

Connecticut Guardian



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378 Years Young: Happy Birthday National Guard!



The First Muster (Don Troiani, artist) Salem, Massachusetts, 1637: The history of the National Guard began on December 13, 1636, when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered the organization of the Colony's militia companies into three regiments: The North, South and East Regiments. The colonists had adopted the English militia system which obligated all males, between the ages of 16 and 60, to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community. The early colonial militia drilled once a week and provided guard details each evening to sound the alarm in case of attack. The growing threat of the Pequot Indians to the Massachusetts Bay Colony required that the militia be in a high state of readiness. The organization of the North, South and East Regiments increased the efficiency and responsiveness of the militia. Although the exact date is not known, the first muster of the East Regiment took place in Salem, Massachusetts. The National Guard continues its historic mission of providing units for the first-line defense of the nation.

Statement by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel

To the men and women of the Department of Defense:

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that this morning [Nov. 24], President Obama accepted my letter of resignation. I have agreed to continue to serve as Secretary of Defense until my successor is confirmed by the United States Senate.

You should know I did not make this decision lightly. But after much discussion, the President and I agreed that now was the right time for new leadership here at the Pentagon.

I want you to know that I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished together. We have prepared ourselves, our Allies and the Afghan National Security Forces for a successful transition in Afghanistan. We have taken the fight to ISIL and, with our Iraqi and coalition partners, have blunted the momentum of this barbaric enemy. We have come to the aid of millions of people around the world who have suffered the ravages of natural disaster and of disease. We have worked tirelessly to sustain our all-volunteer force that has given so much during 13 years of war. And we have bolstered enduring alliances and strengthened emerging partnerships, all the while setting in motion important reforms that will prepare this institution for the challenges facing us in the decades to come.

Most importantly, we have helped keep this country and our fellow citizens safe. We have sustained the blessings of liberty our ancestors secured and upheld the oath we took.

That work will continue. It must continue. The world is still too dangerous, the threats too numerous, for us to lose focus. And even as I promised the President my full support going forward, so, too, do I promise that I will work hard to support you right up until my last day in office. I owe you that.

There will be time later to say farewell. For now, please

know how much I respect and admire your service and that of your families. As I gather with my own family this Thanksgiving holiday — a luxury I realize not all of you will enjoy — it will be the privilege of having worked

with you these last two years for which I will be most grateful.

Thank you for all you do for this country. God bless you. Happy Thanksgiving.

Life Lines

CTNG Behavioral Health Help Line - **1-855-800-0120**

Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline - **1-800-984-8523**

Emergency - **911**

www.armyfamiliesonline.org - **1-800-833-6622**

www.militaryonesource.com - **1-800-342-9647**

National Suicide Hotline - **1-800-SUICIDE**

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org - **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

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(Front Page American Flag photo by Buddy Altobello)

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Orange Air National Guard Station Receives, Installs Radome Prototype

SENIOR AIRMAN JENNIFER PIERCE
103RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ORANGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION, Connecticut - A “radom” was raised and installed on the radar tower at the 103rd Air Control Squadron in Orange, Connecticut, Oct. 25. A radome, named with a blend of the words “radar” and “dome,” is a protective shield that encapsulates a radar antenna.

“The ACS received the radome through the Small Business Innovation Research Program,” said Senior Master Sgt. Keith Haessly, mission systems superintendent with the 103rd Air Control Squadron. “SBIR is a highly-competitive program that encourages U.S. based small businesses to engage in research and development with the potential for commercialization.”

It took almost three weeks to build the fiber composite radome, said Master Sgt. Bruce Przygocki, NCOIC of ground radar systems maintenance. The radome, built by the Ebert Composites Corporation out of San Diego, California, is 32 feet in diameter and 27 feet high. It has 45 individual panels and is held together with more than

2,500 fasteners. A lightning protection system composed of five lightning rods is affixed to the top of the radome along with a warning light, said Przygocki.

“Ebert began work on this project in early 2010 by designing the specialty material. In late 2012 they were awarded a contract to fabricate a rigid radome prototype for installation at an existing radar site,” said Haessly. “The ACS was selected as the show-place location in mid-2013 and design and construction began shortly thereafter.”

The radome installation required three employees from the Ebert Composites Corporation, nine Airmen from the ACS and the assistance of the Smedley Crane Company out of Branford, Connecticut. Although the installation of the radome took significant coordination between the two civilian companies and the ACS, the successful project will result in reduced operational and maintenance labor for unit Airmen moving forward.

“We are now saving more than 300 man-hours per year with the new radome installation,” said Przygocki.

Located on the Connecticut shoreline, the site receives

high winds and a wide range of environmental conditions from extreme heat to bitter cold and the snow and ice that goes with it, said Haessly. Being located in close proximity to major industrial areas, the dome will be exposed to dirt when blown in by weather. The dome’s design enables it to repel dirt, mitigating a downside to more traditional domes.

“Anytime there was a weather warning for high winds, we would have to fold the antenna to protect it from possible wind damage. Now, we no longer have to fold the antenna and we feel secure in knowing that the \$2 million antenna is being protected by a radome capable of withstanding 140 mph winds,” said Przygocki.

One attractive feature about this particular radome is its completely maintenance-free design. For the next 25-30 years, the radome requires no maintenance.

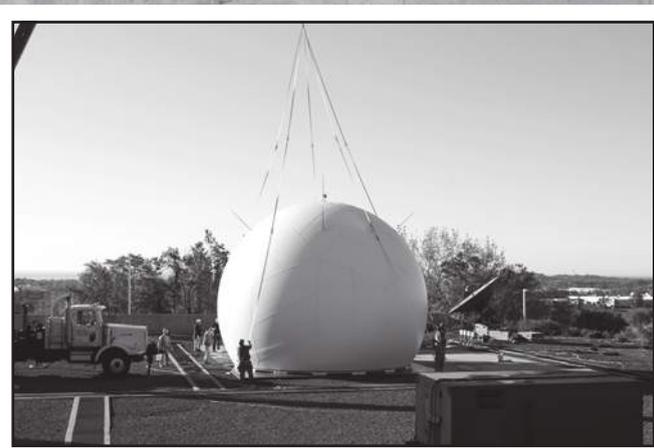
“This is the first radome of its kind,” said Przygocki.

“Now that we have the radome, we are able to focus entirely on our mission instead of having to worry about changing weather conditions, protecting the antenna or even maintaining the radome itself,” said Przygocki.



An Airman from the 103rd Air Control Squadron secures a strap to a fiber composite “radome” moments before it’s lifted to the top of the radar tower at the Orange Air National Guard Station, Orange, Connecticut, Oct. 25. The radome is a maintenance free protective shield that protects the \$2 million antenna within from possible wind damage during severe weather. (Photo courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Keith Haessly)

Background photo: A newly installed fiber composite “radome” shields a tactical radar antenna at the top of the radar tower at the Orange Air National Guard Station, Orange, Connecticut. (Photo courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Keith Haessly)



Airmen from the 103rd Air Control Squadron prepare to raise a fiber composite “radome” to the top of the radar tower at the Orange Air National Guard Station, Orange, Connecticut, Oct. 25. (Photo courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Keith Haessly)



Airmen from the 103rd Air Control Squadron raise a fiber composite “radome” on to the radar tower at the Orange Air National Guard Station, Orange, Connecticut, Oct. 25. The maintenance-free radome, which gets its name from a blend of the words “radar” and “dome,” is a protective shield that encapsulates a radar antenna to eliminate the need to fold and protect the \$2 million antenna within from possible wind damage during severe weather. (Photo courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Keith Haessly)

Dempsey Highlights Importance of Hiring Veterans During Visit to Wall Street

LISA FERDINANDO
DOD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5, 2014 - Veterans are brave and selfless, and they bring the best traits to employers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey spoke in New York at a symposium of Veterans on Wall Street, a group that helps Veterans find business and career opportunities in the financial services industry.

He thanked the employers in the room who have hired Veterans, and said their employees who have served in the military will “make you a better organization.”

Veterans are “incredibly adaptable” and take on challenging assignments around the globe in service to the nation, the chairman said.

“They put themselves in harm’s way for the people of the United States and for people they never even met before, and that’s quite a remarkable trait,” he added. “You don’t know you’re courageous until you’re tested. What I’m telling all of you who are Veterans and all of you who would think about hiring them [is that] they’re courageous.”

People Understand and Recognize Veterans’ Service

The people of the United States do understand the importance of the military and recognize the service and sacrifice of Veterans, Dempsey said. “It’s an honor to serve. It’s a challenging time to serve,” he added.

Dempsey also highlighted “Commitment to Service,” a collaboration between the National Basketball Association and the Defense Department. He encouraged similar partnerships that showcase Veterans and the importance of selfless service.

Looking ahead, the general predicted an environment in which the military will have a sustained role, “whether it’s against Ebola, or ISIL, or in support of our NATO allies or in support of our allies in the Pacific.”

Because of these challenges, he said, Veterans will continue to be “part of the fabric of America for a very long time.”



State to Expand Employment and Social Services to Veterans and Their Families

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

HARTFORD, Connecticut – Gov. Dannel P. Malloy announced Nov. 6 that a pilot program connecting Waterbury-area Veterans, military service members and their families with state employment and social services will be expanded to the Bridgeport area next month.

“In Connecticut and across the country, there are service members and Veterans who are finding it difficult to support their families or themselves,” Malloy said. “We need to do everything possible to increase their opportunities in the job market and to make sure they are aware of all the services they are entitled to. It’s our job to step up for these men and women, as they have stepped up for us.”

In January 2014, the Department of Social Services and Department of Labor launched the program, Supporting Military Members/Veterans and Their Families in Accessing Community Services, to improve outreach and access to job-related services, health coverage, food assistance and other support.

“As part of our efforts to serve military families and Veterans, I asked our labor and social services commissioners to ensure that all possible steps are being taken in their areas of responsibility,” Malloy said. “We are extremely pleased with the progress made with a pilot program in Waterbury, and I have authorized its expansion to the Bridgeport area.”

“Connecticut’s military men and women have so much to offer our communities and businesses,” said Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman. “This initiative will help connect returning military members to the services and programs that support the transition to civilian life, and help Veterans improve their quality of life. We are deeply grateful for everything our military has done for us, it is our turn to serve them.”

The Waterbury-area pilot program successfully increased the number of Veterans and military service members participating in DOL’s employment services and DSS’s medical, food and financial assistance benefits.

Malloy said his administration began meeting with Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch and service organizations last month to lay the groundwork for expanding the pilot to the Bridgeport area.

“I’m the son of a Veteran,” said Finch. “I recognize the importance of protecting our freedoms. I can’t thank those who served – and continue to serve – our country enough. Thanks to help from Governor Malloy, we’re growing support for Veterans in Bridgeport. And, as our city gets better every day, we’re ensuring our heroes have a fair shot at good paying jobs, future success, and the opportunity to live a safe and healthy life.”

“Through better identification of military Veterans and military service families, this pilot program has enabled DSS staff to now make online referrals to our Department of Labor partners when a Veteran is applying for DSS benefits,” said DSS Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby. “This allows the Veteran to be scheduled immediately

for an interview with the DOL Veterans’ employment specialist. By the same token, the DOL specialist can also assist a Veteran in applying directly for DSS benefits when he or she initially contacts the Labor Department for workforce assistance. So far, DSS has connected more than 1,200 Veterans with medical assistance, nearly 500 with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and 16 with cash assistance programs. This support has been critical in helping sustain military families and individuals in the community. We are proud to be part of this initiative.”

Malloy noted that Veterans and military members can go online at www.ctvets.org to request an appointment with a DOL Veterans’ specialist, sign up for DSS services, or obtain information about employment programs and workshops.

Employment services include the Subsidized Training and Employment Program for Veterans, also known as the “Step Up for Vets” program in which employers may be eligible to receive a wage subsidy up to \$12,000 when hiring an unemployed Veteran.

Since the new system went into place, DSS and community partner New Opportunities Inc. have been able to make referrals to the Step Up program, which is administered by DOL and the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board in the Waterbury area.

“As a result of this partnership between DOL and DSS, the number of Veterans being provided services by both agencies has increased by approximately 44 percent at our American Job Centers in the Waterbury region,” noted Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer.

“During that same time, 22 employers have taken part in the Step Up for Vets program which has provided employment to 39 unemployed Veterans. An additional six Veterans completing the Advanced Manufacturing Technology program at Naugatuck Valley Community College have also started new jobs, and we are working with other referred Veterans to provide career counseling, résumé and interview skills assistance, and to connect them with employers that are seeking the specific skills they have learned while in the service. This is clearly a worthwhile initiative and we look forward to expanding the concept to other parts of the state.”

According to Palmer, DSS programs have provided vital assistance to those Veterans who have yet to attain employment, while DOL services have been key in helping unemployed Veterans find jobs.

“The collaboration between DOL and DSS has been an immense benefit to all parties involved with this pilot program,” Commissioner Palmer added.

“The addition of DOL Veterans’ resource site web links on partner websites, combined with public service announcements in the DSS Waterbury field office about the pilot, is helping to bring about a range of new outreach measures that are making a positive difference in the lives of our Veterans.”

Malloy’s office has also developed a web site with a variety of state and federal programs available to Veterans. The site can be accessed at www.Veterans.ct.gov.

Stand Forth! Large Turnout Gathers to Celebrate 1-102nd Lineage

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WALLINGFORD, Connecticut – More than 100 former and current members of the 1-102nd Infantry Battalion came together to celebrate their rich history and exciting future at the 102nd Infantry Regiment Association's 21st Annual Regimental Muster, Oct. 30, in Wallingford.

1st Sgt. (Ret.) Dave Carello said events like these should happen more often.

Based on their cyclic training schedule, the 1-102nd has prepared for 2015 as if it would bring news of a deployment, but the battalion is continuing to "train as they fight." Most conversation at the muster concerned shared memories and experiences of the battalion's past accomplishments.

In recent history, the battalion deployed to Bosnia in 2000, Iraq in 2004 and Afghanistan in 2006 and 2010. It provided personnel support to Hurricane Katrina-ravaged New Orleans in 2005 and worked countless man-

hours during Connecticut's storm response missions over the past few years.

Following a social hour and dinner, Col. Francis Evon, 85th Troop Command commander, invited all former commanders of the 1-102nd present to join him at the front of the room. He introduced each and congratulated all on their shared work in completing the battalion's past missions and crafting it into the elite force it is today. He then proceeded to promote current 1-102nd Battalion Commander Robert Brafford to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Brafford discussed 1-102nd past missions, including a recent JRTC rotation, which he said was the battalion's largest movement of Soldiers and equipment since World War II.

He said the future of the 1-102 looks bright.

Pfc. Kyle Russell was one of the youngest members in attendance at the muster. He became part of the 1-102nd after a recent Connecticut Army National Guard battle

handoff ceremony, and volunteered to be part of the muster's color guard.

Russell said he is looking forward to joining his fellow Soldiers for drill.

The 102nd Infantry Regiment Association elected new officers to lead the organization in 2015. Maj. Frank Tantillo and Maj. William Warner were elected president and vice president, respectively.

Tantillo said he will work hard to promote the 102nd Infantry Regiment Association and to increase membership.

Roots of the 102nd Infantry Regiment can be traced to 1639 when the New Haven Plantation of the British Empire published an order establishing an armed watch to guard against attacks by savages, pirates or other hostile forces.

To join or support the 102nd Infantry Regiment Association, contact new president, Maj. Frank Tantillo at frank.a.tantillo.mil@mail.mil.



New 102nd Infantry Regiment Association president, Maj. Frank Tantillo, discussed the organization's future plans with new and old members. Tantillo said he will work hard to promote the association and encouraged all members to do the same. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

The Power of Process and Practice: CTANG Members Prep for Deployed Operations

TECH. SGT. JOSHUA MEAD
103RD AIRLIFT WING

On Nov. 11 and 12, during a dreary rainy drill weekend at Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Connecticut, members of the 103rd Airlift Wing formed up to walk through a “mobility line” in preparation for Operation Snowbird; their upcoming training deployment to the Savannah, Georgia Combat Readiness Training Center scheduled for early 2015.

These mobility lines used to be very time-intensive and would take an entire day to accomplish. Now, the process has changed, becoming shorter, more streamlined and integrated to include real-world training and inspection.

“The process you are seeing this weekend is a split-process. We run people and their deployment folders through FSS [force support squadron] eligibility, ID, finance, medical, etcetera to ensure members are able to deploy,” said Capt. Cheryl Mead, installation deployment officer, 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Prior to deploying, Airmen reassemble for the second half to receive briefings and a final look-through to ensure nothing has changed with the individual, said Master Sgt. Robert Walsh, noncommissioned officer in charge of the personnel deployment function.

“By doing it split, it’s about two hours soup-to-nuts for the first part and maybe two hours on the reassembly – greatly reducing the hours members have to process at one time,” said Mead.

The strength in maintaining this flexibility, according to Walsh, can be attributed to having good processes in place.

“And with the new mission that comes with the C-130H Hercules aircraft, the base has a greater capacity to move people and cargo. This means we can go from processing around 50 personnel to more than 300 at any given time,” said Walsh.

“It’s all about repetition. And while we have new members, we have solid processes. We should be able to pull anyone in and do the functional processing of the line because of good processes. That means that we’ll always be ready,” said Walsh.

Airmen with basic knowledge and training can augment the processing lines. This is especially important with the cargo function, said Mead. Normally, the small-air terminal would fulfill these mobility functions, but during a large-scale deployment they have to go first to receive the remaining Airmen and cargo.

“Because we have been out of the cargo business for so long, we have to re-educate units on how to process their new equipment by training them on hazardous material preparation, equipment increment monitoring, deployed equipment accountability, pallet build up and how to process cargo for air worthiness,” said Mead.

In a deployed capacity, accountability is key and the personnel deployment function is vital to ensuring requirements sent down by leadership are fulfilled and people are 100 percent ready to go, said Walsh.

In order for this level of accountability and the ability to deploy to become a reality, emphasis on process perfection is ideal. To assist the unit with identifying ways to improve the process, the wing inspection team is present analyzing everything that is going on and making suggestions.

“We have our wing inspection team out here on site giving us feedback so we can make things better,” said Walsh. “The heightened vigilance on inspection only helps us make our processes better because it is done in a consultative manner rather than hitting you with a ‘gotcha’ moment.”

In addition to practice and process analyses, the last key to successful mobility functions is teamwork.

“Almost everyone in these functions are in new positions; either through natural attrition or through displacement. Also, with all the facility maintenance that is going on around base, space to accomplish these functions is sometimes limited and not perfect but we make it work. Being professional and giving constructive feedback helps us reach our ultimate goal to get everyone safely and efficiently to the deployed location on time,” said Mead.

The old adage, “practice makes perfect,” is intrinsic to the Connecticut Air National Guard. That famed refrain of “one weekend a month, two weeks during the summer” is all about practice—practicing the processes that get the job done in less time, with less frustration and emphasizing process improvement.



Senior Master Sgt. Kirkland Foran, a member of the 103rd Airlift Wing's inspector general office, hands over his identification card to Senior Airman Ivan Guerrero, assigned to the 103rd Maintenance Group, for a positive identification check before beginning his mobility processing at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn., Nov. 2, 2014. This first step ensures that all Airmen going through the line are supposed to be there and are who they say they. Additionally, a control number is issued for ease of identification as Airmen move through the line. (Photo Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Mead, 103rd AW Public Affairs)



Airmen from the 103rd Airlift Wing stop at the financial management station while processing through a mobility line in preparation for an upcoming training deployment at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn., Nov. 2, 2014. (Photo Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Mead, 103rd AW Public Affairs)

250th Soldiers Revisit the Home of the Engineers

2nd LT. KURT THOMPSON
250th MRBC

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Missouri – For a second consecutive year, a detachment of New London’s 250th Multi-Role Bridge Company spent its November drill period training at Fort Leonard Wood. Seventy Connecticut Army National Guard Soldiers caught an early C-130 flight out of Quonset Air National Guard Base, Rhode Island on Nov. 6 to mark the beginning of a four-day training exercise which would return many to a familiar TRADOC post.

Founded in 1940, Fort Leonard Wood is located in the Missouri Ozarks and is home to chemical, engineer and military police training regiments. Intended originally for training infantry recruits, the post was converted for use by engineers in 1941, and again in 1999 to support the incoming chemical and military police schools. The post has since been renamed as The Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, to reflect these changes.

Of the many ranges and training areas available, there is one in particular that entices the 250th and makes the 2,400-mile round trip worthwhile: a state-of-the-art bridge site, fully equipped with the tools of the trade necessary to make any training event a success. Several bridges on site test the mettle and abilities of the 250th, and provide valuable training not available locally.

Leonard Wood’s resources allow Soldiers of the 250th the rare opportunity to train under ideal circumstances, to review functional scale models of the bridges and build multiple bridges on a single location. Bridge platoons, in conjunction with their organic recon element, simultaneously built three types of bridges.

Gaining the opportunity to work on bridges the unit may encounter on civilian roadways or overseas provides training important to the readiness of the company, who could encounter them anywhere.

Of the 70 Soldiers who traveled to Leonard Wood, nine were experiencing their first drill with the unit, and found themselves returning to a site recently visited as trainees.

“I definitely preferred being there with my platoon rather than with the drill instructors,” said Pvt. James Drane.

Important as the FLW training resources are, the value of a cross-country troop movement is evident elsewhere as well.

“Taking entire bridge platoons and moving them all the way out here, it goes a long way towards unit cohesion. It reinforces a sense of unity,” said 1st Sgt. Joseph Burke of the 250th.

The company hopes to return to FLW in 2015 for Annual Training, where it will conduct its exercises out of a mock forward operating base located on post.



Soldiers from the 250th Engineer Company perform crane operations to position an interior bay for construction of the Heavy Dry Support Bridge. Pfc. Dylan Markowycz operates the crane to lower a bridge section onto the Dry Support Bridge launcher. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Kurt Thompson, 250th MRBC)

Supportive Military Employer? Nominate Your Employer for Nation's Top Honor

Nominations for 2015 Secretary Of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Now Being Accepted

ESGR PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense office, is now accepting nominations for the 2015 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the Nation's highest honor presented to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR encourages Guardsmen, Reservists or family members acting on their behalf, to submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil by Jan. 19.

Guard and Reserve members comprise nearly one-half of the nation's military force, providing essential services to maintain national security and conduct humanitarian efforts at home and abroad. The unwavering commitment of their employers helps keep our military prepared and our nation protected.

"Every day, employers large and small work to ease the burden on those who serve by providing workplace flexibility, career opportunities and dedicated support," said Paul Mock, ESGR National Chair. "The Freedom Award is one way we can thank the employers that stand behind our Guardsmen, Reservists and their families."

A Freedom Award ceremony is held in Washington, D.C. for up to 15 deserving employers each year. The Freedom Award recognizes employers who go above and beyond in supporting members of the Guard and Reserve – from continuing benefits and healthcare during deployments, to helping with home maintenance and sponsoring veteran hiring initiatives. Service members can thank employers for their exemplary support by submitting a Freedom Award nomination today.

The Freedom Award has been presented to 205 employers since it began in 1996.

VA Implements Second Phase of Choice Card Program

VA PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, DC – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced last month that it began mailing Veterans Choice Cards on Nov. 17 to Veterans currently waiting more than 30-days from their preferred date or the date that is medically determined by their physician for an appointment at a VA facility.

"VA continues to focus on implementation of this new temporary benefit so that Veterans receive the timely quality care they need in a way that reduces confusion and inefficiencies," said Secretary Robert A. McDonald, who penned an open letter to Veterans announcing the implementation of the Choice Card program (<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/15990/an-open-letter-to-americas-veterans-from-secretary-bob-mcdonald>).

The Choice Program is a new, temporary benefit that

allows some Veterans to receive health care in their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. The first round of cards along with a letter explaining the program was issued on Nov. 5 to Veterans who are eligible based on their place of residence. VA is now engaging in the next phase of its rollout – eligibility explanation letters are being sent to Veterans waiting more than 30 days from their preferred date to be seen or considered medically necessary by their physician.

To improve service delivery, VA has prioritized efforts to accelerate Veterans off of wait lists and into clinics through the Accelerated Care Initiative begun over the summer. Through this initiative, VA medical centers have increased access to care inside and outside of VA, added more clinic hours and work days, deployed mobile medical units and shared their best practices from VA's high-

performing facilities throughout the organization.

Significant improvements have resulted nationally:

- * Scheduling more than 1.2 million more appointments in the past four months than in the same period last year. In total, VA medical centers have scheduled more than 19 million Veteran appointments from June to Oct. 1;
- * Reducing the national new patient Primary Care wait-time by 18 percent;
- * Completing 98 percent of appointments within 30 days of the Veterans' preferred date, or the date determined to be medically necessary by a physician;
- * Authorizing 1.1 million non-VA care authorizations, a 47-percent increase over the same period last year; and
- * Increasing the amount of time providers could deliver care to Veterans by increasing the amount of clinic hours in primary and specialty care and through adding weekend and evening clinics at our medical centers.



NOMINATE YOUR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER NOW

for the Nation's highest honor for exceptional support
of Guard and Reserve Employees



**National Guard
and Reserve Members:**

Has your employer gone above
and beyond the call of duty to
support your military service?

Nomination Season Runs

November 3 - January 19, 2015
at www.freedomaward.mil

ESGR, a Department of Defense office established in 1972, develops and promotes employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and resolving conflict between employers and service members.

Boss Lift Gives Employers Birds-Eye View of CT Army, Air Guard Aviation

SENIOR AIRMAN EMMANUEL SANTIAGO
103rd AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Civilian employers from around the state gathered to participate in an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve “boss lift” at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, arriving early on Oct. 28. The day started with a briefing over coffee and donuts by Col. Fred Miclon, vice commander of the 103rd Airlift Wing. Miclon spoke on the mission of the Flying Yankees and was followed by the leadership of the Connecticut ESGR Committee who expressed the important role of civilian employers in the Connecticut National Guard.

“I just wanted to say thank you,” said Ted Graziani, state chair for the Connecticut ESGR committee. “Each and every one of you puts in the time and effort to abide by USERRA and it really shows through your commitment to your military employees.”

USERRA, also known as the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, is a federal law outlining rights and responsibilities for both military members and employers regarding employment and being called up to serve in a federal military capacity.

The group was then escorted to the hangar to get an up close look at one of the C-130H Hercules aircraft recently acquired by the 103rd Airlift Wing. Civilian employers sat at the controls of the aircraft and toured the cargo area with Airmen available to answer any questions.



William Dolce, facility operations manager, northeast region sales and operations for Frito-Lay/ Pepsico, studies the controls of a C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 103rd Airlift Wing during an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve “boss lift” event at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, Oct. 28. Participants were given tours of both Connecticut Army and Air National Guard facilities and aircraft with the goal of providing them a better understanding of Reserve Component service members’ duties and obligations. (Photo by Senior Airman Emmanuel Santiago, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

The tour continued on to the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Conn., home of the 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment where employers got an opportunity to experience the Army aviation side of the Connecticut National Guard. Sgt. Maj. Tony Savino welcomed the group and briefed them on the daily operations of Army Guard aviation, followed by tours of the CH-47 Chinook and the UH-60 Blackhawk.

Participants were treated to a real military lunch experience when each member of the group was given a Meal Ready-to-Eat. MREs are prepackaged food designed for military personnel serving in field environments.

Once the group was fed they made their way to the flight line where they boarded a UH-60 Blackhawk piloted by Capt. Rick LaGrega, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/169th Aviation Regiment. They were then lifted to Southbridge Airfield and Pittsfield Airfield to provide an aerial view of training areas and the state.

“The boss lift experience was absolutely fantastic... my team from UTAS-Danbury Defense Systems were extremely impressed with the tours, presentations and the history lesson,” said David Imbrogno, general manager of defense systems, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and space systems, United Technologies Corporation, aerospace systems.

ESGR regularly supports events like this for civilian

employers with the goal of providing a better understanding of Reserve Component service member obligations and increasing mutual respect between military members and their civilian employers.

“As a Soldier and a company commander, I cannot emphasize enough how vital the support of employers is to the Connecticut National Guard,” said LaGrega.

For more information about ESGR and how you can get involved, please visit <http://www.esgr.mil/>



Ted Graziani, chair, CT Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, sits at the controls of a UH-60 Blackhawk during an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve “boss lift” event at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Windsor Locks, Connecticut. (Photo by Senior Airman Emmanuel Santiago, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



Civilian employers from around the state participated in an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve “boss lift” event, Oct. 28, when they were given tours of both Connecticut Army and Air National Guard facilities and aircraft with the goal of providing them a better understanding of Reserve Component service members’ duties and obligations. Participants were briefed by Sgt. Maj. Tony Savino on the daily operations of Army Guard aviation, while at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Windsor Locks, Connecticut. (Photo by Senior Airman Emmanuel Santiago, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



Civilian employers from around the state participated in an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve “boss lift” event, Oct. 28, when they were given tours of both Connecticut Army and Air National Guard facilities and aircraft with the goal of providing a better understanding of Reserve Component service member obligations and increasing mutual respect between military members and their civilian employers. Participants were treated to a real military experience when each member of the group was given a Meal-Ready-to-Eat for lunch. MREs are prepackaged food intended for military personnel serving in a field environment. (Photo by Senior Airman Emmanuel Santiago, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

Spineti Takes Command of 85th TC: 'Soldier Greatest Asset to Military; Greater Than Tank, Battleship'

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NIANTIC, Connecticut - On Nov. 1, Col Francis J. Evon relinquished command of the Connecticut Army National Guard's 85th Troop Command to Lt. Col. Daniel C. Spineti.

Evon said the brigade's recent experiences will be hard to replicate. He cited relief efforts for Hurricane Sandy and Winter Storm Nemo, as well as the 1-102nd Infantry Battalion's recent JRTC rotation as some examples of major events his Soldiers endured during his tenure.

"It's been an honor to serve a great group of warriors," he said.

CTARNG Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Mark A. Russo said the command's success was due to the hard work and sacrifice of its Soldiers.

Spineti, the former deputy commander of the 143rd RSG, said he is looking forward to the future work of the 85th TC and pledged all of his support to its Soldiers' success.

Spineti said the individual Soldier "is the greatest asset to the military; greater than any tank or battleship."

The 85th Troop Command is currently awaiting the 242nd Engineer Detachment's return from Afghanistan, and is preparing for the deployment of 55 Soldiers from the 192nd Military Police Battalion to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of detention operations and area security in 2015.



CTARNG Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Mark A. Russo hands the 85th Troop Command colors to new commander Lt. Col. Daniel C. Spineti at the change of command ceremony, Nov. 1, Camp Niantic. Spineti said he will pledge his support to his Soldiers' success. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Outgoing 85th Troop Command Commander Col. Fran Evon was presented a Springfield Infantry Musket from 1-102nd Inf. Battalion leadership, as a gift for his past leadership and support. Evon said it's been an honor serving a great group of warriors. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Brig. Gen. Mark Russo, Assistant Adjutant General of the Connecticut Army National Guard, passes the guidon of the 169th Regional Training Institute to the incoming commander, Col. Ralph Hedenberg during the change of command ceremony Nov. 16, at Nett Hall, Camp Niantic. (Photo by Capt. Joseph E. Brooks, 130th Public Affairs Det.)

Hedenberg Assumes Command of the Regional Training Institute

CAPT. JOSEPH E BROOKS
130TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Niantic, Connecticut – Col. Ralph Hedenberg assumed command of the 169th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, from Col. Gerald Lukowski, Nov. 16 at a ceremony held at Camp Niantic.

Brig. Gen. Mark Russo, Assistant Adjutant General of the Connecticut Army National Guard, presided over the guidon exchange, signifying the change of command from Lukowski to Hedenberg.

Hedenberg told the assembled Soldiers it was an honor to take command of the RTI and took pride that the organization has been a regional leader in training. He thanked the staff and trainers for what they have done and for what they will continue to do to support the training and military education mission.

Lukowski related the privilege he had to command the RTI. During his tenure, the RTI was the regional leader in military education for Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School, Military Police training and combat medic training.

In his full-time capacity with the Connecticut National Guard, Lukowski served as the lead construction and facilities manager during the building of the new RTI facility.

CT National Guard Supports 2014 CT Veterans Parade



Members of a color guard from the Connecticut National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters march in the 15th Annual Connecticut Veterans Day Parade in Hartford, Nov. 2. The 1.3-mile parade featured several members of the CTARNG from various units as it wound its way through downtown Hartford.



Sgt. First Class Alex Seretny, 1048th Transportation Company, Connecticut Army National Guard, marches in the 15th Annual Connecticut Veterans Day Parade in Hartford, Nov. 2. Seretny served as an honorary grand marshal in the parade. He has completed three combat tours to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, the nation's fourth-highest combat award and the Purple Heart.



Members of the Connecticut National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters march in the 15th Annual Connecticut Veterans Day Parade in Hartford, Nov. 2. The JFHQ provided logistical support as well as several marching elements and vehicles for the parade.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JERRY BOFFEN
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Despite the whipping wind and frigid temperatures, the 15th Annual Connecticut Veterans Parade drew thousands of observers as it wound its way through the streets of Hartford, Nov. 2.

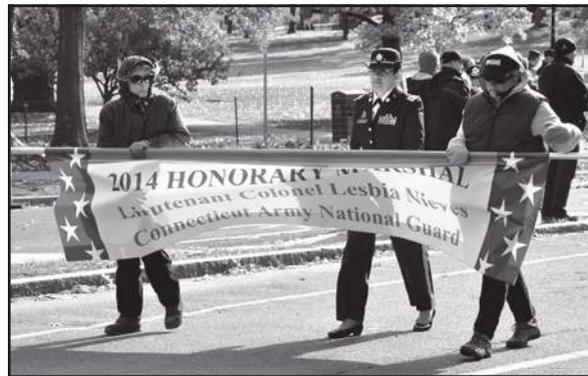
The parade, which was the largest Veterans parade in New England, included drill teams, fife & drum corps, middle and high school bands and numerous Veterans from all over the state. Among them were several members of the Connecticut Army National Guard, including a color guard, vehicles and a marching element from Joint Force Headquarters.

The 102nd Army Band also marched and entertained the crowd with their instrumental renditions of various patriotic and military tunes.

The 103rd Airlift Wing of the Connecticut Air National Guard, the First and Second Companies Governor's Foot Guard and the First and Second Companies Governor's Horse Guard also participated in the parade.

Additionally, two Connecticut Army National Guard members, Lt. Col. Lesbia Nieves and Sgt. First Class Alex Seretny, were recognized as honorary grand marshals for the parade.

Nieves, commander of the 143rd Combat Sustainment



Lt. Col. Lesbia Nieves, commander of the 143rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Connecticut Army National Guard, marches in the 15th Annual Connecticut Veterans Day Parade in Hartford, Nov. 2. Nieves, the first Hispanic woman to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel in the CTARNG, served as an honorary grand marshal in the parade.



The Connecticut National Guard's own 102nd Army Band entertains the crowd as they march and play in the 15th Annual Connecticut Veterans Day Parade in Hartford, Nov. 2. The 102nd was named the band with the "most spirit" by this year's parade judges. 1st Sgt. Rob Breen led the 102d Army Band in the parade as drum major for the final time in his 35-year career.

Support Battalion, is the first Hispanic woman to attain the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Connecticut Army National Guard. She was chosen to be an honorary grand marshal for her work on behalf of Veterans since she returned from Iraq. She said being chosen gives her "a lot of pride and honor."

"To me it means that my sacrifices, challenges, commitment and hard work have not gone unnoticed," Nieves said. "People are taking notice of all my contributions. I am able to continue to educate and advocate for Veterans and be a role model in the Latino community."

Seretny, a platoon sergeant with the 1048th Transportation Company, has completed three combat tours to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry and the 1048th. He is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, the nation's fourth-highest combat award, the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Combat Action Badge. He has been recommended for a second Bronze Star Medal for Valor for his most recent deployment with the 1048th.

Finally, 1st Sgt. Rob Breen led the 102d Army Band in the parade as drum major for the final time in his 35-year career.

The parade totaled 1.3 miles and started with a ceremony that honored Connecticut's fallen Veterans.

2014 CT Veterans Parade Announces Musical Bands Competition Winners

CTVETERANS DAY PARADE COMMITTEE PRESS RELEASE

The winners of the 2014 Connecticut Veterans Parade's Band Contest have been announced. More than a dozen musical units marched in the Nov. 2 parade in downtown Hartford, including college, high school and middle school bands and fife and drum bands. A judging panel selected one winner in each of four categories. Each band will receive a trophy from parade organizers.

The winners of the 2014 Connecticut Veterans Parade Band Awards are:

- **BEST PARADE SPIRIT AWARD:** The Connecticut National Guard's 102nd Army Band.
- **BEST HIGH SCHOOL BAND AWARD:** East Hampton High School Band.
- **BEST MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND AWARD:** Timothy Edwards Middle School in South Windsor.
- **BEST FIFE & DRUM CORPS AWARD:** Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps (Branford).

Close to 3,000 marchers marched in the 15th Connecticut Veterans Parade. The annual event is the largest Veterans parade in New England and is one of the largest salutes to Veterans in the United States.

Resilience Center: Avoid Thinking Traps

SGT. MAJ. JAMES SYPHER
STATE RESILIENCE COORDINATOR

Thinking traps are rigid thought patterns that are common, but problematic, particularly when under stress. These thinking traps undermine mental toughness and performance and can lead to an inaccurate understanding of a situation. The use of critical questions helps to avoid thinking traps and helps you to see the situation more accurately.

The most common thinking trap is **jumping to conclusions**. This occurs when an individual is confident that they understand a situation but have little or no evidence to support their conclusion. The classic example of this counterproductive thinking is when the deployed Soldier calls home to his wife and the phone goes unanswered. Immediately the Soldier assumes the worst possible scenario, although it is not based on any tangible evidence and causes the Soldier to have counterproductive thoughts. Critical questions must be asked in order to either support or disprove the assumptions.

Mind reading occurs when an individual assumes they

know what another person is thinking or when they assume the other person knows what they are thinking. Avoid mind reading through active communication with others. Ask for clarification in order to ensure a complete understanding of the situation. Also, ensure you express yourself so there is no confusion or room for interpretation by others.

When you assume you are the sole cause for every issue you encounter, you are caught in the **Me, Me, Me** thinking trap. Be sure to look at all of the critical factors contributing to the situation. To allow for an accurate root cause analysis of the situation, look outward and ask yourself, "What have others done to cause this?"

Thinking traps that happen when you believe other people or circumstances are the sole cause for every issue that arises are called **Them, Them, Them**. With this thinking trap, one must look inward and ask "How did I contribute to the situation?"

When you believe negative events are unchangeable and you have no control over them, you are stuck in an **Always, Always, Always** thinking trap. This can be dangerous particularly when it leads to a feeling of

helplessness or hopelessness. Critical questions must be asked in order to find changeable things so you can regain control and improve the circumstances.

If it seems as though most aspects of your life are going wrong, you may be caught in an **Everything, Everything, Everything** thinking trap. This is when you judge one's worth (or your own worth) on a single situation or circumstance (character assassination). A good example is when you assume a Soldier is a poor

performer based on their APFT score; or if you assume because your significant other left you there is nothing else is going well in life. Through critical questions, collect the evidence. Is that Soldier really a poor performer just because of a single APFT score? So your partner left you – this could be an opportunity for a fresh start. Also, focus on what else is going right in your life?

It is common to fall into thinking traps, particularly when you are stressed, and they often lead to missing important information. Notice patterns in your thinking; what traps do you fall into? Use critical questions to help broaden your awareness of important information which will allow you to make sound decisions and come to accurate conclusions. Take a look around. Are your superiors', peers' or subordinates' thinking patterns too rigid? What about your family members? Tactfully ask some critical questions.

Resilience Tip of the Month

Know how persuasion can help build confidence in individuals and teams. Effective leaders build confidence in teams through verbal and nonverbal actions. Actions can speak louder than words but effective words can facilitate driving actions.

Resilience Resources:

BH Helpline: 855-800-0120

Strong Bonds: Chaplain Nutt at 800-858-2677

Connecticut VA: Newington: 860-666-6951;

West Haven: 203-932-5711

GKO Resilience Portal:

https://states.gkoportal.ng.mil/states/CT/ARNG_Staff/G1/Resilience/SitePages/Home.aspx

Military One Source: www.militaryonesource.mil

Per Army Regulation 350-53, all units of company size or larger are required to have at least one Master Resilience Trainer. The next Resilience Trainer Assistant course will be conducted in March 2015 at Camp Niantic. Stay tuned for more information on this great opportunity for junior leader development.

In next month's issue we will cover "detecting icebergs."

Until then, Connecticut, stay resilient!

24/7 peer support for Service members and their families



Call Toll-Free at 855-838-8255, visit Vets4Warriors.com, or email: Info@Vets4Warriors.com



-  Vets4Warriors provides Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service members, transitioning retirees, and military families worldwide with peer-to-peer support.
-  The Vets4Warriors peers are Veterans who have been there and understand the problems unique to military life and know your challenges.
-  Vets4Warriors will collaborate with you in setting a plan to achieve your goals, manage stress, and build resilience.
-  Vets4Warriors provides peer support and follow up for those with ongoing concerns. For those in crisis we will connect you to the Military Crisis Line.

-  Peer-to-peer support is available 24/7, and it is toll-free throughout the U.S.
-  Your call is confidential. Vets4Warriors does not discuss your call with anyone and, if callers choose, they can remain anonymous.
-  The Vets4Warriors call center is staffed with Veterans and family members representing all branches of the Service.
-  The call center's Veterans provide information and referrals as needed.

Set your course with a peer connection




Set your course with a peer connection
855-838-8255 vets4warriors.com

Have the Courage to Help a Buddy



"One suicide is one too many."
Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

For assistance:

- ▶ Talk to your Battle Buddy and chain of command
- ▶ Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

USAPHC U.S. Army Public Health Center



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
WILLIAM A. O'NEILL ARMORY
360 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

To the Soldiers and Airmen of the Connecticut National Guard -

This holiday season, residents of our state will gather with friends and neighbors to rekindle old friendships, revive honored traditions and renew the hope that is so much a part of the season. As they do, never lose sight of the fact that we are all able to do so as a result of sacrifices both you and your loved ones are routinely called upon to make.

As a member of the Connecticut National Guard family, you continue to shoulder the burdens of providing for our state and nation's safety and freedom. Whether missioned to protect our neighbors, provide relief to fellow Americans around the country or engage combatants on the other side of the world, Connecticut Soldiers and Airmen always answer the call ensuring a brighter holiday season for all.

This last year has provided us with another new and formidable threat as the Department of Defense wrestles with numerous budget challenges that will ultimately result in significant downsizing of formations across our armed forces. Know that your efforts and those of your fellow Soldiers and Airmen have put us in a position of great strength as the Department of Defense seeks to find ways to reduce structure and end strength. The importance of every inspection, evaluation and metric has multiplied tenfold in the last 12 months and your collective performance has been exemplary. Your continued focus and willingness to go above and beyond is critical if we are going to emerge victorious in dealing with the latest threats.

Kerry and I thank you and yours for the dedicated service you provide and wish you a blessed, rewarding and safe holiday season. May 2015 bring you joy, good health and happiness.



THADDEUS J. MARTIN
The Adjutant General
Major General

TASM-G (G is for Globetrotter) Tack

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GROTON, Connecticut – Staff Sgt. Celia Crespo is no stranger to traveling. She's deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, and has done a fair amount of globetrotting on her own. Crespo, however, is extremely excited about her upcoming trip to Taiwan for training with the 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group.

As an Apache helicopter mechanic, Crespo said the prospect of cross-training in a new country is an opportunity she cannot let pass by.

The TASM-G's mission in Taiwan is to help coordinate a shipment of Black Hawk helicopters as part of the U.S. Foreign Military Sales Program.

The Defense Security Operations Agency website states the FMS program is a form of security assistance authorized by the Arms Export Control Act. Under Section 3, of the AECA, "the U.S. may sell defense articles and services to foreign countries and international organizations when the president formally finds that to do so will strengthen the security of the U.S. and promote world peace."

Lt. Col. Mark Strout, TASM-G logistics management officer, said that the FMS program benefits everyone involved.

"Eligible foreign nations contact manufactures of the equipment they wish to purchase and place their orders," said Strout, "In the case of aircraft, the FMS program then contacts a U.S. TASM-G (there are four in the U.S.) to coordinate the shipping and delivery of the equipment. TASM-G personnel oversee shipping, receiving and quality assurance of ordered aircraft. TASM-G personnel are present during all aspects of equipment transport including port surveys and test flying aircraft after delivery has been made."

"The TASM-G assigned to the mission gains numerous extra training hours on aircraft, which allows much cross-training on equipment our personnel are not familiar with. These missions also enable our pilots to gain extra flight time hours, and when we travel to ports around the country, we're able to offer flight time to other state pilots," he said.

The Groton, Connecticut CTARNG TASM-G is made up of approximately 280 Soldiers. The TASM-G is currently the rotary-wing maintenance depot for the National Guard in 14 states. Approximately 20 TASM-G Soldiers work on the FMS program.

Past FMS missions involving the TASM-G have seen Soldiers perform their duties in Thailand, Panama, Taiwan and Mexico.

Strout said the benefits of working in partner countries are countless. He said TASM-G Soldiers work side-by-side with their pilot and mechanic counterparts and gain an invaluable amount of exposure to foreign military cultures and operations.

TASM-G, H-60 Field Support Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Four Jay Bowdy, has taken part in multiple FMS missions. He said he is extremely appreciative of his experiences working with foreign military personnel.

During a past FMS mission to Taiwan, Bowdy said after the long trip he was looking forward to trying the local cuisine. His Taiwanese military counterparts had food prepared. They began serving gracious portions of fresh shrimp, rice and other Taiwanese staples and Bowdy said he was ready to dig in, but the Taiwanese commander intervened.

"He said, 'Oh no. I have something special for you Americans,'" Bowdy said, "and then he pulled out bags of McDonald's burgers and fries.

"We were all very grateful," he said, laughing.

Bowdy said this showed how much the Taiwanese cared about promoting their partnership.

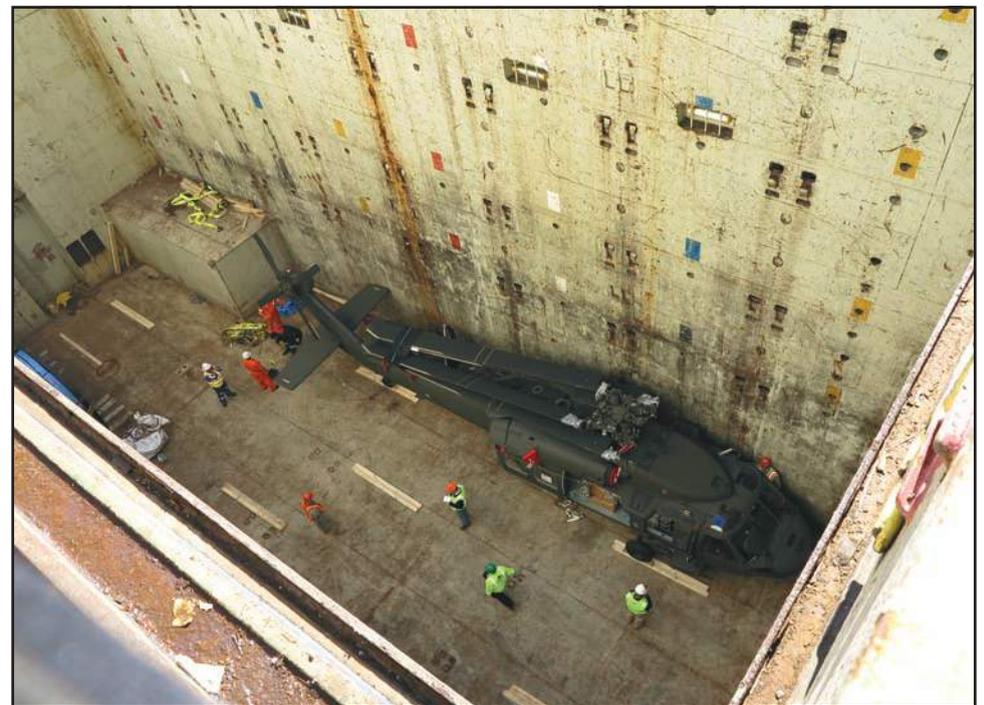
In addition to the new training and traveling opportunities FMS missions have afforded the TASM-G, the program has provided the Groton unit with many new responsibilities.

Most recently, TASM-G created a new rigging technique for transporting UH-60 Blackhawks.

They were the first to lift an aircraft with this new sling set. It will soon be published in a regulation for military distribution and use.



UH-60 Black Hawks are packaged tightly into a storage space on a barge by CTARNG TASM-G Soldiers for their voyage to Thailand, Jan. 2013. The TASM-G has conducted past Foreign Military Sales missions to Taiwan, Panama and Mexico. (Photo courtesy of TASM-G)



CTARNG Soldiers from TASM-G work to load UH-60 Black Hawks into a storage space on a barge for their voyage to Thailand, Jan. 2013. The TASM-G has conducted past Foreign Military Sales missions to Taiwan, Panama and Mexico. (Photo courtesy of TASM-G)

Bowdy said the FMS program also enables their Soldiers to work with many other agencies in the United States including environmental and hazmat teams, port authority personnel, embassies, quality assurance teams, international shipping companies, DoD and State Department employees.

In addition to their FMS duties, the TASM-G mission is to provide depot level maintenance and back-up aviation intermediate maintenance to Army National Guard facilities. They support deployed counterpart TASM-G units with aviation maintenance, and provide port support for deploying forces.

The 1109th TASM-G was created in 1961 as the Fourth Echelon Maintenance Shop (FEMSGRO). It became the 162nd Transportation Aviation Repair Shop (TARS) in 1962, and then the 1109th in 1979.

Black Hawks Foreign Military Sales Missions



Part of the packaging process for Black Hawks involves the careful arrangement of the wings to enable it being lifted and placed into storage spaces. TASM-G Soldiers are present for all shipping and receiving duties at ports to include quality assurance and test flights. (Photo courtesy of TASM-G)



Chief Warrant Officer Four Jay Bowdy carefully inspects a UH-60 Black hawk following its delivery to Thailand, Aug. 2014. A group of TASM-G Soldiers is scheduled to travel to Taiwan later this year to help coordinate a shipment of Black Hawks through the FMS program. (Photo courtesy of TASM-G)



A UH-60 is moved by crane to its storage space for shipment to Thailand, Jan. 2013. The CTARNG created a new rigging technique for moving UH 60 Black Hawks. It will soon be distributed in military publications. (Photo courtesy of TASM-G)



Part of the packaging process for Blackhawks involves the careful arrangement of the wings to enable it being lifted and placed into storage spaces. TASM-G Soldiers are present for all shipping and receiving duties at ports to include quality assurance and test flights. (Photo courtesy of TASM-G)



Soldiers work to pack and secure UH-60 Black Hawks are packaged tightly into a storage container for its travel to Thailand. (Photo courtesy of TASM-G)

Around Our Guard



Former Adjutant General, 1st Sergeant Inducted into Veterans Hall of Fame

David W. Gay, 'Gerry' Wright Honored

STAFF REPORTS

Former Adjutant General Maj. Gen. (Ret.) David W. Gay and 1st Sgt. (Ret.) Gerard B. "Gerry" Wright were recently inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2014. Both men, who served extensive military careers on active duty and in the Connecticut Army National Guard, were recognized for their community volunteerism and support to fellow Veterans and families outside of their military service.

"We honor them for the extraordinary service they gave the nation while in uniform, but if you look at each of the biographies, we honor them for the service that they have provided since their military service," said Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, "going the extra mile, five miles or ten miles to make sure that this community, our community of Connecticut is stronger, yes, because of their service in the military, but most importantly, in some cases even more importantly, because of their services rendered on behalf of community after that service in uniform."

Gay, who served on active duty with the Marine Corps before enlisting in the CTARNG and graduating from the Connecticut OCS program, was recognized for his work with the Special Olympics World Games, state community college system and a long, personal involvement with the Connecticut National Guard Family Program.

Wright, an in-country Army Vietnam Veteran before starting a long career with the CTARNG, was cited for his mentorship of high school students about safe driving, education of schoolchildren on military history and strong support of returning overseas units and individuals.

The Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 2004 to honor the extensive contributions Veterans make to their communities and state after concluding their military service.

1st Sgt. (Ret.) Gerard B. "Gerry" Wright (center), former member 242nd Engineers, receives his induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame from Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman (right) and Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin. Wright and Maj. Gen. David W. Gay, former adjutant general, were inducted for their lifetime dedication to serving Veterans and service members. (Photo by Col. John T. Wiltse, State Public Affairs Officer)



The Connecticut Army National Guard has received its first medevac helicopter, a UH60A+. The aircraft, with tail number 674, arrived at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks on Oct. 30. The crew that picked the aircraft up from the New Hampshire AASF, from left to right: Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric Luke, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeff Aspinwall, 1st Sgt. Dan Appleyard and Sgt. Andrew Hall from C Company, 3rd battalion, 142nd Aviation. The UH60A+ is an A model with upgraded engines. The unit is programmed to receive UH60M aircraft in fiscal year 2016-17. (Photo courtesy Sgt. Maj. Tony Savino, State Aviation Office)



Connecticut National Guard AMEDD Professional Education Seminar

COL Robert Nett Hall, Camp Niantic, Niantic, Connecticut

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015 * 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Medics, Nurses, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Dentists, EMTs, Behavioral Health professionals, and all members of the Medical Community, Military and Civilian, are encouraged to attend.

Sponsored by:
Recruiting and Retention Battalion
CTARNG Medical Detachment

Accreditation: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) by Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Connecticut Children's Medical Center designates this educational activity for a maximum of 5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

NOTE: There is no cost to attend the Seminar.

For Information or to Register for this Program:
Contact Staff Sgt. Peeler at elizabeth.k.peeler.mil@mail.mil








COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
JOHN S. CARRAGHER

Enlisted Update

Welcome to December! It is hard to believe another year has gone by.

Looking back on 2014, each and every one of you should be proud of your accomplishments. In every single measure of quality that

others view us with, our Airmen, Soldiers and units continue to far exceed the established standard. This relentless pursuit (and attainment) of excellence does not just happen. Excellence is the result of the dedication, hard work and sacrifice of each and every member of our Guard.

You make it easier for us to fight to retain and grow force structure during a period of shrinking resources. While others may be forced to try to justify their shortcomings, we are able to point to superior results, backed up by verifiable data, to demonstrate excellence.

As we move into the holiday season, I ask everyone to make an extra effort to reach out to your wingman or battle buddy. The holidays can be a very stressful time for many people, me included. Take that moment to make a call, send a text or e-mail or visit your buddies between drills. The five minutes you invest may be just what it takes to get a fellow Guardsman through a rough spot. Also, let's not overlook our military families that may be struggling financially this holiday season. If you know of a family in need or want to help those in need, please connect with Operation ELF through our Family Program office.

This season is also prime time for bad decision making when it comes to drinking and driving. It is a pretty simple equation. If you drink, don't drive. If you drive, don't drink. It seems simple, but it is easy to get carried away with the festivities and make what could be a very costly decision. If you are going to celebrate, have a plan to do it safely. If you find yourself in a position where you can't drive, don't take the chance! Pick up the phone. Every person in our Guard has more than 4,000 brothers and sisters they can call. There are 45 chief master sergeants and sergeants major that I know will come and help you when you

call. Is the short term embarrassment you may feel worth the risk of a potentially fatal crash? Is the potential to harm others or lose your freedom due to arrest worth the chance? I think not. Make the call.

The holiday season is usually marked as a time to reflect on the things we are thankful for. In October and November we held our annual Senior NCO Dining In, our Officer Dining In and Veterans Day celebrations. Those three events made me think about one of the things that I am most grateful for – the leaders that have come before us.

Our Guard is what it is today because of the great leaders that did the heavy lifting to get us here. Many of the traditions that we continue to practice today were started by those leaders. They had the foresight to understand the importance of tradition, esprit de corps and friendly competition to the military service. We are blessed by their example of what right looks like and challenged by them to maintain not only the standards of excellence we practice today but the very best of the traditions of the service. We are now them. It is up to us demonstrate excellence and continue to encourage the traditions we hold so dear. We honor those that came before us by maintaining our traditions. We have an obligation to those that will follow us to pass on those traditions to the next generation of leaders.

As we move through this holiday season, please keep in mind those service members that are currently deployed and the families that are home without them. Most importantly, please take time to remember all of our brothers and sisters that made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. They will not be with us for the holidays, except in spirit.

My family and I wish you the very happiest of holidays and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Quote of the Month:

"For Leaders, it's all about the 67%!"

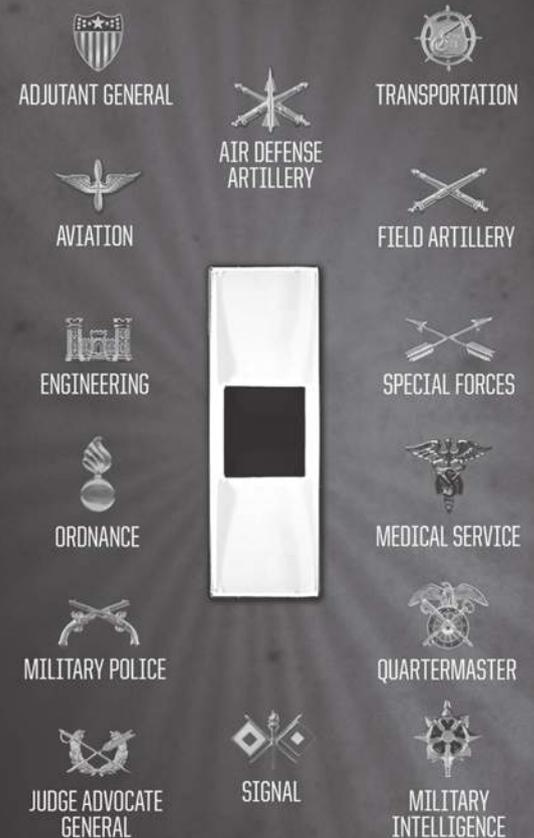
Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley

10th Command Sergeant Major, Army National Guard

"Any Soldier, any issue, any time."

**Thank you to all of our
Connecticut National Guard
Families for all that you do and all
that you sacrifice**

BECOME A LEADER AND
TECHNICAL EXPERT
AS A WARRANT OFFICER



TAKE THE CHALLENGE TODAY, CONTACT:

CW3 JOHN NERKOWSKI

WARRANT OFFICER STRENGTH MANAGER

203.410.0828

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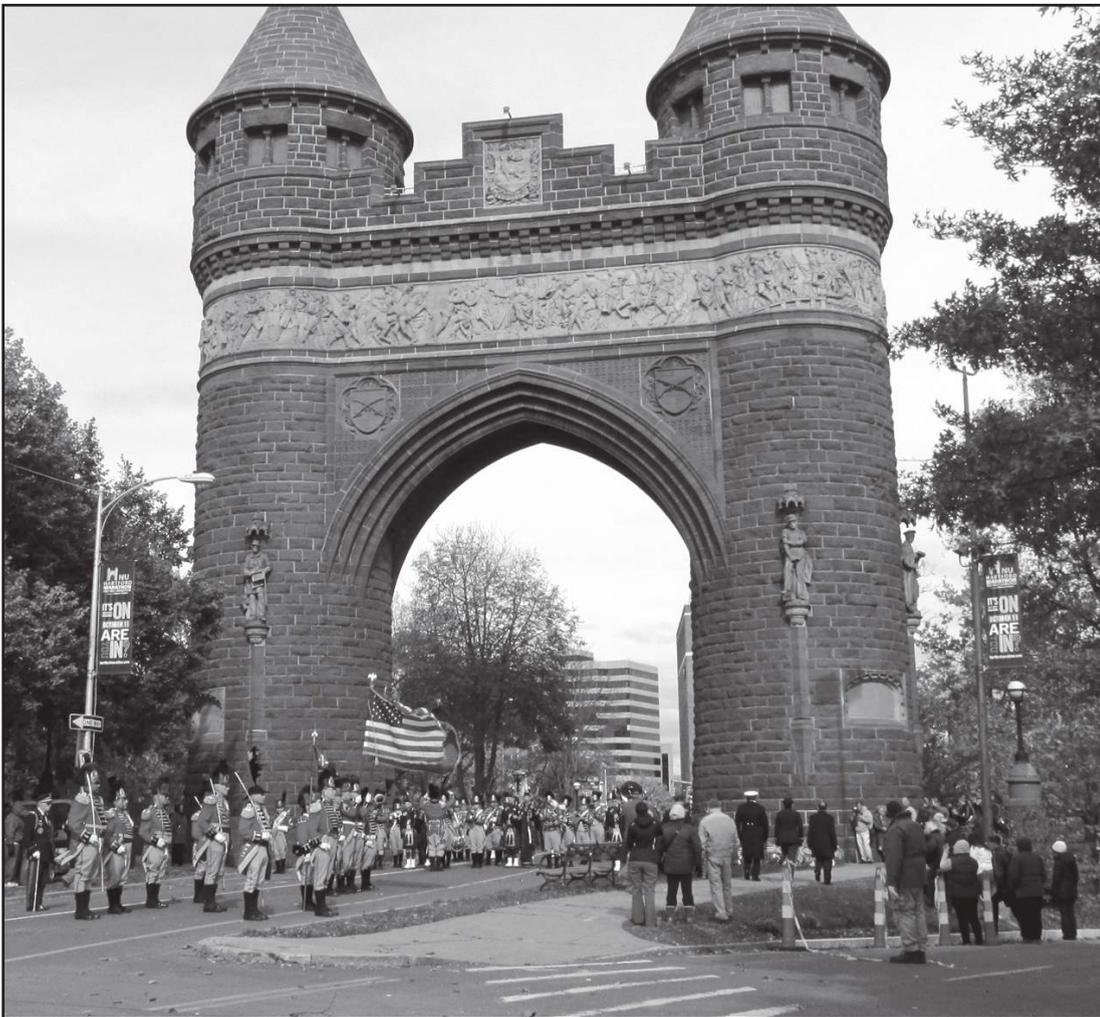
SUICIDE IS PREVENTABLE

**1 WORD
VOICE
LIFE**

Be the 1 to start the conversation

PREVENTSUICIDE.ORG

Governor's Horse and Foot Guards



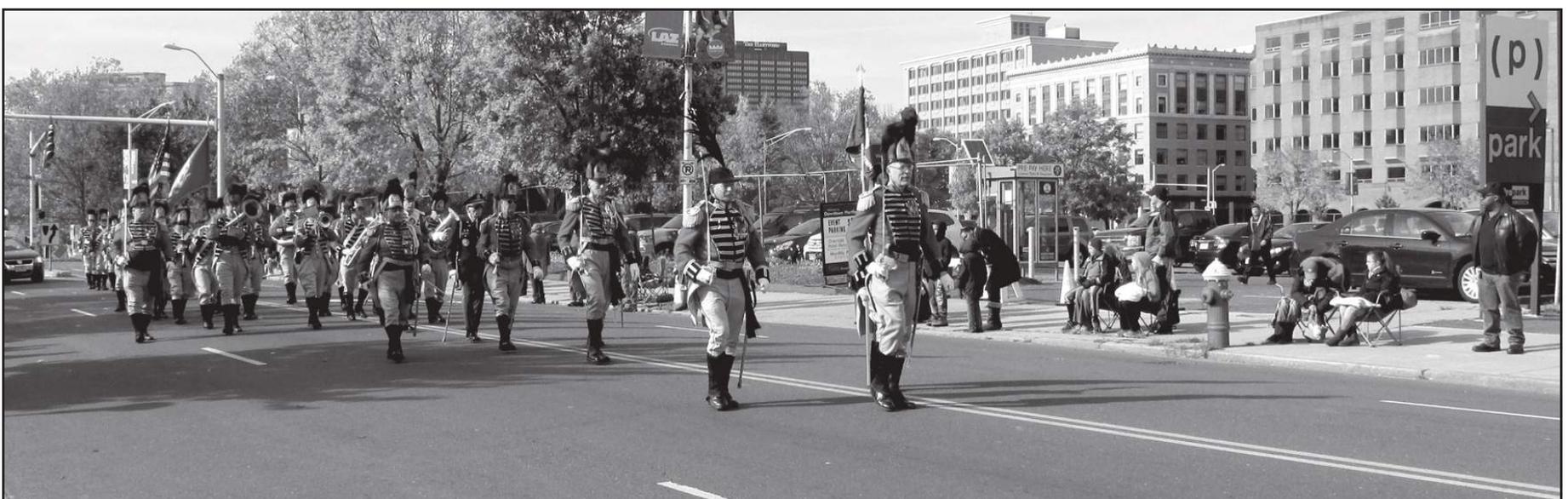
The First Company Governor's Foot Guard, under the command of Capt. Brien Horan, and the Manchester Regional Police and Fire Pipe Band combined forces for a memorial service at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch Nov. 2. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Pat Boudreau)



Members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, under the command Maj. Christopher Cain, march in the Enfield Veterans Day Parade Nov. 2. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Janet Dexter)



The First Company Governor's Foot Guard Color Guard, under the command of Sgt. 1st Class Mark Boudreau, participates in the Veterans Day assembly at the Pleasant Valley School in South Windsor Nov. 11. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Cora Laraia)



The First Company Governor's Foot Guard, under the command of Capt. Brien Horan, marches in the Connecticut Veterans Parade on Nov. 2. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Pat Boudreau)

Inside OCS: Leadership: A Role for Which You Have to Prepare

OFFICER CANDIDATE BRITANY PRICE
OCS CLASS 60

The Camp Niantic parade field is empty and the grass is covered with dew. This same field will soon be filled with officer candidates vigorously working to finalize any last-minute plans before the next weekend drill of Officer Candidate School Phase II begins.

It took considerable effort and hard work over a period of three weeks to plan just three days of OCS. The 14 candidates continuing into Phase II never know fully what to expect, but have some idea of what it will take to be successful.

There is a feeling of anxiety as the Friday morning report time draws near. As the platoon sergeant and platoon leader prepare to give the composite risk management brief, officer candidates are making copies while others are double and triple checking their ruck sack SOPs. If candidates look around, they can see tension rising as they mentally prepare themselves for the beginning of a drill weekend.

Questions, concerns, expectations and content recollection all begin to cloud the thought process as training officers steadfastly approach. Various thoughts begin racing through the minds of each candidate, "I hope I remember the acronym for combat power;" "Did I prepare well enough for the ruck march?"; "I should have done another ruck a few days prior to drill,;" "Last drill I couldn't do 10 pull-ups before each meal, will I exceed the standard this month?" Each OC goes through a similar thought process at the beginning of each drill weekend. This cyclical pattern of anxiety, not knowing what to expect and hoping you prepared yourself enough, repeats itself each time you head into another drill weekend.

Each month improvements are made when OCs implement information learned as part of the course requirements of OCS. Terms such as "testable material," "PCCs and PCIs," and "METT-TC" become part of the everyday vernacular. Once a candidate thinks he or she has a handle on the many acronyms used by the Army, it doesn't take long to realize it is just the tip of the iceberg.

Training, Advising and Counseling (or TAC) Officers instruct OCs on phase II knowledge. Army leadership, heritage of OCS, role of the NCO, Army history, offensive and defensive tactics are just a few of the topics candidates learn about. In Phase II, OCs are in the "crawl" stage of Army leadership and tactics, learning material that is very new to many candidates. The knowledge is information that will one day allow OCs not only to lead Soldiers but also do so effectively with tact, self-confidence and resolve.

Through the traditional OCS program, I have learned a great deal. Not only have I learned what will help me be successful as an OC, and hopefully someday as an officer, but I have gained valuable life experience. I have learned that making decisions and owning them is an essential element in being an effective leader. When you hold yourself accountable and allow others to hold you accountable, you must live through the consequences

of both good and bad decisions, ultimately helping you to make better decisions.

This program has taught me that fear is a mindset, but so is the will to succeed. Fear stems from lack of knowledge, improper planning and poor time management. Success is a conscious choice that a person makes. Cutting 10 minutes off my last seven-mile ruck time was a conscious choice I made to "find a way to succeed" as one of our TACs says. Being an effective leader is not a quality people are born with. No one stumbles into a position of leadership and succeeds. Leadership is a role you must prepare for and strive to maintain. Effective leadership has a lot to do with preparation, the things you do when no one is watching.

Leadership preparation for officer candidates goes beyond basic leadership skills. Vernon Law once said, "Experience is a tough teacher, it gives the test first and the lesson afterward." OCS has been a rigorous test.

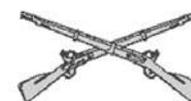
I envisioned OCS being challenging, as well as physically and mentally demanding. However, I did not really understand how much I would be tested and how much my will to succeed would come into play.

It is clear not everyone can be an effective leader. People come to OCS from all walks of life and from different backgrounds. The officer candidates of Class 60 began with 21 OCs in Phase Zero, and now there are 14 remaining candidates continuing into Phase II. Not one person has had the same life path as another. This also means that each person deals with stress in different ways. An effective leader can look past the trivial things in life and deal with the important tasks at hand.

I often ask myself if I would want to be led by me. The Connecticut OCS program truly helps you see yourself as other Soldiers see you. From my brief leadership roles in Phase I, I learned I could sometimes be verbose and convoluted in my explanations. This does not help to get the task at hand completed in a thorough and efficient manner. Learning what my weaknesses are in a magnified way, helps make me a better Soldier and leader.

This program is the most difficult experience I have had in my life. Through the challenges I have experienced thus far, I have learned strength comes from completing tasks you were not sure you were capable of accomplishing, and pushing yourself further. Being resilient and having the will to succeed despite the many obstacles that stand in your way are qualities leaders possess.

Balancing the complex tasks associated with drill weekends and my civilian job has proved to be a daunting task. However, knowing that if I remain diligent, focused and work hard, I can have what it takes to be an officer keeps me going. This makes all of the anxiety and stress of each drill weekend worth it. I know that each week I will push myself further and be surrounded by like-minded people who will do the same. The sense of accomplishment and pride I have after I have finished a weekend at drill is truly a gratifying feeling and what makes OCS a rewarding experience.



1st Battalion (OCS), 169th Regiment (RTI) **Officer Candidate School**

OCS OPEN HOUSE

Information Brief

21 FEBRUARY 2015

Report Time: 0900

0900-1100 at The RTI, Camp Niantic

Uniform: ACU's with PC or Business
Casual (Civilians Only)

Staff and Cadre will be on hand to answer
questions and support administrative
requirements.



Please RSVP through your chain of command and to:
CPT David Lord david.m.lord.mil@mail.mil
CW3 Michael Mottolo michael.v.motollo.mil@mail.mil



Healthy Lifestyles

DoD, NCAA Merge Concussion Prevention, Treatment Efforts

AMAANI LYLE
DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7, 2014 - The Defense Department and the National Collegiate Athletic Association are launching a landmark \$30 million alliance initiative to enhance the safety of student-athletes and service members, Pentagon officials announced in November.

The initiative will fund a major clinical study with student-athletes from select NCAA member institutions to establish the natural history of concussion — including risks, treatment and management — with a focus on improving prevention, protection and treatment methods on the athletic field, during military training and in the combat theater, said Army Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Nadja Y. West, the Joint Staff surgeon.

“This grand alliance represents the most comprehensive investigation of concussion and head impact exposure ever conducted,” West said, “and presents an unprecedented opportunity to advance the field of concussion science while educating our force

and their families, increasing our chances of full recovery and decreasing the number of future injuries through preventive measures.”

These initiatives, the general explained, align with priorities put forth by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, to develop evidence-based approaches to improving the medical care, health and welfare of military service members affected by concussion and traumatic brain injury.

Service Academies Supporting Study

With recent White House reports of young people comprising nearly 250,000 emergency room visits each year following brain injuries related to sports or recreation, all four service academies — where every student is a student-athlete — are now identifying how they can best support the study.

Culturally, self-reporting head injuries is seen by some as a sign of weakness, West said.

“We just get up, shake it off and rub some dirt on it,” the general said. However, she added, “we are seeing a

shift in our culture with increasing leader emphasis as well as encouraging the importance of the buddy system (assess and act, if necessary, for your buddy’s well-being).

“We hope to continue to change the culture by arming physicians and scientists with better clinical data,” West continued, “and by creating educational programs to increase understanding of the importance of diagnostics for immediate action and tracking for follow-up treatment.”

Pentagon officials also reported the study complements current service academy efforts to raise awareness on concussions, such as advanced traumatic brain injury instructional training for Coast Guard Academy athletic coaches to assist them in recognizing the signs of brain injury.

The research broadens the NCAA National Sport Concussion Outcomes Study, an existing multisite, longitudinal investigation of concussive and repetitive head impacts, and it acts as the foundation for future advanced research projects, DoD and NCAA officials explained.

Education: Combining GI Bill and TA Benefits – Avoiding the Pitfalls

COMPILED BY MIRZA HENDERSON
EDUCATION SERVICES SPECIALIST

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance is a program administered by the Department of Defense not the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The rules of Tuition Assistance can vary by branch of service and even between service components depending on the service member’s status. Duplication of benefits can become an issue if a student receives education benefits from the various chapters of the GI Bill administered by the VA and Tuition Assistance for the same courses. Recipients must be careful to understand these potential duplication issues by researching VA, DoD, and branch-specific regulations. Potential duplication issues involving these two important education assistance programs are outlined below.

Chapter 33 (Post 9/11) GI Bill Recipients

Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve service members may receive Chapter 33 benefits for the same courses for which they receive TA from the military. Depending on the recipient’s mobilization time, National Guard and Reserve service members may have varying percentages of Chapter 33 benefits ranging from 40 to 100 percent. Schools must deduct TA benefits from the net tuition and fees submitted to the VA for payment. Chapter 33 can be used to pay the remaining out-of-pocket costs.

Chapter 30 (Active Duty) GI Bill Recipients

Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) full-time personnel may *not* receive standard Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive TA from the military (with the exception of the “Top-Up” Program). If a student

takes several courses, the student cannot receive Chapter 30 benefits for the courses for which TA is paid, but the student can receive Chapter 30 benefits for the courses for which TA isn’t paid. Former Active duty service members, who earned Chapter 30 benefits while on Active Duty and are currently traditional drilling members (M-Day members) of the National Guard or Reserves, may receive standard Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive TA from the military.

Chapter 30 and the ‘Top-Up’ Benefit

AGR service members and former active duty service members eligible for Chapter 30 and approved for TA are eligible for the VA “Top-Up” Program. Top-Up allows the VA to pay the difference between what TA pays and the total cost of the course. However, in no case can the amount paid by TA combined with the amount paid by VA be more than the total cost of the course. The law prohibits active duty students from receiving regular Chapter 30 benefits and TA for the same course; however, students, to include National Guard and Reserve service members who earned Chapter 30 benefits while on active duty and are approved for TA may receive the Chapter 30 Top-Up benefit. Service members, current or separated, can apply for Top-Up by sending a TA authorization form directly to the VA. Detailed information about how to use and apply for the Top-Up benefit in conjunction with Tuition Assistance is available on the GI Bill website http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/tuition_assistance.asp

Chapter 1606 and 1607 (Reserve Component) GI Bill Recipients

Current and separated National Guard and Reserve M-day service members may qualify for Chapter 1606 and/ or 1607 GI Bill benefits. These traditional service members

may use Chapter 1606 or 1607 in conjunction with their Tuition Assistance. However, DoD regulations state that National Guard and Reserve service members may not receive Chapter 1606 or 1607 and TA for the same courses if they are attending school less than half-time.

Can I use the GI Bill for the same courses for which Federal Tuition Assistance is being paid?

	Active Duty/AGR	M-Day/Drilling Status
Chapter 33	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
Chapter 30	No (2)	Yes
Chapter 1606/1607		
Half-time or more	Yes	Yes
Chapter 1606/1607		
Less than half-time	No	No
All other chapters	No	No

Notes:

- (1) The amount paid by Federal (as well as state) TA should be deducted in the net charges determination
- (2) However, the service member may apply for Top-Up

If you have any questions about your education benefits and want to discuss them further, please stop by the Education Service Office in the Hartford Armory or reach us at the following extensions and email addresses:

Maj. Derek J. Musgrave: Education Services Officer and GI Bill Manager at 860-524-4816 or derek.j.musgrave.mil@mail.mil

Mrs. Mirza Henderson: Education Service Specialist at 860-524-4820 or mirza.y.henderson2.civ@mail.mil

Sgt. 1st Class Erika Thurman: Incentive Manager at 860-524-4809 or ericka.g.thurman.mil@mail.mil

Legal: Domestic Violence Court Orders Can Have Consequences

MAJ. JOSEPH T. CORRADINO
COMMAND JUDGE ADVOCATE, 143RD REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

The disintegration of family relationships is a continuing problem from which Soldiers have not been immune. When a domestic relationship breaks down, the parties often have recourse to various types of court orders.

In Connecticut, a family violence restraining order is a civil court order for which no arrest is required. A protective order is issued by a criminal court when a person has been arrested for a domestic violence crime as a condition of his release on bail or promise to appear.

Both types of orders may affect child visitation and may order the respondent not to engage in any physical violence. It may even restrict contact and communication with the complainant and other family members and deny access to the family dwelling.

These orders have other consequences in both the civilian and military lives of the partners. Violation of either type of order may constitute a new crime and also serve as a basis for revoking the defendant's bail or

promise to appear and landing him in jail while the case is adjudicated.

The Connecticut Supreme Court has noted, "in the sensitive and often explosively litigated context of family dysfunction and dissolution, there is a reasonable possibility that a domestic violence restraining order will have prejudicial collateral legal consequences for its subject, even after its expiration."

It takes very little to establish a violation. In one case, "driving past [the complainant's] home, turning around, and immediately driving past her home a second time constituted an act of stalking" in violation of the order. In another case "the act of leaving two expletive and posturing laden messages on the victim's telephone answering machine," was enough. It may even be a violation if the complainant invites or tricks the respondent into coming to the house while the order is in place.

Although the Lautenberg rules generally do not apply prior to a criminal conviction, Connecticut law makes it a felony to possess a firearm while subject to either a

restraining order or protective order and the mere issuance of an order is a basis for the revocation of a state pistol permit. Possession includes carrying a weapon, but also means merely having the weapon under one's dominion and control, such as keeping it in a closet or gun safe. There is no exemption for military service. Consequently, a Soldier subject to such an order cannot go to the range, act as an armorer, clean weapons, have access to the weapons vault or deploy armed on state active duty.

Becoming the subject of either a family violence protective order or a criminal protective order is a complex legal minefield made more difficult by the emotions that surround such events. Consequences can be severe and permanent.

No Soldier would deploy to a foreign conflict without the right equipment and personnel. The same is true in personal conflicts. Always consult a lawyer who is a subject matter expert. Your local bar association or a legal assistance JAG can direct you to someone with the right experience.

Diversity: Celebrating Native American Pequot Heritage

VICTORIA LUGLI
CTARNG FAMILY MEMBER

My mom, Maj. Valerie Seery, and I attended the Honoring Veterans Pow Wow - a beautiful event that showed how the National Guard cherishes other cultures. This special emphasis event was held Nov. 8 at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum located in Mashantucket, Connecticut, free of charge for museum members and Veterans.

The event was advertised to onlookers as a way to "experience the splendor and diversity of our native artists as they express themselves through traditional arts, regalia, dance and song."

Upon entering the museum, guests were surrounded by the sounds of traditional Native American music, as well as the sight of beautiful and elaborate clothing worn by both the men and women. A large amount of spectators filled the bleachers overlooking the dancing area, where young and old Native Pequots danced in their traditional styles.

Guests had the chance to purchase items that were created by the Native Americans including beaded jewelry, moccasins, clothing, purses, hair pieces and toys for young children. Everything told the story of how much the culture cared for what they created.

A restaurant on-site invited guests to eat, while overlooking the native dancing. A number of cultural dishes were offered to educate guests on dietary habits - certainly not the kind of cuisine you would find in a school cafeteria.

Really setting this event apart from the rest was the openness in which our Pequot hosts shared their culture

with others, as well as show they demonstrated their respect and honor for our men and women in uniform to include native Pequots that have served or are still serving in the National Guard.

During the time we were there, my mom was often saying that this event was a great example of how the National Guard creates an environment for those of different cultural backgrounds to come together and teach one another how they live. The amount of diversity involved within the National Guard is truly amazing, reflecting the diversity our country shares as a whole.

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum itself offers guests the chance to learn the history of the native tribe, and how it came to be what it is today. The rich history of the Pequots' includes the life of living through the last ice age, the arrival of European people, the changing

environments in the past 6,000 years, as well as the great Pequot war with the colonies of Connecticut and Massachusetts in 1637. The museum paints a picture of what it was like during many of these times in history by simulating a Native village, which people are able to walk through with the help of an electronic guiding device which explains every detail of the vast Pequot village.

The museum is run by the government of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal nation, aiming to teach people the Pequot history and give them an understanding of the diversity of the culture in both the U.S. and Canada.

Many of us live different lives from the rest, and by trying to understand that through cultural education we can make it possible for people live together in a harmonious community.

WEAPONS SAFETY
THINK

- Treat every weapon as if it's loaded.**
- Handle every weapon with care.**
- Identify the target before you fire.**
- Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.**
- Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.**

In FY 2007 six Soldiers died in off-duty privately owned weapons handling accidents; alcohol was a factor in the majority of them.

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National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT)

Nominations Being Accepted for Annual NGACT Awards Program

DAVID PYTLIK
AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The National Guard Association of Connecticut is again looking to award the best and brightest Soldiers, Airmen and officers of the Connecticut National Guard for their outstanding service.

We understand that our organization's success isn't solely fueled by men and women wearing the uniform; outstanding spouses, corporations, individuals and Retirees who have made exceptional contributions to the organization are also eligible for awards.

Anyone can submit an award recommendation. The deadline for submissions for this year's awards program is Feb. 6, 2015. Leaders at all levels are encouraged to look to their formations and consider submitting recommendations for anyone they believe fit the criteria below. Also, please consider those businesses, companies or others supporters that have gone above and beyond for the Connecticut National Guard. Winners

will be invited to an awards ceremony during the March NGACT Conference.

For more information about the NGACT awards program, please contact Dave Pytlik at david.c.pytlik@outlook.com.

The Minuteman Award: The highest honor bestowed on a member of the Association. It recognizes exceptional achievement, a patriotic act, highly distinguished service and/or an outstanding contribution to a military organization, community, the State, the Nation or the National Guard Association of Connecticut. Posthumous awards may be made to the next of kin.

Eligibility: Member or former member of the military and NGACT.

The NGACT Leadership Award: Recognizes a company grade officer who epitomizes the loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage exemplified in the Officer's Creed.

Eligibility: Company grade officer, member of the

Connecticut National Guard, Member of NGACT and recommendation endorsed by the respective chain-of-command.

The Commander Sergeant Major Anthony V. Savino Award: Recognizes a noncommissioned officer who epitomizes the loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage exemplified in the NCO Creed.

Eligibility: NCO and member of the Connecticut National Guard, member of NGACT and recommendation endorsed by the respective chain-of-command.

The Meritorious Service Award: Bestowed on an individual, firm or organization for outstanding service to the Connecticut National Guard and/or NGACT.

Eligibility: Any individual, firm or organization; military or civilian.

The President's Corporate Member Award: Recognizes a corporate member that distinguishes itself through noteworthy contributions in furtherance of the purpose, goals and objectives of NGACT.

Eligibility: Current corporate member of NGACT.

The President's Retiree Award: Recognizes a retiree member who distinguishes themselves through noteworthy contributions in furtherance of the purpose, goals and objectives of NGACT.

Eligibility: Current member of NGACT.

National Guard Association of Connecticut 2014-2015 Awards Program Nomination Form

The National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) recognizes outstanding achievement or service in keeping with the purpose, goals, objectives and policies of the Association through its annual Awards Program. We will recognize recipients at the NGACT Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon on **Saturday, March 28, 2015**.

The NGACT Awards Committee is now accepting nominations through **Feb. 6, 2015**. All nomination forms must be received **NO LATER THAN Feb. 6, 2015** to be considered.

Please complete the and forward it with any supporting documentation to: NGACT Awards Committee, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795 or email to david.c.pytlik@outlook.com. Questions can be addressed to ngactexecutivedirector@gmail.com or david.c.pytlik@outlook.com

Name of Person being Nominated: _____

Is the Person a current member of the Connecticut National Guard? Yes ___ No ___

Is the Person a retired member of the Connecticut National Guard? Yes ___ No ___

Is this a posthumous award? Yes ___ No ___

Nominee's Unit: _____ Nominee's Rank: _____

Nominee's Phone Number: _____ Nominee's Email: _____

Award being Nominated For: _____

Please provide as detailed a description as possible of why this Nominee is deserving of the Award: (Use a separate sheet if necessary)

Name of person making the nomination: _____ Rank: _____

Unit of person making the nomination: _____

Your Phone Number: _____ Your E-mail: _____

Relationship to nominee: _____

Awards

- The Minuteman Award
- The NGACT Leadership Award
- The Command Sergeant Major's Award
- The Meritorious Service Award
- The President's Corporate Member Award
- The President's Retiree Award

Save the NGACT Date

December 17

NGACT Executive Board Meeting
NGACT Office, Hartford Armory
5:30 p.m. Open to all

January 7

Connecticut General Assembly
Opening Day of Session

January 14

NGACT Executive Board Meeting
NGACT Office, Hartford Armory
5:30 p.m. Open to All

February 18

NGACT Executive Board Meeting
NGACT Office, Hartford Armory
5:30 p.m. Open to All

March 18

NGACT Executive Board Meeting
NGACT Office, Hartford Armory
5:30 p.m. Open to All

March 27-29

NGACT Annual Conference & Awards
Luncheon

Plan - Prepare - Execute: Conducting Certifications

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LT. COL. PAUL THOMPSON
STATE TRAINING OFFICER

Editor's Note: This is the eighth part of a multi-part series.

The Unit Training Plan (UTP) is the unit's over-arching plan to attain key collective task proficiency in the time allotted to train (planning horizon).

Commanders, leaders and training managers plan-prepare-execute and assess each training event as the UTP progresses. Each training event is planned and coordinated in detail prior to execution.

This is done during company-level training meetings using the "T-Month" construct. This process has to start early enough in the planning cycle to ensure all required resources are present and accounted for as training begins.

Unless this is done, training proficiencies the commander envisions will not happen. Each unit has to have a deep understanding of the local and installation-level resources available.

This also includes understanding training resource cycles and conferences to ensure the unit can influence these cycles early enough to get the resources needed to train. The following is a breakdown of major "T-Month" activities to use as a guide for units to follow in the development of training events.

Keep in mind that each major training event would fall into the T-Month concept at different points in time on the training calendar.

Month T-4 - Conduct certifications and complete prerequisite training. Certification is a measure of individual, crew or team technical proficiency. Unit commanders are responsible for creating and managing unit certification programs. Certification is not a normal part of day-to-day training. The decision to require

certification is made at a higher headquarters and is the result of a deliberate process.

Certification requirements for observer-controller/trainers and individuals to supervise live-fire ranges, external evaluations, etc., are examples of individual technical proficiencies that commanders may require to support training.

Certification is more often applied to processes and procedures that support operations and training, like conduct of live fire ranges.

Commanders may require certification to confirm a unit's collective training proficiency to perform a specific type of mission or task.

Certification of an infantry squad that has been tasked to conduct a specific stability or support task is an example of unit collective certification. Higher headquarters, on a "by exception" basis, normally direct this confirmation requirement.

Note: Individual Soldier certifications are recorded in DTMS in the "Soldier Manager" tab.

Evaluators report to the commander. They must understand the collective tasks they are evaluating, the scenario and the training environment.

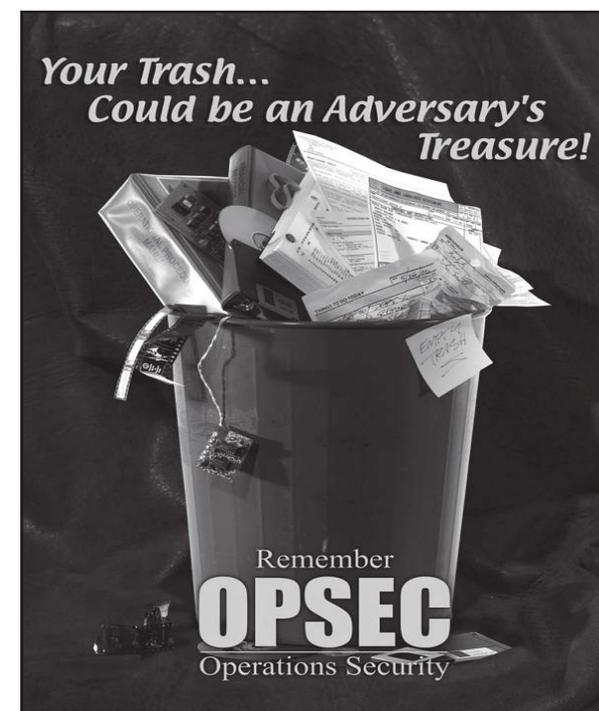
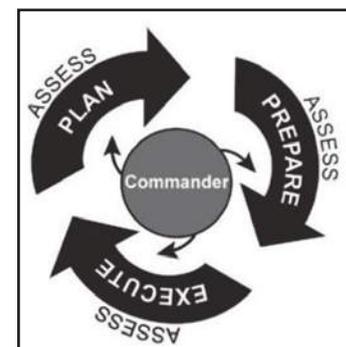
Commanders are responsible for ensuring the evaluators are prepared. The plan should include all link-up times and list everything the evaluators need to bring with them (T&EOs, references, and support if necessary). Evaluators must also back-brief the commander prior to execution to ensure everyone is synchronized.

Observer-Controllers/Trainers should be trained on how to facilitate the appropriate type of after action review for the event (informal or formal). They must have full knowledge of the scenario, friendly and opposing force plans and training objectives.

They must also understand and be prepared to execute all safety and medical evacuation procedures.

OC/Ts traditionally report to a separate exercise control cell or in the case of an internal event, it would be the commander. The commander certifies the OC/Ts by receiving back-briefs on the training plans and requirements.

Next month will feature **Month T-3, conduct rehearsals.**



Connecticut Military History

Connecticut's Other Military College: Norwich University

BRIG. GEN. (CT-RET.) ROBERT CODY
HISTORICAL COLUMNIST

New London, Connecticut is home to one of this country's five federal military colleges – the United States Coast Guard Academy. However, the Nutmeg State did host another military college for a short time.

From 1825 to 1829, Norwich University, then known as the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy, called Middletown, Connecticut its home. In 1825, the academy moved from Norwich, Vermont to provide better naval training to the school's growing corps of cadets. Middletown was one of the busiest ports on the east coast in the mid-1700s – after Boston and New York. Unfortunately for this landmark institution, the state of Connecticut declined to grant the school a charter and it moved back to Norwich, Vermont after just four years. When the Academy relocated back to Vermont, its buildings formed the basis of the new Wesleyan University campus which opened in 1831.

Norwich University is the oldest private military school in the U.S. and is recognized by the Department of Defense as the, "Birthplace of ROTC." The school's founder,

Capt. Alden Partridge, was a former Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He labored relentlessly to promote what he called the, "American System of Education," and in 1819 started the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy at Norwich, Vermont.

Partridge was emphatic in pointing out that he was not recommending a system of education for youth that was, "purely military." The military was to be only an "appendage" to civil education.

Partridge's American System of Education linked military science and training with a "civil" curriculum so broad and innovative that it won national attention at the time it was implemented. Norwich was the first college in the nation to offer coursework in civil engineering.

Partridge regularly staged long marches, what he called "pedestrian excursions," for his cadets in order to promote physical fitness and what we would now call experiential education – teaching botany, geology, geography and other topics along the way. More information about Norwich University can be found at their website at www.norwich.edu.

Off the Bookshelf : Breakfast at Tiffany's

5 Reasons Why You Should Read *Breakfast at Tiffany's*

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

1. Truman Capote is the author. Prior to writing his contemporarily famous, *In Cold Blood*, Capote wrote this short novella, which is based slightly on his own experiences as a young, penniless author.

If the world of a destitute Truman Capote is not a selling point, perhaps the book's setting (New York City in 1943) is more interesting. It's obvious what was going on in the world in 1943, but Capote's descriptions of the small portion of New York City inhabited by his characters, contains an optimistic glow. It implied that a bubble of ease and simplicity still existed in the world. There is a laissez-faire quality to all of Capote's work, and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* proves this rule.

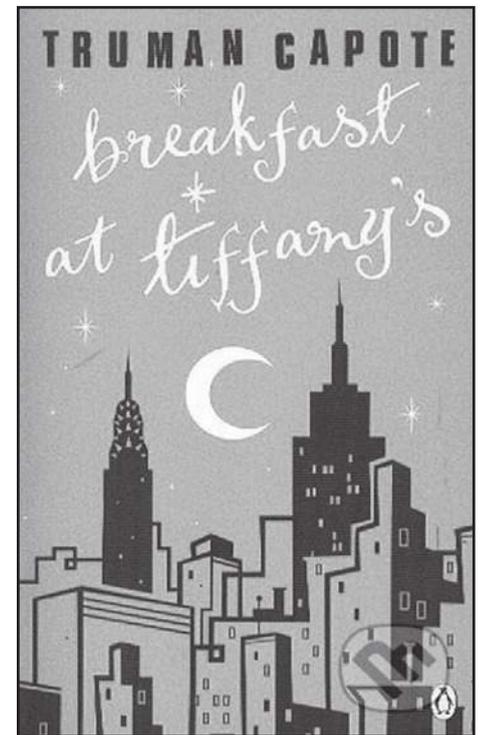
2. There's a little of the narrator in all of us. Who wouldn't want to be a young, handsome, aloof author in New York City? The narrator, nameless in this story, spends his evenings with the rich, beautiful and famous, and spends his days writing about them. He finally has to pay for this fantastic life, however, when he falls in love with the detached and indifferent, Holly

Golightly. Whether he falls for her as a subject of his writing, or as a love interest is debatable.

3. There's a little Holly Golightly in all of us. In the years following the publication of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, Capote clarified that Holly Golightly is not a prostitute. Rather, she is a woman funded by wealthy gentlemen in exchange for their company. Holly is a society girl. She goes to all of the parties, spends her evenings with artists, actresses and millionaires and spends her days sleeping it off. She could easily be cast-off as worthless and simple, but (being a writer) the narrator picks and prods at her until her true story is finally relinquished.

4. You would have done the same for Fred. Aloof society girls, whose company can be purchased, are usually attached to sad stories. Holly Golightly is not the exception. Capote has a lot of fun with her tale, and transforms it into ironic satire on American melodrama. He reminds us that the world should not be taken too seriously – even in 1943 New York, and even if Fred, Holly's brother, is serving in the war. During a moment of revelation to the narrator, Holly shares her prayerful hope that Fred is getting enough peanut butter in the Army.

5. Poor Fred.



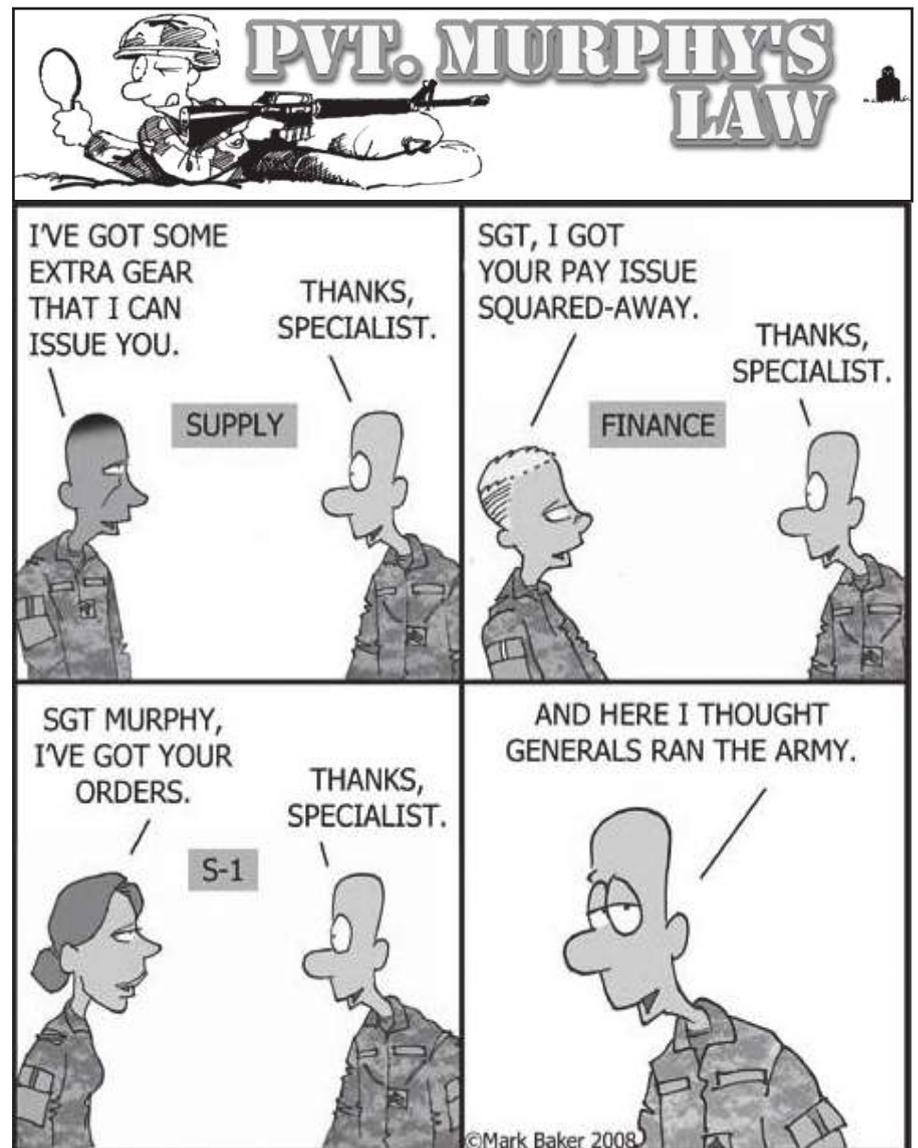
Connecticut National Guard HELPLINE

In an effort to support the needs of our service members and their families, the Connecticut National Guard now has a 24-hour HELPLINE.

If you or someone you know is struggling with the stressors of life, please contact us at 1-855-800-0120.

Your call will be answered by a behavioral health professional. You will receive information and referrals to community resources to support you and your family.

HELPLINE
1-855-800-0120



Retiree's Voice: Saving with Military Discounts

SGT. 1ST CLASS (RET.) STEPHANIE CYR
RETIREE AFFAIRS COLUMNIST

Veterans Day showered Veterans, including Retirees, with short-term discounts on products and services. Many restaurants offered free meals and several businesses offered anywhere from 10-15 percent off purchases. Saving money on products and services is always worth thinking about whether you are retired or not but there are many discounts for military Retirees. This month's article focuses on discounts military Retirees can receive every day. This is not an endorsement of the products or businesses, but information to help save money as the holiday season approaches.

Several businesses in Connecticut offer ongoing discounts on their products. Home Depot offers a 10 percent discount, up to \$500 maximum to all active, reserve, retired or disabled Veterans and their families with a valid military ID every day of the week. Lowe's offers the same discount of 10 percent with no maximum purchase amount. A.C. Moore craft stores give all valid military ID holders 15 percent off the total purchase of regular and sale price items, but can't be combined with promotional coupons or used to purchase gift cards. Veterans are also urged to contact their cellular telephone service provider, as some companies offer discounts to Veterans and rRetirees to lighten the monthly bill.

Cabela's, Banana Republic, Claire's, eBags, Payless Shoes, Michael's, Under Armour, Harley-Davidson, Old Navy (Military Mondays) and Foot Locker generally offer a discount ranging from 5 to 10 percent off your purchase. A military ID is usually required, and if not posted, you will have to ask about the discount. Remember, discounts may vary from store-to-store.

Planning a trip? There are many attraction, lodging and transportation discounts for Retirees. Disneyland and Disney World offer a military discount hopper pass that is significantly lower than their regular admission, as does Universal Studios. Other attractions offer free military appreciation days during the year usually centered around Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day. Your closest Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) office is the best place to get discount attraction tickets. In Connecticut, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London and the Groton New London Sub Base have MWR offices capable of providing information to help you get started planning a vacation getaway.

Military discounts on lodging are widely available, but comparison shopping is encouraged. Often the government or military discount offering will not be as good as a discount you may receive with AARP, AAA discounts or a specific hotel rewards program. Military lodgings such as Hale Koa in Hawaii and Shades of Green

in Florida can be very good deals where the cost is based on your rank, even as a Retiree. The Armed Forces Vacation Club is free to join and handles all types of resort vacations including discounts on all-inclusive resorts and name brand hotel chains.

Lufthansa Air and Amtrak offer Veteran memberships for discount travel. There is a fee involved, so the fee in joining should be factored into your cost comparison.

In gathering data, many more discounts were found than can be included. Military.com membership is a good place to search out all kinds of discounts. Military.com's free membership connects you to a many benefits of service including government benefits, scholarships, discounts, lifelong friends, mentors, great stories of military life or missions and much more.

Always ask if there is a Veteran's or retired military discount when you are making a purchase or reservation. The discounts cited are available to military Retirees with valid IDs. Remember, the key to saving money and using discounts is to comparison shop and use discounts to save money on planned purchases, not to buy something for the sake of saving a few dollars.

Editor's Note: The discounts listed are for reader information purposes only and should not be seen as an endorsement by the U.S. Government or Department of Defense.

Retirement Service Officer Notes: Retired Pay Requests

SGT. 1ST CLASS REBEKAH AVERY
RETIREMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

Attention all Gray Area Retirees! Retired pay applications must now be proactively *requested*.

On Oct. 1, 2014, the United States Army Human Resources Command (HRC) discontinued mailing retirement applications to Gray Area Soldiers for their non-regular retirements at age 60. United States Army Reserve Command, the National Guard Bureau and the Army Retirement Services Office will assist with coordination of this initiative and informing the affected population. This initiative will stop the process of mailing retirement applications to Gray Area Soldiers 13 months prior to their 60th birthdays. These Soldiers will need to contact HRC to *request* retirement applications and confirm their current mailing addresses prior to their 60th birthdays. HRC recommends Gray Area Soldiers contact HRC 13 months before their expected retirements by emailing askhrc.army@us.army.mil or by calling (888) 276-9472. HRC will also leverage current technologies to allow individuals to request applications online. HRC currently mails more than 4,000 retirement applications quarterly with thirty-seven percent returned to HRC due to incorrect addresses. This causes a delay in receiving retired pay or no retired pay at all for these Soldiers. HRC will continue to ensure eligible Gray Area Soldiers are informed to apply for retirement prior to their eligibility date. For more information please visit <http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/sbp.html>.

You're invited to a retirement briefing! Briefings are

held on the Sundays of Joint Forces Headquarters drill weekends from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments are provided by donation. There is a one-hour lunch break, but lunch is not provided. There is a microwave available, but there are plenty of local restaurants to choose from as well. Briefings are not scheduled during the months of June, September and December due to specific military requirements. The briefing dates for 2015 are: Jan. 4, Feb. 8, March 8, April 5, May 3, July 12, Aug. 2, Oct. 4 and Nov. 7. Please read last month's article for a complete description of the briefing and what to expect. Contact Sgt. 1st Class Avery at (860) 524-4813 or rebekah.j.avery.mil@mail.mil to schedule your

Upcoming Events:

- Monthly Retiree Breakfast: Thursday, Dec. 18, 8:30 a.m. at Charlie's Place, West Main Street, Niantic. Cost is \$15. POC is Frank Perry.

- 5th Annual AUSA and OEC Charity Golf Tournament: Friday, June 5, 2015 at Tower Ridge Country Club, Simsbury.

Point of Contact for Air National Guard Retirees:

Retirees from the Air National Guard can contact the full-time POC for Traditional Air-Guard Retirees, Master Sgt. Lisa Todaro at lisa.todaro@ang.af.mil or (860) 292-2573; or the part-time (drill weekend) POC, Master Sgt. Diana Nelson at diana.nelson@ang.af.mil or (860) 292-2366. Often times, Air Guard Retirees will be referred to the Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC) in Colorado: 1-800-525-0102; website portal at: www.mypers.af.mil; HQ ARPC/DPTTR, Retirement Division, 18420 E. Silver Creek

Ave., Bldg 390 MS68, Buckley AFB CO 80011

Point of Contact for Army National Guard Retirees: Retirees from the Army National Guard can contact the Retirees Service Officer, Sgt. 1st Class Rebekah Avery at: rebekah.j.avery.mil@mail.mil or (860) 524-4813.

Guardian Address Changes: Army & Air: e-mail Sgt. 1st Class Avery if you would like to update your address, make any corrections to your name or rank, if you would like to be removed from the retiree database, or if you have any questions. Thank you to the Soldier who e-mailed me this month's article idea. You know who you are!

Live 1-on-1 Help Confidential Worldwide 24/7

DoD

Safe Helpline

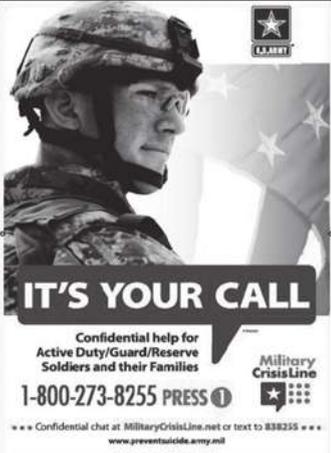
Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community

Help is just a Click, Call or Text away!

Click www.SafeHelpline.org Call 877-995-5247

Text* 55-247 (INSIDE THE U.S.) 202-470-5546 (OUTSIDE THE U.S.)

*Text your location for the nearest SARC



“WE STAND FOR LIFE”

The Army Suicide Prevention Office is not a crisis center and does not provide counseling services. If you are feeling distressed or hopeless, thinking about death or wanting to die, or, if you are concerned about someone who may be suicidal, please contact Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

IT'S YOUR CALL

Confidential help for Active Duty/Guard/Reserve Soldiers and their Families

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Military CrisisLine

*** Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text to 838255 ***

www.preventsuicide.army.mil

U.S. Department of Defense, Office



Engaged Families

The strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.

Family
Family safe is Family Strong

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG

U.S. ARMY
ARMY STRONG

U.S. Army Center of Excellence, Safety Center
<https://safety.army.mil>

Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc announces its 2015 scholarship program. This year the foundation will award a total of Ten scholarships.

1. Two \$4000.00 scholarships honoring Sgt. Felix Del Greco Jr. will be awarded to a son or daughter of a member of the Connecticut ARMY National Guard. Please note that a special application is required for the Del Greco scholarship which may be obtained from: <http://www.connctf.org>. No other application will be accepted.
2. One \$2000.00 scholarship and Seven \$1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded to Connecticut National Guard and Organized Militia members or their sons, daughters or spouses. Application forms may be found on the Foundations web site at: www.ctngfoundation.org

Additional Information:

1. Complete application packets must be postmarked no later than **March 15, 2015**.
2. The selection committee will choose students based on achievement and citizenship.
3. You must be enrolled in, or planning to enroll in a regionally or nationally accredited degree or technical program.
4. Mail application form (CTNGFI Scholarship Only) and completed package to:

CTNG Foundation Inc.
Attn: Scholarship Committee
360 Broad Street, Hartford Armory
Hartford, CT 06015

5. Please contact the foundation at (860) 241 1550 or e-mail ctngfi@sbcglobal.net for further details.



WEAPONS SAFETY THINK

Treat every weapon as if it's loaded.

Handle every weapon with care.

Identify the target before you fire.

Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.

Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

In FY 2007 six Soldiers died in off-duty privately owned weapons handling accidents; alcohol was a factor in the majority of them.

U.S. ARMY
ARMY STRONG

U.S. Army Center of Excellence, Safety Center
<https://cra.army.mil>

OWN the EDGE
Leading on the Edge

Connecticut National Guard Promotions Army

To Private 2

Jones, Jasmin J.
Hoffman, Robert J.
Velazquez, Adam Jr.
Sundry, Ryan T.
Chambers, Kyle D.
Daniels, Darius A.
Fazzino, Ryan D.
Sewell, Omar J.
James, Paul A. Jr.
Hovanec, Zachary B.
Chatfield, Amanda C.
Cook, Austin S.
Reynolds, Alex R.
Labouliere, Emilie M.
Rizek, Joshua J.
Parker, Patrick R.
Thorland, Timothy
Garcia, Saul Jr.
Varano, Emily A.
Pearson, Davon E.
Petrone, Christian C.
Thomas, Jessie L. III
Romanconcepcion,
Kevin A.
Ramos, Brandon M.
Shaw, Sashani S.
Marcelo, Alexis G.
Mclain, Jesse R.
Rodriguez, Jeffrey A.
Valenciajimenez, Luis F.
Packard, Carl J.
Welch, Justyn T.

To Private First Class

Civitarese, Andrew P.
Perkins, David N.
Marin, Jake A.
Eirin, Brian S.
Rivas, Radames C.
Gutierrez, Bryan
Wright, Christopher S.
Powell, Thomas E. Jr.
Hall, Devin M.
Rodriguez, Jaime Jr.

To Senior Airman

Kaneakua, Allyn G.
Savino, Domenic III
Buhagiar, Erich C.
Werner, John J.
Arango, Jose R.
Romitti, Kyle L.
Staton, Tevin B.

Fish, Joshua W.
Gonzales, Josue J.
Vo, Richard P.
Marek Brandon D.
Vetare, Steven Do.
Vetare, Michael D.
Ponce, Reyna
Perez, Marilyn M.
Guzman, Cesar A. Jr.
McCarron, Robert S. Jr.
Holman, Brandi R.
Callahan, William G.
Gerena, Edwin C. Jr.
Childs, Gregory P.
Johnson, Ryan N.
Smith, Meshach L.
Mendez, Jose C.
Foley, Sean E.
Ortega, Wilfredo J.
Gonzalez, Kevin
Fairclough, Chad E.
Kerr, Joseph F.
Bell, Garfield A.
Tousignant, Kevin S.
Rivera, Nathanael
Rivera, Norbraniel
Osip, Adam L.
Clark, Joshua A.
Sierra, Janice M.
Annis, Daniel A.
Sanchez, Shalee J.
Melendez, Saez G.
Lord, Mark J.
Spencer, Thomas E.
Peet, Gregory A. Jr.
Flynn, Casey J.
Martin, Travis V.
Santangelo, Scott P.
Kotecki, Shawn
Marien, Branden M.
Gondek, Brendan F.
Hardy, Dareesha H.
Battle, Christian C.

To Staff Sergeant

Faust, Andrew P.
Dauphinais, Bryan J.
Gelada, Francis S.
Mojica, Marc A.

To Specialist

Mackin, Mark A.
Bonneau, Christopher
Olivencia, Luis A. Jr.
Fannon, Zachary P.
Rivera, Edward P.
Repasi, Anthony T.
Barrows, James R. II
Combs, Courtney A.
Smith, Shane E.
Gonzalezrodriguez,
Sergio J.
Sinclair, Noah W.
Murphy, Dakota D.
Moore, Dean R.
Gallardopolanco,
George
Brown, Cambree K.
Rodriguezosorio,
Shirley
Bello, Enrique A.
Rogers, Shannon A.
Collazo, Jonathan M.
Gardner, Candace P.
Sepulveda, Edgard J.
Letendre, Devon A.
Brewer, Jonathan C.
Ocasio, Umberto J.
Brayman, Zachary J.
Oliveira, Matthew J.
Rosatoro, Xavier
Murphy, Brian C.
Davis, Paul A.
Romano, Jaime L.
Caban, Isabel
Perez, Lucila M.
Tolliver, Jasmine N.
Robitaille, Bryan R.
Fox, Cory N.
Forte, Daniel II
Benbow, Anthony
Genz, Graig J.

Air

To Technical Sergeant

Hill, Joseph D.
Hollenbeck, Kellen M.
Wilkinson, Todd A.

To Sergeant

Savino, April B.
Carovillano, Joseph Wi.
Buonomo, Carolyn P.
Jenkins, Charles E.
Sroka Leslie J.
Varanelli, Michael T.
Yanker, Emily A.
Coviello, Robert L.
Hebert, Kyle R.
Mangiapani, Samantha
Slater, Aaron A.

To Staff Sergeant

Dybdahl, Samuel H.
Guiffra, Felix J.
Dickinson, Mark D.
Valenti, Jordan J.
Peralta, Johnny
Griffith, Alexander Di.
Smith, David J.
Yanosky, Garrick A.
Schadtle, Richard M.
Frankson, Raynor A.
Adams, Shawn L.
Riddick, Adam T.
Daley, Matthew M.
Petras, Joseph A.
Zummo, Alfonso J. III
Kalinowski, Brian J.

To Sergeant First Class

Sheehan, Heath M.

To Master Sergeant

Selko, Amber M.
Guarnieri, Melissa A.

To Sergeant Major

Trouerntrend, Jonathan

To Master Sergeant

Tranes, Aaron E.
Santos, Angel L.

To Senior Master Sergeant

Babcock, Dana R.

Coming Events

December

December 7

Pearl Harbor Day

December 17

Hanukkah

December 17

NGACT Executive Board Meeting

December 18

Guardian Deadline for January

December 19

Operation ELF

6:00 - 8:30 P.M.

December 25

Christmas

December 26

Kwanzaa

December 31

New Year's Eve

January

January 1

New Year's Day

January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 21

NGACT Executive Board Meeting

Jan. 22

Guardian Deadline for February

February

February 12

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 16

Presidents' Day

February 18

NGACT Executive Board Meeting

February 19

Guardian Deadline for March

**Deadline for the January Issue of
the Guardian is December 18
Deadline for the February Issue
of the Guardian is Jan. 22**

THE 102D ARMY BAND



WANTS YOU



TO AUDITION!

The 102d Army Band is looking for experienced musicians between the ages of 17 and 35 to audition now!

IMMEDIATE openings for:

**French Horn • Clarinet • Guitar
Bass Guitar • Trombone • Saxophone**

All other band instruments will also be considered!

Get the chance to perform at Community and Guard events, honor ceremonies, concerts, sporting events and much more!

Contact a local recruiter or 102nd Army Band RNCO Staff Sgt. Tomasz Durnik
tomasz.d.durnik.mil@mail.mil or (860)375-1801.

Find us on FACEBOOK! [facebook.com/102dArmyBand](https://www.facebook.com/102dArmyBand)

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Connecticut FAMILY Guardian



VOL. 15 NO. 12

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

DECEMBER 2014

Special Event a Real Treat for Guard Families

MAJ. BRYON M. TURNER
103RD AIRLIFT WING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BRADLEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - East Granby, Connecticut. — Airmen from the 103rd Airlift Wing brought their children out for the first ever “Trunk or Treat” event at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, Oct. 28.

The event provided 78 children from 35 Connecticut Air National Guard families a safe and fun alternative or enhancement to traditional Halloween activities, while also providing information on available resources to the unit’s families. Volunteers decorated their vehicles, dressed in themed costumes and passed out candy and other treats to the children during this updated twist on traditional trick-or-treating.

“Our volunteers put in a great deal of time and effort to ensure our families had a fun and safe option for Halloween here on base,” said Col. Frank Detorie, commander of the 103rd Airlift Wing. “Our families support us throughout the year as we perform our mission and events like this give us a chance to offer them something back in gratitude for the sacrifices they make all year in support of us and this unit.”

The event was coordinated by Michelle McCarty, lead Child & Youth Program coordinator, and supported by a host of volunteers like Harold Bernstein and others from the Wing Family Readiness Group, Service Member and Family Support Center, Military OneSource, the Red Cross, Channel 3 Kids Camp as well as Tristan Colafati, Mia Jones and others from the Connecticut Youth Council.

“Roughly two-thousand pieces of candy were handed out along with some toys, glow sticks and the 103rd firehouse handed out approximately 40 home fire alarms,” said McCarty.

Senior Master Sgt. Kurt Smith, security forces manager with the 103rd Security Forces Squadron, also contributed with the help of his fellow security forces members.

“We decorated one of our patrol vehicles and handed out candy and glow sticks for the little kids along with the other trunk-or-treaters,” said Smith. “I asked that we be placed in the center of the event so we could serve as a visible deterrent and be in the best position to provide the quickest response if necessary.”

Each provider purchased their own items to hand out to the participants, the 103rd Family Readiness Group volunteers donated snacks and the Connecticut National

Guard Youth Council donated hot chocolate and apple cider, said McCarty.

“Having the event on the installation in a dedicated parking lot where the children are free to run around and not worry about traffic on the street is a plus,” said Smith. “Not to mention, if there was an issue, police and fire were already on scene and able to provide immediate assistance.”

McCarty is already thinking about hosting an even bigger event next year based on how well received the night was.

“Overall the feedback on this event was very positive,” said McCarty. “Everyone enjoyed themselves and I was asked several times if we would be doing this again next year!”

“The support of the 103rd Airlift Wing was huge, without it this event would not have taken place,” said McCarty. “From Col. Detorie supporting the event wholeheartedly and securing the parking lot for us and uprooting the cars that usually park there, to the fire house and security forces excited to provide a trunk to the participants and Donna Rivera for partnering with me on this program. I could not have done it alone.”



The “Hulk” and grotesque zombie, who are actually Tyeler, 8, and Codey, 5, children of Master Sgt. Rose Wilson from the 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, show off their Halloween moves during the Child and Youth Program’s “Trunk or Treat” event held at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn., Oct. 28. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Mead, 103rd AW Public Affairs)



Lylah Chadbourne, 1, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Morgan Chadbourne, a resource advisor for the 103rd Maintenance Group, grabs a handful of candy from a spooky robed skeleton during the first-ever “Trunk or Treat” event. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Mead, 103rd AW Public Affairs)



Staff Sgt. Brian Koehler, a supply sergeant with the Connecticut Army National Guard, dressed as a “Tie Fighter pilot”, and Jessica Koehler, family assistance center specialist, dressed in “Princess Leia” gear, pose with their son Owen, 4, who is dressed as an “X-Wing Fighter pilot” during the Child and Youth Program’s “Trunk or Treat” event held at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn., Oct. 28. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Mead, 103rd AW Public Affairs)



CATHERINE GALASSO

With Prayer, Nothing Is Impossible

You may say, "I can't figure it out." God says, "I will direct your steps."

Christmas was around the corner, and the hours of sunlight diminished slowly by the day.

Humming the melody, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her king," I heard about a pastor walking around the construction site of their new church. Dusk had arrived, and the pastor caught himself daydreaming about the building that was just about completed. His song trailed off, "Let every heart, prepare Him room... And heaven and nature sing," as the pastor pondered on how thankful he was that the congregation would be worshipping in the facility for the Christmas Eve services.

The land was given to them by a member who had passed away, and the congregation worked hard, helping to build the new church on the small lot. And they were all overjoyed to have a place of their very own in which to worship God.

Construction continued. Then, two weeks before the new church was to open, a building inspector visited the construction site. After he surveyed the area, he said to the pastor, "Your parking lot is inadequate for the size of the building."

The pastor kindly asked, "What can be done at this late date?" And then went on to explain to the inspector that everything was in place for the Christmas Eve services and how thrilled the community was to have a new house of worship.

Firmly, the building inspector uttered, "Until you double the size of your parking lot, you will not be able to open your new church." When constructing the church, the builders used most of their land, except for the mountain against which it had been built. Consequently, in order to make more parking spaces, it was confirmed that the only option was to move the mountain out of the back area of the church grounds.

Circumstances looked impossible. And the pastor could have become discouraged and given up.

Yet, undeterred, the next Sunday morning, the pastor told the congregation what had happened. He announced that he would like to meet after the services with all the members who had mountain-moving faith.

Thereafter, when the members convened together, the pastor declared with confidence, "Let us pray and ask God to move the mountain." The members agreed. Then, the pastor stated, "Let's also pray that God will provide the funding to have the land paved and painted for the additional parking spaces, before our scheduled opening Christmas Eve service next week."

Do you have a desire that seems impossible to accomplish? Are you facing a seemingly hopeless situation? Does your circumstance appear as though it cannot be overcome?

So, what can you do when you don't know what to do? Bring the situation to God in prayer. For with prayer, nothing is impossible.

Over 300 faith-filled members assembled for the prayer service. They bowed their heads and earnestly prayed for nearly two hours. When they had completed their prayers, the pastor reassured the group, "Our new church will open as scheduled. God has never let us down before,

and He will be faithful this time, too."

The morning after, the pastor was in his home office working on his computer and he heard a knock at the door. He answered it, and a construction worker entered his home.

"Excuse me for coming here without an appointment, Pastor," the worker said, "But I work for a construction company across town, and we are building a shopping center." Before the pastor could speak the construction worker continued, "We need some fill dirt right away. Would you be willing to sell us a large chunk of that mountain behind the church? We will pay you for what we remove and pave all the exposed area, free of charge."

Smiling, the pastor dropped to his knees in thankfulness and uttered, "How amazing is our God!"

On Christmas Eve, the church opened as originally planned. And songs of praise flowed through the sanctuary, as the congregation was filled with mountain-moving faith.

There are mountains of difficulties in every life, and often they first appear as if they are insurmountable. But Scripture says: Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20).

Therefore, let us be confident in God's sovereignty. There are things that we cannot do with our own strength. Thus, let's be patient, yet persistent, and look to God who can move the mountain.

When you unequivocally trust God, it sets into motion His power to act mightily on your behalf. So keep believing, trusting, and praying, for God is saying to you today, "I'm going to help you."

A few weeks ago, I was at home and felt a cold breeze throughout the house. I went into the living room, and the front door was open. There was a rain storm outside. So curiously, I looked around and somehow, the strong winds caused the door to open on its own.

You may have struggled for years, but similar to my front door that 'just opened,' the door of opportunity is going to unlock for you. At this moment, God is working to supply your needs and direct your steps to success. Blessings are on their way to you and within your grasp. Your God-inspired dreams are going to transpire. And people will come into your life that will bring you great joy. God is beside you, watching over you and renewing your strength.

Recently, a reader sent me this note, "We all know ASAP means, 'As Soon As Possible.' It also says, 'Always Say A Prayer.'"

My prayer for you, dear readers is you'll each be greatly and abundantly blessed this season and in the coming year. "Joy to the world..." Indeed, "the Lord has come!"

Catherine Galasso-Vigorito is a nationally-syndicated columnist and author from Connecticut who donates a monthly inspirational column to demonstrate her appreciation of U.S. service members and their families. The content is her own and does not express the official views of the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. You may write to Ms. Galasso-Vigorito in care of Connecticut Guardian, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106-3795 or e-mail her at cgv@anewyouworldwide.com. Visit her website at www.anewyouworldwide.com.

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U.S. Army Social Media Resources

 socialmedia.DEFENSE.GOV
Dept. of Defense Social Media Hub

 **Office of the Chief of Public Affairs**
Online & Social Media Division

Winter Storm Season is Upon Us: Are You in the Know?

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Over the last several years late fall and winter have brought the most severe weather challenges to Connecticut. From Super Storm Sandy to Winter Storm NEMO, Connecticut National Guard forces have been called out several times to assist our fellow citizens.

So what is the best way for you and your family to stay informed of weather and other emergencies in the areas where you work and live?

The answer is to sign-up for the "CT Alert" emergency notification system (ENS) managed by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. CT Alert allows state and local officials to help protect lives and property by providing critical information to residents in specific areas during emergencies, including dangerous situations.

CT Alert ENS uses the state's Enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1) database for location-based notifications to the public for life-threatening emergencies. But the E9-1-1 database includes only traditional hard-line telephone numbers in the state (that is the "land line" phone you may have in your home). If you want the system to send alerts to other communication devices that you use, then you must provide your contact information by logging in to

the CT Alert ENS citizen "sign-up" database web page (<http://www.ct.gov/ctalert>).

The CT Alert ENS citizen sign-up page allows you to add other means of communication to the CT Alert ENS, in addition to your current home phone if you have one. You can add mobile phones, Voice over IP landlines, wireless personal digital assistants, such as BlackBerry®, e-mail, text messaging, and/or instant messaging to be included to receive alerts from CT Alert ENS. You are responsible for any costs associated with your receipt of any emergency notifications.

You can also choose the order in which you receive the emergency notification by specifying the order the system will send messages to your multiple communication devices. The system will cycle through your communication devices until the message is delivered and or confirmed on one of them.

The CT Alert ENS Citizen sign-up page also allows you to list up to three additional locations in the state for which you want to receive alerts. These locations could include, for example, the town where you work, towns where other family members live, or where your children attend school.

CT Alert is available for use by a number of state agencies and most of the 9-1-1 communication centers in

the state. The following seven emergency communication centers have elected not to use CT Alert, on their

the Cheshire Police Department, Darien Police Department, New Fairfield Emergency Communications Center, Newtown Police Department, Norwalk Police Department, Southbury Public Safety and the Stamford Emergency Communications Center. If you live in one of these towns you may wish to check the municipality's website or contact your local police/public department for information about signing up for any available local citizen alert systems.

In 2012 CT Alert was used 290 times during Hurricane Sandy, broadcasting 1,467,000 alerts.

Please be an informed and prepared Connecticut National Guard family and sign up for CT Alert today!



9 Tips for Savvy Holiday Spending

FROM MILITARY ONE SOURCE

It can be easy to get caught up in the season and spend a little too much money. But just because it's easy to spend too much doesn't mean you have to. The below tips for savvy holiday spending can help make sure you get through the season without amassing debt:

- **Make (and stick to) a budget** — One of the easiest ways to make sure you stay on track with your spending is to make a budget before the season and stick to it. Determine an amount for each gift, holiday entertaining and travel and decorations.

- **Know what you have before you buy** — Before you go out and buy a new roll of wrapping paper, take an inventory of what you already have. You may have more than you thought and won't have to buy as much.

- **Shop secondhand for decorations** — When people buy new holiday decorations, they often donate their old decorations to thrift stores. Start shopping early; you may be able to find festive décor for a fraction of the cost.

- **Make your own gifts** — Not every gift needs to be store bought or expensive. If you're crafty or a talented baker, you can create something with a personal touch for your recipient. Even if you don't have that flair for creating, you can always give the gift of help. Make paper coupons for services — babysitting, a home-cooked meal, date night — that the recipient can redeem throughout the year.

- **Make your own holiday cards** — If your family sends holiday cards to friends and family every year, you may be able to save money by sending e-cards. Free or low-cost online services are available and can even incorporate slide shows and videos. You'll keep your budget in check, while being kind to the Earth.

- **Start meal planning early** — Whether you're hosting a meal or contributing to one, extra food means extra costs. But if you know in advance what you want to cook, you can start your grocery list early and buy non-perishable items when they go on sale. Not only will you save money during sales, you'll spread the cost of the meal over the course of multiple paychecks instead of spending it all at once.

- **Bring your smart phone with you when shopping** — Some stores offer coupons that are sent straight to you phone when you enter a store. You can also use your phone to compare prices when you're in the store to make sure you are getting the best deal. If you find a lower price online, the store may match the price for you.

- **Consider traveling on holidays** — If you're flexible when planning your holiday travel days, you may be able to save a bundle on airfare.

- **Compare hotel and airfare online** — There are many websites that allow you to compare hotel and airfare costs to find the best deal for your family. Many of these sites also allow you to set up alerts that notify you when fares are low.

9th Annual Drop and Shop Event!

Need to get your Holiday Shopping Done?

I am pleased to announce that the Connecticut National Guard Child & Youth Program in partnership with local Veterans Services Organizations will be hosting this year's Drop and Shop Event at the Veterans Memorial Armed Forces Reserve Center in Danbury, CT. If your child/ren are in grades K-12, you will have the opportunity to drop your child off for a fun time while you prepare for the Holidays. There will be crafts, games, educational projects and more while you do your holiday shopping at the nearby Danbury Fair! Pizza and snacks will be provided at no cost to you!

FREE **Space Limited**

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2014
Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Location: Veterans Memorial Reserve Center
 90 Wooster Heights Road
 Danbury, CT

**** Please note for property access upon arrival you will need to call the event Point of Contact, Nancy Cummings at 860-883-2746****

RSVPs are required please register at the link below using the password: shopdanbury
<https://drop-shop-danbury.eventbrite.com>




Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/CTCYP



Tracking Santa with NORAD's Help

For more than 50 years, NORAD and its predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) have tracked Santa's flight.

The tradition began in 1955 after a Colorado Springs-based Sears Roebuck & Co. advertisement for children to call Santa misprinted the telephone number. Instead of reaching Santa, the phone number put kids through to the CONAD Commander-in-Chief's operations "hotline." The Director of Operations at the time, Colonel Harry Shoup, had his staff check the radar for indications of Santa making his way south from the North Pole. Children who called were given updates on his location, and a tradition was born.

In 1958, the governments of Canada and the United States created a bi-national air defense command for North America called the North American Aerospace Defense Command, also known as NORAD, which then took on the tradition of tracking Santa.

Since that time, NORAD men, women, family and friends have selflessly volunteered their time to personally respond to phone calls and emails from children all around the world. In addition, we now track Santa using the internet. Millions of people who want to know Santa's whereabouts now visit the NORAD Tracks Santa website.

Finally, media from all over the world rely on NORAD as a trusted source to provide updates on Santa's journey.

To track Santa, visit www.noradsanta.org beginning Dec. 1.

KID'S CREATIVE CORNER

A monthly feature of fun and educational activities for the children of the Connecticut National Guard by the Members of the Connecticut Youth Council (CYC)

Service Member and Family Support Center Staff Directory

William A. O'Neill Armory - 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 - Open Mon.-Fri.			
State Family Program Director	Kimberly Hoffman	kimberly.j.hoffman.civ@mail.mil	(800) 858-2677
Lead Family Assistance Center Coordinator	Andrea Lathrop	andrea.e.lathrop.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4938
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Rita O'Donnell	lerita.m.odonnell.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 493-2797
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Mitch Foreman	mitchell.d.foreman.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4821
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Jessica Koehler	jessica.w.koehler.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4969
Senior Family Readiness Support Assistant	Joshua Hamre	joshua.j.hamre.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 548-3283
Family Readiness Support Assistant	Linda Rolstone	linda.b.rolstone.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4963
Family Readiness Support Assistant	Wendy Hagen	wendy.m.hagen.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4920
ARNG Yellow Ribbon Program Coordinator	Staff Sgt. Clint Shivers	clinton.r.shivers.mil@mail.mil	(860) 493-2796
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator	Michelle McCarty	michelle.m.mccarty4.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 548-3254
Family Program Technician	Staff Sgt. Melody Baber	melodycheyenne.c.baber.mil@mail.mil	(860) 548-3276
Survivor Outreach Specialist	Megan O'Shaughnessy	megan.l.macсата.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 548-3258
Military OneSource Consultant	Chris Rouleau	christopher.rouleau@militaryonesource.com	(860) 502-5416
Military Family Life Consultant (Adult)	Judith Charles	nghartfordctsurgemagmflc.org	(860) 471-7286
Military Family Life Consultant (Youth)	Pearl Pappas	nghartfordctsurgemagmflc.org	(860) 471-7133
Personal Finance Consultant	Ernie Lacore	elacore@mflc.zeiders.com	(860) 372-6404
Windsor Locks Readiness Center - 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 - Open Mon.-Fri.			
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Troy Walcott	troy.a.walcott.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 292-4602
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Michael Cortes	michael.cortes1.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 292-4601
Veterans' Memorial Armed Forces Reserve Center - 90 Wooster Heights Road, Danbury, CT 06810 - Open Mon.-Fri.			
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Nancy Cummings	nancy.a.cummings.ctr@mail.mil	(203) 205-5050
New London Armory - 249 Bayonet Street, New London, CT 06320 - Open Mon.-Fri.			
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Van Nessa Foster	vannessa.n.foster.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 772-1422
103rd Airlift Wing - 100 Nicholson Road, East Granby, CT 06026 - Open Mon.-Fri.			
Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager	Donna Rivera	donna.rivera.civ@ang.af.mil	(860) 292-2730
ANG Yellow Ribbon Program Coordinator	Rick Uliano	richard.uliano.ctr@ang.af.mil	(860) 292-2730
103rd Air Control Squadron - 206 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477 - Open Mon. & Fri. - (203) 795-2961			
Niantic Readiness Center - 38 Smith Street, Niantic, CT 06072 - By Appointment - (800) 858-2677			
Waterbury Armory - 64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06072 - By Appointment - (800) 858-2677			
Norwich Armory - 38 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360 - By Appointment - (800) 858-2677			