



Perris News

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March Armed Forces Reserve Center Now Open

More than 150 military officers and enlisted personnel, local elected officials and civic leaders attended Saturday's opening of the March Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough, the keynote speaker, told the crowd that the training and teaching center will provide National Guard and Army, Navy and Marine Reserves a state-of-the-art readiness facility for the next 20 years and beyond.

"This beautiful complex near this vital military installation will keep March Air Reserve Base and the communities surrounding it vital parts of the American military," Yarbrough said.

"From here, Reservists and National Guard troops will learn the skills needed to carry on the war on terror and from March Air Reserve Base they will deploy to the front lines of that war. Today is a red-letter day for the military in Southern California, the cities of Perris, Moreno Valley and Riverside and for all of us who respect and admire those who put on the uniform to keep America safe."

Yarbrough welcomed elected officials from Moreno Valley and representatives of the March Joint Powers Authority. The authority is the agency responsible for redeveloping land around March when the base was downsized about 15 years ago.

March JPA officials and the Department of the Army jointly requested that U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert sponsor legislation to authorize the Army, Navy, and California Army National Guard to swap individual land parcels around the base one consolidated parcel for use as a Joint Reserve Training Complex.

The Joint Reserve Training Complex came about as a result of that legislation. The \$30 million complex encompasses more than 130,000 square feet of space. Sixteen buildings were demolished to make room for the Reserve center.

Yarbrough currently serves as chairman of the JPA's sister agency, the March Joint Powers Commission, which is comprised of elected officials from Perris, Moreno Valley, Riverside and Riverside County.

"The Center you see before you came about as a result of a lot of hard work and cooperation between various governmental and community agencies," Yarbrough said. "Behind these walls lie classrooms, vehicle repair bays, simulated rifle ranges, a complete fitness center, library, communications centers and storage areas. In short, all the implements needed to equip our citizen-soldiers as they continue their battle in the war on terror."



Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough in front of the March Armed Forces Reserve Center. The Center will keep March Air Reserve Base "a vital cog in the war on terror."



Yarbrough in front of a storage bin loaded with military gear.