



# The U.S. Army Combat Support Training Center

*Training—The Ultimate Weapon*

## The Golden Guidon

CSTC - The Premier Combat Support and Combat Service Support Training Center in the Western U.S.

Fall 2006

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### CSTC featured in AR Magazine

Excerpt of article on page 3

### NEW FCI GATE

There is a new gate erected along the FCI perimeter - beginning Sept., there will be no access between FCI and Camp Parks.

### Army Establishes IMCOM

The establishment of the Installation Management Command will improve its ability to provide critical support programs to Soldiers and their families. For full story: [www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story\\_id\\_key=9378](http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story_id_key=9378)



## Operation Essayons 2006

### A Win-Win Exercise



By Amy Phillips

More than 600 Army engineers from six Regional Readiness Commands around the country congregated at FHL this summer as part of an annual training event called Operation Essayons.

According to Capt. Brian Yerby, Plans Officer of the 926th Engineer Group, Operation Essayons is a USARC sponsored Legacy/Functional exercise that falls into Year 2 of the Army Reserve Training Strategy in support of the Army AR-FORGEN concept with concentration on Squad, Crew and Team level training. It's intent is to allow units to train in both their MOS specialty as well tactical training.

Two rotations of Army



A "Hyex" (hydraulics excavator) getting dirt from burrow pit for foundation of the tent pads at TTB Piojo.

engineers began construction on the foundations of the 33-acre Tactical Training Base (TTB) Piojo located in the southern part of FHL. A TTB is where units can train

individual and collective tasks relating to their unit mission. These bases can be used as forward operating bases, tactical assembly areas

(See *Essayons*, page 4)

Photo by Mast Sgt. Duane Chrismer, 379 Eng. Bn.

Photo by Don Sundtius



Clark Realty-Pinnacle Management group has a 50 year lease to build and manage the military family housing at CSTC sites.

## Moffett Housing Grand Opening

On July 27, Wescoat Village at Moffett Field officially opened 198 three and four bedroom condominium style homes to active-duty military service members. Wescoat Village located in Mountain View, was built by a successful partnership between the Army Reserve, Clark Realty-Pinnacle Management Group and Pinnacle Management.



**Colonel W. Scott Wood**

As usual, there's a lot happening at our emerging command. Thank goodness we have acquired some additional staff to help us realize our vision of being a premiere training site, and to help provide quality customer service to our customers. Please join me in welcoming the following additions to the Command Group: Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. John Cushman; Staff Judge Advocate, Lt. Col. Vivian Shafer; and Public Affairs Officer, Amy Phillips. I'd also like to welcome all the new members to our CSTC team listed in the

## A Message From the Commander

New Employee Welcome on page 11.

Our work load has doubled or tripled and we've only just begun! I understand how hard you are all working, but I ask you to please make safety a priority in your every day activities. We've had some unfortunate accidents in the last three months, and every time we lose someone – whether a Soldier or a civilian employee, we are losing a family member.

My sincere condolence goes to the family of one of our best employees, Chris Ward, who was one of our hard working Grounds and Roads crew at Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL).

With every new organization comes turmoil and stress. I feel your frustrations but rest assured I am doing everything in my power to get us help from upper echelons to make the CSTC concept a reality. The

Army Reserve Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Oscar Anderson will be visiting us in September and we will have his undivided attention to discuss what the CSTC needs to fulfill its mission.

On a positive note, here are some key accomplishments we've had in the last few months due to your hard work. The list is but a fraction of all that has been accomplished – keep up the good work!

Emergency Services - successfully responded to a plane crash incident (see FHL 911 story on page 3) conducted controlled burns and responded to wild-land fires with no incidents or injuries.

Environmental - brought two environmental assessments to public comment stage in support of BRAC construction actions at Moffett Field and FHL.

Human Resources - estab-

lished formal garrison policy program; 99.99% personnel hire request approvals to keep our installations operational.

Logistics - Operation Platinum Wrench completed in July with great success. MWR – upgrading FHL Bowling Center; successfully organized trips to Marine World and Sonoma Raceway; offered many free tickets to local events and attractions!

Safety - developing a Command Safety Policy; organized a Family Safety Day (see page 9).

Training - 50% completion of tactical training base Piojo at FHL (see Essayons article); Operation Essayons a success.

Other good news items include significant interest from USARC G-7 to establish a Combat Support Training Complex at FHL, significant interest from USARC in

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Command Sergeant Major Notes

I have been on station for two months now and have met most of the CSTC employees, tenants and others. If I have overlooked anyone, please let me know: (925) 875-4649.

Congratulations to Staff Sgts (P) Wiggins and Hale. Both AGR Soldiers were recently selected for promotion to Sgt. 1st Class.

I want to thank Sgt. Maj. Graham and the FHL Soldiers and civilians who hosted a NCO Professional Development class and administered an AGR junior promotion board in early August. Their professional-

ism and hospitality are outstanding.

On a safety note - I ask that everyone give safety more thought during every day activities. Try not to become complacent. We all have driven a stretch of road but didn't recall any of the details. Accidents can happen at any time, but don't let your mind go into cruise control.

The ever changing Army has important changes regarding height/weight and APFT standards. Soldiers who fail height/weight or APFT will still be deployment eligible. Soldiers who

fail height/weight and or APFT at Institutional Training Courses (including OES, WOES, NCOES and functional courses beyond IMT for both AC/RC) will have the statement "Marginally achieved course standards" entered on their DA Form 1059. The 1059 will be held by the institution until the Soldiers O5 level commander/Command Sgt. Maj. verifies the Army standard has been met. Please refer to the 10 Aug 2007 memo from the DA G3/5/7 for more details.

Another change is that the Army, AGR, ARNG and



**Command Sgt. Major  
Rock A. Orozco**

USAR are now under one regulation for enlisted promotions. Of significance, promotable AGR SPC now must appear before a promotion board. Please refer to AR 600-8-19 for more details.

# The US Army Combat Support Training Center (CSTC)

is the Army's newest training center dedicated to providing premier pre-mobilization training sites for Combat Support and Combat Service Support units. The CSTC will be for the Reserve components what the NTC and JRTC are for the active-Army.

The CSTC provides training facilities and maneuver space to support technical and tactical training, weapons qualification, classroom instruction, and the capability to conduct collective training for up to brigade-sized units. It also supports joint, multi-component, and interagency training by providing such invaluable training assets as an adaptable, six-mile-long, 360-degree convoy live-fire course, urban training environments, and logistics support bases like the ones being used in the theaters of operations.

The CSTC also provides the full complement of

standard weapons qualification ranges, a C-17 capable assault landing strip, and an active heliport that can accommodate up to 36 helicopters at a time.

The first of three emerging Army Reserve training centers, the CSTC in California is the premier CS/CSS training center for the Western region of the United



Air Force stock photo

The Air Force is testing airstrips around the nation to find out how various dirt runways perform under the load of C-17 aircrafts (above). Schoonover Airstrip at Fort Hunter Liggett is one of the test sites.



## TRAINING - The Ultimate Weapon

States. Two other CSTCs are expected to stand up over the next few years - one at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin and the other at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

The Western CSTC encompasses four separate, very diverse, and geographically dispersed DoD installations located in the northern and central part of the state. The headquarters at Camp Parks in Dublin, consolidates the base operations, training facilities, and housing assets of Fort Hunter Liggett, Camp Parks, Moffett Field, and B.T. Collins.

Fort Hunter Liggett is the largest Army Reserve installation with more than 160,000 acres of unencroached mountains, valleys, rivers, plains, and forests that are ideal maneuver areas for today's brigade-based Army.

Camp Parks is strategically located to service more than 250 Reserve component units of more than 20,000 Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers.

Moffett Field, located in Mountain View, will become home to the new 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Readiness and Sustainment Command Headquarters, and a Armed Forces Reserve Centers .

B.T. Collins, located in Sacramento, is home to the U.S. Army High Tech Training Center.

Today, the deployment of Army Reserve units is no longer the exception - it is the rule. And it is the CSTC's mission to provide the premiere training center to validate Soldiers' readiness prior to being alerted for mobilization.

*This is an excerpt of article in the Fall Army Reserve Magazine.*



Fort Hunter Liggett's 12-building MOUT site is now open for business. With an exploding gas station, two concussion/blast generators and debris launchers, it offers a variety of urban convoy training opportunities.

Photo by Art Watson, DPT



*(Essayons - Continued from page 1)*

or bivouac sites for company and battalion-size units.

“It’s a win-win situation for the engineers and for the garrison because the engineers get to actually utilize their MOS and the post will have a tactical training base that will benefit thousands of other customers,” said Col. Scott Wood, CSTC Commander.

Design engineers from the 802<sup>nd</sup> Facilities Eng. Det. (FED) based in Denver, Colorado designed the layout of TTB Piojo, and will provide quality assurance for the construction project. According to Maj. Peloquin, Project Officer for TTB construction, “It’s great to see our designs come to life. The engineer units have made significant progress during Operation Essayons towards completing the construction of TTB Piojo.”

TTB Piojo is one of two tactical training bases to be built before June 2007, and a potential third base following that.

“The TTBs are part of a master plan to build up the infrastructure at CSTC sites in order to provide a premier training experience for Reserve Soldiers and other customers,” said Maj. David Phillips, Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security. Other construction projects at FHL include the enhancement of the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site and the Convoy Live Fire Range.

The 926<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. based in Birmingham, Alabama, constructed an entry control point and poured the 11 concrete slabs that will support the mobile kitchens, dining and laundry tents.



Photo by Army Phillips

Construction of helipad requires teamwork and precision.

more than five acres of gravel area for tents and roads. The battalion also installed a fence which pre-

for the tactical training portion of Essayons.

“We did a lot of concrete work [at FHL]...great training because that is what’s done in theatre,” said Pvt. Michael Smith, 244<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn.

The 699<sup>th</sup> Eng. Co. based in Puerto Rico constructed the ammunition holding area using concrete and masonry blocks.

The 277<sup>th</sup> Eng. Co. based in San Antonio, Texas paved the asphalt safety perimeters around the helipads, and the roads and parking lot at the Range Control area.

TTB Piojo will have more than 200,000 square feet for living tents, more than 48,000 square feet for dining areas, more than 7,000 square feet for MWR areas, eight tactical operation centers (TOCs), eight shower points, 10 latrine areas, a water pumping station and water storage area, maintenance area, parking lot, and two helipads.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better training experience,” said Lt. Col. Mark Snoozy, 379<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. Acting Commander. “It was one of the best combat effects training I’ve ever had...the engineering projects were realistic and diverse, and the meals were great.”



Photo by Sgt. Eric Hill, 926th Eng. Group

Soldiers dismounted and securing perimeter after enemy ambush at Convoy Live Fire Course.

They also contributed to the efforts begun by the 244<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. to haul material for

vented erosion into the bordering stream during construction operations.

The 279<sup>th</sup> Eng. Det. based in Missoula, Montana installed electrical wiring in MILVANS (storage containers), poured concrete pads, and made many MOUT site improvements.

The 244<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. based in Fort Collins, Colorado, built all the internal roads for the TTB, poured two concrete helipads, and placed the gravel base for the living and maintenance areas. They also played the OPFOR (opposing forces)



Photo by Sgt. Eric Hill, 926th Eng. Group

Evacuating (simulated) casualties after enemy ambush.



More than 850 Army Reserve Soldiers from 17 units around the country spent two-weeks at FHL undergoing rigorous training to maintain their warrior skills.

The units training were mainly from the 63rd RRC and its major subordinate commands including the 6045th GSU from San Jose. The

91st Division (Training Support) provided the observer controllers and trainers for the exercise.

The 63rd RRC has about 12,000 Soldiers throughout California, Arizona and Nevada with a mission to provide medical, logistical and communications support to the active-Army. To date, the 63rd RRC has deployed more than 100 units and about 5,000 Soldiers in support of Global War on Terrorism. (Source: 63rd RRC news release)

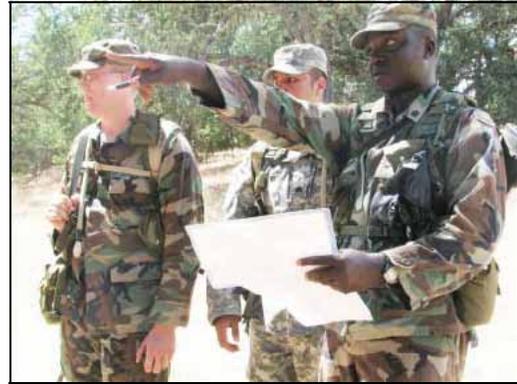


Photo by Master Sgt. Ted Barimus

Pfc. Jason Zant, Sgt. Eduardo Acosta and Spc. Oliver Ojih, search for points marked on their map in the Land Navigation course.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kent Ambrose, 63rd RRC



Spc. Alison Wilkins from the 363rd Medical Minimal Care Detachment, takes aim at the 150 meter pop-up target at the weapons qualification range with her M16 A2.



*“Providing support often means being on the front lines, shoulder to shoulder with ground fighting forces in the middle of the most hostile areas of the fight. One week you are a teacher, accountant, police officer, mom or grocery clerk, the next week you Army Reserve unit is called up and you report for duty...” - Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock, 63rd RRC Commander*



Spc. Gloria Whitehead, 91st Division

Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Pernol, master gunner for 3rd Brigade, 91st Division (Training Support), shows Maj. Gen. Bruce E. Zukauskas, 91st Division Commander, (left) a Warlock jamming device -- the newest technology for U.S. troops in avoiding being hit by a IED.

Photo by Amy Phillips



Chief Warrant Officer Brian Harris of WARISC giving a class on Cultural Awareness which covered Arab culture, Islam, culture of terrorism, and overviews of Iraq and Afghanistan.



Spc. Gloria Whitehead, 91st Division

Sgt. Marcus Green of the 304th Transportation Co., throwing a grenade at a designated target.

By Staff Sgt. Catherine Pauley, 91<sup>st</sup> Division Public Affairs Office



# Convoy Lanes Training Prepares Soldiers for Real-world Challenges

Springfield's 304<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., under the leadership of Cpt. Eric Slover, has been participating in Operation Pacific Survivor, a two-week training exercise at Fort Hunter-Liggett.

The exercise trains Soldiers on individual and crew-served weapons, land navigation, field survival skills, law of land warfare and cultural awareness – all skills Soldiers need to handle in situations they could encounter when they are deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

The major event, however, is the two-day convoy lanes training. This exercise teaches Soldiers how to handle different situations while driving in a convoy in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

The Soldiers encounter civilians on the battlefield portraying both friendly and aggressive villagers; different forms of improvised explosive devices; and blocked and unblocked ambushes. The Soldiers also have to react to gunfire: both they and the "villagers" have weapons and blank ammunition for the exercise.

Maj. Dave Halen and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Valentino Vaughn, with 2-360 Training Support Battalion, 91<sup>st</sup> Division, were the major architects of the convoy lane complete with four Iraqi villages: Arbil, Wasit, Maysan and Dhi Qar.

Sgt. Marcus Green of Springfield said, "I loved the training. It was slow starting off because no one knew what to expect. After we got it in motion, we were rocking and rolling." Green, a Persian Gulf War veteran



According to Lt. Col. Robert Hartley, 2-360th Training Spt Bn Cdr, 42 civilians were staged throughout the Convoy Live Fire route, and the convoy commander had to make decisions to engage or not engage as he worked his way through these hazards on the battlefield.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kent Ambrose, 63rd RRC

(Marine Corps), also was in Iraq with the 325<sup>th</sup> Transportation during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"In this exercise, the first couple of villages were friendly but the other villages were more aggressive,"

Green said. "It brought back memories from being in Iraq."

Spc. Raymond Royal also of Springfield was part of Operation Enduring Freedom when he was on active duty and spent time in Afghanistan. He said the interaction with the civilians on the battlefield during this exercise was very similar to Afghanistan.

"The people in Afghanistan would seem happy and nice but after a couple of

vehicles in the convoy would go by, the villagers would get a little upset and start throwing rocks at us," Royal

said. "The opposition forces like to blend in with the civilians." "Convoy training is so critical at this time because it saves Sol-

diers' lives in pursuit of accomplishing their mission during Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom," 2-360 Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Robert G. Hartley said. "I understand that 24 percent of the current statistics of the casualties in Iraq are IED-related injuries."

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Benjamin Pernol of Stockton adds to the convoy training with his IED "petting zoo." His collection of improvised explosive devices is designed to

familiarize Soldiers with the deadly IEDs that are now the No. 1 killer on the Iraq battlefield.

"Our main focus is IEDs and keeping Soldiers up to date on changes to IED strategies," Pernol said. "A lot of Soldiers that go to Iraq tell us that getting shot at with small arms fire is nothing compared to driving down that road and not knowing when an IED is going to go off."

Maj. Gen. Bruce E. Zukauskas, 91<sup>st</sup> Division Commander, visited the 160,000-acre training site and liked the fact there are snakes and scorpions to contend with. "The snakes and scorpions are real life IEDs. You think about it. It's unplanned and unscheduled but it says you need to be aware where you are sitting and training because they are around."

Zukauskas also noted the importance of the convoy training. "Whatever military specialty you have, you could be on the front lines. There are no real front lines in this war. Once you leave the forward operating base or rear areas there are no real front lines," he said. "It doesn't matter if you are a member of the band, truck driver or quartermaster. We are all Soldiers first. And that is what is important."

The Soldiers of the Springfield unit know the importance of teamwork and getting the mission done, too. "There is no 'I' in 'team,'" Green said. "It is all a one-team effort. Our mission is to provide for the people (in Iraq or Afghanistan) and teamwork is how we get the job done 110 percent."

*"Convoy training is so critical at this time because it saves Soldiers' lives..."*  
Lt. Col. Robert G. Hartley,  
2-360 Bn Cdr



## FHL 911: Teamwork At Its Best

Photo by FHL Firefighter Matthew Brown



Incident Commander/Fire Chief Patrick Reid and Los Padres National Fire Chief Mike Kremke planning ways to contain the fires caused by the mishap.

By Amy Phillips

On June 26 at approximately 11:15 am, a mid-air collision of two single-seated Navy F18 Hornets occurred over Stone Valley at FHL.

According to a Navy press release, the jets were part of Strike Fighter Squadron 125 from Lemoore Naval Air Station on a routine air-to-air intercept training mission. One of the pilots ejected from the Hornet and was in good condition but

the other pilot is deceased.

“...time to put the rubber to the road!” said Incident Commander, and Fire Chief, Patrick Reid.

Eyewitness and emergency responders immediately called 911 and got the ball rolling. Within minutes FHL was buzzing with emergency responders, range control staff, and just about everybody who heard of the incident. An Incident Command Post was established and managed by Chief Reid.

“Everyone remained calm and professional throughout the disaster response. They knew their roles and performed superbly. I couldn’t be prouder of our team at FHL,” said Site Manager Mark Hamelin.

Not wanting to take any chances in the middle of the fire season, Chief Reid immediately reacted by sending crews to several likely impact areas. The U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fire also answered the call for help by providing crews, equipment, and engines. A California Highway Patrol aircraft was enroute to provide air reconnaissance to locate the impact site but was called off because ground crews were able to quickly locate the site.

Wildfires erupted at the two impact sites in the Stone Valley and Ruby Ridge areas which eventually burned approximately 550 acres of grass and brush.

“I saw that the aluminum body of the jet had melted and run down the hill because the heat was so intense, it looked like lava flow,” said Chief Environmental Officer Gary Houston.

After evaluating the crash sites, Houston also stated that there are no environmental hazards or concerns for wildlife from the incident.

Range Control had communication with the other pilots from Fighter Squadron 125 and was able to alert them of the incident. The Safety Office reported the incident to the Aviation Safety Center at Fort Rucker and the Federal Employee Assistance Program (EAP). When the dust settled, the EAP provided a Critical Incident Debriefing to people who were involved in the incident. FHL Garrison provided housing and food service to all the emergency responders.

The FHL Police Department (PD) provided traffic control, site security and

(See FHL 911, page 9)

*“...time to put the rubber to the road!”  
said Incident Commander/ Fire Chief, Patrick Reid.*



## 4/104<sup>th</sup> Division Change of Command

On July 9, Col. Elizabeth M. Damonte of Redwood City assumed command of the 4th Brigade, 104th Division (Institutional Training) headquartered at Camp Parks.

Col. Damonte has more than 10 years of active duty military service and has recently served in Afghanistan. She is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and holds degrees from University of California, Davis, and Ohio State University.

The brigade conducts advanced individual training in the areas of personnel, finance, postal, transportation, quartermaster, and medical support, and has units in Dublin, Pasadena, Sierra Army Depot California, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Helena, Montana.



Photo by Don Sundius

Col. Elizabeth Damonte accepts Guidon from Maj. Gen. Terrill Moffett



## Firehouse Dedication Dave Small Honored

Photo by Rafael Tinsay, Bay Area TSC



On July 21, more than 80 family and friends gathered at the Camp Parks Firehouse to witness the unveiling of the plaque which dedicates the building to Mr. David Small, Camp Parks Director of Public Works from 1994 to 2003. Mr. Small oversaw the construction of many major buildings on post, such as the Firehouse, the 91<sup>st</sup> Division Headquarters and the Western Army Reserve Intelligence Support Center.

## Thanks Infineon Raceway!

Photo by Satsumi Arnett



On July 29, Mrs. Martha Crockett of Infineon Raceway was presented a Camp Parks certificate of appreciation for providing free tickets to their events for Soldiers. An autographed photo of the Army car with driver Tony Schumacher is displayed at the Camp Parks Recreation Center. (Submitted by Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Arnett, WARISC)

## Americans Can Do More to Improve Road Safety

**"Every year this country experiences a national tragedy that is as preventable as it is devastating."**

**Secretary Mineta**

Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta declared highway traffic deaths a "national tragedy" and called on all Americans to respond by wearing safety belts, using motorcycle helmets and driving sober.

According to a preliminary report from the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 43,200 died on the nation's highways in 2005, up from 42,636 in 2004. Injuries dropped from 2.79 million in 2004 to 2.68 million in 2005, a decline of 4.1 percent. Fifty-five percent of passenger vehicle occupants who died in 2005 were unbelted.

"Every year this country experiences a national tragedy that is as preventable as it is devastating," said Secretary Mineta. "We have the tools to prevent this tragedy – every car has a safety belt, every motorcycle rider should have a helmet and everyone should have enough sense to never drive while impaired".

The report projects the eighth straight increase in motorcycle fatalities. In 2005, 4,315 motorcyclists died, a 7.7 percent increase. In 2004, there were 4,008 motorcycle fatalities, the report said. Mineta added that the majority of passen-

ger vehicle occupants who died in 2005 were unbelted, despite the fact that safety belt use is at an historic high of 82 percent nation wide.

- Overall alcohol-related fatalities increased 1.7 percent from 16,694 to 16,972.
- Passenger car fatalities dropped 1.8 percent while light truck occupants killed increased by 4.3 percent.
- Pedestrian deaths increased slightly, from 4,641 to 4,674.
- Fatalities from large truck crashes increased slightly from 5,190 to 5,226.
- The number of registered vehicles increased from 238 million in 2004 to 243 million in 2005.

**"We could save thousands of lives every year if everyone buckled up," said Jacqueline Glassman, NHTSA acting administrator.**

*This is an excerpt from a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration press release. For more info go to the NHTSA web site: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov> (Submitted by Harriet Grindstaff, Safety Office)*

**SALUTE TO ARMED FORCES NIGHT**

Cleveland Indians vs Oakland A's

September 20  
7:05 pm

Oakland Stadium

For more information call (510) 638-4627

*(FHL 911 - Continued from page 7)*

support to fire fighters until the fire was extinguished. Security of the site was turned over to the Navy Security Team upon their arrival.

"FHL was very cooperative. The base provided...outstanding support...special thanks to Mark, Ron, Art, Gary, and Joe," said Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Sullivan, Material Maintenance Control Officer for VFA 125. The Navy agreed to pay for all costs associated with the incident.

The fires were contained at approximately 2100 hours and completely out at 0800 hours the next morning.

"Working long hours in extreme heat is part of being a firefighter at FHL fire dept. It's exhausting work, but when you lay down to sleep you know you did your job and you did it well," said firefighter Matthew Brown.

In total, 95 firefighters, 11 engines, and many other types of equipment were used to contain the fire caused by the impact. More than 50 news outlets covered the incident.

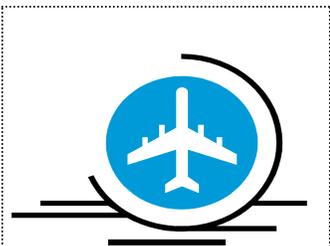
"Emergency operations were a success because everyone worked as a TEAM," said CSTC Commander Col. Wood.

*(Commander's Message - Continued from page 2)*

moving most Civil Affairs/ Psychological Operations training to FHL, grand opening of Wescoat Village housing at Moffett Field, and a \$30,000 donation from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for habitat improvement at Fort Hunter Liggett.

Your hard work pays off - read the letter on page 11 from one of our happy customers.

In closing, I'd like to sincerely thank you all for your continued dedication. YOU are making history with every action you take. Together, WE are building the first ever Combat Support Training Center. I ask for your patience, as good things do not come easy. It is important that we keep a united front, and work together as a TEAM to realize our vision to become "The premiere CS/CSS training installation in the Western United States."



**Traveling Outside the US?**

Contact Alan Brown for Foreign Travel Brief (925) 875-4290

**Camp Parks Firefighter Wins Silver Medal**



Photo and story by Don Sundius

Brandon Yamasaki, a four year veteran of the Camp Parks Fire Department competed with firefighters from Crescent City to San Diego in the 2006 California

Firefighters Olympics during July 18-24. Brandon was one of 100 firefighters in the surfing competition.

With his Short Board polished to perfection, he was ready for whatever the ocean had to offer. Brandon has been surfing since he was 10. He grew up on the Santa Cruz beach and is a self proclaimed "Beach Rat".

The competition was two days, double elimination format, with four heats; top three surfers in each heat advancing.

Brandon took second and brought home the Silver, a Marin County firefighter took the Gold and a Bakersfield firefighter (Do they have surf in Bakersfield?) took the Bronze.

**Congratulations Brandon!**

**Did you know? Camp Parks was originally a Navy base.**

Camp Parks is named after Rear Admiral Charles W. Parks, CEC, USN. Commissioned in 1943, it was built as a Navy Base during World War II, and was home to the Navy Seabees. Today, only a small unit of Seabees remain at Camp Parks.

Adjacent to Camp Parks to the east, laid Camp Shoemaker and the U.S. Naval Hospital Shoemaker, also built during the war. The three Navy bases laying side by side were called "Fleet City."

Camp Parks has also been used as the County of Alameda County Jail and a Job Corps Training Center, U.S. Air Force installation, and in July 1959, became an Army post.

The Camp Parks History Center houses military artifacts dating from WWI and is open for public viewing. The Center is operated by volunteers and is open on Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm. The Center is also available upon request - contact the Public Affairs Office at (925) 875-4636.

Photo by Art Hazebrook, FHL ITAM



A yellow star-thistle specific herbicide (Transline®) will be applied from a helicopter to newly emerging plants in the spring of 2007 when the plants are young and vulnerable.

## The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Donates \$30,000 to FHL

\$64,000 have been provided by funds collected from the sale of hunting permits on FHL. These conservation funds support a larger Dept. of Army Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) project that was initiated in 1999 to control yellow star-thistle on FHL.

About 22,000 acres of grassland and oak savannah habitat on FHL are infested with yellow star-thistle which negatively affects the suitability of FHL for military training. Through this partnership effort, approximately 5,100 acres will have been treated using a combination of the Dept. of Army's ITAM, Fish and Wildlife Conservation, and RMEF dollars.

The yellow star-thistle control project will begin in September with a prescribed fire to remove dead herbaceous plant material from the project areas, followed by an application of a herbicide in the Spring.

Past treatments with this combination of prescribed fire and herbicide application have resulted in near 100% success in eliminating yellow star-thistle from treated areas.

*This is an excerpt from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation news release submitted by Gary Houston, Environmental Office.*

On July 17, The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation held its annual California Project Advisory Committee Meeting at Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) and approved a \$30,000 grant to treat 1,987 acres of grassland to control yellow star-thistle, an inva-

sive weed that has negative affects on habitat value for military training and for wildlife.

This grant is the fourth in a series of FHL habitat improvement projects since 2002 - RMEF grants total \$70,400. Matching funds of

## Labor Day, a day for the American Worker

By Harriet Grindstaff, Safety Office

Just what is Labor Day and why is it important to the Soldiers and employees of the CSTC.

September 5, 1882, 114 years ago, the first Labor Day observance was held in New York but it is unclear who originally founded Labor Day. Some people believe it was Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor. Others believe it was Matthew Maguire, a machinist serving as a secretary with the Central Labor Union in New York. What is not disputed is that Labor Day was

founded by Labor organizations as a holiday for the working people.

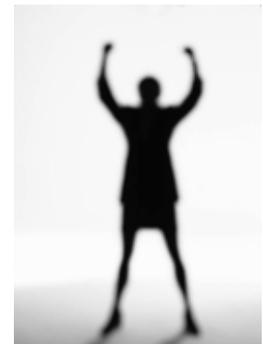
In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday. Oregon became the first state to pass into law, Labor Day, on February 21, 1887. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

The first Labor Day holidays were generally street parades followed by a festival for the recreation of the workers and their families. Speeches by prominent

men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday.

The importance of Labor Day is that it is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well being of our country.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation



pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership -- the American worker.

It is the nation's strength, freedom and leadership that the Soldiers and employees of the CSTC take an Oath to support and defend. We too are American workers and this is our holiday.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor*



*These girls got a first-hand feel of how heavy firefighter gear is.*



*Participants having fun at the Arts & Crafts booth.*



*Sylvia Russell with CYS, moonlighting as a face painter.*

## FHL Family Safety Day

On July 29, about two dozen children learned the importance of personal safety by avoiding strangers, identifying potentially harmful wildlife on post and received their very own identification kit. Participants also enjoyed a hot dog lunch, arts and crafts, had their face painted, and got to meet Smokey and McGruff.



All photos by Amy Phillips



*McGruff the Dog took a break from crime fighting and played a little ball with a little tyke.*



*FHL Sgt. Maj. Kevin Graham handed out Certificates of Safety at the end of the day to all the children that attended.*



## New CSTC Deputy Commander

**Lt. Colonel  
John D. Cushman**

Lt. Col. John D. Cushman comes to the CSTC from Brockport, New York, where he was the Professor of Military Science and Battalion Commander for the State University of New York, College at Brockport's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

Lt. Col. Cushman holds a BS degree in Public Relations, and a MS in Administration.

Lt. Col. Cushman has served in a variety of command and staff positions in his 19 years of service: Platoon Leader, C Co. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 35<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment at Fort Carson, Colo., Co. Commander of Support Co. in the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula as part of the Multinational Force and Observer's, and Operations Of-

ficer for the DCS, G3 at the 90<sup>th</sup> RRC, to highlight a few.

His military awards and decorations include: the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; the Joint Service Commendation Medal; the Army Commendation Medal; the Joint Service Achievement Medal; the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the National Defense Service Medal; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Hourglass; the Army Service Ribbon; the Overseas Ribbon w/Arabic Numeral 2; the Multinational Force and Observer's Ribbon w/Arabic Numeral 3; and the Parachutist Badge.

Lt. Col. Cushman hails from Patchogue, New York is married and has one son.

## Welcome to the CSTC Family!

Lt. Col. John Cushman, Deputy Commander  
Lt. Col. Vivian Shafer, Staff Judge Advocate  
Alan Brown, Security Manager  
Amy Phillips, Public Affairs Officer  
Christina Cushman, CYS Admin. Assistant  
Daniel Navoa, FHL Recreation Aid  
James Enzor, FHL Custodial Worker  
John Talamayan, CP Police Officer  
Lane Stettler, FHL Utility Systems Operator  
Laura Orozco, Budget Analyst  
Leslie Elmore, DES Administrative Assistant  
Susan Winbush, DHR Assistant



## New CSTC SJA

**Lt. Colonel  
Vivian C. Shafer**

I arrived at the beginning of July and discovered an extremely diverse, interesting command. My assignment as a student at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. was dramatically different from this assignment. I traded baked oatmeal for enchiladas; text books for IMA organizational charts; and Amish horses for Burrowing owls.

My area of specialty is military personnel law, and I have served at the 84th Division (IT) and at the 88th and 99th Regional Readiness Commands.

Most people are familiar with the legal assistance area (wills, powers of attorney, and the like). As you would imagine, an office consisting of one cannot compete with a fully staffed legal office. Sadly, legal services at the CSTC will be limited.

The only legal assistance available to eligible clients, with an appointment, will be notarization services. The legal offices at Travis AFB and the Presidio at Monterey provide more robust legal assistance services.

I can provide assistance in other areas of law. If you have a query, staff your question, with accompanying documents, through your chain of command. Ensure you provide background, contact, and suspense information with your query. I will reply in a timely manner.

Given that I am the first Staff Judge Advocate in the first legal office at the CSTC, it will take me some time to establish procedures. I appreciate your patience and assistance. I look forward to providing quality legal services in my new "home station."



*Photo by Sgt. Eric Hill, 926th Eng. Group*

REGULAR HEROES - FHL Fire Dept. responds to fire started by tracer rounds in less than 10 minutes.



## Operation Platinum Wrench

*"My battalion participated in Operation Platinum Wrench for seven weeks from June through most of July at FHL this summer.*

*I wish to express my absolute pleasure with our training experience at your Post.*

*I can safely say that it was the VERY BEST experience I have had working with and training at a post in my 25 years in the Army. I have never been to a place where the ENTIRE staff on the ENTIRE post worked as hard as they did to ensure our training experience was first rate and met or exceeded my expectations as the commander.*

*The OPW DOL staff and the Range Control personnel were truly exceptional in the execution of their duties and the assistance they provided us at all times.*

*I will ensure that the 88 RRC G3 leadership knows the high quality training available at FHL and the terrific personnel you have working each and every issue as if it were their very own problem.*

*I cannot overstate the quality of your personnel and our battalion's exceptional training experience we enjoyed at your post. Thank you and please thank your staff for me."*

*Regards, Lt. Col. Tim Norton, 302<sup>nd</sup> Maint. Bn. Cdr*

## White Paper Experiment

By Chaplain Dann J. Ettner

In a certain classroom a professor took a piece of paper and taped it to the blackboard, so that the class could see it.

With a felt-tip pen, he made a circle and colored it in with black. Turning to the class, he asked, "What do you see?" One student answered, "I see a black dot." Another student replied, "I see a circle colored black." A third student said, "I see a spot on the paper." With a smile the professor said, "Do you realize that no one has yet said that they see a piece of white paper!"

Sometimes we are so hypnotized by some black spot, some negative element in our situation, that we fail to look beyond that spot to the positive elements which are also present.

I believe that this story illustrates a problem we are all plagued with. We sometimes dwell on the problems we encounter and forget all the good things that are all around us. I would like to encourage all who read this to see the "white paper" and take your eyes off of the dark spot. There is always something good to see even in the gloomiest situation.

Of course there comes a

## Greetings from Al Anbar Province, Iraq



*"I would like to sincerely thank everyone at Camp Parks for your support of our fighting men and women. We fight for freedom abroad, and our strength comes from the support we receive from people like you. It is hot and the insurgents are restless, we are winning the missions and continuing the operations. I miss everyone and look forward to returning to my duties within the PMO, and to continue serving our Camp Parks community.*

*America is a country of Faith, Honor, Courage and Commitment. Our fighting men and women work hard everyday to ensure that we fight the enemy of here and not at home. Our sacrifice is only as strong as the people we serve and the will of America to ensure that everyone shares in the gift of freedom and prosperity. Keep us in your prayers, and we will continue the fight.*

*Take care of yourself and each other."*

*Semper Fidelis, Corporal Clarence R. Watson III*

time to dwell on the "dark spot" in order to "fix it" or in order to correct the problem it presents. But don't let those problems in your job, in your family and in your life overwhelm you. Always look for the positive as well. Being able to see the "white paper" allows you to handle the "dark spots" in your life in creative and appropriate ways.

Having trouble seeing the "white paper?" You can always give me a call. Your denomination or religion is not an issue. To make it an issue would be like focusing on the "dark spot" instead of the "white paper."

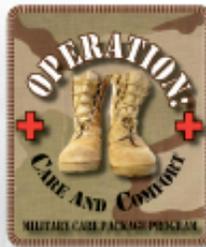
I can be reached at (831) 386-2465.



**Free  
DVD  
Kit!**

**"Talk, Listen, Connect: Helping Families during Military Deployment"** is available through Military One-Source. The DVD kits are bilingual, and will help military families and their young children (2-5 yrs old) cope with challenges during deployment and homecoming.

# TROOPFEST 2006



**American Red Cross**



## USS. HORNET

- ★ Drill Team &
- ★ Color Guard
- ★ Competition
- ★ Alameda Unified
- ★ Campbell Unified
- ★ Milpitas Unified
- ★ Oakland Unified
- ★ East Side Unified

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2006  
10AM TO 5PM**

*A benefit concert and festival to raise funds to send holiday packages to our Troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.*

- Activities:
- ★ Tour of the USS Hornet
  - ★ BBQ lunch
  - ★ 98.5 KFOX Roadies & Concert
  - ★ Drill team and color guard competitions (JR ROTC), with trophies awarded
  - ★ Sponsorship tables (corporate sponsors and military organizations)
  - ★ **Raffle Prizes:** An American made Fender Stratocaster guitar, signed by classic rock artists including Greg Kihn, Steve Miller, George Thorogood, Joe Satriani, and more!
  - ★ **Grand Prize:** win an exciting 12 day cruise for two! Holland America Line believes in the adage, "It's not just the destinations, but the journey that counts."

**Grand Finale Concert:**

Concert with local classic rock bands, featuring MidLife Vices, The Cocktail Monkeys, Doghouse Riley with special guest stars .....  
**Greg Kihn** (a special acoustical guitar set) and **Chris Jackson!**



**Ticket Prices:** Adults: \$25.00\*    Teens: 12-17: \$15    Kids: 5-11: \$7 (Kidlets: 4 and under FREE!)  
Military: \$10 (must present valid military ID to purchase)  
Raffle ticket only: 1 ticket for \$20, 6 tickets for \$100

**TROOPFEST 2006 CONTACTS:**



Julie DeMaria, Co founder  
Operation: Care & Comfort  
American Red Cross  
(408) 373-8635  
troopsupport@comcast.net  
www.operationcareandcomfort.org



1st Lt. Timothy J. Curtin, USMC, Retired  
Devil Pups Program - Marine Corps League  
408-292-2955  
timocusca2002@yahoo.com



Brian Bonafede  
Chief Financial Officer, CSR  
Customer Service Realty  
408-626-1529 Office  
brian@CSRreality.com

**TICKETS ON SALE AT:**

[www.troopfest.org](http://www.troopfest.org)

Streetlight Records  
980 South Bascom Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95128  
1-888-330-7776

Customer Service Realty  
2155 S. Bascom Ave  
Suite 120  
Campbell, CA 95008  
(408) 558-5000 Office

Price of the ticket includes tour of the USS Hornet, a BBQ lunch, all special events, and the concert. \*\$25 single purchase Adult ticket is also a raffle ticket. Military tickets are not eligible for the raffle, but include all other activities.

**AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU**  
OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN  
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[www.uss-hornet.org](http://www.uss-hornet.org)

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 Sat 1000-1500 hrs

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 Tue, Wed 1000-1700 hrs

**CLEANERS** (831) 386-4585  
 Drop off Mon/Pickup Thu

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 Sun-Sat 0800-1630 hrs

**BOWLING - Building 121**  
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 Fri, Sat 1130-2200 hrs  
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 for 24hr recording  
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 Lunch 1130-1300 hrs  
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**HACIENDA - Building 101**  
*Undergoing New Management*  
*Call MWR for more info:*  
 (925) 875-4370

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 Thurs 0900 - 1900 hrs  
 Sat 0800 - 1700 hrs  
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*Dublin*

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 Mon, Wed-Sat 1000 - 1800 hrs  
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 Laundry Serv. (BDUs only) in Wed  
 out Fri

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**\*\*\*Barber Needed\*\*\***  
 Negotiable % of sales – no other costs!  
 Call (707) 437-4633 x 640/641  
[wised@aafes.com](mailto:wised@aafes.com) or  
[chandlerl@aafes.com](mailto:chandlerl@aafes.com)

**COMMUNITY CLUB - La Vals**  
 (925) 828-5288  
 Mon 1100-1300 hrs  
 Tue-Fri 1100-2000 hrs  
 Sat 1600-2000 hrs

**FITNESS CENTER &  
 RECREATION CTR - Bldg 303**  
 (925) 875-4392  
 Mon-Fri 0500-2200 hrs  
 Sat - Sun 0500-1700 hrs  
*Rec Ctr is open until 2200 hrs on Sun*

**HISTORY CENTER - Bldg 620**  
 Open Tue 1000-1400 hrs  
 By Appointment: (925) 875-4636

**ID CARDS - Building 312**  
 (925) 875-4918 By appointment only

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week-ends: 0800 - 2300  
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## Farewell and Good Luck

Photo by Amy Phillips



Ms. Leslie Riley retires after 30 years of employment at FHL. FHL Site Manger Mark Hamelin presents Ms. Riley with a Certificate of Appreciation and Retirement Letter. She was also given a gold pocket watch from her supervisor Mark Grindstaff and an oak plaque in the shape of FHL for her dedication and service.

Photo by Amy Phillips



CSTC Commander Col. Scott Wood presents Lt. Col. Ronnie Dix the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional service during the two years he was the CSTC deputy commander. Dix will be attending the Army's War College program where he will study at the University of Texas at Austin. Mrs. Dix was presented with a CSTC Certificate of Appreciation.

### 10K Top Red T-Shirt Run

**Sept. 9 / 10 am / Sycamore Valley Park, Danville**  
Sponsored by Hats Off America, a non-profit foundation supporting families with military members that died while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. For more info contact Sparky at 925-855-1950 or visit [www.hatsoffamerica.us](http://www.hatsoffamerica.us)



MG Dean Chapter wins **Best Overall Chapter** in the World for 4th Year!

General Membership Meeting  
Sept. 23, 11:30 am, Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Reservations are required by Sept. 15:  
925-736-4738

*Join the Best and Support the Soldiers!*  
[www.ause.org](http://www.ause.org)

## Christopher Ward Remembered

On July 24, family, friends and co-workers gathered at the FHL Theatre to pay their last respects and honor to Christopher Ward, 25, who was part of the FHL Fire Department's (FD) Roads and Grounds Crew. Mr. Ward was a Maintenance Heavy Equipment Operator for almost a year, and was fatally injured during an accident while creating a fire break on a steep hill at FHL.

All stood as Firefighter Josh Cooper entered the theatre playing the bagpipes and was followed by a procession from the FD.

"Chris has a grin right now because you all embraced him like he was in the military," said Mr. Ward's Uncle "Bubba".

Chief Reid remembers Chris as a "giant gentle bear." "It's sad times when we lose one of our own, whether it is a Soldier or a civilian employee," said Col. Wood.

The FHL Fire Department presented Chris' Mother with her son's hard hat and an American Flag.

### "The Golden Guidon"

Commander.....Col. W. Scott Wood  
Director of Public Affairs.....Amy Phillips  
Public Affairs Specialist.....Don Sundius

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ATTN: Public Affairs Office  
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