

Official Newsmagazine of the California National Guard

GRIZZLY

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REMEMBERED
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Leader's Brief



Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin
California Adjutant General

Combat Readiness

In the last Grizzly I spoke to you about reaching and maintaining lethality. This time around, as annual training becomes the primary focus for many of us, I wanted to take a moment to highlight a few areas that I would like you to focus on while you prepare for and execute your field training exercises.

I released our updated 2018 California National Guard Strategic Priorities last October and replaced Civil Support Readiness with Combat Readiness as our number one priority. It's not that our civil support role isn't as important as it used to be, on the contrary it's more important than ever. However, you have shown me over the last six years that you can accomplish all that we have thrown at you and make it look easy. Therefore, I need you to sustain our civil support capability as we refocus our efforts on our new primary target of Combat Readiness.

The world we live in is fraught with challenges – fault lines threaten to turn in to full blown flash points as despots and dictators stoke the flames of conflict. As a force we must be prepared to project the power and will of the United States of America at a moment's notice. We will do this by sharpening our sabers, honing our combat readiness skills and being prepared to defeat any near peer rival around the globe. This will not be easy, the training will be hard and your commanders, if they're doing it right, will demand more from you than at any time in the past. But we, the California National Guard, are warriors and warriors train for the fight.

Specifically, I want you to focus on your "off the FOB" expeditionary force skills, if that's map to compass land navigation or a return to iron site marksmanship, I want you to be able to perform your mission during contested or degraded operations with a near peer advisory. Global

positioning systems can fail, the effectiveness of combat optics can be degraded – anywhere, anytime, any condition – our greatest technological advancement should always be our individual warfighter. I want you to have the training and confidence to perform your individual tasks at the highest level. The purpose of our training is to develop our forces to win in combat.

Commanders need to evaluate their forces to determine if they are current or proficient in their assigned tasks. If it's determined that the forces are merely current, then Commanders should have plans ready to execute during the next field training opportunity to raise their unit's capabilities to proficient. You may not be able to accomplish everything that you want to during your next field training iteration, but the closer you get to proficient across the board will directly equate to increased unit morale and better retention. Soldiers and Airmen want the challenge, at their core, that's part of why they signed up. Demand the world of them and they will amaze you when they deliver the moon. If drill is easy, you're doing it wrong.

On the ground this means you and your troops may have to accomplish decisive ground operations while we are concurrently fighting to achieve Air and Cyber dominance. The questions you should be asking your most experienced operators is how can we better prepare to conduct our mission in a GPS degraded environment, without dedicated airpower while having constantly jammed communications. Build your training scenarios around those threats. Make the threats real and instill the self-confidence in your troops through drills and the proper application of tactics, techniques and procedures.

This is how do we build the most effective, confident, and lethal warrior.

Why Prioritize Combat Readiness?

Several times this winter, service members and civilians alike asked why I thought Combat Readiness was elevated as a 2018 Priority #1 for the California Military Department. My answer is and continues to be two-fold. Whether we know it or not, every California National Guard member deployed and in garrison enters into an operational environment every day.

Considering the revision of the Army's FM-3, Operations last October, the extended battlefield has to incorporate at a minimum, electronic warfare and cyber.

Ask any Cyber Warrior in our formation if they ever apply what they were learning in school and I am sure they will quickly give you the stink-eye. Our cyber teams are operational and engaged every single minute because the servers, desktops, laptops, "mi-fi"s, and phones operate in contested environments. Environments to which we as operational participants, willingly insert our CAC cards into daily.

Quickly, the premise of Multi-Doman Battle described last year in FM-3, appears to be evolving toward the proposition of Multi-Domain Operations to shift the mindset many of us still have that engaging the enemy means doing so only on the physical battlefield. This is no longer valid as Cyber represents one aspect of the extended battlefield where few can ignore the realities of conflict and deception which can take a toll on our own mental and moral centers of gravity. In comparison, the Air Force for some time has termed the domain of today's and future conflict as the Battlespace. Not taking anything away from our "trigger pullers" because there will always be a pointy end of the spear. The other factor to consider is combat (operational) readiness as a strategic tool to prevent acts of regional aggression has changed drastically since the Cold War. No longer, are rapid

reaction forces standing by at momentary responsiveness, the most prevailing deterrent on the global stage. Rapid mission evolution combined with equipment modernization cycles occur in less than half the time than they did in the 1980-90s, and the circles are tightening even still. This means technological advantages over our adversaries improve during the fielding of new equipment utilized by our effectively lead teams, but not necessarily for long periods of time.

For some of you who have ever wondered what his meaning of a "near-peer competitor" is, take heed. Our adversaries are leveraging cutting-edge technology and training vigorously to demonstrate new system capabilities that have never been deployed in combat before. Hence, we must always improve our tactics and methods to move ahead in a manner some refer to as the new dynamic of Strategic Competition. This suggests as an operational force we are always concentrated on projecting maximum combat and operational potential as a means of deterrence within our entire span of force capability.

It also means that our readiness is often recurrent and subject to peaks and valleys. Controlling factors that are within our grasp such as time management, individual commitment, and deliberate planning can prevent the valley floors from being too low. Unfortunately, change and conflict are constant so our will and determination must be even more resolute. This sounds good but if you are not combat ready and operationally vigilant at all times, you will have a hard time being resilient -- both as a team member and an individual.

This is what keeps me focused on Combat Readiness as a number one priority.



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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:
bcossel@gmail.com



Cover photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

A CAL FIRE observer watches as California Army and Air National Guard personnel practice dropping water at predetermined sites, Saturday, April 14, 2018, during interagency aircrew training at a heli-base near Sutter Creek, California. Cal Guard helicopter crews and support personnel gathered for three days of joint training to prepare for heightened fire activity in the summer and fall.

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Active duty and National Guard Soldiers team up to bring a wealth of experience to the mission of Train, Advise, Assist, Command - South.

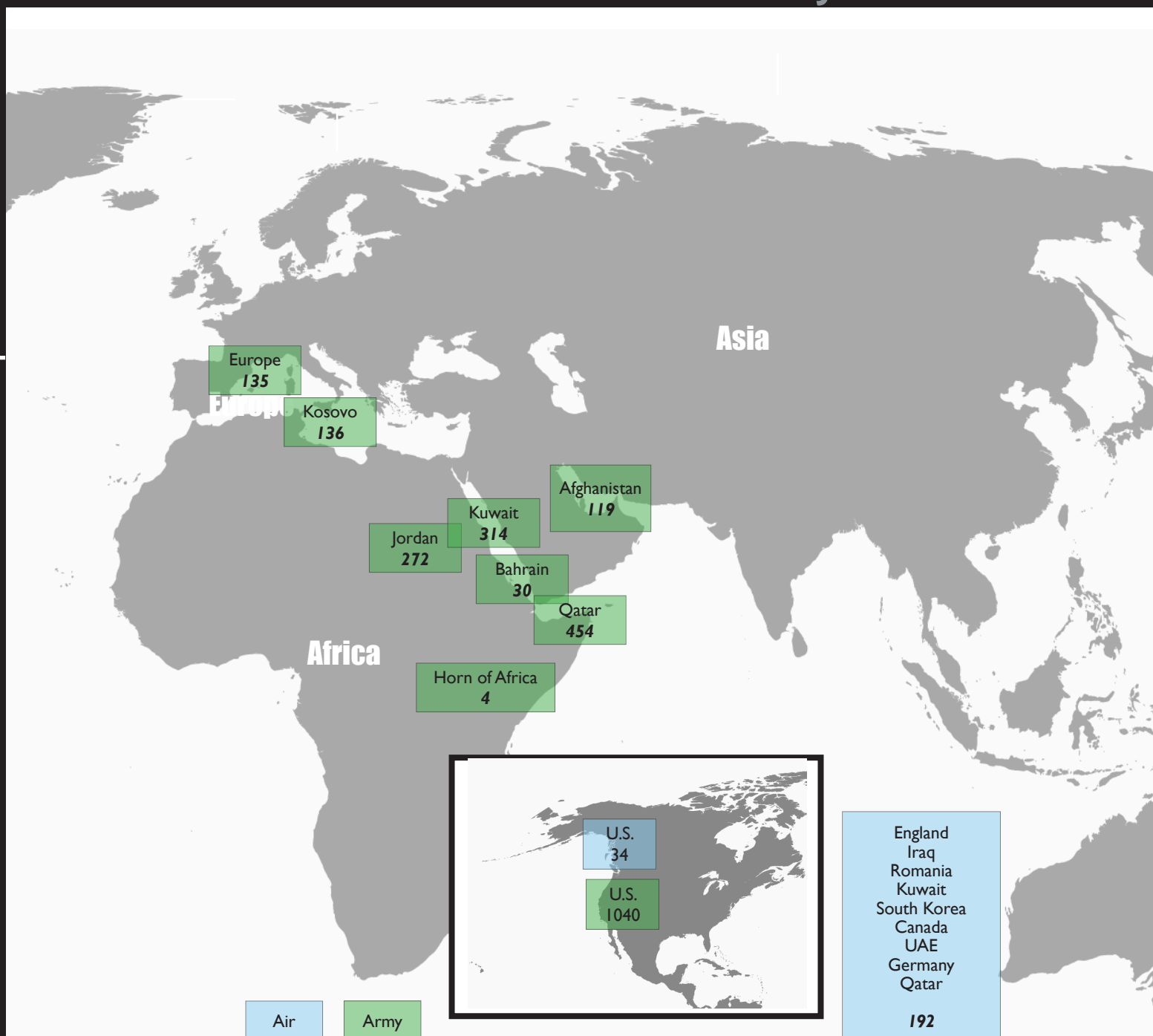
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Master Sgt. Janet Bretado is one of two female advisors from the 40th Infantry Division currently serving as part of Train, Advise and Assist Command South.

California National Guard troops mobilized as of **JUNE** 2018



A Legacy
**Etched
In
Stone**



MAJ ROCCO M. BARN
SPECIAL FORCES COMP





A monument is unveiled to dedicate the California Army National Guard's special forces compound in honor of U.S. Army Maj. Rocco M. Barnes during a ceremony at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, California, May 18, 2018. Barnes, who was assigned to the Tactical Command Post 3, 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard, was serving in support of the U.S. Marine Corps as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, when he was killed June 4, 2009, in Afghanistan. (Photo by Senior Airman Crystal Housman)



The California National Guard Special Forces community proudly honored one of its own in a ceremony on May 18 at Joint Forces Training Base, dedicating the installation's Special Forces compound in memory of Maj. Rocco M. Barnes.

Barnes, 51, was assigned as Information Operations Officer for Tactical Command Post 3, 40th Infantry Division, died on June 4, 2009 from injuries sustained during a vehicle roll-over while serving as an augmentee to the 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force in Bagram, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Rocco was very humble and the consummate, quiet professional," said Col. Michael Wise, former commander of Special Forces Detachment North who officiated the ceremony. "He was the essence of a Special Forces combat leader... a great leader when he needed to lead and a good Soldier when his duty was to follow.

"He had the greatest of integrity, he was courageous in battle, he was a patriot, he never quit anything in his life and he never failed at anything in his life," continued Wise. "He believed in selfless service and was always there when you needed him. Most of all he was a friend and he always stood by you thick or thin."

A unique and multi-talented individual, Barnes was not only an outstanding Soldier, but a successful writer and producer in the entertainment industry. An expert in the security field, his resume included a stint as a bodyguard to Arnold Schwarzenegger on several films before he became Governor of California.

Barnes military career as an enlisted Soldier and commissioned officer covered 31 years and included service in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve and Florida and Virginia Army National Guard, before joining the California National Guard in March 1999 where he was assigned to Company A, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group.

In addition to his final deployment, Barnes also deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from August 2002 to June 2003 when he was embedded with an Afghan National Army Battalion. In October 2004 he deployed as an advisor partnered with the

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“He was the essence of a Special Forces combat leader... a great leader when he needed to lead and a good Soldier when his duty was to follow.”

*Col. Michael Wise, former commander,
Special Forces Detachment North*

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Afghan National Army until March 2006. Midway through that deployment he was transferred to his final CNG posting as an operations officer.

“Rocco loved the Army and his dedication was always 110%,” recalled Barnes’ mother, Mrs. Grace Barnes-Filo, who journeyed from her home in Ohio to attend the ceremony. “He was a great friend to many all over the globe and could always be counted on if someone needed a hand. He was always there.”

HIS LEGACY LIVES ON

Two of Maj. Barnes’ longtime friends and fellow Green Berets, Lt. Col. Karl Johnson and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Beetham are currently deployed to Afghanistan as the command team for the California National Guard’s Special Operations Detachment – North (SOD-N) on a train, advise and assist mission working with the Afghan National Army Special Operations Command (ANASOC). Although they were not able to make it to the dedication, Barnes’ legacy and the impact he left on the ground in Afghanistan has been on the forefront of their minds in recent months, as they continue the mission that he sacrificed all for.

Both Johnson and Beetham were deployed to Afghanistan back in 2002 with Barnes, on his first tour there, when they were all part of an elite team tasked with training and operationalizing the first of three fledgling Afghan National Army battalions in the midst of an ongoing war. They were doing exactly what Special Forces Soldiers are trained to do and Barnes was in his element.

“He seemed to get up every day loving the opportunity and challenges he had in front of him. Feeling blessed, to be in theater doing his job,” said Johnson, then a fellow captain with Barnes.

Their mission was challenging and fast paced; taking Soldiers straight out of basic training and leading them into trouble spots across the region. Though Barnes was assigned as a battalion level mentor, he regularly deployed alongside their subordinate companies to be on the ground and in the action.

“He was one of the old breed [Special Forces] guys. He was not an office guy... He was a get out in the field and do it from your ruck sack kind of guy,” said Beetham. “Definitely a field leader.”

Barnes’ direct approach left a lasting impression on many of the Afghans he led and fought alongside, and those experiences have undoubtedly shaped their careers.

Afghan Special Forces, Sgt. Maj. Mirwais Amiri, who currently serves as the Command Sergeant Major for the ANASOC School of Excellence, benefitted directly from Barnes mentorship and his example.

Back in 2002, Amiri was a newly appointed company first sergeant and he recalled many anecdotes from their time together. He remembered Barnes as a compassionate and hard-working leader who went above and beyond to take care of both Afghan and US Soldiers. But more than anything, he appreciated his bold leadership style.

He recounted a time when they were deployed in Khost Province and one of their Afghan Soldiers came back from a patrol beaten and bruised, and reported that he had been slapped and berated by a local Afghan National Police (ANP) officer. After the Afghan company leadership had gathered the facts, they approached Barnes asking for advice.

Barnes consulted with them and as they weighed out what this could turn into in the future, if left unchecked, their decision became clear.

“Maj. Barnes was a brave man... he said, let’s take our guys and we will go talk to the district police,” said Amiri. “Very quickly we climbed in our trucks and headed





Above: Col. Michael Wise, a former special operations commander and close friend of U.S. Army Maj. Rocco M. Barnes, escorts Barnes' mother, Grace Barnes-Filo, after she spoke, May 18, 2018, during a ceremony to dedicate a California Army National Guard special forces and special operations compound in Barnes' honor. Center: Awards and memorabilia belonging to U.S. Army Maj. Rocco M. Barnes are displayed inside the Maj. Rocco M. Barnes Special Forces Compound at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, California, on May 18, 2018, following the compound's dedication in Barnes' honor. Bottom left: then Capt. Barnes during a deployment around 2004. Bottom right: Sgt. Maj. Mirwais Amiri, then an Afghan National Army first sergeant, stands vigilantly behind then Capt. Rocco Barnes during an Afghan new year's celebration at a district center in Khost Province, Afghanistan in late 2002. Their team was invited to attend the celebration alongside local elected officials, tribal elders and regional warlords. Amiri remembered being proud to be there with his American advisor.

out. As soon as we got there, we surrounded their command post and collected all their weapons. They were in shock."

Not a shot was fired, explained Amiri. But the situation was handled, and a healthy balance of respect had been restored.

Amiri laughed as he recalled how reports of their dealings with the ANP had made their way up to the Provincial Governor and the Afghan President.

"This was an amazing thing that we did... he was a great man and he always took care of us," recalled Amiri. "From that point on, things were different with the police. They were very respectful when talking to us. After that, they got straight. No one else got slapped."

Amiri is now in a position where he is responsible for overseeing the qualification courses that train Afghanistan's Commando's, Special Forces Soldiers and Cobra Strike Kandaks as well as advanced skills like sniper qualification.

However, he is far from the only Afghan that Barnes worked with back then, who is now in a very prominent position in Afghanistan's most elite ranks.

"We learned a lot of good things from his experience and his leadership. And the people that worked with him [on that tour], all of them have gotten promoted... my company commander at that time, is now a two-star general and our platoon leaders, are now the G2 and G3 officers of ANASOC," said Amiri. "He was my first mentor and he was the best one too... When I heard that he had been killed, I was really sad."

Within their duties while deployed, both Beetham and Johnson work daily with Soldiers that Barnes had a personal impact on, and they take solace in watching all that he invested in Afghanistan continue to grow.

"I think he really enjoyed his time here... so much so that he volunteered two additional times to come back," said Beetham. "He thrived in an environment of rapid change, he loved it over here. I think he'd be absolutely thrilled with the mission that we're doing here now [and how it has progressed]."

Barnes was the recipient of the Bronze Star (3rd Award), Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Star), Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal and many other service awards.

On behest of his mother, his awards, decorations and letters of condolence from President Barack Obama and Governor Schwarzenegger are now on permanent display in the Rocco M. Barnes Special Forces Compound as an inspiration to current and future Soldiers.



Cal Guard NCOs share knowledge with Afghan enlisted leaders

By **STAFF SGT. NEYSA CANFIELD**

2nd Brigade Combat Team,
4th Infantry Division Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The Army commonly refers to the U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Corps as the Backbone of the Army because the Army expects them to lead and train younger Soldiers and support and assist their commissioned officers during daily duties and missions.

It is those traits and characteristics that Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Derma, senior enlisted advisor for the Military Advisory Team for Train, Advise and Assist Command-South, wanted to share with the Afghan senior enlisted leaders when he began senior leader huddles back in November of last year.

The command, which is composed of Soldiers from the 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard and 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, focuses on training and assisting Afghan security forces and supporting counterterrorism operations.

“When (the 40th Inf. Div.) first got here in October and started working with the Afghan National army I noticed that their NCOs weren’t as engaged as our NCOs are in daily tasks,” said Derma, a native of Brawley, California. “It was then that I knew I wanted to start a program to get (the ANA’s) NCOs a similar authority of what our Army’s NCOs have.”

With a goal in mind, Derma built a team of experienced NCOs from TAAC-South in order to begin meeting with and advising senior Afghan

NCOs within the 205th CORP Afghan National Army.

“I have used NCOs from the 40th Infantry Division, the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and even from the Security Force Assistance Brigade,” said Derma. “It really depends what specialty we are covering during our huddles. I want to make sure we have experienced NCOs who can share their knowledge.”

So far, Derma and his team have advised on the duties and responsibilities of a first sergeant, command relationships with commissioned officers, operations, logistics and more.

Most importantly, according to Derma, he and his team wanted the Afghan enlisted leaders to understand the importance of the NCOs role in the future of the ANA.

“From my perspective the ANA has great fighters, great NCOs and great officers but there is a gap in the understanding of the role of an NCO,” explained Derma. “If you want a military for the future you have to have a strong dedicated NCO Corps because our primary responsibility as NCOs is train to Soldiers.”

Since the first huddle, Derma said the attendance has grown to at times over 60 senior enlisted leaders in one huddle and they continue an eagerness to learn.

“I (and the other leaders) have learned a lot from the experiences of command sergeant major Derma and his team,” said Afghan National army Command Sgt. Maj. Akbari Ghaus, information management senior enlisted leader for the ANA. “I like to take notes during the meetings so I can look back at them and use the advice they gave us to train our Soldiers

better.”

Derma said although the road for growth is long, he is proud of how much the ANA NCO Corps has grown since November.

“Before, during meetings and briefs you would see little to no enlisted leaders,” Derma explained. “Now you see (command sergeant majors) sitting in the front answering questions and giving briefs. It’s amazing to be able to witness all this in a short amount of time.”

Although the main audience for the huddles are senior enlisted leaders, Ghaus said it is important for them as leaders to mentor their younger NCOs.

“Everything we learn during our meetings we aren’t just keeping it to ourselves,” said Ghaus. “We are taking all this training and advice and sharing it to both higher and lower levels. It’s exciting for me to see our Soldiers grow and we are grateful to command sergeant major Derma and his team.”

By Ghaus and the rest of the senior enlisted Afghan leaders sharing their new knowledge with their younger NCOs, Derma said this is a start to a new culture.

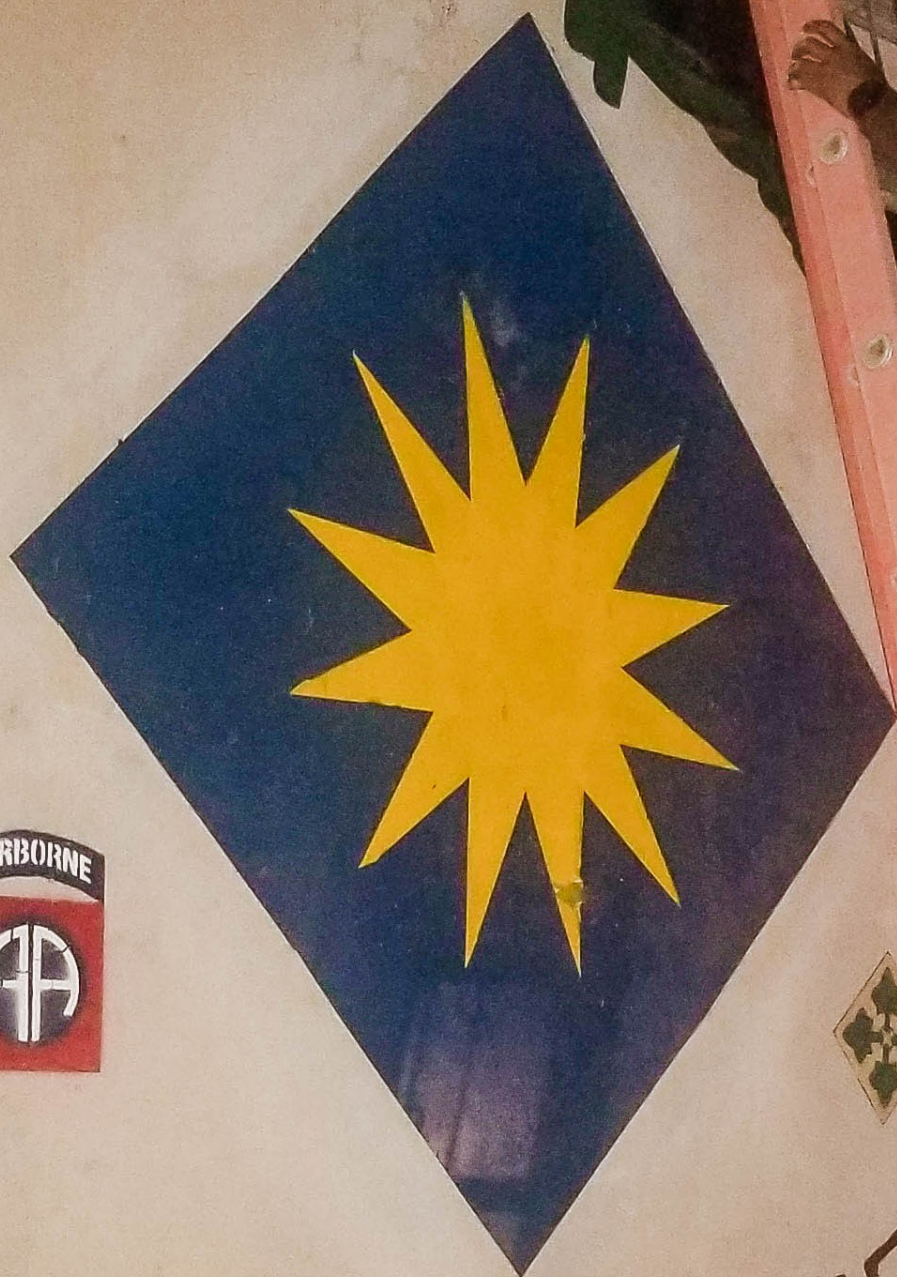
“As senior NCOs it’s our responsibility to mentor at least two ranks down and show those younger leaders what right looks like and most of the time that mentoring is done through actions,” said Derma. “They are eager to learn and excited to participate in the training, so I can’t wait to see how much more they will be able to progress when they use their NCOs to their full capabilities.”

Below: Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Derma, senior enlisted leader for the Military Advisory Team for Train, Advise and Assist Command-South, addresses a group of senior enlisted Afghan leaders, March 29, 2018, during a senior enlisted leader huddle in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysha Canfield)





40TH INFANTRY



SUNBURST

TASK FORCE ARROW
"IN SPITE OF"



JUN '16 - NOV

Following his long days outside the wire as a member of the Policy Advisory Team, Train, Assist, Advise Command-South, Sgt. 1st Class Ramon Garabaldi climbs a ladder and paints the distinctive blue and yellow Sunburst insignia of the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division. (Photo by Col. Pete Cross)



Soldiers of the California Army National Guard's 40th Infantry Division, prepare to board a plane, May 20, that will take them to Ft. Hood, Texas for their final round of training before assuming command of Train, Assist and Advise Command - South in Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hill)

Minuteman Scholarship offers college education and commissioning pathway for future leaders

By COL. (CA) RICHARD LALOR
Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos Public Affairs

The Minuteman symbol harkens back to the American Revolution, calling to mind the gallant patriots who stood tall on Lexington Green, Concord's North Bridge and Bunker Hill. It now calls our attention to an outstanding scholarship opportunity for a new generation of patriotic men and women looking to prepare themselves to join the ranks of citizen soldiers as officers and leaders in the California National Guard.

Recipients of a Minuteman Scholarship receive full tuition and fees at accredited colleges or universities with an Army Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program, or up to \$10,000 per year for room and board – plus a quarterly book allowance of \$400 and a monthly stipend ranging from \$300 (freshman year) to \$500 (senior year) during the months they attend school.

Future leaders are currently attending the University of California Berkeley, University of San Diego, San Diego State University, San Jose State University, California State University Fullerton, Arizona State University (ASU), Azusa Pacific University (APU), Loyola University (Illinois), Rocky Mountain College (Montana) and the University of Tennessee among others.

The four-year scholarship provides a pathway for graduating high school students to go directly to college without attending basic training and simultaneously drill and attend annual training as a contracted Cadet (E5 pay) – an exceptional opportunity for incoming or current undergraduate freshmen, sophomores and juniors to gain valuable leadership skills while serving their nation. And most importantly, scholarship recipients are guaranteed service in the Army National Guard upon graduation and commissioning.

"My Minuteman ROTC scholarship has been a great way to pay for my college education," said Cadet Christian Bond, a Computer Information Systems major from Valencia, Calif. who is attending Arizona State University. "My total cost, including tuition, room and board is over \$40,706 per academic year and ROTC cov-

ers tuition, books, monthly stipend and drill pay, while my separate ASU academic scholarship covers room & board. In addition, the opportunity this has given me to learn valuable skills, obtain leadership experience and make lifelong friends has truly been priceless."

Two and three-year scholarships for students already enrolled in a college or university are also available. "Receiving a three-year Minuteman Scholarship helped me relieve the financial stress that many face in college, added Cadet Amanda Khattak, who is currently pursuing her nursing degree at Azusa Pacific University. "This has allowed me to focus on my studies as it covers tuition, textbooks, monthly stipend and drill pay through the National Guard.

"Studying at APU's School of Nursing costs on average, \$47,000 annually and all of it is provided by my Minuteman Scholarship. It has not only paved the way for my future as nurse, but also as a U.S. Army Officer."

Like Bond and Khattak, the majority of scholarship recipients graduated in the top 25 percent of their high school class and scored above average on their SAT/ACT. Most belonged to an honor society, participated in student government or other clubs and extracurricular activities and/or were scholar athletes. All of them exhibited exceptional character traits.

"As a National Guard recruiter in the San Diego area, I firmly believe in the opportunities the Cal Guard offers and I am committed to spreading the message," said Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Gastelum. "When I informed San Diego Unified School District high school counselors and AVID program managers about the Minuteman Scholarship benefits, I was given the opportunity to meet with many highly-qualified and physically fit born leaders... young men and women wanting the same thing that everyone in this country desires -- an opportunity to get ahead in life.

"The Minuteman Scholarship provides them the



tools and opens the door for them to do the hard work needed to achieve their goals, and this program continues to resonate throughout the country as one of the best ways to get your education paid for by the National Guard."

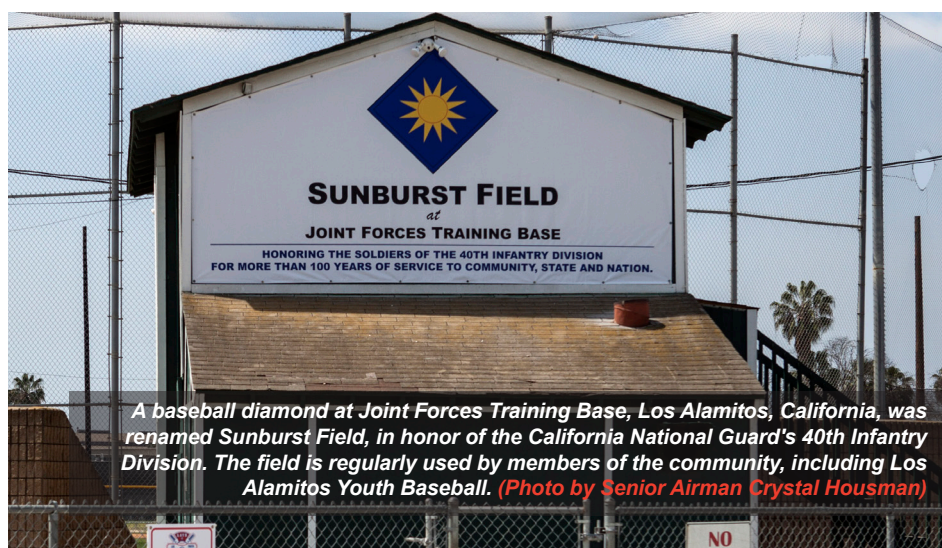
"As the father of a Minuteman Scholarship recipient, I look at this program as an asset to both the student and the parent in that it assists them to excel in the private sector without sacrificing their own – or their parent's – current and future financial stability," said Col. Julian Bond, whose son Christian is preparing to follow in his father's footsteps at ASU. "At the same time, this scholarship provides professional enhancement opportunities and the specialized expertise and military education these future leaders of the Cal Guard will need as they stand ready to protect their community, state and nation."

JFTB baseball complex renamed to honor 40th Infantry Division

By COL. (CA) RICHARD LALOR
Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos
Public Affairs

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif. – In recognition of more than 100 years of selfless service to community, state and nation by the citizen soldiers of the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division, the leadership of Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, recently renamed the installation's baseball complex "Sunburst Field" to honor the men and women who have served in the division since its formation in 1917. The division is headquartered at JFTB.

Plaques placed on each diamond by the Division Alumni Association will pay tribute to the division's five Medal of Honor recipients, including Capt. Nelson Miles Holderman (World War I), Staff Sgt. John C. Sjogren (World War II), and Sgt. Gilbert G. Collier, Sgt. David B. Bleak and Cpl. Clifton T.



Speicher (Korean War).

The complex is leased by JFTB to Los Alamitos Youth Baseball (LAYB), a non-profit organization associated with PONY Baseball that offers programs for boys and girls ages 4 to 14 and is the site of PONY Baseball's

Bronco World Series each August. Under the new lease agreement, the baseball diamonds will also be utilized by military personnel through a program managed by the installation's MWR Department.

"Joint Forces Training Base has

been a proud partner and teammate with our surrounding communities dating back to its 1942 commissioning as a naval air station," said Col. Julian Bond, installation commander.

"The renaming of our baseball complex to 'Sunburst Field' not only recognizes the contributions of our citizen soldiers, but it solidifies our military linkage by honoring the past, saluting the present and inspiring future generations."

"Joint Forces Training Base has been home to Los Alamitos Youth Baseball for many years and I am excited to announce that we will be renewing our lease for an additional five years," added LAYB President Justin Cook.

"After all, how many people can say they are allowed to play baseball on an active military base? It is a privilege and honor and we are thankful for everything that they do."



Multi-National Battle Group - East Commander Col. Nick Ducich, members of his staff and Soldiers from NATO Headquarters - Sarajevo pose for a picture at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, April 24. (Photo by Capt. Jason Sweeney)

Soldiers get Multinational Experience at NATO Headquarters Sarajevo

By **CAPT. JASON SWEENEY**
MNBGE Public Affairs

SARAJEVO, Bosnia -- Col. Nick Ducich, commander of the California Army National Guard's 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, paid a visit to Camp Butmir in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, April 24, to meet with Cal Guard Soldiers stationed there and for an office call with NATO Headquarters - Sarajevo Commander Brig. Gen. Robert Huston.

The 79th IBCT is the command element for Kosovo Force (KFOR) Multi-National Battle Group - East (MNBG-E). The Soldiers of the 79th IBCT are deployed to Kosovo on a nine-month peace and security mission. Each KFOR rotation provides Soldiers for NATO Headquarters - Sarajevo to oversee Camp Butmir, support the Bosnia and Herzegovina training mission, and provide essential services on the camp for the European Union Force Althea (EUFOR Althea) peacekeeping element.

After an hour-and-a-half helicopter flight from Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, over snowcapped Balkan mountains, Ducich sat down with California National Guard Soldiers stationed at Camp Butmir to hear about their mission.

"In a round table conversation format, the Soldiers of the California National Guard were enthusiastic in describing their performance of their diverse assignments for NATO - Sarajevo and the Balkans Area Support Team," Ducich said. "Their commitment to the mission, the comradery amongst a small element, and their dedicated professionalism were my take-aways from the group discussion."

Six Cal Guard officers and non-

commissioned officers assigned to the 79th IBCT are stationed at Camp Butmir, providing such diverse functions as NATO Advisor for Training and Standardization, logistical coordination with EUFOR, postal operations, and administration for the headquarters.

"We are so far removed from the actual KFOR mission, the fact that Col. Ducich came up here showed that we're all working together, different pieces of the same Balkans mission. It was motivational," said Capt. Mike Scott, a Cal Guard Soldier who serves as NATO Headquarters - Sarajevo Joint Logistics Officer and Liaison Officer to EUFOR.

"At a professional level, being able to work with different nationalities and learn how they do their jobs has been a great experience," Scott said of his mission. "I'm a logistics officer but I've never worked at this level—working with NATO at a strategic level in a multinational environment."

Capt. John Kuczanski is a Cal Guardsman who serves as a NATO Advisor for Training and Standardization. "We are helping the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina build up a capable army," he said.

Kuczanski added that he is the only American in the building where he works in downtown Sarajevo, and that he works alongside Hungarians, Austrians, Italians, Turks, Slovenians and Bosnians.

"We work with numerous nationalities," he said. "It's great meeting everyone from different cultures, especially when we Americans are such a small group here. It's an interesting and dynamic work environment."

NATO carries out a number of specific tasks to assist the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in reforming its defense structures, working on counter-terrorism and apprehending war-crime suspects. Bosnia and Herzegovina became a NATO Partner country in December 2006 and is focusing on introducing democratic, institutional and defense reforms, as well as developing practical cooperation in other areas.

Staff Sgt. Rowena Becerra, a Cal Guard Soldier who works as a NATO Headquarters Sarajevo supply sergeant, said a highlight of her tour has been the opportunity to see the country on morale-and-welfare trips offered every weekend.

She's visited northern Bosnia, Josip Broz Tito's military bunker and skied at the site of the 1984 Winter Olympics.

"It's a great country to visit with lots of history," Becerra said. "It's green and beautiful—the rivers, the mountains. It's a beautiful a country."



Multi-National Battle Group - East Commander Col. Nick Ducich meets with Kosovo Force Soldiers stationed at Camp Butmir, Bosnia and Herzegovina, April 24. (Photo by Capt. Jason Sweeney)



Members of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit ground team conduct annual helicopter recertification training with the help of California Army National Guard helicopters and aircrews, May 5, 2018, at the Placerville Airport in Placerville, California. Approximately 40 members of the team completed the Aircraft Safety, Awareness and Flight Training program with California National Guard and search and rescue training instructors. (Photo courtesy of El Dorado Sheriff's Search and Rescue)



Firefighters from the Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, Fire Department, work to extinguish a simulated aircraft fire, April 16, 2018, while training in aircraft rescue and firefighting techniques at the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center in San Bernardino, California. The fire department is responsible for the installation and the co-located Los Alamitos Army Airfield. (Photo by Senior Airman Crystal Housman)

Air Guard, Reserve wings kickoff annual MAFFS training with the USDA Forest Service



Above: California Air National Guard C-130 out of Channel Islands “MAFFS 6” does a water drop over the Tahoe National Forest on April 26, 2018. The year’s training, sponsored by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service at McClellan Reload Base in Sacramento, included four military airlift wings that make up the Air Expeditionary Group: three Air National Guard units from California, Nevada and Wyoming, and one U.S. Air Force Reserve unit from Colorado. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Paula Macomber)

By 2nd LT. EMERSON MARCUS
152 Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As temperatures heated up this week in northern California, aerial firefighters from four C-130 airlift wings operating the U.S.D.A. Forest Service’s Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) started a weeklong training here today in anticipation of summer blazes.

The year’s training, sponsored by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service at McClellan Reload Base in Sacramento, includes four military airlift wings that make up the Air Expeditionary Group: three Air National Guard units from California, Nevada and Wyoming, and one U.S. Air Force Reserve unit from Colorado.

“Training with all four MAFFS wings alongside the U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE and other wildland firefighting agencies here in Sacramento provides a significant opportunity as we prepare for wildland fire season,” said Col. James DeVere, commander of the MAFFS Air Expeditionary Group and 302nd Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve. “Training collectively ensures overall standardization of operations while continuing to build working relationships with the key players in the wildland firefighting community. It is rewarding as guardsmen and reservists to stand alongside our agency partners, knowing that we help make a difference protecting our citizens and their property.”

The U.S.D.A. Forest Service’s large MAFFS equipment — rolled into the back of a C-130 aircraft — can drop up to 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in six seconds through a nozzle on the rear left side of the plane.

The certification training includes classroom sessions and flight operations for military flight crews, lead plane pilots and other support personnel from the U.S. Forest Service and other wildland firefighting agencies.

“Wildland fire management agencies have relied on MAFFS for more than 40 years to provide surge capacity when commercial Airtankers are fully committed or not readily available, as they frequently are during periods of high wildfire activity,” said Kim Christensen, deputy assistant director for operations for the U.S. Forest Service. “Training that includes all of the military and civilian personnel that work together when MAFFS are mobilized is critical to ensure that military aircraft fly safely and

effectively and that they can be seamlessly integrated into wildfire suppression operations.”

Participating airlift wings include three Air National Guard units — 146th Airlift Wing from Port Hueneme, California; 152nd Airlift Wing from Reno, Nevada; 153rd Airlift Wing from Cheyenne, Wyoming — and the Air Force Reserve Command’s 302nd Airlift Wing from Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.



Various wildfire agencies, CalFire, and four military modular airborne firefighting system (MAFFS) wings convened in Sacramento for an annual MAFFS recertification and training. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicole Wright)



A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter of the California Army National Guard hovers above Lake Pardee in Lone, California, collecting water in a Bambi Bucket April 14 during Wildland Firefighting Training, a cooperative mission between Cal Guard and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Eddie Siguenza)

KEEPING CALIFORNIA SAFE

Cal Guard teams up with CAL FIRE in advance of wildfire season

BY SENIOR AIRMAN CRYSTAL HOUSMAN, California National Guard Public Affairs and SPC. AMY CARLE, 69th Public Affairs Detachment

SUTTER CREEK, Calif. — On the cusp of one of California's most devastating fire seasons, the California National Guard is again prepared to assist agency partners to tackle the growing threat wildfires pose to Californians.

"We used the word unprecedented too much last year," said CAL FIRE Deputy Chief Scott McLean. "It just doesn't exist anymore. We are living it now."

A GROWING THREAT

Roughly 1.4 million acres burned across the state in 2017, said McLean, who serves as CAL FIRE's lead public information officer. More than 10,000 structures were destroyed and 46 lives were lost.

The Thomas Fire, which ignited Dec. 4 in Ventura County, burned 281,893 acres and killed a CAL FIRE fire apparatus engineer on its way to becoming the largest wildfire recorded in California since the state started keeping track.

"We're living year-round fire," McLean said. "There's no fire season; it's year round."

By mid-April, the state had already recorded more than 600 wildland fires in 2018, more than double the number of wildfires reported by the same time in 2017.

"They're very small, but still, that shows you the terrain and vegetation is still very receptive to fire," he said.

Years of drought coupled with a bark beetle invasion that is killing off trees is adding to the volatility of California's wildlands.

"We're up to 129 million dead trees up and down the state of California. It's fuel. It's not a matter of if [a fire will happen], it's a matter of when," McLean said.

An increase in rain and precipitation is helping restore water tables and can be absorbed by plants and fauna over time, but for now it's a double-edged sword.

Rain promotes grass growth. And as that grass dries out, it becomes a one-hour fuel to ignite or spread a fire.

"Just think of it as a fuse to a bomb," said McLean.

ANOTHER TOOL IN THE TOOLBOX

To prepare for heightened fire activity expected this summer and fall, CAL FIRE conducted annual interagency aircrew training with Cal Guard helicopter crews, April 7-8 at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, and April 13-15 in the Sacramento-area communities of Mather, Ione, and Sutter Creek.

Working under a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE, California Army and Air National Guard assets, including helicopters and C-130s outfitted with Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems (MAFFS), can be called upon to support CAL FIRE incidents when needed.

"Aviation is a tool in the toolbox," McLean said. "You can use certain aircraft for certain tasks."

While larger tanker aircraft can drop retardant across large swaths of land, helicopters are effective when maneuverability and precision are key.

"Helicopters are great because they [make] more of a specific drop where there is a need," McLean said.

Pilots with military flying experience add to the overall quotient.

"They're trained to be able to maneuver to wherever they need to act on a moment's notice because that's their world," McLean said. "They're able to react to different changes efficiently and effectively. That's another reason why the Guard's pilots are valuable."

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Bringing military flying experience to the firefight is nothing new for Lt. Col. Daniel Anderson, a traditional Guardsman who commands the Cal Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, in Stockton.

In his civilian job, Anderson, who served as a Cal Guard cadre member for the April training, works for CAL FIRE as a forestry fire pilot and flies the UH-1H Super Huey helicopter as an initial helitack platform.

Interagency training is critical for mission success and pays dividends down the road, he said.

“Our ability to activate, mobilize and get aircraft on the fires, even within one day, is pretty amazing,” Anderson said. “That’s all because of the level of training, the procedures in place and the understanding of everyone’s jobs, duties, and roles.”

During fire missions, one member of each aircrew is from CAL FIRE. Designated as the “military helicopter manager” or MHEM, the CAL FIRE representative must be able to seamlessly communicate with Cal Guard personnel in the helicopter and CAL FIRE representatives on the ground. Training offered members of both agencies a chance to practice the aircrew integration.

“That’s why this is so valuable,” Anderson said. “Everyone knows their part and how to integrate and get into the fire system to put fires out.”

‘WHY WE JOINED’

For two of Anderson’s troops, the April training served as a first exposure to wildland firefighting operations.

Pfc. Daquan D. Graves and Spc. Manuel H. Romero, both of A Company, 3-140th, worked as fuelers during the training in Mather and Ione. Their role in firefighting missions is to keep the helicopters fueled.

“When the birds need more fuel, they’ll come to us,” Graves said. “Then they’ll go back out and save the world.”

With no senior supervisor in the field and no previous fire experience to draw from, the training forced the pair to figure out their own plans, operations and communications.

“It’s exciting,” said Romero. “It gives us a chance to make our own plan, and communicate back and forth with each other and flight operations.”

For the newcomers, having a chance to network with aircrews, flight operations, and interagency partners during the training was invaluable.

“It’s good to get to know people, because we might see them out there and we’ll already have relationships with them,” Romero said.

While they didn’t know what to expect from the training, the pair knew one thing for sure: they wanted to help during fires.

“The reason why we joined was to help the state, and this is a big part of that,” said Graves.

‘WHAT WE’RE HERE FOR’

For Capt. Daphne Piper, who works in the Cal Guard’s state aviation office and is also a pilot with the 3-140th, Cal Guard’s fire mission pulls together a lifetime of exposure and experience to firefighting.

Piper’s father worked with the U.S. Forest Service, and she grew up with an affinity for helicopter-delivered fire resources.

As a helicopter pilot, Piper is trained to drop buckets of water on the fires or support MEDEVAC missions.

In her role with the state aviation office, she trains Cal Guard personnel to serve as agency liaisons who can work with partner agencies when disaster strikes. The liaisons, she said, help facilitate smooth communication and mission effectiveness between a partner agency and the Cal Guard’s emergency operations centers or joint operations center.

Whether serving in the air or on the ground, Piper says fire response comes down to two things.

“I love getting to work both operations and getting to fly the aircraft because you’re helping out the mission and the people,” she said.

“I think that’s really what we’re here for.”

TRAINING PAYS OFF

Having an opportunity to work together in a training environment is critical and better positions both agencies for heightened fire activity, said Tim Shiffer, a CAL FIRE battalion chief who served as incident commander of the April training in Ione.

Each year, the spring aviation training is the only opportunity for Cal Guard and CAL FIRE to fly together for practice, Shiffer said. “When push comes to shove, if we don’t have the boundaries and communications or the trust set up, it will fall apart, and no great end product will come of it.”

“It pays off on many fronts,” Shiffer said. “For the citizens of California, the product is better,” he said. “We’re safer, we’re more effective and we’re more efficient.”





NEAR SUTTER CREEK, Calif., April 14, -- Above: A HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the 129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard, flies over Pardee Reservoir, in Lone, California, during interagency aircrew training with CAL FIRE. Cal Guard helicopter crews and support personnel gathered for three days of joint wildfire aviation training to prepare for heightened fire activity in the summer and fall. Bottom left: R. Scott Watson of CAL FIRE briefs California Army and Air National Guard personnel. Bottom right: Pfc. Daquan D. Graves, a fueller with Alpha Company, 3-140th Aviation Battalion, stretches out a hose in preparation for the refueling of a waiting UH-72 Lakota. (Photos by Senior Airman Crystal Housman)



4 Types Of

ROTARY WING

aircraft the California National Guard uses to support CAL FIRE wildland fire fighting efforts

1 UH-60 Black Hawk

- Water drop
- Medevac
- Personnel transport
- Lift Capacity 8,000 lbs



2 HH-60 Pave Hawk

- Water drop
- Medevac
- Personnel transport
- Lift Capacity 8,000 lbs



3 UH-72 Lakota

- Reconnaissance
- Medivac
- Personnel transport
- Lift capacity 3,953 lbs



4 CH-47 Chinook

- Water drop
- Equipment transport
- Medivac
- Personnel transport
- Lift capacity 25,000 lbs



#KeepingCaliforniaSafe

Ready For TAKE OFF



144th Fighter Wing Flies and Fights in Red Flag 18-2

By **STAFF SGT. CHRISTIAN JADOT**
144th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev., March 12, -- A U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle from the 144th Fighter Wing takes off to participate in Red Flag 18-2 Red Flag missions are conducted at the Nevada Test and Training Range with simulated threat systems and opposing forces to provide realistic training environment. Next page, top: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Charles Van Hofwegen, Senior Airmen Chuete Xoing and Adriana Wright, 144th Maintenance Squadron maintainers, finish refilling F-15C Eagles with liquid oxygen. Next page, bottom: U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jamie Mabry-Rairigh, 144th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics technician, helps recovers a F-15C Eagle after it participated in a scenario. *(Photos by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)*



NELLIS, AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. -- Six U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle fighter jets and several Airmen from the 144th Fighter Wing departed the Fresno Air National Guard Base, California, to participate in Red Flag 18-2 at Nellis AFB, Nevada March 5, 2018.

Red Flag is the Air Force's premier air-to-air combat training exercise. Red Flag gives pilots the experience of multiple, intensive air combat sorties in the safety of a training environment.

"I have never seen so many aircraft in one confined location," said 1st Lt. Benjamin Martin, 194th Fighter Squadron pilot. "It is difficult to keep track of that many aircraft at one time. I think that's what makes red flag different."

This is the first Red Flag exercise 1st Lt. Martin partook in. Red Flag is one of the largest and most rigorous exercises that the Air Force hosts.

"It is very difficult, a lot is going on in the fog of war," 1st Lt. Martin said. "I have been learning to get back to the basics and try to take things step-by-step."

A major part of Red Flag is integration and learning to work as a total force.

"A big part of that is communication that is one thing I am finding out here at Red Flag," 1st Lt. Martin said. "Every piece is very important. The 144th FW is only a small part of the plan to get the mission done."

The 144th Maintenance Squadron made sure that the F-15Cs were ready to fly during the exercise.

"The crew chief basically runs the launch with the pilot," said Tech. Sgt. Patrick Campos, 144th MXS Expeditior. "They go through and do checks, brakes, flight control, engine checks and they make sure the jet is good to go before it takes off."

The maintenance team overcame many unexpected challenges of getting the planes into the air at the beginning of the exercise.

"It was a little bit rough at first," Tech. Sgt. Campos said. "We managed to push the sorties out and take care of business. The people have performed flawlessly and we knocked it out of the park."

The 144th Logistical Readiness Squadron played a major role in making sure the supply chain for parts ran quickly and efficiently.

"Any kind of supply assistance, whether it is from our supply kits or Nellis support center, we take care of that," said Tech. Sgt. Thomas Winters, 144th LRS supply representative. "Working with different units we have learned to collaborate with them, assist each other whether it is giving them parts or giving us parts to get that mission accomplished."

The 144th FW took home many lessons learned from Red Flag 18-2.

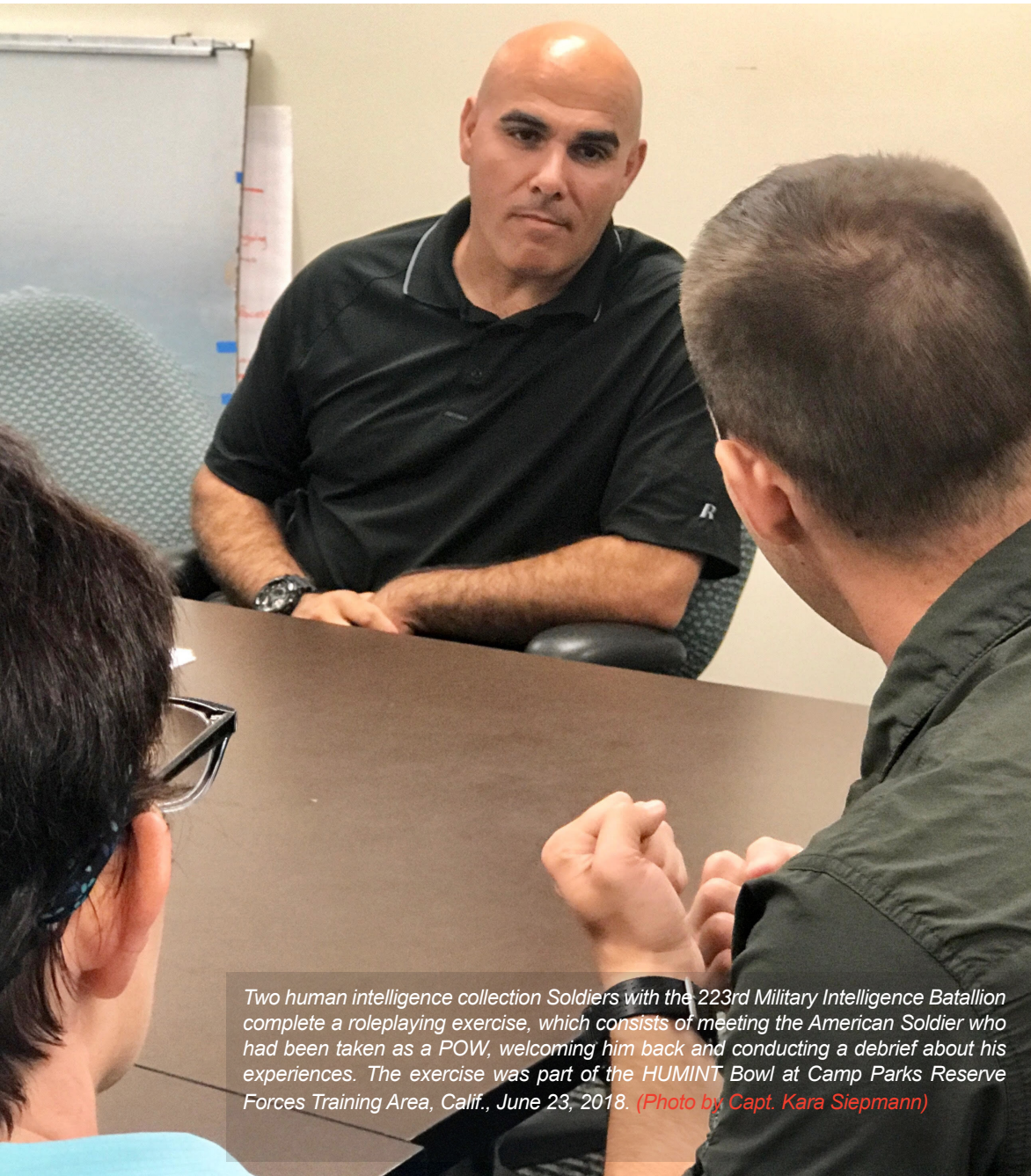
"I think we have done a really good job training for a large force exercise," said 1st Lt. Martin. "We are a combat unit that can go and relieve other units around the world. We have proven that. Red Flag has helped diversify our mission besides just being alert at home station."

The efforts of the 144th FW and other units participating in Red Flag 18-2 did not go unnoticed.

"Thank you for throwing your

hearts into this," said General Mike Holmes, Air Combat Command commander. "The reports I have seen, showed enthusiastic ownership of the problems we face. Regaining skills that are needed in the real world. The evidence of this is very few sorties missed, and I could not be more proud of you."





Two human intelligence collection Soldiers with the 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion complete a roleplaying exercise, which consists of meeting the American Soldier who had been taken as a POW, welcoming him back and conducting a debrief about his experiences. The exercise was part of the HUMINT Bowl at Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, Calif., June 23, 2018. (Photo by Capt. Kara Siepmann)

giving us information,” said 1st Lt W.

The military intelligence Soldiers, all part of the 115th Regional Support Group, perform three types of missions: HUMINT collection, interrogations, and operate as counterintelligence agents. But, Staff Sgt. N emphasized, “Everything starts as a HUMINT activity.”

The Army trains HUMINT collectors to screen human intelligence sources and documents, debrief and interrogate human sources, and analyze and prepare intelligence reports.

“HUMINT usually answers the ‘why’ question of the 5W’s that intelligence information seeks to provide,” said Staff Sgt. N. “We can hear what’s happen on the radio and where and when, for example, but why are people doing a particular activity? Are they being forced or threatened by the enemy? The reason for actions helps paint a more complete picture for commanders.”

Officers and enlisted alike participated in the training. The executive officer played the part of a POW in one scenario. After completing 10 burpees, a team of Soldiers entered a classroom and began the roleplaying exercise, which consisted of meeting the American Soldier who had been taken as a POW, welcoming him back and conducting a debrief about his experiences.

“The PT (physical training) is designed to be a distractor,” the executive officer explained. “Weather, difficult people, and physical and emotional demands are all stressors for a HUMINT collector.

Soldiers were not allowed to use recording devices or take any notes, while a role player engaged in a conversation with them. The Soldiers must extract facts and details from the person they’re interviewing, who often may feel tired, scared or emotionally exhausted themselves.

In addition to the POW scenario, Soldiers encountered situations like a “walk-in” interview in a café with a local national and his girlfriend claiming to have valuable information about the enemy in the area. They also conducted field interrogations with a detainee and held liaison meetings in a remote area with a key intelligence source that had information about key leadership in adversary forces.

“I loved the entire day,” said Spc. J, a 21-year-old Spanish-speaking linguist only three months out of initial entry training. “Compared to reading a book on the subject, it’s so much better to sit alongside more experienced senior enlisted Soldiers and watch what they say and do.”

The specialist nervously kneaded his hands as he explained how his team did well but he made a few mistakes during the day.

“As I prepared for my engagement I felt very confident,” said Spc. J, “But I fumbled something right off the get-go and it was hard to get back on track.”

Soldiers are graded on their confidence, ability to establish rapport, ability to extract information from their sources, retain it, and report it back up to higher headquarters. Each piece of information Soldiers remember is worth one point and tallied by an observer at the end of a station.

“It’s important that the Soldiers be able to identify key information beyond the 5Ws,” the detachment’s NCOIC, a staff sergeant, said. “Our mission is to deconflict HUMINT and other intelligence to drive targeting operations and support counterintelligence operations.

It’s critical that Soldiers can communicate with people in the areas they operate. There are 11 primary languages spoken by Soldiers of the IC Det, which enable them to conduct operations without the support of a translator.

Soldiers practice their language skills during drill periods, but this exercise was an opportunity to navigate the nuances of conversation and interrogation.

“Speaking a language and understanding a culture go hand-in-hand,” said the detachment sergeant. “We need to be able to establish relationships and know how to ask questions and what could possibly offend locals. This training helps.”

Military Intelligence Soldiers Compete at Human Intelligence Bowl

CAMP PARKS RESERVE FORCES TRAINING AREA, Calif. – Two military intelligence units under the 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion completed in the second annual Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Bowl, an exercise that combined physical activity with human intelligence collection operations, at Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area Saturday, June 23rd.

“HUMINT collectors gather info by talking to people,” said Staff Sgt. N, who planned the competition for A Company and the Counterintelligence Detachment Soldiers, all dressed in civilian attire instead of military uniforms. “Today we’re testing their ability to perform in a unique way.”

At the end of the day, only one team will earn bragging rights and the HUMINT Bowl cup, which will remain on display at the unit’s armory in San Rafael.

“Civilian clothes provide Soldiers a tactical advantage while conducting their missions overseas,” said 1st Lt. W, company commander. “Soldiers would wear the appropriate attire to blend into the unit’s area of responsibility and provide the utmost respect to the culture of the host nation.”

The concerns aren’t unwarranted. The Department of Defense regularly reminds service members that social media is part of the cyber domain and can be used to potentially exploit them by predators and adversaries.

“People are just more likely to talk to us if we aren’t dressed as Soldiers. Intelligence assets won’t be easily spotted around town

By **CAPT. KARA SIEPMANN**
California National Guard
Public Affairs

U.S. Army Pfc. Dominic Steveley, a carpentry/masonry specialist with the 315th Vertical Construction Company, 250th Military Intelligence Battalion, 100th Troop Command, 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard, loads wood into the back of a vehicle, June 27, while working on construction projects at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, California. Engineers from the 315th VCC are working on renovations and creating new infrastructure, including sidewalks and trash enclosures, during their annual training. (Photo by Senior Airman Crystal Heusman)

Grizzly Top Shot





Spc. David Enriquez-Ortiz, an indirect fire infantryman in the California National Guard's Rifle Company Alpha, 1-185th Infantry Battalion, performs a radio check during the Region 7 Best Warrior Competition May 9, at the National Rifle Association Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico. The annual event took place across the state, where 15 warriors from eight states and territories competed for a place in the 2018 National Best Warrior Competition. (Photo by Spc. Iain Jaramillo)

Counterdrug Soldiers become D.A.R.E. Officers

By **SGT. LANI PASCUAL**
Counterdrug Task Force Public Affairs

LOS ANGELES - Sergeant 1st Class James Aleschus, a civil operations non-commissioned officer with the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, exchanges congratulations with officers and sheriff's deputies while clutching a two-foot stuffed lion named Daren. He received the Drug Abuse Resistance Education mascot with a graduation diploma, declaring him a certified D.A.R.E. officer, during a ceremony held at Crowne Plaza in Los Angeles, California, on May 11.

This course was the first in almost a decade to include members of the California National Guard. Aleschus was one of two CDTF personnel who volunteered to complete the intensive, two-week program alongside law enforcement officers. "We're actually here to protect the children, so that's how I look at the big take; making sure they're making the right choices, making sure they're understanding, observing, and being safe," Aleschus said.

The training allows military members who become D.A.R.E. officers to serve their mission, become involved in the community, teach and work with children. The Counterdrug mission uses a two-prong approach to drug prevention by addressing both supply and demand. D.A.R.E. teaches children how to make positive choices which, in turn, will hopefully curb the demand for drugs, said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Karandang, the second CDTF member to complete the D.A.R.E. training this year.

"Our impact is so great," Karandang said. "When [children] see a uniformed person there, whether it's military or law enforcement, they're going to receive our message."

D.A.R.E. officers have been directly impacting schools since 1983 and now teach world-wide. The program was jointly founded by Los Angeles Police Department Chief Daryl F. Gates and the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Rafael Morales, D.A.R.E. America training facilitator, says the program has evolved and come a long way. A retired state trooper, Morales has worked with D.A.R.E. for more than twenty years.

The K-12 grade curriculum is evaluated every five years to revise, update and enhance effectiveness, he said. Children are not preached to, but taught to ask questions to get out of tough situations and make responsible decisions. The purpose of this social-emotional learning is to equip children with tools to guide their choices when they are stressed.

"I think it's a lot better because you're empowering the kids and letting them make those decisions on their own," Morales said. "It's kind of interesting; you get kids that suggest making improper decisions and the other kids in the class correct the behavior, if you are a good facilitator."

When entities like Counterdrug support the D.A.R.E. mission, both programs are enhanced, he confirmed. A continued collaboration between partners with similar philosophies is a home run for mentorship and empowers everyone.

After almost ten years of absence from youth-based programs,



Sgt. 1st Class James Aleschus, a civil operations non-commissioned officer with the Counterdrug Task Force, holds Daren, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education mascot. As a certified D.A.R.E. officer, Aleschus will support drug prevention by teaching D.A.R.E. curriculum at schools. (Photo by Sgt. Lani Pascaul, CDTF Public Affairs).

renewed participation became the mission of Maj. Ruel Fuentecilla, the CDTF civil operations program manager. Bringing back school education for drug prevention brings his career full circle. Fuentecilla became a D.A.R.E. officer in 2006, when CDTF was still a partner, and taught the curriculum until 2010. In 2009, he was named D.A.R.E. officer of the year; the first military member in the nation ever to receive the distinction.

"I didn't know the magnitude at the time," Fuentecilla said. "It was a great honor being the first."

In 2011, Counterdrug shifted their prevention focus onto anti-drug coalitions and campaigns within the community and took a step back from the D.A.R.E. program in accordance with the National Guard Bureau's mission priorities at the time, he explained.

Fuentecilla believes interception starts with students and, as program manager, worked with CDTF command to bring focus back into schools this year. His priority was to get Counterdrug personnel trained as D.A.R.E. officers and, with the success of this pilot, build a more robust partnership program. D.A.R.E. has a long history in the community and is now evidence-based after the curriculum was vetted by university researchers.

"We have our first two, trained D.A.R.E. officers for the Counterdrug Task Force in nine years," Fuentecilla said. "This is a historical event for Counterdrug to bring this back and be able to hold the training here in California."

Going forward, he hopes that full-time personnel can be dedicated to prevention instead of being dual-hatted, as all civil operation members are now. Based at D.A.R.E. America headquarters as the CDTF liaison, Fuentecilla wants to leave the task force with a legacy of youth involvement for years to come.



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Karandang, left, Maj. AJ Ruel Fuentecilla, center, and Sgt. 1st Class James Aleschus attend a Drug Abuse Resistance Education graduation May 11 in Los Angeles, where both non-commissioned officers became certified D.A.R.E. officers. They are the first two Counterdrug Task Force personnel to become certified in nine years. (Photo by Sgt. Lani Pascaul, CDTF Public Affairs).



One Team, One Fight

Active-duty, Army National Guard collaborate to strengthen train, advise and assist mission

By STAFF SGT. NEYSA CANFIELD

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – There are three components that encompass the U.S. Army; active duty, Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard. Each component is different from the other in regards to training, deployments and overall daily routine.

There are situations in which combining their efforts is important to accomplishing the overall Army mission.

One mission that utilizes the combined experience and knowledge of active duty and National Guard Soldiers is training and advising Afghan forces and assisting with counter terrorism operations as part of Train, Advise, and Assist Command-South.

TAAC-South is comprised of Soldiers from the 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard, and the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colorado.

Brig. Gen. John Lathrop, commanding general for TAAC-South and assigned to the 40th Inf. Div., and Command Sgt. Maj. Anton Hillig, senior enlisted leader for TAAC-South and assigned to the 2IBCT, lead the joint Army component command.

“Our team at TAAC-South is built from Soldiers with unique and diverse backgrounds,” said Lathrop. “When brought together, these teams of National Guard and active duty Soldiers allow us to provide strength and quality to our advising efforts.”

Soldiers from the two components work together within the command in sections like the Military Advisory Team, Police Advisory Team, and the Government Advisory Team.

“(In) the National Guard we have police officers and teachers who are experts in their fields and we have active duty Soldiers who, through multiple deployments, have experience with the environment in Afghanistan,” said Lathrop. “By integrating these groups we have created teams who understand Afghanistan and have the capability of providing real world training and advice.”

One National Guard Soldier who used his civilian experience as part of the MAT and PAT section was Maj. David B. Weiss, advisor for the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police border patrol force and a member of the 40th Inf. Div.

“I am an infantry officer in the guard but on the civilian side I am a special agent with the bureau of Alcohol, Tabaco and Firearms and Explosives,” said the Mission, Texas native. “My experience as a former agent for the border patrol I

think helped me understand both sides of the house, as an agent and a military member.”

Weiss, who served as a border patrol agent for seven years prior to working with ATF, said his biggest goal as an advisor was to integrate the two organizations, the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, with each other.

“There is a large knowledge gap between the organizations, and with the ability to advise both sides I was able to get the (ANP) on board and help with the planning operations process that the (ANDSF) was doing,” he said.

Weiss said having active duty Soldiers by his side was a great asset especially during advisory missions that involved topics like operations, planning, and military equipment.

“During my previous deployment I worked in the engineer cell at (Forward Operating Base) Shank as the garrison command for that area,” said Capt. Brandon Briscoe, plans and operations advisor for MAT in TAAC-South and a member of the 2IBCT. “On a daily basis I engaged with civilian Afghan workers, so on day one of advising here I was already comfortable working with my Afghan counterparts.”

Briscoe, a native of Aspen, Colorado, said he believes his previous exposure to the Afghan populace helped him be a better advisor.

“Understanding how to interact with our counterparts culturally and texturally makes for a better process to shaping the outcome you want in your advisory mission,” he said. “Being able to anticipate how things might shape out in a situation, because of experience in previous deployments, helps us shape the best timeline that fits the Afghan forces to get the best outcome.”

However, Briscoe said advisors like Weiss have the strength of being able to think outside the box because of their civilian professions.

“A purely military solution is not always what we need,” said Weiss. “The resources the Afghan police have and the ones the (ANSDF) have are very different. For me to be able to impart some of the tricks I used as a border patrol agent to maximize their efforts was rewarding.”

Joining two Army components in one command is beneficial to our Afghan allies in order to provide the best overall advisory teams to the Afghan forces, added Weiss.

“I think it also helps us realize we are not as different as we think we are,” he said. “We are always stronger together and mixing the knowledge and experience of both organizations I think will bring out the best outcomes.”

Major-General Oleh Melchutskyi, Ukraine Deputy Head of the State Emergency Services, talks with a Soldier from the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team, June 27. Leaders from the Ukraine Ministry of Internal Affairs visited various agencies in California to exchange emergency management and disaster preparedness techniques. The California National Guard and Ukraine have worked together more than 25 years through the National Guard State Partnership Program. *(Photo by Dave Loeffler)*





U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Ronald Short, an optometrist with the California Air National Guard's 163rd Attack Wing, tests optometry equipment for a health-care clinic at Lee County High School in Beattyville, Ky., June 14, 2018. The clinic is one of four being staffed by military health-care professionals in Eastern Kentucky from June 15 to June 24 as part of an Innovative Readiness Training mission called Operation Bobcat. The mission provides military forces with crucial expeditionary training while offering no-cost medical, dental and optometry care to area residents. (Photo by Lt. Col. Dale Greer).





163rd Attack Wing Physician Risks Neck to Save a Leg—and Maybe a Life

A Houston man is “walking ” today because Hurricane Harvey dared Captain William Sherman and lost.

By TECH SGT. (CA) GREGORY SOLMAN
163rd Attack Wing Public Affairs

August 19, 2017: Dr. William Sherman, a flight surgeon with the 163d Attack Wing, paced his corporate apartment in Houston, eyes fixed on the “bedlam” of Hurricane Harvey shaking the windows, with an agonizing decision to make. He’d just returned from a 24-hour surgical shift at nearby St. Joseph’s Hospital, having already fulfilled the first duty first-responders by evacuating his wife and children to the home of relatives in Georgia, leaving him to focus on the pending disaster, undistracted by worry about his own family’s safety.

Now it was time to consider the oaths he’d sworn as a physician and an officer in the California Air National Guard’s 163d Medical Group, a unit to which he’s remained loyal, despite living in Galveston and practicing at the University of Texas Medical Center there. Sherman wasn’t due back at St. Joseph’s until the following week, but the hurricane—on its way to tying Katrina as the most destructive tropical storm in U.S. history—taunted him with each 100 mile an hour howl: Now, or never.

Sherman chose “now.” He threw all his belongings on the top shelves of closets, unsure of what condition his apartment would be in when he returned. Sherman’s truck had 35 inch tires, so he methodically tried every route he could think of, only retreating at the sight of men wading through water up to the waist, houses flooded up to the fifth step of their stoops, and an abandoned police car, the water already enveloping the trunk. Finally, he fought his way to the elevated trolley tracks running through the Texas Medical Center campus, flooded by a mere

two feet. After two hours, he’d made all of the six miles to the hospital, a trip typically traversed in a half hour, on a bad day.

Only one other physician had made it in. Normal staffing at St. Joseph’s on a weekday? 20 doctors. For the next five days, the two doctors handled every surgical emergency, every potential Code Red, Black and Blue, not to mention the critical care of those unfortunate patients stuck in the intensive care unit.

One 25-year old Houston man would need Sherman most. Harvey mercilessly swept his car into 16 feet of water. The interior flooded as the vehicle sunk. Gasping what he thought might be his last breath, he desperately kicked through the windshield and made it to the surface. But that cost him what Sherman would later clinically call an “open left bimalleolar ankle fracture.” The man courageously dragged himself a mile and a half through sewage-contaminated water until, likely on the verge of collapse, he flagged down a guy who drove him to the hospital in a garbage truck.

Yet another crisis loomed. By the time the man was literally dumped at St. Joseph’s, and examined by Sherman in the emergency room, he wasn’t a garden-variety shattered-ankle case. He was in danger of losing his whole leg, if not his life. At the very least, Sherman saw that if the man was ever going to use his ankle again, he’d need an orthopedic surgeon, and neither of the doctors manning every ward of the hospital had that specialty. So Sherman (trained in general, critical care, burn, and thoracic surgery) consulted with an orthopedic surgeon by phone, and a representative of the Stryker medical-device company that makes the “external fixator” needed to stabilize the ankle, managed to make it to St. Joseph’s

to advise.

At that point, Sherman accepted what in combat would be called a “field promotion.” The hospital granted Sherman emergency permission to operate outside his specialty area, perform a procedure he’s never tried, a gutsy move. Throughout the night, Harvey surrounding the hospital, Sherman reduced the bone fragments, debrided the necrotic (dead) tissue, placed the complex “X-fix” external fixator device, then packed the wounds with antibiotic beads and applied a wound-vac (a negative-pressure dressing).

Three hours later—Sherman jokes that a “real” orthopedic surgeon could have done it in an hour—the man was out of danger, with a harrowing tale to tell.

“Capt. Sherman is the quintessential physician and flight surgeon,” says Col. Martin Louie, commander of the 163d Medical Group. “This story shows his love of community, and it says a lot about his humanity.”

“And this story is a great example of leadership as a physician,” Louie continues, “because you can take dire circumstances, take the knowledge you learned previously, and somehow morph that into something usable—take unknowns make them into a known you can use.”

Stryker, which has a military-sales division, made Sherman’s success into a national campaign, eventually reuniting him with his patient. “He’s not back to being a star athlete,” Sherman says. “He’ll have some disability for the rest of his life. But he’s functioning, and rarely has pain. It was nice to see him walking around.”

Breaking Through Barriers



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan, March 27, 2018 – Above: Master Sgt. Janet Bretado, logistics advisor for the Military Advisory Team, Train, Advise and Assist Command-South, meets with her Afghan counterparts. Top: Bretado shares a photo with an Afghan Army logistics officer. Bottom: Sgt. Maj. Abdul Rawof Klafgani, near, logistics sergeant major, 205th Afghan National Army Corps, and Lt. Col. Mohammad Yunas, logistics director, 205th ANA Corps, listen to their U.S. counterpart during a meeting. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfiueld).

By STAFF SGT. NEYSA CANFIELD

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghan. – “A lot of advising efforts derived from having the passion to help,” said Master Sgt. Janet Bretado. “I had that passion from my Family upbringing and still do to this day, as a leader you have to see past what is going on in the country and train, advise and assist those who are seeking help.”

Bretado, a native of Bellflower, California, is one of two female advisors from the 40th Infantry Division currently serving as part of Train, Advise and Assist Command-South.

The command, which is

composed of Soldiers from the 40th Inf. Div., California National Guard and 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is focused on training and assisting Afghan security forces and supporting counterterrorism operations.

“I am part of the (Military Advisory Team) for TAAC-South,” explained Bretado. “I advise the logistics section for 205th Afghan National Army Corps.”

As an automated logistical specialist for the past 13 years, Bretado was the perfect candidate for the team.

“During my past two deployments, back in 2008 and 2010, I was the Supply Support Activity noncommissioned officer in charge,” she said. “I was able to use my experience from those deployments to help my counterparts here with their Forward Support Depot, which is similar to our SSA.”

According to Bretado, to fully assist her counterparts she had to instruct them on the duties and responsibilities of a logistician.

“It was hard for them to understand that we don’t just deal with food and clothing but with every class commodity...ammo, transportation, weapons,” said

Bretado. “Logistics is the heart of everything; you can’t help Soldiers in the fight if you don’t have the correct equipment on hand.”

Bretado began her mentorship by incorporating systems used by the SSA into the 205th Corps FSD.

“(Our counterparts) use what we call a push system,” explained Bretado. “This means that the Central Supply Depot in Kabul will push items to the (205th FSD), the FSD will receive equipment and supplies that they need but most times not, which causes them to store excess lines and now they to continue ordering more supplies or equipment.”



The pull system, which is what Bretado integrated into the FSD, will ensure that the units receive the correct request for supplies and equipment that is needed and any excess will be sent back and be used for appropriate units.

“When I first got (in country) the FSD had over 1,500 pairs of boots size five just stored because most of their Soldiers wear size seven,” said Bretado. “We worked shoulder to shoulder, completed the correct paperwork and sent all the equipment back to be used for women coming into the Afghan army or police and used the pull system to get them the correct sized boots.”

Although the FSD is only a small portion of what Bretado is helping improve, she said her counterparts are very receptive of all her recommendations.

“I won’t lie, at the beginning I was terrified because of what you hear from the news about the culture and how it is being a female in the country,” explained Bretado. “But from the first moment I walked in to meet (my counterparts) they have been very welcoming, they don’t see me for my gender they see me as a professional Soldier trying to help.”

With only a few short months left for her to return to the United States and her Family, her

counterparts are saddened to see her go.

“She has done a great job helping us,” said Sgt. Maj. Abdul Rawof Klafgani, logistics sergeant major, 205th ANA Corps. “She is a (competent) logistician and is always available when we need to reach out to her, we wish her happiness as she gets ready to go back home to her Family.” Through constant communication and a common goal to improve the Afghan army, relationships have evolved to more than just partnerships.

“It has grown into a friendship sharing stories and pictures,” said Bretado. “We put work aside and

talk about our Families, hobbies or what is going on in our lives, it’s important to know each other in order to help each other.”

With units such as the Security Force Assistance Brigade developing, Bretado said it’s important for females, especially those with experience in their military occupational specialty, to train, advise, and assist allies.

“I am very happy to have gotten the opportunity to experience this,” said Bretado. “It’s amazing to see (our allies) grow and see that all our efforts are not being wasted. If you have the knowledge and experience to help don’t let your gender stop you.”



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Sgt. 1st Class Robert A. Monforte performs a traditional Polynesian dance as a fellow military member participates. Monforte was performing a traditional dance during the California Military Department's Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month observance, May 21. This year's theme, "Unite Our Vision by Working Together," focused on unity and inclusion. (Photo by Dave Loeffler)

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