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THE ANVIL INSIDER

A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



Photo by CW2 Matthew Bean

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in the 28th ECAB family, serving here and at home.

We can't wait to be back!

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Pennsylvania-California Military Ties Stretch Back to the Civil War

By Sgt. Zach Mateja, a former middle school history teacher and currently the religious affairs specialist with the 628th ASB



As Soldiers of California's 40th Combat Aviation Brigade trade places with their counterparts of Pennsylvania's 28th Combat Aviation Brigade, troops will be taking part in a legacy of state-to-state cooperation stretching back to the Civil War.

California, while a state during the Civil War, was unable to contribute troops to the war in the East thanks to the lack of intercontinental railroads and vast oceanic travel distances. To remedy this, Californians called for Oregon Senator Edward Baker to recruit a force in their state's name to serve alongside Union forces. Dubbed the "California Brigade," its Philadelphia-native recruits constituted the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th California Infantry Regiments. Baker, appointed the brigade commander, would fall in the Battle of Ball's Bluff within the first year of the war.

Pennsylvania would reclaim the units of the California Brigade, dubbing it the "Philadelphia Brigade" and reorganizing its units as the 69th, 71st, 72nd, and 106th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiments. The units would continue to serve until the Battle of Cold Harbor. Today, the 72nd Pennsylvania (3rd California) is perpetuated by the 111th Infantry Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard and the "Philadelphia Brigade" is spiritually succeeded by the 56th Stryker Brigade.

During World War I, the 111th Infantry would continue to play a part in interstate bonds. Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. James I. Mestrovitch, an immigrant who had first settled in California before resettling in Pennsylvania, was posthumously awarded for actions near the village of Fismette, France.

California would contribute even more men than Sgt. Mestrovitch to the 28th Division, as the 40th Division would serve as a depot division and help strengthen the deployed 28th. California Guardsman Joe Tong Sue, a replacement sent to the 111th Infantry, would be awarded the Croix de Guerre for his actions in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

During the Korean War, California and Pennsylvania Guardsmen would be part of the only four National Guard divisions mobilized to serve during the conflict. While the 40th would partake in combat on the Korean Peninsula, the 28th would be sent to Germany to guard against the Soviets.

More recently, in 2016 Soldiers of the California National Guard helped train Pennsylvania Guardsmen of the 2nd Infantry Brigade, 28th Division prior to mobilization to their peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

USS Monterey Seizes Illicit Weapons in the North Arabian Sea

By U.S. Fifth Fleet Public Affairs



BAHRAIN -- The guided-missile cruiser USS Monterey (CG 61) seized an illicit shipment of weapons from a stateless dhow in international water of the North Arabian Sea on May 6-7, 2021.

USS Monterey and its embarked U.S. Coast Guard Advanced Interdiction Team (AIT) discovered the illicit cargo during a routine flag verification boarding conducted in international water in accordance with customary international law.

The cache of weapons included dozens of advanced Russian-made anti-tank guided missiles, thousands of Chinese Type 56 assault rifles, and hundreds of PKM machine guns, sniper rifles and rocket-propelled grenades launchers. Other weapon components included advanced optical sights. The original source and intended destination of the materiel is currently under investigation.

The materiel is in U.S. custody awaiting final disposition.

Assessment of the findings will be an interagency effort.

Monterey provided more than 36 hours of over watch and security for its boarding teams and the interdicted vessel throughout the two-day operation.

After all illicit cargo was removed, the dhow was assessed for seaworthiness, and after questioning, its crew was provided food and water before being released.

The U.S. Navy conducts routine patrols in the region to ensure the free flow of commerce for legitimate traffic, disrupt the transport of illicit cargo that often funds terrorism and unlawful activity, and safeguard the rules-based international order.

*This month, we will spotlight the Soldiers who were behind the cameras during this deployment and highlight some of the work they did. As **unit public affairs representatives (UPAR)** they told the stories of our Soldiers and kept the public informed about our operations.*



Sgt. Carissa Diggs is a petroleum supply specialist and UPAR with Echo Company, 2-104th GSAB. She was recently accepted to West Virginia University and will begin her studies when she gets home. She has her sights set on eventually earning a law degree.

(The top three photos submitted by Sgt. Diggs)



1st Lt. Alysa Nantarojanaporn is a personnel officer and served as a UPAR for 4-4 ARB. As the lone TF Anvil UPAR in Erbil she covered our joint operations with partner nations as well.

(The top three photos submitted by 1st Lt. Nantarojanaporn)





1st Lt. Garrett Walnoha is an intel officer and served as a UPAR for 1-137th AHB, where he provided guidance for other UPARs and also designed and published the AHB's weekly newsletter.

(The top three photos submitted by 1st Lt. Walnoha)



Staff Sgt. Breanna Chase is an air traffic control operator and served as a UPAR for Fox Company, 2-104th GSAB, showing the work of our ATC Soldiers who ensure our aircrews operate safely in the air.

(The top three photos submitted by Staff Sgt. Chase)





Sgt. Joshua Mayro is a CBRN specialist, member of the downed aircraft recovery team and UPAR for Delta Company, 2-104th GSAB. He also helped to uncover stories that were featured Army-wide.

(The top three photos submitted by Sgt. Mayro)



Sgt. Joyce Avila is a human resources specialist and UPAR for Bravo Company, 628th ASB. She was recently promoted to sergeant and will serve as a religious affairs specialist after the deployment.



(The top three photos submitted by Sgt. Avila)





Sgt. Caitlin Reinard is a flight medic with Charlie Company, 2-104th GSAB. She contributed to the brigade's public affairs mission by providing photos and information around multiple events during the deployment.

(The top three photos submitted by Sgt. Reinard)



Spc. Jessica de la Torre is a signal support systems specialist. She helped show deployment life of Soldiers in 1-137th AHB as a UPAR and published multiple Soldier spotlights.

(The top three photos submitted by Spc. de la Torre)



Our Soldiers continue to help our partners in the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade as they receive their equipment and build up their force. Soon they will take over the aviation mission in the Middle East, supporting the campaigns to defeat Daesh and increase security and stability in the region.





**Follow the link
below for the
latest AFN
TV schedule**

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28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

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Col. Howard Lloyd

Senior Enlisted Advisor:
Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Livolsi

Public Affairs Officer:
Capt. Travis Mueller

Public Affairs Specialist:
Spc. Stanford Toran IV





STAY SHARP



Camp Buehring SHARP Team Recognized



The Camp Buehring Commander and Command Sergeant Major took time to recognize the work that the Camp Buehring SHARP team has done and thanked them for their efforts. The team was invited to a staff meeting following breakfast with the CSM. Task Force Anvil's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and Victim Advocate (VA) have enjoyed working with the SARCs and VAs from within the 16th Engineer Brigade and 2 IBCT, 1AD. This team ensured the success of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month activities and supported all Soldiers on post at all times.

A **COHESIVE UNIT** is a group that works together as a team and trusts one another.

Poor unit cohesion can lead to a lack of care, concern, dignity, and respect for Soldiers, breaking their trust and harming them. Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, racism, extremism, and even suicide, can arise as a result of ignoring Soldiers' perspectives and missing out on a deeper understanding and appreciation for their story.

The Army's "People First" Initiative calls for an increase in cohesion among units, and for leaders to focus on people and ensure everyone feels they are a valued member of the team.



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