

WARRIOR WORDS

Newsletter of the 40th (M) Infantry Division Support Brigade * California State Military Reserve



JANUARY 2008 ISSUE NUMBER ONE * PUBLISHED BY THE 40th DSB PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

Fighting Fire With the 40th DSB

National Guard's AAR: "They couldn't have done it without us"

By SGT Jim Tortolano
Warrior Words

Time Magazine called it the "Godzilla Wind." To another press account, it was "The Perfect Firestorm." But to the California State Military Reserve, it was "Operation Fall Blaze," an opportunity to assist in the California National Guard's effort to battle the worst outbreak of wildfires in a generation in late

**OPERATION:
FALL BLAZE**

October and early November. About 135 members of the SMR lent a hand in the fire-suppression efforts. The 40th (Mechanized) Infantry Division Support Brigade, headquartered at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos contributed 35 soldiers to the "Fall Blaze" efforts.

According to MAJ Fredrick A. Tribble, training officer and liaison for the 40th, the reviews from the Guard were all raves.

"They told us that they literally could not have done it without us," said MAJ Tribble. "And nobody was blowing

smoke about that."

The 40th DSB deployed two soldiers to Riverside, two more to San Diego, and 15 more were sent to Sacramento, 12 to Pasadena and four more in Los Alamitos.

The men and women of the 40th worked in administrative and liaison roles alongside their National Guard counterparts.

"All that MEMS training we've been going through has really paid off," said MAJ Tribble. "You can see the practical application of all the theory that's being taught."

The experience gained in the Operation Golden Guardian exercise also helped prepare SMR soldiers for the real disaster of a fistful of out-of-control fires.

Although the SMR's efforts to help the firefighting led to the postponement of annual training (now scheduled for late July to early August), the disaster may well make the reserve and brigade stronger.

"We learned that we need to



Photo courtesy Anaheim Police Department

WHILE PROFESSIONAL firefighters manned the front lines during the Southern California firestorms in October and November, soldiers from the CSMR's 40th Division Support Brigade provided crucial liaison and administrative support.

do a better job of mobilizing the brigade," he said. "Sometimes only one person in a unit would have all the contact information. Well, what if that one person was hit by a bus? We need a more systematized process so we can quickly contact soldiers no matter what."

Another effect will be the increased demand for the 40th's talents.

The blazes that stripped vegetation from much of Southern California were followed by storms which could have led to flooding and landslides.

That led to MAJ Tribble and

others in the SMR starting to prepare for "Operation Fall Flood."

Luckily, that was one disaster that never materialized, but through fire and rain, the 40th is on call for duty; there will be more, not less, of that.



Photo SSG Bergquist/CSMR

MG ROBERT WADE, adjutant general of the California National Guard, addresses the members of the 2007 class of the CSMR's Officer Candidate School during ceremonies on Dec. 8 at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

Presenting The CSMR Class of '07

"You have to be better now"

By WO1 Richard Delatorre
Warrior Words

The hard work is done. Now the real work begins.

That's the way 2LT Hector Mascorro described it after he and 12 other Soldiers were sworn in at the commissioning ceremony for the newest batch of CSMR officers.

"It's like a huge accomplishment," he said with a look of relief mixed with joy. "But also you have to be better now."

The ceremony took place last month at the JFTB Los Alamitos. It was the second class to graduate from the CSMR's Officer Candidate School.

Mascorro is attached to the Public Affairs section of the 40th ID Support Brigade. He and the other new second lieutenants will be facing high expectations in 2008 as they help lead the CSMR on its quest to handle increasingly complex and urgent missions in sup-

port of the California National Guard.

The willingness to take on and meet those expectations as volunteers brought grateful praise from MG William H. Wade II, the Cal Guard's adjutant general. He and other top Cal Guard staff joined with CSMR commanders at the afternoon event, which included an audience of family, friends and soldiers.

"These are true American patriots," said Wade as he stood before the class. "They are ready to serve their state."

"The cadre of 13 officers went through a year-long candidacy comprised of five phases of leadership training and development, which included instructional activities at various military posts throughout the state.

The CSMR is the only state defense force in the nation that offers an OCS program.

O.C.S.

THE CSMR OCS CLASS OF 2007

- John C. Adams — 100th Troop Command Support Brigade
- Peter J. Anninos — JFTB Installation Support Group
- Richard Davis — JFTB Installation Support Group
- Heather J. Hagan — JFTB Installation Support Group
- Matthew L. Huss — California Center for Military History
- Randall Long — 1-185th Armor Combined Arms Battalion Support Detachment
- Ronnie Kebbas-Vezia — Recruiting-Retention Task Force
- Daniel Lynch — CSMR Headquarters Detachment

- Hector A. Mascorro — 40th Infantry Division Support Brigade
- Andrew J. Rush — CSMR Headquarters Detachment
- Stephen B. Scheffrin — 146th Airlift Wing Support Unit
- Oleg Sherbakov — 100th Troop Command Support Brigade
- Eric J. Van Der Heide — 40th Infantry Division Support Brigade

"SEMPER GUMBY" -- ALWAYS FLEXIBLE

FROM THE COMMANDER

New Year Will Bring More To Do

In 2008 our Soldiers must continue to remain ready to step forward at a moment's notice. We are no longer the "also-rans" in the Military Department of California, but a leading force multiplier for the California National Guard.

Once again, because of adaptive planning, our organization proves to be a body in motion.

Last year's Operational Control (OPCON) Agreement between the 40th Infantry Division and the California State Military Reserve (CSMR) secured the transformation of the Brigade and integrates personnel into the sections of the Division.

The agreement is driving the responsibilities of the Brigade. Specifically, the OPCON transforms the Brigade from tasking specific activities to a broadened scope of action for each CSMR Soldier. This action includes both FEMA-related operations with civilian authorities as well as traditional military assignments.

I can honestly say that this is one of the most exciting training periods that I've seen since I have affiliated with the CSMR.

In the past, operations and responsibilities were only one or two tasks that required operational interfacing. Now the Brigade faces missions that have a myriad of tasks — which are now to be described as Warrior Tasks. These tasks will increase the size and frequency of the operations and the time it will take for task completion.



COL. JOHN M. WILSON, Jr

Perhaps more importantly are the ongoing plans for an increase in special training performed at the JTFB.

I want to stress the one constant that must be our focus of all we do: providing our National Guard "customers" with dependable, quality support. By training to train others in specialized skills, the Brigade can help to save Soldiers' lives on the battlefield.

An example of the critically important training we provide is the Combat Lifesaver and Tactical Combat Casualty Care program. The program teaches National Guard Soldiers how to deal with extraordinarily serious wounds in the first 5-10 minutes after a casualty, such as a sucking chest wound or collapsed lung.

This is very important training to say the least.

It bears repeating. We must continuously focus and see ourselves as a dependable resource that provides our customers with good service that meets their training needs.

People's lives depend on it! If the Soldiers we train can save a life, then we will have succeeded in our mission.

OFFICER PROFILE

CPT CHRISTOPHER FOWLER

Age: 56. Rank: Captain
Joined the CSMR: April 2007.

Prior service: None.
Now: Retired. 33 years with the Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Lives in: Rancho Santa Margarita.

Married: 17 years to Tina.

CSMR section: Chaplain, section chief.

Civilian hobbies and interests: tennis, traveling with wife, reading.

Civilian education: B.A. psychology (State University of New York), M.A., D.M., in divinity from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Georgia.

Why join the CSMR? "I sensed a calling from the Lord to serve the men and women in the service."

What do you like most the CSMR? "I like the sense of family and camaraderie and purpose. I enjoy the flexibility and the chance to serve on state active duty."

CSMR deployments, missions: Senior leadership conference, Operation Fall Blaze; currently special assistant to the executive officer updating the TDA for CSMR.

CSMR honors: Recruiting ribbon, MEMS basic certification, outstanding service ribbon, state service award.



A Feast of Missions for PMO in 2008

From the momentum of several successful missions in 2007, the 40th ID SB's Provost Marshal Office is looking forward to a new year that promises to be the busiest yet for the hard-working section.

The PMO continues to gain recognition for its professionalism and proficiency when asked to provide service — especially on short notice — when the state calls.

"With each month our reputation seems to grow," said MAJ Frank Naumann, the provost marshal.

During the last part of the year, many PMO Soldiers stepped forward to serve as support staff at various operation centers during the wildfires that struck across the state.

That support work included

PMO troops spending a number of weeks on paid emergency state active duty at the Office of the Adjutant General in Sacramento.

At Golden Guardian, the state's annual disaster response exercise, PMO Troops, standing in for the National Guard, served as observers/controllers and role players for different scenarios. T

The exercises, held in Anaheim, involved numerous Orange County public safety agencies and scenarios on riot control and the simulated terrorist takeover of a Metrolink train.

The 40th ID SB's PMO is expected to play a key role as the CSMR continues to develop its reliability when called by authorities to assist in disaster and emergency management.

NGO PROFILE

SFC MICHAEL DARNELL

Age: 25. Rank: SFC.
Joined the CSMR: October 2007.

Prior service: 40th Military Police Company, U.S. Army (8 years), Recruitment Sustainment Program, 223 Infantry Regiment, four years.

Now: Commandant, Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy.

Lives in: Compton.

CSMR section: Public affairs.

Civilian hobbies and interests: martial arts, the beach.

Civilian education: B.A. in history, philosophy; A.S. administration of justice. Single subject teaching credential, social science.

Why join the CSMR? "To serve my state and share my military experience."

What do you like most about the CSMR? That we are loyal to the State of California."



Service and attendance recognized

Note: Below are honors awarded at the November UTA. Honors at the December and January UTAs will appear in the March issue of Warrior Words.

- Alexander, Ronald 1LT
Drill Attendance Ribbon (1st award)
- Bailey, Lisa W01
Drill Attendance Ribbon (1st award)
Outstanding Service Ribbon (1st award)
- DeLa Torre, Richard W01
Drill Attendance Ribbon (1st award)
Outstanding Service Ribbon (1st award)
- Arocha, Mauricio 2LT
Drill Attendance Ribbon (1st award)
- Rogers, Jeffrey SPC
Drill Attendance Ribbon (1st award)
- Mascarro, Hector 2LT
Drill Attendance Ribbon (2nd award)
Outstanding Service Ribbon (1st award)
- Richard Berquist SSG
Drill Attendance Ribbon (2nd award)
- Thompson, John SSG
Outstanding Service Ribbon (1st award)
- Egeler, Fred-Otto MAJ
Outstanding Service Ribbon (4th award)

ROLL OF HONORS

WARRIOR WORDS



40th Mechanized Infantry Division Support Brigade
COL. JOHN M WILSON, Jr. COMMANDING

Published bimonthly by the Public Affairs Section of the 40th (Mechanized) Infantry Support Brigade.

Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos.

Public Affairs Officer

MAJ Fred-Otto Egeler
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

MAJ James Adair

EDITOR: SGT Jim Tortolano. STAFF: W01 Richard DeLaTorre, SSG Richard Bergquist, SGT Mike Nguyen. SGT Jim Deschenes. Send news items, story suggestions, corrections to warrriorwords@mac.com.