

# Connecticut Guardian



VOL. 16 NO. 12

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

DECEMBER 2015

## Farewell 1109th TASMG

Over 60 members of the 1109th Theatre Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group walk the flight line to board their plane in Windsor Locks, Conn. Nov. 1. The Groton-based unit, which had a formal sendoff ceremony just days earlier, headed to Texas for further training in preparation of a deployment that will see members head to Kuwait and Afghanistan. (Photo by Ms. Allison L. Joanis, Connecticut National Guard Public Affairs Office)

See **TASMG** on Page 8,9 for more photos



## Lt. Gov. Wyman, CT Military Dept. Launch Operation E.L.F. Program Supports Military Families Year-Round

THE OFFICE OF LT. GOV. NANCY WYMAN  
OFFICIAL RELEASE

**HARTFORD, CONN.** - Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman joined Major General Thaddeus J. Martin and members of the Connecticut National Guard kicked-off the 13th annual Operation ELF (Embracing Lonely Families) program at a press conference at the William A. O'Neill Armory on Nov. 12. Operation ELF assists the families of Soldiers and Airmen who are deployed during the holidays and provides a wide range of support to military families throughout the year.

"We are deeply grateful for the sacrifices made by our military men and women and their families," said Lt. Governor Wyman. "Operation ELF is a great way to directly support military families, and is part of an overall commitment to improving their quality of life. In conjunction with our workforce training initiatives, expanded educational opportunities, housing assistance, and job placement help, Operation ELF helps create a brighter future for our service members and their families."

"The State of Connecticut hosts this generous campaign each year in conjunction with the Lieutenant Governor and myself, giving all of us an opportunity to support and say 'thank you' to the families of those who are admirably serving our nation and are deployed during the holidays," said Governor Dannel P. Malloy. "Not only do the men and women serving in the military deserve our utmost respect, but we also wholeheartedly acknowledge the sacrifices that their families make because of their loved one's commitment to our country. I encourage everyone to give what they can to help these military families."

Established in 2003, Operation ELF's primary goal is to ease the hardship and



Ms. Kimberly Hoffman, Director, Connecticut Service Member and Family Support Center, speaks about Operation E.L.F. 2015 at a press conference held at the William A. O'Neill Armory, Hartford, Conn. on Nov. 12. Hoffman was joined by Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Adjutant General, Connecticut National Guard (left) and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

See **E.L.F.** Page 12

## National Guard Leadership Stress Importance of Checking in with Battle Buddies



Gen. Frank J. Grass, Chief, National Guard Bureau, and Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell O. Brush, Senior Enlisted Advisor, National Guard Bureau, filmed a public service announcement to speak to guardsmen about the holiday season, posted to the National Guard's YouTube page Nov. 24. "Please take time to check in with your people continually," said Brush. "Leaders, ensure your people are aware of all the resources available to them."

The video is the first in a series that will run weekly through the holiday season.

**Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the Veterans Crisis line, 1-800-273-8255.**

Watch this video, and a new video posted each Monday on the National Guard YouTube page, and on the Connecticut National Guard facebook page, [www.facebook.com/ConnecticutNationalGuard](http://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutNationalGuard).

## Life Lines

CTNG Behavioral Health Help Line - **1-855-800-0120**  
Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline - **1-800-984-8523**  
Emergency - **911**  
[www.armyfamiliesonline.org](http://www.armyfamiliesonline.org) - **1-800-833-6622**  
[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) - **1-800-342-9647**  
National Suicide Hotline - **1-800-SUICIDE**  
[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org) - **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

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



Help is just a *Click, Call or Text* away!



Click [www.SafeHelpline.org](http://www.SafeHelpline.org) Call 877-995-5247

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

\*Text your location for the nearest SARC

## Changing Your Address

If you move and want to continue receiving the *Connecticut Guardian*, you must change your address in one of the following ways:

**Retirees:** If you are a Retired Connecticut Army or Air Guardsman, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Ericka Thurman at [ericka.g.thurman.mil@mail.mil](mailto:ericka.g.thurman.mil@mail.mil) or 860-524-4813.

**Horse and Foot Guard** members must change your addresses with your respective units.

**Current Connecticut Army and Air National Guard Members:** You must change your address with your unit.

**All others** may contact the editor at [allison.l.joanis.civ@mail.mil](mailto:allison.l.joanis.civ@mail.mil) or 860-524-4858.

## Connecticut Guardian

360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795

Phone: (860) 524-4858, DSN: 636-7857

FAX: (860) 524-4902

E-Mail: [allison.l.joanis.civ@mail.mil](mailto:allison.l.joanis.civ@mail.mil)

(Front Page American Flag photo by Buddy Altobello)

Captain-General  
Gov. Dannel P. Malloy

The Adjutant General  
Commanding General, CTNG  
Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin

Assistant Adjutant General - Army  
Brig. Gen. Mark Russo

Assistant Adjutant General - Air  
Brig. Gen. Jon K. Mott

State Command Chief Warrant Officer  
CW5 Mark Marini

State Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Carragher

State Command Chief Master Sergeant  
Chief Master Sgt. Edward Gould

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

Connecticut Guardian Editor  
Ms. Allison L. Joanis

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

The *Connecticut Guardian* is an authorized publication for and in the interest of, the personnel of the Connecticut National Guard, State Military Department, State Militia and their families. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the CTNG Hartford Public Affairs Office and is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Army or the Department of the Air Force. The *Connecticut Guardian* is published monthly in accordance with AR 360-1 and is printed through the Government Printing Office.

Deadline for submissions is noon on December 15 for the January Issue and January 12 for the February issue. Circulation: 7,800



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

December 1, 2015

To the Soldiers and Airmen of the Connecticut National Guard:

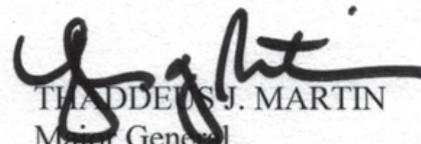
The holiday season is once again upon us. It is this time of year when families across our state celebrate with loved ones and pause to remember those unable to be with us.

As a member of the Connecticut National Guard team, you understand how hard we all work to protect and preserve our freedom both at home and abroad. I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your families for the service you provide and sacrifice you endure on our behalf.

This year we've seen about 240 Connecticut Guardsmen deploy overseas. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers as we move toward the end of another challenging year for our National Guard.

May your holidays be safe and joyful, and may 2016 be filled with happiness, hope and peace for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

  
THADDEUS J. MARTIN  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-102nd Infantry visited Two Rivers Magnet Middle School in East Hartford, Conn. to speak to students about what it means to be a Veteran as part of the school's Veterans Day celebration on Oct. 27. The Soldiers presented a slide show to help the students understand what life was like going through basic training, pre-mobilization, deployment and returning home and also shared a few pieces of typical Soldier equipment including helmets, body armor, and rucksacks. From Left to Right, Staff Sgt. Aaron McLaughlin, Sgt. 1st Class Barry LaBarre, Sgt. Nikolaus Murowsky and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lewis. (Photo provided by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lewis, HHC 1-102nd Infantry Regiment)



## 1-102 Soldiers Educate Local Students on Veterans Day

STAFF SGT. JEREMY LEWIS  
HHC 1-102ND INFANTRY

As part of its preparation for Veterans Day, teachers at Two Rivers Magnet Middle School, East Hartford, invited Soldiers of the 102nd Infantry to speak with students about what it means to be a Veteran.

On Oct. 27, Sgt. 1st Class Barry LaBarre, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lewis, Staff Sgt. Aaron McLaughlin, and Sgt. Nikolaus Murowsky – all members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-102nd Infantry – spoke with students about life in the military and demonstrated a few pieces of key Soldier equipment.

“The overall idea of the event was to teach our students what selfless service, respect and integrity look like as well as what Veterans Day means to our service men and women,” said Ms. Marnie Lopriore, a math teacher at Two Rivers Magnet Middle School who helped to organize the Soldiers’ visit.

The Soldiers put together a picture slideshow to help the students understand what life was like going through basic training, pre-mobilization, deployment and returning home. They also spoke about their families’ experiences dealing with each phase of military life. Each Soldier displayed some of their awards, along with their equipment, including helmets, body armor, rucksacks, and other gear.

LaBarre asked groups of students, “What percentage

of America serves in any branch of the Armed Services? Army, Air Force, any armed service?” Most guessed dramatically higher than the less than 1 percent that currently serves our nation according to a NPR report on Department of Defense, U.S. Census Bureau data in 2011.<sup>1</sup>

**“It was great to see a couple of students at an early age want to follow in our footsteps and pick up the reigns when we leave.”**

Lewis described some of the training to the students. “Part of our training is preparing for a vehicle roll-over. It’s kind of like an amusement park ride where they flip the vehicle over and over and it lands upside down. You learn to trust your seat belt and friends. You look to your left, you look to your right, and you make sure everyone is okay. The whole time you know they’re looking out for you.”

The Soldiers shared pictures and stories from their time in Afghanistan. They described the hardships of deployment and the struggles of everyday Afghanis.

“It was great talking to the kids and seeing them

understand that there are places that aren’t as nice as their home,” said Murowsky. “The kids genuinely appreciated the sacrifice and hardships that service members have gone through to protect that. It was great to see a couple of students at an early age want to follow in our footsteps and pick up the reigns when we leave.”

“Our students were able to make the connection that they do have the privilege to live freely because there are men and women that are willing to put themselves in harm’s way to protect and serve for them,” said Lopriore. “The students have been heard saying things like how they can’t believe how brave they are and that even though they were scared and living in such poor conditions that they still woke up each day and fought for our country.”

“This was a great experience for both the students and the Soldiers,” said LaBarre. “The Soldiers benefitted from sharing their experiences and feeling the respect and gratitude from the student during and after the presentation. The students got a chance to get real insight from Soldiers that have lived the Army life and spent time overseas. A real benefit for all parties involved. I know the Soldiers are looking forward to the chance next year.”

<sup>1</sup> By The Numbers: Today's Military (JULY 03, 2011) Retrieved from: <http://www.npr.org/2011/07/03/137536111/by-the-numbers-todays-military>

# Simulators Take CT Guardsmen to the Skies Indoors

SENIOR AIRMAN EMMANUEL SANTIAGO  
103RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Connecticut Air National flight crew took flight over the skies of Burlington, Vermont on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015; doing so without ever leaving the ramp at the 103rd Airlift Wing's Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Connecticut.

Capt. Mike Jacoby and 1st Lt. Scott Duguay, both pilots with the 118th Airlift Squadron, along with flight engineer, Staff Sgt. Jason Beaudry, "flew" a training mission aboard a recently-acquired flight simulator.

The Flying Yankees took yet another step toward a complete conversion to the C-130H Hercules mission when they started training on a state-of-the-art non-motion flight simulator that was built, delivered and installed by a company called QuantaDyn out of Virginia. Still in its infancy, the multi-mission crew trainer (MMCT)



*Pilots Capt. Mike Jacoby, 1st Lt. Scott Duguay along with flight engineer Staff Sgt. Jason Beaudry (foreground), all members of the 103rd Airlift Wing, navigate the skies of Burlington, Vermont, from a flight simulator at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn. The Flying Yankees are just the third Air National Guard unit to acquire the Multi-Mission Crew Trainer. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Emmanuel Santiago/released)*

gives aircrew the opportunity to simulate various types of emergency procedures and missions utilizing the C-130H. In the future, the software will have the capability

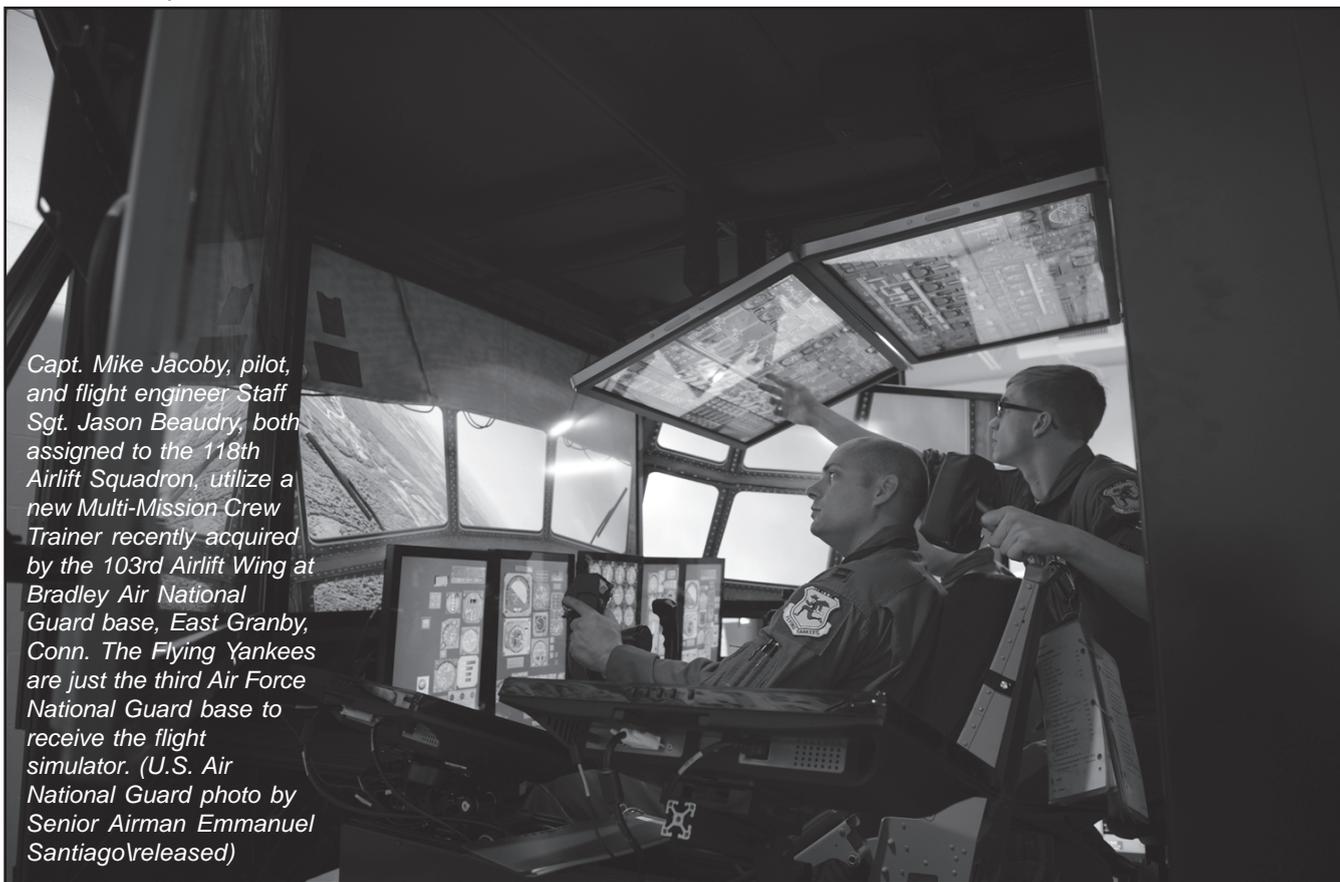
to link up with Guard bases across the country to carry out missions together—virtually. Eventually, the program will also allow pilots to travel to different parts of the world to carry out simulated scenarios.

"It's a great tool for us to use," said Duguay. "Our guys can get the training they need without ever having to fire up an aircraft."

To get the simulator up and running, Senior Master Sgt. Frank Mason, a flight engineer with the 118th, initiates the Integrated Operating systems (IOS) from a work station just behind the cockpit. At Mason's fingertips, he can control just about anything in the simulation including the weather conditions. Once he goes through his checklist and the software is fully running, the crew can begin their preflight checklist and take to the skies, just as they would in a real C-130H.

"We can be sharper in our mission goals by constantly training on this, so we're better out there," Mason said.

The 103rd Airlift Wing is just the third Guard base to acquire the MMCT, behind only the Air National Guard units in St. Joseph, Missouri and Mansfield, Ohio. Eventually, every Guard base will house an MMCT which, according to Mason, will allow for incredible training opportunities for not just the Flying Yankees, but for all like-missioned Guard units.



*Capt. Mike Jacoby, pilot, and flight engineer Staff Sgt. Jason Beaudry, both assigned to the 118th Airlift Squadron, utilize a new Multi-Mission Crew Trainer recently acquired by the 103rd Airlift Wing at Bradley Air National Guard base, East Granby, Conn. The Flying Yankees are just the third Air Force National Guard base to receive the flight simulator. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Emmanuel Santiago/released)*

# Infantrymen, Past & Present Look Toward the Future

## 1-102nd Soldiers Gather for Annual Muster

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON,  
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WALLINGFORD — “This is the best battalion in the U.S. Army,” said Lt. Col. David Pickel, 1-Commander of the 1-102nd Infantry.

Dozens of past and present members of the battalion met for the annual 102nd Regimental Association Muster, Oct. 29, at Zandri’s Stillwood Inn.

Association President, Maj. Frank Tantillo, presided over the evening’s events, which included award presentations and an address by guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Thaddeus Martin, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard.

Martin discussed the current state of the CTNG and encouraged members present to do their part to help the Guard by paying attention to organizations like the National Guard Association of Connecticut and National Guard Association of the U.S. as their careers progressed.

Pickel presented a detailed update on the battalion, which can trace its lineage to the early 17th century.

He said the current operational tempo is slowing and that the battalion will begin to refocus on professional



Dozens of past and present members of the 1-102nd Infantry met for the annual 1-102 Regimental Association muster, Oct. 29. The annual musters are held to update members on the current state of the 1-102nd, and allows members, many who served together, the opportunity to network, share meals and common memories. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

military education and additional skill identifiers. He said he wants to re-instill the “light leader, light fighter” ethos into his Soldiers, and that their upcoming annual training period will help.

“We have a lot of mountain training planned,” said Pickel. “It’s going to be a great time for our Soldiers,” he said.

Before the evening adjourned, Tantillo, who is the current Executive Officer to Maj. Gen. Martin, invited a former member of the battalion, 1st Sgt. (Ret.) Andrew Gamberdella, to address the audience.

Gamberdella enlisted in 1945 and talked about his deployment to Japan in 1950, as a member of Delta Company, to help train Soldiers being sent to fight in Korea.

He told a story about developing a strong bond with a young man that he trained. He said that the young Soldier lost a limb in Korea, but believes that the training the 1-102nd provided his unit helped many of them survive and hold off the Chinese advance.

“It’s important for all of

you to remember our battalion’s history,” said Gamberdella. “There aren’t many of us left to keep telling you the stories,” he said.

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

In 1917, the 1st and 2nd regiments of the Connecticut Infantry were called to federal service. In September of that year, they deployed to France as the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment.

For more information or to join the 102nd Infantry Regiment Association, contact president, Maj. Frank Tantillo: [frank.a.tantillo.mil@mail.mil](mailto:frank.a.tantillo.mil@mail.mil).



1-102nd Infantry Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. David Pickel (center), shares a laugh with 1st Sgt. George Mandell (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Christian Mines, at the 102nd Regimental Association Muster, Oct. 29. Pickel took command of the battalion in July of 2015 and said he’s proud to be the commander of the best battalion in the U.S. Army. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



1st Sgt. (Ret.) Andrew Gamberdella addresses past and present members of the 1-102nd Infantry Battalion at the association’s annual muster, Oct. 29. Gamberdella recalled serving in Delta Company of the battalion during the Korean War. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

# Trial by Fire

Firefighters from the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron, Connecticut Air National Guard, participate in an exercise at the base Aerospace Ground Equipment Duty Section, Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn., on Oct. 8. (Photo By Maj. Bryon Turner, 103rd IG Office UPAR)



## Firefighters and Maintainers Embrace AFIS, Welcome Unbiased Assessment

MAJ. BRYON TURNER  
103RD INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, UPAR

Airmen from the 103rd Maintenance Group and the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department were put to the test during a fire drill held at the base Aerospace Ground Equipment duty section, Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, Oct. 8.

The small-scale exercise tested a variety of capabilities to include the facility's fire alarm system, personnel evacuation and accountability procedures, the first responders' response time and the unit's firefighting and lifesaving skills.

The exercise was initiated by wing inspection team members Senior Master Sgt. Robert Cross, Chief of Fire Emergency Services, and Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Pooler, Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) Manager with the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron. The duo used smoke-generating machines to fill one of the facility's maintenance bays with a billowing cloud of smoke to simulate a growing fire.

The smoke was successfully detected by the installation's fire alarm system, and a loud klaxon sounded throughout the compound, sending Airmen who work there to an established rally point away from any simulated fire-related dangers.

While the Airmen conducted their accountability and made contact with first responders, the facility's building manager, Master Sgt. Dennis Goggin, took the necessary steps to open gates surrounding the compound to facilitate ease of entry by base firefighters before making his way to the rally point.

"Fire drills give us the opportunity to practice our

procedures to the extent that they are second nature," said Goggin. "At shop level, we can evaluate our members' sense of urgency, compliance with evacuation procedures, and vertical and horizontal communication."

Once at the rally point, the evacuated Airmen took accountability to ensure their entire team made their way to safety. While all Airmen were accounted for, members of the wing inspection team indicated a simulated Airman was missing and may have been trapped in the fire. The Airmen then contacted the Maintenance Operations Center, and the Base Defense Operations Center, to make sure their leadership and the installation's first responders had been alerted to their situation.

"The fire drill went very well," said Goggin. "Not only did we meet our semi-annual requirement, but we were also able to validate that members within the Munitions and AGE sections are properly trained on fire evacuation procedures."

In minutes and well below the established required response time, base firefighters arrived on scene and began their assessment of the situation while they donned their protective gear and heavy air tanks to allow them to survive and operate in the hazardous environment.

"This additional weight leads to fatigue, especially with high intensity search and rescue

efforts," said Cross.

Fire Captain David Deskis established the incident command, sending Fire Lieutenant Lisa Deskis (his sister) and firefighters Jason Smith and Howard Coro into action. Lisa Deskis and Smith rapidly entered the facility, lugging their heavy hose, axes and other firefighting gear as they searched for a simulated Airman trapped somewhere in the smoke-filled building, as Coro operated the water pumping controls back at the fire truck.

The firefighters quickly located the source of the smoke as they entered the bay which, at that point, offered zero visibility for those who entered. The rescue team put out the simulated fire, ventilated the room and rescued the simulated trapped Airman, and all in short order.

"Fire personnel routinely face many challenges when responding to emergency situations. Every incident is different and can range from medical, aircraft, structural, hazmat or rescue in nature," said Cross. "These many combinations make it difficult to prepare."

All of this happened under the watchful eyes of the wing inspection team and the unit's own Inspector General Office. Despite the challenges that come with fighting fire and safely evacuating a facility, the exercise resulted in no compliance-related deficiencies and only a handful of recommended improvement areas.

"The tactical response from the Flying Yankee Fire Department was flawless and extremely well-executed, meeting all Air Force and Air National Guard standards," said Lt. Col. James Guerrero of the 103rd Airlift Wing's Inspector General's office.

Unlike most of the exercises held at Bradley over the past year, this one was not scheduled by the wing IG team. Instead, the exercise was planned and executed by sergeants Cross and Pooler, who reached out to the Wing IG Office to request an independent assessment of the firefighters' efforts and those processes and procedures followed by the Airmen who evacuated the facility.

The results were a realistic exercise scenario and a comprehensive evaluation of its execution, said Cross. "Working closely with Safety and base IG personnel provides the fire department another clear set of eyes that may help identify a hazard that we have overlooked," he said. "In addition, their assistance may expedite a remedy through wing leadership, with additional resources or funding."



Firefighters from the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron, Connecticut Air National Guard, participate in an exercise at the base Aerospace Ground Equipment Duty Section, Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn., on Oct. 8. (Photo By Maj. Bryon Turner, 103rd IG Office UPAR)

# 1109th TASM-G Send Off Ceremony and Departure

CAPT. MIKE PETERSEN AND MS. ALLISON L. JOANIS  
CTNG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

A formal send off ceremony for the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1109th Theatre Aviation Sustainment Group was held at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks on Oct. 27.

The TASM-G mobilized to deploy 65 Soldiers to Afghanistan and Kuwait to provide rotary-wing maintenance in support of NATO's Resolute Support Mission. Based in Groton, the unit is commanded by Col. Vincent Vannoorbeeck.

The unit last deployed in 2012, a mission also requiring a split of forces between Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Only four TASM-Gs exist in the nation, and Connecticut's is responsible for providing technical and mechanical support to the rotary-wing assets of 14 states.

"The uniqueness of the 1109th is an asset that will serve the needs of the nation well on this deployment," said Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, Adjutant General and commanding officer of the Connecticut National Guard. "This well-trained, highly-skilled unit that will excel as so many other Connecticut National Guard units have done during deployments."

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman joined Maj. Gen. Martin as part of the official party. She wished the Soldiers of the 1109th well on their mission as well as vowing to support the needs of their family members at home.

Wyman and Martin presented the unit with a Connecticut Flag to fly over their location overseas, a tradition at Connecticut National Guard send off ceremonies.

Less than one week later, the 65 guardsmen said goodbye to their families at the AASF in Windsor Locks, and left for their mobilization station, Ft. Hood, Texas, for further validation in preparation for their deployment overseas.

Their departure marks the fourth Connecticut Army National Guard unit to deploy in 2015 and brings the number of Soldiers deployed around the world to 240.



The deploying members of the 1109th TASM-G stand in formation and salute during the playing of the National Anthem at their sendoff ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Conn. Oct. 27. (Photo by Maj. Jefferson Heiland, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



Maj. Gen. Thad Martin speaks to the deploying members of the 1109th TASM-G and their family members as Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman (left) looks on during a sendoff ceremony held at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Conn. Oct. 27. (Photo by Maj. Jefferson Heiland, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



From left to right, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, Col. Vincent Vannoorbeeck, State Command Sgt. Maj. John Carragher, Command Sgt. Maj. Frederick Finnigan and Maj. Gen. Thad Martin pose with the Connecticut state flag. In keeping with sendoff ceremony tradition, Vannoorbeeck and Finnigan, the command team of the 1109th TASM-G, were presented with the flag and will fly it at their deployed location. (Photo by Maj. Jefferson Heiland, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



*Spc. Daniel Cavanna and family members pose in front of a Connecticut Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Conn. Prior to the 1109th TASM-G's sendoff ceremony, Oct. 27. Cavanna is a member of a 65-soldier team deploying. (Photo by Ms. Allison L. Joanis, CTNG Public Affairs Office)*



*Sgt. Emanuel Quinones and family members pose in front of a Connecticut Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Conn. Prior to the 1109th TASM-G's sendoff ceremony, Oct. 27. Quinones is a member of a 65-soldier team deploying. The TASM-G will provide rotary-wing maintenance in support of NATO's Resolute Support Mission. (Photo by Ms. Allison L. Joanis, CTNG Public Affairs Office)*



*(above) Deploying members of the 1109th TASM-G leave the Army Aviation Support Facility hangar to board a plane bound for Fort Hood, Texas, where they will continue to train prior to heading overseas. The 65 members of the 1109th TASM-G are commanded by Col. Vincent Vannoorbeeck and Command Sgt. Maj. Frederick Finnigan. (Photo by Ms. Allison L. Joanis, CTNG Public Affairs Office)*



*Soldiers of the 1109th TASM-G board their plane for Fort Hood, Texas to continue training and validation prior to deployment to Kuwait and Afghanistan. The TASM-G is the fourth Connecticut Army National Guard unit to deploy in 2015, bringing the total number of deployed Connecticut Army National Guardsmen to 240 around the world. (Photo by Ms. Allison L. Joanis, CTNG Public Affairs Office)*



*(left) Family members wave to their loved ones boarding a plane bound for Fort Hood, Texas. The 1109th TASM-G is one of four units of its kind in the United States and is responsible for the rotary-wing aircraft maintenance of 14 U.S. states. (Photo by Ms. Allison L. Joanis, CTNG Public Affairs Office)*

# Reviving the Connecticut National Guard Golf League

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

As best as I can determine, the Connecticut National Guard Golf League began in the spring of 1996 at Keney Park Golf Course in Hartford.

For many years, the league enjoyed a good relationship with the management of Keney Park, which at one time was one of the premier courses in the greater Hartford area. Unfortunately, due to mismanagement, the course fell on hard times, and the league suffered as well. It is my hope to resurrect the league for 2016 and return it to a league to be proud of.

Keney Park Golf Course first opened in 1927 as primarily a links-style course. The front nine was designed by Devereux Emmet, who also designed the Country Club of Farmington. The back nine holes opened in 1930 and were designed by a local engineer, Robert Ross. Keney Park is a par-70 and plays 6014 yards.

At the end of 2013, Keney Park was in awful condition. An internal City of Hartford audit laid blame on MDM Golf Enterprises, which managed the course, and the city for lack of oversight. The city terminated its contract with MDM and closed the course.

Over the course of the winter of 2013 and spring of 2014, the city set aside \$10 million for improvements and

others who may have golfed at Keney, you know how good the course can be, if only properly maintained.

I had the opportunity to walk the course this past August with the new club pro, and was very impressed with the improvements made to the course. Emphasis was placed on preserving much of the existing land forms and ground contours, but at the same time, some greens were moved and enlarged; bunkers added or removed; fairways improved; improving tee boxes; and removing many trees to make the layout more playable.



The new par 3, 13th hole at the Keney Park Golf Course in Hartford, Conn. (Photo Courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer Four (Ret.) John Godburn)



The Club House at Keney Park Golf Course in Hartford, Conn. (Photo Courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer Four (Ret.) John Godburn)

hired Matthew Dusenberry Designs of Milwaukee to redesign the course and oversee the project. Before starting his own design company, Dusenberry was a long time associate of Greg Norman Golf Course Design. Work began in the spring of 2014, and continued through 2015. It is scheduled to reopen in the spring of 2016.

For those who are former members of the league, or

2016 is the clubhouse renovation. Work on that is scheduled to begin this month and expected to be completed in time for the 2017 season. A temporary clubhouse will be used for this upcoming season.

The city also hired a new club pro, Peter Seaman. He began his professional career as an Assistant Professional at Laurel View Country club in Hamden. In

Plans also included the lengthening of the course. Hole No. 9 saw new tee boxes set back further in the woods and a green moved closer to the clubhouse. Particularly exciting is the old elevated tee boxes on the 12th and 13th holes, which had been closed for years. They have been completely redesigned and reopened, making for two very exciting holes.

New irrigation and drainage throughout the course should alleviate problems that plagued the 2nd hole. The new irrigation should also keep the fairways and tee boxes green and lush.

Across the street, a driving range and practice green and bunkers have been added.

The only part of the project that will not be completed for

2012 and 2013, he was the Head Golf Professional at Minnechaug in Glastonbury. And most recently he was the Assistant Professional at Mill River Country Club in Stratford.

As I stated earlier, I am looking to revive the league. The league is open to current and former members of the CTNG, employees of the CTNG and retirees. We will return to Keney Park Golf Course in 2016, in our old time slot – Thursday afternoons at 3:30 pm. I am looking for a minimum of 20 golfers and a maximum of 28. The format will be two-person teams, competing in match play each week, in a “round robin” rotation. In addition to the regular weekly golfers, I would also like to build a robust bench of subs. So if some of you cannot make the commitment to weekly play, consider adding your name to the list of subs.

And finally, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, prosperous and Happy New Year.

**WANT TO JOIN?**  
**Contact John Godburn by**  
**email - [cjgodburn@gmail.com](mailto:cjgodburn@gmail.com),**  
**or phone - home: 860-489-0736,**  
**cell: 860-491-6063.**  
**More information will be**  
**available to those interested**  
**in January 2016.**

# USPS 2015 Holiday Shipping Cut Off Dates

The holidays are upon us and the United States Postal Service has released cut off dates for 2015 holiday shipping and mailing. Be sure to get your packages ready and mailed out so your loved one receives your holiday cheer in time to celebrate!

## USPS 2015 Holiday Shipping Cut Off Dates

Domestic Mail Class/Product	Cut Off Date
First Class Mail	Dec-19
Priority Mail	Dec-21
Priority Mail Express*	Dec-23
Standard Post	Dec-15
DNDC Drop Ship	Dec-19
DDU Drop Ship	Dec-22
International Mail**	
Priority Mail Express Military APO/FPO/DPO**	

\*Priority Mail Express postage refund eligibility is adjusted for shipments mailed Dec 22-25

\*\* See additional information below

Military Mail Addressed To/From	Priority Mail Express Military™ Service (PEMS) <sup>1/</sup>	First-Class Mail® Letters and Cards	Priority Mail®	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) <sup>2/</sup>	Space Available Mail (SAM) <sup>3/</sup>	Standard Post™
APO/FPO/DPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-25	Nov-7
APO/FPO/DPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec-3	Dec-3	Dec-3	Nov-25	Nov-7
APO/FPO/DPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-25	Nov-7
APO/FPO/DPO AA ZIP 340	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-25	Nov-7
APO/FPO/DPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-25	Nov-7

### 2015 Holiday Season Import Dates

December 1 Last day to send parcel post packages via surface transportation

December 1 Last day to send letters, flats and small packages via surface transportation

December 11 Last day to send priority packages via air transportation

December 10 Last day to send letters, flats and small packages via air transportation

December 19 Last day to send Express Mail Service items (any shape)

### Mail class by code:

LC = Letters, aerogramme's (USPS no longer offers outbound aerogramme's), cards and letter package

AO = Newspapers, magazines, matter for the blind, printed matter, small package

CP = Packages - parcel post (surface), priority (air)

*E.L.F. From Page 1*

stress that come with a loved one's deployment overseas. Organizers seek donations of children's toys, gift cards to grocery, department, home supply stores, and pharmacies, as well as donations of fuel oil, snow removal, and home maintenance services. These gifts are distributed by the Connecticut Military Department and are used throughout the year. Donors may also participate in the Adopt-A-Family program to provide essential goods or services a military family needs such as winter clothing, food assistance, and utility assistance.

"Connecticut's service members are forever appreciative for the unwavering support given by Governor Malloy and Lt. Governor Wyman to the Connecticut National Guard, their families, and all of Connecticut's military service members," said Maj. Gen. Martin. "It never ceases to amaze me how the citizens of Connecticut continuously support our Airmen and Soldiers with generosity and selflessness year after year."

Nearly 250 Connecticut National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are currently deployed in support of operations around the world.



*Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman (left) and Ms. Kimberly Hoffman, Director, Connecticut National Guard Department Family Program kick-off Operation E.L.F. 2015 at a press conference held at the William A. O'Neill Armory, Hartford Conn. on Nov. 12. Op. E.L.F. is hosted by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and the Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)*

## Operation E.L.F. 2015 Drop-Off Information

**DONATIONS** may be dropped off to the following armories or National Guard facilities through **Friday December 14, 2015 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

**103rd Airlift Wing  
100 Nicholson Rd.  
East Granby, CT 06026**

**William A. O'Neill Armory  
360 Broad St.  
Hartford, CT 06105**

**New London Armory  
249 Bayonet St.  
New London, CT 06320**

**Veterans' Memorial AFRC  
90 Wooster Heights Rd.  
Danbury, CT 06810**

**Windsor Locks Readiness Center  
85-300 Light Ln.  
Windsor Locks, CT 06906**

Financial donations may also be made through the Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc. mailed to:

**Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc.  
360 Broad Street, Hartford CT 06105**

**For more information visit our website <http://ct.ng.mil/ELF>  
and Like Operation E.L.F. on Facebook /ConnecticutOperationELF**

**OPERATION E.L.F. Hotline 1-800-858-2677**

# AROUND OUR GUARD

*A Glimpse at Connecticut  
Guardsmen and Events*

## 143rd RSG Soldiers Receive NATO Medals in Afghanistan



Members of the 143rd Regional Support Group pose for a photo after receiving their NATO Medals at a ceremony at the Resolute Support Mission Headquarters in Afghanistan. The unit, commanded by Col. John Wiltse, deployed 35 Soldiers in April of 2015. (photo by Lt. Col. Michael Falk, 143rd Regional Support Group CTARNG)

## 2015 Officer Dining In



Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster (left), Director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center and Deputy Commanding General, Futures, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, delivers the keynote address at the 2015 Officers Dining In at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Conn. In 2014, McMaster, author of the 1997 book, "Dereliction of Duty," was honored as one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People. (Photo by Capt. Mike Petersen, CTNG Public Affairs Officer)



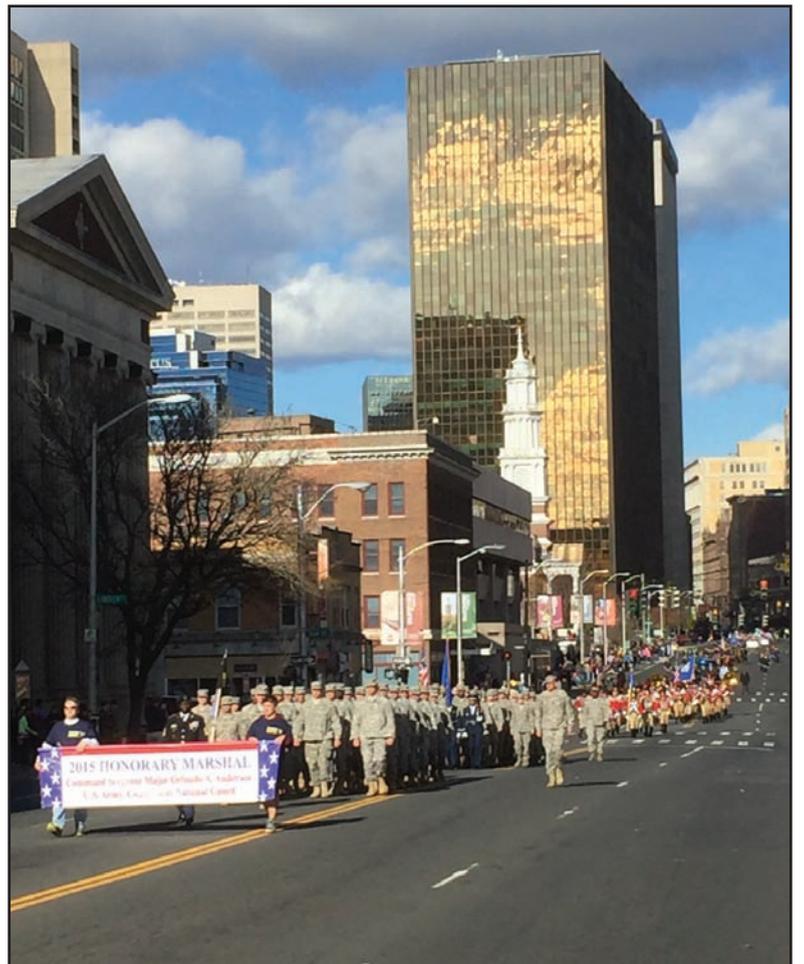
## Retired Guardsmen Helps to Honor Eight of Connecticut's Fallen Heroes

Staff Sgt. (ret.) Giuseppe Pampena, carries the remains of Henry DuFresne at a ceremony honoring eight Connecticut veterans, whose remains were located and identified by the Missing in America Project. The cremated remains were interred at a ceremony hosted by Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and Commissioner Sean Connolly, Department of Veterans Affairs, at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown on Oct. 15.

Henry DuFresne served during World War I as a Regimental Sergeant Major in the Central Record Office in France. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army on August 28, 1919. He passed away at the age of 87 in Greenwich.

Other Veterans posthumously honored were John Nelson, Kenneth Joseph, Victor Glazer, Douglas MacKinnon, Ernst Tuchmann and Samuel Gruber of Stamford, and Earl Dietrich. (Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. (ret.) Giuseppe Pampena)

# Connecticut Celebrates Veterans



(above) Connecticut Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Soldiers march down Main St. in Hartford, Nov. 8, in the Connecticut Veterans Parade. JFHQ joined more than 3,000 marchers in the event. (Photo by Capt. Mike Petersen, CTNG Public Affairs Officer)



(left) First Company Governor's Horse Guard members march towards the Capitol building, Nov. 8 in the Connecticut Veterans Parade. The First Company Governor's Horse Guard, chartered in 1788, is the oldest continuously active mounted cavalry unit in the United States. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Connecticut Veterans Parade Marshal, Lt. Col. (ret.) Kristopher Perry, served in the U.S. Air Force and Navy, prior to retiring after more than 25 years of service. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



Connecticut Veterans Parade Marshal, Command Sgt. Maj. Orlando Anderson, leads Joint Force Headquarters, CTARNG under the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, Nov. 8. Anderson, who has served 25 years in the CTARNG, was selected to be an honorary parade marshal, by the Connecticut Veterans Parade committee. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)



(above) A Connecticut Air National Guard C-130H flies above the Connecticut Veterans Parade during a moment of silence held to remember the servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice defending the United States. This is the parade's first flyover since 2008. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

(top left) Connecticut Veterans Parade Marshal, Brig. Gen. (ret) Joseph Perkins, prepares for the parade's start, Nov. 8 in Hartford. Perkins spent over 34 years in the military, as a U.S. Marine, serving one year of combat duty in Vietnam, and as a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard. He said there are so many benefits to serving in the military and encourages young Soldiers to take advantage of opportunities available to them during their time in uniform. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

(left) Lt. Col. Sean Connolly salutes a wreath laid in honor of Connecticut veterans, at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, Nov. 8. Connolly currently serves as Connecticut Commissioner of Veteran Affairs. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

## Opening Ceremony of Connecticut State Veterans Memorial

Members of the Connecticut National Guard participated in the opening ceremony of the Connecticut State Veterans Memorial on Nov. 9. The memorial, located at Minuteman Park in Hartford - directly in front of the William A. O'Neill Armory - pays tribute to 1.3 million men and women from Connecticut who served honorably in the U.S. military in defense of our freedom.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and the Connecticut State Veterans Memorial Board of Directors were joined by Congressman John Larson, Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Connecticut Military Department Adjutant General, Sean Connolly, Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner and Linda Schwartz, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary for Policy and Planning to officially commemorate the opening of the memorial.

The memorial features pillars representing the five branches of the military, large stones reflecting U.S. wars and conflicts and smaller granite pavers engraved with the names of Connecticut Veterans.

The event was coordinated by a committee of Veterans and volunteers of the Connecticut State Veterans Memorial, Inc., a non-profit organization established exclusively to raise funds for a statewide memorial to honor all Connecticut Veterans.

(photo by Ms. Allison L. Joanis, CTNG Public Affairs Office)



# Take Your Career to the Next Level: Go WOCS

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE JOHN NERKOWSKI  
WARRANT OFFICER STRENGTH MANAGER CTARNG RRC

Did you know there are over 100 warrant officers currently serving in the Connecticut Army National Guard?

If it seems like a lot, it only means that less than 3 percent of those serving in the CTARNG are warrant officers. Chances are, you've never worked with a warrant officer and perhaps you're asking yourself, "What is a warrant officer?" or, "How do I become a warrant officer?"

A warrant officer is an officer appointed by the Secretary of the Army, based on a sound level of technical and tactical competence. The Army warrant officer is a self-aware and adaptive technical expert, combat leader, trainer, and advisor. Warrant officers are innovative integrators of emerging technologies, dynamic teachers, confident war fighters, and developers of specialized teams of Soldiers. A warrant officer is the highly specialized expert and trainer who, by gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership, operates, maintains, administers and manages the Army's equipment, support activities, or technical systems for an entire career. They are commonly referred to as the quiet professionals.

There are two types of warrant officers: technical and rated aviators. Since rated aviators are handled by the State Army Aviation Officer, this article focuses on the requirements to become a technical warrant officer. Technical warrant officers are required to have a feeder MOS or civilian work experience related to the MOS. MOS feeders that exist in the CTARNG are: 12-series, 25-series, 35-series, 42A/F, 68A, 89 A/B/D, 91-series, and 92-series. There are two warrant officer career fields where your civilian expertise may be substituted in place of the required feeder MOS are 255A (Information Services Technician) and 255N (Network Management Technician). An applicant

can substitute four years of civilian IT experience in place of the requisite MOS feeder.

Warrant officer candidates must also meet the following general administrative requirements:

- US Citizenship (No Waivers).
- High school graduate or have a GED (No Waivers).
- Secret or Top Secret Security Clearance.
- Passing Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and meet height/weight standards.
- Pass the commissioning physical.
- 12 months remaining on their enlistment contract.
- Active Federal Service (AFS): All applicants must have 12 years of AFS or less prior to their packet being boarded.
- Age 46 or less prior to their packet being boarded.

If you are selected to become a warrant officer candidate, you will go through one of two programs: WOCS Active Component, or WOCS Reserve Component.

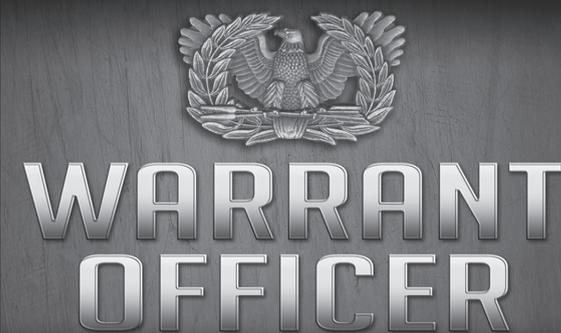
WOCS Active Component takes place at Fort Rucker, Alabama. The WOCS Reserve Component is held right here in Connecticut at the 169th Regimental Training Institute, at Camp Niantic. The RTI WOCS program is three phases: Phase One is Distributed Learning. Phase Two requires five drill periods, and Phase Three is a two-week Annual Training conducted at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Upon graduation from WOCS, you will be appointed as a Warrant Officer (WO1) and ready to attend your MOS-specific training at a Warrant Officer Basic Course.

As an added incentive to consider this career path, there is currently a \$20,000 bonus for some vacancies.

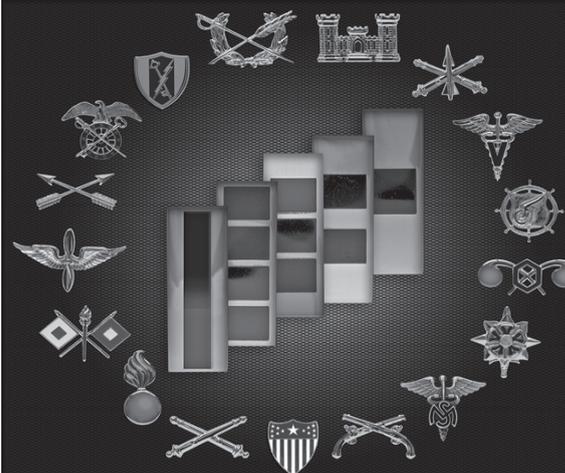
If you are interested in becoming a warrant officer and would like to schedule an appointment, call the CTARNG Warrant Officer Strength Manager, Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Nerkowski, at (203) 410-0828.

You can also send an email to [john.v.nerkowski.mil@mail.mil](mailto:john.v.nerkowski.mil@mail.mil). The Warrant Officer Recruiter office is located at the Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center, 375 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457.



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](mailto:john.v.nerkowski.mil@mail.mil)

CONNECTICUT  
NATIONAL GUARD

## IS YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA SAFE?

- Check your Privacy Settings
- Don't post Personal Identifying Info
- Be selective who you connect with
- Watch for OPSEC violations
- Turn off Geotagging on your devices
- Post with common sense!

Be sure to check and adjust your settings!

## Enlisted Update: *Give Thanks and Stay Safe During the Holidays*



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.  
JOHN S. CARRAGHER

Greetings to all! We have made it through another Thanksgiving and are deep into the madness of the holiday season. This month, I want to take a moment to reflect on some of the things that I am thankful for, talk about the challenges we face during this season, and review some holiday safety issues.

Each of us have many different things to be thankful for. We would each answer differently when asked the question, "What are you thankful for?"

The first thing that comes to my mind is family. As dedicated as each of us are, it is our families that do the hard work. None of us could do what we do without the support of our families.

I am thankful that I can call close to 5,000 Connecticut guardsmen my brothers and sisters in arms. Not a day goes by that I am not amazed by the patriotism, competence, dedication, and loyalty demonstrated every day by the Soldiers and Airmen of Connecticut. Your sustained superior performance may seem overlooked because we have come to expect excellence and you never fail to exceed our expectations. I am truly humbled to serve with the greatest Airmen and Soldiers in America.

I am thankful for those that came before us. The leaders that took the time to guide, teach, and discipline me, made me the Soldier and the person that I am today. We

all owe our predecessors a debt of gratitude that can only be repaid by trying to emulate them and by passing on their lessons learned to the next generation.

I am thankful to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. They cannot be with us as we celebrate the holidays but are forever with us in spirit.

Regardless of how you celebrate the holidays, it can be a very trying time for many people. For many of us, the holidays are a happy and joyous time, but for some it is exactly the opposite. The holidays can be a dark, stressful, lonely time of year and if you experience those feelings, you are not alone.

I challenge everyone, but especially leaders, to make an extra effort to reach out to your people between drill weekends and check in. The simple phone call, text message, or e-mail may lift their spirits and encourage them to keep going during a bad time.

The holiday season is also prime time for bad decision making when it comes to safety and in particular, the use of alcohol.

Many of us travel long distances to visit with friends or relatives. Please make sure you have a plan and are well rested for the trip. Take the time to inspect your vehicle and make repairs as necessary. Take frequent breaks and don't push yourself beyond your capabilities. If the weather is bad, wait for it to pass. Do not talk or text while driving and do not drink and drive.

The holiday season presents many opportunities to gather socially with friends, family, and co-workers. It is a time to celebrate. Celebrations often include the consumption of alcohol. Please drink responsibly. If you

are driving, don't drink. If you are drinking, don't drive. If you see someone who has had too much to drink try to get behind the wheel, offer them a ride or assistance. Any short term embarrassment will be far better than the consequences of drunk driving; incarceration, injury, or death. The best way to avoid the opportunity for a bad decision concerning drinking and driving is to have a designated driver and a plan before the night begins.

In addition to the hazards that come with drinking and driving, alcohol consumption can also lead to unwanted sexual contact. The use of alcohol is a contributing factor in most sexual assaults and rapes, especially in situations involving acquaintances. If you see your brother or sister headed into harm's way, TAKE ACTION. Look out for each other during this festive time and always.

On behalf of myself and family, I thank you for all you do for our State, our Nation, and each other. I wish you the very happiest of holidays and a happy, prosperous New Year.

### Quote of the Month:

"In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility - I welcome it."

*35th President of the United States*  
-John F. Kennedy

"Any Soldier, Any Issue, Any Time"  
-CSM Carragher



**DID YOU KNOW...**

Of Soldiers age 18-24,

**19%**

meet criteria for alcohol dependence.

Self-referral may be an option for you.

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

# Inside OCS: Fulfilling a Family Legacy

OC ANDREW SOLARI  
CLASS 61, OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL  
169TH REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE CTARNG



I was only 17 when I swore oath to the United States Army over ten years ago at Foxboro Stadium during halftime of a New England Patriots game.

The amount of pride I felt hearing 77,000 fans cheering for the decision I had made is

one I will remember forever. What give me a greater sense of pride is fulfilling my family's legacy of enlisted soldiers earning a commission. With Class 61 of OCS I get a little closer to walking in those family footsteps.

The cadre do an excellent job reminding candidates that motivation and performance both at drill and off drill weekends is imperative. To let down my family and fail a major training exercise is what scares me most, which makes me work even harder to succeed. The cadre, however, know how to channel that fear into a learning experience, which I oddly appreciate. It gives me a sense of pride with each and every progression I make throughout the course.

The part I find most amazing is that even with a decade of military experience, including an assignment as a squad leader, the cadre manage to provide scenarios that keep the pressure on us at all times.

With each passing training event, the constant reminder of failure lingers in the back of mind as I see candidates drop from the program. Whether it is for personal reasons outside or failure of a major training event, I do my best to get my peers to strive for the goal of graduation to become commissioned officers. I cannot reiterate it enough to them, "You're just learning in the hardest way, it will be so worth it in the end."

I hope the remainder of my peers and I make it. I have grown close the remaining candidates, learning that I can depend on most of them and that we are in it for each other.

I am thrilled to still be in the program each day and after every major training event. I am filled with pride and a great sense of honor to be carrying on with the program. It is in my opinion the best part about this program.



## Become a Subject Matter Expert in Small Arms Marksmanship

**WHO:** Soldiers with a need or desire to become a primary weapons instructor for the pistol and/or rifle

**What:** Unit Marksmanship Trainer Course (UMTC)

**When:** January 30-31, February 27-28

**Where:** Camp Niantic and Salem Indoor Range

**Why:** To provide commanders with a Subject Matter Expert in small arms marksmanship.

Attendees will graduate with all the necessary skills needed to employ both non-electric and electric training simulators in the instruction of marksmanship training for their fellow unit personnel.

**Contact your training NCO for details  
(reference CTNG Circular 350-16-19)**

# Governor's Horse and Foot Guards

## Second Company Commandant Retires

2ND LT. KEN FAY  
2ND Co. GOV. HORSE GUARD

Maj. Gordon Johnson, Commandant of the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard for the past eight years, retired, Nov. 29. As a volunteer firefighter with Hawleyville and an EMT with the Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Gordon was not a stranger to volunteering his time. He and his daughter, Kindra, joined the Second Horse together.

Gordon moved quickly through the ranks serving as Troop Coronet and later as a training officer before being elected Commandant in 2007. Throughout his service with the Second Horse, Gordon has participated in every aspect of 2GHG life and has a great deal of respect and admiration from his fellow Troopers. Some events stand out from the others including celebrating the unit's 200th Anniversary and welcoming visitors from the Sioux Nation in a meeting of brotherhood and solidarity after the tragic events of Sandy Hook in December 2012.

"I feel privileged to have served among a special group of people" Gordon says. "Not just the Second Horse but all of Connecticut's State Militia Units, State Military Department, and National Guard. It's been a humbling and truly amazing experience."

Thank you Maj. Johnson; from all of us who have proudly served with you.



Major Gordon Johnson leads the Second Company Horse Guard during the 2015 Labor Day Parade. (Photo by Pvt. 1st Class Jodi Fay, Second Company Horse Guard)

## Guard Foundation Announces 2016 Scholarships

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc announces its 2016 scholarship program. This year the foundation will award a total of **eight** scholarships.

- **Two \$4000.00 scholarships honoring Sgt. Felix Del Greco Jr.** will be awarded to the son or daughter of a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard.

Please note that a special application is required for the Del Greco scholarship which may be obtained from: <http://www.conncf.org>. No other application will be accepted.

- **One \$2000.00 scholarships and Five \$1,000.00 scholarships** will be awarded to Connecticut National Guard and Organized Militia members or their sons, daughters, or spouses. Application forms may be found on the Foundations web site at: [www.ctngfoundation.org](http://www.ctngfoundation.org)

Additional Information:

- Complete application packets must be postmarked no later than **March 15, 2016**
- The selection committee will choose students based on achievement and citizenship.
- You must be enrolled in, or planning to enroll in, a regionally or nationally accredited degree or technical program.
- Mail application form (CTNGFI Scholarship Only) and completed package to:

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

- Please contact the foundation at (860) 241-1550 or email [ctngfi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ctngfi@sbcglobal.net) for further details.

# Off the Bookshelf: Save Your Letters

## "Love From Chezeau: WWI Memoirs of Clarence Bush"

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON  
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Pvt. Clarence Bush was activated into federal service on July 31, 1917. His Massachusetts National Guard unit would be deployed to France with the 101st Field Artillery, 26th Yankee Division, to France just weeks later.

The newly married Bush wrote letters home to his young wife, Margaret, for his entire stint on active duty. These letters and the included pictures, postcards and drawings were edited by Bush's granddaughter, Lyn Allyn, and published in book form in 2006.

As a narrative, "Love from Chezeaux," is not riveting reading material, but it is fascinating from a historical perspective. Bush details his numerous experiences as a young National Guard Soldier being deployed to a foreign country for the first time. If you're interested in the functions the National Guard served in 1917 and the day-to-day activities of Guardsmen, this book is for you. If you're looking for a sharp, rough or even satirical look at World War I, there are many other options available.

During Bush's mobilization period, he described events that would likely seem familiar to modern day National Guard Soldiers: being issued new uniforms, hearing multiple deployment location rumors and even performing PT in the rain. He also mentions activities that are probably unfamiliar to many of us: unit blueberry picking hikes, receiving extra steak in the chow hall and being immediately accepted by his unit's active duty counterparts.

Bush does not go into details about his training, which

is odd. He repeatedly mentions 'drilling' and marching, but never artillery or marksmanship. There are a few explanations for this. Perhaps he did not feel that those things were of interest to his wife. Perhaps he was ordered not to discuss training details in letters. Perhaps his granddaughter edited those sections out. Or perhaps, Bush's National Guard unit just didn't train a whole lot in preparation for their deployment.

On-the-job training may have been the expectation of the rapidly deploying American forces during World War I. The war had been ongoing for three years and swift American intervention was desperately needed.

On September 28, 1917, Bush and his unit slept in barracks in southwestern France for the first time. His 18 months in the war included providing artillery support to advancing forces and occasionally taking pot shots at low flying German aircraft. Those pot shots are in fact the more interesting portions of Bush's narrative.

"When the German hit the ground he escaped out of his machine and ran into a farmhouse. He emerged from the farmhouse with five wounds, proud and superior, not like a fugitive. The French pilot who fought him in the air walked up to him, and to the amazement of the Americans, shook hands with him! 'It's the game,' he explained."

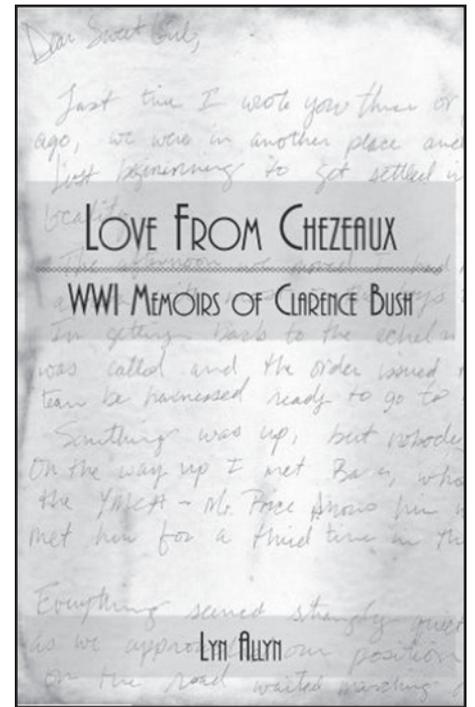
In April of 1919, Bush returned to Massachusetts, mostly unscathed. However, 1,587 Yankee Division Soldiers were killed in action, and 12,077 were wounded during the war.

Bush's family saved his letters, and that is the main point of this article. Save your letters. Save your journals.

Save your pictures. Although you may be sick and tired of those memories, your family members and loved ones, especially from future generations, are not. They will cherish them, will know you better and will pass down

stories about your service. They may even share them with the rest of the world.

Grandfather survived artillery fire, bombings, mustard gas explosions, freezing rain, and sleepless nights all the while moving horse-drawn caissons through knee-high mud to the front lines. He lived to tell about it..."



The Connecticut Guardian  
**ONLINE**  
<http://ct.ng.mil/Guardian>

**THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD**  
**OFFICIAL WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

<http://ct.ng.mil/>  
Official CT National Guard Website

[facebook.com/connecticutnationalguard](https://facebook.com/connecticutnationalguard)  
The Official CT National Guard Fan Page

[twitter.com/ctnationalguard](https://twitter.com/ctnationalguard)  
The Official CT National Guard Twitter

[instagram.com/ctnationalguard](https://instagram.com/ctnationalguard)  
The Official CT National Guard Instagram

[flickr.com/ctnationalguard](https://flickr.com/ctnationalguard)  
The Official CT National Guard Flickr

---

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

# Military History: General Alfred Terry

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

Alfred Howe Terry was born in Hartford, Connecticut on November 10, 1827. His family moved to New Haven and he started studying law at Yale, but withdrew before graduating. Despite the lack of a diploma, he began a law practice in 1849 after



General Alfred Terry

a short stint as an apprentice in a law office. Terry joined the Connecticut Militia the same year and in 11 short years, he went from private to colonel.

In 1860, he spent the summer in Europe studying military fortifications. Upon his return to Connecticut hostilities had started and he joined the 2nd Connecticut Volunteers as a colonel of the 21st Regiment. The unit was sent to Washington, D.C. where they protected the capital and participated in the First Battle of Bull

Run. When Terry's 90-day enlistment expired, he returned to Connecticut and re-enlisted in the 7th Connecticut Volunteers as colonel of the regiment. Soon after, he was brevetted to the rank of Brigadier General.

From 1862 to 1864, the 7th Connecticut took part in a number of significant engagements in Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. In January 1865 his unit captured Fort Fisher, North Carolina by assaulting under the cover of naval gunfire. For this he was permanently promoted to Brigadier General. As the war drew to a close, Terry was brevetted to Major General and given command of the Department of the South.

Gen. Terry was given command of the Dakotas in 1866. He was General George Custer's commanding officer when Custer's unit was wiped out at the Battle of Little Big Horn. General Terry's next assignment was commander of Department of Missouri where he was promoted to Major General in the Regular Army – the only Civil War General who was not a graduate of West Point to be promoted to such rank. Terry retired from the Army in 1888 and died two years later. He is buried in Grove Street cemetery in New Haven. The inscription on his tablet reads:

*In memory of Alfred Howe Terry, Major General, U.S.A honored by his countrymen for his unsullied patriotism. And for his devoted service to the nation in war and in peace. Loved for the purity of his life, and the nobility of his character*

*Once again, I am indebted to MSgt. (Ret.) Frank Carrano for his assistance with this article and providing me with the resources for future ones.*

*-Brig. Gen. (CT-Ret.) Robert Cody*

Please contact Brig Gen. (CT-Ret.) Cody at [rmcody@snet.net](mailto:rmcody@snet.net) for comments or article recommendations.

**Resilience:  
"Skill of the Month"**

December 2015  
[james.a.sypher.mil@mail.mil](mailto:james.a.sypher.mil@mail.mil)  
860-524-4891

E  
F  
F  
E  
C  
T  
I  
V  
E  
  
P  
R  
A  
I  
S  
E

**TRUE STORY**

S, I, N, C, E, R, E

How can I use "Effective Praise" to help my Soldiers perform better?

**SITUATION:** One of your Soldiers qualified "Expert" at the M16 range. You noticed what the Soldier was doing right and want to offer effective praise:

- \* Instead of: "Great job PFC Williams!"
- \* Offer more **Effective Praise:** "That's outstanding shooting, PFC Williams. I've seen you putting in extra work, reinforcing the fundamentals. I saw your movement today, and it looked like you were being more deliberate when you pointed, posted, and sprawled than during the last qualification."

**Break the Code:**  
"Winning Streak" – A series of consecutive successes or wins.

**What is the skill?**

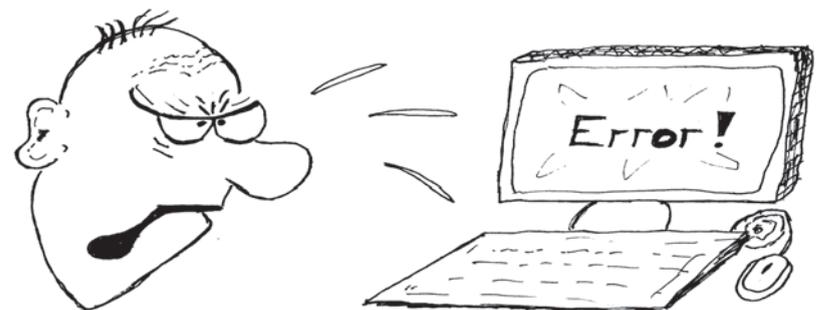
Effective Praise is a skill used to identify the process or strategy that led to a positive outcome; effective praise creates "winning streaks."

**Naming the Strategy...**

- Demonstrates you were really watching
- Demonstrates sincerity and authenticity
- Enables winning streaks

**Are you having problems accessing  
Structured Self Development &  
online training at home?**

**WE'VE GOT YOUR SOLUTION!**



Come to the Distributed Learning Cyber Café and  
**GET IT DONE TODAY!**

360 Broad St. Hartford OR 375 Smith St. Middletown  
Room 102 Room 318C

No appointment needed!  
M-F 0800-1600

# National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT)

## 2016 NGACT Awards Recommendations

COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

The National Guard Association of Connecticut is once again looking to identify the best and brightest Soldiers, Airmen, and Officers of the Connecticut National Guard and award them for their outstanding service. Our organization's success isn't solely fueled by men and women wearing the uniform; outstanding spouses, corporations, individuals, and retirees who have made exception contributions to the organization are also eligible for awards.

Award recommendations are due January 19, 2016 and can be submitted by anyone. Leaders at all levels are encouraged to look at their formations and consider submitting recommendations for anyone they believe fit the criteria below. Also consider any businesses, companies, or others that have gone above and beyond for the Connecticut National Guard. Voting will be conducted by the NGACT Awards Committee and awardees will be invited to the February 13, 2016 NGACT Conference to be honored.

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

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

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

**Eligibility:** Company grade officer, member of the Connecticut National Guard, Member of NGACT and recommendation endorsed by the respective chain of command.

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

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

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

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

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

**Eligibility:** Current corporate member of NGACT.

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

**Eligibility:** Current member of NGACT.



### 22nd Annual NGACT Conference & Ball



Saturday, February 13th, 2016  
Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, 100 Capital Blvd, Rocky Hill

Conference 4pm-6pm & Ball 6pm-11pm

Dress to Impress! Civilian Attire!

**\$55 Per Person. Includes Conference, Ball, Buffet Dinner & Dancing**

Register Online at [WWW.NGACT.ORG](http://WWW.NGACT.ORG) or Complete Registration Form Below:

#### 22nd ANNUAL NGACT CONFERENCE & BALL REGISTRATION

Either Mail in or Visit our Website at [www.NGACT.org](http://www.NGACT.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ RANK: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Civ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Guest 1:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Guest 2:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Must Register by 13 Feb 2016**

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

Hotel room reservations can be made by calling 888-627-8263 (ref: NGACT). NLT 13Jan2016 to lock in \$117 rate

Email questions about conference to: [ngactexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:ngactexecutivedirector@gmail.com)

## Follow NGACT on Social Media

Facebook



Twitter



LinkedIn



Visit the NGACT Website at [www.ngact.org](http://www.ngact.org)

# Legal: Don't Go AWOL: Report for Duty!

CAPT. ERICH HEINONEN AND  
CTNG OFFICE IF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

Serving as a member of the Connecticut National Guard requires commitment and dedication. Commanders rely on their members to perform assigned missions. Members must ensure that they are physically present and mentally ready for duty. When a member is not properly excused by the commander for performing duty, the member is generally considered to be "Absent Without Leave" or AWOL. AWOL is a term generally applied to any unexcused absence from duty.

A traditional member of the National Guard is required to perform at least one full-weekend of training per month (weekend drill) and two weeks of training (annual

training) per year.

A drill period is technically referred to as a mandatory unit training assembly (MUTA). Within each full day of a MUTA, there are two unit training assembly (UTAs) periods. A typical two-day weekend drill consists of four UTAs, commonly referred to as a MUTA 4. An unexcused absence from any UTA period is considered misconduct (i.e., AWOL), which may result in adverse administrative action, up to and including, involuntary separation from military service. If a member accumulates nine AWOLs in one year, the command is obliged to involuntarily separate the member from the Connecticut National Guard for unsatisfactory participation.

During annual training periods, a member is considered an unsatisfactory participant if he or she does not complete the entire period of training. Any AWOL status during annual training may result in a member's involuntary separation from the Connecticut National Guard. For Active Guard Reserve (AGR) personnel or members mobilized for active duty, missing one 24-hour period of duty without prior approval will result in the member being coded AWOL.

Upon being coded AWOL, the command will immediately stop the member's pay and no other favorable personnel action will occur until the flag is removed.

When a member is AWOL, commanders have a duty to notify the member in writing in accordance with AR 135-91 of their failure to report and of the immediate and potential consequences of their actions. This notification is typically called an "AWOL letter," which is sent to the Soldier's home of record, certified mail return receipt, or hand-delivered with an accompanying acknowledgement to be signed by the AWOL Soldier. The commander is also obliged to recover the member – to get the member to report for duty.

If a member has a valid reason to be absent from drill, a commander may approve split or rescheduled training assemblies, commonly referred to as SUTAs, or excuse an absence. However, a commander's authority to do so is limited to events that are documented and out of the control of the Soldier through no fault of their own, or for other special or emergency situations such as a severe weather event making the roads impassable.

Commanders should only authorize SUTAs or excuse a member for an exigent circumstance with a signed written authorization (SUTA certificate). When circumstances arise relative to a member's ability to report for duty, the member should immediately contact their chain of command.

Reporting for duty is a member's primary duty.

## Diversity: Special Emphasis Event Attendance Policy

MAJ. KRISTINA L. GARUTI  
STATE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGER

In a move to increase diversity awareness and the professional development of Guardsmen, the Connecticut National Guard Human Resources Office created a policy in 2013 allowing the use of official time for attendance at community special emphasis events.

This policy (policy HRO-13-05) is applicable to technicians, Active Guard Reserve, and ADOS, permitting Guardsmen to use a maximum of four hours per calendar month, and a maximum of 24 hours per calendar year, to attend special emphasis events in the local community. Events must be approved by both the attendee's supervisor and the State Equal Employment Manager, and attendees must be in uniform during the event.

It is not applicable to individuals on IDT or during annual training, however individuals in these statuses are encouraged to seek out and attend community special emphasis events for their own professional development when possible.

Political party events do not meet the community special emphasis event approval criteria. This purpose of this policy is to facilitate education and celebration of diversity, inclusion, human rights and human relations. Always check if the event meets the community special emphasis event approval criteria through the chain of command or the SEEM. Supervisors and those keeping time cards are encouraged to ask questions about the policy, as well.

A list of community special emphasis events across Connecticut can be found on the GKO Portal: <https://>

[states.gkoportal.ng.mil/states/CT/HRO/Diversity/SitePages/Home.aspx](https://states.gkoportal.ng.mil/states/CT/HRO/Diversity/SitePages/Home.aspx).

These events meet the scope and intent of policy HRO-13-05, though events occurring outside the normal duty day, or on federal holidays, do not result in compensated time. The policy applies to events occurring during normal duty hours for technicians, AGR, and ADOS individuals. If you are aware of an event that may meet the criteria for special emphasis events, contact the SEEM for approval and addition to the list.

Let your Equal Opportunity personnel (Equal Opportunity Leader and/or Equal Opportunity Advisor for the CTARNG, and the Equal Opportunity Office for the CTANG) know if you attend any community special emphasis events, whether utilizing this policy or on your own time, so your unit can track and get credit for your involvement in diversity and inclusion events.

The SEEM, Maj. Kristina Garuti, can be reached at (860) 613-7610 and via email at [kristina.l.garuti.mil@mail.mil](mailto:kristina.l.garuti.mil@mail.mil).



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE  
CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD  
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE  
375 SMITH STREET, SUITE 111  
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457

NGCT-HRO

1 April 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Community Special Emphasis Event Attendance Policy (HRO-13-05)

1. The Connecticut National Guard is committed to increasing the diversity awareness and professional development of each individual Soldier and Airman. In an effort to meet these goals, this policy is applicable to Technician, AGR, and ADOS personnel and allows for use of official time for attendance at approved Special Emphasis Events throughout Connecticut. This policy does not apply to members on IDT or during AT periods.
2. Soldiers and Airmen are authorized to use a maximum of four (4) hours per calendar month, with a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours per calendar year, to attend Special Emphasis Events. The member must be in duty uniform at the Special Emphasis Event for this policy to apply.
3. The State Equal Employment Manager (SEEM) controls the list of approved events for each federally recognized Special Emphasis Month theme. Contact the SEEM for each month's list. If a Soldier or Airman desires to attend an event that is not on the SEEM's list, contact her to review the event. If the event qualifies, she will validate and approve it for policy compliance. Only events approved by the SEEM comply with this policy. Additionally, the Soldier or Airman must have his or her supervisor's approval to attend any Special Emphasis Event.
4. Technician time card keepers will use excused absence to account for the Technician's time when attending a Special Emphasis Event.
5. If you have any questions or need further clarification on this policy, please contact the SEEM, located in the Human Resources Office, 375 Smith Street, Suite 111, Middletown CT 06457 or by phone at (860) 613-7610.

  
STEVEN J. GILBERT  
COL, IN. CTARNG  
Human Resources Officer

Distribution:  
A

# Education: Charting the Right Pathway for You

TROY GIPPS,  
MARKETING & OUTREACH COORDINATOR  
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU EDUCATION SERVICES

Prior to contacting your State Education Services Office for education counseling and benefit processing support, it is important to identify the career fields that interest you and, if possible, specific employers in your area to help you chart the right education pathway.

The U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics' online Occupational Outlook Handbook is a great tool for identifying high growth industries and conducting research on various occupational groups and specific job titles. The information is general in nature and provides national employment trend data, so the next logical step is to compare the data with your local employment market. What are the high growth industries in your state? How can you leverage your skills and interests to meet the needs of employers? What educational pathway will bridge the gap to a high-paying,

rewarding career?

State Departments of Labor and Workforce Development can help you identify high-growth industries, hiring trends, and specific employers in your state that are facing a skills gap. Information regarding employers in receipt of state and federal workforce development grants may also be available. These types of grant are used by states to shape and develop the local job market.

The next step is often overlooked. Once you have identified potential employers, contact them and ask to speak with their talent acquisition manager. What types of employees are they seeking? Is a college degree a baseline requirement for employment in your chosen career field? If so, does the employer have a preference to hire new employees who have graduated from a particular college or university program? Will a trade or professional certification credential enhance career opportunities? Do they offer apprenticeship, on-the-job

training, or mentorship programs for new hires? Answers to these questions will help refine your choice of career fields, potential employers, and the education level required to reach your goal.

Finally, contact your State ESO for additional counseling support and to identify the appropriate mix of benefits required to help fund your chosen educational pathway.

## Additional Resources:

**U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook:**

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

**State Departments of Labor and Workforce Development:**

[http://www.dol.gov/whd/contacts/state\\_of.htm](http://www.dol.gov/whd/contacts/state_of.htm)

**State ESO:**

<http://www.nationalguard.com/contacts/eso>

**Connecticut Education Services Office: 860-524-4962**

*Editor's Note: The NGB Education Services Branch updated and published 17 flyers designed to help you better understand your education benefits for FY 16. The flyers are a great resource for units and the Soldiers they serve. Each month the Connecticut Guardian will run one flyer, as seen below. To receive copies of each flyer, contact your State Education Services Office, 860-524-4962.*



## Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33

### 1. What is it?

- Chapter 33 is an education program for Service Members who have served on active duty after September 10, 2001 and receive an honorable discharge. (Reference: Title 38 USC Chapter 33, DoDI 1341.13)

### 2. How Do I Qualify?

- Serve at least 90 days in a period of qualifying active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Qualifying Active Duty service is:
  - Service in any active component
  - Title 10 U.S.C., Sections 672(d), 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, 12304
  - Title 10 AGR or Title 32 AGR
  - Title 32 U.S.C., Section 502(f), in which orders state "In Support of Operation Noble Eagle" between 11 Sep 01 – 31 May 02
  - Serve in a qualifying duty status for 30 continuous days and separate due to a service-connected disability or injury.
- Basic Training and AIT can be added to qualifying time if:
  - You have completed 24 months of other qualifying active duty; and
  - Your Basic Training and/or IADT occurred on or after September 11, 2001
- The following service time does NOT qualify for Post-9/11:
  - Title 32 ADOS/ADSW
  - Title 10 Service under a U.S.C. not listed above
  - The Service Obligation from a Service Academy Contract
  - The Service Obligation from a ROTC Active Duty Contract
  - Active Duty used for Active Duty Loan Repayment (Title 10 Sec. 109)
  - Active Duty period receiving less than Honorable discharge
- You have 15 years from the last day of qualifying active duty to use your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits
  - Your 15 year window can be reset if you complete a new period of qualifying time by submitting your information to the VA (Form 21-4138) with your new DD 214 to your VA Regional Processing Center

### 3. What Do I Get?

- Tuition and Fees
  - Up to 100% of in-state tuition if you are attending a public school
  - Max payment of \$21,084.89 per yr for private or foreign school (Effective 1 Aug 15)
- Book and Supply Stipend
  - Up to \$1,000 per academic year (\$41.67/credit hour)
- Monthly Housing Allowance
  - MUST be attending more than half-time to qualify
  - Equivalent to BAH of E-5 with dependents
  - Based on zip code of school
  - If attending only online classes: \$783.00
  - AGR and Active Duty Soldiers are NOT eligible for the Housing Stipend

**Important!** Payments for all three benefits are pro-rated based on your percentage tier. The Book and Supply Stipend and Monthly Housing Allowance are also adjusted based on your enrollment (number of credit hours).

Qualifying Service	Percentage Tier
At least 36 cumulative months	100%
At least 30 cumulative months	90%
At least 24 cumulative months	80%
At least 18 cumulative months	70%
At least 12 cumulative months	60%
At least 6 cumulative months	50%
At least 90 cumulative days	40%

### 4. How Do I Apply?

- ✓ Go to <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp> and submit Online Application
- ✓ Notify the VA Certifying Official at your school so they can certify your enrollment

### For More Information:

- ❖ Visit [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)
- ❖ Visit us On-Line: [www.nationalguard.com/education](http://www.nationalguard.com/education)
- ❖ Contact your State Education Office:
  - Available at [www.nationalguard.com/contacts/eso](http://www.nationalguard.com/contacts/eso)

 **Follow us on Facebook!** [www.facebook.com/arnqeducation](http://www.facebook.com/arnqeducation)

# ESGR: Nominate Your Employer for the Freedom Award

Ms. MEGHAN CONNORS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TECHNICIAN,  
CT EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

Connecticut Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve would like to extend a huge congratulations to Cigna of Bloomfield on their selection as one of the 15 recipients of the 2015 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Cigna was nominated by a member of the Connecticut Air National Guard, who passionately depicted how Cigna goes above and beyond to support its service member and veteran community. Those wishing to nominate their employers this year need to be made aware of some changes to the nomination process.

Nomination season is now October 1-December 31, 2015, which means nominations are currently being accepted. Some changes were made to the required questions in order to make them easier to understand, which are listed below. As you answer the questions in the nomination form, it is crucial to be as specific and detailed as possible. The more information that you provide, the stronger your nomination.

## Questions:

**Pay Policies:** Does the employer provide monetary compensation or unique pay policies when a service member is away from work performing military service? If so, cite specific instances and examples of compensation support provided by the employer.

**Benefits Policies:** Does the employer, either as a matter of published policy or practice, provide continuation of health care, dental, life insurance, retirement or other

benefits not listed for service members or their families when away from work performing military service?

**Supervisor Training:** Does the employer train its managers and supervisors on the uniformed services employment and re-employment rights act (USERRA) so that they can effectively manage their National Guard and Reserve employees? If so, what kind of training (online, in person briefings, etc.) is provided and how often is the training reviewed?

**ESGR Advocacy:** Does the employer engage in activities or have established policies which demonstrate an eagerness to help increase employer support for the Guard and Reserve within the community and encourage participation by other employers? If so, what kind of activities does the employer support and how is that support manifested (monetary donations, volunteerism, etc.)?

**ESGR Awards:** Has the employer been awarded any other ESGR recognition, such as the Patriot, Above and Beyond, or Pro Patria awards? If so, list the awards the employer has received (if known).

**Hiring Preference:** Does the employer provide any preference to members of the National Guard and Reserve in the process of hiring new employees? If so, what does the employer provide and did this preference assist in your employment or the employment and search for other qualified candidates for employment? Additionally, does the employer proactively recruit National Guard or Reserve service members?

**Service Member Support:** Does the employer interact with and support National Guard and Reserve employees during periods of military service? If so, how and to what

extent is the support provided to the employee?

**Family Support:** Does the employer interact with and support the family members of employees during periods of military service? If so, please provide examples and duration of family support (monetary, help around the home, other services, etc.).

**Service Member Recognition:** Does the employer provide positive recognition of its National Guard and Reserve employees in organizational publications, events, bulletin boards, employer awards or in other ways?

**General Military Support:** Does the employer establish policies or engage in activities that are generally supportive to the US Armed Forces, such as discounts, services, donations, scholarships, employment programs, etc.?

**Military Employees:** How many of the nominated organization's employees are active members of the National Guard or Reserve?

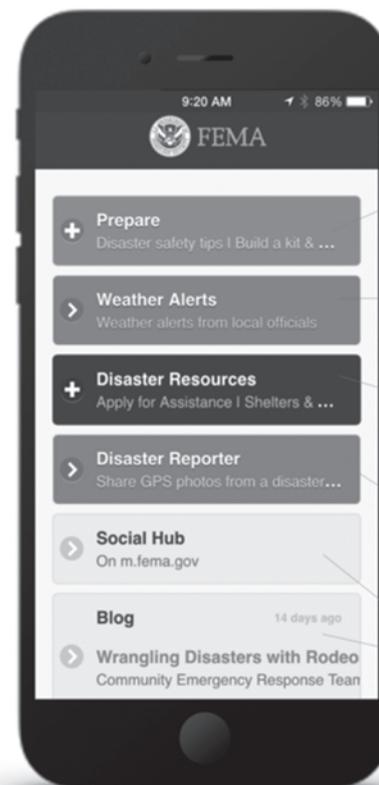
Remember that the key detail is your personal story. As we review the nominations, we look for the ones that give the personal narrative and detail the experiences. Don't forget to check with your human resources department to verify information and you can always check with CT ESGR on what awards we may have presented in the past.

To nominate your employer visit:  
[www.freedomaward.mil](http://www.freedomaward.mil)

## Weather Ahead: Download the FEMA App

### App Includes:

- Alerts from the National Weather Service: Receive severe weather alerts for up to five locations across the U.S. and see information about how to stay safe.
- Disaster Reporter: Upload and share photos of damage and recovery efforts.
- Custom emergency safety information: Save a custom list of the items in your family's emergency kit, as well as the places you will meet in case of an emergency.
- Maps of disaster resources: Locate and receive driving directions to open shelters and disaster recovery centers.
- Safety tips: Learn how to stay safe before, during, and after over 20 types of hazards, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes.
- Apply for assistance: Easily access Disaster Assistance.gov to apply for federal disaster assistance.
- Information in Spanish: The app defaults to Spanish language content for smartphones that have Spanish set as their default language.



✓ Get tips to survive natural disasters, customize your emergency checklist, and save meeting locations

⚡ Receive alerts from the National Weather Service

⊕ Locate open shelters and Disaster Recovery Centers, and apply for assistance

📷 Upload and share your disaster photos

💬 Stay connected on social media and the FEMA blog

# 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](mailto: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 130<sup>th</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jordan Werme  
[jordan.e.werme.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jordan.e.werme.mil@mail.mil) or (203) 568-1730

 Find us on  
**Facebook**



## 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/](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

Hailey E. Ballou  
Adaliz E. Rojas  
Hakeem S. Brown  
Thomas P. Bowen  
Johnny Velez  
Zaria D. Walker  
Lenny S. Rodriguez  
Xavier M. Wilson  
Adrian C. Perkins  
Hollynoelle F. Kidder  
Mariah E. Rocheleau  
Taequan L. Mitchell

### To Private First Class

Robert B. Hill III  
Kelvin D. Bediako  
Jose M. Larrea  
Daniel Hernandez  
Kassidy J. Ogden  
Samuel J. Gardner  
Dong H. Min  
Andre L. Mudahy  
Alan B. Peloquin  
Albery Cruzdiaz  
Warren J. Elkey IV  
Michael Melendezlopez  
Grayson A. Reuling  
Joanna Fairweather

Patrick R. Riordan  
Ryan E. Connorswalsh  
Kwaku B. Amponsah  
Anthony M. Jenkins  
Keisha Mierez  
Bryan J. Mendozamurillo  
Shyon M. Logan  
Marquelle Q. Dortch  
Aaron M. Hebert  
Donovan M. Benites  
Diamante Colon  
Habacuc Jnphilippe  
Trevelle A. Dinham  
Genesis A. Riveradiaz  
Joeseeph Aquinoacevedo

### To Specialist

Connor A. Ericson  
Cody J. Ferreira  
Robert P. Adams III  
Anna H. Mcmillan  
Janice M. Sierra  
Adam L. Osip  
Andre C. Walker  
Kayla M. Nason  
Daniel R. Larson  
Anthony L. Cortes  
Radames C. Rivas  
Daniel A. Annis  
Joshua E. Gordon  
Steven D. Vetare

Timothy Thorland  
William X. Murray  
Michael G. Hary  
Scott P. Whalen  
Jose C. Mendez  
Edwin C. Gerena Jr.  
Chad E. Fairclough  
Joseph F. Kerr  
Kirby L. Lollar  
Michael J. Lord  
Cristian J. Mateo  
Matthew R. Barnard  
Tyler S. Stjacques  
Dennis J. Christe

### To Sergeant

Joseph R. Tierinni  
Uriel A. Berganza  
Bruna I. Ferreira  
James H. Banks

### To Staff Sergeant

Tina Durnik  
David M. Roy  
Kimberlee A. Ruppard  
Stephen J. Tyliszczak  
Joshua Prochnickifitzgerald  
Jose R. Narvaez  
Patrick J. Passantino  
Nathan J. Ethier  
Seth A. Sutton  
Kayla C. Difronzo

### To Sergeant First Class

Eric A. Vickers  
Steven K. Potter  
Kurtis R. Palmer

### To First Sergeant

Stefanie L. Jennings

### To Sergeant Major

Michael D. Collins

### To Master Sergeant

Damon R. Matus  
Lisa A. Young  
Michael Aparicio

### To Chief Warrant Officer 4

John M. Terlisner

### To Captain

Owen W. Humphreys

### To Major

David S. Tripp

### To Lieutenant Colonel

Mathew D. Wilkinson

## Air

### To Airman First Class

Nathaniel T. Stegmaier  
Ryan S. Pesce

### To Senior Airman

Aaron T. Laporte  
Adam R. Collomy  
Andrew W. Lewis  
Angela M. Ospina  
Charles A. Cazeault III

Evan C. Mitchell  
Jordan J. Knightly  
Gregory Araujo  
Kelsie L. Gorman  
Linvent J. Saunders

### To Staff Sergeant

Brandan Sumeersarnauth  
Kristel M. Solerti  
Robert J. Turgeon  
Steven M. Maniscalco

### To Technical Sergeant

Cody J. Remy  
Dedrick A. Baublitz  
James R. Diederich  
Jason A. Beaudry

### To Chief Master Sergeant

Bryan Demars

## Coming Events

### December

**December 6**

Hanukkah Begins

**December 7**

Pearl Harbor Day

**December 15**

\*January Guardian Deadline\*

**December 13**

National Guard Birthday

**December 19**

Operation E.L.F. Holiday Party

**December 25**

Christmas Day

**December 26**

Kwanzaa

**December 31**

New Year's Eve

### January

**January 1**

Happy New Year!

**January 12**

\*February Guardian Deadline\*

**January 18**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**January 30-31**

CTNG UPAR Training Course  
Camp Niantic

### February

**February 7**

Super Bowl Sunday

**February 9**

\*March Guardian Deadline\*

**February 10**

Ash Wednesday

**February 12**

Lincoln's Birthday

**February 14**

Valentine's Day

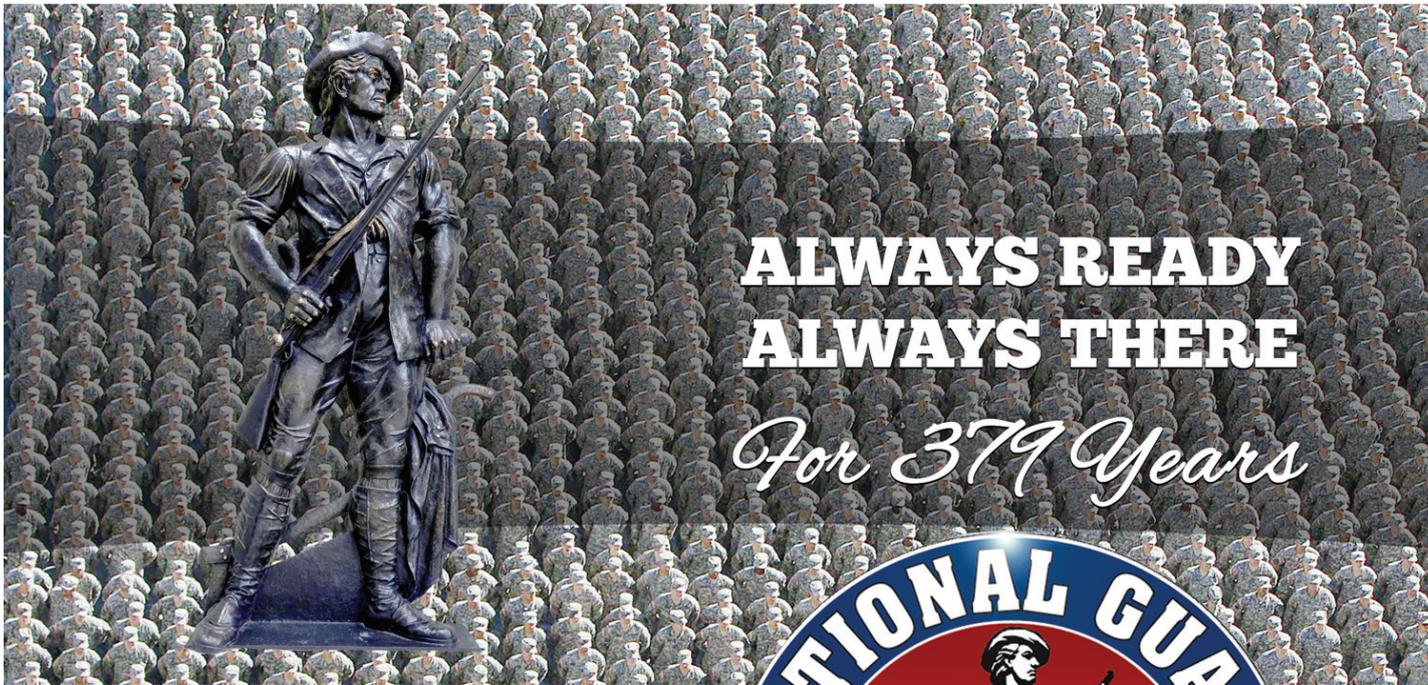
**February 15**

Washington's Birthday (President's Day)

**Deadline for January Issue of the  
Guardian is December 15**  
**Deadline for the February Issue of the  
Guardian is January 12, 2016**

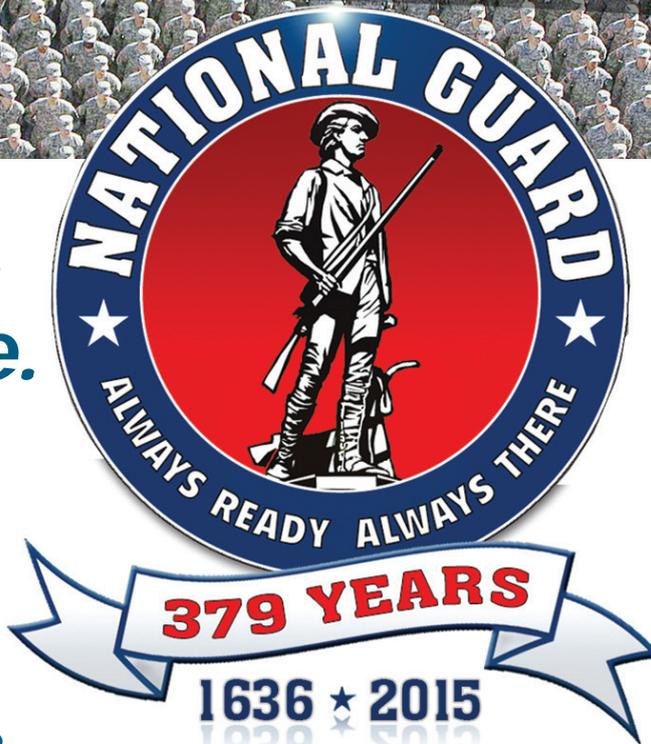


# The National Guard Celebrates 379 Years



**ALWAYS READY  
ALWAYS THERE**

*For 379 Years*



***Proven in Battle.  
Trusted At Home.***

- The National Guard is the oldest military force in the Department of Defense.
- 1636 was the origin of the first state-organized defense force or militia, now known as the National Guard.
- The National Guard demonstrates the same “Minuteman” spirit exhibited by its forefathers in the Massachusetts military, who defended their settlements and colony against attack.

## December 13, 2015

Read More about the History of the Guard at [www.nationalguard.mil/Features/2015/379thBirthday.aspx](http://www.nationalguard.mil/Features/2015/379thBirthday.aspx)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR1 STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 603



# Connecticut FAMILY Guardian



VOL. 16 NO. 12

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

DECEMBER 2015

## Reading Connects Troops, Family Members During Deployments

By CLAUDETTE ROULO  
DoD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

SAN DIEGO, No matter how far deployed service members are from their families, they still can take an active role in the care of their children, the military's top noncommissioned officer said Nov. 15.

"United Through Reading has made it possible for every parent, teacher, mentor and leader in our all-volunteer force to instill a keen appetite for literacy and enable the empowerment and impact that reading brings to every kid," Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia, the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in his keynote address at the organization's seventh annual Storybook Ball.

Reading should remain a priority for every parent, teacher and guardian, he said, and it's the job of every leader to encourage this attitude. Rearing America's youth is a "community affair," Battaglia said.

There is empirical evidence that reading aloud is the "single most important act for building early reading skills," said Sally Ann Zoll, the chief executive officer of United Through Reading.

The Battaglias have been involved with United Through Reading for nearly 30 years, the sergeant major said. His wife, Lisa, became a volunteer shortly after the organization formed — at a time when it was extremely difficult for families to remain in contact with their deployed service members, the sergeant major said.

"With the exception of letters, a sporadic short phone call from the USO pay phone or maybe a MARSgram, family connectivity was less hit and more miss," Battaglia said.

While technology has made staying in touch easier, separations are still trying times for families — particularly those with children, the sergeant major said. And reunions can be just as trying, he added.

For many toddlers and young children, the returned parent is a "stranger in the household," Battaglia said. Over the years, United Through Reading has played a key role in making separations and homecomings a bit easier through their storybook reading program, the

sergeant major said.

In 2014 alone, service members recorded more than 25,000 videos through United Through Reading at locations around the world — at sea and on six continents — Zoll said.

### Connecting Families

Battaglia related the story of a soldier who deployed to Iraq in 2009, leaving behind his wife and two young boys. A few months into his deployment, United Through Reading helped the soldier record a video of himself reading "Green Eggs and Ham." The organization sent a CD and two copies of the book to the soldier's family, and the boys immediately reacted to the video as if their father was in the room reading to them, the sergeant major said.

Books and videos arrived every month for the duration of the soldier's deployment, and the happiness they provided went both ways, Battaglia said. The soldier's monthly visits to the USO tent to record the videos became a way for him to decompress from his hazardous job as an explosive ordnance technician, he said.

This is just one example of the tens of thousands of military families helped by United Through Reading, the sergeant major said. "Connecting families, educating, and raising the spirits of our military and families is what UTR does and its what they are good at," Battaglia said.



Saige Schlaffman, 4, watches her cousin and godmother Pvt. Samantha Jo Aulners, read a book that she recorded in May through the 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment's United Through Reading program. (Photo courtesy of www.army.mil)

The sergeant major told the audience that he is proud to call United Through Reading longstanding partners of the armed forces. "We all are grateful for your service to more than 100,000 beneficiaries and distributing more than 25,000 books to our military children," Battaglia said. "You have allowed our military families to stay more connected, more cohesive and more complete."

**Military Children's Holiday Party**

Sponsored by the Southington American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Post 72

The Connecticut National Guard Child & Youth Program, in partnership with the Southington American Legion Ladies Auxiliary (ALA), will host a holiday party for military connected children. There will be gifts from Santa, crafts, cookie decorating, face painting and more! Food and snacks will be provided at no cost to you!

**FREE** Date: Saturday, December 12, 2015  
Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Location: American Legion, Post 72  
66 Main Street, Southington CT  
Ages: Newborns to 10 years

Please register ASAP! Each registered child will receive a gift from the members of ALA! Please be sure to register each child (to include age and gender for gifts) using the link below and password: ALA15  
<http://ala-holiday.eventbrite.com>

**Holiday Party**

www.facebook.com/CTCYP Find us on Facebook

child & youth program

**10th Annual Drop and Shop Event!**

Need to get your Holiday Shopping Done?

The Connecticut National Guard Child & Youth Program and the 4-H Military Partnership Program are partnering to host this year's Drop and Shop Event at the New London Armory. If your child/ren are in grades K-12, you will have the opportunity to drop them off for a fun time while you prepare for the holidays. There will be crafts, games, educational projects and more while you do your holiday shopping nearby! Pizza and snacks will be provided!

**\$5.00 per Child \$5.00 per Family of 2** Date: Friday, December 4, 2015  
Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
Location: 249 Bayonet Street, New London, CT

Registration is required! First come, first served. Register now at <http://shop-2015.eventbrite.com> Password: SHOP15

child & youth program Find us on Facebook  
www.facebook.com/CTCYP



CATHERINE GALASSO-VIGORITO

# God's Presence is Everywhere

In the early 1900s, American poet Edwin Markham published a meaningful prose

Titled, "How the Great Guest Came." The main character in the poem was a cobbler named Conrad who made shoes

for a living and in his tiny village, Conrad was known to all as a good, righteous and kindhearted gentleman.

One evening, Conrad had a dream. When he awoke early the next morning, he looked outside; and the sky seemed to grow brighter and brighter with every passing second. Conrad thought for a moment, and then he vividly recalled what he had dreamt. Feeling happy, he remembered that in his dream Jesus appeared to him and said, "I will be visiting you today."

The dream was so real that Conrad believed it would come true. So with an ever-present smile, Conrad prepared for Jesus arrival. He cooked, cleaned, set the table and decorated his humble shop with a thousand boughs of green.

Then, Conrad patiently waited for Jesus to knock at his door. It was the happiest day of his life.

Hours passed and with a joy-filled expression on his face, Conrad sat in a chair, waiting and waiting. In great anticipation, Conrad was thinking about all the wonderful things he would do with Jesus when he arrived.

However, Conrad's thoughts were interrupted by the sound of an elderly man's voice. Conrad walked over to the front door and opened it. Outside, he saw the man shivering. Without delay, Conrad invited him inside to keep warm from the blustering cold rain. As Conrad talked to the man, he noticed holes in the man's shoes, as they were completely worn through. So Conrad went into his workshop and gave him a sturdy pair of new shoes to wear.

Afterward, the grateful man went on his way briskly.

By that time, it was afternoon. Jesus hadn't yet arrived. Still, Conrad waited.

But before Conrad could do anything else, there was a slight knock on the door. Eagerly, Conrad answered it, and there was a poor, hungry woman. Her arms were crossed in front of her and she nodded, "Hello." Conrad welcomed her in and generously gave her some food to eat. Soon thereafter, waving, she left his home.

Conrad shrugged his shoulders and again sat down contented. He continued waiting for Jesus to arrive.

At that point, Conrad heard someone crying. From his window, he gazed outside. It was a frightened child who was lost in the dark night. Quickly, Conrad ran to him. "Don't cry," Conrad uttered gently, comforting the child the best he could. Then, he leaned over, took the child's small, icy-cold hand in his, and brought the child home safely to his family.

Later that evening, Conrad returned home. He sighed.

Furrowing his brow and in a moment of despair, he lowered his voice and asked, "Why is it, Lord, that your feet delay? Did you forget that this was the day?"

Then soft in the silence, a Voice he heard:

"Lift up your heart, for I kept My word.

Three times I came to your friendly door;

Three times My shadow was on your floor.

I was the man with the bruised feet.

I was the woman you gave food to eat,

I was the child on the homeless street."

Indeed, Jesus had visited Conrad's home. For Scripture says it beautifully, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40).

Hence, no matter where you are today, you are needed. While God performs miracles all the time, He also needs and is counting on you to carry out His wondrous work.

Yet, you may think, "I'm only one person. How can I make a difference?" But God delights in changing the world through one person at a time.

Just as Jesus often touched people in order to bless them.

- You are the hands with which God can use to bless another.

- You are the voice who can offer to someone a life-altering prayer or an optimistic word of encouragement.

- You're the feet who can walk with people and help them through difficult times.

- Yours are the positive thoughts that can wish others well.

- Yours is the beautiful smile that can bring a person joy and comfort.

- And yours is the understanding ear who can listen and give kind reassurance and hope for someone's future.

A while ago, I heard about an artistic little girl who loved to draw. She always seemed to have a pencil in her hand sketching on a drawing pad. On a wintery morning after breakfast, the girl was seated at the kitchen table drawing intently. Something was different about this sketch. Glancing over at her paper, the mother asked, "Honey, what are you drawing?"

Promptly, the girl answered, "I'm making a picture of God." Taking a seat next to her sweet daughter, the mother said slowly, "Since nobody has seen God, no one will know what God looks like."

The girl continued drawing and with a smile of confidence she replied, "When I get through with my picture, they will."

In the same way, this Christmas season and all year through, "Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise and 'recognize'

our Heavenly Father" within you. (Matthew 5:16). Therefore, don't let anything keep you from being a great influence in the lives of your fellow human beings.

God has given you special gifts and strengths. And He has chosen you to make a profound difference and to be

a blessing to others. The best part of your life is still in front of you. So reflect the light of the Son and find someone to be good to every single day. For the world needs your radiance to shine brightly to make it a better place.

May the wonder and joy of the holidays fill your heart. From my family to yours, have a blessed Christmas.

*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](mailto:cgv@anewyouworldwide.com). Visit her website at [www.anewyouworldwide.com](http://www.anewyouworldwide.com).*

© Catherine Galasso, 2015

## 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**

# WE WANT YOU



## The Connecticut National Guard Service Member and Family Support Center wants you!

Take a moment to rate your interactions with our Team using the link below or scan the QR code to be taken directly to our survey.



[http://www.ctpurplepages.com/  
publications/forms/ctng-service-  
member-and-family-support-center-  
customer-feedback/](http://www.ctpurplepages.com/publications/forms/ctng-service-member-and-family-support-center-customer-feedback/)

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

## Control Your Cash

### Tips for Healthy Holiday Spending

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS ROULEAU  
MILITARY ONESOURCE



Check out these ways to tame the holiday frenzy:

- 1. Make (and stick to) a budget.** Money can fly out of your wallet fast for gifts, special meals, decorations and travel. Plan ahead of time how much you're going to spend on each category, and then stay in that range.
  - 2. Take inventory.** Don't rush out to buy wrapping paper before checking to see if there's a forgotten stash of a dozen rolls shoved into the back of a closet. The same is true for presents you may have hidden too well last year.
  - 3. Shop secondhand for decorations.** Thrift stores and garage sales usually have loads of holiday decorations as people upgrade, downsize or realize their decorations somehow multiplied when they weren't looking.
  - 4. Consider budget-friendly alternative gifts.** Homemade gifts are a great option if you're crafty or a whiz in the kitchen, or even if you aren't either of those, but can follow online directions. Coupons for your "services," like babysitting, can also make good presents.
  - 5. Make your own holiday cards.** You can save money (and trees) by using e-cards to send greetings to your loved ones instead of traditional cards. Many websites offer free or inexpensive e-cards, some with options to add videos or slideshows.
  - 6. Plan holiday meals early.** Knowing what you're going to cook well in advance lets you shop the sales for the non-perishable items you'll need. It also helps spread the higher food costs over a couple paychecks instead of just one.
  - 7. Use your smart phone while shopping.** Many retailers can send coupons right to your phone when you walk into their stores, which is handy (if not a little creepy). You can also use your phone to compare prices to make sure you're getting the best deal.
  - 8. Consider traveling on the holiday itself.** You could score a much cheaper airline ticket by flying on the holiday instead of in the days before. Plus, arriving on the big day conveniently gets you out of a lot of meal prep duty.
  - 9. Search hotel rates and airfares online.** Take advantage of websites that compare airfares and hotels so you get the best deal. Many will also alert you to price drops. Another bonus: those online reviews can help you avoid a vacation you remember for all the wrong reasons.
- Remember, you don't have to bankrupt yourself to have a great holiday. From gift giving to party planning and travel, there are a lot of ways to save money. Check out other budget-friendly tips from Military OneSource, or take advantage of free financial counseling available in person, by phone or by video chat.

See how many Christmas words you can find in this word search from the list at the bottom. The words can be backward, forward, up, down, or diagonal. Circle each word you find, then cross it off the list.



- ANGEL
- CANDLE
- CANDY CANE
- CHILDREN
- CHIMNEY
- ELVES
- GINGERBREAD MAN
- LIGHTS
- ORNAMENT
- REINDEER
- SLEIGH
- SNOWFLAKE
- SNOWMAN
- STAR
- STOCKING
- TOYS
- TREE
- WRATH



Acrostic poems are fun and easy to write. An acrostic is formed when the first letter in each line spells out a message, reading top to bottom. The message could be a single word or even a whole sentence.

For this acrostic, think of a word that starts with each of the letters in "Hanukkah," then write it on the line next to that letter.

**H** is for \_\_\_\_\_

**A** is for \_\_\_\_\_

**N** is for \_\_\_\_\_

**U** is for \_\_\_\_\_

**K** is for \_\_\_\_\_

**K** is for \_\_\_\_\_

**A** is for \_\_\_\_\_

**H** is for \_\_\_\_\_



**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

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