CTARNG Puts Best to Test

Annual Best Warrior Competition Promotes Training, Readiness, Camaraderie - Tests Skill

Sgt. Alicia M. Brocuglio
130th Public Affairs Detachment CTARNG

NIANTIC, Conn. - The Connecticut Army National Guard held its annual State Best Warrior Competition at Camp Niantic, March 23 through March 26. More than 30 Connecticut Army Guardsmen participated in the strenuous events to compete for the titles of Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year.

The competition utilizes Connecticut’s military training sites to place the Soldiers through various events testing their Army skills and mental and physical readiness. During the 72-hour event, competitors were challenged with an Army Physical Fitness Test, a “stress shoot,” various Army Warrior Tasks, a written examination, a 12-mile ruck march, day and night land navigation, a personal appearance board, and one mystery task that was not disclosed to competitors in advance.

“Generating readiness is our number one priority,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Carragher, Connecticut State Command Sergeant Major. “We send more confident and more proficient Soldiers back to their units that accomplished some stuff that they may have never had the opportunity to before.”

The competition not only provides training and readiness to the competitors, but also provides other Soldiers with the same opportunities. The competitors have fellow Soldiers from their respective units serve as mentors for the competition, which builds unity, camaraderie, and leadership skills.

“The mentors are critically important; most of the mentors were previous competitors, so they come back and help the next generation of Soldiers and NCOs in order to excel,” Carragher said. “That’s really part of...”
Spring Brings Thunderstorms and Tornadoes

Are You Prepared For Severe Weather?

Severe weather, may help save lives.

The following information, some did not hear the warning, others heard the warning and did not pay attention to it. The following information, combined with timely watches and warnings about severe weather, may help save lives.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch – Severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm warning is issued.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning – Severe weather has been reported by spotters or radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Every year, severe weather occurs or is suspected by severe thunderstorms despite advance warning. While some did not hear the warning, others heard the warning and did not pay attention to it.

Preparing for Severe Weather

• Put together an emergency preparedness kit:
  • Water—one gallon per person, per day
  • Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare
  • Clothing appropriate for outdoor activity in all weather conditions
  • First aid kit
  • Lanterns and extra batteries
  • Radio
  • Flashlight
  • Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
  • Cell phone chargers
  • Family & emergency contact information
  • Extra cash

• If caught outside, take shelter in a sturdy enclosed building or hard top automobile immediately. Avoid open spaces, isolated objects, high ground and metallic objects.

• Postpone outdoor activities until the storms have passed.

• Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number. Anyone who has been struck by lightning do not retain electrical charge and can be handled safely.

Preparing Ahead of Time - Learn about your local community’s emergency warning system for severe thunderstorms.

• Discuss thunderstorm safety with all members of your household.

• Pick a safe place in your home for household members to go during a thunderstorm. This should be away from windows, skylights and glass doors that could be broken by strong winds or hail.

• Make a list of things to bring in the event of a severe thunderstorm.

• Put together an emergency preparedness kit:

• Protect your animals by ensuring that any outside buildings that house them are protected in the same way as your home.

• Put together an emergency preparedness kit:

• Water—one gallon per person, per day

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• Clothing appropriate for outdoor activity in all weather conditions

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CTNG Breaks Ground on CST Ready Building

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WINDSOR Locks, Conn. — Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, Congressman Joe Courtney and a host of elected leaders joined Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Commander of the Connecticut National Guard to break ground on a new Ready Building for the 148 Civil Support Team. (Photo by Allison L. Joanis, State Public Affairs Office)

“With staffing and operations there is an intrinsic need to have a permanent building that can house our different staff sections and move forward,” said Mandell. "The competition will be hosted at Fort Dix, New Jersey, during the APFT, a judged event at the Best Warrior Competition. (Photo by: Staff Sgt. Jerry Bolden Jr., 130th PAD, CTARNG)

"The CST also took their turn putting shovels in the dirt, posing for a photo that signified the start of a new era," Carragher said.

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"Our goal is to provide an excellent experience for all Veterans and members of the military that attend," Kelleher said. “To be able to provide an excellent experience for all Veterans and members of the military that attend, and reach out to the community.”

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Connecticut, Uruguay Conduct C-130 Exchange

Staff Sgt. Richard Wrigley
JFHQ Public Affairs Officer, CTNG

Maj. Pablo Odella, a C-130 pilot and a staff officer for the 3rd Airlift Squadron, Uruguay Air Force, joins a flight engineer from the 118th Airlift Squadron to conduct a preflight inspection of a C-130 Hercules prior to an upcoming air-drop mission at Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts, March 29. The Uruguayan aviators were in Connecticut to conduct an air exchange as part of the National Guard State Partnership Program. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Wrigley, JFHQ Public Affairs, CTNG)

As weather improved, federal officials and over 40 elected officials and congressmen took part in a private aerial tour over Connecticut airspace on May 9, showcasing the capabilities of the Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by the CT National Guard)

Over 30 members of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Program had a chance to fly in a C-130 as part of a joint aerial tour sponsored by the 192nd Infantry Regiment, 192nd Engineer Battalion and the Connecticut National Guard’s 14th Civil Support Team. (Photo by Maj. Stephan Nowakowski, CTNG Public Affairs)

The group then moved by bus to Groton, where the final facility tour was made. After touring the CTNational Guard’s C-130 maintenance facility at the Windsor Locks Readiness Center, the group traveled by bus to Camp Hartwell, where they were shown a transformed post.
StAte PuBlic AffAirS officer

encompasses nearly 1,500 students, staff and faculty.”

Military Programs website, “the Veteran Community
intersession programs, according to the Daily Campus.

Kelleher said.

in the state of Connecticut,” Kelleher said.

traditional fall and spring terms, according to Alyssa

Guard tuition waiver during both the summer and winter

National Guard with the ability to utilize the National

University of Connecticut’s student-run newspaper, the

According to the UConn Veterans Affairs and

“This change, while only applicable to UConn, is still a

UConn Ultimate Sacrifice Memorial located at the school’s campus in

Waiver, an applicant must both be a

members of the uniformed services.

To utilize the National Guard Tuition

The proposal, passed in April 2017, puts to rest issues

in the state of Connecticut,” Kelleher said.

Kelleher, Director of the Office of Veterans Affairs and

Nearly 60 high school students hailing from Windham, Ellis, Platt and

CT Guardsmen Help Local Tech School Students Achieve High Marks

Connecticut Guardsmen employed full-time at the Vehicle Maintenance Shop

Connecticut Guard tuition during both the summer and winter terms.

One of the darkest periods for Japanese Americans occurred

the proposal and the 2013 waiver did not specifically include

UConn’s Veterans Affairs and Military Programs office say about 300 Connecticut National Guardsmen

The students take the test as part of their requirement for graduation and to

The 442nd became the most decorated unit of its size. Many of its accomplishments included fighting in eight major campaigns in France, Italy, and China. The 442nd were a key role in the rescue of an Allied unit that was trapped by German forces at the town known as, “The Lost Battalion.” The 442nd were also amongst the first Allied forces to liberate the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau.

the end, the Japanese Americans were released from the internment camps. Noriyuki Morita settled in Sacramento, finished high school, and started a career in the entertainment industry. Before his death, Noriyuki Morita was recognized primarily for his portrayal as Mr. Miyagi in the “Karate Kid” series. Daniel Inouye achieved the rank of Captain was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery in combat and later was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1962, he won a seat in the U.S. Senate, where he continued to serve his country until his death in 2012.

Eventually, Americans realized they had treated fellow Japanese Americans unfairly and knew they needed to do something to make amends. Accordingly, in 1988 Congress provided reparations for property loss to Japanese Americanpostgres. Also, in 1980 Congress provided $20,000 to each of the Japanese Americans who relocated to these camps for reasons of, “national security.” The Japanese Americans who relocated to these camps were only permitted to bring one bag of luggage. Most had to sell what property they had, those that didn’t have time to pack everything that they had worked so hard to own.

Life in the internment camps was hard.

One of the camps detainees, Noriyuki Morita, stated, “one day I was an invalid, the next day I was a 11-year-old public enemy no 1, being escorted to an internment camp by the FBI.” Despite the treatment they received, more than 3,600 prisoners from the camps volunteered for military service including future U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, and 22,000 others who lived in Hawaii or outside the relocation zones. Many of these volunteers became members of the famous all Japanese 442nd Regimental Combat Team, who stood by the motto, “Go for Broke!”

Volunteers of the 442nd intended to prove their loyalty to America by fighting for their country. They resolved to fight and die for each other just like any other American. The 442nd achieved great prominence despite the lingering prejudice and injustice, all the while knowing that their loved ones were being held behind bars. The most extreme act was to declare war on Japan and the other

During World War II

Japanese Americans

have continually contributed to American society, despite numerous obstacles.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese Empire attacked Pearl Harbor precipitating the United States to declare war on Japan and the other

442nd were one of the few Japanese American units in America to declare war on Japan.

National Guard Tuition Waiver During All Terms

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Army National Guard Tuition Waiver During All Terms

Army National Guard Tuition Waiver During All Terms

CT Guardsmen Help Local Tech School Students Achieve High Marks
Want to Learn How to Fly?  
Ask a Pilot

The Connecticut National Guard is looking for its next generation of pilots. If you are interested in applying for the upcoming flight school or have any questions about your education benefits, stop by the Education Services Office in room 103 of the William A. O’Neill Armory in Hartford. To apply for GI Bill benefits, visit: https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/  
Transfer your Post 9-11 GI Bill at: https://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp_ssl/login.asp  
To apply for the GI Bill benefits, visit: https://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp_v4login.asp

ATTENTION! CTNG Veterans of the Global War on Terror - We Need Your Photos!

The Connecticut Militia Heritage Committee is creating a photo display depicting each CTNG GWOT operation since 2001.

WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS TO COMPLETE OUR DISPLAY!

When submitting, please identify the following:
- Name of the Unit and Photographer
- Dates of the Deployment
- Location of the Photo

Contact the Education Services Officer at 860-937-4600 ext. 103 of the William A. O’Neill Armory in Hartford.

The RTI will have work available for dedicated, qualified, and experienced military pilots to support air operations during the summer of 2017. Positions average three to five days. Some as long as four weeks.

If you are interested in improving your Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Technical score, you can schedule an appointment to take the Army Armed Forces Classification Test in the Hartford Armory. With prior coordination, appointments are available most weekdays at 8:00 a.m.

The latest edition of the "Technical" test area of the ASVAB is a consummate of word knowledge, paragraph comprehension and arithmetic reasoning. A GT score of 50 or better is required for entry into the Officer and Warrant Officer Candidate programs. If you are concerned about passing the exam, we have resources here to help you study or you can take online practice exams to prepare you for the test.

If you have any questions about your education benefits, stop by the Education Services Office in room 103 of the William A. O’Neill Armory in Hartford or contact Education Services directly.

Maj. Derek J. Musgrave - Education Services Officer 860-524-4809 derek.j.musgrave.civ@mail.mil

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Camp Niantic
An Affordable Waterfront Getaway

Who’s Eligible?

- All current CTNG Soldiers and Airmen and their dependents
- Active Duty Military and their dependents
- DOD employees
- Retired Military
- State Militia members
- State Military Department employees

Post MWR Facilities

- PX Open Tuesday - Saturday
- Kayaks, canoes, sailfish and other sporting equipment available
- Waterfront picnic areas
- Volleyball court
- Beach access
- Fitness centers

Local Attractions

- Nearby State and Local Beaches
- Numerous Shopping and Dining Options
- Close to I-95

For Rate Information and Reservations
Contact the Billeting Office at (860) 691-4314
CAMP NANTIC, Conn. — Soldiers from units across the Connecticut Army National Guard competed in the Best Warrior Competition, March 23-26, for the title of Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Spc. Luk Silk, a Glastonbury native, assigned to the Sniper Section of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment, was announced as the Soldier of the Year for the 2017 Best Warrior Competition. Silk and other competitors, were pushed every day of the competition to test their ability to adapt, react, and function during stressful scenarios. Each event was implemented to demonstrate the different skills a Soldier should have. Competitions were graded on how fast each task was completed and how well the task was done in order to receive points. The Soldier with the most points at the end of the four-day event was crowned champion. Silk was selected to represent his unit in the competition because he had the highest physical fitness test score of 340 points on the extended scale.

In order to best prepare themselves, Soldiers train months in advance, with guidance from their mentors.

“I started training about four or five months ago,” Silk said. “I should have done more strength training though.”

Silk said he taught leadership classes at his unit, which helped with that portion of the competition. He had received most of his points from the day and night land navigation course.

Silk’s mentor was his team leader, Sgt. Dan Buerk. Buerk was extremely helpful in training and during the competition itself, Silk said.

Silk enlisted in 2014 as an infantryman, and had received most of his points from the day and night land navigation course.

“This is the second consecutive year a Soldier from the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment’s Sniper Section has won the state level Best Warrior Competition. In 2016, Spc. Nathan Havens took home the title. It doesn’t surprise me at all that the sniper section has represented Connecticut two years running,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Morgan, Senior Enlisted Leader of the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment. “The grit and determination a Soldier has to show to earn the right to represent Connecticut Army National Guard Non-commissioned Officer of the Year Title

Staff Sgt. Jason Balbach

CAMP NANTIC, Conn. — After a grueling four days of competition, Staff Sgt. Jason Balbach, assigned to the Maintenance Shop associated with Allied Trades, was announced as the 2017 Connecticut National Guard Non-commissioned Officer of the Year. Balbach was selected by Command Sgt. Maj. John Carragher, Connecticut’s State Command Sergeant Major, and presented with an Army Commendation Medal to commemorate his success.

The competition kicked off with an evening of academic studying, followed by an afternoon at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, Connecticut, March 25. Soldiers had four hours to plot and locate four points during the daytime event and three points during the nighttime event (Photo by Spc. Kaitlyn Wallace, 130th Public Affairs Detachment, CTARNG)

“Stress is definitely not expecting it because the competition was unexpected. It feels awesome [to win the competition]. I was definitely not expecting it because the competition was pretty easy this year,” Halbach said.

The four-day competition kicked off with an evening of academic studying, followed by an afternoon at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, Connecticut, March 25. Soldiers had four hours to plot and locate four points during the daytime event and three points during the nighttime event (Photo by Spc. Kaitlyn Wallace, 130th Public Affairs Detachment, CTARNG)

Halbach’s mentor for the competition was Staff Sgt. Michael Collins.

“I only made it by with two minutes to spare,” Halbach said.

“And only because Sergeant Major [Michael] Collins was riding me for the last mile, just yelling at my ear, ‘You better not quit, you better not quit.’”

Halbach said he felt most prepared for the written test and the board appearance.

“We did some mock boards with the unit, and I did a lot of academic studying,” Halbach said.

Although he didn’t feel the most prepared for the urban stress shoot portion of the competition, Halbach said he had the most fun during that event.

“It was never live fire shooting under stress before, so not only was it a new experience, it was definitely eye-opening,” Halbach said. “When I was shooting the 9mm pistol my hands were actually shaking at that point, and I feel like that’s a very realistic feeling to how you would feel in that situation.”

The stress shoot began with the competitors zeroing their weapons and performing exercises to raise their heart rates before and during the qualification with an M4 carbine assault rifle.

“So we did the qualifying, we did a lot of PT,” Halbach said. “Then we took the fifty caliber tripod to the other Maintenance Shop associated with Allied Trades. This is the second consecutive year a Soldier from the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment’s Sniper Section has won the state level Best Warrior Competition. In 2016, Spc. Nathan Havens took home the title. It doesn’t surprise me at all that the sniper section has represented Connecticut two years running,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Morgan, Senior Enlisted Leader of the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment. “The grit and determination a Soldier has to show to earn the right to represent Connecticut Army National Guard Non-commissioned Officer of the Year Title

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safety and began the urban stress shoot by that point, and after dragging the dummy the length of the course, I was done.”

Halbach’s mentor for the competition was Staff Sgt. Candice Bourgeois, the Readiness NCO assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 192nd Military Police Battalion.

“It’s a huge morale boost to have someone with you the whole time and anything I needed she had,” Halbach said.

Halbach will need morale, motivation and might to prepare for the Regional Best Warrior Competition at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Connecticut is part of Region One, which encompasses the six New England states, plus New Jersey and New York. Each state will send their NCO and Soldier of the Year to the regional competition to fight for a spot at the National Best Warrior Competition.
Spotlight on a Recruiter 1st Lt. Andrew Bartlett

What was your original Military Occupational Specialty and who was your recruiter?

My original MOS was 11B (infantryman) in Charleston Company, 1-102nd Infantry Regiment and my recruiter was Sgt. 1st Class Craig Townsend.

Why did you join the military?

I joined the CTARNG to support our community during homeland defense. Seeing the CTARNG’s response to 9/11 state was very influential in my branch decision.

Before working in the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, what was the most unusual or interesting job you’ve ever had?

As a student at CTU, I worked at the campus. I also worked as a dishwasher at Chipotle.

And off limits locations within the UConn campus.

I worked as a dishwasher at Chipotle.

What unusual or interesting job have you ever had?

I was a dishwasher at Chipotle.

What was a single most influential life event that has shaped your life choices?

Meeting the CTARNG. It afforded the opportunity to attend college debt-free.

Do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy hiking and camping.

If your organization did a funny song, what would it sound like?

I’m not sure.

What is your Recruiter?

Sgt. 1st Class Craig Townsend

What do you tell friends about the Guard?

I tell them that the Guard is a part of their community and serves to protect their freedom.

Why did you join the Guard?

To benefit my future; to learn how to handle life on my own and to know that I can handle challenges I may face in the future.

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Meet Pfc. Michaila Pollard, Age: 18

J2A. Human Resource Specialist

Meet Pfc. Mya Dixon, Age: 18

J2A. Automated Logistician

Get to Know Connecticut’s Newest Soldiers

The Recruit Sustainment Program acclimates new Connecticut Guardsmen to their military career both before and after attending their initial entry and advanced individual training. Following their completion of all RSP, Guardsmen graduate from RSP and continue their careers training with their new CTARNG units.

Graduates of the RSP are briefed on the extensive benefits and programs available to members of the Connecticut National Guard. RSP drills each month at Camp Niantic, Connecticut. Keep up with their training by liking their Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutGuardRsp/

What were you doing before you joined your unit?

I was a high school student

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OTR Class 62

Inside OCS

Pick Up Your Ruck and Follow Me

The time for training from the comfort of a classroom environment has come to an end, as we push our limits and prepare ourselves for the Field Training Exercise deep in the woods of Camp Smith, New York.

The FTX included a ruck march to our area of operations, training lanes, and patrol base operations. We began this weekend by preparing ourselves and our equipment late into the night. The packing list for our rucks was reviewed, sensitive items were assigned, and key positions and responsibilities were discussed before we implemented our sleep plan.

We reached our area of operations, or AO, after a short ruck march with weapons (M16s, M4s and M249s) and blank ammunition for training. We split into two squads and proceeded to our corresponding assembly area in order to carry out our training.

I eagerly volunteered to take on the leadership role first and was just as quickly humbled when I was bombarded with information while I received the mission. I made to create a Warning Order as the clock just kept ticking away. My sand table team brought the mission to life, as they created a great visual representation of the area we were in, and already had a suggested plan of action. My team leaders were the ones that made the mission a reality, as they took control of their team members and ensured that they carried out their part of my plan. At this point, my squad was well past the allowed time, but nevertheless we kicked off to our objective rally point and ensured that they carried out their part of my plan. At this point, my squad was well past the allowed time, but nevertheless wekick off to our objective rally point and proceeded to carry out the mission.

After completing the mission, our evaluator sat down with us to review how the mission went and how we could improve. His rock solid confidence and demeanor felt almost intimidating, but his personal insight and extended knowledge on the subject matter shined through and provided valuable feedback.

We ran four lanes that day, before setting off to conduct our patrol base for the night. We established and refined our patrol base operations.

Later on that night we received hands on instruction on the use of night vision goggles and discussed the effects thatillumination and the environment have upon their effectiveness. Our ability to see in the darkness while other forces are at the mercy of the moon and flashlights, is a military advantage and why “we own the night.” We then proceeded to scale down security and implemented guard shifts throughout the cold night. Needless to say, a lot of hands-on learning and self-awareness was gained through this experience.

As a leader, your confidence, your knowledge and your abilities will be tested by some of your harshest critics, which include your subordinates and yourself. Your subordinates look to you for guidance, and are trusting you with their very lives to carry out a well thought out mission and immediate and effective change when needed. All self-doubts have to be extinguished so that you may lead with a confidence that your subordinates look to you for guidance, and are trusting you with their very lives to carry out a well thought out mission and immediate and effective change when needed. All self-doubts have to be extinguished so that you may lead with a confidence that your subordinates look to you for guidance, and are trusting you with their very lives to carry out a well thought out mission and immediate and effective change when needed. 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Life Lines
Emergency - 911
CTNG Behavioral Health Help Line - 1-855-800-0120
Wounded Solder and Family Hotline - 1-800-984-8523
www.armyfamilyonline.org - 1-800-833-6622
www.militaryonesource.com - 1-800-342-9647
National Suicide Hotline - 1-800-SUICIDE
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org - 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

R3SP - Resilience, Risk Reduction & Suicide Prevention
Outward Bound
www.outwardbound.org/veterans
Service Member and Family Support Center
1-800-858-2677
Connecticut Veterans Affairs
Newington: 860-666-6951
West Haven: 203-932-5711
Military OneSource
www.militaryonesource.mil

R3SP - Resilience, Risk Reduction & Suicide Prevention
Social Media and Suicide: Can We Influence Change?

Social media has become an arena for generations to connect, with a seemingly infinite number of platforms for users to explore.
Research has been aimed at identifying a possible correlation between the rise in social media usage and the continued increase in deaths by suicide. In suicide prevention courses, many Soldiers have acknowledged seeing what they feel to be, “cries for help,” or vague suicidal language posted by people on such platforms as Facebook and Instagram. The American Journal of Public Health cites increased attention paid to suicide as the result of cyber bullying and cyber harassment, even prompting the creation of the term, “cyberbullicide.”

While bullying has become a public epidemic, it is not the only factor in the possible link between social media and suicide. The internet has made it substantially easier for individuals to gain access to lethal means, like the purchase of weapons or medications that could cause an overdose. Online pharmacies boast cheap and prescription-free dispensing of narcotics, benzodiazepine, and other medications frequently used to suicide. The internet and social media provides an abundance of information that could be used by those experiencing suicidal ideations to ultimately suicide such as lethal combinations of drugs, chat rooms aimed at promoting suicidal behaviors, and of course, cyber bullying.

The American Journal of Public Health recently published findings that in a study done of 79 adolescents and young adults aged 14-24, almost 80% reported being exposed to suicidal behaviors and activities via social media. This is a great concern as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention points out exposure to suicide and suicidal behaviors increases the risk of suicide. While no duplicated studies have been able to show a direct correlation between social media and suicide, they have shown an increase in risk factors for suicide directly related to social media. The ease of exposure to suicidal behaviors through the internet is likely the reason.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, social media can be a platform to spread awareness of risk factors for suicide and resources available to help someone struggling with thoughts of suicide. The same chat rooms that have videos of self-harm and messages glorifying death have mirror images of chat rooms dedicated to reaching out to those in need and providing life-saving resources with messages of hope and safety. Social media can be a beacon of change, especially with younger demographics, as their culture seems to almost revolve around social media. We can be part of this change by responding to posts on social media that may seem like a cry for help or resources available or a positive comment. We can be the change by sharing how the CTARNG is working to reduce the stigma of help-seeking behaviors and training more and more Soldiers in suicide interventions. If we choose our words carefully and responsive to these issues can make a huge impact in helping someone struggling, we can start the change.
Little Big Sister

In the United States, April is designated as Autism Awareness Month.

Autism spectrum disorders include neurodevelopmental conditions classified by social, communicative, sensory, and cognitive difficulties. ASD affects one in 68 children, disproportionately boys. According to the Autism Science Foundation, boys are five times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with ASD. As awareness and care options regarding ASD have grown, and education efforts have increased for diagnosed children, very often the needs of their typical siblings and peers are discounted and overlooked. When a parent has two or more children, but just one with an ASD diagnosis, the unseen difficulty for that parent may be in discussing openly outside of a family or school, topics that can be uncomfortable and awkward.

With the, “War to End All Wars” in its third year, the Second Connecticut Infantry Regiment was mobilized on March 28, 1917 to guard munitions plants, bridges and power stations. The regiment was stretched from Cos Cob to the Paveeck River, while the First Regiment conducted similar operations in the northern part of the state. The Soldiers lived in ammunitions and railroad cars. In June orders came down to mass the entire regiment at Yale Field. Many thought it was just a show of force. Hlf mid-luly, the was regiment living under canvas adjacent to the Yale Bowl. Thus began days of "string, endless drill and camp routine." Many houseck soldiers made quick trips to their nearby families, then returned to face the consequences of being, "Absent Without Leave." Recruiting parties, assisted by Col. Norris Osborne, the Editor of the New Haven Journal-Condier, visited factories and office buildings looking for new enlistments. Many of the factories in the part of the state were making weapons and ammunition, so taking skilled workers hurt production. By August, the regiment's authorized strength of 3,709 officers and enlisted men. An officer of the regiment were making weapons and ammunition, so taking skilled workers hurt production. By August, the regiment’s authorized strength of 3,709 officers and enlisted men. An officer of the 102nd Regiment. Captain Daniel W. Strickland authored the book lends invaluable insight to readers. Katie’s perspective as her brother’s little big sister is warm, educational and for many, will feel very close to home. Awareness of the autism spectrum, and compassion for the families and communities it affects does not have to be limited to April.

Off the Bookshelf

Amy B. McCoy, a former Glastonbury

Connecticut resident, addresses this common experience in her new book, “Little Big Sister.” The novel, written for children, is in the voice of a nine-year-old girl whose older brother has autism. Routine day-to-day activities, like going to the mall or playing basketball, generally taken for granted by most children, take on extra emphasis for Katie when planning must be made around the needs of her brother, Mikey. Although days are sometimes difficult for her, the insight she receives by being the “big sister” to her brother helps her better relate to people with disabilities in her school and community.

McCoy's lighthearted and fun novel addresses topics that can be uncomfortable and awkward to discuss openly outside of a family or school, especially for the siblings and parents of children with ASD. Her point is that it doesn’t have to be. As the number of children in the state with an ASD diagnosis grows yearly, (in 2000, the rate was one in 150) the likelihood in the U.S. of having a neighbor, family member or classmate with ASD has also risen. McCoy’s point is that it doesn’t have to be.

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Training Circulators for TY17 Are Now Available
Contact Your Chain of Command for More Information

**Highlighted Courses:**

- **Bus Driver Training Course:** The Operator’s Training Course is a “Train the Trainer” (TT) course, primarily targeted to personnel with the skills necessary to train individuals on the safe operation of a CSA Bus. This course will provide training on Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS), Operations, Operational Policies and Safety.

- **Unit Prevention Leader (UPL):** This training ensures that Soldiers serving in the capacities of Unit Prevention Leader or Alcohol and Drug Control Officers (ADCO) are provided with the knowledge on how to increase individual fitness and overall unit readiness. Training will emphasize substance abuse specimen collection procedures, chain of custody documentation, and specimen packaging. In order to fully cover the Substance Abuse Prevention Program, its benefits to units, and providing training and training aids. 08-09 July 2017. (30 Soldiers Max; See your unit training NCO for current availability)

**Training Opportunities for TY17:**

- **ADCO:**
  - **Class #1:** 180-17-20  Majs. Meegan Madrigal 12-May-17 29-May-17
- **Bus Driver Training Course:**
  - **Class #2:** 180-17-21  Master Sgt. Terri Antonio 22-May-17 26-May-17
- **HST:**
  - **Class #3:** 180-17-09  Ms. Meegan Madrigal 26-May-17 21-May-17
- **Army Substance Abuse Prevention (SSAP) AG:**
  - **Class #4:** 180-17-05  Ms. Robin Tangany 24-May-17 26-May-17
- **Final Examinations:**
  - **Class #5:** 180-17-13  Sgt. 1st Class Taravana Quintana 9-B-17 8-B-17
- **UFS Course:**
  - **Class #6:** 180-17-13  Sgt. Jonathan Prochinski 8-B-17 9-B-17
- **OS Training Class 03:**
  - **Class #7:** 180-17-15  Mr. Tom Colleton 3-Aug-17 5-Aug-17
- **OS Training Class 04:**
  - **Class #8:** 180-17-15  Mr. Tom Colleton 3-Aug-17 5-Aug-17
- **OS Training Class 05:**
  - **Class #9:** 180-17-29  Ms. Meegan Madrigal 4-Aug-17 6-Aug-17
- **Tag March:**
  - **Class #10:** 180-17-29  Sgt. 1st Class Justin Colebusi Maynouo 4-Aug-17 6-Aug-17
- **HST:**
  - **Class #11:** 180-17-08  Ms. Tom Colleton 5-Aug-17 6-Aug-17
- **OS Training Class 06:**
  - **Class #12:** 180-17-35  Mr. Tom Colleton 8-Aug-17 8-Aug-17
- **OS Training Class 08:**
  - **Class #13:** 180-17-35  Mr. Tom Colleton 9-Aug-17 9-Aug-17

The DA Photo Process
Do You Need a DA Photo?
Visit the DA Photo website.

**Questions about this article?**
Contact: Capt. Alan Merriman, JA 860-837-4813
Maj. Kathy Maines (SARC) 860-613-7611

Legal: An Examination of Retaliation Against Reporters

In April, 2016, the Department of Defense took a substantial step toward addressing a growing problem in the military, retaliation against reporters. Under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter, the DoD published its first Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy: Regarding Sexual Assault and Harassment Reports.

The stated purpose of the strategy is to provide comprehensive support to individuals who experience retaliation (perceived or actual) and to foster an ethical and just climate intolerant of retaliation across the Department. SecDef Carter further characterized this strategy as, “crucial in effectively addressing sexual assault and harassment in the military.” Retaliation not only harms the lives and careers of victims, but also undermines military readiness and weakens the culture of dignity and respect. Access to justice from commanders or failure to eliminate retaliation in the military, the DoD and the Services must ensure that commanders are appropriately informed, empowered, and incentivized to provide the professional environment Service members deserve.

Congress recently directed the Secretary of Defense to establish definitions of retaliation that can be criminally enforced. Retaliation generally falls into one of two broad categories: reprisal and ostracism. The Uniform Code of Military Justice prohibits acts of criminal, oppression, and maltreatment against a crime reporter when an individual who can legally give orders violate the punitive regulations of the Departments of the Navy and Air Force, ostracism must be committed with the intent to prevent reporting of a crime or to dissuade someone from participating in the justice process. Under the Army regulation, the crime of ostracism in some instances could be committed with no intent to prevent reporting or interfere with the administration of justice.

Current law and military regulations also prohibit reprisals in the form of retaliation. Specifically, the Uniform Code of Military Justice prohibits acts of criminal, oppression, and maltreatment against a crime reporter when an individual who can legally give orders commit the acts. A range of retaliatory acts can also be prosecuted under other articles of the UCMJ, including failure to obey an order or regulation, causing an unfavorable evaluation, or damaging destruction of property, or circumventing a legal process. While most first line leaders and commanders are prepared to address misconduct, retaliatory situations can often be complex, subtle, or prone to misunderstanding.

Retaliation not only harms the lives and careers of victims, but also undermines military readiness and weakens the culture of dignity and respect. Access to justice from commanders or failure to eliminate retaliation in the military, the DoD and the Services must ensure that commanders are appropriately informed, empowered, and incentivized to provide the professional environment Service members deserve.

While most first line leaders and commanders are prepared to address misconduct, retaliatory situations can often be complex, subtle, or prone to misunderstanding. Retaliation is a more tangible and overt form of retaliation making incidents easier to effectively address; however, ostracism can be more corrosive to unit morale, as Soldiers/Airmen take sides against or for the reporter. Ostracism can be difficult to effectively address if commanders do not show support for their subordinates throughout the reporting process, regardless of the disposition of the underlying sexual assault investigation. A commander’s failure to act to protect a victim can create a lasting negative imprint on command climate. Often recognized as an instrument of punishment, ostracism is a more difficult form of retaliation. Substantive measures in support of victims must recognize that their treatment of a reporting Service member is often the most critical aspect of how the victim perceives the military, as a whole, has treated them. Finally, leaders are a central component of retaliation prevention and should help military leaders support them, such as the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and assigned Special Victim Counsel, to ensure that our Service members are receiving maximum effort to support them in order to maintain a ready, capable force.
The REAL ID, enacted May 11, 2005, is an Act of Congress that modifies U.S. federal law pertaining to security, authentication, and issuance procedures standards for the state driver’s licenses and identification cards, as well as various immigration issues pertaining to terrorism.

Come out on the nationalized need for more standardized U.S. identification by Department of Homeland Security following the events of September 11, 2001. The Secretary of Homeland Security has currently defined, “official purposes,” as having commercial commercial-operational airline flights and entering federal buildings and nuclear power plants. The law gives the DHS Secretary the unlimited authority to require a, “federal identification,” for any other purposes.

Beginning January 22, 2018, driver’s licenses or state IDs that are not in compliance with the REAL ID Act and have not been granted an extension by Department of Homeland Security may not be used to domestically. Beginning October 1, 2020, every traveler will have to have a REAL ID-compliant license, state ID, or another acceptable form of identification to fly into the United States. A complete list of acceptable IDs is located on both the Department of Homeland Security and TSA websites.

Luckily, Connecticut is a compliant state. In 2011, Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles began giving individuals the option of renewing their driver’s license as verified or regular renewal. A verified Connecticut driver’s license meets the federal standards for domestic travel beginning in 2020. You must appear in person with proper documentation as listed on your renewal notice. To be verified you must prove three things. First, you prove your identity with a birth certificate or passport. Other identification such as a Social Security card is not acceptable. You must have a REAL ID-compliant license, state ID, or another acceptable form of identification to fly into the United States.

As routine as this may sound, it is not. The author of this article cannot get a verified license at the present time because, though having lived in the same house, in the same town in Connecticut, does not have acceptable proof of residence. You must prove your name and the physical address of your home. So, if you receive mail at a post office box as the author does, that does not count. A utility bill will suffice if your name is on it along with your physical address. Many married couples’ utility bills are in one person’s name. So, if it is in the case of the author, it is not acceptable. Complete proof must show your name and physical address, dated within 90 days, and be computer generated. Married couples should make sure they each have at least two documents which prove their physical address for residency. For more detailed information on REAL ID and obtaining a Verified Connecticut driver’s license, visit the CT DMV website renewing a license.

To Private 2
Es, Suleymen T.
Davids, Justin M.
Martinez, Brigitte K.
Wade, Dawn L.
Perry, Grace
Edge, Erin S. II
Hamill, Alexis M.
Riosjerez, Ricardo A.
Bailey, Benelle R.
Caban, Joshua
Landgren, Nicholas J.
Martinez, Jamil M.
Yonumas, Kellie L.
Guillamon, Colby S.
Bennet, Richard L.
Raszt, Andrew J.
WARD, Julia R.
Maglehner, Jonathan D.
Griffin, Koby C.
Dixon, Mya A.
Rivera, Paulina E.
Chandler, Devon H.
Janesmagaria, Jorge Smith, Ryan M.
Samskie, William M.
Brown, Michael A.
To Private First Class
Pheer, Edithan J.
To Specialist
Martnez, Stephen M.
Roth, Alexza L.
Shabaz, Iman D.
George, Chasen L.
Pacheco, Samantha B.
Pagan, Bruna M.
Bry, Toby B.
Vanderveenbos, Eymane
Jackson, Kellin C.
Shields, Conrad T.
Velasquez, Diego P.
To Airman
Hippolyte, Justin J.
To Senior Airman
Glisson, Brian D.
Moss, Morrie A.
Patt, Jager U.
Duckles, Kenneth L. Jr.
Dusay, Kevin V.
Moura, Savvy M.
To Staff Sergeant
Sorensen, Bradley C.
Moss, Dylan W.
Bagadur, Erin C.
Coggins, Harriet L.
Korins, Jeffrey B.
Ramos, Jason A.
Kaye, Robert A.
Lockwood, Ryan M.
To Technical Sergeant
Dorfine, Jason B.
Bowcock, Jeremy T.
Cabrera, Meghan R.
Quagliariello, Michael C.
Fox, Monica L.

Congratulations to All!

Promotions as of April 1, 2017

Connecticut National Guard Promotions

**Army**

Pelland, Michelle D.
Roberts, Tyler K.
Achampong, Nora O. Thomas, Ashlyn
Hall, Moshoua D.
Adams, Timm I.
McGough, Taylor J.
Gonzaleztorres, Stephanie M.
Crawford, Mary E. Jr.
Bustillo, Cindy C.
Parks, Kristian
Fernandez, Christopher A.
Wood, Jacob M.
Medrano, Walker A.
Blizzard, Devon M. Jr.
Pelig, Alexander J.

To Specialist
Martinez, Stephen M.
Roth, Alexza L.
Shabaz, Iman D.
George, Chasen L.
Pacheco, Samantha B.
Pagan, Bruna M.
Bry, Toby B.
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Kaye, Robert A.
Lockwood, Ryan M.
To Technical Sergeant
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Bowcock, Jeremy T.
Cabrera, Meghan R.
Quagliariello, Michael C.
Fox, Monica L.

**Air**

To Private 2
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Martinez, Brigitte K.
Wade, Dawn L.
Perry, Grace
Edge, Erin S. II
Hamill, Alexis M.
Riosjerez, Ricardo A.
Bailey, Benelle R.
Caban, Joshua
Landgren, Nicholas J.
Martinez, Jamil M.
Yonumas, Kellie L.
Guillamon, Colby S.
Bennet, Richard L.
Raszt, Andrew J.
WARD, Julia R.
Maglehner, Jonathan D.
Griffin, Koby C.
Dixon, Mya A.
Rivera, Paulina E.
Chandler, Devon H.
Janesmagaria, Jorge Smith, Ryan M.
Samskie, William M.
Brown, Michael A.
To Private First Class
Pheer, Edithan J.
To Specialist
Martnez, Stephen M.
Roth, Alexza L.
Shabaz, Iman D.
George, Chasen L.
Pacheco, Samantha B.
Pagan, Bruna M.
Bry, Toby B.
Vanderveenbos, Eymane
Jackson, Kellin C.
Shields, Conrad T.
Velasquez, Diego P.

To Airman
Hippolyte, Justin J.
To Senior Airman
Glisson, Brian D.
Moss, Morrie A.
Patt, Jager U.
Duckles, Kenneth L. Jr.
Dusay, Kevin V.
Moura, Savvy M.
To Staff Sergeant
Sorensen, Bradley C.
Moss, Dylan W.
Bagadur, Erin C.
Coggins, Harriet L.
Korins, Jeffrey B.
Ramos, Jason A.
Kaye, Robert A.
Lockwood, Ryan M.
The Connecticut National Guard Service Member and Family Support Center values all of the hard work and dedication that volunteers contribute each year. On April 26, the SMFSC honored those volunteers for their services at the 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held at Taphouse 150 in Cromwell, Connecticut. CTNG volunteers who are an integral part of the programs and events that are planned throughout the year.

"Without the unwavering support of CTNG volunteers, I am certain that many of the events and programs we host for our Service Members would not be possible," said Kim Hoffman, Director of the CTNG Service Member and Family Support Center. "I cannot thank them enough for their generous contributions all year long."

Awards of appreciation were presented to volunteers as well as a special honor given to Harold Bernstein who acts as the unofficial photographer for SMFSC events. His dedication and amazing ability to capture the joy of Service Members and Families who attend our events and programs is valued by the staff of the SMFSC as well as the families of the CTNG. Many of his photos add illustration to stories in local newsletters, on social media and for publication in the Connecticut Guardian.

In addition to awards, the evening included a social hour and dinner with musical selection provided by the CTNG 102nd Army Jazz Band.

There are many opportunities to volunteer with the Service Member and Family Support Center. If you are looking for short or long term opportunities reach out to us at 1-800-858-2677 and we can connect you with a volunteer opportunity to best suit your needs.
Our outlook may decide the magnitude of our hopes and determine our self-image, behavior and achievements.

‘...Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.’ (Philippians 4:8.)

Therefore, right where you are today, and whether you see yourself is how you see the world.

If you see yourself as a failure and you believe you have no future, you will live that way. If you believe that you have the capability to get better and do better, you will want to do just that. If you believe that you have an opportunity to change your life for the better, you will want to change it.

In life, you are responsible for developing the habits and the environment you want to have and not for finding someone else to blame for your problems. The world is not made up of winners and losers. It’s made up of people who make decisions and choose where to live in the world.

Today, the world needs your light to shine brightly to make a better place. And, ask God to provide you with a way for His light to shine through you. Soon, an unexpected opportunity will arise. New doors are going to open for you which will take you to a better place of living.

So forge ahead with hope in your heart. And, one step at a time, aim for happiness, kindness, and as you open situations to others, your world will be right!
MAJ. MIKE PETERSEN
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. – Over 275 Guardsmen, Guard family members and children attended the 20th annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Windsor Locks Readiness Center, April 15.

The traditional pancake breakfast was followed by a visit from the Easter Bunny itself, where children could meet the beloved character.

“The amount of people we get to this event each year never ceases to amaze me,” said Michelle McCarty, Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator for the Connecticut National Guard. “The kids all love it.”

Children were also treated to numerous activities, including face painting courtesy of volunteers supporting the yearly event host by Family Programs. There were stations for arts and crafts.

“We have been coming for six years now… it is something we really look forward to every year,” said Capt. Pat Montes, Commander of A Co., 1-102nd Infantry Regiment. “We look back each year at photos the kids have taken with the Easter Bunny and it’s almost like our own little growth chart.”

Montes, along with wife Jessica, have three children, all who were excited to be there.

The event ended with a raffle, where prizes included children’s bicycles. Each child was provided an Easter Basket to take home on their way out.

“These families sacrifice so much on behalf of the state and nation. Putting on a breakfast with a little entertainment during a holiday weekend is the least we can do,” said McCarty. “I hope we’re able to do this for another 20 years.”

The Connecticut National Guard’s Service Member and Family Support Center hosts a number of different programs for military youths throughout the year. If you are interested, contact Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator, Michelle McCarty, at michelle.m.mccarty4.ctr@mail.mil.

Guardsmen and their families visited with the Easter Bunny at the Connecticut National Guard Service Member and Family Support Center’s 20th Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Windsor Locks Readiness Center in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, April 15. More than 275 Guardsmen, Guard families and children attended the event that included crafts and activities, breakfast, a visit from the Easter Bunny himself. (Photo by Harold Bernstein, Connecticut National Guard Service Member and Family Support Center volunteer)