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Dannel P. Malloy Sworn in for Second Term *'In the Face of Fierce Obstacles, We Did Not Retreat'*

STAFF SGT. JORDAN WERME
130TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

On Jan. 7, Governor Dannel P. Malloy was sworn in for his second term as the governor of the state of Connecticut in a ceremony held at the William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford.

Hundreds of people, including civilians, military personnel, VIP guests and media were on hand to bear witness as the Honorable Andrew J. McDonald, State Supreme Court Justice, administered the Oath of Office for the Governor's re-confirmation of his duties.

Malloy was re-elected in November 2014, following a period of change and uncertainty for National Guard Service Members and families, and addressed those difficulties immediately.

"My fellow citizens," said Malloy, "let that be a badge of honor – that during difficult times, while others shied away from hard decisions, we made them. That in the face of fierce obstacles, we did not retreat. That during crises, we banded together."

The governor was joined in the ceremony by Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard, and

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, who was also re-elected to office and sworn in during a separate ceremony earlier in the day. Malloy again chose to hold his swearing-in ceremony at the William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford continuing a precedent he established following his election in 2011 as the first Connecticut governor to do

so. The armory was first opened and dedicated in 1909, by President William H. Taft.

"Over the past four years," said Wyman, "I have been so proud of the all the times the people of this great state have stood together. During epic storms, through searing tragedy, and in celebration of great achievements, we

Also sworn in for their elected terms of office were Attorney General George Jepsen, Comptroller Kevin Lembo, Treasurer Denise L. Nappier, and Secretary of State Denise M. Merrill.

As is tradition, the governor's inaugural began with a parade concluding outside the Connecticut State

Legislative Office Building. Malloy and Wyman were joined by National Guard Service Members, Connecticut Militia, the Governor's Foot Guard and Horse Guard, State and Hartford police departments, the Department of Corrections, as well as marching bands and drum corps.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, Malloy was honored with a 19-gun salute on the Capitol Building grounds. Fourteen Soldiers of the Connecticut National Guard operated four World War II-era Howitzer cannons in order to render the traditional salute to the commander of the state's National Guard forces.

Families were also on hand for the ceremony; Malloy was joined by First Lady Catherine Lambert Malloy, along with their sons, Dannel, Ben and Sam. Wyman was joined by her husband, Michael.

"This ceremony is not really about any particular office," said Malloy in the days prior to the event. "It's really about the people of this great state. We've

got work to do, and I'm very grateful to the residents of Connecticut for again trusting me to serve in this capacity."



Gov. Dannel P. Malloy swears in during his second inauguration as Connecticut's 88th governor in Hartford, Jan. 7. The Oath of Office was administered to Malloy by the Honorable Andrew J. McDonald, State Supreme Court Justice. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Boffen, JFHQ-CT, Connecticut National Guard)

have united."

"We chose to believe that there is more that unites us in Connecticut, than divides us," said Malloy. "We might not always agree on the details, but we can agree that we want our children to inherit a better Connecticut than we were given."

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Chairman: Sequestration Cuts Would Require Strategy Change

JOHN D. BANUSIEWICZ
DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON - Unless Congress changes the Budget Control Act, which now requires a return to sequestration-level spending cuts in 2016, the military will need to change its strategy, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in an interview broadcast Jan. 11.

In an appearance on "Fox News Sunday With Chris Wallace," Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said the Army is drawing down from 570,000 soldiers to 450,000, but he noted that a Pentagon analysis shows sequestration would drive that number to 420,000, and even lower under some circumstances.

"Under those circumstances of sequestration in the Budget Control Act, we would, in fact, have to change our strategy, and we would be far less able to maintain the kind of global presence and the kind of stability we bring to our allies," the general said.

Options Shrink with Sequestration

As it now stands, the chairman said, the Budget Control Act limits the options the military can provide to elected leaders against any given challenge. "We provide options," he added. "Those options really begin to shrink dramatically [under the act]," he added.

Sequestration would leave the military "far less able to do the things that we think the country needs us to do," Dempsey said.

Meanwhile, the United States continues to face threats from both state actors and nonstate actors, the chairman said.

The nexus of those two "make this period in our history so incredibly complex and so incredibly dangerous," Dempsey said. State actors, he explained, carry the risk of miscalculation and being pulled into an escalating conflict.

"With non-state actors, it's kind of a persistent threat," the chairman said. "We know for a fact that there are nonstate radical, violent extremist organizations who today, and for the next generation, will be plotting against

Western interests, to include the United States. So we've had to do is adapt our military to address both of those challenges."

Still the Most Powerful Nation in the World

Though he's concerned about that, Dempsey said, the United States still is the most powerful nation in the world, by any measure, and is likely to remain so "unless we —

unless we talk ourselves out of it and legislate ourselves out of it with things like the Budget Control Act."

"What will get us through this is investing in our human capital," the chairman said, "because we're going to have to think our way through the future, not bludgeon our way through it."

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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Connecticut Guardian

360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795

Phone: (860) 524-4911, DSN: 636-7857

FAX: (860) 524-4902

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(Front Page American Flag photo by Buddy Altobello)

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State Command Chief Master Sergeant
Chief Master Sgt. Edward Gould

State Public Affairs Officer
Connecticut Guardian Managing Editor
Capt. Michael T. Petersen

Connecticut Guardian Editor
Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton

Contributors
130th Public Affairs Det., CTARNG
Maj. Jeff Heiland, 103rd AW/PAO
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
103rd Air Control Squadron
103rd Communications Flight, CTANG
First Company Governors Horse Guard
Second Company Governors Horse Guard
First Company Governors Foot Guard
Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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A Perspective from the Bottom of the World

TECH. SGT. JOSHUA MEAD
103rd AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BRADLEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, East Granby, Conn. — Senior Airman Lucas McEntire, an aircraft fuels systems mechanic with the 103rd Maintenance Squadron, volunteered for a short tour of duty with the 109th Airlift Wing out of Schenectady, New York, to the bottom of the world—Antarctica.

The five-week trip afforded him the opportunity to perform his duties, such as replacing fuel pumps, seals and fuel lines in one of the most environmentally-austere places on the planet. So, once he got back and was able to warm up, we sat him down and asked him a few questions about his unique experience.

What was the reason or inspiration for you volunteering to deploy to Antarctica?

“It would be a real good opportunity to see the farthest point south in the world and get some relationships going with other C-130 bases. There are not too many people I know that can say they have been to Antarctica and seen the South Pole. It was a very rare opportunity that I was grateful to have.”

When you landed in Antarctica, what was the first thing you thought of when you got off the plane?

“It wasn’t as cold as I thought it was going to be, really. It was like 20 degrees Fahrenheit when I landed—so, it was kind of like a winter here, but it was just so vast because the air is very dry so you can see really far across a field of white ending in a perfectly flat line with mountains on one side.

What kind of work did you do while you were down there and did the environment play a part as a limiting

factor when getting that work done?

“They day after we landed, we went down to the airfield where we actually worked, which was about six miles, to the McMurdo Station out on the ice shelf, which meant there was no land below us so we weren’t able to ground our planes and that limited us in the work we could do; we couldn’t do work directly inside the fuel tanks, we could only do work inside the dry bays with fuel lines and things like that.

“I ended up having to change out two fuel lines on one of the planes and a couple of seals on one of the others. It took a while because Antarctica is so remote we had to wait for a cargo plane to fly in the parts.

“It was also difficult because of the cold, and since we didn’t have any intrinsically safe heaters, we couldn’t use them once I opened up part of the fuel system to avoid risk of ignition. So, we had to build up a little ‘shelter’ out of jackets and other things like that inside the dry bay and heat up the area—then turn them off before working on the fuel systems.”

How did it feel to be the only fuels component mechanic on the continent?

“It was cool and interesting that they would trust one person to take care of all of the fuels problems there, especially a senior Airman just getting started on the C-130. I was able to bring a lot of knowledge from our base and from working on the C-130s in Utah to come up with solutions to fix their planes.”

What other unique challenges did the cold environment present?

“They fly about two or three sorties a week to the South Pole to deliver supplies and drop off or pick up people at station down there and they basically put out

a list and allow people to take incentive flights down there. So, I went down there and it was 9300 feet above sea level and minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit with a wind chill of minus 65 degrees. I spent about half-an-hour there and I was completely frozen.”

It gets so cold at the South Pole that, when they land, they don’t actually shut down the plane, they refuel them while the plane is running—something that we would never do anywhere else. If they shut down, they might not start back up.”

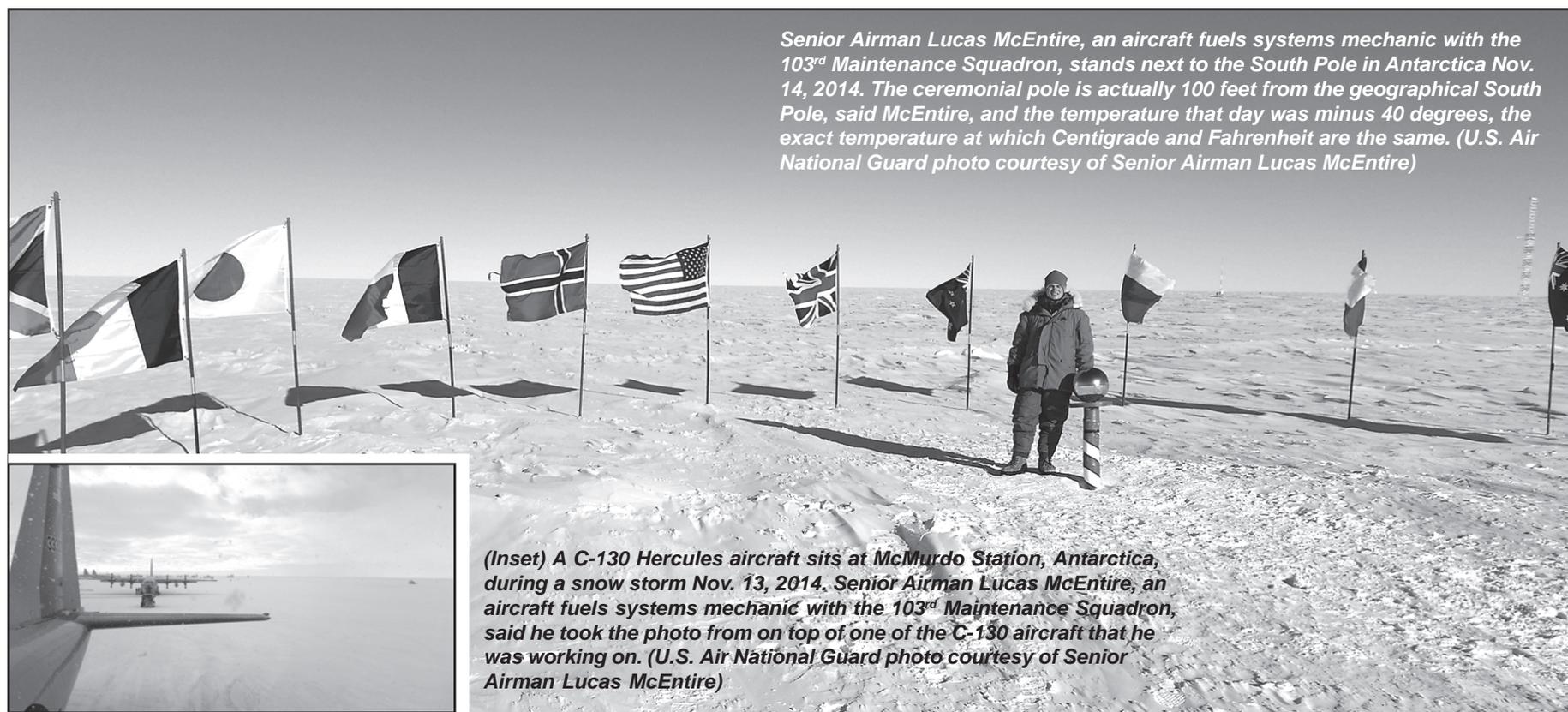
Aside from the incentive flight, what did you do for fun?

“There wasn’t too much to do. There were a couple places to hang out, get a few beers, something like that—a dayroom with darts, video games.”

“The Friday before we left though, after work I got to take a tour of the pressure ridges which is where the permanent ice shelf meets the expanding sea and creates basically mountains of ice. So we took a nice three-hour tour of that. And after we got back, a few other guys and I decided to take a hike to the top of observation hill which is a small mountain overlooking McMurdo station. They have a cross up there dedicated to Scott, the guy who discovered the South Pole but never made it back.”

Based on your experiences, what advice do you have for younger Airmen who are still honing their craft?

“If you get the opportunity to go really anywhere or do something special, take it. Especially really early on in your career, to learn everything you possibly can because you want to get to a point where you don’t have to rely on other people to have to do your job. Also, it’s great to work with other people and units so we start building relationships throughout the community.”



Senior Airman Lucas McEntire, an aircraft fuels systems mechanic with the 103rd Maintenance Squadron, stands next to the South Pole in Antarctica Nov. 14, 2014. The ceremonial pole is actually 100 feet from the geographical South Pole, said McEntire, and the temperature that day was minus 40 degrees, the exact temperature at which Centigrade and Fahrenheit are the same. (U.S. Air National Guard photo courtesy of Senior Airman Lucas McEntire)

(Inset) A C-130 Hercules aircraft sits at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, during a snow storm Nov. 13, 2014. Senior Airman Lucas McEntire, an aircraft fuels systems mechanic with the 103rd Maintenance Squadron, said he took the photo from on top of one of the C-130 aircraft that he was working on. (U.S. Air National Guard photo courtesy of Senior Airman Lucas McEntire)

Connecticut's Iwo Jima Memorial: A Testament to Bravery, Vision

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ-CT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's Note: There are several significant battles from U.S. history marking major anniversaries this year. This article is the first in a year-long series on some of those battles.

On Feb. 23, 1995, the National Iwo Jima Memorial in New Britain was dedicated and opened to the public. Thousands of volunteers, Veterans, visitors and local residents attended the dedication ceremony.

At the dedication, George Gentile, Iwo Jima Veteran, organizer and designer of the memorial, said to his wife, Win Gentile, that erecting the monument must have been the reason he survived the battle of Iwo Jima.

Win Gentile said her husband often felt guilty about returning home from Iwo Jima when many others did not, and that creating the memorial had helped him cope with those feelings so many years after the war.

Gentile, founder and first president of the National Iwo Jima Survivors' Association, enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1942, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1944, as part of the 4th Marine Division, Gentile joined the fighting at Iwo Jima with C Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment.

In an oral history, Gentile contributed in 2001 to the War Memorial Association Oral History Project, he recounted his military experiences and memories of the ferocious battle:

Some strange things happen – your mind starts to get a little whacko. I can remember one incident when we had to fight a grenade battle and we heard what we thought were sounds of the Japanese moving so a couple of us decided that to see better, we'd get out of the fox-hole and look down into the ravine because we couldn't see very well – there was a lot of brush. There was a very narrow ledge that only one person could walk on, and I started to walk on it so I could see better down into the ravine and I looked up and coming around the other way was [an enemy soldier]. We came face to face but we were in such a close proximity that if either one of us made a move we would have fallen off the ledge. So I just made an about face and he did the same thing, turned around and went down the ravine. I turned around and then threw a grenade down into the ravine. It was one of those things that I was so fortunate that the position I was in, he had to go back down in the ravine, where I could just follow along the ledge and get room enough for me to throw a hand grenade down at him and then duck behind the rocks there. We were surprised to see each other face to face, your reaction was kind of screwy – it was probably not what people would think you would do, but being on the edge of a ledge, you had to think fast. Both of us thought the same way – to turn around and get more room, and not have a confrontation

there because either one of us, or both of us, would have fallen off the ledge down into the ravine.

His oral account contains numerous similar instances, including sniper and mortar attacks, cave clearings and the unfortunate losses of fellow Marines.

At the conclusion of the battle, Gentile chronicled returning to the island's beach, and viewing a stack of New York Daily News papers. The cover photograph moved him immensely.



Iwo Jima Veteran, George Gentile organized the design and construction of the New Britain National Iwo Jima Memorial which was dedicated in 1995. He was also the founder and first president of the National Iwo Jima Survivors' Association. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ-CT Public Affairs)

There on the front page was a picture of the flag raising. Then we realized what kind of an impact this was making back in the states. But it wasn't until we got back to Maui that we fully realized the impact of the flag raising on Iwo Jima and the impact of winning the battle against the Japanese.

Gentile survived and returned to Connecticut where he worked for many years as a dentist, and raised his family before passing away in 2003.

In 1987, he attended an Iwo Jima Survivors' reunion in Long Island, and shortly thereafter founded the Iwo Jima Survivors' Association in Connecticut.

In 1995, following years of fundraising and hard work, the National Iwo Jima Memorial Monument was finally unveiled and dedicated. It is officially located in New Britain but borders Newington, and occupies the site of an old dump.

The non-profit memorial was built and designed by volunteers, and paid for by donations. It is not a federal or state funded memorial.

The flag-raising monument is a replication sculpture of the famous photograph, captured, Feb. 23, 1945, of U.S. Marines raising the American flag on top of Mt. Suribachi. As most Americans now know, the iconic Iwo Jima photograph was staged, as the photographer, Joe Rosenthal, didn't capture a photo for a first flag's raising, moments before.

Actual stones imported from Iwo Jima are part of the monument, forming the terrain on which the Marines stand. Sand from the island was also incorporated into the concrete base.

The memorial site features a black marble pedestal, housing an 'eternal flame.' There are also monuments dedicated to the chaplain and medical corps at Iwo Jima, and a large rock at the park's entrance shaped something like Iwo Jima, and engraved with a map of the Japanese island. The names of the dozens of Connecticut service members killed during the battle are engraved into the monument.

There is also a time capsule vault beneath a plaque behind the main monument. The capsule was placed there by the Iwo Jima Survivors' Association and cannot be opened until May 30, 2045, close to the 100th anniversary of the famous battle.

Win Gentile said that in addition to its stated contents, the official cemetery file of 6,824 Americans killed in the 1945 island battle, anything could be in the capsule: old currency, photographs, even souvenirs and mementos from the war.

"No one will know for another 30 years," she said.

Fortunately, her husband's oral history, very much a time capsule itself, reveals a great deal of information about the horror and shock experienced by American service members during the ferocious battle:

One fellow who started to go a little nutty and he had a pouch hanging from his cartridge belt and a pair of pliers. The [enemy] were notorious for having gold teeth and when things got slow and quiet; he would go around extracting teeth out of the [enemy's] mouths and put them in his pouch like it was an everyday thing. The gold crowns and gold fillings that he pulled out of their teeth, I don't know if he ever did anything with them.

During 36 days of fighting at Iwo Jima, which lies roughly 600 miles east of Tokyo, American service members killed approximately 20,000 Japanese fighters.

On Sept. 2, 1945, Japan surrendered, officially ending World War II.

Giving Back

**SGT. 1ST CLASS MICHAEL FINNEGAN
A COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 102ND INFANTRY REGIMENT UPAR**

'Twas the season for giving and that's exactly what A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment did. On Dec. 19 a group of thirteen Soldiers from "Apache" Company spent the afternoon at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford, Connecticut giving something back to the children.

Apache Company's Soldiers met at the Hartford Armory and carpoled to the hospital just a few miles away. Greeted by the staff at the front door, Apache's Soldiers were ready to make as many children happy as possible this holiday season.

The mission that day, organized by the unit's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Non-commissioned officer Staff Sgt. Ronald Pitcher, started during December drill. Pitcher collected \$5 from Apache Company Soldiers who wished to help and 13 Soldiers volunteered to come to the hospital.

Armed with bags full of stuffed animals purchased by Soldier donations, Apache Company Soldiers went room-to-room passing out stuffed animals and talking to the children. The children were thrilled to see the Soldiers; some had never seen military personnel in real life! The Soldiers, who quickly felt the difference they were able to make, delighted in the idea of giving back.

Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Vicinus said the event was an, "excellent example of community outreach and living the Army values."

"I am honored to call these men my brothers, one of the most rewarding Christmas activities I can think of, God bless the children and the Soldiers!" said Apache Company 1st Sgt. Daniel Morgan, who was present for the event.

Staff Sgt. Garrick Yanosky, a squad leader in Apache Company said "It was all about the smiles." He loved the smiles on the children's faces. Staff Sgt. Joseph Paoli and a few others all agreed that this event was one of the most, if not the most, rewarding things they have ever done in their military career.

These Soldiers are all well-trained infantry Soldiers, most having multiple combat deployments, but have never experienced interacting with the children and their families while in uniform. Often times, these Soldiers are nestled away in the woods, training to project America from its enemies.

"The chance to do something right here in America for Americans is super rewarding," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Finnegan, Apache Company's Readiness NCO.

This entire event was part of the unit's monthly MWR strategy and organized solely by Pitcher. It was a vision that Pitcher has always had and he was excited to make it actually happen.

"We are wired to help and put others first. I wanted to give everyone a chance to fulfill that need, to make a difference, and also get a sense of self-accomplishment. I wanted our guys to feel what the uniform means to our society," said Pitcher.

"This time of year is about giving; I wanted our guys to know what that meant, how it feels, and the honest, good feeling that caring and helping others brings. I really wanted to come together and truly make a difference. I wanted to show our younger enlisted that it's not all just about bullets but we can do many things to make this world a better and safer place to live."

Soldiers of A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment visit with patients at the Connecticut Childrens Medical Center Dec. 19, 2014, bringing them stuffed animals, unit coins and military patches. The trip was part of the unit's new Morale, Welfare and Recreation program. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry UPAR)



Inauguration Day



Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman takes the oath of office for her second term in office from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy during ceremonies held in the Senate Chambers of the Connecticut State Capitol Jan. 7. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Public Affairs NCO)



Members of the Connecticut Army National Guard fire blank rounds from a WWII-era model M101A1 howitzer as part of a 19-gun salute honoring Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's inauguration in Hartford, Jan. 7. A 19-gun salute is the prescribed military honor for Governors who serve as commanders of their National Guard forces. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Boffen, JFHQ-CT, Connecticut National Guard)



Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and First Lady Catherine Lambert Malloy are escorted into the inaugural ball at the convention center in Hartford by Maj. Christopher Cain, left, and Capt. Roger Conley of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard on Jan. 7. The ball was the culmination of inauguration day activities. (Photo courtesy Brian Ambrose Photography)



Members of the 2nd Company Governor's Horse Guard passes by the Connecticut State Capitol as part of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's second Inaugural parade Jan. 7, 2015, in Hartford, Connecticut. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. Jefferson S. Heiland)

Flying Yankees Get Down and Dirty in Georgia

SENIOR AIRMAN EMMANUEL SANTIAGO
103RD AIRLIFT WING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAVANNAH COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER - Garden City, Ga. — Blue skies and beautiful weather set the stage for two pilots assigned to the 118th Airlift Squadron to receive their unimproved airfields certification, “dirt cert,” on Ramagen landing strip, Bryon County, Georgia, while training at the Combat Readiness Training Center, Savannah, Georgia.

More than 100 Airmen from the 103rd Airlift Wing deployed to the CRTC for Operation Snow Bird; this certification was just one of the many training goals accomplished.

To attain the dirt cert, a pilot must complete maximum effort landings on a dirt landing strip. The Ramagen

landing strip is significantly smaller than a normal runway. During this session the pilots also completed a series of “touch and go” landings, a process in which the aircraft lands and takes off without coming to a complete stop. The purpose of the touch and go is to maintain the pilot’s takeoff and landing skills.

For a pilot who has extensive hours of flight time, taking off and landing is nothing new. Factoring in the very small space these pilots have to land the massive aircraft, the challenging task this certification validates, is an impressive feat. If the aircraft approaches short of this window, it may be damaged, but if the plane lands past the allotted space, there may not be enough runway for the aircraft to come to a complete stop.

The training was a team effort. The 165th Civil Engineer

Squadron and CRTC personnel prepared the dirt runway while Airmen from Portland, Oregon took charge of air traffic control. It is the first time the training has taken place at this location in two years.

According to Lt. Col. Steve Gwinn, one of the pilots flying the mission, achieving the unimproved landing certification was the next step in the 103rd Airlift Wing’s progress towards full mission ready status.

“The dirt cert is not to be overlooked just because we complete it after training at Little Rock. It’s the third main mission set of the C-130 to land anywhere, anytime to resupply out troops,” said Gwinn, “Plus, what pilot wouldn’t want to land a big airplane on a piece of dirt. It’s just fun.”



A C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 103rd Airlift Wing prepares to take off from Ramagen dirt strip, Bryon County, Ga., Jan. 7, 2015. The aircraft was piloted by Lt. Col. Steve Gwinn and Maj. Josh Panis, who were qualifying for a special certification that permits them to land on short unimproved runways. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Emmanuel Santiago)

Dempsey: Cyber Vulnerabilities Threaten National Security

LISA FERDINANDO
DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

BRUSSELS - Cyber vulnerabilities in the private sector pose a serious threat to national security, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

While military cyber defenses are formidable, civilian infrastructure and businesses often are targeted first and “present a significant vulnerability to our nation,” Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said in a January interview in Rome, at the start of a two-nation European tour focused on threats to U.S. and European security.

Because of that, he said, the United States faces a “level playing field” against cyber threats.

“As the senior military officer of the most powerful military on the planet, I like to have the playing field tilted to my advantage,” he said. “I’d like the enemy to play uphill and us to play downhill.”

He ranks cybersecurity among his highest priorities, he added.

Legislation Needed for Information Sharing

Cyber legislation is needed to protect the nation and to allow information sharing between the government

and the private sector while safeguarding civil liberties, he said. President Barack Obama has made cybersecurity a top agenda item and pressed for new cyber legislation in January’s State of the Union address.

“We haven’t done enough — that’s just not internal to the military,” Dempsey said. “We haven’t done enough as a nation.”

The U.S. military depends on commercial networks, so the strongest military cyber defense still could be threatened by a weak link elsewhere, Dempsey said.

“We have authorities and capabilities that allow us to do a pretty good job of defending ourselves,” he added. “But the vulnerability of the rest of America is a vulnerability of ours, and that’s what we have to reconcile.”

More than 20 countries now have military units dedicated to employing cyber in war, the chairman noted. He said he is worried adversaries will seek to exploit vulnerabilities in civilian critical infrastructure, viewing that as a “softer” target than the military itself.

Cyberattacks Are Becoming a Part of Conflict

Disruptive and destructive cyber attacks are becoming

a part of conflict between states, within states and among nonstate actors, the general said.

“From the day I became chairman, I realized that on my term, cyber would become both a greater threat to our national interests, but also a more important component of military capability,” he said.

While the U.S. dominates — albeit with some constraints, whether air, space, land or sea — the cyber domain is much different, Dempsey said, repeating that he doesn’t like that there are “actors out there who can compete with us on literally a level playing field.”

The chairman noted the military two years ago stood up the U.S. Cyber Command, which committed resources and migrated capabilities to the combatant commander level.

Adversaries of the United States constantly seek to infiltrate networks and degrade capabilities, disrupt operations, or steal information, the chairman noted. “In cyber, we have competitors, and we have competitors who maybe aren’t as constrained by legal systems and freedoms as we are,” he said. “It’s going to be challenging to navigate this race.”

President Unveils Next Steps in Cybersecurity Plan

AIR FORCE TECH. SGT. JAKE RICHMOND
DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON - Continuing an effort to help defend the nation’s computer-connected systems, President Barack Obama announced on Jan. 13 additional steps that call for more information sharing, modernized law enforcement and updated security data breach reporting.

“Cyber threats pose an enormous challenge for our country,” the president said. “As long as I’m president, protecting America’s digital infrastructure is going to remain a top national security priority.”

Speaking at the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center in Arlington, Virginia, Obama said since much of the nation’s critical infrastructure — financial systems, power grids, pipelines, health care systems — runs on networks connected to the Internet, cybersecurity is a matter of public safety and of public health. He noted that most of that infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector, but government and non-government entities are “still not always working as closely together” as they should.

Better Information Sharing

“We’re proposing new cybersecurity legislation to promote the greater information sharing we need between the government and private sector,” Obama explained. “It includes liability protections for companies that share information on cyber threats. It includes potential safeguards to ensure that government protects privacy and civil liberties, even as we’re doing our job of safeguarding America’s critical information networks.”

The president also announced the “Summit on Cybersecurity and Consumer Protection,” which is scheduled for Feb. 13 at Stanford University in California. He said the event is intended to help shape public- and

private-sector efforts to protect American people and companies from growing threats to consumers and commercial networks.

“Neither government nor the private sector can defend the nation alone,” Obama said. “It’s going to have to be a shared mission — government and industry working hand-in-hand as partners. And that’s why I’ve said that protecting our digital infrastructure is a national security priority and a national economic priority.”

Shared Responsibility

Even before the internationally reported hack of Sony Pictures, the issue of cybersecurity had gained prominence within the Defense Department. In November of last year, Navy Adm. Michael S. Rogers, the commander of U.S. Cyber Command, the director of the National Security Agency, and chief of the Central Security Service, told the Reagan National Defense Forum audience that network defense isn’t an either-or proposition that can be neatly divided into public- and private-sector responsibilities.

“There is no single sector, there is no single element of this population, there is no single element within the government that has the total answer. It will take all of us working together to make this work,” he said.

Rogers has used the term “cyber blur” to describe the convoluted way cyber attacks are both perpetrated by enemies and defended by American entities. Last October, he called for leaders in all kinds of institutions to drive the cultural changes needed to allow new cybersecurity partnerships to thrive.

The president said the federal government needs to continue collaborating on this issue, too. He said he will be working with Congress to ensure partisan disagreements don’t keep the government from fulfilling its most basic responsibilities.



192nd MPs Will Bring Skill Sets Acquired in Training to Cuba

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ-CT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers of the 192nd Military Police Battalion yelled, “Omaha,” when a suicide bomber pulled a pin from his coat, setting off a bomb hidden within his clothes, notionally killing two Soldiers and wounding a third.

On Jan. 10, Soldiers conducted entry control point operation battle drills at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in preparation for their spring deployment to the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they will support detention operations and area security. While they will probably not deal with a suicide bomber during their deployment, it is still valuable training that teaches the importance of standard operating procedures.

Maj Michael Jakubson, Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element (PTAE) OIC, was pleased with the unit’s level of training.

“They’ll be ready for their deployment,” Jakubson said.

The unit trained for three weeks in January at Camp Niantic and Stones Ranch, performing Army Warrior tasks, dismounted and mounted battle drills, pistol qualification, among other tasks.

More than 50 Soldiers of the 192nd Military Police Battalion will serve as a brigade staff and provide command and control at the Guantanamo Bay Joint Detention Center. The Joint Detention Center has been operational since 2002.

In April 2014 the 192nd conducted detention operations training at Gates Correctional Institution in Niantic and followed up with similar training at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in June.

Sgt. Kathryn Kennedy, from Griswold, is assigned to the 192nd and said she is looking forward to putting her training to the test at Guantanamo Bay.

“Step over here to be searched,” she said in a loud command voice to a role-playing civilian entering the Stones Ranch FOB ECP.

This time, there was no notional suicide bomb.



Despite the cold at the Stone’s Ranch Military Reservation FOB, Jan. 10, the morale was high, courtesy of Capt. Peter Pollard’s snow design. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Sgt. Kathryn Kennedy searches an OPFOR civilian during pre-mobilization training at Stones Ranch, Jan. 10. In March, the 192nd is scheduled to mobilize to Fort Bliss, Texas as part of their 12-month deployment. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



192nd Soldiers react to a notional suicide bomb blast and evaluate casualties during pre-mobilization training at Stone’s Ranch, Jan. 10. The 192nd trained for three weeks in January at Camp Niantic and Stones Ranch. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

Connecticut Civil Support Team receives Army Superior Unit Award

SENIOR AIRMAN JENNIFER PIERCE
103RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. – The Connecticut 14th Civil Support Team recently received the Army Superior Unit Award for its actions from Sept. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2011.

The team displayed exceptionally meritorious service in support of homeland defense as part of the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosives Enterprise. The enterprise required the unit to execute special security event missions and preparedness events and offer support to the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear community in the New England area.

“The Army Superior Unit Award is a huge achievement for the 14th Civil Support Team and the Connecticut National Guard,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Janusz, former 14th CST commander. “This is the first time that the team has earned such a prestigious award. The Airmen and Soldiers of the 14th Civil Support Team should be very proud of their continued accomplishments and the support they provide to civilian authorities in Connecticut and throughout New England.”

The award-winning Civil Support Team is currently seeking a new member for its group of 22. The general job description for a CST member includes preparing, planning, training, educating and equipping personnel to respond, maintain mission capability and recover from the full spectrum of physical threat events including

major accidents, natural disasters, weapons of mass destruction and wartime chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive attacks. The CST also provides technical expertise to commanders during full spectrum threat response operations and performs detection, monitoring, warning and reporting of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear events.

“We are looking for a motivated person who is very willing to take initiative and who wants to learn,” said Tech. Sgt. Conor Thomas, Connecticut CST member. “We are a high ops tempo unit with a real-world mission. Being a member is a really good challenge. We have to keep up with whatever the terrorist threats are at the time. There’s also plenty to learn between the equipment, current threats and for our training missions.”

In 2010 and 2011, the team led the entire nation in Special Security Events standby missions and conducted more operational missions in 2010 than the other 57 teams in the nation (including Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

“Every state has at least one Civil Support Team; some states have two,” said Thomas. “Each of these teams is divided into different sections. One section is the survey section. These are the boots on ground...the guys we are sending into the hot zone to perform reconnaissance, characterization and to get samples from a target that commanders deem necessary.

“There is a communications section that has a truck to

provide communications on both civilian and military frequencies. There is also a medical section, operations section and a command section. The opening we have on our team is in the survey section,” said Thomas.

Thomas also added that even though CST members are busy, they love what they do because they are called to assist on a variety of calls, Thomas said.

“A few months ago, our team was able to assist in a real-world fire in Bridgeport. This is because our gas monitors have wireless capability so the fire department had us set the gas monitor up around the perimeter of the fire to ensure that no poisonous or noxious fumes were being carried too far away into residential areas,” said Thomas. “In 2007, our team was called to Danbury where there was an active anthrax incident. We were able to work alongside the Connecticut State Police and the Department of Public Health. We sent teams in to take samples from the suspect’s house, a barn behind the house and soil samples around the house to determine the spread of contamination. Ultimately, we are here if there is a terrorist threat but, because of our capabilities, a lot of outside agencies end up utilizing us,”

If you are interested in a position with the Connecticut Civil Support Team, please contact Tech. Sgt. Thomas by email at conor.m.thomas2.mil@mail.mil or by phone at (860) 292-4719.

Airmen Fend off Simulated Flu Epidemic in Savannah

MAJ. BRYON M. TURNER
103RD AIRLIFT WING

SAVANNAH COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER - Garden City, Ga. — Airmen from the 103rd Airlift Wing successfully completed a three-day public health exercise while deployed to the Combat Readiness Training Center, Savannah, Georgia on Jan. 7.

The exercise put the Flying Yankees to the test with a simulated flu epidemic that required a robust medical response to work hand-in-hand with a complex accountability process.

“The exercise was a great learning opportunity for our new wing inspection team members,” said Lt. Col. James Guerrero, inspector general for the 103rd Airlift Wing. “We also highlighted a number of strengths across the unit and areas where process improvements have already begun.”

The first patient in the exercise was Airman 1st Class Gabriel Cartagena, an Airman assigned to the 103rd Force Support Squadron, who works in the dining facility. Although his simulated illness turned out to be something unrelated, many casualties with the flu would follow.

“This exercise was a great experience for the medical group; it helped us to identify areas of improvement for the clinic,” said Maj. Tara Hood, who served as the deployed medical staff’s officer in charge.

As the scenario came to a crescendo, more than 25 Airmen “became” ill, all of whom were eventually confined to quarters, creating an accountability challenge for

personnel assigned to the 103rd Force Support Squadron’s personnel support for contingency operations. Members of the PERSCO team successfully accomplished casualty reports for each of the sick Airmen, including some of their own.

Staff Sgt. Kayla Smith, assigned to the 103rd Force Support Squadron, was a victim of a simulated fire-ant attack which resulted in a severe allergic reaction. 1st Lt. Coleen Hitt, a member of the 103rd Medical Group, rushed across base on foot and administered lifesaving aid while a civilian ambulance rushed to the site. Smith would spend the next simulated 24 hours at a local hospital as she recovered.

“The clinical staff received good training for disease identification, disease management and they adapted to the stressors of being overwhelmed by casualties in a remote environment,” said Hood. “It was an excellent experience for our junior staff and officers to take on new leadership roles.”

Members of the 103rd Medical Group also conducted door-to-door house calls at lodging, providing critical medical aid as needed for the sick Airmen, including Cartagena.

“I felt good, it helped me know everyone is here to help all of us,” said Cartagena. “If I really got sick I’d want the same treatment.”

Throughout the exercise, wing inspection team members captured detailed notes based on their observations; notes that will be entered into the inspector

general evaluation management system to assist unit members in making positive changes to key processes.

“A formal IGEMS report will be created, and corrective action plans will be required to achieve unit improvements moving forward,” said Guerrero.



Maj. Leah Ward and Airman First Class Marissa Ruiz, both assigned to the 103rd Medical Group, conduct door-to-door house calls for all Airmen who were confined to quarters during a public health exercise at the Combat Readiness Training Center, Savannah, Georgia Jan. 7th, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Maj. Bryon M. Turner)

1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment Trains for Mobilization to Kosovo

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

EAST LYME, Conn. – Soldiers from several different aviation units from throughout the country joined forces in January at Stones Ranch Military Reservation to conduct pre-mobilization training in advance of their upcoming mobilization together to Kosovo this spring.

Army Reserve Soldiers from F Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, of Clearwater, Florida, and A Company, 2nd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, of Los Alamitos, California, left the warm weather of their home states to train alongside Soldiers from the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment of Enfield, Connecticut.

Approximately 150 Soldiers were on ground to participate in the week-long training event in preparation for their year-long mobilization to Kosovo where they will serve as part of an ongoing NATO peacekeeping mission.

Capt. William Haselberger, commander of F Co., 5-159th, applauded the training at Stones Ranch, which consisted of a variety of basic soldiering tasks such as manning a controlled entry point, vehicle and personnel searches, reacting to an improvised explosive device and reacting to direct and indirect fire during un-mounted patrols.

"The training has been smooth so far," Haselberger said. "They're keeping us on a really tight schedule but it's going smooth. You're a Soldier first so all of this stuff is necessary."

Staff Sgt. Jerry Castonguay, a UH-60 Blackhawk mechanic with the 5-159th, echoed Haselberger's sentiments.

"Probably 75 percent of what we do on a daily basis in this job is aviation related," Castonguay said. "This is a good refresher on some of that basic Soldier training that we maybe don't get a chance to do every day like in an infantry unit."

"Getting this training done here and now," Castonguay added, "also opens up time later when we get to our [mobilization] station at Fort Hood for more of our [job] specific training."

Spec. Zachri Kirk, a fueler with the 1/169th, said that this training also provides a good team-building element.

"Conducting this training here is good to get everybody together and used to working together," he said. "I think it'll be a good deployment. There are a lot of good people here from all over and everyone is mixing together well."

Maj. Stephan Nowakowski, the battalion executive officer for the 1/169, said that between 20 and 30 percent of the Soldiers from the Connecticut, Florida and California units deployed together in 2009 to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Having worked with a lot of these guys before kind of helps overcome some of the stigmas that are out there about National Guard and Reserve units," Nowakowski

said. "We're just as professional and competent as anybody and having familiarity between these different units goes a long way."

Building upon that familiarity is something that the training here has helped these units do, which has in turn built confidence amongst the troops.

"I am absolutely confident in our Soldiers to succeed in this mission," said Capt. Stephen Kramer, commander of A Co., 2-238th. "This training is helping us all get used to working together and I'm confident that we'll succeed on this deployment. I'm looking forward to it."



Soldiers from the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment perform a vehicle search during pre-mobilization training, Jan. 16, at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, Connecticut. Approximately 150 Soldiers from the 169th and two Army Reserve aviation units are set to comprise the U.S. aviation task force for a NATO-led peacekeeping mission in Kosovo later this year. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Boffen, JFHQ-CT)



Soldiers from the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment evacuate a Soldier with simulated injuries during pre-mobilization training, Jan. 16, at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, Connecticut. Approximately 150 Soldiers from the 169th and two Army Reserve aviation units are set to comprise the U.S. aviation task force for a NATO-led peacekeeping mission in Kosovo later this year. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Boffen, JFHQ-CT)

Resilience Center: Assertive Communication

SGT. MAJ. JAMES SYPHER
STATE RESILIENCE COORDINATOR

Assertive Communications helps you solve problems by remaining Confident, Clear, and Controlled. Confidence is belief in your ability to handle the situation; Clarity makes the message easy to understand without exaggerating; Control keeps your emotions in check and helps you keep on track. Assertive communication may seem like a rudimentary concept, however many of us mistake it for Aggressive communication which can be detrimental to solving the issue.

Aggressive communication is a common communication style within the military; particularly in the realm of combat arms. Some characteristics of aggressive communication are the need to have the last word, out of control emotion, blaming others, and talking down to or over another person. With the exception of the combat environment, aggressive communication is typically counterproductive.

The third main communication style is Passive Communication. Passive communicators are typically quiet, submissive, avoid eye contact, withdrawn, often sulk, and are submissive and appeasing. People who choose this style of communication are often dominated by aggressive communicators.

And even if they have valid points to make, they are never heard.

In order to be an assertive communicator, one must use the "IDEAL Model".

I = Identify and understand the problem (internal communication)

D = Describe the problem objectively and accurately (remove opinions)

E = Express your concerns and how you feel (when appropriate)

A = Ask the other person for his/her perspective ("what" or "how" questions – not "why") and then ask for a reasonable change

L = List all the possible outcomes (consequences and benefits)

Assertive communication takes practice. You must remain flexible and match your style of communication to the situation or person. Assertive communication is a skill and has little to do with personality. When the conversation starts to get too intense, step away for a moment; take a break, relax, rethink and try again. Learning how to discuss problems assertively, respond constructively, and praise effectively are critical communication strategies in building and maintain strong relationships.

Resilience Tip of the Month:

Healthy families solve problems through cooperation, creative brainstorming, and openness to others, and place emphasis on the role of social support and connectedness (versus isolation) within the family.

Resilience Resources:

BH Helpline: 855-800-0120

Strong Bonds: Chaplain Nutt 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 March 17-20, 2015 at Camp Niantic. CTNG Circular 350-15-10 is on the GKO link above and has all of the details.

In next month's issue we will cover: real time resilience.

Until then Connecticut, Stay Resilient.

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- 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.

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One Step Closer to Aviation MEDEVAC

SGT. MAJ. ANTHONY V. SAVINO
STATE AVIATION OFFICE

Five Connecticut Army National Guard Soldiers graduated Dec. 19 from the Ft. Sam Houston Critical Care Course to become fully MOS-qualified in the new Company C (-), 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment MEDEVAC unit.

The graduates are: Sgt. Ian Berghorn (HHC, 1-102nd Infantry), Sgt. Danielle Marcue (HHC, 192 Military Police), Staff Sgt. Alfred Townsend (169th Regional Training Institute), and Sgt. Sam Dybdahl and Staff Sgt. John Krause (CTARNG Medical Detachment).

Prior to the eight-week course, Krause, Dybdahl and Marcue attended a 26-week National Register EMT-P course at Ft. Sam Houston. Townsend and Berghorn are National Register Paramedic Certified which made them exempt from attending the 26-week course.

The new detachment is authorized three UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters and the 68W Flight Paramedic MOS. Before becoming a member of the Flight Paramedic aircrew, they will all attend an in-depth, four-week training class at Ft. Rucker. Training includes aircraft familiarization, procedures and medical treatment during aircraft operations.

The initial selection process began in September 2013, with 23 applicants earning the right to be reviewed by a selection board in December 2013. These five NCOs showed the board they had the "right stuff" and were ready to commit 12 to 38 weeks of training, putting their personal lives on hold for the opportunity become CTARNG's first qualified flight paramedics.

The five NCOs will be transferred from their current units into the 1-169th General Support Aviation Battalion until the 3/126th comes on line, and will start training with the pilots and crew chiefs.



(From left) Sgt. Ian Berghorn (HHC, 1-102nd Infantry), Sgt. Danielle Marcue (HHC, 192 Military Police), Staff Sgt. Alfred Townsend (169th Regional Training Institute), and Sgt. Sam Dybdahl and Staff Sgt. John Krause (CTARNG Medical Detachment) are on their way to becoming members of the Connecticut National Guard's new MEDEVAC unit. The Soldiers recently graduated from the critical care course at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. Each of the Soldiers has undergone extensive training and still have courses to go before becoming fully certified. (Photo courtesy Sgt. Maj. Anthony V. Savino, State Aviation Office)

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- Post with common sense!

Facebook will launch new Privacy Tools January 1, 2015.
Be sure to check and adjust your settings!

Infantry Takes on the Mountain



A group of Soldiers conduct foot march during Winter Annual Training at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont. Soldiers are from the 1st of the 102nd Infantry Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR))



Pfc. Jaime Rodriguez conducts military mountaineer training during Winter Annual Training at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont from Jan. 8 through 17, 2015. Soldiers are from the 1st of the 102nd Infantry Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Mountain, Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR))

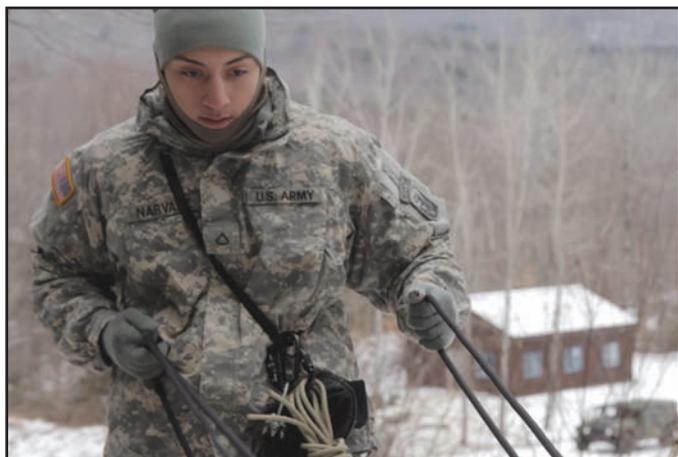


Staff Sgt. Joseph Paoli takes aim during Winter Annual Training at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont from Jan. 8 through 17, 2015. Soldiers are from the 1st of the 102nd Infantry Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR))



Pfc. Anthony Cornish conducting military mountaineer training during Winter Annual Training at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont from Jan. 8 through 17, 2015. Soldiers are from the 1st of the 102nd Infantry Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Mountain, Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR))

ns of Vermont...in January



Pfc. Sergio Narvaez conducts military mountaineer training during Winter Annual Training at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont from Jan. 8 through 17, 2015. Soldiers are from the 1st of the 102nd Infantry Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Mountain, Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR))



(From left) Command Sgt. Major Paul Vicincus, Lt. Col. Robert Brafford and Cpt. Steven MacSweeny discuss operations during Winter Annual Training at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont from Jan. 8 through 17, 2015. Soldiers are from the 1st of the 102nd Infantry Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Mountain, Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR))



...r training during Winter Annual Training at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont from Jan. 8 through 17, 2015. Soldiers are from the 1st of the 102nd Infantry Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Mountain, Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR))



Soldiers set up artic tents during Winter Annual Training at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont from Jan. 8 through 17, 2015. Soldiers are from the 1st of the 102nd Infantry Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Mountain, Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR))

Around Our Guard



Pfc. Brandon Tomlinson, (top) puts his skills as a recent graduate from the petroleum specialty school to good use during preventative maintenance checks and services on a fueler as Spc. Luis Mota Santos assists, Jan. 27. The two are members of A Company, 192nd Engineer Battalion and were getting equipment ready to respond to requests for help in the aftermath of the Blizzard of 2015. (Photo by Sgt. Sylvie Papageorge, A Co., 192nd Engineer Battalion UPAR)



Equipment undergoes preventative maintenance checks and services at the Southington Armory on Jan. 26 in preparation for a major winter storm. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR)



Sgt. Jose Narvaez (left) conducts an inventory of Pvt. Jevon Salmon's gear to ensure Salmon is well-equipped to respond to any calls for assistance in the aftermath of the Blizzard of 2015. (Photo by Sgt. Sylvie Papageorge, A Co., 192nd Engineer Battalion UPAR)

Soldiers perform preventative maintenance checks and services on equipment as a winter storm hits Connecticut. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR)



Spc. Bryan Robitaille, a power generation equipment repairer with A Company, 192nd Engineer Battalion, performs a preventative maintenance checks and services on three kilowatt generators in preparation for the Blizzard of 2015. (Photo by Sgt. Sylvie Papageorge, A Co., 192nd Engineer Battalion UPAR)

Soldiers of the Connecticut Army National Guard prepare breakfast after being on-call overnight at the Southington Armory. The Soldiers, and many others throughout the state, were on duty in order to quickly respond to any requests for assistance as a major winter storm hit the state. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Finnegan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment UPAR)





COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
JOHN S. CARRAGHER

Enlisted Update

Welcome to February! I hope everyone had a happy, healthy and tranquil holiday season. January is traditionally a time to make resolutions. Unfortunately, February is usually the time that many of those resolutions fall by the wayside. If you are like me, it is time to pay for the extra meals

and snacks that come with the holidays. Now is the time to reinvigorate your physical fitness program. February starts out cold and a bit dreary - we have to force ourselves to get out and be active. Thankfully, the month ends with the very beginnings of spring. Thinking about your PT program will not make it happen- get out there and do it!

Late winter and spring is also board season. We have completed the Sergeant Major and Master Sergeant promotion boards. The rest of the NCO boards will soon follow as well as the Qualitative Retention Board.

One of the most frequent questions I get is "How can I improve my performance on centralized promotion boards?"

The answer is really quite easy: Meticulously review your record. The feedback from past boards has consistently noted that the Soldier who reviewed his/her record presented a better board file to be considered. The common documents required for all boards include an updated and validated Enlisted Record Brief, APFT and weapons qualification data, NCOERs and Academic Evaluation Reports, and DA photographs (required for staff sergeant and above).

A key component is that all documents match. Attention to detail and personal involvement in maintaining YOUR record will ensure the best possible results for you from the board. If you need help reviewing and updating your record, ask your platoon sergeant or first sergeant. The human resources professionals assigned to your unit are available to assist you. Do not simply sign your NGB 4100 or QRB board notification and then wonder why you do not get the results you expect!

The structure and roles of the components of the Army continues to be debated in Congress and within the Army.

The current National Defense Authorization Act requires the establishment of a commission at the national level to study the structure of the Army. This may seem pretty far removed from the average Soldier that really just wants to know what he or she can do, at their level, to impact the debate. This, too, is a relatively easy question to answer. Each individual Soldier can impact the debate by maintaining his/her individual readiness and the readiness of their unit. Individual readiness means maintaining your level of physical fitness, keeping your medical and dental status current, and staying current on all the distance learning

requirements that we all face. Individual readiness includes some more difficult things like getting yourself into the appropriate NCOES course and keeping your Family and employer prepared for your service.

The individual Soldier can directly impact the readiness of his/her unit by remaining decisively involved with unit training and operations. If you are a leader, make sure that your Soldiers are informed and prepared for the next training event. Additionally, make sure your Soldiers are prepared for the next domestic operation. Our ability to respond at a moment's notice is paramount.

The individual Soldier can also impact the debate by joining a professional military organization that represents your views. The strength of professional organizations is derived from membership. Choose the organization(s) that best represent you and get involved. Membership is only the first step - active membership helps the organization advance your views and will provide you personal satisfaction.

The foundation of readiness is effective training. The foundation of effective training is comprehensive planning. It may seem strange to talk about annual training in February when most units don't conduct it until the summer months. As leaders, you should be planning now for what you will need to execute your training six months from now. It has been said that good leaders think tactics, great leaders think logistics. Spend some time now to think through your plans and request what you need to execute. The major equipment items are usually requested at the battalion and higher level, the individual leader usually does not have to worry about it. It is not the big things that become an issue, it is the small things. Do you have enough batteries? Chemlights? Insect repellent? Other consumables? Order them now!

The 2015 Best Warrior Competition is just around the corner. I encourage each company to send a Soldier and NCO competitor. The competition is a great training event every year and will benefit all participants. This year's event will also feature competitors from the Connecticut Air National Guard. This is something new that is a direct result of previous competitor's feedback. The Airmen competing will not be eligible to move forward to the regional competition. The competition will provide a great opportunity for inter-service rivalry, foster Esprit de Corps, and develop professional relationships among warriors.

As always, thank you for what you do every day for our Airmen, Soldiers, Family members, State and Nation. See you in April.

Quote of the Month:

"The personal bond between leader and follower lies at the root of all explanations of what does and does not happen in battle."

*Sir John Keegan, British Military Historian
1934-2012*

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Governor's Horse and Foot Guards

Spreading Holiday Cheer



Members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, led by Capt. Roger Conley, present Gary Craig and John Elliot of WTIC-FM radio with unwrapped toys collected by the 1GFG at their annual Christmas Dinner Dance. The toys are given to needy children at Gary Craig's 'We Are the Children' Christmas party. The donation was made at the Toy Chest in West Hartford Dec. 18. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Mark Boudreau, 1GFG)

Rendering Honors



The commandants of the four state organized militia units, from left, Maj. Gordon Johnson, Second Company Governor's Horse Guard; Maj. Ed Henfey, First Company Governor's Horse Guard; Maj Gary Stegina, Second Company Governor's Foot Guard; and Maj. Christopher Cain, First Company Governor's Foot Guard, review the troops during the parade honoring Governor Dannel P. Malloy's inauguration to his second term as governor, Jan. 7 in Hartford. Members of all four militia units participated in the parade. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Janet Dexter)

What the Historical Office is Doing to Help Your Grandchildren

NICHOLAS THOMAS
INTERN, CONNECTICUT MILITARY DEPARTMENT HISTORICAL SECTION

There are many reasons why Soldiers wake up and lace their boots, fix their collars and place pens in their sleeves. For some, regardless of ethnicity, gender or rank it is for a steady paycheck and for others it is the opportunity for a chance to earn a college education. In some cases, these men and women are the first of their family to enlist. Many do it because their father and grandfather did it. Some would wager that most of who wear the uniform do it because of a strong sense of needing to serve our state, government and people.

The Historical Section of the Military Department has undertaken a project so family members, sons, daughters and grandchildren will be able to understand the role in defending freedom as well as passing on the military heritage. This project will result in a

historical narrative for each of the units that deployed between 2001 and 2014 for all of the Global War on Terror initiatives like Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

So what can you do to help protect our history as well as continue to serve our country? We are collecting information, documents, pictures, artifacts and oral histories that tell the story of your deployments. These items will be put on display in a binder for each unit so that citizens and Soldiers can view your accomplishments. If you would like to send anything in, or would like to make an appointment for a short 15- to 20-minute interview about your experiences please contact military.intern@ct.gov. If you would like to drop items off to our office located in the Hartford Armory; we are located in room 113 Historical Section.

IT'S YOUR CALL

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

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Military
Crisis Line

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

www.preventsuicide.army.mil

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Why Did I Choose to Become a Warrant Officer?

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE MICHAEL MOTTOLO
169TH REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

As the Warrant Officer Candidate School Course Manager for 1st Battalion, 169 Regional Training Institute in Niantic, I'm afforded the opportunity to speak to many Soldiers within our ranks about the career-broadening opportunities available to them by choosing to attend either Officer or Warrant Officer Candidate School.

Very much like the decision to join the Army itself, everyone has their unique reasons, personal motivations and "story" of how and why they ended up in the

occupation they are in today. However, making the decision to become an officer, sometimes takes a combination of personal drive, as well as external influences.

Personally, it was a combination of leadership styles and specific personnel that I had the privilege to work under and learn from that solidified my desire to become a warrant officer. Of all my mentors, there was one in particular who caused the most introspection and personal growth. This person's actions were never swayed by popular opinion. This person wasn't interested in being

liked and was interested in doing the right thing, always. As a true mentor, a great deal of time was spent identifying and assessing my weaknesses, while also developing my strengths. A solid foundation of humility in thought and action, as well as a concise process-driven task execution were areas that were stressed to me. I was motivated by the best, to become my best.

The point of this self-reflection isn't the path I chose, but that I was believing in myself and making a decision to do something. Set goals, develop a plan and always move forward. - Thank you Jody Reidenhour.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Steve Langehough
Alcohol and Drug Control Officer
steven.o.langehough
@accenturefederal.com
Cell: 475-238-2138

Jennifer Gonzalez-Smith
Prevention Coordinator
J.m.gonzalez-smith
@accenturefederal.com
Cell: 860-549-2838

CT ARNG Armory
360 Broad Street, Rm 103
Hartford, CT 06105



Strong Choices is the Commander's tool for Universal prevention education for all ARNG Soldiers. Talk to your ADCO or PC to set up your required annual training

State Substance Abuse Program

Limited Use Policy

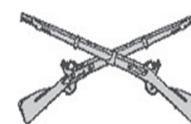
If you think you may have a problem with alcohol or drugs, it is best to admit the concern to your chain of command so they can help before you get caught.



If you admit your abuse and request help, the Limited Use Policy could limit the negative consequences of your drug or alcohol abuse.

Under the Limited Use Policy:

- The characterization of discharge is limited to "Honorable"
- Your commander is not required to initiate separation proceedings
- For more information, see AR 600-85 or talk to your ADCO and PC



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.mottoLO.mil@mail.mil



Education: Transfer Post 9/11 GI Bill as Soon as Eligible

MAJ. DEREK J. MUSGRAVE
EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

Shortly after marriage, I transferred all 36 months of my Post 9/11 GI Bill to my wife. At the time, we had no children, she was a teacher with a master's degree and she had absolutely no desire to go back to college to further her education. So why did I transfer all of my benefits to a dependent with no plans to use it?

The Post 9/11 transferability option comes with a four-year service obligation. It is a one-time obligation that does not reset when transferring benefits to other dependents. By transferring all of the benefits to my wife first, I was able to start my four-year service obligation before we had children. Two years later when

we had our first child, I transferred the benefit to my daughter. The subsequent transfer did not start a new four-year service obligation.

Although I transferred the benefit to my daughter, I only transferred 35 months to her. I left one month with my wife as a place holder. The Post 9/11 GI Bill law is very specific, but allows you to add or remove months of benefits from dependents how I see fit while I am still serving. However, it is not quite as flexible after I leave the service. If I retire from the Armed Forces and my wife is not allocated any of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, she would not be able to receive the benefit. Although she will probably never use the benefit, I am leaving her one month just in case she changes her mind years after I am retired.

If my daughter needs that last month of benefit 20 years from now, I can transfer it back to her.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is an extremely complicated GI Bill. If you have any questions about this bill or any other education benefits, 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. derek.j.musgrave.mil@mail.mil or 860-524-4816.

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

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

THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD OFFICIAL WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA

www.ct.ng.mil/

Official CT National Guard Website



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The Official CT National Guard Twitter



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The Official CT National Guard Slideshare



Connecticut National Guard Public Affairs Office
Social Media Submissions and Information
(860) 524-4858 • ctngpublicaffairs@gmail.com

HERE IT COMES *Are you ready for winter?*

- Follow the directions on the package if you use man-made logs
- Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace and be sure the fire is out before retiring for the evening
- Always use a sturdy screen when fireplaces are in use
- Burn only wood
- Make sure the fire is out before leaving the house or going to bed

READY ... OR NOT?

Ready ... or Not is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their "readiness" for what lies ahead—the known as well as the unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?

U.S. ARMY
ARMY STRONG

ARMY SAFETY
<https://safety.army.mil>

Legal: Legal Assistance for Financial Matters and More ...

CAPT. ERICH HEINONEN
JUDGE ADVOCATE, ATTORNEY-ADVISOR

Members of the military are expected to pay their just financial obligations in a proper and timely manner. However, like many other people, service members may find themselves in circumstances where they are simply unable to pay for all of their expenses.

Financial hardship may be the result of poor financial planning or budgeting, or it may be due to no fault of the service member. In either event, Legal Assistance Attorneys (LAAs) of the Connecticut Army National Guard are available to assist eligible service members, their dependants, and Retirees in a wide variety of financial legal matters, and can direct service members to financial resources for which they may qualify.

Ensuring one's financial "house" is in order is vital to ensuring Soldier readiness. Therefore, Army Regulations allow for legal assistance to be provided in the following types of cases that often involve economic hardship:

family law, estates, landlord/tenant disputes, the Service Members' Civil Relief Act, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, personal contracts or purchase agreements, as well as other economic issues like credit card debt and involuntary allotments.

LAAs may assist in drafting legal correspondence, negotiating with creditors, providing clients legal counsel, recommending courses of action, and even referrals to other available resources that may be better suited to assist. It is important to note that in-court representation of individual service members is almost always prohibited. However, the means available to LAAs to assist eligible clients are often sufficient to reach a resolution agreeable to the client. Nonetheless, as mentioned, there may be other resources available that can help alleviate the immediate economic needs of service members.

The Connecticut Military Relief Fund is available to service members and their immediate family members for essential personal or household goods or services. This

fund was established for the purpose of making grants to service members and their immediate family members if the payment for such goods or services would be a hardship due to military service.

The State Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund can also provide temporary financial assistance to meet, or help meet, the health and maintenance needs of eligible wartime Veterans and their dependents who demonstrate a need. Available assistance under this fund may include shelter (rent/mortgage interest), food, clothing, medical expenses or funeral expenses. Still, other forms of immediate economic assistance may be available from the National Guard Foundation, and other Veteran Service Organizations such as the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans. If you or another service member in the state of Connecticut requires immediate economic assistance please contact the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at (860) 493-2770.

Diversity: The First African-American Female Soldier

MASTER SGT. BARBARA PEPIN
JFHQ-CT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ADVISOR

The Civil War began while the government was still fighting Native American populations in the West. The government recalled most of its men and resources from the Indian wars to concentrate on ending the uprising in the South.

At the end of the Civil War, 186,000 black Soldiers had participated in the war, with 38,000 killed in action. Most southern and eastern populations feared that the end of the war would bring a flood of a new source of workers into the labor market. Fear led to general employment opportunities in these communities that were not made available to blacks.

With many civilian jobs unavailable to blacks, they turned to military service which offered shelter, education, steady pay, medical attention and a pension. Finding employment was difficult as a black male, but it was even more difficult as a black female. Cathay Williams, the future female Buffalo Soldier, decided joining the military was better than frequent civilian unemployment. She was once quoted in a newspaper article as saying "I wanted to make my own living and not be dependent on relations or friends."

Cathay enlisted in the 38th U.S. Infantry on Nov. 15, 1866. The 38th U.S. Infantry was one of the newly formed regiments that consisted of African-American troops. She informed the recruiting officer that she was 22 years old and a cook by occupation. Cathay named Independence, Missouri the place of her birth. When asked her name by the recruiting officer Cathay replied William Cathay. Her enlistment papers read William Cathey, but Cathay was illiterate and she did not realize the mistake. For the rest of her Army career she would be known as William Cathey. The recruiting officer described William Cathay as 5'9",

with black eyes, black hair and black complexion.

William Cathay was examined by an army doctor upon enlistment. The doctor noted that the recruit was fit for duty. We must assume the exam was performed by checking for obvious and superficial impairments only. Neither the recruiting officer nor the army doctor ever made note of William Cathay being female. It seems highly unlikely that either knew the truth, because the U.S. Army did not allow women to officially enlist in the peacetime army for the first time until 1948.

It seems reasonable that Cathay viewed the Army as a job open to blacks, with prospects for a decent livelihood and a semblance of respect. She was uneducated, and therefore consigned to laboring for her wages. As a black woman in 1866, her prospects were dim and low-paying. As a black man in the army she would earn more money

than a black female cook. Cathay remained in the army until Oct. 14, 1868.

Whatever Cathay's motivations were for joining the army, she may not have realized she was setting a precedent. Although she was not the first woman to enlist in the army, she may be the first female to have served in the United States Army in the 19th century. It has been estimated that approximately 400 women posed as Soldiers during the Civil War. Women disguised as men fought in the volunteer armies of the Revolution and the Civil War. Many of these women enlisted with their husbands, brothers, and fiancés and most were not found out unless they required hospital treatment. To date, Cathay is the only documented black woman who served in the U.S. Army prior to the official introduction of women.





National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT)

Hagel: Budget, Congressional Partnership Central to DoD Strength

CHERYL PELLERIN
DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON- The Defense Department's budget and its partnership with Congress are central to the success of ongoing efforts to strengthen the institution, increase its capabilities and prepare for future challenges, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in Washington, D.C. Jan.22.

During what he called one of his last official news conferences as secretary, Hagel said the defense budget is critical to funding ongoing operations around the world and to pursuing cost-saving measures essential to fielding a ready and capable force.

Among the measures that received attention last year were the launch of a path-breaking defense innovation initiative, continuing efforts to strengthen and improve acquisition systems, and progress in embracing better business practices and moving toward greater institutional financial accountability.

"I appreciated members of Congress working together to provide DoD with the resources we needed last year," the secretary said, referring to a two-year budget agreement reached in December 2013. The agreement offered temporary relief, until 2016, from severe budget cuts known as sequestration, and gave the Pentagon at least short-term stability on spending for the first time in several years.

Stability on Spending

"Given an increased operational tempo, the authorization and appropriation bills that Congress passed in December will help ensure our ability to execute the president's defense strategy this year," Hagel said.

But the secretary said that recent progress would evaporate if the department is forced to make more severe cuts mandated by sequestration in 2016, cutting another \$34 billion from the defense budget.

"We need long-term budget predictability and we need the flexibility to prioritize and make the difficult decisions in order to manage our institution more efficiently and more effectively," Hagel said.

Deferring necessary decision and actions, he said, will make them more difficult and costly down the road and weaken the defense enterprise.

If Sequestration Returns

Hagel said he has been deliberate and direct with members of Congress about what will happen if sequestration returns.

"This institution will not be able to fulfill the commitments of the president's defense strategies with the kind of continued, abrupt, steep, large cuts that sequestration will demand," he explained.

"It is unanimous in this building ... that continuation of sequestration will impact readiness, it will impact our acquisitions, [and] it will impact the uncertainty of our budgeting," he said. "And that means platforms being deferred into the future."

Hagel said he will speak with two senior senators about sequestration, and added that over the past year the department has made progress with members of Congress, informing them and helping them understand and assimilate the consequences of sequestration.

An Example of Progress

"It does take time," he said. "Our system takes time." As an example of progress, Hagel said, "you've got

senior members of Congress, both parties, calling me and calling other leaders, asking for some time with us for us — me, secretary of defense — to explain in more detail, 'because I am concerned,' the congressmen and the senators say.

"That's progress," he added. "Now, will Congress have the courage to do what leaders have to do on these kinds of things? That's why we elect them."



21st Annual NGACT Conference and Awards Luncheon



Saturday, March 28th 2015
Conference Registration: 7:00 a.m.

Connecticut's State Veterans' Home
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

NGACT 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Name: _____ RANK: _____ UNIT: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Email: _____

Conference Registration \$30.00 _____

(\$40.00 at the door)

NGACT Annual Dues 11.00 _____

NGACT Lifetime Dues 110.00 _____

EANGUS Annual Dues 11.00 _____

NGAUS Annual Dues —Based on Chart Below _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

WO1	\$26.00	01	\$30.00	O5	\$85.00
CW2	\$35.00	02	\$45.00	O6	\$108.00
CW3	\$46.00	03	\$59.00	O7	\$123.00
CW4	\$59.00	04	\$72.00	O8	\$139.00
CW5	\$73.00				

Make checks payable to "NGACT" and send to NGACT Conference, 360 Broad Street, Hartford CT 06105-3795

Email questions about conference to: ngactexecutivedirector@gmail.com

Plan - Prepare - Execute: *Finalizing Support, Rehearsing*

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

(Editor's Note: This is the tenth part of a 12-part series.)

The Unit Training Plan 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-2: Finalize admin support requirements & conduct OPFOR rehearsals.

Submit all administrative clearances and requests as necessary. This may include convoy clearances, wash rack requests, range requests, to include Surface Danger Zone schematics, etc.

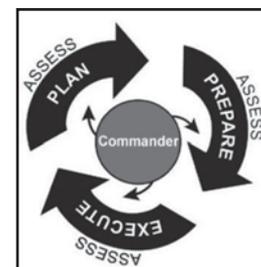
Conduct an opposing force rehearsal to ensure the

OPFOR tactical plan facilitates the BLUEFOR achieving its training objectives.

This should include the administrative movement and preparation for the event as well as the tactical plan.

The rehearsal enables subordinates to synchronize their plans with each other and enables the leaders to address possible decision points. The evaluators and observer-controller/trainers should be present at the OPFOR rehearsal to ensure they have a full understanding of the execution of the event.

Next month will feature Month T-1: Draw equipment & supplies and execute subordinate rehearsals and checks.



Connecticut Military History - *Bugle Calls: An Essay*

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

The following is a short essay I wrote during Officer Candidate School in 1983. If memory serves, it was assigned by the Senior TAC Officer, who will remain anonymous, as punishment for an infraction...

Its sound wakes us up, calls us to drill and chow and never too soon, signals the end of the day. Its call can be as boisterous as "Reveille," or as quiet and mournful as "Taps." While the tools of warfare have run the gamut from clubs to nuclear weapons, calling troops with a wind instrument has changed very little.

At the siege of Jericho, the Hebrews used a "shofar" or ram's horn to summon troops. The Romans used a wide assortment of tubas and herald trumpets to convey commands.

The bugle is an outgrowth of a medieval hunting horn. Its present design has remained virtually unchanged since the mid-1700s. While prevalent in Europe, the use of the bugle did not gain wide acceptance in this country until the Civil War. Prior to this, troop movements were controlled by fife and drum calls. Just as today's Soldier can identify many different bugle calls, the Soldiers of the 18th and 19th centuries could readily discern different beats on the drum.

During the Civil War, both the drum and bugle were used, with the musicians most often being young boys not eligible for a regular enlistment. At the end of hostilities, the drum stepped off the battlefield and back into the band.

It was during the Civil War and the years immediately following that saw the greatest development in American bugle calls. Most of the calls used today are adaptations of British and French calls, some dating back to the Crusades.

"Tattoo" or "Call to Quarters" for example originated during the Thirty Years War to stop nightly drinking. The word tattoo comes from "tap to," which meant to "close the beer barrels." It is the longest call played and

was adopted in 1863.

"Taps" or "Lights Out" is an entirely American innovation. With many units on a particular battlefield, troops had a difficult time distinguishing calls for their unit from those of another. In July 1862, Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield of the Army of the Potomac composed a short tune to be used preceding all the calls used in his brigade. Not being a bugler himself, Butterfield whistled the notes over and over until his bugler learned them. The troops in Butterfield's brigade liked the call and it soon spread among buglers in the Union Army. A few months later the call would take on a different role.

It was customary at military funerals to fire three volleys over the grave, saluting the deceased. Because of the proximity of Confederate troops, one Union officer could not risk giving away his position or the valuable intelligence that a burial was taking place by firing the traditional three volleys at a burial for some of the day's casualties. The Company bugler stepped forward and very low and softly played "Taps." In 1867, "Taps" replaced "Tattoo" as the last call of the day and since the Civil War, it has been played at all military funerals.

In the same year, all bugle calls were codified by Maj. Truman Seymour and published in Gen. Emory Upton's "New System of Infantry Tactics."

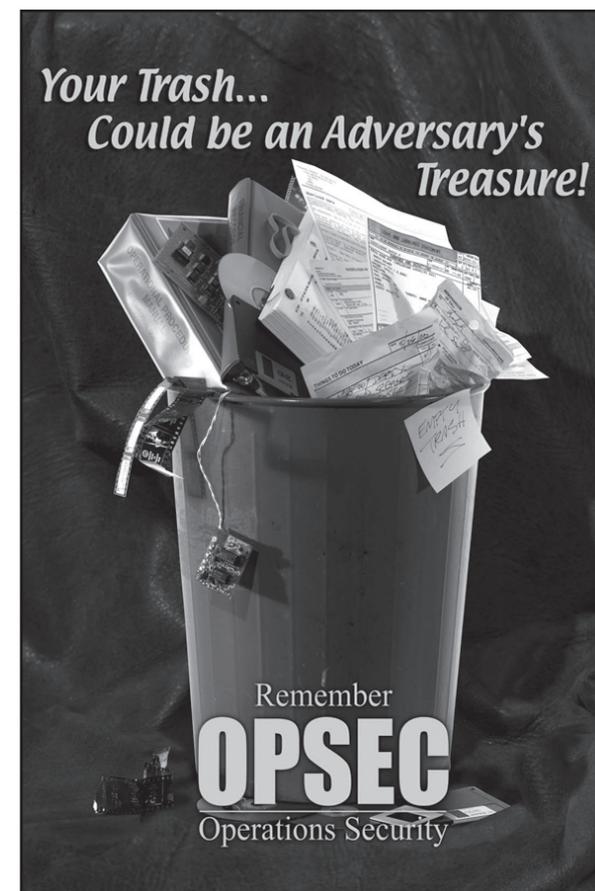
Some of the other calls used today, "Reveille" for example is identical, note for note to its French counterpart. "First Call" is similar to the French "Le Garde a Vous" and "Mess Call" is closely tied to "Le Rappel." "Assembly" traces its roots back to the U.S. Cavalry.

Almost all bugle calls have words associated with them, composed by Soldiers whose daily lives were run by the horn's loud clarion. Some, like the words to "Reveille," the most dreaded of all the calls, were humorous.

**I can't get them up,
I can't get them up,
I can't get them up,
in the morning.**

While the words penned for "Taps" reflect the call's quieting tone.

**Fades the light.
And afar
Goeth Day
Cometh Night;
And a star
Leadeth all
To their rest.**



Off the Bookshelf : A Hard Decision

Westley Thomas Contributes to the American Veterans' Story

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

One of the most difficult topics for writers to cover is the wartime experience. This narrative of the Veteran and stories of wartime adventures/misadventures are always difficult to comprehend, but when it comes from the voice of a Veteran, it has the ability to strike a nerve.

Veteran authors do not romanticize their experiences, and Westley Thomas certainly does not romanticize his experiences in Vietnam or his return home from Vietnam in his screenplay, *A Hard Decision*.

A Hard Decision is rough, not easily digestible, and contains rudimentary story components. Strangely, these characteristics give Thomas' writing uncanny military-esque validity. Thomas seems to have based this screenplay on genuine military wartime experiences.

A Hard Decision is about POW experiences, love triangles and death. It is relatively sparse, but it is a screenplay depicting characters in its dialogue could potentially gain more depth if acted out on a stage. There is much room within *A Hard*

Decision for reader interpretation/imagination.

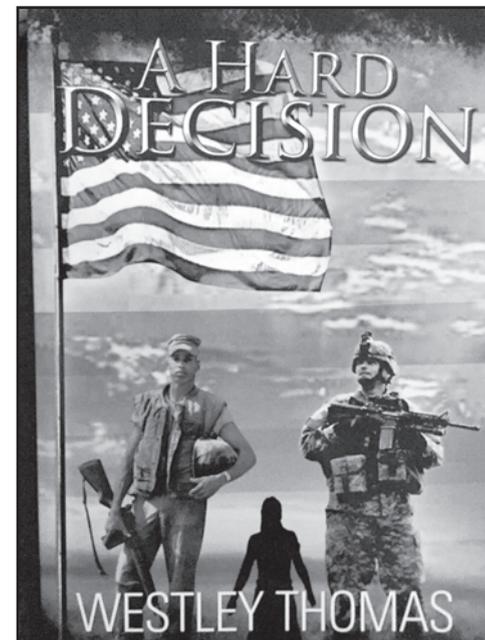
The sparseness of this screenplay may be Thomas' writing style, but it truly reads as if it were notated by an infantryman on a series of MRE napkins. This should be respected and appreciated if, for nothing else, the very serious subject matter it details.

Thomas prods one vital component of military overseas wartime service: the return home of service members. What should a service member do after returning home from war to discover that his/her life has become a complete mess?

Although he asks this question, Thomas does not exactly answer it in his screenplay. A good actor could probably bring life to his words, however, and fill the holes of his story that he leaves to his readers' imaginations.

In his free time, Thomas volunteers as a Veterans Rights Advocate and as a member of the New York-based, Veterans Quality of Life Access Network (VQLAN).

His writing should be supported as he is doing his part to help his fellow Veterans, and to help tell our collective and cathartic story. Thomas writes with a great sense of optimism.



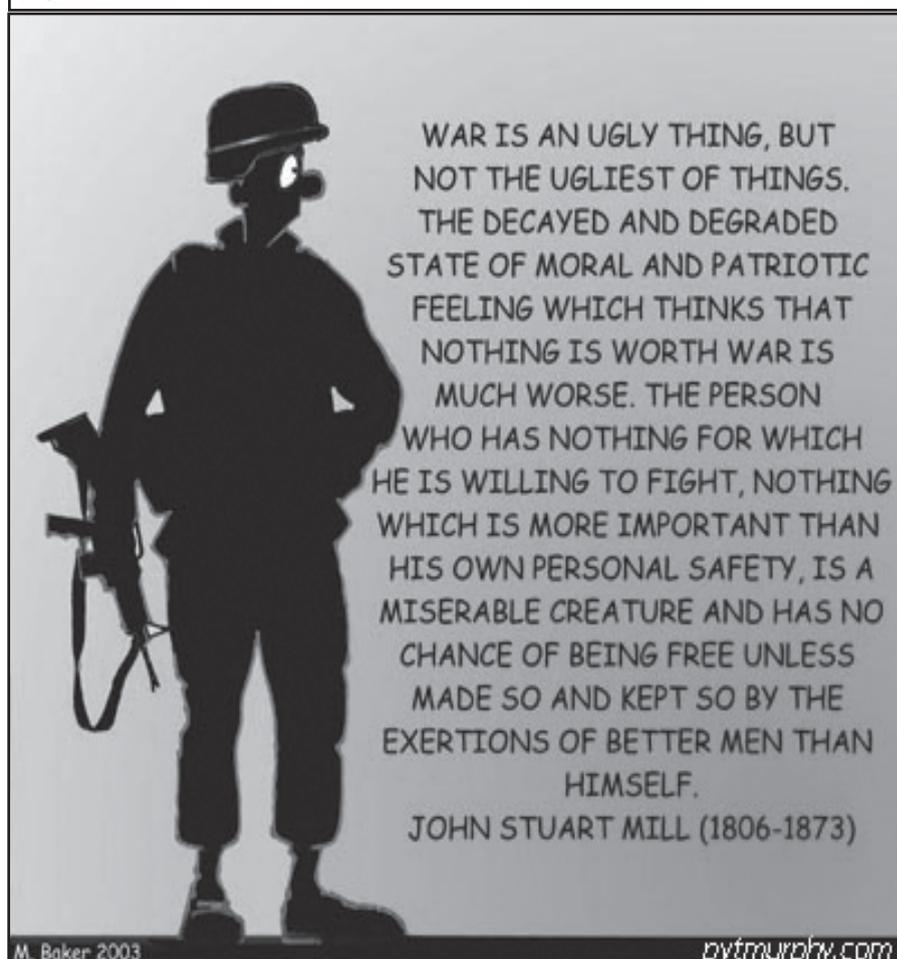
Connecticut National Guard HELPLINE

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: Focus on Female Retirees and Veterans

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

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, female Veterans are the largest group of Veterans who under-utilize their benefits. In recognition of March as Women's History Month, here is the first of two articles focusing on female Retirees and benefits.

A clarification of eligibility for certain benefits needs to be made before examining benefits. One can be both a Veteran and a retiree. If you are like me, and served your entire military career in the Connecticut National Guard during peace time, there are some benefits you will not be eligible for.

To be eligible for many VA benefits, regardless of gender, you must have been called to active duty by federal order and completed the full period for which you were called. In this instance, a minimum of 90 days service is required in most cases, and activation for training does not count. Many retirees are eligible, but you will not know until you apply.

Healthcare is always a focus for retirees, and your military health benefits are no exception. The Connecticut VA Women Veterans program manager advises and advocates for female Veterans.

If you need help, the program manager can coordinate all the services you may need, from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive health.

VA health care for female Veterans includes primary and specialty care which can include gender-specific primary care, such as cervical cancer screens (Pap smears), breast cancer screens (mammograms), birth control,

preconception counseling, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, and menopausal support (hormone replacement therapy).

The VA offers facilities specifically dedicated to women's health Issues in Connecticut to include the Women's Healthcare Center, West Haven VA Medical Center, Newington Health Clinic, and Newington VA Medical Center.

If you are not eligible for VA health benefits, you are eligible for TRICARE, where you can visit their website to examine the different plans offered to retirees. When it comes to TRICARE, don't that TRICARE-For-Life Entitlement start at age 65.

This is a free supplement to Medicare and can cover deductibles and co-pays for all civilian doctors who accept Medicare. You must be enrolled in Medicare A (free) and B (not free).

Taxes concern everyone, especially retirees and those on fixed incomes. Connecticut exempts 50 percent of your military retirement from state income tax. Veterans, who qualify, get an exemption on property taxes. Qualified veteran/retirees are eligible to receive a \$1500 exemption for property taxes.

Veterans below a certain income level and/or disabled are eligible for additional property tax exemptions.

There are also plenty of travel discounts for Veterans if you know where to look. Armed Forces Vacation Club, Army and Navy Lodges, Air Force and Marine Inns, Paths Across America (for RV enthusiasts) and RV Parks are just some of the opportunities for Veterans to travel for less. We will dive into this more next time.

Listed here are a few websites that can aid you in utilizing

your benefits, both as a Retiree and Veteran:

Ctdol.state.ct.us/veterans/FemaleVets.htm;
benefits.va.gov/benefits; womenshealth.va.gov/
WOMENSHEALTH/healthcare.asp;
ct.gov/ctva/site/default.asp;
armymwr.com.

March's Retirees' Voice will be remembering our female service members at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

READY54.ORG

The All-New Joint Ready 54 App is Coming Soon!

New functionality & resources for both ANG & ARNG communities!

Features Include:

- ✓ Wingman / Battle Buddy Reminders
- ✓ Geolocated Resource Directory
- ✓ Quick access to crisis assistance
- ✓ Notifications from leadership

Available on the App Store | Available on Google Play

Visit www.Ready54.org for more information.

Retirement Service Officer Notes: Update your myPay

SGT. 1ST CLASS REBEKAH AVERY
RETIREMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

CLEVELAND — The key to effective day-to-day management of your retirement pay is creating and maintaining a myPay account. Your mailing and email addresses in myPay are DFAS' primary way of staying in touch with you.

At the end of each year, your tax documents are mailed to the address of record you keep current through myPay. DFAS uses your myPay email address to send you newsletters, breaking news and to notify you when documents like your Retiree Account Statement and 1099R tax statements are available. The Army uses your myPay information to send you Army Echoes.

If you have never created a myPay account, you can find instructions at <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html> or <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>. If you need personal attention, you can contact the DFAS Customer Care Center at (888) 332-7411, option 5 Monday- Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Use myPay to update your correspondence address - If you choose to receive your 1099R from DFAS in the mail, having the correct mailing address on file is important. If you've moved in the past year or will be

staying somewhere other than your primary residence when tax season begins, let DFAS know by Nov. 15. The quickest and easiest way to update your mailing address is to use myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>). On the Main Menu page, click on the Correspondence Address link, enter the correct address, save your changes and confirm the changes you made are correct. It's that simple.

Use myPay to update your email address - Updating your contact information in myPay ensures you receive timely messages from DFAS that may be critical to you and your survivors. To update your email address using myPay, log into <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>, and on the main menu, click on the Email Address link, enter and confirm the correct commercial email address. Be sure to select "primary" beside the email address where you want to receive pay statement notifications and other important correspondence. Save your changes by selecting Accept/Submit. You should NOT select the email addresses that end in @us.army.mil or .ret@mail.mil. These two emails will not work, and DOD is working to remove them from myPay.

All information for this article was found on the Soldier for Life Website websites: <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/>

Upcoming Events:

· 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 (860) 524-4813 or e-mail at: rebekah.j.avery@mail.mil.

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.



"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 Veterans Affairs



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 COMBAT READINESS 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.

- 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.conncf.org>. No other application will be accepted.
- 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:

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

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

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



The signs are all around
it's up to **YOU** to recognize and act on them

**PLS DNT
TXT & DRV**

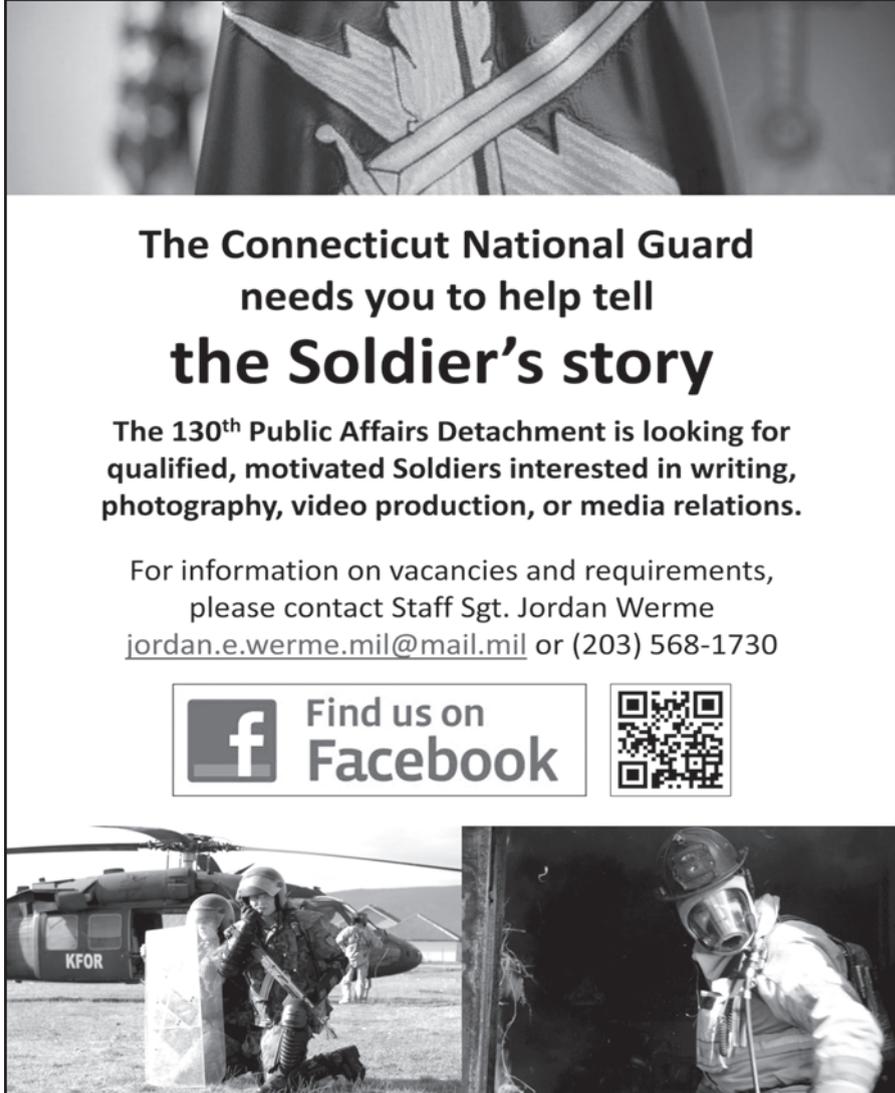
**KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT
know the
signs
DO WHAT'S RIGHT**

Training, Discipline and Standards

Training, discipline and standards are the bedrock of our Army, and as Soldiers, you've been taught what right looks like. As leaders, you have a duty and a responsibility to maintain standards in your formation. You also have an obligation to your Soldiers and their families to manage risk and take action to correct problems. In our fight against accidental fatalities, knowledge is the weapon of choice.

U.S. ARMY
ARMY STRONG

U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS SAFETY CENTER
<https://safety.army.mil>



The Connecticut National Guard needs you to help tell the Soldier's story

The 130th Public Affairs Detachment is looking for qualified, motivated Soldiers interested in writing, photography, video production, or media relations.

For information on vacancies and requirements, please contact Staff Sgt. Jordan Werme jordan.e.werme.mil@mail.mil or (203) 568-1730

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To Private 2

Thomas, Richard N. Jr.
Hernandez, Kevin
Baldracchi, Louis J.
Mathewson, Daniel J.
Brown, Hunter D.
Ruiz, Stephanie
Larson, Daniel R.
St. Jacques, Tyler S.
Heath, Harley E.
Nieves, Edwin Jr.
Raniolo, Antonino
Casiano, Jesus Jr.
Roberts, Javon J.
Litke, Griffin P.
Peltz, Christopher M.
Velasco, James A.
Kaback, David S.
Espada, Jonathan O.
Leavens, Makyle J.
Mahan, Clarissa L.
Taylor, Theresa T.
Thompsongrass, Lucia
Anderson, Tyler M.
Amato, Olympia M.
Sheldon, Colin S.
Fair, Nadeea A.
Maldonado, Jadier
Thompson, Stephan R.
Hebert, Aaron M.

To Private First Class

Forbus, Megan E.
Torresjimenez, Jeremy
Sorianoendoza, Mario J.
Severson, Erik K.
L'Heureux, Nicole D.
Salmeron, Jose L.
Rios, Mark A.
Lyhne, Eric S.
Roberts, Kammren J.
Martinez, Keitrich J.
Nelson, Andrew K.
Scarfi, Andrew P.
Edelbaum, Christopher J.
Ramos, Brandon M.
Miller, Colby S.
Burnette, Laine M.
McGuinness, Sean T.
Engle, Chad D.
Repasi, Paul A. Jr.
Clapps, Morgan L.
Danko, Austin D.

To Specialist

Stonge, David C.
Zarn, Zackary R.
Nichols, Joshua G.
Zelenski, Tyler A.
Wonsik, James P.
Oquendo, Alajha J.
Pasha, Sabrina M.
Kelley, Joshua E.
Pascucci, Dominic M.

To Sergeant

Mondaca, Stephen M.
Matta, Rodolfo Jr.
Jackson, Rachel J.
Reynolds, Andrea J.
Maddrah, John W. III
Pomerleau, Serena T.
Richeme, Emmanuel

To Staff Sergeant

Murphy John B.
Davis Mark A. Jr.
Diaz Antonio
Campbell Robyn N.
Naranjo Angel N. Jr.
Hall Andrew J.
Hunold Michael K.

To Master Sergeant

Dumas, Jason C.

To Captain

Albert, Michael S.
Banville, Matthew L.

To Lieutenant Colonel

Leydon, Richard
Battisti, Quentin W.

To Colonel

Spinetti, Daniel C.

Air

To Airman

Hoque, Mohammed R.
Bean, Nicholas C.
Febles, Ricardo A.

To Airman 1st Class

Romero, Jhonny J.
Stovall, Shaquille B.

To Senior Airman

Lown, Amir K.
Hoover, Bradford C.
Cartagena, Gabriel M.
Ulloa, Ivette I.
Conway, Jason R.
Ward, Preston K.
Aponte, Joshua L.

To Staff Sergeant

Mastroianni, Christopher
Delaney, Jon R.
Ziyadeh, Michael B.
Laskey, Zachary C.

To Technical Sergeant

Teixeira, Steven M.

To Master Sergeant

Grizzle, Christopher H.

To Senior Master Sergeant

Gagnon, Michael J.
Divita, Christopher D.

Coming Events

February

February 12

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 16

Presidents' Day

February 17

Guardian Deadline for March

February 18

Ash Wednesday

February 18

NGACT Executive Board Meeting

February 22

George Washington's Birthday

March

March 8

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17

Guardian Deadline for April

March 18

NGACT Executive Board Meeting

March 19-22

State Best Warrior Competition

March 28

NGACT Annual Conference & Awards Luncheon

March 29

Palm Sunday

April

April 3

Good Friday

April 4

Passover Begins

April 4

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

April 5

Easter

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

Deadline for the March Issue of
the Guardian is February 17
Deadline for the April Issue of
the Guardian is March 17

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. 16 NO. 2

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

FEBRUARY 2015

TRICARE Patients Must Attest to Health Care Coverage

TERRI MOON CRONK
DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON - As tax season begins, Defense Department officials want to remind TRICARE beneficiaries of changes in the tax laws, which require all Americans to have health care insurance.

For the first time since the Affordable Care Act passed in 2012, all U.S. citizens, including service members, their families, military retirees, DoD civilians and nonappropriated employees, must report health care coverage on their 2014 taxes, said Mark Ellis, a Defense Health Agency health care operations program analyst.

For this year only, taxpayers will "self-attest" on their 2014 tax forms to each month in which they had health care coverage, he said.

Forms Issued to Military, Civilian Taxpayers

In January 2015, DoD and the services' pay centers will issue military and civilian taxpayers forms that reflect

medical coverage, much the same way employees receive their W2s, Ellis said.

"The IRS will require insurers to send that information," Ellis said, adding that IRS is the agency that will assess penalties for those who are not insured on a month-by-month basis.

DoD has more than 250,000 beneficiaries who are eligible for TRICARE, Ellis said, adding that it's up to each service member to make sure their DEERS data base lists Social Security numbers for them and their families, so the 2015 health care tax forms can be sent out.

Meets Minimal Essential Coverage

The act mandates that health care must meet minimum essential coverage, and TRICARE coverage meets that criteria for the majority of service members and their families, Ellis said.

For example, TRICARE, TRICARE Overseas, TRICARE Remote and the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan

meet the minimum essential coverage, he added.

Uniformed service members who have questions about TRICARE, the act and the individual coverage mandate can visit the TRICARE website and download the fact sheet on TRICARE and the act, where TRICARE plans are listed with how they match up to minimum essential coverage, Ellis said.

The site also has suggestions for those who need coverage to meet the act's minimum requirements, he noted. That group of individuals could include retired reserve members, select reserve members, young adults up to age 26 and those who leave military service but need transitional coverage, Ellis said.

TRICARE beneficiaries with tax questions should contact the Internal Revenue Service or their tax advisers, he emphasized.

"The experts there can help them," Ellis said.

Form 1040 (2014) Page 2

Tax and Credits

38 Amount from line 37 (adjusted gross income) 38

39a Check You were born before January 2, 1950, Blind, Total boxes if Spouse was born before January 2, 1950, Blind, checked ▶ 39a

b If your spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were a dual-status alien, check here ▶ 39b

40 Itemized deductions (from Schedule A) or your standard deduction (see left margin) ▶ 40

41 Subtract line 40 from line 38 41

42 Exemptions. If line 38 is \$152,525 or less, multiply \$3,950 by the number on line 42. Otherwise, see instructions 42

43 Taxable income. Subtract line 42 from line 41. If line 42 is more than line 41, enter -0- 43

44 Tax (see instructions). Check any from: a Form(s) 8814 b Form 4972 c 44

45 Alternative minimum tax (see instructions). Attach Form 6251 45

46 Excess advance premium tax credit repayment. Attach Form 8962 46

47 Add lines 44, 45, and 46 47

48 Foreign tax credit. Attach Form 1116 if required 48

49 Credit for child and dependent care expenses. Attach Form 2441 49

50 Education credits from Form 8863, line 19 50

51 Retirement savings contributions credit. Attach Form 8880 51

52 Child tax credit. Attach Schedule 8812, if required 52

53 Residential energy credits. Attach Form 5695 53

54 Other credits from Form: a 3800 b 8801 c 54

55 Add lines 48 through 54. These are your total credits 55

56 Subtract line 55 from line 47. If line 55 is more than line 47, enter -0- 56

57 Self-employment tax. Attach Schedule SE 57

58 Unreported social security and Medicare tax from Form: a 4137 b 8919 58

59 Additional tax on IRAs, other qualified retirement plans, etc. Attach Form 5329 if required 59

60a Household employer taxes from Schedule H 60a

b First-time homebuyer credit repayment. Attach Form 5405 if required 60b

61 Health care: individual responsibility (see instructions). Full-year coverage 61

62 Taxes from: a Form 8959 b Form 8960 c Instructions; enter code(s) 62

63 Add lines 56 through 62. This is your total tax 63

Payments

64 Federal income tax withheld from Forms W-2 and 1099 64

65 2014 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 2013 return 65

66a Earned income credit (EIC) 66a

b Nontaxable combat pay election 66b

67 Additional child tax credit. Attach Schedule 8812 67

68 American opportunity credit from Form 8863, line 8 68

69 Net premium tax credit. Attach Form 8962 69

70 Amount paid with request for extension to file 70

71 Excess social security and tier 1 RRTA tax withheld 71

72 Credit for federal tax on fuels. Attach Form 4136 72

73 Credits from: a 2439 b Remed c Remed d 73

74 Add lines 64, 65, 66a, and 67 through 73. These are your total payments 74

Refund

75 If line 74 is more than line 63, subtract line 63 from line 74. This is the amount you overpaid 75

76a Amount of line 75 you want refunded to you. If Form 8888 is attached, check here 76a

b Routing number ▶ c Type: Checking Savings 76b

d Account number ▶ 76d

77 Amount of line 75 you want applied to your 2015 estimated tax ▶ 77

78 Amount you owe. Subtract line 74 from line 63. For details on how to pay, see instructions ▶ 78

79 Estimated tax penalty (see instructions) 79

Third Party Designee

Do you want to allow another person to discuss this return with the IRS (see instructions)? Yes. Complete below. No

Designer's name ▶ Phone no. ▶ Personal identification number (PIN) ▶

Sign Here

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Your signature ▶ Date ▶ Your occupation ▶ Daytime phone number ▶

Spouse's signature. If a joint return, both must sign. ▶ Date ▶ Spouse's occupation ▶ If the IRS sent you an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see stat.) ▶

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/type preparer's name ▶ Preparer's signature ▶ Date ▶ Check if self-employed PTIN ▶

Firm's name ▶ Firm's EIN ▶ Firm's address ▶ Phone no. ▶

www.irs.gov/form1040 Form 1040 (2014)

Self-attesting to Healthcare coverage can be done on Line 61 on Form 1040 (left), and Line 38 on Form 1040A. Check other IRS forms for which line to use. Be sure to follow instructions for the form you are using and refer to Form 8965 if needed.

Form 1040A (2014) Page 2

Tax, credits, and payments

22 Enter the amount from line 21 (adjusted gross income). 22

23a Check You were born before January 2, 1950, Blind, Total boxes if Spouse was born before January 2, 1950, Blind, checked ▶ 23a

b If you are married filing separately and your spouse itemizes deductions, check here ▶ 23b

24 Enter your standard deduction. 24

25 Subtract line 24 from line 22. If line 24 is more than line 22, enter -0-. 25

26 Exemptions. Multiply \$3,950 by the number on line 6d. 26

27 Subtract line 26 from line 25. If line 26 is more than line 25, enter -0-. This is your taxable income. ▶ 27

28 Tax, including any alternative minimum tax (see instructions). 28

29 Excess advance premium tax credit repayment. Attach Form 8962. 29

30 Add lines 28 and 29. 30

31 Credit for child and dependent care expenses. Attach Form 2441. 31

32 Credit for the elderly or the disabled. Attach Schedule R. 32

33 Education credits from Form 8863, line 19. 33

34 Retirement savings contributions credit. Attach Form 8880, line 34. 34

35 Child tax credit. Attach Schedule 8812, if required. 35

36 Add lines 31 through 35. These are your total credits. 36

37 Subtract line 36 from line 30. If line 36 is more than line 30, enter -0-. 37

38 Health care: individual responsibility (see instructions). Full-year coverage 38

39 Add line 37 and line 38. This is your total tax. 39

40 Federal income tax withheld from Forms W-2 and 1099. 40

41 2014 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 2013 return. 41

42a Earned income credit (EIC). 42a

b Nontaxable combat pay election. 42b

43 Additional child tax credit. Attach Schedule 8812. 43

44 American opportunity credit from Form 8863, line 8. 44

45 Net premium tax credit. Attach Form 8962. 45

46 Add lines 40, 41, 42a, 43, 44, and 45. These are your total payments. ▶ 46

47 If line 46 is more than line 39, subtract line 39 from line 46. This is the amount you overpaid. 47

48a Amount of line 47 you want refunded to you. If Form 8888 is attached, check here ▶ 48a

b Routing number ▶ c Type: Checking Savings 48b

d Account number ▶ 48d

49 Amount of line 47 you want applied to your 2015 estimated tax. 49

50 Amount you owe. Subtract line 46 from line 39. For details on how to pay, see instructions. ▶ 50

51 Estimated tax penalty (see instructions). 51

Third party designee

Do you want to allow another person to discuss this return with the IRS (see instructions)? Yes. Complete the following. No

Designer's name ▶ Phone no. ▶ Personal identification number (PIN) ▶

Sign here

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and accurately list all amounts and sources of income I received during the tax year. Declaration of preparer (other than the taxpayer) is based on all information of which the preparer has any knowledge.

Your signature ▶ Date ▶ Your occupation ▶ Daytime phone number ▶

Spouse's signature. If a joint return, both must sign. ▶ Date ▶ Spouse's occupation ▶ If the IRS sent you an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see stat.) ▶

Paid preparer use only

Print/type preparer's name ▶ Preparer's signature ▶ Date ▶ Check if self-employed PTIN ▶

Firm's name ▶ Firm's EIN ▶ Firm's address ▶ Phone no. ▶

Form 1040A (2014)



CATHERINE GALASSO

You Have Another Victory Within Your Grasp

“Most people have achieved their greatest success just one step beyond their greatest failure.” Napoleon Hill.

One rainy weekend afternoon, my daughters and I were sitting on the bleachers at the high school gym. Happy to be together, we were watching my oldest daughter’s friend, Carrie, play basketball with a few of her classmates.

Early in the game, we saw Carrie dive for the ball, but she stumbled and landed on her stomach on the court. The spectators in the gymnasium quieted, as Carrie rubbed her chin, stood up and charged forward.

Next, dribbling the ball, Carrie jumped to make a basket. However, she slipped and fell to her knees. As she stood back up on her feet, Carrie managed to give us a half-smile. Then, quickly Carrie dashed for the ball.

Before long, she tripped again. My daughters and I exchanged confused glances.

Instead of quitting, though, Carrie scurried up. She did not hesitate and got herself into position for what her next move would be.

No matter how many times Carrie failed or fell, she didn’t just throw in the towel, make an excuse and sit on the sideline. Without missing a beat, she bounced back. She stayed in the game, sincerely making another effort to succeed.

When the game was finished, my middle daughter cupped her hands over each side of her mouth and whispered, “Mom.” She tugged at my arm. “Carrie would be a great, professional basketball player.”

Sitting next to her grinning I shrugged my shoulders and questioned, “Why do you think so, honey?” She let out a long, deep breath, leaned toward me and uttered, “Because she is not afraid to fall.”

How do you respond to a setback, an unfair situation or an apparent failure? Do you get bitter, resentful, and then sit back on the sideline and quit? Or else, do you act like Carrie, and rise up and try again?

Life can knock us down permanently if we allow it. If it’s not one thing, it is another. And if we’re not careful, our mind might get into a low place. Thereafter, we may think about all of the reasons why we should, ‘give up, take the easy way out,’ and ‘just settle.’

“It won’t ever get any better,” and “I’ve missed my chance,” you could downheartedly say, during moments of despair.

Are there hopes, dreams and goals that you have talked yourself out of pursuing?

Regardless of what has happened, you must not give up hope for the future. Don’t shortchange yourself or let anything drag you down. Life will be brighter again. So stand up tall.

For when you experience challenging circumstances, remember, “The Lord will stand with you and give you strength” (2 Timothy 4:17).

· God was with Joshua and assured him that he and the people would obtain the land. So, don’t be frightened for what you are confronted with now. Persist onward. For you have God’s presence and His immense power with

you. God loves you like no other, and will work a miracle. ‘Be strong and courageous, God will never leave or forsake you.’ (Joshua 1:1-7).

· God was with David, a young shepherd boy who God had anointed to be king, as he defeated Goliath with just a sling shot and a stone. Before your new level of blessings, there might be a battle to be fought. But, God will not turn His back on you. He cares for you as one of His very own, and He will give you the strength you need to succeed. So, have faith and boldly say as David said, ‘The battle is the Lord’s.’ (1 Samuel 17).

· God was with Gideon when God promised that He would save Israel, although Gideon felt weak and unqualified. Despite so-called shortcomings, lack or limitations, believe in yourself. God has an exceptional purpose for your life. Thus, let go of previous disappointments and turn your ‘I can’t’ into ‘I can, I won’t’ into ‘I will,’ and your ‘dreams’ into ‘plans.’ ‘God will be with you...’ (Judges 6:15-16).

So focus on your next step. There are infinite possibilities ahead. Whether it takes five, ten or even 100 attempts, continue to persevere. You have what it takes to be victorious. Like the butterfly that fights to break free from the cocoon, there can be struggles before the outpour of blessings. Last fall, I recall hiking up a long mountain trail with my family. The beginning path was easy. Yet, the longer we hiked uphill and the closer we got to the top, the terrain became more difficult.

Recognize that as you near the border of your breakthrough and endeavor to attain your heart’s desires, that the path might not be easy. Yet, as you advance, you learn important lessons along the way that can allow you to help more people. That’s why you cannot allow obstacles to distract or deter you. Place those stumbling blocks under your feet and use them as stepping stones as you strive forward.

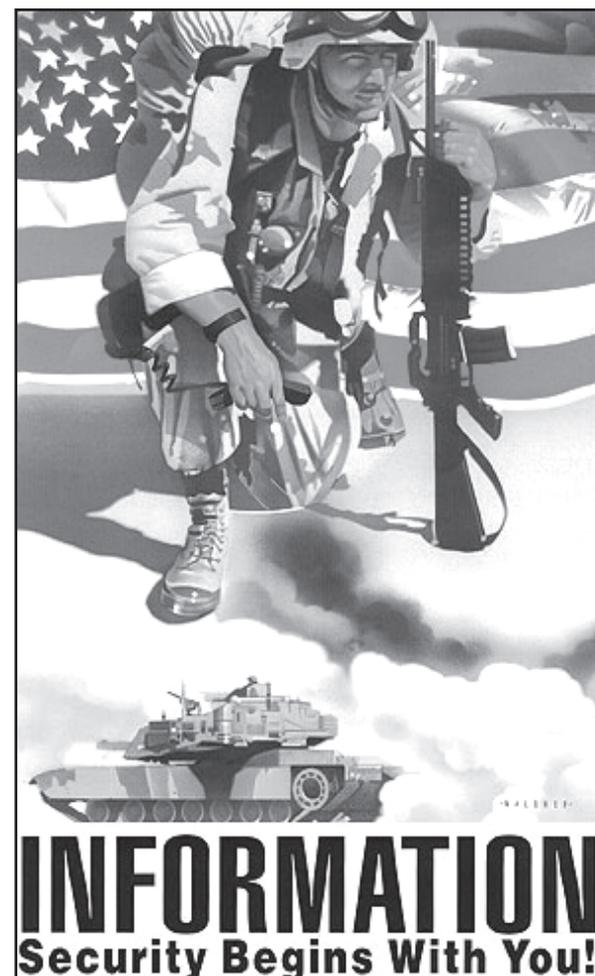
God works in mysterious ways, and He is strategically arranging the logistics. He is moving people in a position so they can help you. And right now, God is coordinating circumstances to bless your future. You are on the threshold of something incredible. Victory is right within your grasp. And new opportunities, friendships and joys should present themselves to you shortly.

Trust God’s timing and, “... throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” (Hebrews 12:1). You have come a long way, however, you have further yet to go.

Stay in the game and the outcome will be far better than you could ever have imagined.

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

Making Tax Season Easier: DOD, Military OneSource Team Up

COMPILED FROM MILITARY ONE SOURCE BY
CHRISTOPHER ROULEAU

Just thinking about the start of tax season is enough to cause most people a major headache. Between collecting the right documents, following all the tax laws and getting everything submitted on time, tax time can be overwhelming. But with the correct preparation on your part and some help from outside resources, like your installation military Volunteer Income Tax Assistance office and Military OneSource, you can make this tax season much less stressful for you and your family.

Preparing ahead of time

One way to make tax time easier is to start gathering all the necessary documents and information you need ahead of time. Designate a specific location (a folder, a drawer, a shoebox, etc.) where you can place all the relevant information, so that when you are ready to file, you have everything you need.

Here are some of the things you should start gathering:

- Social Security number and date of birth for you, your spouse and other eligible family members
- Child care, education and adoption costs
- All W-2 forms, from all employers for you and your spouse
- Form 1099 for independent contractors
- Investment income forms

- Alimony information
- Social Security benefits
- Miscellaneous income
- Form 1098-E for student loan interest
- Charitable donations
- Uninsured medical and dental expenses
- Real estate taxes
- Receipts for any deductible expenses

Your W-2 forms are typically available from your military service beginning in January. You can download your military W-2 from myPay. Tax forms are available at your local post office and library. You can also download them from the IRS website.

In addition to gathering important documents, here are some other ways to get ahead of the tax time curve:

- **Create a list of questions for a tax consultant** - You may wonder whether or not you can write off certain expenses or whether you qualify for an extension. Write all of this down and ask a professional.
- **Don't wait until the last minute to start your taxes** - Just because the deadline is in April doesn't mean you have to wait until then to get started.
- **Be aware of special tax benefits you may qualify for as a service member, including a filing extension** - Visit the Internal Revenue Service website or contact a Military OneSource tax consultant to find out more about these benefits.

- **Pay attention to tax scams** - Each year, the IRS informs and educates the public about the most common tax scams, which include unscrupulous tax preparers or phishing. To learn more about how to avoid these scams, visit the IRS website.

Taking advantage of Military OneSource tax services

Military OneSource provides online tax preparation and filing services at no cost to you. The service allows you

to complete and electronically file your federal and up to three state tax returns or filings. You do not have to complete the return all at one time. When you begin, you create a secure user ID and password, which enables you to log on, save, close and return to the program as needed.

To learn more about Military OneSource tax services, call 800-342-9647 or go online.

Determining your eligibility

The following individuals are eligible for Military OneSource tax services:

- All active-duty service members of the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, and United States Navy
- National Guard and members of the Reserve Component (regardless of activation status)
- Members of the Coast Guard Reserve activated as part of the Department of the Navy under Title 10 authority
- Spouses and children who are authorized in DEERS
- A family member who is taking care of the affairs of an eligible service member when the service member is deployed
- A severely injured service member of one of the services noted above, or a designated family member of a severely injured service member who is incapable of handling his or her own affairs, medically retired individuals are eligible until 180 days past their end of tour of service, retirement date or discharge date

Additional resources

The personal financial readiness of service members and their families is a top priority of the Department of Defense. The DoD provides a wide range of tools and services to help service members and their families reduce debt, achieve savings goals and attain financial flexibility.

Here are some resources designed to assist you and your family:

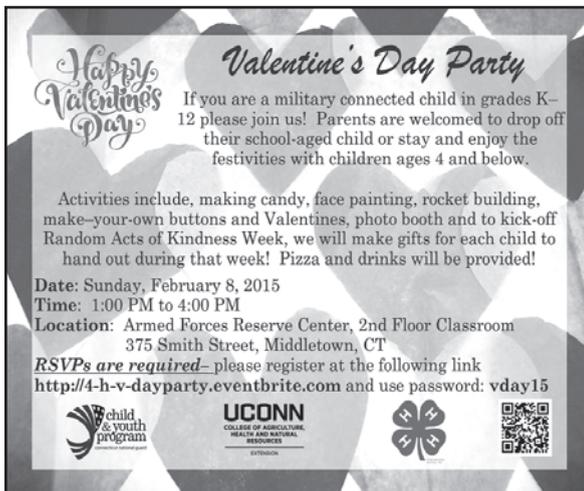
- **The Personal Financial Management Program** — The PFM program is an installation-based program offered by each of the services. Personal financial counselors provide education and counseling services that address a range of financial topics, including retirement planning, banking, budgeting, record keeping and more.

- **Financial counseling** — Financial counseling is available through Military OneSource (in addition to the tax consultation services) and the Military and Family Life Counseling program.

- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program** — The VITA program provides no-cost tax advice and preparation, return filing and other tax assistance to military members and their families. To find a VITA site near you, use the Armed Forces Legal Assistance Legal Services locator.

- **IRS** — The IRS website is full of helpful resources, forms and tips to make tax time easier for you.

Military families prosper when they can manage their finances well and save money for the future. Begin this year with a stress-free tax season and get on track to financial.



Happy Valentine's Day
Valentine's Day Party

If you are a military connected child in grades K-12 please join us! Parents are welcomed to drop off their school-aged child or stay and enjoy the festivities with children ages 4 and below.

Activities include, making candy, face painting, rocket building, make-your-own buttons and Valentines, photo booth and to kick-off Random Acts of Kindness Week, we will make gifts for each child to hand out during that week! Pizza and drinks will be provided!

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2015
Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Location: Armed Forces Reserve Center, 2nd Floor Classroom
375 Smith Street, Middletown, CT

RSVPs are required—please register at the following link <http://4-h-v-dayparty.eventbrite.com> and use password: vday15

child & youth program | UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES | 4-H



MILITARY AMERICA Saves
Military Saves Week
February 23-28, 2015

START SMALL. THINK BIG.
Learn... Save... Win! Door Prizes!

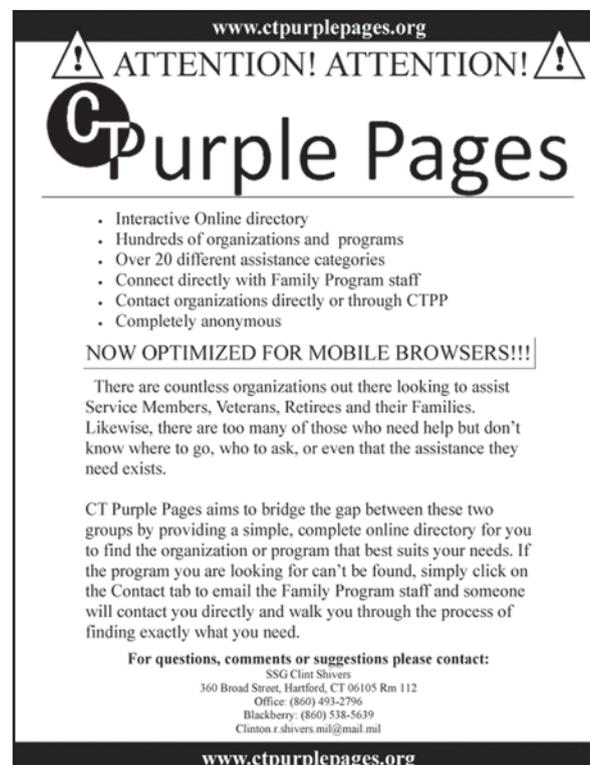
Military Saves Week Wrap Up!
February 28, 2015
10 am to 2 pm
Lunch Provided
<http://militarysaves2015.eventbrite.com>
Password: MSW15 Register today!

Lunch and Learns
11 am to 1 pm

Monday: Hartford
Tuesday: Middletown
Wednesday: Air Wing - E. Granby & Hartford
Thursday: Danbury
Friday: Middletown

K-12 Youth Savings Activities while Parents attend the Wrap up event.

Watch for emails with additional registration information!



www.ctpurplepages.org

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Purple Pages

- Interactive Online directory
- Hundreds of organizations and programs
- Over 20 different assistance categories
- Connect directly with Family Program staff
- Contact organizations directly or through CTTPP
- Completely anonymous

NOW OPTIMIZED FOR MOBILE BROWSERS!!!

There are countless organizations out there looking to assist Service Members, Veterans, Retirees and their Families. Likewise, there are too many of those who need help but don't know where to go, who to ask, or even that the assistance they need exists.

CT Purple Pages aims to bridge the gap between these two groups by providing a simple, complete online directory for you to find the organization or program that best suits your needs. If the program you are looking for can't be found, simply click on the Contact tab to email the Family Program staff and someone will contact you directly and walk you through the process of finding exactly what you need.

For questions, comments or suggestions please contact:
SSG Clint Shivers
360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 Rm 112
Office: (860) 493-2796
Blackberry: (860) 538-5639
Clinton.r.shivers.mil@mail.mil

www.ctpurplepages.org

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)



Grocery Store Math

Before you go to the grocery store, have your child guess how much each item will cost. Take the printout with you to the store and let your child fill in the actual price. Then calculate the difference to see how close everyone came to the right price.

	Estimated Price	Actual Price	Difference

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.macsata.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	nghartfordctsurge@magmflc.org	(860) 471-7286
Military Family Life Consultant (Youth)	Pearl Pappas	nghartfordctsurge@magmflc.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			