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Welcome Home, Vietnam Vets!



"This all began by listening to the stories from Veterans," said Eileen Hurst, director of the Central Connecticut State University Veterans History Project. "We wanted to welcome them home and recognize these Veterans for their service." Thus was born the 50th Vietnam Celebration, one of many educational and celebratory events to be held throughout the official 50th anniversary commemoration period for the Vietnam War is from 2011 until 2025 taking place in Connecticut. One of the displays during the July 10-11 celebration at the Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Connecticut was a living history exhibit that looked like a set from the movie "Platoon," complete with young Soldiers, tents, vehicles and other period items. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, JFHQ-CT Public Affairs)

Senior Leader's Corner: National Military Strategy

JIM GARAMONE
DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON - The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff cannot predict exactly where the next threat to the United States and its interests may come from, but he knows it will happen faster than in the past and the U.S. military must be prepared.

The National Military Strategy released July 1 by Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey provides the blueprint for how the military will use its forces to protect and advance U.S. national and security interests.

"Globalization, diffusion of technology, and demographic shifts are driving rapid change as state actors and trans-regional networks challenge order and stability," said Dempsey. "This strategy addresses these dynamics and our strategy to ensure that our force remains the best-led, trained and equipped military on the planet."

The National Military Strategy follows the release of the 2015 National Security Strategy in February this year, as well as the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review.

Strategic Outlook

The strategy recognizes that the application of military power versus traditional state threats is far different than military power against non-state actors. It also posits that the most likely scenario is prolonged campaigns rather than short, intense battles.

The strategy also states that as a "hedge against unpredictability with reduced resources we may have to adjust our global posture."

According to the strategy document, the U.S. military also must be ready to counter "revisionist states" such as Russia that are challenging international norms as well as violent extremist organizations such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

"We are working with allies to deter, deny and — when necessary — defeat potential state adversaries," the document says. But at the same time, the U.S. military is

building and leading an extensive network to take on ISIL.

Globalization Complicates Security Strategy

Globalization is allowing people and technology to move around the world in a way never seen before, complicating an already complex security situation, according to the strategy. Globalization has positive effects in stimulating trade and making many nations prosperous, but it also can exacerbate social tensions, cause competition for resources and may engender political instability.

Technology speeds everything up. The strategy noted that individuals and groups, today, have more information at their beck and call than governments had in the past.

Concerns About Russia, Iran, North Korea

While the document notes Russia's contributions in some security areas such as counternarcotics and counterterrorism, it also points to that nation's willingness to use force to achieve its goals.

"It also has repeatedly demonstrated that it does not respect the sovereignty of its neighbors," the strategy states. "Russia's military actions are undermining regional security directly and through proxy forces."

But Russia is not the only country of concern in the strategy document.

Iran's nuclear program worries American allies in the region and beyond, according to the strategy. Iran sponsors terrorist groups in the region and is active in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon.

North Korea remains an

outlaw state that has developed atomic weapons and is building missiles capable of reaching the United States.

China a Question Mark

China is in a different class, but could be a threat to the United States, according to the strategy. It is a rising great power and the strategy encourages China "to become a partner for greater international security."

Still, Chinese actions in the South China Sea are worrisome.

It is a complex strategic environment and the U.S. military cannot focus on one threat to the exclusion of all others, according to the strategy.

"[The U.S. military] must provide a full range of military options for addressing both revisionist states and [violent extremist organizations]," the strategy says. "Failure to do so will result in greater risk to our nation and the international order."

Find the National Military Strategy here: http://www.jcs.mil/Portals/36/Documents/Publications/2015_National_Military_Strategy.pdf?source=GovDelivery

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(Front Page American Flag photo by Buddy Altobello)

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OPM Announces Steps to Protect Federal Workers and Others From Cyber Threats

OPM OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
PRESS RELEASE

In July, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced the results of the interagency forensics investigation into a recent cyber incident involving Federal background investigation data and the steps it is taking to protect those impacted. Throughout this investigation, OPM has been committed to providing information in a timely, transparent and accurate manner. As information has become available and verifiable, the agency has updated Congress, the Inspector General, Federal employee representatives, and – most importantly – those that are affected. This announcement is the latest in this series of updates, and OPM will continue to provide additional information going forward.

Background on the intrusion into OPM's systems. Since the end of 2013, OPM has undertaken an aggressive effort to upgrade the agency's cybersecurity posture, adding numerous tools and capabilities to its various legacy networks. As a direct result of these steps, OPM was able to identify two separate but related cybersecurity incidents on its systems.

On July 23, OPM announced the results of the interagency forensic investigation into the second incident. As previously announced, in late-May 2015, as a result of ongoing efforts to secure its systems, OPM discovered an incident affecting **background investigation records** of current, former, and prospective Federal employees and contractors. Following the conclusion of the forensics investigation, OPM has determined that the types of information in these records include identification details such as Social Security Numbers; residency and educational history; employment history; information about immediate family and other personal and business acquaintances; health, criminal and financial history; and other details. Some records also include findings from interviews conducted by background investigators and fingerprints. Usernames and passwords that background investigation applicants used to fill out their background investigation forms were also stolen.

While background investigation records do contain some information regarding mental health and financial history provided by those that have applied for a security clearance and by individuals contacted during the background investigation, there is no evidence that separate systems that store information regarding the health, financial, payroll and retirement records of Federal personnel were impacted by this incident (for example, annuity rolls, retirement records, USA JOBS, Employee Express).

This incident is separate but related to a previous incident, discovered in April 2015, affecting **personnel data** for current and former Federal employees. OPM and its interagency partners concluded with a high degree of confidence that personnel data for 4.2 million

individuals had been stolen. This number has not changed since it was announced by OPM in early June, and OPM has worked to notify all of these individuals and ensure that they are provided with the appropriate support and tools to protect their personal information.

Analysis of background investigation incident. Since learning of the incident affecting background investigation records, OPM and the interagency incident response team have moved swiftly and thoroughly to assess the breach, analyze what data may have been stolen, and identify those individuals who may be affected. The team has now concluded with high confidence that sensitive information, including the Social Security Numbers (SSNs) of 21.5 million individuals, was stolen from the background investigation databases. This includes 19.7 million individuals that applied for a background investigation, and 1.8 million non-applicants, predominantly spouses or co-habitants of applicants. As noted above, some records also include findings from interviews conducted by background investigators and approximately 1.1 million include fingerprints. There is no information at this time to suggest any misuse or further dissemination of the information that was stolen from OPM's systems.

If an individual underwent a background investigation through OPM in 2000 or afterwards (which occurs through the submission of forms SF 86, SF 85, or SF 85P for a new investigation or periodic reinvestigation), it is highly likely that the individual is impacted by this cyber breach. If an individual underwent a background investigation prior to 2000, that individual still may be impacted, but it is less likely.

Assistance for impacted individuals. OPM is also announcing the steps it is taking to protect those impacted:

1. Providing a comprehensive suite of monitoring and protection services for background investigation applicants and non-applicants whose Social Security Numbers, and in many cases other sensitive information, were stolen – For the 21.5 million background investigation applicants, spouses or co-habitants with Social Security Numbers and other sensitive information that was stolen from OPM databases, OPM and the Department of Defense (DOD) will work with a private-sector firm specializing in credit and identity theft monitoring to provide services such as:

- Full service identity restoration support and victim recovery assistance
- Identity theft insurance
- Identity monitoring for minor children
- Continuous credit monitoring
- Fraud monitoring services beyond credit files

The protections in this suite of services are tailored to address potential risks created by this particular incident, and will be provided for a period of at least 3 years, at no charge.

In the coming weeks, OPM will begin to send notification packages to these individuals, which will provide details on the incident and information on how to access these services. OPM will also provide educational materials and guidance to help them prevent identity theft, better secure their personal and work-related data, and become more generally informed about cyber threats and other risks presented by malicious actors.

2. Helping other individuals who had other information included on background investigation forms – Beyond background investigation applicants and their spouses or co-habitants described above, there are other individuals whose name, address, date of birth, or other similar information may have been listed on a background investigation form, but whose Social Security Numbers are not included. These individuals could include immediate family members or other close contacts of the applicant. In many cases, the information about these individuals is the same as information generally available in public forums, such as online directories or social media, and therefore the compromise of this information generally does not present the same level of risk of identity theft or other issues.

The notification package that will be sent to background investigation applicants will include detailed information that the applicant can provide to individuals he or she may have listed on a background investigation form. This information will explain the types of data that may have been included on the form, best practices they can exercise to protect themselves, and the resources publicly available to address questions or concerns.

3. Establishing an online cybersecurity incident resource center – Today, OPM launched a new, online incident resource center - located at <https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity> - to offer information regarding the OPM incidents as well as direct individuals to materials, training, and useful information on best practices to secure data, protect against identity theft, and stay safe online. This resource site will be regularly updated with the most recent information about both the personnel records and background investigation incidents, responses to frequently asked questions, and tools that can help guard against emerging cyber threats.

4. Establishing a call center to respond to questions – In the coming weeks, a call center will be opened to respond to questions and provide more information. In the interim, individuals are encouraged to visit <https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity>. Individuals will not be able to receive personalized information until notifications begin and the call center is opened. OPM recognizes that it is important to be able to provide individual assistance to those that reach out with questions, and will work with its partners to establish this call center as quickly as possible.

See OPM Page 4

OPM Acts to Protect Federal Workers, Others From Cyber Threats

DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON - U.S. Office of Personnel Management officials announced the results of the interagency forensics investigation into a recent cyber incident involving federal background investigation data and the steps it is taking to protect those affected on July 9.

In late May, as a result of ongoing efforts to secure its systems, OPM discovered an incident affecting background investigation records of current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors, officials said.

The forensics investigation determined that the types of information in these records include identification details such as Social Security numbers; residency and educational history; employment history; information about immediate family and other personal and business acquaintances; health, criminal and financial history; and other details.

Some records also include findings from interviews conducted by background investigators and fingerprints. Usernames and passwords that background investigation applicants used to fill out their background investigation forms also were stolen.

21.5 Million Social Security Numbers Stolen

Since learning of the incident affecting background investigation records, OPM and the interagency incident response team concluded that sensitive information, including the Social Security numbers of 21.5 million individuals, was stolen from the background investigation databases. This includes 19.7 million people who applied for a background investigation, and 1.8 million non-applicants, predominantly spouses or cohabitants of applicants, officials said.

There is no information at this time to suggest any misuse or further dissemination of the information that was stolen from OPM's systems, they added.

"While background investigation records do contain some information regarding mental health and financial history provided by those that have applied for a security clearance and by individuals contacted during the background investigation, there is no evidence that

separate systems that store information regarding the health, financial, payroll and retirement records of federal personnel were impacted by this incident," OPM officials said in a news release.

Separate From Previous Incident

This incident is separate, but related to, a previous incident discovered in April affecting personnel data for current and former federal employees officials said. OPM and its interagency partners concluded "with a high degree of confidence" that personnel data for 4.2 million individuals had been stolen, officials said.

"This number has not changed since it was announced by OPM in early June, and OPM has worked to notify all of these individuals and ensure that they are provided with the appropriate support and tools to protect their personal information," the news release says.

Assistance for Those Affected

To protect those affected, OPM is providing a comprehensive suite of monitoring and protection services for background investigation applicants and non-applicants whose Social Security numbers or other sensitive information were stolen.

For the 21.5 million background investigation applicants, spouses or cohabitants with Social Security numbers and other sensitive information that was stolen from OPM databases, OPM and the Defense Department will work with a private-sector firm specializing in credit and identity theft monitoring to provide services tailored to address potential risks created by this particular incident for at least three years, at no charge.

Notification Packages

In the coming weeks, OPM will begin to send notification packages to these individuals, which will provide details on the incident and information on how to access these services. OPM also will provide educational materials and guidance to help them prevent identity theft, better secure their personal and work-related data, and become more generally informed about cyber threats and other risks presented by malicious actors.

Other individuals whose name, address, date of birth, or other similar information may have been listed on a

background investigation form, but whose Social Security numbers are not included, could include immediate family members or other close contacts of the applicant.

In many cases, the information about these individuals is the same as information generally available in public forums, such as online directories or social media, and therefore the compromise of this information generally does not present the same level of risk of identity theft or other issues, officials said.

The notification package that will be sent to background investigation applicants will include detailed information that applicants can provide to people they may have listed on a background investigation form. This information will explain the types of data that may have been included on the form, best practices they can exercise to protect themselves, and the resources publicly available to address questions or concerns, officials said.

New Resources

On July 10, OPM launched a new, online incident resource center at <https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity> to offer information regarding the OPM incidents as well as direct individuals to materials, training, and useful information on best practices to secure data, protect against identity theft, and stay safe online.

This resource site will be regularly updated with the most recent information about both the personnel records and background investigation incidents, responses to frequently asked questions, and tools that can help guard against emerging cyber threats, officials said. A call center will follow in the weeks to come, they added.

In June, OPM identified 15 new steps to improve security, leverage outside expertise, modernize its systems and ensure internal accountability in its cyber practices.

This includes completing deployment of two-factor "strong authentication" for all users, expanding continuous monitoring of its systems, and hiring a new cybersecurity advisor.

Related Sites:

<http://www.opm.gov/?source=GovDelivery>
OPM Cybersecurity Resource Center

OPM

From Page 3

5. Protecting all Federal employees – In the coming months, the Administration will work with Federal employee representatives and other stakeholders to develop a proposal for the types of credit and identity theft monitoring services that should be provided to all Federal employees in the future – regardless of whether they have been affected by this incident – to ensure their personal information is always protected.

Continuing to strengthen OPM cybersecurity. OPM continues to take aggressive action to strengthen its broader cyber defenses and information technology (IT) systems, in partnership with experts from DOD, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal

Bureau of Investigation, and its other interagency partners. As outlined in its recent Cybersecurity Action Report, in June, OPM identified 15 new steps to improve security, leverage outside expertise, modernize its systems, and ensure internal accountability in its cyber practices. This includes completing deployment of two-factor Strong Authentication for all users, expanding continuous monitoring of its systems, and hiring a new cybersecurity advisor.

Director Archuleta has initiated a comprehensive review of the architectural design of OPM's IT systems, to identify and immediately mitigate any other vulnerabilities that may exist, and assess OPM's data sharing and use policies. That review is ongoing. In addition, OPM will also continue to participate in a Federal Government-wide 30-day cybersecurity sprint,

whereby immediate steps are being taken to further protect information and assets and improve the resilience of Federal networks, and will participate in a 90-day interagency review of key questions related to information security, governance, policy, and other aspects of this the security and suitability determination process, to ensure that it is conducted in the most efficient, effective and secure manner possible.

Director Archuleta and the entire Office of Personnel Management are committed to protecting the safety and security of the information of Federal employees and contractors. OPM is also committed to helping those that have been impacted by this incident, safeguarding its systems and data, and fulfilling its mission to serve Federal workers.

After Training at Ft. Bliss, MPs Arrive at Guantanamo Bay

STAFF SGT. RICHARD FREDERICK
JOINT DETENTION GROUP CIVIL MILITARY AFFAIRS NCOIC

Members of the 192nd Military Police Battalion conducted a wide range of pre-mobilization tasks and evaluations at Fort Bliss, Texas, to ready them for deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Team members trained to work throughout the different staff sections and the Joint Operations Center down range.

The mobilization training took place at Fort Bliss's McGregor Range, where the primary focus was geared towards working as a team in the Joint Operations Center. The JOC is directly responsible for the daily details of the detainee operations mission.

This mission came as a monumental difference to some of the members who had previously deployed in 2009 to Camp Cropper.

Although the differences were vast, and the responsibilities seemed cumbersome, the unit members were ready for the challenge and adapted to the mission set as the training evolved. The training was detail-oriented and added a level of stress going into this high profile mission.

Test after test and variable after variable were thrown at the battalion to ready it for any situation it may encounter. Through repetition and evaluation, the duty skills became second nature and helped prepare the MPs for the coming months.

Upon arrival at Guantanamo Bay, team members were introduced to the high-profile nature of the mission within the detention facilities. Soldiers were given a short period

to acclimate themselves to the conditions as they began the process of assuming the mission.

Immersed into their roles within the Joint Task Force - Joint Detention Group Senior Staff, the battalion now is responsible for the support functions of two MP battalions. Some of the staff roles include supply, administration, communications, intelligence as well as detainee administration, detainee programs, civil military affairs and military police investigations.

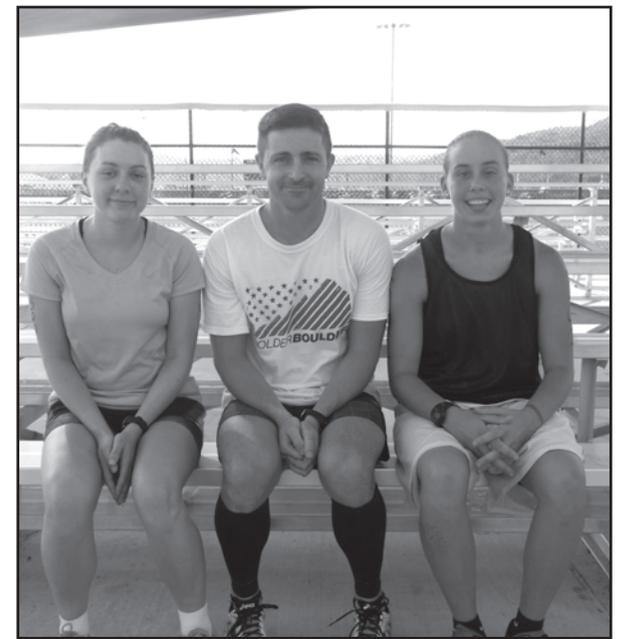
Another aspect of the mission is the joint environment the 192nd operates in. All services - to include active and reserve members - are working within the Joint Task Force. It is not uncommon to find service members from across the branches working together within the same directorates.

While the mission at Guantanamo Bay is stressful and robust, there are opportunities to take advantage of the culture and climate of GTMO. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation program hosts activities on the island to allow team to spend downtime in a safe way.

Some members of the battalion have taken this opportunity to earn a scuba diving certification, while others have taken advantage of the sports programs available by joining intramural teams.

Three Soldiers qualified for the first GTMO-sponsored Army Ten-Miler team which will run in Washington, D.C. in October. The beauty of the beaches and wildlife are a welcome distraction from the day-to-day goings on at Guantanamo Bay.

Most importantly, the members of the unit want to



From left, 1st Lt. Victoria Harris, Capt. Peter Pollard, and Sgt. Kelly Strba of the 192nd Military Police Battalion qualified for the first GTMO-sponsored Army Ten Miler team which will run in Washington, D.C. in October. (Photo courtesy of the 192nd Military Police Battalion)

thank all back home who have continued to reach out to support the 192nd Military Police and our families during this deployment.



Members of the 192nd Military Police Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas with their unit rock after completing pre-mobilization training. This is the second time the battalion has conducted pre-mobilization training at Fort Bliss, but the first chance to leave a lasting physical landmark. This barrier (painted by Sgt. 1st Class Mager) sits in a highly visible position adjacent to the PX on McGregor Range, and will be seen by every deploying and redeploying unit coming through Fort Bliss. (Photo courtesy of the 192nd Military Police Battalion)

Army Leaders: Trust, Ethic is Foundation of Force

LISA FERDINANDO
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WESTPOINT, N.Y. (Army News Service, July 29, 2015) — The Army profession is built on trust that starts with every member of the total force, the Army's most senior civilian and military leaders said.

These leaders and some West Point cadets were among the 270 people, who attended a conference on the Army Ethic at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The July 27-28 event, facilitated by the Center for the Army Profession and Ethic, centered on the strategic stewardship of the Army profession.

"As strategic stewards of the Army profession, we are responsible for setting priorities, enacting policies, managing resources, establishing programs, and designing systems that provide for our people - the Army Family," Army Secretary John M. McHugh said.

"It is also our duty to strengthen these essential characteristics every day in all that we do - every decision you make, every policy you sign, every order you give," he said.

Other attendees included Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, took part in the first day of the conference.

"We have to ingrain the professional ethic in our young leaders because they are actually in the most strategic location to affect the population of the formation," Dailey said during an interview.

Young leaders need to understand they are part of the profession, while having a clear understanding that there is "no wavering from our ethic, in both garrison and combat," the sergeant major said.

"They have a moral obligation to perform their duties to the best of their ability and form the bedrock, which is the trust not only between them and their Soldiers but uphold that trust to the American people who dearly hold them in high regard," he said.

The newly-published Army Ethic, which can be found in Army Doctrine Reference Publication 1, "really guides us on where we want to go," one senior leader said. As part of the rules of the symposium, participants were not to be directly quoted, without prior authorization, in an effort to allow a free-flowing debate.

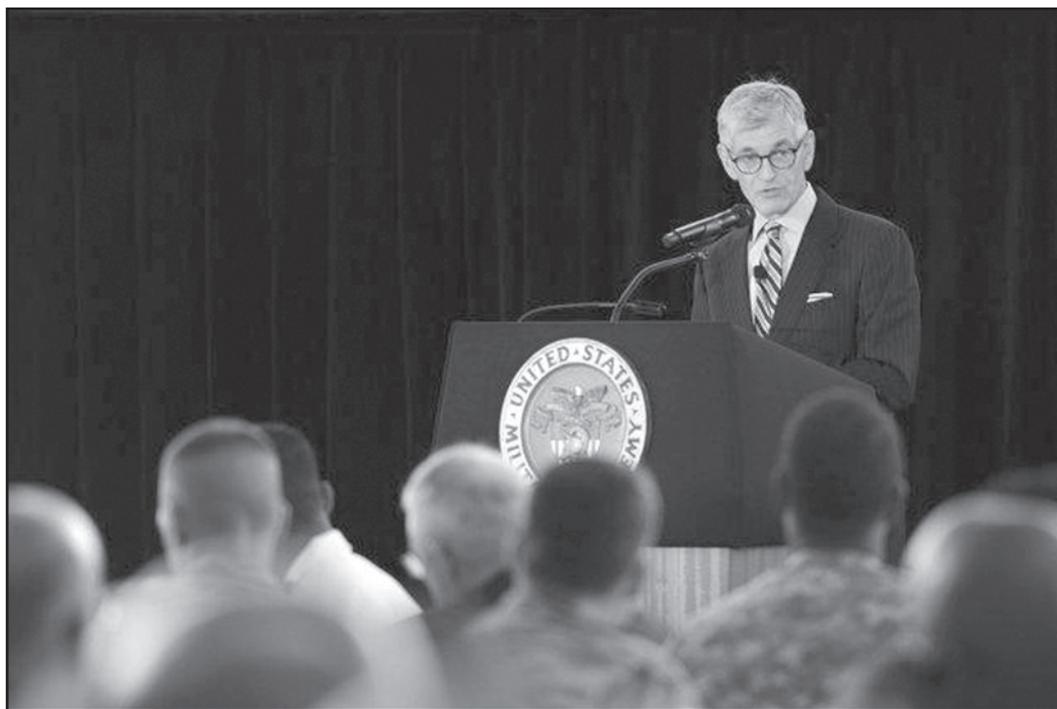
Despite some questioning of the Army profession in recent years, the "profession has stood strong," he said. "I also believe it's important for us to renew it every year and talk about it."

Ethics of War

There are tactical issues related to the application of force, and the ethics related to waging warfare, a senior leader said. The world is "entering a period of complexity unlike any other in history," he said.

"You're going to be challenged a bit as senior leaders to understand more the ethics of waging warfare," he said.

The challenges include deciding when to take military action, how much action to take, and "whether in making that decision, you are in some way creating more suffering, that then begins to cross over into ethical issues," he said.



Army Secretary John M. McHugh addresses the Army Profession Annual Symposium on the strategic stewardship of the Army profession at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., July 27, 2015. (Army News Service Photo)

An increasingly complex world requires leaders to have a "stronger moral compass" to navigate through it.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault

The Army takes seriously all incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault, leaders stressed. Those behaviors run counter to the values and principles of the Army.

While there are many great things about the Army, there are also challenges that the Army must overcome, Dailey said.

The top enlisted leader said combating sexual harassment and sexual assault in the ranks is his top priority, as outlined in his "Not in My Squad" initiative.

Dailey wants squad leaders to instill in their Soldiers that behaviors such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, hazing and bullying will not be tolerated.

Dailey said squad leaders need to tell their Soldiers: "We have a commitment to each other, we have a commitment to the American people, and we have a commitment to this profession - and this stuff is simply

not going to happen in our organization."

Young leaders have the power to promote good behavior and create an environment that fosters trust and respect, he said.

Moving Forward

"Trust is the foundation for everything we do," a leader said.

Senior Army leaders have the privilege, honor, responsibility and duty to be strategic stewards of the profession, setting the conditions for success as the Army and its members move forward, he said.

Participants highlighted how the Army Ethic needs to be internalized in all Soldiers and continually demonstrated by leaders. If the ethic is part of a Soldier's core, whether in garrison or in combat, the individual will make the ethically responsible choice.

The Army must remain a trusted profession, both within the institutional and operational Army, a leader said. It must also maintain that trust with the American people.

The Army is a "cradle-to-grave profession" in which members spend a lifetime developing instincts and expertise, a general officer said. There has to be an "enduring drumbeat" in every level of the Army about the profession, being a professional and living the Army Ethic.

"Everything you do, every decision made, every policy signed, every order given ... what you do affects the decisions and actions of every other member of our Army," a leader said.

The input of Soldiers and civilians should be valued, as the

Army seeks innovation and improvements in communication. Most empowerment comes from the bottom up, as subordinates solve problems and give feedback, a senior Army officer said.

Leaders need to be adaptable and be able to provide options, while always being guided by a moral compass. They also need to build good relationships to instill trust, a leader said.

"If you don't make a connection to build the relationship, you're just not going to have the kind of influence on your profession and our country that you want to have," a general officer said.

Humility is important in leaders, a senior official said, due to the responsibility entrusted upon leaders at every level.

"When you think about the power and authority that we give our leaders at every level, to literally use violence to advance our national interests, if that doesn't make you humble about what we do, probably nothing else I say will," a senior leader said.

Connecticut Guardsman Assists at Accident Scene

1ST LT. NICHOLAS BARILLARO
142ND AREA SUPPORT MEDICAL COMPANY UPAR

It was approximately 5 p.m. on Feb. 22 when Pvt. Zachary Marchand was traveling home after a long drill weekend with the 142nd Area Support Medical Company. Heading east, Marchand witnessed a Mini Cooper careen off the highway at a high rate of speed.

Marchand watched the car roll multiple times down an embankment and land on a street below. He immediately pulled off to the side of the highway and exited his vehicle to assist despite traffic and frigid February temperatures. While wearing only his uniform and jacket, he quickly made his way down the embankment, trudded through knee-deep snow, and scaled a 6-foot high chain link fence in the process to assist complete strangers.

Upon arriving at the vehicle, Marchand noticed broken glass all around, and saw two male and two female teenaged passengers attempting to crawl out of the vehicle. The vehicle was leaking gas from the vehicle so he knew he had to act quickly before a fire started. Marchand helped the four passengers escape the wrecked vehicle and moved them away from the leaking gas and oncoming traffic. He removed his jacket and gave it to one of the passengers who was only wearing a

t-shirt despite frigid temperatures.

As a combat medic, Marchand felt confident in his ability to assess and treat injuries. Danbury Deputy Fire Chief Bernie Meehan was the first public safety officer to arrive on scene and saw that Marchand was treating the injured. He called for additional resources as Marchand continued care of the injured and provided a situation report. All four passengers were transported to the hospital with multiple traumatic injuries. Marchand, according to Deputy Chief Meehan "was certainly instrumental in caring for these victims while awaiting resources."

For his quick response, concern for others before himself, and proficiency in his medical training, Marchand was presented with the Army Commendation Medal. Deputy Chief Meehan was in attendance for the presentation of the award and was very grateful for Marchand's heroic actions.

Pvt. Zachary Marchand of the 142nd Area Support Medical Company, is recognized by Maj. Elizabeth Cordon, 1st Sgt. Karl Souffront for actions he took at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. (Photo by 1st Lt. Nicholas Barillaro)



DID YOU KNOW...

Of Soldiers age 18-24,

19%

meet criteria for alcohol dependence.

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State ARNG Substance Abuse Program **Phone: 860-549-2838 or 475-238-2138**

'Me and My Brothers': Vietnam Commemoration

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON,
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EAST GRANBY — “My brothers are here with me today,” said James F. Jordan. “They’re always with me.”

Jordan provided a book talk and presentation during the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Event at Bradley Air National Guard Base, and although he detailed numerous missions and events he’d undertaken during the war, his message was simple and straightforward.

“There was no *I*. It was always *we*,” he said. This sentiment was echoed by all of the speakers and by many of the Vietnam Veterans in attendance throughout the weekend.

Hundreds of guests attended the two-day event, organized by the Central Connecticut State University History Project, July 11-12. Pvt. Ralph Abbott, from B Co. 1-102 Inf. said he received the weekend’s message, loud and clear.

“You can tell that they’re all brothers. They’re at home with each other,” he said. Abbott and fellow 1-102nd Soldiers manned an exhibit showcasing modern mountain warfare gear and tools. They received a good reception from the older Veterans, many who compared their gear to the modern equipment.

“I bet those young guys over there don’t know what this is,” said Mark Crob, who served 28 years in the Navy, which included service in Vietnam. Crob’s exhibit, next to the 1-102nd Soldiers, showcased uniforms and gear from the Vietnam era.

Crob held up a small metal trinket, resembling a miniature folding knife. “This is a P-38,” he said. Crob explained that field ration cans from the Vietnam Era required openers, and the P-38, was small enough to fit on a dog-tag chain or in a wallet. “We all had to have one of these,” he said.

Crob appeared to be in his element. He gave fellow Veterans high fives and handshakes as his dog-tags swung in the breeze. He was shirtless for both days. “Seabees don’t wear shirts,” he said, to applause and laughter from fellow Veterans.

Eileen Hurst, Director of the CCSU Veterans History Project, said that the official 50th anniversary commemoration period for the Vietnam War is from 2011 until 2025, and that educational and celebratory events will be ongoing in Connecticut.

“This all began by listening to the stories from Veterans,” she said. “We wanted to welcome them home and recognize these Veterans for their service. We asked ourselves what we could do in our state,” she said

Hurst said numerous fundraisers were held and sponsors were found, and one thing led to another. Of course, there is much more to the story.

The National Veterans History Project was created in 2000 by Congress to archive the oral stories of United States veterans. The project relies on organizations, schools, community groups and the public to record and document interviews with service members. Hurst helped start the program at CCSU in 2005, and has coordinated



“It was too cold to go to Canada,” said Anthony Skorek, an Air Force Crew Chief in Vietnam, from 1968-1970. From L-R, Jerry Donat, a helicopter repairman in Vietnam from 1966-1969, John Waggoner, a Sailor on the U.S Navy Destroyer, USS Stickell from 1965-1971, Skorek, and Morris Bodine, an Army Dozer Operator in Vietnam from 1968-1970. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

the interviews of more than 700 Connecticut Veterans.

In listening to the many stories of Vietnam Veterans, many who felt that they were never truly welcomed home, Hurst said she knew that the commemoration event had to take place. She organized a planning committee, and one thing then lead to another.

Among the dozens of the event exhibits, which included a VA mobile Vet Center, photo displays of KIA and MIA Veterans, audio recordings from Vietnam, photos and details of Laotian Guerilla Soldiers missions, and a live performance by the U.S. Coast Guard Band, the UH-1 Huey exhibit was the most popular weekend attraction.

Guests were given an opportunity to take short flights

in a Huey. The crew, veteran military pilots and technicians, work for American Huey 369, which travels across the country for military and aircraft commemorative events. The aircraft, widely associated with the Vietnam War, was the most extensively used helicopter prior to the introduction of the UH-60 Black Hawk. It was retired from active service in 2005.

Mary Light and Francis McCann waited in line for their turn to take a ride in the Huey. Both women are members of American Gold Star Mothers. Both lost their sons in Vietnam, Michael Light and James Carney, respectively. The American Gold Star Mothers, an organization of mothers who lost sons or daughters in war, also had an exhibit on display to help raise awareness about veteran

Draws Large Crowds to Bradley Air Guard Base



Members of the Laotian Special Guerilla Unit manned their exhibit during the commemoration event. They are bringing attention to their duties in Vietnam and raising funds for a memorial monument in Bristol, Connecticut. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

Mary Light (left) and Francis McCann wait in line to take a ride in the UH-1. Both women are members of American Gold Star Mothers, and both lost their sons in Vietnam. Mary's son was a Huey pilot in Vietnam. She had never seen a Huey in person until the day before the event. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



issues, and to bring attention to a new 'Education Center at The Wall,' project, which will add a face to each of the 58,000 names on the Vietnam War Memorial.

Light, McCann and dozens of attendees wore red ribbons with "proudly served" printed boldly upon them, signifying their service to the country or loss of loved ones.

"It was too cold in Canada, so we couldn't go there," said Air Force Veteran, Anthony Skorek, at the Gold Star Mothers exhibit. "We preferred Vietnam," he said, laughing. Skorek was joined by a group of fellow Vietnam Veterans of America members from Norwich's Chapter 270.

The group agreed that they are pleased that events

commemorating their service are finally taking place across the country.

"No one else welcomed us home, so we did it ourselves," said John Waggoner, a Navy Veteran. "That's why we all have this bond."

James Jordan was first interviewed by Eileen Hurst for the Veterans History project in 2014. During his interview, he discussed visiting the traveling Vietnam War Memorial in 2006, and being hurt by Marines who questioned the legitimacy of his service.

He said that event, however, lead him to reach out to the men with whom he served, which lead him to write his book, and eventually meet Hurst.

"Do you know what this is?" asked Jordan to audience

members at the conclusion of his book presentation. He removed a dog tag chain from his pocket, and something that looked like a miniature folding knife was attached to it.

"This is a P-38," he told the audience. "We all had to have one of these," the Marine said with a smile. "Me and my brothers," he said.

The CCSU Veterans History Project welcomes all Veterans to contribute their stories for national archival and preservation. For more information, visit, ccsu.edu/vethistoryproject, call, 860-832-2981, or email hursteim@ccsu.edu.

Reconnecting With the Past: CT Flying

TECH. SGT. JOSHUA A. MEAD
103RD LOGISTICS READINESS SQUADRON, UPAR

On the weekend of July 10, the gates at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, were opened for the public to celebrate and welcome home Veterans from the Vietnam War era.

As part of the Vietnam 50th Celebration, the base was one of two sites offering historical displays and events that highlighted the actions and lives of the men who served in Vietnam.

Taking on a temporary facelift, the base looked like a scene straight from a Vietnam-era version of “M.A.S.H.,” complete with camouflaged netting draped across the trees, Vietnam-era vehicles, aircraft and accoutrements as well as a working UH-1 (Huey) providing “combat flights.” The event presented a view of what it was like to serve in Vietnam.

According to Eileen Hurst, director of the Veterans History Project at Central Connecticut State University and a member of the Vietnam 50th Planning Committee, the event was the product of two-and-a-half years of planning and hard work.

The event was also a result of the partnership between the Veterans History Project and the Department of Defense’s national commemoration committee which aims to recognize the anniversary of the Vietnam War. Hurst said they set the war date from 1961 – 1975, therefore the commemoration period is 2011 to 2025. Every state can commemorate it as many ways and as many times as they want during that period.

“We have done some smaller things in previous years and we wanted to do something huge,” said Hurst. “So we partnered with the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and decided to expand on the New England Air Museum’s open cockpit days with Vietnam-era aircraft.”

Among the aircraft showcased at the base were a C-130H Hercules, an AC-47 Spooky, a couple of A-10 Warthogs, a B-52 Stratofortress, a C-5 Galaxy, a UH-60 Blackhawk, CH-47 Chinook, a UH-1 Huey and a pair of F-16 Fighting Falcons.

The intent of the event, according to Hurst, was to educate the attendees about the Vietnam War and to offer those who served in Vietnam a proper welcome home.

“Our Vietnam Vets deserve it. When we do our interviews for the Library of Congress, we hear the real stories from these guys, and their stories are just terrible. It’s not a myth the way they were treated when they came home,” said Hurst.

“Having served in Vietnam from ‘70-71, I wanted to make sure the word got out to the Veterans community that it was time to accept the long overdue thanks for their service the community had to offer, in a friendly atmosphere, not like when they came home,” said Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Daniel McHale, a member of the Vietnam 50th Planning Committee.

On the flip side, Hurst said, she does get the stories that don’t reflect mistreatment, but that the Vietnam Vets



On the weekend of July 10, the gates at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, were opened for the public to celebrate and welcome home Veterans from the Vietnam War era. According to Eileen Hurst, director of the Veterans History Project at Central Connecticut State University and a member of the Vietnam 50th Planning Committee, the event was the product of two-and-a-half years of planning and hard work. (Photo by Master Sgt. Erin McNamara, 103d Airlift Wing)

were ignored; something that she said was just as bad.

“They thought Americans would be proud of them and grateful, instead they had to take their uniforms off, hide them in the closet and not even talk about their service. Nobody wanted to hear what they did, said Hurst. “So for all of these years, most of those Vietnam vets haven’t talked about it, never been thanked and have never been honored. We wanted to go over the top and let them know that Connecticut loves them.”

Aside from Connecticut welcoming them home, the event provided an opportunity for Veterans that served during the war to reconnect with each other and for some to bring closure to or start the healing process associated with the experiences of the war.

“So many emotional things happened out at the Huey,” said Hurst. “One lady, whom I never met before, came up to me and gave me a huge hug as she was standing in line waiting for a ride [on the Huey] with her husband.

She said ‘you have no idea, it’s going to help chase those demons away,’” Hurst said.

An email from a daughter of a B-52 pilot to Col. Fred Miclon, vice commander for the 103rd Airlift Wing, illustrated a story about how the event allowed her father to start opening up about his experience in Vietnam.

According to Miclon, the woman writes of one of her father’s buddies from Vietnam being vaporized by a surface-to-air-missile while in a B-52.

The father also went down in a C-130, sustaining burns to his body. When the father found out about the event it changed him a bit; he was more open and started to talk about the experiences.

She wrote that on the day of the event, her father was up earlier than usual, dressed and ready to be here right when the gates were to open—which is not like him, Miclon said.

After 50 years of running into people that you went to

Yankees Host Vietnam 50th Celebration



Mary Light (center) and Francis McCann waited in line for their turn to take a ride in the Huey. Both women are members of American Gold Star Mothers and lost their sons in Vietnam, Michael Light and James Carney, respectively. Michael Light was a Huey pilot and his mother had never even seen a Huey until the day before the event. On July 10, she and McCann had the opportunity to fly in one. In the photo to the right, Light is assisted out of the Huey by two pilots who flew in Vietnam. (Photo by Master Sgt. Erin McNamara, 103d Airlift Wing)



A C-130H belonging to the Connecticut Air National Guard was part of a bigger display of current and vintage aircraft during the Vietnam 50th Celebration at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut the weekend of July 10-11. The event also served as a welcome home for Vietnam Veterans. (Photo by Master Sgt. Erin McNamara, 103d Airlift Wing)

war with, it certainly can get emotional.

“All of sudden they are yelling and screaming and crying, and he said, ‘I flew with all these guys’—it sends chills up my spine. I get goosebumps even now just thinking about it,” said Miclon, referring to another story about the father of one of his Guardsmen being reunited with his war buddy.

Coincidentally, that buddy was one of the pilots providing rides on the Huey.

For some though, the event was a conduit for help.

“Over 200 Vietnam Veterans and some currently serving in the Air and Army Guard sought out [the Department of Veterans Affairs] for information and assistance. Many, as much as 125 to 150 people, had never registered before. That was a highlight of the event. To have them come forward was a step in the right direction and it validated that the state and federal VAs [sic] were there to help,” said McHale.

In addition to the aforementioned reunions and welcome homes, the event brought a lot of positive exposure to the Air Guard, said Miclon.

“One of the tasks the Adjutant General had for us was to take care of the committee and make this a world-class event—that was always at the forefront for the team here at the base,” said Miclon.

The level of detail was on par with an actual military deployment or movement.

So many moving parts from civil engineers, to medics, to security, fire and operations came together to host the event for upwards of the 6,000 people that attended.

“Bottom line is, when people walked into this event, they didn’t just walk into the Vietnam committee’s event; they walked into the Air National Guard Base. Home of the Flying Yankees—that’s the first thing they see on the sign out there,” Miclon said.

“I cannot say enough about the men and women at the

Air Guard base. They were just outstanding. They were extremely supportive the entire way,” said Hurst.

All in all, the committee agrees the event was a success. They were able to welcome home Vietnam Veterans, get help to those who needed it, provide a positive forum for others to heal and reconnect, and educate the public about the Vietnam War era and the men who fought in it.

The commemoration period is not over, however, and Hurst said the committee will be doing events during the whole celebration time period, right up through 2025.

“We won’t be doing anything this big again, this was our big one. We will be doing something every year though,” she said.

If you know someone who may have missed this opportunity, be sure to look for the next one by visiting the Central Connecticut State University’s Veterans History Project online presence at <http://web.ccsu.edu/vethistoryproject>.

Senior Leaders Discuss Importance of Supporting Military Children

SHANNON COLLINS
DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON - Defense Department senior leaders met with educators to answer questions and discuss the importance of education for military children during the 17th Military Child Education Coalition National Training Seminar in Washington, D.C. July 31.

Questions ranged from budget cuts to resiliency. All of the commanders said their respective service branches were protecting the military child services from the budget cuts.

Balancing Budget and Families

"The chief of naval operations has said we're not going to touch the child development centers or our youth programs; those are fenced," said Navy Vice Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander of Navy Installation Command. "We're protecting those, and they're funded because we understand the importance of taking care of our children and families."

"Family is part of readiness, and we have to have that balance between mission, family and our community," said Army Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, commander of the Army's Installation Management Command.

"Funding is non-negotiable. It's really important that we commit to that family readiness."

Air Force Lt. Gen. Samuel D. Cox, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services for the Air Force, said another key to success is the partnership with the local community.

"The budget is tight, and we'll do the funding the best way we can but the partnership piece is really important," he said.

"Having partnerships with the local communities and with the local school boards is important," Cox said. "Our new commanders who are coming in, whether it's squadron commanders or wing commanders, we try to highlight to them is to make sure they are integrated with the school board and the local community, that's really important for us to do that."

Community Integration

Smith said one of the biggest challenges military children face is integration into new communities.

Military Child Education Coalition offers Student 2 Student, he said, a student-led welcome program, as well as connection rooms at many schools that help students to integrate quickly so they can focus on academics.

As his own family moved to his various assignments, Cox said it came down to three things: stability, love and integration with the community.

"They knew we loved them, no matter what they wanted to do, and there was integration outside the family, whether it was in school or extracurricular activities, so they were involved and engaged," he said.

Halverson moved his two daughters to 12 different schools. They became involved in science, technology, engineering and math programs and are now electrical and mechanical engineers.

"You want to get your kids integrated and back to normal as soon as possible so they feel comfortable and have confidence in themselves," he said. He also stressed the importance of resiliency and that the Army is now sharing their Master Resiliency Training program with the families of service members.

Cox was a military child, and his own two children attended nine different schools and three different high schools.

"We had our kids participate in team sports or the band or something that has more than one person," he said, "so that when they went to a new school and it's time to go to the cafeteria, they had someone they could sit at the table with."

Smith said another challenge for military children is the transfer of educational credits from state to state. He said that thanks to the efforts of MCEC and organizations like it, the Military Interstate Children's Compact has 15 states on board.

The compact aims to reduce the educational and emotional issues encountered when the children of military personnel are required to transfer from schools in one state to another.

Smith noted that 17 states now have the military student identifier on their enrollment form, which is a voluntary self-identification of the children of active duty, National Guard, or reserve members to monitor educational success.

"We need to continue to push that need because once we have that, we can track those students, and they can get through school easier and not have to repeat classes just to be able to meet that state's graduation credentials," he said.

Military Children as Service Members

Danny G.I. Pummill, principal deputy undersecretary for benefits for the Department of Veterans Affairs' veterans benefits administration, was a military child and said he appreciates what the MCEC does for military children.

"I can't put the importance of what MCEC does into words, what they've done over the years and the impact that they've had," said Pummill, who is also the Military Child Education Coalition national advisor.

"We're an all-volunteer force. Being a military child is hard. Going to school as a military child is hard," he said. "If you look at the statistics, these kids are our future officers; they're our future [noncommissioned officers]. Most of them join the military. If we can't make sure that those children are taken care of and that they have a better than average chance in society, that's going to be one of the things that's going to cause our all-volunteer force to go away."

Smith noted that the Navy has a partnership with 2,100 schools across the country for science, technology, engineering and math programs.

"The more that we can get that into the elementary schools and the middle schools, the high schools, the better off we're going to be, not only as a Navy, not only as a service, but ... as a country down the road," he said.

Cox said the focus could be more on cyber training in middle schools.

All of the commanders advised the military children and non-military children in attendance to work hard, set goals, stay in school and to remember that education is important.



Resilience: "Skill of the Month"



ACTIVE CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONDING

SGM James Sypher
State Resilience Coordinator
james.a.sypher.mil@mail.mil

Just The Facts



There are **four ways** people tend to **respond** when others share good news or a positive experience, or describe a success.

Only **Active Constructive Responding** is shown to lead to stronger, longer-lasting relationships.

	Constructive	Destructive
Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authentic interest • Elaborates the experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squashing the event • Negative focus
Passive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distracted, understated support • Conversation fizzles out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignoring the event • Changing the conversation to another topic

What is the skill?

Active Constructive Responding (ACR) is a communication method in which the responder conveys authentic interest and helps the person to relive the positive experience.

Key Principles

ACR conveys authentic interest, and the responder helps the sharer think more deeply about the positive experience.

Benefits of ACR: ACR leads to stronger relationships, belonging, well-being, and life satisfaction for both parties.

Connection is a primary target of ACR.

What is ACR or "Active Constructive Responding?"

Around Our Guard

Pickel Takes Command of the 1-102nd

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON,
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BRANFORD — Lt. Col. Robert Brafford said leading the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment is the greatest assignment any officer could ever hope for. On July 12, following a successful tenure in command, Brafford handed over the reins of the battalion to Lt. Col. David Pickel at the Branford armory.

During his time as commander, Brafford readied Connecticut's largest National Guard unit for activation, and in 2014, lead it through a successful rotation at Fort Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center with the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The unit's move from Connecticut to Louisiana required a monumental movement of troops and equipment that took months of planning.

Pickel is no stranger to the 1-102nd. He served as company commander of both Alpha and Bravo companies, and was recently the battalion's executive officer.

He said he is honored to take command of the battalion and will do his best to prepare it for potential future missions and objectives.

During his 2006 deployment to Afghanistan, Pickel lead the battalion's only maneuver element, Task Force Iron Gray. His command posture is described in detail in a July 2006 U.S. News article, titled, "Split Screen."

The 1-102nd Infantry Regiment traces its roots to 1639, when the New Haven Plantation of the British Empire published an order establishing an armed militia to defend the colonies against attacks.

Incoming 1-102nd Commander, Lt. Col. David Pickel, addresses the audience in attendance at the 1-102nd change of command ceremony, July 12. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Second Company Governor's Horse Guard Hosts Open House

2ND LT. KEN FAY
SECOND COMPANY GHG

The Second Company Governor's Horse Guard hosted its Annual Open House in Newtown, Connecticut on June 20.

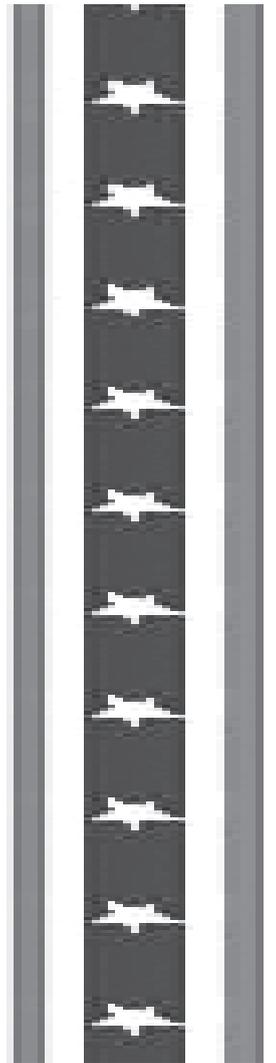
The visiting public had an opportunity to meet with the horses and troopers and get a feel for what life is like serving in one of the last remaining active mounted cavalry units in the nation.

The festive family day included barn tours, a boot camp challenge course, visitors from the Connecticut Beardsley Zoo, a civil war reenactment camp, Police K9 Unit demonstrations, a silent rifle drill team performance, games, food, and a mounted cavalry drill.

This fan-favorite event is a chance to show what the Second Horse is capable of and to educate and entertain the community in which they serve.

For more information on the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard visit them on the web at www.thehorseguard.org. If you are in the area on a Thursday evening, stop by to observe them during a drill.

Officer Sean Owens and his K9 partner, Zar, of the Milford Police Department. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Ken Fay, 2nd Company GHG)



Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Celebration



James Baranowski served from 1969 to 1970 in Vietnam as an Air Force Admin. Wing Commander. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Marine, James F. Jordan gave a presentation about his new book, "Over And Out," at the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration event, which details his experiences as an 18-year-old radio operator in Vietnam. He said visiting the Vietnam War Memorial in 2006 motivated him to get in contact with his brothers-in-arms. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Tom Jones served as an Infantryman in Vietnam from 1969-1972. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Bravo Co., 1-102 Infantry Soldiers, Pvt. Ralph Abbott, Spc. Scott Mutchler, and Spc. Rafael Dominguez manned an exhibit displaying modern mountain warfare gear and tools. They said Vietnam Veterans enjoyed comparing the new equipment to the old stuff. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Guests
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Various
Reserve
Simon,

Hosted at Bradley Air National Guard Base



...were given an opportunity to take short flights in a UH-1 Huey. ...new, veteran military pilots and technicians, work for American ...69, travelling across the country for military and aircraft ...commemorative events. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ ...Public Affairs)



Kjell Tollefsen was shot down three times during his service in Vietnam as a UH-1 Huey pilot, from 1967-1968. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



A Connecticut Air National Guard C-130H and a UH-1 Huey (an aircraft the Connecticut Army National Guard used to fly) draw crowds during the 50th Anniversary of Vietnam event at the Bradley Air National Guard Base. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, JFHQ-CT Public Affairs)



...10 Warthogs from the Idaho Air National Guard, were available ...to see up-close. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, ...Public Affairs)



"Seabees don't wear shirts," said Mark Crob, who served 28 years in the Navy, which included service in Vietnam. Crob and Rick Telesca exhibited uniforms and gear from the Vietnam era. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



American Huey 369 crewmen prepare their UH-1 Huey for the commemoration event. The crew, comprised of veteran military pilots and technicians, travels across the country for military and aircraft commemorative events. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



...aircraft were on display, including an F-15 from Westover Air ...Base in Massachusetts. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin ...JFHQ Public Affairs)

2015 National Freedom Award Recipients Announced

ESGR PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense announced June 25 the 15 recipients of the 2015 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest honor the department gives to employers for support of National Guard and Reserve employees. Cigna of Bloomfield, Connecticut is among the 15 recipients.

“These outstanding employers have not only earned this award, they have earned this nation’s gratitude,” said Defense Secretary Ash Carter. “I am truly honored to recognize these 15 organizations for their unwavering support of our military men and women and their families. Their accomplishments are a vital piece of our national defense and a high standard toward which all employers of Guard and Reserve members should strive.”

The 2015 Freedom Award recipients below will be honored at a ceremony in the Pentagon Aug. 21: (Company name, location and element the company’s nominator is from are listed.)

Black Hills Corporation, Rapid City, South Dakota, Army National Guard
Boise Fire Department, Boise, Idaho, Marine Corps Reserve
BP America, Inc. Houston, Texas, Army National Guard
Cardinal Health, Dublin, Ohio, Army National Guard

Cigna, Bloomfield, Connecticut, Air National Guard
City of Glendale, Glendale, Arizona, Navy Reserve
City of Shawnee, Shawnee, Kansas, Army Reserve
College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Missouri, Army National Guard
CVS Health, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Air National Guard
Devon Energy, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Air National Guard
Dr. Joe A. Jackson, MD PLLC, Biloxi, Mississippi, Army National Guard
Neil, Dymott, Frank, McFall, Trexler, McCabe & Hudson APLC, San Diego, California, Navy Reserve

Snell & Wilmer LLP, Phoenix, Arizona, Marine Corps Reserve
Town of Hingham, Hingham, Massachusetts, Navy Reserve
Walt Disney Company, Burbank, California, Air National Guard

The 2015 recipients were selected from 2,960 nominations received from guardsmen and reservists for going far beyond what the federal law requires to support their military employees.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 205 employers have been honored with the award.



**1ST BATTALION 102ND INFANTRY MOUNTAIN
HOSTS THE
2015 CONNECTICUT MILITARY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS' DINING-IN
AQUA TURF CLUB, SOUTHTONINGTON, CT
DATE: 05 November 2015
TIME: 1800-2200**

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID AND RSVP'D AND PLAN ON ATTENDING NO ADDITIONAL RESPONSE REQUIRED, IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND AND WANT A REFUND PLEASE CONTACT CPT ALLEN DIAMOND at allen.m.diamond2.mil@mail.mil or CPT PEDRO CONCOLINO at pedro.h.concolino.mil@mail.mil

ALL CURRENT AND FORMER ARNG, ANG, MILITIA OFFICERS, CSM, SGM, and CMSgt ARE INVITED
CHOICE: PRIME RIB, CHICKEN ALA KATHRYN, PAN SEARED SALMON, OR VEGETARIAN LASAGNA
COST IS: \$60.00

Make Checks Payable to 1-102nd INF Officers' Dining-in Fund
Mail checks to: CPT Allen M. Diamond
87 Montowese St
Branford, CT 06405

**Guest of Honor: Lieutenant General Herbert Raymond McMaster, Deputy
Commander, Army Training and Doctrine Command and Director, ARCIC**

Uniform: Army Service Uniform, Army Dress Blues, Army Dress Greens, Air Force Mess Dress
Retirees may wear a uniform or appropriate civilian attire
Point of Contact: CPT Allen M. Diamond
Phone: 860-883-6146 / Email: allen.m.diamond2.mil@mail.mil

Please Return NLT 09 October 2015
Rank _____ Name: _____

Organization _____
Mailing Address _____

Meal Choice (circle one) Prime Rib Chicken Salmon Vegetarian
Make check payable to : 1-102nd INF Officers' Dining -in Fund





hagaman
memorial
library

**American Airpower: Bombers
1935-1960 Vintage Aviation
Photographs from WWII,
Korea and the Cold War**

August 26th, 2 p.m. at the Hagaman
Memorial Library, 227 Main Street,
East Haven. Author John Cilio will
speak on the topic of his book with a
presentation of vintage photographs
of the bombers that helped make
American airpower great. The
program is one of the WW II Veterans
Discussion Group presentations which
is free of charge and open to all.
For more information or to receive our
veterans group newsletter contact Fawn
Gillespie at fgillespie@hagamanlibrary.org or
call 203-468-3890.



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
JOHN S. CARRAGHER

Welcome to August and yet another edition of your Connecticut Guardian! As we move through the “dog days” of summer, most of our units have completed a challenging Annual Training season.

Connecticut Airmen and Soldiers conducted collective training across the country and around the world. At stateside locations including Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Camp Dodge, Iowa, Fort Drum, New York, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania and right here in Connecticut, our units have executed the culminating training events of the training year.

Several of our units had the opportunity to travel overseas to conduct annual training, including the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron (in Israel) and the 130th Public Affairs Detachment (in Germany).

For the first time, your Army National Guard partnered with your Air National Guard to provide airlift support for annual training events. Our own 103rd Airlift Wing transported the 143rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion to Camp Dodge. Executing this mission also provided an opportunity for the 103rd to execute a core function - the intra-theater movement of passengers.

It took a great effort on the part of all Airmen and Soldiers involved to work together to execute the mission.

The end result? The CSSB was able to successfully execute their annual training plan, and the Airlift Wing was able to safely execute the airlift mission. The bonus? The mission was executed at a significantly reduced cost to the Army National Guard and provided a valuable training opportunity to the Air National Guard. It was a win-win for both organizations. Great job!

In July, I had the opportunity to attend a State Command Sergeant Major workshop, hosted by the Army National Guard command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley.

There were many topics of conversation, including the new Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report (more on that later), and changes to the Noncommissioned Officer Education System, now known as the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System.

Changing the name of the system we have in place to train and educate our NCOs may seem like a small thing, but it recognizes the fact that our NCOs are professionals and require a program that addresses the developmental education needs of a professional across the learning domains and consistently over

time. Look to see much more on this subject in the coming months.

Several presenters at the workshop made a significant impression on me. The first was Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey. Dailey spent several hours with us and made it very clear that the needs of the Soldier are his first priority.

He also made a point to inform us that he will rely on the advice of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve command sergeants major to provide him advice on the unique impacts that policy decisions have on the reserve component Soldier. I left the workshop convinced that Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dailey is truly the sergeant major of the (entire) Army.

The second presenter that really grabbed my attention was Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Dick Smith. Smith is a former command chief of the Air National Guard and currently serves as the Military Affairs Relationship Director (National Guard and Reserves) for USAA.

Although Dick was there representing USAA, he spent most of his time reminding the audience of the importance of professional military organizations.

He reminded us that it was not that long ago that National Guard Airmen and Soldiers were only allowed 12 visits per year to the commissary; that at one point, SGLI was only valid if the reserve component service member was in a duty status at the time of death; that there was no availability of TRICARE for Reserve Component service members; that the National Guard was once equipped (at a very low rate) with equipment at least two generation old, etc. The list of reminders and changes went on and on.

As we continue to struggle with constrained resources, the call to reduce or eliminate benefits and services that all service members, regardless of component, so richly deserve will become louder. I urge you to join and become an active member in the professional military organizations that represent you as a member of the Army or Air National Guard. These organizations represent you and need your support to remain effective. Thanks to Chief Smith for the reminder!

The final topic I want to talk about is the impending change to the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation System.

On Jan. 1, 2016, the Army will dramatically change the way we evaluate Soldiers for the first time in almost 30 years. This change is long overdue and will require a lot of work to implement.

Our evaluation system is the basis for our promotion system. The evaluation system also plays a significant role in all of the force shaping tools that are available to us as we look to retain the very best Soldiers and leaders when and if it becomes necessary to reduce the force.

Evaluations rendered today will impact the organization for at least the next five years.

Our legacy to the organization lies within the evaluations we prepare. We owe it to the future of our Guard to provide honest, thoughtful evaluations that are based on established standards, goals and objectives.

The most effective way to achieve this is through articulated, effective periodic counseling. Every member of the rating chain - the rated Soldier, the rater, the senior rater and the supplemental reviewer (if required) - play a critical role in the process.

The glue that will bind the system together and make it work is communication. The system has some built in tools, based on the functionality of the system, to force increased communication within the rating chain.

Effective communication of organizational objectives, translated into individual actions supporting the mission is the basis for every evaluation.

Virtually every leader in our Guard has a role to play in evaluating our Soldiers and shaping the future of our organization. An honest evaluation of our people is too important to the future to be “just another requirement.”

Training on the new system is ongoing. Units are encouraged to request training for their Soldiers on the new system. The human resources professionals in your units can schedule it for you.

Finally, as you move through the final weeks of the summer season, please keep safety at the forefront of everything you do.

We practice deliberate risk assessment in every military mission we conduct and you should do the same for your leisure activities. An exciting day at the beach with family and friends can quickly turn catastrophic based on bad decision making or poor planning. Enjoy the summer safely!!

Talk to you in September.

Quote of the month:

“There is no living thing that is not afraid when it faces danger. True courage is in facing danger when you are afraid.”

L. Frank Baum

Author, “*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*”

Command Sgt. Maj. Carragher

“Any Soldier, Any Issue, Any Time”

Enlisted Update

News From The Governor's Horse and Foot Guards

Students from Hartford High Schools Foot Guard Scholarships

FIRST COMPANY GOVERNOR'S FOOT
GUARD PRESS RELEASE

Maj. Mark Boudreau, Commandant of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, has announced the recipients of scholarships awarded to high school seniors of Hartford public high schools. The students were nominated by the guidance staff at their schools for scholastic achievements, strength of character and involvement in the school and community. These students all graduated from their respective high schools during June.

Amina Huric attended Bulkeley High School's Teacher Preparation and Humanities Academy and will attend the University of Connecticut this fall to study special education. During her high school career, Amina was on the school's honor roll all four years and served on the student council as vice-president. She was also a member

of the Key Club and the National Honor Society. She was an athlete, playing soccer and basketball during her high school career. Out of school, she participates in the Bosnian American Youth Association of Hartford and volunteers at soup kitchens through the Key Club at school. Amina will be the first member of her family to attend college.

Keyla Scott attended Weaver High School's Culinary Arts Academy and will attend Southern Connecticut State University to study nursing. She was a member of the National Honor Society and was recognized as a Governor's Scholar. She also played softball and hopes to continue playing in college. When not in school, Keyla volunteered with the Blue Hills Civic Organization and the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Danay Marie Alvarez-Melendez attended the Hartford Public High School's Law and Government Academy and

will attend American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts to pursue a degree in nursing, following her interest in being in the medical profession and her passion for helping people and to follow in the footsteps of her uncle and older sister. Danay was on the honor roll every year and also served on the student council - one year as co-treasurer and one year as a member of the senior prom planning committee. She received recognition for her work during internships and on summer jobs. She also volunteers at her church and with the Urban League of Greater Hartford.

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard congratulates these exceptional Hartford students on their achievements and for being recommended for the Foot Guard scholarship and sends their best wishes as they pursue their chosen fields of study.



The First Company Governor's Foot Guard Color Guard, under the command of Sgt. 1st Class Ray Hite, presents the colors at the Talcott Mountain Music Festival's 'Celebrate America' concert on July 3 at the Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows in Simsbury. (Photo by Pat Boudreau)

Members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, under the command of Maj. Mark Boudreau, march in the Fourth of July Parade in Columbia. Photo by Janet Dexter)



Members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, under the command of Maj. Mark Boudreau, march in the Old Home Day Parade in East Hampton on July 11. (Photo by Pat Boudreau)



Health and Wellness Coaching

MILITARY ONESOURCE

Do you need help making changes that will improve your health or well-being? Consider partnering with the Military OneSource Health and Wellness Coaching Program. The Health and Wellness Coaching Program is a free resource for eligible individuals who wish to improve their health and overall well-being.

A health and wellness coach can help you:

- Identify your beliefs, values and vision
- Create an action plan to achieve your goals
- Eliminate roadblocks or barriers that stand in the way
- Celebrate your success

Focus areas for coaching include: weight management, fitness and nutrition, health condition management, stress management and life transitions (adapting to lifestyle changes such as deployment, moving, becoming a new parent or retirement). Coaching is not counseling, therapy or a medical or advice hotline. You can participate in sessions by phone or online, whichever you prefer.

The coaches provide you with information, support, encouragement and accountability, so that you can attain your goals and achieve your maximum potential at no cost to you! To sign up for a health and wellness coach, call 800-342-9647 and a Military OneSource consultant will register you and schedule your first session right away.

For those who prefer communicating online, online consultation uses online messaging, with the consultant and participant communicating online in real time. For other resources that help you track nutrition and exercise, please visit the United States Department of Agriculture SuperTracker.

Through any of the three Health and Wellness Coaching Program options - on the phone, online or self-directed - Military OneSource can assist you in reaching your goals.



I wore a DOT Approved Helmet!

What have YOU done to save a life today?

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

Diversity: 95 Years of the 19th Amendment

MASTER SGT. BARBARA PEPIN
JFHQ-CT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ADVISOR

The U.S. Secretary of State, Bainbridge Colby, signed the 19th amendment into law on Aug. 26, 1920, thus giving women the right to vote, a right known as woman's suffrage.

Fifty years later, on Aug. 26, 1970, the National Organization for Women organized the Women's Strike for Equality, the largest protest in United States' history for gender equality. Demonstrations and rallies were held in more than 90 cities and towns across the country.

More than 100,000 women participated to demand equal opportunities in education, employment and child-care centers. The following year, Congress passed a bill designating Aug. 26 of each year as Women's Equality Day.

In the 95 years since the passing of the 19th Amendment, there have been many great strides made in the progression of equality. Women now have the right to vote, own land and businesses, obtain an education, marry at their own choosing and serve the country in the Armed Services.

According to Pentagon figures; in 2011, more than 203,000 women were serving on Active Duty, including 69 generals and admirals. Broken down by branch, there were about 14,000 female Marines, 53,000 female Sailors, 62,000 female Airmen and 74,000 female Soldiers serving in the Army. Roughly 14.5 percent of the active duty force of nearly 1.4 million were women.

Nearly 167,000 of that 203,000 of women serving on active-duty were enlisted. They made up 14.2 percent of the enlisted force. The officer corps had an even greater percent of females serving at 16.6 percent or roughly 32,000. Of those 69 generals and admirals 28 were female generals in the Air Force, 19 in the Army, 21 female admirals in the Navy and one female Marine general.

In the National Guard and Reserves 18 percent of the 722,000 enlisted troops are women, with 19 percent of 113,000 officers in the National Guard and Reserves being female. The question arises as to how the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard fare in regards to these numbers? Current figures mark the female population of Connecticut's National Guard forces at just under 17 percent. The enlisted ranks make up 88 percent of the female population, with commissioned and warrant officers comprising the other 12 percent.

The female officers, warrants and enlisted Airmen and Soldiers in the Connecticut National Guard are just as dedicated, knowledgeable and hardworking as their male counterparts. Time and time again, women have answered the call of service to our nation, whether serving a weekend a month, two weeks during the year or for a deployment that takes them away from their loved ones and jobs.

This Aug. 26, take a moment to reflect on those numbers. Regardless of your gender, take a look at your own career and ask yourself, "Have I completed all I can to ensure I meet the requirements needed to reach my highest possible rank?" You can't have the opportunity

to move up in the ranks if you don't keep your affairs in order! If you're a leader look within and ask yourself "Do I select, train and promote based on merit?" The numbers in Connecticut reflect that leaders are basing decisions on merit overall, but it is a question that should never be far from our minds.

We as a nation have come a long way since the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote in 1920. However, there is so much more that can be done to

ensure the equality of all people regardless of the gender.

References:

Excerpts from "Celebrate Equality Day" @ www.nwhm.org

Excerpts from "19th Amendment" @ www.history.com

Excerpts from "By the numbers: Women in the US military" @ www.cnn.com

Connecticut Statistics from "DMDC Demographic Report" Dated October 2014

Wear Your SEAT BELT

RECON

Narrow, unimproved roads and heavy vehicles don't always mix.

Wearing seat belts and properly executing emergency rollover drills saves lives.

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Legal: New Consequences for DUI in Connecticut

CAPT. KYLE B. WILKINSON
CTARNG OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

Individuals who drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol face new consequences under 2015 updates to Connecticut's DUI Law.

In general, the updates in effect as of July 1, 2015 reduce the length of license suspension for initial offenses of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol or driving with an elevated blood alcohol content, but require the installation of ignition interlock devices in order to have driving privileges re-instated. Any military member charged with DUI faces additional consequences as a result of their service.

Connecticut's DUI law remains two-fold: criminal penalties and administrative driver's license suspensions. The updated laws retain criminal penalties including significant prison time and fines, with many first-time offenders still eligible to participate in the Alcohol Education Program. Revisions to the law significantly change the duration of administrative suspension of

driver's licenses. Under the old law, driver's licenses were suspended for 90 days for first offenses, but people were allowed to apply for special permits to drive back and forth between home, work and school.

Under the new law as of July 1, 2015, driving privileges are suspended for first and second offenses in addition to other criminal penalties. It is still possible to apply for permits to drive between work, home and school, but the permit may be conditioned upon use of an ignition interlock device. In order to have driving privileges reinstated under the new law, individuals must have an ignition interlock device installed, requiring the offender to submit to a breathalyzer in order to operate their vehicle, for six months.

The ignition interlock device is a system that, when installed, prevents vehicles from being operated unless an operator registers a blood alcohol content below the limit. Ignition interlock devices are installed and operated by private companies approved by the state. Typical fees for the devices vary, but average around \$50 for installation of the device, \$85 per month for the duration

of use of the device, and \$100 for device removal.

The penalties for individuals who drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol in Connecticut have been changed to include (in addition to other criminal penalties) an administrative loss of driver's license for first or second time offenders and the installation of ignition interlock devices to keep offenders from operating their vehicles with an elevated blood alcohol content.

Military members in Connecticut arrested for DUI are subject to action by the military in addition to the foregoing civilian penalties. If a member of the military is arrested for DUI, they are morally obligated to report it to their chain of command. Once the command is aware of an arrest, the service member is administratively flagged until the issue is resolved, keeping the service member from eligibility for promotion, schools and other advancements. The individual is also referred to substance abuse screening and counseling as appropriate, and could face adverse administrative action or be separated from the military.

Thirty-Fourth Annual SENIOR NCO/CPO FORMAL DINING-IN

DATE: **01 October 2015** (Thursday Evening)

TIME: 1800 Hours

PLACE: Aqua-Turf Club, Southington, Connecticut

COST: **FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS** (\$55.00)

ELIGIBILITY: Non-Commissioned Officers and Chief Petty Officers, E-7 and above. All eligible ARNG and ANG NCOs are expected to attend. CPOs are invited to attend. Retirees are most welcome.

UNIFORM: Army Service Uniform with black bow tie, Army Blue Uniform with white shirt and black bow tie, or Army Blue Mess. Air Force Mess Dress or Semi Formal Uniform. Appropriate attire for other services. Retirees may wear the uniform or a business suit as meets their desires.

HOST: Chief Master Sergeant Edward A. Gould
State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Connecticut Air National Guard

GUEST SPEAKER: Chief Master Sergeant Mitchell O. Brush
Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief, National Guard Bureau

APPLICATION DUE DATE: Military Protocol requires prompt response (within 72 hours of receipt of flyer).

No responses accepted after 24 September 2015

The formal military dinner ceremony known as the "Dining-In" is an old and traditional military affair believed to have its origins in medieval England. The Dining-In is now recognized as an occasion to foster ceremony, tradition, and camaraderie within an organization and to emphasize their importance in the life of a service member. It is an excellent occasion to bid farewell to service members who have departed, to welcome new ones, and to recognize the achievements of military service and individual members. Please note the guest speaker!

The cost of the affair includes a full course dinner (main entree: Roast Prime Ribs of Beef, or a fish entree upon special request) and refreshments before and during dinner. A cash bar will be available after dinner. On receipt of your application, you will receive a mailing that will include specific uniform and protocol information.

The Aqua-Turf Club is located on Mulberry Street in Southington, Connecticut. It is a short distance from Routes 84, 691, 10, and 322.

Your support of the only Senior Non-commissioned Officer activity, the Dining-In, has been superb. It is requested that you continue to support this, your Dining-In, and continue the great tradition. Submit your application to attend as soon as possible after receipt of this notice. Early response enables the committee to better plan the Dining-In and make it a more enjoyable evening for all.

NOTE: Seating will be arranged with unit integrity or upon a specific request for tables of ten. Appropriate fines will be imposed for violations of the Mess. Cost of fines will range from \$1.00 to whatever is deemed appropriate by the President or Mister Vice.

I look forward to seeing you there!

DETACH AND MAIL PORTION BETWEEN DOUBLE LINES

I will attend the Senior NCO/CPO Dining-In on **01 October 2015**.

My check in the amount of \$55.00 is attached.

NAME: _____ RANK: _____

Home address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

UNIT: _____

Indicate seating preference (if any): _____

Indicate your preference for Fish in lieu of Roast Beef: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "HQ Activities Fund"

Mail returns to: State Command Sergeant Major
Connecticut National Guard
National Guard Armory
360 Broad St.
Hartford, CT 06105-3795

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD CONCERNING THE DINING-IN!
Let other Senior NCO's, who have never attended, know about this grand affair.

Join the Sr NCO Dining In event on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1008125715877733/>

NCOs and CPOs make it happen!



National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT)

2015 NGACT, USAA Scholarship Recipients Announced

KENDRA ROSS
NGACT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The National Guard Association of Connecticut is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 NGACT and USAA Scholarships. Competition for the \$1,000 scholarships was strong once again this year.

Receiving the the NGACT Scholarships are:

Tyler Detorie, son of Col. Frank Detorie, 103d Airlift Wing. Tyler is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut;

David Mazzola, son of Senior Airman Melissa Mazzola, 103rd Airlift Wing. David is pursuing a degree in business

law and sports management at Stetson University in Deland, Florida;

Alicia Morgan, daughter of 1st Sgt. Daniel Morgan, A Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment. Alicia is pursuing a degree in early childhood education at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut; and

Erin Detorie, daughter of Col. Frank Detorie, 103d Airlift Wing. Erin is pursuing a degree in chemistry at Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts.

NGACT members, their spouses and dependent children and grandchildren are eligible to apply for the

NGACT Scholarship.

Each year, USAA provides one \$1,000 scholarship to be presented to an enlisted member of NGACT, their spouse or dependent child.

This year's recipient of the USAA Scholarship is **Shannon Jones**, wife of Master Sgt. Peter Jones, 103rd Airlift Wing. Shannon is pursuing a degree in health administration at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Connecticut.

A reception will be held for the recipients and two family members on Aug. 5 at the Wood-n-Tap in Hartford.

CONNECTICUT ARMY & AIR NATIONAL GUARD RETIREES' PICNIC & BENEFITS UPDATE BRIEF

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015 @ 12:00 Noon

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Active Duty Welcome

Pass the word

Meet old friends

New Facilities



Food & Beverage

Bring a guest

Card Games

VA, TRICARE, USAA & AUSA Reps

Mark your calendar and join as for the fun!

\$25.00 by July 3 1st, 2015 & \$27.00 at the Door

Name _____ Rank _____ Army _____ Air _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Retiree Benefit Update Brief will be held at 10:30 at The Point
Make checks payable to NGACT and mail to NGACT Retirees' Picnic,
360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105



Save the NGACT Date

Aug. 5

Scholarship Recipient Reception
Wood-n-Tap
Hartford

Aug. 6

NGACT Retirees Picnic

Aug. 8-13

EANGUS Conference
Indianapolis, Indiana

Aug. 19

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

Sept. 10-13

NGAUS Conference
Nashville, Tennessee

Sept. 11

18th Annual NGACT Golf Tournament
Hawk's Landing Country Club
Southington

Sept. 16

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

Oct. 21

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

Inside OCS: Phase 0 to Phase 3, OCS Builds Leaders

OC SCOTT STONE
OCS CLASS 60

Fourteen months ago, when Officer Candidate School Class 60 gathered for our first “Phase Zero” drill, it was difficult to imagine finishing Phase 2.

Following the “gut check” of Phase 1, the second phase of the OCS program makes up the bulk of the course and consists of ten months of weekend drills. These drills are intended to orient the candidates to the basics of the role of the officer in the Army while assessing the leadership potential of each officer candidate. In June, OCS Class 60 completed their final drill of the phase.

With Phase 2 complete, there is now time for a brief pause to reflect on the past year before heading to the culminating event of the OCS program: Phase 3.

It has been a challenging year for the Candidates of Class 60. Phase 2 began with several months of classroom instruction on military topics ranging from troop leading procedures to supply activities to the laws of war. As we progressed, so did the intensity of our training as the classroom gave way to the field where our

knowledge gained during the course was put to the test.

Each drill involved a rotation of leadership roles to give every candidate an opportunity to be evaluated in positions ranging from squad leader to platoon leader. The success or failure of every drill depended on the quality of work done by the leadership team and their ability to react to unforeseen challenges, much as it does outside of the training environment.

June drill for Class 60 was the culminating event of the phase where candidates completed their last Phase 2 requirement, the Army Physical Fitness Test, before heading to Stones Ranch for an overnight training exercise.

Putting the lessons of the previous year to the test, candidates battled the cadre (and the weather) through the woods of Stones Ranch. Moving from mission to mission, the candidates faced tactical challenges compounded by ever-changing leadership roles. While the purpose of the event was to evaluate the candidates on their ability to implement the troop leading procedures, many important tactical lessons were learned along the

way that will undoubtedly benefit the candidates down the road in their careers.

The end of this phase of training, while significant in the minds of the weary candidates, is just another small step on the road toward earning a commission and a career leading Soldiers. Though it is appropriate to reflect on this small accomplishment, the minds of the candidates are already on to the next challenge ahead: Phase 3.

Class 60 traveled to Maryland at the end of July for their two-week annual training period and the final hurdle of the OCS program. June drill offered just a small taste of what the candidates can expect in Maryland, as the majority of the training there will be oriented toward field leadership.

Two phases down and one final challenge left for Class 60 before (hopefully) commissioning in August.

(Editor's Note: This article was written prior to Phase 3 which took place after the Guardian printing deadline.)

Military History: 'Key to America'

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

Fifty miles north of New York City, the Hudson River makes two nearly 90-degree turns as it winds its way to the Atlantic Ocean. It was at this strategic point that the Continental Army established its principal fortifications in the Hudson highlands.

Gen. George Washington called West Point the, “Key to America,” because controlling it prevented the British from cutting New England off from the rest of the country by keeping them in New York City.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish-born, French-trained military engineer, drew up the plans for these fortifications. When he was applying for a commission in the Continental Army, Gen. Washington asked him what he could do for the cause and his simple reply was, “Try me.” He was nicknamed, “Kos,” by his fellow officers and Washington reportedly misspelled his name eleven different ways.

Small earthwork fortifications along the river bank are still visible today. The largest fort, near the present-day football stadium was named for Connecticut Gen. Israel Putnam. Fort Clinton was opposite Constitution Island and was the anchor point for the chain that was stretched across the river to prevent British ships from getting past.

West Point was also the stage for the war's greatest intrigue. Gen. Washington met with Gen. Benedict Arnold near West Point and told him that he was going to be given command of the left wing of the Continental Army – three divisions.

Arnold turned pale and was momentarily speechless. He then argued with Washington that he was not fully fit for a field command. He had been wounded in the same

leg – twice, at Quebec and Saratoga. He argued that a rear area assignment, such as the garrison at West Point was better.

Washington reluctantly agreed and Arnold assumed command of West Point on Aug. 3, 1780. Earlier that summer, he promised Gen. Sir Henry Clinton the garrison and 3,000 Continental Soldiers in exchange for £20,000.

As soon as he got the assignment, Arnold began weakening the garrison by detailing Soldiers to other outposts in the area and ordering entire battalions to cut firewood. Fortunately, his treachery was discovered before it was too late when Maj. John Andre, Gen. Clinton's Chief of Intelligence was captured near Tarrytown with incriminating documents hidden in his socks. He was reportedly waylaid by three AWOL members of the New York militia who were ambushing and robbing area Loyalists.

Upon hearing the news of Andre's capture, Arnold left his wife and child at their quarters near West Point and fled to the HMS Vulture waiting in the Hudson. Washington was so heartbroken by the deceit that he exclaimed, “Now who can I trust?”

Three years into the war for independence, Continental Army leaders had bigger plans for the garrison. Quarter Master General Col. Thomas Pickering recommended that the fortress be designated as the headquarters for the training of American officers. In 1802, the academy enrolled its first class.

In June, I had the unique opportunity to be a “Cadet for a Day” and participate in the rehearsal for receiving this year's incoming Plebe class. Three hundred volunteers were run through the stations that the more than 1,200 new cadets would face in just three days. The cadre led us through the various tasks necessary to

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transition these recent high school graduates into members of the United States Corps of Cadets. They even taught us how to do basic drill and report to the, “Cadet in the Red Sash.” The event ended after lunch in the historic Cadet Mess Hall.

Every year, the United States Military Academy reserves 85 slots for Soldiers from the Active Component and 85 for Soldiers in the Army Reserve and National Guard. Just over half of these quotas are used. Soldiers are not required to receive a nomination from a member of Congress, but are encouraged to do so. They do need an endorsement from their company commander. For more information visit the website at <http://admissions.usma.edu> and click on the link for Soldiers under the Prospective Cadets menu on the right.

Off the Bookshelf: 'Over And Out'

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

A framed flag of Chinese Chairman, Mao Zedong, stood on a stand next to James F. Jordan at the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Event at Bradley Air National Guard Base, July 11 and July 12.

Jordan exhibited his book, "Over And Out," which chronicles his experiences as an 18-year-old Marine radioman in Vietnam. It goes without saying that many people asked Jordan about the Mao Zedong flag over the course of the weekend.

In 1968, Jordan, assigned to the Second Battalion, First Marine Division, accompanied his squad on a routine patrol south of Da Nang. Five minutes into their mission, they spotted what appeared to be a North Vietnamese soldier, "squatting," on the side of a path. The soldier ran, and Jordan and his squad pursued him.

"He made it into a field and entered a large molehill," said Jordan. "He closed a hatch that looked like a submarine hatch behind him, and all of the guys immediately wanted to frag him."

Jordan said he was the lone voice of opposition in the group. He insisted on using smoke grenades to flush out the soldier. The group reluctantly agreed.

Joran dropped in a green smoke grenade and although the smoke poured from the crevices of the molehill, the enemy soldier did not emerge. The next one was red, and

the result was the same. Jordan tossed in a yellow smoke grenade, and then they finally heard movement.

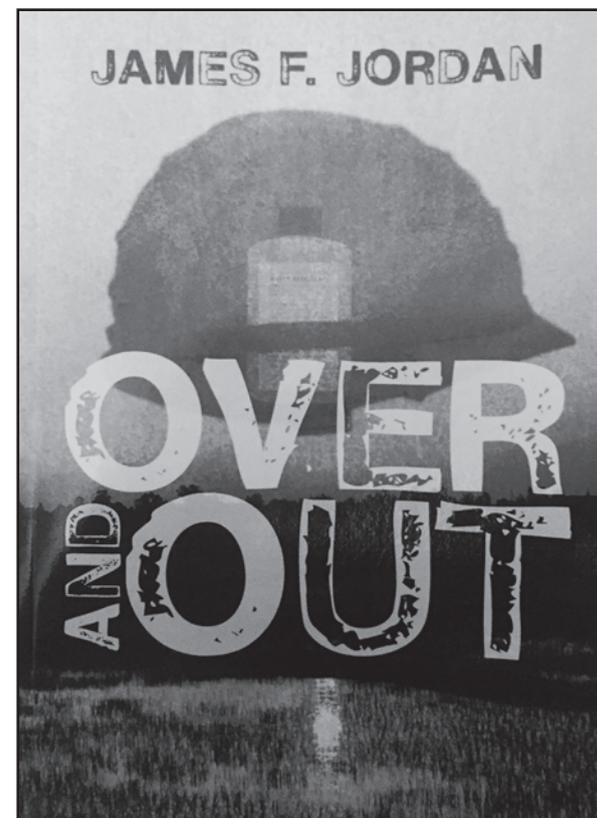
"We could hear him gagging and coughing, and we saw his hands sticking straight up [...] But as we looked at him, we noticed something strange about him. He looked like a tie-dyed doll; he was covered from head to toe in green, red and yellow. We saw his uniform. It was Chinese," wrote Jordan.

Bravo Squad, Golf Company, Second Battalion, First Marine Division, had inadvertently captured an extremely high-value prisoner. Jordan received praise from his buddies; less because they captured a Chinese officer, than because their day-long patrol had been reduced by many hours.

And the flag?

When the Marines searched the Chinese soldier, they found 50 condoms in one pocket, and the Mao Zedong flag in the other. The members of Jordan's squad all signed the flag, and he's had it in his possession ever since.

At the Vietnam 50th Commemoration, Jordan did not display any souvenirs taken from a team of North Vietnamese female mortarman that unsuccessfully ambushed his squad. That story is explained in his book, and is also detailed in his Library of Congress, Veteran History Project Interview, available online via any search engine.



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

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW
By MSG Mark Baker

OK, MURPH-MAN, HERE'S THE DEAL: SINCE THIS IS A NOVICE EVENT, THEY ARE PAIRING CONTESTANTS BY THEIR DIFFERENT SERVICES INSTEAD OF BY WEIGHT CLASS.

THEY PAIRED YOU WITH SOME AIR FORCE DUDE. AIR FORCE, eh?

SMACK!

Oh Yeah!

HOLY SMOKES! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT GUY!

MONGO HATE ARMY SERGEANTS!

© Mark Baker 2009

Retiree's Voice: Recognizing Excellence, Claims Process

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR (RET.) JOHN GODBURN
RETIREE AFFAIRS COLUMNIST

I would like to begin this month's article by recognizing three full-time employees of the Connecticut National Guard for what I consider to be outstanding service.

On June 13, 2015, the CTARNG lost a good friend and former employee in Master Sgt. (Ret.) Richard Maziarz. When his wife, Barbara, and family reached out to me for assistance with the funeral arrangements, I felt privileged to help. After the funeral, I told Barbara that I would contact the appropriate offices to schedule appointments to begin the process of applying for survivor benefits and pensions.

Since Rich was both retired military and a technician, I contacted Sgt. 1st Class Ericka Thurman of the G-1 and Maj. Alyssa Kelleher and Ms. Jenny Collins at the Human Resources Office. Barbara works in Hartford, so she was hoping to meet with all three on July 1st, at the Hartford Armory.

As it turned out, Thurman was on leave that day, and HRO is no longer located in Hartford. It would have been easy for these three contacts to say that Barbara would

have to come back to them at a later time and at their locations.

But that was not the case. Thurman came in off of leave to meet with Barbara, and process her Military Spouses Retired Pension. Kelleher and Collins put together all the necessary forms and documents, travelled to Hartford and met with Barbara to complete her Technician Survivor Pension Package.

The compassion and professionalism I witnessed that day, as these three women worked with Barbara, was extraordinary. I know that she is grateful to them for their help, and I just wanted to take a moment to publically recognize and thank them for service above and beyond.

Streamlined Claims Process

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced it is streamlining claims processing in an attempt to deliver benefits faster and more accurately. There are three important changes now in effect:

1. Informal claims have migrated to a new Intent to File, VA Form 21-0966.
2. Use of standardized forms are now required for filing

for benefits: VA Form 21-526EZ, Notice to Veteran/Service Member of Evidence Necessary to Substantiate a Claim for Veteran Disability Compensation and related Compensation Benefits; VA Form 21-527EZ, Claim for Fully Developed Claim; VA Form 21-534EZ, Notice to Survivor of Evidence Necessary to Substantiate a Claim for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits.

3. You may initiate an appeal by filing a standardized VA Form 21-0958, Notice of Disagreement (NOD).

All of these forms are available at the VA's website, www.va.gov. If assistance is needed to file a claim or appeal, contact one of the following service organizations: Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), AMVETS, American Legion, or Disabled American Veterans (DAV). All of these organizations have VA-certified counselors who can assist you, and do so at no cost to you.

When you do file a claim, be sure to keep a copy of all documents submitted to the VA. For additional information on filing a VA Claim, or for answers to questions you may have, go to www.va.gov.

Retirement Service Officer Notes: Applying for Retired Pay

SGT. 1ST CLASS ERICKA THURMAN
RETIREMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

NEW! ATTENTION ALL RETIREES!

Gray Area Soldier's Retired Pay Application

On Oct. 1, 2014, the United States Army Human Resources Command (HRC) discontinued mailing retirement applications to Gray Area Soldiers for their non-regular retirements at age 60. United States Army Reserve Command, the National Guard Bureau and the Army Retirement Services Office will assist with coordination of this initiative and informing the affected population.

This initiative will stop the process of mailing retirement applications to Gray Area Soldiers 13 months prior to their 60th birthdays. These Soldiers will need to contact HRC to request retirement applications and confirm their current mailing addresses prior to their 60th birthdays. HRC recommends Gray Area Soldiers contact HRC 13 months before their expected retirements by calling (888) 276-9472 or by emailing askhrc.army@us.army.mil.

HRC will also leverage current technologies to allow individuals to request applications online. HRC currently mails more than 4,000 retirement applications quarterly with thirty-seven percent returned to HRC due to incorrect addresses. This causes a delay in receiving retired pay or no retired pay at all for these Soldiers. HRC will continue to ensure eligible Gray Area Soldiers are informed to apply for retirement prior to their eligibility date.

For more information go to: <http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/sbp.html>.

You're Invited to a Retirement Briefing: Briefings are held on the Sundays of the Joint Forces Headquarters drill weekend from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments are provided by donation. There is a one-

hour lunch break. There is a microwave available, as well as a local restaurants, as lunch is not provided. Briefings are not scheduled during the months of June, September and December due to annual training, Family Day and annual briefings. The remaining briefing dates for 2015 are: Aug. 2, Oct. 4 and Nov. 7. Please read last month's article for a complete description of the briefing and what to expect. Contact Sgt. 1st Class Thurman, (860) 524-4813; ng.ct.ctarng.list.g1-rso@mail.mil to register.

Upcoming Events:

- Monthly Retiree Breakfast: Thursday, July 30, 8:30 a.m. at Charlie's Place, West Main Street, Niantic. Cost is \$15. POC- Frank Perry.
- Connecticut Army & Air National Guard Retiree's Picnic & Benefits Update: Thursday, Aug. 6, 12:00 p.m. at Camp Niantic, Niantic, CT cost is \$ 27.00 at the Door. The benefits briefing will begin at 10:30 a.m. at The Point.

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 email lisa.todaro@ang.af.mil or (860) 292-2573; or the part-time (drill weekend) POC, Master Sgt. Diana Nelson at email 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 Ericka Thurman (860) 524-4813 or e-mail at: ng.ct.ctarng.list.g1-rso@mail.mil.

Guardian Address Changes: Army & Air please e-mail Sgt. 1st Class Thurman if you would like to update your address, make any corrections to your name or rank, if you would like to be removed from the Retiree Database, or if you have any questions.

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

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)

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 Sgt. 1st Class Jordan Werme
jordan.e.werme.mil@mail.mil or (203) 568-1730



Veterans Services and Where to Find Them

Veterans of the United States armed forces may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by the VA.

Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions, and certain benefits require service during wartime. If you are new to the VA, the Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors booklet will help you get started.

http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/

Health Care

VA's health care offers a variety of services,

information, and benefits. As the nation's largest integrated health care system, VA operates more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers, and various other facilities.

Benefits & Services

VA administers a variety of benefits and services that provide financial and other forms of assistance to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Major benefits include Veterans' compensation, Veterans' pension, survivors' benefits, rehabilitation and employment assistance, education assistance, home loan guaranties, and life insurance coverage.

Burial and Memorials

Burial and memorial benefits are available for eligible service members, Veterans, reservists, National Guard members, and eligible family members. Service include interment, headstones and markers, and Presidential memorial certificates. VA operates 128 national cemeteries in the United States and Puerto Rico, together with oversight and management of 33 Soldiers' lots, confederate cemeteries, and monument sites.

Veterans Benefits Fact Sheets

<http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/#BMI>

Connecticut National Guard Promotions Army

To Private 2

Gonzalez, Julio A. Jr.
Valliere, Carlos N.
Jenkins, Anthony M.
Marte, Jeffrey
Aguilar, Brandon A.
Baker, Andrew S.
Porter, Gail M.
Sheldon, Cole L.
Webb, Colby J.
Addae, Christian A.
Velasquez, Diego P.
Alaqel, Ahmed M.
Goldenbroughton,
Kawonna
Cianci, Samantha L.
Saunders, Howard B. III
Busgith Travis C.
Delmas, Sterley S.
Hebert, Brandon M.
Walker, Morrell L. IV

To Private First Class

Daniels, Darius A.
Robbins, Kerry L.
Baldracchi, Louis J.
Cimbalanga David M.
Hernandez, Kevin
Sarrette, Mike D.
Thomas, Jessie L. III
Martinez, Jacob W.
Sewell, Jonathan Travis
Diaz, Jose L.
Rivera, Peter R.
Hite, David A. Jr.
Inglis, Stefan M.
Todd, Andrew T.
Miller, Makiem M.
Mejiacano, Claudio F.
Ramos, Hector L. Jr.
Smith, Ricky L. Jr.
Imtiaz, Noman
Fair, Nadeea A.

To Airman 1st Class

Talbot, Brent R.
Hoque, Mohammed R.
Bean, Nicholas C.

To Senior Airman

Dziewaltowski, Amy T.
Beckford, Hunter K.

Pintosuy, Kevin A.
Figueroa, Monica F.
Leavens, Makyle J.
Chamberland, Justin M.
Saunders, Eric C.
Garcia, Saul Jr.
Brown, Hunter De.
Nieves, Edwin Jr.
Heath, Harley E.
Mallico, Charles D. Jr.
Walthall, Robert T.
Roberts, Javon J.
Mango, Shaunna A.
Mahan, Clarissa L.
Nadeau, Shaun L.
Taylor, Theresa T.
Thompsongrass, Lucia
Eberhardt, Margaret R.
Charlot, Rutherly
Hobart, Jeremy S.
Maldonado, Jadier

To Specialist

Rothblat, Michael H.
Khon, Andy D.
Gosselin, Maverick T.
Alicea, Angel L. Jr.
Vo, Richard P.
Fish, Joshua W.
Rodriguez, Jaime Jr.
Hall, Devin M.
Drake, Alexander R.
Krul Christopher J.
Childs, Gregory P.
Russell, Kyle E.
Watson, Robert F. III
McVeigh, Cody F.
Flynn, Casey J.
Torresjimenez, Jeremy
Brewer, Paul M.
Castillo, Devonna R.
Martin, Travis V.
Stringer, Michael R.
Barfield, Emory C. III

McCarron, Robert S. Jr.
Hess, Ethan C.
Wenzel, Justin M.
Vetare, Michael D.
Ferracci, Nicholas J.
Sorianomendoza, Mario
L'heureux, Nicole D.
Albino, Jessica N.
Glaude, Desirae S.
Edelbaum, Christopher
Poirier, Julia P.
Bajjo, Stephan J.
Torresrivera, Nelson
Maldonado, Doris L.
Jackson, Kevin R. Jr.
Chapman, Christopher G.
Heavenor, Alexis M.
Dinse, Brian A.
Ricco, Anthony J.

To Sergeant

Rivera, Nathan P.
Rotger, Jeffrey
Parracino, Jeffrey L.
Roman, Miguel A.
Corto, Clayton G.
Faircloth, Russell T.
Chung, Esther K.
Alix, Gregory M.
Husovsky, Nicholas E.
Novatapia, Jatna
Munoz, Julio C.
Abuhijleh, Jessica L.
Bystrak, Jessica V.
Nadolny Nicholas J.
Quimby, Sterling W.
Cabrera, Cristian A.
Swarr, Nicholas C.
Jacobacci, Anthony Jr.
Palmer, Spencer C.
Hanson, Nicholas W.
Murowsky, Nikolaus W.
Rector, Daniel D.
McClellan, Megan H.

Air

Thomas, Jazmine S.
Beckford, Mariah A.
Smith, Sarah E.
To Staff Sergeant
Meyer, Joshua V.
**To Technical
Sergeant**
Laporte, Erin E.

Allin, Jennifer E.
Morrow, Matthew D.

To Master Sergeant

Flannery, Susan M.
Sheldon, Brian C.
Hartwig, Jason A.

To Staff Sergeant

Bonafe, Eddie Alberto Jr.
Bedard, Peter J.
Davis, Jarah M.
Loubriel, Rivera Luis A.
Perez, Jessica
Stonier, William C.

To Sergeant First Class

McKay, Patrick J.
Fatone, Alexander H.

To Chief Warrant Officer 2

Dolo, David B.

To Chief Warrant Officer 5

Ryan, Craig L.
Astolfi, Renato R.

To Captain

Bates, Corey M.
Gibb, Christopher R.
Merriman, Alan L.
Dinsmore, Joseph P.

To Major

Wiesner, Jeffrey W. Jr.
Hornung, Kevin S.
Devito, Robert M.

To Lieutenant Colonel

Pickel, David L.
Pizzo, Santo A.

To Colonel

Nugent, Robert M.

Rivera, Marina J.
Macutkiewicz, Michael J.

To Senior Master Sergeant

Fanelli, Christopher D.

Coming Events

August

August 6

NGACT Army & Air Guard Retirees'
Picnic

August 9-12

EANGUS National Conference
Indianapolis, Indiana

August 15

OCS Graduation

August 18

September Guardian Deadline

August 19

NGACT Executive Board Meeting

September

September 7

Labor Day

September 8

October Guardian Deadline

September 10-13

NGAUS Conference, Nashville,
Tennessee

September 11

NGACT Golf Tournament

September 16

NGACT Executive Board Meeting

October

October 1

Senior NCO/CPO Dining-In

October 12

Columbus Day

October 20

November Guardian Deadline

October 21

NGACT Executive Board Meeting

October 31

Halloween

**Deadline for the October Issue of
the Guardian is September 8
Deadline for November Issue of
the Guardian is October 20**



18th ANNUAL NGACT OPEN



**Friday
September 11, 2015**

**LOCATION:
Hawk's Landing Country
Club
Southington**

**TIME:
9 a.m. Shotgun Start
Note New Start Time**

**COST:
\$125 per person**

**FORMAT:
Four (4) Person
Scramble**

All proceeds to benefit
**NGACT Scholarship Fund,
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
and
Friends of Fisher House Connecticut**

Tournament Day Schedule

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.: Registration, Coffee, Pastries
8:45 - 9 a.m.: Opening & Memorial Ceremony
9 a.m.: Shotgun Start
3 p.m.: Dinner & Awards

Tournament Includes:

Coffee & Pastry before start
Driving Range before start
18 holes with cart
Lunch & Dinner
Awards, Prizes
Hole in One Contest
Men's & Ladies' Closest to the Pin Contest
Men's & Ladies' Long Drive Contest
Hole Sponsorships Available
*** Best Unit Award (Guidon Mandatory - Only
ONE Guidon per Foursome) ***

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 603

Tournament is limited to 140 golfers on a first-come-first-served basis

For questions or more information contact:

Debbi Newton (860) 913-5010
legislativeguard@gmail.com

Return No Later Than August 28, 2015 to: NGACT Open, ATTN: Debbi Newton, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105
(Make Checks payable to NGACT)

Name	Address & Phone Number	Email Address
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____



Connecticut FAMILY Guardian



VOL. 16 NO. 8

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

AUGUST 2015

Military Relief Organizations and Emergency Financial Help

MILITARY ONE SOURCE

Sometimes the challenges of life, especially financial emergencies, can become overwhelming. Fortunately, military relief organizations exist in every branch of the military to help service members and their families in times of financial emergency. The information below will help you understand the kinds of financial emergencies that can be covered and how to apply for financial assistance.

About military relief organizations

Military relief organizations are private, nonprofit organizations that help service members and their families with certain emergency financial needs. Depending on the circumstances, these organizations can provide interest-free loans, grants or a combination of loans and grants. Military relief organizations also sponsor tuition

assistance programs for service members and certain family members. Some offer other special programs such as financial counseling. You can find out more on the individual relief organization's website.

Help with financial emergencies

Most loans and grants from military relief organizations are for one-time financial emergencies such as for rent, utilities, vehicle repair, certain medical and dental expenses, emergency travel and funeral expenses.

Each organization limits the kinds of financial expenses it will cover. For example, these organizations do not cover fines and legal expenses, the purchase of a home or vehicle, or other nonessentials.

If you find your home payments exceed your spending plan and may lead you to foreclosure, avoid scams

targeting families at this vulnerable time by listening to these podcasts: Foreclosure Rescue Scams and Foreclosure Rescue Scams: Red Flags and Real Help. You can get more mortgage information by visiting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's "Ask CFPB."

Relief organizations by service

- Army Emergency Relief call 866-878-6378
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society call 703-696-4904
- Air Force Aid Society call 703-972-2650

If there is no nearby emergency relief organization for your service branch, one of the other military relief organizations can help process your request on behalf of your service's relief organization. If no military relief organizations are nearby, the local Red Cross chapter can also process your request.

Military Teens Can Become Good Leaders

MILITARY ONE SOURCE

As part of a military family, you know a lot about sacrifice, resilience, and getting through challenging times. Your experiences have shaped you in various ways and many of those experiences have created the characteristics of a leader inside of you. To be a good leader, you must:

· **Communicate effectively.** As a good leader, you must listen to the people around you and express your ideas in a concise, direct way.

· **Be proactive, not reactive.** A leader does not sit around and wait for crises and problems to occur. Anticipate problems before they happen and come up with strategies to address them.

· **Lead by example.** A good leader has to practice what he or she preaches. For example, if you want to run the student government, you have to show people that you can resolve conflict and speak well in front of others.

· **Be resilient.** Resilience is the capacity to bounce back from misfortune, change, and failure. It's okay to get upset, but resilient leaders keep going instead of getting discouraged and giving up.

· **Be organized.** You can't lead others if you can't keep your own life straight. Ask for help or get a planner because if you want your cause or ideas to get attention, you have to be organized.

· **Develop conflict resolution skills.** There'll always be conflict when you're trying to organize and lead others, but a good leader knows how to resolve these conflicts in a positive way.

· **Be resourceful.** A good leader knows where to look for things and doesn't quit. For example, if your school needs a DJ for a dance and there's no money, you have to raise the money somehow or find a sponsor, a donation, or someone willing to work for charity.

· **Be dependable.** A good leader doesn't miss deadlines or forget to attend meetings.

· **Have good ethics.** It's important to stop and ask yourself if you're making ethical choices. Strong ethics prevent leaders from hurting others to achieve their goals.

· **Have a vision.** Being a leader implies that you're leading others towards a goal. Know where you're going, plan the route to get there, and anticipate obstacles or challenges along the way.

· **Keep a positive attitude.** Great leaders look at challenges as opportunities to grow, change, and learn from their mistakes rather than seeing themselves as victims of circumstance.

Leaders come in many different packages, so if you don't like talking in front of large groups or organizing others, it doesn't mean that you don't have what it takes. Sometimes the leader is the one who shows up to every meeting and leads by example. Other times being a leader might mean writing a letter or advocating for a cause in a quiet way.

For more information and resources to help military youth and teens navigate everything from the unique challenges of a mobile military lifestyle to managing their social lives, saving money, and going green, visit Military Youth on the Move!

WARRANT OFFICER

Use Your Military Experience in a Leadership Role as a Warrant Officer in the National Guard.

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD
NATIONALGUARD.com

TAKE THE CHALLENGE TODAY, CONTACT:
CW3 JOHN NERKOWSKI
WARRANT OFFICER STRENGTH MANAGER
203.410.0828
john.v.nerkowski.mil@mail.mil



CATHERINE GALASSO

Continually Focus on All of Your Blessings

I've read a few of the more than 70 books that bestselling author and counselor H. Norman Wright had published. A longtime fisherman, he shared many life lessons and biblical applications that he had experienced while fishing in his devotional titled: *A Perfect Catch Lessons for Life from a Bass Fisherman*.

Paraphrasing one of the stories he told was about three men who were carrying two backpacks each, as they were on a fishing trip. One backpack was on their front. And the other backpack was held on their backs.

The sun reflected brightly off the water, as a person walking by curiously questioned the three men. "Why are you carrying two backpacks each?" the passerby asked. "What is in them?" he questioned.

Glancing pensively at the passerby, the first man answered, "I carry the good things that have happened to me on my back." Then, his expression dramatically changed. "But the front backpack contains all my negative experiences," he said, as his eyes began to well up with tears.

Over the next few minutes, the first man explained to the passerby how he would stop frequently and open the front backpack. He would look at it, and then he would relive all those bad experiences; the unfair situations, the negative words others had spoken over him, the failures and disappointments of the past.

The passerby shrugged his shoulders, not knowing what to say. Moreover, because the first man stopped so often to think about all the adverse things that had transpired and constantly focused on the negative, he felt badly about himself. He didn't have much joy, nor did he make progress in his daily life.

Without delay, the second man walked over to the passerby, chimed in and gave the opposite response. "I carry in the front backpack all good things," he stated. Moments passed, and then the second man looked down with a trace of sadness in his eyes, uttering, "Yet, the pack on my back contains all of my guilt, fears, the regrets and mistakes, and unfortunately, I never put the backpack down. It's heavy. It is a burden. And day by day, I just continue to carry it."

The third man was listening intently to the conversations. He took a deep breath and described to the passerby, "The backpack that I carry on the front has within it all of my blessings. It contains positive thoughts and words. It has my good qualities, my achievements and successes. And the kind deeds that others have done for me. Also, it holds my hopes and dreams for the future."

The passerby's face lit up. "So what's in the back backpack?" the passerby asked.

Smiling with a contagious grin, the third man said, "There is nothing in the backpack I carry on my back." Interested, the passerby inquired, "Why is that backpack empty?"

Confidently and positively beaming, the third man leaned toward the passerby as if he were telling him a secret. Quietly, he replied, "I cut a hole in the bottom of the backpack. That way, all of the negativity is released.

I let it all go. So there's nothing to hold me back from progressing on in life, and there is no extra weight to carry."

As you journey through life, what are you carrying in your backpack? On what are you really focusing your attention?

Perhaps, you might think that you've made too many mistakes, had too many setbacks, or were too badly hurt in the past to succeed in the future. Maybe, you can't seem to get over something that happened long ago. Or, feeling waves of anxiety, your current circumstance can be overwhelming you.

Yet, God created you to be an overcomer. "You are more than a conqueror through Him who loves you." (Romans 8:37). And if... "God is for you, who can be against you?" (Romans 8:31).

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-24).

So similar to the third man, release the weight of the worry and burdens you have been carrying. Leave the sack of regrets behind. And unload the bag of what didn't work out. Rather, all through the day, continually focus on all of your blessings and thank God for the great things He is going to bring into your future. Always ponder upon all the positive aspects of your life. And turn the unfair matters over to God. He is the restorer of broken dreams, and He will graciously right the wrongs and bless you in new and extraordinary ways.

The more you turn your heart and mind in a positive direction and on the good things for which you aspire, the right opportunities, people and circumstances will be produced and unfold before you.

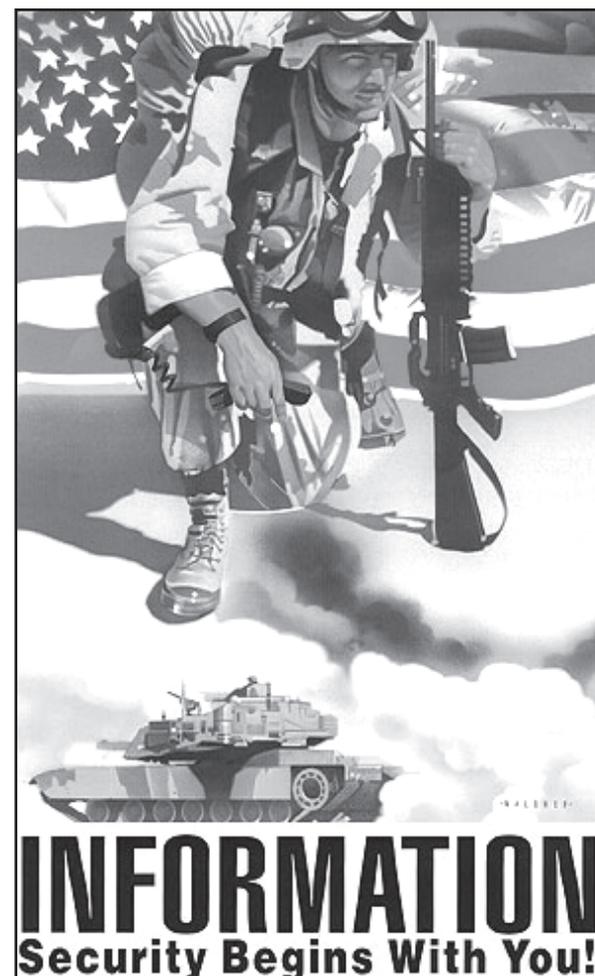
Earlier this year, I took my daughters across the country with me on a business trip. They had a wonderful time exploring the West Coast. And when we returned home, my middle daughter, who likes to travel, thanked me for the amazing experience. Next, she turned to me and exclaimed, "You took me where I couldn't go on my own."

Likewise, that is what God is going to do for you, He is going to take you where you could not go on your own. So keep the faith. Give. Serve. Pray. And look ahead to the many miracles that await. Today is a new day. And on God's time schedule, He will put His powers forward, and usher you to the greatest joys and opportunities of your life.

Be at peace, God is faithful and, "He who began a good work in you will complete it." (Philippians 1:6). Therefore, never, ever give up on yourself or on the wonderful future that God has for you. God is directing your steps. Greater things are yet to be done. And, soon, you will be amazed at what is in store for you!

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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 army.mil/BLOG
ARMY | LIVE - The Official U.S. Army Blog

 vimeo.com/USARMY
The Official U.S. Army Vimeo

 slideshare.net/USARMYSOCIALMEDIA
U.S. Army Social Media Resources

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

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

Department of Defense Summer Camp Experiences

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS ROULEAU
MILITARY ONESOURCE

During the school year, it's easy to fill your children's schedules with activities but the summer can be more challenging. If your children are looking for something exciting to do, the Department of Defense is here to help. Each year, the DoD provides summer camp opportunities for your children, giving them a chance to have fun, meet new people and develop skills that will benefit them for years to come.

Teen adventure camps

The DoD's Office of Family Readiness Policy partners with several universities to offer adventure camps for military teens aged 14 to 18. Through partnering with these universities, DoD is able to use the expertise of university faculty and staff and offer amazing camp experiences. With more than 30 camps across the country, there truly is something for everyone. Past opportunities for your teens have included:

- Sailing around Washington State's Puget Sound
- Kayaking through the Florida Keys

- Wilderness survival camp in Montana's backcountry
- Caving, rappelling and rock climbing expeditions in Kentucky

These camps are not limited to the summer either. If your teens already have their summer booked, there are opportunities to participate in winter-themed camps, as well.

Through this program, the DoD also offers camps designed specifically for military youth and teens with special needs. These camps are focused on providing a safe and fun environment that takes into account the specific needs of participants. Depending on the format of these camps, age requirements for participants may vary.

2015 camps are posted on the Military Teen Adventure Camps website.

Deployment Support Camps

For several years now, the DoD has supported military children and youth going through the military family deployment cycle with camp opportunities across the country. These camps support all military youth,

regardless of service branch, whose parents are deployed, deploying or have recently returned from deployment. Camps are offered across the country and vary in their design and activities. Each camp is developed with the idea of providing participants with the necessary skills to navigate the deployment cycle. While fun is the most important aspect of these camps, another key aspect is bringing military youth together who may have had similar experiences and are able to share how they have dealt with these challenges. To learn more, visit the 4-H Military Partnerships website.

Your local installation

In addition, you can contact your installation youth programs to see what other unique summer activities are available for youth in their immediate area. Contact information for youth programs is available through MilitaryINSTALLATIONS. In the "Looking for a specific program or service?" box, select "Youth Programs/Centers" from the dropdown menu. Take advantage of the opportunities the military and its partners offer to enhance the lives of your military children.

CTNG Child & Youth Program

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

August 23, 2015
1:00 PM, Southington Armory
590 Woodruff Street

- ★ Each school-aged child, who registers in advance, will receive a **FREE** backpack!
- ★ **FREE** school supplies provided by Operation Home front and Dollar Tree!
- ★ **FUN** activities (Bounce Houses, face painting and more)
- ★ **Vendors and Information**
- ★ **Light Snacks**

EACH DEPENDENT MILITARY CHILD IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT!

Please follow the link below and use the Password: B2SB15
<https://back-2-school-bash-2015.eventbrite.com>







OPERATION MILITARY CHILD INTELLIGENCE TRAINING!

Military Youth going into grades K-5 are welcomed to participate in this 4 day event! MCIT offers a variety of fun activities that will make learning fun! Activities include, health and fitness, science, technology and MORE! Most important you will be with other military kids just like you!

\$20.00 non-refundable registration fee per child (checks made payable to CT Youth Council)

August 17-20th
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
(lunch, drink and snacks provided)
Windsor Locks Readiness Center
85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks

RSVPs are REQUIRED by August 10th in addition to completed registration paperwork prior to the start of the program. Please contact Michelle McCarty at michelle.mccarty4.ctr@mail.mil or 860-548-3254 for a registration packet.

On Thursday, August 20th we will visit the CT Science Center!





Summer Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters in each word or phrase below to make a list of words related to summer.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. EACHB
_____ | 8. WIMSINGM
_____ |
| 2. EDCTSANSAL
_____ | 9. TNET
_____ |
| 3. ITAVONCA
_____ | 10. NEINAGGRD
_____ |
| 4. BKTECU
_____ | 11. ROFLWSE
_____ |
| 5. YECLBIC
_____ | 12. CRPHO
_____ |
| 6. NAPMGIC
_____ | 13. REIKSLRNP
_____ |
| 7. BTISALAO
_____ | 14. SRSOHT
_____ |



- ANSWERS**
- | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. BEACH | 2. SANDCASTLE | 3. VACATION | 4. BUCKET | 5. BICYCLE | 6. CAMPING | 7. SAILBOAT |
| 8. SWIMMING | 9. TENT | 10. GARDENING | 11. FLOWERS | 12. BIRCH | 13. SPARKLER | 14. SHORTS |

KID'S CREATIVE CORNER

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

Service Member and Family Support Center Staff Directory

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