

CALIFORNIA

AIR NATIONAL GUARD



2009 YEAR IN REVIEW



MAJOR GENERAL

DENNIS G. LUCAS

COMMANDER, CALIFORNIA
AIR NATIONAL GUARD



Each year, when gathering my thoughts and reflecting on our many accomplishments, I experience overwhelming pride for the Airmen and civilians who serve in our California Air National Guard, along with the families and employers who support them. The men and women of the California Air National Guard serve our state and nation with pride, professionalism, and patriotism - Thank You!

Our accomplishments over the last many years were a team effort, and one key member of our team is leaving, Major General William H. Wade II, The Adjutant General. General Wade supported our transformation efforts for the last four years, and was our senior spokesman at the national level and with Congress. Accepting a key post at Joint Forces Command, Naples, Italy, he will complete his tenure as our Adjutant General on January 31, 2010. We are thankful for his unwavering support and wish him the best in his new assignment.

As I have long emphasized, "Strength" is critical to the survival of our force structure and quest for new missions. I am extremely pleased to report that we met our strength goal, achieving an impressive 100.2 percent strength in September 2009. Your hard work, professionalism, and dedication to excellence, continue to produce outstanding results. As in years past, our personnel deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and many other important operations. Again, many California Air Guard members remained stateside on active duty, performing vital reachback missions and supporting Noble Eagle.

Our units are engaged supporting our nation's foreign policy and homeland security missions with reachback mission capabilities, and continual support of our Air Expeditionary Forces commitments. Around the clock, 24/7/365, we have hundreds of Airmen contributing to major operations in air defense, intelligence, space, unmanned aerial systems. Soon, we will add Cyber capabilities to our repertoire. These capabilities are products of change, both in the Air Force and the California Air National Guard. Throughout 2009, we

continued to meet key strategic plan milestones for reshaping our force into the "most" relevant Air Force missions.

The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing activated their Predator Flight Training Unit (FTU) at March ARB, and at the Southern California Logistics Airport (the former George AFB). This is the first and only Air National Guard FTU supporting both the Air National Guard and active duty members. The wing graduated a total of five classes, one of which was dedicated to active duty special operations personnel. Our Total Force Initiative to reorganize the 162nd Combat Communications Group into a wing structure is in the National Guard and Air Force review process. The reorganizational package is awaiting an Air Force decision regarding combat communication requirements and the force structure design of new network warfare squadrons- a new mission the 261st is earmarked to execute. I am confident that this initiative will materialize in 2010.

We continue to face these challenges head-on, while continuing to rebuild the force. It will take all of us, working together, to ensure we retain our most valuable resource - People! We must continue recruiting trained Airmen leaving the Air Force and other services, as well as non-prior service men and women from our communities. Everyone is a recruiter, and everyone can make a difference. Strength is vital to our future and for continued growth and mission success. Rebuilding the force and taking care of Airmen will continue to be major priorities.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to lead and serve the finest, most professional military organization in the world. We will continue working at every level to acquire the most relevant missions, and provide the resources needed to fulfill training requirements and operational commitments. We will perpetuate our success by working together, and remaining focused on mission, recruiting, retention, training, employer support, and of course, our Airmen and families. Thank you for making 2009 safe and extremely successful. Keep up the great work!



CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
MICHAEL S. KOSLOW

STATE COMMAND CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT



The men and women comprising the California Air National Guard continue to set the benchmark for many of our colleagues throughout the other 53 states and territories. During my first privileged year to be serving as your State Command Chief, I have observed our enlisted corps exceed all expectations placed before each and every one of you in this year of transformation.

Major General Lucas and I have recognized the increased demands associated with the many mission needs which have clearly enabled us to prepare for new integrated roles in today's total force that undeniably validate our operational relevance toward the accomplishment of our national global objectives. We also know that coinciding with these increasing demands on our work force, exists the need to ensure we are taking care of the needs of our families and loved ones. The unique aspect of being a member of the "Guard" family lies within our unyielding desire to care for those and see to the needs of our greatest support element in our absence while deployed here domestically or abroad. Our family readiness volunteers and representatives have gone to great lengths to ensure that we are not only addressing the material and financial needs of our member families, but also the psychological needs dealing with separation anxiety.

Our Airmen willingly volunteer time and time again to support the myriad of mission tasking because they know that their families have a diverse support element here at home. They continue to demonstrate an unparalleled initiative and pride in projecting excellence in the formulation, development and completion of their lesson plans, programs, and mission strategies. The results of your individual successes are self evident when we collectively look at the scores of Airman within the California Air National Guard who have received national-level recognition for their accomplishments and commitment to their communities.

California Air National Guard Airmen were asked last year to increase our efforts to achieve 100 percent authorized manpower levels, and commendably we exceeded

that this year! In recognition of the commitment to support both domestic and foreign contingencies throughout the world, the Air National Guard and specifically here within the State, orchestrated one of the largest efforts to recognize our members and their families and love ones during the Hometown Heroes Salute with more than 900 Airman being recognized in one single event for their significant contributions to the country and local communities! In addition, California passed legislation enacting the Educational Assistance Awards Program, extending tuition support to our members desiring degree and vocational financial assistance. Many of our new members and existing members, alike, have conveyed their desires for education and are now being provided the financial opportunity to pursue their scholastic aspirations.

The senior enlisted leaders have made a concerted effort to formulate an Enlisted Development Plan that clearly prepares and enables our future leaders to make sound decisions and exercise good judgment in processes involving effective force management and enhancing practical leadership skills; we have accepted the challenge and surpassed all expectations for success. During this year of significant transformation, we have been able to expand our Predator mission, pursue a vision toward the formulation of a new wing, and prepare for the acquisition of the F-15C for our air sovereignty mission.

All of our collective achievements within the California Air National Guard have been made possible because of the heart-felt desire to believe in and practice the Air Force Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in all We Do. I am proud to call myself a California Air National Guardsman and I am committed to ensuring you have the opportunity and ability to fully meet your career aspirations, optimize your success, and equally maintain the interests of your employers and families. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve and represent you all within the California Air National Guard as your State Command Chief.



129TH RESCUE WING

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD



Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91105 descend from a 129th Rescue Wing HH-60G Pave Hawk onto the Coast Guard cutter Tern in the San Francisco Bay Jan. 28, 2009. Crewmembers conducted vertical insertion training, which is a fast-paced technique used to effectively deploy law enforcement teams to a high-risk situation. Shortly after the training was completed, the 129th RQW and Coast Guard crews rescued a downed civilian pilot near Pillar Point, Calif. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Melissa Hauck)

After saving lives at home during natural disasters in 2008, members of the 129th Rescue Wing (RQW) deployed in 2009 to save hundreds of lives around the globe. As one of three Air National Guard rescue wings nationwide, the military and the state of California depends on the unique capabilities of the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, the MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft, and the highly trained pararescuemen.

In April, members of the 129th RQW began their incredible journey of saving lives in southern Afghanistan. One-hundred HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crew members, maintainers and support personnel from the 129th provided 24-hour rescue alert at Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion in the Helmand province. Stationed closer to the combat zones, the unit improved its response time to meet the Secretary of Defense's mandate to

recover critically injured patients from anywhere on the battlefield in less than one hour, which is known as "the golden hour." During the deployment, the 129th was in charge of battlefield combat medical evacuation of all joint, coalition, and Afghan National forces operating within Regional Command South, Afghanistan. The 129th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (ERQS) also routinely provided time critical lifesaving medical attention to Afghan citizens who were either wounded by enemy fighters or simply injured in everyday incidents.

In May, more than 50 Airmen, along with two MC-130P Combat Shadow tanker aircraft, deployed to Djibouti for approximately 40-days in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. Twenty-three pararescuemen, who also supported the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa mission, returned

in April after a four-month deployment to Djibouti.

In preparation for the unit's deployment, the 129th trained and worked with federal agencies. After wrapping up a day of vertical insertion training with Coast Guardsmen Jan. 29, an HH-60G helicopter crew and Coast Guardsmen saved a downed civilian pilot off the coast of Pillar Point, Calif. Unit members also assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in February by transporting critically needed facility batteries to the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge.

Nestled in the center of the world's technology epicenter, it was fitting that the 129th Rescue Wing's 130th Rescue Squadron successfully demonstrated coalition personnel recovery operations using net enabled data link capabilities for the first time ever during the U.S. Joint



Forces Command exercise, Bold Quest 2009. Because of the 129th's proactive technological efforts, rescue forces will no longer be constrained to voice only communications in their life saving mission.

Glowing achievements and national recognition of the professionalism and excellence of 129th personnel kept rolling in throughout the year. The wing was the recipient of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and NGAUS Spaatz Trophy, which is presented to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard. Numerous wing members received national-level awards for their on and off-duty accomplishments. Staff Sgt. Alejandro Alvarado was the Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Reserve Airman of the Year; Master Sgt. Jessica

Jackson was the recipient of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Outstanding Achievement Award (Local Category); Lt. Col. Susan Pangelinan received the Department of Defense Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Role Model Award; Tech. Sgt. Fernando Wilkins brought home two awards -- the National Image Inc Meritorious Service Award and National Organization for Mexican American Rights Meritorious Service Award; and Staff Sgt. Sean Pellaton received the Staff Sgt. Henry E. "Red" Erwin Award (Airman Category). This long list of national-level award recipients shows that professional and community efforts reflect a tradition of outstanding work and dedication to the 129th Rescue Wing motto, "These Things We Do, That Others May Live."



Colonel Amos Bagdasarian
Commander



Chief Master Sgt. Kristina Keck
Command Chief

Above Left: Pararescuemen, Senior Airman Mark Finney, Master Sgt. Michael Malloy and 2nd Lt. Darren Pon on the Moffett Flightline. (photo courtesy Readers Digest Magazine)

Left: An MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft from the 129th Rescue Wing taxis on the Moffett flightline. (Master Sgt. Daniel Kacir)



144TH FIGHTER WING

FRESNO AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE



F-16Cs from the 144th Fighter Wing on their way to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii to participate in the Sentry Aloha exercise.

The 144th Fighter Wing concluded another year of outstanding accomplishments and unit recognition for their hard work and volunteerism in the spirit of the California Air National Guard. From preparing for an Operational Readiness Inspection to deploying personnel in support of current contingencies overseas, members of the 144th earned both state and national awards for their achievements.

The 144th's primary mission is to provide air defense for California, spanning from the Mexico border to Oregon, utilizing the F-16C Fighting Falcon aircraft. The 144th also responds to state emergencies when requested by the Governor of California. The unit primarily operates out of the Air National Guard Base in Fresno but also maintains a second alert detachment at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif.

In addition to the twenty-four hour a day operation of two alert sites, the 144th continued to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom with 44 personnel deployed to several bases throughout the world.

In February, the unit deployed five F-16s and 90 maintenance personnel to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida in support of the Weapons System Evaluation Program. The

program is a high operations tempo exercise involving multiple aircraft models competing against each other in what is known as dissimilar air combat training. The F-16 aircraft from Fresno, which are smaller and more agile, flew as enemy aircraft against the F-22 Raptors.

In August, more than fifty members of the 144th Civil Engineering Squadron, traveled to Guam, to take part in a mission at a remote regional training site for the 554th Red Horse Squadron on Andersen Air Force Base.

Sixty-eight members of the Medical Group deployed to Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., for a week-long Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) exercise in April. The CERFP is a rapid response team responsible for quick reaction to a weapon of mass destruction incident or terrorist attack and also to any potentially hazardous man-made or natural disaster.

Air National Guard F-16 pilots from the 144th faced off against F-15 Eagle pilots from the 199th Fighter Squadron at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, in September during a two-week exercise called Sentry Aloha. The 144th FW deployed approximately 94



Airmen and seven F-16s to the exercise. After their arrival, both squadrons began a full flying schedule of training scenarios, flying more than 85 sorties during the two-week exercise

The 144th Fighter Wing pilots flew a total of 2676 sorties and 3850 flight hours this past year. Since September 11, 2001, the 144th has flown more than 1500 combat air patrol sorties in support of Operation Noble Eagle, the homeland security mission.

In the spirit of volunteerism, the 144th Fighter Wing continues to be an integral part of the local community. Wing members participated in numerous aircraft flyovers and community events to include Habitat for Humanity Fresno, Tree Fresno, the Community Food Bank, the Children's Hospital Radiothon in addition to having a large presence at this year's Veteran's Day Parade. The wing continues its longtime support for holiday programs Toys for Tots and Silent Sleigh. Additionally in 2009, the wing's "Young Heroes" program presented medals to four children who have shown great strength in fighting a life-threatening illness.

The wing also received nationwide attention again this year for their outstanding Family Readiness program as well as their award winning Eagle Eyes antiterrorism program.

The State of California also recognized the accomplishments of several groups for their outstanding service by awarding them the Governor's Outstanding Unit Award in 2009: the 144th Mission Support Group, Services Flight and Security Forces Squadron.

The 144th Fighter Wing had an extremely busy and fulfilling year participating in multiple exercises, inspections, deployments and community events. Airmen and volunteers throughout the wing continue to shine in their efforts to support their neighbors, their state and their nation.



Colonel Gary Taylor
Commander



Chief Master Sgt. Michael McNiff
Command Chief



Top Left: Senior Airman Colleen Corrigan connects the refuel hose to an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, during the Sentry Aloha exercise. (Staff Sgt. Charles Vaughn)

Middle Left: Staff Sgt. Nichola Peacock of the 144th Emergency Management shop welds a lateral support under the K-span 1 at the North Field of Andersen AFB, Guam. (Tech. Sgt. David Loeffler)

Bottom Left: Airman 1st Class Robert Ortiz of the 144th Civil Engineering Squadron surveys the site of K-Span 2 at the North Field of Andersen AFB, Guam. (Tech. Sgt. David Loeffler)



146TH AIRLIFT WING

CHANNEL ISLANDS AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION



The year 2009 was a year of extraordinary accomplishments for the 146th Airlift Wing. The unit was recognized for several outstanding achievements as it continued its support of stateside and overseas missions, executed numerous training events, and continued to demonstrate its ability to adapt and thrive within changing times.

The wing started off the year by executing a home-station Operational Readiness Exercise followed by an Operational Readiness Inspection in Alpena, Mich. under harsh cold-weather conditions in March. True to form, the unit earned an overall “excellent” rating, further proving that their diligence,

teamwork and years of dedicated preparation were worthwhile.

Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) training took place in late spring and resulted in the full certification of a next-generation, state-of-the-art airborne fire retardant delivery system, the MAFFS 2. This new equipment, coupled with the wing’s C-130J aircraft, makes the 146th Airlift Wing the most modern fleet of military aerial firefighting aircraft in the world. Several high-ranking military delegations from around the world to include Slovenia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan visited the wing to learn about the new MAFFS 2 equipment and the C-130J platform.

In May and June the wing deployed an aviation package to Ramstein Air Base, Germany to participate in Operation Joint Endeavor, an annual deployment supporting airlift needs for the United State European Command which the unit has participated in for more than 15 years. While overseas, the 146th was given the distinct honor of representing the Department of Defense, as well as the State of California, at the 100th Anniversary Paris Airshow. Aircrewmembers showed off the wing’s new C-130J to high-level military members from around the world as the California flag waved proudly out the top hatch of the airplane.



Colonel Paul Hargrove
Commander



Chief Master Sgt. Richard Onsgard
Command Chief

The wing also deployed an aviation package in October to participate in Operation Cope India, an international joint exercise conducted out of Air Force Station Agra, India. The exercise focused on training for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Aircrew from several countries shared valuable resources and information while performing tactical training missions dropping equipment and personnel.

The Security Forces Squadron and Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed more than 60 members combined in late 2009 for a six-month tour to Iraq and Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The wing began deploying a large aviation package of more than 70 Airmen to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq in late December.

As 2009 was designated as the “Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer,” the wing appropriately recognized more than 60 of its members as they were promoted into the ranks of NCO and Senior NCO during two separate and highly-esteemed induction ceremonies. The wing was also the first in the state to hold the “Hometown Heroes Salute,” as more than 900 Airmen and their families were honored for their selfless service and were thanked for sacrifices made over the years since Sept. 11. Following the ceremony everyone took part in

a historic group photo with more than 1300 people who attended the event together on the flightline.

The 146th Airlift Wing’s Logistics Readiness Squadron received national recognition, setting Air Force-wide records and winning more than four national awards and a combined ten individual and unit awards. Awards bestowed upon them include the 2009 Verne Orr Award, awarded to the Air Force Unit (Active, Reserve or Guard) which makes the most of its human resources and best use of its people to achieve its full potential to accomplish the mission; the 2008 Air Reserve Component Logistics Readiness Squadron of the Year; and the 2008 Air National Guard Logistics Readiness Squadron of the Year. Tech. Sgt. Brian Miliefsky, loadmaster with the 115th Airlift Squadron was honored with the Air Force Association’s Earl T. Ricks Award for exceptional airmanship under hazardous combat conditions. The 146th Recruiting Office additionally received the California Commander’s Cup for the second year in a row, along with four other individual awards won two years consecutively.

The success of the 146th Airlift Wing continues with a tradition of strength, teamwork and dedication, facing the future’s challenges with confidence and resolve.

Page Left: Four C-130Js from the 146th Airlift Wing fly in formation above the cloud layer. (Master Sgt. Dave Buttner)

Top Left: Airmen and family members gather on the flight line for a unique photo opportunity. (Tech. Sgt. Alex Koenig)

Top Right: A C-130J from the 146th Airlift Wing makes a water drop in the mountains outside of Tucson, Ariz. during Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems (MAFFS) training held in May 2009. (Tech. Sgt. Alex Koenig)

Left: Members of the 146th Airlift Wing board a C-130J aircraft bound for Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom. (Master Sgt. Dave Buttner)





163RD RECONNAISSANCE WING

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE

The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing started 2009 with another first for the Air National Guard in February, as an MQ-1 Predator lifted off the runway at Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) in Victorville, Calif., marking the first Predator flight in the United States for the unit.

In March, the first student from the wing's Flying Training Unit operated an MQ-1 Predator. This, coupled with the graduation of the unit's first Flying Training Unit class, solidified the wing as the first Air National Guard unit to stand up a Predator Flying Training Unit.

Throughout 2009, the Operations Group maintained a combat presence in the Global War on Terrorism, providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support with precision strike capability. The 196th Reconnaissance Squadron amassed 40,000 combat support flying hours resulting in the continued success of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Maintenance Group recently made history when they received three Block 15 MQ-1 Predators, making the wing the first Air National Guard unit to receive brand new Predators. The group successfully passed three major inspections performed by the Air National Guard, Air Combat Command and Air Education and Training Command, all milestone inspections as the very first for an Air Force Predator Remotely Piloted Vehicle unit. Additionally, it incorporated five equipment installations, deployed five personnel in support of Predator combat operations and trained 310 Air Force and Air National Guard maintainers at the Field Training Detachment.

The Medical Group was heavily involved supporting Predator operations. Physicians and emergency medical technicians have been activated to fill the 196th Squadron Medical Element, with additional medical personnel deployed to Creech Air Force Base, Nevada; Balad, Iraq; Sather Air Base, Iraq; Bagram Air



Force Base, Afghanistan; and Alconbury, England. Locally, medical personnel have augmented the Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) medical unit and supported the civilian Golden Guardian disaster exercises.

Focus for the Security Forces Squadron was the safe return of nearly half its personnel from Baghdad, Iraq in February, after a six month deployment. While in Iraq, members conducted air base ground defense missions, which included working a security detail for our President and Air Force One. Unit members also deployed several times in support of detainee-transport security operations at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Members provided security for the State Airmen of the Year Banquet, as well as personal security for the Generals Quarters. Two squadron members were selected as Airmen of the Year, Master Sgt. Troy Deyo and Staff Sgt. Brian Uribe.

The Civil Engineer Squadron, responsible for more than 300,000 square

feet of wing facilities, also hosts the Air National Guard's West Coast Regional Training Site which provides critical civil engineering wartime training. The site has attracted other military services such as the Army Guard, Air Force Reserve, Air Force active duty, and Navy Reserve personnel. Civil Engineering also supported many construction projects for training, including facility renovations for the Navy at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and the Department of Homeland Security's Mexico border fence project. The squadron continues to execute large military construction projects at March Air Reserve Base and the Southern California Logistics Airport in support of the wing's Predator mission.

The Logistics Readiness Squadron flawlessly mobilized 168 wing members in support of Predator operations, 112 in support of Air Expeditionary Force operations and 64 wing members in support of humanitarian missions in Bosnia and Guatemala. Additionally, two members of the squadron won individual awards at the national level, with Staff Sgt. Richard Silva winning the 2009 Air Reserve Component Vehicle



Colonel Randal Ball
Commander

Management Airman of the Year Award and Staff Sgt. Terrence Mananes winning the 2009 Air National Guard's Outstanding Honor Guard Airman of the Year Award.

The Force Support Squadron was activated on Sept. 1, 2009 through the merger of the Services and Mission Support Flights. The Squadron continued to provide support to the Wing including personnel accountability for the operational Predator mission and assistance to other Armed Forces units across the nation for readiness, training and mission requirements.

The Communications Flight continues to be an integrated facet of day to day operational support in the wing, including the creation and execution of training programs, procedures and policies. The flight generated innovative communication remedies empowering the wing to ensure an aggressive combat authority overseas while concurrently providing support to the Field

Training Detachment and Flying Training Unit.

Community involvement remained a cornerstone to ensuring public support for the Air National Guard and Air Force. The wing participated in several events, including the Riverside National Cemetery's Roll Call, a Memorial Day event where some unit members read names of deceased veterans as part of a week-long event; Dr. Seuss National Reading Day Program; Camp Pendleton "Mud Run"; Los Angeles Marathon and the National Guard Biathlon trials.



Chief Master Sgt. Edwin Clarke
Command Chief

As a testament to the 163rd's mission dedication, the wing received a 95 percent compliant rating during its August Air Combat Command Unit Compliance Inspection. Eighteen individual superior performance awards and four superior performance team awards were received. The Wing also was awarded its 8th National Guard Bureau Top 5 Flying Unit Award.

Page Left: An MQ-1 Predator from the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing shortly after take-off from the Southern California Logistics Airport. (Staff Sgt. Paul Duquette)

Above Left: Staff Sgt. Austin Archey, 163rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, inspects battery wires on a brand new Block 15 MQ-1 Predator during his training at the Field Training Detachment, Dec. 16. (Staff Sgt. Paul Duquette)

Far Left: 163rd Medical Technician Tech. Sgt. John Reed applies a tourniquet to a simulated amputee patient during the 2009 Great California ShakeOut exercise. (Staff Sgt. Paul Duquette)

Left: Master Sgt. Justin Ciasullo operates the Predator's sensor ball during its maiden flight here in California. (Staff Sgt. Paul Duquette)





162ND COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

NORTH HIGHLANDS AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION

What a great year 2009 has been for the 162nd Combat Communications Group! As we continue to transition from a strategic reserve to an operational force, the group is fully engaged in the war effort every time our Airmen report for duty.

The 147th Combat Communications Squadron, located in San Diego, spent the year preparing for an Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for late January 2010. In addition, the unit brought online a new Air Force-wide training application and received an "Outstanding" on their Communications Security inspection. Eagle Vision, a family of satellite ground stations that downlink commercial imagery, continues to be a tremendous asset supporting natural disasters and Air Force exercises throughout the year; downloading 8,362 satellite images in 2009.

In the area of Space operations, the 148th Space Operations Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base has been working hard this past year to prepare for the next generation of Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellites that will provide secure and jam-resistant communications for high-priority military users. The new operations center will provide command and control for these satellites, greatly increasing the Department of Defense's capability to provide real-time video, battlefield maps and targeting data.

Our 149th Combat Communications Squadron at North Highlands Air National Guard Station, leaned forward to provide communications-maintenance support and expertise for the RQ-4 Global Hawk system at Beale Air Force Base. The squadron also supported the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's

mission at Travis Air Force Base, the Makani Pahili Hurricane Exercise in Hawaii, the Global Medic training mission at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., and numerous Air Expeditionary Force missions.

Also located at Vandenberg, the 216th Operations Support Squadron provided critical support for the continued success of U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Space Operations Center. The squadron provided operational training; directed space support to military theaters around the globe; persistently tracked more than 20,000 man-made space objects in orbit around the earth; and enabled 100 percent command and control coverage of military satellite constellations.

The 222nd Communications Maintenance Flight, located at Beale, supported more than 400 RQ-4 Global Hawk operational missions worldwide and generated more than 100,000 images for the war fighters. The 222nd designed and supported circuits for 54 test flights, resolving longstanding operational issues in support of Mission Control Element operations. Technical Sergeant Tim Brennan became the first Air National Guard member to become a dedicated Crew Chief on the RQ-4, Block 20 Mission Control Element.

Collocated at Beale is the 222nd Intelligence Support Squadron. This new squadron was designated and activated in April 2008, and is already 90 percent manned. They have already successfully integrated with the Distributed Common Ground Systems enterprise. Operationally, members hold numerous key leadership positions within the active duty units at Beale. The squadron is recognized at Headquarters Air Force and National Guard Bureau as a foremost example of a model for Total Force Integration.

The 222nd Operations Support Squadron at Beale has been a critical force provider to the Distributed Common Ground Systems. Unit members are pivotal to the success of imagery exploitation throughout the year. Twelve unit members served during an Air Guard Partial Mobilization in 2009, providing an unparalleled corporate knowledge base for the entire Distributed Common Ground Systems enterprise.

Our 234th Intelligence Squadron, also located at Beale, has continued to excel in its operational mission to work shoulder to shoulder with active duty counterparts; exploiting data from U-2, Global Hawk, and Predator weapon systems providing





Colonel Steven Beck
Commander



Chief Master Sgt. Debora Fordyce
Command Chief

near real-time target and threat analysis to the warfighter 24/7/365. The 234th classic associate with active duty is another example of a successful Total Force Integration endeavor. The squadron is growing in strength and capability daily.

The 261st Combat Communications Squadron in Van Nuys had a busy year as unit members prepared for a very successful Unit Compliance Inspection. Additionally, the squadron provided Air Expeditionary Forces and sent two tactical communications packages and 10 people to Hawaii in direct support of their annual hurricane exercise. The unit also sent a Joint Incident Site Communication Capability package in support of the 146th Airlift Wing during their annual Modular Airborne Firefighting System training and certification exercise for the C-130J aircraft.

Overall, it has been another successful year of mission transformation and mission change for the 162nd Combat Communications Group, setting the standard for Air Force Total Force operations.



Members of the newly established 216th Operations Support Squadron pose for a group photo in front of "Missile V" at Vandenberg Air Force Base where they provide critical support for the continued success of U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Space Operations Center. (Senior Airman Josh Geismar)

Page Left: Members of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Steering Committee in front of a RQ-4 Global Hawk at Beale AFB, Calif. (Senior Airman Christopher Ruono)

Above Left: Master Sgt. Nicol Davidson inspects fiber optic cable for the Global Hawk Command and Control reachback circuit, Air Force Mission Control Element 1 at Beale AFB, Calif. (Staff Sgt. Michael Mearlon)



OUTSTANDING OFFICERS OF THE YEAR



MAJOR PATRICIA A. MURRAY
FIELD GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



CAPTAIN DAVID R. WEIDMAN
COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The California Air National Guard is proud of each of its officers and enlisted members. It is their conscientious dedication to duty that makes our organization great. Each year we are faced with the difficult task of selecting the California Air National Guard's "Best in Blue."

It is my honor to present the Officers, Airman, Noncommissioned Officer, Senior Noncommissioned Officer, and First Sergeant for 2009.

MAJ. GEN. DENNIS G. LUCAS
COMMANDER, CALIFORNIA ANG

OUTSTANDING ENLISTED MEMBERS OF THE YEAR



**SENIOR AIRMAN
JOSEPH D. RAFFERTY**
AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



**TECHNICAL SERGEANT
SARA J. VAN DALEN**
NCO OF THE YEAR



**SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT
JASON E. RED**
SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR



**MASTER SERGEANT
ROBERT L. TAYLOR, JR.**
FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR



RECRUITING AND RETENTION

SENIOR MASTER SGT. ELAINE SAMBORSKI



146TH AIRLIFT WING

COMMANDER'S CUP FOR RECRUITING AND RETENTION EXCELLENCE



129TH RESCUE WING

RECRUITING OFFICE OF THE YEAR



Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas and Brig. Gen. Mary Kight celebrate the CA ANG's milestone achievement of 100.2 percent end strength at the annual recruiting and retention conference. (Capt. Toni Gray)

The California Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention team continued to make great strides in increasing the State's assigned strength. Their combined effort culminated in the California Air National Guard achieving its strategic goal of 100 percent end strength and meeting our congressionally mandated requirements.

The retention team continued its partnership with human resource advisors to further foster improvements in retention. The efforts of the retention team, to include unit career advisors, human resource advisors, and senior leaders, have resulted in improved loss analysis reporting that will assist commanders with retention management.

The recruiting team faced new challenges as the number of unit vacancies decreased. In response, the California Air National Guard developed and implemented the Statewide recruiting program where recruiting offices throughout the state work together to pinpoint and fill critical vacancies.

Unit referrals played a significant role in the state's recruiting success – 176 of our new California Air National Guard members were referred by unit members! The Air National Guard has renewed many of its incentive programs for 2010. The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program, a program offering financial incentives for referrals, is on track and remains highly beneficial to recruiting.

In addition, the California National Guard's new Education Assistance Award Program stands to provide substantial educational assistance to many of our members. For more information on this program, visit www.calguard.ca.gov/education



MASTER SGT. MARC BROUILLARD
RECRUITING OFFICE MANAGER
OF THE YEAR



MASTER SGT. LOREN BELL
RECRUITING OFFICE SUPERVISOR
OF THE YEAR



TECH. SGT. JEREMEE TATE
PRODUCTION RECRUITER
OF THE YEAR



TECH. SGT. TREVOR BIVINS
RECRUITING AND RETENTION
NCO OF THE YEAR



TECH. SGT. ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
UNIT CAREER ADVISOR
OF THE YEAR



STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



The California Air National Guard reached a new plateau in its State Partnership Program with Ukraine's Air Force in 2009. Five Ukrainian Air Force Officers took a whirlwind tour of the California Air National Guard, Nov. 2-6, 2009, in the first Ukraine Air Force senior leader visit in the history of the California National Guard State Partnership Program with Ukraine.

The delegation, led by Deputy Commander of the Air Force of Ukraine, Lt Gen Serhiy Onyschenko, was hosted and escorted by Maj Gen Dennis G. Lucas, CA ANG Commander. The Ukrainians were briefed on the missions of Joint Force Headquarters, 129th Rescue Wing, 144th Fighter Wing, 146th Airlift Wing, 163rd Reconnaissance Wing and 162nd Combat Communications Group, and viewed each wing's aircraft and equipment and met with each wing's command staff and unit members. They asked numerous questions. None went unanswered.

The group met with a second delegation of Ukrainians from the 831st Aviation Brigade visiting the 144th Fighter Wing for a separate event on Air Sovereignty. Colonel Gary Taylor, 144th Fighter Wing Commander,

hosted a delegation of five Ukrainians led by Deputy Commander of Ukrainian Air Force for Aviation, Chief of Aviation, Lt Gen Vasyl Nikiforov. Here, the Ukrainian fighter pilots learned firsthand the capabilities of the F-16 aircraft, and experienced the professionalism of USAF Airmen when they were given F-16 back-seat rides.

The outcome of these events was momentous in terms of the commitment of the participants to further establish and practice habitual relationships between their units through activities and events within the framework of the State Partnership Program. A protocol document was signed by Maj Gen Lucas and Lt Gen Onyschenko, in which they identified several areas of focus for future events between the Air Force of Ukraine and the CA ANG.

The events were a tremendous success. All participants left the event believing they had just been part of something that will have a tremendous impact on the future of the relationship and interoperability between the Air Force of Ukraine and the California Air National Guard. Most importantly, most left feeling they just made a few new friends.





UKRAINE AND NIGERIA



Far Left: The Ukraine Senior Leadership Visit delegation sports T-shirts given them following their unprecedented, week-long tour of California Air National Guard units. Pictured are: Lt. Colonel Vitalii Sorokin, Deputy Chief Command Center Air Force of Ukraine (AFU) Command, Lt. General Serhii Onyschenko, 1st Deputy AFU Commander, Maj Gen Dennis G. Lucas, California Air National Guard Commander, Col Victor Gamora, Chief of Operational Directorate – Deputy Chief of Staff of AFU Command, Col Ihor Cherepenko, Deputy Commander of AFU Command – Chief of Air Command “Center,” and Lt. Colonel Leonid Beilis (kneeling), Chief of Combat Control of Radar Forces Directorate of AFU Command.

Center Top: Air Force of Ukraine Colonel Victor Gamora observes simulated MQ-1 Predator operations at the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing Nov. 2, 2009. (Staff Sgt. Kelly Hobby)

Center Bottom: Air Force of Ukraine Lt. General Serhii Onyschenko checks out the controls of an HH-60G Pave Hawk at the 129th Rescue Wing Nov. 5, 2009.

Left: A Staff Sgt. from the Arizona Air National Guard readies Air Force of Ukraine Lt. Colonel Serhii Yalyshev, Deputy Commanding Officer for Flight Training, 831st Tactical Aviation Brigade, Mirgorod, Ukraine and Lt. Col. Clay Garrison, 144th Fighter Wing F-16 Pilot, prior to orientation flight takeoff. (Staff Sgt. Charles Vaughn)

Bottom Left: Lt. Col Bryan Allen, 146th Airlift Wing Plans Officer, explains the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System to Air Force of Ukraine Lt. General Serhii Onyschenko Nov. 3, 2009. (Master Sgt. Dave Buttner)



Master Sgt. Louis Franco (bottom left), 146th Airlift Wing Air Terminal Operations Superintendent, and Master Sgt. Johnny Lovato, 146th Airlift Wing Air Transportation Specialist, traveled to Abuja, Nigeria, Dec 2009, where they exchanged information on air transport handling and deployment capability planning. They provided the Nigerian Air Force briefings on concepts and principles of load configuration, airlift preparation, principles of pre-deployment load planning, safety, expeditionary airfield operations, use and maintenance of material handling equipment, cargo marshalling concepts and principles, hazardous material preparation and logistical budget considerations.



FAMILY ASSISTANCE NETWORK

[HTTP://WWW.CALGUARD.CA.GOV/READYFAMILIES](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies)

The California National Guard established a Family Assistance Network as a resource to Guard and other military families - especially those involved in current deployments. They have rosters of civilian, government, and military agencies that can help families dealing with issues that have surfaced because of active duty deployments.

[HTTP://WWW.GUARDFAMILY.ORG](http://www.guardfamily.org)

The National Guard Family Program's Online Community is a place to find contacts, information on programs and benefits, and more. Get tips, tools, and training on family issues.



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EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

[HTTP://WWW.CALGUARD.CA.GOV/ESGR](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/ESGR)

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense organization. It was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

ESGR has a national network of more than 900 volunteer ombudsmen who help resolve issues between employers and their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. These volunteers serve as informal mediators between employers and employees.

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"We will perpetuate our success by working together and remaining focused on mission, recruiting, retention, training, employer support, and of course, our Airmen and our families."

- Maj. Gen. Denny Lucas

Ready - Reliable - Relevant

The California Air National Guard



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CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNITS

WWW.CA.ANG.AF.MIL



129TH RESCUE WING

Mission: Combat Search and Rescue
Aircraft: MC-130P Combat Shadow/
HH-60G Pave Hawk

650 Macon Road
Moffett Federal Airfield, CA 94035
Recruiting: (800) 821-2433
www.129rqw.ang.af.mil



144TH FIGHTER WING

Mission: Air Defense
Aircraft: F-16C Fighting Falcon/
RC-26B

5323 McKinley Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727
Recruiting: (800) 369-6404
www.144fw.ang.af.mil



162ND COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Mission: Global Communications, Space And Intelligence

3900 Roseville Road
North Highlands, CA 95660
Recruiting: (800) 295-3930
www.162ccg.ang.af.mil



146TH AIRLIFT WING

Mission: Tactical Airlift
Aircraft: C-130J Hercules

100 Mulcahey Drive
Port Hueneme, CA 93041
Recruiting: (800) 831-9968
www.146aw.ang.af.mil



163RD RECONNAISSANCE WING

Mission: Reconnaissance
Aircraft: MQ-1 Predator

1620 Graeber Street
March ARB, CA 92518
Recruiting: (951) 905-5190
www.163rw.ang.af.mil