VOL. 24 NO. 6 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT October 2024

CTNG assists with the interment of three unclaimed veteran cremains

Timothy Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. – The Connecticut National Guard's funeral honors team worked alongside the state's Department of Veteran Affairs and the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association to celebrate the lives and inter the cremains of three Connecticut veterans at the state veteran's cemetery, here, Oct. 16, 2024.

The three veterans honored were U.S. Army Pvt. 1st Class Mario Nello DeVito (July 21, 1927 – July 18, 2000), U.S. Army Pvt. James Dickinson, and U.S. Army SP5(T) Richard Robert Thurston.

"They are unclaimed but are not forgotten," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal. "To be honest, I don't know much about their service. But that doesn't matter. The fact is they raised their right hand as many of you did and I did. They swore their allegiance to the United States. Not to a president, not to a ruler, not to a governor, not to a senator or any government but the Constitution of the United States. They were willing to lay down their lives, and that's all I need to know."

This was the tenth such ceremony these organizations have hosted since 2009 when the state passed a law requiring funeral homes to identify if any of their unclaimed cremated remains are those of U.S. service members so they can receive the military funeral honors they're entitled to.

"President Harry Truman once said and I quote 'Our

See INTERMENT, page 4

Members of the Connecticut National Guard's funeral honors team transport the cremains of James Dickinson during a ceremony to celebrate the lives and inter the cremains of three Connecticut veterans at the state veteran's cemetery in Middletown, Conn. Oct. 16, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Mr. Timothy Koster, Joint Force Headquarters public affairs)



In This Issue:



CTNG hosts 4th annual Cyber Nutmeg exercise Page 4



CTNG Completes Hurricane Helene relief mission Page 6



Connecticut Guard Assists with Hawthorne Brush Fire Page 10



Get social with the CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD

official pages managed by the CTNG PAO



@ConnecticutNationalGuard facebook.com/ConnecticutNationalGuard



@CTNationalGuard twitter.com/CTNationalGuard



@CTNationalGuard instagram.com/CTNationalGuard

Official Unit / Leadership Pages

Maj. Gen. Fran Evon Facebook - @CTNGTAG Twitter - @CTNGTAG

State Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Fredericks
Facebook - @CTCommandSgtMaj

CTARNG Recruiting Battalion

Facebook - @CTArmyGuard Instagram - @CTArmyGuard

CTANG Recruiting Team

Facebook - @CTAirGuard

103rd Airlift Wing

Facebook - @103AW Instagram - @103airliftwing

102nd Army Band

Facebook - @102dArmyband Instagram - 102darmybandct

HHC, 169th Aviation Battalion

Facebook - @HHC169AVN

1-169 Regiment (RTI) Facebook - @169REG

85th Troop Command Facebook - @85thTroopCommand

1109th TASMG

Facebook - @1109thTASMG

CTARNG Recruit Sustainment Program

Facebook - ConnecticutGuardRSP

CTNG Service Member and Family Support Facebook - CTNGFamilies

CT Employee Support of Guard and Reserve

Facebook - @CTESGR
Twitter - @CT_ESGR

1st Co. Governor's Foot Guard Facebook - @1GFG1771

Change Your Address

To change your home of record, please do one of the following:

Retirees: Contact

Sgt. 1st Class Rachael Murphy at ng.ct.ctarng.mbx.G1-RSO@army.mil or 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.

Connecticut Guardian

360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795 Phone: (860) 524-4858, DSN: 636-7857 E-Mail: timothy.r.koster.civ@mail.mil

Captain-General Gov. Ned Lamont

The Adjutant General Commanding General, CTNG Maj. Gen. Francis J. Evon

Assistant Adjutant General - Air Brig. Gen. Gerald McDonald

Assistant Adjutant General - Army Brig. Gen. Ralph Hedenberg

State Command Chief Warrant Officer Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Erkson

State Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Fredericks State Command Chief Master Sergeant Chief Master Sgt. John M. Gasiorek

State Public Affairs Officer Connecticut Guardian Managing Editor Maj. Michael Wilcoxson

> Connecticut Guardian Editor Timothy Koster

> > Contributors

103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs 130th Public Affairs Det., CTARNG First Company Governors Horse Guard Second Company Governors Horse Guard First Company Governors Foot Guard Second Company Governors Foot Guard

The Connecticut Guardian is an authorized publication for and in the interest of, the personnel of the Connecticut National Guard, State Military Department, State Militia and their families. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the CTNG Hartford Public Affairs Office and is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Army or the Department of the Air Force. Connecticut Guardian is published monthly in accordance with AR 360-1 and is printed through the Government Printing Office. Deadline for the November edition is November 20th.



Highlights

- EXPECTATIONS
 We don't expect perfection, but rather, the pursuit of growth
- WE ARE HUMAN
 Embracing your flaws
 allows us to grow and
 learn.
- 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.

Interment

Cont. from page 1

debt to the heroic men and valiant women in service to our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude and America will never forget their sacrifices.' Today, we will demonstrate that undying gratitude by providing honors to three veterans," said Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Brig, Gen. (Ret.) Ron Welch.

In addition to the various organizations involved in the interment, several veterans and legislative leaders were in attendance to offer their respects to the departed.

"Take a look around you if you want to know the significance of never leaving someone behind," said U.S. Rep. John Larson. "In a nation of more than 340 million people, less than 1% put on a uniform. It's the veteran that makes a ceremony like this so special and so important.

He added, "We don't know a lot about these brave individuals, but we know they put on the uniform and served to protect and defend our constitution and basic freedoms. Leave it to veterans to make sure that their duty and sacrifice to their country will never be forgotten."

To learn more about the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and its mission to bring provide military funeral services, visit portal.ct.gov/DVA.



A member of the Connecticut National Guard's funeral honors team places the cremains of James Dickinson in a columbarium at the Connecticut Veterans Ceremony in Middletown, Conn. Oct. 16, 2024.



CTNG hosts 4th annual Cyber Nutmeg exercise

Cpt. Joshua Pasay 130th Public Affairs Detachment

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut National Guard and Connecticut Education Network (CEN) hosted the 4th annual Cyber Nutmeg in Hartford on October 9, 2024.

The event is Connecticut's premier cybersecurity conference for community anchor institutions that is designed to raise awareness of cybersecurity threats and recommended defenses to protect organizations. The conference continues to grow with over 330 participants this year from across the tri-state area.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, opened the event with remarks emphasizing the importance of collaboration in combating cyber threats. Breakout sessions were led by National Guard members, including a presentation on physical security by Sgt. Kevin Fiddler and Cpt. Joshua Pasay, and a

discussion on the anatomy of a cyber-attack by Cpt. Erik Toman and CW2 Jason Halbach. Additionally, members of the CTNG Defense Cyber Operations Element (DCOE) facilitated an election security tabletop exercise.

The conference's growing scope and popularity highlight the increasing importance of cybersecurity in protecting communities across the state. This allows CTNG Cyber to build valuable partnerships across Federal, State and local governments, as well as with industry, academia and private organizations through collaboration. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a component of the Department of Homeland Security, and the CTNG hosted regional incident response plan workshops this past summer and plan to host tabletop exercises in the spring. Events like Cyber Nutmeg are essential for building stronger defenses and fostering a resilient digital infrastructure for Connecticut's future.

THE CONNECTICUT MILITIA HERITAGE COUNCIL

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A CONNECTICUT MILITARY HISTORY PRESENTATION:

Help is on the way! The Connecticut militia's response to Lexington in 1775

Commemorating the upcoming 250th anniversary of the outbreak of the Revolutionary War



Saturday, November 2, 2024 - 6:00 to 7:30 PM Nett Hall (Building 60) Camp Nett 38 Smith Street Niantic, Connecticut 06357



GUEST SPEAKER
CPT Matthew Reardon
Command Historian, CT Military Department

Captain Matt Reardon is a Command Historian of the Connecticut Military Department. He is a scholar of Connecticut's participation in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. He has contributed numerous scholarly articles to the Journal of the American Revolution and was the executive director of the New England Civil War Museum and Research Center for more than 15 years. His new book on Benedict Arnold's September 1781 attack on New London (entitled *The Traitor's Homecoming - Benedict Arnold's Raid On New London, Connecticut, September 4-13, 1781 -* Savas Beatie Press, 2024, 433 pages) was published this year.

Captain Reardon's presentation will describe how Connecticut's militia came to the assistance of the Massachusetts militia after the Battle of Lexington in 1775.

Parking is available at Camp Nett

This event is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Military Department's Militia Heritage Council and by the Museum of Connecticut History.



Soldiers assigned to the Connecticut National Guard deliver generators to residents of North Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Helene. Between the 1-104th and 1-169th Aviation Regiments, the Connecticut National Guard spent about two weeks assisting citizens effected by the storm. (Courtesy Photo)

CTNG Completes Hurricane Helene relief mission

Timothy Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. – Soldiers assigned to the Connecticut National Guard's 1st Battalion, 104th Aviation Regiment and 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment returned home after spending a combined two weeks in North Carolina assisting with the relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

The units flew multiple missions using their two CH-47F Chinooks and one UH-60M Blackhawk helicopters over the two-week period which helped deliver 282,290 pounds of supplies such as food, water, medicine, fuel, and generators, and evacuated 164 people.

"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."

In total, at the time the Connecticut Soldiers returned home, the National Guard units mobilized for relief efforts have rescued 735 people and 214 pets, cleared 1,734 routes, removed 1,060 obstacles, and delivered 2,157 pallets of food, 1,819 pallets of water, and served more than

109.000 meals

"Connecticut is prepared to lead by example and deliver assistance to our neighbors during times of emergency," said Gov. Ned Lamont in a statement. "The soldiers from the Connecticut National Guard have always been ready to respond to any crisis here in our state whenever the need arises, and I am very thankful that they have accepted this mission to help our friends in North Carolina.

The Soldiers were deployed under the authorization of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a mutual aid system among states and territories for lifesaving resources during natural and man-made disasters.

Retiree Voice - VA Connecticut Fisher House

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

Many people have heard of Ronald McDonald Houses which provide housing and resources for families whose children needing in-hospital care. The Fisher House Foundation provides the same types of services for veterans.

Zachery and Elizabeth Fisher started the Fisher House Program with one house in 1990, recognizing the needs of veterans needed places for families to be near their veteran receiving medical care. Today there are 97 houses in VA districts throughout the country. Up to a thousand families stay in a Fisher house on any given night throughout the country.

Fisher Houses offer 100% free lodging for military families that live more than fifty miles from a VA Medical Center or DOD. It allows families to stay together while their loved ones are receiving treatment.

VA Connecticut Fisher House was dedicated on May 4, 2018, and is house number seventy-five. Fisher House Connecticut, located in West Haven, Connecticut, provides a home away from home for families and patients receiving inpatient treatment at the West Haven campus or Yale New Haven Hospital. Set up with private and communal spaces, Connecticut Fisher house consists of approximately 13,500 square feet. It has sixteen private suites that have a bedroom and bathroom, which are fully handicapped accessible.

Fisher house is set up to help families feel comfortable by setting it up as homelike as possible. The formal living room/library is arranged in small group settings to promote intimate conversations among the families staying there. Fisher house aims to provide a home away from home atmosphere. The house's communal dining room and kitchen are set up to accommodate multiple families at the same time. The dining room has dining furniture specifically designed for small groups and can hold up to twenty-four people. Special events are hosted in the dining room such as holiday dinners.

The fully equipped gourmet kitchen is really two kitchens in one. There are three refrigerators and two freezers. Families are assigned spaces to store their personal groceries. In addition, there is a community refrigerator of donated food that can be used by any guest.

Connecticut Fisher house also has a multiple machine laundry room complete with all cleaning supplies, a family room with games and DVDs, and a back patio with grills and patio furniture.

To stay at Connecticut Fisher House, guests must be actively involved with the patient's treatment plan, providing ongoing bedside support during the hospital stay. Guests must live 50 miles or more or at least two hours away from the West Haven campus of the VACTHCS. Guests must be self-sufficient or accompanied by a care giver.

Referrals to Connecticut Fisher house are done in advance by the social worker assigned to the patient, after an initial screening process. Referrals can be made seven days a week by the social worker. A referral is not a guaranteed reservation. Reservations are based on eligibility criteria being met and lodging availability. Lodging is assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Since Connecticut Fisher House opened in 2018, 967 families consisting of 1,717 individuals. It has provided 3,613 nights of lodging free of charge which has saved families over \$401,043.00 in lodging expenses.

As a non-profit, Connecticut Fisher House relies on volunteers and donations. For volunteer opportunities, contact Fisher House staff at (203) 932-5711, extensions 7344, 8347, or 8348. Monetary donations may be mailed to VA Connecticut Healthcare System Fisher House (135F), ATTN: Amanda Salthouse 950 Campbell Ave., West Haven, CT 06516, payable to VA Connecticut Healthcare System, VACT Fisher House GPF 9015 on the memo line.

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) (Space-A: Minimum 2 Rooms Required) | \$190/night (\$95/room) | \$ 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.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS 66TH AIR BASE GROUP HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE MASSACHUSETTS

MEMORANDUM FOR CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: 66 FSS/FSP

SUBJECT: Announcement for The Connecticut Guardian

1. Please place the following announcement in The Connecticut Guardian for the next three publication dates:

"It is with deep regret that we announce the untimely demise of Staff Sargeant Tacito Castillo; 103^{rd} Force Support, Recruiting Squadron, Connecticut Air National Guard. 2d Lt Ashley Vazquez (ashley.vazquez.3@us.af.mil, (781) 225-1049) has been appointed Summary Court Officer. All claims for or against the decedent's estate must be submitted to the Summary Courts Officer for resolution."

ASHLEY VAZQUEZ, 2d Lt, USAF Summary Court Officer

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



JOINT ENLISTMENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

UPDATE TO CT JEEP 500
UP TO \$1,500

FOR EVERY QUALIFIED LEAD THAT ENLISTS INTO THE CTNG

QUALIFIED LEAD ENLISTS INTO CTNG= \$1,000

LEAD ENLISTS INTO A PRIORITY VACANCY=
ADDITIONAL \$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



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter belonging to the Connecticut National Guard's 169th Aviation Regiment prepares to gather water from a local lake to dump on a brushfire burning on Lamentation Mountain in Berlin, Connecticut Oct. 23, 2024. This was the first time since 1995 that Connecticut National Guard aviation units conducted an aerial firefighting mission in state.

Connecticut Guard Assists with Hawthorne Brush Fire

Timothy Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Forty aviators, firefighters, and support personnel from the Connecticut National Guard were activated to assist local and state emergency personnel with containing a brush fire that has consumed more than 120 acres of wildlife on Lamentation Mountain in Berlin and Meriden, Connecticut on Oct. 23, 2024.

This is the first time in almost 30 years that the Connecticut National Guard has been activated for this kind of emergency in the state.

"The last time we had aerial drops of water was 1995," said Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard. "We're proud of Connecticut's Home Team. Our members have trained to do this both here in the United States and overseas. They have stepped up and volunteered to come forward to assist our first responders."

The Lamentation Mountain fire, more commonly referred to as the Hawthorne fire, is just one of 93 actively burning brush and wildfires across the state of Connecticut, which is facing a period of severe drought.

"It's the worst drought since we've been recording droughts, which goes back to 1905," said Lamont. "That means that our state is a tinderbox. Everything is incredibly flammable. Anytime a dry leaf falls, it's fuel for the flames."

According to Berlin Fire Chief John Massirio, wildfires are fairly common in Connecticut, but the extremely dry conditions are not something they're used to.

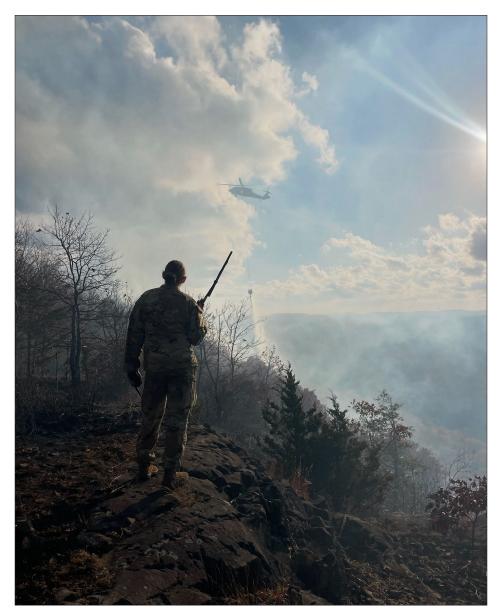
"Connecticut does have fires every year, it's just never been to this drought index," said Massirio. "From their investigation it looks like this was not malicious by any means. It looks like someone was up there camping or hiking. Had a fire, put it out, and didn't catch an ash and that's what started the fire."

Governor Lamont declared a state of emergency on Oct. 25, 2024, for the extreme drought and the lack of rain in the forecast for the foreseeable future.

"Over the last two months, Connecticut has experienced severely dry conditions and lack of rain, which has increased the threat of fire conditions and caused several fires to start throughout the state," said Lamont. "The filing of this declaration will help provide state and local emergency management officials with the necessary tools to monitor and limit the threat of potential fires, respond to active fires, and respond to any additional fires that may start. We are strongly urging all Connecticut residents to avoid any type of outdoor burning as the current conditions pose a high risk of fire danger."

The Connecticut National Guard's firefighting assets were stood down on Nov. 1, 2024, after dropping 223 buckets, totaling nearly a quarter-million gallons of water. The on-ground personnel helped clear debris and put out spot fires along the mountain to contain its spread.

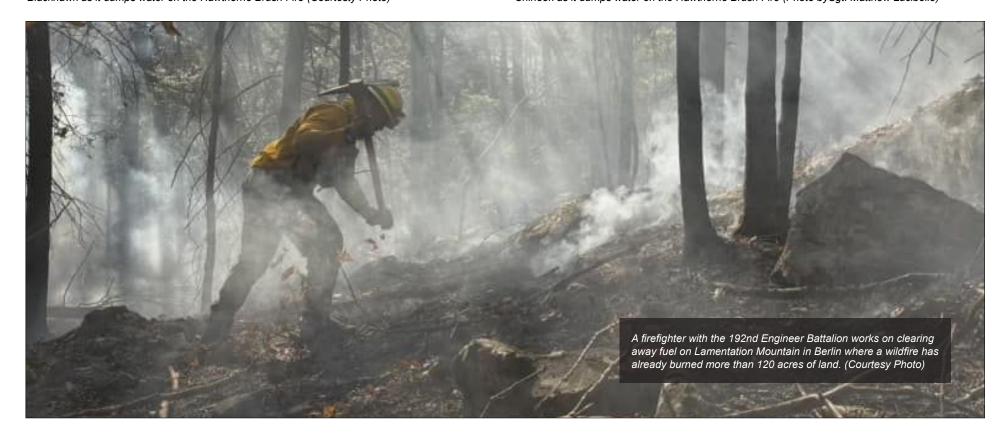
Although their mission is complete, the fires around the state still burn. Crews from as far away as Quebec, Canada and California have arrived to step in and battle the flames. However, with red flag warnings popping up across the state, the Connecticut Guard stands ready to assist once again if called upon to help our communities.



A member of the Connecticut National Guard uses a radio to communicate with the crew of a UH-60 Blackhawk as it dumps water on the Hawthorne Brush Fire (Courtesty Photo)



A member of the Connecticut National Guard watches the bambi bucket hanging from a CH-47 Chinook as it dumps water on the Hawthorne Brush Fire (Photo bySgt. Matthew Lucibello)



NATIONAL GUARD

HOLISTIC WELLNESS CHALLENGE





FACTS & FIGURES: DID YOU KNOW?

Service members cannot use or misuse drugs of any kind.



ILLICIT
Cocaine
Heroin
Hallucinogens



PROHIBITED Marijuana Hemp CBD



PRESCRIPTION
Stimulants
Sedatives
Pain Relievers

RISKING IT ALL

Drug use and misuse can negatively impact readiness and overall well-being. Stop and think, is it worth the risk?



Health

Drugs can increase stress and anxiety, while decreasing memory, sleep, and performance.



Relationships

Drugs can destroy trust between friends and family, and lead to physical or emotional harm.



Career

Drugs can initiate a separation from the military, and a loss of security clearance or right to bear arms.

CONTACT US

For more information on drug use/misuse or other topics, email: ng.ncr.ngb.mbx.integrated-prevention-branch@army.mil

KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE

October 2024

You know drugs like cocaine and heroin are harmful and illegal. Misuse of prescription drugs, like taking someone else's medication, is equally problematic. But did you know that Service members are prohibited from using marijuana, hemp, and cannabidiol (CBD), no matter the THC levels or legal status?

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is a chemical compound that comes in several forms (Delta-8 and Delta-10), but Delta-9 is most common in hemp and marijuana. In large enough quantities, it produces the "high" that marijuana is known for. However, even in lesser quantities, THC may have psychological or physical impacts and is prohibited by DoD.

In addition, THC levels are unregulated, making it impossible to know if a product's claim to be THC-free is accurate. Here's what you need to know to limit your risk.

- Marijuana: Contains THC.
- **Hemp**: Contains THC.
- **CBD**: May or may not contain THC. CHECK THE LABEL!

Even if certain products are legal under civilian law, DoD prohibits marijuana in any form. Products made or derived from hemp, including CBD, are banned regardless of the claimed or actual THC levels. Exceptions include durable hemp goods (e.g., rope) and medications with a valid prescription. Bottomline: when in doubt, go without!







NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH **NOVEMBER**

Guest Speaker: David Eichelberg (Outreach Specialist for Mohegan Tribe)

Topic: Mohegan Tribe History & Culture

Nett Hall, Camp Nett at Niantic

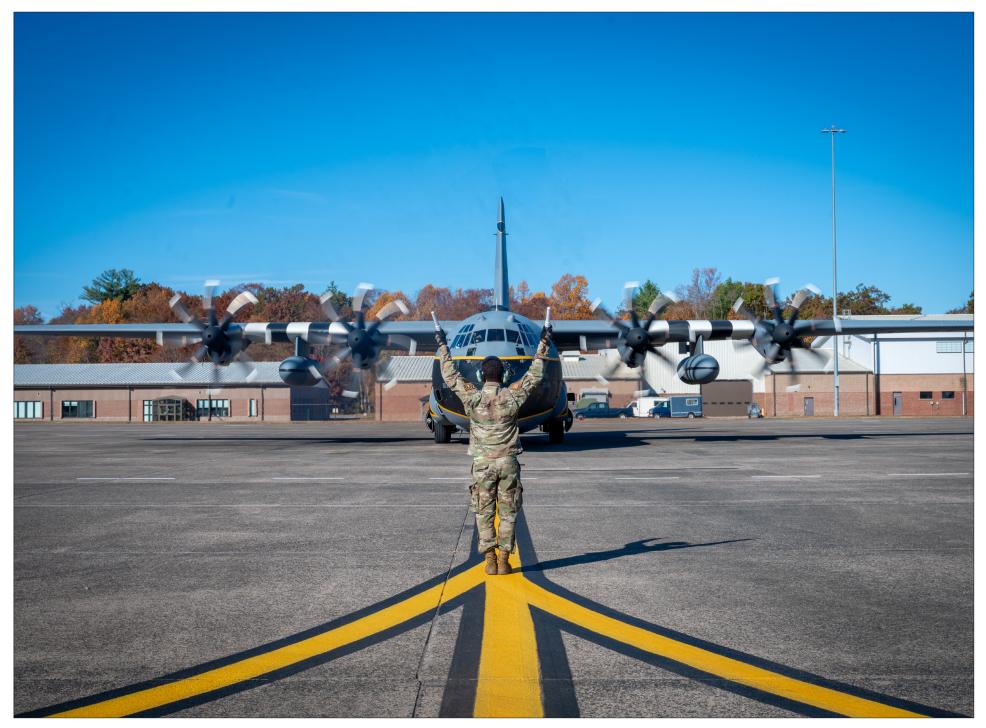
Saturday, November 2, 2024, 0900 Hours











A 103rd Airlift Wing C-130H Hercules aircraft, retrofitted with new eight-blade NP2000 engines, taxies into Bradley Air National Guard Base, Oct. 25, 2024. This is the first of eight C-130s belonging to the Connecticut National Guard's Airlift Wing to be retrofitted with the new engines that will improve the aircraft's thrust, decrease maintenance time, and lower engine noise by about 20 decibels.

103rd Airlift Wing gets first NP2000 retrofitted C-130

Timothy Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The Connecticut National Guard's 103rd Airlift Wing received its first NP2000 retrofitted C-130H Hercules aircraft at Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Conn. Oct. 25, 2024.

The NP2000 is an eight-prop engine that will provide the aircraft with better fuel efficiency, reduced propeller maintenance time, better thrust during take-off, and reduces about 20 decibels of airframe noise and vibration.

This upgrade will help the 103rd's C-130 fleet increase readiness and diversify its flying mission both here in American and when called up to deploy overseas. With individually detachable props, engine maintenance time and costs are expected to be cut by 50% and the increased thrust will allow the aircraft to take off from shorter, unimproved runways that are common in austere operational environments.

The retrofit is about more than just added features and better economic and environmental considerations. The C-130 is a proven aircraft that was first introduced in December 1956. Since then, the aircraft has seen combat in every major military conflict the United States has participated in and conducted countless humanitarian missions around the globe. Due to its age and operational tempo, the legacy four-bladed prop engines have worn down, resulting in a fleet-wide grounding in 2022.

The 103rd Airlift Wing has a total of eight C-130H aircraft in its fleet and is expected to retrofit them all with the

NP2000 engine moving forward until the unit's brand-new C-130J Super Hercules aircraft are delivered. The C-130J includes the latest avionics, a longer expected life span, better fuel efficiency and performance, increased cargo capacity, and better logistical support and will allow the 103rd to continue its flying mission for decades to come.

The NP2000 is manufactured by Collins Aerospace in Windsor Locks, Connecticut—right on the other side of Bradley International Airport, where Bradley Air National Guard Base is located. Wing leadership is hoping this close proximity to the manufacturer will open unique opportunities for the Wing to build relationships that will maximize the lifespan of these engines and the C-130's serviceability to the state and nation.



Kenneth McNeill, the chief information officer with the National Guard Bureau, responds to a question during a panel discussion on cybersecurity at the Herbert R. Temple Army National Guard Readiness Center, Arlington Hall Station in Arlington, Virginia, Oct. 16, 2024. The panel included cyber officials from throughout the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security and was held as part of Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

National Guard Bureau Hosts 3rd Annual Cybersecurity Awareness Panel

Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Everybody plays a role in cybersecurity, National Guard and Department of Defense officials emphasized during a panel discussion on cybersecurity Oct. 16 at the Herbert R. Temple Army National Guard Readiness Center.

"Everyone out here is a cybersecurity warrior," said Kenneth McNeill, the chief information officer with the National Guard Bureau and a panel member. "It is not just a small group that looks at this mission space. Every day, when you are at work, at home, even on your personal computer, you're a cybersecurity warrior."

Stressing the impact individual actions can have on cybersecurity was one focus of the panel, held as part of Cybersecurity Awareness Month to help defend against cyber attacks and hacking.

"October is that one month that we can focus on it, that we can reiterate how important it is for everyone to do their part," said Ashley Jones, a panel member and cybersecurity adviser with the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. "If you don't do your part, it's not an if situation, but when it's going to happen. So, we want to make sure that everyone understands why cybersecurity is so important."

For those who work outside the cyber field, maintaining awareness of cyber attacks and some of their hallmarks can help maintain robust cybersecurity.

"Cyber may not be your wheelhouse, you may not do anything with cyber on your daily job, but when you see these incidents and events pop up, Google to see what happened, what it was, what were the indicators of compromise," said Jones. "That's how you can be a cyber warrior."

Awareness of those attacks and their hallmarks and making any needed adjustments go in tandem with maintaining strong passwords and only using approved devices on DOD and government networks to maintain strong cybersecurity.

"The end user is always going to play a part in that, and that's why we're here to talk about some of these things," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Terrence Adams, a panel member and the deputy principal cyber adviser to the secretary of defense.

That includes being vigilant at home or while using personal internet-connected devices.

"You could get compromised at home and then come into the office and transfer that risk to your office because the network is so connective across the spectrum," said Adams. Cybersecurity's scope often extends beyond traditional desktop computers to encom-

pass everyday devices such as smart watches, cars, and even appliances included in the "Internet of Things."

"We don't think about that daily," said Jones. "You just get up, do your day."

However, the connective ubiquity of such devices can make it easy for adversaries to collect information or initiate cyber attacks.

"That is the right fertile ground for our adversaries to collect all kinds of information and take all kinds of action, as well as just your run-of-the-mill folks that want to stir up a little trouble," said Leslie Beavers, a panel member and the DOD's acting chief information officer.

As technology changes, so do the devices. Keeping an up-to-date policy on those items is another key.

"Technology is constantly changing, and you have to get ahead of the game," said McNeill. "We're going to always put the policy in place. But, really, it's all about leaning forward and knowing what new technology is out there, and then that drives the policy."

It's also important to include cybersecurity measures in the development stage of new components and devices, especially those designed to work specifically on DOD and government networks.

"As we work to try to bring new things on the network, I think we should have the mindset to say no more new bad in the domain," said Adams. "It should be designed to be cybersecure from the beginning. It should be thought about when we're in the engineering phase, you know, not after it gets on the network."

McNeill added that the DOD "has a very good process that you go through when we bring in new technologies and look at what we're trying to use, whether it's software, whether it's hardware."

Overall, said panel members, education is key.

"I think the important thing is to educate the members who are here in this room and everybody else that every connection is an opportunity," said Adams. "Every connection is an opportunity for you to be more productive. Every connection is an opportunity for the adversary."

Others agreed.

"I need you to think about your cyber behavior and how you secure your information and your work information as if it were your bank account and as if your personal cyber-security were involved," said Beavers. "Cybersecurity month is great, but it really needs to be a 365 effort. That's how important cybersecurity is to me personally, and I think needs to be to all of us."



DEARN ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS FOR BECOMING AN OFFICER IN THE CTARNG. MEET WITH THE OCS PROGRAM MANAGER, WOCS PROGRAM MANAGER, CADRE, OFFICER STRENGTH MANAGER, WARRANT OFFICER STRENGTH MANAGER AND OFFICER RECRUITER.

12 Jan 2025 MAFRC RM 317 A/B 23 Feb 2025 Camp Nett RTI

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.







Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. John T. Raines, delivers remarks during the AUSA Sergeant Major of the Army Professional Development Forum at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., Oct. 16, 2024. This year's AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition theme is "Transforming for a Complex World," reflecting a top priority for the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army.

National Guard Bureau Chief Names Senior Enlisted Advisor

Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Pena National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Raines is the National Guard Bureau's next senior enlisted advisor, Air Force Gen. Steven Nordhaus, chief, National Guard Bureau, announced Oct. 16.

Raines will succeed SEA Tony Whitehead, who will retire in November following more than four decades of service in the Air Force and Air National Guard.

"Please join me in congratulating SEA Tony L. Whitehead, who will be retiring after 42 years of dedicated service," said Nordhaus. "During his tenure, SEA Whitehead has exemplified the values of our organization through his leadership and steadfast guidance.

"He has played a crucial role in enhancing training and development programs, fostered a culture of inclusion and resilience, and advocated for the needs of our Soldiers and Airmen," Nordhaus said.

Raines is the 13th sergeant major of the Army National Guard, a position he's held since 2022. He will assume his role as the 7th senior enlisted advisor to the chief, National Guard Bureau, during a change of responsibility ceremony Nov. 8, immediately following Whitehead's

retirement ceremony.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Raines brings over 35 years of experience. He has proven himself a trusted advisor at the senior levels of our Army and the Joint Force. His counsel and leadership will further strengthen our commitment to excellence as he represents the more than 430,000 Soldiers and Airmen of our National Guard," said Nordhaus.

Raines, an Alabama native, has served in the active-duty Army and the Army National Guard. He enlisted in August 1989 and completed his basic military training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, followed by training as an infantryman at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Before his current assignment, he was the command senior enlisted leader of the Mississippi National Guard, the Mississippi Army National Guard state command sergeant major, and the J3 senior enlisted leader for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

"I'm genuinely excited for Command Sgt. Maj. Raines," said Whitehead. "He is the leadership our enlisted force needs at this critical juncture in our National Guard and Armed Forces. Having personally worked alongside him, I've seen his unparalleled strategic mindset, unwavering resolve and genuine care for our service members and

their families. I eagerly await the honor of passing the torch in the coming weeks."

Whitehead will pass the positional flag to Raines at the change of responsibility ceremony next month. Raines will assume the rank of SEA, a role joining two enlisted forces and representing more than 430,000 Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard. He will be the first Army leader to wear the distinctive rank insignia of the senior enlisted advisor to the chief, National Guard Bureau.

Raines will serve as the NGB chief's principal military advisor on all enlisted matters affecting training, utilization, health of the force and enlisted professional development.

"It is with profound humility that I accept the role of senior enlisted advisor to the chief of the National Guard Bureau. I am excited to continue to do what I love most: take care of our Soldiers and Airmen as they take care of America," said Raines.

Raines and his wife, Karen, have been married for over 35 years. They have a daughter, Stephanie, a son, Richard, a daughter-in-law, Brittany, and four granddaughters.



Air Force Gen. Nordhaus Assumes Role of Chief, NGB

Sgt. 1st Class Zach Sheely National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Air Force Gen. Steven Nordhaus assumed responsibility as chief of the National Guard Bureau during a ceremony Tuesday at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall

Navy Adm. Christopher Grady, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presided over the ceremony following an earlier promotion ceremony in which Nordhaus received his fourth star.

"To the Citizen-Soldiers, the 430,000 men and women of the National Guard, thank you for manning the watch as we sit here today. Thank you for being Always Ready, Always There," Grady said.

Nordhaus takes the helm as the National Guard's top officer and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, succeeding Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, who retired in August.

"I'd like to thank the men and women of the National Guard — an elite and ready warfighting force," Nordhaus said. "They are well-integrated with the Joint Force, our allies and partners, the interagency and local communities.

"They are critical to our national defense, and I am proud to represent them," he 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.

He brings experience working at the National Guard Bureau in and around the Pentagon, having served as the NGB's director of operations from 2019 to 2022 and commander of the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, from 2017 to 2019. He was an executive assistant to Army Gen. Frank Grass, the 27th chief of the National Guard Bureau, from 2013 to 2015.

Nordhaus has served at every level of Air Force command and is rated as a command pilot, with more than 3,000 flight hours in various aircraft, including T-37, T-38, F-16A, F-16C/D Block 30/40/42/50/52 and F-35A. He has flown combat missions in operations Southern Watch, Vigilant Warrior, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Nordhaus, a Putnam County, Ohio, native, was inspired to fly fighter jets at a young age and earned his commission through the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1989.

"Over the course of my service flying in the active duty and the National Guard, my experiences took me far beyond the cockpit when Gen. Grass brought me to the Pentagon," Nordhaus said.

"There, I learned just how dynamic, versatile, resilient and responsive our National Guard is as a warfighting force, with strategic depth and as an operational reserve for our services, yet able to respond across our nation from over 2,500 communities to serve our citizens," he said.

As Nordhaus takes the office of the chief of the National Guard Bureau, there are about 46,000 Guardsmen on duty. More than 7,400 Guardsmen from 17 states are mobilized to the Southeast to help communities devastated by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Another 9,000 are focused on steady-state homeland defense and security. More than 21,000 are deployed worldwide in support of geographic combatant commands.

Thousands more stand ready to answer the call at home and abroad.

Nordhaus shared his first personal encounter with the National Guard. It came in 1992 when, as a young officer in the active-duty Air Force, Hurricane Andrew destroyed his first home and two cars at Homestead Air Force Base in South Florida.

"The National Guard was there for me," he said. "Just as right now, our Guardsmen are working tirelessly to respond to Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. They are saving families in devastated communities. They are clearing roads and establishing distribution sites so our fellow Americans can regain access to life-saving food and water.

"They are not only bringing supplies and expertise to these communities — they are bringing hope and compassion to our neighbors in need," he said.

That hope is part of Nordhaus' philosophy — three tenets he calls his standard operating procedures: service, optimism and passion.

"I am committed to bringing service, optimism and passion to each day as I serve alongside you in my new role," he said.

Nordhaus said he will be focused on people, readiness, partnerships and modernization to ensure the National Guard remains well-postured in a time of great power competition globally and responsive in times of crisis at home.

"Everything I do in this role will be in the service of our people so we can ensure



Navy Adm. Christopher Grady, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hosts the assumption of responsibility ceremony for the chief of the National Guard Bureau, Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia, Oct. 15, 2024. Air Force Gen. Steven Nordhaus will serve as the 30th CNGB and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, succeeding Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, who retired in August.

mission success," he said. "Every policy we improve, every nation and community we visit and every decision we make will put our elite Soldiers, Airmen and civilians front and center.

"You bring strength, courage and honor to this organization; without you, we cannot succeed," he said.

The chief of the National Guard and the National Guard Bureau ensure proper training, equipping and staffing of the Army and the Air National Guard so they can perform their missions as the primary combat reserve of the Army and the Air Force to fight and win the nation's wars, protect the homeland and assist communities in times of natural or human-caused disaster.

Nordhaus is the fifth chief of the National Guard Bureau to serve as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which Congress elevated to a four-star position in 2012.



LOOKING TO BE WELL PAID FOR A CHALLENGING CAREER?

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE 1943RD CCT

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.

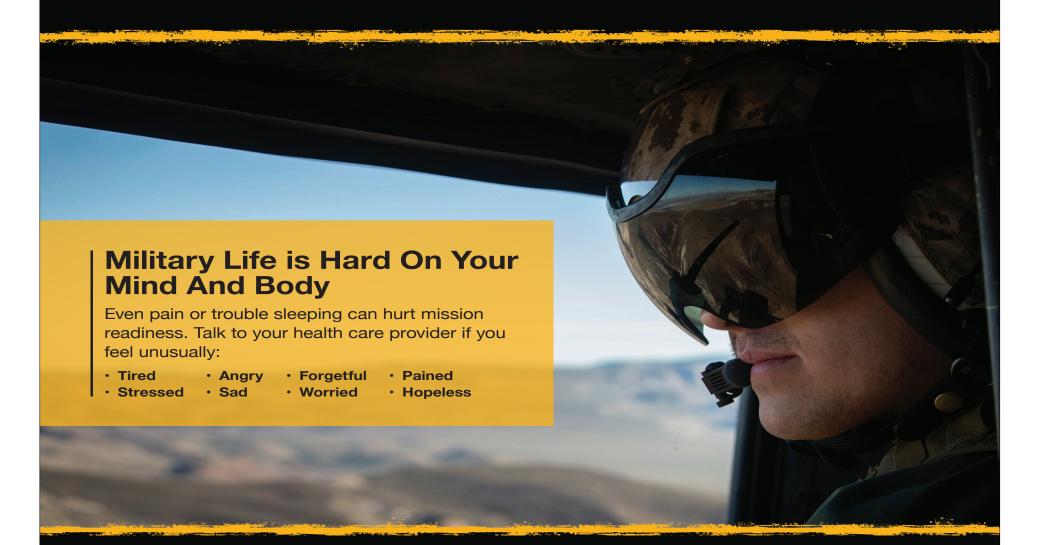
Considered grades are ARMY E-5, E-6, and newly promoted E-7. E-4 may be considered if Basic Leader Course is completed, and the Soldier is promotable. Must have a GT score of 110.

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



NOT FEELING LIKE YOURSELF?

REACH OUT. STAY MISSION READY.



Psychological Health Resource Center

Call/Chat with a health resource consultant 24/7 at 866-966-1020 or <u>realwarriors.net/livechat</u>

Military Crisis Line

Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, text 838255 or visit militarycrisisline.net/chat

REAL WARRIORS * REAL BATTLES
REAL STRENGTH



realwarriors.ne

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)

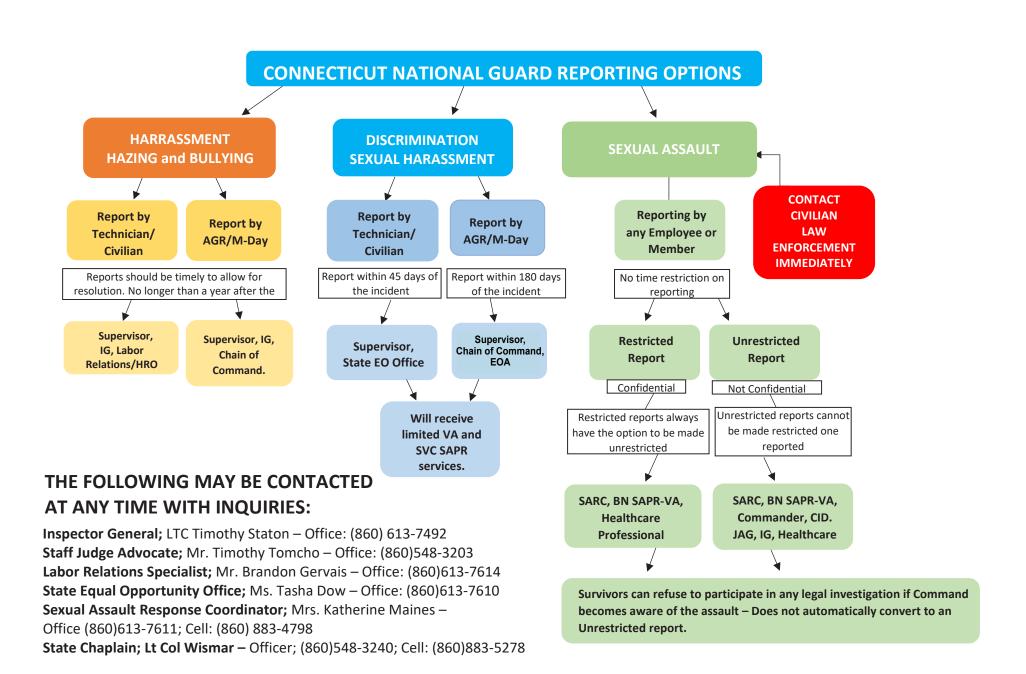
Army Khaki uniform

Era equipment that can be added to period dioramas.

SEXUAL ASSAULT. SEXUAL HARASSMENT. NOT IN OUR ARAS

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





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, Niar | Open Thursdays | | | | | | |
| Military and Family Readiness Specialist | Michelle McCarty | michelle.m.mccarty4.civ@army.mil | | (860) 739-1637 (desk) (860) 883-6953 (cell) | | | |
| Military and Family Readiness Specialist | Linda Rolstone | <u>linda.b.rolston</u> | e.civ@army.mil | (860) 739-1637 (desk) (860) 680-2209 (cell) | | | |
| Windsor Locks Readiness Center: 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 Open Fridays | | | | | | | |
| Military and Family Readiness Specialist | Kelly Strba | kelly.a.strba.c | civ@army.mil | (860) 292-4601 (desk) (860) 500-3813 (cell) | | | |
| Military and Family Readiness Specialist | Rich Timberlake | richard.k.timberl | ake.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 | a.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 | t.ctr@army.mil | (860) 883-6949 (cell) | | | |
| Military OneSource Consultant | Scott McLaughlin | scott.mclaughlin@m | ilitaryonesource.com | (860) 502-5416 (cell) | | | |

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSKI SID
US POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, CT











