



**Winning a
different
kind of fight**
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play ball
with CSMR**
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WARRIOR WORDS

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

History Comes Alive For CSMR



**Veterans recall tales
of the 'old days' / 4-5**

WARD RONEY (center) in 1996 at Camp SLO



'Spirit of 1941' links us to World War II origins

The annual Holiday Ball set for Dec. 11 takes on a Forties look and sound as the California State Military Reserve looks back at its forerunner, the California State Guard.
Pages 6 and 8.



NCO PROFILE

SGT. FIRST CLASS GILBERT ARDE

AGE: 44

LIVES: Port Hueneme.

JOINED CSMR: Oct. 2007.

MOS: Training NCO.

CIVILIAN OCCUPATION: Senior insurance examiner.

FAMILY: Single.

PRIOR MILITARY SERVICE: Sergeant in the Regular Army; enlisted in 1990. Chinook Crew Chief.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE CSMR? "I joined the CSMR to continue to serve. The biggest reason is our father arrived in the U.S. on his 21st birthday and worked hard every day of his life. We [want] to protect and preserve that which our father cherished so much."

MILITARY HIGHLIGHTS: Served with the 25th Infantry and 6th Cavalry Brigade.

CSMR HIGHLIGHT: Golden Guardian, and training of CSMR and CNG troops.

MILITARY HONORS: Air Assault Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service

Ribbon, Expert Rifle Badge among others.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE CSMR?

"I enjoy the fact that the CSMR has introduced me to many professional individuals with no prior service. I am honored to work with them and among them, as well as with the prior service veterans. When the BOC classes graduate, when the mission is over, there is a sense of accomplishment, esprit de corps and camaraderie only to be had by Soldiers. It is my distinct honor to be a senior NCO that leads those very Soldiers and shares those values with them."



Make a note

Here's the schedule for the training year beginning in October 2010 for DSB, SRSC and ASGS.

Oct. 2, 2010
Nov. 6, 2010
Dec. 11, 2010
Jan. 22, 2011
Feb. 12, 2011
April 9, 2011
May 14, 2011
June 11, 2011
July 9, 2011
Aug. 13, 2011
Sept. 17, 2011

Also remember ... BNCOC is scheduled for Nov. 7, 13 and 14 at the Joint Forces Training Center in Los Alamitos.

Chaplain's Corner

Laughter best medicine

Doctors and psychologists tell us that laughter is good for us. This is undoubtedly true, because the Bible says that *"a merry heart does good, like medicine"* (Proverbs 17:22). King Solomon, the author of Ecclesiastes said this: *"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: . . . a time to weep, and a time to laugh."*

But the Scriptures make a distinction between good and bad laughter. And God disapproves of any humor that is coarse, belittles people, or makes light of immorality. (Sin is never a laughing matter.)

As professional Soldiers, it is essential that our speech, even our laughter, edifies or builds up others, and reflects well on the CSMR, our unit, and on ourselves. With the challenges we face, both personally and professionally, good laughter can help us get through even the toughest of days! The Lord reminds us, though, that one day each of us will give an account (to Him) for "every idle or careless word" we speak (Matthew 12:36).

Lord, give us a merry heart. And, help us to be discerning, so that we will laugh for the right reasons and about the right things. In all settings, may our speech and laughter encourage others and be seasoned with "salt and light." Amen!



CAPT. CHRISTOPHER FOWLER



WARRIOR WORDS

Southern Regional Support Command
COL. MARC BRESLOW
COMMANDING

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Berquist

COL. JOHN WILSON speaks to a formation at JFTB. At right is Command Sgt. Major Robert Crebbs.

Fighting, beating a different foe

By 1st Lt. Mauricio Arocha
Warrior Words

The winning battle that I am seeing Col. John M. Wilson fight is a classic warrior's challenge in modern times: on the one side is cancer and he is on the other.

When Col. Wilson, commander of the CSMR 40th DSB, first began (around March 2008) his fight with Stage 3 tonsil cancer, I watched him take it on like one would when in combat. He saw this cancer as the enemy and he marshaled all of his resources. He brought to bear all his emotional, psychological, physical and spiritual strength against this lethal foe.

From the start to the end of his fight against and ultimate victory over cancer,

I saw his clear resolve even though the doctors were surprised by how well he was doing.

The doctors apparently had never seen anything like this before. I, of course, was not surprised. After all, the cancer was matched against a Vietnam Veteran, helicopter pilot and former Marine.

Col. Wilson won this fight on his own. It was, in a sense, nothing but hand-to-hand combat.

But now there is recent word that (Ret.) Brig. Gen. Emory "Jack" Hagan (former commander of the CSMR) has the same type of cancer. And, Col. Wilson has figuratively drawn close to Hagan — as if he was jumping into a hole to show the general the way out.

So I asked the colonel: "Why jump into the same hole, when you could throw

him a rope or put a ladder down there"? Col. Wilson replied that he had gotten this cancer for a reason — he knew that he would show the general how to fight this disease.

We should all be inspired by this character-testing battle of will versus illness. Col. Wilson has shown that the power of his mind to win against overwhelming odds, coupled with his faith in our Maker, can be a winning combination.

This is perhaps a lesson of what we can all do when we set our mind to something. No matter what the fight is — from the smallest fear to the greatest life-changing challenge — we can overcome. Yes, we can overcome when we use our strength, together with God's strength, to find a way to the side of victory.

With the 'Old Breed' of the CSMR

Through decades and changes, they stayed true to the mission

By Sgt. Gregory Solman
Warrior Words

Some of the longest-serving Soldiers in the California State Military Reserve stress fellowship, camaraderie and finding a niche as reasons for staying in the service for more than two decades.

Col. Robert Bolinger, the top judge advocate with the Southern Regional Support Command since 1998, entered the State Military Reserve as a 1st Lieutenant in 1988. Bolinger, who graduated University of West Los Angeles School of Law and served in the Marine Corps Reserves, was working at Disneyland security with service veterans who recommended that he look into the CSMR. "I saw it as a pure form of service and a way to learn a different form of law," Bolinger recalls. "My brother had served in Vietnam, and it was a way to give something back to my adopted state."

Bolinger started on the legal team as an assistant (it was against the regs for him outrank the senior lawyers). After a stint with the 304th Infantry Battalion in Van Nuys, Bolinger transferred back to the JAG team's Southern Command as a Major when the Reserve reorganized.

In addition to countless routine duties for the National Guard, Bolinger's service has involved him in interesting legal cases, including the "strippergate" scandal, when a National Guard armory was used for "an old-fashioned dining in — including strippers;" defending an arrested AWOL Soldier who had officially transferred out, and investigating missing dynamite at



COL. ROBERT BOLINGER joined in 1988 as a second lieutenant.

Current photos by Staff Sergeants
Richard Bergquist and John Thompson



WARD RONEY back in the days of the old BDUs.

Camp Roberts.

A criminal defender in San Pedro, Bolinger relishes the fact that his staff includes five deputy district attorneys. It's the fellowship that's kept him interested in the Reserve for decades, an attachment that's growing in both sentiment and numbers.

Bolinger recalls when he and two colonels comprised the entire legal team. Now he manages a staff of 26. "The camaraderie I've developed," Bolinger says, "the bonding, even with my unit at the old 304th, is still there."

If the SMR boasts few long-serving NCOs, that's likely because they were once in such short supply. Having served in the Army National Guard as an intelligence analyst with the 18th Cavalry in Ontario, Master Sgt. Ward Roney joined the 1991

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version of SMR as an E-5 SGT administrative specialist.

“In those days, Roney recalls, the CSMR “had fewer than eight NCOs...I remember when there were 35 full-bird colonels trundling about Camp Roberts,” Roney laughs. “They were promoting them by the pound.” In that environment, Roney rose quickly, promoted to acting 1st Sergeant in 1993 and acting Command Sergeant Major in 2000.

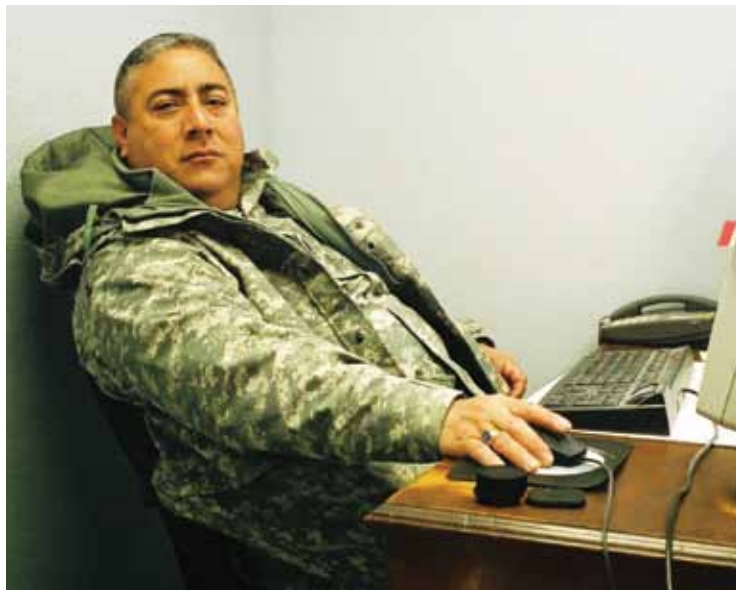
Roney barely survived those early years. “It was frustrating,” he recounts. “You’d come to a drill and not do anything but sit around and drink coffee. But Earl Smith, then a captain, kept me interested.” Roney was then working as a deputy sheriff in Riverside alongside Smith.

After the SMR was briefly dissolved and reorganized, Roney found it much improved. “A lot of undesirables were not invited to return. More people were coming in as NCOs. Promotions were being modeled after the National Guard.” After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Roney “just volunteered to do anything” during SRP at Camp Roberts and soon switched from admin to medical side. An EMT for 35 years, Roney has mostly worked in the 91W MOS (medical).

“Sometimes you have to create your own opportunities and relationships,” says Roney. “Forging good relationships with Guardsmen will pay dividends. That’s your payoff.”

Lt. Col. Fredrick Tribble joined the CSMR in 1986 as a 2nd Lieutenant working as an MP, as he was a patrol officer in Fountain Valley.

A Navy veteran (“We did not part company as friends,” he says), Tribble had studied to become a pastor at Pacific Christian, “got to graduation day and realized I didn’t



MASTER SGT. WARD RONEY now.



LT. COL. FREDERICK TRIBBLE began in 1986.

want to go into ministry.” He ended up in industrial quality control and manufacturing, became a policeman, and now teaches business management at CSU/Long Beach.

Those paths obliquely led Tribble to the CSMR. “After having left law enforcement in 1983, I’d always had a desire to do something in public service—possibly a holdover from the ministry,” Tribble says.

“Wanting to help in disasters, that’s really me. When it looks like the world has caved in on itself, that’s when I’m at my best.” He was hanging out at the National Guard booth at the Orange County Fair when the Soldiers there directed him to SMR recruiters.

Now commander of the 3rd Battalion military police, Tribble believes that the emphasis in the Reserve should be on disaster relief.

In that sense, he says, the Reserve can be of more use to the Guard in that little of their training is devoted to disaster response. “I’m a believer in the CSMR,” Tribble says. “In 24 years, I have not seen it. But it is on the road to becoming what it can be.”

'Spirit of '41' will connect CSMR to its WWII heritage

By Staff Sgt. Jim Tortolano
Warrior Words

Harry Truman once said "The only thing new under the sun is the history you don't know." Members of the California State Military Reserve will get a chance to connect with their history and kick off the holiday season with the annual holiday ball on Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim.

All CSMR Soldiers past and present are invited.

"It's a chance for everyone to have a good time, learn a little about our heritage and to meet and get to know members of other sections you might not have had a chance to talk with during the year," said Lt. Col. James Adair, public information officer for the Southern Regional Support Command.

The event is themed "The Spirit of '41" in reflection of the fact that the CSMR's forerunner – the California State Guard – was activated on January 1941, making this year's event nearly coincide with the birth of the Golden State's defense force.

Before World War II was done, over 75,000 Soldiers served in the CSG, guarding bridges and refineries and other strategic locations in California, freeing the National Guard and regular Army to take on the German and Japanese overseas.

In addition to the thousands of riflemen the CSG fielded, the State Guard also had aerial and naval components to patrol and defend the state's long shoreline and vast geography.

"It's the 70th anniversary of the CSMR," said Adair. "We can celebrate the tradition of citizens on the home front defending their state and see how that's evolved into the 20th century."

In keeping with the anniversary theme, there will be World War II-era music, memorabilia, and possibly even vehicles. Soldiers can help celebrate the occasion by wearing WW II dress uniforms, with proper rank and CSMR brass. Or, you

can wear Army blue or Class A uniform, or semi-formal dress.

The Phoenix Club is located at 1340 South Sanderson Ave. The event will begin at 1730 hours. The event is sponsored by the Order of Constantine the Great and Saint Helen, in conjunction with the commanders of the Southern Regional Support Command.

Tickets are only \$45 each; reservation forms are available at the front counter of the CSMR S-1 offices at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, or on the back cover of this Warrior Words newsletter.

Please make checks payable to the Sunburst Fund and mail to LTC James Adair, 32 San Tomas, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688. For more information, you can contact Lt. Col. Adair at jimadair@cox.net.



CALIFORNIA STATE GUARD
Soldiers stood watch at the Golden Gate Bridge in 1941. The CSG was the forerunner of the CSMR and enrolled over 75,000 Soldiers.

SOLDIERS FROM THE CSMR were hosted at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on Sept. 18. as the Dodgers played the Colorado Rockies.



Photo by Capt. Ronald Alexander

Dodgers, CSMR a winning team

By Capt. Ronald Alexander
Warrior Words

Soldiers from the California State Military Reserve and Army National Guard pulled into the outlined parking lots that surround the blue-draped and sunlit Dodger Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 18.

Escorting their wives, family members,

and friends, the group contained as many as 40 smiling faces.

Every Soldier dressed out in his/her ACU's with beret. The group approached the third base side of the stadium. Each member received their tickets, moved toward their seats, and in unison stood, smartly and gave a hand salute to the American flag, listening

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Coping with the unthinkable: the WMD threat

By Staff Sgt. John Thompson
Warrior Words

You're in a multi-level shopping mall and suddenly you smell a sweet odor, a scent completely out of place for this environment. You look around and see people with breathing problems, sweating, weakness and nausea. What would you do in this situation?

Well, if you were attending the August Weapons of Mass Destruction class, taught by Lt. Col. John Goodnight and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rolando Quiambao, you would know exactly what to do.

That odor would probably be that of Sarin gas, which is 200 times more toxic than chlorine, but is heavier than air and its effects can be mitigated by leaving the area as quickly as possible.

This eight-hour course explained the various aspects of the types of warfare



Photo by Staff Sergeant John Thompson

LT. COL. JOHN GOODNIGHT speaks on weapons of mass destruction.

that unfortunately, we in Western society are increasingly facing in this age of small groups of terrorists bringing their dirty deeds to the general population.

There are many ways in which terrorists create terror and uncertainty in a population. They may employ chemical and biological agents, radiological and nuclear weapons and explosives.

Fortunately, the one major fear we all have in the back of our minds, that of nuclear weapons, such as those pictured in novelist Tom Clancy's book and film, "The Sum Of All Fears," are not very likely to be employed due to

their expense and complexity. People who have a difficult time setting fire to a simple fuse in a running shoe are not likely to be able to set off a nuke.

It was pointed out, and can be verified by historical fact, that to date, terrorists have relied upon chemical explosives for their maximum psychological effect and for the immense media publicity.

Any CSMR Soldier seeking more information on this subject should either be alert for another offering of this excellent course or obtain a copy of the Department of Homeland Security Student Manual, AWR-160.

Dodgers

Continued from page 6

to 1st. Sergeant Juan M. Covarrubias direct recovery.

Although the Dodgers couldn't pull off a victory against the visiting Colorado Rockies, the CSMR and Guard stayed throughout the contest laughing, talking loudly, eating nachos and cheese steaks and along with cold drinks and hot dogs.

Then, without notice, Spec. Jonetta Greene and then Covarrubias found themselves in full view of the audience on the giant screen out above the center field bleachers. Thousands of fans began to yell and cheer throughout the stadium.

The fans at home and in Colorado just might have heard the loudest sustained yell during the entire game. Dodger fans; wait till next year! Batter up!

The Mastering of MEMS

During August, the Los Angeles Fire and Police Departments, in support of professional development, offered a four-day advanced course that prepares participants to effectively deliver the Emergency Management Institute's ICS curricula instituted in the CSMR MEMS System.

Participants in the class met in the historic Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center, located within the grounds of Elysian Park. The normal length in time to complete L-449 T-t-T encompassed four days.

Andy Neiman and Ron Reynolds acted as principal instructors. Both instructors, active lieutenants, integrated their LAPD and EM experiences to give a knowledgeable and inventoried presentation. Set in the basement of the FHMTTC, this area held a number of high tech communication systems, screens, overhead projectors, microphones, cameras, WiFi, and computer networks.

They instructed 13 responders. Among the participants: seven from police, two from emergency management, two from CSMR, one from fire, and one from civil service/Air Force.

CATCH THE SPIRIT OF '41!

Join us in celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the California State Military Reserve at our holiday ball on Saturday, Dec. 11



It was almost 70 years ago – Jan. 2, 1941 – that the California State Guard was activated as the nation prepared for the greatest conflict in the history of mankind: World War II.

Before the war was over, over 73,000 soldiers served in the State Guard, now the California State Military Reserve.

We continue their tradition of selfless public service and patriotism today, and celebrate our link to

our proud past with a World War II-themed event at the

Phoenix Club, 1348 South San Marcos Ave. in Anaheim beginning at

1730 hours. Everyone is welcome to eat a fine meal,

listen to Forties-era music and absorb some of the

period nostalgia from the early days of California's

state defense force. Tickets are on sale now for \$45

per person. Fill out and return the form below ... for more

information contact LTC James Adair at jmadair@csmr.net

See you at the ball, and in the meantime, praise the Lord

and pass the ammunition!



The Commanders of the Southern Regional Support Command, in conjunction with the Order of Constantine the Great and Saint Helen invite all CSMR soldiers, past and present, to an evening of fellowship and holiday cheer! Wear an Army Blue or Class A uniform or semi-formal dress. Or, help us celebrate the theme with WWII dress uniforms! (Proper rank and CSMR brass required, of course!)



☐ I will attend the "Spirit of '41" holiday dinner and party on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010

Enclosed is my check for # _____ reservations at \$45 per member/guest for \$ _____

Print name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to **SUBJECT FUND** and mail to
LTC James Adair, 32 San Tomas, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

A California hero retires

COL Gage brought CSMR medical resources to impressive status

By 1LT Ronald Alexander
Warrior Words

COL Alon B. Gage, who retired the as Director of Medical Services, California State Military Reserve, received the Order of California medal for his "superior service" during the period 1 July 1990 to May 1, 2009 in a ceremony held Aug. 22 at Southern Regional Command Headquarters Support Building 5.

His life's long work in service to his country started when, at the age of 23, he joined the Army Reserve once he had graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato. He would attain both a B.S. in biology and an M.S. in health.

After joining the Army Reserve in 1962, he move from reserve to active status. He received orders to the 205th Infantry Brigade (ret) at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

In 1965, Gage received his commission as a 2LT. In 1970, he took the billet of Commanding Officer, Medical Company, US Munson Army Hospital, Ft. Leavenworth KS.

While stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Gage decided that he wanted duty in Vietnam. He decided, "to speak to the right people..." "At age 31, as an old guy, when most going to Vietnam were in their teens or early 20s, I was sent to Phu Bai."

The XXIV Corps headquarters was located in Thua Thien Province. When Gage arrived in-country, heavy helicopter traffic filled his area, lifting off from the Hue-Phu Bai airport, giving support to



COL ALON B. GAGE, wearing his Order of California medal.

When the 9-11 attacks occurred he processed more than 65 medical personnel for emergency state active duty.

northern provinces.

The facility where Gage worked had 75 to 80 beds. Outside the wire, Gage performed at least one operation with the Civic Action Group.

When visiting a Vietnam hospital, he witnessed the stress upon the hospital staff and facilities. In one ward, a mix of patients presenting different ailments crowded the floor. Added to that problem, patients' families remained with them, often cooking food on the floors. "It was

rather primitive!" he said.

Gage received a Staff Service Medal from a Vietnamese BG for his work as the adjutant and personnel officer, 85th Evacuation Hospital.

Once his tour of duty ended in Vietnam, Gage returned to his duties as a Commanding Officer, Medical Company, US Walson Army Hospital, Fort Dix New Jersey. He has also served in administrative billets in the Office of the Army Surgeon General, Washington DC and as an Administrative Officer, Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu.

In 1986, Gage retired from active military service. In 1990, he joined the CSMR. When Sacramento needed an officer who had experience and knew about the complexity in rendering medical

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COL Gage retires, heads for Hawaii

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support, Gage filled the position.

At that time, only one branch qualified military officer held a billet in the CSMR. Later he took the position as a staff officer in June 2001.

When attacks occurred on Sept. 11, 2001 the CANG requested CSMR assistance. The new mission involved the processing of more than 65 medical personnel for Emergency State Active Duty. His command availed personnel to a number of sites including overseas.

With as many as 15,000 Soldier Readiness Processing (SRPs) forms completed, the duration of work extended to three weeks, totaling 100-125 per day. Without a computerized facility, the processing of medical, dental, psychiatric, and legal documents required from 10-12 admin officers and NCOs. Then, to prepare Periodic Health Assessments (PHAs) more attention to details guided the work.

Gage recognizes that a budgetary restriction has reduced premium assets, which changes the configuration of services. This situation extends throughout the medical support mission.

Physicians, psychiatrists, dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurses have had reductions in overall staff responsibilities due to a reduction in funding. Contractors now provide services for basic medical needs.

Yet, Gage notes that medical contractors may not have

the necessary training to perform an immediate and successful mission. COL Gage said the CSMR will continue to receive the call; but, "the CSMR could never do that on a full-time basis. We must watch out for what we say we can do! A week, yes; two weeks, no!"

Gage built a database of terms and definitions that helps to clarify confusing terminology within the branches of medical corps professions. His interpretative standards promote quality decisions for promotion to higher levels of responsibilities throughout the medical field.

In April 2009, Gage attended his final UTA. He reached the age of 70 this past July.

Following a 20-year career as a teacher in the California Dept. of Corrections, Gage will travel to Hawaii, where he has a home. The father of two,

This is your newsletter

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

That means that the job of the staff of Warrior Words -- is to inform you and help give recognition to you about your work in the CSMR.

We encourage you to contribute material for publication. We publish

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

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

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

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



Education benefits now extended to the CSMR

Continued from page 5

Starting next year, Soldiers from the California State Military Reserve may also become college students, thanks to the taxpayers of the Golden State.

On Aug. 28, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill X4 12, which creates the California National Guard Education Assistance Program, which will allow members of California's Military Department to receive financial assistance.

Although the name of the program cites only the National Guard, the bill and resulting program also includes members of the State Military Reserve and Naval Militia.

"California's National Guard is on the front lines of every disaster," said the governor. "From protecting citizens from wildfires and floods here at home to serving the people of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, the Guard can be