



Connecticut GUARDIAN

And Yankee Courier

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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

July - September 2024

CTNG Aids in Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts in NC

Maj. Michael Wilcoxson
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the Connecticut National Guard has deployed personnel to assist in relief efforts in North Carolina, where communities have been severely impacted by the storm. The deployment is a reflection of the Connecticut National Guard's perpetual readiness and commitment to providing aid during times of crisis, both at home and across the country.

At the request of North Carolina officials, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont approved the mobilization of the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment. On September 27, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter and a five-soldier crew departed from the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks to provide critical support in disaster relief operations.

The deployment is occurring under the authorization of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a nationwide system for affected states to request lifesaving resources when the need arises. EMAC is implemented by the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on behalf of the governor.

Gov. Lamont praised the swift response of the Guard, highlighting their ability to mobilize and make a tangible difference in people's lives.

"This compact enables states to provide assistance to each other during times of emergency and crisis, and Connecticut stands ready to help our friends in North Carolina respond to the impacts of Hurricane Helene," Lamont said in a statement. "I am appreciative of all the members of the Connecticut National Guard for always being ready and



The flight crew of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter belonging to the Connecticut National Guard's 1-169th Aviation Regiment prepared the aircraft for its departure to North Carolina at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Conn. Sept. 27, 2024. The helicopter and its crew were deployed to North Carolina to assist with transporting people and supplies in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

willing to respond to emergencies at a moment's notice, and I thank the 1-169th Aviation Regiment for accepting this mission."

The crew's mission includes transporting essential supplies such as food, water, and medical equipment to affected areas in North Carolina. These supplies are crucial for communities still reeling from the storm's aftermath,

which caused widespread flooding, power outages, and damage to homes and infrastructure.

To date, the Connecticut National Guard aircrew has transported over 72,500 pounds of food, water, and baby formula and evacuated 49 people to include ten people

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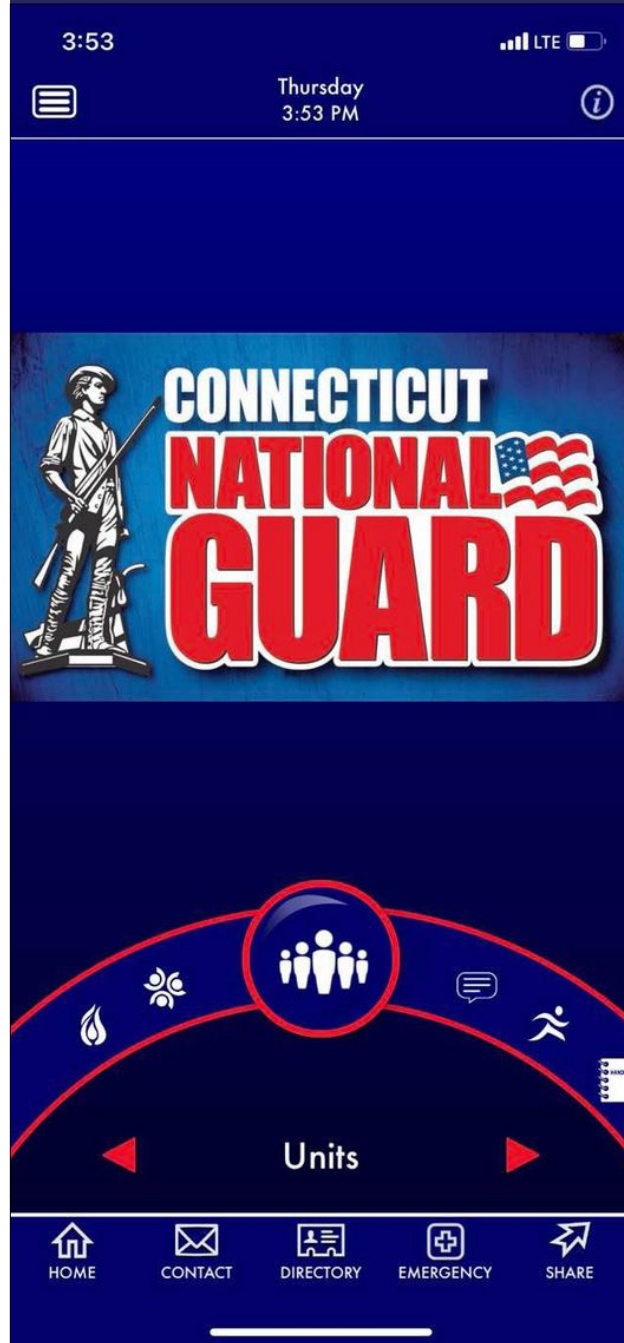


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Facebook - @CTAirGuard

103rd Airlift Wing

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860-524-4813.

Guardsmen and Militia Members: Contact your chain of command or unit admin.

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

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Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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BG HED SAID

{ September 2024 }

Highlights

1

EXPECTATIONS

We don't expect perfection, but rather, the pursuit of growth

2

WE ARE HUMAN

Embracing your flaws allows us to grow and learn.

3

STANDARDS

Strive for high standards; the journey allows us to learn and grow.

Feedback

Do you have a problem or issue that you have brought to your chain of command, but doesn't seem to be getting resolved? Use this QR code and I'll have it investigated



In the pursuit of perfection

As we look to start the next training year in October, I want to steal two phrases from books I read on vacation – “The Army is not an endeavor of perfect” and “Progress not perfection.” I want to assure every Soldier and Leader that I have no expectation that you or your operations are perfect.

The word “perfect” has its origins in Latin, specifically from the verb “perficere,” which means “to finish” or “to complete.” Therefore, originally the word perfect meant something finished, which came to an end and lacked nothing. However, over time the idea of perfection stopped being limited to what we did but to people describing morality without stain or defect. Until today, where perfect has come to mean being entirely without fault or defect.

The problem with perfect is that we are all humans. Humans, however, were never intended to be perfect. Consider the expression, “I’m just human.” Our imperfections are a fundamental part of our nature, stemming from our complex emotions, diverse experiences, and unique perspectives. Expecting to be perfect often leads to stress, frustration, and dissatisfaction. Instead, embracing our flaws allows us to grow and learn. Our mistakes and imperfections drive innovation, creativity, and personal development, making us uniquely human.

Instead of expecting perfection in every aspect, it’s more practical and fulfilling to focus on improving. By prioritizing and focusing on minimizing mistakes in key areas, such as ethical behavior, safety, sensitive items, and fiscal management/Soldiers’ pay, we can make meaningful progress and achieve a balanced, satisfying workplace. This approach allows us to allocate our time and energy more effectively, fostering a sense of accomplishment and well-being. Embracing improvement over perfection helps us appreciate our journey and the progress we make along the way.

Vince Lombardi famously said, “Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.” This quote emphasizes the importance of striving for the highest standards, even if absolute perfection is not possible. This relentless pursuit fosters a mindset of continuous improvement and resilience. While we may never reach perfection, the journey itself brings us closer to excellence, as we learn, grow, and refine our skills along the way. By focusing on the process rather than the end goal, we can celebrate our progress and accomplishments.

As always, Thank you for all your dedication and service to our country, state, and communities. Stay Strong, Stay Resilient, Stay Safe, and continue to make us proud.

-BG Hed

Helene

Cont. from page 1

from the Lees-McRae College. They also evacuated four dogs, and one cat from disaster areas.

“The Connecticut National Guard stands ready to serve our communities, as always, to assist and respond not just here at home in Connecticut but across the nation, especially in times of crisis,” said Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard. “We proudly join forces with our fellow National Guards to provide critical support when it is needed most. Our commitment to protecting and serving is unwavering and extends beyond Connecticut’s borders, ensuring the safety and resilience of our country when called upon, no matter the challenge.”

Hurricane Helene, which made landfall with winds exceeding 140 mph, has weakened to a tropical storm but continues to pose challenges for recovery efforts across the southeastern United States. Despite the destruction, Connecticut’s involvement underscores the power of collaboration in the face of adversity.

“The crew is incredibly humbled and motivated to be here,” said Captain Gordon “Trey” Duggan. “National Guard aviation units are unique because we train all 52 weeks of the year, not just one weekend a month. To be able to take our hard work and apply it to a real-world mission set to help those in need is incredibly fulfilling. The residents have been incredibly grateful and welcoming of us.”

The crew is expected to remain in North Carolina for about a week, aiding in the delivery of supplies and supporting ongoing relief operations. As the recovery continues, the Connecticut National Guard remains committed



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter belonging to the Connecticut National Guard's 1-169th Aviation Regiment departs the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Conn. Sept. 27, 2024. The helicopter and its crew were deployed to North Carolina to assist with transporting people and supplies in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. (Photo by Sgt. Matthew Lucibello)

to helping wherever they are needed, demonstrating their role as a reliable and compassionate force in times of crisis.

As the mission unfolds, the dedication of these National

Guard soldiers serves as a beacon of hope amid the recovery efforts, showing that even in the most difficult times, communities can count on support from afar.

CTNG hosts topping-off ceremony for new Putnam Readiness Center

Timothy Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The Connecticut National Guard hosted a topping-off ceremony for the new Putnam Readiness Center, which is scheduled to open next year, Sept. 23, 2024.

The ceremony marks an important milestone in the construction of the new 39,000 square foot facility, which will be the future home of the 643rd Military Police Company and the Connecticut National Guard’s return to the “quiet corner” of the state.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, said the organization’s return to Putnam will give it a physical presence in each of the state’s five emergency planning and response regions, allowing better coordination and timely response in the event of a domestic emergency such as a hurricane or severe winter storm.

“COVID-19 highlighted that the Guard is vital to securing lifelines and infrastructure in our communities,” said Evon. “Construction of the Putnam Readiness Center gives us a presence in Northeastern Connecticut that we have not had in well over a decade. It will provide us a staging base to respond to our communities in the ‘Quiet Corner’ much faster when hours and minutes count.”

The ceremony included remarks from Evon, U.S. Representative Joe Courtney, and Connecticut Department of Administrative Services Commissioner Michelle Gilman, prior to the official party signing the project’s final steel beam and watching it get lifted into place.

The last time the Connecticut National Guard had a physical footprint in this region of the state was nearly 20 years ago before the old Putnam Armory was declared as excess and turned over to the state.

The construction of the readiness center is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2025.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, signs the final steel beam for the new Putnam Readiness center during a topping-off ceremony in Putnam, Conn. Sept. 17, 2024. The new facility will be home to the 643rd Military Police Company.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month Mindfulness Series

Please join us every Friday in October for a discussion on mental health in the workplace and techniques and resources to manage mental health through mindfulness with Rebecca Washington, LMSW from The HeartSpace, Art and Wellness, and the CTNG Behavioral Health Team. We will be visiting the following locations on the following dates from 1200-1300. There is no need to pre-register, just come on in!

4 October – Camp Hartell, 542 North Street, Windsor
CSMS Classroom

11 October – MAFRC, 375 Smith Street, Middletown,
HRO Classroom

18 October – TASM-G, 139 Tower Ave, Groton
Conference Room

25 October – Hartford Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford,
Computer Classroom



Notice to All Guests

Upcoming FY25 Camp Nett Housing Rate Changes – Effective October 1, 2024

Dear Valued Guests,

We are committed to providing you with the best possible service and accommodations. Starting in October 2024, we will adjust our room rates to continue maintaining and improving our facilities.

FY25 RATES	SPACE-A	OFFICIAL	TRADOC
BLD 32 (Twin XL Adjoining Room)	\$45/room	\$ 35/bed	\$ 23/bed
BLD 32 (Queen Adjoining Room)	\$50/room	\$ 40/room	\$ 23/room
RTI (Queen)	\$50/room	\$ 40/room	\$ 23/room
DVQ 32 (Queen Suite)	\$65/room	\$ 61/room	-
DVQ 53 (3-BR Beach Cottage)	\$70/room	\$ 61/room	-
DVQ 1 (2-BR Beach Cottage) <small>(Space-A: Minimum 2 Rooms Required)</small>	\$190/night <small>(\$95/room)</small>	\$ 80/room	-

These changes will help us better serve you and enhance your overall experience. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact our UH office at (860) 691-4314 or email us at mil.billeting@ct.gov.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Steven Nordhaus Confirmed as NGB Chief

Sgt. 1st Class Zach Sheely
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – The Senate Tuesday confirmed Air Force Lt. Gen. Steven Nordhaus as the 30th chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Nordhaus, who will also be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be promoted to four-star general and serve as the top officer in the nation's oldest military force.

The Senate confirmation follows Nordhaus' Sept. 12 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

"I come to you today at an important time in our nation's history with the rise of strategic competitors and a complex geopolitical environment with roughly 40,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen (currently) engaged globally," Nordhaus told the committee.

"We face persistent threats both in the homeland and abroad, and the next chief of the National Guard Bureau must work closely with the 50 states, territories and District of Columbia, as well as the services, Joint Force, and our allies and partners to meet these challenges," he said.

Nordhaus pledged to ensure National Guard units — comprising about 430,000 Soldiers and Airmen — are manned, trained and equipped to continue to meet any mission, anywhere.

"I firmly believe the National Guard is an elite and ready warfighting force, serving as the primary combat reserve of the Army and Air Force, providing robust capabilities, capacity and strategic and operational depth," Nordhaus said.

Nordhaus most recently served as the commander of the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region – First Air Force (Air Forces Northern & Air Forces Space), Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. Before that, he was the special assistant to the director of the Air National Guard.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Nordhaus served on active duty as an F-16 pilot and F-16 instructor and evaluator pilot before joining the Ohio National Guard in 1998.

Nordhaus' prior positions include the director of operations at National Guard Bureau J-3/4/7 from 2019 to 2022, commander of the Air National Guard Readiness Center from 2017 to 2019, and the North American Aerospace Defense Command deputy director of operations from 2015 to 2017.

The chief of the National Guard Bureau serves as a military adviser to the president, the secretary of defense and the National Security Council. The chief is the Defense Department's official channel of communication to the governors and the adjutants general on National Guard matters.

The CNGB is responsible for ensuring the accessibility, capability and readiness of Guard members to secure the homeland and to provide combat resources to the Army and the Air Force.

Nordhaus pointed to the 2022 National Defense Strategy's top priority of defending the homeland as just one area where National Guardsmen will continue to play a prominent role.

He said people will remain the most critical priority in his vision of the CNGB position and emphasized recruiting and retention is an everyday focus.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Steven S. Nordhaus, commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region – 1st Air Force (U.S. Air Forces Northern and U.S. Air Forces Space) testifies before the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services at a confirmation hearing for his appointment as chief of the National Guard Bureau at the Hart Senate Office Building, District of Columbia, Sep. 12, 2024.

"We have to understand what (Guardsmen) need, what the requirements are to make sure that they're organized, trained and equipped to be able to do the mission," Nordhaus said, "but (that) they also have the appropriate pay and benefits to make sure that the National Guard is a great place to work and then have that in longevity."

Another top NDS emphasis focuses on alliances and partnerships as a national strength.

During the hearing, several senators highlighted the National Guard's State Partnership Program, a Department of Defense program that pairs the National Guard in the states, territories and the District of Columbia with foreign countries to build collective readiness and capabilities.

In his testimony, Nordhaus repeatedly underscored the importance of the SPP — a 1993 initiative that began with 13 Eastern European countries and has since grown to encompass 106 partner nations on every continent but Antarctica.

Seven nations joined the program this fiscal year, including the newest members of NATO: Finland and Sweden, paired with the Virginia and New York National Guard, respectively.

Nordhaus told the committee that under his watch, the Guard would continue to work with the combatant commands and the State Department in seeking new nations with which to partner.

"I believe the State Partnership Program is critical to our success, making us stronger together and stronger tomorrow," Nordhaus said.

Nordhaus also addressed the Guard's ongoing modernization efforts as a top priority for the CNGB and noted the growing global demand for fighter pilots and aircraft.

"I want to work with Gen. (David) Allvin (the chief of staff of the Air Force) to make sure that we get after the right fighter force structure across the Air Force and the Air National Guard," Nordhaus said.

"If confirmed," Nordhaus added, "I want to work with Gen. Allvin to make sure that we understand what that right balance is between fourth-generation and fifth-gen (fighter aircraft) to make sure that we can be there not only for the combatant commands but also for homeland defense."

Nordhaus succeeds Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, the third CNGB to serve a full term as a four-star general and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The first to serve a full term was Army Gen. Frank Grass. The chief of the National Guard Bureau was elevated to a four-star position on the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2012, during the tenure of Grass' predecessor, Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley.

Nordhaus thanked Hokanson and his wife, Kelly, for their enduring impact on the National Guard. Hokanson retired this year after 39 years of service.

The National Guard is a joint activity of the Department of Defense comprising the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, which are the primary combat reserves of the Army and the Air Force. The Guard fights America's wars, secures the homeland and builds partnerships at home and around the world.

**NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU**1636 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1636**AUG 02 2024****To the Soldiers, Airmen, and Families of the National Guard**

Today is my last day as the 29th Chief of the National Guard Bureau. At midnight tonight, I will relinquish my responsibilities. As I look back at the past four years, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to represent you, engage with you, and tell your incredible story. I will always remember your hard work, courage, and dedication to the mission, no matter when, where, or how you were called to serve. You have a difficult and important job—and you do it well.

It has been a tremendous honor to serve as your Chief, and my wife Kelly and I are forever grateful for your faith and your support. I know the Guard will continue to do great things. Our organization has developed incredible leaders at every level who are ready to take on the challenges and opportunities that start tomorrow. Our Nation and our communities are fortunate to have such Soldiers and Airmen—and the families that support you—and I am proud to have served with you.

We have a duty to serve, in and out of uniform. Though my time in uniform has come to an end, my support for our Nation and our National Guard will continue. I will forever be a fierce advocate for our Soldiers, Airmen, and National Guard families, and will forever remember and share our National Guard story. Thank you for everything you do to remain "Always Ready, Always There!"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel R. Hokanson".

Daniel R. Hokanson
General, U.S. Army
Chief, National Guard Bureau

NATIONAL GUARD

August 2024

HOLISTIC WELLNESS CHALLENGE



CULTURE CHANGE IN THE WORKPLACE

CHALLENGE our Service members and yourself to utilize at least one of the recommended resources to promote workplace wellness.

FACTS & FIGURES: DID YOU KNOW?

- Workplace difficulties were cited in 29.8% of National Guard suicides and 26.1% of suicide attempts.¹
- Creating a culture that fosters a healthy workplace environment can reduce the risk of harm and prevent suicide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.²

CULTIVATE A HEALTHY COMMAND CLIMATE

Work-related stress can cause physical and psychological harm which decreases mission readiness. Supportive workplace environments act as a protective factor that promote well-being and mitigate risk. Steps to help cultivate a healthy command climate include:



Enhancing connections

Develop healthy relationships that increase a sense of belonging and purpose.



Reducing stigma

Encourage open dialogue that promotes help-seeking behaviors as a sign of strength.



Increasing access to care

Make cost-effective and flexible support services available to meet the unique needs of National Guard members.

CONTACT US

For more information on workplace wellness or other topics, email us at: ng.ncr.ngb.mbx.integrated-prevention-branch@army.mil

Make Your VOICE HEARD
Participate in the 2024 DEOCS

The National Guard's highest priority is our people. The organization is dedicated to building healthy workplace environments that increase protective factors and promote a healthy environment.

The DEOCS is an annual DoD-directed Command Climate Assessment tool. It provides National Guard leaders with data to develop actionable feedback which enhances command climate. To include input from all National Guard members, we encourage every Soldier, Airman, and civilian to take the DEOCS.

Through this anonymous survey, Service members can provide input on their unit, organization, immediate supervisor, unit commander, organizational leader, and chain of command.

Insights from the DEOCS will help commanders and other leaders identify challenges that may negatively impact their unit. Findings will also allow decision makers at the strategic level to direct resources to the units, organizations, or locations that are most in need of prevention support.

The 2024 DEOCS fielding window opened August 1 and closes November 30. Surveys must be initiated no later than October 31 to meet the November 30 deadline. All National Guard members are strongly encouraged to participate. Every voice matters!

Big E Military Appreciation Day 2024

Sgt. 1st Class (ret.) Stephanie Cyr
Contributor

The Big E is the seventh largest fair in North America, and serves as the state fairs for the five New England states. This year the Big E dates are September 13-29, 2024, at the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds in Springfield, Massachusetts. Each day of the fair is designated a special or state day. Connecticut Day is Wednesday, September 18th. Military Appreciation Day is September 13, 2024, the first day of the Big E. Active duty and retired military personnel and their dependents, and veterans (no dependents) are admitted free with proper ID, which include a military ID, a copy of DD214 or proof of membership to any veterans' organization.

Veterans' groups will be set up along the Avenue of the States offering services and resources. VA (Veterans Administration) personnel from all over New England will be there to conduct outreach, helping veterans connect with their benefits.

Local VA Medical Center pharmacists will be there to administer flu shots. They will be able to answer questions about immunizations too. If eligible, they can help with filling prescription information.

The Veterans Administration (VA) will have representatives on hand to determine VA eligibility. Representatives will assist veterans with enrolling into VA health care or with filing a claim with the VA for a service-connected disability. Veterans are encouraged to bring a copy of their DD 214, 'Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty,' to help assist counselors in determining a veteran's eligibility for VA benefits.

There will be state and community partners from most of the states to speak with veterans about veterans' topics specific to their state. The Veterans benefit administration was

also on site to answer questions about disability compensation and home loans.

In addition, there will be giveaways for veterans which include free Veteran commemorative T-shirts and other prizes. Plus, military members and veterans can enter for a chance to win tickets to a regular season New England Patriots home game.

The Rock 102 Road Crew will be set up with VA from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with chances to win additional prizes. Bruce Marshall from Valley's Classic Hits will be broadcasting live from the VA outreach area.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Mobile Vet Center, known as the "MVC" will be set up. It is a 35-foot "office on wheels" equipped with satellite communications hosting audio-visual equipment, encrypted phone and fax lines, computers and wireless internet.

The Vet Center provides information and services that include Counseling and referral services pertaining to post-traumatic stress, military sexual trauma counseling, bereavement counseling, marriage and family therapy, resources for suicide intervention, VA health care eligibility and enrollment, VA disability compensation, local and State Department of Veterans' Services benefits, and community activities and referral agencies to assist veterans and family members. Readjustment Counseling Services are provided for veterans who served in combat as well as for immediate family members.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has been represented at Military Appreciation Day for the past nine years at the Exposition. VA representatives will be stationed along the Avenue of States from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to answer questions and provide information on both national and state veteran resources.

For more information on VA healthcare in New England, call 1-844-VA-CARES or go to www.newengland.va.gov/outreach.

Lamont, Bysiewicz, Welch mourn the passing of Medal of Honor recipient Paul Bucha

Office of the Governor
Contributor

Governor Ned Lamont, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, and Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ron Welch today are mourning the passing of retired United States Army Captain Paul W. Bucha, a longtime resident of Ridgefield, Connecticut, who received the Medal of Honor in 1970 for his heroic service while on active duty during the Vietnam War.

Until his passing early this morning at the age of 80, Captain Bucha was the only living recipient of this honor from Connecticut. The medal is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States Armed Forces to members of the service who have distinguished themselves for bravery above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in military action and at the risk of their own life. It was presented to him by President Richard Nixon.

The honor was awarded to Captain Bucha for actions he took between March 16 and March 19, 1968, as commanding officer, Company D, on a reconnaissance-in-force mission against enemy forces near Phuoc Vinh in the Binh Duong province of Vietnam. During this period, Captain Bucha aggressively and courageously led his 89 men against an enemy force of about 1,500, taking strategic actions that resulted in the destruction of enemy fortifications and base areas and eliminated scattered resistance impeding the advance of the company. He received a painful shrapnel wound while taking actions that exposed himself to enemy gunfire.

"Paul Bucha is an American hero whose service to our country inspired many, including those who went on

themselves to make the selfless decision to enlist in the military," Governor Lamont said. "Following his military service, he went on to work with several organizations that provide services to veterans and the military community. Paul Bucha was a courageous and dedicated champion of our nation and a defender of freedom, and he represents some of the very best of Connecticut. On behalf of the State of Connecticut, I express my condolences to his wife Cynthia and the entire Bucha family, and I urge the residents of our state to reflect on those who bravely served in the Vietnam War."

"Our state mourns the loss of Paul Bucha, a patriot and Medal of Honor recipient who served with honor and distinction during the Vietnam War," Lt. Governor Bysiewicz said. "Captain Bucha was awarded for pushing back Vietnamese forces while his company was under heavy fire. He risked his life to rescue soldiers who had been cut off from their unit and successfully moved them to a more defensible position. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Bucha in Ridgefield a number of years ago. Not only was he a man of honor and distinction, but a gentleman who spent his life in service to his community. Mr. Bucha continued his public service by helping veterans by serving on a dozen military boards and organizations including the Board of Veterans Advantage and the Medal of Honor Society. Mr. Bucha was a treasure of our state and leaves a legacy of service to our country. My deepest condolences to the Bucha family."

"We are saddened to learn of the passing of Captain Paul W. Bucha of Ridgefield," Commissioner Welch said. "Paul was a recipient of our nation's highest award for



valor, the Medal of Honor, during his service in Vietnam. Following his military service, Paul continued to lead with distinction in both the public and private sectors. We offer our deepest condolences on the passing of a true American hero to Cynthia and the entire Bucha family."



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

Gov. Lamont announces nominations now being accepted for the 2024 class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont today announced that he is encouraging residents to pay homage to distinguished veterans from Connecticut who have continued making positive impacts after leaving military service by nominating them to be honored in the 2024 class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. The application period to nominate a veteran is open until September 15, 2024, and an induction ceremony will be scheduled in the coming months.

Established in 2005, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is the State of Connecticut's official tribute recognizing former members of the United States Military from Connecticut who have continued making significant impacts on the lives of others and their communities after leaving military service. Veterans recognized for the honor are leaders in a variety of areas, such as education, public service, the arts, volunteer activities, and community and business leadership, to name a few. It is administered by the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.

Each year, a nomination process is launched and a committee – consisting of Connecticut Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ron Welch; Major General Francis J. Evon Jr., adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard; members of the legislature's Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; and a group of veterans from the state – reviews the nominations and selects inductees to be honored in that year's class. To date, 201 honorees have been inducted, including five recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"Connecticut is the proud home of more than one hundred and fifty thousand veterans, many of whom continued making positive impacts on the lives of others and their communities after leaving military service, and we want to honor and publicly recognize them for their leadership and service that they have provided our state," Governor Lamont said. "I strongly encourage anyone who knows a distinguished veteran who should be inducted in the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame to submit a nomination."

"For so many of our veterans, their service didn't end when their time in the military ended," Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz said. "Many returned home and continued to

serve their community and fellow veterans. Through their efforts they have enriched and improved their communities and the lives of others. The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is just one more way we can show how grateful we are for our veterans' service and sacrifice – not just during their time in uniform, but throughout their lives."

"For the past 19 years, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame has recognized some of the most dedicated and selfless serving veterans of our great state and nation," Commissioner Welch said. "They have gone above and beyond by supporting and advocating for veterans and their families, participating in countless civic events and activities. If you know someone that meets the spirit and intent of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, I encourage you to nominate them."

To be eligible, nominees must have been born in Connecticut or resided in the state for a minimum of five years. They must also meet the definition of a "veteran" under Connecticut General Statutes § 27-103 and have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces. The submitted nomination package must contain the completed nomination form, the veteran's discharge documents, and a detailed narrative of the veteran's community and/or public service at the local, state, and/or nation level and the veteran's contributions to the community at large. The focus of this honor is on the veteran's service to their community after leaving the military.

To download the nomination package, visit portal.ct.gov/dva/pages/ct-veterans-hall-of-fame.

Completed nomination packages must be submitted to the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs by September 15, 2024. They should be delivered by email to lindsay.jesshop@ct.gov or mailed through the U.S. Postal Service to:

Office of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD HELPLINE

In an effort to support the needs of our service members and their families, the Connecticut National Guard has a 24-hour HELPLINE.

Your call will be answered by a behavioral health professional. You will receive information and referrals to community resources to support you and your family.

1-855-800-0120



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QUALIFIED LEAD ENLISTS INTO CTNG= \$1,000

**LEAD ENLISTS INTO A PRIORITY VACANCY=
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CT JEEP 500

ARMY PRIORITY VACANCY

11B - Infantryman
11C - Indirect Fire Infantryman
12C - Bridge Crewmember
12N - Technical Engineer
25U - Signal Support Systems Specialist
31E - Corrections Specialist
68W- Combat Medic
88M - Motor Transport Operator
91B - Wheeled Transport Operator
92F - Petroleum Supply Specialist

AIR PRIORITY VACANCY

1A1X2N - Mobility Force Aviator
1C5X1 - Battle Management Operations
1D7X1 - Cyber Defense Operations
2A5X1 - Airlift/Special Mission Aircraft Maintenance
2A6X2 - Aerospace Ground Equipment
2A6X5 - Aircraft Hydraulic Systems
3E1X1 - Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration
3FOX1 - Personnel
3NOX6 - Public Affairs
3POX1 - Security Forces



JOINT JUNIOR
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12 Jan 2025
MAFRC
RM 317 A/B

23 Feb 2025
Camp Nett
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02 Mar 2025
MAFRC
RM 317 A/B

To register, scan the QR code of the program you are interested in.
You can register for both as well.



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103rd Airlift Wing to be awarded the Maj. Gen. Stanley F.H. Newman award

103rd Airlift Wing Contributor

The Connecticut National Guard's 103rd Airlift Wing will be awarded the Major General Stanley F. H. Newman Award.

This award identifies and recognizes the most outstanding Air National Guard Wing that contributed to the overall success of the Mobility Air Forces (MAF) mission, from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

The Airlift/Tanker Association honors Major General Stanley F.H. Newman's distinguished service to our nation and the Air National Guard through an annual award presentation at their convention. The award will be presented during the annual Airlift/Tanker Association Convention at the Gaylord Texan, from October 31 to November 3, 2024.

The 103rd Airlift Wing (103rd AW) is among the most operationally engaged tactical airlift units in the Total Air Force – especially during the period covered by this award. The 103rd AW utilized four of its C-130Hs as the lead C-130H force element while in the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) area of responsibility during

exercise MOBILITY GUARDIAN. The unit also provided expert tactical airlift capability for the European Command (EUCOM) area of responsibility during exercise AIR DEFENDER. Also of note, the 103rd AW brought a C-130H to Uruguay in support of the Connecticut National Guard's State Partnership Program and Southern Command's (SOUTHCOM) campaigning objectives. In May 2024, the unit completed its Air Mobility Command, Inspector General-observed, Readiness Exercise Validation where the 103rd Air Wing Inspector General was lauded as the "gold standard" in their ability to plan, execute and report on a largescale combat readiness exercise.

Maj. Gen. Stanley F. H. Newman, who was credited with shooting down the last German airplane of World War II, passed away in April, 2023. "Over half of my 40 years of military service was devoted to the 137th Airlift Wing, Will Rodgers Air National Guard (ANG) Base in which I served as commander, Flight to Wing, and ultimately as the ANG Assistant to Commander, Military Airlift Command (MAC)." - Major General Stanley F.H. Newman, USAF (Retired).



(Courtesy of Oklahoma History Center)

BENEFITS

Connecticut National Guard Soldiers receive full-time benefits for their part-time service, these include:

- Free tuition to Connecticut State Colleges
- Monthly paycheck
- Student loan repayment (up to \$50K)
- Affordable insurance - health, dental, life
- Montgomery G.I. Bill
- Federal Tuition Assistance
- Enlistment bonuses available if qualified
- Retirement benefits and Thrift Savings Plan
- Paid training and job experience



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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

LOOKING TO BE WELL PAID FOR A CHALLENGING CAREER?

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The 1943rd Contingency Contracting Team has **one vacant E-7 M-Day position, and three vacant E-6 M-Day positions**. Gain contracting experience as a 51C and become in federal contracting, for a highly in-demand career field that has open opportunities in both price and government sectors.

As of April 2, 2023, there are 675 job openings nationwide on USAJOBS.gov for a Contracting Officer.

Considered grades are ARMY E-5, E-6, and newly promoted E-7. E-4 may be considered if Basic Leader Course is completed, and the Soldier is promotable. Must have a GT score of 110.

For more information contact CPT Robert Ragos, 1943rd Commander, at Robert.j.ragos.mil@army.mil





2024 ADOPT A FAMILY

FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT US AT [1-800-858-2677](tel:1-800-858-2677)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY CAMPAIGN IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE SERVICE MEMBERS AND FAMILIES WHO ARE EXPERIENCING A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

THE CAMPAIGN SEEKS TO PROVIDE NECESSARY ITEMS, SUCH AS WARM WINTER CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, FOOD, AND HEATING ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO MAY NEED IT.

ELIGIBILITY

ANY SERVICE MEMBER OR THEIR DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS EXPERIENCING A VERIFIABLE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON IS ELIGIBLE TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE.

HOW TO APPLY

SIMPLY CONTACT THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY TEAM AT THE SERVICE MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER AT [1-800-858-2677](tel:1-800-858-2677) OR [SCAN THE QR CODE](#)

WHO GETS NOTIFIED IF YOU APPLY?

ABSOLUTELY NO ONE. YOUR APPLICATION AND ANY ASSISTANCE THAT WE PROVIDE IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

WHAT IF I WANT TO ADOPT A SERVICE MEMBER OF FAMILY?

WE WELCOME THE SUPPORT! PLEASE CALL US SO THAT WE CAN GET YOUR NAME ON THE LIST AND MATCH YOU WITH A FAMILY.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO APPLY?

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN **NOVEMBER 22ND**.

FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT US AT
[1-800-858-2677](tel:1-800-858-2677)

Adopt A Family 2024





Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, SEA to the chief, National Guard Bureau, and other Guard leaders attended the 53rd annual conference of the Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States in Detroit, Michigan, Aug. 19-22, 2024. The agenda included speed mentoring sessions, service-specific discussions, and panels led by senior enlisted leaders.

National Guard Leaders Tout Professional Development

Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Pena
National Guard Bureau

DETROIT - National Guard leaders helped facilitate professional development for Soldiers and Airmen during the 53rd Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Conference and Expo.

“How often do we get a chance to have 2,000 service members, in one location, to hear from senior leaders across the Guard and active components?” said Command Sgt. Maj. John Raines, command sergeant major, Army National Guard. “A bonus to that is that the youngest of our Soldiers and Airmen get the opportunity to hear these updates that we didn’t hear until later in our careers.”

The theme was “The Year of Future Leaders.”

“Our objective, here, is to offer our junior and mid-grade Guard members professional development opportunities so that they can become a better-trained workforce,” said Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, the top enlisted leader for the Guard and SEA to the chief of the National Guard Bureau. “We strive to provide them with the knowledge, skills and vision necessary to ensure that their leaders recognize the right person for the upcoming mission.”

The annual conference brings together past and present leaders of the Guard to share their expertise with thousands of enlisted members serving across the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

It also provides a platform for National Guard leaders to talk with the enlisted force and emphasize the significance of their service.

“Every day that we get up and have the opportunity to serve, it means something,” said Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, the adjutant general for the Nevada National Guard. “Some citizens have a better quality of life because of the less than 1% that serve in uniform. It should mean something when you wear this uniform proudly and look in the mirror and say, ‘If it’s going to be, it’s up to me.’ We can’t get this done without our enlisted force.”

The SEA has served in his position for nearly four years and in the military for almost 41. His address to almost 1,500 attendees, ranging from E-1 to E-9, was one of his last before his retirement.

Reflecting on his initial time as the SEA, Whitehead illuminated a topic close to his heart.

“When I first came into this position, I started getting notices daily of our Guardsmen dying. Some due to sickness, disease, or sudden accidents,” he said. “But some of them were suicide. After several months, I had to step back because they were coming in so frequently.”

Whitehead’s reflections highlighted the challenge future leaders will face: prioritizing the well-being of Guard members while balancing mission demands.

“As leaders, we want to fix the problems to return to the mission, but sometimes the mission becomes working on those challenges within our formations,” he said.

Whitehead said seasoned leaders need to be transparent

and share their journeys of adversity with their troops.

“We [E-9s] didn’t get to where we are by being 100% squared away at all times. Talk to your Soldiers and Airmen and show them we have lived through some hard times related to relationships, finances, work challenges and more. We got to the other side, and so can they.”

Whitehead also provided an operational update on the Guard and thanked military members currently serving for their dedication.

“Right now, we have nearly 40,000 Soldiers and Airmen on an active status across the globe. We are not a strategic reserve anymore; we are operational. We are a part of the larger joint fight, and that’s important for the enlisted force — especially in the National Guard,” said Whitehead.

Leaders at the event emphasized the importance of conferences for personal development. They encouraged conference attendees to share their stories and experiences when they return home to inspire others to join professional associations that can bring about positive change in the military.

EANGUS was officially organized in 1972 to amplify the representation of enlisted personnel in the National Guard. For five decades, its members have advocated for legislative changes. These include expanding the definition of veteran to National Guard members, enabling Guardsmen to use VA entitlements, advocating for TRI-CARE Reserve Select for National Guardsmen and providing National Guard members and their families access to base commissary and exchanges.

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WANTED

OLD UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT



There is a project in the works at the William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford to display more recent historical uniforms of Connecticut military service. The intent of these new displays is to incorporate them with the other significant historical displays, pictures, and items as a walking tour for visitors to the capital, especially school children field trips for generations.

If you have any of the following uniforms that you would be willing to donate to the CT Military Department for this purpose, please contact us at (860) 524-4968 or email military.history@ct.gov. We would like as much of the uniform as possible, to include foot gear, head gear, and pins/patches/accoutrements. The list of uniforms (with accoutrements) we are looking for are as follows:

- Vietnam – OG 107 – olive drab combat uniform - tropical/ light weight**
- 1970's – OG 107 – olive drab uniform temperate (preferably with a Fritzy Badge on pocket)**
- Army Flight Suit (Green, ACU, or OCP)**
- Army Mess Dress**
- Army Blue ASU (female either pants or skirt)**
- Army Khaki uniform**
- Era equipment that can be added to period dioramas.**

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

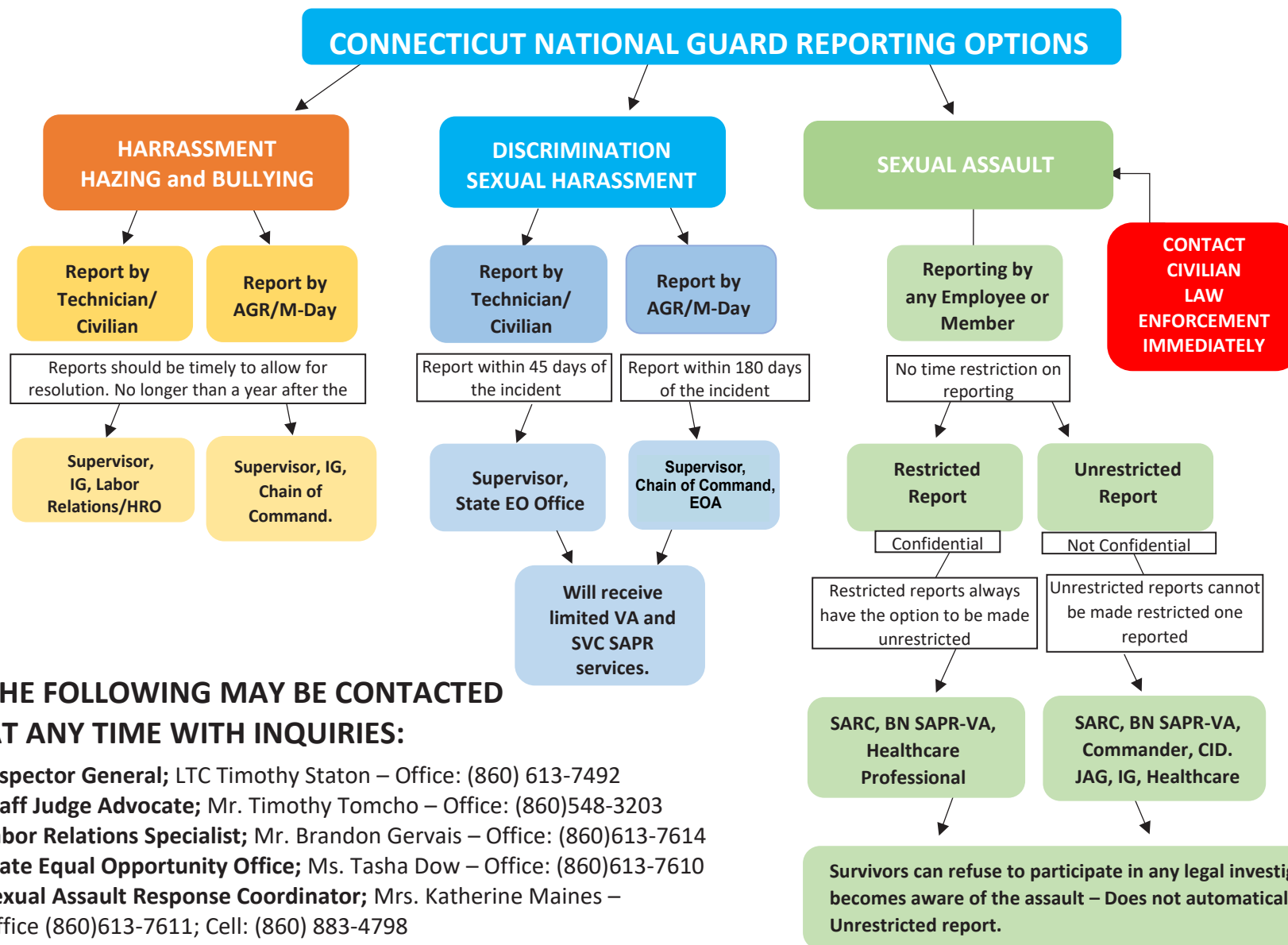
CT Chaplain 860.548.3240

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;** Mr. Timothy Tomcho – Office: (860)548-3203
- Labor Relations Specialist;** Mr. Brandon Gervais – 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 Wismar – Officer; (860)548-3240; Cell: (860)883-5278

 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	Kimberly Hoffman	kimberly.j.hoffman.civ@army.mil	(800) 858-2677
Lead Military and Family Readiness	Melody Baber	melodycheyenne.c.baber.civ@army.mil	(860) 548-3276 (desk) (860) 883-2515 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Carolyn Kyle	carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil	(860) 524-4920 (desk) (860) 394-8748 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Jason Perry	jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil	(860) 524-4897 (desk) (860) 655-9288 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Michelle McCarty	michelle.m.mccarty4.civ@army.mil	(860) 548-3254 (desk) (860) 883-6953 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Linda Rolstone	linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil	(860) 524-4963 (desk) (860) 680-2209 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Kelly Strba	kelly.a.strba.civ@army.mil	(860) 548-3283 (desk) (860) 500-3813 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Rich Timberlake	richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil	(860) 493-2797 (desk) (860) 500-3189 (cell)
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator	Carrie Joseph	carrie.l.joseph.ctr@army.mil	(860) 524-4908 (desk) (860) 883-6934 (cell)
Military OneSource Consultant	Scott McLaughlin	scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com	(860) 502-5416 (cell)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Volunteer Support Technician	Judith Reiser	jreiser@interactivegov.com	(860) 524-4970 (desk)
Personal Financial Consultant	Jafor Iqbal	pfc.hartford@magellanfederal.com	(203) 233-8790 (cell)
State Support Chaplain	Lt Col Eric Wismar	eric.a.wismar.mil@army.mil	(860) 548-3240 (desk) (860) 883-5278 (cell)
Transition Assistance Advisor	Fausto Parra	fparra-c@gapsi.com	(203) 219-8573 (cell) (202) 987-3942 (desk)
Connecticut Military Relief Fund	Julian Muller	julian.muller@ct.gov	(860) 524-4968 (desk)
Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center: 375 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Carolyn Kyle	carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil	(860) 524-4920 (desk) (860) 394-8748 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Jason Perry	jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil	(860) 524-4897 (desk) (860) 655-9288 (cell)
Niantic Readiness Center: 38 Smith Street, Niantic, CT 06357 Open Thursdays			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Michelle McCarty	michelle.m.mccarty4.civ@army.mil	(860) 739-1637 (desk) (860) 883-6953 (cell)
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Windsor Locks Readiness Center: 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 Open Fridays			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Kelly Strba	kelly.a.strba.civ@army.mil	(860) 292-4601 (desk) (860) 500-3813 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Rich Timberlake	richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil	(860) 292-4601 (desk) (860) 500-3189 (cell)
103rd Airlift Wing: 116 Rainbow Road, East Granby, CT 06026			
Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager	Selva Cabrera	selva.cabrera.1@us.af.mil	(860) 292-2730 (desk) (860) 734-7482 (cell)
Waterbury Armory: 64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702			
Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator	Reisha Moffat	reisha.a.moffat.ctr@army.mil	(860) 883-6949 (cell)
Military OneSource Consultant	Scott McLaughlin	scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com	(860) 502-5416 (cell)

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