



# Connecticut GUARDIAN

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## Connecticut Guard member assists driver during overdose

Master Sgt. Tamara Dabney  
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

On the afternoon of June 4, 2022, Air Force Staff Sgt. Carlos Hernandez-Garcia happened to be in the right place at the right time.

Hernandez-Garcia was driving in East Hartford, Connecticut when he noticed a vehicle stopped at the intersection of Burnside Avenue and Main Street. As he saw people congregating around the vehicle, Hernandez-Garcia knew that something was wrong.

“It didn't appear to be in an accident,” said Hernandez-Garcia, a Connecticut State Trooper who also serves as an aerospace ground equipment specialist in the Connecticut Air National Guard. “From my training and experience, I knew it was one of two things- either the driver was having some kind of medical issue or possibly a drug overdose.”

Hernandez-Garcia, off-duty at the time of the incident, pulled his vehicle over to the side of the road, grabbed his window punch and immediately took action to assist.

“It seemed like they couldn't get the attention of the driver,” said Hernandez-Garcia. “There was a lady that was there and she identified herself as the sister of the driver. The sister was doing her own errands and was coming from a different direction when she just happened to recognize his car. She said that her brother had a drug history, so she assumed that he probably overdosed. We tried to open the doors but all the doors were locked. At that point, I took my window punch and I punched out one of the rear windows.”



Air Force Staff Sgt. Carlos Hernandez-Garcia, aerospace ground equipment specialist assigned to the 103rd Airlift Wing, Connecticut Air National Guard, stands outside of the AGE facility at Bradley Air National Guard Base, Conn., October 23, 2022. On June 4, 2022 Hernandez-Garcia, who served as a Connecticut State Trooper, assisted a vehicle operator who was experiencing a near-fatal drug overdose while off-duty. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)

After gaining access to the vehicle, Hernandez-Garcia determined that the vehicle operator was unresponsive and directed the operator's sister to call 9-1-1. With the assistance of another off-duty law enforcement officer from Cromwell, Hernandez-Garcia was able to unlock the ve-

hicle doors. The Cromwell officer then received Narcan (naloxone) nasal spray, a medicine used to treat suspected opioid overdoses, from another bystander and adminis-

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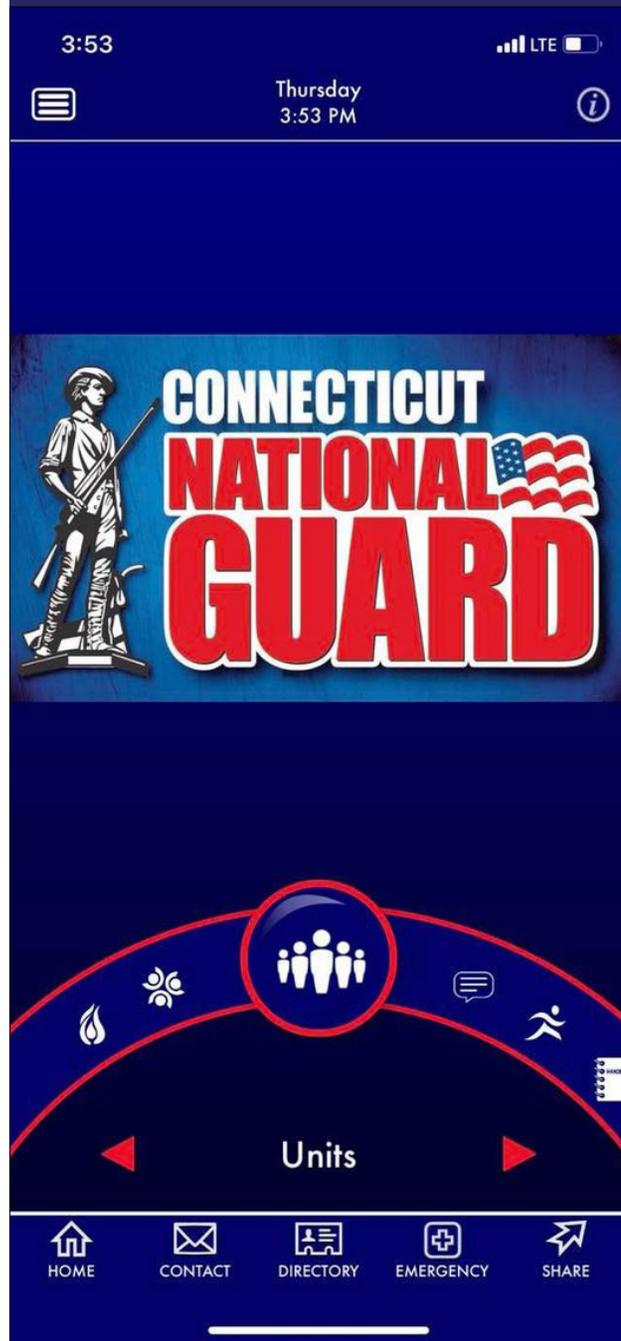


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*Any further questions or concerns about the Connecticut Guardian, contact the editor directly.*

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## Garcia

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tered the medicine to the unresponsive operator.

“We administered Narcan and got the operator alert and conscience,” said Hernandez-Garcia. “He was able to state his name and identified what drug he used. In this case, he said that he had smoked fentanyl, which is one of the opioids that causes a lot of deaths now in the country.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 107,000 people in the United States died of drug overdoses and drug poisonings in the 12-month period ending in January 2022. 67 percent of those deaths involved synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl. In Connecticut, residents are more likely to die from an unintentional drug overdose than a motor vehicle accident. Reports estimate that naloxone has prevented thousands of

opioid-related deaths in the United States.

“Luckily someone that was walking by happened to carry Narcan,” said Hernandez-Garcia. “Someone in the public just was able to help us save this man's life. That's what we're here for is to help other people, regardless of the situation or where we're at or the time and place.”

Learn more about naloxone and recommendations for who should carry naloxone at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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# In a Time of Racial Injustice, These Connecticut Soldiers Fought to Preserve the Union

Sgt. Matthew Lucibello  
130th Public Affairs Detachment

The date is January 1st, 1863. The United States is plunged into a civil war. As the war enters its third year, and with no signs of the Confederacy yielding, President Abraham Lincoln's emancipation proclamation goes into effect.

In this proclamation, Lincoln writes that all slaves, to include those in the rebellious states, many of whom were pressed into forced service by the Confederate Army, "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." The Union now has two objectives: the preservation of the United States and the liberation of every slave in the Confederate states.

To meet these goals, the Union needs men. President Lincoln knows this, and lays the groundwork in his proclamation for the acceptance of black soldiers into the U.S. Military. Following this, on May 22, 1863, the United States War Department issued General Order No. 143, which established a protocol so that African-American men can enter the Armed Forces.

On November 13, 1863, as Lincoln called on Connecticut for more soldiers for the war effort, Col. Dexter R. Wright and Col. Benjamin S. Pardee, of New Haven, proposed a bill to the state legislature for the creation of "Colored" infantry regiments. The proposal was initially met with racially motivated criticism, however, 10 days later on November 23, it was signed by Connecticut Governor William Buckingham. With the signing of this bill, Connecticut's first black unit was born: The 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

The unit, which first mustered on March 8, 1864, in Fair Haven, a neighborhood in eastern New Haven, received 1,600 volunteers. According to an 1860 census, at the time only 8,726 black men lived in the state, of which, only 2,206 were of eligible enlistment age. Based on these statistics, approximately 78% of Connecticut's black population that was eligible for military service volunteered to serve. Too many men had volunteered in-fact, leading to the creation of an additional separate regiment, the 30th Regiment Connecticut Volunteers. The 30th would not last long as its own independent unit, however, as the regiment did not receive enough men to fill its ranks and was soon amalgamated into the 31st Infantry Regiment, United States Colored Troops.

11 days later on March 19, the 29th paraded through the streets of New Haven, departed Connecticut via steamship and started their long journey south toward Virginia. The soldiers of the unit, almost entirely black, except for white officers appointed to lead them, would not receive their weapons until reaching their first stop on their journey, Camp Parole, Maryland. Thereafter, they were sent to South Carolina where they subsequently performed guard and picket duty in Beaufort until August 8. On August 8, the unit traveled to Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, and stayed there until being called up to partake in siege operations against Petersburg and Richmond.

These operations were designed to capture Petersburg and control the last rail supply line that ran between Petersburg and Richmond, the South Side Railroad. Once Petersburg and the rail line fell under Union control, all rail lines supplying Confederate forces in Richmond would be cut off.

The 29th's first major battle as part of this campaign would be the Battle of New Market's Heights, also known as the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, on Sept. 29, 1864. Prior to that, the unit's only combat experience was a brief skirmish during a reconnaissance patrol in August. During the battle, the unit, and the rest of the Army of the James, attacked in the direction of Richmond in an attempt to draw Confederate forces away from Petersburg. The 29th, and other troops of the X Corps, attacked a defensive line of Confederate troops along New Market Road so that Gen. Edward Ord's XVIII Corps could push unopposed into Fort Harrison, a Confederate stronghold. Their efforts were successful, the fort was captured, as was the artillery behind it, but their victory came at a cost. The 29th sustained 11 casualties in this engagement, including one Hamden native killed, John Williams, who fell on Sept. 30.

The 29th's next action would be on October 13, 1864, during the battle of Darbytown Road. As part of the X Corps' reconnaissance in force, the unit probed the newly established Confederate defensive lines along the road after reports came in that Confederate forces were building fortifications and digging in following their unsuccessful counter-attack to reclaim New Market Road that occurred a few days prior. Although not much is known about the 29th's contribution, X Corps' recon turned into a full fledged attack,



A U.S. Army soldier of the 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry is depicted at the 29th Colored Regiment Monument, New Haven, Connecticut, Feb. 3, 2023. The 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, also known as the 29th Colored Regiment, was a unit of mostly African-American men from across Connecticut who volunteered to serve and fight for the Union during the American Civil War. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew Lucibello)

which was repulsed by the Confederates. By the time the dust settled and Union forces regrouped back at their own lines at least four 29th men were killed and many more wounded.

Following this engagement, the 29th would fight in the battle of Fair Oaks, also known as the battle of Kell House, between October 27 and 28, 1864, in what is now Henrico, Virginia. This battle was a purposeful diversion, meant to stress the Confederate lines. The Union hoped it would cause Confederate forces to build up and mass their forces in the vicinity of the Darbytown Road, which would give an opening for the Union's XVIII Corps to break through the Confederate lines elsewhere around Richmond. Unfortunately for the Union, the offensive by the XVIII Corps would be routed.

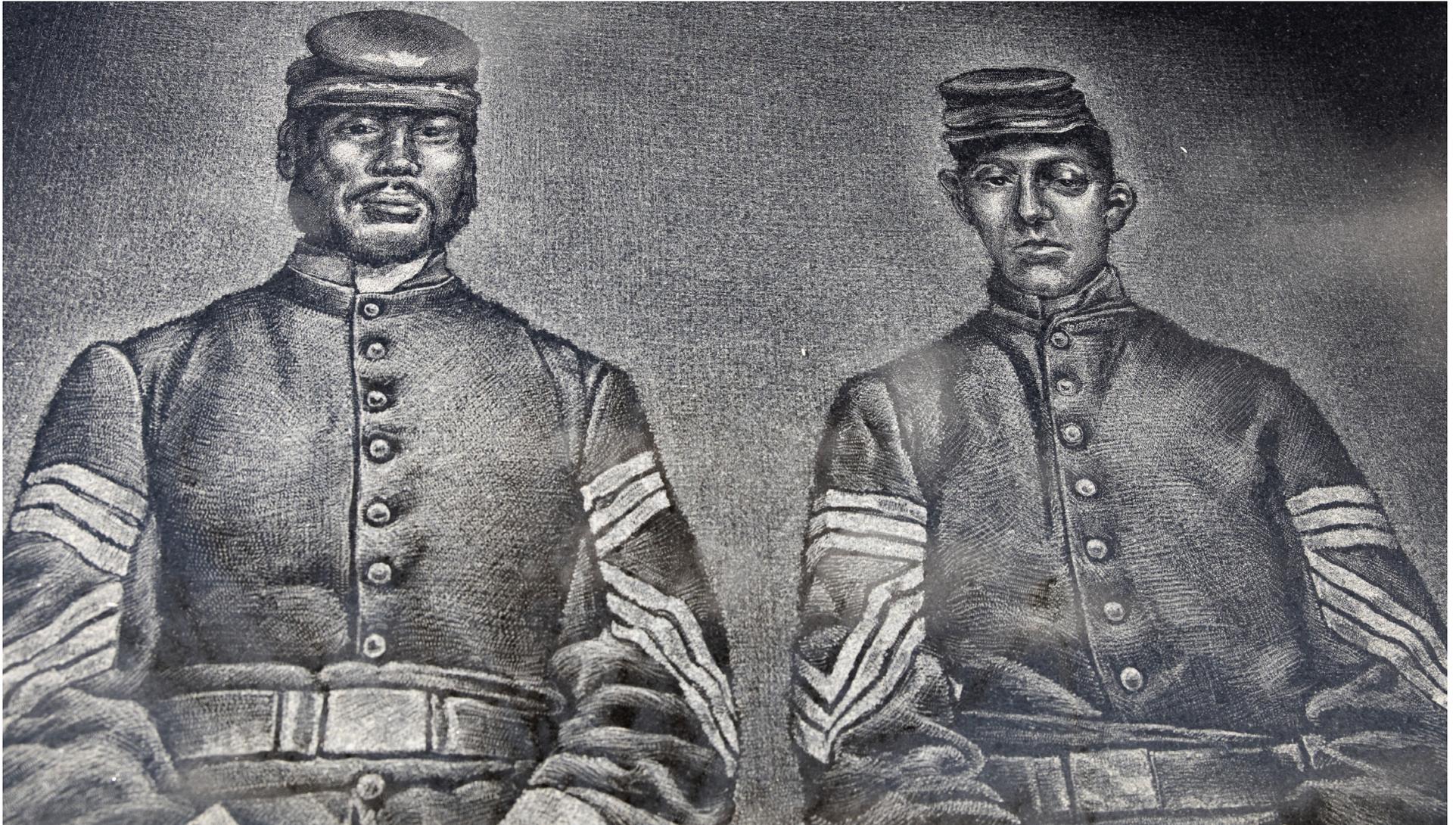
The men of the 29th, however, performed their duties well, initially dispatching enemy forces that held advanced positions before their defensive line. Following that, the unit advanced on the enemy, at some points within 200 yards of their positions and established a skirmish line. Here, the 29th would hold their positions, at first trading musket shots with the Confederate forces, then not long thereafter coming under bombardment from Confederate artillery using grapeshot and canister shot. The men stayed on the line overnight as it was deemed impossible to have an organized withdrawal and were relieved the following morning.

This would be the deadliest battle for the regiment, suffering 69 men wounded and 11 men killed.

Following this engagement, the 29th remained on trench duty until April 1865. On April 3, 1865, scouts of the 29th began probing the Confederates lines outside Richmond. To their excitement, they found them to be abandoned. Unbeknownst to them, the day prior the Union's Army of the Potomac broke through the Petersburg defenses, severely crippling Confederate forces. The Confederate troops, who were not defending the lines, fled, abandoning Petersburg and Richmond.

Not long after their reports came through, the entire regiment was notified and ordered to take Richmond. The men started advancing in small parties, discovering explosive traps left behind by retreating Confederate forces. These proved to be nothing more than an annoyance for the men of the 29th, who circumnavigated them easily and continued their drive toward the city proper. As they advanced they captured numerous prisoners, artillery and many small arms.

Soldiers of C. Company and G. Company became the first Union troops to enter the city at seven in the morning, ahead of the rest of the regiment. U.S. Army Col. William Wooster, commander of the regiment, linked up with these forward elements, pointed



Two non-commissioned officers of the 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry are depicted at the 29th Colored Regiment Monument, New Haven, Connecticut, Feb. 3, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew Lucibello)

his sword toward the capitol, and ordered the men to march “double quick”. The men charged down Main street and took up positions in the square as they awaited to consolidate with the rest of the regiment. Not long after entering the city, the 29th would be ordered to the outskirts, replaced by advancing white Union soldiers.

Six days later Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered the last of his forces at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. Following the surrender of the Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, the men of the 29th were called upon to guard 20,000 prisoners of war in Point Lookout, Maryland until May 28.

The unit’s last job would be performing duty across the United States in the “Lone Star Republic” of Texas. Here, the unit was ordered to take positions near the U.S. and Mexican border in a show of force to France, who installed a puppet government in Mexico.

The deployment, thankfully, was uneventful, save for the suffering each soldier endured due to the terrible conditions traveling by sea to the border and upon landing at Brazos Santiago Island. Many men were parched upon disembarking their ships and hitting the beach, as there was not enough water on board to adequately sustain the unit. To make matters worse, when the unit arrived on shore and made it to their post there was not enough water available either, save for the water that pooled around their positions, in some places up to their knees. Soldiers of the 29th had to survive by filling their canteens with condensed water, at a cost of 10 cents per canteen. The 29th stayed here until later traveling on foot to Brownsville, Texas, a journey of over 20 miles through mud from a rainstorm weeks prior that actively tried to make the men one with the Earth as they waded toward their next position.

When the regiment reached Brownsville they found it was not much better than Brazos. There was no great town or city waiting, no cheering citizens lining the streets, instead huts made from mud and a local populace that, to the men of the 29th, might as well have been from a different planet. The men would wear only a shirt and drawers, sometimes rolled up to their hips, and the women would often be seen walking about wearing little clothing at all, sometimes with their chests or bottoms exposed. The 29th remained here

until mustering out of service on October 24.

Their first stop on their way home would be in New Orleans four days later, before eventually landing at New York Harbor in mid November. The 29th disembarked their steamer and marched down Broadway to the sound of thunderous applause and cheers from the local populace. The unit departed New York on November 23 via the steamship Granite State and arrived back home in Hartford on the morning of the 25th.

The men of the 29th were met with a “great reception” and paraded down the streets to their new encampment in the southern districts of the city. The next morning, November 26, 1865, the men fell in for the last time, were paid, and allowed to finally return to their families.

By the time the men were honorably discharged and the regiment was disbanded, the unit suffered 24 soldiers killed in action with 18 more soldiers being fatally wounded. Six soldiers would die in accidents and an additional 178 men would die of disease. 135 soldiers would be wounded and 103 men would be discharged for disabilities.

These men showed their character and grit on the battlefield. They proved that black soldiers could fight just as well and honorably as their white counterparts. Their actions, and their sacrifices, helped bring the bloodiest war in United States history to a close and laid the foundation for not just the rebuilding of the Nation in the following decades, but for the inclusion of black soldiers in the military.

As Frederick Douglas said to the men of the unit prior to their departure to the South, “You are pioneers of the liberty of your race. With the United States cap on your head, the United States eagle on your belt, the United States musket on your shoulder, not all the powers of darkness can prevent you from becoming American citizens. And not for yourselves alone are you marshaled—you are pioneers—on you depends the destiny of four millions of the colored race in this country. If you rise and flourish, we shall rise and flourish. If you win freedom and citizenship, we shall share your freedom and citizenship.”

# Welcome home 103rd Airlift Wing!



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Peter Jones, 103rd Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, pins a medal on the chest of an airman assigned to the 103rd Maintenance Wing during their welcome home ceremony Feb. 4, 2023 at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut. The 103rd recently returned home from deployment to the Horn of Africa. (U.S. Army photo by Mr. Timothy Koster, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



An Air Force Commendation Medal is pinned on the uniform of an airman assigned to the Connecticut National Guard's 103rd Maintenance Wing during the unit's welcome home ceremony at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, Feb. 4, 2023.



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Gerald McDonald, assistant adjutant general - Air Force, makes remarks to the airmen of the 103rd Maintenance Wing during the welcome home ceremony at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, Feb. 4, 2023.

# CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



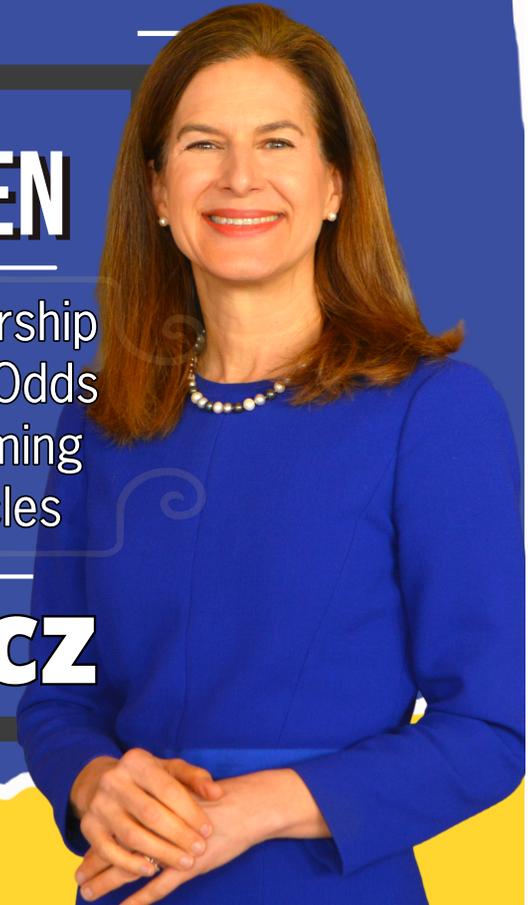
# WOMEN

In Leadership  
Beating Odds  
Overcoming  
Obstacles

KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER

LT GOVERNOR

# Susan Bysiewicz



Time 1200 - 1300

Date March 14, 2023

Location Hartford Armory  
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## PANEL DISCUSSION WITH SENIOR FEMALE CTNG LEADERS

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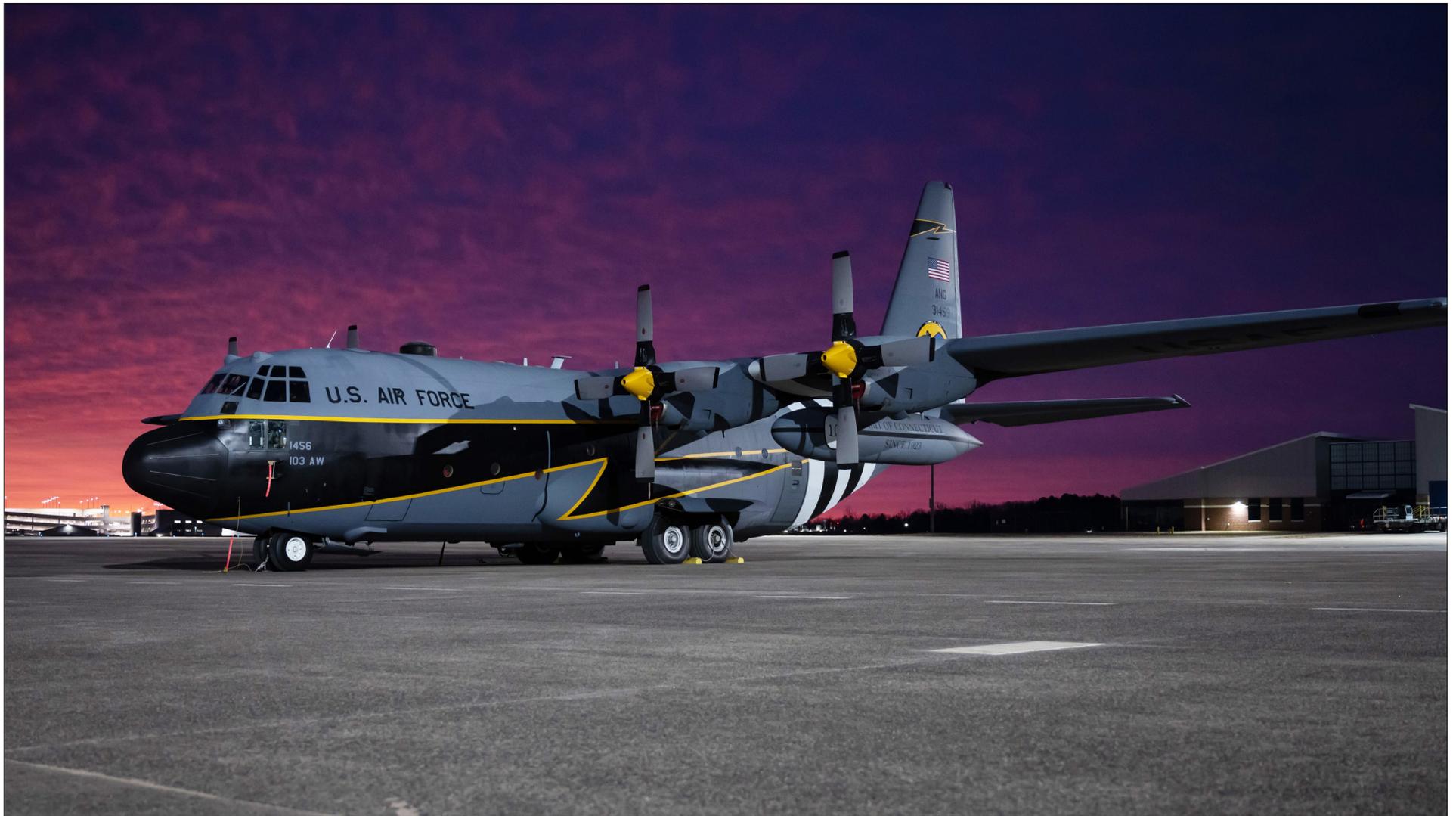
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# Celebrating 100 years of CT aviation



A C-130H aircraft, painted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 118th Airlift Squadron, Flying Yankees, sits on the flight line at sunrise, January 18, 2023 at Bradley Air National Guard Base, Conn. Members of the 103rd Maintenance Group, Connecticut Air National Guard painted the aircraft. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)



Connecticut State Representatives Hubert D. Delany, Jane Garibay, and Senator Richard Blumental pose for a selfie in front of the 103rd Airlift Wing's newly painted C-130H Hercules Aircraft following the welcome home ceremony for the 103rd Maintenance Group at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, Feb. 4, 2023. The aircraft was specially painted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 103rd Airlift Wing. (Photo by Mr. Timothy R. Koster)



A newly repainted C-130H Hercules aircraft sits on the tarmac of Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut Feb. 4, 2023. The aircraft was specially painted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 103rd Airlift Wing. (Photo by Mr. Timothy R. Koster)



Soldiers, representing the United States in the 2019 Edelweiss Raid, a two-day mountaineering challenge in the Tyrol region of the Austrian Alps, pass over some rocky terrain on their way to the next challenge of the event. The race covers more than forty kilometers of rugged mountainous terrain with more than 4,000 meters of elevation gain. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of Capt. Scott Stone)

## CT Guardsman represents US in 2023 Edelweiss Raid

**Timothy Koster**  
Connecticut National Guard Public Affairs

One of the biggest, and often overlooked, perks of serving in the United States military is the ability to travel the world, experience new and different cultures, and work with people from our ally and partner nations around the globe. For Connecticut National Guard Capt. Scott Stone, an infantry officer with 1-102nd Infantry Regiment and high school lacrosse coach, his latest Army adventure takes him to – or should we say back to – the Tyrol region of the Austrian Alps where he and seven other soldiers are representing the United States in the 2023 Edelweiss Raid.

Known in Europe as the “unofficial world championship of military mountaineering”, the Edelweiss Raid takes military teams of eight personnel, drops them into

one of the most austere mountain terrains in the world, and pits them against each other in a two-day endurance test sprinkled with mountain warfare skills.

“So, we all pretty much call it ‘type two fun’ which is basically, that it’s not ‘haha we’re all having a good time fun’ but it’s one of things that once you’re done with it, it’s a really awesome experience,” said Stone.

The entire race covers more than forty kilometers of rugged mountainous terrain with more than 4,000 meters of elevation gain. All the while, they’re racing the clock to complete tasks such as avalanche search and rescue, rappelling, high-angle shooting, land navigation, casualty evacuation, and more – all on skis. This definitely isn’t your traditional best warrior competition.

“During the race, it’s certainly challenging; your heart

rate’s up, you’re moving pretty quickly through two pretty full days,” said Stone. “So, it’s a lot of hard work; it requires a lot of preparation; it requires a lot of planning as you’re going through on how you’re going to manage your water and food intake and manage your output to make sure you can get through the whole thing.”

This is Stone’s second Edelweiss Raid. His first, and the team’s first, came back in 2019 where they finished thirteenth out of twenty-three teams. While this may not seem like the most impressive placement, it’s actually quite remarkable as, prior to this, no other team in the history of the event had ever finished the race in their first year.

“Our big claim to fame last time was that we’re the first team ever to complete the race on their first attempt, first time competitors don’t usually finish,” said Stone. “What

that ultimately means is that if any one member of your team drops out for some reason, then you don't get to finish as a team."

For the 2023 race, it's Stone's personal goal to try and help the team break into the top ten. It won't be an easy goal because, as Stone admits, they're competing against soldiers are the absolute very best in military mountaineering. And while helping increase his team's position on the leaderboard would be an achievement he'd be proud to bring home with him, he understands his team isn't the only one that's been practicing and the competition is only going to be more difficult than it was in 2019.

"[finishing in the top ten] would give us a lot of confidence as a team that we're on the right path as far as this competition and hopefully can turn that into being on the right path, generally, as a military mountaineering force," said Stone. "We like to think, as American soldiers, that we kind of do everything the best – and I think we do a lot of things really, really well – but when it comes to fighting in the mountains, those guys that are over there, living it and doing it all the time, are just the best in the world. So, the closer we can get to our NATO partners there and the mountain warfare proficiency they have, the better off we're going to be."

The U.S. Edelweiss Raid team consists mostly of soldiers from the 86th Infantry Brigade (Mountain) and the Army Mountain Warfare School. One of the unique qualities of this team is that it's 100-percent made up of National Guardsmen which provides several advantages and challenges for the team. Those advantages being a wide swath of both military and civilian skills to include former college cross-country skiers, an Army biathlon team coach, a former Olympian, and more.

The flip side to that coin, however, is the fact that few members of the team live close to one another. Although most of the team belong to units that fall under the 86th, that brigade has units throughout New England and as far away as Colorado. One team member was even stationed out in Alaska, according to Stone.

"That is one of the bigger challenges for us, getting everyone together," said Stone. "One, from a technical standpoint just to build those systems we're going to use to be successful but also from a team camaraderie standpoint, building the trust that we're going to need to be successful out there."

To overcome this difficulty, the team leaders out of the Mountain Warfare school devised a training regimen for each of the team members to execute on their own.

"Major Fry and Sergeant McLaughlin, who are kind of running this whole thing from up in Vermont, developed a pretty solid training plan for everyone that they can execute on their own, cardio fitness being the most important thing – that's where you're going to make up most of your time," said Stone. "We have gotten together a couple of times, go up to Vermont and we'll train together, do some ski touring together, work on the systems a little bit, but that's really just a refresher to work some things out."

The team's training method relies heavily on trust and personal accountability. If the 2019 results prove anything, it's that these soldiers have the drive and initiative to do whatever it takes to succeed on this global stage. But things in 2023 are not the same as they were in 2019.

For starters, the original team came to fruition after Major Fry, who was the Mountain Warfare School operations officer at the time, sent an email to request volunteers to



*U.S. Army Capt. Scott Stone skis the Austrian Alps during the 2019 Edelweiss Raid, a two-day mountaineering challenge. The U.S. Edelweiss Raid team made history as the first team to ever complete the challenge on their first attempt. U.S. Army photo courtesy of Capt. Scott Stone)*

join the team. Stone wasn't on that original email distribution list, but some of those who were knew of his passion for alpine skiing and told him he should consider joining. Which he did.

"It was one of the luckiest things that I think has ever happened to me," Stone said. Training for the Edelweiss Raid wasn't easy for him, however. As a former football and lacrosse player, Stone's workout regimen revolved mostly around lifting weights and gaining muscle. But in order to be successful in the Alps, he needed to rethink his approach to fitness.

"Training for a multi-day endurance event is very different than training for those sports and it's different than training for your [Army Combat Fitness test]," said Stone. "It very much opened my eyes to a whole new way of training."

The team's training also paid off with the aforementioned historical first-time completion of the event. The success of the 2019 team also sparked interest in the event from a wider population of soldiers, leading to the need for a tryout for the 2023 team.

"They came up with a point system based on different qualifications that guys already have, their skiing experience, previous Edelweiss experience was weighed pretty heavily ... and just the physical tryout for it, just making sure that guys were in the cardiovascular shape to compete," said Stone, also mentioning the big event for the cardiovascular test was a run up the Toll Road in Stowe, Vermont. "It's just about hardest three-and-a-half mile run

you'll ever do."

This year, with a better understanding on the event and the terrain the soldiers will be competing in, the team is pulling out all the stops to get ready. The team traveled to Austria about ten days prior to the start of the event so the soldiers could climatize to the weather and get some additional time to practice together as a team before the event begins.

While the team hopes their hard work will pay off on the scoreboard, the bigger prize is getting to meet and work with allies and partners to increase the relationships between nations and experience customs that are not common in the United States. Professional growth aside, the opportunity also allows Stone and his team to broaden their personal horizons by being introduced to new customs and cultures.

"The Austrians do an awesome job hosting the event, bringing everyone together," said Stone. "There's a great dinner and party after the race finishes where everyone's together and there's a lot of opportunities to talk with people from other countries, exchange patches, share customs, things like that. We all have a really great time that night; it's a really awesome opportunity to see that we're all working toward the same goal, we're all on the same team, even if we don't get to see each other very frequently."

To hear the full interview with Capt. Stone, check out the Stand Guard Podcast, an official production of the Connecticut National Guard, available wherever you listen to your podcasts.

# Setting New Hights: CTARNG to get first female fixed wing aviation commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Savino  
Contributor

This week, Connecticut Army National Guard Aviation has set new heights with the return of 2nd Lt. Alyssa Aponte from Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) and Fixed wing course. Aponte is set to become the first female commander of the state's C-12 unit, also known as Operation Support Airlift (OSA) or B/641st following the unit's change of command scheduled for June, 2023.

Aponte recently graduated Fort Rucker IERW on the UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter and graduated from the C-12 King Air qualification courses. She is also the first female fixed wing pilot in the unit's history, the second commissioned officer to command the unit, and one of four current female aviators in the Connecticut Army National Guard Aviation units.

Setting new heights both on the ground and in the air as most Rotary wing flights are from 100 feet above ground level (AGL) to 14,000 feet AGL. As a C-12 pilot she will see heights of 25,000 feet AGL and setting a new bar for future CTARNG Aviation female Aviators. On the ground she will be setting a new presence as the Detachment Commander and working a One Time Operational Tour (OTOT) as the Aviation Group S-1.

Aponte enlisted into Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-169th Aviation Regiment in April 2016 as a Flight Operations Specialist, graduated Officer Candidate School in July 2019, and now is a rated Army Aviator. She



U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Alyssa Aponte poses for a photo with the Connecticut National Guard's C-12 plane, the state's only Army fixed wing aircraft. In June, 2023, Aponte is set to become the first female commander of the state's C-12 unit and the first female Army fixed wing pilot in the unit's history (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Savino)

holds a Nursing Degree and at age 24 has impressive resume thus far and the future looks promising.

In 2025, it will be 50 years since Chief Warrant Officer Diane Dowd of the CTARNG graduated from Fort Rucker as the first female ARNG Aviator and making a path for future female Aviators both in state and nationally. 49

years later we have another trail blazer amongst us.

If you are reading this article and are interested becoming a CTARNG Aviator, please contact CW5 Edward Pelletier at 860-292-4592 or Edward.j.pelletier.mil@army.mil

## CAPT. SCOTT STONE

EPISODE

002

- Infantry Officer
- HS Lacrosse Coach
- 2023 U.S. Army Edelweiss Raid Team Member

U.S. Army Capt. Scott Stone is an infantry officer with the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment and a member of the U.S. Army's 2023 Edelweiss Raid team. He and his teammates are currently in Austria getting ready for the competition. In this month's episode of the Stand Guard Podcast, we talked with Capt. Stone about his journey from getting selected to his first Edelweiss Raid in 2019 to overcoming the challenges of preparing for an extreme alpine sport in a state with little more than small bumps we call mountains. The Stand Guard Podcast is available wherever you listen to your podcasts.



# NOT FEELING LIKE **YOURSELF?**

## REACH OUT. STAY MISSION READY.

### Military Life is Hard On Your Mind And Body

Even pain or trouble sleeping can hurt mission readiness. Talk to your health care provider if you feel unusually:

- Tired
- Stressed
- Angry
- Sad
- Forgetful
- Worried
- Pained
- Hopeless

### Psychological Health Resource Center

Call/Chat with a health resource consultant 24/7 at 866-966-1020 or [realwarriors.net/livechat](https://realwarriors.net/livechat)

### Military Crisis Line

Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, text 838255 or visit [militarycrisisline.net/chat](https://militarycrisisline.net/chat)

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**REAL STRENGTH**

[realwarriors.net](https://realwarriors.net)

MHS

Military Health System  
[health.mil](https://health.mil)



**Ruck March/Hike to build veteran/military community and support network**

No set distance or time limit, come out and build camaraderie

- Sunday, February 19th: Devils Hopyard @ 0800
  - Sunday, March 5th: Bluff Point State Park @ 0800
  - Saturday, March 25th: Pachaug State Forest (Voluntown) @ 0700 parking at Hell Hollow Pond Parking area
  - Sunday, April 2nd: Bluff Point @ 0700
  - Saturday, April 15th: Chatfield Hollow @ 0800
  - Sunday, April 16th: Bluff Point @ 0700
  - Saturday, May 6th: Lantern Hill @ 0800
  - Saturday, May 13th: Gillette Castle @ 0800
- No prescribed uniform or ruck weight (personal choice).  
 POC: Silas Holden (860) 514-9317

Mission Statement: The Tactlete Initiative will plan one or two ruck march / hikes per month at different locations throughout the state and region. It's time we build a support network away from military duty and help each other heal and thrive. Walk, talk, and heal while getting out into nature and clearing your mind.

**VA Connecticut Healthcare System**  
**Women Veterans Virtual Town Hall**  
**Wednesday March 15, 2023**

**from 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

To participate/ Join us : <http://bit.ly/3E3XvXq>

You can also join by phone: 1404-397-1596

password: piJ3Ea5U2M\*

Meeting access code: 2764 036 7761

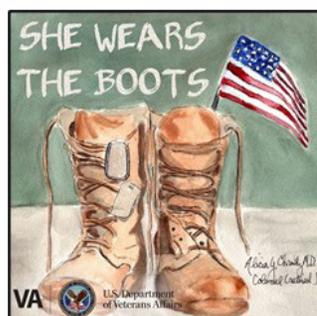


PHONE TO: SCAN ME



*Open to all women Veterans. Learn more about the VA Connecticut Healthcare System resources available to you.*

For more information contact Dr. Tiesha Maddix, Women Veterans Program Manager at [Tiesha.Maddix@va.gov](mailto:Tiesha.Maddix@va.gov) or call 475-688-0173/ 203-932-5711 x5402



**Topics:**  
**Women Veterans' Updates**  
**Making connections**  
**Social Groups**  
**Ask questions and give feedback**

# What's Your Story?

Do you have an interesting hobby, skill, civilian occupation, or recent life event?

We want to help you  
tell the world!

Contact the Connecticut National Guard  
Public Affairs Office:

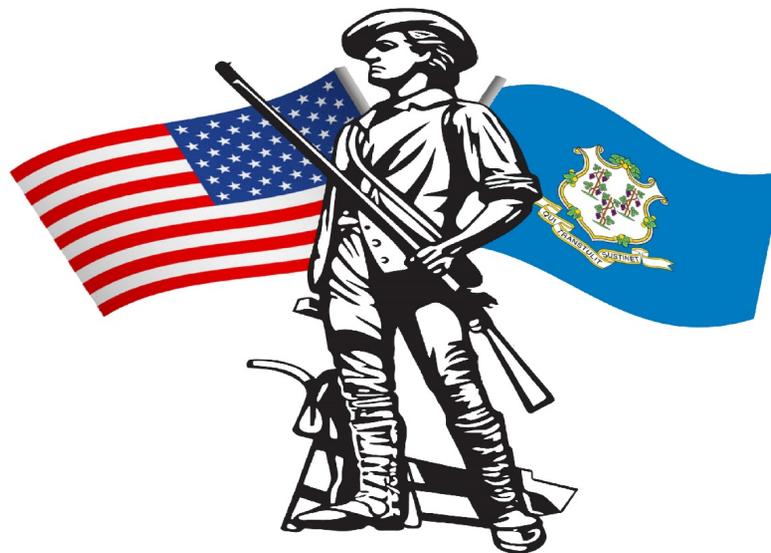
Maj. David Pytlik  
david.c.pytlik.mil@army.mil  
860.524.4857

Mr. Tim Koster  
timothy.r.koster.civ@army.mil  
860.524.4858

## CALL TO ACTION

**MAKE EVERYDAY A MILITARY DAY**

**COME JOIN OUR WORKFORCE TODAY!**



**APPLY FOR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES BELOW**

<https://ct.ng.mil/careers>



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD  
GOVERNOR WILLIAM A. O'NEILL ARMORY  
360 BROAD STREET  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105-3706**

S: 24 MAR 2023

NGCT-DAV

3 JAN 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR CTNG ALL

SUBJECT: FY23 Aviation Predetermination Board

1. The Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) will conduct an Aviation Predetermination Board 11-12 April 2023 at the Windsor Locks Readiness Center (WLRC). The purpose of the board is to select candidates for recommendation to attend Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) Aviator training beginning October 2023.
2. If interested in serving as a CTARNG Aviator and appearing before the predetermination board, you must forward an application packet to the State Army Aviation Office. Applications are being accepted for both current and prospective Warrant Officers, Commissioned Officers, OCS Graduates and ROTC Cadets. This board will challenge your suitability and capability to serve as an Aviator in the CTARNG.
3. Packets may be hardcopy or emailed and must be received no later than 24 March 2023. Hardcopy is the preferred means of submission; email submission is allowable for deployed or remote applicants.

Send or deliver hard copy packets to,

Windsor Locks Readiness Center  
ATTN: NGCT-DAV (CW5 Ed Pelletier)  
85 Light Ln, Building #300  
Bradley International Airport  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096-1086

Email packets to: [edward.j.pelletier.mil@army.mil](mailto:edward.j.pelletier.mil@army.mil)

4. The prerequisites for selection as an Army Aviator and appearance before this board include the following documents.
  - a. ASVAB GT test score of 110 or greater.
  - b. Selection Instrument for Flight Training (SIFT) test score of 40 or greater.
  - c. An outstanding physical fitness posture.

# BECOME AN AVIATOR

#FLYGUARD



**FLIGHT BOARD  
11-12 APRIL 23**



Download LOI

**CW5 Ed Pelletier  
860-292-4593**

**[edward.j.pelletier.mil@army.mil](mailto:edward.j.pelletier.mil@army.mil)**

# SEXUAL ASSAULT. SEXUAL HARASSMENT. NOT IN OUR ARMY.

## Sexual Assault Response Coordinators

**CTARNG SARC** ..... 860.883.4798

**103rd AW SARC (24hr)** ..... 860.895.3526

## Chaplain and Legal

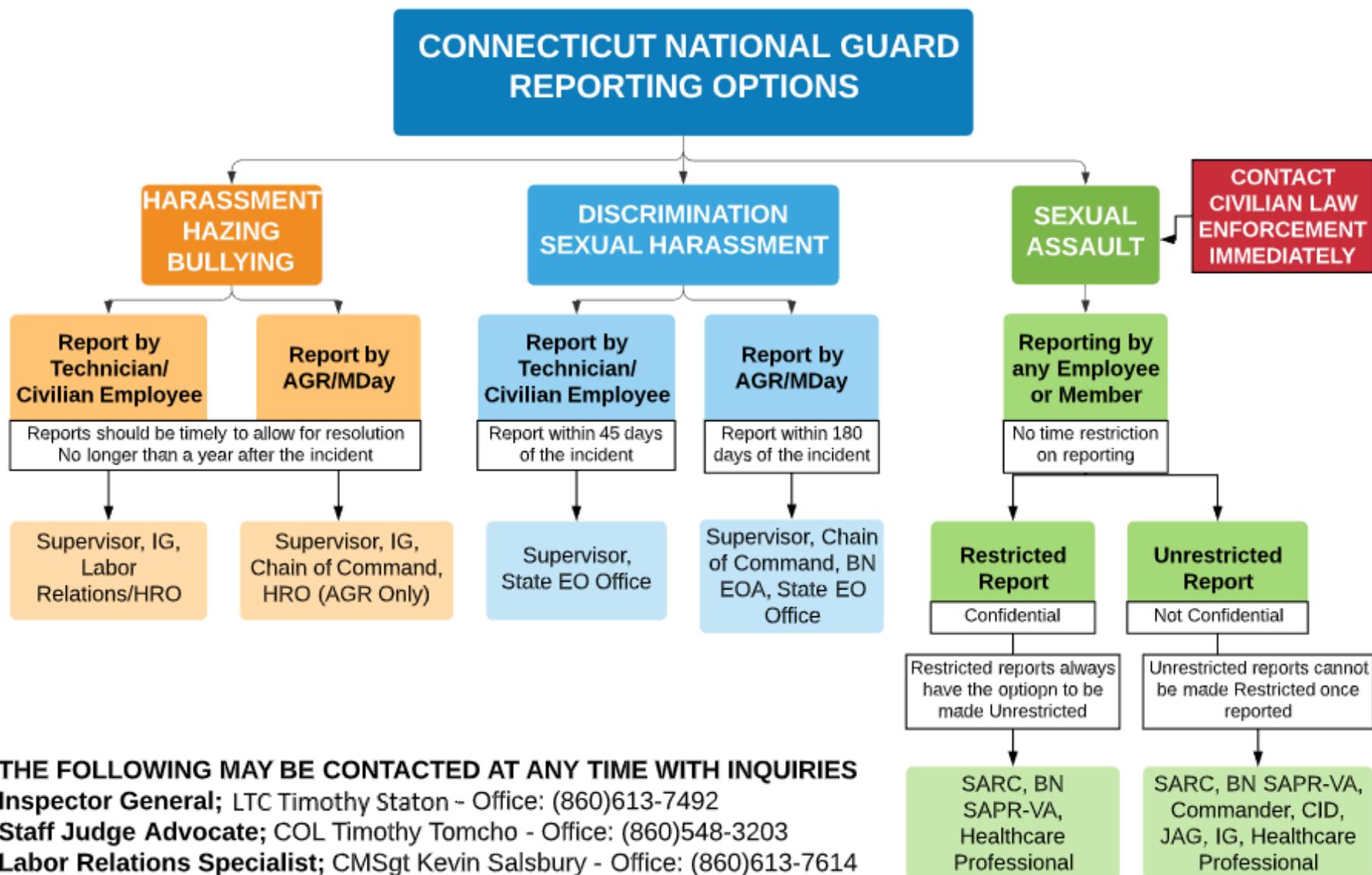
**CT Chaplain** ..... 860.548.3240

**CT Special Victim's Council** ..... 703.607.2263

## Medical

**Military Treatment Facility (Westover)** 413.557.2623

**Navy Health Clinic New London** ..... 860.694.4123



**THE FOLLOWING MAY BE CONTACTED AT ANY TIME WITH INQUIRIES**

**Inspector General;** LTC Timothy Staton - Office: (860)613-7492

**Staff Judge Advocate;** COL Timothy Tomcho - Office: (860)548-3203

**Labor Relations Specialist;** CMSgt Kevin Salsbury - Office: (860)613-7614

**State Equal Opportunity Office;** Ms. Tasha Dow - Office: (860)613-7610

**Sexual Assault Response Coordinator;** Mrs. Katherine Maines - Office: (860)613-7611; Cell: (860)883-4798

**State Chaplain;** Lt Col Eric Wismar - Office: (860)548-3240; Cell: (860)883-5278

## The SGT Felix M. Del Greco, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

The SGT Felix M. Del Greco, Jr Memorial Scholarship was established on April 16, 2004. The purpose is to provide an annual scholarship(s) to dependent children of Connecticut Army National Guard members, to honor the memory of SGT Felix M. Del Greco, Jr., who was killed in action in Iraq on April 9, 2004. He was the first member of the Connecticut National Guard to die in Iraq.

Felix was born on July 18, 1981 to Felix M. Del Greco, Sr., and Claire Del Greco. A lifelong resident of Simsbury, he graduated from Simsbury High School in 1999. Felix was active in many school activities to include playing trumpet in the jazz band and working as part of the backstage technical crew on school plays and performances. He was also a Boy Scout, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, of which he was very proud.

As a teen, Felix always had an interest in the military and enlisted in the Connecticut Army National Guard on March 30, 1999, while still in high school. He joined Headquarters Company, 242d Engineer Battalion, and shipped to Basic Training in June 1999.

In January 2001 Felix transferred to Company B, 1st Battalion, 102d Infantry where he volunteered to deploy to Bosnia on a peacekeeping mission. While serving in Bosnia for six months, he earned the distinction of Soldier of the Rotation amongst over 10,000 multi-national forces. He returned from Bosnia in March 2002.

In April 2003, SGT Del Greco volunteered to deploy again, this time in support of Operation Nobel Eagle III as part of the homeland defense ordered by President Bush. He was stationed at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY.

After nine months at West Point, SGT Del Greco returned to Connecticut in December 2003 only to immediately volunteer to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He transferred to Company C, 1st Battalion, 102d Infantry in Bristol as an Automatic Rifleman. Company C left Connecticut for Fort Hood, Texas, on January 8, 2004 and became part of the 39th Infantry Brigade, Arkansas Army National Guard.

The unit arrived in Kuwait in March 2004 and began patrolling in Baghdad, Iraq in April. SGT Felix Del Greco was killed on April 9, 2004 when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb and gunfire.

His military awards include: The Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device (2d Award), Noncommissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.



## Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc announces its 2023 scholarship program. This year the Foundation will award a total of eight scholarships.

1. **Three \$4,000.00 scholarships honoring SGT Felix Del Greco Jr. will be awarded to a son or daughter of a member of the Connecticut ARMY National Guard. \* Please note that a special application and deadline is required for the Del Greco scholarship which may be obtained from: <http://www.conncf.org>. No other application will be accepted.**
2. **Five \$2,500.00 scholarships will be awarded to Connecticut National Guard and Organized Militia members or their sons, daughters, or spouses and children of Connecticut National Guard Retirees. Application forms may be found at the Foundations website at <http://www.ctngfi.org>.**

#### Additional Information:

1. Complete application packets for the CTNGFI scholarships must be postmarked no later than 15 April 2023
2. The selection committee will choose students based on achievement and citizenship
3. You must be enrolled in, or planning to enroll in a regionally or nationally accredited degree or technical program
4. Mail application form (CTNGFI Scholarship Only) and completed package to:

CTNG Foundation Inc.  
Attn: Scholarship Committee  
360 Broad Street  
Hartford, CT 06105

5. Please contact the foundation at (860) 241-1550 or e-mail [ctngfi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ctngfi@sbcglobal.net) with any question or for further details.



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ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS**

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(Not to exceed the grade of E4)

**\* AWARDED THE ARMY RECRUITING RIBBON**  
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(Soldiers will be awarded 10 points toward promotion to SGT/SSG  
Up to 40 promotion points for four valid referrals during their career)

**All Connecticut Army National Guard  
Soldiers are eligible!**



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## Service Member and Family Support Center Staff Directory



**William A. O'Neill Armory: 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 (800) 858-2677 Open Monday-Friday**

Director, Service Member and Family Support Center	<b>Kimberly Hoffman</b>	<a href="mailto:kimberly.j.hoffman.civ@army.mil">kimberly.j.hoffman.civ@army.mil</a>	(800) 858-2677
Lead Military and Family Readiness	<b>Melody Baber</b>	<a href="mailto:melodycheyenne.c.baber.civ@army.mil">melodycheyenne.c.baber.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 548-3276 (desk) (860) 883-2515 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Carolyn Kyle</b>	<a href="mailto:carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil">carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4920 (desk) (860) 394-8748 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Jason Perry</b>	<a href="mailto:jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil">jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4897 (desk) (860) 655-9288 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Linda Rolstone</b>	<a href="mailto:linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil">linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4963 (desk) (860) 680-2209 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Kelly Strba</b>	<a href="mailto:kelly.a.strba.civ@army.mil">kelly.a.strba.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 548-3283 (desk) (860) 500-3813 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Rich Timberlake</b>	<a href="mailto:richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil">richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 493-2797 (desk) (860) 500-3189 (cell)
ARNG Yellow Ribbon Program	<b>SGT Camryn Rawlings</b>	<a href="mailto:camryn.r.rawlings.mil@army.mil">camryn.r.rawlings.mil@army.mil</a>	(860) 493-2796 (desk) (860) 883-6934 (cell)
ARNG Yellow Ribbon Program	<b>SSG Jeovanny Ulloa</b>	<a href="mailto:jeovanny.j.ulloa.mil@army.mil">jeovanny.j.ulloa.mil@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4938 (desk)
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator	<b>Michelle McCarty</b>	<a href="mailto:michelle.m.mccarty4.ctr@army.mil">michelle.m.mccarty4.ctr@army.mil</a>	(860) 548-3254 (desk) (860) 883-6953 (cell)
Military OneSource Consultant	<b>Scott McLaughlin</b>	<a href="mailto:scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com">scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com</a>	(860) 502-5416 (cell)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Volunteer Support Technician	<b>Ben Beaudry</b>	<a href="mailto:benjamin.a.beaudry.ctr@army.mil">benjamin.a.beaudry.ctr@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4970 (desk)
Personal Financial Consultant	<b>Jafor Iqbal</b>	<a href="mailto:PFC.CT.NG@zeiders.com">PFC.CT.NG@zeiders.com</a>	(203) 233-8790 (cell)
State Support Chaplain	<b>Lt Col Eric Wismar</b>	<a href="mailto:eric.a.wismar.mil@army.mil">eric.a.wismar.mil@army.mil</a>	(860) 548-3240 (desk) (860) 883-5278 (cell)
Transition Assistance Advisor	<b>Fausto Parra</b>	<a href="mailto:fparra-c@gapsi.com">fparra-c@gapsi.com</a>	(202) 987-3942 (cell)
Connecticut Military Relief Fund	<b>Russell Bonaccorso</b>	<a href="mailto:russell.bonaccorso@ct.gov">russell.bonaccorso@ct.gov</a>	(860) 524-4968 (desk)

**Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center: 375 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457**

Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Jason Perry</b>	<a href="mailto:jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil">jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4897 (desk) (860) 655-9288 (cell)
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**Windsor Locks Readiness Center: 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 Open Fridays**

Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Rich Timberlake</b>	<a href="mailto:richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil">richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 292-4601 (desk) (860) 500-3189 (cell)
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**103rd Airlift Wing: 100 Nicholson Road, East Granby, CT 06026**

Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager	<b>Kasey Timberlake</b>	<a href="mailto:kasey.timberlake@us.af.mil">kasey.timberlake@us.af.mil</a>	(860) 292-2730 (desk) (860) 462-0379 (cell)
Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist	<b>Roberto A. Rodriquez III</b>	<a href="mailto:roberto.rodriquez.43.ctr@us.af.mil">roberto.rodriquez.43.ctr@us.af.mil</a>	(860) 819-4636 (cell)

**Niantic Readiness Center: 38 Smith Street, Niantic, CT 06357 Open Thursdays**

Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Linda Rolstone</b>	<a href="mailto:linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil">linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 739-1637 (desk) (860) 680-2209 (cell)
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**Waterbury Armory: 64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702**

Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator	<b>Reisha Moffat</b>	<a href="mailto:reisha.a.moffat.ctr@army.mil">reisha.a.moffat.ctr@army.mil</a>	(860) 883-6949 (cell)
Military OneSource Consultant	<b>Scott McLaughlin</b>	<a href="mailto:scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com">scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com</a>	(860) 502-5416 (cell)

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