



# Connecticut GUARDIAN

And Yankee Courier

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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

October 2023

## 103rd breaks ground on new aerospace facility

**Timothy Koster**  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Major Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general and commander of the Connecticut National Guard, hosted local and state legislators for a groundbreaking event at the site of the 103rd Airlift Wing's future Aerospace Support Equipment Vehicle Maintenance Composite Facility at Bradley Air National Guard Base Oct. 16, 2023.

This new \$22 million, state-of-the-art facility will replace several out-of-date buildings that were built in 1981 to hold munitions back when the 103rd flew A-10 Thunderbolts and cannot adequately support the equipment and needs of the Wing's current C-130H and future C-130J flying missions.

"Today is significant as this continues on our campaign to always be ready and always be there and we're definitely ready and postured for the future," said Evon. "The unit and our congressional delegation have fought hard over the past decade to ensure the future of the Flying Yankees. Last month we celebrated the Wing's centennial ... 14 different types of aircraft for over 100 years of continuous flying service since 1923."

Last month the Air Force and Air National Guard also named Connecticut as one of four states to receive the new C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, replacing its current fleet of C-130H aircraft. This new model of aircraft features a more spacious fuselage, more powerful engines, composite six-blade propellers, and fully digital avionics and mission computers.

The transition will also help modernize the Wing and put its fleet up to date with the active-duty Air Force which

has already completed its conversion to the J-models.

"Over the last ten years, over \$100 million has been invested into the base thanks to the hard work of our airmen and the investment of our Congressional delegation and support from the State of Connecticut as we are well positioned as a modern Wing and ready for a modern flying mission," said Evon. "As I said earlier, the Flying Yankees celebrated their 100-year anniversary and now I can clearly state the next 100 years looks very bright."

"I'd like to think a modernized maintenance facility is a lot more than that, it's a little way that we're able to show respect for the incredible things that you do on behalf of our state," said Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, who praised some of the Connecticut National Guard's most recent assignments with the COVID-19 pandemic, storm cleanup after Hurricane Isaias, and multiple overseas deployments to contin-



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general and commander of the Connecticut National Guard, local and state legislators, and representatives from the construction company break ground during a ceremony at the future site of the 103rd Airlift Wing's new Aerospace Support Equipment Vehicle Maintenance Composite Facility at Bradley Air National Guard Base, Oct. 16, 2023.

gency locations around the globe.

As one of the oldest Air National Guard units in the country, the Flying Yankees have a tradition of excellence dating back to World War 1 and the advent of aviation. This new 30,300 square foot facility is scheduled to be completed in June 2025.

### In This Issue:



CT Guard Soldier Donates Kidney to Save Father  
Page 3

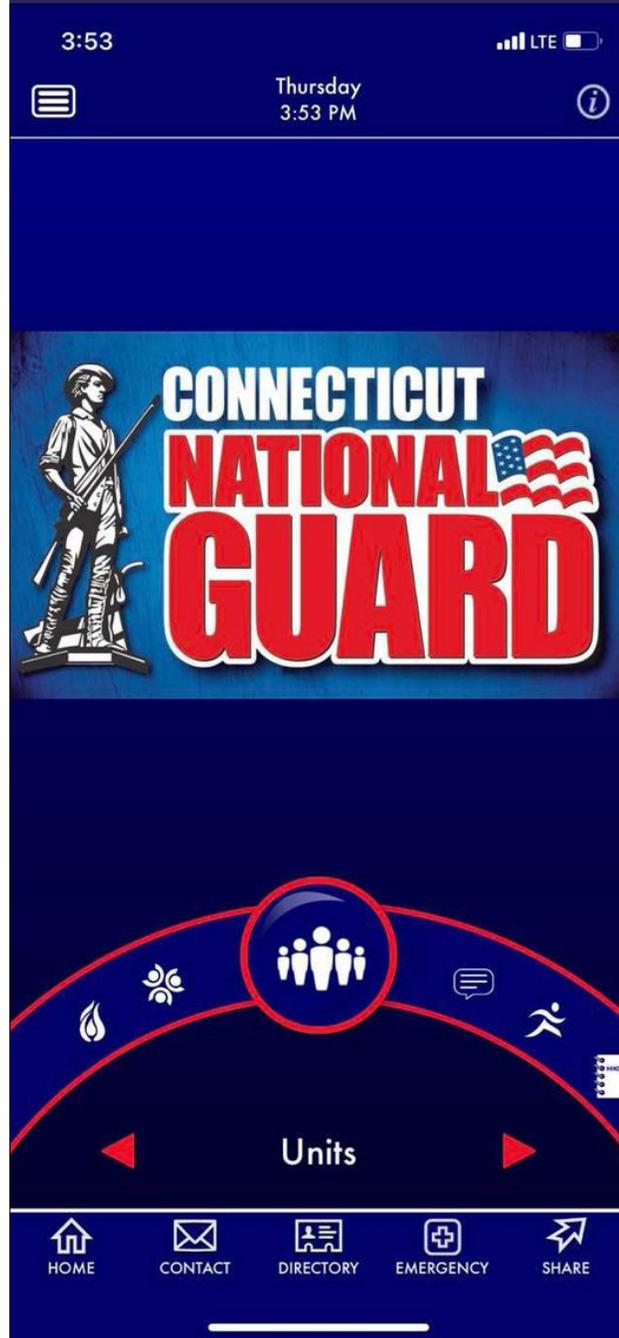


Engineers Build Holding Area for Military Detainees  
Page 4



6th RRB gets first Hispanic CSM  
Page 5

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860-524-4813.

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

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

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# Connecticut Guard Soldier Donates Kidney to Save Father

**Sgt. Matthew Lucibello**  
130th Public Affairs Detachment

HARTFORD, Conn. — For Connecticut Army National Guard Sgt. Luis Gonzalez Jr., selfless service is not just some term to throw around. Gonzalez, 28, originally from Manchester, Connecticut, works as a retail sales consultant for AT&T in Bellingham, Massachusetts. When he is not selling cell phones, he commutes back to Connecticut to serve as a motor transport operator with the 1048th Medium Transportation Company.

Gonzalez enlisted on April 5, 2018 after graduating from Eastern Connecticut State University with a bachelor's in communications.

"[Enlisting was] something I always wanted to do, I had thought of doing it back in high school," explained Gonzalez. "I figured it was time to finally do it and create my own path in the military."

His older brother, Giovanni, a motor transport operator with the Massachusetts Army National Guard, influenced his decision to join.

"He was my inspiration. Seeing what he did with the Army, following in his footsteps was my ultimate goal at the end of the day," said Gonzalez. "Seeing him in his unit and driving the trucks, that was pretty cool, I want to do that ... I want to be the guy driving those trucks."

It would not be long before Gonzalez Jr. would have the opportunity to be part of something larger than himself. Gonzalez was activated to assist in COVID relief operations. For about a year and a half, he traveled around Connecticut distributing COVID relief supplies at hospitals, vaccine sites and municipalities. Additionally, he was activated during the January 6 insurrection and called up to defend Connecticut's capital against any potential attacks.

"Being part of the bigger picture made me feel I was doing something right," explained Gonzalez. "It just felt like it was right."

However, perhaps Gonzalez Jr.'s most important action was yet to come.

Gonzalez Jr.'s father, Luis Gonzalez Sr., who struggled with diabetes since he was young, was diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease, or CKD, in 2021. Unable to find a potential donor by 2022, Gonzalez Jr. and his four siblings decided to get tested to see if they, themselves, would be able to donate an organ.

"That was a heartbreak," Gonzalez Jr. continued. "Realizing one day his kidneys will fail and no longer be here, that was a hard pill to swallow. We, as a family, came together and tried to figure out options for him."

Gonzalez Jr. was the only potential match. After hearing the news, he began the long process of becoming certified to donate his organs.

On July 3, 2023, Gonzalez Sr.'s condition deteriorated as he suffered a mild heart attack and was hospitalized for about a week due to his heart being unable to pump blood properly. The situation was looking grim. Thankfully, a few days later, a glimmer of hope broke through the clouds.

On July 7, 2023, two years after Gonzalez Sr. was diagnosed with CKD, Gonzalez Jr. was medically cleared to donate his kidney. After receiving the news, he immediately began talking to the living donor coordinator to push the surgery sooner than anticipated. Just three weeks from getting cleared, Gonzalez Jr. was able to get a surgery date.

"If I hadn't done that, he would have had to go on dialysis," explained Gonzalez Jr. "If things didn't work out the way they were supposed to, he could have passed."

The night prior to the operation, Gonzalez Jr. and his family stayed in a hotel near the hospital. Tension and nervousness filled the air.

"Is this really about to happen," said Gonzalez Jr. "I'm about to go under and come out with one less organ."

The surgery took about four hours, starting at 7:30 in the morning and ending around noon. Two surgeons worked on the pair, whose rooms were adjacent to each other. This was Gonzalez Jr.'s first major surgery. The only surgery he had prior was getting his wisdom teeth removed.

By the end of the procedure, Gonzalez Jr. had four incisions: one for the surgical instruments, one for a camera, one for the gas tube used to inflate his chest cavity so the surgical team could perform the operation, and lastly, one large incision for the removal of his kidney. Post procedure, Gonzalez Jr. rested in the hospital for three days before being released. Two days later, he wound up back in the hospital due to complications from all the medications he was given.

"I was 90% backed up," said Gonzalez Jr. "Generally sore and in pain from surgery."



Connecticut Army National Guard Sgt. Luis Gonzalez Jr., right, poses for a photo with his father, Luis Gonzalez Sr., center, and brother, Giovanni Gonzalez, left, after being promoted to the rank of Sergeant. (Courtesy photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Luis Gonzalez)

In the end, it all paid off. Gonzalez Sr. went from 4% kidney function to 80% over the span of two days following the procedure.

"I can see it in how he moves around, there is a difference," explained Gonzalez Jr. "He's a fighter for sure. He has been doing great, he has been laughing, moving around, stuff he wasn't doing before due to the stress levels he had. It is nice to see him as his old self. Hopefully, he doesn't have any other huge scares in the future but we are capable and ready if anything happens."

The next step for Gonzalez Jr. is recovery. During the operation, the surgical team cut through seven layers of his muscle. Now he can't lift anything heavier than 10 pounds and has to maintain a healthy diet. Day-to-day tasks we all take for granted, like standing and sitting, or even going up flights of stairs, now have to be done in moderation.

This will be Gonzalez Jr.'s way of life until January 2024, though he doesn't mind it so much as he now spends more time bonding with his father. The pair spend their recovery time together, mainly watching sports on TV and going out to get ice cream with other members of the family.

When Gonzalez Jr. isn't spending time with his blood family, he is spending time talking to his "military family", the soldiers and leaders of his unit, who have supported him since he informed them of his decision to donate his kidney.

"My entire unit, every single one of them, was there to comfort me," explained Gonzalez Jr. "All the way from 1st Sgt. [Alexander] Fatone, all the way down to my soldiers."

The experience has "humbled" Gonzalez Jr. It made him realize just how important family is and helped him better understand the struggles those suffering with illnesses, and the burdens the family members and friends of those struggling with those illnesses, carry. Now, he wants to make sure no one has to go through that experience alone.

"At the end of the day, if anybody is in the process of having a family member going through something exactly like this, I'll be there no matter what, even with one less kidney. I'll be there for you," said Gonzalez Jr. "My dad was a role model to me, if I can be a role model to anyone else I want to be there for people if they need me, at the end of the day."



Engineers from the 248th Engineer Company, 192nd Engineer Battalion, Connecticut Army National Guard, ready a generator to supply power to a detainee holding area under construction during annual training at Fort Drum, New York, Aug. 11, 2023. The detainee holding area was equipped with power and running water to give simulated enemy prisoners of war a better quality of life while in captivity. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew Lucibello)

## Connecticut National Guard Engineers Build Holding Area for Military Detainees

**Sgt. Matthew Lucibello**  
130th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT DRUM, New York — Soldiers push deep into enemy lines, collecting enemy prisoners of war as they go. The military police detain them and provide security over them, but where are they housed? It is our responsibility to feed them, give them water and provide shelter, as per the Geneva Convention. While the MP's can handle those first two duties on their own, building somewhere prisoners can stay...that's a job for engineers from the 248th Engineer Company (Combat Support Company).

The 248th, based out of Norwich, Connecticut, is responsible for horizontal and vertical construction. In wartime, these engineers normally use their machinery to remodel the terrain to create fighting positions for protecting soldiers and their vehicles. Likewise, they also construct fortifications or other structures, like guard towers on Forward Operating Bases. However, for this annual training, they constructed a building they had never built before.

The building, known officially as a Detainee Holding Area, or DHA, is a structure designed to provide shelter and humane living conditions for enemy prisoners of war. These facilities are typically found behind the front line, and must conform to standards laid out in the Geneva Convention. DHA's serve as a temporary stop for prisoners prior to being moved to a more secure, permanent, holding facility.

"It's supposed to be able to hold five to ten prisoners in a field environment, keep them safe, keep them out of harm's way," explained Capt. Nathan Caso, commander of the 248th Engineer Company. "Having electricity, running

water, those are some basic necessities for living in a prison environment [that enemy prisoners of war] are going to be in for some amount of time [until they can be safely transported to a more secure facility outside of the area of operations]."

Constructing this facility, however, started long before the 248th arrived at Fort Drum.

"This originated as a collaboration of efforts between [the 192nd Engineer Battalion and 192nd Military Police Battalion] under the [143rd Regional Support Group's] supervision," said Caso.

The units worked together to develop a construction plan that kept material costs low while still meeting the necessary legal requirements for this type of structure. Additionally, the plan also called for the facility to be modular, making it easy to transport, assemble and disassemble. An ideal design for a force that is expected to be mobile and at a moment's notice may need to change location. Once the plan was finalized and the materials were purchased, engineers from both the 192nd Engineer Battalion and 192nd Military Police Battalion came together and began construction.

"Our fourth platoon, in combination with the MP's vertical construction section, prefabricated most of this in Connecticut, in Norwich, right in our armory," said Caso. "So all we had to do when we got on the ground was assemble it."

The job to get the prefabricated sections to Fort Drum fell on the 1048th Medium Transportation Company, who provided a flatbed truck to move it to the training area. Once there, the engineers assembled the prefabricated sections and began construction on the rest of the facility, in-

cluding adding electricity and plumbing, to accommodate running water.

"They love it out here," said Caso. "This is exactly what they signed up to do. It is amazing to get them out and actually do that. It's been great seeing the progress they made throughout the year. We've been struggling a few years now to have a consistent source of training. It almost always requires material and that's hard to get if you don't have a justification to buy the materials. So, this is an awesome justification for that, that gets them exactly what they need, gets them doing their MOS, which is what they want to do, so they're ecstatic to be doing this."

Once complete, the DHA was then manned by soldiers from the 192nd Military Police Battalion, who utilized the facility to secure simulated detainees captured during their training, some of which were soldiers from the 248th, who filled in as simulated prisoners of war for the exercise. After operations ceased, the engineers disassembled the facility to take it back down to Connecticut, where it will be rebuilt on one the local military reservations for further training operations.

"So this building is going to continue to be a training aid for MP's down the road. It's most likely going to get put up at Stones Ranch Military Reservation, [at] one of the [Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain] sites, so the MP's can use it again," explained Caso. "Probably going to have some lumber loss, but we'll be able to reconstitute it and use it again. We're also going to switch from nail construction to screw construction so that it's [easy to disassemble] and we can potentially take it out to other places and reassemble it."



Command Sgt. Maj. Andres Quintero-Tarazona accepts the 6th Recruiting and Retention Flag from Lt. Col. Giancarlo D'Angelo, battalion commander, during a change of responsibility ceremony between Quintero-Tarazona and outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Lavallee at the Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center, Middletown, Connecticut, Oct. 20, 2023.

## 6th Recruiting and Retention Battalion gets first Hispanic American Command Sergeant Major

**Timothy Koster**  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. – Master Sgt. Andres Quintero-Tarazona was promoted to the rank of Command Sergeant Major and took responsibility of the Connecticut National Guard's 6th Recruiting and Retention Battalion from outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Lavallee during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center, Middletown, Connecticut, on Oct. 20, 2023.

Born in Colombia and later immigrating to the United States, Quintero-Tarazona's promotion and new position makes him the first Hispanic soldier to hold the Command Sergeant Major position in the Battalion's history.

A Command Sergeant Major is the senior enlisted soldier in a battalion or larger unit. They're responsible for the morale and wellbeing of their troops, and advise the commander on all issues, both internal and external.

"I love the National Guard and I'm thankful for every opportunity the National Guard has given me," Quintero-Tarazona said. "I'm excited and humbled by the trust of my leadership and the opportunity to be able to carry out this great responsibility."

Quintero-Tarazona enlisted in the Connecticut Army National Guard on March 23, 2003, as an infantryman assigned to the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment and attended basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Georgia (now, Fort Moore). He would later deploy with the 1-102nd from 2006-2007 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

He is no stranger to recruiting, however. Quintero-Tarazona's most recent assignment was as the company first sergeant for the 6th Recruiting and Retention Battalion and has experience as a section team chief, operations non-commissioned officer, and retention non-commissioned officer with the battalion. He has also earned the Expert Recruiting

Badge.

Quintero-Tarazona is replacing Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Lavallee who enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 1997 as a cannon crew member assigned to Echo Battery, 7th Field Artillery, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. He left active duty in 2001 and moved to Connecticut to work at Mohegan Sun casino as a pastry chef.

Lavallee enlisted in the Connecticut National Guard in 2004 as a member of the 134th Military Police Company out of Norwich but joined the Active Guard and Reserve soon after with the 6th Recruiting and Retention Battalion and was responsible for enlisting 157 personnel into the Connecticut Army National Guard through his first nine years before taking on higher leadership roles.

In his tenure as Command Sergeant Major, Connecticut has received multiple awards for excellence in recruiting, including being recognized multiple times by the National Guard Bureau as the best small state for recruiting and retention. Several of his recruiters would also achieve nationwide recognition for their recruiting efforts under his leadership.

"I am incredibly grateful to Command Sgt. Maj. Lavallee for his years of faithful, effective, and competent service in recruiting," said Maj. Gen. Francis J. Evon, adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard. "He has been a valued voice for insight into what is going on at the ground level in the recruiting market."

This change of responsibility ceremony also marks the end of Lavallee's military career as he transitions into retirement.

Quintero-Tarazona takes the reins during the most turbulent time in military recruiting since the Vietnam War, however, with the track record of success the 6th Recruiting and Retention Battalion has created over the past decade, the future looks bright for the Connecticut Army National Guard.



*This graphic commemorates World Mental Health Day, an annual observance on Oct. 10th that promotes mental health education, awareness, and advocacy against social stigma. Created in Adobe Illustrator to enhance awareness and pair with local and national resources for mental health resources and suicide prevention. (U.S. Air National Guard digital illustration by Staff Sgt. Sarah M. McClanahan)*

## A Comprehensive List of mental health and suicide prevention services

**Timothy Koster**  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

On Dec. 27, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Brandon Act into law as part of the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act and was later made a Department of Defense policy on May 5, 2023. The Brandon Act as named after Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Caserta who died from suicide in 2018 and creates a self-initiated referral process for service members to help identify and receive care for mental health concerns.

It's no secret that suicides and injuries from mental health related incidents have risen significantly since the beginning of the Global War on Terror. According to the annual Department of Defense report on suicides, which was released in September 2023, the rate of service member death from suicide rose from 20.3 per 100,000 in 2015 to 29. In 2020. Because of this rising epidemic, the Department of Defense has made continuous efforts, including the Brandon Act, to improve the mental health care it provides its service members and reduce the stigma associated with seeking help.

Of course, with so many resources available, it can be overwhelming to know exactly where to go to get help. So, we've compiled a comprehensive list of resources and information service members, regardless of their rank, status, or branch of service can use to seek help for their

mental health.

If you, or someone you know, is in crisis, call the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 then press 1.

### Suicide Prevention Services

- Veteran Crisis Line – Dial 988 then press 1 or text 838255
- Veterans Crisis Line (en español) – Marque 988 y luego presione uno o envíe un mensaje de texto al 838255
- Military OneSource – 1 (800) 342-9647
- DoD Safe Helpline – 1 (877) 995-5247
- Vet Center Call Center – 1 (877) 927-8387
- SAMHSA National Helpline – 1 (800) 662-4357
- Psychological Health Resource Center Live Chat – 1 (866) 966-1020
- InTransition Live Chat – 1 (800) 424-7877
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors – 1 (800) 959-8277
- Real Warriors Live Chat

### Connecticut National Guard Services

- Connecticut National Guard Chaplain – 1 (860) 548-3240
- Connecticut Behavioral Health Team
- CT Army National Guard SARC – 1 (860) 883-

4798

- 103rd Airlift Wing SARC – 1 (860) 895-3526
- CT Special Victim's Council – 1 (703) 607-2263
- Medical Military Treatment Facility (Westover) – 1 (413) 557-2623
- Navy Health Clinic New London – 1 (860) 694-4123
- Psychological Health Care Line – 1 (855) 800-0120
- Resilience, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention (R3SP) – 1 (860) 524-4926

### Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Resources

- Defense Suicide Prevention Office
- Army Resilience
- Holistic Health and Fitness
- Air Force Resiliency
- Navy Suicide Prevention
- Marine Corps Suicide Prevention
- Veteran Self-Check Quiz
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- American Mental Health Foundation

### The Brandon Act

Thebrandonact.org  
DOD Announces Implementation of the Brandon Act  
Health.mil

# WANTED

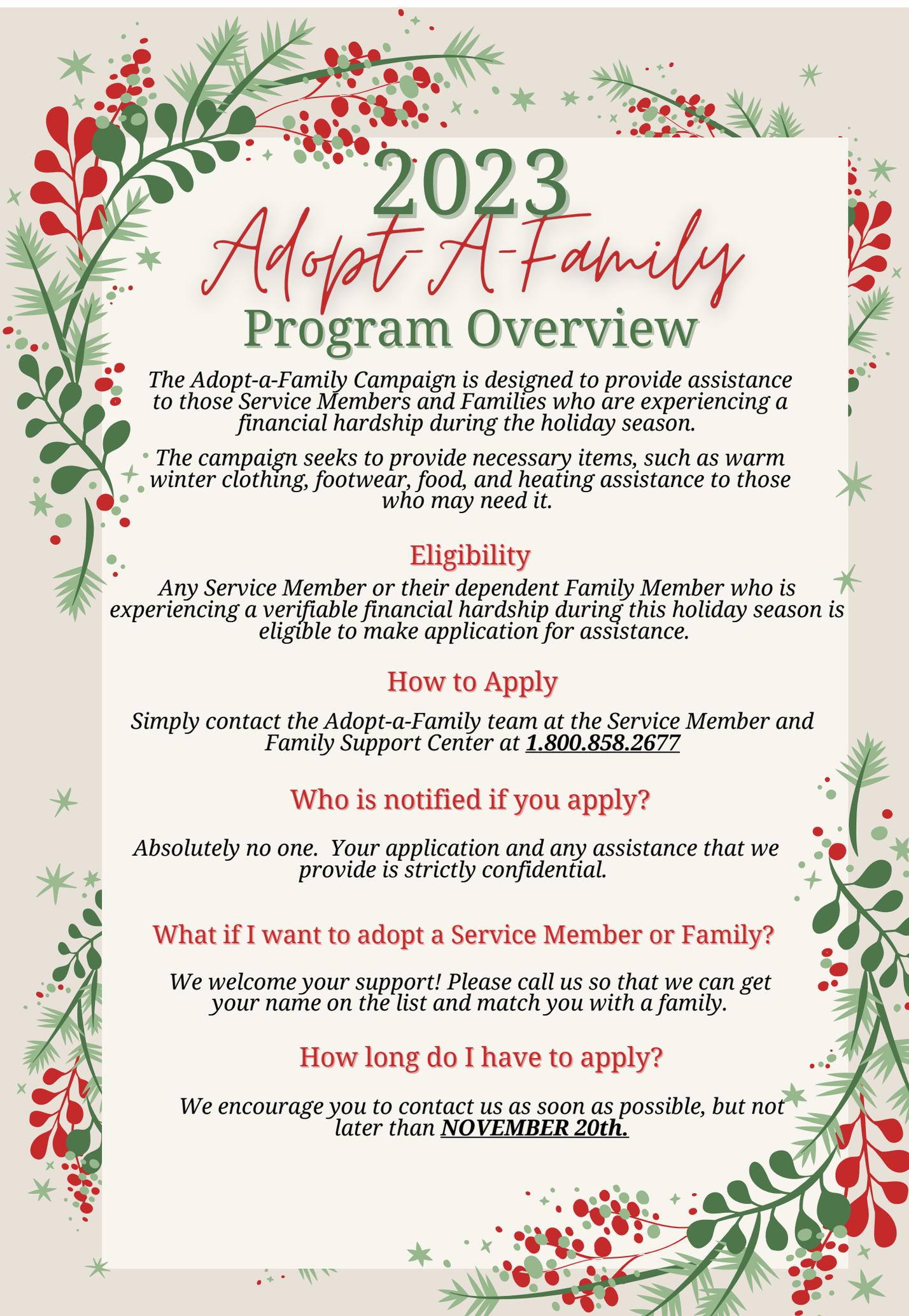
## OLD UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT



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

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

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



# 2023 *Adopt-A-Family* Program Overview

*The Adopt-a-Family Campaign is designed to provide assistance to those Service Members and Families who are experiencing a financial hardship during the holiday season.*

- The campaign seeks to provide necessary items, such as warm winter clothing, footwear, food, and heating assistance to those who may need it.*

## **Eligibility**

*Any Service Member or their dependent Family Member who is experiencing a verifiable financial hardship during this holiday season is eligible to make application for assistance.*

## **How to Apply**

*Simply contact the Adopt-a-Family team at the Service Member and Family Support Center at **1.800.858.2677***

## **Who is notified if you apply?**

*Absolutely no one. Your application and any assistance that we provide is strictly confidential.*

## **What if I want to adopt a Service Member or Family?**

*We welcome your support! Please call us so that we can get your name on the list and match you with a family.*

## **How long do I have to apply?**

*We encourage you to contact us as soon as possible, but not later than **NOVEMBER 20th.***



## The Connecticut National Guard Innovation Challenge

**Maj. Christopher Coutu**  
Contributor

Innovation is the fuel that drives progress, and the Connecticut National Guard recognizes the power of ideas – big and small. We believe in the ingenuity of our soldiers and the civilians who support them. That's why we're thrilled to introduce the Connecticut National Guard Innovation Challenge, a platform that celebrates your innovative solutions aimed at overcoming the challenges that face our organization and its members. Join us on this mission towards a better, more efficient, and stronger National Guard.

### Why Innovation Matters on the Battlefield

Innovation isn't just a buzzword; it's the force behind military success throughout history. From Sun Tzu's tactics to precision-guided missiles, military advancement results from daring to think differently and envisioning a brighter future. Now, it's your turn to be part of this military tradition, shaping the future of the Connecticut National Guard.

### Your Ideas, Our Military Might

The Connecticut National Guard Innovation Challenge welcomes both National Guard Military personnel and civilians. We believe innovation knows no uniform. Every individual, regardless of military rank or civilian status, can revolutionize our operations, enhance soldier experiences, boost retention, and improve morale. We're a collective, thriving on diverse thought and experience.

We're not looking for the next groundbreaking technology (though, if you have one, we'd love to hear about it). We want every idea, whether it's a small tweak to an existing process, motivate our troops, or an entirely new approach to an old problem. This is your chance to shine, to share your unique perspective and help create a better future for the Connecticut National Guard.

### Your Innovation, Our Mission

When you submit your innovative solution, rest assured it won't be overlooked. We

appreciate your input and will diligently review every submission. Your ideas are valuable, and we'll provide the support and resources needed to bring them to the front lines. Our goal is to deploy these innovations for greater engagement, making an immediate and lasting impact.

Innovation isn't just about generating ideas; it's about execution and change. Your innovative solution could streamline military missions, duties, and service. You're a vital part of the Connecticut National Guard's mission towards excellence.

### The Grand Finale: Innovation Challenge War Room

In January, we'll host a "Shark Tank" event to celebrate the finalists of the Innovation Challenge. This is your moment to pitch your idea to a panel who can help make your concept a military reality. The "Shark Tank" event is the culmination of your hard work and dedication to the betterment of the National Guard.

Remember, innovation is not confined to a particular field or role. It's a mindset that can be applied in every aspect of our organization. You are the visionaries, the dreamers, the change-makers who can reshape the future of the Connecticut National Guard.

### How to Join the Frontlines of Innovation

To be part of the Connecticut National Guard Innovation Challenge, request access to the CTNG Innovation channel on Microsoft TEAMS by emailing us at [CTNGInnovation@army.mil](mailto:CTNGInnovation@army.mil). To submit your idea, complete the provided form and email it with supporting information to [christopher.d.coutu.mil@army.mil](mailto:christopher.d.coutu.mil@army.mil).

This is your chance to lead from the front and make a lasting impact. We welcome your military strategies, solutions, and innovation. Together, we'll forge a stronger, more resilient, and forward-thinking National Guard. The Connecticut National Guard Innovation Challenge is your opportunity to inspire and lead our organization to new heights. Are you up for the battle?

## Connecticut National Guard Holds Cyber Nutmeg Exercise

**Maj. David Pytlík**  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. – The Connecticut National Guard, in partnership with the Connecticut Education Network, held a cybersecurity event at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, on October 20, for municipalities, state agencies and members of private industry, to include healthcare, academia, and businesses.

The event included a threat briefing from intelligence

agencies, a "capture the flag" exercise, incident response plans, tabletop exercises, and various educational sessions designed to inform and empower leaders and IT professionals.

"Cybersecurity is not just an IT concern; it is a responsibility shared by every member of each of our organizations, in every sector, and at every level," said Maj. Gen. Francis J. Evon, adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard. "It's about safeguarding our data, protect-

ing our assets, and ensuring the trust and confidence of all stakeholders. I think each of us who attended understands the importance of this given that this event tripled in size since last year."

According to Security Week, the FBI received over 800,000 cybercrime complaints in 2022, resulting in a total economic cost of over \$10 billion dollars in the United States, the highest financial cost in the last five years of data.



# CT JEEP 500

JOINT ENLISTMENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



## OVERVIEW

**CT JEEP 500 IS A CONNECTICUT MILITARY DEPARTMENT (CTMD) PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INCREASE ENLISTMENTS INTO THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD (CTNG).**

**THE CTMD WILL ISSUE A SPECIAL RECRUITING ALLOWANCE TO A RECRUITING ASSISTANT (RA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500 FOR EVERY QUALIFIED LEAD THAT ENLISTS INTO THE CTNG WITHIN 180 DAYS OF BEING ENTERED INTO CT JEEP 500. UPON SUBMITTING A LEAD, AN RA MUST ASSIST THE ASSIGNED CTNG RECRUITER BY PROVIDING THE LEAD GUIDANCE, MENTORSHIP, AND SUPPORT FROM THE DATE OF ENTERING THE LEAD INTO CT JEEP 500 UNTIL THE DATE THE LEAD ENLISTS INTO THE CTNG.**

### RECRUITING ASSISTANT ELIGIBILITY

#### ELIGIBLE

- CTNG SOLDIERS, AIRMEN, CTNG MILITARY RETIREES, AND CT MILITA MEMBERS

#### NON-ELIGIBLE

- ANY AIRMEN, SOLDIER, RETIREE OR CIVILIAN ASSIGNED OR ATTACHED TO A RECRUITING/ROTC COMMAND.
- ANY CURRENTLY SERVING CTNG IN THE GRADE OF O7 OR ABOVE.
- IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF ANY NON-ELIGIBLE PERSONS.



#### STEP 01

ENTER A LEAD INTO THE CT JEEP 500 WEBSITE

#### STEP 02

ASSIST THE ASSIGNED RECRUITER WITH THE PROCESS TO ENLIST THE LEAD INTO THE CTNG WITHIN 180 DAYS OF ENTERING THE LEAD INTO CT JEEP 500

#### STEP 03

RECIEVE A SPECIAL RECRUITING ALLOWANCE OF \$500, APPROXIMATELY 90 DAYS AFTER THE LEAD ENLISTS IN THE CTNG.



# HOLIDAY MEALS FOR MILITARY

## Eligibility Category 5:

- Post 9/11 wounded, ill or injured service member of any rank, both currently serving and those no longer serving in the military, or
- All ranks, Active Duty, Guard and Reserves, any duty status, or
- Transitioning service members within 12 months of their discharge/retirement date

**Tues. Nov. 14 | 2PM – 5PM**

**Armed Forces Reserve Center**

375 Smith St., Middletown, CT 06082

To register, scan the QR code or visit  
[MyOperationHomefront.org](https://MyOperationHomefront.org)





Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Lindsey Graham, Senate National Guard Caucus co-chairs, present Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief, National Guard Bureau, with a formal copy of Senate Resolution 308 to recognize the historic significance of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Defense National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., Sept. 27, 2023.

## Senate Recognizes 30-year State Partnership Program

**Sgt. 1st Class Zach Sheely**  
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON - After a summer marked by anniversary celebrations, the U.S. Senate formally recognized 30 years of the Department of Defense National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program Sept. 27.

In a room crowded with Guard leaders, Senate staff members and foreign counterparts, the Senate National Guard Caucus co-chairs, Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Lindsey Graham, presented the National Guard's top officer with an official copy of Senate Resolution 308 recognizing the historic significance of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the State Partnership Program.

"I can't thank you enough for your support," Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, National Guard Bureau chief, told the senators. "This program would not exist and have the great impact it has globally without the Senate's support."

The State Partnership Program began in 1993 after the collapse of the Soviet Union. As they emerged from behind the Iron Curtain, former Soviet states looked to reform their militaries and move away from a communist system toward democracy and civilian control of their armed forces.

The Guard's legacy as state militias may have appeared less provocative to Russia, and its dual missions to serve as the combat reserve of the Army and Air Force while also postured to respond to disasters at home made it the clear choice to lead these engagements.

The SPP started with 13 former Soviet states, many of which have since joined NATO. "This program has expanded in ways that have been so beneficial on both sides," Shaheen said.

During her remarks, Shaheen asked representatives from partner nations to introduce themselves, say where they're from and who their state partner is.

Latvia's defense attaché proudly announced: "Major General Andis Dilāns, Latvia, the first ever who signed a State Partnership Program with Michigan."

While the SPP was born in the Baltics, it now includes 100 nations on every continent but Antarctica, linked with the National Guard of every state, territory and the District of Columbia.

The SPP enables between a quarter to a third of U.S. security cooperation engagements — with just 1% of the security cooperation budget — making it one of the best, most valuable security cooperation programs in the world, Hokanson said.

Hokanson and Guard leaders have said they want to selectively add 30 or so more partner nations in the next decade. Recently, Finland and Sweden have expressed interest in joining the SPP.

Interest from these nations validates the SPP model, Hokanson said, particularly against the backdrop of the current conflict in Ukraine.

"Our partnerships that we're here to highlight today are just part of the evolution of the National Guard, especially looking at our relationship with Ukraine and not just the importance of it now, but over the past 30 years," Hokanson said of the California Guard's SPP pairing with Ukraine — one of the program's charter associations.

"Our Guardsmen today continue to train Ukrainian soldiers and units in Germany so they can get back into the fight," he said. "And for all our state partners that border Russia and in difficult regions of the world — as we've said from the beginning — partners are partners. We're here to help each other in every way we can."

Tangibly, Guardsmen collectively participate in more than 1,000 engagements at home and abroad with foreign counterparts every year. With partner nations in every geographic combatant command, through the SPP, the Guard is a local force with global reach.

Training engagements range from large-scale, multinational, joint exercises to small troop-to-troop subject matter expert exchanges.

Intangibly, lasting relationships are formed as U.S. and foreign troops gain an awareness and appreciation of one another's culture, homeland and way of life.

"We are bound by a shared commitment to a more stable world, and we must stand together against forces that threaten a free, open, rules-based global order," Hokanson said. "Freedom and democracy are American values — but we cannot uphold them alone.

"Our National Defense Strategy is clear: Mutually beneficial alliances and partnerships — like the SPP — are an enduring strength," he said. "And they will be more critical in the years ahead."

# Army Guard Leaders Emphasize Modernization, Partnerships, Messaging

Cpt. Jamie Mason  
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON - Army National Guard Soldiers and leaders joined together this week in Washington for the 2023 annual Association of the United States Army meeting and exposition.

The three-day event included panels led by Lt. Gen. Jon A. Jensen, director of the Army National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. John T. Raines III, command sergeant major of the Army National Guard.

“We have such a large attendance this year,” Jensen said to a room of hundreds of Soldiers, Army civilians, allied military guests and industry partners. “Thank you all for being here.”

Jensen, who has commanded at every echelon from the company to the division level, witnessed many modernization efforts but says as we look toward the Army of 2030, the Guard must continue to advance at a rapid pace.

When considering what the Army National Guard will look like in 2030 and 2040, Jensen, the 22nd director of the Army Guard, said the Guard needs to continue integrating at every level of the Army.

As the combat arms reserve of the Army, the Guard must be ready to fight alongside Active and Reserve component counterparts at a moment’s notice. Jensen said this means the Army Guard must focus on building generational readiness throughout the ranks.

“It takes a generation to create the readiness needed for large-scale combat operations,” Jensen said in his opening remarks during the Army National Guard panel. “It takes a different mindset and skill set and a level of lethality that we haven’t trained for in the Army for decades.”

To maintain a level of readiness that will allow the Guard to achieve success in any environment, whether deployed stateside or to a combat zone overseas, the panel members all agreed that leaders must continue to provide tough and relevant training to their formations.

“We must continue to maximize the effectiveness of the training events that we are doing,” said panelist Maj. Gen. Rich Johnson, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command. “From a squad at an armory on a drill weekend to an [eXportable Combat Training Capability] (XCTC) rotation, we can always be better and always be more relevant.”

In addition to unit training and XCTC rotations, units from the Army Guard, on average, complete one National



Command Sgt. Maj. John Raines, the senior enlisted leader of the Army National Guard, discusses how “Be All You Can Be” motivated him to join the U.S. Army. Raines led a panel alongside U.S. Army Reserve Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew Lombardo Oct. 9, 2023, at the AUSA 2023 Annual Meeting and Exposition.

Training Center rotation and three Joint Readiness Training Center rotations annually.

The unique nature of the National Guard allows for partnerships with governments and militaries around the globe. Just this year, the National Guard celebrated the 30th anniversary of the State Partnership Program.

Since 1993, the National Guard, in conjunction with the State Department, has been building successful relationships with partner nations. The SPP program now includes 88 partnerships with 100 countries.

“In 30 years, our State Partnership Program has come a long way,” Jensen said. “I think the program is valued within the Department of Defense, exceptionally valued within the Department of State, and it is certainly valued inside the National Guard Bureau.”

The Iowa Army National Guard recently conducted training with its state partner, Kosovo, in a HAZMAT exercise. The Maryland Army National Guard teamed up with Moldova during Exercise Rapid Trident. And the Texas Army National Guard partnered with Chile to conduct cyber training in that country.

“The program is in a much better place than it was 30 years ago, and even in a much better place than we were 10 years ago,” Jensen said.

Maj. Gen. Lapthe Flora, a panelist and senior Army Guard leader responsible for much of the success of the SPP, said the program’s future is bright and just one of the things that makes the Guard such an attractive component to serve in.

Raines, the 13th command sergeant major of the Army National Guard, led a joint panel alongside the Army Reserve’s senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew Lombardo, on the importance of Soldiers telling their story.

Raines’ story began when he joined the Army in 1989 during the height of the original “Be All You Can Be” marketing campaign. He said he still gets motivated by the slogan and is glad today’s potential recruits will know there are no limits on what a Soldier can be.

“Something got all of us to raise our hand and come in to serve our country,” said Raines. “For me, ‘Be All You Can Be’ still rings true, 34 years later.”

Raines recognized other Soldiers in the Army Guard who are being all they can be while serving their state and their country.

Master Sgt. Christopher Sehy, the Army Guard’s recruiting and retention NCO of the Year, was one of the Soldiers invited by Raines to participate in the panel.

“Every person that I talk to has a different reason for joining the Guard,” said Sehy. “But most of them all have one thing in common: They want to be all they can be.”

Jensen also weighed in on the Guard’s recruiting efforts and the importance of connecting with the next greatest generation of talent.

“It’s our obligation to reach out to the young men and young women of America and convince them that the opportunity to serve their country and their state is a valued choice in their life,” he said.

**AUSA 2023**  
ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION  
9-II OCTOBER | WASHINGTON, DC  
A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

# What's Your Story?

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

We want to help you  
tell the world!

Contact the Connecticut National Guard  
Public Affairs Office:

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

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

## LOOKING TO BE WELL PAID FOR A CHALLENGING CAREER?

### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE 1943<sup>RD</sup> CCT

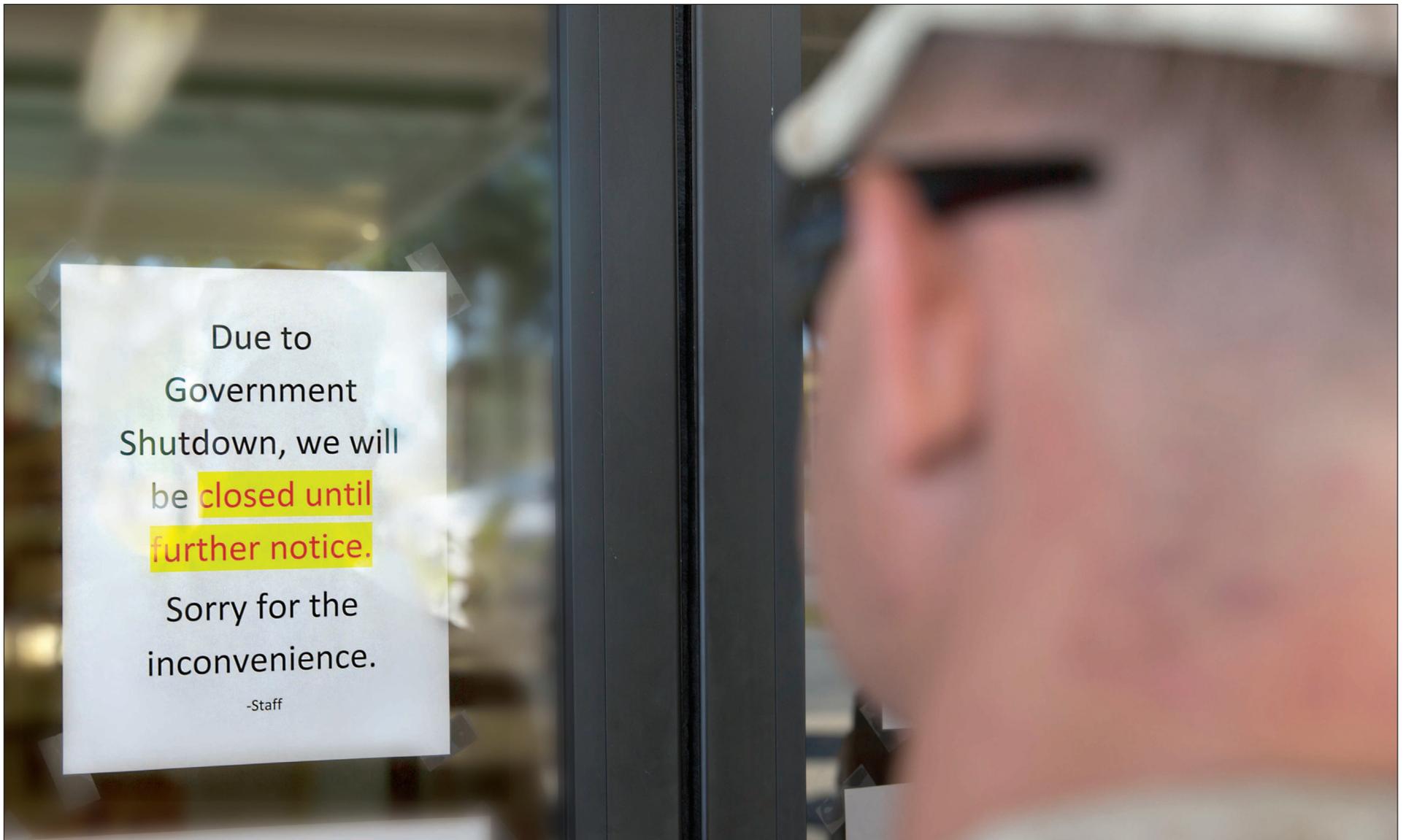
The 1943<sup>rd</sup> Contingency Contracting Team has **one vacant E-7 M-Day position, and three vacant E-6 M-Day positions**. Gain contracting experience as a 51C and become in federal contracting, for a highly in-demand career field that has open opportunities in both price and government sectors.

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

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

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





Service members are greeted by locked doors at the Harriotte B. Smith Library aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune due to a government shutdown, Oct. 1. Only operations and activities essential to safety, protection of human life and protection of our national security are authorized to remain open, and only the minimum number of civilian employees necessary to carry out those activities will be exempt from furlough. (Gunnery Sgt. Ryan O'Hare)

## Resources to Help National Guardsmen in a Government Shutdown

**National Guard Bureau Contributor**

WASHINGTON - During government shutdowns, military service members and civilians who are furloughed may miss a paycheck, although pay is typically provided retroactively. So, it's a good idea to have a plan.

Service members and families are encouraged to call mortgage and utility companies to inform them of the situation and possibly get more time to pay bills. Failure to pay without contacting the companies could harm your credit rating, so be proactive.

For additional information and support, see the following resources:

The Thrift Savings Plan will continue its normal daily operations and the ThriftLine will remain open. The TSP will post additional information on [www.tsp.gov/shutdown](http://www.tsp.gov/shutdown), if a lapse in appropriations occurs. Members can also review this fact sheet for account holders who enter administrative furlough.

Military OneSource, Personal Financial Counselors and Military Family Life Counselor services will continue to provide career, financial and non-medical counseling as these services are paid by already funded contracts.

Air Force Aid Society and Army Emergency Relief are available to T10 Soldiers and Airmen. All ANG Guard members and Reservists with emergency needs are eligible for Air Force Aid Society assistance during a government shutdown.

National Guard Military Family Readiness Staff may have additional community re-

sources or grant/loan opportunities. Please reach out to the Soldier or Airman and Family Readiness staff in your location for more information.

Furloughed employees are eligible to apply for unemployment benefits, but excepted employees working on a full-time basis are generally not eligible. Employees who wish to file should do so with the unemployment office for the state where the employee worked (i.e., last official duty station prior to furlough). Please be advised, however, that when employees receive retroactive pay, they will be required to pay back any unemployment benefits they received, in accordance with state law. For more information, see OPM guidance and the U.S. Department of Labor's Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees.

Several banking institutions, such as USAA, Navy Federal Credit Union, and Marine Federal Credit Union, have been known to advance military pay to their customers during government shutdowns. Contact your bank to inquire about their policies.

The Defense Health Agency has authorized its TRICARE contractors to continue delivering health care to its 9.4 million beneficiaries. TRICARE beneficiaries seeking medical care from private providers should feel no significant effects. Care at military hospitals and clinics would remain largely unaffected. The TRICARE website includes current information about the impact of the shutdown on TRICARE health plans and military hospitals and clinics.

Contributing: Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs



**The CTNG Child and Youth Program and the  
CTNG Foundation Invite You To The**

*Service Member and Family*

*Dinner Dance*

*There will be a pasta dinner, music, dancing, and a  
family craft.*

*Saturday, November 18, 2023*

*5 o'clock to 8 o'clock*

*Doors will open at 4:30pm.*

*Southington Armory*

*600 Woodruff St. Southington, CT 06489*

Register at <https://ctng-familydinnerdance.eventbrite.com>

Password - CTNGFamily23

Family ticket (up to 4 members): \$20 Individual Tickets: \$6

Payment Prior to Event: Cash or

Venmo: @CTNGFI Please note it's for the Dinner Dance with your phone  
number





Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen H. Hicks recognizes the Guam National Guard's suicide prevention efforts at the Department of Defense's annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Recognition Ceremony in the Pentagon Hall of Heroes, Sept. 6, 2023.

## National Guard Committed to Suicide Prevention Year-round

**Master Sgt. Erich B. Smith**  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Guard's commitment to fighting suicide remains steadfast, according to Guard officials, and goes beyond September, which the Department of Defense recognizes as National Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month.

Army Lt. Col. Crystal Huff, chief of Warrior Resilience and Fitness for the National Guard Bureau personnel division, said that committing a month to generate awareness about suicide prevention underscores the profound connection between people and mission success.

"People [are the Guard's] No. 1 asset," she said. "When you show people they matter, and they feel valued, that leads to a healthier force. So, there's a direct link between taking care of people and increasing readiness."

But that mindset, she added, shouldn't be confined to a month.

"The great thing about September is that we're able to talk about it, amplify it and magnify the importance of it," said Huff. "But we must make time to connect throughout the year."

The Guam National Guard set a compelling example of strengthening bonds by weaving the Defense Suicide Prevention Office theme "Connect to Protect" into a tapestry of impactful campaigns, outreach events, resources and educational initiatives.

One such event, "Chalk the Walk," invited Guam Guard families to inscribe uplifting messages in chalk, fostering a supportive atmosphere. During the holiday season, their "Combat the Holiday Blues" campaign raised awareness through strategic promotional materials at various events.

More recently, coordinators and senior leaders helped inspire nearly 500 Guam Guard members to submit messages on "strength cards" that were used during a prayer breakfast.

"Our programs and initiatives stress that support comes from all levels and that we must all work together to protect ourselves and each other while combating the stigma around seeking help for mental health and suicide," said Guam Guard suicide prevention coordinators.

Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks recognized the Guam Guard's suicide-prevention efforts at a Pentagon ceremony.

"Our honorees' work on suicide prevention has been more than conceptual," Hicks said at the Sept. 6 event. "They've launched campaigns to get the word out on life-changing information. They've organized outreach events to increase awareness. They've helped match people to the community support systems that best suit their needs. And they've nurtured connectedness at every level — from individuals to the squadron, command and battalion levels — to help save lives."

The Guam Guard is not alone in its fight against suicide. In addition to hosting year-round events, Guard units na-

tionwide are implementing training to make lethal means less accessible and less likely to cause death — a critical step to save lives in a mental health crisis event, according to Defense Department officials.

"So, because some of the other states have done that [training] and shown success, we've elevated that program now to the national level, and we're going to try to roll it out to others," Huff said.

She said making connections remains paramount in fighting suicide, starting the first day Soldiers and Airmen begin their military journeys.

"We have to build that connection from the beginning — from the time a service member joins the ranks to the moment they leave," she said.

In a recent public service announcement, Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, SEA to the chief of the National Guard Bureau, challenged Guard members to always look out for each other.

"Would you know if the Soldier or Airman standing next to you needs help?" he asked. "I strongly encourage you to reach out to a battle buddy or wingman and let them know they matter. Seek help when you need it because a healthy force is a mission-ready force."

If you or someone you know is in crisis, contact Military and Veterans Crisis Lines. Dial 988, then press 1. For non-crisis help, visit <http://militaryonesource.mil> or call 1-800-342-9647.

# NOT FEELING LIKE YOURSELF?

## REACH OUT. STAY MISSION READY.

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

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

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

### Psychological Health Resource Center

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

### Military Crisis Line

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

REAL WARRIORS ★ REAL BATTLES  
**REAL STRENGTH**

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

MHS

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

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

## Sexual Assault Response Coordinators

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

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

## Chaplain and Legal

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

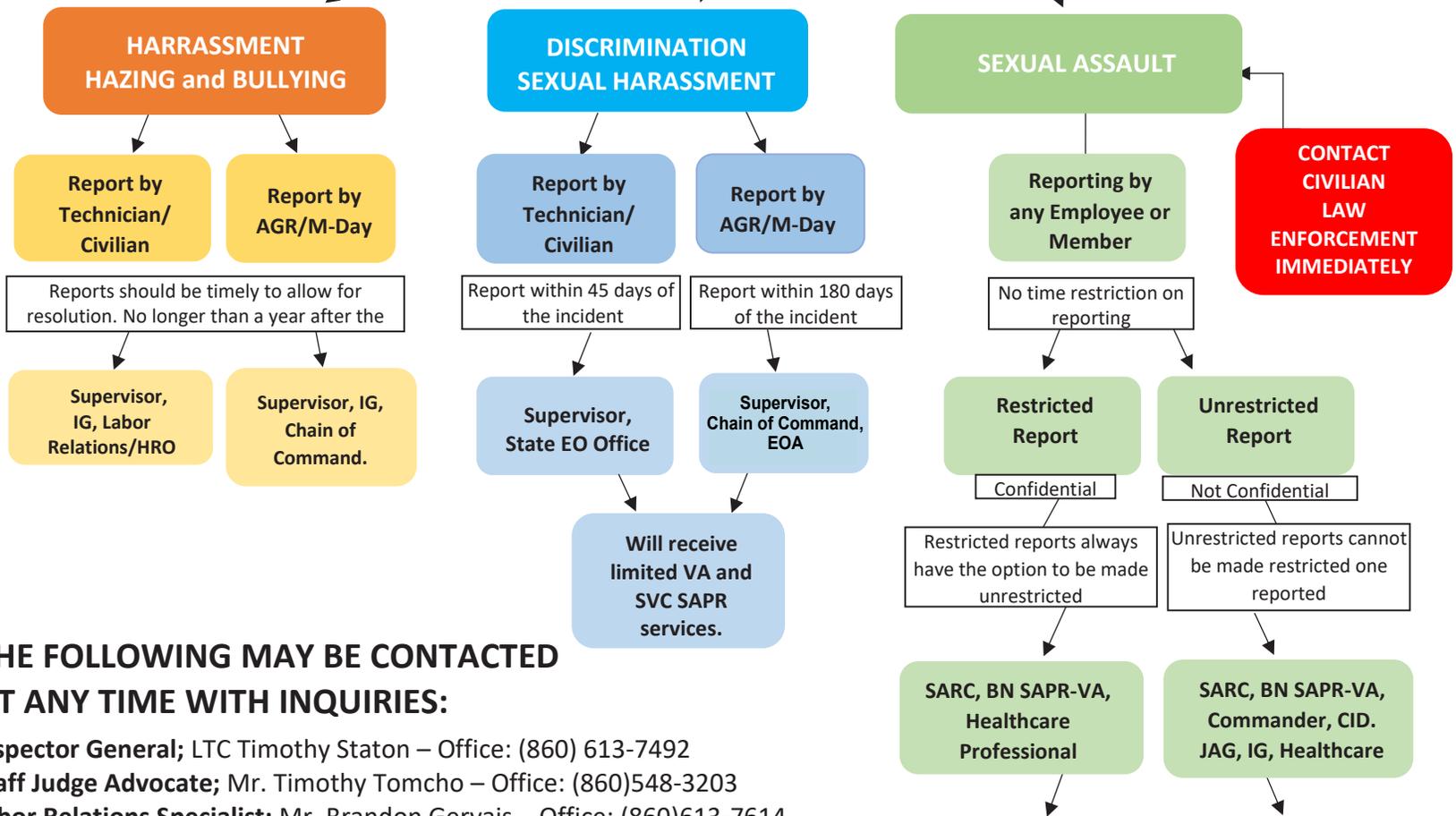
**CT Special Victim's Council** ..... 703.607.2263

## Medical

**Military Treatment Facility (Westover)** 413.557.2623

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

### CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD REPORTING OPTIONS



Survivors can refuse to participate in any legal investigation if Command becomes aware of the assault – Does not automatically convert to an Unrestricted report.

### THE FOLLOWING MAY BE CONTACTED AT ANY TIME WITH INQUIRIES:

- Inspector General;** LTC Timothy Staton – Office: (860) 613-7492
- Staff Judge Advocate;** Mr. Timothy Tomcho – Office: (860)548-3203
- Labor Relations Specialist;** Mr. Brandon Gervais – Office: (860)613-7614
- State Equal Opportunity Office;** Ms. Tasha Dow – Office: (860)613-7610
- Sexual Assault Response Coordinator;** Mrs. Katherine Maines – Office (860)613-7611; Cell: (860) 883-4798
- State Chaplain;** Lt Col Wismar – Officer; (860)548-3240; Cell: (860)883-5278

# WOCS/OCS INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE



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

**28 JAN 2024** **25 FEB 2024**  
**Camp Nett** **Camp Nett**  
**rm 1112 & 1113** **10am - 12pm**  
**@RTI BUILDING**

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





**Climb the Ranks  
with the  
New Soldier Referral  
Program**

**E-4**

**E-3**

**E-2**

**E-1**

**STRIPES FOR BUDDIES**

**ALL CONNECTICUT  
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS**

**\* ADVANCE ONE ENLISTED GRADE PER REFERRAL**  
(Not to exceed the grade of E4)

**\* AWARDED THE ARMY RECRUITING RIBBON**  
(Up to 4 times)

**\* PROMOTION POINTS FOR ARMY RECRUITING  
RIBBON**

(Soldiers will be awarded 10 points toward promotion to SGT/SSG  
Up to 40 promotion points for four valid referrals during their career)

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



Scan for  
Guidelines  
&  
Qualifications



Scan to  
Refer  
Someone  
to the  
CTARNG

 <b>Service Member and Family Support Center Staff Directory</b> 			
<b>William A. O'Neill Armory: 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Open Monday-Friday</b></span>			
Director, Service Member and Family Support Center	<b>Kimberly Hoffman</b>	<a href="mailto:kimberly.j.hoffman.civ@army.mil">kimberly.j.hoffman.civ@army.mil</a>	(800) 858-2677
Lead Military and Family Readiness	<b>Melody Baber</b>	<a href="mailto:melodycheyenne.c.baber.civ@army.mil">melodycheyenne.c.baber.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 548-3276 (desk) (860) 883-2515 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Carolyn Kyle</b>	<a href="mailto:carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil">carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4920 (desk) (860) 394-8748 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Michelle McCarty</b>	<a href="mailto:michelle.m.mccarty4.civ@army.mil">michelle.m.mccarty4.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 548-3254 (desk) (860) 883-6953 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Jason Perry</b>	<a href="mailto:jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil">jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4897 (desk) (860) 655-9288 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Linda Rolstone</b>	<a href="mailto:linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil">linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4963 (desk) (860) 680-2209 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Kelly Strba</b>	<a href="mailto:kelly.a.strba.civ@army.mil">kelly.a.strba.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 548-3283 (desk) (860) 500-3813 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Rich Timberlake</b>	<a href="mailto:richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil">richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 493-2797 (desk) (860) 500-3189 (cell)
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator	<b>Carrie Joseph</b>	<a href="mailto:carrie.l.joseph.ctr@army.mil">carrie.l.joseph.ctr@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4908 (desk) (860)-883-6934 (cell)
Military OneSource Consultant	<b>Scott McLaughlin</b>	<a href="mailto:scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com">scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com</a>	(860) 502-5416 (cell)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Volunteer Support Technician	<b>Everett Carpenter</b>	<a href="mailto:everett.e.carpenter.ctr@army.mil">everett.e.carpenter.ctr@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4970 (desk)
Personal Financial Consultant	<b>Jafor Iqbal, ChFC®</b>	<a href="mailto:pfc.hartford@magellanfederal.com">pfc.hartford@magellanfederal.com</a>	(203) 233-8790 (cell)
State Support Chaplain	<b>Lt Col Eric Wismar</b>	<a href="mailto:eric.a.wismar.mil@army.mil">eric.a.wismar.mil@army.mil</a>	(860) 548-3240 (desk) (860) 883-5278 (cell)
Transition Assistance Advisor	<b>Fausto Parra</b>	<a href="mailto:fparra-c@gapsi.com">fparra-c@gapsi.com</a>	(203) 219-8573 (cell) (202) 987-3942 (office)
Connecticut Military Relief Fund	<b>Russell Bonaccorso</b>	<a href="mailto:russell.bonaccorso@ct.gov">russell.bonaccorso@ct.gov</a>	(860) 524-4968 (desk)
<b>Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center: 375 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Open Mondays &amp; Wednesdays</b></span>			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Carolyn Kyle</b>	<a href="mailto:carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil">carolyn.r.kyle.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4920 (desk) (860) 394-8748 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Jason Perry</b>	<a href="mailto:jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil">jason.t.perry.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 524-4897 (desk) (860) 655-9288 (cell)
<b>Niantic Readiness Center: 38 Smith Street, Niantic, CT 06357</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Open Thursdays</b></span>			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Michelle McCarty</b>	<a href="mailto:michelle.m.mccarty4.civ@army.mil">michelle.m.mccarty4.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 548-3254 (desk) (860) 883-6953 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Linda Rolstone</b>	<a href="mailto:linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil">linda.b.rolstone.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 739-1637 (desk) (860) 680-2209 (cell)
<b>Windsor Locks Readiness Center: 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Open Fridays</b></span>			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Kelly Strba</b>	<a href="mailto:kelly.a.strba.civ@army.mil">kelly.a.strba.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 292-4601 (desk) (860) 500-3813 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	<b>Rich Timberlake</b>	<a href="mailto:richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil">richard.k.timberlake.civ@army.mil</a>	(860) 493-2797 (desk) (860) 500-3189 (cell)
<b>103rd Airlift Wing: 161 Rainbow Road, East Granby, CT 06026</b>			
Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager	<b>Selva Cabrera</b>	<a href="mailto:selva.cabrera.1@us.af.mil">selva.cabrera.1@us.af.mil</a>	(860) 292-2730 (desk) (860) 734-7482 (cell)
Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist	<b>Roberto A. Rodriquez III</b>	<a href="mailto:roberto.rodriquez.43.ctr@us.af.mil">roberto.rodriquez.43.ctr@us.af.mil</a>	(860) 292-2772 (desk) (860) 819-4636 (cell)
<b>Waterbury Armory: 64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702</b>			
Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator	<b>Reisha Moffat</b>	<a href="mailto:reisha.a.moffat.ctr@army.mil">reisha.a.moffat.ctr@army.mil</a>	(860) 883-6949 (cell)
Military OneSource Consultant	<b>Scott McLaughlin</b>	<a href="mailto:scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com">scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com</a>	(860) 502-5416 (cell)

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