

THE CONNECTICUT
GUARDIAN



2026
BEST WARRIOR
COMPETITION

CONTENTS

The Connecticut Guardian

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

Captain-General

Gov. Ned Lamont

The Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. Francis J. Evon

Assistant Adjutant General - Army

Brig. Gen. Michael Sipples

Assistant Adjutant General - Air

Brig. Gen. Gerald McDonald

State Cmd Chief Warrant Officer

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Stephanie Richard

State Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Fredericks

State Cmd Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. John M. Gasiorek

State Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Michael Wilcoxson

Connecticut Guardian Editor

Timothy Koster

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

04

Connecticut National Guard Teams Drive Innovation Forward

06

Connecticut Guard Home to Specialized Aircraft Maintenance Facility

08

103rd Airlift Wing Supports Cargo Delivery During Holidays

10

Connecticut National Guard hosts Career and Retention fair

14

CTNG hosts third annual "Warrior Chef" competition

20

Connecticut Army National Guard hosts its 2026 Best Warrior Competition



To download a digital copy of the Connecticut Guardian, scan the QR code to the left



JEEP₅₀₀



JOINT ENLISTMENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

UPDATE TO CT JEEP 500

UP TO \$1,500

FOR EVERY QUALIFIED LEAD THAT ENLISTS INTO THE CTNG

QUALIFIED LEAD ENLISTS INTO CTNG= \$1,000

**LEAD ENLISTS INTO A PRIORITY VACANCY=
ADDITIONAL \$500**

AIR PRIORITY VACANCY

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



CT JEEP 500



ARMY PRIORITY VACANCY

- 11B - Infantryman**
- 11C - Indirect Fire Infantryman**
- 12C - Bridge Crewmember**
- 12N - Horizontal Construction Engineer**
- 25U - Signal Operations Support Specialist**
- 31E - Corrections / Detention Specialist**
- 68W - Combat Medic Specialist**
- 88M - Motor Transport Operator**
- 91B - Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic**
- 92F - Petroleum Supply Specialist**



Connecticut National Guard Teams Drive Innovation Forward

Sgt. Kaitlyn Quinn

Three teams of Connecticut National Guard service members presented ideas on how to improve their organization to a panel of judges during the 2026 Innovation Challenge at the Officer's Club of the Governor William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford, Conn. Jan. 10, 2026.

"We want to highlight the ingenuity and innovative ideas of Army and Air [service members]," said Maj. Matthew Archuletta, the master of ceremonies for the event.

This year's winning idea, "Driving Safety Forward," was presented by Connecticut Army National Guard Maj. Joel Fulsang, who. Fulsang was inspired to use magnetic, rechargeable back-up cameras to increase visibility in military vehicles after witnessing professional and personal accidents involving a backing maneuver. The magnetic feature allows the cameras to be added and removed from vehicles based on which vehicles are required

for a movement.

"We ask soldiers to operate multi-ton machines with massive blindspots," said Fulsang. Nearly 1 in 4 accidents involve a backing maneuver, according to data from the National Safety Council.

"It's about retrofitting the fleet to match new vehicles rolling out," said Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Jarold McDonald, Connecticut National Guard assistant adjutant general - Air, who served as a judge on the panel for this year's challenge.

The Connecticut National Guard hosted its first Innovation Challenge in January 2024. The challenge has benefitted the Connecticut National Guard since its first iteration in January, 2024, when 103rd Airlift Wing Senior Master Sgt. Dana Babcock took top honors for creating a Power BI Dashboard that helped simplify administrative workflow by creating a safe and secure flow of personal identifiable information, or PII, between systems. The challenge

benefitted the Connecticut National Guard by creating a tasking support mechanism to support the flow of personal identifying information.

"This is a win," said Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, the Connecticut Adjutant General. "This program develops that culture of innovation and continuous improvement."

The challenge gives soldiers outside of senior leadership a voice in how to change the organization for the better.

The innovation challenge saw several service members come forward with ideas to better the Connecticut National Guard. Some ideas that were runners up include using grip strength meters to increase engagement at recruitment tables and utilizing a system for automating daily strength reports.

Additionally, while not the winner of the challenge, Sgt. 1st Class Edward Bonnetti's innovative idea to revitalize recruiting engagement will also be implemented throughout the 6th Recruit-

ing and Retention Battalion. Bonetti proposed using grip strength meters to encourage conversations with potential applicants vying to join "Connecticut's Home Team." He came up with the idea at a local community gym when he approached a crowded table raising money to help low-income children participate in local sports teams. He participated in the table's challenge to find the highest grip strength and won. This inspired him to bring this idea to the military to rejuvenate how he interacts with high school students.

"Everyone wants to know that," Bonetti said about teenagers testing their strength. However, he added, it can be used across age groups.

The Connecticut National Guard looks forward to continuing this tradition of innovation and encourages soldiers and airmen of all ranks to think about how they want the organization to change and consider presenting those ideas at next year's challenge.



Connecticut Army National Guard Sgt. Alejandro Garcia, presented an innovation during the 2026 Connecticut National Guard Innovation Challenge inside the William A. O'Neill Armory, Hartford, Connecticut, Jan. 10, 2026.

Connecticut National Guard officers compete in Best Warrior Competition for the first time

Spc. Juan Perez
130th Public Affairs Detachment

For the first time ever, The Connecticut National Guard allowed officers to compete in its annual Best Warrior Competition alongside its non-commissioned officers and enlisted Soldiers, March 26-29, 2026.

The idea to add officers to the competition came from Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Fredericks, the Connecticut National Guard's senior enlisted advisor, after seeing it done in other states.

"The competition, in general, builds more effective leaders," said Fredericks. "Leaders that demand more of themselves, they demand more of their teams, and I just saw it as an opportunity, not only for them to just improve themselves, but also to set a great example by competing alongside their Soldiers."

When Fredericks took over just three years ago there were only seven competitors and he believed the competition was slowly dying. He worked to reinvigorate it by adding the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge and

the Norwegian Ruck March.

Since then, 12 competitors have been awarded the GAFPB and 15 earned the Norwegian Ruck March badge. Adding officers this year was part of his goal to further expand the competition.

"I can tell you already, by virtue of people seeing two officers compete this year, we already have people asking to do it next year, Warrant Officers, too," said Fredericks. "Warrant officer and officers would compete together, and they'll compete in state for Officer of the year."

As of right now there is no Regional or National Best Warrior Competition for officers, but he is looking to speak with his peers in other states to expand those opportunities.

Right: portraits of 2nd Lt. Luis Rodriguez (top) and Capt. Joseph Colovito (bottom), the first-ever officers to compete in the Connecticut National Guard's Best Warrior Competition.





Connecticut Guard Home to Specialized Aircraft Maintenance Facility

Timothy Koster

Connecticut is home to some of the United States' largest military industrial businesses like Sikorsky, Electric Boat, and Pratt & Whitney. However, it's also home to one of the U.S. Army's greatest kept secrets, the Aviation Classification and Repair Depot, or AVCRAD.

This Groton, Connecticut, based facility employs highly skilled uniformed mechanics, as well as some of the industry's most talented civilian contractors, to refurbish and maintain the U.S. Army's fleet of rotary wing aircraft.

Unlike field units that are only trained and equipped to conduct basic maintenance on their aircraft, the AVCRAD is capable of stripping a helicopter—whether it's a UH-60 Blackhawk, a CH-47 Chinook, or an AH-64 Apache—down to its nuts and bolts and rebuild it to factory standard as if it just rolled off the assembly line.

“Generally speaking, there are two

levels of maintenance when it comes to Army aviation,” said 1st Sgt. Jarod Meekhoff, a quality control inspector for aircraft and aviation maintenance. “There is field-level maintenance and sustainment level maintenance. We are considered a sustainment level facility in that we can do the highest level maintenance comparable with any Army aviation depot ... that being said, the kind of work that we do is highly technical which is why we have a lot of specialized tools, equipment, and specialized individuals here with the knowledge and skills capable of doing that.”

This is a vitally important capability for the Army, as refurbishing an aircraft saves the Department of Defense and, in turn, the U.S. taxpayer millions of dollars every year.

“In doing depot maintenance, we can basically take an aircraft and overhaul it from the ground up,” said Meekhoff.

“That's removing all the components, stripping all the paint, doing significant structural upgrades, structural repairs, component repairs, [and] component overhauls.”

One of the best examples of this cost saving capability came in 2019 when the AVCRAD received two battle damaged CH-47 that were deemed severely damaged and inoperable. In just two years—even with the constraints put on by the COVID-19 pandemic—these two helicopters were stripped down, analyzed, repaired, and sent back to the fleet with a brand new paint job as fully-functioning machines, sparing the military millions of dollars to buy new helicopters.

Holding ISO 9000:2015 and AS 9110 certifications qualifies the AVCRAD to bid on special aviation maintenance projects offered by the Army. This allows the soldiers and contractors at the facility to develop skills and knowledge

comparable to their counterparts in the civilian defense industry.

The AVCRAD holds ISO 9000:2015 and AS 9110 compliant, which allows the facility to bid on any aviation overhauls the Army is putting forward for contract work. This allows the Soldiers and contractors working at the AVCRAD to gain skills and knowledge that put them on par with civilian agencies, such as the defense contractors mentioned earlier.

All of this high-level depot maintenance, in conjunction with the technical training the Army provides its aviation mechanics, working at the AVCRAD creates an incredible opportunity for young men and women who're interested in working in the aviation or aerospace industries to acquire skills and experience that will help feed their career in the civilian sector following their military career.

"Because of the level of maintenance and the kind of very technical maintenance that we do, our maintainers will walk away with a much better understanding of not just helicopters and aircraft, but general maintenance and procedures which absolutely translate to all the civilian companies that do any sort of production, manufacturing, or assembly," said Meekhoff. "But they're not going to take a brand new person with no experience and hire them at \$75-\$80,000 a year ... what we will do is take that brand new person, we will train them, put them through all the professional development they need to



U.S. Army Cpl. Zachary Tallis, a CH-47 Chinook Mechanic with the Connecticut National Guard's 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group, works on the rear engine of a helicopter that was battle damaged from a hard landing while serving in Iraq in the maintenance bay of the Connecticut National Guard's 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group in Groton, Conn. June 22, 2021. The TASMG recovered this helicopter from Kuwait and performed a complete overhaul of the aircraft in order to get it back into the Army's operational fleet.

be technically competent in their job."

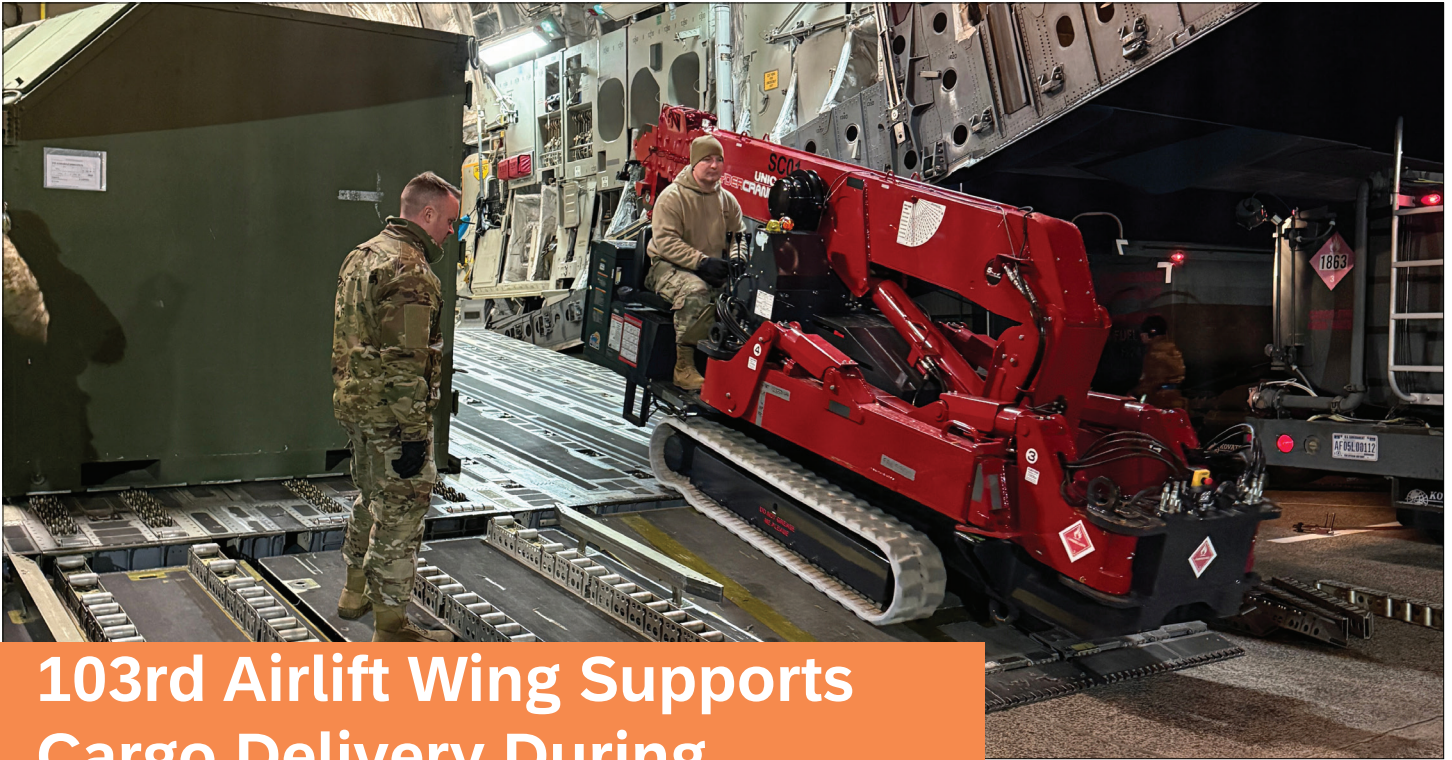
In addition to the AVCRAD, the Groton facility is also home to the 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group, or TASMG, which is the traditional National Guard unit of which many of the uniformed personnel at the AVCRAD are also a member. These Soldiers are capable of going down range and performing this high-level

depot maintenance on aircraft that are on the front lines of the United States' efforts to maintain peace and stability across the globe.

To learn more about the AVCRAD and 1109th TASMG, visit the Connecticut National Guard's website at <https://ct.ng.mil/Units/Major-Separate-Commands/1109th-TASMG/>



A Ch-47 Chinook helicopter hovers for the first time in two years at the Connecticut National Guard's 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group in Groton, Conn. June 2, 2021. This helicopter was battle damaged after a hard landing while serving in Iraq and had been sitting in Kuwait since 2018 awaiting repairs.



103rd Airlift Wing Supports Cargo Delivery During Holidays

Senior Airman Emme Drummond

There were numerous moments in 2025 when the Flying Yankees worked behind the scenes to keep the mission moving. In December, while many were celebrating the holidays, members of the 103d Airlift Wing worked through Christmas to manage the delivery of cargo to Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Connecticut. The timely return of the cargo was critical to sustaining stateside operations, as it was needed immediately to support readiness. Multiple shops worked together, including airfield management, maintenance, aerial port, and petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL), to guarantee the successful offload of supplies from two C-17 Globemaster IIIs, all with very short notice. The overall effort would not have been successful if it wasn't for the dedication and adaptability of members from the 103d who diligently stepped up to meet the challenge.

Between deliveries on Christmas Eve and another two days later, the aerial port directed the offload of 89,000 pounds of equipment—including generators, a crane, and multiple pallets. Over those two days, offloading was completed each time in less than two hours, a result of the hard work con-

tributed by each participating member. Additionally, while unloading the aircraft, 103d POL and maintenance members aided in the refueling of both C-17s with over 120,000 pounds of fuel each, ensuring a swift turnaround.

Although the aerial port led the efforts in offloading the supplies, many other supporting 103d Airmen played a role in facilitating the success of this mission. “The communication at the 103d was great between airfield management, maintenance, and the port—it really made the mission a success,” explained Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Merrow, an air transportation superintendent with the 103d Logistics Readiness Squadron. “Each aircraft was able to take off early because of how quickly we expedited the offload and refueling.”

The supplies were brought over on two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft provided by the Alaska Air National Guard and Travis Air Force Base. This integrated effort made it possible to streamline a safe and timely return from the Horn of Africa where members of the 103d Airlift Wing were recently deployed. As a result of the efforts by the 103d, participating units experienced minimal delays en route to their next destination.

“Getting the supplies back was im-

portant because the deployed equipment was mission essential both here and overseas,” said Senior Airman Ben Gardner, an air transportation specialist with the 103d LRS. “It was crucial to get the supplies back efficiently and effectively.”

The seamless transition of supplies off the aircraft reinforced the concept of agile combat employment by demonstrating the adaptability and multi-capable skills our airmen possess. Despite limited manning and the added pressures of the holidays, members put the mission first, completing all necessary tasks regardless of their usual duties.

“What motivates me is the power of perspective,” said Tech. Sgt. Samuel Stiger, an air transportation specialist with the 103d LRS. “There are people down range and deployed overseas who are not able to come home for the holidays.”

This coordinated effort by the 103d Airlift Wing and supporting units demonstrated the adaptability of a committed team and the power of inter-shop collaboration. Their efforts ensured critical cargo arrived safely and stateside operations remained ready during the holiday season.



NGB-SASPP Employees of the Quarter

National Guard Bureau

The NGB-SASPP leadership would like to recognize the following employees of the quarter for their outstanding achievements and contributions.

From the West Region: NV RRC Mike Simons has been instrumental in carrying NV through the start of the fiscal year.

He has independently scheduled and conducted all trainings and URIs, taking full ownership of the process from start to finish. Mike has also built strong, trusted relationships with state leadership and consistently goes above and beyond to ensure Soldiers receive the highest level of care possible. Mike brings a steady, positive attitude, responds quickly to issues, and is skilled at working through complex challenges. He's dependable, proactive, and a true team player who can always be counted on to get the job done. Mike has made a lasting impact on the lives of many Soldiers. Thanks, Mike!

From the Central Region: Since joining the program, IL PC Nico Scaduto has consistently distinguished himself as an exceptional employee and teammate. Despite not coming from a social science background, he has quickly learned and effectively applied new concepts. His delivery of Suicide Prevention and Substance Abuse Prevention briefings has grown increasingly confident and engaging, reflecting both his dedication and professional growth.

Nico has also demonstrated strong initiative by developing high-quality, cost-effective mental health awareness materi-

als that enhance outreach and provide valuable resources to Soldiers. Additionally, he created a FY26 Unit Completion Tracker to mirror the existing Unit Tracker, improving visibility and consistency across program metrics.

Most recently, Nico assumed responsibility for the IL MyPrime program and rehabilitation assistance services, immediately identifying opportunities to improve processes. He is currently developing an online rehabilitation assistance form to increase accessibility and efficiency.

From the East Region: Jennifer Visone joined the program in 2018 and has served in the RRC role since 2021. In her tenure she has made extremely significant impacts providing exemplary prevention and risk reduction services to CTARNG units and Soldiers. Further, her contributions have been instrumental on the regional and national stages where she has mentored peers, helped neighbors conduct training, served as one of the two ACE-SI Tier 4 master trainers, and provided SME input on assigned councils and working groups. CTARNG leadership recently recognized her efforts, writing: "Mrs. Visone's tireless work in prevention, education, and risk reduction has made a profound and measurable difference in the lives of our Service Members and the operational effectiveness of the Connecticut National Guard. Her performance is the epitome of selfless service, and she is an invaluable asset to our organization."

Thank you Jennifer for your hard work!



Connecticut National Guard hosts Career and Retention fair

Spc. Emmanuel Gibson

The Connecticut Army National Guard hosted a Crossroads retention and career fair event at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory on Feb. 7, connecting soldiers, state agencies, and civilian organizations to provide service members with career pathways, education resources, and transition support.

The Crossroads event is designed to assist soldiers who are both currently serving as well as those who are out-processing with exploring future career opportunities including civilian employment, continued military service, entrepreneurship, law enforcement and public safety.

"The pathways event is about ensuring that soldiers are informed and supported regardless of which path they choose. Sometimes not every soldier gets spoken to about what opportunities are available to them," said Sgt. 1st Class Angel Navarro, the Connecticut

Army National Guard's state retention noncommissioned officer. "Here, we bring them together and give them one last opportunity to see what options they have, whether that's reclassing, changing units, or taking a temporary break and coming back."

Navarro explained that retention is not solely about keeping soldiers in uniform, but also about taking care of them throughout their transition process. The retention team ensures all soldiers understand their benefits and post-service resources enabling them to make an informed decision

"The point is offering as many opportunities and support systems as possible," Navarro said. "Even if a soldier decides to get out, we make sure they leave taken care of and with their benefits squared away."

The Connecticut Army National Guard currently tracks more than 1,200 soldiers approaching their expiration of

term of service over the next two years. 38 Soldiers attended the crossroads event and 13 of them chose to extend their service, seven entered the Individual Ready Reserve, and others continued their careers elsewhere. Several partner organizations participated, including the University of Connecticut's Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans, which supports veterans and Guard service members interested in starting or growing a business.

"The greatest part of this program is the network," said Meghan William, the University of Connecticut's Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans program coordinator, "Veterans go through it together, and our experts continue supporting them long after the program ends."

The Connecticut State Police also attended, and offered soldiers interested in a career in law enforcement an inside look at life in their uniform. One

Connecticut State Trooper emphasized that Soldiers bring discipline, leadership and experience that translate directly into policing.

“National Guard soldiers come in with discipline, fitness, and the ability to follow standards, those are things we don’t have to teach from scratch,” said Connecticut State Police Master Sgt. Matt Aslam. “You’re serving the state in both roles, and soldiers can eventually earn dual retirements.”

Navarro noted that retaining experienced soldiers is critical to maintaining force readiness and preparing the next generation of soldiers.

“When someone with 10 years of experience walks away, that’s 10 years of leadership and knowledge lost,” Navarro explained. “Events like this help preserve that experience and keep the force strong.”



A patch representing The Connecticut National Guard 6th Recruiting and Retention Battalion is displayed on a Connecticut guardsman's shoulder during a Crossroads retention and career event at the Governor William A. O'Neill Armory, Hartford, Connecticut, Feb. 7, 2025. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Juan Perez.)



An attendee speaks with a Connecticut State Police state trooper during a crossroads career fair event at the Governor William A. O'Neill Armory, Hartford, Connecticut, Feb. 7, 2025. The event assists soldiers make informed decisions about their civilian careers and their future within the Connecticut National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Juan Perez.)



Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc

2026 Scholarships Program

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation,
Inc will award **ELEVEN** scholarships for 2026.

5

\$4000

**SGT Felix M. Del Greco, Jr.
Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to a son or daughter of a
current member of the Connecticut
ARMY National Guard

6

\$3000

**Connecticut National
Guard Foundation, Inc
Scholarships**

Awarded to Connecticut National
Guard and Organized Militia members
or their sons, daughters, or spouses
and children of Connecticut National
Guard Retirees

Visit ctngfi.org/scholarships for deadlines and application information.

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

BECOME AN ARMY STORYTELLER



**TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS. SHOOT
VIDEO. CREATE CONTENT TO TELL
THE ARMY STORY.**

The 130th Public Affairs Detachment has positions available for new and existing Connecticut Guardsmen. Contact Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Koster at (860) 524-4858 for more information





CTNG hosts third annual “Warrior Chef” competition

Timothy Koster

The Connecticut National Guard hosted its third annual Warrior Chef competition, an event for the state’s 92G, Culinary Specialists, to showcase their skills at Camp Nett, Niantic, Connecticut, Feb. 28, 2026.

There were three teams that competed, representing the 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group, 118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, and 192nd Engineer Battalion.

“It’s great bragging rights for us amongst the 92Gs and the cooks in the military,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nicholas Berube, the state food advisor. “So, we can brag, like, who’s the best?”

In the end, when the plates were cleaned and bellies were filled, the 118th took home the honor of top chefs in the Connecticut Army National Guard, dethroning the two-time champions from the 192nd.

But the Warrior Chef competition is more than just winning bragging rights or being known as the best Culinary Specialists in the state; it’s the culmination of a three-day training event for the states 92Gs to remain on top of their craft.

“I’ve learned a lot from my Sergeant and my battle buddies,” said Pfc. Jahleah Harris, a culinary specialist with the 1109th. “It’s really exciting.”

Each team was required to come up with their own menu using fresh ingredients and had limited time to prepare, cook, and plate their dish all while only using the tools available to them in a standard Mobile Kitchen Trailer, or MKT.

The idea for Warrior Chef came from Berube, who participates in the Connecticut Restaurant Association’s ProStart, a two-year industry-driven, career-building program for high school students.

He serves as a judge for these students and their culinary programs and thought it would be an interesting idea to “flip the script a little bit” by inviting these high schoolers to be judges for a military cooking competition.

Now, in its third year, Warrior Chef has become a trifecta of quality, hands-on training for Connecticut Army National Guard soldiers, a morale-boosting friendly competition, and a community outreach program that allows high school culinary students the opportunity to see what it’s like to be a military culinary specialist.

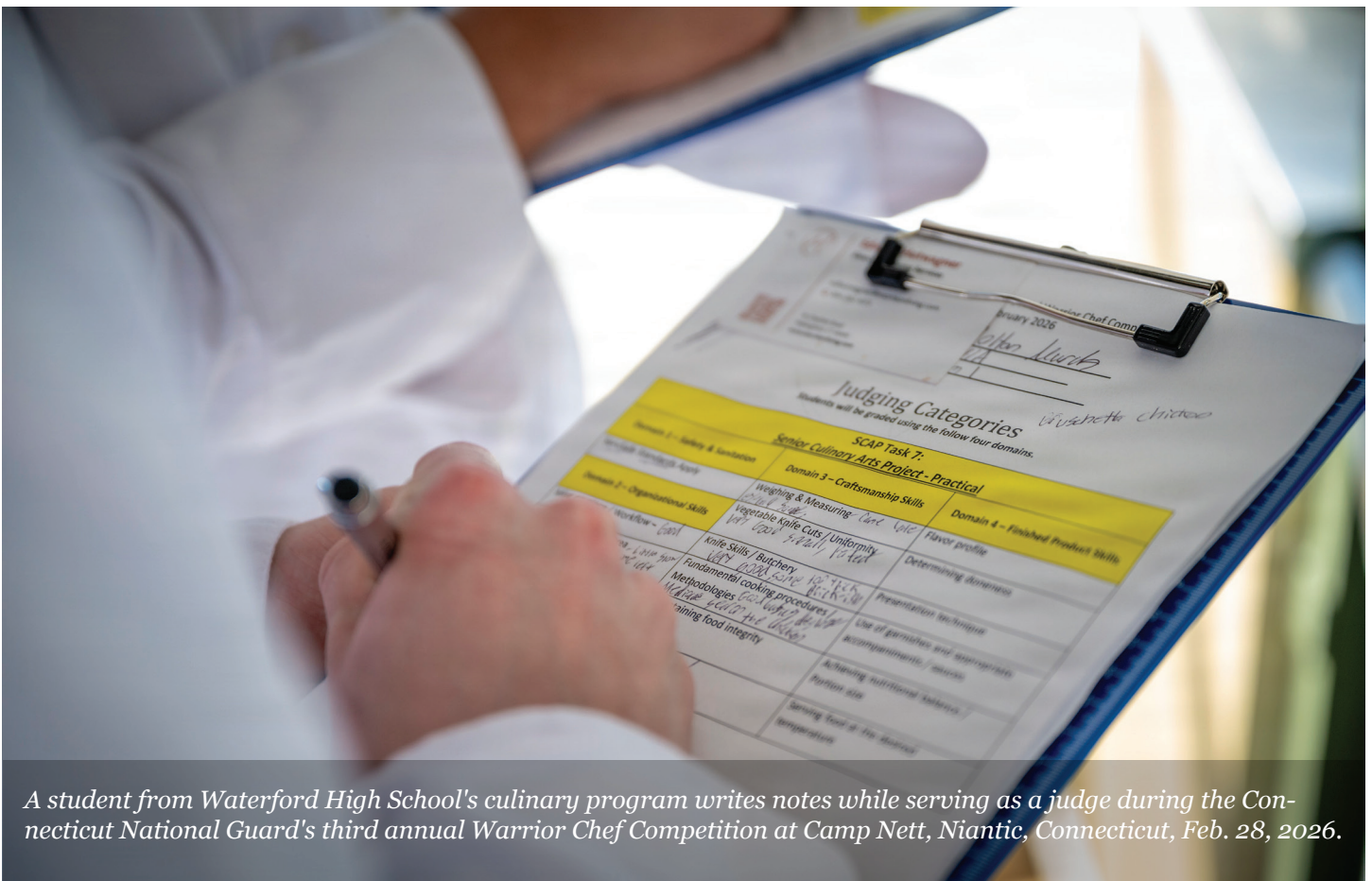
This year, students from Waterford High School’s culinary program, as well as Sarah Ramos, the school’s culinary program director, served as judges for Warrior Chef and, for the first time, they were joined by local food bloggers Brandon (@baldbites) and Casey (@cheatmealfoodz), who provided professional critiques of each dish.

After announcing the winner, Brig. Gen. Michael Sipples, assistant adjutant general for the Connecticut Army National Guard, had some encouraging words for these cooks as they head back out to the field.

“I’m an infantryman and we fight with our belly,” said Sipples. “Don’t ever underestimate the importance of what you do.”



Brandon Ojakan, a food blogger (@baldbites) and guest judge, takes a bite of a steak and cheese sandwich made by culinary specialists from the 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group, during the Connecticut National Guard's third annual Warrior Chef Challenge at Camp Nett, Niantic, Connecticut, Feb. 28, 2026.



A student from Waterford High School's culinary program writes notes while serving as a judge during the Connecticut National Guard's third annual Warrior Chef Competition at Camp Nett, Niantic, Connecticut, Feb. 28, 2026.



Connecticut National Guard hosts sendoff ceremony for 143rd RSG

Timothy Koster

The Connecticut Army National Guard hosted a sendoff ceremony for approximately 80 Soldiers assigned to the 143rd Regional Support Group as they prepare to deploy for a nearly year-long deployment to the Middle East at the Gov. William A. O'Neill Armory, Feb. 21, 2026.

The 143rd is scheduled to deploy to Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve to provide base support operations, including base life support, logistical operations, facility management, and personnel and operational support for deployed forces in multiple locations across the theater of operations.

“The deployment of the 143rd Regional Support Group reflects the dedication of Connecticut’s soldiers who volunteer to serve beyond our borders and the families who stand firmly behind them,” said Maj. Gen. Francis J. Evon, Jr., adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard. “Their readiness is built on teamwork, preparation, and the unwavering support of loved ones and communities here at home.”

The 143rd is a versatile unit that provides critical base operations support for overseas missions and expertly manages the reception and integration of forces during domestic

emergencies. This dual-mission capability makes the 143rd an indispensable asset for both federal and state objectives, ensuring readiness and seamless logistical coordination wherever its called to serve.

“On behalf of the state of Connecticut, I want to thank the members of the 143rd Regional Support Group for accepting this mission to deploy to the Middle East and supporting United States military operations,” said Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont. “We are proud to have such a ready, qualified, and capable unit representing Connecticut abroad. Their service is to be commended, and I look forward to the day that we can welcome them home after a job well done.”

The 143rd most recently deployed in 2020 in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

Operation Inherent Resolve is the United States ongoing mission to train, advise, and enable regional partner forces in their fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The campaign began on June 15, 2014. ISIS was territorially defeated in Iraq and Syria in 2017 and 2019, respectively, and current operations aim to maintain military pressure on the remnants of the terrorist organization.

NOT FEELING LIKE **YOURSELF?**

REACH OUT. STAY MISSION READY.

Military Life is Hard On Your Mind And Body

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

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

Psychological Health Resource Center

Call/Chat with a health resource consultant 24/7 at 866-966-1020 or visit health.mil/PHRC and click "Live Chat."

REAL WARRIORS ★ REAL BATTLES
REAL STRENGTH

health.mil/RealWarriors

Military Crisis Line

Call 988 and press 1 or text 838255. To chat or find overseas help visit militarycrisisline.net/.

Connect with Us on Social Media

  @realwarriors

 @realwarriorscampaign



K9 Veterans Day – Honoring our four-legged veterans

Staff Sgt. Christian Ortiz

They seek no medals, only the trust of their handler, yet on March 13, the nation will pause to give them the honor they have earned.

In 1942, the U.S. Army established its War Dog Program, the K-9 Corps, officially marking the first time canines were integrated into the armed forces. K9 Veterans Day serves as an annual tribute to the service and sacrifice of military dogs, as well as other canines serving the nation.

From police departments to border patrols and Connecticut's very own four-legged warriors of the 928th Military Working Dog Detachment.

The 928th holds the unique distinction of being the only military working dog unit in the U.S. military's reserve component. This status means they are heavily relied upon to provide crucial support during emergencies and special events across the country.

The detachment employs two specialized types of military working dogs: those trained to detect explosives and those trained for counter-drug operations. The explosive detection dogs are skilled at locating a wide variety of explosive materials, such as Semtex, TNT, and C4, while the counter-drug

dogs often work in tandem with police and the Coast Guard to uncover narcotics and other illegal substances concealed by smugglers.

Military working dogs have a long history of saving lives. While canines have been present on battlefields alongside soldiers since the nation's earliest days, World War II saw the first formally trained deployment of over 10,000 dogs.

The United States War Dogs Association estimates that working dogs saved more than 10,000 human lives during the Vietnam War alone. While breeds like Dobermans and Rottweilers have served in the past, today's military primarily relies on German Shepherds, Dutch Shepherds, and Belgian Malinois for their fierce loyalty and obedience.

These canines are bred through the Department of War's puppy program at the 341st Training Squadron in Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, Texas where they all must graduate from a rigorous 120-day training program to enter service. Some of these canines have even gone on to become famous figures.

The history of our four-legged fighters is filled with heroes. Among the most

famous is Sgt. Stubby, a stray smuggled to Europe during World War I who served in 17 battles, alerted soldiers to gas attacks, and even captured a German spy, becoming the first dog to be given a rank by the U.S. Armed Forces.

In World War II, a German shepherd-collie-husky mix named Chips attacked an enemy machine-gun team during the invasion of Sicily, saving the lives of his platoon and later receiving a posthumous Dickin Medal, a prestigious award for animal valor.

More recently, dogs like Rex, who used his sharp instincts to uncover hidden explosives in more than 100 missions, and Cairo, the Navy SEAL dog on the Osama bin Laden raid, have continued this legacy of valor.

K9 Veterans Day matters because it acknowledges that these animals are dedicated service members. They work alongside their human companions with as much loyalty and brotherhood as any soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine. Their comparatively short lifespans make their service even more profound. They dedicate the majority of their lives to protecting ours, facing danger with unwavering courage and a devotion that is truly unique.



100% FREE IN-STATE COLLEGE TUITION

How free College Education created a leader of Soldiers

Staff Sgt. Christian Ortiz

U.S. Army Capt. Devon Cafazzo, area of operations officer (AO) for the 192nd Military Police Battalion, joined the Connecticut Army National Guard to continue his family's tradition of serving in uniform as well as having a means to pay for college using the state tuition waiver.

After 22 years and with the assistance of the state tuition waiver, he earned his degree which has given him the tools that have helped him become the leader that he is today. However, his journey didn't come without a few hiccups.

At the age of 19, Cafazzo joined the National Guard as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist (74D) and was attached to the 3rd Detachment, 27th Infantry out of Naugatuck, Connecticut.

Shortly after he arrived in the unit, they deployed to Germany.

After spending some time in theater, Cafazzo realized that balancing school and the mission was going to be tough. He stayed true to his warrior ethos and decided to place the mission first and put a hold on his education.

"When I first started out, I was a tra-

ditional M-Day soldier." Cafazzo said, referring to his status in the National Guard to drill one weekend a month, two weeks a year. "I was going to college full-time using the tuition waiver but at the age of 19 I deployed and had to withdraw from college."

Once Cafazzo made it back stateside, he resumed his studies at Eastern Connecticut State University and applied to the 14th Civil Support Team (CST) out of Windsor Locks, Connecticut and landed a job as a survey team leader. Although, due to scheduling, balancing school and work became another challenge.

"Kinda had to put my education on hold a little bit because as a science major, a lot of those labs are during the day." Cafazzo said. "I tried to take some classes at night, didn't really work out too well."

Cafazzo had to think of something quick. He didn't want to have all his credits go to waste and that's when he realized online courses could be an option.

"Online colleges were becoming kind of more prominent." Cafazzo said. "I found out about Southern New Hamp-

shire University. They had an environmental science degree which transferred over 70 credits from my biochem background at Eastern [Connecticut State University]."

With this newfound motivation, Cafazzo went back to school and was able to earn his degree. And, with this milestone achieved, Cafazzo decided to go to officer candidate school (OCS).

"My goal was to become the science officer [at the CST] and run the lab," Cafazzo said. "I graduated OCS and then I was able to apply to the officer job that I was going for."

After a few years, Cafazzo transferred to the military police battalion as their training officer and eventually their AO.

Thanks to his education, Cafazzo was able to get his dream job and continued to have a prosperous career within the Connecticut Army National Guard, and he thanks it all to the guard's tuition waiver program.

"It's a great benefit that we have," said Cafazzo. "Find something that you enjoy studying so that you stick with it."



Connecticut Army National Guard hosts its 2026 Best Warrior Competition

Timothy Koster

The Connecticut National Guard hosted its annual Best Warrior Competition at various training sites around the state March 25-29, 2026.

At the end of the competition, 2nd Lt. Luis Rodriguez-Veras from the 192nd Military Police Company, Sgt. Nicholas Cody from the 192nd Engineer Battalion, and Spc. Anthony Delia, also from the 192nd Engineers, were named the 2026 officer, non-commissioned officer, and soldier of the year for winning the competition in their respective category. This was the first year the Connecticut National Guard authorized officers to participate in the annual training event.

While this was the first Best Warrior for most of these competitors, this year's event was something of a redemption tour for Cody, who was competing for the third year in a row.

When asked about why he chose to compete again, this is what he had to say: "Because I didn't win the first two. There are really two ways of doing something, the right way or again. I didn't do it right the first two times, so I ended up doing it again. The third time's the charm as they say."

This stalwart dedication to pushing to be the best version of yourself is something that runs deep within the competitors in Connecticut. Sergeant Matthew Hallgren is also a third time competitor. In 2024 and 2025, he was crowned Soldier of the year and represented Connecticut in the regional competition with other New England soldiers, but fell short of

earning a spot in the national competition. When asked why he wanted to do it again, he said, "I won it twice as a junior soldier, this year I want to win it as an NCO."

In total, eighteen soldiers participated in this year's event. That number is a stark increase from the seven competitors who competed a few years ago when Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Fredericks first took over as the Connecticut National Guard's senior enlisted advisor.

Fredericks saw the competition dying and worked on developing ways to increase interest among the troops in the Connecticut Guard to maximize participation. To do this, he added events like the Norwegian Ruck March and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, allowing participants to earn some impressive hardware for their uniforms, even if they don't come out on top at the end of the competition.

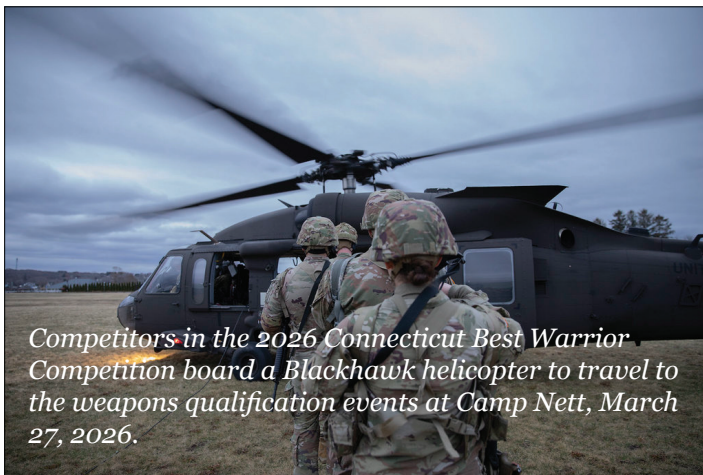
"We reinvigorated [the Best Warrior Competition] by adding the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge and Norwegian Ruck March," said Fredericks. "That first year back we had 21 competitors versus seven, it was pretty significant. I think we had 12 get the [GAFPB] and 15 get the Norwegian Ruck March. It was great, and so, fast forwarding, we're looking for other opportunities to build on this."

While the Best Warrior is a tough head-to-head competition, the Soldiers participating understand that, while the ultimate goal is to win, the real reward is the journey they

find themselves on along the way.

“Yeah, I won and I’m happy to win, but if you look at the other people, some people won GAFPB, that’s a win compared to everyone else in the Guard that doesn’t have it,” said Delia. “Some people earned the Norwegian Ruck March, that’s tough.”

Cody and Delia will represent Connecticut in the Regional One Best Warrior Competition, comprising of the top soldiers and NCOs from New England, which is scheduled for June 8-12, hosted by the Rhode Island National Guard. If they should win that competition, they’ll represent the region in the National Guard’s Best Warrior competition for a chance to compete in the Army’s Best Squad Competition later this year.



Competitors in the 2026 Connecticut Best Warrior Competition board a Blackhawk helicopter to travel to the weapons qualification events at Camp Nett, March 27, 2026.



U.S. Army Sgt. Nicholas Cody is congratulated by a line of Sergeants Majors for winning NCO of the Year at the 2026 Connecticut Best Warrior Competition at Camp Nett, March 29, 2026. (Photo by Sgt. Kaitlyn Quinn)



U.S. Army Spc. Luis Lopez plots his points alongside fellow competitors to prepare for a six-hour land navigation assessment as part of the 2026 Connecticut Best Warrior Competition at Stone’s Ranch, March 26, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kaitlyn Quinn)

1109TH TASMG
AVIATION BALL

REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE

JUNE
SAT 20 2026
AT 5:00 PM

ALL CURRENT & FORMER SERVICE MEMBERS AND GUESTS
ARE WELCOMED

TICKETS

E1-E4 \$70 EA

E5-E7 \$85 EA

E8-E9 \$95 EA

W1-W2, O1-O3 \$95 EA

W3-W5, O4 AND ABOVE \$110 EA

RETIREE \$85 EA

SFRG
ZEFFY CODE



DRESS CODE:
AGSU OR ASU W/
BOWTIE
FEMALES/RETIREES
FORMAL ATTIRE

MOHEGAN SUN CASINO
1 MOHEGAN SUN BLVD. UNCASVILLE, CT
Parking: Sky Valet or WinterLot



14 Veterans Inducted into Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame

Timothy Koster

Susan Bysiewicz, lieutenant governor of the state of Connecticut, in partnership with the Connecticut Military Department and Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs inducted 14 local veterans into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame Jan. 22, 2026, at the Department of Veterans Affairs campus in Rocky Hill.

Founded in 2005, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was established to increase awareness of the lifetime contributions of the state's veterans who continue serving their communities during and after their time in the military.

"The men and women inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame remind us that military service is often just the beginning of a lifetime of leadership," said Bysiewicz. "This year's class includes veterans who have shaped young minds as public educators, strengthened communities through nonprofit board service and entrepreneurship, and stood as tireless advocates for veterans and their families."

This year's class of inductees are:

Thomas M. Brockett – U.S. Air Force

Thomas (Tom) M. Brockett was born and raised in Branford. He and his wife, Carolyn, are the proud parents of three children, grandparents of four and great-grandparents of two. Tom is a retired labor attorney.

Upon graduation from high school, Tom served as an air

traffic control specialist in the U.S. Air Force, including service in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant. He was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Connecticut War Time Service Medal. After serving his country, Tom was employed as an air traffic control specialist at Chicago O'Hare International Airport until 1981.

Following his air traffic career, Tom returned to school and received degrees from Gateway Community College, Wesleyan University, and a jurisprudence doctorate from UConn School of Law. Tom practiced union-side labor law, serving working-class Connecticut residents. In 2000, Tom was honored as Alumni of the Year at Gateway Community College.

In addition to his professional career, Tom is and has been an active member of the Branford community for more than 40 years. He is a member of the American Legion, where he served as Judge Advocate. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Tom served as a baseball coach for countless teams and as President of Branford Little League for many years. Tom was an elected town representative and the minority leader of his party. He proudly authored a resolution that was unanimously adopted to fly the POW/MIA Flag on all Branford public buildings. He has also served as a direc-

tor for the community dining room.

Tom remains actively involved in the Branford community. Presently, he serves as the president of the historic Branford Center Cemetery, which celebrated its 380th anniversary this past year.

Adele E. Hodges – U.S. Marine Corps

Adele E. Hodges enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps following her graduation from Southern Connecticut State University. She was accepted into the Enlisted Commissioning Program and was commissioned in December 1980.

Col. Hodges assignments included: 1st Medical Battalion, 1st FSSG and 3rd Supply Battalion, 3rd FSSG in Okinawa, Japan; Marine Forces Pacific Headquarters in Hawaii; 4th Marine Aircraft Wing in New Orleans, Louisiana; Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division in Camp Lejeune; Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms California; U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth Kansas; Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico Virginia; Brigade Service Support Group One in Camp Pendleton California; the U.S. Naval War College in Newport Rhode Island; the NATO Joint Headquarters North East, and the NATO Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger Norway. Her last assignment was at Headquarters United States Marine Corps, Office of the Inspector General as the Director of Readiness Assessments.

She commanded the 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st FSSG at Camp Pendleton, California and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, one of the largest installations in the Marine Corps.

Col. Hodges retired in 2011 after over thirty-three years of service to the United States Marine Corps. In 2013, she started a company, RALDFO Group LLC., where she is president and CFO.

Adele is a life member of the Marine Corps League, the Women Marine Association, Montford Point Marine Association, the VFW, and National Naval Officers Association.

She was named Onslow County, North Carolina's 2006 Woman of the Year in and most "Intriguing Woman" in 2007. She has master's degrees in business administration, military art and science, and strategic military studies. Her awards and decorations include Legion of Merit with one star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three stars, and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Currently, Adele is the chairman for Veterans Heroes Foundation; Commandant for Greater Bridgeport MCL Det #654; member of the board of directors for Homes for the Brave; member of the board of trustees for the Connecticut Department of Veteran Affairs; chair of the advisory board for the Bridgeport Salvation Army; and member of the Greater Bridgeport Veterans Council. Adele sponsors the Greater Bridgeport Veteran Coffee House every other month, which is hosted by the Teamsters Local 191 in Bridgeport.

Kenneth W. Korsu – U.S. Army

Kenneth (Ken) W. Korsu began his military service in October 1966, completing Officer Candidate School and commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in Artillery. After serving as a

safety officer, he deployed to Vietnam in 1968 with the 101st Airborne Division. As a forward observer and later battery executive officer, Ken fought in the A Shau Valley, earning two Bronze Stars for Valor, a Purple Heart, and other commendations. He left active duty in October 1969.

Following his service, Ken launched a distinguished career in human resources and operations spanning more than 30 years. Starting at Pervel Industries in 1970, he advanced through leadership roles at Dresser Industries, Emhart's Farrel Group, and National Semiconductor, where he doubled headcount and prevented unionization. From 1985 to 1996, Ken served as senior corporate HR executive for Precision Valve Corporation, directing strategic HR services across North America and negotiating major union contracts. He later held senior roles in hospitality and consulting, founded an executive search firm, and supported organizations such as JDSUniphase, ATMI, and WATERWORKS. Ken holds a Bachelor of Science degree in personnel and industrial relations from the University of Bridgeport.

Ken's commitment to service extended to advocacy and leadership in professional organizations, including serving as past president of the Westchester Society of Human Resource Management. He also contributed to nonprofit sectors as director of benefits at Yale University and director of HR at Selfhelp Community Services.

Ken's involvement with the VFW began 25 years ago when he joined Post 1607 in Southbury. He soon assumed the position as adjutant, a position he held for several years before becoming quartermaster. Ken served as quartermaster for several years before being elected commander, a position he currently holds.

He is active with civic activities including fundraisers, the Southbury Town Wide Memorial Day Parade, Flag Day ceremonies, Veterans Day ceremonies (including Region 15 presentations), and visiting nursing homes to deliver toiletries and gifts to veterans in need.

Throughout his life, Ken has remained deeply dedicated to supporting veterans and advancing community advocacy initiatives. He has been happily married to Mary for more than 43 years, and is father to Heather, Brian, Jessica, and Joseph, and grandfather to Kayla, Claudia, and Kaleb.

Dennis F. Lisee – U.S. Air Force

Dennis F. Lisee was the first baby born at the U.S. Naval Subbase in Groton on August 6, 1952. He grew up in Taftville, the French-Canadian part of Norwich. Growing up, he volunteered with his church as an altar boy, played sports, and was a Boy Scout. Just after turning 18, he entered the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was trained as a security policeman. During this enlistment, Dennis was chosen to represent the USAF, working inside the White House with President Richard M. Nixon. Among some of his duties, he executed the death watch and funerals for President Lyndon B. Johnson in Texas, President Harry S. Truman in Missouri, and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover at the U.S. Capitol. He participated in various state dinners and the Vietnam Prisoner of War Dinner at the White House. He traveled across the country representing the USAF at various functions.

After being discharged from the USAF, he became a Con-

necticut State Trooper and retired as a detective with 23 years of state service. During this time, he was also enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and was the weapons sergeant on a Special Forces A-Team until he was injured on a jump. He retired after 20 years with the Reserve and was the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of training throughout New England, when he retired from the USAR. He also became a paramedic and received his nursing license during this time and did this for 23 years.

He retired in 1997 and since then has held active membership and voluntary positions in multiple veterans' service organizations and other organizations such as Special Olympics, Boy Scouts, Young Marines, Knights of Columbus, and his church.

He has five children, twenty-three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, and enjoys spending as much time with them as he can.

Michael D. Monaco – U.S. Marine Corps

Michael (Mike) D. Monaco is a 41-year-old Marine Corps veteran, having served on active duty with 2d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion from 2003 to 2007 and deploying to the Middle East twice. He achieved the rank of sergeant, earning numerous military awards and honors.

Mike was born and raised in Glastonbury, where he resides with his wife, McKenzie, and their two sons, Axel and Austin. He is the co-owner of Monaco Ford of Glastonbury and Niantic with his sister, Chrissy, where they employ 130 people at their fourth-generation business.

Mike serves as the senior past commandant of the Peter P. Monaco Jr. Detachment 40 Marine Corps League (MCL), past MCL Hartford County Department commandant, and vice chairman/parade adjutant of the Veterans Service Commission of Glastonbury. He is a life member of the MCL Detachment 40, VFW Post 12150, American Legion Post 210 and Disabled American Veterans. Additionally, Mike serves as a board member for Easterseals Capital Region and Eastern Connecticut, representing Veterans Rally Point, and is a Connecticut committee member of Building Homes for Heroes.

As the 2018 Connecticut Marine Corps League Marine of the Year, Mike has been instrumental in strengthening the MCL presence in the region, helping to grow Detachment 40 from nearly nonexistent membership to more than 180 active members from all branches of the Armed Services. He also chairs the Hike to Remember, an annual event that draws approximately 250 veterans from all branches to hike in honor of veteran suicide prevention, raising awareness and support for mental health among the military community. Through this effort, the program has successfully raised more than \$300,000 in the past 12 years.

Throughout his work in business, community leadership, and veterans' advocacy, Mike remains deeply committed to service, continuing a tradition of dedication that reflects both his family values and Marine Corps heritage.

William J. Newman – U.S. Army

William (Bill) J. Newman graduated from John Carroll University in 1961 with a degree in philosophy and history. He completed the ROTC program and is a U.S. Army veteran

having served in Korea, Germany and Vietnam, retiring as a Major. His commendations include the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal. He went on to spend 38 successful years in investment management and obtained an MBA.

Bill's deep love for and commitment to veterans has been exhibited over his 28 years as a member of Avon VFW Post 3272 through a distinguished history of service to all in the Avon community which has made him a legend. He has held several leadership positions, including post commander from 2008 to 2010 and chairman of the Poppy Drive for many years, raising revenues to more than \$20,000. He was author of the Post newsletter for 16 years, winning first place for Connecticut VFW Post publications for four years and VFW National third place in 2011.

As membership chair for years, he was the Post's number one recruiter as each member has a story of how he recruited them. He established a close relationship between the Post and the Avon and Canton Public Schools, bringing recognition to the sacrifices of veterans to those who would have been unaware of them. In 2013, Bill offered an inspiring series of presentations at the Avon Library to educate the community about the Vietnam War, including testimonies from Post Vietnam Veterans and eight Vietnamese Americans. In 2015, he created a similar series on WWII.

His greatest love and achievement for 15 years has been to write the military service histories of more than 200 Post members from throughout the Farmington Valley, which are displayed in the Avon Library, often being asked by families to read their loved one's history at their funeral services. Bill helped create the Veteran's Memorial at the Church of Saint Ann in Avon and worked to have the bridge over the Farmington River named after Glido T. Consolini, whose name the Post bears.

His awards include the Post Veteran of the Year Award in 2005, VFW Honor Commander 2008 to 2009, Avon Citizen of the Year Award in 2015, the Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow Award in 2018, and the 2022 Saint Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation.

Charles M. Pickett – U.S. Army

Charles (Charlie) M. Pickett continued a family legacy of military service when he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2007 at age 39. He served seven years and tours in Iraq and Afghanistan with the 814th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Fort Polk, Louisiana, and led route-clearance teams during Hurricane Sandy with the 250th Engineer Company, Connecticut Army National Guard. In recognition of his service, SSG Pickett received the Combat Action Badge, three Army Commendation Medals, and numerous additional awards. Like his father, Navy veteran and State Senator John F. Pickett Jr., and his grandfather, World War I Army veteran John F. Pickett Sr., both of Middletown, Charlie continued to serve his country after the military as a dedicated veteran advocate and leader.

Wanting to combat the veteran suicide crisis in America and realizing there were no open veteran service organizations in New Haven, Charlie organized the chartering of both the VFW New Haven Post 12150 in 2015 and the American Legion Post 210 in 2018, while working as an award-winning

English teacher at the Sound School.

Understanding that social connectedness is a valuable, community-based suicide prevention strategy, Charlie organized and volunteered for countless social and charitable activities, seeking to build a thriving veterans' community in New Haven. Charlie also organized both the Save Our Cemetery campaign in 2024, and the America 250 Connecticut Veterans Coalition in 2025, a joint VFW and American Legion effort, which developed and coordinated veteran-focused programs statewide, celebrating America's 250th anniversary.

Lastly, Charlie was the first Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran to be commander of the VFW Department of Connecticut (2025), and he was the first Municipal Veterans Representative for the City of New Haven (2021), acting as the coordinating representative in all matters concerning veterans in the Elm City.

Alex J. Plitsas – U.S. Army

Alex K. Plitsas is a U.S. Army combat veteran and Bronze Star Medal recipient of the Iraq War, where he led teams on several hundred combat missions. He also served a tour of duty in Afghanistan as a defense civilian intelligence officer and ran a national program level operation. He completed his federal service at the Pentagon as the chief of sensitive activities for special operations and low-intensity conflict in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he was responsible for operations and policy for a suite of compartmented programs.

As a veteran, Alex has helped to evacuate U.S. citizens and vulnerable allies from war zones to include running ground and flight operations for the State Department in Afghanistan during the Afghan Airlift in Ukraine and most recently in Gaza. He and his teammates assisted more than 10,000 people in total.

Governor Lamont has appointed Alex to serve on the Connecticut Task Force for Afghan Refugee resettlement. He currently works as an enterprise technology executive and a national security analyst for CNN. He is also a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, where he runs the Counterterrorism Program. Additionally, he serves as a track two diplomat and recently participated in delegations to Syria and Iraq.

Alex has served as a fire commissioner and justice of the peace in the Town of Fairfield and is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and Disabled Americans Veterans. He is also a board director for Special Operations Association of America and the OSS Society.

Alex holds a certificate in emergency management from FEMA, completed his undergraduate studies in political science at American University, and attended graduate school for global security studies at John Hopkins University, all in Washington, D.C. Alex, his wife Lisa, and twin daughters Isabella and Sophia reside in Fairfield.

Michael A. Rogalsky – U.S. Army

Michael A. Rogalsky has earned widespread recognition for his leadership and dedication to veterans and the community. In 2015, he was named Connecticut State American Legion Adjutant of the Year, received the Middlesex County

Chamber of Commerce William J. Pomfret Veteran Community Service Award, and was honored by the Hartford Courant as a Hometown Hero. In 2016, Congressman John B. Larson presented him with the Fallen Star Award for his efforts in bringing the Fallen Star Memorial and the Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance to East Hartford.

Michael has devoted years to preserving veterans' history. A life member of the Greater Middletown Military Museum since 2005, he joined its board of directors in 2006 and served on the City Military Museum Building Committee, which oversaw the construction of a permanent museum that opened in 2019. He also contributed to creating a Vietnam War 50th Anniversary memorial in Middletown City Hall.

At the state level, Michael has served on the American Legion Department of Connecticut Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission since 2016 and works on the State Legislation Commission. His advocacy extended beyond veterans when, in 2018, he partnered with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and Elks Lodge #771 to return the U.S. citizenship naturalization ceremony to Middletown.

Michael also strengthened Middletown's commitment to honoring service through planning, fundraising, and installing a monument on the Veterans Green for those who served in conflicts since Vietnam. Additionally, he helped secure a memorial dedicated to Blue Star and Gold Star families, ensuring lasting recognition for service members and their families.

Everett G. Shepard III – U.S. Army

Everett G. Shepard III, a resident of Woodstock, was born in Putnam but raised and educated in many locations due to his father's career as a navy pilot. He graduated from high school in Springfield, Virginia. He served in the U.S. Army from June 1967 to October 1970, as a military intelligence coordinator at the Army Intelligence School, after which he attended Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts, graduating in 1974 with a BSBA.

He is an honorary life member of The American Legion Benson-Flugel Post 111 in Woodstock, having joined in December 1976. He served four terms as Post commander and as 4th District commander from 1982 to 1983. His department positions include Department commander (1999 to 2000) and Department adjutant (2006 to 2016). Everett was appointed national sergeant-at-arms of The American Legion on August 29, 2024, serving until August 28, 2025.

His first interest in The American Legion was the Connecticut Boys State Program, serving as a counselor since 1977. He still serves his post as adjutant and treasurer of the Tri-Town American Legion Baseball program. He continues to serve the district as judge advocate and the department as chair of the Convention and Conferences Committee and as president of the Connecticut American Legion Foundation.

Now retired, Everett worked as a computer programmer for 28 years before being hired as the Connecticut Department Adjutant in 2006. From 1983 to 2005, he served the town of Woodstock part-time on the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance. He has been a justice of the peace since 2001. He and wife Patricia have been

married since 1970 and have one son and a granddaughter. When weather and his schedule permit, he enjoys playing golf at least two times a week, preferably three or four.

Juliet A. Taylor – U.S. Army

Juliet Taylor enlisted in the U.S. Army from 2002 to 2014. She served honorably both stateside and overseas, including tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Juliet is a distinguished graduate of the Army Basic Non-Commissioned Officer course, Army Warriors and Jr. Leader course, Army Equal Opportunity Leaders Representative course, Army Field Sanitation course, Army Combat Life Saver course, Patient Administration course, Chaplain Assistant course, Army Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, Army Suicide Prevention and Awareness Program, and Army Contract Apprentice course.

Her awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medals, Army Good Conduct Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Juliet is a Class of 2022 graduate of the University of Bridgeport Master's in Mental Health Counseling Program (LPC-A) and is currently enrolled in the Doctoral Counselor Education and Supervision Program at Capella University, class of 2027. She is employed at the Connecticut Veteran Legal Center as the intake and program access specialist, working with veterans facing transitional issues, recovering from mental illness, overcoming legal barriers to housing, recovering from homelessness, military sexual trauma, and recovering from substance abuse.

She continues to serve her community through several nonprofit organizations, including AMVETS Post 43, DAV Chapter 13, DAV National Women Interim Committee, past Connecticut State Department Commander for the Disabled American Veteran (DAV); Operation Gift Cards (Advisory Council member); Female Soldier Forgotten Heroes: Home for the Braves (board member), VFW Post 10059 Trumbull, Trumbull American Legion 141, Stand Down at the University of Bridgeport since 2022.

Juliet is very instrumental in leading several veteran fundraising and recognition events. In addition, she empowers her civilian counterparts to foster patriotism and citizenship.

Pamela A. Townsend – U.S. Army

Pamela (Pam) A. Townsend retired in 2005 as command sergeant major in the U.S. Army Active/Guard Reserve. Her final assignment was Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, Massachusetts.

A member of American Legion Post 154, Pam visits veterans at Parkway Pavilion Rehabilitation. She publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, submits articles to newspapers, maintains Post 154's Facebook page, and provides updates for their website. She volunteers at the State Veterans Home assisting with bingo for residents. For the 2024 and 2025 Veterans Standdown, Pam collected and packaged items for veterans at Rocky Hill.

Since 2016, Pam has been president of the American Le-

gion Auxiliary Unit 154. In 2018, Unit 154 began hosting Wreaths Across America. Pam became a location coordinator, and her fundraising increased sponsorship and participation, making Unit 154 a top five group in Connecticut several times.

She assists at an annual Four Chaplains Mass. Pam is a 2020 recipient of the Chapel of the Four Chaplain's Legion of Honor Award.

Working with Congressman Joe Courtney's office to notify Korean War veterans about "The Ambassador for Freedom Medal" from the Republic of South Korea, she established a database and contacted over one-thousand veterans.

As public relations officer for Enfield's Veterans Council, she manages social media, news articles, and advertises veteran events. She communicates with town leadership and with Enfield's town manager to publish events on Enfield's website. Additionally, she joined the council's subcommittee for the 250th Anniversary of our nation.

Pam assisted the Enfield Town Clerk's Office in identifying and notifying Enfield's World War II veterans to celebrate the 80th anniversary ending World War II.

She is an Enfield 2023 Patriot of the Year recipient, and current member of the Enfield Patriot Award Committee, having served as secretary and chairman.

Pam has been married to Lucien Lefevre for 35 years. They have a beautiful, blended family.

Russell E. Vibberts, Jr. – U.S. Army

Russell E. Vibberts, Jr. embodies a lifelong commitment to service, rooted in a family legacy dating back to the American Revolution and the Civil War. Born in Waycross, Georgia, while his father served in the U.S. Navy, Russell was raised in the longtime family home of East Hartford.

Drafted in January 1967, Russell served with distinction as a combat infantryman in the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), 9th Infantry Division. During the 1968 Tet Offensive and the Mini Tet in May 1968, his courage under fire earned him the Bronze Star Medal with V Device, Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Valorous Unit Award.

Following his Honorable Discharge in December 1968, Russell transitioned to a successful civilian career, first as a Navy-certified welder and later as an insurance professional. As the owner of a Nationwide Insurance Agency, he achieved the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table distinction for excellence in service. In Stafford Springs, he became a pillar of the community, serving on the Board of Education, the Inland Wetlands Commission, and leading as president of both the Stafford Rotary Club and Midget Football League.

Russell's most enduring legacy is his devotion to his fellow soldiers. For more than twenty years, he chaired the 47th Infantry Regimental Association Reunion Committee. In recognition of his support, he was named a distinguished member of the 47th Infantry Regiment and received the Order of Saint Maurice and the Meritorious Public Service Medal.

Central to Russell's life is his family. He married his wife, Eileen, in 1967. While he was serving in Vietnam, their first son, Scott, was born. Upon his return, the family grew to include two more children, Christine and Eric. Today, Russ

and Eileen are the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren, continuing a proud American tradition of family and service.

Sherri L. Vogt – U.S. Army

Sherri (Clark) Vogt enlisted in the U.S. Army at 17 years old in 1986 inspired by her father's service in the 173 Airborne Brigade and her two grandfathers' service in WWI and WWII. Her mother demonstrated deep pride and patriotism that motivated Sherri to serve in the US Army.

When visiting the Berlin Wall in 1989, she was struck with a new idea: return to Connecticut and become a teacher to spread democracy. She used her GI Bill at Eastern Connecticut State University and became a history teacher. After a few years of teaching middle school and volunteering with Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts, she was asked to work in the Norwich District Office for Congressman Joe Courtney. It was in this capacity as a case worker that she honed her skills to solve problems when people were hurting during the housing crisis of the early 2000s.

Sherri's "dream job" appeared when Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty asked Sherri to lead as a liaison for veterans and military service members and families. Strong relationships were built with the Connecticut National Guard and VA Healthcare and benefit offices. Ideas for federal legislation came from casework in Connecticut and were signed by both President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump.

Listening to Blue Water veterans directly impacted the development of the PACT Act and the VA's Assistance to Caregivers Program. Working with DAV, Operation Gift Card, Take a Vet Fishing has given Sherri the viewpoint to impact volunteerism at work as the veterans liaison at Hartford HealthCare and co-chair of the Veterans and Currently Serving Colleague Resource Group. Sherri has served for more than a decade on the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Trustees. As a founder of the Veterans with Disabilities Task Force, there has been great growth in developing policy for veterans to receive life-altering care with breakthrough technology in neuromodulation.

Sherri lives in Brooklyn and serves on the town's Board of Selectmen.

"The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame celebrates the many veterans from Connecticut who have gone above and beyond in their service to our nation by continuing to contribute to our communities in so many ways, even after leaving the military," said Ned Lamont, governor of the Connecticut. "These veterans answered the call to serve our nation and then returned home to continue strengthening our state through leadership, advocacy, and civic engagement. This class of inductees reflects the values of dedication and selflessness that define Connecticut."

To learn more about the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/dva/pages/ct-veterans-hall-of-fame>



CAMP NETT UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING (UH)

Rest Easy. Train Hard. Stay Local.



Camp Nett UH provides clean, affordable on-post lodging for authorized service members and guests. Located in Niantic, Connecticut, our facilities offer a quiet, secure place to rest with convenient access to training, local amenities, and the Connecticut shoreline.



Camp Nett UH lodging is open to ALL ranks!

Space Available Rooms & Rates

(Rates per room, per night. Current as of 01 JAN 26)

- **Queen Rooms – \$50**
- **Double Twin Rooms – \$45**
- **Beach House & Suites available for ALL ranks**
(Limited availability)



Eligible Guests

- **All uniformed service members, retirees, eligible dependents**
- **Federal and state employees**
- **Gold Star family members and designated caregivers**
- **Other guests as approved by Camp Nett leadership**
Eligibility per NGR 5-1 and DODI 1015.11.

Guest Information & Amenities

- **Check-in:** 1:00 p.m.
- **Check-out:** 11:00 a.m.
- **Office Hours:** Daily 0800–1600
- **Pets:** Not permitted
- MWR equipment available (fishing gear, kayaks)
- Seasonal beach passes for East Lyme beaches available.



Reservations

Request lodging online at: campnetthousing.wordpress.com email: mil.billeting@ct.gov Phone: (860) 691 - 4314

Space available lodging is first-come, first-served. Reservations recommended.



Prepared for the storm: CTNG JFHQ Conducts Joint Task Force Staff Training Course

Timothy Koster

The Connecticut National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters' joint staff participated in a five-day Joint Task Force Staff Training Course (JSTC) at Camp Nett, Niantic Conn., Jan. 7 – 11, 2026.

The training allowed the staff to establish baseline skills necessary to execute the staff's unique mission of deploying troops in response to natural disasters and civil unrest.

"The joint staff has a high-level of turnover," said Maj. Lee Lukas, domestic operations officer in the Connecticut National Guard's joint operations center. "It's like a revolving door with new staff rotating in every couple of years. The JSTC is an introductory course that helps lay the groundwork for a good team."

This baseline training is critical for the Joint Staff to be successful in their mission, because what they do is a very niche job that isn't something the Army normally teaches, according to Lukas.

When the state faces an emergency, whether it's a natural disaster, such as the Hawthorne Brush Fire that burned more than 127 acres of woodlands a couple years ago, a pandemic, such as COVID-19, or any other declared emergency in which the governor calls upon the National Guard to assist, it's the Joint Staff's job to provide the logistical support

and manpower for that mission.

It's an important mission with real-world consequences, which makes this training so important.

Over the three days of the course, the students, who were taught by instructors from Western Hemisphere Command, learned all the nuances associated with operating a successful joint staff during a period of emergency. This included how to coordinate with other civil authorities such as the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

The course culminated with a practical exercise in which the team needed to respond to a winter storm emergency.

"In the practical exercise we used the Military Decision-Making Process to create a Common Operational Picture for [the adjutant general] for a winter storm response," said Lukas. "With that, he can better advise the governor on how the National Guard can help during the emergency."

New England is no stranger to winter storms, but with a major winter storm threatening most of the country this weekend with multiple feet of snow, the training came at a perfect time.

And while this training will undoubtedly be beneficial in the



U.S. Army Maj. Lee Lukas, domestic operations officer in the Connecticut National Guard's joint operations center, gives a period of instruction during Joint Task Force Staff Training at the Regional Training Institute at Camp Nett, Niantic, Connecticut Jan. 7, 2026.

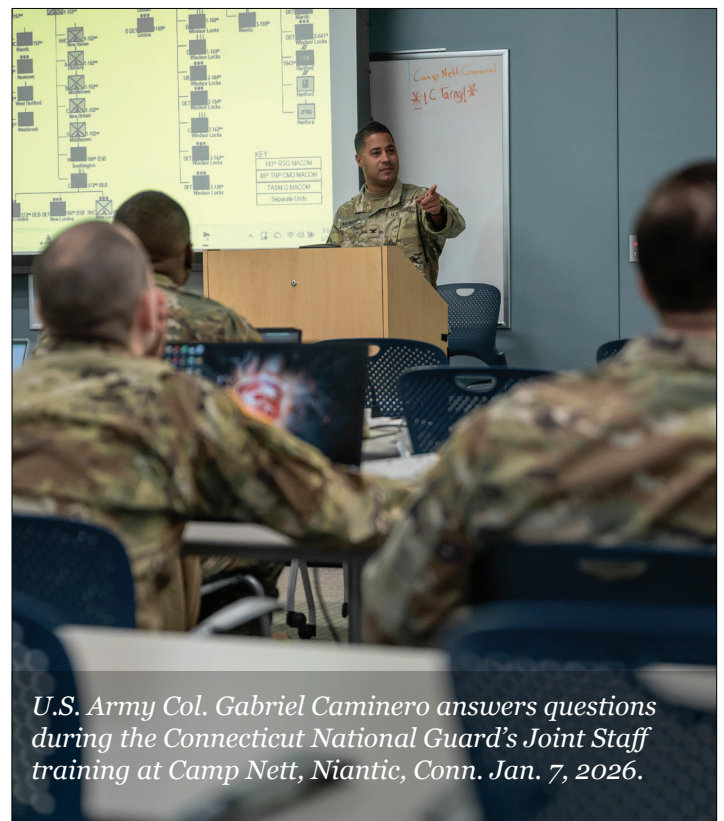
near term, Lukas is working to make this training a bi-annual requirement to ensure that future joint staffs will remain proficient and ready to aid the state when called upon.

But this training is about more than just meeting the minimum requirements for the job. It's also a prerequisite for additional training that can better prepare the organization for emergencies and operations that don't fall within the scope of normal calls for assistance.

For example, there's a Joint Planner's Course (JPC) which trains its students in strategic planning for large-scale events, such as Hurricane Katrina, should a disaster like that ever happen in Connecticut.

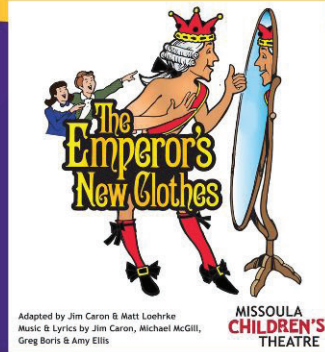
There's also the Joint Reception Staging Onward and Integration course which teaches its students how to ensure forces are effectively received, prepared, and deployed in the event of an emergency, particularly during large-scale events when the state sends out an Emergency Management Assistance Compact. An EMAC is when the state sends a formal request for additional equipment or personnel to other states because they don't have the appropriate equipment or manpower to deal with the emergency.

With the potential for unknown disaster lingering ever on the horizon, the Connecticut National Guard is taking a proactive approach to readiness, because when the state needs help, the National Guard will always be there.



U.S. Army Col. Gabriel Caminero answers questions during the Connecticut National Guard's Joint Staff training at Camp Nett, Niantic, Conn. Jan. 7, 2026.

CTNG Child and Youth Programs



MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATER

Camp

JULY 27 - 31

0900 - 1600

DROP OFF AT 0845

This program provides a wonderful opportunity for military- connected youth to build confidence, teamwork skills, and creativity while connecting with other military children.

Location

**CAMP NETT,
NIANTIC, CT**

Ages: 6 -17

*A variety of roles for all ages,
and spots for children to
work backstage too.*

Register at: <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/d3GQ8QHmMq>

**Contact Carrie Joseph at carriel.l.joseph.ctr@army.mil
860-524-4908**

Missoula Children's Theater





Connecticut Military Department Highlights

By Tucker Salls

On November 13, 2025, The Connecticut Military Department held a state employee all-call at the Bradley Air National Guard Base. Our state employees perform functions critical to the Connecticut National Guard, but they rarely get to see the operations their work supports. This event helped to connect our state team with our federal team and reminded us that we are all a part of Connecticut’s Home Team. Thank you to all who attended. Please enjoy these highlights.

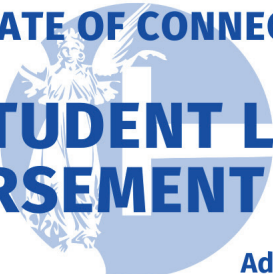
To the dedicated employees of the Connecticut Military Department, I want to personally thank each of you for your continued hard work, professionalism, and commitment to our mission. Every day, your efforts directly support the hundreds of Connecticut service members currently deployed overseas, serving our nation with honor.

While they carry out their duties abroad, it is your work here at home that ensures they are equipped, supported, and able to focus on the mission at hand. What you do matters deeply. Your contributions strengthen not only our organization, but also the readiness of our force.

Thank you for all that you do in service to our Soldiers, Airmen, and the State of Connecticut.

BG Sipples
Assistant Adjutant General





STATE OF CONNECTICUT STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Administered by the Office of Higher Education

What is it?

In 2025, the General Assembly approved the continuation of the [Student Loan Reimbursement Program](#), which is aimed at providing financial relief to Connecticut residents burdened with student loan debt. Applicants will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis and receive **up to \$5,000** of student loan reimbursement for payments made in 2025 with a \$20,000 cap over four years.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be current Connecticut residents and have lived in the state for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years immediately prior to the date on their application.

Applicants must have an outstanding student loan balance, and during 2025 have paid toward a federal direct loan, federal direct PLUS loan, federal Perkins loan, CHESLA loan or other state-sponsored student loan(s).

Applicants must have graduated from a Connecticut public or private college or university with a degree or have earned an occupation/professional license or certificate from an accredited, non-degree granting program or had withdrawn due to hardship.*

Applicants must have a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than \$125,000 for single applicants, or \$175,000 for married applicants in 2024.

Applicants must have volunteered for at least 50 hours. These hours must be completed at a [Non-Profit Organization exempt from Federal taxation \(Section 501\(c\)\(3\)\)](#), in municipal government, or through military service. Proof of volunteer service documentation must be notarized.

Stone Academy Students are not required to submit volunteer hours but must meet all other eligibility criteria. Click on the link below for more information.

Application Process

In January 2026, applicants may begin their application by navigating to the **CT SCHOLARS** portal where they'll be instructed to create an account, complete an application and upload required **documents** for acceptance consideration. [Click Here for what documents you will need to verify your eligibility.](#) Applications are not considered ready for approval until ALL documents have been submitted.

QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO OHE.SLRP@CT.GOV

* An educational hardship waiver may be requested if a degree could not be completed because of personal or family medical or financial circumstances.

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	melodycheyenne.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) 493-2797 (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	SGT Nicklaus Gleason	nicklaus.r.gleason.mil@army.mil	(860) 524-4963 (desk) (860) 883-2704 (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	Everett Carpenter	everett.e.carpenter.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	Jenn Gerrior	Jenn.gerrior.ctr@gapsi.com	(202) 987-3937 (cell)
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		www.militaryonesource.mil	(800) 342-9647
<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</i>			<i>By Appointment</i>
			(800) 858-2677
<i>Niantic Readiness Center, Camp Nett: 38 Smith Street, Niantic, CT 06357 Room 105</i>			<i>Open Thursdays</i>
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Joseph Palys	joseph.j.palys.civ@army.mil	(860) 739-1637 (desk) (860) 883-6953 (cell)
<i>Windsor Locks Readiness Center: 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096</i>			<i>Open Mondays & Tuesdays</i>
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Carolyn Kyle	carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil	(860) 394-8748 (cell)
<i>Waterbury Armory: 64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702</i>			<i>Open Tuesdays & Thursdays</i>
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)



ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON

MAY 15, 2026

AQUA TURF CLUB

11 A.M.

\$50

