

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

We just had our Sergeants Major Association annual meeting, and it was great to see everyone. We received a brief from LTC Dominguez, post Commander of Camp San Luis Obispo. He shared changes taking place not only for post but the Army Guard. CSM (R) Terry Williams shared information from ESGR and is looking for volunteers for that program. If you’re interested, reach out to CSM (R) Williams directly, or use my contact info from this newsletter and I’ll put you in touch with him. SGM (R) Andy Strauss and MSG (R) Lorie Clayton gave a brief from their trip to the EANGUS conference in Florida. Stating it was a great conference and the organization is doing great things on behalf of our service members in the legislative realm. We discussed elections. You all will see an email soon to vote on the candidates for President and first and second vice president. Please be sure to vote as this is your organization and your voice is important to the process. All said, this was a good meeting, always good to see everyone and catch up.

A tentative date was set for next year, 17-18 September 2027. The meeting will only be a Friday night social, with Saturday morning meeting and an event Saturday evening (BBQ or something along those lines). Look forward to seeing you next year. Remember, we are here taking care of our service members so donations to the chaplains fund are always welcome.

CSM (R) Scott Witt



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**Sergeants Major
Association of California
Inc.**
9301 Sierra Spring Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624

The Sergeants Major Association of California (SMAofCA) newsletter is published quarterly and distributed via email to the member’s email address submitted with their membership application information sheet. Continued receipt of the newsletter is dependent upon you keeping your email address current. If you are not receiving the newsletter please send your correct email (civilian email is best) to CSM Joe Menard (USA Retired) at jrmenard@surewest.net .

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Sergeants Major Association of California Inc is incorporated within California (corporation number 0623452) as a charitable organization.

The Association is recognized as a tax-exempt veterans organization by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(19) . Tax ID #237104052

The association is registered with the Attorney General of California as a charitable organization registration number CT0292356.

The Association has re-established electronic payment methods!!

Treasurer CSM Janet Graves has re-established method to pay due and make donations via electronic payment method. This is:

Zelle: smaofcalifornia@gmail.com

For those of us still comfortable with a check book and the postal service, payment can still be mailed to the Association to:

**Sergeants Major Association of California
9301 Sierra Spring Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624**

Association Chaplain Message

As the year comes to an end, we give thanks for the minimal manmade or natural disasters such as wildfires, floods or civil unrest. The California National Guard has endured its fair share of the with lessons learned and have prepared for future impacts. September National Preparedness Month is behind us and with the upcoming predicted El Nino deluge, Soldiers, Airmen and their families are encouraged to be proactive and plan accordingly. Recommend all to review Ready.gov and discuss scenarios to keep their families safe. Furthermore, households should repair or replace areas in the home subject to leaking or potential drainage issues. Stock up on resources accordingly.

There's been Senior NCO movement within the Army National Guard rank and file. Two distinguished Command Sergeants Major CSM Joe Derma and CSM Claudia Hernandez-Smith have done their time and retired but left an indelible mark with countless Soldiers. It was an honor to attend CSM Claudia Hernandez-Smith's retirement. She received notable accolades from a childhood friend through a professional Army aviation association. Her retirement speech struck a chord of the distance she went caring for her Soldiers across the state. She made her presence known across the enlisted and officers. Her focus was Soldier care and NCO development. With all she touched reminded me of two things. One was Proverbs 27:17 stating, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." The other was portions of Stephen R. Covey's "The 7 habits of highly effective people." The New Year brings in CSM Derma's replacement CSM Richard Aller. We look forward to his leadership and attendance at the next Sergeants Major Association annual conference.

Lastly, count me as your Prayer Warrior. I'm here to chat or pray with you and can be reached at 714-527-6952. Text me first introducing yourself and setting up a call time.

In His grip,

CSM (Ret) Ron Cabrera

Past two term President and OIF/OEF Veteran

Chaplains Fund Applications

Senior NCOs who are requesting assistance for their service member (SM) should review the instructions on the application. Requests need to come from the 1SG/NCOIC w/ recommendations of CSM/CMSgt or, the FAS, if others are deployed.

Review the Application to ensure it is complete, request clearly show that SM has a valid financial need & all contact information for parties involved is correct.

The SMA does not normally pay funds to the SM. We do send the funds to the SM but the check is made out to the party owed. The SM is responsible to arrange for debt payment. These funds are a grant and there is no repayment expected. However, SM who are able to help support the Chaplains Fund are free to help other SM in need.

Thank you for supporting this program!!

CHAPLAINS FUND DONATIONS

For your convenience, donations to the Sergeants Major Association's Chaplains Fund can be made by:

Checks sent to:

SMAofCA Chaplain's Fund
9301 Sierra Spring Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Or by Zelle: smaofcalifornia@gmail.com

SMAofCA is a 501(c)(19) Federal tax exempt non profit.
Tax ID # 23-7104052 and California 23701w tax exempt
charitable veterans organization (Corporation # 0623452)

Correction to the article regarding the NCO Promotion Arches in the previous newsletter:

There are three sets. They are available to brigades and battalions for NCO induction ceremonies. One set is located at 40th ID headquarters at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, one set is at Camp Roberts and one set is at the Okinawa Armory in Sacramento.

Leadership Changes

MG Jeffery Smiley has retired and BG Robert Paoletti has assumed command of the California Army National Guard.

CSM Joe Derma has retired and CSM Richard Aller has been appointed as the Command Sergeant Major of the California Army National Guard.

The association wishes the best to the retirees as they transition to retired life and Congratulations to BG Paoletti and CSM Aller.

SLANG

a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people (Jr enlisted within your formation.)

delulu

Adjective: A playful shortening of delusional, often used when someone is knowingly entertaining an unrealistic hope.

In a sentence: "I'm being a little delulu, but I think I'm going to max my AFT." Or, "They are delulu if they think we'll get a 12% pay raise."

The tone is usually joking or self-aware, not a serious diagnosis. Cambridge describes delulu as humorous slang for believing things that aren't true or realistic.

Resource for NCO to keep current on Army initiatives

<https://www.army.mil/tellyourformation/>

JOIN THE SERGEANTS MAJOR ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Sergeants Major Association of California, Inc was chartered in the State of California on 19 October 1968 as a social, patriotic organization advocating the following creed: **"We, the Members of the Sergeants Major Association of California, being desirous of improving the status and image of the National Guard and promoting the wellbeing, welfare and qualifications of the Enlisted members of the National Guard, dedicate ourselves to maintaining the professionalism required of us, and pledge ourselves to this creed."** The Association was founded by a group of Sergeants Major from units throughout California. The goals of the Association since its inception, has been to enhance the image of the National Guard and provide a means of communication for Senior Noncommissioned Officers. **Membership is open to all Active, Retired, or Honorably Discharged Senior NCOs (E-7 through E-9) of the National Guard, California State Guard, and Reserve Components.** An Associate Membership is available for Family Members, Businesses, and Concerned Citizens who share our common goals. In the early years, the Association's focus was on supporting the Soldier and NCO education systems at Camp San Luis Obispo and Camp Roberts. We also contributed to construction of the CSLO Recreational Vehicle Park and improvements to the building that is now Parker Hall. Currently we are actively working with CSLO to modernize Parker Hall so that it will again be a relaxing place for both Soldiers and NCOs to socialize. We also support the Army and Air Service Members of the Year program, CAL GUARD Ready Families programs and we manage the Sergeants Major Association Chaplains Fund, which aids California National Guard Servicemembers throughout the State. We continually look for new ways to respond to the everchanging requirements of the National Guard to better support both Senior NCOs and Junior Enlisted Soldiers. **Member signup as well as annual dues are \$35.00.**

PART I - SPONSER'S ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

a. Name: (Last, First, MI)	b. Grade / Civ:	c. Cell Phone:
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PART II - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

a. Name: (Last, First, MI)	b. Grade / Civ:	c. Date of Birth:	d. Unit / Organization:
e. Home Address: (Street #, City, State, Zip)	f. Spouse Name: (Last, First)	g. Duty Position:	
h. E-Mail Address:	i. Work Phone:	j. Cell Phone:	
k. Military Status:	M-Day	Tech	AGR
l. Branch of Service:	Army	Air Force	Other

PART III - BENEFICIARY INFORMATION

a. Name: (Last, First, MI)	b. Relationship:	c. Cell Phone:
d. Home Address: (Street #, City, State, Zip)	e. Email	

Please enter dates in this format: DD MMM YYYY

Fill out this application and send it with a payment of \$35.00 for first year membership.

Mail to: -or-

Electronic:

E-Mail Application to:

Sergeants Major Association, Inc.
9301 Sierra Spring Way
Elk Grove CA 95624

Zelle: smaofcalifornia@gmail.com

smaofcalifornia@gmail.com