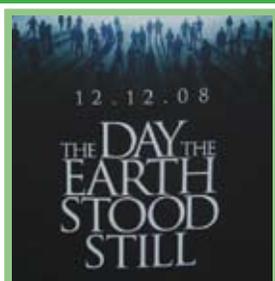




'Stand Down' in San Diego honors vets

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A little extra from CSMR for movie

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WARRIOR WORDS

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



Fighting Fire From The Sky

CSMR Helps Battle Blazes

OPERATION LIGHTING STRIKE



Drill and ceremonies at Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos

Back to Basics: Southern Region Holds Its BOC

Soldiers learn everything from column left to uniform wear **PAGE THREE**

AT THE FRONT

SPC Matthew Mathew Morelli (RTFS) and CW2 Rolando Quiambao (RTFS) geared up as extras in "The Day the Earth Stood Still"



LOS AL GOES HOLLYWOOD

■ Soldiers from the CSMR were on the set as background actors on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at JFTB Los Alamitos. Filming was for the upcoming movie, "The Day the Earth Stood Still," which will star Keanu Reeves and Jennifer Connelly. CSMR Soldiers, NG Soldiers and professional actors were used in scenes depicting the 27th Division of the New York National Guard. The movie is scheduled for release on Dec. 12 and is a remake of the 1951 classic sci-fi film about an alien visitor and his giant robot counterpart who visit Earth with a warning and a threat.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Hold your plans loosely'

As we look forward to the months ahead, we know that this time will be a challenging and exciting one for SMR, for each of us as soldiers, and for our families. As a new budget year starts, we hope (and, perhaps, pray!) for the funding we need to accomplish our mission.



CPT CHRISTOPHER FOWLER

It is good to have goals, but goals and "even the best laid plans" will disappoint us, if we leave God out of them. There is no point in making plans or setting goals as if God does not exist, because the future is in His hands!

In the military, as in all areas of human endeavor, plans are important. The Bible affirms this truth: "*many are the plans in a man's heart*"; but goes on to caution that "*it is the Lord's purpose (or will) that prevails*" (Pr. 19:21).

OFFICER PROFILE

CPT CARL A. SMITH, Jr

Age: 53
Birthplace: Geoppingen, Germany
Joined the CSMR: July 2005
Prior Service: None.
Current Civilian Occupation: Physician's assistant and medical director of a drug rehabilitation clinic.



Lives in: Garden Grove.

Civilian hobbies and interests: Travel to national parks and historic sites; camping/hiking, collecting and building military models.

Civilian education: R.N., B.A. in biology, M.A. in health administration, doctorate of chiropractic.

Why join the CSMR?

To support the troops after 9/11. I have a son currently serving in the Air Force as a C-130 rescue pilot.

What do you most like about the CSMR?

All of the Soldiers of the CSMR are true patriots. I enjoy serving the medical missions that support the CSMR and National Guard Soldiers.



WARRIOR WORDS

Southern Regional Support Command
COL MARC BRESLOW,
COMMANDING

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Back to Basics at 2008 BOC



THE SRSC held its Basic Orientation Course over two weekends in August and September at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. Above, Soldiers in formation practice drill and ceremonies. At right, CSMR commander BG Emory “Jack” Hagan speaks to troopers during a break.

Photos by SPC Gene Arias

“Right . . . face!
“Left . . . face!
“About . . . face!”
“Column . . . left!”
“To the rear . . . march!”

Those familiar calls rang out across the parade ground at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos for a weekend each in August and September as the Southern Regional Support Command of the California State Military Reserve held its Basic Orientation Course.

It was the first BOC conducted in three years; previous plans to hold the basic course – intended to instruct non-prior service personnel and teach prior service Soldiers more about the CSMR – had been cancelled or postponed because of the Reserve’s involvement over the past two years in helping the National Guard fight wildfires.

Over 100 CSMR Soldiers gathered at the base for

four days of drill and ceremonies, as well as classroom instruction in subjects ranging from unit history to sexual harassment prevention.

New Soldiers got their first prolonged taste of military stances and movements. Experienced Soldiers within the squads and platoons put their colleagues through their paces, patiently instructing many non-priors in the techniques of drill that mark a true military unit.

All in attendance heard officers and senior enlisted personnel speak about opportunities for promotion in the CSMR, the history and legal basis for the organization, and proper wear of the uniform.

BG Emory “Jack” Hagan, commanding general of the CSMR addressed the BOC students on the first day, praising them for their dedication and service.

“You are the true patriots, the true volunteers,” he said. “You give your time and effort only to serve your country and your state. I am proud to be your commander.”



CSMR Public Affairs photographers from the Southern Regional Support Command were part of the CSMR’s contribution to support the California National Guard in “Operation Lightning Strike,” the effort to suppress a statewide series of forest fires ignited by electrical storms. At left, SGT Robert Davison prepares to deploy to the fire line after completing US Fire Service fire suppression class at McClellan Park in Sacramento. **Photo by SSG Bergquist.** Above, left SSG Richard Bergquist at Task Force Pick ICC bulletin board where his photos were available for viewing by Soldiers. **Photo by LTC Lloyd Goodrow, VTANG.**

Shooters on The Fire Line

Photogs from the PAO were only part of the CSMR’s efforts to support the CNG in the statewide firefighting battle, “Operation Lighting Strike.”

**By CW2 Rick de la Torre
Warrior Words**

The CSMR is continuing to bask in kudos it received for the successful deployment this summer of nearly 100 of its citizen Soldiers with specialized skills to support Operation Lightning Strike.

At least 25 Soldiers from units in Southern California and approximately 70 from throughout Northern California were called to temporary state active duty because of the hundreds of wildfires started by lightning strikes.

The deployment lasted most of the summer, with troops serving a range of time

periods and providing direct assistance to civilian authorities in variety of locales, including fire bases and Joint Force HQ in Sacramento.

CSMR Soldiers were involved in: advanced mobile communications and data platforms; mobilization and deployment planning; logistical coordination among agencies; command post operations; purchasing and contracting; media relations; chaplain services; and medical/legal services to the Cal Guard.

In addition to these forward-deployed Soldiers, a number of additional CSMR personnel, serving in a volunteer capacity, contributed with administration and

operational assistance from their homes and businesses.

CSMR Soldiers have skills in traditional military specialties and are experienced in joining rapid response teams sent to in-state natural or manmade threats. The CSMR is most often utilized to assist in the mobilization of California National Guard units on homeland defense missions.

The chance to provide support to the Cal Guard during OLS allowed two CSMR Soldiers from the Southern Regional Support Command’s public affairs unit, Staff Sgt. Rick Bergquist of La Mirada and Sgt. Robert Davison of the



MAJ Michael Kozak (left) awards CPT Carl Smith the California Medal of Merit for his leadership and care of CNG Soldiers. Photo by SSG Bergquist.

Santa Clarita Valley, to get involved in various training activities and media relations work.

Both are Vietnam veterans, a pair of "Screaming Eagles" who served in the 101st Airborne Division.

"Photographing our young National Guard soldiers on the fire lines in the Trinity Shasta Forest was reminiscent of the 'can do' attitude my combat unit had in Vietnam," said Bergquist, who was deployed for 31 days.

"Like combat, wild land fire fighting is extremely physical and dangerous work that requires individual skill and teamwork to avoid injury and loss of life. We can all be very proud of the young



CNG Soldiers get close-up and personal with flames during "Operation Lightning Strike." Photo by SSG Bergquist.

men and women that serve in the Guard."

Capt. Carl Smith, a CSMR Soldier who was attached to medical units, was awarded a National Guard Medal of Merit for his month-long deployment, which included time at a base camp.

"I think there are a couple of guys who are still alive because of some choices I made," said Smith about

some quick-thinking to provide medical assistance at the camp. "So that was worth it."

The CSMR Soldiers called up for OLS came from all walks of life and represented diverse civilian professions, including teachers, truck drivers, police officers, doctors, nurses and lawyers.

Many Soldiers have had prior active duty service and include Vietnam and Gulf War veterans. There is a growing number of Soldiers of all age ranges and career interests who are non-prior service but have joined the CSMR out of a sense of duty to serve the state during a time of need, such as certainly was the case with Operation Lightning Strike.



CNG Soldier SPC Diana Dias joins her crew in a well-deserved rest break on the fire line. Photo by SSG Bergquist.

Are you 'good to go' for SAD?

When headed to temporary state active duty, CSMR Soldiers need to be ready to serve and be fully prepared to complete the mission wherever they are deployed, including reporting to or working at the state JOC/HQ. Here are some reminders and recommendations:

Be a Ready-to-Go Soldier

- Have your Go Bag always ready, including your Go Bag Items Checklist!

- Your most critical item will likely be a working and charged cell phone (and charger).

- For convenience and speed, your phone or hand-held device should have e-mail and Internet access.

- If you have a laptop computer, bring it so you have a portable workstation (or playstation for down time).

- Don't forget about your electronic "accessories" such as card readers and flash drives.

- Be aware of DOD/Guard network security protocols and access, including Internet blocking, at JFHQ and other sensitive military locales.

Be a Responsible Team Player:

- Be sure your family is prepared beforehand. Talking with them prior to a mission helps keep surprises

Continued on page seven

Drawing the Line Against Forest Fire

Lessons to learn in the fight against California's annual crisis



CNG Soldiers work to create a fire break during "Operation Lightning Strike." Photo by SSG Bergquist.

By 2LT Ronald Alexander Warrior Words

The wildfires in California struck to an unusual extent this past summer. With atmospheric disturbances beginning around mid-June, thunderstorms walloped northern and central California. More than 6,000 volleys of lightning hit 26 counties.

Within zones of dry brush and minimum rainfall, fires blazed in over 2,000 instances. The government formed a force of more than 25,000 personnel. Hundreds arrived from other states. Authorities requested additional help from Australia and New Zealand.

Now, after 15 lives lost, 1.2 million acres of grassland and forest torched, 511 structures burned or severely damaged, and thousands of residents evacuated, fire fighters have contained most of the fires.

For those CSMR Soldiers not trained as firefighters, entering the zone of operations requires training. The mission includes the ability to reinforce or replace



CPT William Chidsey talks about the many aspects of fighting forest fires. Photo by 2LT Ronald Alexander

National Guard Soldiers.

At a special training held in August to brief Soldiers on firefighting missions, CPT William Chidsey, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, summarized some of the legal concepts applicable to CSMR Soldiers, whether deployed or not.

Chidsey noted that CSMR Soldiers are

subject to the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice while engaged in CSMR activities in the same way as National Guard Soldiers.

He also explained the distinction between Title 32 and Title 10 status of the National Guard and the chain of command under each status. He noted that, under current law, CSMR Soldiers cannot be federalized, meaning unless agreed, a CSMR soldier can not be deployed out of state while a National Guard Soldier can. As a result of this state status, the Posse Comitatus Act does not apply to CSMR soldiers -- meaning that CSMR and National Guard Soldiers who are not federalized can perform law enforcement functions in the case of an emergency.

Chidsey emphasized that the controlling legal concept is that the primary role and function of the CSMR and the National Guard is to provide support to the civilian authorities

SGT Don Meredith, a Burbank police lieutenant, and SPC Josh Ornelas, an Los Angeles park ranger/firefighter, along with SPC Rob Rios, a lieutenant with the

Los Angeles Airport police, convened to explain the ground eye view of fire operations, which included experiences from Operation Lighting Strike.

Recognition of the entire zone of operations is critically important, including the understanding of organic matter. Knowing how fuel, oxygen, and heat sources combine to make fires more deadly should be a priority. The phenomenon of “fuel loading” means every available resource, including solids and liquids, can drive combustion.

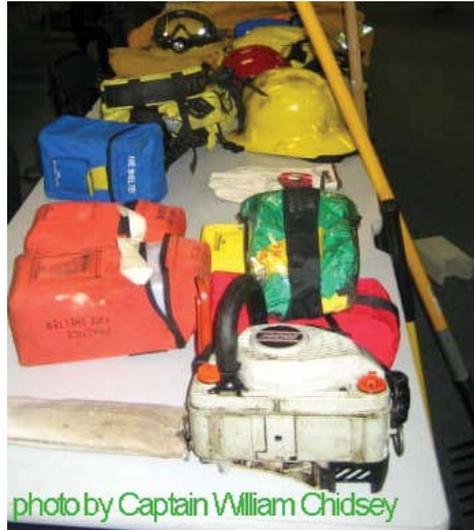
An individual’s “fire shelter,” though not a guarantee “in an entrapment situation,” can protect personnel from radiant and convection heat. Scraping and clearing the ground on which the fire shelter will deploy reduces the amount of combustible materials. Thus, the supply of resources, which sustain convection heat, will diminish the risk of shelter failure. All personnel who deploy must have the new generation fire shelter as part of their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by Jan. 1, 2010.

Terrain also adds to the force of fire. Movement along a sloped area increases the



SGT Don Meredith checks the soundness of a fire shelter. Inside is SPC Josh Ornelas. **Photo by 2LT Ronald Alexander**

speed of flames as well as convection and heat transfer. A Soldier needs to be able to track recognition of hazards such as wind, flying debris, and especially when deploying motor transport into dead-end streets and dirt roads with steep elevation.



Some of the equipment used in fighting forest fires. **Photo by CPT William Chidsey.**

The heat radiating from the fire can cause vehicles to stall. Other sources for problems emanate from HAZMAT incidences, as do biological, human-related and base camp hazards.

The same awareness goes to aircraft operations. A joint operation with state Department of Corrections “prison” crews also calls for increased awareness and operational concerns.

SGT Meredith explained some of the urgent issues that are faced when coming into contact with citizens in the burn areas. Military personnel cannot force civilians from their homes. The advice from uniformed personnel should excite homeowners of the emergency and convince them of the immediate dangers.

A key safety issue for Soldiers themselves is to be aware of team operations. All members must preserve group solidarity at all times. This prevents the loss of life and injury. Besides the need to evacuate citizens, added to that equation remains the evacuation of household pets and larger animals. Selecting who handles these animals must come from a survey of the capacities of the personnel involved. Minimizing casualties and accidents restores confidence in the attitudes of the team and the command.

SSG Ray Walker, a bomb disposal expert and arson investigator with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Dept., counseled on arson investigations. He fo-

cused on whether the arson fire constituted a crime or met the standards and pattern for accidental fire.

Incendiary devices that most of the time point toward arson tend to show evidence of “burn patterns.” But telltale signs like these may not immediately prompt an investigation during the fire. Management of the blaze takes precedent and gives first priority to the firefighters.

Devices such as tape, cigarettes, matches, metal and glass objects, and electrical wire, all may increase the chances of finding cause. Yet, the fire and the movement of the first responders may disturb the evidence. An arson investigation may need to rely upon public responses, electronic data, and the overall experience of the investigators.

Several persons at the training were from a Civil Air Patrol Unit. All together, CSMR personnel, particularly those from the Army Support Group South, learned quite a lot of information, which will lower the risk of operating in the blind and greatly heighten their professionalism and the ability to “get the job done.”

Good to go?

Continued from page five

and concerns to a minimum.

- Know your CSMR commanders, MERT OICs and points of contact.

- Know your counterpart Cal Guard commanders and points of contact. If you are assigned to a specific section, be sure to keep that chain of command informed of your status.

- Always check-in with the appropriate CSMR office(s) when reporting for duty or leaving after your shift.

- Keep your MERT and your Unit Chain of Command apprised of your status and location.

- Always look sharp and be uniform smart.

- Have your ID card with you at all times and be sure to check in at the front security desk and obtain a clip-on plastic holder to display your ID.

- Be personally prepared for multiple days of service, and the possibility of starting within your first minutes of arrival.

- Remember: You are an ambassador of the CSMR. Be an outstanding Soldier!



CSMR SPC Alex Christensen with San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders. **Photo by SPC Noelle Jewell.**

'Stand Down' in SD as CSMR Honors Vets

Members of the California State Military Reserve Second Brigade Support Battalion commanded by MAJ Christopher Cervantes volunteered at the San Diego Stand Down for homeless veterans on July 12, 2008.

Stand Down is an event that is facilitated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, sponsored by the Veteran's Village of San Diego (VVSD) and supported by numerous local veteran outreach organizations. The three day event's mission is to help connect homeless veterans with critical resources such as medical screenings, dental screenings, clothing, meals, and more. The event provides the opportunity for many of these veterans to take the first step towards improving their lives. Event staff reported that they helped over 700 homeless veterans this year.

CSMR members volunteered as part of the security force for the event providing support at the main gate, the VIP entrance, and at the donation drop off point. In addition to helping the event staff CSMR members interacted with veterans and were given the unique opportunity to help boost morale.

FALL OUT

Awards, promotions

Spring – Summer 2008

Brennan, Robert SSG

National Guard Recruiting Achievement Ribbon

Lalor, Rick MAJ

Meritorious Achievement Medal

Quiambao, Frank 1LT

Meritorious Achievement Medal

Quiambao, Rolando CW2

California Commendation Medal, National Guard Recruiting Achievement Ribbon

Shultz, Jerry SSG

California Commendation Medal, National Guard Recruiting Achievement Ribbon

Smith, Carl CPT

National Guard Medal of Merit

26 Graduates of the CSMR

Inaugural Recruiter School

CSMR Recruiter Badge, Professional Development Ribbon

Arellano, Christine A. to SSG

Draxler, John J. to SSG

Garcia, Edgard R. to SSG

Griggs, Thomas O. to SGT

Ingram, Timothy to MAJ

Maciver, Michael T. to SGT

Monty, James E. to SGT

Rider, J'on to CPT

Salange, Chris D. to SGT

Wagner, James L. to SSG

Wilkins, Dustin M. to SSG

Woodward, Daniel E. to CPT

Let's hear from you; it's your newsletter

Got a story idea, a photo, a suggestion, a comment, a correction or a complaint?

Warrior Words is your newsletter for the Soldiers in the CSMR's Southern Regional Support Command. Contact us by e-mail at warrriorwords@mac.com. We want to hear from you.

You can view back issues of Warrior Words at www.warrriorwords.info, a website created and maintained by SSG Richard Bergquist. There are also photos of SRSC activities and training.