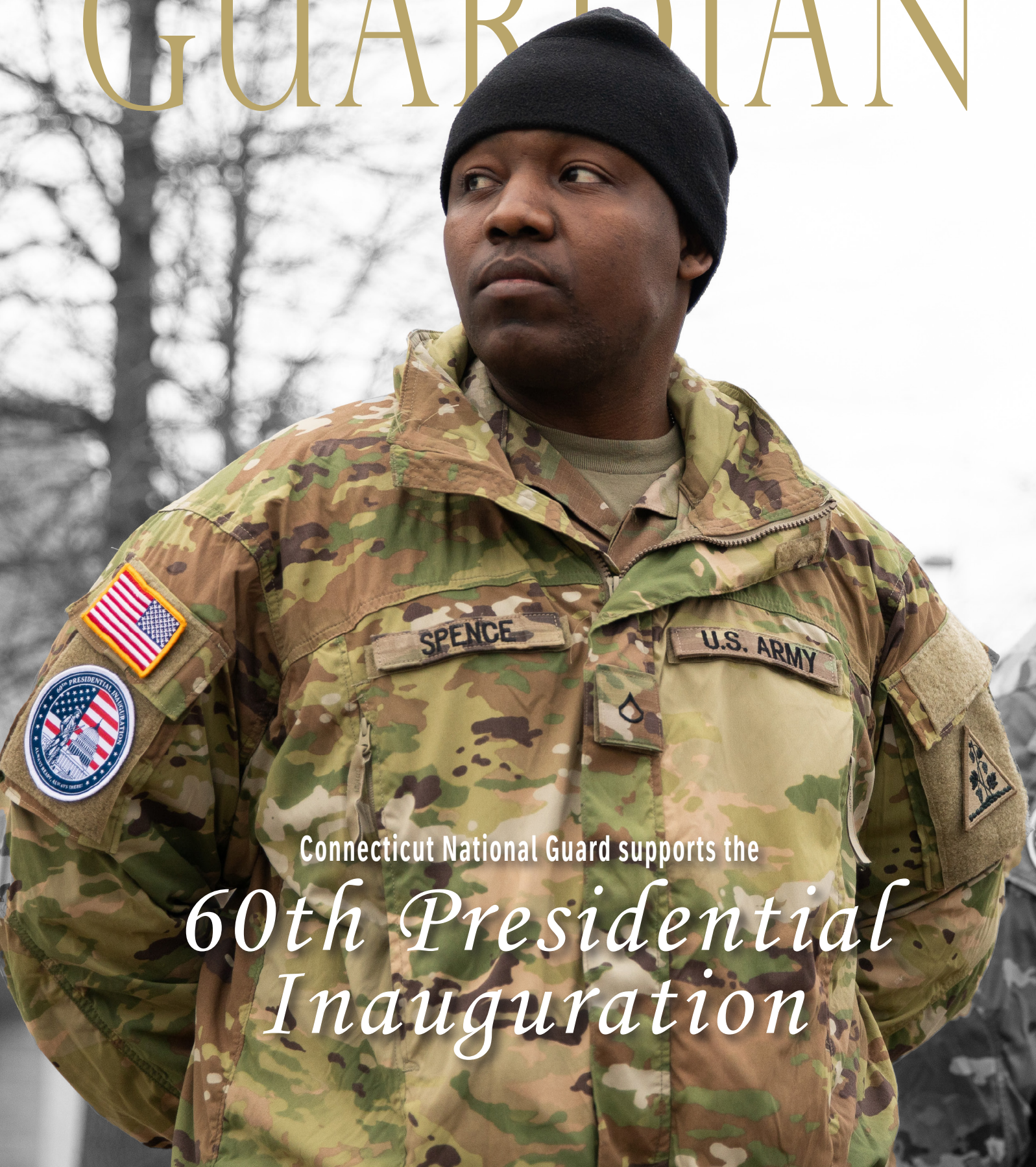


THE CONNECTICUT GUARDIAN



Connecticut National Guard supports the
*60th Presidential
Inauguration*

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

Captain-General

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Connecticut Guardian Editor

Timothy Koster

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Cyber Team begins cybersecurity assessments

Sgt. Damien Vega
130th Public Affairs Detachment

HARTFORD, Conn. – Four dedicated Connecticut Army National Guard members—Staff Sgt. Aleesha Quintana, Sgt. Ian Heath, Sgt. Jesus Morales, and Sgt. Damien Vega—recently completed their first cybersecurity assessment as part of the Connecticut Military Department's Joint Cyber Team. Collaborating with the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), the team worked under the guidance of David Palmbach, DHS CISA Cybersecurity Advisor, and Cpt. Joel Fulsang to enhance the cybersecurity resilience of public organizations across the state.

This initiative aims to bolster the cybersecurity posture of Connecticut's public K-12 schools, municipalities, public health districts, public water/wastewater facilities, and councils of governments (COGs).

By leveraging the expertise of the Joint Cyber Team, participating organizations can identify vulnerabilities and strengthen their defenses against cyber threats, thereby enhancing the overall security posture of public-facing entities. This process enhances IT infrastructure, improves cybersecurity resilience, and will aid in the State and Local Cyberse-



Members of the Connecticut National Guard cyber team pose for a photo after conducting their first cybersecurity assessment of 2025.

curity Grant Program (SLCGP) application process.

Eligible organizations interested in scheduling a cybersecurity assessment can do so by contacting Cpt. Joel Fulsang at joel.l.fulsang.mil@army.mil.

These women keep the Connecticut Army National Guard flying

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Savino
Connecticut State Aviation

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. – With March being Women's History month, I wanted to share some of the accomplishments and meritorious service of women in Connecticut Army National Guard aviation over the last few decades within our formations.

There are many women in aviation who've become trail blazers in the career field, but did you know the Connecticut was the first state to send a woman to flight school? Chief Warrant Officer Diane Dowd was the first female in the entire Army National Guard to graduate as an Army aviator in 1975 and went on to become a pioneer in aviation, even beyond her tenure in the National Guard.

Connecticut did not see another female aviator until 1996. During the late 90's and most of the 2000's Connecticut Army National Guard Aviation sent five females to flight school. The average female aviation population in the Connecticut Guard during this period

was four. Around 2013-14 the flight boards were seeing more female applicants and today's formations show how far we have come. Today, we currently have eight female aviators assigned and two more heading off to flight school in 2025. From our first female aviator CWO Dowd to now where we will have had 21 female aviators within our formations since 1974.

The Connecticut Guardian recently published an article on 1st Lt. Alyssa Aponte, who is another trail blazer as she is the first female aviator to attend flight school and was tracked right into our C-12 Fixed Wing Detachment as the Commander and is also an RL1 C-12 pilot.

Our female aviators that currently serve and are qualified as follows:

- CW2 Alyssa DeMatteo HH60 Medevac pilot, C CO 3-126th AVN.
- CW2 Jamie Vaillancourt CH-47F pilot, B CO 2-104th AVN.
- CW3 Jackie Birge HH-60 Medevac pilot, C CO 3-126th

AVN.

- 1LT Alyssa Aponte C-12 Fixed Wing pilot, DET 2 B CO 641st.
- CPT Cortney Combs UH-60 pilot, A CO 1109th TASMG.
- 1LT Gracyn Rothschild-Shea CH-47F pilot, B CO 2-104th AVN.
- CW2 Makenzie Murphy CH-47F pilot, B CO 2-104th AVN.
- 2LT Cassidy Murphy currently in-flight school and returning to CT soon as a CH-47F pilot.
- WO1 Kaylee Rasmussen, 2025-26 class.
- WO1 Kaitlin Cavanaugh, 2025-26 class.

We are a professional organization and look forward to having the best qualified aviators and if you are interested in becoming an Aviator in the Connecticut Army National Guard and want to be part of this history, please contact Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kurt Suitor at kurt.r.suitor.mil@army.mil or Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ricky Wise at ricky.e.wise2.mil@army.mil.



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92F - Petroleum Supply Specialist**

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14 Veterans Inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame

Story by Sgt. Matthew Lucibello
Photos by Staff Sgt. John Randall

This year 14 Veterans were selected to be inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame and were honored during a ceremony held at the Gold Star Families Memorial Auditorium on the campus of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs in Rocky Hill Jan. 23, 2025.

The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was first established in 2005 to recognize Veterans who served honorably and continued to make significant contributions to their communities and state after their period of military service had ended.

Since then, over 200 Veterans have been Inducted.

"There are so many veterans from Connecticut who have continued their generosity even after leaving military service by volunteering in their communities and providing leadership that has helped improve the lives of others in many ways," Governor Lamont

said in a press release. "The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is a way we can celebrate the many veterans in our state who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and have truly made a lasting impact. I congratulate the 14 veterans who are being inducted this year and I thank each of them for everything they have provided to our nation and the State of Connecticut."

The 20th Class of honorees are as follows:

Cicero B. Booker, Jr. - U.S. Marine Corps

Booker joined the United States Marine Corps in 1955 and served until 1958, attaining the rank of Corporal before being honorably discharged. Following his service with the Marines, Booker joined the Waterbury Police Department in 1962 and served 33 years before retiring as a Lieutenant in 1995. Post retirement, Booker con-

tinued to advocate for veterans, especially those struggling with homelessness, healthcare and reintegrating into society. Additionally, Booker served as a panel member of the Connecticut Board of Pardons and Parole, helping veterans with bad conduct discharges reintegrate into society and, in many cases, secure pardons.

Currently, Mr. Booker continues to serve his community by working part-time with the Waterbury Adult Education ESL Program, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to education and support for those in need.

Ronald A. Farina - U.S. Marine Corps

Sgt. Farina joined the Marine Corps after withdrawing from college in December 1965, later serving in Vietnam between 1966 and 1967. 50 years later, following his military service and after cultivating a successful business ca-

reer, Farina returned to college, earning a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Fine Arts. These degrees would become instrumental in aiding Farina as he strived to educate others on the contributions of female service members overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan, the caregivers who support our wounded veterans and first responders, and as he highlighted the cost of war on our military families through his books, "Out of the Shadows Voices of American Women Soldiers," "Who Will Have My Back Stories of Love and Care for Those Who Have Served and Sacrificed," and "Sacrifice, The Final Chapter".

Anthony J. Gaunichaux Sr. - U.S. Army

Gaunichaux served 22 years in the Army, including completing two tours overseas in Vietnam. As he was serving, he also pursued higher education, earning a Master of Social Work from Roosevelt University in Zurich, Switzerland, and a bachelor's degree from Collegiate Institute in London, England. After retiring from the Army as a Master Sergeant in 1975, Gaunichaux settled down in Middletown, Connecticut, where he became a leading figure in local government. He was the first Democratic African American member of the Common Council, as well as the

chairman of the Welfare Commission, the Arts and Culture Commission, and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Gaunichaux co-founded American Legion Post 206 and served as District 7 commander, as well as being actively involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Additionally, he worked for 21 years with the Connecticut Department of Youth and Family Services (now Department of Children and Families).

Thomas K. Kanasky, Jr. - U.S. Marine Corps

Kanasky entered the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 1969 and was an honor graduate of Officer Candidate School and Marine Officer Basic School. He would also spend four years on active duty, including serving overseas in Vietnam. He remained in the Reserve until 1996, retiring as a Colonel. In 1979, Kanasky graduated from Pace University School of Law. He was admitted to the State of Connecticut Bar that same year and returned to Bridgeport to practice law, where he continues to serve to this day. His civic involvement includes serving on Bridgeport's Charter Revision Commission, Water Pollution Control Commission, as a citywide moderator for elections, chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners, and chairman

of the World War II and Korean War Memorial Commission. Additionally, he served on the Bridgeport YMCA Board of Managers and the Barnum Festival Committee. He is a longtime member of the Greater Bridgeport Salvation Army Advisory Board and is active in St. George's Church. He served as president of the Lithuanian Young Men's Society, and is a former president of the Greater Bridgeport Athletic Association.

Lucien H. Lefevre - U.S. Army

Lefevre joined the Connecticut Army National Guard in March 1969 and served for 37 years, including deploying to Iraq between October 2004 and October 2005, before retiring as a First Sergeant. Currently, he serves as the chairman for Enfield's Veterans Council and is the commander of American Legion Post 154. Lefevre is the recipient of the 2018 Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, 2019 Enfield Patriot Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution 2019 Veteran Volunteer of the Year. Additionally, he has worked with Wreaths Across America, the Special Olympics, Enfield Soup Kitchen, Cub Scouts and has even worked with government leaders to help honor veterans including working with Congressman Joe Courtney's office to notify more than 1,000 Korean War veterans of possible eligibility of the Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Republic of South Korea as well as with State Representative Carol Hall to ensure military funerals were fully funded by the State of Connecticut.

Conley F. Monk, Jr. - U.S. Marine Corps

Monk was born on September 20, 1948, in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. He volunteered to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Vietnam but returned home with a less-than-honorable discharge. Unsatisfied with this injustice, Monk connected with other Vietnam veterans who received similar discharges and decided to organize the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress (NVCFLR) with his brother, Garry. The primary mission of the organization was to empower veterans



Anthony J. Gaunichaux poses for a photo with Connecticut Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz during the induction ceremony for the 2024 class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in Rocky Hill. Gaunichaux served 22 years in the Army, including completing two tours overseas in Vietnam.

to upgrade their discharges. Under his leadership, the organization played a pivotal role in the Chuck Hagel memo and was the lead plaintiff in the *Magus v. Monk* class-action lawsuit, resulting in a mandate allowing Vietnam veterans with PTSD the opportunity to have their discharges upgraded. Monk also participated in numerous nationwide class-action lawsuits, press conferences, and television appearances, all aimed at bringing attention to not only his case but also those of other veterans facing similar challenges.

In 2015, Monk's discharge was upgraded to Honorable.

Even after winning his personal battle, Monk has continued to advocate for veterans dealing with discharge issues, PTSD awareness, and other war-time-related diseases.

Donna A. Monteleone - U.S. Army

Monteleone graduated from New York Polytechnic Institute in 1978 and was in the second class where women were commissioned through ROTC. She served on active duty in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1978 to 1983, including with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. Additionally, she worked with the White House Communication Agency during President Carter's visit in 1979. Later, at Fort Hunter Liggett, California, Monteleone served as an executive officer and was the sole female officer in a joint U.S. Army and Marine Corps project featuring then-state-of-the-art vehicle mounted TV cameras, lasers, and audio equipment to conduct "war games". During her time at the Signal Officer Advanced Course at Fort Gordon, Georgia and Telecommunications Staff Officer College (Joint Branches) at Keesler Air Force Base, she served as International Military Liaison with allied officers from Africa and Middle East. In 1983, she was hired by Exxon Corporation as senior telecommunications engineer and was assigned as a purchasing agent for telecommunications and computer needs. In 1990, she was hired by Witco Corporation to oversee the purchase of raw materials to make intermediate products. In 1993, she was offered a promotion to senior purchasing manager at Unilever Corporation in New York, when she met her future husband, Neil



John W. White poses for a photo with Connecticut Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz during the induction ceremony for the 2024 class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in Rocky Hill. White served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1965, including a tour overseas in Vietnam (1964), plus two years reserve time, as a naval officer.

P. Randle. After marrying, they accepted assignments with Unilever in Mexico and the Czech Republic. In both countries, Monteleone served with the local U.S. Consulate Office as a liaison and advocate for newly arriving Americans. In 2005, she moved back to the state and settled in Newtown, Connecticut. Since returning to the states, Monteleone has become a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Western Military Officers Association. Additionally, she has been chairing "Valentines for Troops" for 19 years, which partners with local organizations and schools to create and send cards and care packages to active-duty military members. She is a fervent advocate for veterans in her community who may not be connected to local, federal, or state services. Likewise, she is passionate about raising awareness on issues affecting female veterans, and has participated in meetings with U.S.

Senator Richard Blumenthal and U.S. Senator Chris Murphy.

Lesbia I. Nieves - U.S. Army

Nieves joined the Connecticut Army National Guard in 1987 and served for 36 years retiring as a Brigadier General in 2023. Prior to that, she served in numerous leadership positions including serving as the recruiting and retention operations and training officer, company commander, battalion executive officer, battalion commander and surface maintenance director. Additionally, Nieves served as the state safety officer as well as the state partnership program director. She finished her career as the brigade commander for the 85th Troop Command. In addition to holding these command positions, she also completed a tour at the National Guard Bureau International Affairs Division and deployed to Iraq in support of Op-

eration Iraqi Freedom between 2004 and 2005. Outside of her military service, Nieves was employed by the State of Connecticut for 29 years, including as a social work supervisor with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families from 1995 to 2018, and as director of residential programs and services with the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs from 2018 until her retirement in 2024. She is a past president of Hispanic American Veterans of Connecticut, and was also the co-president of the Connecticut State Veterans Memorial, Inc. from 2009 to 2024. Nieves also dedicates much of her time to veterans organizations. She is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, and is a current member of the Elks. Likewise, she currently serves on the Veterans Advisory Committee in Manchester.

William F. O'Brien, Jr. - U.S. Marine Corps

O'Brien enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from Fairfield Prep. He served overseas in Vietnam between 1967 and 1968, and later served with the Marine Detachment aboard the USS Yorktown (CVS-10) during the recovery of the crew of Apollo 8 on December 27, 1968. O'Brien finished his military service as a Sergeant. Following his time in the Marines, he obtained a bachelor's degree with a dual major in business and public administration from the University of New Haven. Additionally, O'Brien worked and volunteered for 40 years at the Sterling House Community Center, working as the director of athletics and youth programs. Here he was responsible for expanding, enhancing, and developing their youth athletics and youth programs. Likewise, O'Brien has been extremely active in the Stratford community where he resides, serving on the town's Parks and Recreation Committee, the Stratford Rotary Club, the Stratford Community Fund, Inc., the Stratford Youth Sports Association, the Stratford Beautification Committee, as a member of the Stratford Town Council member from 2017 to 2023, and currently serves as a member of the Stratford Board of Education. O'Brien is also a founding member and treasur-

er of the Stratford Veterans Museum, which opened on November 13, 2021. The museum's mission is to recognize those veterans from Stratford who have served their country honorably in war and in peace and to act as a repository for their stories. A major goal of the museum is to host school field trips and educate youth in the community.

Stanley J. Prybylski - U.S. Marine Corps (Posthumously)

Prybylski was born on October 20, 1944, on a 100-year-old family farm in Danbury, Connecticut. He attended local Danbury schools from kindergarten through Grade 12, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Western Connecticut State University and a master's in public administration from the University of Hartford. He later joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968 and served overseas in Quang Tre, Vietnam as an infantry squad leader,

where he was seriously wounded. After recovering in Yokosuka, Japan, and later being discharged in 1970, Prybylski began a lifelong career in criminal justice. He was employed by the Danbury Police Department as a police officer that same year and served with Danbury PD until accepting a position working for the Connecticut Municipal Police Training Center as a police motor vehicle instructor in 1975. Prybylski would serve with the CMPTC for 11 years before moving out to California in 1986 to work as corrections officer and instructor for the California Department of Corrections. He returned back to Connecticut in 1990 and later began work as a probation officer in Bridgeport and Waterbury, eventually retiring in 2006. Prybylski volunteered in various Southbury civic organizations, including the Beautification Committee, the Jaycees, the Young Republicans, the Conservation Commission, and VFW Post 1607. He volunteered at



Scott W Rosado poses for a photo with Connecticut Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz during the induction ceremony for the 2024 class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in Rocky Hill. Rosado is a Navy veteran who is active in veteran and civic organizations, including the Korean War Veterans Association in Bristol and the American Legion.

Southbury school functions and events of his parish of Sacred Heart Church. As a volunteer, he enjoyed subordinate and leadership roles in the organizations he served. Prybylski passed away on February 17, 2024, at the age of 79 from an extended illness with Parkinson's disorder. He is survived by his wife of fifty years, Linda, as well as his four children, six grandchildren, three sisters, and extended families.

Steven A. Ricard - U.S. Navy

Ricard, a native of Belmont, New Hampshire, joined the U.S. Navy in September 1971. He initially attended Basic Enlisted Submarine School and was assigned to the Interior Communications Division on the USS Nathanael Greene (SSBN-636). Ricard later qualified to become a U.S. Navy SCUBA diver and was assigned collateral duties as ship's diver. In May 1975 Ricard was assigned to the USS Narwhal (SSN-671), where he served until he was honorably discharged in September of 1975. After his discharge, he joined the U.S. Navy Reserve and supported the Naval Submarine Support Facility at the Naval Submarine Base New London until being recalled back to active duty following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Ricard served on active duty as a senior military leader until July 2003, where he was released from full time service and returned to the Navy Reserve. Here, Ricard attended the Senior Enlisted Academy and assumed duties and responsibilities as Command Master Chief - Submarine Reserve Force. Ricard retired from the Reserves in October of 2005. Additionally, Ricard worked as a defense contractor for over 40 years, supporting the Department of the Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard. He retired in December 2018. Outside of his contributions to the defense of our Nation, Ricard was active with the New London Little League, Boy Scouts of America, St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish Council, and served as the team lead for the American Heart Association Annual Walkathon. Not being able to shake his sea legs, Ricard also joined U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc. in 2000 and served in many leadership roles including base secretary, senior vice commander, membership and Holland Club chairman, and is currently base

There are so many veterans from Connecticut who have continued their generosity even after leaving military service by volunteering in their communities and providing leadership that has helped improve the lives of others in many ways.

Gov. Ned Lamont

commander. He is also the chairman for the New London Veterans Advisory Committee.

Scott W. Rosado - U.S. Navy

Rosado, a Navy veteran, has owned and operated M.R. Homecare, Inc., and a sister company, Quality Homecare LLC, for 35 years. Both companies provide compassionate and professional homecare services to the elderly throughout Connecticut. Outside of his work, Rosado serves as president of the Bristol Boys and Girls Club and also serves as president of Roaring Brook Campground, which oversees a vibrant community of more than 400-unit owners. Additionally, Rosado is active in veteran and civic organizations, including the Korean War Veterans Association in Bristol and the American Legion.

William J. Stowell - U.S. Navy

Stowell, a Middlebury, Connecticut, native, enlisted into the U.S. Naval Reserve in July 1964 while he was a student at Woodbury High School. He would go on to spend twelve years as an enlisted man, attaining the rank of chief petty officer before later being promoted to the rank of Ensign, Supply Corps, under the Limited Duty Officer Program. During his time in the Navy, Stowell served on five different ships, and completed two tours in Vietnam, holding two major staff positions. His first tour was with the Seabees, followed by his second tour, where he was assigned as an advisor to the Vietnamese Navy. Stowell retired from the Navy in June 1988 as a lieutenant commander after 24 years of service. He received numerous medals and awards, including the meritorious Service medal, three Navy Commendation medals, and three Navy achievement medals. Following his time in the Navy, Stowell went on to work as the business manager for Regional School

District 16, managing a \$30 million budget and overseeing human resources, food service, transportation, and facilities management. After retirement from Region 16, he was asked to return as a consultant to oversee the building of a \$60 million new elementary school. After settling into Middlebury, Stowell held the positions of chairman of the Board of Finance and Planning and Zoning Commission, treasurer of the Library Board, member of the Middlebury Retirement Committee, and became a veteran member of the Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department. He presently serves as the municipal veterans representative for the town. Additionally, has worked tirelessly for the past 35 years at St. George's Episcopal Church, serving as treasurer, past senior warden, and vestry member. He was honored with being named the church's first verger in 2013.

John W. White - U.S. Navy

White attended Dartmouth College in 1961 on an ROTC scholarship, after which he served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1965, including a tour overseas in Vietnam (1964), plus two years reserve time, as a naval officer. He primarily specialized in anti-submarine warfare and nuclear weaponry. Following his service with the Navy, White taught English at Cheshire High School, and then worked in public relations for a Connecticut utility company. In 1969, he earned a master's degree from Yale University and taught English and journalism on the secondary and college levels. Additionally, White served on the boards of academic and research organizations and of scholarly journals and popular magazines. White also has spent much of his life serving veterans organizations to include serving as commander of VFW Post 10052, as a member and chaplain of the American Legion Post 92 and as part of the Army Air Force Roundtable of Connecticut.

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CT National Guardsmen spring into action to aid pedestrian struck by vehicle

Sgt. Matthew Lucibello
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. — On Jan. 30, 2025, at approximately 4:30 p.m., two Connecticut Army National Guardsmen rendered aid to a pedestrian who was struck by a vehicle on Old County Road in Windsor Locks.

Specialist Shane Berube, a petroleum supply specialist assigned to Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment, was on his way home from work when he noticed a woman lying in the road, not moving. Berube parked his truck, turned on his hazard lights and proceeded to exit the vehicle and ask the victim if she needed medical assistance.

The woman, who had been struck by a vehicle outside the FedEx shipping center just before Berube arrived, was conscious and breathing but unaware of what had happened.

"There was a bunch of cars stopped," explained Berube. "There were people walking over, putting jackets, whatever they had from their vehicles, on her. She was alert, but she didn't know what happened. She was walking home from the Stop and Shop, she [didn't] remember getting hit, just being on the ground."

Berube continued to assess the situation and found that he was the only person on scene who had any medical training, having previously completed the Combat Lifesaver Course prior to deploying overseas in March 2023. As he was checking the woman's vitals, a civilian, who also responded to the incident, informed him that she was bleeding from her head.

"The back of her head was cracked open and she was bleeding on the pavement," said Berube. "I told her it was just a scratch; I didn't want her to worry."

Luckily, another Connecticut Army National Guardsman,

Spc. Joseph Montenegro, a CH-47 helicopter repairer assigned to Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 104th Aviation Regiment, then arrived on scene and pulled over to assist.

Berube instructed Montenegro to go to his vehicle and retrieve his medical kit, which he kept under his back seat. With the kit in hand, Berube pulled out a packet of Quik-Clot Combat Gauze, a specially designed hemostatic wound dressing which contains kaolin, an agent that accelerates the body's ability to clot blood, and applied it to the wound on the back of her head to stop the bleeding.

As the soldiers waited for emergency medical services to arrive, Berube kept pressure on the bandage and kept the victim talking in order to prevent her from passing out due to the blood loss. Montenegro sprung into the street and began directing traffic around the incident scene, protecting Berube and the victim.

After EMS arrived, Berube assisted first responders in further stabilizing the victim and preparing her for transport via ambulance to the hospital.

"EMS had me help support her head while they applied the C collar to the victim," said Berube in an incident statement. "After the C collar was applied, I held support on her head and pressure on her wound on the back of her head while the backboard was slid underneath her."

After the victim was secured to the backboard, the EMTs loaded her onto a gurney and into the ambulance.

Since the incident, Berube has spoken with one of the Windsor Lock Police Officers who also responded that night, and has been informed the woman was released from the hospital the following day. She is currently recovering at home.



WWII veteran posthumously awarded state wartime service medal

Story and photos by
Timothy Koster

Connecticut Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard presented the Connecticut Wartime Service Medal to Renee DiNino on behalf of her grandfather, Tech. Sgt. Frank DiSalvo, a U.S. Army Air Force veteran who served during World War II as a power turret and gunsight mechanic.

The ceremony was held at Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Conn. February 28, 2025.

"Technical Sergeant DiSalvo exemplified bravery and dedication during a pivotal time in our history, enlisting right after Pearl Harbor and serving with distinction in the Pacific Theater," said Bysiewicz. "His contributions, including his innovative work on the B-25 Mitchell and the development of the 'Frag Rack,' highlight the critical role that each service member plays in

ensuring the safety and success of their comrades."

"Today, I would like to take the opportunity to also thank Frank's granddaughter, Renee DiNino," said Evon. "It was through her tireless efforts to secure this ward, in order to ensure the service of her grandfather was formally recognized, that we are here this afternoon. Renee, your work to make today a reality for your family reflects the highest ideals left to all of us by the men and women of Frank's generation."

According to DiNino, the journey to getting her grandfather this medal began after he passed away in 1988, when her family discovered documents related to his invention of the 'Frag Rack', a bomb carrying unit that greatly increased the safe handling and loading of munitions which resulted in a significant reduction of injuries of the airmen charged with keeping American aircraft ready for action and was cred-

ited with saving multiple lives throughout the war.

She said it was her grandmother's wish to get her husband the recognition he deserved, but sadly she passed away in 2012 from Alzheimer's disease. In an ironic twist of fate, the date of this award ceremony, which happened to be the only date in which all the different parties were available, coincides with DiNino's grandparents' anniversary—what would've been 77 years together.

"For my grandparents," DiNino said in a Facebook post. "For all of his grandchildren. In honor of all those who served and serve. For our family. Today will never be forgotten. Never give up. Thank you to all who made today possible."

DiSalvo was originally scheduled to deploy to the European theater of operation but was reassigned to serve with the 498th Bombardment Squadron, 345th Bomb Group in the Southwest

Pacific theater, establishing air bases in Port Moresby, New Guinea. The 498th became the first full Air Force combat group sent to the Pacific theater and operated the B-25 Mitchell Medium Bomber.

During the 26 months that the 345th was in combat, the unit was credited with sinking 260 enemy vessels, destroying 367 Japanese aircraft and participated in nine major campaigns in the Asia-Pacific theater.

“As we recognize Tech Sergeant DiSalvo today, let us reflect on the values of service, sacrifice, and honor that he and so many others represent,” said Bysiewicz. “Their legacy inspires us all to serve our communities and our state.”

The State of Connecticut Wartime Service Medal was established in 2005 by then-Governor Jodi Rell as a way to honor all Connecticut veterans who have served our country in the period of World War II to current times. The medal is patterned with the colors of the Connecticut State flag and displays the shields of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard on one side, and the words “For Service” nestled under the Connecticut state seal on the other.



The State of Connecticut Wartime Service Medal was established in 2005 by then- Governor Jodi Rell as a way to honor all Connecticut veterans who have served our country in the period of World War II to current times.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Gerald McDonald Jr., the Connecticut National Guard assistant adjutant general - air, and U.S. Air Force Col. Neil "Rug" Byrne, commander of the 103rd Airlift Wing, read documentation about Tech Sgt. Frank DiSalvo, a World War II veteran, during an award ceremony at Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Conn. in which DiSalvo was posthumously awarded the Connecticut Wartime Service Medal, Feb. 28, 2025.





Joint send-off ceremony celebrates CT Guardsmen as they prepare to deploy

Story and photos by
Timothy Koster

Soldiers and Airmen from the 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group and 103rd Airlift Wing, respectively, were celebrated as they prepare to deploy overseas in support of various contingency operations during a joint send-off ceremony at Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Conn. March 1, 2025.

These Guardsmen will provide logistical, mechanical, and mission support to forces deployed within various global combatant commands supporting of Operations Spartan Shield, Inherent Resolve, and Enduring Freedom – Horn of Africa.

“The United States military’s success is carried on the backs of support personnel,” said U.S. Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard. “Regardless of whether we’re dealing with combat operations or humanitarian efforts, Soldiers and Airmen, like those heading out the door, are vital to securing and maintaining our nation’s interests at home and abroad. I’m proud of, and grateful for, the men and women of the 1109th and 103rd for their stalwart dedication to their state and country. I have no

doubt they’ll create success and set the standard for future deployment rotations.”

The 1109th TASMG, based out of Groton, provides depot level maintenance support for Army aviation assets. Their expertise will help keep the Army’s overseas fleet of helicopters in the air by providing high-level professional mechanical support.

Airmen from the 103rd Airlift Wing, based out of East Granby, will be part of Reserve Component Period-6 (RCP-6) to provide a wide skillset of support capabilities to numerous combatant commanders around the globe.

These mobilizations are part of a pre-planned deployment cycle for Connecticut National Guard units and not in response to any emergent requirement.

Above: U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, shakes hands with Soldiers and Airmen who’re deploying during a joint send-off ceremony between the 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group and 103rd Airlift Wing at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn. March 1, 2025.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, shakes hands with Soldiers and Airmen who're deploying during a joint send-off ceremony between the 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group and 103rd Airlift Wing at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn. March 1, 2025.



Leadership from the 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group pose for a photo with Connecticut National Guard senior leaders, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, Congressman John Larson, and State Treasurer Erick Russell, with a Connecticut State flag that they will fly at their deployment location during a joint send-off ceremony at Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Conn. March 1, 2025.



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SCAN ME!



Be prepared to get a maximum tax return

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

January is the time to start gathering tax documents together to prepare federal and state

income tax returns. The IRS will begin accepting federal tax returns January 27, 2025. This

article will cover the major changes for income tax filings and things that can be done to make

filing easier.

Standard deductions increase for tax year 2024. The standard deduction for married

couples filing jointly rises \$1500 to \$29,200. Single taxpayers' deduction will be \$14,600, an

increase of \$750 from 2023. Heads of households, or unmarried taxpayers who have dependents

and pay more than half of the household expenses will have an increased \$1,100 to the standard

deduction of \$21,900.

If taxpayers contribute to tax-advantage savings plans, contributions increase for 2024

taxes. Contribution limit for 401(k) and 403(b) plans increase to \$23,000. Employees who are

age 50 and over, can contribute an additional \$7,500. The IRA (Individual Retirement Account)

contribution increased \$500 for 2024 filing. Workers below the age of 50 can contribute up to

\$7,500 and those over 50 can contribute a maximum of \$8,000.

Those planning to itemize deductions rather than taking the standard deduction for their

tax filing status should check the IRS page about deductions. Some examples of changes include

a new tax threshold on capital gains on the sale of capital assets such as stocks, bonds, real estate

and valuable jewelry. For the 2024 tax year, individual tax filers will be exempt from capital

gains taxes if their income is \$47,025 or less. If income is \$47,026 to \$518,900 the tax rate rises

to 15% of income. Individuals making over \$518,900 will pay 20% on sold investments.

Flexible spending accounts, Health savings account deductible, Estate exemption, and

Gift tax exclusions, have all increased. The amounts of increase may be found on the IRS

webpage, subtitled, "IRS provides tax inflation adjustments for tax year 2024" in new releases.

The IRS recommends the following steps to take that will make tax filing easier. Create

or access your account information at IRS.gov/account. Gather together and organize tax records.

Make sure your individual tax identification number is correct. Get and

identity protection

personal identification number. Make sure you've withheld enough tax. If not, plan to adjust for

future years. Make sure you have a bank account and sign up for direct deposit of any refund.

There are things to consider now and in the future when filing income tax. Taxpayers

who received \$5,000 or in payments for goods and services through an online should expect to

receive Form 1099-K in January 2025. Life events including buying a home, going to college,

getting married or divorced or death of a spouse, could affect your tax benefits and filing status.

Changes have also been made to the clean vehicle tax credit and home energy credits.

Several factors can affect when a refund is received. Though most refunds are issued in

less than twenty-one days the following may affect that timing. Identity theft and refund fraud

may require additional review. The IRS cannot issue Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional

Child Tax Credit before mid-February. Some returns may require a manual review if the system

detects a possible error, the form has missing information or there is suspected identity theft or fraud.



STEP FORWARD 

Prevent. Report. Advocate.

WHEN WE PROTECT OUR PEOPLE, WE STRENGTHEN OUR ARMY.

Nationwide, April is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. This year the Army's theme for its SAAPM campaign is "STEP FORWARD. Prevent. Report. Advocate." The 2025 campaign is a call to action for all individuals to use their personal and collective strength to advance meaningful change in preventing and responding to sexual violence. A culture of prevention builds a healthier and more positive climate, and this requires the participation and commitment of each member of the Army community



CT Soldiers Conduct Live Fire Exercise

Story and photos by
Sgt. Matthew Lucibello

Between Jan. 30 and Feb. 2, infantrymen from the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, Connecticut Army National Guard, conducted live fire exercises at Fort Dix, New Jersey; Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania; and Camp Edwards on Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Live fire exercises are designed to prepare soldiers for combat. During these exercises, infantrymen are tested on their ability to coordinate and maneuver as a team and engage targets with live ammunition. These exercises build familiarity with a soldier's assigned weapon system, allow unit leaders to practice commanding their sections, and, depending on the scale of the exercise, allow multiple elements of a unit, or multiple separate units, to practice integrating and supporting each other on the battlefield.

Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, spent their weekend living out of squad tents and braced wind, heavy rain, and even snow, during their time at Edwards' Infantry Battle Course as they trained to conduct a squad assault.

A squad assault is a battle drill in which an infantry squad locates and suppresses the enemy, establishes supporting fire, and assaults the enemy position using fire and maneuver. The squad destroys the enemy, or causes the enemy to

withdraw, and conducts consolidation and reorganization.

While it may seem simple, each assault is unique and every encounter with the enemy can be different depending on the composition of the opposing force and the conditions of the battlefield. To facilitate and accomplish a successful operation, the unit conducts a series of steps, including detailed operations planning and inspecting their equipment, designed to ensure mission success.

Following these preparations, the infantry squads maneuvered through the forest and took up positions under a pocket of pine trees in close proximity to the simulated enemy's position. After the squad leader made a quick recon and determined the best avenue of approach for the assault, the order was given to move out.

The soldiers then traversed along a trail and took up positions in the limited cover and concealment at the edge of the forest. The enemy's position lay just ahead, at the top of a small hill. Once the squad was in the proper formation, the command was given to open fire and a cacophony of sound erupted as rifles turned out semi and automatic fire, only breaking momentarily when a soldier ran out of ammunition in their magazine and replaced it with another.

After the targets were neutralized, team leaders rushed back and forth checking on their troops, analyzing their sta-

tus, checking whether they had any ammo remaining, and if they were good on water. Additionally, an inspection was done to ensure all sensitive items were accounted for prior to taking up any new positions.

When the weather permitted, the squads also encountered a drone as part of the exercise. After the drone was reported, it would initiate a simulated chemical weapons attack, requiring the squad to don their chemical protective equipment.

“It’s to prepare us,” said Connecticut Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Conrad Sheldon, one of the infantry squad leaders assigned to Charlie Company. “It was a harassing element and was supposed to initiate a chemical attack. A smoke grenade would be our cue to initiate a reaction to CBRN.”

Following this, the soldiers would maneuver to a staging location to conduct an after-action review and observers, who shadowed the squad as they conducted their assault, provided feedback and made recommendations on what could have been done better.

“You’re looking for missed critical steps,” said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Andres Genao, one of the First Army Observer, Controller/Trainers, or OC/Ts, assigned to supervise the 102nd. “You’re looking for guys not pulling security, not getting behind cover, things individual soldiers should be doing. You’re making sure the team leaders are performing their duties. Proper placement of weapon systems, making sure team leaders are giving proper sectors of fire, and making sure no safety violations are happening.”

While this type of training can be considered a refresher, as infantrymen will be taught how to conduct a squad attack during their initial military training, some of the soldiers who participated in the exercise weren’t Military Occupational Specialty qualified infantrymen. These soldiers, like Sgt. Kevin Jacquet, a culinary specialist with 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, Massachusetts Army National Guard, began drilling and training as an infantrymen with Charlie Company.

Approximately 80 soldiers have volunteered and are attached to Charlie Company. Despite many not being infantrymen, soldiers from Charlie have taken them under their wings and integrated them into their squads.

“It was pretty easy [integrating],” explained Jacquet. “The squad I was in was welcoming, they treated us like infantrymen. They wanted to help you because they wanted us to help them in the future. They wanted us to develop trust. They were very welcoming from the top to the bottom.”

Despite this, Jacquet still was out of his element. He wasn’t used to conducting movements in full kit and maneuvering as a squad.

“The portion we did, that was the first time I did such a course,” said Jacquet. “I was doubting myself. Am I doing something good? Am I doing this movement right? The way I lay down, the way I walk, it’s not something I do every drill. Being in the field, in the woods, that’s not something we do in my unit. We’re usually standing in place.”

For the duration of the exercise, Jacquet took every opportunity to learn how he could be an effective member of his squad and leaned heavily on his fellow teammates, his team leader and his squad leader for guidance.

“When I had a question I asked my squad and team lead-



Sgt. Kevin Jacquet, a culinary specialist with 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, Massachusetts Army National Guard, pulls security with a squad of soldiers from Charlie Company, 102nd Infantry Regiment, Connecticut Army National Guard, during a live fire exercise at Camp Edwards on Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts, Feb. 1, 2025. Jacquet was attached to Charlie Company for the exercise and will continue to drill with the unit in the future. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew Lucibello)

er,” explained Jacquet. “They did a lot of hands-on training, and explained [Standard Operating Procedures]. I feel really good about everything I learned, I’m ready to learn new stuff. I want to be on the same level [as the other infantrymen]. I want to be able to call myself an infantryman.”

Training soldiers like Jacquet quickly became the highlight of the exercise for many of the leaders among Charlie Company, including Sgt. Sheldon.

“It’s awesome,” said Sheldon. “It’s not something you would expect them to hop in [on]. You want them to do squad situation exercises, build [Standard Operating Procedures] and whatnot, but we just got into it and ran with it.”





**Connecticut Guardsmen Provide Crucial Support
for the**

60th

Presidential Inauguration



National Guard soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force District of Columbia (JTF-DC) patrol Pennsylvania Avenue in anticipation of the president's motorcade in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2025. Approximately 8,000 National Guard service members from approximately 40 states and territories comprise JTF-DC to support the 60th Presidential Inauguration, continuing a legacy that began in 1789 when their predecessors escorted George Washington to the first inauguration.

Pfc. Emmanuel Gibson
130th Public Affairs Detachment

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than 200 Connecticut National Guardsmen helped ensure the peaceful transition of power during several events before and during the 60th Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C. on Jan. 20, 2025.

Servicemembers assigned to the 143rd Military Police Company, 142nd Medical Company, 103rd Airlift Wing, and other units, provided security, medical, and tactical support during the inauguration.

Soldiers from the 143rd played a critical role in the mission by securing key checkpoints, perimeters, and entry control points including the National Gallery of Art's East Building, where President Donald Trump and Vice

President James David Vance hosted pre-inaugural events.

Connecticut Guardsmen collaborated with local and federal law enforcement agencies, such as the U.S. Capitol Police, D.C. Metropolitan Police, and the U.S. Secret Service, to assist with crowd management, traffic control, and maintaining security. Guardsmen who served as special police were deputized to assist law enforcement agencies properly.

"We met up with Capitol Police there, they escorted us to bike patrol, [and] bike patrol escorted us down to Constitution [Street] and they were very helpful," said Cpt. Chantel Dumas, the commander of the 143rd Military Police Company., "They were super communicative, and helped the overall mission."

Additionally, soldiers from the 142nd

were responsible for the care of approximately 3,000 troops assigned to Task Force District, which took months of coordination with the D.C. National Guard as well as the CT Air National Guard and provided opportunities to refine other crucial skills.

"One of the highlights for me, in doing a mission like this, was getting to work a lot with the Air Guard so it was a joint mission, but we also had to go through like those mobilization processes of how to manifest everybody", said Maj. David Pytlik, commander of the 142nd Medical Company. "How do we get them on an Air Force plane? You know, getting people on that C-130 and then walking through ahead of time and being able to bring that back to the unit and say that's exactly what we're going to do. It refreshes the muscle memory of how to do those deployment tasks.

They performed admirably, without flaw, without issues ... they did a great job representing not only themselves, but the Connecticut National Guard, in DC.

Col. Joseph Roden

So, I think there was definitely value for the unit in training on that stuff and then actually doing it.”

Prior to executing the mission, the 142nd visited the Center for Education, Simulation, and Innovation at Hartford Hospital to sharpen their medical skills by training on interactive simulators that replicate real-life scenarios.

The main focus of this mission was to build readiness by giving troops the opportunity to put their training to use and work within an operational environment.

The main focus of this mission was ensuring our service members worked within their specialties,” said Col. Joseph Roden, commander of Task Force Federal. “We had Military Police doing Military Police jobs, medics doing medical work, and staff handling staff duties. That builds readiness because the same skills used here supporting the inauguration and civil authorities

are the same ones they’d use to fight and defend national strategic objectives abroad.”

Approximately 8,000 National Guard troops from 43 states and U.S. territories mobilized to support the mission under Joint Task Force-District of Columbia. The CT National Guard served as the Brigade Headquarters for Task Force-Federal, a subordinate task force of three supporting teams, composed of approximately 2,100 National Guardsmen from 10 states and territories.

Guardsmen working under the Brigade Headquarters operated out of a Tactical Operations Center, where their primary role was to receive and disseminate vital intel along the chain of command. This was essential to maintaining order amid the unpredictable nature of the mission. Several changes went into effect such as important events being relocated or moved indoors due to external factors

and Guardsmen were successfully able to execute the mission regardless of the ever-changing landscape of this historic operation.

The presidential Inauguration is a historically significant event that marks a transition of power between the outgoing and incoming president of the United States of America and has been part of the country’s heritage since the first inauguration on April 30th, 1789. Connecticut National Guardsmen played a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of the 60th Presidential Inauguration as President Donald Trump took his oath of office.

Connecticut servicemembers returned on Jan 21st, 2025, and received presidential inauguration challenge coins and the Presidential Inauguration Service Ribbon during a ceremony two days later as a symbol of recognition for their performance and willingness to volunteer for the mission.

“They performed admirably, without flaw, without issues,” said Roden. “I have zero concerns and we had no problems. They did a great job representing not only themselves, but the Connecticut National Guard, in DC.”



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Janeen Birkhead, the adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard, briefs U.S. Air Force Gen. Steven Nordhaus on operational plans in support of the 60th Presidential Inauguration during a briefing in Washington, D.C., Jan. 19, 2025.



High School Students learn about National Guard during “Mission Day”

Story and photos by
Timothy Koster

The Connecticut Army National Guard’s Recruiting & Retention Battalion, in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau, gave high school students from Windsor High School and AI Prince Tech the opportunity to learn more about the career opportunities and benefits of serving in the National Guard through immersive, hands-on and virtual reality experiences.

“Mission Day” is a National Guard funded educational experience designed to give high school students a unique insight into military service through interactive experiences in tactical operations, hazmat cleanup, night vision casualty evacuations, virtual reality firefighting and CPR, and more.

“Every student who came through had so much fun,” said Staff Sgt. Nicole Logodicio, a recruiting and retention non-commissioned officer. “They made little challenges out of it, too ... it was great to build teamwork, camaraderie, and just bring all the students together. I saw students there that didn’t really know each other but they were working together as a team, which was really nice to see.”

Logodicio also said she thought the firefighting station was the most popular, where students raced each other to put on firefighting equipment before performing a “buddy drag”, simulating the act of pulling someone from a hazardous area, like a fire.

In the middle of the gymnasium, the Connecticut Army National Guard recruiters had a table set up where they could answer any questions the students might have about military service and the benefits that go along with it.

“A lot of interest came from [the National Guard’s] tuition waiver,” said Logodicio. “There’s a lot of students that are in their senior year that just committed to a lot of state schools ... some of them weren’t sure how they were going to pay for college.”

Enlistment in the Connecticut National Guard allows every Guardsmen, both Army and Air, a 100% free college tuition waiver to any state college or university. Additionally, any high school student who enlists is eligible for free preparation for college-level examinations, standardized tests, and other career-based testing programs.

“There were a lot of students that came up saying they were interested in getting into nursing, so [the National Guard Bureau] definitely brought the right type of simulations to the event,” said Logodicio. “There were a lot of students that told me they either got accepted into UCONN or Southern’s nursing program, so I told them service in the National Guard might align with what their goals are at the end of the day.”

In addition to providing information about the opportunities and benefits of service in the National Guard, the re-

cruiters on hand also felt Mission Day was a great opportunity to help educate these young men and women on what the National Guard is and what it does.

"I feel like every school should get to experience this at least once because a lot of people don't realize exactly what it is that we do and they don't realize how much fun we actually have doing it," said Logodicio. "I think this event was a great reflection of that because there were a lot of us there together and having fun with it. I think [the students] saw that and it was intriguing to them because a lot of people see the uniform and think it's some scary thing to have to commit to. It was a great way to reflect what the National Guard is."

Of course, it wasn't just the Connecticut National Guard recruiters who were having a good time. In fact, they gave credit to the National Guard Bureau team who came in and did most of the heavy lifting, giving them the opportunity to focus more on engaging with the students, rather than worry about running the stations.

"Everything was perfect down to the setup, down to the guy on the mic the whole day, he really did a great job keeping the students engaged and getting them excited," said Logodicio. "They even did push up challenges, planking challenges, a lot of fitness challenges. We didn't even really need to ask people to do it, they just came up to us and they were like, 'we want to get in on this'."

For more information about the Connecticut National Guard, visit their website at ct.ng.mil.

Right: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Camryn Rawlings, a recruiter with the Connecticut National Guard's 6th Recruiting and Retention Battalion, times Windsor High School students performing a plank challenge at Windsor High School, Windsor, Conn. March 3, 2025.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Logodicio, a recruiter with the Connecticut National Guard's 6th Recruitment and Retention Battalion, talks to Windsor High School students during the National Guard's "Mission Day" at Windsor High School, Windsor, Conn. March 3, 2025.

Service Member and Family Support Center

Staff Directory

(800) 858-2677

<i>William A. O'Neill Armory: 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 Room 112 Open Monday-Friday</i>			
Director, Service Member and Family Support Center	Melody Baber	melodychevenne.c.baber.civ@army.mil	(860) 548-3276 (desk) (860) 883-2515 (cell)
Lead 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	Carolyn Kyle	carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil	(860) 524-4920 (desk) (860) 394-8748 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Scott McLaughlin	scott.p.mclaughlin.civ@army.mil	(860) 524-4892 (desk) (860) 883-0155 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Joseph Palys	joseph.j.palys.civ@army.mil	(860) 524-4938 (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)
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator	Carrie Joseph	carrie.l.joseph.ctr@army.mil	(860) 524-4908 (desk) (860) 883-6934 (cell)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	Brian Erkson	brian.r.erkson.ctr@army.mil	(860) 524-4970 (desk)
Yellow Ribbon Coordinator	SSG Jeovanny Ulloa	jeovanny.j.ulloa.mil@army.mil	(860) 493-2796 (desk)
Personal Financial Consultant	Jafor Iqbal	pfc.hartford@magellanfederal.com	(203) 233-8790 (cell)
Transition Assistance Advisor	Fausto Parra	fparra-c@gapsi.com	(203) 219-8573 (cell) (202) 987-3942 (desk)
State Support Chaplain	Lt Col Eric Wismar	eric.a.wismar.mil@army.mil	(860) 548-3240 (desk) (860) 883-5278 (cell)
Connecticut Military Relief Fund	Julian Muller	julian.muller@ct.gov	(860) 524-4968 (desk)
Military OneSource	Sean Carey	sean.carey@militaryonesource.mil	(860) 502-5416
<i>103rd Airlift Wing: 161 Rainbow Road, East Granby, CT 06026</i>			
Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager	Selva Cabrera	selva.cabrera.1@us.af.mil	(860) 292-2730 (desk) (860) 734-7482 (cell)
<i>Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center: 375 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457 Room 309 Open Mondays & Tuesdays</i>			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Linda Rolstone	linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil	(860) 680-2209 (cell)
<i>Niantic Readiness Center, Camp Nett: 38 Smith Street, Niantic, CT 06357 Room 105 Open Thursdays & Fridays</i>			
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Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Scott McLaughlin	scott.p.mclaughlin.civ@army.mil	(860) 883-0155 (cell)
<i>Waterbury Armory: 64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702</i>			
Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator	Reisha Moffat	reisha.a.moffat.ctr@army.mil	(860) 883-6949 (cell)

As of 6 MAR 25



Tips to Avoid **SCAMS**

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

Individuals are being bombarded by scams from all directions. Though most scams seem to target older adults, anyone can become a victim. This article will examine new scams, how to recognize a scam, and what to do if one falls victim.

The Social Security Administration has put together an excellent online article about scams. Scams may look different, but they all have the same characteristics. First, a scammer will attempt to gain trust by pretending to be from a known organization or agency. Second, there is a problem or a gain for the victim. Third, in order to get the reward or solve the problem, the victim needs to act immediately. Not solving the problem will result in more serious consequences. Four, scammers require payment in a specific way.

Experian Credit monitoring has identified persons aged 55+ as most often targeted for scams. With the evolution of AI (Artificial Intelligence), scams are becoming more sophisticated and harder to recognize. Experian has identified nine scams of which to be aware in 2025: AI Scams, imposter scams, sextortion scams, romance scams, phone-related Scams, crypto-

currency and investment scams, online purchases, employment and check fraud scams. A future article will focus on these scams in depth. This article focuses on AI and online purchase scams.

AI scams have increased so much that in December 2024 the FBI is a public service announcement listing how generative AI is used to trick victims. AI tools can generate images, create enticing websites, fake identification documents, social media ads, explicit photos and fake headshots for social media profiles. AI can create exceptional phishing emails and text messages. Deepfake videos can be created to promote fake services, fake products, and investments. Scammers can use AI to make recordings or face and body swapping tools to trick victims into thinking the scammer is someone else.

Online purchases continue to rise and with buying online, so do online scams. Though online purchases losses average \$100, the BBB (Better Business Bureau) reports that about 40% of scams are reported, with 80% of people reporting being duped.

Fake e-commerce sights are set up. Scammers buy ads on social media and list products for sale. Money is taken, nothing received, and only when trying to get a refund or contact the company,

is it found to be fake. in return. Look for red flags such as it seems too-good-to-be-true. It probably is.

Here are some ways not to be a victim. Be careful answering the phone. If you suspect a spam call, don't say anything, just hang up. Never share personal information, usernames, passwords or codes that others can use to steal your identity. Never click on unknown links online or in emails. If it says it's a company or government agency, look up and use a number you find that is not online or in the email. Keep all device software up to date.

What can a victim of a scam do? Report the scam and scammer to Better Business Bureau, the Federal Trade Commission, and any relevant parties including your bank, phone carrier, email provider, and social media platform. Make a police report. If the scam occurred online, such as clicking on a link or attachment, scan your device for viruses and malware. Change passwords. If a person suspects their information has been compromised, consider freezing credit. This will prevent a thief from opening accounts, or taking out loans for example, using the victim's information.

Next month's article will deal with specific scams, how to recognize them, and how to avoid them.

Connecticut Army National Guard Soldiers Complete CCNA Bootcamp

Sgt. Damien Vega
130th Public Affairs Detachment

HARTFORD, Conn. – Two Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) Cyber Team soldiers recently completed an intensive Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) boot camp, enhancing their network security and operations expertise. CPT Erik Toman and SSG Shawn Bethune joined 15 other Army service members nationwide for the two-week training, held from January 27 to February 7, 2025, and hosted by Fast Lane.

The CCNA certification is a globally recognized credential that validates essential networking skills and aligns with the Department of Defense (DoD) 8570 Compliance and Recognition program. This training supports the military's commitment to cybersecurity readiness and professional development.

"The CCNA boot camp reinforced key networking principles that I can apply in my job, making me a more effective network engineer," said CPT Toman, who also works as a

Network Systems Engineer at Electric Boat.

SSG Bethune, a 146th CWC Detachment 1 member and 17C Cyber Operations Specialist, emphasized the importance of training in supporting mission-critical cyber operations. "Having an in-depth understanding of networking concepts allows me to be more effective in my role and ensures that I can support the Guard's cyber mission at the highest level," he said.

The course covered networking fundamentals, including IP addressing and data packet transmission, and advanced topics, such as configuring Cisco routers and switches, troubleshooting network issues, and implementing security measures. Soldiers also gained insights into IPv6, the successor to IPv4, which is crucial for modern networking.

By equipping service members with cutting-edge cyber skills, the Connecticut Army National Guard strengthens its ability to counter evolving threats in cyberspace. The CCNA boot camp enhances military readiness and provides Soldiers with valuable skills applicable to military and civilian careers.

Cyber Team hosts cybersecurity class at local high school

Sgt. Damien Vega
130th Public Affairs Detachment

In an effort to equip students with essential digital skills, Capt. Joel Fulsang, a cyber operations officer with the Connecticut National Guard, recently led a four-hour cybersecurity class at Hall High School in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Assisting him was the Joint Cyber Team, which included Sgt. Damien Vega, Sgt. Ian Heath, and Pfc. Conner Finch.

Together, they delivered an engaging and informative session designed to introduce students to the world of cybersecurity. With nine high schoolers in attendance, the team shared their own experiences both in the military and within the cyber field, giving students valuable insights into potential career paths.

The class covered a range of critical cybersecurity topics, including identifying online threats, phishing scams, password protection, and the importance of multi-factor authentication (MFA). Fulsang explained how simple



habits, such as creating strong passwords and being cautious with suspicious emails, can significantly improve one's digital security.

The class incorporated practical exercises to reinforce these lessons, ensuring the students were not only learning concepts but also applying them in real time. These hands-on activities kept the students engaged, fostering a sense of excitement about the world of cybersecurity.

By the end of the session, the students

were left with a stronger understanding of how to protect themselves online and an increased awareness of potential cyber threats. The efforts of Fulsang and his team demonstrated the National Guard's commitment to empowering young minds with crucial skills for the digital age.

Their visit to Hall High School not only educated students but also inspired them to consider future opportunities in the rapidly growing field of cybersecurity.

Connecticut National Guardsman named Army Logistics Warrior of the Month

Sgt. Matthew Lucibello

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Connecticut Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Katarzyna Zarzycka, logistics noncommissioned officer in charge for 85th Troop Command, was recently named Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) Logistics Warrior of the Month for February 2025.

As the NCOIC, Zarzycka is responsible for ensuring the command's downtrace units are staffed and resourced with rations, fuel, ammunition, and trained to conduct training for mobilizations and deployments. Additionally, she manages the property books for these units and is responsible for more than \$170 million worth of equipment.

While these feats are worthy themselves of praise, Zarzycka has been influential not just within the 85th Troop Command but the Connecticut National Guard at large.

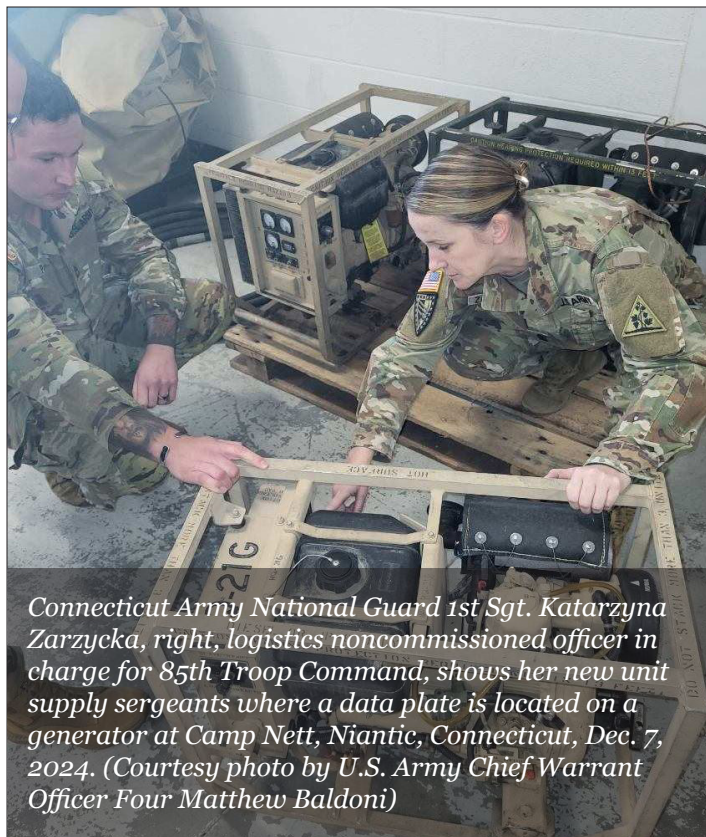
Together with other senior supply NCOs, she realized there was a knowledge gap within the supply community; junior supply NCOs did not have much experience with properly addressing logistical issues within their units. Zarzycka figured one way she could make the lives of her fellow supply sergeants easier was by getting everyone on the same sheet of music and implemented a local program that cultivated the best practices and institutional knowledge learned from experienced leaders within the logistics field.

"We look at trends, identify issues and see what we can do to fix them," said Zarzycka. "It gives a broader view of logistics as a whole. The biggest impact was getting people together, learning collectively from each other. How they do things and being able to share their processes. That learning, being able to pass on knowledge, some of the E-6s, those staff sergeants, those supply NCOs, are taking what they learned and putting it into place."

When the 143rd Regional Support Group's headquarters deployed to Jordan in October 2020, Zarzycka stepped up and managed logistics and property for three of the RSG's battalions, the 118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, the 143rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 192nd Engineer Battalion, in addition to her responsibilities with the 85th Troop Command. Taking on these duties also meant she was responsible for an additional \$196 million worth of equipment, totaling her property book's value at approximately \$366 million.

"We didn't get any extra staff to do that," explained Zarzycka. "We had really good processes in place, that definitely helped. The infantry battalion deployed at the same time as the RSG did, so we lost a battalion, gained three. It wasn't an even wash but sometimes it's easier to manage some battalions as opposed to others. Also COVID was happening at that time, so we got a little reprieve from drill."

Zarzycka, no stranger to humanitarian missions having supported relief operations for various tropical storms and hurricanes, would play a major role during the Connecticut National Guard's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She



Connecticut Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Katarzyna Zarzycka, right, logistics noncommissioned officer in charge for 85th Troop Command, shows her new unit supply sergeants where a data plate is located on a generator at Camp Nett, Niantic, Connecticut, Dec. 7, 2024. (Courtesy photo by U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Four Matthew Baldoni)

supported over 800 missions which provided assistance to over 169 municipalities within the state, enabling the delivery of 900,000 test kits and the creation, and sustainment, of 28 testing and vaccination locations.

Additionally, Zarzycka also supported the rapid deployment and sustainment of the Connecticut Army National Guard's military police and medics to Washington, D.C. during the 59th and 60th Presidential Inaugurations.

"She holds you and herself to an extremely high standard," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Matthew Baldoni, the Connecticut Army National Guard's Senior Property Accounting Technician. "She is aggressive in her approach, but also kind at the same time. She expects everybody to be held to that same high standard. She doesn't care about your rank, there is a standard and you should adhere to it. That's her M.O."

Despite being highly praised by her peers, and having done more than enough to earn this award, Zarzycka was taken by surprise when she got the news.

"I found out when the article [Chief Baldoni wrote] got published," explained Zarzycka. "Chief Baldoni set me up when he took the photo. I genuinely had no clue until the article got published. It's kind of overwhelming. I just do what I do because that's my job. So, to see it all in writing, what I do at Troop Command, what I did for 6 years, I didn't even realize [everything I had done]. So it's a bit overwhelming. It wasn't expected, [but] I'm highly appreciative. I just always thought I was doing what I was supposed to do, and what NCOs do. You always hope you are setting the right example."



A Decade of Excellence in Cyber Operations

**Story by
Sgt. Damien Vega**

In the summer of 2014, then-CPT Cameron Sprague returned to Connecticut after serving as a full-time Communications Flight Commander in the Ohio Air National Guard. A seasoned Cyber Operations Officer, Sprague had transitioned to a cybersecurity role in the private sector but remained committed to his military service. He sought new ways to contribute his expertise without an active role in his traditional Guard capacity.

While serving in Ohio, Sprague had witnessed then-MAJ (now MG) Teri Williams discuss forming a joint Army-Air cyber response team within the Ohio National Guard. Inspired by this concept, he connected with then-CPT

Ryan Miller, an old colleague from the Hartford Armory, to explore similar opportunities in Connecticut.

Miller had just been assigned to the Connecticut National Guard's Computer Network Defense Team, a small but dedicated group recently returning from the Cyber Guard 2014 national exercise at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Recognizing the potential for further development, Sprague and Miller began planning additional cyber training, reaching out to counterparts in Massachusetts. Their collaboration led to joint training exercises at Hanscom Air Force Base and laid the foundation for a larger initiative.

By 2015, Cyber Yankee was born—a

regional cyber defense exercise hosted at Hanscom AFB, bringing together New England's National Guard cyber elements. The inaugural event was a resounding success, with Connecticut and Massachusetts leading two Blue Teams in a field of 80 participants. Connecticut's role in Cyber Yankee continued to grow, solidifying its position as a key player in regional cyber defense efforts.

The partnership between Sprague and Miller yielded significant dividends for the Connecticut National Guard. Together, they formalized the Connecticut National Guard Joint Cyber Team, pivotal in shaping the state's cybersecurity strategy. In 2018, with the strong back-

ing of Connecticut's Adjutant General, MG Francis Evon, and Assistant Adjutant General, BG Jerry McDonald, the team expanded its mission, launching initiatives such as the Cyber Nutmeg exercise and conducting election cybersecurity audits. The state also began to gain dedicated cyber force structure, with the standup of Det 1, 146th Cyber Warfare Company (CWC).

During the 2020 election cycle, their efforts proved critical when the Connecticut National Guard provided municipalities with cybersecurity training and risk assessments. Secretary of State, Denise Merrill recognized their contributions with the National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion, highlighting their role in safeguarding the state's electoral process against cyber threats. These assessments were such a success that the Connecticut

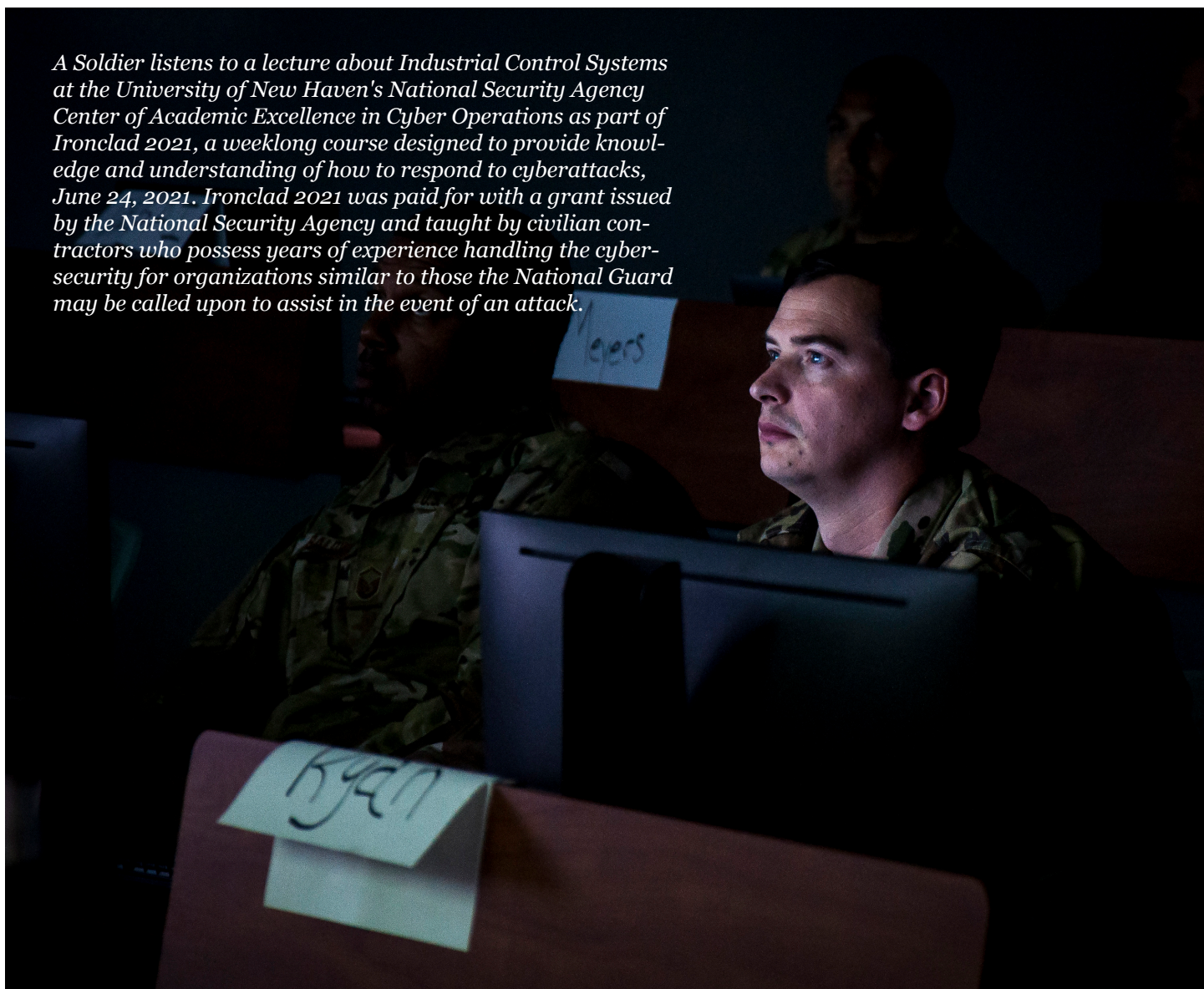
National Guard continued the mission with additional rounds across Connecticut in 2022 and 2025.

The team's influence extended beyond Connecticut's borders. In 2019, MAJ Sprague led components of a national cyber exercise in Uruguay, strengthening international cybersecurity partnerships. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, the Joint Cyber Team remained operational, responding to a major cyberattack against the City of Hartford. Their swift actions restored critical services across city agencies and schools, reinforcing the Guard's reputation as a cyber defense leader. Finally, the 146th CWC Det 1 was mobilized multiple times to serve as part of the cyber forces under the U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM), most recently in 2023-2024. Connecticut National Guard soldiers

from the 146th CWC Det 1 were some of the very first National Guard soldiers to become fully qualified in USCYBERCOM-specific work roles, leading the way across the National Guard cyber formation.

In 2025, Connecticut's Joint Cyber Team will be a premier organization within the Connecticut National Guard. Hosting Cyber Yankee at Camp Nett in 2022 and 2023 and earning recognition in congressional testimony from the USCYBERCOM Commander, the team has become a national model for cyber operations. Under the leadership of COL Sprague and LTC (P) Miller, the Connecticut National Guard continues to shape the future of cyber defense, ensuring a strong and secure digital landscape for years to come.

A Soldier listens to a lecture about Industrial Control Systems at the University of New Haven's National Security Agency Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations as part of Ironclad 2021, a weeklong course designed to provide knowledge and understanding of how to respond to cyberattacks, June 24, 2021. Ironclad 2021 was paid for with a grant issued by the National Security Agency and taught by civilian contractors who possess years of experience handling the cybersecurity for organizations similar to those the National Guard may be called upon to assist in the event of an attack.





CT Army National Guard finds its 2025 Best Warriors

Story by
Sgt. Matthew Lucibello

Twenty-two Connecticut Army National Guard soldiers competed against each other to earn the title of Best Warrior and Best Non-Commissioned Officer during the 2025 Connecticut Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition March 20-23, 2025.

Spc. Matthew Hallgren, a bridge crewmember assigned to the 250th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge Company), 192nd Engineer Battalion, and Sgt. Brandon Chang, an infantryman assigned to Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, came out on top this year, earning the titles of Best Warrior and Best Non-Commissioned Officer.

"There was no good reason not to [compete]," said Spc. Hallgren. "It's a good competition, [it] pushes you to the limits, it's a good way to test yourself. I honestly think everyone should compete in this, from the company level up to the battalion, to the brigade, to the state, because I think there's no reason not to. It just pushes you. Like if you signed up to join the Army, you should be fine with doing a ruck [march] and shooting. You know, like at least in my company, we build bridges, so I don't get a lot of chances to train on like the cool army infantry stuff. That's not something I do frequently, so to me that's cool. Some people, that's their job, that's regular, but it's a good experience and as I said it's just about pushing yourself."

The Best Warrior Competition, or BWC, is an annual event in which soldiers from across the Connecticut National Guard test their marksmanship, Warrior tasks and drills, physical fitness and mental acuity in a series of challenges to determine who is the best junior enlisted soldier and non-commissioned officer in our organization.

This year, the Connecticut National Guard worked with our NATO partners to allow competitors to earn the Norwegian Foot March Badge and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, or GAFPB.

The competition started on Thursday with an Army Combat Fitness Test, or ACFT, at Camp Nett in Niantic. Following the ACFT, the competitors were bused to the East Haven Rifle Range where they qualified on their M4 carbines, conducted the pistol marksmanship portion for the GAFPB, participated in a stress shoot and lastly, attempted to disassemble and reassemble an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. Following this, the soldiers traveled back to Camp Nett, changed into their dress uniforms, and appeared before a military evaluation board.

On Friday, the competitors started early at four in the morning and conducted night and day land navigation. Following this, they were tested on their warrior tasks and drills, including disassembling and reassembling their as-

signed weapon, donning chemical protective gear, and applying lifesaving methods via tactical combat casualty care. After their lunch, the competitors were transported to the Hop River Trail in Manchester, where they conducted a 18.6 mile hike with a 33 pound pack to meet the requirements for the GAFPB and Norwegian Foot March Badge.

Saturday started off with the GAFPB physical fitness test at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, which included sprints, a 1000 meter run and a chin-up test. After that was complete, the soldiers conducted the GAFPB's swim test. The first segment of the test consisted of a 100 meter swim in combat uniform that had to be completed in less than four minutes. After that distance was swam, each competitor had to remove their uniform while treading water in the deepest section of the pool, unaided, and without holding onto the ledge before they were able to exit. Once these tests were finished, the competitors were bused back to Camp Nett for their final challenge, a written test.

On Sunday, an award ceremony was held for Hallgren and Chang. These soldiers will represent Connecticut and the Connecticut Army National Guard against neighboring states during the 2025 Region One Best Warrior Competition.



A Connecticut Army National Guard soldier aims his M4A1 carbine at a zeroing target during the 2025 Connecticut Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at the Connecticut Army National Guard Training Center East Haven Rifle Range, East Haven, Connecticut, March 20, 2025. Zeroing is an essential step prior to any qualification as this ensures the soldiers' weapon sights or optics are adjusted and inline with their barrel, ensuring where they aim is where their rounds will impact.



Connecticut Army National Guard Sgt. Nicolas Cody receives instructions on how to shoot an M17 service pistol from German Army Lt. Col. Christian Hurtig, German Exchange Officer at the U.S. Military Academy, during the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge pistol qualification, as part of the 2025 Connecticut Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, at the Connecticut Army National Guard Training Center East Haven Rifle Range, East Haven, Connecticut, March 20, 2025.



CT National Guard honors Diane Dowd, aviation pioneer

Story by
Timothy Koster

The Connecticut National Guard honored Chief Warrant Officer 3 Diane Dowd by unveiling a historic display of her career at the Gov. William A. O'Neill Armory March 27, 2025.

Dowd was a pioneer in military aviation by becoming the first female aviator in the Army National Guard, serving with the 143rd Aviation Company at Brainard Field in Hartford, Connecticut.

The display case, which is located on the first floor of the armory, features several artifacts from her career, including her dress uniform, photos from her time in the National Guard, and a write up about significant milestones throughout her career.

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ralph Hedenberg, the assistant adjutant general for the Connecticut Army National Guard, said the display will serve as an inspiration to all the potential military recruits who walk past it every day on their way

to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test (ASVAB) at the armory.

Following the ceremony, Dowd answered questions about her career and fielded advice to a room full of current Connecticut National Guardsmen, many of whom thanked her for her efforts in paving the path for them to follow.

Dowd started her aviation career in 1975 after the U.S. Army opened its flight school to women. However, her career isn't simply defined by being the first at something. She was the first at many things. In addition to being the Army National Guard's first female pilot, she was also the U.S. Army's first female helicopter instrument instructor and the woman to be type-rated in a Sikorsky S-76

In 2020, Dowd was inducted in to the U.S. Army's Women's Hall of Fame, immortalizing her accomplishments alongside several other female trail-

blazers who helped open the doors for so many more to follow in their footsteps.

Since Dowd first started flying Huey's for the Connecticut Army National Guard, more than twenty females have joined the aviation community, here, with ten female aviators currently in the formation. These women are expert aviators for the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, HH-60 MEDIVAC Blackhawk helicopter, CH-47 Chinook, and C-12, turboprop fixed wing aircraft.

We see the legacy Diane Dowd left behind in our organization through the incredible bravery, valor, and dedication of our female aviators—not just in the Army, but in the Air National Guard, too. Now, thanks to the display at the Hartford Armory, future generations of Connecticut Guardsmen can learn about this woman's incredible career and be inspired to push their limits to achieve greatness.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ralph Hedenberg presents Chief Warrant Officer 3 (ret.) Diane Dowd with a Connecticut Civilian Medal of Merit during a ceremony celebrating her career as a trailblazing aviator in the Connecticut Army National Guard.



U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Diane Dowd poses for a photo with her Bell UH-1 Iroquois "Huey" helicopter at Brainard Field, Hartford, Conn.

Congratulations!

Connecticut National Guard Promotions and Retirements

Army

Sgt. Cameron Graham
Sgt. Griffin DiMichele
Sgt. Ethan Hampton
Sgt. Joshua Hurlburt
Sgt. Yoel Morelquevedo
Sgt. Ross Morrone
Sgt. Serna Tello
Sgt. Jasmine Young
Sgt. Ralph Abbott
Sgt. Trey Ayotte
Sgt. Kalyb Bensonhunter
Sgt. Timothy Bristow
Sgt. Alan Clark
Sgt. 1st Class Myles Codner
Sgt. Elaine Colon Rivera
Sgt. Eric Crespo
Sgt. Ahzia Cross
Sgt. Devin Davidson
Sgt. Denae Dennis
Sgt. Peterson Gakpey
Sgt. Jerry Green
Sgt. Kevin Grevemberg
Sgt. Dennis Johnson
Sgt. Brenden Kelly
Sgt. David Kuhn
Sgt. Samuel Lanuza
Sgt. Noemi Maldonado
Sgt. Akym Mathurine
Sgt. Alondra Medina
Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Oldham
Sgt. Jacob Oliver
Sgt. Fernando Sales Sabenca
Sgt. Marcos Sanchez
Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Sczygiel
Sgt. Robert Saddig
Sgt. Ethan Smith
Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Soto
Sgt. Gabrielle Zeller
Sgt. Stefanie Charpentier
Sgt. Shyni Cross
Sgt. Mariana Dominguez
Sgt. Koby Griffin
Sgt. James McCarthy
Sgt. Ryan Mercede
Sgt. Daniel Ortiz
Sgt. Tyler Yusi

Sgt. Anthony Baldino
Sgt. Miguel Carlos Gomez
Sgt. Luis Ledesma
Sgt. Brett Leonard
Sgt. Neishka Nerette
Sgt. Hayden Pivirotto
Sgt. Andrew Reilly
Sgt. Zachary Sarrasin
Sgt. Se-raya Steward
Sgt. Austin Terranova
Staff Sgt. Matthew Crudo
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Ducki
Staff Sgt. Paula Farrar
Staff Sgt. Cody Ferreira
Staff Sgt. Brina Yanez
Staff Sgt. Walter Bukanis
Staff Sgt. Alexander Capuras
Staff Sgt. Jean Chaparrorsero
Staff Sgt. Jason Cruz
Staff Sgt. Matthew Divergilio
Staff Sgt. Ilona Dubay
Staff Sgt. Alvaro Garcia
Staff Sgt. Sean Gonzalez
Staff Sgt. Ismael Gutierrezperez
Staff Sgt. Diana Kussainova
Staff Sgt. Agustus Iarose
Staff Sgt. Steven Ortiz
Staff Sgt. Devin Turchetta
Staff Sgt. Matthew Ricard
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Salcedo
Staff Sgt. Edgar Charles
Staff Sgt. Luis Gonzalez
Staff Sgt. Eric Hoekstra
Staff Sgt. Erik Johnson
Staff Sgt. Michael Osorio
Staff Sgt. Theresa Taylor
Staff Sgt. Devin Turchetta
Staff Sgt. Clayton Walter
Staff Sgt. Victor Wong
Staff Sgt. Marcela Alzate
Staff Sgt. Justin Gagnon
Staff Sgt. Josue MirandaTorres
Staff Sgt. Madero Molina
Staff Sgt. Mike Park
Sgt. 1st Class Jordan Coons
Sgt. 1st Class Amos Muiga
Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Tan
Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Cianci
Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Peters

Sgt. 1st Class John Randall
Sgt. 1st Class Reinaldo Reyes
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Buerk
Sgt. 1st Class Kenny Chitacapa
Sgt. 1st Class Jayde Petrella
Sgt. 1st Class Lacy Phongsaly
Sgt. 1st Class Alvin RuizAlvarado
Sgt. 1st Class Luke Chreiman
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Moore
Master Sgt. Daniel Park
Master Sgt. Christopher Prokup
Master Sgt. Michael Amato
Master Sgt. Steven Stefanowich
1st Sgt. Jose Quinones
1st Sgt. Justin Bridgelal
1st Sgt. William Leuck
1st Sgt. Brian Shattuck
Sgt. Maj. John Barber
Sgt. Maj. Joao Polonio
CW2 Michelle Lyons
CW2 Michael Martinez
CW2 Vanessa QuinteroMachin
CW2 Pascual DelRosario
CW2 Alyssa DeMatteo
CW2 Makenzie Murphy
CW3 David Gulino
CW3 Aaron Mahoney
CW4 Jonathan Behuniak
CW5 Michael McJunkins
Cw5 Stephanie Richard
1st Lt. Steven Jeller
1st Lt. Andy Le
1st Lt. Ethan Lopiano
1st Lt. Jacob Melia
1st Lt. Hoang Nguyen
1st Lt. Peter Newman
1st Lt. Ethan Olson
1st Lt. Carlos Prado
1st Lt. Alexander Prague
1st Lt. Katherine Riffice
1st Lt. Philip Rudak
1st Lt. Christopher Valente
1st Lt. Rebekah Wheeler
1st Lt. Nolan Wyse
1st Lt. Ryan Zhang
1st Lt. Adnan Braimah
1st Lt. William Evola
1st Lt. Richard Freebairn
Cpt. Isaac Young

Cpt. Tucker Salls
 Cpt. Yixuan Zhang
 Cpt. Alyssa Aponte
 Cpt. Jason Joseph
 Maj. Joel Fulsang
 Maj. Robert Barcelo
 Maj. Alexander Carpenter
 Maj. Luigina Facchini
 Maj. Jillian McNally
 Lt. Col. Ronny Jimenez
 Lt. Col. Anglea Nida
 Lt. Col. Deanna Wolff

Air Force

Airman Basic Troy Galviz
 Airman Basic Nathanael Labranche
 Airman Basic Evelina Olsen
 Airman Basic Jason Rivard
 Airman Basic Igor Rutkauski
 Airman Basic Naheim Sainvil
 Airman Raine Bonds
 Airman Brett Feher
 Airman Kevin Filewich
 Airman Kaitlyn Lanctot
 Airman Tiffany Yang
 Airman 1st Class Nathan Aberteh
 Airman 1st Class Taniela Barry
 Airman 1st Class Stacy Bennett
 Airman 1st Class Alex Caldwell
 Airman 1st Class Carlos Cintron
 Airman 1st Class Bryan Cortes
 Airman 1st Class Enrique Espinoza
 Airman 1st Class Chiemerie Eze
 Airman 1st Class Marcello Gugliotti
 Airman 1st Class Benjamin Hietala
 Airman 1st Class Jenna Hoffman
 Airman 1st Class David Jurich
 Airman 1st Class Vincent Kulmacz
 Airman 1st Class Andrew Lampart
 Airman 1st Class Tate McNamar
 Airman 1st Class Alex Musco
 Airman 1st Class Troy Ramos
 Airman 1st Class Taylor Rivas
 Airman 1st Class Carlos Robles Vega
 Airman 1st Class Justin Sanchez
 Airman 1st Class Trinity Silva
 Airman 1st Class Hamza Sisic
 Airman 1st Class Zane Vetter
 Airman 1st Class Christopher Visbal
 Airman 1st Class Ethan Williams
 Senior Airman Luke Arnone
 Senior Airman Aidan Dolan
 Senior Airman Alexa Granfield
 Senior Airman Jose Leon Castellanos
 Senior Airman Julian Martin

Senior Airman Ryan Pellegrino
 Senior Airman Tyler Provencher
 Senior Airman Matthew Sinchi
 Senior Airman Nikola Tili
 Senior Airman Yan Vasilenko
 Staff Sgt. Andrew Dilko
 Staff Sgt. Gianna Grimaldi
 Staff Sgt. Brendan Haven
 Staff Sgt. Hailey Klase
 Staff Sgt. Zachary Martineau
 Staff Sgt. Linnea Mather
 Staff Sgt. Duc Ngo
 Staff Sgt. Gwenavere Noto
 Staff Sgt. Casey Robella
 Staff Sgt. Martin Santos
 Staff Sgt. Genesis Shepard Contreras
 Staff Sgt. Michael Struber
 Staff Sgt. Ethan Trueman
 Staff Sgt. Lauren Wilkos
 Staff Sgt. Kaito Yasuda
 Tech Sgt. Mark Arnet
 Tech Sgt. Joel Ayala
 Tech Sgt. Bridget Bonsu
 Tech Sgt. Corey Brennan
 Tech Sgt. Karen Campoverde Correa
 Tech Sgt. Peter Chase
 Tech Sgt. Keith Christiansen
 Tech Sgt. Cayla French
 Tech Sgt. Joseph Hamel
 Tech Sgt. Rodger Hamilton
 Tech Sgt. Sabbir Hossain
 Tech Sgt. Chad Jarvis
 Tech Sgt. Ross Lincoln
 Tech Sgt. Emilee Maloney
 Tech Sgt. Jesus Roman Diaz
 Tech Sgt. Kimberly Sanchez Quituisaca
 Tech Sgt. Jarad Stewart
 Tech Sgt. Kayla Tosses
 Tech Sgt. Juan Valencia
 Tech Sgt. Daniel Vanwormer
 Tech Sgt. William Vollenweilder
 Master Sgt. Shanielle Copeland
 Master Sgt. Alexis Coppola
 Master Sgt. Dorota Gdula
 Master Sgt. Donald Hatfield
 Master Sgt. Steven Kernstock
 Master Sgt. Kevin Maynard
 Master Sgt. Bryce Meyers
 Master Sgt. Phillip Paulsen
 Master Sgt. Jeremy Reiser
 Master Sgt. Kyle Saunders
 Master Sgt. Jeffrey Serro
 Senior Master Sgt. Khaleef Graham
 Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Marks
 Senior Master Sgt. Sheary Marks
 Senior Master Sgt. Brett Phillips
 Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Russo
 Chief Master Sgt. Charleen Fischer
 Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Lalancette
 Chief Master Sgt. Jessica Roy

1st Lt. Katrell Crenshaw
 1st Lt. Paul Kien
 1st Lt. Kurt Oden
 1st Lt. Evan Theroux
 Maj. Seth Peters
 Col. Michael Lisella

Retirements

Thank you for your service!

Sgt. Michael Arostruhe
 Staff Sgt. Jerome Agaran
 Staff Sgt. Adam Riddick
 Staff Sgt. Kurt Fritz
 Master Sgt. Jeremy Avery
 Master Sgt. Sebastian Miano
 1st Sgt. Craig Townsend
 Sgt. Maj. Philip Maldonado
 Cmd Sgt. Maj. Orlando Anderson
 Lt. Col Tyshon Gorham
 Lt. Col. Christopher Strong
 Col. David Pickel

Senior Master Sgt. Crystal Reynolds
 Senior Master Sgt. Paul Rathbun
 Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas Blanchard
 Chief Master Sgt. Donald Liddell
 Chief Master Sgt. Eric Hady
 Chief Master Sgt. Jonas
 Concepcioncarrero
 Lt. Col. Michael Matthews

Change Your Address

If you need to update your home of record with retirement services please do one of the following:

Retirees:
 Contact Sgt. 1st Class Rachael Murphy at 860-524-4813 or ng.ct.ctarng.mbx.G1-RSO@army.mil

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



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MAY 16, 2025
AQUA TURF CLUB
11 A.M.
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Registration:
tinyurl.com/afdl2025



With Guest Speaker

RDML Mike Van Poots

Commander Undersea Warfighting Development Center

For more Information: 860.493.2755 or CTNGAFDLCommittee@army.mil

