



# MISSION: CSTX



Friday, June 25, 2010

Issue 3

Fort Hunter Liggett, California CSTX 91-10

## CSTX Takes Air Drop Training Sky High

By Sgt. Jason A. Merrell  
345th PAD

Foreboding clashed with excitement as 12 Soldiers rose from their seats in the back of an airborne C-130 aircraft. They hooked up to the right side, carefully positioning themselves beside a line of half-ton crates filled with supplies. The fuselage ramp suddenly opened and light exploded inside the back of the aircraft, revealing the mountainous California landscape beyond. Seconds later, the crates zipped out of the back like a roller coaster and the Soldiers quickly followed, each hollering in exhilaration as their footsteps led them to the weightlessness of open air.

This wasn't a scene out of some military movie. This was actual training during the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

Soldiers from the 421<sup>st</sup> Quartermaster Company, Macon, Ga., and Marines from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Airwing, Miramar, Calif., joined forces June 19-21 during the CSTX, to perform a series of aerial supply drops from a C-130 aircraft over Drop Zone Patricia.

The training involved dropping several supply loads filled with Meals, Ready-to-Eat, and containers filled with water to simulate fuel, followed by 12 Airborne Soldiers parachuting onto the drop zone.

"This training is very important so the Soldiers can see what it would be like in a real situation in a rigger company," said 1st Sgt. Jimmy Bowers, jumpmaster for the 421<sup>st</sup> QM Co., and Savannah, Ga., native. "We are trying to encompass all of the aspects of re-supply as a company. This is real-world training."

The aerial supply drop was developed during World War II and has since become the staple for delivering food, water, ammunition, fuel, mail and equipment to otherwise inaccessible troops. In Afghanistan, where the terrain closely mirrors austere



**Airborne Soldiers from the 421st Quartermaster Company, Macon, Ga., jump from the tailgate of a C-130 during aerial supply drop training over Drop Zone Patricia at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. The three-day mission took place during the pre-deployment Combat Support Training Exercise. Photo by Sgt. Jason A. Merrell**



**Soldiers from the 421st Quartermaster Company, Macon, Ga., load supply crates for aerial supply drop training during the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Photo by Sgt. Jason A. Merrell**

conditions at Fort Hunter Liggett, supply drops are often the only viable means of delivering supplies.

The training was more than just jumping out of an airplane; it involved learning how to properly get supplies to their comrades overseas, said Pfc. Jason McDaniels, 421<sup>st</sup> QM Co., and native of Macon, Ga.

To get ready for the drop, Soldiers underwent several refresher courses on their Airborne training and received detailed instructions the morning of each drop to ensure they were prepared.

"We give them a brief every time they jump to ensure they know their duties and positions," Bowers said. "We brief them on everything that could possibly happen during the jump. If the Soldier drifts into the wires, we tell them what to do. If they land in the trees, we tell them what to do."

The equipment was also put through a rigorous process to minimize the chance of malfunctioning during a jump, said

*(JUMP, Continued on page 4)*



# FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL

The 91<sup>st</sup> Training Brigade wants to thank all of the 42 units and the more than 2,000 Soldiers for conducting a realistic and safe training exercise.

Combat Support Training Exercise 91 10 was one of the best and safest exercises to date. We attribute this excellent training experience to the leadership and great work from all your units.

Please extend our thanks to your family and loved ones for their sacrifice in allowing you to continue this honored profession.

If you have any creative solutions for making this exercise better, please send your ideas to the staff.

Take care and be safe.

“Powder River”

*James T. Cook  
Brig. Gen., USAR  
Commanding General, Wild West Brigade*



## Hey, Where's the Tabasco Sauce?

Sgt. Maj. Rupert Espinosa, operations and training sergeant major, 91st Training Brigade, gives his civilian employer from Pacific Gas and Electric, Nick Glero, a by-the-numbers block of instruction on how to consume a chili-mac Meal, Ready-to-Eat. The exchange was a part of the Boss Lift, an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and 91st Training Brigade sponsored event that allows employers to gain a better understanding of what their employees do when they are away serving in the Army Reserve. Photo by Spc. Joseph Bitet



### STAFF

#### Editor in Chief:

Brig. Gen. James T. Cook,  
Commanding General,  
91st Training Brigade

#### Press Information Center OIC:

Lt. Col. John Dowling

#### Press Information Center NCOIC:

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Sheely

#### Contribution Manager:

Cpt. Carlos Agosto

#### Managing Editor:

Staff Sgt. Christopher Pisano

#### Editor:

Sgt. Kyle Reeves

#### Photojournalists:

Sgt. Nazly Confesor, Sgt. Jason A. Merrell,  
Spc. Joseph Bitet, Spc. Anthony Hooker,  
Spc. Peter Jun, Spc. Charlotte Martinez,  
Spc. Anthony Steglik, Pvt. Christopher Bigelow

**MISSION: CSTX** is produced by the 361st Public Affairs Operation Center and the 345th Public Affairs Detachment for the 91st Training Brigade, Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. This publication is printed under the provisions in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1 and does not reflect the views of the Department of Defense or the personnel within.

# A Soldier: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

## Army career spans Vietnam War to CSTX 91 10

By Spc. Joseph Bitet  
361st PAOC

Sgt. Thomas Mitchell Owens wasn't born in an Army uniform, but if he has it his way, he will most certainly be wearing one when he dies.

Owens, 59, an ammunition sergeant with the 352<sup>nd</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Macon, Ga., was one of more than 2,000 Army Reserve Soldiers who participated in collective sustainment training, June 16-24, during the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

However, his Army journey began long ago in the war-torn jungles of Vietnam.

In 1969, the Doraville, Ga., native dropped out of high school at the age of 17 and completed his General Equivalency Diploma so he would be eligible to enlist in the Army. Displaying personal courage in a time of fear and trepidation, Owens soon found himself serving as an infantryman in Vietnam with 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry.

He "humped the bush" with the angel of death on one shoulder and a guardian angel on the other. The reality of war settled in for Owens, as his unit suffered heavy casualties when a 122 mm rocket strike killed 29 and injured over 60 of his fellow brothers in arms.

"It was a kill or be killed place," says Owens. "You're a hero or a zero."

Although Owens survived Vietnam and was awarded the coveted Combat Infantryman Badge, two Bronze Stars and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, when he returned home it was not a hero's welcome he anticipated.

"We [were] treated crappy," said an emotional Owens. "The mission of all Vietnam vets is to make sure today's Soldiers get treated better than we did."

***"This is my last Hooah in life," said Owens.***

Owens meets with his fellow Vietnam veterans at an annual reunion. He is also a member of Vietnam Veterans of America, in Atlanta, Ga.

In 1975, Owens graduated from Georgia State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He worked multiple jobs and considered law enforcement, but soon came to realize that he missed putting on the Army uniform. Owens joined the National Guard in 1981 and soon after embarked on a five-year Active Guard Reserve (AGR) tour. Upon completing that tour, Owens went back on active duty until 1992, when he was involuntarily discharged as part of the large-scale reduction in force.

After 16 years of being a civilian eagerly awaiting another call to duty, Owens he found out he was once again eligible to serve in December 2008. With loyalty to his country, he wasted no time before he re-enlisted yet again. He re-trained to become an ammunition specialist with his current unit, the 352<sup>nd</sup> CSSB.

As a Non-Commissioned Officer and with a wealth of experience, Owens feels it is his responsibility to develop Soldiers properly.

"He has a story to tell and people listen to him. We've all become very fond of him," said 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Charles Williams, 352<sup>nd</sup> CSSB.

"Soldiers are given every opportunity to succeed," said Owens, who feels the Army is constantly changing for the better since he first enlisted. He credits Vietnam as the reason he adopted a "lead, follow, or get out of the way attitude." This knowledge and experience has easily earned the respect of his troops.

"He gives us a taste of history from someone who's seen a different type of combat," said Spc. Shane Mathews, 352<sup>nd</sup> CSSB. "He's someone you can talk to. He embodies the NCO creed in those he serves with."

Owens has not only been an example of leadership, but also a source of motivation for his fellow troops.

"He is the cornerstone of morale in the unit," said Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas Townsend, 352<sup>nd</sup> CSSB.

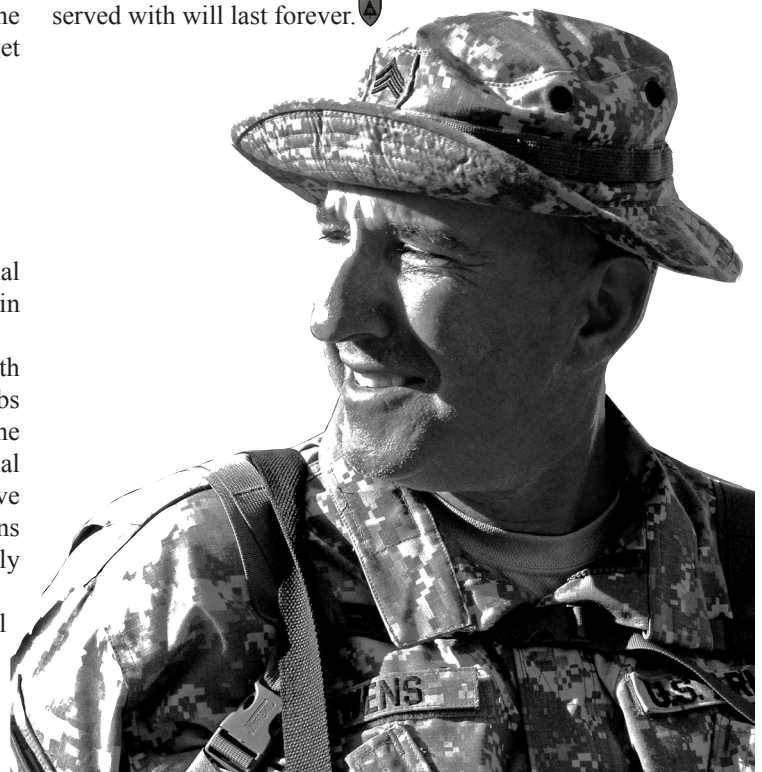
Owens is just as dedicated to the Army out of uniform as he is in it. He constantly displays acts of selfless-service. His recent achievements include completing the Army 10-Miler and the Marine Corps Marathon, both in October 2009. He also recently finished a two-month voluntary tour for the United Service Organizations (USO) at the Pat Tillman USO Center on Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

"A corny joke and a brief conversation can really brighten a Soldier's day," said Owens, whose honor and respect for those who have served in the United States military knows no bounds.

In July 2010, he will participate in a four-day, 120-mile road march in Nijmegen, Holland, in honor of World War II veterans who liberated the city.

"This is my last Hooah in life," said Owens.

The motivation and morale Owens instilled in the Soldiers he served with will last forever. 







**Supply crates descend from a C-130 over Drop Zone Patricia at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., during aerial supply training at the Combat Support Training Exercise. The aircraft, flown by Marines from the 3rd Marine Airwing, Miramar, Calif., dropped supplies from 1,200 feet in the air. Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez**

***(JUMP, Continued from page 1)***

Staff Sgt. Wade Catlett, 421<sup>st</sup> QM Co., malfunctions Non-Commissioned Officer for the exercise. If a malfunction does occur, it would be the result of unlikely and unforeseen circumstances, not because of improper preparation.

“When you pack a parachute, it goes through a series of checks and inspections,” Catlett said. “It’s actually a very, very safe procedure. When they first jump, a lot of people are scared about their parachute

not being rigged correctly. Trust me, these chutes will open.”

For some Soldiers, it was their first time jumping with the unit. In Airborne tradition, they are referred to as “cherry jumpers” and given red helmets decorated by veteran members of the unit. For Pvt. Sean Bryant, 421<sup>st</sup> QM Co., and native of Macon, Ga., his decorated helmet – fit with a red-tape fin over the top of it – came with a new nickname: “Sky Shark.” He wore it proudly when describing his feelings on the mission.

“It’s a feeling like no other, it is pure adrenaline,” Bryant said. “I just love it.”

For a jumpmaster like Bowers, who has more than 150 jumps under his belt, it’s a feeling that never fades.

“It still is an addiction. I enjoy jumping as much as the next Soldier,” Bowers said. “I’ve landed in water before, I’ve landed in trees before; I’ve done all of the good and the bad of jumping and I still want to do it. I want to do it whenever I can.”

The jump is a passion that all of the Soldiers share, many of whom skydive in their free time. According to Catlett, there’s nothing normal about jumping out of a perfectly good airplane at 1,200 feet in the air, but there’s also nothing normal about the exhilarating feeling that comes with it.

Bowers reassured that belief as he tried to describe the sensation of jumping out of the back of a C-130.

“It’s a bit of a rush with that door opening in that aircraft and feeling the wind against your knees, chest, back and face at that rate of speed, and then feeling the peacefulness of that parachute coming down,” he said.

Aerial re-supply is becoming a more common means of delivering mission-essential supplies to Soldiers in isolated or prolonged engagements with the enemy. The success of the three-day mission reinforced the confidence of the Soldiers to successfully complete their mission downrange.

“As a company, we can supply 120 light tons per day to anywhere and everywhere that needs to be dropped,” Bowers said. “We consider the world our drop zone.”



**Sgt. 1st Class Larry Carter, jumpmaster with the 421<sup>st</sup> Quartermaster Company, Macon, Ga., performs an equipment check with 12 Airborne Soldiers two minutes before reaching drop zone Patricia at Fort Hunter Liggett. Photo by Sgt. Jason A. Merrell**



**Pvt. Sean Bryant, 421<sup>st</sup> Quartermaster Company, Macon Ga., secures his parachute after a successful landing on drop zone Patricia. In airborne tradition, Bryant was given a decorated red helmet to signify his first jump with the unit. Photo by Sgt. Jason A. Merrell**



# You Drop 'em, They Recover 'em

By Spc. Charlotte Martinez  
345th PAD

Cooperation is the key to victory, and the Army Reserve cannot complete its mission without a variety of units working in perfect harmony to create a concert, despite moments of chaos.

During the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., several units served as a shining example as they came together to conduct an aerial drop and re-supply mission to replicate performing a similar mission that would take place in Afghanistan.

But members of the 282<sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Company, from Montgomery, Ala., were on hand to recover supplies as they reached the ground.

"We were to recover supplies at the drop zone and provide the supplies to be dropped," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Benjamin Vernon, commander of the 282<sup>nd</sup> QM Co., and Birmingham, Ala., native.

"We recovered Meals, Ready-to-Eat and water," said Spc. Angela Gibson, a Tallahassee, Ala., native and supply specialist for the 282<sup>nd</sup> QM Co. "The water is simulating fuel because you cannot drop fuel in a training environment."

During the three days of aerial re-supply, the unit recovered 12 loads of supplies, including 4,608 MRE packages and 880 gallons of water, said Vernon.

"After we recover the supplies, we take them back where they will be distributed accordingly," said Staff Sgt. Lyn Williams, an Andalusia, Ala., native, and Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of the drop zone recovery team.

Williams said the recoveries were fairly smooth with the exception of a couple of loads that landed in the water towards the edge of the drop zone.



**During the Combat Support Training Exercise, members of the 282<sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Company, Montgomery, Ala., are Army Strong - literally - as they recover a load of Meals, Ready-to-Eat that landed in the water during an aerial re-supply mission. Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker**

"We had some difficulties because we had to pull pallets of MREs out of waist-deep water. The terrain was very uneven and difficult to maneuver," said Vernon.

"This was good training because it gave us more hands-on training and it allowed us to work and coordinate with other units involved," said Gibson.

Vernon said his unit did several things to help prepare them for this mission, since they typically run the subsistence warehouses and only get to conduct missions like this during training exercises like CSTX – a large-scale collective training exercise involving more than 2,000 Army Reserve Soldiers from around the country.

"The 421<sup>st</sup> Quartermaster Company conducted equipment recovery classes a few days prior to the event," said Vernon. "We conducted rehearsals, rock drills and leader's reconnaissance of the drop zone."

The 282<sup>nd</sup> QM Co. conducted several missions during the CSTX, including operating the warehouse, convoy operations, improvised explosive device training, and forward operating base defense operations, as well as the aerial re-supply.

"Because Afghanistan uses aircrafts for transportation, we needed to experience what it was like to receive supplies via air drop," said Vernon. Because the terrain in Afghanistan is vastly different than the terrain in Iraq, air transportation provides a better means of getting around the mountainous region in Afghanistan.

"We have really great NCOs and motivated junior enlisted Soldiers," said Vernon. "Without them, the mission would be much tougher."

Vernon said units such as his on contingency operating bases in Afghanistan have a high possibility of seeing and participating in missions like the aerial drop and re-supply-recovery mission completed here. ▲



**Members of the 282<sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Company, Montgomery, Ala., get their physical training for the day as they load a pallet of Meals, Ready-to-Eat onto a forklift during the air drop re-supply mission being conducted at the Combat Support Training Exercise. Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker**



# Training to the Last Drop

By **Spc. Charlotte Martinez**  
**345th PAD**

When talking to a member of the 326<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company, New Castle, Pa., or the 542<sup>nd</sup> QM Co., Harrisburg, Pa., about their military jobs, you would almost think the Soldiers were speaking another language with all of the acronyms and large chemicals words flowered throughout their discussions. However, by the time you are done talking to them, you realize how vital the unit's job in the military really is.

These Army Reserve units provide water for Soldiers to drink, to wash clothes, and even cook food with while living in the field on a makeshift forward operating base, designed to replicate conditions in Afghanistan, during the Combat Support Training Exercise. These Soldiers are in charge of the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit and supply safe water to the FOBs here. They are the water purifiers.

The ROWPU pulls water from naturally available sources and makes it safe to drink, purifying as much as 3,000 gallons of water an hour. However, the unit must first find a consistent source of water close to their location to begin the process.

"The sources could be a lake, a stream, river, any kind of water source really," said Pfc. Keith Blow, 542<sup>nd</sup> QM Co.

"There are a lot of contaminants in the water. You don't know if there could be dysentery, alkali, or some type of viruses in the water so we have to purify it first to make sure all those contaminants are taken out so it's safe for cooking and/or drinking so none of the Soldiers could get sick or possibly die," said Blow.

A strainer is used to filter the large contaminants and then other strainers within the ROWPU are used to filter out smaller contaminants, explained Blow, a native of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

"We use the reverse osmosis elements to filter out the smallest things like bacteria, viruses, and then we shock it with chlorine – That's the final step that gets rid of everything after that process," Blow said.

After the water has been processed through the ROWPU, it is distributed for various uses such as laundry, showers, and cooking. After the water has been used, it becomes "waste water" and is collected again to be taken to a different area. There is also a Tactical Water Distribution System that can carry water for 10 miles to a site.

"Waste water is stored in a waste bag, and afterward it's taken to a different site so it doesn't go back into where we pulled it from so we're not making a bigger mess out there. It could even be sprayed on the roads to keep the dust off the roads for



**Spc. Rochelle Liptrot, a member of the 326<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company, based out of New Castle, Pa., refills a water buffalo with water purified by the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit. Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez**




**Pfc. Jason Koppenhaver, 542<sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Company, Harrisburg, Pa., operates the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit to purify water for the troops in the field. Photo by Spc. Anthony Steglik**

safety reasons like on convoys," said Spc. Rochelle Liptrot, ROWPU operator, 326<sup>th</sup> QM Co.

While it can be overlooked, the ability to provide safe drinking water is a crucial force multiplier.

"Without water purification, the Army couldn't function; you need it for almost everything. People tend to forget that you need water," said Liptrot, a native of Warren, Ohio.

"Our role is important because a water purification unit can support any kind of unit," Blow said. "You always need water to run a FOB like this and it's always a morale booster for the Soldiers to have showers, hot meals and latrines. It's a fun job as well."

The 326<sup>th</sup> and 542<sup>nd</sup> QM Co. may speak their own "pure" language, but the benefits of their work are crystal clear to everyone. Thanks to them, Soldiers in the field have exactly what they need to continue their missions, stay healthy, and remain hydrated. 



# Putting Brakes on Worst-Case Scenario



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Robert Mackey, 950th Sustainment Maintenance Company, from Los Alamitos, Calif., instructs maintenance Soldiers in the importance of maintaining the air brake system on their vehicles. Photo by Pvt. Christopher Bigelow

By Spc. Peter Jun  
361st PAOC

Your life flashes before your eyes as you go careening down a steep hill in your '89 Geo Metro. You keep pumping the brakes, but there is no response. Is this how it all ends? What do you do?

Having your brakes fail while driving on treacherous highways can be one of the most fearful experiences a driver can have, particularly, if driving a 14-ton military tractor trailer delivering vital Soldiers and equipment to the battlefield.

In order to prevent this worst-case scenario, the 950<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Maintenance Company (SMC), Los Alamitos, Calif., conducted air brake training at Forward Operating Base Schoonover during the Combat Support Training Exercise.

"The Army is dress-right-dress when it comes to setting the standard of accountability, which is how this training was conducted," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Robert Mackey, 950<sup>th</sup> SMC, who conducted the air brake training class. "The Army accepts that there are risks, and plans for those risks, when it deals with any task."

The 8-hour class, followed by hands-on training, allowed Soldiers to understand air brake functions and maintenance on M915 and M916 type military tractor trailers. Soldiers who completed this training became Department of Transportation certified.

"I believe when Soldiers are finished

with this course, they will set the standard for the civilian marketplace," said Mackey, originally from Calimesa, Calif.


The DOT standard is one of safety and accountability. This training added to that standard. The Army's composite risk management program is the acknowledgement of risks involved with tasks, the identification of those specific task risks, and to lessen those risks, said Mackey.

"Soldiers who completed this air brake training will be more valuable to their civilian employers because of their advanced knowledge of air brakes, which is good for both the Soldier and the Army as well," said Mackey.

An Army Reserve Soldier's life is a balance between civilian experiences and a military career. When a Soldier's civilian life is improved because of the training provided by the Army, that Soldier is more likely to keep returning to drills, Mackey added.

"This is training that could save a Soldier's life," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jesus Tarrio, 950<sup>th</sup> SMC, a Puerto Rico native. "Soldiers' lives could be saved if they apply this advanced military training with the Army standard of testing a Soldier's judgment and capability as they repair their vehicle's air brake systems."

Tarrio's belief in the Army standard is shared by Mackey.

"A Soldier leaves here ready and better trained to serve their country," said Mackey. 

## Paving the Way for Deployment

Members of the 748th Engineer Detachment, from Spokane, Wash., were absorbing the hot sun as they toiled away with their shovels and lutes to repave a parking lot across from the Fort Hunter Liggett Headquarters. Their mission during this annual training was to support and repair Fort Hunter Liggett's road infrastructure, which plays a vital role in their preparation for future deployments. Photo by Sgt. Nazly Confesor





# Rare Army Rabbi Serves Soldiers, CSTX

By Spc. Anthony Hooker  
345th PAD

Army Reserve Chaplain (Col.) Jacob Goldstein is a man worth noticing when he wears his military uniform.

An Orthodox Jewish rabbi assigned to Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, Goldstein made a sudden impression on Reserve troops when he visited Fort Hunter Liggett during the Combat Support Training Exercise. Sporting an epic white beard, the 63-year old Brooklyn, N.Y., native's facial hair caused quite a stir in an environment where clean-shaven faces and finely trimmed haircuts are standing orders.

"My first thought was, 'Wow! He has a lot of hair,' said Spc. James Bridges, a cook with the 352<sup>nd</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Macon, Ga. "We just had an Army birthday and I thought the beard was part of a joke."

Pfc. Cortez Peters, a cook with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Company, Bellefonte, Pa., was also surprised by the chaplain's appearance, giving Goldstein a once-over before approaching.

"I've never seen a person in the military with a beard before," said Peters, a Trenton, New Jersey native.

Goldstein, who wears a matching Army-issued yarmulke with his Army Combat Uniform, said the purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with the forward operating bases and conduct Jewish services in the field. Goldstein recognizes the importance for Soldiers to become familiar with his position and his role in providing pastoral support, regardless of religious denomination. He also appreciates being among the troops because he understands their purpose.

"I love Soldiers," Goldstein said. "I love their heart . . . I know what a Soldier does each day, what they experience."

Goldstein has made visits around the world on behalf of the military for more than 33 years. Serving since 1977, he has deployed to Bosnia, South Korea, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Goldstein was also instrumental in stateside affairs. After the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, he served for five months as the senior chaplain for all military branches at Ground Zero.

Goldstein is one of only seven Orthodox Jewish chaplains serving in the Army. In 2009, he helped military officials at Fort Benning establish weekly Jewish and High Holiday services on base, where they previously didn't offer any, and helped the base to start serving kosher meals.




**Army Chaplain (Col.) Jacob Goldstein, a Jewish rabbi, visits troops so they have some familiarity with the Jewish faith and its customs and practices. Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker**

Goldstein said the military's continuous effort to foster religious freedom within its ranks is a trait he deeply respects.

"The military gives great deference to religion," said Goldstein, "You ask any commander – any Soldier that is spiritual and has

some religion makes for a good Soldier. The fact the Soldier has some kind of comfort and has some faith – regardless of that faith – if you believe in something, that's important."

Goldstein's religious practice of keeping an unshaven beard almost kept him from remaining in the Army. Jewish law forbids a rabbi to shave his beard, but Army Regulations forbid Soldiers from having beards while in uniform. An exception to policy was granted to Goldstein because of his date of entry into service. With a shortage of chaplains available, Goldstein applied for an extension of service (reservists usually resign their position at age 60). He has two years remaining on the extension, but is more than comfortable continuing to reach out to troops.

"I love Soldiers," said Goldstein, "and that's why I'm in the Army." 



**Army Chaplain (Col.) Jacob Goldstein, a Jewish rabbi, and Brooklyn, N.Y., native has served the military since 1977. He often gets curious looks because he wears a beard, in accordance with his Jewish faith, while in uniform. Photo by Spc. Joseph Bitet**



# Hunting Down the Past of Hunter Liggett



Designed and built for newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, the Hacienda (Milpitas Ranch) was completed in 1930 and served as a summer retreat. The site, resting on Fort Hunter Liggett, now serves as a hotel and was registered as a historic landmark in 1977. A plaque was placed at the entrance way to commemorate its past. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Pisano

**By Sgt. Kyle Reeves**  
**361st PAOC**

As the Combat Support Training Exercise nears its end, many Soldiers focus on the completion of their training and return to their home stations without giving much thought to the base's name or its history.

Fort Hunter Liggett, named after its World War I namesake (see side article), was established in 1940 after it was purchased from newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst in anticipation of World War II. In its heyday, the area served as Hearst's summer retreat and his home, which was named Milpitas Ranch, and housed the likes of silent movie stars such as Marion Davies and William Powell.

Since its inception, the fort was primarily used as a training facility, where activities such as field maneuvers and live fire exercises are performed.

It was attached to Camp Roberts until 1952 and later became a sub installation of Fort Ord in the Monterey Peninsula. Since 1993, it has been a sub installation of Fort McCoy, Wis.

Fort Hunter Liggett is now the largest Army Reserve installation and the eighth largest in the Army. With more than 165,000 acres of untouched mountains, valleys, rivers, plains and forests it provides ideal maneuver areas for today's combat support training requirements.

The base is strategically located to service more than 250 units with approximately 20,000 Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers in the greater San Francisco area.


There are approximately 250 permanent civilian and military residents on the base and the population can swell up to over 5,000 when rotations of personnel train.

The base became an ideal location to film two popular films "We Were Soldiers" with Mel Gibson and "Clear and Present Danger" with Harrison Ford.

While the base served as a retreat for one of the wealthiest media

tycoons of his time and a set location for two popular movies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some prefer to remember the base for the man it was named after and his legacy.

"Fort Hunter Liggett serves as a monument to the greatness of a man whose long career and accomplishments have distinguished our U.S. forces," said Master Sgt. Roland Hall, manager of the historical collection of the 91<sup>st</sup> Training Brigade, here. "We name our institutions after people who are known for doing great things. It serves as a reminder that as a country we are all capable of doing great things."

"The facility was built to train and prepare Soldiers to fight," he said. "It was created and built to give those Soldiers the same greatness found in the man we know as Hunter Liggett." 

## Hunter Liggett: The Man



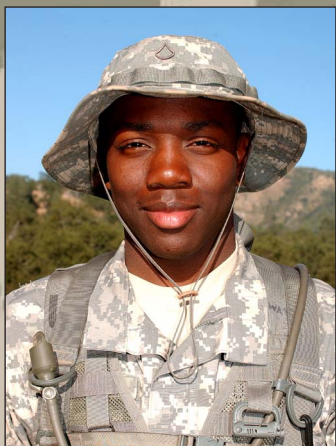
Hunter Liggett (1857-1935) was a U.S. Army General who led the Meuse-Argonne Offensive during World War I where his men captured vital positions. General Pershing relinquished his command of the American First Army to Liggett. His prior career included service during the first Indian uprising and the Spanish-Philippine insurrections. He served as major general before retiring in 1921. He died at the age of 78 in 1935.



# SOLDIER ON THE STREET

Compiled by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

## How has CSTX made you a better Soldier?



Pfc.  
Rai-Kheen Stewart  
282nd QM Co.  
Montgomery, Ala.

Hometown:  
Birmingham, Ala.

"This is my first year in the military. I am learning what will benefit me downrange. This training is giving me hands on training in my military occupational specialty."



Cpt.  
Tom J. Williams  
352nd CSSB  
Macon, Ga.

Hometown:  
Atlanta, Ga.

"I love it out here. We are forced to train on our battle drills and we are put into situations that actually help build teamwork."



Sgt.  
Roland Martinez  
871st EN Co.  
Hilo, HI

Hometown:  
Big Island, HI

"I feel pretty good about the exercise, I've really learned a lot. It's good training for new Soldiers that have never deployed before."



Pfc.  
Bryce O'Brian  
442nd QM Co.  
Belfonte', Pa.

Hometown:  
Middletown, Pa.

"I like the improvised explosive device lanes so far. It was a lot of fun. The new equipment was a little heavy at first but I'm starting to get used to it."



1st Lt.  
Jaclyn Castillo  
558th MCT  
Tampa, Florida

Hometown:  
Tampa, Fla.

"It's tremendous training. I am speechless. I had no prior experience with my current unit, so this is great. We are handling real life situations we will have to deal with in theater."



Sgt. 1st Class  
Christopher  
McIntosh  
282nd QM Co.  
Montgomery, Ala.

Hometown:  
Montgomery, Ala.

"The training is good for Soldiers who have never been deployed before. The terrain is excellent in recreating the areas overseas."