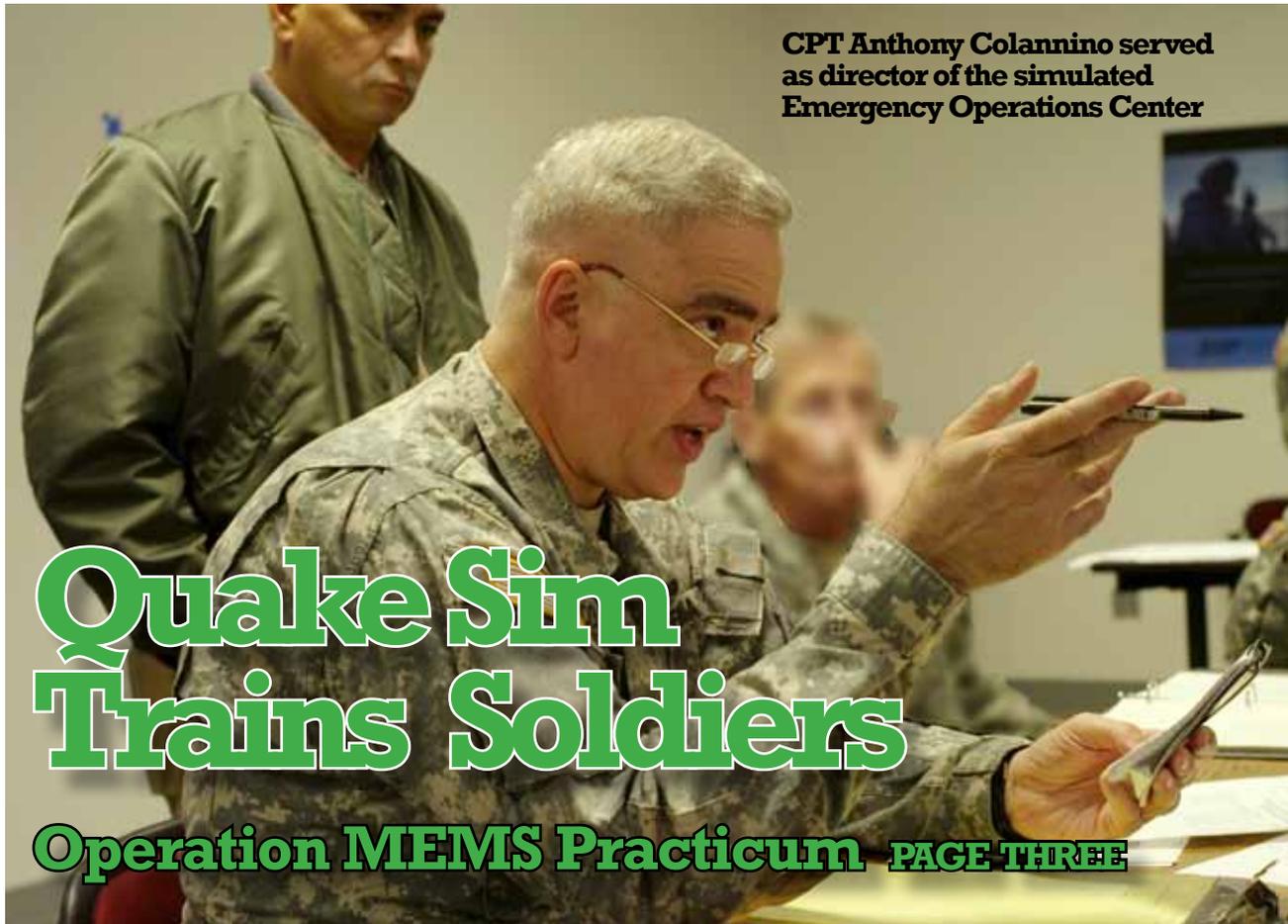


# WARRIOR WORDS

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



**CPT Anthony Colannino served as director of the simulated Emergency Operations Center**

## Quake Sim Trains Soldiers

**Operation MEMS Practicum PAGE THREE**



## Channel Islands Troops Aid CANG In Readiness Drill

**PAGE SIX**

## Medal of Honor Winner Finds Brother In Arms

**PAGE FOUR**



# AT THE FRONT

The CSMR's new commander is a Superior Court judge who formerly served with distinction in Army and Cal Guard JAG units.

BG Roland L. Candee, 55, a native of Oregon, succeeds BG Emory "Jack" Hagan III as the commanding officer of the State Reserve.



"It is a tremendous honor to be promoted to Brigadier General in California and be afforded the privilege of serving as the Commanding General of the California State Military Reserve," Candee said about his assignment. "I am humbled by the honor and look forward to meeting the challenges that come with command of the CSMR in these interesting times."

Candee has been a judge with Sacramento County's Superior Court and Municipal Court systems since 1992. Previously in his civilian career he was a practicing attorney with a Sacramento-area law firm.

Candee began his 20-year military career after

Continued on page 7

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### Can life seem 'a hill too high'?

Every year about this time, the men of our church go on a spiritual retreat at Forest Home nestled in picturesque Mill Creek Canyon. There is a beautiful, A-frame chapel there at the highest point on the grounds. The narrow paved road to the top is at least two miles long at a 45-degree incline. Unless you are used to the thin atmosphere and the steep ascent, you have to take the hill, one step at a time!



**CPT CHRISTOPHER FOWLER**

Life can be like taking that hill. If we "bite off more than we can (safely) chew," we are likely to get discouraged and fail. Yet, the Bible reminds us that today is all we need to tackle. We don't need to worry about tomorrow's tasks (Matthew 6:34). While planning for tomorrow is time well spent; *worrying* about tomorrow is time wasted.

Regardless of the "hills" that we face in our lives, we can depend on God to make us "more than conquerors," because He will give us His strength to take one step at a time. The Apostle Paul understood this: "*I can do all things through the Lord who strengthens me*" (Phil. 4:13). Don't let your worries about tomorrow and the "hills" that you face affect your dependence on God today. He is always there to help us over the highest hills!

## NCO PROFILE

### CSM APOLONIO BALBOA

**Age:** 62  
**Lives in:** Menifee  
**Joined CSMR:** Aug. 2008  
**Prior Service:** Joined the U.S. Army, 1964. Jumped in the Dominican Republic as a paratrooper with 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne.



Reassigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, 2/5 Cav Regiment and served four tours in Vietnam, as an infantryman, then in Special Forces, II Corps as a Weapons Sergeant, and later in the ANG.

**CSMR duty:** About to become CSM for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in San Bernardino

**Currently:** Retired from Pacific Bell after Sept. 11, 2001 to join ANG Bravo Company 1/160<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 40<sup>th</sup> I.D., Riverside. Fought in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as a 55-year-old 1SGT.

**Family:** Married 27 years with three adult

Continued on page 7



## WARRIOR WORDS

Southern Regional Support Command  
**COL MARC BRESLOW**  
**COMMANDING**

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Photos by SSG John Thompson

**CPT ANTHONY COLANNINO**, a deputy district attorney in civilian life, served as director of the simulated Emergency Operations Center during "Operations MEMS Practicum" on March 14. The exercises was based on a 6.8-magnitude earthquake striking near San Luis Obispo.

# Earth rocks and CSMR rolls in

Soldiers hold exercise  
Los Al, learn about  
emergency management

**By SSG JIM TORTOLANO**  
Warrior Words

It was a quiet Saturday morning when a 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck near San Luis Obispo. Buildings collapsed, water and gas lines ruptured and most roads in and out of the city were cut.

Into the breach stepped members of the California State Military Reserve, who helped coordinate the response of firefighters, police and other emergency personnel, assisting in running the Emergency Operations Center that directed rescue and relief efforts.



**SGT JAY COOTE** talks on a hand-held radio as part of the earthquake simulation drill held at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

Well, almost.

The earthquake was imaginary, but the task of helping to train SMR Soldiers in emergency management was real enough. It was "Operation MEMS Practicum."

"It was a 100 percent success," said 1LT Galo Pesantes, who heads the Military Emergency Management Specialist Academy for the 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Support Brigade of the SMR.

The event was held on March 14 at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, where a "tabletop" simulation of a JOC set up in the aftermath of the fictional SLO quake was arranged.

Thirty-one Soldiers participated in the event, which not only helped train them for participation in an actual emergency, but which will also help them complete their practicum.

**Continued on page 5**

# Brothers In Arms

CW2 McCune escorts Medal of Honor winner; both have known the effects of prejudice

By SGT Gregory Solman  
Warrior Words

The first time CW2 Robert McCune escorted Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Tibor “Ted” Rubin to a public function was the last time Rubin was the only veteran traveling with a uniformed aide-de-camp.

“After they first saw us together, I noticed a lot of Medal of Honor winners had started using escorts,” said McCune, who accompanies Rubin to 20 or more events a year.

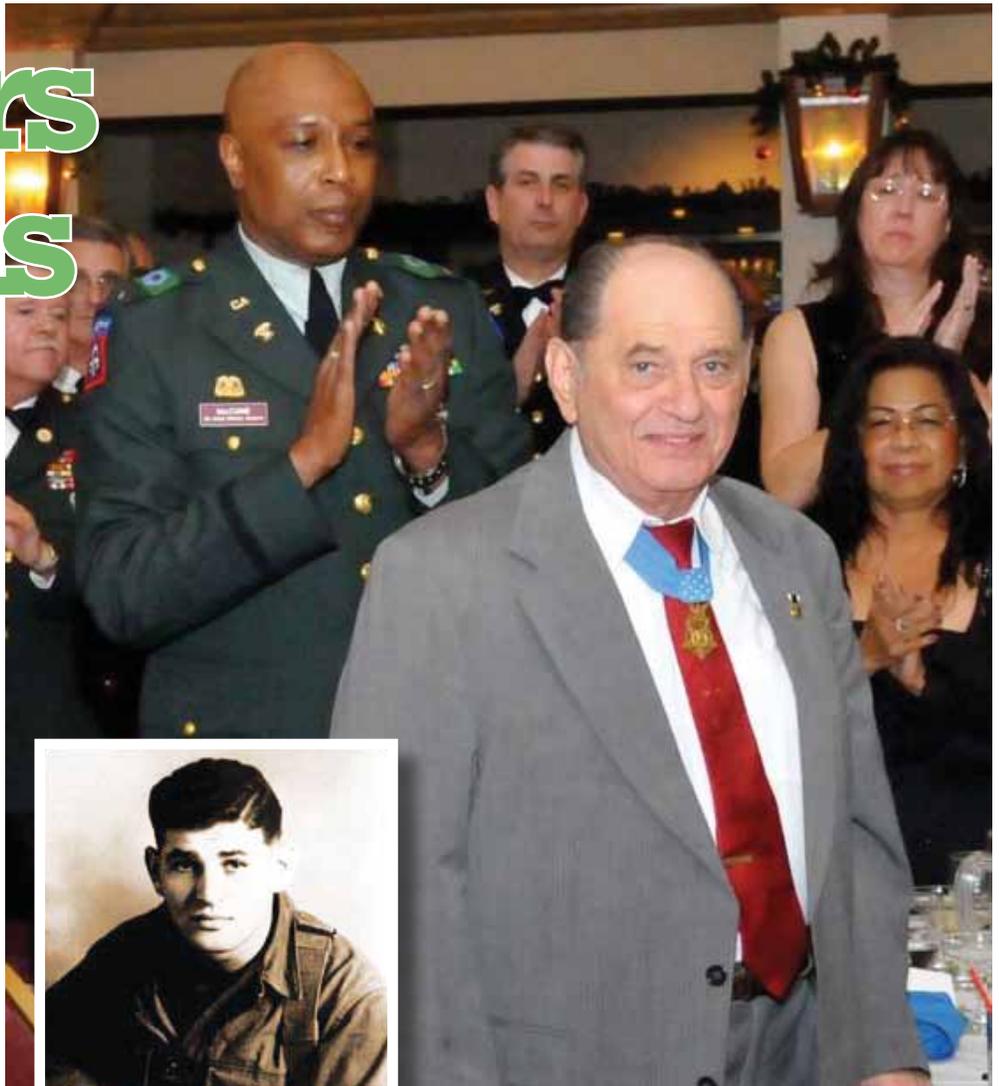
That could be because a sense of authentic fellowship, even camaraderie, shows, both men concur.

Last December, McCune was once again at Rubin’s side as he honored the CSMR with his presence at the Christmas Ball. More recently the pair attended the Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball—an event in Washington, D.C., featuring 48 Medal of Honor winners—a confab at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, and planned to appear at Detroit’s Holocaust Memorial in March.

Since most Medal of Honor veterans have retired their uniforms, the Class-A clad escort signals strangers to the military importance of the guest.

For Rubin, McCune’s company serves a social and practical purpose. They’re bonded by soldiering through years of prejudice—both emerging from war as seemingly endless fonts of forgiveness—and appreciate each other’s stories.

And, at the age of 79, the combat-battered veteran Rubin—twice the



U.S. Army photo

Photo by SSG Richard Bergquist

**CW2 ROBERT McCUNE** applauds as Tibor “Ted” Rubin is acknowledged at the Christmas gala for CSMR Soldiers. McCune is the aide-to-camp to Rubin, who won the Medal of Honor for his heroism in the Korean War (pictured in 1950 at left).

**“I have my body-guard. The only thing I need is my body.”**

recipient of the Purple Heart, Silver Star, and Distinguished Service Cross for conspicuous bravery during the Korean War—can use help getting around, typically ambulating with a wheelchair or walker.

“I have my bodyguard,” laughs Rubin, “the only thing I need now is a

body!”

Working with disabled veterans is all in a day’s work for McCune, who oversees 16 outpatient specialty clinics at the VA Medical Center in Long Beach, where he first met Garden Grove resident Rubin 15 years ago.

“He was coming to the hospital [for treatment] and every holiday he would bring around Christmas gifts to all the veterans,” McCune says. “He’s always had a good spirit, and I had always given him priority for being so good to the other patients.”

McCune and Rubin hit it off from the start. McCune, drafted into the Army in 1969, served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 29<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Bat-

talion and later joined the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. In Vietnam, he was involved in special ops and later, developing other specialties, had tours in Korea and Germany and left active duty in 1983 as a staff sergeant. Born outside of Edwards, Mississippi, McCune suffered his share of outright racism and residual Jim Crow in the Deep South, even when he was serving the country in uniform.

Rubin, a Hungarian Jew, survived the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp as a teenager in World War II. He vowed upon his liberation to join the U.S. Army, and did, emigrating to America serving as a corporal in the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division.

Taken as a prisoner in the Korean War, Rubin's citation credits him for saving the lives of 40 fellow prisoners as well as heroic combat action. But despite his astonishing record Rubin's Medal of Honor was 55 years in coming.

"A sergeant in my unit was prejudiced against Jews, blacks, Latinos," Rubin said. "He wouldn't send in the [testimony] papers."

"I've seen some of the things he's been through. I've been disrespected, abused," says McCune. "I forgive them all because I have God in my heart."

As for his volunteer duty with Rubin, McCune says "It is an honor just to be in his presence, to serve someone that maybe saved my family's life, so they can be free."

"He's a wonderful man," Rubin reciprocates. "He takes care of me like a brother of his. And we have a good time, too. Wherever we go, everybody's jealous of me."



**RUBIN** with BG Emory "Jack" Hagan, then-commander of the CSMR.



**2LT MAURICIO AROCHA** comments on the simulated Emergency Operations Center set up for Operation MEMS Practicum on March 14.

## 'Operation MEMS Practicum' a success

Continued from page 3

That's a written assignment relating to participation in an emergency or an emergency drill, and it's required for Soldiers seeking their basic MEMS badge.

"The idea of setting this up came from the lack of funds from homeland security to set up some sort of exercise," said Pesantes. But he and other SMR leaders were determined not to let the state budget crisis keep Soldiers from progressing in their emergency management education.

Soldiers were divided into sections for command, logistics, operations, communications, etc. A script prepared ahead of time introduced events that followed the initial quake, and which set the EOC components in action.

A report of a building collapse, for example, would require assignment

of resources, coordination of agencies and communicating with the news media. Several times during the day's exercise, a staff meeting of section chiefs was held to further assist in keeping things running smoothly.

SSG William "Brad" Welker, the lead instructor, praised the performance of the students in their first exercise. "I thought I was getting elementary school kids, but you performed more like high school advanced placement students," he said.

Because of continued budget issues, it's unlikely that the annual statewide Golden Guardian exercise will be staged until 2010, said 1LT Pesantes, to continue to provide training, a successor exercise called "Operation Safekeeping" focusing on MERT (Military Emergency Response Teams) is being planned for November.



**CSMR** Soldiers attached to the 146th Airlift Wing at Channel Islands ANGS performed a variety of functions during an Operational Readiness Evaluation Feb. 6-9.

## CSMR helps Air Guard take wing

Soldiers aided readiness evaluation event at Channel Islands base

**Photos, story by CW Archibald Mitchell and CSM David Buttner**

CSMR members attached to the 146th Airlift Wing at Channel Islands ANGS supported the wing during an Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE), from Feb. 6-9. The wing had designed the exercise in preparation for an upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) from the Air Mobility Command Inspector General.

CSMR personnel augmented the wing Exercise Evaluator Team (EET) in a variety of scenarios including: chemical and conventional warhead missile attacks, opposition forces (OPFOR) penetrations of the base perimeter; realistically simulated mortar and ground attacks involving simulated North Korean special

forces and snipers; unarmed protestors at the base perimeter, harassing military security personnel; and post-attack scenarios with various facilities afire and needing to be evacuated.

The wing simulated an emergency overseas deployment involving a representative portion of the wing's combat personnel and equipment. An aircraft was loaded, launched and simulated a deployment to the Pacific Theater, and for 2 days simulated operations from an unfamiliar environment.

Personnel launched and recovered aircraft in hostile and chemical conditions, responded to hostile air and ground forces, performed unexploded ordnance (UXO) procedures, realistic buddy care/ combat lifesaver procedures and chemical warfare procedures in full MOPP Gear.

COL Clyde Doheney, the CSMR Commander at Channel Islands, explained that "our personnel helped provide realistic training scenarios for aircrews, support personnel and

security forces personnel.

Their techniques and tactics, as simulated OPFOR and as Third Country Nationals (TCN), provided the wing with excellent experience going into a very important inspection. The wing leadership and line troops expressed strong appreciation for our efforts."

The 146th EET Chief, LTC Brian Kelly said, "We couldn't have done it without you."

In addition to providing expert members to the EET, one CSMR member provided wide-ranging support to the Public Affairs Office during the exercise.

Overall, COL Doheney said the training, evaluations and "hot wash," which followed provided the wing with invaluable support in preparation for the ORI.

It was another excellent example how the CSMR Air Component, and attached Army component members, can support the vital Mobilization and Mission Readiness roles of the California Air National Guard.

# SMR IN ACTION

**TRIGGER TIME** — Twenty-four CSMR Soldiers in the 1st Battalion under MAJ Russell Nakaishi, guided by 1SG Paul Balboa trained on the electronic simulators at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base as part of their work in providing instruction with the CNG. The indoor "range" simulates firing the M-16, M-4 and M-203 weapons.



Photo by SGT Robert Davison



**ANOTHER JOB** — CSMR Chaplain CPT Chris Fowler has extended a helping hand to a local law enforcement agency. On March 11 Fowler (left) was sworn in by interim Police Chief David Hinig to serve as police chaplain with the La Habra Police Department. CPT Fowler is a long-time resident there.



**STATE YOUR NAME** — Among the many new Soldiers who have recently joined the CSMR at JFTB are 1LT Lisa Anne Avery and SPC Renato DeTassis. Avery, of Laguna Beach, is a lawyer with the JAG and DeTassis, a North Hollywood resident, has been assigned to the S-4 shop.

## New CSMR commander

Continued from page 2

receiving bachelor's and law degrees from the University of San Francisco and admittance as an attorney into the California State Bar.

During active duty with the U.S. Army, he served in various capacities with Judge Advocate General units, which included a stint at Fort Ord.

Later, after joining the California Army National Guard, he was assigned to a successive series of staff judge advocate posts.

In addition to JAG Corps Officer Basic and Officer Advanced coursework, Candee's military education included Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and Army War College.

Candee's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon.

## NCO profile

Continued from page 2

children

**Why did you join the CSMR?** My wife wanted me out of the house.

**What do you most like about the CSMR?** I've always liked being a field soldier; now I'm going to see what it's like in the rear, drinking a cup of coffee.

**Military honors and awards:** Combat Infantry Badge with 2<sup>nd</sup> award (Vietnam, Iraq). Free Fall Badge. Master Parachutes Badge with combat jump. Three Bronze Stars with V device. Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf clusters. Six Army Commendation Medals with V device. Special Forces and Ranger Tabs.

## FALL OUT

# Why U.S. troops are in Middle East

**1LT Ron Alexander**  
**Warrior Words**

The Southern Regional Support Command's COL Marc Breslow recently provided CSMR, Cal Guard and Army Soldiers with a valuable debriefing on the complex reasons why the situation in Iraq has required the presence of U.S. and Allied Forces.

Breslow, who was a signal officer with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, served as a Middle East area specialist and was assigned to the U.N. Observer Force in Lebanon during its Civil War. In addition, he deployed for Operation Desert Storm and then, after retirement from the Army, Breslow reactivated and deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Although there are potential conflicts with China, North Korea, and Russia, "the center of upheaval today" rests in Central and Southwest Asia, Breslow said.

He summarized the political, economic and historical reasons why Shi'a and Sunni sects retain their ancient rivalries and continue to spread violent results around Iraq, as follows:

In Shi'a thought, establishing a caliphate led by the twelfth or "Hidden Imam," will guarantee the leadership of Ali, the son-in-law of



**COL MARC BRESLOW**

Muhammad.

In opposition Wahhabist practices, emanating from Saudi Arabia, the proclivity is toward Sharia Law and its strict resistance to things Western. As similar to Adolf Hitler, each group desires to establish a caliphate through continued con-

flict. Added to this picture, radical Islamic states and sub-groups drive to gain WMDs.

Major conflicts have occurred since the end of World War II without solving any geo-political issues: Arab-Israeli, Iran-Iraq, Soviet-Afghan, Iranian Revolution, Desert Storm, and, in the 21st Century, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan).

The 9-11 attack by al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, guaranteed a more direct strike against the West. Following that attack, the U.S. and Allied nations defeated and removed the Taliban government, the first such event in Afghanistan by a foreign group.

With the retreat of bin Laden to Pakistan, radical Islam fermented more hatred toward the West, continually using madrasahs (schools) and other sectors to gear the polity away from democratic methods and peace.

Pakistan's position — weakened by radical Islam, having an ultra-secretive intelligence service and wary of its rival, India — is as a territory "out of bounds" to Allied military encroachment. Iran, also, due to its terrain, restricts avenues of approach. Thus, Operation Iraqi Freedom promotes democracy in the region. Moreover, it protects moderates in Iran, allowing them to influence their religious and political officials.

In concluding the briefing, Breslow told Soldiers that, in effect, America's power and that of its Allies can provide an opportunity for the region to install legal, democratic values while at the same time preventing radical Islamic practices and propaganda. In the responsibility of building a viable nation, sharing the burden must go to the entire region's demographic.

## We're your SMR newsletter

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

Warrior Words is your quarterly newsletter (next issue publishes in July) for the Soldiers in the CSMR's Southern Regional Support Command. Contact us by e-mail at [warriorwords@mac.com](mailto:warriorwords@mac.com). We want to hear from you.

You can view back issues of Warrior Words at [www.warriorwords.info](http://www.warriorwords.info), a website created and maintained by SSG Richard Bergquist. There are also photos of SRSC activities and training.