their aircraft to Double Eagle II Airport in New Mexico for a week of intensive flight training in the mountains. There the Schooners focused first on dust landing techniques, honing the critical crew coordination and flight skills necessary to land in the sand and dust of Afghanistan. The main objective was to develop the unit's younger pilots-in-command.

"I want all of my [pilots-in-command and flight engineers] to be 100 percent comfortable conducting zero-illumination dust landings," said Capt. Ben Bowman, commander of Company B, 1-126th. Upon completing their dust landings, the Schooners moved on to high-altitude landing zones, practicing power management techniques and pinnacle landings that will be useful for operations in the mountains of Afghanistan.

The Schooners then turned their attention to getting their aircraft ready for the culminating training exercise conducted by the 166th Aviation Brigade. The air crews focused on air assault mission planning, preparing for two air assault missions during the company's collective training. That practice paid off during the exercise, when the unit was tasked with five air assault missions during the course of five days, on top of requests for numerous air movement operations.

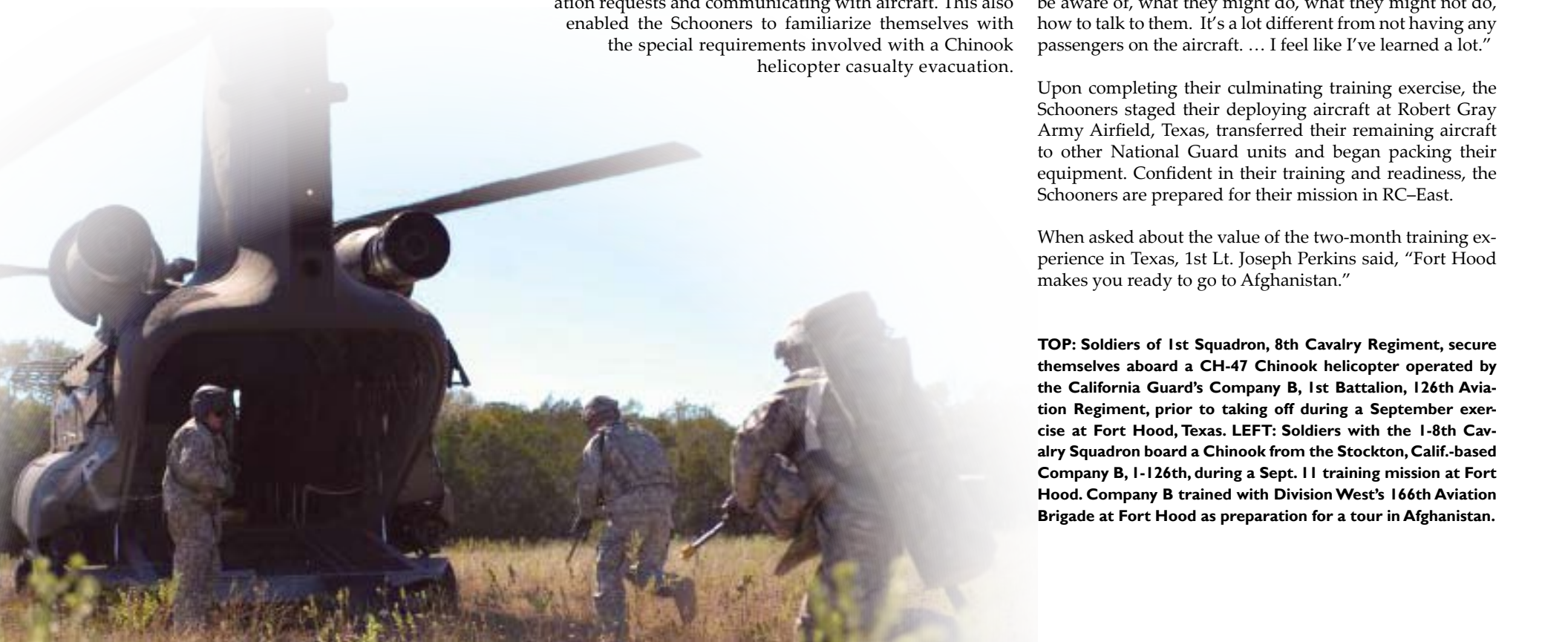
The Schooners continued their support of the 1-8th Cavalry Squadron, conducting internal and external load training with its Forward Support Company. They also again supported the 120th Infantry Brigade, conducting insertions and extractions for a key leader engagement conducted by the Iowa Army National Guard's 1034th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

"This gets me a little bit more oriented," said Spc. Jesus Camacho, a crew chief with Company B, 1-126th. "I'm getting used to people jumping on and off the aircraft, what to be aware of, what they might do, what they might not do, how to talk to them. It's a lot different from not having any passengers on the aircraft. ... I feel like I've learned a lot."

Upon completing their culminating training exercise, the Schooners staged their deploying aircraft at Robert Gray Army Airfield, Texas, transferred their remaining aircraft to other National Guard units and began packing their equipment. Confident in their training and readiness, the Schooners are prepared for their mission in RC-East.

When asked about the value of the two-month training experience in Texas, 1st Lt. Joseph Perkins said, "Fort Hood makes you ready to go to Afghanistan."

TOP: Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, secure themselves aboard a CH-47 Chinook helicopter operated by the California Guard's Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, prior to taking off during a September exercise at Fort Hood, Texas. LEFT: Soldiers with the 1-8th Cavalry Squadron board a Chinook from the Stockton, Calif.-based Company B, 1-126th, during a Sept. 11 training mission at Fort Hood. Company B trained with Division West's 166th Aviation Brigade at Fort Hood as preparation for a tour in Afghanistan.



CNG, Marines train in high altitude

By **1ST LT. CELMA GONZALEZ**
1st Battalion (Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment

Soldiers of the Cal Guard's 1st Battalion (Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment, based out of Los Alamitos, Calif., participated in a pre-mobilization exercise Oct. 13-14 with Marines and Airmen at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Pickel Meadow, Calif.

Crews from the 1-140th transported more than 200 Marines and 3,000 pounds of equipment over a variety of mountainous terrain and elevations. The exercise was conducted with an eye toward possible future deployments to Afghanistan or other mountainous areas.

"This joint training provided us with an opportunity to not only work with our sister branch but get great exposure to high-altitude flying with a fully loaded helicopter," said 1st Lt. Brian Calcagno, 1-140th liaison officer.

The 1-140th supported two Marine battalions during the exercise while using seven UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

"The 1-140th was invaluable to our mission and provided support that ensured Marines were adequately resupplied and tactically inserted to ensure mission success in a com-

plex, compartmentalized, high-altitude environment," said Capt. Jonathan "Butters" Geisler, air operations officer at the Mountain Warfare Training Center. "Job well done."

The high-tempo, combat-related training lent the Battalion the opportunity to prepare for real-world missions in a joint-service situation. Operating in the mountainous terrain was also excellent preparation for a high-altitude, cold weather environment such as the troops could experience in Afghanistan.

"Being new to the aviation world, flying up to the Marine Mountain Warfare Training Center was one of the coolest things I have done in my 14-year Army career," said Warrant Officer 1 Anthony Gannuscio, a pilot with the 1-140th. "It was an environment that I have not worked in before, and it was especially rewarding working with the Marines."

"Although it was a very harsh environment — especially for the Marines who had to brave the wilderness — the views of the mountains and surrounding environment were well worth the trip," he added.

The 1-140th is planning additional training missions at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center for the spring and summer of next year.



Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center
Pickel Meadow, California



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bryan Bartucci

MISSION: The MCMWTC is a premier Defense Department training center that integrates 62,000 acres of complex, mountainous terrain and high-altitude training between elevations of 7,000 and 11,000 feet to prepare Marine Corps, joint and allied forces for operations in various geographical landscapes and cold weather environments.

Mobile Field Force

Quick Reaction Force—South, LAPD prepare for urban operations

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS WADE H. SCOTT**
330th Military Police Company

On Nov. 4, members of the 330th Military Police Company, which currently serves as the California National Guard's Quick Reaction Force—South, conducted a day of training in mobile field force (MFF) techniques presented by the Los Angeles Police Department's elite Metropolitan Division.

The intensive 10-hour course was instructed by experienced professionals in a realistic urban setting for the Defense Support to Civil Authorities mission.

"The chances of municipal law enforcement and federal law enforcement commingling for ground operations in today's world are undeniably inevitable," said LAPD Officer Mary Davis, an assistant squad leader with the Metropolitan Division. "I'm hopeful today's training is just a foundation in what should be a multi-level phase of training, each building on the last."

"I am a firm believer that if you stay ready, you don't have to get ready," she added. "Nothing will be truer than that on the day we see the National Guard roll into our city again as a mutual aid asset."

The Quick Reaction Force is tasked with responding on short notice to assist local law enforcement agencies dealing with civil disturbances. The Force must train diligently to a high standard to ensure it can accomplish its mission, ensuring the safety of its members and the public.

The November training event included cutting-edge tactics, techniques and procedures in the use of skirmish lines, less-lethal weapons, vehicles, riot batons and shields, and MFF formations. It also incorporated lessons learned dur-



Photos by Spc. Alexander Rodriguez

TOP: Soldiers from the 330th Military Police Company's Quick Reaction Force—South train for urban civil-disturbance support with the Los Angeles Police Department Nov. 4 in Los Angeles. **ABOVE:** Members of the 330th MP Company learn basic baton skills Nov. 4.

ing 12 days of civil-disturbance and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive, or CBRNE, training the 330th received in August at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Ala.

"The LAPD Metropolitan Division put on some of the best crowd-control training the unit has ever received," said Capt. Andrew Hanson, commander of the 330th. "This is the group of police officers that the 330th MP Company would most likely be working with in the event of activation

to support riot-control operations in the L.A. area. Getting the 330th on the same page with their [tactics, techniques and procedures] strengthens our capability to integrate our forces with theirs and facilitate smoother operations.

"I hope to conduct future training with the LAPD Metro to continue the positive relationship we have begun to develop," he added.

Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, and his top enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr., were on hand to observe the training and witness the culmination of the event, a dynamic exercise in which the 330th was engaged by LAPD officers playing the roles of unruly protestors.

"It was certainly an honor to provide training to the 330th Military Police Company," said Capt. John Incontro, commander of the LAPD's Metropolitan Division. "I am hopeful that the relationship we build can open the doors for future training on both sides, as I'm positive there is much we can learn from each other."

The Quick Reaction Force's ability to operate in a Defense Support to Civil Authorities environment was enhanced greatly by the training event, 330th leadership said. Previously learned skills were refreshed and many new techniques were introduced, bringing the unit's capabilities to an all-time high, officers said.

Equally significant were the advancements in interoperability, cooperation and mutual understanding with the LAPD, according to 330th officials. The partnership with the LAPD is expected to be a critical force-multiplier if the organizations need to work together in the future to secure the welfare of Southern California citizens.

Disaster assistance program

Cal Guardsmen, civilian responders prepare for the next big quake

Story and photos by **SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA INIGO**
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

First the earth started shaking and then the land began to roll. An earthquake of great magnitude had hit the Northern California area, immediately inundating rescue workers. First responders handled who they could, but as the toll of casualties mounted, they had to call in the National Guard for support. Soon members of the California Air National Guard were flying toward the epicenter, ready to evacuate casualties and transport them to Southern California for care.

The Los Alamitos Army Airfield on Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, hosted the California National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron for this large-scale disaster scenario Nov. 15 along with personnel from the veterans hospitals of Long Beach and West Los Angeles, emergency medical technicians and nursing students from the Southern California region.

In total, more than 150 individuals from various community agencies participated in the exercise, which included the set-up and operation of a Federal Coordinating Center Command Center, air delivery of more than 80 patients, medical triage of those patients, and evacuation of the patients from the Joint Forces Training Base to local medical facilities via aircraft and ambulance.

The 146th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron out of Channel Islands Air National Guard Station trains continually to assist civilian authorities. With many Squadron members having real world experience in disasters such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and this year's "Superstorm" Sandy, training like the November exercise is essential to

the unit's mission, according to Senior Master Sgt. Sandra Walker, who helped coordinate the earthquake scenario during the six months prior to the exercise.

Walker explained that according to the California State Disaster Plan, her unit will receive a 12-hour alert and be the first on hand to assist civilian authorities. Then, 96 hours after the disaster strikes, the mission will be taken over by federal authorities. It is those crucial first hours after an earthquake that Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and their civilian counterparts trained for in Los Alamitos in November.

"Working together like this, it truly helps during real emergencies," said Jenny M. Gonzalez, an area emergency manager with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles. "We coordinate now, get to see what works and doesn't work. That way we're not trying to figure things out when it counts."

Flight medic Tech. Sgt. Angel De La Cruz of the 146th said his unit has performed five disaster-response exercises this year in five different states. "These are always great experiences," he said. "This time we have some experienced fliers and a couple of new fliers, so it's important that we work together now before an emergency happens."

"This exercise went very well," he continued. "There's a lot of participation from a lot of eager bodies and there was great communication between the military and civilian organizations."

During the exercise, the 146th used a "stretch" model of

the C-130-J Hercules airplane, which has a carrying load of just under 100 passengers, including an area for "walking wounded" and for casualties who remain on litters.

"It really makes all the difference, this type of training," said Walker, who was activated for both Katrina and Sandy and deployed to Iraq with the aeromedical evacuation mission. "As Guard members, our role is to protect our state and be prepared to meet the evacuation and disaster-readiness goals of our state, and then as military that is further extended to across the country during times of need."

During the exercise, civilian emergency medical technicians took their cues from military ramp control officials and boarded and exited the aircraft on Walker's command so traffic remained smooth.

The Los Alamitos Army Airfield is positioned to assist civilian authorities in times of emergency or disaster. It has the longest runway in Orange County, ensuring the base can handle large aircraft to support any type of mission.

The Joint Forces Training Base is also heavily involved in the joint reception, staging and onward integration, or JRSOI, of troops involved in Defense Support of Civilian Authorities. This includes hosting multiple exercises and missions both on the Airfield and in other Joint Forces Training Base training areas to ensure base personnel are prepared when a real disaster strikes.

146th Airlift Wing Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

MISSION: To deploy aeromedical evacuation crews that are highly trained and equipped to provide in-flight medical care aboard C-130 Hercules airplanes that are used to airlift patients, and to deploy highly trained aeromedical operations personnel to provide operational support and mission management at aerial ports supporting aeromedical evacuation operations.



LEFT: Julius Thompson, left, and Oziris Abdou of the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Hospital transfer a casualty from a C-130J airplane operated by the CNG's 146th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to a VA Hospital triage tent during an earthquake-response exercise Nov. 15 on Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos. **FAR LEFT:** Capt. Andrea Joy Esig of the 146th points out features of the C-130J during the Nov. 15 exercise.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Inigo

Foreign military attache officers take SoCal tour

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA INIGO**
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), Los Alamitos, hosted the Department of the Army Foreign Military Attache Corps from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, providing an orientation tour of the base to help U.S. Army International Affairs achieve its goals and objectives. The 50-person contingent from Washington, D.C., included attache officers from 18 foreign countries as well as many of their spouses, who stopped at JFTB as part of a larger tour of military facilities in California.

An orientation trip like this serves many purposes, according to JFTB leadership, including showcasing Cal Guard personnel, organizations, installations and readiness, as well as the capabilities of tenants on the base, including U.S. Army Reserve units. "There are so many gains from a visit like this," said JFTB Deputy Commander Lt. Col. William Mayhue, who led the tour. "Not all nations have a force similar to the National

Guard, so they're really interested in our state role and our larger federal mission that we support both in times of emergency and in peacetime. It helps reassure our friends and allies of the work we are doing."

Group visits also help ease the administrative burden on Army organizations and installations by reducing the number of individual visits, while at the same time highlighting to multiple countries the lessons learned from various state and federal missions.

The visitors' tour took them to the 40th Infantry Division headquarters; the Los Alamitos Army Airfield to see UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters; the Sunburst Youth ChalleNGe Academy to meet cadets in the Guard-funded program; the 9th Civil Support Team's various hazardous-material detection and decontamination stations; and the California Emergency Management Agency's Southern California headquarters. It also included a demonstration of the palletized load system run by the Army Re-

serve's 730th Transportation Company.

Sunburst Academy sparked significant interest among the guests, as most were unaware of the Guard's involvement in supporting America's youths. The CNG's two Youth ChalleNGe academies — including Grizzly Academy on Camp San Luis Obispo — support at-risk students in turning their lives around through a live-in, military-style academy.

During an extensive question-and-answer period with the attache officers, several cadets shared personal stories of how their lives have changed since receiving Sunburst's guidance. Brazilian Maj. Gen. Walter Braga Netto, vice dean of the Attache Corps, then presented a plaque to the highest-ranking cadet, and Maj. Gen. Leslie A. Purser, assistant deputy chief of staff, intelligence, for U.S. Army headquarters, presented a challenge coin to each of the cadets.

"Youth have problems everywhere, and it's

rare to see such attention provided by military forces in support of children who may or may not ever enter the military," said Spanish Col. Miguel Conde Lopez.

The trip also provided a chance for Army International Affairs to foster camaraderie with the attaches through a cultural tour outside JFTB that exposed participants to U.S. geography, history and culture. On the military side of the house, leadership said they were happy to take advantage of the visit to showcase their capabilities to a multicultural platform. "It's not every day that you get to demonstrate your abilities to an international audience like this, and they were impressed," said Maj. Gen. William Frink, commander of the Army Reserve's 79th Sustainment Support Command.

The JFTB visit included attache officers from Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, China, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

BG Crockett connects with 40th ID Korean War veterans

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA INIGO**
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

Telling old war stories with some brothers-in-arms has become a yearly tradition for about 200 Korean War veterans of the 40th Infantry Division. This year, the 40th ID Korean War Veterans Association met at the end of September in Phoenix for a four-day reunion banquet and welcomed 40th ID Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Sylvia Crockett as its guest speaker.

The Association boasts some 2,500 veterans on its mailing list, of which about 400 members pay \$25 annual dues to support sending out the newsletter and other pertinent information. Only about half of those paying members make it to the each reunion, however, as it is held in a different state every year.

"We get fewer every year, as you can understand. We're all in our 80s," said Brent Jett, chairman of the Association, who was called from active duty in the fall of 1952 to relieve the Guardsmen of the 40th ID at Heartbreak Ridge. He was then reassigned to the Division while in Korea. "However, we're still one of the largest reunions because we're a lot closer to each other."

The reunion is based around what Jett calls a "VIP lounge." The lounge offers a hosted bar to members and their spouses, and tables are set up to give them the space and comfort to catch up.

"We run an open bar, top shelf, where they can get whatever they want and sit down at tables and talk. Some 30 to 50 couples sit down and just talk about how they have been, or catch up with people they haven't seen in 55 years — and that happens all the time," Jett said. "And we don't drink that much — we're old. We talk. That's the thing about reunions; we're here to see each other."

During the war, the majority of the Division's members



Photo courtesy of Brent Jett

Staff Sgt. Charles McCormick, a 40th Infantry Division veteran, and Patti Skifstrom, wife of veteran Master Sgt. Ed Skifstrom, enjoy the annual 40th ID Korean War Veterans Association reunion banquet in September in Phoenix.

lived in Southern California, Jett said. Now about 400 members live in the Southern California area. Jett is from Northern California but later moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he resides now.

During the Korean War, about 50 percent of the Division's members were California National Guardsmen, and the other 50 percent were California-based active duty Soldiers who were attached to the unit like Jett. Now this hodgepodge of active duty and Guard troops from that time remains linked together through blood, sweat and tears. "There's something different once you've been to war with a guy," Jett said. "I can't explain it; if you've been in combat with a guy, it's really something different."

He added that the annual reunion remains strong for two reasons: the good communication maintained by the Association and the ability to see an old comrade once a year.

That sense of camaraderie is just as important to current 40th ID leadership as it is to the Association. Each year, the association sends an invitation to the Division's leadership to join the reunion, but this year the 40th ID beat the Association to the punch and asked to send the general to the event.

Crockett, who also serves as the California Military Department's director of strategic communications, had planned to speak about the sacrifices and the commitment these Korean War vets had made, but once she gained some face-time with them, she felt compelled to modify her words. "What a bunch of very, very noble men," she said.

"Once I spent a couple of days with them, I had to change it up. I opened with how truly selfless these men are. Never once did I hear the word 'I' when they would speak of the unit," Crockett explained, adding that each Soldier's stories would always point to the outstanding attributes of others within the unit. "What we talk about today with Warrior Ethos and being a member of a team, they really captured it."

During a phone interview regarding her visit, Jett laughed, saying, "The first thing I noticed was that she was a female and a general! ... Actually, the impression she made at the leadership party was great. She was so warm, had a lot of empathy, and she showed a lot of interest in us," Jett said. "The leadership bought in to her to the point where we wrote her a letter letting her know she was someone we really wanted to be associated with."

Members of the Korean War Veterans Association plan to meet with the general again very soon. Five members will fly to Korea, as they do each year, to present a scholarship check of \$500 from the Association to the Kapyong High School, which members of the 40th ID helped rebuild after it was destroyed during the war. Crockett will join the members during their February trip and offer an additional \$500 scholarship on behalf of the 40th ID.

Spc. Gabriela Campas of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team introduces a young family member to Santa Claus on Dec. 1 at the Kearny Mesa Readiness Center in San Diego.
Photo by 79th IBCT



Master Sgt. Michael Gatto of the California Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, left, Cpl. Zachary Snyder of Company C, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, and 1st Lt. Jason Ayres of the 340th Brigade Support Battalion send Christmas wishes from Forward Operating Base Warrior, Afghanistan.
Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Michael Gatto



Spc. Samuel Mancilla of the CNG's 756th Transportation Company and his godson, Julius Mitchell, 4, enjoy the custom-made Orange County Chopper motorcycle given to Mancilla by non-profit Operation Gratitude in Van Nuys, Calif., on Dec. 15, after he returned from Afghanistan, where he was attached to the CNG's 1072nd Transportation Company. Mancilla was injured in Afghanistan and therefore returned to California in November. As the 800,000th deployed service member to receive an Operation Gratitude care package, Mancilla also won a portable DVD player, a digital camera, a web camera and a weeklong vacation.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Inigo



TOP: Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Rosales of the University Children's Hospital on Dec. 14. Photo: Academy Class 10 are recognized for physical graduation ceremony at Cottonwood Church with military-style instruction during a five-mo

At a Glance



The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing delivers toys to patients at the Loma Linda hospital. Photo by Master Sgt. Julie Avey. Four graduates of Sunburst Youth Challenge graduate and for acting as role models to other cadets Dec. 10 during a ceremony in Los Alamitos, Calif. Sunburst provides dropouts and at-risk students with a month residential school program. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Inigo



Tech. Sgt. Michael Porter and Maj. Mary Lacy of the 129th Rescue Squadron administer first aid to Tech. Sgt. Sean Pellaton of the 129th during a Dec. 13 downed aircraft exercise with Marines at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi



Sgt. Daniel Mast of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade treats a victim role-player following a simulated UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crash Nov. 15 during an exercise with members of the Sutter Roseville Medical Center in Roseville, Calif. The exercise called for a Black Hawk crew to conduct a simulated forced landing while transporting patients to Sutter, further injuring the patients and wounding members of the crew. The CNG aviators then assisted Medical Center personnel with lifesaving techniques, immediate medical care and transferring patients to emergency rooms. Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler



A member of Company F, 40th Brigade Support Battalion, takes aim with a .50-caliber M2 machine gun while training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in November. Photo by 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment.

VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2012 · Honoring All Who Served



By **MASTER SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER**
California Military Department Public Affairs

Members of the California National Guard took part in numerous events throughout the Golden State on Veterans Day, providing speakers, bands, flyovers, vehicles, and Soldiers and Airmen to honor our nation's patriots.

The 59th Army Band played music, Maj. Jonathan Shiroma spoke about the holiday's history and significance, and the 129th Rescue Wing provided a flyover by an MC-130P Combat Shadow plane and crew at the seventh annual Veterans Day ceremony hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Northern California Health Care System, the city of Rancho Cordova and AlphaGraphics at the Sacramento Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

"This an opportunity for a non-vet to recognize the people that keep me free and allow me and my family to just live," said Richard Adams, an engineer who manages the maintenance and operations department for the Sacramento VA Hospital.

"As a Veteran, I hold [Veterans Day] close to my heart," said Stacy Delaney, an administrative assistant in the Rancho Cordova city manager's office. "I think for the

city of Rancho Cordova as a whole, they've embraced the long heritage of military service ... so it's important for the community to recognize the service of all Veterans."

National Guardsmen also took part in the city of Folsom's Veterans Day parade, where Spc. Andre Burnett of the 649th Engineer Company, who is a graduate of Folsom High School, held the American flag at the front of the parade.

"It's an honor for me to serve the Soldiers I served with in Afghanistan and a blessing to get the support that the veterans, past and present, are getting from the community today," Burnett said. "It's an awesome experience and an honor to represent veterans of the California Army National Guard."

A variety of CNG assets rolled down the parade course as onlookers waved in Folsom.

"This is my hometown. It's a tight-knit community with many active veterans groups that value and take pride in its veterans," said retired Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, former commander for the California Army National Guard. "With the level of selfless service our troops give, it can be lonely for them. To have the community recognize and encourage them means a tremendous amount."



Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler

Cal Guardsmen and members of their families prepare to hold a giant U.S. flag on the field at Candlestick Park as part of the San Francisco 49ers pre-game ceremony on Veterans Day.

In addition, more than 100 California Guardsmen unfurled a flag that covered nearly the entirety of the football field at Candlestick Park during the pre-game ceremony for the San Francisco 49ers' Veterans Day game.



TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM LEFT: Long Beach residents salute to Soldiers of the 224th Sustainment Brigade and wave American flags during the Long Beach Veterans Day Parade. **Photos by Sgt. Glen Baker** **TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM RIGHT:** Vehicles and Soldiers from the 649th Engineer Company roll down the streets of Folsom during the city's Veterans Day parade. **Photos by Spc. (CA) Janet Barbieri** **BOTTOM MIDDLE LEFT AND RIGHT:** Maj. Jonathan Shiroma provides remarks and the 59th Army Band plays music during the Veterans Day celebration at the Sacramento Veterans Affairs Medical Center. **Photos by Staff Sgt. (CA) Jessica Cooper**



Pacific pick-up

Bay Area Airmen rescue injured Filipino sailor

By **CAPT. DONNIE LEBLANC**
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Air National Guardsmen from the 129th Rescue Wing successfully completed a complex, overwater rescue of an injured sailor from a Marshall Islands-flagged merchant vessel about 300 miles west of the Mexico coast Nov. 29.

The 129th Rescue Wing received a call from the U.S. Coast Guard on Nov. 26 concerning an injured crew member aboard the cargo vessel Cary Rickmers. The ship's hand had suffered a serious head injury that required treatment beyond the capabilities of the vessel's medical staff. Due to the vessel's remote location in the Pacific Ocean and the immediate need for medical care, the 129th accepted the mission.

An HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopter and an MC-130P Combat Shadow refueling plane from the Wing flew to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, then to the merchant vessel's location in the Pacific Ocean. Pararescuemen were lowered via hoist from the Pave

Hawk to the Cary Rickmers, where they prepared the patient to be hoisted up to the helicopter.

The patient was treated aboard the helicopter during its two-hour flight to Cabo San Lucas, where he was loaded onto the MC-130P and flown to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar near San Diego. He was subsequently transported via ambulance to a local trauma center.

Two 129th Airmen who speak Filipino were included in the mission to serve as translators for the non-English-speaking crew of the Cary Rickmers and to translate for the patient, facilitating his medical care throughout the rescue process.

"This was a complex rescue mission, but our Airmen were up for the task," said Col. Steven J. Butow, 129th Rescue Wing commander. "This is the third successful long-range, overwater mission we have executed within the past nine months. Saving lives beyond the capability of others is what we do best."

The Wing has saved 957 lives in both combat and non-combat situations since being entrusted with its search-and-rescue mission in 1975.



Photos by 131st Rescue Squadron



ABOVE: A pararescueman from the 131st Rescue Squadron hoists down to a merchant vessel to rescue an injured sailor 300 miles southwest of the Mexico coast Nov. 29. **LEFT:** Pararescuemen transfer the patient to an MC-130P Combat Shadow plane at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar near San Diego.

Tech systems speak same language through GINA

By **KENNETH STEWART**
Naval Postgraduate School

When men and women go into combat they accept a level of risk that is hard for people outside the profession of arms to comprehend. Still, there is one call that causes even the most seasoned veterans sleepless nights: DUSTWUN.

DUSTWUN, or duty status whereabouts unknown, is every commander's nightmare, but for the men and women of the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing, the DUSTWUN report is not just a bad dream. It's a reality for which they train, prepare and innovate on a daily basis.

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) researchers, military commanders and service members recently came together during a 129th personnel-recovery exercise during which participants evaluated what Dr. Thomas Anderson of the Cold Regions Engineering and Research Laboratory calls "the premiere disruptive technology of the decade." It's a technology with countless applications, and is one that Anderson and his colleagues believe will make the 129th's rescue capability infinitely more efficient.

Anderson is working with the U.S. Army's Training and Doctrine Command Analysis Center at NPS to develop "information models" within the Global Information Network Architecture, also known as GINA. GINA is "a system of systems modeling environment," he said: a digital landscape wherein multiple applications, users and components are able to interact.

That may sound like meaningless tech-speak to some, but for the men and women of the 129th, it means their rescue helicopters are able to "speak" to planes; decision makers in tactical operations centers can look through the helmet-cameras of rescuers on the ground; and rescuers can share information, intelligence and information

"What is significant about what we are doing at this event is that we are pushing the tactical envelope. Advancements in effects-based operations at this op tempo will contribute greatly to the spectrum of the warfighter and rescue community."

—**Dave Tinsley**

Engineering and Research Development Center



Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, center, watches as Dave Tinsley of the Engineering and Research Development Center points out the ability of Global Information Network Architecture, or GINA, to coordinate disparate information feeds into a single operational picture during the 129th Rescue Wing-hosted exercise Soaring Angel at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., in October.

Photo by Kenneth Stewart

feeds from a host of disparate technologies and agencies.

"The problem with all of these different systems is that they speak different languages," said Ryan Hale, an NPS network engineer. "GINA is built to understand all of the various data inputs or 'languages' and then creates links and relationships."

The 129th recently put GINA to the test at Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., during exercise "Soaring Angel." Wing Commander Col. Steven Butow and Vice Commander Col. Jeff Magram had learned about GINA while studying at NPS.

In addition to Soaring Angel, they are sup-

porting several other initiatives involving GINA, including an interagency emergency response collaboration in Silicon Valley and an intelligence and information data-fusion effort with federal, state and local authorities working with the California National Guard's Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug.

"[The Soaring Angel Exercise] is simulating timely responses to encounters with insurgents [in Eastern Afghanistan] and is focused on the recovery of wounded personnel," said Soaring Angel planner Lt. Col. Jason Funk of the 129th. "We have to be able to get out there, get them packaged and get them to medical personnel within the 'golden hour' where lifesaving mea-

asures are more likely to succeed."

This kind of timely, multifaceted response is critical to 129th operations. It allows rescuers to "control their domain" in areas where control has broken down and chaos threatens operations. "We are able to turn GINA into a massive mission critical database with the ability to access information much faster than separate stove-piped systems," Magram said.

The ramifications of the GINA environment also go much further. "Techniques such as game theory can be incorporated into GINA models in order to establish a Nash Equilibrium, or optimal course of action, for everything from enemy actions to mission success and morale," said Dave Tinsley, an Engineering and Research Development Center partner embedded with the 129th. "What is significant about what we are doing at this event is that we are pushing the tactical envelope. Advancements in effects-based operations at this op tempo will contribute greatly to the spectrum of the warfighter and rescue community."

These enhanced abilities are critical to organizations like the 129th that rely upon disparate technologies and their associated hardware and software to conduct rescue operations during complex domestic catastrophes and in combat theaters. "GINA enhances the cognitive toolset for the decision maker," Magram said. "It allows us to focus on what's important, reconfigure quickly along with a developing mission, and be a more agile and capable combat and civil support organization" Magram said.

GINA is not a cure-all and is still evolving. But if fully utilized, it may very well revolutionize the way disparate technologies come together, enabling military innovators like those in the 129th Rescue Wing to bring our heroes home from battle and to protect those of us who stay behind.

Enhancing Readiness

40th Combat Aviation Brigade conducts essential Soldier training, seeks to partner with other units

By **STAFF SGT. TINA VILLALOBOS**
40th Combat Aviation Brigade

More than 460 Soldiers of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) participated in a multiple unit training assembly 8 (MUTA 8), Nov. 1-4, with troops simultaneously training at Camp Roberts and Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The CAB's Soldiers provided air assault support to Marines training at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, Calif., worked on weapons qualification, online training, driver training, rescue hoist training, VIP transports and air movement and signal training, incorporating the Standardized Integrated Command Post System. The Brigade's work significantly improved its state readiness levels, said Command Sgt. Maj. Bryon Robinson, the CAB's top enlisted member.

"I am so pleased with what we accomplished over the drill," said Col. Laura Yeager, 40th CAB commander. "All of the units came and accomplished their individual weapons qualifications and got caught up on the annual training requirements for suicide prevention, sexual harassment prevention and [Army Physical Fitness Test]. Some hoist training was also accomplished, among other things."

The Brigade, which served in Iraq from March through November of last year, is working toward achieving a higher level of training by incorporating its Iraq experience in order to surpass routine qualifications and make its troops the best aviation unit in the country.

"Usually, the hardest thing during a MUTA 8 is to keep Soldiers busy; but leaders with a proper plan can accomplish a lot in four days," Robinson said. "We look to train hard and use our realistic experiences to improve our readiness and accomplish our goals."

During the Brigade's deployment to Iraq, Soldiers gained hands-on experience and had to work together to achieve results. These Soldiers therefore recognize the importance and value of camaraderie and teamwork. Cohesiveness was obvious throughout the Brigade during the MUTA 8 and was particularly evident among two Soldiers working to qualify with their weapons.

Pfc. Stephanie Granillo, a human resources specialist, sought the help of her battle buddy, chaplain's assistant Staff Sgt. Donald Dow, during M-16 qualification. "When I first got there, I was nervous and a little hesitant about what to do, and he helped me out a lot," Granillo said. "It

had been a while since I had worked with the weapons. When I first started shooting, I was way off. He talked with me about trigger squeeze and how to hold the weapon. There are different kinds of leaders — there are the kind who tell you, and there are the kind that show you. He showed me, and I like that best.

"I scored sharpshooter. I feel really good about that."

Dow said he enjoyed sharing his expertise with a junior troop. "I am coming to the end of my career, and it feels good to help a junior Soldier that may be just starting out," he said.

"If the Soldier sees you out there actually working alongside them, it gains their confidence in you as a leader. She actually did quite well qualifying. Whenever anyone can succeed after some advice you have given them, it feels good."

At Camp Roberts, Yeager talked to troops one-on-one and offered some on-the-spot mentoring to Spc. Rachel McDowell, a potential officer candidate in 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, 40th CAB.

"I really respect Colonel Yeager as a leader and as a female role model," said McDowell, who holds a bachelor's degree in aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. "She gave me some pointers on which route would be best for me based upon her own experience and knowledge.

"I would like to see a commission before I turn 27," she continued. "I want to make a career out of this and become a helicopter pilot. I hope to one day retire as a general. Colonel Yeager gave me some great advice, and I am really looking forward to implementing it. ... She's a colonel — she obviously got there somehow!"

Soldiers throughout the Brigade valued the opportunity for more extensive training, and Yeager said she benefitted from the training as well.

"Yesterday was a great opportunity for me to get out and see the Soldiers from A Company, 3-140th," she said. "They brought their LUH helicopters out, and they were doing live hoist training. So I had the opportunity to go out and experience a live hoist on that aircraft. I learned a lot about what the crew chiefs and the medics do in combat and here in the States to rescue personnel on the ground."

"I am a pilot, and my experience has always been from inside the cockpit," she continued. "I never really understood how challenging it was for the medics on the ground, taking care of patients with the wind, dust and noise. ... They're so competent at what they do. I felt very comfortable and safe the whole time being lowered 70 feet from the aircraft to the ground and back up again."

Troops from the 40th CAB train extensively to prepare for any mission that comes their way. The Brigade's training provides many opportunities to work with other units throughout the state in joint training exercises as well as engaging individual Soldiers as appropriate.

"We do quite a bit of training in between drills and in addition to annual training," Yeager said. "I would like to work with other units to get Soldiers on board aircraft as much as possible."

Units seeking opportunities to train with the 40th CAB should contact Maj. Dan Anderson at 916-854-1400.



TOP: Col. Laura Yeager, commander of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, is lowered from a UH-72 Lakota helicopter during a training assembly at Camp Roberts, Calif., in November. **ABOVE:** Pfc. Stephanie Granillo, a human resources specialist, works with Staff Sgt. Donald Dow, a chaplain's assistant, during M-16 rifle qualification at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., in November.

Meet the iconic warrior down the hall

By **1ST LT. JASON SWEENEY**
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The black-and-white poster on Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Cano's cubicle wall depicts a determined paratrooper from the 82nd Airborne Division carrying an M-60 machine gun at the ready, 7.62 mm rounds slung over his shoulder.

"He's doing the Rambo thing," Cano said of the young sergeant in the poster. Cano, an Army logistics officer at Joint Forces Headquarters in Sacramento, has kept the poster since the early 1980s when he was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. "It's motivational," he said. "It's all about motivation."

One day last year, Cano's boss, Col. Saul Rangel, paid a visit to Col. David Shaw, who at the time was the chief of staff of the California Army National Guard. Rangel entered Shaw's office and saw a larger version of the same poster on the wall. Rangel was familiar with the poster because years back he had hung the image on the wall of the armory he was assigned to in National City in San Diego County. It was an iconic image that he had seen in various places during his Army career.

When he was in Shaw's office, Rangel noticed for the first time that the name of the young paratrooper in the poster was Sgt. D. Shaw. Rangel looked at the chief of staff and asked, "Is that you?" Sure enough, Shaw answered yes.

"I walked back to Mr. Cano and I said, 'You know who that guy is?' That's our chief of staff. Let's go meet him." Rangel said he enjoyed watching Cano's eyes light up upon the realization that the paratrooper in the poster he had kept for most of his career worked just a few doors down from his office.

The poster dates to 1978, the year Shaw was named Paratrooper of the Year for the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade. The Division's public affairs shop asked

him to pose for a photo one day, so he came in from the field, put on a fresh uniform, drew an M-60 and posed for the shot behind Fort Bragg's Airborne and Special Operations Museum.

"I didn't think much of it at the time," he said.

When the photo was taken, Shaw had only 90 days left in his enlistment and was moving back to California to go to college. But the poster caught on and was soon gracing the walls of Army posts around the world. It appeared in Soldier of Fortune magazine and even on the wall of Tom Cruise's room in the movie "Taps."

Back in California, Shaw earned a commission through ROTC at Sacramento State University and joined the Army Reserve. He then earned a law degree and worked for the state as an attorney in various capacities while continuing to serve in the Reserve. He switched from the Reserve to the California Army National Guard in 2009 and was named chief of staff in 2010.

Over the course of Shaw's Army career, the poster has popped up nearly everywhere he's been. Soldiers have often been excited to learn that he is Sgt. Shaw and have even asked him to sign their copy. The iconic image is not as common as it used to be, but it still turns up every now and then, he said.

In December, Shaw took down his poster from his office wall and boxed it up in bubble wrap. It will stay in his garage while he's deployed to Afghanistan in 2013. Shaw plans to retire when he returns from Afghanistan and said the poster will probably hang on a wall at home with other Army mementos.

"I used to tell people at Fort Bragg that this was my face, but it represented every one of those paratroopers," he said.

Cano, who keeps the poster as a reminder of his time as a paratrooper as well as a source of motivation, said he never thought he would get to meet the real Sgt. Shaw. "It's a small world."



Photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler

Wings, Wheels and Rotors invade Los Alamitos

Exposition raises funds for base's morale, welfare and recreation program

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA INIGO**
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

The 11th annual Wings, Wheels and Rotors Exposition on Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), Los Alamitos, drew more than 50,000 people Oct. 28 and ended with a hefty gift to the Base.

The annual event began in 2000 with only Mustang cars but has since grown to include a variety of aircraft, all types of classic and souped-up vehicles and motorcycles, various displays from both the military and civilian side of the house at JFTB, and a large exposition area with booths selling everything from artwork to home services. The JFTB Training Site Detachment hosts the event each year in partnership with the Los Alamitos Chamber of Commerce.



For more, scan this QR code

"Every year, it continues to get bigger," said Dean Grose, chairman of the JFTB Regional Military Affairs Committee, which founded the event with retired Lt. Col. Tom Lasser of the California Military Department Governmental Affairs Office.

In addition to the size of the event, which is held on the Los Alamitos Army Airfield, the benefits to the California National Guard and its members continue to grow. Af-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Inigo

Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy cadets check out some of the California National Guard's vehicles Oct. 11 during the Wings, Wheels and Rotors Exposition at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos.

ter tallying the proceeds from the Expo, the Los Alamitos Chamber of Commerce presented a \$19,000 check to Base leadership for the JFTB morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) program.

"On behalf of the men and women in uniform of the Joint Forces Training Base, I sincerely thank the city of Los Alamitos, the city Chamber of Commerce, and all of the volunteers for their unwavering support throughout the years," said Kathleen Banta, JFTB's non-appropriated funds general manager, as she accepted the check along with base leadership during the Los Alamitos State of the City luncheon Nov. 27.

The Base Advisory Council will vote to determine how the money will be used to improve MWR facilities, Banta said. In the past, funds from the Expo have been used to support the annual Thanksgiving appreciation luncheon, upgrade gym equipment and provide tables and chairs for use during meals at the MWR facility.

"All the different service men and women of the installation benefit from these funds, as it goes directly back to them through MWR," said Base Commander Lt. Col. Susan Russell. "All those involved in supporting this annual event are recognized and appreciated for their efforts. Their hard work and efforts are valued."

During the past three years, the Wings, Wheels and Rotors Expo has generated more than \$60,000 for the Base's MWR fund, Grose said.

For more about the Exposition, visit www.wwrexpo.net.

144th FW welcomes Garrison as commander

Col. Clay L. Garrison has been named the next commander of the California Air National Guard's 144th Fighter Wing. He will assume command Jan. 5, succeeding Col. Sami Said, who is scheduled to deploy shortly after relinquishing command.

Garrison is a 1988 graduate of the Air Force Academy. After completing pilot training and qualifying in the F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jet, he completed a variety of active duty assignments, culminating as the F-16 operations officer at the Air Force Weapons School.

Garrison joined the Fresno-based 144th Fighter Wing in 2002 and was initially assigned as an instructor pilot as well as the Wing's weapons officer. He subsequently served as the Wing's plans officer, then commander of the 144th Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron and commander of the 144th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group before moving into his current role as vice commander of the 144th Fighter Wing.

Said, who has served as commander of the 144th Fighter Wing since May 14, 2011, has had a very successful tour as commander, said Brig. Gen. Jon Kelk, commander of the California Air National Guard.

"I thank [Said] for his tireless and dedicated service to the Airmen of the 144th Fighter Wing," Kelk wrote in a memo announcing the planned change of command. "Colonel Garrison is a proven, energetic senior officer and well-prepared to lead the Wing forward. His 'mission first, people always' approach will undoubtedly benefit the 144th Fighter Wing and the California Air National Guard."

The Fresno-based Fighter Wing's mission is to provide air superiority worldwide and air defense protection for the Western United States utilizing the F-16C Fighting Falcon aircraft. The 144th also supports state missions with reconnaissance assets, security forces, medical personnel, civil engineers and other capabilities.



Col. Clay Garrison is the new commander of the Fresno-based 144th Fighter Wing.

Wade retires after 38 years

By STAFF SGT. SALLI CURCHIN
40th Infantry Division

The California Military Department family comprises more than 22,000 members of the National Guard and State Military Reserve, but it also includes vital state civil servants like the Department's Debbie Wade, who retired Nov. 9 from her job as comptroller, concluding 38 years of loyal service.

The Military Department has long been family for the Wades, whose tradition of service started with Debbie's grandmother, who worked for the Department for 12 years, followed by 31 years of service from Debbie's mother. In all, nine members of the Wade family have served in the Military Department over the years.

"The years have been good, and it's truly been family to me," Debbie said. "I am emotional about leaving after 38 years. ... I've been raised and mentored by a lot of folks that are now retired, and I've subsequently done the same to mentor others."

Only 18 when she started as a cashier for the Military Department, Wade originally planned to work only one year, then return to college full-time. But she found a home in the Military Department and never left, progressing to accounting officer, then supervisor of accounting, deputy budget officer and budget officer before finally being appointed comptroller — the top supervisor of accounting and financial reporting for the Department.

Wade was the first civilian and the first woman to fill the role of comptroller.

"Debbie Wade has been a cornerstone of the Comptroller's Office for over 30 years, providing support to the Soldiers, Airmen and civilians of the Department," said Lt. Col. Ronald Vestmen, the current comptroller. "Her knowledge and keen understanding of the Department is invaluable and can't be replaced. She will be missed by all."

Wade has played an important role in supporting the state's Guard members through crises such as earthquakes, riots



Photo by 1st Lt. Jan Bender

Debbie Wade, who retired last month after 38 years of service to the California Military Department, was the first female and the first civilian to fill the role of comptroller for the Department.

and fires; has overseen many changes and improvements to the Guard's accounting practices; and has served under 11 adjutants general, including current adjutant general Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, whose relationship with Wade dates back two decades.

"Debbie Wade has been a constant at Joint Force Headquarters for as long as I can remember. She has served her state admirably, and I know the California National Guard has benefitted from her exceptional work ethic, drive and expertise," Baldwin said.

"Nearly as important, her smiling face and warm personality have contributed to an environment that makes this Department more than just a place people come to work, but one where continued service and strong relationships are the norm."

Though her full-time service has come to a close, Wade continues to support the military as the president of the California Sergeants Major Association Auxiliary, and she is actively involved with the California State Military Museum.

"This agency has a unique culture ... [and] is the best state agency to work for," Wade said of the Military Department. "I have known many that have left to work for other agencies but have returned."

Fighting sexual assault Meet the new California National Guard SARC

By JENNIFER LUCERO
CNG Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

Although I retired from the Air Force in 2007 after 22 years of active duty service, I didn't go far. I was hired as the Family Advocacy Program assistant at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., and then became the assistant sexual assault response coordinator, or assistant SARC, on the Base for the past two years.

I have now taken over as the SARC for the California Guard, and I am excited about this new challenge and am looking forward to getting to know some of the Guard's patriotic service members and learning more about the National Guard culture.

I am taking over this position at a time when the subject of sexual assault in the military is making headlines. On Nov. 2, a New York Times headline read, "Military has not solved problem of sexual assault, women say." On the same day, The Oregonian ran an article titled, "Sexual assault in the military: The issue that won't go away." Sexual misconduct was described in this article as a "plague" that the military has not eradicated.

These headlines are damaging to the reputation of the military, but even worse, sexual misconduct degrades mission-readiness and destroys the trust and morale of an organization. Our immediate challenge is to change the culture to ensure sexual misconduct is not tolerated — and everyone can make a difference by being an active bystander.

Bystander intervention provides an opportunity for Airmen and Soldiers to address inappropriate behaviors BEFORE sexual violence is perpetrated. If you witness inappropriate behavior, intervene. Directly con-



Jennifer Lucero served 22 years in the Air Force before becoming the CNG's sexual assault response coordinator.

front the offender, alert friends to help, cause a distraction or report it to a supervisor.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." I'm sure we can all agree that sexual assault matters. Would you be silent if someone was making inappropriate comments to one of your family members? What if someone was taking advantage of your intoxicated sister or daughter?

Since my arrival at CNG Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, I have been told several times that the California National Guard is a family. We must recognize that sexual assault does not only impact the victim: It devastates the victim's entire family.

Let's work together and take care of our National Guard family members.



Jennifer Lucero

CNG Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

916-869-0787

www.calguard.ca.gov/j1/pages/SAPRP

TOLL-FREE SEXUAL ASSAULT HELPLINE: 855-225-7277

State civil service jobs provide excellent job security, benefits, retirement plans and advancement opportunities. The state can't keep up with the number of retiring baby boomers, so a great job may be waiting for you at <http://jobs.ca.gov>.

ANG faces strategic transition



Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin Preston

Brig. Gen. James Witham, deputy director of the Air National Guard, left, Brig. Gen. R. Scott Williams, Air National Guard (ANG) Readiness Center commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Denise M. Jelinski-Hall, the National Guard Bureau's senior enlisted leader, participate in a panel discussion Nov. 15 during the ANG Senior Leadership Conference in Leesburg, Va.

by SENIOR MASTER SGT. JERRY BYNUM

Air National Guard Public Affairs

The National Guard is entering a time of strategic transition, with the Department of Defense (DoD) shaping the force for the future in a fiscally constrained environment, Army Gen. Frank J. Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said during the two-day Air National Guard 2012 Senior Leadership Conference in Leesburg, Va. in November.

"We may need to combine programs and gain efficiencies," he said. "As we move forward with implementation of the new DoD strategic guidance, we must embrace new 'sunrise' mission opportunities as they become available. We must ensure our forces are ready and relevant for the challenges that face our nation today and into the future."

He added that, given our nation's fiscal constraints, there must be a proper balance between the active and the reserve components.

"As we plot the way ahead for the Air National Guard, we have to shift our strategy," said Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard. "We must recapitalize our resources and do what's right for our people, for the taxpayers and the total Air Force."

Wyatt hosted the event, which allowed senior leaders from all 50 states; Washington, D.C.; Guam; Puerto Rico; and the U.S. Virgin Islands to exchange ideas and provide input from the field on critical issues affecting the ANG's future.

"The Senior Leadership Conference ... is an opportunity to share information, but this comes at an especially critical time now because we are facing some severe financial constraints on the [Department of Defense] budget," he said.

The theme for this year's annual meeting was "ANG 2025 - Leading Tomorrow's Total Force."

"The most important message is our people are the real strength of the Air National Guard," Wyatt said. "If we take care of our people, if we train them properly, if we give them relevant missions into the future ... we'll be just fine as an Air National Guard."

AF leaders: Sexual assault must stop

Editor's note: Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley, Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy issued the following letter, signed by all three leaders, on Nov. 16.



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



Fellow Airmen:

There is only one way to say this ... there is no place for sexual assault in our Air Force. When it comes to combating this challenge, every Airman is either part of the solution or part of the problem. We must be united in our commitment to intervene when we see the potential for harm, to act affirmatively when we observe tolerance of sexist behavior and attitudes, and to provide victim care. The only way to stop sexual assault is for Airmen to take action

Our Total Air Force succeeds because of the professionalism and discipline of our Airmen. When a fellow Airman is sexually harassed or assaulted, it is devastating to the individual and the unit. It harms our friends and diminishes the bond among Airmen. It demoralizes families and communities and severely degrades our mission.

Sexual assault is a crime. Failure to act when any of us has the opportunity to prevent a potential assault or stop a cycle of unprofessional behavior is incompatible with our core values. Last year, over 600 Airmen reported being sexually assaulted. This year, we anticipate over 700 cases; but the actual number may be much higher because many victims do not report sexual assaults. A 2010 Gallup poll of our Airmen found that 19 percent of female Airmen and two percent of male Airmen were victims of sexual assault since joining the Air Force. More alarming is that most of these crimes were committed by fellow Airmen — Blue on Blue. This is unacceptable.

We must drive sexual assault from our ranks. You are a big part of the solution. Become personally involved. Recommit yourself to our core values. Be an advocate for professionalism and discipline. Let your fellow Airmen know you will not tolerate or support others who believe sexual assault is somehow acceptable — because it is not. Most importantly, if you are aware of sexual assault in your unit, report it.

Sexual assault has no place in our Air Force, yet it continues to degrade our mission and harm our Airmen. We need your help to firmly re-establish our culture of respect. We cherish our core values of Integrity, Service and Excellence. To ensure that all Airmen experience and benefit from those values, we must work together to eliminate sexual assault from our ranks. You must be part of the solution!

Michael B. Donley
Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

Mark A. Welsh III
Mark A. Welsh III
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

James A. Roy
James A. Roy
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

SecAF: Air Force must modernize inventory

Among the most difficult challenges facing the Air Force is the need to modernize its aging aircraft inventory as the nation's defense budget declines, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said Nov. 29 during the Aerospace and Defense Investor Conference in New York.

He specifically addressed the need for modernization among fighter, tanker, bomber and space platforms as well as investment in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

"New threats and technologies require new investments," he said. "The plans and resources available for modernization are not optimal, but we are making tough choices to keep them workable with the right priorities for the future."

Among those choices is readiness, which Donley stressed is one area in which the Air Force is not willing to take additional risk.

"We see readiness — in personnel, training and materiel dimensions — already frayed. We have made important efficiencies and we are programmed for more," he said. "There are few options for reducing the size of our forces and still being able to execute strategic guidance."

In line with Defense Department guidance, the Air Force has set a clear picture of its investment spending and priorities — priorities that the joint force and the American public depend on, Donley said. For example, the service's 10 largest investment programs

include four space systems that are critical for access to space, secure communications, missile warning systems, and navigation and timing.

"America's Air Force remains the most capable in the world, but modernization can't wait," Donley said. "These new threats and investment needs, like cyber and missile defense, are not theoretical possibilities for the future. They are here now."

Amidst the challenges and emerging requirements involved with modernizing the service, Donley stressed the importance of balancing effectiveness and efficiency, containing program requirements and costs, and continuing to be responsible stewards of taxpayer resources.

"America's Air Force remains the most capable in the world, but modernization can't wait. These new threats and investment needs, like cyber and missile defense, are not theoretical possibilities for the future. They are here now."



-Michael Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

Camp Bob: Time for an upgrade

By SENIOR AIRMAN JESSICA GREEN
California Military Department Public Affairs

Marking the end of an era, Camp Roberts, Calif., began a three-phase demolition project Dec. 10 by flattening the first of many World War II-era buildings at the California National Guard's leading training base. As part of the multimillion-dollar project, more than 600 buildings have been slated for demolition during the next few years.

"The post first opened to be one of the U.S. Army's major training installations where Soldiers trained for combat around the world," Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, the adjutant general of the Cal Guard, said Dec. 10. "We've since been using Camp Roberts as our premier training base here in California to prepare Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines of this generation to go fight the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Nestled between San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties in central California, the Camp began its mission as a training center in March 1941 during a surge in the number of forces training for WWII. Since the Guard took over Camp Roberts in the 1970s, troops have suffered through infrastructure setbacks and spent time in dilapidated buildings, Baldwin said. More than 200,000 man-days of skills training take place every year at Camp Roberts.

"They were originally built as temporary buildings in the '40s," said Col. (CA) Walter Goodwater, the facilities and engineering project manager for the CNG. "They were only supposed to last until about 1950."

Removing the uninhabitable structures will make way for new facilities and infrastructure to help the service members who come through Camp Roberts every year. "We've always had a vision of making this installation the premier training base for



The California National Guard launched a three-phase, \$12 million demolition project to remove more than 600 World War II-era buildings from Camp Roberts on Dec. 10.

National Guard Soldiers from around the country," Baldwin said.

The demolition is a sign of what is to come, opening the way for many improvements at Camp Roberts, said Alec Arago, district director for U.S. Rep. Sam Farr. "It really is a wonderful asset for not only the state of California but the nation as a whole," he added. "Just in the last two or three years, the transformation is a testament to [Camp Roberts' leadership] and the California National Guard."

Before demolition could begin, a special-purpose landfill was built on Camp Roberts to store all the tainted wood. Construction of the landfill began last year, and the site now occupies 85 acres on the post.

"We did a lot of testing, and we found that none of [the wood] is sustainable," said Col. Barbara Nuismer, Camp Roberts' garrison commander. "The lead-based paint used was thinned with gasoline and it's permeated the wood."

All the metal in the building and the concrete pads will be recycled, however. Once all materials and debris are removed, the sites

will be allowed to return to a natural state with the intent of enhancing the aesthetic and environmental appearance of the post.

The demolition is expected to cost \$12 million and be completed in three phases. Phase one will take down 251 buildings and cost an estimated \$4.2 million; phases two and three will knock down and clear the remaining 600 buildings at a cost of nearly \$8 million.

Other construction initiatives on the post are helping local businesses and creating jobs for Californians, Nuismer added. A new \$2 million dining facility built by a Santa Maria company will be completed this month, a \$12 million Combined Arms Collective Training Facility being built by a California-based company is set to be finished in June, and a \$4.6 million tactical unmanned aerial systems facility is expected to be completed next September. In addition, a \$14 million solar-energy facility was finished earlier this year by San Jose-based company Nanosolar.

"We are [also] working on upgrading our utilities on post. Just phase one is \$21 million, again awarded to a local company," Nuismer said. "That project will go through February of 2015. ... Other bases to follow."

Camp Roberts Est. 1941



Postcards of Camp Roberts, circa 1941. From top: A novelty photo arrangement, the post's main garrison, Company Street, Soldiers' living quarters and an empty mess hall. Photos courtesy of the State Military Museum.

Celebrating 376 years of service

National Guard traces its roots to militias of the Thirteen Colonies

Dec. 13 marked 376 years of service for the National Guard, an institution that pre-dates the U.S. Army and the creation of this country. Derived from the militias that defended the Thirteen Colonies, the National Guard has played a vital role in every military conflict in U.S. history, from defeating the British in the Revolutionary War to rooting out terrorists and establishing a stable government in Afghanistan.

The National Guard's Colonial militia heritage is also the origin of its unique dual mission, protecting each state during local emergencies and serving our country during foreign conflicts.

The Founding Fathers recognized the importance of our militias and divided power over those troops between the states and the federal government, a characteristic that continues today and

that makes the Guard's duties so special.

"Three hundred and seventy-six years ago, with musket in hand, the National Guard's citizen-Soldiers stood ready to protect what would go on to become the greatest nation of our time," Gen. Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said in a video message released online Dec. 13. "Today that same courage lives in each of you, the 460,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who continue to sacrifice overseas and here at home to ensure our freedom and safeguard our way of life."

The members of the California National Guard are proud to defend their country and eager to help their communities in the aftermath of natural or man-made disasters. So far this year, that has meant sending more than 1,500 Cal Guard Soldiers and Airmen to Afghanistan, Kosovo, Kuwait,

and more than 20 other foreign countries, while also responding to wildfires in California and Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast, and training for a wide variety of domestic missions, including those involving the threat of chemical or radiological attacks.

Throughout much of its history, the Guard has been a largely unseen force, working alongside its fellow citizens in communities across the country. But when a crisis hits or the call to arms is declared, the National Guard transforms, emerging from the population to serve as citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen.

"Much has changed since the First Muster



in 1636, but nearly four centuries later, the men and women of the National Guard are still protecting our neighbors from threats within our borders and around the globe," Maj. Gen. David Baldwin, the adjutant general of the California National Guard, wrote in a memo to his troops Dec. 13. "Thank you for continuing this storied tradition. Your commitment is a fitting tribute to the Soldiers and Airmen who served so admirably before you."



Spc. Sean Cowan of the 330th Military Police Company trains on urban civil-disturbance support with members of the Los Angeles Police Department Metropolitan Division on Nov. 4 in Los Angeles. Photo by Spc. Alexander Rodriguez

Kauffman named inspector general

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed Lt. Col. David Kauffman as the inspector general of the California Military Department in November. Kauffman's appointment to a four-year term does not require Senate confirmation.

Senate Bill 921, which was signed into law in September, established the new position. The inspector general acts independently from California National Guard leadership, ensuring whistleblowers can report improper activity without fear of retribution.

Kauffman has served with the California Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve for nearly 20 years, including tours in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. Among other positions, Kauffman has worked as staff counsel at Liberty Mutual Insurance and as a deputy district attorney for El Dorado County.

Airmen, Soldiers of the Year banquet

The California Air National Guard and the California Army National Guard will host a joint banquet Jan. 12 in Garden Grove to honor the 2013 Outstanding Airmen of the Year and the Soldier and noncommissioned officer winners of the California Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, which was held in September. The event will begin at 5 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort at 12021 Harbor Blvd. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 until Jan. 7 at www.calguard.ca.gov/CNGJointAwardsBanquet/default.htm.

Vet homelessness declining, HUD says

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that homelessness among veterans in the United States has fallen by 7.2 percent, or about 4,876 people, since 2011 and by 17.2 percent, or 12,990 people, since 2009. The report also indicated, however, that homelessness among vets is especially common in five California locations.

On a single night in January 2012, an estimated 62,619 vets were homeless, while 633,782 people were homeless in the U.S. overall. Los Angeles had more homeless vets — 6,371 — than any other geographic "continuum of care," accounting for more than 10 percent of homeless vets in the U.S. Among the 50 most-populated areas in the U.S., the city and county of San Diego had the third-most homeless vets, with 1,753, and San Francisco had the ninth-most, with 774. In the 338 continuums of care that are not among the 50 largest, California again had the area with the most homeless vets, with 869 in the Santa Ana/Anaheim/Orange County area. The Santa Rosa/Petaluma/Sonoma County area had the seventh-most, with 384. Overall, California accounted for 20.7 percent of the nation's homeless people that night. For more, visit www.hud.gov and search for "Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness."

Join the new CNG motocross team

Maj. Jon Dahl of the 147th Combat Communications Squadron, 162nd Combat Communications Group, is organizing a team of motocross riders to compete in the annual Glen Helen six-hour endurance race to be held in March in San Bernardino, Calif. Teams will consist of three riders and two bikes, with one bike remaining impounded at all times. No headlights are required.

If you are interested in joining the team, email jondahl777@gmail.com. For more on Glen Helen, visit www.glenhelen.com.

DID YOU KNOW...

a service member must be notified in a timely manner if he or she has been affected by a suspension of favorable personnel actions, or flagging?

Under Army Regulation 600-8-2, a flagging authority, unit commander or first line supervisor must counsel an active duty Soldier in writing within two working days upon initiation of any flag, unless notification would compromise an ongoing investigation. Soldiers who are not on active duty must be counseled before the conclusion of the first training period after the flag was initiated. The counseling should include reason for the flag, the actions required to remove the flag and any actions that are prohibited because of the flag. All flagged Soldiers should be provided a copy of Department of the Army Form 268 when the flag is initiated and when it is removed.

Air National Guard Commanders ensure an Airman is notified concerning any failure to meet Air Force standards, but the specific notification criteria differ depending on the personnel action category. For specific details, contact your manpower and personnel staff or force support squadron. Air Force Instruction 36-2907 specifies management of the Unfavorable Information File (UFI) Program for active duty members; however, this program is not applicable to the Air National Guard. The National Guard Bureau is considering implementation of an Air National Guard UFI Program.

CORRECTION: An article in the November issue misstated 1st Lt. Michael Meek's unit and position during his 2010-2011 Afghanistan tour. He was the officer in charge of operations for the 756th Transportation Company.



Public Affairs Directorate, California National Guard · 9800 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA 95827-3561



Pararescuemen and HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crew members from the 129th Rescue Wing prepare to conduct a personnel-recovery mission Oct. 11 during the Soaring Angel exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Soaring Angel, which was hosted by the 129th, was designed to test the wing's rapid deployment and rescue capabilities in a joint environment with active duty and reserve members of the Army and Air Force. Photo by Airman 1st Class John D. Pharr III

The Grizzly Newsmagazine

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Address/subscription: Current Guard members must make all changes through their unit. Retired Guard members, email GrizzlyMag.ngca@ng.army.mil.



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