



**'Ham' radio  
on the right  
wavelength**

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**Other states  
are envying  
the CSMR?**

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# WARRIOR WORDS

Newsletter of the Southern Regional Support Command \* California State Military Reserve

## History's Big Guns In CSMR

**Southern Region  
Soldiers' Key Role  
in Preserving  
California's Rich  
Military Heritage**



**MANNING** a horse-drawn artillery cannon are 1LT Guy Coulombe and SGT Sharon Roberts.



## Guarding the Guard

**Those Soldiers manning the gates  
at the JFTB in Los Alamitos include  
a contingent of members of the  
State Military Reserve. **Page 6****

## Uncle Sam taking a look at the CSMR, other SDFs

By SSG Jim Tortolano  
Warrior Words

The federal Department of Defense has launched a review of the state defense force movement that could lead to changes in the operation, missions and organization of the California State Military Reserve.

In February, the Inspector General's office of the DoD announced it would begin evaluating the interaction of the Defense Department with SDFs.

State defense forces such as the CSMR are authorized by Section 109c, Title 32 of the United States Code, which allows states to maintain "other troops" separate from the national uniformed services.

The National Guard is a dual-role service, being considered part of the U.S. Army when activated, but otherwise answering to the governor of the state. State defense forces were first created during World War I to provide military capabilities when most National Guard units were federalized for foreign service.

During World War II and the Korean conflict, the federal government assisting states by providing

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## NCO PROFILE

### SFC ALCIDES R. ANDRADE

**Age:** 60  
**Lives in:** Alhambra.  
**Joined the CSMR:** 1996

**CSMR Duty:** Assigned to S-3/ MEMS Academy. Started with Center for Military History.  
**Current Civilian Occupation:** Insurance broker/ investigator.



**Family:** Married; four grown children.

**Why did you join the CSMR?**

A friend in the CSMR talked me into it. And I have always liked to help people. I have wanted to protect and serve, and do whatever I could to help my country..

**What do you most like about the CSMR?**

The best part is the people. They are helpful and there is mutual support and respect.

**Military honors and awards:** CSMR NCO of the Year for 2002.

## Chaplain's Corner

### Let's keep hydrated

As we go about our military tasks and responsibilities, we are often reminded by fellow Soldiers to "Keep hydrated!" While we can survive for weeks without food; we can only last about three days without water. (Our bodies are composed mostly of water.)



**CPT CHRISTOPHER FOWLER**

The Word of God uses water as a metaphor for cleansing, refreshing, and restoring us from the inside out! And, of course, ceremonial cleansing was an integral part of religious practices during Biblical times, especially within the priesthood. One of the ways that God blessed the nation of Israel involved a promise of hydration for the land and spiritual cleansing for the people: "For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground. I will pour our My Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants" (Isaiah 44:3).

God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He still promises us "spiritual hydration" and cleansing: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink". He is prepared to give us "living water" -- eternal life along with the presence of His Holy Spirit. All we have to do is ask! If you haven't yet asked God for this living water, today is the perfect time to do so, because "whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst" (John 4:14).



## WARRIOR WORDS

Southern Regional Support Command  
**COL MARC BRESLOW**  
COMMANDING

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**CPT RON ALEXANDER**

EDITOR: SSG Jim Tortolano. STAFF: CW2 Richard DeLaTorre, SSG Richard Bergquist, SSG John Thompson, SSG Robert Davison, SGT Gregory Solman. Please send news items, story suggestions, corrections to [warriorwords@mac.com](mailto:warriorwords@mac.com). The next Warrior Words will be published in July. Materials for consideration of publication should be submitted by June 15. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the California State Military Reserve or the State of California.

# California stands out at SGAUS convention

By CPT Galo Pesantes  
For Warrior Words

The convention for the State Guard Association of the United States took place in Richmond, Va. in October.

This convention was a unique opportunity to meet with people from other state militias and to compare state regulations, rules and guidelines. It is evident that California is one of the leaders in everything from training of the National Guard, uniforms and support of our command staff and Adjutant General.

Our state headquarters allowed our contingent to wear our ACUs during the convention. Other states were impressed by a number of things we take for granted, and the first one is that we are allowed to wear the American flag on our uniforms.

The reasoning we learned behind other state's restriction to wearing the U.S. flag is that they believe they are a state organization and not federal military.

They also had comments and praise for an item that many of us complain about: the berets. There were representatives from many states who expressed the opinion that they would love to wear the berets and ACUs. I guess you don't know what you have until you talk to people who have less.

There were a number of announcements at the convention regarding the performance of the Soldiers from California. The Golden State lagged behind only two other states – Texas and Indiana – in the numbers of Soldiers who



**THE STATE GUARD** of the United States annual convention held in Virginia included a large contingent from the CSMR, including 1LT Galo Pesantes (now a CPT) MSG Tredy and SFC Alcides Andrade.

have taken and passed one of the MEMS courses. We are, however, moving up to the top spot.

The other official announcement came from the national director of the MEMS Academy, MAJ Roger Higny.

He promoted then-1LT Galo Pesantes (since promoted to CPT) to the position of California state director of the MEMS Academy.

There are a number of changes

to the MEMS system, which were revealed at the convention. Those changes will be published later this year in the MEMS newsletter.

Our CSMR Commanding Officer, BG Roland Candee, attended the convention and had an opportunity to speak with other state commanding officers and learn how other state militias are organized and administered.



Photos by SSG Richard Bergquist

**SGT** Sharon Roberts shows off the stacks and stacks of records, equipment and more being stored.

# Military memories preserved

## CSMR Soldiers help keep history of Californian at war for state museum

By **SGT Gregory Solman**  
**Warrior Words**

Despite the musty, cavernous appearance of the almost hidden concrete-block warehouse serving as the temporary home of the Center for Military History's Southern Region at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, the Ark of the Covenant from the film "Raiders of the Lost Ark" is no where to be found.

But a Civil War cannon replica used in "Glory" (1989) is, as well

as actual military uniforms that would be the envy of Hollywood studio wardrobe departments along with crates full of artifacts, from World War II gun cameras to un-inventoried mystery parts to items yet unknown.

LTC John Goodnight, now in his fifth year as commander of the California Center for Military History's Southern Region, spreads out on break-down tables with an array of laptop computers and PowerPoint projectors where unit historians practice presentations.

Goodnight oversees 16 of the state's 60 personnel, with its headquarters, Northern Region unit and museum in Sacramento, another museum pending here, and a naval history unit in Glendale.

At HQ, the CCMH is commanded by COL Kenneth Nielsen.

The primary purpose of Army historians is to preserve the Army heritage. In that capacity, the work includes: restoration and preservation of artifacts, records, oral histories of veterans, and unit histories, including summaries

of periods of time, eventually consolidated to the division level.

Despite the advance of now commonplace electronic devices such as camcorders, cellular phones and computers, technology ironically can work against the historian's mission as well, according to Goodnight.

In fact, after two tours as a combat aviator in Vietnam—where he earned two Bronze Stars among 22 decorations—Goodnight has identified a new, insidious domestic foe: The electronic record.

## **“It’s the delete button that’s killing us.”**

“What we’ve found is that over the last 10 years there is a degradation of the ability to document unit histories because of computers,” said Goodnight.

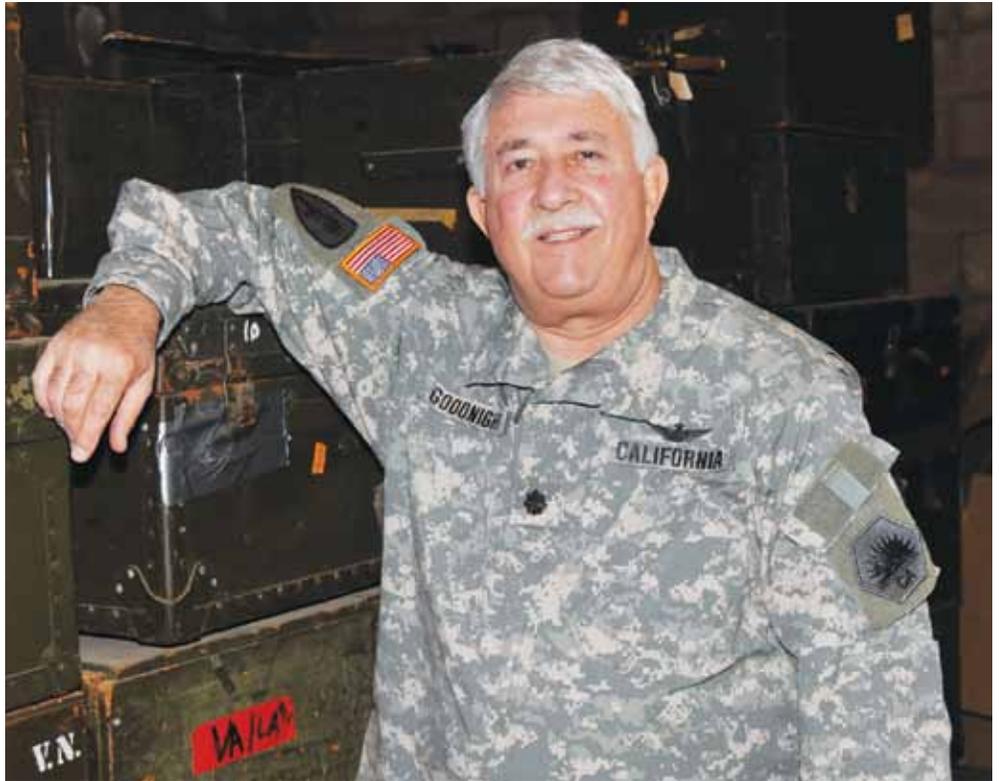
“Before, unit histories had to be typed out; with electronic media, people are transferred along with their laptops. Consequently, we are losing the history of the Army. It’s that delete button that’s killing us.”

Goodnight cites as example after-action reports following contact with the enemy. “Those records are disappearing because the Army is losing its historical archives.”

Moreover, a dearth of trained historians in the Army threatens the proper methodology necessary to vivid and accurate historical record, what Col. Goodnight calls “personnel turbulence... The problem we have is that the military historian specialty in the Army is a narrow field.

“You can take it as an elective under the Adjutant General branch. In the Army there are TOE [Table of Organization and Equipment] historian positions, but they are few and far between. There is a historian on the Division staff. Otherwise, most are [doing the job] as additional duties.”

That’s why one of the unit’s



**LTC John Goodnight**, commander of the California Center for Military History, Southern Region. Below, boxes of uniforms covering several eras.

missions is to support “all National Guard units in Southern California by training their unit historians and teaching them the tricks of the trade. We offer to do that, as well as do the oral interviews of veterans. A

heavy due to their specialization—are history teachers “but not certified as military historians,” Goodnight said. “

That takes about six months to a year of classes on writing, written communication, interviewing techniques, technical report writing, punctuation, writing summaries, etc, in effect the equivalent of three semesters of college English.”

The unit is headed for a new headquarters here in conjunction with other plans for restoring JFTB, which include a public historical museum requiring docents. Goodnight says the “ultimate goal is a construct a permanent force to facilitate



lot of this tribal knowledge is going to be lost if we do not document it.”

Many of those who join the CSMR history unit — they tend to be rank-

historical tours, with the potential for 700 or 800 visitors a day coming through.”

# Missions

## Guarding with the Cal Guard

By CW2 Richard DeLaTorre  
Warrior Words

The CSMR's success in taking on greater roles in state defense activities now includes playing an up-front role in security at Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base.

A group of CSMR Soldiers from the ISG is integrated with Cal Guard Troops as part of the post security force that handles classic operations such as front gate duties, patrols, dispatches and special events.

The cadre, led by OIC 1LT Richard Robert, is not an MP unit, but a security force with an MP function.

"It's a primary, high-profile mission for us," said SSG Weston Sanchez, Jr. about the cadre, which operates under special state orders that authorizes them to carry M9 pistols in tandem with their Cal Guard counterparts.

The close partnership with the Cal Guard has created a stronger sense of value about the CSMR and an appreciation of what its Soldiers can do and how they get the job done.

"It gives me a great sense of satisfaction to see our soldiers at the front gate of the JFTB performing



Photo by SGT Gene Arias

**SSG WESTON SANCHEZ, Jr., Cal Guard SGT Mario Chavez and SSG Weston Chavez, Sr.**

the security mission along with the active Guard soldiers," said ISG Commander COL Peter Seitz regarding the ISG SECFOR. "It has put the CSMR on a new level with the Post. They are very appreciative of our support and we are pleased to provide it. To have our Soldiers at the front gate is especially meaningful as they are the first soldiers anyone coming on base will see and seeing those California tags on their uniforms makes you proud to be in the CSMR."

And, likewise, the teamwork has fostered an even greater appreciation by the CSMR of the Cal

Guard's varied responsibilities and positive payback about having the opportunity to assist those Soldiers.

Within the already close-knit ISG, an even closer bond has been built by the cadre members, which number about 20, because of a mix of family connections and special circumstances.

"I learn a lot from him and he learns a lot from me," says SSG Weston Sanchez, Sr., a former Cal Guard Soldier and the group's NCOIC, about his son. One of those lessons is how the younger Sanchez, the CSMR 2007 NCO of the Year, has battled back from cancer.

A similar scenario is at play between two other cadre members, SGT Joe Marino, Sr. and his son, SPC Joe Marino, Jr., the CSMR 2007 Soldier of the Year, who is also a cancer survivor.

But despite the challenges, it's clear that optimism, sharing and a can-do spirit about the work is in great evidence among the two fathers and sons, and among the whole cadre, said 1LT Robert.

"There is a lot of teamwork in our unit," he said, "and everyone relies on each other."



Photo by SSG John Thompson

**CSMR** and Cal Guard soldiers man the front gate at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

## Night work for the 4th Battalion

By SPC Jay Earl  
Warrior Words

A low fog crept past the front gates on a not-so-typical Saturday night in March for CSMR Soldiers at Los Alamitos JFTB.

As they chowed on MREs in the dark, one wisecrack Soldier joked they had better look out for the fabled “boogie man.” PFC Jonathan Smith took a little umbrage to that kind of verbal towel snap: “The boogie man needs to be afraid of me.”

And so the cross-talk went among the cut-ups during down time for the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion PMO at a special night session of Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training at the post’s abandoned Naval housing area.

The session, dubbed Operation Golden Claw, was part of the ongoing effort by the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion to continuously make-ready its own Soldiers so they are well prepped to give the specialized supplemental training they have been successfully

### Preparing to give specialized training to Cal Guard and U.S. Army troops

providing the past several years to Cal Guard and U.S. Army troops statewide.

According to SSG Dustin Wilkins, there are three main parts to the Battalion’s training program for its Soldiers.

The first, known as the red phase, is an in-house boot camp with access to full-time Army and National Guard resources.

Next, the blue phase, trains MP student soldiers for their MOS of 31 Bravo MP, which consists of law enforcement training, advanced MEMS and MERT. The in-house portion includes MP skills, while TRADOC is the civilian-side of the in-house academy.

The final part, the white phase, is a field-training exercise, which

is the graduation segment for those successful in nighttime land navigation with light and sound discipline without electronic aids.

Wilkins, who joined the CSMR six years ago, said no such programs to test Soldier readiness in realistic conditions existed at that time. The key elements of Op Golden Claw, he noted, involved locating IED’s, radioing for assistance and marking the areas at a safe distance.

The NCOs gave a briefing in pitch darkness to the dozen SMR soldiers who had started the MOUT training earlier with daylight exercises to practice checkpoint roadblocks and vehicle searches.

During the briefing, the Soldiers learned there would be friendly forces and mock enemy combatants involved. They were graded on their tactics and other specific aspects of the operation.

But it was safe bet that they all would have scored high if they had been graded on how well they could “boogie down” in the dark.

## Defense Dept. looking at SDFs

Continued from page 2

weapons, uniforms, equipment and some training.

Although SDFs are not at present funded by the federal government, they are subject to the oversight of the Pentagon, currently through the National Guard Bureau.

The current regulations governing the SDFs date back to the 1980s and are expected to be updated in connection with this review.

The Inspector General’s review will be led by Gregory D. Sampson of the inspections and evaluations directorate. According a memo issued by the Defense Department, the

review is intended to do the following:

- identify relevant DoD component policies and regulations governing state defense forces;
- evaluate compliance with existing law, policies and regulations;
- assess effectiveness of DoD interaction with state defense forces; and
- determine impediments between the DoD and the states for effective management of the state defense force program.

The review will involve input, suggestions and other comments about the SDF-DoD relationship from federal components such as the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Office of

the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, United States Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau.

Also, the IG’s office will be contacting or visiting state Adjutant Generals and selected state defense forces.

Items considered likely for discussion and possible change include uniforms, missions, training, the arming of SDF Soldiers, rank structure and more, with an eye toward possible standardization of policies among the states under the NGB or another Defense Department agency.

## Getting on the same wavelength

By CPT Ronald Alexander  
Warrior Words

In an emergency, few things are as crucial to quick and effective response as reliable communications. In order to improve the CSMR's use of radio and other electronic means, Soldiers have been attending amateur radio classes at the Arcadia Police Department.

SGT James "Jay" Coote has been serving as liaison between the CSMR and the APD during the classes, held in January and February. A veteran of amateur, police and military radio uses, he — along with lead instructor Lee Rising — covered a wide range of topics important for a military radio operator.

Intending to be proactive, and not just reactive to events, comm units need and use a wide array of electronic hardware and trained personnel, which allow for rapid and useful communications among base and field units.

Amateur radio, sometimes called "ham" radio, has a long tradition of providing assistance for emergency and public service uses. Skilled amateurs can use voice, text, Internet-over-radio, image, teletype and Morse code on a variety of frequencies.

But in the days of the World Wide Web and iPhones, why stay "Old School"? Because in the aftermath of a major disaster or war, those private networks will almost certainly overload or fail.

On the other hand, amateur stations on emergency power can continue to operate, even those close to "ground zero" of a catastrophic event.

When a CSMR Soldier earns



**AMATEUR** and Army MARS radio (above). At right, lead instructor Lee Rising (left) and SGT James "Jay" Coote.



Photos by  
CPT Ronald Alexander

an amateur radio license, he or she can connect with other radio-equipped entities such as state, county and city Emergency Operations Centers in addition to

military communications.

For information on amateur radio, go to [www.wedothat-radio.org](http://www.wedothat-radio.org).

## This is your newsletter

*Warrior Words* is the quarterly newsletter of the Southern Regional Support Command of the California State Military Reserve.

That means that the job of the staff of *Warrior Words* — drawn from the public affairs section — is to inform you and help give recognition to you about your work in the CSMR.

We encourage you to contribute material for publication. We publish it four times a year, so editions are in January, April, July and October. A limited number of print copies are available; we strive to e-mail copies of *Warrior Words* to as many Soldiers in the SRSC as we can.

If you wish to contribute, or to request a PDF (portable document format) version of the newsletter, to make a suggestion or request a correction, please e-mail us at [warriorwords@mac.com](mailto:warriorwords@mac.com).

Articles submissions should be made in a .doc format in Microsoft Word (not docx). Photos should be accompanied by a cutline (caption) describing what's in the image, and naming the people depicted in the photo (including rank, first and last name).

File sizes of photos should not exceed eight megs; anything more tends to choke our e-mail system.