

ON GUARD

163d RECONNAISSANCE WING (ANG) MARCH ARB, CALIFORNIA

November 2012

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Photo by Sergeant Gregory Solman

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Colonel Dana Hessheimer, Commander of the 163d Operations Group, briefs Brigadier General Jon Kelk, Commander of the California Air National on RPA operations and procedures.

Grizzlies Welcome New CA ANG Commander

Sergeant Gregory Solman

163d Public Affairs Office
State Military Reserve

Newly installed commander of the California Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Jon K. Kelk targeted the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing for a formal visit within days of his appointment to replace Brig. Gen. James C. Witham.

Kelk's itinerary included visiting the 196th Reconnaissance Squadron, Maintenance Group, Civil Engineering Squadron, Predator Operations Center and the Formal Training Unit, where the former F-15 Eagle fighter pilot easily controlled an MQ-1 Predator during simulated flight.

Within a few hours of arriving at March ARB, Kelk was briefed by FTU Commander Lt. Col. Matt Dutkiewicz; Operations Group Commander Col. Dana Hesseimer, CES Commander Lt. Col. Mark Moritz, Maintenance Group Commander Col. Kirby Colas, and received a tour by Tech. Sgt. Michael Adams and Tech. Sgt. Earl Rankin. Kelk also conducted a series of closed-door meetings with other officers.

Following years of command assignments and multiple deployments, Kelk joined the California ANG in July as the Assistant Adjutant General, Air, from the Missouri Air National Guard, where he had risen to Chief of Staff. He owns two pieces of military history: As a captain flying with the 58th Fighter Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, in January, 1991, Kelk shot down a MiG-29 over Iraq in Operation Desert Storm, scoring

and Southern Watch. His major assignments include a posting at Bitburg Air Base, Germany, with the 525th Tactical Fighter Squadron, as an F-15 Aircraft Commander/Instructor Pilot and—after graduating the Fighter Weapons Instructor Course—as a Squadron Weapons Officer and Chief of Weapons. He returned stateside in 1990 to become the Assistant Chief of Standardization/Evaluation for the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eglin AFB, eventually becoming the Weapons and Tactics Officer.

Kelk spent the next 21 years in the Missouri ANG, initially as an F-15 pilot with the 110th Fighter Squadron, later elevated to commander of the squadron then commander of the 131st Operations Group, and finally moving to headquarters in

Jefferson City to become Director of Operations, A-3, and Chief of Staff. In his civilian career, Kelk is an airline pilot.

When Kelk departed the Missouri ANG, his former director of staff Col. Tim Jones told the 70th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, "He's very professional, very engaged. It's California's gain, our loss."

the war's first victory in its first aerial engagement and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross. By 2006, Kelk had become the first U.S. pilot to log 4,000 hours in the F-15 A-D air superiority version. He's been awarded the Legion of Merit.

A veteran of 296 combat hours, Kelk participated in Iraq no-fly-zone enforcement operations Provide Comfort, Northern Watch,



East Bay Stand Down

Major Julian Manalo

163d Medical Group

Twenty-two Medical Group volunteers of various AFSCs participated in the East Bay Stand Down held September 10-17, 2012 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Stand Down is a military term designating that a combat unit is temporarily moved out of the field and back to base camp for rest and re-habilitation. Homeless veterans are, in some ways, comparable to soldiers in a war zone living exposed in the field, surviving by their wits with limited rations, enduring extreme conditions. Life on the street is both dangerous and debilitating and for many veterans leads to a self-generating cycle of despair and isolation. Stand Down was designed as an intervention to bring a wide range of essential services to homeless veterans, while raising their morale and awakening their motivation.

The East Bay Stand Down is a three day tent city event that served over 400 men, women and children and provided shelter, medical, dental, legal, clothing, showers, haircuts, food, counseling, employment and other needed services. Stand Down is designed to create a transformational community of participants, service providers and volunteers that is based on dignity, respect and empowerment. The event employed 1,500 to 2,000 volunteers from veteran administration, various local, state agencies, service organizations, military reserve/guard, and universities.

Some veterans of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM have found themselves in situations that have caused them to be homeless. California Department of Veteran's Affairs recognizes the need for outreach programs and information awareness to returning veterans, especially Reserve

and National Guard service members, and is working in conjunction with various State and local agencies throughout California to assist veterans transition from active duty status. The uniformed military participation, including the visible 163 MDG California Air National Guard presence, is important, and reminds them of the proud traditions and dedication that are still part of them. More than many other parts of society, the military community takes care of its own. Resources from the military, Veterans Affairs and local volunteers provide a comprehensive program for the Veterans and their families. All event participants are thoroughly screened prior to admission to ensure that they are eligible for VA services. One of the goals of the event is to place individuals and families directly into housing.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

* According to the state Department of Veteran Affairs, there are approximately 62,628 veterans living in Alameda County. In Contra Costa County, the number is 59,826.

* There are approximately 1,865,342 veterans living in California. Of those, 165,439 are women. At the East Bay Stand Down, there were 21 women in attendance.

* There are approximately 1,699,903 male veterans in California. There were 353 men in attendance at the East Bay Stand Down.

* According to Housing California, a nonprofit organization, about 26 percent of all the homeless in California are veterans. California has the highest number of homeless veterans in the U.S., according to the organization.

* 5.5 percent: Percentage of homeless vets who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan in the overall homeless population, according to the Veterans Administration.

Stats From The Air Force Safety Center

Bill Parsons

AF Chief of Ground Safety

In fiscal 2012 the Air Force lost 18 Airmen due to motorcycle mishaps.

Eleven of those 18 operators were found to be at fault. Additionally, we had two Private Motor Vehicle-Motorcycle (PMV-2) mishaps resulting in permanent total disability.

More than 200 motorcycle mishaps (Class A, B, C and D) have been recorded in the Air Force Automated Safety System for fiscal 2012. The difference between a Class C or D mishap and a fatality is a matter of inches or timing.

Sport bikes are the primary type of motorcycle involved in these fatal mishaps. Enlisted members

account for 100 percent of the fatalities with an average age of 25. Ten of the 18 were under the age of 25 and all Airmen were wearing a helmet. The majority of the mishaps involved a single vehicle mishap where the rider lost control either due to inattention, speed or misjudging a corner. Whatever the reason, human error is the leading cause of these senseless deaths.

With the fair weather remaining, riders will be trying to get as much seat time as possible before they park their motorcycles. This can lead to poor judgment and mishaps.

Please reach out to all Air Force riders and make one last push to promote safe riding. (Some suggestions on spreading this message and reaching our riders would be

through commander calls, informal discussions in units and work centers, roll calls, flyers, unit web sites and through unit motorcycle safety representatives.)

Remind our riders that with changing seasons, the weather is unpredictable and may result in severe environmental hazards.

Working together let's do all we can to find a way to encourage the use of good sound judgment and safe behavior.

I know you're doing your very best to keep our Airmen safe and I sincerely appreciate your efforts toward promoting safety and mishap prevention.

Thank you for all you do.

163D WING EVENT - 3 NOVEMBER UTA

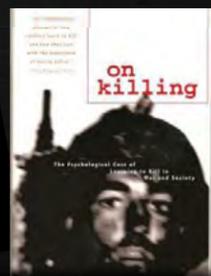


RTS Bldg.

0830 – OPS, AMXS & MXS

1030 - HQ, MDG, SFS, FSS,
CE, LRS, CF

LT. COL. DAVE GROSSMAN, U.S. Army (Ret.)



~He is a world renowned author and speaker on the subject of the warrior mindset and the effects of combat stress.

Advertisement

210th Weather Flight Dominate At Camp Roberts

Master Sgt. Carlos Coronado

210th Weather Flight

The 210th weather flight came back from their annual training at Camp Roberts as "Dominators."

The weather flight conducted a joint annual training exercise with the 40th Infantry Division at Camp Roberts, California August 2012. The flight convoyed four vehicles on a 5-hour road trip to just north of Paso Robles.

Prior to departure SrA Aaron Lay brief the unit on safety and proper convoy procedures including spacing of vehicles, signals, and use of lights. The training consisted of re-certification of weather skills such as creating visibility charts using a compass and laser range finder, radio set up, troubleshooting, and proper communication procedures; practice using weather sensors like the Kestrel 4000 and the TMQ53 weather station, practicing observing and forecasting skills, as well as exercising Army core tasks.

Army training skills encompassed setting up tents, erecting camouflage, and setting up field desks and computer work stations. Some of the Battlefield Airman skills taught by the Army were: land navigation (day and night courses) and HUMMWV training, all while the unit provided the Combat Commander with daily weather updates. The flight had some outstanding performers during this year's Annual training; here are some of the highlights.

The training encourages competition and challenges its members to hone their forecasting skills by holding a quarterly forecasters' challenge. The event was started several years ago by the unit's first Chief Master Ser-

geant Rick Thomas. The challenge consisted of which two forecasters could produce the most accurate forecast using limited data. It becomes more challenging when you are in the field with limited resources. Internet access was extremely limited so Thomas sent a hotspot device that the unit was able to work off of. The winners produced a 24-hour forecast that included wind direction and speeds, visibility and obstructions to visibility, for example fog; types of clouds, pressure tendencies, and as a tie breaker, the closest forecasted high and low temperatures would be crowned winners. This quarter's forecaster challenge winners were SrA Spencer Hancock and Michael Quiboloy. They predicted the visibility to only go down in Paso Robles to 6000 meters (4 miles). "Previous days had fog that restricted how far you could see down to ¼ mile so the 4-mile forecast was outstanding," beamed Lt Col Jeff Johnson of his winning forecasters.

Three Senior Airmen that completed the Army instructed 4-day HUMMV Course scored a perfect 100% on their final HUMMV test; Hancock, Lay, and Quiboloy.

On the Advanced day land navigation course SrA Crystal Nunez and Michael Quiboloy outshined the Army soldiers. The Army instructed the course by giving a refresher to all personnel. Each team of two persons was given a list of five coordinates, a compass and Military Grid Reference System (MGRS) map. The day promised to be another scorcher—high temperature forecasted to be 104 degrees F at Camp Roberts. Airmen and Soldiers had to carry enough water and gear to make it through this 3 to 4 hour, grueling

hike. If the Airmen and Soldiers traversed their five points exactly, then they would have traveled 3 miles. If there was any backtracking or missing waypoints the distance could easily expand to 4 or 5 miles. The first task was to correctly plot the points on their maps. The second task was to ensure a method was developed to measure off distances. Everyone was given the opportunity to pace a 100 meter track.

"You have to be consistent in your pace and remember to keep count of your steps," said SSgt Ramirez with the 40ID. "A taller soldier will take fewer steps than someone shorter. Also, if you're climbing up a hill or going down a steep incline your pace can be off."

Nunez and Quiboloy started out as the second to the last team to leave the starting point. They were required to obtain five waypoint markers at designated coordinates in a three hour time limit. Nunez and Quiboloy were the first team to arrive within the allotted time and with all markers correctly identified! Only a few teams completed the course with all five correct points; most completed the course after the three hours time limit, but did not have the required number of markers.

The Army captain in charge was very impressed when he saw both Airmen stroll in first place and he was thoroughly mortified after the second team arrived and Nunez pulled out her phone. The Capt noted "that a young Air Force woman with a teddy bear cell phone cover was able to beat all of his Soldiers which included several experienced NCO's. That's embarrassing!"

National Guard History

1948

In June of 1948, the unit received 25 F-80C "Shooting Star" aircraft. The 196h was one of the first Air National Guard Units to receive these new jets. unit, Army or Air, to serve both in the Korean and Vietnam wars.



TEAM GRIZZLY - 2013 LA MARATHON INFO!



Join the Grizzlies and run the Los Angeles Marathon. For the eleventh consecutive year, wing members have the opportunity to be part of the human chain that kicks off the race and run a marathon on March 17, 2013. The race will not fall on drill. With the race just four months away, members still have time to train. Spouses are welcome on the team, however, all participants must attempt to run the entire 26.2 miles of the race for free registration. To sign-up and/or get a complete training program for the race, contact Lt. Col. Brenda Hendricksen at (951) 655-3931 or email brenda.hendricksen.1@ang.af.mil

Lodging Procedures

To obtain lodging during a UTA, members will contact their unit POC for reservations. For any very last minute reservations (during the Friday evening, Saturday, or Sunday of UTA), members will report to the March Inn as a walk-in to seek lodging. If members need to cancel a reservation they should contact their unit POC up until the end of the duty day Friday prior to UTA. After end of duty day Friday, members will be responsible for calling the March Inn/designated Hotel to cancel their own reservation AND inform their unit POC thereafter. For any lodging emergencies, please contact the 163d Wing Lodging POC 24/7 @ (951) 208-5222.

- March Inn: (951) 655-5241
- Ayres Hotel: (951) 571-4141
- Riverside Marriott: (951) 784-8000
- Courtyard Marriott: (951) 276-1200

"NO SHOWS ARE A NO NO!"

American Indian Heritage Month

Throughout our history, American Indian and Alaska Native peoples have been an integral part of the American character. Against the odds, America's first peoples have endured, and they remain a vital cultural, political, social, and moral presence. Tribal America has brought to this great country certain values and ideas that have become ingrained in the American spirit: the knowledge that humans can thrive and prosper without destroying the natural environment; the understanding that people from very different backgrounds, cultures, religions, and traditions can come together to build a great country; and the awareness that diversity can be a source of strength rather than division.

Retraining Opportunities

- 3S0X1- Personnel Apprentice TSgt (163d RW- Headquarters)
- 3P0X1 Security Forces Apprentice SSgt (163-SFS)

Please contact MSgt Jackson Sr. Retention Office Manager for more information at DSN 447-3078, or Comm: (951) 655-3078

Deadline 30 Nov 12

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) HOTLINE

Hurts one, affects all!

951-318-0292

Wing Tour For Grizzlies!

Starting January Drill 2013, the wing will be offering tours to our members. If you are interested in getting a more in depth look at what our training and flying mission entails then these tours are for you.

A few of the highlights of the tour include:

- Predator 101 Briefing
- Tour of the FTU to include the POC and simulators

We are limiting the tours to 20 people each drill so if you are interested and have clearance from your supervisor to attend please email the PA office to get your name on the list. Tours will take place on Saturdays at 0900 and will last approximately 2 hours. For now tours will be limited to wing members only.

For reservations please email: perry.covington@ang.af.mil

163d Chaplain Corps

The Chaplain Corps team is here to help you (any religion) through any challenge, and can be reached at (951) 655-5404, Monday- Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on the duty cell phone at (951) 236-0496.

Chapel Service Schedule Protestant Service

Sunday UTA, 6:45 a.m.

Catholic Mass

Sunday UTA, 11 - 11:50 a.m. Father McNally in the Base Chapel.

Catholic Reconciliation

Sunday UTA, 12 - 12:30 p.m. following Mass in the Base Chapel.





The **ON GUARD** is proudly published for the members of the 163d Reconnaissance Wing and their families.

Commander

Col. Randall Ball

Public Affairs Office

- Lt. Col. Brenda Hendricksen
- Capt. Perry Covington
- Master Sgt. Stanley Thompson
- Tech. Sgt. Neil Ballecer
- Tech. Sgt. Joseph Prouse
- Tech. Sgt. Diane Ducat
- Tech. Sgt. Greg Solman

The **ON GUARD** is the official newsletter published by and for the members of the 163d Reconnaissance Wing, March ARB, Calif. The contents of the ON GUARD are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, DOD, Department of the Air Force or the 163 RW.

Commander's Straight talk



The Straight Talk hot line can be reached at (951) 655-4758, or feedback can be emailed to:

163rw.pa.straighttalk@ang.af.mil

UPCOMING UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLIES



Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
3-4	1-2	1-2	9-10



Contact your supervisor if you are unable to attend

Grizzlies playing it safe!



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Neil Ballecer

Lt. Col. Brenda Hendricksen conducts a CPR course in the Headquarters conference room to Fitness Assessment Testers (FAT) from across the wing as part of a certification process that allows them to conduct PT testing in thier perspective squadrons.