

HQ Growler

Quarterly Newsletter of the California State Military Reserve Headquarters Company

Special Interest Articles:

- Spring BOC and NCO Schools Announced
- Solider and Airmen of the Year Recognized
- California Commendation Medal Recipients

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Force Count

1,486

Company Commander's Message

I'm proud to introduce the HQ Growler, a newsletter for CSMR headquarters company. Inside the HQ Growler you'll find helpful articles on company activities, CSMR policies, updates on regulations and stories about our collective and individual achievements.

Since the newsletter is for you and about you, units and directorates are invited to share your information by submitting

articles or announcements for publication. I will be the point of contact to submit your stories to so please feel free to send them to my Gmail account listed on the last page, or catch me in the hallway with your ideas.

This first edition contains important information about the VOLAC process, changes to the CSMR title block policy and the Adjutant General's recent order to

self-report criminal offenses. There is also a story recognizing SSG Michael Hatcher with the C-6 Directorate for being selected as one of the Soldiers of the Year for the CSMR.

I hope you find the HQ Growler interesting and informative, and support future publications with your stories.

CPT Andrew Rush
Commander, HHC

Spring BOC and NCO Schools Announced

The CSMR C-3 Unit will conduct the Basic Orientation Course (BOC), Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC), for northern area Service Members on Friday, April 25th through Sunday, April 27th, 2014.

Training will be held at the Parks RFTA in Dublin. Report for duty will be no later than 0700 hours on Friday, April 25th. Service Members traveling long distance may report early to the Parks RFTA site on Thursday evening.

Suspense for submitting a student application (Form 64) is 5 April 2014. Registered students will receive a Letter of Instruction (LOI) by e-mail providing information on course requirements and prerequisites. Questions about the training may be directed to CW4 Dennis Edmondson at (925) 783-6890.

BOC is a requirement for continued membership in the CSMR as well as military advancement. This includes all Service Members (non-prior and prior service, Enlisted, NCO, Warrant Officer and

Officers). Topics will include basic Drill and Ceremony, Military Customs and Courtesies, History of the CSMR, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and military topics relative to serving in the CSMR.

BNCOC is intended to instruct Service Members on the duties and responsibilities of Noncommissioned Officers.

ANCOC is intended for senior NCO's assuming management positions. Topics will be geared toward duties and responsibilities of senior staff.

Outstanding Soldier and Airman of the Year 2014

SSG Michael Hatcher is a "hands on" soldier who is the embodiment of the Army values. Not "can do" but, "WILL DO".

~ SGM Randolph Orpe

On January 18, 2014, Specialist Jonathon Scholtz and Staff Sergeant Michael Hatcher were honored at the California National Guard Joint Outstanding Soldier and Airman of the Year Banquet held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento.

SPC Scholtz is assigned to the Headquarters, 1st Battalion Army Support, CSMR in San Bernardino. He joined the CSMR on March 23, 2012. SPC Scholtz serves as a Health Care Specialist and also volunteers his personal time to the Range Operations Team. He was recognized for his exemplary service in February 2012 when he received a California Achievement Medal for his support of the 149th Transportation Company's range qualification on November 9th, 2012, in San Luis Obispo.

SSG Hatcher is assigned to Headquarters Company, CSMR. He joined the CSMR on January 16, 2009. SSG Hatcher currently serves as a Signal Trainer and travels all over the state participating in ground to air communications training, system orientations, as well as rescue flight training with the United States Coast Guard. He was most notably recognized for his



CSMR Soldiers of the Year include SPC Jonathon Scholtz pictured second from left and SSG Michael Hatcher pictured on the far right.

successful communications support missions during Soaring Angel 2010 at Fort Hunter Liggett, receiving the California Medal of Merit for his outstanding performance.

SSG Hatcher has performed duties and service to the State in an exemplary fashion, delivering high quality results while executing a number of diverse responsibilities. He is the de facto G6 Operations NCOIC. He has been an integral part of planning and executing every G6 mission over the last 28 months. He works on all task elements to assure that the mission is successful both as an educational event and in response to J3 tasking order.

In his civilian career SSG Hatcher is a

Superintendent for a large Plumbing & Mechanical contractor currently building heating and cooling plant facilities around San Francisco. He also works evenings as a Math and Science Instructor for Apprentice and Journeymen Plumbers, Welders, and Pipefitters at his Union Training Center. He also is currently serving as Assistant Scoutmaster for his oldest son's Boy Scout troop and Den Leader for his youngest son's Cub Scout den.

During the banquet, SPC Scholtz and SSG Hatcher received the California Commendation Medal in recognition of their outstanding service.



Oaths, Awards and Promotions



Left: MAJ Lassiter prepares for the oath administered by BG Albertson.



Right: SSGs Kantar, Cook, Dipillo, Burke and Abundo (not pictured) receive the California Commendation Medal for their work on the ID Card System. Their mission involved the research and development of a new credentialing system in compliance with military security regulations.



Left: MAJ Fowler receives the Medal of Merit for his chaplaincy work.



Right: SGT Graves is promoted to SSG with the help of his wife. Her center of mass punch to his chest made sure it stuck!



Left: SGTs Roderick Fisher and Richard Small take their enlistment oath in February.

Voluntary Access Card (VOLAC): Tips for Success

VOLAC Points of Contact:

SFC Sheila Hemman
 (916) 845-3051
 sheila.l.hemman.nfg@mail.mil
 SSG Jacquelyne Orpe
 jacqueline.s.orpe.vol@mail.mil
 SGT Ana Ambriz
 ana.c.ambriz.nfg@mail.mil

A Voluntary Access Card (VOLAC) is required to use any Army or Air National Guard network. It isn't an ID card and must be only used for computer requirements. Your current position and Command will determine if you need one. The comments listed below are a few things to keep in mind while completing the process.

1. All VOLAC requests must be approved by your Command. An email providing authorization is sufficient.
2. Before beginning the process, check to see if your Command has a VOLAC representative. If not, contact SFC Hemman or SSG Orpe for information on how to start.
3. Ensure that you provide

current contact information and provide the email address that you check most frequently.

4. Many steps throughout the process are time sensitive. Check your email on a regular basis so that you don't miss any suspense dates.

5. Completed packets:

- a. Can be submitted via hard copy or email. If mailing, contact the VOLAC point of contact so that we can ensure your packet is received.
- b. Fingerprint cards require original signature. A copy is acceptable for all other documents.
- c. The mailing address to send completed packets to is:

Headquarters, CA
 State Military Reserve
 Personnel Security, Box 1
 ATTN: SFC (CA) Sheila Hemman
 9800 Goethe Road
 Sacramento, CA 95827

Several organizations are involved in the completion of the VOLAC process. Some investigations take longer than others. If several weeks pass without any notice, touch base with your VOLAC point of contact for your application's current status.

Duty to Report Criminal Offenses

MG Baldwin published a department wide memo on 14 February 2014, directing all members of the California National Guard and the California State Military Reserve to self-report any criminal law convictions that occur to them from the date of the memo's publication forward.

In addition, Service Members above the rank of SSG (E-6) must report convictions occurring since April 2, 2008.

This includes misdemeanor and felony convictions of any county/state, the U.S., or any foreign jurisdiction.

Reporting may be accomplished by submitting a written report of conviction in any format through your chain of command and directly to the Provost Marshal within 15 days of the conviction, even if the sentence has not been imposed or if pending appeal.

All commanders will report credible information brought to their attention regarding arrests and charges (misdemeanor or felony) of their Service Members for civilian criminal offenses.

For additional information, refer to Adjutant General Order Number 2014-1, and the State Provost Marshal.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Policy Change for Identification of CSMR Rank

COL (CA) Mike Herman published a memorandum for see distribution on 10 February 2014, prescribing policy for the proper identification of rank by California State Military Reserve (CSMR) members. This policy applies to all members.

All CSMR members will place the (CA) identifier after their rank whenever the usage relates to CSMR business. This includes signature blocks, email, business cards, and any other CSMR usage.

Signature blocks will be used for all official or business related

correspondence internal and external to the CSMR. Refer to AR 25-50 for distinctions between military and non-military signature blocks.

CSMR members will place the designator (CA) behind their current CSMR rank as illustrated in the examples listed to the right.

CSMR members who are retired from federal military service are only authorized to use the corresponding service retired signature block (for example, JOHN Q. SMITH, LTC (USA Retired)) for personal correspondence.

Army Example

JOHN Q. SMITH
LTC (CA), CSMR
Title/Duty Assignment

THOMAS R. JONES
SGM (CA), CSMR
Title/Duty Assignment

Air Force Example

JANE Q. SMITH
Lt Col (CA), CSMR
Title/Duty Assignment

TERESA R. JONES
SMSgt (CA), CSMR
Title/Duty Assignment

New CSMR Logo Sticker

Introducing the new CSMR logo stickers available exclusively thru the State Military Reserve Informal Funds Committee (SMRIFC)! The logo stickers are a collaborative effort between the HHC Unit and SMRIFC to generate revenue for the informal fund. This fund is used to support members during occasions of retirement, bereavement, illness or other special events.

The stickers are an excellent way to show your pride of and association with the CSMR. The stickers make anything you put them on look

awesome, and they are terrific conversation starters for recruiting new members! In addition, the stickers are reasonably priced at \$5.00 each or five for \$20. That's a great deal!

The SMRIFC is working on plans for additional fund raising items such as hats, shirts and a new challenge coin. They will be announced in the HQ Growler as they become available, so be sure to read future issues of the newsletter. You may also contact committee members for any questions or suggestions.

The new stickers are on sale now and available for purchase during Saturday drill at JFHQ. They will also be offered for purchase at the upcoming Combat Life Saver course at Camp Parks in March and during the BOC and NCO Schools this spring.

Don't delay! Get your sticker today!

**** The logo design is exclusive to the SMRIFC and for fund raising. Please do not replicate without authorization.****



Points of Contact:

SSG Robert Burke
robairto63@comcast.net

or

SGT Dallas Calmes
DCalmes@gmail.com

Sticker Prices

\$5.00 Each

Or

Five for \$20.00

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.calguard.ca.gov/CSMR

and coming soon to:

Facebook

Governor Brown Declares Drought Emergency

With California facing one of the most severe droughts on record, Governor Brown declared a drought State of Emergency last month and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortages.

Across state government, action is being taken. The Department of General Services is leading water conservation efforts at state facilities, and the Department of Transportation is cutting water usage along California's roadways by 50 percent. Caltrans has also launched a public awareness campaign, putting a water conservation message on their more than 700 electronic highway signs.

The California Department of Public Health identified and offered assistance to communities at risk of severe drinking water shortages and is working with other state and local agencies to develop solutions for vulnerable communities. CAL FIRE hired additional firefighters and is continuously adjusting staffing throughout the state to help address the increased fire threat due to drought conditions. The California Department of Food and Agriculture launched a drought website to help farmers, ranchers and farmworkers find resources and assistance programs that may be available to them during the drought.

Snow survey: The most recent snowpack survey, conducted on January 30, shows California snow pack at 12% of normal. The next snowpack survey is scheduled this week (February 27).

Snow water content: The current update shows 23% of normal as of February 23.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): Reservoir Levels as of February 22 are very low, including: Don Pedro 52%; Exchequer 21%; Folsom Lake 30%; Lake Oroville 39%; Millerton Lake 33%; New Melones 44%; Pine Flat 19%; San Luis 33%; Shasta 38%; and Trinity Lake 48%.

Upcoming Drill Dates

5 April 2014

3 May 2014

7 June 2014

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ADDRESS