



The Rally Point

Volume 1, Issue 11

November 2012

Special points of interest:

- The Army Guard is on Facebook. Check us out at www.facebook.com/caarmyguard



- This newsletter can be seen online here: <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/army/Pages/armynewsletter.aspx>

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Stopping suicide, sexual assault

The California Army National Guard, as well as the Army as a whole, is participating in a Suicide Prevention Stand Down.

Your unit has or will participate in this stand down by spending eight hours on resiliency training, leadership awareness, and suicide prevention. An entire drill day devoted to this matter should be an indication of how important suicide awareness and prevention is and how serious this threat to our formations needs to be taken.

The success of the suicide stand down might be hard to measure, however what is measurable is the fact that thanks to the training and briefings, six Soldiers felt comfortable enough to come forward during their unit's briefings and ask for help, another coming forward just days after their own training took place.

This, by any account, is a success. But we cannot let up on the cultural shift taking place.

Within the California Army National Guard, six Soldiers have committed suicide since 2011 with a total of 24 since 2001, and we have three more deaths that are under investigation that will likely be ruled as suicide.

Since 2010, the suicide rate in the Army and Reserve Components has been higher than the nine previous years combined.

In addition to multiple deployments, families, and military life, National Guard Soldiers have the added pressures of civilian careers that can slowly eat away and affect the mindsets of our members.

As leaders, suicide prevention and awareness need to be counted as one of our basic Soldier skills, trained and reinforced at every opportunity.

Climates within the commands need to be such that Soldiers with problems can come to their leaders and expect help, not apathy.

Leaders need to understand what to look for and who to contact if one of their Soldiers asks for or needs help.

We all need to know and understand the warning signs within ourselves, be willing to make the tough choice and reach for that helping hand when it's needed.

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is an affront to everything that the Army stands for.

Little can destroy the trust and camaraderie of a unit faster than an accusation of sexual assault.

Recently, two Airmen were sexually assaulted by a member of their own unit. This incident will have ramifications for not only those two women, but the unit as a whole for years to come.

Leaders must develop a climate of concern for the victims of sexual assault. Victims should be handled with compassion, understanding, and sensitivity. Victims should also be advised to report the incident through the proper channels so that the perpetrator can be stopped, and additional assaults can be prevented.



MG Lawrence Haskins
California Army National Guard Commander

The accused perpetrators should be handled within the confines of the law, taking into account that they are innocent until proven guilty.

However, they must be handled. No good is served by sweeping an incident under the rug.

In the last three years, the California Army National Guard has convicted two members for sexual assault via Courts Marshal, both served time in jail.

In addition, another member was reduced from MSG to SSG and discharged, while another was barred from reenlistment.

We are fully committed to seeing these cases through to their final disposition and not just letting them drop.

I, like all leaders, am devoted with eliminating this crime from our formations. I encourage you to report sexual assaults to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, law enforcement, chain of command, or even the FAST Line. These crimes must stop.



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Harold E. London
California Army
National Guard
Command Sergeant
Major**

CSM: Training, extending in CAARNG

This month's article will discuss two topics of interest: the first is training and the second is the new "Extend to Defend" (E2D) recognition kits. Individual Training is NCO business. I have now received about 12 Quarterly Training Briefs and have emphasized what Command Sergeants Major and First Sergeants need to get back to.

Training: SHOOT, MOVE AND COMMUNICATE

No matter what military occupation specialty (MOS) you have: Shoot, Move, and Communicate are the three things you need to know to survive and win on the battlefield. The following statements represent my thoughts on what NCOs should keep forefront in their mind to build and sustain a combat ready force.

SHOOT: The most basic fundamental of Soldiering is marksmanship. We must rapidly engage and hit our targets. To achieve this level of proficiency, we must shoot often

(STRAC and Class V permitting) and incorporate weapons into all training. Focus on basic rifle marksmanship, crew-served weapons familiarization, and muzzle discipline. Qualified Squads, Platoons, and Sections are a must. Regardless of MOS ensure your Soldiers are technically and tactically proficient.

MOVE: Get back in the books of marching a formation from one training area to another, utilizing proper verbal command (Drill and Ceremony). Research and prepare yourself for administrative convoy procedures to include load plans, signage, flags, separation distance, stopping points, rally points, rest points and utilize Pre-Combat Checks and Pre-Combat Inspections before convoy briefings. Plan and train tactical convoys that includes a security plan, herring bone on stops, rallying points, map, air, and route recon time permitting just to name a few. Do the same for a tactical field site occupation that includes quartering party procedures, drop

off points for vehicles, ensuring fire safety around generators, noise and light discipline, sector sketch, sleeping areas and plans, and, simply put "Get back to the field craft that our mentors taught us."

COMMUNICATE: Utilize troop leading procedures in every facet of your authority. Train, supervise, and execute Pre-Combat Checks, WAR-NOS, FRAGOS, brief backs, and AARS. Train and maintain your BFT and communication package provided. Force your element, under your charge, to utilize the Army supplied communications systems vs. the Soldiers "blackberry or personal phone."

It's Time to Extend

The E2D program was established by the Army National Guard in order to enhance the recognition of Soldiers who reenlist in the ARNG. This program provides a more formal means for units to ceremoniously show appreciation for their Soldier's commitment to continued service in the Army National Guard as well as recognize their respective spouses who support them.

Soldiers that extend for three or more years will be eligible to receive an E2D kit. Single Soldiers will receive the following items: Sweatshirt, Soldier Certificate, Survival Bracelet, and E2D Challenge Coin. Married Soldiers will receive the above items in addition to a Spousal Certificate, Long Sleeve T-shirt, and a Spousal Survival Bracelet.

Career counselors at the battalion level will manage distribution to their respective companies and see that the E2D kits are presented in a proper setting.



Resilience Corner: Suicide Should Not Be An Option

By CPT René Marie, Resilience, Risk Reduction, Suicide Prevention (R3SP) Program Coordinator, Master Resilience Trainer

Navigating through change with courage requires optimistic AND realistic thinking.

Thinking positive is not enough to achieve our goals for personal or professional growth. We must anticipate, plan, and engage in self-reflection to best align with our target. Unexpected or unwanted change can have considerable psychological impact. Whether positive or negative, change can cause significant fatigue to creep in.

Staying positive during uncertain times can seem impossible, but maintaining a hopeful outlook is critical for psychological resilience. Being an optimist does not mean ignoring a problem while working toward positive outcomes. It does mean understanding that setbacks are temporary.

Trust that you have the skills to grow in the clutch of any challenge you face. Remind yourself that "it takes the time it takes" and ask yourself: "who am I in this," "who do I want to be?" Finding your "best self" in the storms of change is the core work of personal resilience.

Resilient people often embrace change as an opportunity to explore new directions never anticipated. The realistic optimist instinctively knows that each day is a fresh opportunity to "hunt the good stuff," even in uncertain times. I benefit from repeating a mantra such as "this too shall pass."

Whatever works for YOU, keep in mind that optimism and flexibility in our ways of thinking and responding is a great way to cultivate resilience habits. Loyalty, Discipline, Respect, Selfless Service, Honesty, Integrity, Personal Courage . . . Resilience, it is our duty!

Education information for all CAARNG Soldiers

The California Army National Guard Civilian Southern Education Office located on Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, is currently closed until mid-November. Please call 916-854-3260 for Federal Tuition Assistance questions or 916-854-3234 for any GI Bill benefit questions.

GoArmyEd.com – the Gateway for Soldier for Federal Tuition Assistance. Army tuition assistance currently pays 100 percent tuition, up to a cap of \$250 per semester hour and a ceiling of \$4,500 per fiscal year.

Effective Oct. 1, 2012, the following guidelines apply to TA:

- TA is available for a bachelor's degree or

up to 130 semester hours of undergraduate credit, whichever comes first.

- TA is available for a master's degree or up to 39 semester hours of graduate credit, whichever comes first.

- Once a Soldier obtains a baccalaureate degree, all further course work counts toward the 39 semester hours of graduate credit allowable under TA policy.

- The only exceptions are initial one-time Teacher Certifications, selected foreign languages included on the current Army Strategic Language List and specialized Chaplain Certification programs.

Recoupment of Tuition Assistance

Funds. A recoupment takes place when a Soldier fails to successfully complete the class for which tuition assistance was received.

- Soldier has 30 days to select a payment plan or discuss with school or counselor before recoupment is sent to Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)

- A "D" grade is not recouped for undergraduate students but it is recouped for graduate students.

- If a grade is not posted to replace the grade of Incomplete ("I") after 120 days from the class end date, a recoupment is initiated.

Veterans Day - Local companies show appreciation for your service

Nov. 11 is Veterans Day and it is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended the World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans are thanked for their services to the United States on Veterans Day. It is marked by parades and church services and in many places the American flag is hung at half-mast.

Veterans Day is almost here and there are many restaurants and companies who want to

thank our veterans by providing them with discounts or a free meal. Your FRG State Volunteers would like to share as many of these free meals and discounts with our CAARNG.

Free Park Admissions:
Knott's Berry Farm Annual Military Tribute Days Nov 1-21st, Anheuser-Busch Parks Sea World, Fee-Free Day at National Parks, and Aquarium of the Pacific

Restaurants: Applebee's,

California Pizza Kitchen, Lone Star Steakhouse, Chili's, Famous Dave's, Golden Corral, Hooter's, Krispy Kreme, Little Caesars Pizza, McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants, Outback Steakhouse, Sizzler Restaurants, Subway, Texas Roadhouse, T.G.I. Friday's, Olive Garden, Twin Peaks, UNO Chicago Grill.

Retail Stores & More: B&B for Vets, Home Depot Military Discount, Lowe's Military Discount, Amazon.com – Free

MP3 album download "Veterans Day Honor", Big Lots – 10 percent off, Cabela's, Dollar General, Sports Authority, Sport Clips, Steve Madden, Free Car Wash – Find the list at www.GraceforVeterans.org.

Tip: Pay close attention to the date listed and what you need to bring to qualify. They don't all take place on Veterans Day (Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012 but observed on Monday, Nov. 12, 2012)



Disciplinary Action

PFC	49th MP BDE	In August 2010, PFC with the intent to deceive, submitted an official DA Form 1059, Service School Academic Evaluation Report, which was totally false and was then known to be false in violation of Article 107, UCMJ.	Written reprimand & forfeiture of pay equivalent to MUTA 4.	Punishment Imposed
SSG	100th Troop Command	Soldier bought a motorcycle and was told to take the mandatory motorcycle safety course by two officers and the Detachment NCOIC. Soldier disregarded the lawful orders of his officers and NCOIC, rode the vehicle, and had an accident.	Article 15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2 months pay for two months 40 hours of extra duty Letter of reprimand
SGT	224TH SUS BDE	Soldier violated Article 107 (False Official Statement) of the UCMJ by lying to the Bde Cdr during a previous Article 15 reading.	Article 15	Reduced to SPC
SSG	224TH SUS BDE	Soldier violated Article 86 (AWOL) of the UCMJ by failing to appear for July 2012 IDT and August 2012 annual training.	Article 15	Reduced to SPC
PFC	1106th TASMG	AWOL	Reduced	Reduction to PV2
PFC	1106th TASMG	AWOL	Reduced	Reduction to PV2

Disclaimer: When determining a punishment, commanders take into account a number of factors including the rank, the severity of violation, the service record, as well as the character of the individual. This independent consideration of each case explains why two individuals of the same rank, who commit the same infraction, may not receive the same punishment. In addition, according to the California Military and Veterans Code and the UCMJ, punishment pursuant to an Article 15 (known as non-judicial punishment (NJP), can vary for similar misconduct by enlisted or officers. A Soldier who receives NJP could be reduced up to two grades, have a fine imposed, be assigned extra duty, and/or have a letter of reprimand placed in their record. This range of punishment is focused on maintaining good order and discipline. NJP rarely ends an enlisted person's career. In fact, a Soldier who has been reduced through UCMJ can rehabilitate them self and return to their previous rank. NJP only slows down the career advancement of a Soldier/NCO. Comparatively, when an officer receives NJP the maximum punishment authorized by law, even for the CDR CAARNG, is a fine and/or to have a letter of reprimand filed in their record. This range of punishment is focused on determining whether the officer is suitable for continued service. While NJP for officers does not have the immediate impact of an enlisted rank reduction, it can, in most cases, prevent any further career advancement. NJP (or a permanently filed General Officer Letter of Reprimand) generally stops the career advancement of an officer.

PMO: Glass House - everyone can see you

Have you ever stepped outside and had that eerie feeling that someone was watching you? You do not know why, but you cannot shake that feeling. Well, every time you put on your uniform and step outside, the whole world is watching you. Some people will approach you and shake your hand in thanks and admiration; others are just waiting for you to mess up.

It is an honor and privilege to wear the uniform, but with that privilege comes a price. You never know who that civilian driving next to you or walking down the street or standing in line behind you may be.

It is our duty to be professional at all times, whether we are in the uniform or out. We are to conduct ourselves as professional Soldiers, not only because you never know who is watching, but also because it is the right thing to do. Think about it – there are so many identifiers on our uniforms. What branch of service we

are in; our rank and name can easily identify us. It is not difficult to figure out who we are when we are in uniform. Not only that, our tactical vehicles all have identifiers on them as well. So if you are driving down I-5 heading to Camp Roberts in a HMMWV with no Kevlar on and you think you aren't going to get caught, you are wrong.

Maybe you did not feel like putting that soft cap on while walking from the grocery store to your car? You may get away with it once or twice but in the end, you will get caught. Someone is always watching. So next time you are in public in uniform or you are driving down the road in a military vehicle, ask yourself, "If someone is watching me right now what impression am I giving them of the United States Military?" If you cannot answer that question in a positive way, then maybe you should rethink your actions.

Promotions

Enlisted

Uname	NAME_IND	GR_ABBR_CODE	PAY_GR
40TH MP CO	ARGOMEDO ELIUD	SGT	E5
9TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM	BRUNETTE JAMES LOUIS JR	SFC	E7
270TH MP CO (-)	BUTTERS TREVOR LEE	SSG	E6
3RD BN (TC) 223RD REGT	CADIZ JUNREY BELON	SSG	E6
100TH TRP CMD	CAHUANTZI FERNANDO A	SSG	E6
BTRY F 144TH FA	CAMACHOJAIMES JUAN	SFC	E7
224TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE	CAPRILE ROQUE JR	SSG	E6
DET 1 315TH ENGR VCC	CAVALTERA DENNIS CAEZAR P	SFC	E7
DET 1 CO A 223RD MI BN	CHAN DAVID CHI JAI	SGT	E5
CO A 1106TH TASMG	CHOTTIKHUN PRACH PREDI	SGT	E5
CO A 1-184 IN BN	DESTEFANO RICHARD II	SSG	E6
0250 MI BN CO C FWD 2	DO VY THUY	SGT	E5
330TH MP CO	DOWNS JORDON ROBERT	SSG	E6
CALIFORNIA R & R BN (-)	DUARTE YOLANDA	SFC	E7
BTRY F 144TH FA	EUALLE MIKEL REY PENASALIS	SSG	E6
CO B (-) 640TH ASB	FIELDS BRANDON SCOTT	SGT	E5
CO A(-) 1-185TH AR BN	GUTIERREZ REYES III	SSG	E6
216TH (-) ENGR MAC	GUZMAN ANTHONY MICHAEL	SGT	E5
870TH MP CO (-)	JIMENEZ JESSE BENIGNO	SFC	E7
149TH (-) CHEM CO	KAPOJOS DAVID CHRISTIAN	SGT	E5
CO C (-) CAARNG RRB	LARA MELVIN GONZALEZ	SFC	E7
CO A 3/140 AVN S&S BN	LE MICHAEL BAO	SGT	E5
CO A 1106TH TASMG	LONG JOHN MICHAEL JR	SGT	E5
1498TH TC (HET)	LOPEZ ISMAEL MIKE	SFC	E7
CO B (-) CAARNG RRB	LOSASSO SONGWON	SFC	E7
270TH MP CO (-)	MCKEOWN ROBERT CHARLES	SFC	E7
870TH MP CO (-)	MENDOZA MARISSA CARINA	SGT	E5
HSC (-) 40TH INF DIV	MOLINA DANIEL	SGT	E5
COMBAT AVN BDE	MONTIEL DANIEL ROBERT	SGT	E5
CO C 250TH MI BN	MORALES MIKHAIL KRISTIAN	SGT	E5
DET 1 OPNS CO 40TH INF DIV	MURRAY MICHELLE LYNNE	SGT	E5
CO B (-) 223RD MI BN	NUNEZ CHRISTIAN	SFC	E7
149TH (-) CHEM CO	RICE JNEEN ELAINE	SFC	E7
CO A(-) 1-185TH AR BN	RODRIGUEZ JOSE ALBERTO	SSG	E6
JFHQ-CA (-)	ROSADO ROCKY JADE	SSG	E6
270TH MP CO (-)	SCHMIDT DEREK PAUL	SGT	E5
DET 1 270TH MP CO	SIEGFRIED CHRISTOPHER ERIC	SSG	E6
CO B(-) 1-185TH AR BN	SILBERSTEIN JONATHAN LLOYD	SSG	E6
DET 2 649TH ENGR CO	SMITH JARED MICHEL	SSG	E6
CA ARNG MED DET	TERRAZAS BIANCA BOTHA	SSG	E6
CO A 250TH MI BN	THOMPSON DAMARIS ANNEORDONA	SSG	E6
CO D (-) CAARNG RRB	TIJERO MAURICIO ALBERTO	SFC	E7
3RD BN (TC) 223RD REGT	VELA MARISOL MARTINEZ	SSG	E6
CO A (-) CAARNG RRB	VENZON RICHARD FRANCISCO	SFC	E7
CO C 223RD MI BN	WYCKOFF JOSEPH THOMAS	SFC	E7
HHC 49TH MP BDE	BAKER KENNETH LEE	MSG	E8
224TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE	WALKER ADAM BENNETT	CSM	E9
HHD 185TH MP BN	REYES NELSON ELOY	CSM	E9
CO A 1-160TH IN	NUNEZ STEVE JR	1SG	E8
HHC 1-143RD FA	AMES KELLY BRIAN	MSG	E8
HHC(-) 1-185TH AR BN	MURPHY BRIAN PATRICK	SGM	E9
CO F 40TH BSB (IN) CO	RICE MARLON ANTHONY	1SG	E8
DET 2, 224 SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE	PULLEN RODDRICK LANAIR	CSM	E9

MSM Awardees

CPT/0-3	Kolumbic, Michael	79th IBCT	10/11/2012
MAJ/0-4	Finch, Eric	79th IBCT	10/11/2012
LTC/0-5	Ortiz, Angel	224th SUST BDE	10/19/2012
SSG/E-6	Nickell, Lucy	HHD, JFHQ	10/29/2012
MAJ/0-4	Williamson, Daniel	49th MP	10/19/2012
MSG/E-8	Gies, William	100th TC	10/2/2012
SFC/E-7	Perez, Frances	100th TC	10/19/2012
CPT/0-3	Bechtol, Peter	79th IBCT	10/11/2012

Retirees

NAME_IND	GR_ABBR_CODE	DATE_ASG_LOSS_RSN	Yrs of Svc
MURPHY PATRICK THOMAS	SSG	121001	21
PICKERING AUSTIN LEE	1SG	121001	30
LONDON KELLY EUGENE	MSG	121013	27
ALMEIDA JOHN MICHAEL	LTC	121001	28
WEATHERTON STEVEN THOMAS	CPT	121001	22

CAARNG Retirement Webpage

The California Army National Guard has created a new California Army National Guard Public Retirement webpage geared towards Non-Regular (M-Day) Retirements.

This site was created to bring valuable information to those who are soon-to-be retirees and for those who want to learn more about retirement benefits and programs. The webpage goes over the three phases of Retirement; what a Soldier needs to do once they have 20 Years of Qualified Service, the benefits and action items of Gray Area Retirees, and how to apply for Non-Regular (M-Day) Retirement. Additionally, the California Army National Guard is joining forces with the United States Army Reserve's 91st Training Support Division, to host a Reservist (M-Day) Pre-Retirement Seminar on Saturday, 27 October 2012 at Camp San Luis Obispo, Perlee Theater.

The Retirement Seminar will include: how to apply for Retired Pay, how to read your retirement points statement, understanding the Reserve Component Survivor Benefits Plan (RCSBP), and benefits. Representatives will be available to provide information on Tricare (medical & dental), Department of Veterans Affairs, personal financial counseling, and more.

This Retirement Seminar will help provide Soldiers and their Families a smooth transition into Retirement. It's been said, "Retiring is not a process, it is an event." Looking ahead, M-Day Retirement Seminars will rotate quarterly throughout California by region.

For more information on the new California Army National Guard Public Retirement webpage and the upcoming Seminar, please go to www.calguard.ca.gov/g1/Pages/Retirement.aspx.





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We're on the Web!
[www.facebook.com/
CAARMYGUARD](http://www.facebook.com/CAARMYGUARD)

Links of interest:

JOBS:

CID

Interested in being a CID
Agent?
Contact the 170th CID:
[www.calguard.ca.gov/49mp/
Pages/170thCID.aspx](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/49mp/Pages/170thCID.aspx),
or call at (916) 854-1983

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Always Ready, Always There

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Branch Spotlight: Engineer units pave the way

By SGM Paul Salinas III and
CSM Sergio Gonzalez,
"Essayons"

"Let Us Try" – the motto of the Corp of Engineers. There are two Engineer Battalions within the State of California: the 578th in the South and the 579th in the North. Engineer Battalions are one of the most flexible and employed units throughout the Army inventory.

Engineers in California have a long, rich, and distinguished history dating back to 1916 (578th) and 1929 (579th), and have been organized and reorganized several times to become the Golden State go-to organization.

California Army National Guard Engineer units have continually deployed in support of the War on Terrorism, as well as peacekeeping missions and states emergencies. Before the Global War on Terrorism, our California Guard Engineers continually deployed in support of humanitarian operations in Central America and throughout the Pacific Basin, as well as providing civil support to the State of California for fires, floods and civil disturbance.

California Engineer Battalions bring to the fight Sapper Companies that can simultaneously conduct a combination of offensive, defensive, stability, and civil support operations such as, but not limited to, route clearance,



SSG Emily Suhr
Engineers do more than build—here two members of the Search and Rescue team, which was made up of combat engineers including the 579th Engineer Battalion support the 2011 Arizona Vigilant Guard Exercise Nov. 4, 2011 in Phoenix.

obstacle clearing and breaching. They also include horizontal and vertical Construction Companies and a Bridging Company to include a Firefighting Detachment.

Engineers employ a diversity of skills and equipment making them a vital asset, especially to the State of California in civil support operations. Engineers have heavy equipment to support fires, floods, and debris removal. Bridging companies have bridge boats that support flood operations, as well as the manpower and special tools to assist state and local government when called upon to serve.

On the home front, the Engi-

neers from Northern California are a Tier 1 asset and assigned to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 which are tasked with the CERFP (CBRNE [Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive], Enhanced Response Force Package) mission under the HRF (Homeland Response Force).

Engineers are a unique blend of Soldiers with a proud and long history in every Army of the world. No matter where you go, engineers all share a common bond.

"Essayons," we will get the job done.