



Soldiers go to the mat in PC 832

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The CG visits Joint Forces Training Base

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WARRIOR WORDS

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

Honoring Our Nation's Veterans

CSMR's role in paying tribute to those who served



AtTheFront

Back to Basics at BOC at Los Al July 31-Aug. 2

The Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos is scheduled to serve again as the host site for a Basic Orientation Course (BOC) for California State Military Reserve personnel from throughout the Southern Regional Support Command. The BOC is slated for Friday, July 31 through Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009.

The 31st is planned as a half-day with the 1st and 2nd as full days, according to course organizers. All CSMR personnel are required to complete a BOC. Soldiers need to attend if they have not previously attended a BOC or failed to complete a prior BOC.

The last BOC at the JFTB was a four-day event spread over two weekends last August and September. More than 100 Soldiers participated in the course, which provides training on drill and ceremony, as well as classroom instruction in subjects ranging from unit history to sexual harassment prevention.

Chaplain's Corner

A time to press on?

Perhaps one of the most famous passages in the Bible is one written by David's son, Solomon, in the Book of Ecclesiastes. King Solomon wrote to his subjects, and to future generations, to spare them the bitterness of learning the hard way that life is meaningless apart from God.

Solomon teaches us: "*There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven*" – for every human endeavor or activity. In today's turbulent and uncertain conditions, *now* is certainly a time to "**press on**" – to draw strength and courage from our God, our family, and our fellow soldiers – and to press on in whatever God has called us to do!

The Apostle Paul said it best when he wrote to the church at Philippi: "*... forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*" (Phil. 3:13-14). Don't dwell on your past. Instead, move on, looking forward to a fuller, more meaningful life because of your faith in God!



CPT CHRISTOPHER FOWLER

OFFICER PROFILE

WO1 MANDEL BAKER

Age: 50

Lives in: Los Angeles

Joined CSMR: Summer 2006

Prior Service: Active duty with the US Navy (retired), Petty Officer.

CSMR Duty: Assigned to S-3 at SRSC

Currently: Senior juvenile correction officer with the Santa Barbara County Probation Dept.

Family: Engaged; 23-year-old daughter

Why did you join the CSMR? I like the idea of helping people out, and going on state active duty and supporting the military.

What do you most like about the CSMR? The camaraderie. And in the military you are always training and learning and achieving something.



WARRIOR WORDS

Southern Regional Support Command
COL MARC BRESLOW
COMMANDING

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General Alert! The New BG Pays a Visit to JFTB

Soldiers gets their first meeting with the CSMR's new commander

The California State Military Reserve's commander, BG Roland L. Candee, paid a visit to the JFTB where he held meet-and-greet sessions with command staff and line Soldiers of the Southern Regional Support Command.

Candee, moving in upbeat fashion and flashing an easy smile, offered thanks and encouragement throughout his friendly stop-ins with units and troops during the May 2 UTA.

The commander, a lawyer by training and a Sacramento County Superior Court judge in civilian life, had a military career of 30+ years as a JAG officer in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve and California Army National Guard.

He assumed command of the CSMR earlier this year, succeeding BG Emory "Jack" Hagan III.

For more biographical information about BG Candee, and to read his remarks about military service given at a celebration ceremony this past Memorial Day, visit the official CSMR website at: www.calguard.ca.gov/casmr



BG ROLAND L. CANDEE, new commanding general of the California State Military Reserve came to the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos on May 2 to inspect and greet the CSMR Soldiers drilling there. Above, he speaks to the troops; at left he's got the April issue of Warrior Words.

Photos by SSG Richard Bergquist

Military Leave: Fighting For Your Legal Rights

CPT Colannino, himself a JAG, goes to court to regarding how time spent on CSMR missions is treated by employers

By SGT Gregory Solman
Warrior Words

A legal case with potentially far-reaching implications on the rights of Soldiers requesting employment leave has been brought against Los Angeles County by a California State Military Reserve JAG on behalf of another CSMR officer.

In May, CPT Jay Coggan, an attorney with the Los Angeles law firm of Coggan & Tarlow, filed a class-action lawsuit against LA County on behalf of CPT Anthony Colannino, also a CSMR JAG and a deputy district attorney for the County. The Los Angeles Times did a detailed story on the filing.

The lawsuit contends that when CPT Colannino was on extended leave from his job for CSMR last year, the County incorrectly counted the days to which he was entitled under the California Military and Veterans Code.

“[The County] calculated his leave time to include his weekends, when Captain Colannino would normally not be working,” said CPT Coggan. “So instead of 30 days [of paid leave] he effectively was given 19. We sued on behalf of all servicemen, including CSMR personnel.”

The case was scheduled for a status-matter meeting on July 9, at which point the Court was to set any future dates. “It is an important case because we are in a time of war when we need as many people as possible to join the Guard, [Ready] Reserve and volunteer forces,” said Coggan. “Mistreatment of soldiers has a chilling effect.”

CPT Coggan said that suit is being



Photo by SSG John Thompson

CSMR CPT Anthony Colannino (left) shown here directing a MEMS training event earlier this year, is the plaintiff in a class-action lawsuit against Los Angeles County regarding military leave.

filed on behalf of all military personnel, “a significant number” of which are also public employees. Though the case directly regards LA County, the case could set a precedent for treatment of all soldiers statewide.

CPT Coggan explained that Colannino is entitled to 30 days of paid leave only because he worked for a public agency; all other CSMR soldiers have different rights. “For the purposes of drill and military training, members of the CSMR are entitled to a temporary leave of absence, without pay, for the period of

ordered duty, provided it does not exceed 17 calendar days annually including the time involved in going to and returning from the duty,” said CAPT Coggan.

“Should the Governor declare a state of emergency, and a member of the CSMR be called to state active duty, the California Military and Veterans Code provides that during this period of state active duty, a member of the CSMR would be considered on a leave of absence, and would have 40 days after release from service to be restored by the

“It is an important case because we are in a time of war when we need as many people as possible to join the Guard, [Ready Reserve] and volunteer forces.”

former employer to the same position and clearly without any loss of status or benefits,” CPT Coggan continued. “The types of benefits that are covered are healthcare, life insurance, disability insurance, and seniority status.

“The only way that an employer would be able to challenge this is if the employer could show that circumstances so changed as to make

it impossible or unreasonable to do so.”

CPT Coggan said that once a CSMR soldier returns to employment, that soldier may not be discharged from the position without cause for one year after being restored to the position. The 40-day period applies to full-time employees; part-time employees would have five days from release of active duty in which to re-obtain the former employment and position.

However, even when CSMR soldiers directly replace members of the Army or Air National Guard, they are not covered under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), which regulates how employers must treat citizen soldiers.

US Air Force LTC Michelle Barrett, chief of strategic communications for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Arlington, Va., confirmed that USERRA does not cover state reserve forces and militia; only National Guard service under Federal authority is protected by it under Title 10 or Title 32 of the United States Code. USERRA

“My observations about the [USERRA] were that we had far more military members abusing the rights it provided than employers.”

does not even pertain to National Guard service when under the authority of California law, such as in a state activation by the governor, she added.

“For USERRA to apply to members of the CSMR, they would have to be called to duty for Federal active service, and therefore be under Title 10,” explained CPT Coggan.

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Your leave rights in the CSMR

- State Military Reserve personnel are members of the active militia of the State of California and are statutorily entitled to certain privileges, protections, and immunities related to military leaves of absence and reemployment after return from ordered military duty. (Military and Veterans Code, §§ 120, 394, 395, 395.01, 395.05, 395.06, 395.9, 564 and 566.)

- All State Military Reserve personnel, whether employed by public entities or private employers, are statutorily entitled to unpaid temporary military leave up to 15 calendar days annually for inactive duty training, including time involved going to and returning from that duty. (Military & Veterans Code, § 395.9)

- State Military Reserve personnel employed by public employers are statutorily entitled to up to 180 days of temporary military leave for active duty activities, with up to 30 days of paid military leave each fiscal year. (Military & Veterans Code, §§ 395, 395.01(a), 564 and 566.) When placed on

State Active Duty, this is ordered active duty, which entitles public employees to paid military leave.

- State Military Reserve personnel also generally have a right to extended leaves of absence and a right to reemployment after lengthier periods of ordered duty when called to active duty in certain emergency circumstances and public employees are entitled to receive their pay from their public employer for the first 30 days of that period of active duty. (Military & Veterans Code, §§ 143, 146, 395.05, 395.06, and 566.)

- Discrimination based on membership in the State Military Reserve or discharge of State Military Reserve personnel from their civilian employment because of performance of any ordered military duty or training is discrimination in violation of Military and Veteran's Code, § 394, the person violating that Section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and that person is liable to the injured person for actual damages sustained and reasonable attorney fees incurred. (Military & Veterans Code, §§ 394 and 564.)



Photo by SGT Robert Davison

SPC PATTI Joel-Carlson, ISG, demonstrates an arrest-and-control technique maneuver on SGT Jorge Franco of recruiting. Both are CSMR Soldiers taking part in PC 832 peace officer training offered for the CSMR and National Guard.

Laying down the law

CSMR members taking PC 832 learn about the world of law enforcement one of from their own

By SGT Robert Davison/Warrior Words

Soldiers in the California State Military Reserve train for many contingencies, and in case of an earthquake or major civil unrest, it's likely that members of the CSMR will find themselves working alongside members of the law enforcement community.

To help ready our Soldiers in that role, training is offered through a local college that can help bridge the gap between the civil and the military response to disaster.

WO1 Randal Davis, of the CSMR's 4th Battallion, teaches PC 832, the

entry-level law enforcement training class in California. The class is offered by Santa Ana College, with classroom instruction at the new Orange County Sheriff's Academy facility in Tustin, on the grounds of the old Marine Corps Air Station.

“This course provides our personnel with a good foundation.”

It's part of the POST (Police Officers Standards Training) regimen.

“This course provides our personnel with a good foundation in criminal law, laws of arrest, search and seizure, evidence, leadership, arrest and control techniques and other police procedures,” according to WO1 Davis, who is an investigator for the Orange County District Attorney's office, and who has over 31 years experience in law enforcement.

“It is good training which also earns college credits for participants. It provides our Soldiers with some of the legal and practical tools they will need to work effectively with law enforcement officers in terms of emergencies and one future missions,” he added.

But the class is not limited to lecture and discussion in a lecture hall. There is plenty of “hands-on” instruction, which involve the use of firearms, and learning how to physically control a suspect.

The firearms use and arrest techniques are taught by Orange County sheriff's deputies, with the gun section at the county's indoor firing range in Orange. Students need to provide their own handgun and ammunition.

Rigorous safety inspections are made on each firearm by sheriff's department armorers before any student can shoot at the range. The total training time for the class is 66 hours over several Saturdays and Sundays. A comprehensive written examination completes the course.

Interested in future sections of this course? You can contact WO1 Davis at RD7777@verizon.net.



SGT Noelle Jewell went to Washington May 3-6 to attend a U.S. Army Public Affairs symposium.

SGT Jewell goes to Washington

U.S. Army Public Affairs Symposium gets a representative from the CSMR

The CSMR was represented at the 2009 Army World Wide Public Affairs Symposium, the Army's annual gathering of public affairs practitioners from active duty, reserve, guard and civilian components.

SGT Noelle Jewell, 2/185th, traveling on non-paid state active duty orders, attended the May 3 – 6 symposium that was held in Arlington, VA. The event's theme was "Operationalizing Information Engagement" with the primary focus on utilizing social media to communicate more effectively.

The symposium featured guest speakers, open forums and a wrap-up awards dinner that honored the Army's top public affairs operators for their outstanding achievements in 2008.



SGT Jewell with Chief of Army Public Affairs MG Kevin Bergner.

The four-day symposium featured guest speakers, open forums and concluded with an awards dinner which honored the Army's top pub-

lic affairs operators for their outstanding achievements in 2008.

Notable speakers at the Symposium included Secretary of the Army, Pete Geren; Chief of Army Public Affairs, Major General Kevin Bergner; Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth Preston, CEO of the Associated Press, Tom Curley

SGT Jewell attended several open forums which included Public Affairs Activities during Defense Support of Civil Authorities and Disaster Relief, Crisis Management, Message Mapping, and Social Media 101. She also attended the Social Media Measurement Master Class.

SGT Jewell, the Ms. Armed Forces of 2005-06, was well-received and she found herself taking the lead and

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The Air Component

CSMR is flying high with honors from CAFA

Our Airmen receive awards from statewide Air Force Association

Several members of the California State Military Reserve recently received awards from the 11,000-member California Air Force Association, the first time that CSMR personnel have been formally presented with honors by the AFA.

The award presentations took place at CAFA's annual convention in May at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, during which the CSMR was praised in a keynote speech by AFA National Vice President Buck Buckwalter.

COL Martin Ledwitz was given the CAFA Golden Bear Award, the association's top recognition for members, for his service during 2008-09. In earlier proceedings at the convention, Ledwitz was re-elected as CAFA's president.

1LT George Williams was given a Sustained Outstanding Performance Award and was re-elected as CAFA's Secretary.

The CSMR Military Award honorees were LTC Craig Morris (State Emergency Operations Center Sacramento), CSMR Officer of the Year, and CMS Archie Mitchell (146th Airlift Wing Support Unit), CSMR Airman of the Year.

CMS Mitchell was also appointed the

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The CAFA's CSMR Airman of Year Award is given to CMS Archie Mitchell (right), 146th Airlift Wing Support Unit, by BG Eric Crabtree (center), 4th AF Commander, and COL Martin Ledwitz of the CSMR.



LTC Craig Morris, State Emergency Operations Center, is presented the CAFA's CSMR Officer of the Year Award by BG Eric Crabtree (center), 4th AF Commander, and COL Martin Ledwitz of the CSMR.

Recruiting



AT A recent community event, CSMR Soldiers, from left, SGT Bob Brennan, SGT Mike Nguyen and SPC Tiem Quach man the display tent with Cal Guard recruiters.

They're building up the force

Task Force South has brought 80 Soldier prospects to CSMR's door

As the California State Military Reserve continues to grow in size and strength, the organization has placed its confidence in its two Recruiting Task Forces to enlist quality soldiers.

In Southern California that mission belongs to Recruiting Task Force South — a team of 12 recruiters under the command of MAJ Richard Lalor and headquartered at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

To date in 2009, RTF South has staffed 16 field recruiting events, presented five new recruit orientations (including formal PowerPoint presentations and medical reviews

“It sounds like a simple process, but there are challenges.”

tiates the enlistment process, he or she is assigned a Recruiting NCO who maintains regular contact, ensures that all of the required documentation is received and shepherds the candidate through the entire process in order to forward a “clean” enlistment package to Sacramento.

The RTF Commander maintains contact with Southern Regional

Support Command leadership so as to be responsive to mission requirements and thus be proactive to recruit Soldiers to meet those needs.

When an enlistment package is complete, the RTF Commander sits down with COL Marc Breslow, SRSC Commander, and individually presents each candidate's background in order to match the skill sets of the applicant with the needs of the service.

At that time, billet and unit assignments are made and the package is released to the appropriate unit S-1 to forward to headquarter

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Honoring our veterans a CSMR honor



Photos by SGT Robert A. Davison

Members of the California Military Reserve, composed both of prior service Soldiers and patriotic “non-priors” play an important role in the observance of ceremonies and holidays honoring America’s veterans, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

They provide honor guards, color guards and public affairs coverage of observances of Memorial Day, Veteran’s Day, Independence Day and other patriotic events. They also assist in rendering honor for military funerals.

The CSMR’s work in this area demonstrates its solidarity and connections with the other branches of the military.

Above members of 1st Battalion, ASG (S), continue their annual tradition of carrying the colors of the famous World War II all Japanese-American fighting unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade on Saturday, May 16.

At upper right, SPC Jay Earl holds the flag at rededication of the 442nd’s Memorial in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. On the cover is MSG Jeffrey Davis of the 1st Battalion at the same event.



Military leave

Continued from page 3

"Therefore, and as a practical matter, members of the CSMR will not be covered by USERRA for activities we are normally engaged in. "However CSMR is covered by the California Military and Veterans Code for drill days, fires, soldier-readiness processing, and state active duty orders, for example," Coggan said.

ESGR says that Guard and Reserve forces already comprise 46 percent of military manpower, placing a potential strain on employers bound by USERRA. As the use of those forces continues to mount, CSMR support brigades might experience similar issues relating to time off for duty.

"Since the war on terror, more people are being deployed," said Coggan "Notwithstanding that the law is unequivocally clear on this, more and more employers and government agencies are going to look to squeeze the serviceman. And in cases where it is adjudicated, the economic conditions of the state may tend to favor the employer."

The potential friction between employers and employees can cut both ways, with some employers less cooperative than others about their employee's military obligations, and with some Guard and Reserve members taking advantage of USERRA protection.

"My observations about the [USERRA] were that we had far more military members abusing the rights it provided than employers," said a retired lieutenant colonel and JAG who could not comment on the record because of the source's present judicial position. "Example: guys who just didn't want to work in their civilian jobs but wanted to maintain their job

security and seniority would, during non-wartime, bug out to go to every two-bit TDY and needless military course they could find."

"We did have some employers who broke the law," the source continued, citing county sheriff's departments whose ranks tended to be decimated with deployments, "but most did so (as with most Federal laws) ignorantly and would willingly correct their ways when I wrote them a nice reminder letter of their obligations."

CAFA awards

Continued from page 8

CAFA's Awards Committee Chairman for next year.

The CSMR is part of the California Military Department, which includes the Air and Army National Guard. All CSMR Air Component members must have previously served in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard.

In addition to the CSMR recipients, military awards were presented to members and units of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, California Air National Guard, AF ROTC, AF JROTC and Civil Air Patrol.

CSMR in D.C.

Continued from page 7

answering many questions during the forums.

This was a great educational and networking opportunity which also brought more attention and credibility to the work the CSMR is doing in response to disasters within the state and in integrating and supporting the California Army National Guard.

"Attending the symposium was an honor and an extremely motivating experience," SGT Jewell said.

Recruiting

Continued from page 7

ters for accession orders.

"It sounds like a simple process, but there are challenges," said MAJ Lalor. "While Soldiers are enthusiastic in generating potential recruits, and those leads are much appreciated, in many cases the referring Soldier is not fully aware of CSMR regulations governing acceptability for enlistment. This is especially the case when it comes to age issues, medical issues and gathering complete documentation in regard to a candidate's prior military service."

Lalor noted that recruiters do their absolute best to minimize situations where applicants are given wrong or outdated information.

"We make every attempt not to forward incomplete packages to headquarters," he said, "all of which can only create misunderstandings and potential disappointment for the candidate or cause administrative backlogs and resultant delays in processing."

Lalor agreed that recruiting can be a time consuming process in some instances, "but I always like to remind all concerned that our job is to build the force and that we are looking to put people into the CSMR, not looking for ways to keep them out!"

CSMR soldiers who refer prospects that result in enlistments can receive formal recognition from state headquarters. When a Soldier makes a referral, however, it is important that their prospect includes the name and unit of the person who referred them on their enlistment package, and that the referring Soldier makes sure his home unit is aware of his referral.

CSMR Soldiers assigned to Southern California units wishing to refer prospects for enlistment should contact SFC Jerry Shultz, NCOIC for RTF South, at (562) 714-2831 or via AKO e-mail at jerry.l.shultz@us.army.mil

Fall Out

Awards, Promotions Spring and Summer 2009

Medal of Merit

COL Marc Breslow
COL John Wilson (2nd)
CPT Christopher Fowler
CPT Paul Voelker
MSG Dennis Barberic
SFC Christopher Mott (2nd)

California Service Medal

MAJ Russel Nakaishi (10 yr)

California Commendation Medal

MAJ John Seffern
1LT Galo Pesantes
1LT Maurico Arocha (2nd)
SGT Robert Davison

California Emergency Training Ribbon

MAJ Andrew D. Brooks
CPT William R. Chidsay
1LT Keith Abbott
1LT Frank Quiambao
CW2 Rolando Quiambao
OCS Daniel A. Derkum
MSG Dennis Barberic
SGT Thomas O. Griggs
PFC Joshua Ornelas

California Mission Qualification Ribbon

MAJ Andrew D. Brooks (2nd)
SFC Christopher M. Mott

California Recruiting Achievement Ribbon

1LT Keith Abbott
OCS Daniel A. Derkum (2nd)
SGT Michael Maciver
PFC Joshua Ornelas

California Professional Development Ribbon

MAJ Andrew D. Brooks (2nd)

Promotions:

Samuel W. Oglesby to COL
Donald J. Thornley to COL
Christopher T. Cervantes to LTC
Dennis F. Fandy to LTC
Franklin F. Naumann to LTC
Bradley J. Niederhauser to LTC
Frederick A. Tribble to LTC
Andrew D. Brooks to MAJ
Charles O. Stapleton to MAJ
Dennis J. Barberic to MSG
Jeffery N. Davis to MSG
Donald L. Polny to MSG
Raymond E. Rincon to MSG
Frederick A. Treddy to MSG
Jesse D. Ariola to SFC
Ivan Cruz to SFC
Christopher M. Mott to SFC

This is your newsletter

Warrior Words is the quarterly newsletter of the Southern Regional Support Command of the California State Military Reserve.

That means that the job of the staff of Warrior Words – drawn from the public affairs section – is to inform you and help give recognition to you about your work in the CSMR.

We encourage you to contribute material for publication. We publish is four times a year, so we publish in January, April, July and October. A limited number of print copies are available; we strive to e-mail copies of Warrior Words to as many Soldiers in the SRSC as we can.

If you wish to contribute, or to request a PDF (portable document format) version of the newsletter, to make a suggestion or request a correction, please e-mail us at warriorwords@mac.com.

Articles submissions should be made in a .doc format in Microsoft Word (not docx). Photos should be accompanied by a cutline (caption) describing what's in the image, and naming the people depicted in the photo (including rank, first and last name).

File sizes of photos should not exceed eight megs; anything more tends to choke our e-mail system.

