

# GRIZZLY

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard

**The AT issue**



## Annual Training 2014

California Army National Guard conducts largest consolidated annual training exercise in more than a decade **page 5**

Camp Roberts heliport resurfaced under budget with low cost, eco-friendly "Rhino Snot" **page 16**

# Leadership Corner

## Annual training 2014 a big success

Major General David S. Baldwin



In June, nearly 5,000 Soldiers converged on Camp Roberts for what was our largest consolidated annual training since before the attacks on 9/11 thrust the California Guard into conflicts overseas. Aviators, infantrymen, medics, commanders, logisticians—Soldiers of every stripe came together for a highly coordinated, massive training that served to not only improve our combat effectiveness, but also our response to domestic emergencies here at home.

Amazingly, there was little discernible difference on the Camp Roberts main post, as these several thousand Soldiers took to the field rather than the comforts of garrison life. It was in the Central Coast backcountry that they slept, ate and trained amid the austere conditions under which all Soldiers must be ready to perform. They renewed their focus on those basic but indispensable soldiering skills, including marksmanship, land navigation, erecting a fully operational field headquarters and communication between personnel and units spread across the vast Camp Roberts countryside.

In short, they proved they could shoot, move and communicate, fundamental skills without which a soldier or unit is irrelevant to the fight.

Our Soldiers also made full use of one of our newest training assets, the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, or CACTF. Soldiers from across the 40th Infantry Division, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 40th Combat Aviation Brigade descended on the cutting-edge, highly realistic urban training site. In turn, hundreds of soldiers approached, maneuvered, assaulted and defended the CACTF structures, gaining unparalleled, force-on-force training.

***My gratitude to all the leaders and troops that made this year's annual training a huge success.***

- Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin  
The Adjutant General

In addition, the annual training granted us an opportunity to host an Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) tour day. Donning Kevlar helmets and additional "battle rattle," more than 70 employers, civic leaders and elected officials flew onto Camp Roberts aboard Cal Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopters to witness—and participate in—annual training. Prominent among them were U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney; Assemblymember Rudy Salas; Chief Ken Pimlott, director of CAL FIRE; and Carlos Ramos, chief information officer of the California Department of Technology. Because the Cal Guard is a community-based force, the tour further cemented the already positive relationship we have with our state's civic and business leaders.

Most Air Guard units conducted separate AT events at locations across the country this year; however, three Air units provided support for the consolidated AT at Camp Roberts.

At the start of the AT training period, the 146th Airlift Wing ran a joint reception, staging, onward movement and integration (JRSOI) process at Channel Islands Air National Guard Base in Port Hueneme. And on Camp Roberts, the 195th Weather Flight from Port Hueneme and the 210th Weather Flight from Riverside kept track of the heat.

The State Military Reserve (SMR) had a big role supporting this year's AT. The SMR provided Staff Judge Advocate personnel, ESGR tour day support, a small arms training team that assisted with marksmanship on the ranges, and chaplains who manned two unit ministry teams.

The magnitude and energy behind this year's annual training will not prove an exception. Already, Cal Guard planners and leaders are fleshing out next summer's training, with plans for including more Air Guard, State Military Reserve and Family Readiness units, as well personnel from our civilian emergency-response partner agencies.

Each of these components is essential to the Cal Guard's mission, and because we train as we fight, they should be intricately involved in our consolidated annual training. If we wait until the next Rim Fire, international conflict, or incident of civil unrest, we have failed at one of our core values: preparedness. And we will not fail. It is only through regular, large-scale training that we can expect to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of our neighbors at home and our nation when deployed overseas.

My gratitude to all the leaders and troops that made this year's annual training a huge success. Now let's turn our eyes to next summer and raise the standard even higher.



A Black Hawk helicopter from the California Army National Guard's Charlie Co., 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, flies alongside Utah National Guard AH-64 Apache helicopters during annual training June 6-21, 2014, on Camp Roberts, Calif. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Jared Jensen

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## Submissions

**Articles:**

- ★ Articles range from 350 to 2,000 words. All articles should 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 and feedback to:**

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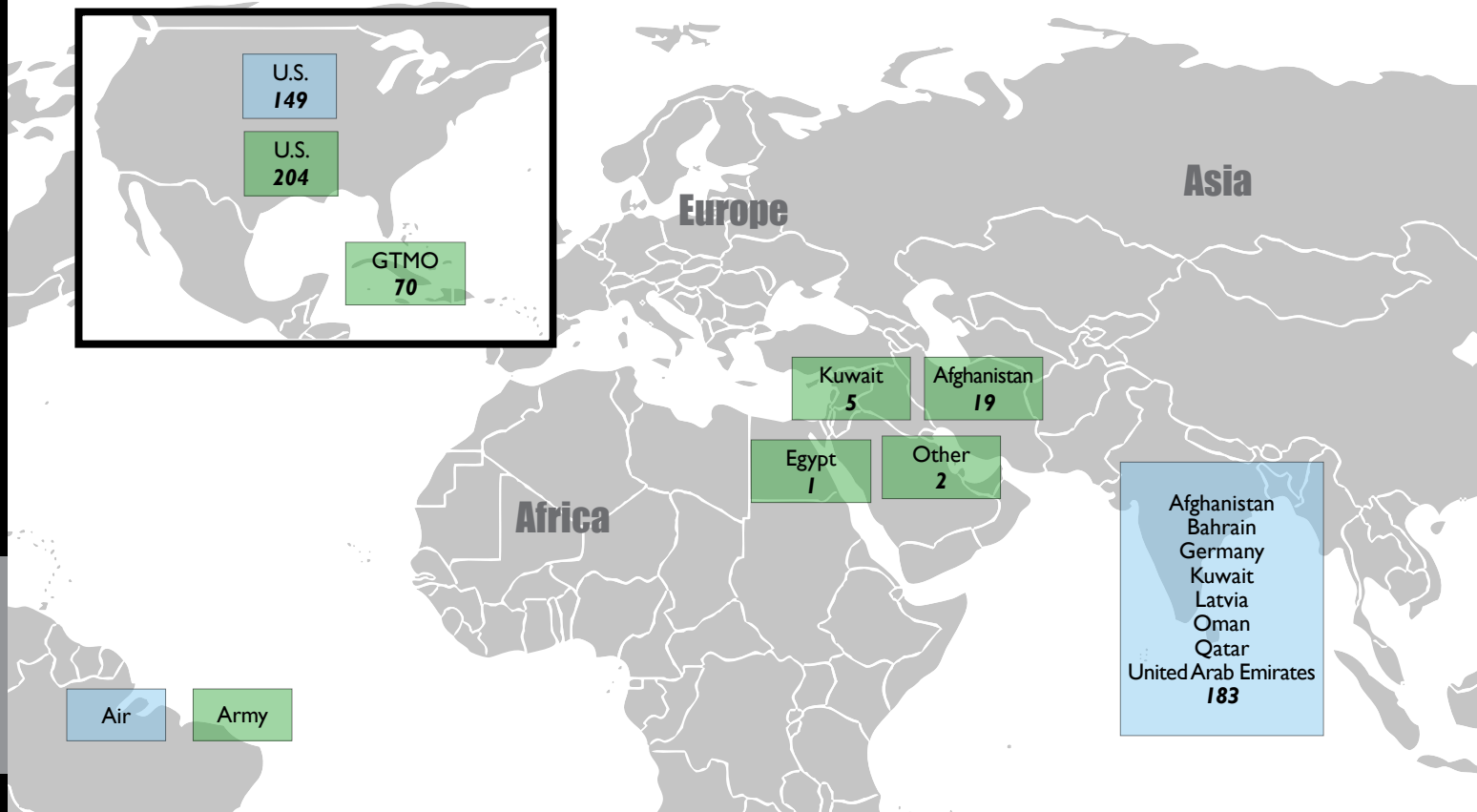
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## California National Guard mobilizations as of June 2014



Cover photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

Spc. Branden Olivera with Company A, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, and a Hanford, Calif., resident pulls security as the remainder of his squad clears a building on June 17 at the new Combined Arms Collective Training Facility on Camp Roberts, Calif.



# Big plane lands at small airport

An Air Force C-17 Globemaster from Travis Air Force Base touched down at Paso Robles Municipal airport demonstrating the ability to quickly move a large number of troops to Camp Roberts

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS BENJAMIN COSSEL**  
Los Angeles Regional Public Affairs

Nearly 18 months of training, planning and praying paid off in droves June 8 when a massive C-17 Globemaster from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., landed in the midday hours at Paso Robles Municipal Airport.

"This is the first time ever an aircraft this large has touched down at this airfield," explained Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Clark, Camp Roberts Aviation Officer.

With the historic landing, Camp Roberts moved one step closer to being the California National Guard's preeminent power projection platform. While the aircraft was empty, the landing validated the concept of moving a large number of troops in a short amount of time and landing them safely at Paso Robles airport, a small municipal airport some 15 miles from Camp Roberts.

Located in central California, traveling to Camp Roberts for the majority of California National Guard units involves long

hours behind the wheel in large convoys. Long convoy operations bring a whole host of problems for commanders, ranging from clogging the highway infrastructure to increased risk of accidents and breakdowns.

"What this brings to leaders of the Cal Guard is the ability to load nearly an entire battalion of Soldiers from anywhere in the state and get them quickly to Camp Roberts," Clark stated.

According to the manufacturer, Boeing, the C-17 is capable of carrying a 160,000-pound payload, or just a bit more than one M1/A2 Abrams main battle tank. More practical in the event of a state emergency, a C-17 can transport up to 26 Humvees.

In addition to moving Soldiers quickly, transporting Soldiers by air negates the need for long convoys clogging up the California roadways and gives commanders more of one of their most precious resources—time.



**A C-17 Globemaster sits on the Paso Robles Municipal Airport runway on June 8. The Travis Air Force-based aircraft, flown by Airmen from the 301st Airlift Squadron, 349 Air Mobility Wing, was the first of its kind to touch down at the airport. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel**

"If I can get those guys on that aircraft," Clark said as he pointed to the C-17, "commanders are using less of their time getting their units to Camp Roberts and more of it training or responding to a state emergency."

Before Clark and his team could witness the landing, the pilot said an intensive engineering study of the Paso Robles Airport was required. For that, Clark looked to his friends in the active U.S. Air Force, specifically the 301st Airlift Squadron out of Travis Air Force Base.

"The engineering study ended up benefiting both the California National

Guard and the city of Paso Robles," said Clark.

With no recent study of the airport's landing capabilities, Clark explained the city can now market their airfield to large aircraft.

"This is definitely an economic boon for the city," he said.

Increased mobility, economic boon and other practical matters aside, one employee of the airport, after witnessing the landing and taking a tour of the aircraft, descended the steps of the C-17 and noted, "Man! That was freaking cool!"

## Elementary school students tour Cal Guard Base

By **Col. (CA) Richard Lalor**  
California State Military Reserve

Kindergarten and first grade students from College View Elementary School in Huntington Beach, Calif., prepared for their Memorial Day weekend by experiencing an up-close-and-personal visit with the Soldiers of the California Army National Guard and Army Reserve when they toured Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) Los Alamitos and Los Alamitos Army Airfield on May 22-23.

Each day, 50 students plus teachers and chaperones began their tour at the JFTB Fire Department, where they learned about fire safety and viewed a variety of firefighting equipment utilized on the base and the airfield. They also had the opportunity to personally handle fire hoses and ask questions of first responders.

A visit to Los Alamitos Army Airfield followed, highlighted by tours of a National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and military vehicles utilized by personnel assigned to the base.

The young visitors were reminded of the California National Guard's motto—"Always Ready, Always There"—as four helicopters and flight crews had very recently been on alert to assist with San Diego County wildfires.

Tour guides included Maj. Aaron Schilleci, executive officer for 1st Battalion (Assault), 140th Aviation Regiment, of the California Army National Guard and Sgt. Maj. Wilson Franz of



**ABOVE LEFT: A Joint Forces Training Base Fire Department firefighter shows students from College View Elementary School a thing or two about fighting fires. ABOVE RIGHT: Maj. Aaron Schilleci briefs students on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Photos by Col. Richard Lalor**

the 11th Military Police Brigade, U.S. Army Reserve. Schilleci and Franz, who both have children who attend College View, were featured speakers at a school assembly earlier that week and talked about their military service.

"When Sergeant Major Franz and I arrived at the school for the assembly wearing our dress uniforms, they had flags flying and patriotic music playing," Schilleci said. "We talked

with the children about the importance of the military to our country, what it's like to be away from our families when deployed for long periods and what it is like to serve in combat. We wanted to humanize the military and those who serve... to let the kids know that we are real people and dads, too."

Lisa Banuelos, whose kindergarten class participated in the field trip, said her students will

write letters to Soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

"Our students have read and talked about the meaning of Memorial Day, but having fathers of their classmates who are real-life Soldiers speak at our assembly made a real connection," she said. "This was huge for them, and the kids were so respectful. Coming to the base really reinforced the message... It was an awesome experience."



# Cal Guard conducts largest training event in over a decade

By **CAPT. JASON SWEENEY**  
California Military Department Public Affairs

The heat. The dust. The booms from mortar rounds and bangalore torpedoes detonating in the distance.

From June 7 to 21, Camp Roberts was abuzz with activity as rotary-wing aircraft zoomed overhead, military vehicles rumbled over gravel roads and thousands of Soldiers trained on the camp's baking hills.

To be exact, 4,569 Guardsmen and 1,133 vehicles were on Camp Roberts on California's Central Coast, marking a return to large, pre-9/11 consolidated annual training events. This year's annual training exercise was California's biggest in over a decade.

On June 7, units mobilized at their armories up and down the state and began rolling onto the roadways in a massive logistical operation.

In the south, several hundred Soldiers assembled at Channel Islands Air National

Guard Base in Port Hueneme for a joint reception, staging, onward movement and integration (JRSOI) process run by the 146th Airlift Wing. The troops were in-processed, briefed on the mission and released for the convoy north to Camp Roberts. The process validated what would occur should there be a large-scale activation of Cal Guardsmen due to a natural disaster or other large-scale catastrophe.

Northern units headed straight for Camp Roberts where they were in-processed by the 115th Regional Support Group.

"We bring them in, we process them, we give them whatever they need as far as supplies, get them set up and we send them out into the field," 115th Regional Support Group Commander Col. Juanita Cobbs said. Cobbs was in charge of base support operations which sustained all the units on Camp Roberts for the duration of the exercise.

"This annual training period gave us an opportunity to provide support to the units in the field as well as in garrison on a larger

scale, requiring considerably more coordination due to the amount of moving pieces while simultaneously pushing supplies and fuel to various locations," she said.

Once situated, participating units began training on the skills required for both their state and federal missions. For the state mission, an exercise was conducted that simulated responding to a 7.9-magnitude earthquake. For the federal mission, a warfighting exercise was held which simulated repulsing an attack by a foreign nation on its neighbor.

Participating units this year included the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, the 579th Engineer Battalion, the 749th Combat Service Support Battalion, the 250th Military Intelligence Battalion and the 40th Infantry Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion.

The 115th RSG participated in the exercise but also had the real world mission of supporting the several thousand troops out in the field. More than 1,000 soldiers from the

115th kept the food, water and fuel flowing during the exercise.

"An event like this that is this large, the intensity of it—the logistics are intense," 115th RSG Executive Officer Lt. Col. Richard Rabe said. "It takes a lot of logistics to support what's going on with our guys out there."

Each unit practiced its mission essential task list during the two week period. Those tasks included everything from air assault training to a mass casualty exercise to breaching and demolition training. A host of weaponry was fired out on the ranges, from AT-4 shoulder-fired anti-tank rockets to 120mm mortars to small arms.

Cobbs said annual training this year was a preview of what's to come. Cal Guardsmen can expect annual training on Camp Roberts to be even bigger next year with the participation of two more brigades—the 49th Military Police Brigade and the 224th Sustainment Brigade, which were both away for Warfighter exercises in 2013.

# Gettin' some hang time

## The mortarmen of the 1-160th drop some bombs during AT at Camp Roberts

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS BENJAMIN COSSEL**  
40th Infantry Division Public Affairs

First you hear it ... twice.

Once when the round pops from the tube with a "thump" and then again, some 10 – 15 seconds later - when the "BOOM" crashes down on the target.

Then you feel it.

You can almost feel the rolling shock wave that your eyes see off in the distance and you would swear there's a tremble underfoot as the earth seems to quiver from the impact.

Someone screams "HANG IT!" and the visceral sensations come at you all over again. It's a four-round, fire-for-effect volley, and it just got started.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. No sense putting the finale at the beginning.

Range 18 on Camp Roberts is one of several designated for use by mortarmen of the California National Guard. As my public affairs compatriot Master Sgt. Paul Wade and I pull up, Soldiers from the 1-160 Infantry Regiment are just completing a series with the smaller, lighter, 81mm mortar. The lieutenant in charge tells us it will probably be about two to three hours before the guys get back on the line and send shots from the 120 down range.

Cool. That's what we came to see.

Caked in equal parts dirt and sweat, the guys break for a quick chow of MREs (meals ready to eat) before cracking open the banded cases carrying their next payload. It's hard work under a grueling midday sun—the packages didn't come with

band cutters.

Felipe Sandoval, a sergeant from Los Angeles, and Sgt. Richard Garcia of San Diego use Leatherman multi-tools to hack their way through the bands. Once they get all twenty or so of the bands cut, a cadre of privates and specialists start separating all the components—high explosive rounds over here, training rounds over there, and so on.

Up a small embankment from where the rounds are being sorted, the M120s are set up, where senior members of the platoon are laying-in initial points on the weapon system. The officer in charge, 1st Lt. Yaroslav Pavlov, screams a series of numbers to Staff Sgt. Espinal Francisco, who crouches over the sight, turns a few dials, and screams the numbers back. They're defining the left and right limits of the weapon; it will take a few rounds and the full team to get this weapon truly dialed-in.

The left gun is the first to get underway. After securing coordinates, the team of Pvt. Kevin Rodriguez and Pvt. Jesus Gomez peer through the scope, lift and move the M120, make adjustments on the dials before calling for section team leader Sandoval to verify their settings. Sandoval approves and Garcia hands a round to Gomez. The four-man team takes up its designated position.

"HANG IT!" Sandoval calls, to which Gomez, the section gunner, replies, "HANG IT!" as he slips the round into the tube stopping at a white line on the round—half-in, half-out.

"FIRE!" Sandoval bellows. The round drops and is immediately flung into the sky.

"The tube moved, the tube moved," some-



**TOP LEFT:** Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-160th Infantry Battalion, swab the barrel of an M120, June 12 at Camp Roberts. **Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel**  
**TOP RIGHT:** Cpl. Edward Johnson adjusts his M120 mortar. **Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel**  
**BOTTOM:** A round is fired out of a mortar tube. **Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Wade**

one yells out. And sure enough, the base plate of the M120 has dislocated itself nearly a foot to the left of its original position.

"Someone's going to have to ride it," Sandoval instructs his team.

Without even a second between the words, Garcia yells back, "On it!"

The team repositions the M120, the pro-

cess is started over, coordinates are double checked, the round is handed to Gomez as Garcia braces himself against Sandoval.

"HANG IT!"

"FIRE!"

And then you hear it—thump ... BOOM! And in a real world situation, bad guys breathe their last breath.



Staff Sgt. Ruben Alvarado with Company B, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment prepares to launch into a building at Camp Roberts, June 17. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

## Infantrymen attack new training facility at Camp Bob

By SGT. 1ST CLASS BENJAMIN COSSEL  
40th Infantry Division Public Affairs

To say it's been an intense annual training period for Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment would be something of an understatement. Starting with a full-scale, break-of-dawn assault, their training came to a thrilling conclusion June 16 at the recently completed combined arms collective training facility (CACTF).

"In the 14 years I've been in the National Guard, I've never seen anything like this," said Company B commander, Capt. Colin Stark, of the \$11 million CACTF. "This facility does a really good job of recreating the different complexities we might face in a real-world environment."

In taking the town, Soldiers of the 1-184th teamed up with aviation assets from the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade as well as engineers from the 578th Engineer Battalion.

"Working with the engineers to breach the wire obstacles was probably the most challenging task we faced on this mission," the San Jose, Calif., resident explained. "It's just not something we typically train for and coordinating our efforts with the engineers was a real learning experience."

Once the town was secured, training moved to squad-level tactics where squad leaders like Staff Sgt. Michael Kuhn of Sacramento put his Joes through the paces: stacking a wall, breaching doors, clearing buildings.

"This whole annual training has been very enlightening for our junior troops," Kuhn said.

Kuhn explained that while spending time out in the field, inexperienced Soldiers got to see firsthand all the phases of an operation, from the issuing of operations orders to rock drills, and, finally, execution.

"These guys are really loving it," Kuhn said. "They've been motivated throughout this entire annual training."

Spc. Kingly Kong, of San Jose, deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. A combat-tested veteran, he proudly wears the patch of the Army's 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment on his right shoulder. He's the type of Soldier on which squad leaders rely to train the younger troops, to show them the details and nuances so critical to staying alive and winning wars.

"This training has been on point," Kong said.

With so many new troops, Kong said the biggest benefit was the unit cohesion developed as troops honed their field-craft shoulder to shoulder, sleeping under the stars, sweating it out and getting their hands dirty.

"All of this is just getting us ready for whatever the next deployment will be," said Kong. "Everybody is adapting pretty well, but practice makes perfect."



**FAR LEFT:** Soldiers with Company B, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 40th Infantry Division execute assaulting a building June 17 at the new Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF) on Camp Roberts, Calif. The state-of-the-art facility opened this year as part of major infrastructure improvements that have turned Camp Roberts into a premier training facility for the Guard, reserve and active duty military forces. **ABOVE LEFT:** Tracy, Calif., resident Pfc. Robert Cleary, gunner, along with assistant gunner, Spc. Steven Shewmake, from Fremont, Calif., both with Company B, refine their technique on the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, June 17, at the CACTF during an annual training exercise. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The remnants of the assault litter the battlefield as Soldiers from Company B continue their training, drilling down to squad level tactics June 17 at the CACTF. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

# 79th IBCT conducts massive air assault exercise

## I-184th Infantry Battalion and 40th CAB practice air assault during annual training

By **SPC. MATTHEW DIXON**  
79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

The U.S Army Infantry is the oldest branch of combat arms in the United States, however that hasn't stopped the Army and Army National Guard of taking advantage of modern war-fighting assets.

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment proved their ability to respond quickly and efficiently by conducting air assault operations from Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., to Camp Roberts, Calif., using UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters during annual training 2014.

"We wanted to execute a battalion air assault because it fosters and builds teams both vertically and horizontally," said Col. Jeffrey D. Smiley, Commander of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "It also directly applies to our state civil support mission, giving us the capability to deploy faster and get resources to an impacted community when they need them."

The state of California has a vast and diverse landscape; it is the only state in the country with an extensive coastline, high altitude mountains and deserts. The Soldiers of the California Army National Guard need to be ready to respond and operate in all terrain. It is the infantry that needs to be the first ones to respond to state emergencies, such as wildfires and earth-



**UH-60 Black Hawks from the 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment lifts off from Landing Zone Schoonover at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., during a battalion air assault operation conducted with 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment. Photo by Capt. Cody Gallo**

quakes, and also the first to fight if called into combat.

The 40th Combat Aviation Brigade based in Fresno, Calif., supported the aviation lift and was a significant contributor to the PZ (pickup zone) and LZ (landing zone) planning process. UH-60 helicopters belonging to the 40th CAB have a max speed of 183 mph, and that benefits light infantry units that otherwise would have to walk or convoy with heavy gear and equipment. In the case of a civil emergency, such as a wild-

fire or flood in which infrastructure may be compromised, the experience these Soldiers have gained will be beneficial if they need to be brought in by these helicopters.

"If we didn't have air assault capabilities we'd be hiking these mountains for hours or maybe even days," said Staff Sgt. Richard Main, squad leader, Charlie Co., 1-184th Infantry. "This allows us to move a mass of Soldiers at one time so we're not trickling in slowly."

Main commended the job the Guard has done coordinating a movement of this size by saying this is the first time, including his active duty time, that he's seen an entire battalion participate in an air assault.

First Lt. Sesar Gonzalez, Commander of Charlie Co., 1-184th Infantry Battalion, based in Auburn, Calif., oversaw his company's evolution from the initial rehearsal until his last Soldier unloaded from the helicopter.

"We started off slow and trained our guys on how to properly get into PZ posture, how to carry and load our gear on the aircraft and, most importantly, how to execute these maneuvers safely," said Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said that in order for these Soldiers to be successful in moving in these aircraft, they first had to be proficient in their individual tasks that generations of infantrymen before them had to master in order to complete their objectives.

"It was important for us to start with a crawl phase, practicing land navigation, radio communication and movement techniques," Gonzalez continued.

For National Guard Soldiers in every state, time is often a factor in making sure maximum proficiency is achieved, and if you ask Gonzalez for his take, all he needs is four words: "We made it happen."

# 235th Engineers blow stuff up at Camp Roberts

By **CAPT. JASON SWEENEY**  
California Military Department Public Affairs

The Petaluma-based 235th Engineer Company (Sapper) kept Camp Roberts rocking during annual training in June.

Massive booms shook the post regularly during the first week of the two-week training period while the 235th practiced demolition breach training out on Range M39.

On June 10 in the blazing heat, the engineers practiced assembling field expedient bangalore torpedoes, each made of four sticks of C-4 explosive, duct-taped inside two steel pickets.

The engineers emplaced the torpedoes beneath a wire obstacle. The company's brigade commander, 49th Military Police Brigade Commander Col. Kelly Fisher, got a chance to fire off one of the torpedoes, which blew a hole through the wire obsta-

cle large enough to drive a truck through.

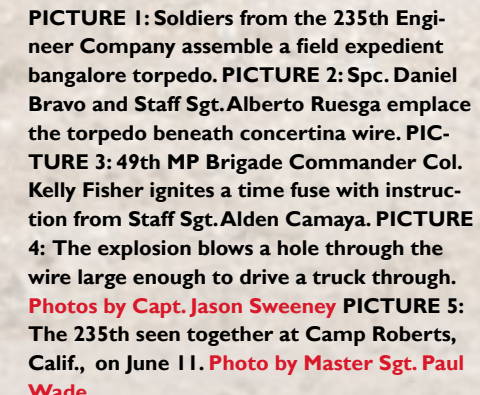
The engineers also practiced close-quarter urban breach training, blasting open doors while standing nearby behind blast shields.

On June 11, the engineers set off 40-pound cratering charges that can be used to destroy roadways and airstrips during counter-mobility operations. The powerful blasts shook the post from one

end to the other.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment participated in the demolition training with the engineers.

"It was the first time in about 10 years that my Soldiers got to integrate with the infantry and do combined arms collective training," 235th Commander Cpt. Eric Azevedo said. "The training was fantastic. No one knows demolition the way we do."



**PICTURE 1: Soldiers from the 235th Engineer Company assemble a field expedient bangalore torpedo. PICTURE 2: Spc. Daniel Bravo and Staff Sgt. Alberto Ruesga emplace the torpedo beneath concertina wire. PICTURE 3: 49th MP Brigade Commander Col. Kelly Fisher ignites a time fuse with instruction from Staff Sgt. Alden Camaya. PICTURE 4: The explosion blows a hole through the wire large enough to drive a truck through. Photos by Capt. Jason Sweeney PICTURE 5: The 235th seen together at Camp Roberts, Calif., on June 11. Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Wade**



**TOP LEFT** Spc. Samuel Hyer, a sniper from 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, identifies a high value target during an area reconnaissance training mission at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Center near Pickel Meadows, Calif., during annual training June 7-21. **Photo by Spc. Samuel Hyer** **RIGHT:** A Gunner from 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry, Spc. Ryan Welch of Palm Springs, Calif., pulls security at Camp Roberts, Calif., as scouts from his unit are airlifted by 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Center. **Photo by Capt. Cody Gallo** **BOTTOM LEFT:** Scout snipers from 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment pull security in the High Sierra after being inserted by a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. **Photo by Spc. Matthew Dixon**

## Scouts out! Cal Guard snipers train as they fight

Scout snipers from 1-18th Cav, the 1-160th and the 1-184th Infantry battalions were airlifted from Camp Roberts to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Center in the High Sierra during annual training in June

**By SPC. MATTHEW DIXON**  
79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

After flying for an hour and a half, two UH-60 Blackhawks touch down in a mountain meadow at almost 9,000 feet elevation. A scout sniper element from 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment moves out quickly from the landing zone (LZ) and disappears into the sparse vegetation. Within hours one of the snipers has eyes on the high value target. A report back requesting engagement criteria is made via tactical satellite radio to the squadron tactical operations center, which sits over 186 miles away.

For the Soldiers on the ground they might as well be in the mountains of Afghanistan as opposed to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Center nestled high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Pickel Meadows, Calif. Soldiers from 1-18th Cav, as well as 1-160th and 1-184th Infantry battalions, got a taste of what it was like to operate in a rugged and unforgiving environment during annual training in June 2014.

Scout snipers from the three units were airlifted either by UH-60 Black Hawks or

a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from Camp Roberts, Calif. to the LZ in order to conduct area reconnaissance for a 24-hour period.

"This has been the best training mission I've ever been on," said Spc. Samuel Hyer, a sniper from the 1-184th. "We appreciate the leadership giving us the freedom to use our judgment while we were up there on our mission."

"Our leadership had this idea for a while now, and we started planning the training back in January 2014," said Maj. Bobby Britton, Civil Affairs Officer, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "A lot of preparation went into this operation such as written exams, scouting out the ranges, and coordinating aircraft to get our guys up there."

Each of the three scout elements had a high value target that they were challenged to recon and gather information on. The remote landscape offered a perfect scenario for reconnaissance missions similar to the type that the Soldiers may be challenged with overseas. A lot of coordination behind the scenes needed to be done to get

the operation off the ground, literally and figuratively.

"The Pickel Meadows operation is a perfect example of how the Brigade can resource subordinate commanders' training," said Col. Jeffrey Smiley, commander of the 79th IBCT. "We look for synergy, areas we can exploit to achieve multi-faceted training, and this operation allowed us to train aviation infiltration and exfiltration operations, our reconnaissance squads and our maneuver and intelligence functions all at once through a deliberate targeting process."

The multi-echelon training event engaged the brigade targeting working group and the battalion-level intelligence sections along with the maneuver elements to develop a concept of the operation (CONOP) that exercised the complete targeting process, which cycles around the actions of decide, detect, deliver, and assess. "The operation was a perfect example of using a single opportunity to train the entire intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) enterprise," continued Col. Smiley.

"This maximizes our training dollars,

builds teams and uses our limited resource in the most productive way."

"Operations such as this require intensive mission planning," said Hyer. "Our leadership and our guys did an outstanding job preparing us for the challenges of operating in the cold weather and high elevation."

Safety of the men was a top priority since the planning phase, and according to Hyer, the medic ensured the safety of his team by carrying IV's in case severe dehydration occurred. Hyer went on to praise the support his team got from the 1-140th Aviation Battalion for providing the airlift and highly trained pilots that got them to their LZ, as well as the prior intelligence collected and imagery they were provided.

This was the first time the 79th IBCT has undertaken a mission to the MWTC, but the benefits of doing it again are already evident.

"This prepares our Soldiers for any type of conflict. They did a great job up there," continued Britton. "We'd love to do it again and add some new elements to it, such as a night insertion and elongate the time on station up there to two or three days."



# Soldiers 'thread the needle' during sling-load training

Cal Guard troops skillfully move cargo from ground to air out in the field during annual training exercise

By **SGT. MATTHEW WRIGHT**  
**AND SGT. SUSAN WOHL**  
40th Infantry Division Public Affairs

The textbook definition of "thread the needle" is to skillfully navigate a difficult challenge. After their training in June at Camp Roberts, Calif., the Soldiers of the 40th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) and 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, are up to the sling load challenge.

Helicopter crews from the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade worked in concert with the 40th BSB and 1-160th Infantry troops to conduct highly technical sling load training, approaching the challenge with teamwork and tenacity.

The 40th BSB Soldiers prepared two cargo nets before the arrival of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. They loaded each net with meals ready to eat (MREs)—one palletized, the other not—a common external load for operations in Afghanistan. From above, the air crews provided guidance to the 40th BSB Soldiers on the ground.

"This training is pretty awesome," said Spc. April Pimentel, a supply specialist with Company A, 40th BSB. "Our morale is really up out here because we're out in the middle of nowhere, relying on each other."

The 40th BSB received the sling load training June 14 in preparation for a large-scale exercise that would commence early the next morning, with more than a dozen UH-60 Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters participating

in an air-assault exercise, the largest of its kind in Camp Roberts' history. Leaving from the helipad on the main post, the aircraft were to pick up more than 200 Soldiers en route to MacMillan Airfield on Camp Roberts, where infantrymen would disembark the aircraft, establish a rally point and conduct ground maneuvers.

"A lot of our Soldiers are really excited about the big mission that's coming up. We're getting a feel for a real-world environment," Pimentel said of the upcoming exercise scenario.

What the 40th BSB Soldiers might not have anticipated was the amount of dirt and debris a dual-rotor Chinook can kick up while hovering. They learned quickly to make sure they had good eye protection as the Chinook crew approached to pick up their cargo.

The air crew was responsible for bringing in the Chinook just a few feet above the troops. The Soldiers below threaded the proverbial needle, hooking their load to the bottom of the massive Chinook and stabilizing it before the Chinook lifted off, circled and dropped the MREs. Then another group of Soldiers prepared for the next hook-up.

The 1-160th performed similar training, but they sling loaded boxes on a single-rotor Black Hawk. Those supplies were then dropped to other units in the field.

The 30-Soldier team from the 1-160th set up a sling load net around a sup-



**LEFT AND ABOVE: A California Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter descends as Soldiers from the 40th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) prepare to attach cargo to the bottom of the aircraft during sling-load training at Camp Roberts, Calif., in June. Soldiers from the 40th BSB, 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment and the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade participated in the training during two weeks of annual training at Camp Roberts. Photos by Master Sgt. Paul Wade**



ply box to be picked up, then a three-man team assembled to guide the Black Hawk.

"We have a team leader, who manages the hook up; a hook-up man, who actually hooks the wire to the helicopter; and the assistant team leader, who supports the hook-up man and physically stabilizes the hook-up man," said team leader Staff Sgt. Devory Darkins.

Training for sling load teams takes place at Fort Lee, Va. Upon completion, team leaders are picked to attend Pathfinder School. Their job is not only to manage, but also to communicate with

helicopter crews and set locations for pickup.

Aerial sling loads are great for quick resupply and continued sustainment for units in a combat theater, said Sgt. 1st Class Glenford Staine, another team leader. The Guard, however also uses the capability in times of domestic emergency.

"We can drop food and supplies to workers and victims in areas which are covered in fires as well as pick up casualties in hard-to-reach terrain," he said. "Sling loading is a great asset [with which] we can provide supplies with speed ... and continue the sustainment."

## Helos provide field expedient Gas-n-Go at the FARP

Refuelers from the 640th ASB keep the birds in the air out on the FARP during annual training at Camp Bob

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS BENJAMIN COSSEL**  
40th Infantry Division Public Affairs

When it comes to his role in the California Army National Guard aviation community, 2nd Lt. John Plager is pointed in his assessment.

"Without us, pilots would be pedestrians," he said.

Plager isn't just whistling Dixie. As the forward area refuel/rearm point (FARP) platoon leader for Company A, 640th Aviation Support Battalion, he and his Soldiers have dispensed more than 85,000 gallons of fuel the first week of their annual training at Camp Roberts; an effort that required working from the break-of-dawn 'til the darkened hours of midnight.

"We don't do anything like this at home station," Plager said. "So the real-world training my team is receiving out here is invaluable."

As Plager finishes his comments, two UH-60 Black Hawks land and pull forward for fuel. Just a few minutes earlier, two of the iconic Army aircraft had lifted off with a full load. Plager's fuel trucks pump at nearly 90 gallons each minute. Filling a Black Hawk—about 200 gallons—is one thing. Filling a CH-47 Chinook—with well over 1,000 gallons of capacity—is another matter altogether.

"This operation would not work were it not for the ex-

perience and professionalism of my senior NCOs," the lieutenant said. "Everything here comes down to NCO leadership."

With his ranks filled with inexperienced privates and freshly promoted specialists, Plager relies on his senior noncommissioned officers to keep the FARP running smoothly and to impart hard-earned wisdom to the young team.



**Soldiers from the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade's Company A, 640th Aviation Support Battalion refuel a UH-60 Black Hawk, June 14 during annual training at Camp Roberts, Calif. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel**

A battle-forged veteran, Sgt. 1st Class Raymundo Lopez of San Dimas, Calif., is one such NCO.

"Safety and attention to detail are the two most critical factors out here on the flight line," Lopez said.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that the combination of a fully operational aircraft and hundreds of gallons of JP-8 fuel flowing from the fuel truck to the bird requires one's head be on a swivel. Yet after hundreds of assets fueled and long hours on the flight line, complacency is a mortal enemy.

"You don't pay attention around here and you can get killed," Lopez said.

With that, Lopez said his Soldiers are coming along, every day moving in the right direction.

"They're really integrating well," Lopez said. "And they're starting to develop that unit cohesion needed in a team like this."

Lopez attributed some of that cohesion to the long hours each day in addition to the two-week annual training event at Camp Roberts.

"Spending so much time together, you actually begin to learn people and their capabilities," he said. "And that's something that only comes by spending the time doing this."

149th Chemical Company--the Dragon Soldiers--establish their "lair" at Camp Roberts. The 100-plus Soldiers are but a small fraction that were on the camp for annual training. Photo by Spc. Susan Mead



Cal Guard snipers from 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment are seen at Camp Roberts during annual training in June before loading up on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter that will insert them into the High Sierra for an air assault training mission. Photo by Capt. Cody Gallo



The newly surfaced Camp Roberts helipad is used by California National Guard helicopters during annual training. Photo by Capt. Jason Sweeney



Soldiers from the 235th Engineer Company (Sapper) work with C-4 explosives and detonation cord during demolition breach training on June 11, 2014 at Camp Roberts, Calif. Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Wade



A Soldier from Co. D (Weapons), 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Battalion fired rocket during on June 12 during annual training.

# At a Glance



Spc. Nicholas Santee, senior field medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18 Cavalry Regiment, is a willing patient for junior medics practicing drawing blood during annual training at Camp Roberts, June 12. The group of eight medics took turns practicing and teaching their combat medic skills while awaiting a medevac drop to their field location. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Salli Curchin**



ort was host to a large number of Cali-  
annual training in June.



Infantry Regiment, fires an AT-4 anti-tank shoulder-  
at Camp Roberts. **Photo courtesy of the I-160th**



California Army National Guard Soldiers from the 40th Brigade Support Battalion prepare a load to be picked up by a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during sling load training conducted at Camp Roberts, Calif., June 10. "In my more than 30 years of flying I've never seen such a large-scale training simulation like the ones we have been conducting at this year's annual training," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 David "Moses" Borgerd, a pilot with Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment. **Photo by Spc. Matthew Dixon**

## Training for hard landings

Small firefighting unit from Roseville packs a big punch

By MASTER SGT. PAUL WADE  
California Military Department Public Affairs

You know the old saying “big things come in small packages?” In the California Army National Guard that describes the tucked away Roseville-based 233rd Firefighting Detachment.

Of the approximately 60 units and nearly 5,000 Soldiers who were at Camp Roberts June 6-21 for the largest combined annual training exercise since 9/11, they were arguably the smallest unit there. Yet they are capable of big things that support our organization’s top priority: defense support of civil authorities (DSCA).

When Staff Sgt. Sergio Duarte, the fire team chief and the unit’s only full-time member, got the call to employ his team of firefighters, he jumped at the chance because he heard they would be supporting an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) mission.

“ARFF is something we’ve been very excited to get into because our training and equipment give us an edge over most fire stations and their trucks,” said Duarte, a veteran of eight years with the unit. “My guys are trained in airport ground emergency, medical response and our truck has the mobility to get into more places and provide the necessary tools for airfield crash and rescue operations.”

The crew drove its tactical fire fighting truck (TFFT) 300 miles and set up shop at the Camp Roberts fire station to work alongside the 11-man civilian firefighter and security team.

“One of the things we constantly do throughout the year is work with our civilian counterparts,” said Spc. Ryan Esparza, a paramedic from Lincoln, Calif., who has been with the unit since 2005. “We have a real close relationship with Roseville Fire back home and train at the Sierra College Regional Fire Academy.”

“We’ve actually worked with some of them in the past and it’s always a good friendly relationship,” said Rod Landis, a veteran at the Camp Roberts fire station for 15 years. “Both groups get extra training, like us with the medevac helicopters and them going out on calls around the camp. With this much activity it’s nice to have the help.”

The California National Guard’s largest training facility gets its fair share of helicopter visits during the year. Landis and his team can respond to most emergencies but when an armada of rotary-wing craft landed at the beginning of June, it allowed the 233rd shine.

Eleven UH-60 Black Hawks, two CH-47 Chinooks and two LUH-72 Lakotas flew in from Mather’s Charlie Co., 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, Stockton’s Bravo Co., 1-126th Aviation Regiment and Los Alamitos’ 1st and 3rd



Firefighters from the 233rd Firefighter Detachment, 115th Regional Support Group, out of Roseville, Calif., execute a mock response to a UH-60 Black Hawk hard landing. Photo by Sgt. Obed Gutierrez

of the 140th Aviation Regiment.

Never have so many aircraft flown into and parked on the hallowed grounds of the 73-year-old Central Coast’s maneuver training center.

Duarte quickly arranged shift work at the fire house and some valuable training with the aviation and medical units to build those strong work relationships he knew would carry big dividends in the future during state emergencies.

“I wanted my guys to get a feel for station life, go out on calls and also get to know the pilots, flight crews and medical responders so we could share and learn how each operate,” said Duarte.

One of the exercises was helping medics from Charlie Co., 40th Brigade Support Battalion, based out of Montebello, transfer and secure patients onto an aircraft after first responders had stabilized the injured on a skid litter.

The next exercise usually makes pilots and their crews wince. A hard landing in an aircraft like a UH-60 Black Hawk can be like doing a belly flop in a steel can, causing the helicopter to crumble, snap apart and even catch fire. The pilots are strapped in seats but can suffer spinal and head injuries. The crew chiefs in the back are the most exposed and could be flung outside the open doors.

To mitigate the spillage of fuel and ignition of flames, members of the 233rd, clad in fire-retardant suits, cover the mock crash with the hose from their TFFT while the pilots are extracted and placed on a litter or buddy-carried and quickly removed from the danger zone.

“Both events went well. For us, in the business of medical emergencies, practice only develops that muscle memory and when it does really happen we are calmer during a very stressful situation,” said Duarte.

“In all the years I’ve flown into Camp Roberts we’ve never had a firefighting unit from the California Army National Guard manning the airfield,” said Fresno resident Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Smith, a pilot instructor with Company D, 1-140th Aviation Battalion. “I think it is great because it adds to our experience and they practice what they’re trained to do.”

“We’re working here, not training,” said Duarte. “With all of these aircraft, the heat, troops jumping on and off, an ARFF team should always be nearby. We proved what we could do during the wildfires in San Diego in 2008 and we are always ready to put our skills and equipment to the test.”

## River water, anyone?

1040th makes drinking water from Nacimiento River

By MASTER SGT. PAUL WADE  
California Military Department Public Affairs

When you’re dressed in full battle rattle at Camp Roberts in the sweltering month of June and the air is stagnant and chock full of dirt and dust particles, nothing sounds better than a cool, refreshing drink from the tap. No?

Well how about dirty river water? During annual training, June 6-21, troops mainly drank from either Deja Blue bottled water they bought at the Post Exchange or from a water buffalo, filled with water from the Sherwood Forest water source.

The 1040th Quartermaster Company from Merced would prefer that you drink water from the Nacimiento River that meanders through the training area instead. After, of course, their water treatment mixologists push a little reverse osmosis, clear up the turbidity, calibrate pH balance and measure the oxidation reduction potential with their Ultrameter.

Maybe this is better explained by Sgt. Alex Haik, a Vallejo resident who works in water and waste treatment for the Coca-Cola Company.

“We’re practically filtering our water down at the molecular level,” said Haik.

Okay, maybe not.

“We conducted a test of the water the troops are using at the Sherwood Forest supply point and the bottled water from Deja Blue against the water we’re filtering from the [Nacimiento] river and ours is cleaner,” Haik continued.

Now keep in mind Deja Blue is owned by the Dr Pepper Snapple Group, a competitor of Coca-Cola, so Haik might have been paid to make this outlandish statement.

Now don’t go boycotting Deja Blue bottled water the next time you head to



A Soldier from the 1040th Quartermaster Company purifies water from the Nacimiento River during annual training at Camp Roberts, Calif., in June. Photo by Master Sgt. Wade

old Camp Bob. In the Olympics of total dissolved solids and parts per million it fell just short of the top podium spot.

Now the stuff coming out of the Sherwood Forest—that’s another story. It didn’t even qualify for a spot on the team.

“We’re pretty proud of our results and even more excited to get this water out to the troops in the field,” said First Sgt. Cory Nygord. “We just need some customers.”

After finding a suitable access point to the easy flowing river the unit basically ran a hose to their Tactical Water Purification Systems and started pumping clean H<sub>2</sub>O into massive water collectors. Well, it’s a little more complicated than that.

While at annual training, the 1040th made more than just tasty water, they had one of those “first time” moments. An environmental science officer, Capt. Christopher Scott, from the 297th Area Support Medical Company in San Mateo, who is trained to help prevent illness and is all about health and hygiene, blessed off on the liquid.

“We proved we could make super clean drinking water on a mass scale by getting certified from an outside source,” said Nygord.

In just two days they purified more than 10,500 gallons based on supply and demand from the field and are capable of much, much more.

They could essentially hydrate every Soldier training at Camp Roberts, daily.

Fellow Merced-based 159th Quartermaster Tactical Distribution Team delivered Hippos, 2,000-gallon water tanks, and other water carriers to various resupply points, including one by the chapel, to push out their product.

“We even go back out regularly to test the water in those Hippos that could be sitting there for a few days,” said Haik.

Haik then explained what happens with stagnant water and then went into explaining oxidation, particle deposits and even something about backflushing microns.

All I know is, I was hot, I was parched and I was buying what he was selling.

“You have to try it. Our crew did a great job and we just hope more units come for our water,” Haik said.

I downed a half-empty bottle of water and filled it with their magical elixir using a spigot made for water bottles and hydration packs. They even had a flow center sprouting various sized nozzles for all your customer filling needs.

Nice. And so was the water. A very slight chlorine, but clean, taste. This military correspondent downed the entire bottle and is still alive to write this article.

# 40th CAB practices saving lives

Medics test skills in mass casualty exercise simulating a vehicle rollover accident requiring multiple aerial evacuations

By **STAFF SGT. SALLI CURCHIN**  
California Military Department Public Affairs

During annual training at Camp Roberts in June, more than 100 Soldiers from the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) conducted a notional multi-vehicle rollover accident as part of a mass casualty exercise that involved medical staff, chaplains, wounded personnel, ground crew, air crew and multiple aircraft.

The notional rollover accident resulted in 15 personnel with injuries, ranging from minor to severe that required an immediate need for medical evacuation. The responding combat medics rendered care and were overseen by experienced medical observer controllers.

Responding medics expressed surprise at being able to have combat lifesaver (CLS) personnel to assist by rendering buddy care. "The evaluators kept us on our toes by throwing us curve balls as the condition of the patients changed. I found it good practice," said Spc. Daniel Guzman, 40th CAB.

"This kind of training is important because, naturally, the National Guard's mission is to support our state during disasters or terrorists attacks, so we need to be well trained and well equipped to help out our communities when asked," combat medic Spc. Terry Washington said.

Senior leaders of the brigade are planning for an even bigger mass casualty exercise next year to include nearly fifty simulated casualty personnel.



Medics from the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade participate in a mass casualty exercise at the point of injury at Camp Roberts on June 13. Photo by Staff Sgt. Salli Curchin

# Employers learn about soldiering

'Boss lift' lets civilian employers see firsthand what their citizen-Soldier employees do at drill

By **CAPT. WILL MARTIN**  
California Military Department Public Affairs

If the National Guard often finds itself at the tip of the spear, it's only because its strength is found in a triangle.

"The Guard is like a triangle," said Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general for the California National Guard, in speaking to guests of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) on Camp Roberts June 13. The guardsmen and their families, said Baldwin, make up two points of the triangle, with their employers serving as the third and essential piece.

To demonstrate his appreciation for their support, Baldwin and the rest of the CNG joined the ESGR in hosting dozens of Guard employers and elected officials on a "boss lift" to Camp Roberts. There they observed—and participated—in the training of the nearly 5,000 CNG soldiers who were on the post for annual training.

After riding a Chinook CH-47 helicopter onto Camp Roberts, the employers were shuttled across dusty fields and into canvas tents for a series of briefings, training exercises and the firing of weapons. In one instance, the employers found themselves



Staff Sgt. Joe Mirander, who is a Southwest Airlines provisioning manager on the civilian side, assists his civilian boss, Cathy Woodley, on a mortar range at Camp Roberts on June 13. Photo by Capt. Will Martin

with their fingers on the trigger, though the enemy was more pixelated than real.

Having stepped inside a Humvee simulator, Cathy Woodley, provisioning supervisor for Southwest Airlines at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), was surrounded on all sides by screens bearing computerized roads, buildings and armed insurgents. When invited to engage the enemy, she didn't hesitate.

"This is great," said Woodley, between pot shots on her animated aggressors. "Thanks for allowing us to see and go through all this."

Fresh from the exhilaration of combat, Woodley pauses as she exits the simulator, drawn to a wall bearing images of U.S. military vehicles decimated by roadside bombs. Suddenly, the gravity of the training takes hold.

"I can't even imagine," she murmurs to herself.

Woodley came to Camp Roberts at the invitation of Staff Sgt. Joe Mirander, an operations noncommissioned officer with the CNG's 40th Military Police Company and a Southwest provisioning manager who reports to Woodley at LAX. When he learned he could expose his civilian bosses to the soldiering half of his citizen-soldier existence, he knew it would only expand their already supportive attitude.

"They can better understand that I'm not just depleting their workforce when I go off for training," said Mirander. "They get a better feel for what I'm doing when I talk about the Guard when they allow me to come to [training]."

When not boarding rotary-wing aircraft or watching illumination munitions soar across the Camp Roberts skyline, the employers and elected officials were briefed on the unique attributes of the Guard.

"The National Guard is the primary combat reserve of the U.S. armed forces," said Baldwin in his opening remarks, noting that a Guardsman fights both wars and wildfires, enemies overseas and unruly Mother Nature at home, and does so for about one-third the tax dollars spent on his active duty counterpart.

After his talk, Baldwin was peppered with questions by civic and business leaders, most centering on what they might do to support the Guard. In addition to weighing in their influence on behalf of the Guard, Baldwin suggested they simply hire guardsmen, pointing out that gainful employment has proved to be the largest morale booster and readiness factor for a returning veteran.

"Work for Warriors [the Cal Guard's employment initiative] is probably the single most important program we have right now for what we call Soldier, family and Airman care," said Baldwin. "We've placed more than 2,500 soldiers and veterans in jobs so far. Invest in a Guardsman. You won't be disappointed."

For more information about the ESGR, go to [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil). For the CNG's Work for Warriors employment initiative, visit [www.calguard.ca.gov/WFW](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/WFW).



Civilian employers, legislators and officials from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve arrive by CH-47 Chinook helicopter at Camp Roberts, Calif., on June 13 during a "boss lift" in which they were able to observe what Soldiers do during annual training. Participants toured the post and participated in several training events. Photo by Capt. Will Martin

# Cal Guard medic delivers his own daughter

By **SGT. MATTHEW WRIGHT**  
40th Infantry Division Public Affairs

The Army National Guard trains its Soldiers for a variety of jobs, and that training often translates to civilian life. For Spc. Luis Quevedo, a combat medic for the 40th Infantry Division, his training came in especially handy on a very personal level, when he delivered his own daughter.

Several months ago, Quevedo and his wife returned home to what they hoped would be a night of rest. Later, however, she woke abruptly to pain and discomfort.

"It's so early, it might be Braxton-Hicks," Quevedo reasoned at the time, which was a few weeks before the child's due date. "I timed it; [the contractions] leapfrogged from 20 minutes apart to two minutes apart."

Quevedo urged his wife to get ready to depart for the hospital, but she responded by saying their baby was coming, and coming now.

Fortunately, Quevedo had his Army aid bag, which was filled with medical equipment. He laid his wife down and quickly confirmed the baby was on its way.

"A couple of pushes, and my baby came out," he said.

"I was amazed."

Once his daughter was born, he clamped the umbilical cord and waited for the paramedics to arrive. Quevedo said his Army training kept him both calm and knowledgeable throughout the birth of his daughter, Iris, who is now 7 months old.

Quevedo always wanted to join the Army, he said. In part he was inspired by his older brother, who enlisted in 2001



Spc. Luis Quevedo, a medic with the 40th Infantry Division, administers saline to a patient during the unit's annual training at Camp Roberts, Calif., on June 15. Photo by Sgt. Matthew Wright

and became a cavalry scout. But it was watching news reports about the war in Afghanistan that inspired him to become a medic.

"Some Soldiers didn't come back, and that's what I wanted to do—bring at least one or two people back," he said.

After his basic and medic training, Quevedo returned to California and the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment. He only just recently transferred to the 40th Infantry Division, but he has already made a strong impression with his peers.

"Despite being a brand new medic to the unit, Specialist Quevedo already has proven to be extremely knowledgeable and a valuable asset to medical emergency situations," said Sgt. Kyle Slominski, another medic with the 40th Infantry Division.

Presently attending Desert College in Palm Springs, Calif., where he's begun prerequisites for training as a registered nurse, Quevedo feels he can pursue a career that builds on his experience as an Army National Guard medic.

"I appreciate not only the beneficial training, but also love doing my job when it's real," he said.

And nothing is greater proof than his daughter, Iris, a testimony that training can quickly turn real.

# Getting cozy at Camp Bob

Revamped cottages offer troops a low-cost lodging alternative on the Central Coast

By **CAPT. WILL MARTIN**  
California Military Department Public Affairs

Build it and they will come. And they might bring the spouse and kids and stay a while.

Amid the triple-digit heat and several thousand Soldiers conducting their annual training on Camp Roberts in early June, a handful of California Army Guardsmen were placing the finishing touches on a pair of cozy cottages. The idea of charming housing dotting the Camp Roberts landscape would have seemed ludicrous in years past, but the project is the latest testimony to the improved living conditions

on the California Guard's busiest training installation.

"We've not taken the first 'no' for an answer," said Lt. Col. Angel Ortiz, deputy garrison commander for Camp Roberts, regarding efforts to secure the funding and permits to improve the post. "We're cracking that code."

The cottages are the first of several one-bedroom homes that will serve as not only professional housing during training, but as inexpensive, relaxing spots where Cal Guardsmen and their families can lay their heads. Available on a first-come basis for less than \$25 each night, the cottages bear

the amenities and craftsmanship one might expect among commercial rentals.

"They hadn't been touched in about 30 years," said Spc. Jose Galban, one of the project supervisors who began work on the site in late March. "We had to start by demolishing all the interior and fixing the foundation... the whole foundation."

Before plying his trade on Camp Roberts, Galban worked as a journeyman carpenter near his home in Los Angeles. He's been joined on the cottages project by fellow carpenters Staff Sgt. Harold Dyson and Spc. Travis Aldridge and electricians Spc. Billy Shepherd and Staff Sgt. Leif Devamark. Trained as Army combat engineers, their handiwork is a testimony to the civilian skill set citizen-soldiers often bring to their military callings. And according to Galban, that translates to savings passed on to U.S. taxpayers.

By not contracting out all the labor to expensive civilian tradesman, Camp Roberts leadership is able to "save the Army a lot of money," said Galban.

This cost-effective approach is one Ortiz and other Camp Roberts leaders have embraced in giving the post a much-needed makeover. Spearheaded by the exemplary skills of more than 50 Cal Guardsmen placed on temporary orders, Camp Roberts personnel have demolished and revamped hundreds of World War II-era barracks, erected a new dining facility (DFAC), upgraded critical marksmanship ranges, established a cutting-edge landing strip and an Unmanned Aerial System facility. Future projects include improving roads across the post, another phase of barracks



Sgt. Martin Mendoza, a Lake Elsinore resident with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Maneuver Command, finishes the details of a window, June 10, as part of renovation efforts underway on Camp Roberts. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

makeovers, and constructing a railhead, a high-water bridge, and remote DFACs and TOCs for training purposes.

And for those swinging the hammer or wiring the lights, working among Soldiers is a welcome change from their civilian gigs.

"The civilian world is just more competitive and high-stress," said Galban. "It's a much better environment. These guys just work in sync."



Los Angeles resident Spc. Jose Galban with the Camp Roberts Maneuver Training Command puts the finishing touches on one of four cottages recently remodeled and now open to military personnel and civilians alike. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

## Cal Guard activates first brigade engineer battalion in the Army National Guard

By **SPC. MATTHEW DIXON**  
79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

On the very same day that the U.S. Army celebrated 239 years of storied and proud history, a new era began for the California Army National Guard with the activation of the 578th Brigade Engineering Battalion on June 14. Distinguished visitors from across the country converged on the Camp Roberts parade field to witness the activation ceremony for the first brigade engineer battalion in the U.S. Army National Guard as Lt. Col. Zac Delwiche assumed command from Lt. Col. John S. Klinkam.

"I wanted to come to Camp Roberts, California, today to thank you for two different things. First of all I want to thank the California Guardsmen for their service," said Brig. Gen. Roy S. Webb, Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. "I also wanted to come down here and thank you for being the first to step forward and transition to a Brigade Engineer Battalion, the first in the entire National Guard."

The Army recognized the need to have a more significant and tailored engineer effort to support the Infantry brigade mission. The equipment and training that these Soldiers bring to the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are invaluable. Route clearing, horizontal construction and breaching capabilities all have been, and continue to be, crucial in operations overseas.

"Lt. Col. Klinkam has made such a positive impact, prepar-

ing and deploying two companies for combat and converting the 578th to the first National Guard Brigade Engineering Battalion, as well as improving readiness and training significantly," said Col. Jeffrey Smiley, commander of the 79th IBCT. "There is no doubt that John's impact will leave an enduring legacy here on the engineering community."

Smiley also recognized that there is still work to be done, as the BEB will be receiving and utilizing new equipment such as D6 Dozers and High Mobility Engineer Excavators to assist with earth moving capabilities.

"Selection to battalion command is extremely competitive and only the best are given that opportunity. Lt. Col. Delwiche is unique in that he is being given the opportunity to command his second battalion. His reputation as a tough, aggressive, challenging leader combined with his previous command experience is a perfect fit to lead the future challenges of the 578th," continued Smiley.

When it was time for Lt. Col. Delwiche to take the podium and address his new battalion, he thanked his predecessor for paving the way for him. He also expressed gratitude to his family and acknowledged that without their unwavering support he would not be in the position he was in.

As U.S. Army Soldiers and National Guardsmen across the world observed the birthday of America's oldest fighting force, Delwiche closed the ceremony by shouting "Essayons," meaning in French, "Let us try." And if its history is any indication of the efforts of the future, the 578th will not only try, but also succeed.



Lt. Col. John S. Klinkam, outgoing commander of the 578th Brigade Engineer Battalion, hands off the guidon to Col. Jeffrey D. Smiley, commander of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, following a successful tenure as battalion commander, during which time he oversaw the conversion of the unit into the National Guard's first Brigade Engineer Battalion. Lt. Col. Zac Delwiche assumed command of the 578th BEB at Camp Roberts, Calif., June 14. Photo by Spc. Matthew Dixon

# And the show goes on

Harkening back to the days of Bob Hope, annual training comes to a close with a USO show

By **CAPT. WILL MARTIN**  
California Military Department Public Affairs

The United Service Organizations (USO) and Camp Roberts share a long, rich history; so much so, that legendary comedian Bob Hope, an avid USO performer, used to joke that "Camp Bob" was named in his honor.

On June 18-19, USO performers provided entertainment for nearly 5,000 California Army National Guard (CAARNG) Soldiers who were wrapping up two weeks of annual training on Camp Roberts, marking the first time the USO has performed there since 1995.

Though it had been nearly two decades since the USO performed on Camp Roberts, it shares a 73-year history with the post, beginning with its first "camp show" at the Soldier's Bowl amphitheater on June 8, 1941. The performance featured the comedic duo Laurel and Hardy performing before 20,000 Soldiers, most of whom were training for World War II.

"In March we found out that the USO wanted to come back to Camp Roberts," said Staff Sgt. Stacey Whitman, troop services supervisor for the post. "We want to bring attention back to the Soldier's Bowl with future plans to have big shows like those of yesteryear. We're getting our foot in the door with this first show."



ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: USO performers put on a show for the troops at the Camp Roberts on June 19. BOTTOM LEFT: Members of the GEICO racing team meet with Soldiers at Camp Roberts as part of an end-of-AT USO show. Photos by Capt. Will Martin

The recent show centered on a New York-based traditional USO show troupe that performed highly interactive song-and-dance routines, both patriotic and popular. In addition, Soldiers were taken through the paces of their early-morning physical fitness training by professional cheerleaders and provided guidance on motorcycle care and safety by members of the GEICO racing team.



The USO has more than 160 locations worldwide. In 2012 alone, USO centers received nearly 9 million visits by service members and their families. That year, the USO also produced more than 650 entertainment events for more than 344,000 troops and families, including touring with celebrities in 15 combat zones.

"In 2004, 2005, I saw Toby Keith in Mo-

sul, Iraq," said Staff Sgt. Grady Gatoloai, who has worked as a Camp Roberts supply sergeant for more than two years. "He put on a fantastic show. It was a hot zone and it meant so much to all of us to see someone of his stature willing to be there with us. It was a real morale boost for the troops."

For more info, visit [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org).

# Above standard, under budget

Camp Roberts' newly refurbished Parade Field/Heliport is eco-friendly, state-of-the-art and \$17.5 million cheaper than projected

By **1ST LT. JAN BENDER**  
California Military Department Public Affairs

Despite initial estimates topping \$19 million, California Army Guardsmen resurfaced a large portion of the Camp Roberts Parade Field/Heliport with a cutting-edge, eco-friendly compound for only \$1.5 million, and just in time for the Army Guard's massive annual training exercise.

Thus far the project has reclaimed 54 acres of the 87-acre open space at the heart of Camp Roberts' garrison area, transforming the dilapidated, deeply-cracked and weed-ridden surface from a safety hazard into a viable staging area for large-scale aviation or ground troop assemblies.

"The parade field had deteriorated to the point that nearly every time we landed a Black Hawk there, we would break a windshield [from rocks and debris kicking up]," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Clark, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot with more than 25 years in the cockpit. "After the cost of the [glass] and the installation, [the repairs cost] just under \$10,000 a shot. We broke as many as 10 in an annual training period, and add to that the risk of pulling that same debris into the helicopter's intake and damaging a \$450,000 [turbine-engine]. ... It was time for a fix."

Upon his return from Iraq in 2012, Clark heard Maj. Gen. Keith Jones, a leader he had served under before, had taken command of Camp Roberts. He approached the general and pitched his idea.

"When I first drove in to take command of Camp Roberts, there were actually small trees growing on the parade field," said Jones, who had seen three entire Guard battalions cover the field in 1991 before deploying in response to the Los Angeles riots. "[Clark's] motivations were right in line with our state and national leaderships' vision of moving the post in the direction of becoming a regional collective training center."

Clark was brought on as Camp Roberts' acting aviation operations officer and set to work assembling a team of Guardsmen with the expertise to envision, research, resource and execute the tall task at hand.

"To [renovate] it with older technology [like asphalt or concrete] was really cost-prohibitive, hence the reason it had devolved into such disrepair," Clark said, noting that contractors had projected a \$19 million tab to repave the space with asphalt. "We knew there had to be a better way."

Clark linked up with Warrant Officer 1 Joshua Brazil, a general contractor who had just started as the full-time supervisor of the base's directorate of public works, and they set out to find a low-cost, long-term means to control dust and debris and stabilize the soil.



"While I was back at the Army's engineering schoolhouse, I proposed our problem to the experts there, and they said without hesitation 'Rhino Snot' was what we needed," Brazil said.

After months researching and comparing options, the Camp Roberts team decided to move forward with Enviro-tac II, also known as Rhino Snot. The eco-friendly polymer binding agent got its nickname from the Marine Corps' success with it at Camp Rhino, Iraq. It works like a glue, bonding sand, rock and dirt together and forming a water-tight barrier. It can also be churned into dirt and compacted to form a durable asphalt-like surface, pliable and hard enough to support heavy traffic.

Rhino Snot also offered a more environmentally sound alternative to asphalt or concrete, while providing a barrier that won't break down when exposed to aviation fuel and fluids — a chronic issue with petroleum-based surfaces like asphalt.

"This is a classic soil-stabilization project. The military has been doing this since well before World War II," Brazil said. "It's just that nowadays on a large scale you can't put lime, concrete [or petroleum products] in the soil without having a negative environmental impact. Polymers are the way ahead."

Another essential contributor was Maj. Brian Stark, a full-time plans officer for Camp Roberts. His mantra: "Vision without funding is a hallucination." Stark recognized the project as an opportunity to leverage skills within the Guard. This key decision provided Soldiers with a one-of-a-kind opportunity to hone their engineering skills and saved the base more than \$1.8 million in contracting costs.

To lead the operation, Camp Roberts brought on 1st Sgt. Ralph Baltz, an infantryman who had spent over a decade managing construction crews in the Sacramento area.

"We were able to run this project solely as a training mission," he said. "We brought in 11 [heavy equipment operators] from a mixture of different engineer units around the state, and I ran the crew as if it were a civilian job. This was a huge resume builder for these Soldiers. ... They couldn't get experience like this [in the military] unless they were overseas building a runway on a deployment."

The crews pulverized the existing layer of asphalt then set to work churning it together with the first five inches of soil, while injecting the Rhino Snot and utilizing heavy equipment to compact and smooth the mixture.

"I learned a lot seeing the whole process from beginning to end — how the [polymer] reacts with the dirt and how com-



**TOP: UH-60 Black Hawks from 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, take off from the newly refurbished Camp Roberts heliport June 15 to pick up Soldiers for an air assault mission. The portion of the heliport that has been refurbished can accommodate 40 helicopters; once the project is fully completed in July, it will have space for more than 60. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel ABOVE: California Guard engineers spray black dye across a 54-acre portion of the Camp Roberts Parade Field/Heliport on April 29. The segment was completed just days before nearly 5,000 Cal Guard Soldiers arrived for annual training. Photo by Suzi Thomas**

pact it gets. ... It's like asphalt. It's solid," said Sgt. Larry Gaitan of the 1401st Engineer Detachment, who is in charge of mixing and applying the binding agent.

The completed portion can accommodate 28 Black Hawks and twelve CH-47 Chinook dual-rotor helicopters. It was finished just in time to support the California Army National Guard's consolidated annual training in June, the largest Cal Guard training event in more than a decade.

In July engineers will complete the second phase of the rehabilitation, which will add space for 21 more helicopters. There are even plans in the works to revitalize a dirt landing strip on Camp Roberts with the same process so it can support C-130 cargo airplanes.

"For the little amount of money we've put into this project, we've gotten so much more than just a [parade field and airfield]; we've developed a tremendous capability," Brazil said. "Now that our engineers understand this product and the process, we can do this all over this base now or even in a deployed environment."

This project is one of many the Guard has undertaken as part of a five-year \$102 million initiative to revitalize Camp Roberts and maintain the historic post as a premier training facility for Guard, reserve and active duty military forces.





**ABOVE LEFT:** A member of Company A, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group jumps out of the back of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter over Fort Hunter Liggett during a high altitude, low opening (HALO) training exercise in May. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Members of Operational Detachment Alpha, 9513 Mountain Detachment of Company A, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, lower a rescue basket in May during a restrictive terrain area rescue operation exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett. **Photos by Sgt. Matthew Wright**

# Sharpening the tip of the spear

Special Forces Soldiers practice rescue mission operations over a drill weekend at Fort Hunter Liggett

By **SGT. MATTHEW WRIGHT**  
40th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Special Forces Soldiers from Company A, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group honed their skills to a razor sharp edge with a myriad of training exercises designed to push them to their limits during inactive duty training (IDT) May 16-19 at Fort Hunter Liggett.

With the war in Iraq over and drawing down in Afghanistan, the company is refocusing its training efforts to better support civil authorities in the event of a natural disaster.

"The positives for utilizing A Company is in its adaptability to be used anywhere at any time," explained A Company commander, Capt. John P. Trent.

Broken down into six operational 12-man detachments, known as Operational Detachment Alphas, the company is responsible for four primary missions: direct action, special reconnaissance, unconventional warfare and foreign internal defense. This division allows each team to operate independently, freeing up other teams to perform their own missions when called for.

"The company can insert its six detachments via aircraft, boat, static-line parachute, free fall parachute, rappel, fast-rope, or ATV anywhere in the advent of a large disaster," Trent said.

During the training exercises, one such team, the Mountain Detachment, ODA 9513, performed rescue operations from a severe angle, restrictive terrain area. Led

by Capt. Dillon Fike, the team rappelled out of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter onto an isolated cliff face. With only 10 meters to land, the ODA located a simulated casualty, provided treatment and extracted the casualty 120 feet upward using the helicopter's hoist.

"If you remember the floods in Colorado, the rescue operations were conducted and led by our battalion commander," explained Sgt. 1st Class Rossano J. Salvatore, of ODA 9513, "and in emergencies such as those, we are self sufficient and can operate for extended periods of time in restricted terrain."

The ODA team has two medical sergeants trained above the paramedic level. Under the right circumstances, the medical sergeants can sustain a patient for up to 72

hours in a restricted environment. Also, the team has two communications sergeants who can establish communication anywhere in the world back to a base station and relay sensitive information using organic FM, UHF, VHF, SATCOM and SDN systems.

"No matter what the platform is, each detachment can conduct area assessments, civil support, search and rescue and medevac, while running continuous communications through organic, on-the-move, secure satellite communications and internet connections, thus giving commanders real-time updates as the mission unfolds," said Trent.

"Any time we're presented with a challenge, we will find a solution to the problem and we will execute," said Salvatore.

## FIT to FIGHT

with **LT. COL. DANIEL MARKERT**

Last month we dove deeper into the primary purpose of tactical fitness: conditioning our nervous and stress system for rapid recovery. Now we will examine some other aspects of military fitness.

The Army's field manual for physical training, FM 7-22, Army Physical Readiness Training, identifies mobility, strength and endurance as three purposes for fitness training. You may have body composition goals of fat loss and/or muscle mass gain goals as well. To maximize your performance gains, focus on one primary purpose at a time. Become a serial specialist.

This is in keeping with the phases of con-

ditioning in FM 7-22 and the ARFORGEN (Army Force Generation) cycle.

Most California Army National Guard units completed a very large field training exercise for annual training this June. Once you complete your annual training, program a "reset" phase for your physical training that focuses on daily mobility and active recovery the month of your return. Follow this with a "train/ready" phase of a strength cycle, then an endurance cycle, and another strength cycle (or substitute for a lean mass building cycle) for about 75 percent of your training until the next big exercise, specialty school or competition. The remaining 25 percent

of your training time should be an "available" phase in which you focus on the tactical recovery I wrote about last month and mission specific conditioning such as ruck marching, obstacle courses, combatives and Military Movement Drills from FM 7-22.

I like two or three month training cycles: long enough to focus and progress in movement complexity, resistance and intensity and short enough to switch out to a new training purpose without getting bored or hitting a plateau. You can also avoid over training by switching your primary purpose. This also helps to be consistently compliant, as two or three month training goals are short enough to see the end of your objective and long enough to sustain progress.

In all your training programs, follow the doctrine of FM 7-22 with joint mobility preparatory warm ups, the exercise pro-



cedure and a compensatory stretching cool down in order to stretch out the functional opposite of the muscles and connective tissues you just exercised and stressed.

You can contact me with fitness questions at [daniel.t.markert.mil@mail.mil](mailto:daniel.t.markert.mil@mail.mil) or [dan.markert@warfightersedge.org](mailto:dan.markert@warfightersedge.org).

# 49th MP Brigade prepares for IED warfare

By **SGT. IAN KUMMER**  
69th Public Affairs Detachment

Kaboom! The “detonation” signaled by a nearby noncommissioned officer sent Soldiers scrambling for cover on a dusty training lane.

On June 7-8 in Fairfield, Calif., Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, trained to counter one of the most serious threats on today’s battlefield: improvised explosive devices.

The troops started off with a classroom briefing on the modern IED threat focusing on the construction of commonly seen IEDs, such as pressure plates and trip wires, and ways to detect them. After the briefing on Saturday, the Soldiers went outside and practiced IED procedures for a mounted patrol. On Sunday the Soldiers returned for a more difficult dismounted

exercise while wearing full combat gear.

Even though these Soldiers are not explosive ordinance demolition experts or engineers, knowledge of IEDs is crucial to their safety and effectiveness in the field.

“We have MPs who have deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, so they know what they’re talking about,” said Master Sgt. John Otten, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the training.

The training also encompassed combat lifesaver (CLS) procedures for injuries caused by an IED, from an amputated limb to internal burns.

“The medic on a patrol is positioned so he can get to a casualty as fast as he can no matter where it happens, but he can’t always get there in time,” said Staff Sgt. Erwin Samaniego, a medic with the company and a former member of Task Force

Warrior. “That’s the importance of CLS, to stabilize your buddy until the medic can arrive.”

IED attacks are the leading cause of combat related deaths for coalition forces in Afghanistan, making anti-IED training a top priority for the American armed forces. IEDs pose a threat not only to coalition members, but to Afghans as well. According to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan’s 2013 annual report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, IEDs were the largest cause of increased civilian casualties in the Afghan war zone.

Fortunately for the junior Soldiers of the 49th, they have the mentorship of senior troops and NCOs with experience from previous deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. On top of that, thousands of after action reports from real IED incidents across the world provided the basis for their coun-



**Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, render simulated first aid during an improvised explosive device training exercise in Fairfield June 8. Photo by Sgt. Ian Kummer**

ter-IED training.

Unit leaders interested in creating or improving an IED training course for their Soldiers can request access to Real-time Analysis and Publication of IED Data (RAPID), [www.rapid.a-tolutions.com](http://www.rapid.a-tolutions.com), a website that provides the latest information and trends on IEDs in war zones around the world.



**LEFT: Maj. John Allen tells members of the Civil Air Patrol about the UH-72 Lakota helicopter on April 24 in Stockton, Calif. TOP RIGHT: Civil Air Patrol Cadet Sarah Smith takes in the sights while flying in a CH-47 Chinook. LOWER RIGHT: Civil Air Patrol Cadet Patrick Timmons checks out a Chinook cockpit. Photos courtesy of the Civil Air Patrol**



# I-126th takes Civil Air Patrol for a ride

Civil Air Patrol cadets fly with Company B, I-126th Aviation Battalion in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter

By **CAPT. JASON SWEENEY**  
California Military Department Public Affairs

What’s cooler than flying over California’s Central Valley in a dual-rotor CH-47 Chinook helicopter with the ramp down?

Not a whole lot, according to members of the Civil Air Patrol’s Diablo Composite Squadron 44, based in Concord, Calif.

On April 24, Soldiers from Stockton’s B Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, gave cadets and senior members from Squadron 44 a tour of the California National Guard hangar at Stockton’s Army Aviation Support Facility before taking them up in a Chinook for a spin.

“It was great!” Cadet Tyler Beal said of the flight. “I mean, how many 14-year-olds do you know that have gone up in a military Chinook and had the opportunity to fly and do maneuvers for an hour?”

The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the

U.S. Air Force that was formed in 1941 by more than 150,000 aviation enthusiasts who were concerned about the defense of America’s coastline. The nonprofit organization’s mission is to support America’s communities with emergency response, aviation and ground services, youth development and promotion of air, space and cyber power. Its members participate in search-and-rescue and disaster relief missions across the nation.

The Civil Air Patrol’s Squadron 44 is a composite squadron that consists of cadets age 12 to 20 and senior members older than 18.

Squadron 44’s orientation flight with the I-126th was coordinated by Col. Raymond Watts, a Chinook pilot and former commander at the Stockton Army Aviation Support Facility who now serves as the part-time strategic plans and policies director at the California Military Department’s Joint Force Headquarters in Sacramento, Calif.

“This is the second orientation flight that I’ve coordinated,” Watts said. The first

took place a few years ago after Watts had reached out to a cadet at Squadron 44 who is the son of a former colleague. The young man had made some bad decisions as a teenager and Watts was able to make a connection with him through a shared passion for flying.

“I thought there may be other young people who I could share my experience and blessing with to show them in real life there are alternatives out there. You just need to apply yourself,” Watts said.

The young man is now a senior cadet officer with Squadron 44 and heading to college, Watts said.

The first orientation flight went so well that Squadron 44 requested another this year.

“The cadets obviously already have an interest in aviation so they really appreciate every moment,” said Maj. John Allen, commander of the Stockton Army Aviation Support Facility. “There is also a positive

impact on our full-time employees giving the tour. Seeing the cadets’ motivation and interest is humbling and reinvigorating.”

Squadron 44 senior member Eric Roman said the orientation flight fulfilled the Civil Air Patrol’s goals of promoting leadership, character development and educating youth and adults on the importance of aerospace.

“For me, I think the thing that stuck with me the most was how something that looks like it should never leave the ground can be so graceful and powerful in the air. The Chinook is a rare mix of nimbleness and strength,” Roman said.

“In addition to the flight and tour of the facility, I am sure that the cadets will remember the Soldiers that they had an opportunity to interact with,” he said. “Overall, the few hours that the cadets had with Stockton’s 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, made impressions that will last the rest of their lives.”



A UH-60 Black Hawk from 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment lifts off from Landing Zone Schoonover on Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., during a battalion air assault operation conducted with 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment during annual training June 15th, 2014. Photo by Spc. Matthew Dixon

## Haskins commands 40th ID

Maj. Gen. Lawrence A. Haskins has been assigned as the commander of the 40th Infantry Division effective July 1, succeeding Maj. Gen. Keith Jones, who will retire.

Haskins will serve as 40th ID commander in his traditional, part-time Guard role; he is the full-time commander of the California Army National Guard.

“Major General Haskins is a proven leader who has served in multiple key leadership positions, to include Deputy Adjutant General, California Military Department; Assistant Commander, 40th Infantry Division; Chief of Staff, California Army National Guard; and Chief of Staff, 40th Infantry Division,” Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, adjutant general of the Cal Guard, wrote in a memo announcing the leadership change. “Major General Haskins ... brings a wealth of experience and professional knowledge to this new assignment.”

Baldwin noted that under Jones’ “impressive and dedicated service,” the 40th Infantry Division was ranked first out of eight National Guard Divisions in the country in terms of readiness and it successfully executed a full-spectrum Warfighter exercise. Furthermore, in his full-time capacity, Jones implemented programs that resulted in major improvements to both Camp Roberts and Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, which will benefit Soldiers for decades to come.

## Mayors pledge to end vet homelessness

A total of 77 mayors, four governors and four county officials committed June 4 to ending veteran homelessness in their communities by the end of 2015 as part of the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. The challenge was announced by first lady Michelle Obama as part of the Joining Forces initiative to provide service members and their families opportunities and support.

Participating mayors and other leaders will use federal, local and nonprofit resources to end veteran homelessness. During the last three years, the U.S. has achieved a 24 percent reduction in homelessness among veterans, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, but Obama said that is not good enough.

“Just like it’s our country’s duty to bring back all of our men and women from the battlefield,” the First Lady said, “we’ve also got a duty to make sure that every single veteran has a place to call home when they get here – and for the rest of their lives.”

For more details about the Mayors Challenge visit <http://tinyurl.com/krmgxr2>.

## AF raises max enlistment age

The Air Force has raised the age limit for enlisted recruits from 27 to 39. The increased maximum age is for all enlisted occupations. Under federal law, the oldest recruit any military branch can enlist is 42, but each service sets its own policy within that limit.

The maximum age for Army enlisted recruits is 35, while the Navy and Marines cap recruit ages at 34 and 28, respectively. Annette Crawford, a spokeswoman for the Air Force Recruiting Service at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, said officials will watch to see if the aches and pains of approaching middle age are too much for older recruits.

## Free career mentorship program

Nonprofit organization American Corporate Partners is offering free yearlong professional mentorship opportunities for National Guard members to advance their civilian careers.

The program is open to currently serving and recently separated veterans who have served on active duty for at least 180 days since 9/11. ACP also accepts applications from members who do not meet the 180-days requirement, but who were injured while serving or training. Spouses of fallen veterans or severely wounded veterans are also eligible.

ACP is not a job placement program, but rather an opportunity to be mentored one-on-one to assist service members in transitioning from the military to the civilian workforce – or in the case of Guard members and reservists, advancing a civilian career. Mentors will assist service members with developing a career transition/advancement plan, creating a resume, improving interview skills, identifying industries where military experience and skills will be valuable and networking with industry leaders.

To sign up, visit [www.acp-usa.org/Mentoring\\_Program](http://www.acp-usa.org/Mentoring_Program). Please note in the referral space on the application that you were referred by the California National Guard. You can also visit [www.acp-usa.org/ABOUT\\_ACP/Participating\\_Institutions](http://www.acp-usa.org/ABOUT_ACP/Participating_Institutions) for a list of participating mentor companies.

## DID YOU KNOW...

### procedural correctness is applied at all operational and administrative levels?

From using a manual to conduct preventive maintenance checks and service on vehicles and equipment, to researching the regulations required for operational and administrative functions, procedural correctness is the cornerstone that ensures standards are met and processes are in compliance in accordance with regulatory guidance.

The majority of complaints and issues brought to the Inspector General’s Office pertain to procedural correctness, and many of those instances could have been avoided if regulatory guidance had been applied properly. Regardless of their military status or branch, leaders, Soldiers and Airmen at all levels can directly improve their organization and adhere to Army and Air Force standards simply by researching and following regulatory guidance.

The Army Publishing Directorate, [www.apd.army.mil](http://www.apd.army.mil), and Human Resources Command, [www.hrc.army.mil](http://www.hrc.army.mil), are excellent resources for finding the most up-to-date regulations and pamphlets to aid Soldiers in their duties. For Airmen, [www.e-publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil) and [www.afpc.af.mil](http://www.afpc.af.mil) are good resources.



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Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from Bravo Co., 1-140th Aviation Battalion, fly to a landing zone to assist California National Guard Soldiers from the 1-18th Cavalry Regiment and the 40th BSB in sling load training at Camp Roberts, Calif., June 10, 2014. Sling loading equipment to a helicopter is a vital part of the California Army National Guard's mission readiness. Photo by Spc. Matthew Dixon


## The Grizzly Newsmagazine

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