



Connecticut GUARDIAN

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November 2023

CTNG assists with the interment of six unclaimed veteran cremains

Tim Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. – The Connecticut National Guard's funeral honors team worked alongside the state's Department of Veteran Affairs and the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association to celebrate the lives and inter the cremains of six Connecticut veterans at the state veteran's cemetery, here, Nov. 3, 2023.

The six veterans honored were U.S. Army Technician fifth grade Wilfred A. Carpentier (Dec. 6, 1917 – April 27, 1976), U.S. Army Cpl. Robert L. Coston, Sr. (Oct. 27, 1938 – Nov. 12, 2014), U.S. Navy Fireman Apprentice Michael Joseph Gruttadauria, Jr. (Sept. 25, 1948 – Nov. 28, 2021), U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Joseph Henry O'Brien, II (Jan. 25, 1937 – Aug. 13, 2021), U.S. Army Sgt. Bernice Greenstreet Record (Nov. 1, 1923 – Sept. 9, 2007), and U.S. Army Air Corps Pvt. Roland H. Record (Dec. 19, 1927 – Nov. 10, 1998).

Bernice Record and Roland Record were a married couple.

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in service of our great country can never be repaid," said Brig. Gen. (ret.) Ron Welch, commissioner of the department of veteran's affairs. "They have earned the undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

This was the ninth such ceremony these organizations have hosted since 2009 when the state passed a law requiring funeral homes to identify if any of their unclaimed cre-

mated remains are those of U.S. service members so they can receive the military funeral honors they're entitled to.

"This can happen for a variety of reasons," said Lionel Lessard, president of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association. "After a cremation, a memorial service, or funeral service, sometimes the family or friends do not return to claim their loved ones. It's not very common, but it does happen."

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

"We make a statement by being here that we refuse to forget, we refuse to abandon any man or woman who has worn the uniform and served this country," said U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

"Freedom is not free," said Connecticut Governor Ned



A member of the Connecticut National Guard funeral honors team places the cremains of Pvt Roland H. Record in his final resting place during a ceremony hosted by the state's Department of Veterans Affairs at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown Nov. 3, 2023.

Lamont. "That's why we never forget. We are their family."

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

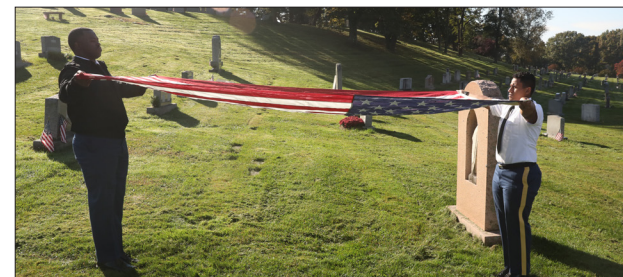
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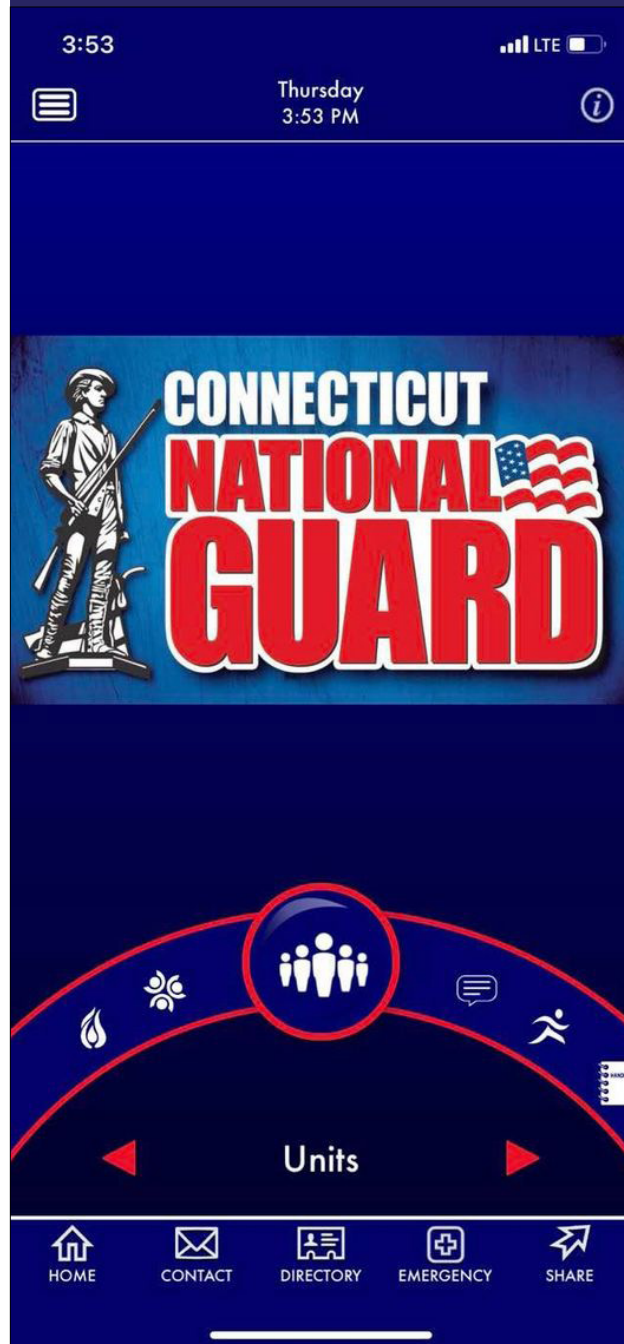


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To change your home of record, please do one of the following:

Retirees: Contact

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

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

*Any further questions or concerns about the
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130th Public Affairs Det., CTARNG

First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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Sgt. Stubby display unveiled in the NGB's new 1636 room

Tim Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The Connecticut National Guard unveiled a new Sgt. Stubby display in the National Guard Bureau's new heritage room in Patton Hall at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia, Nov. 1, 2023.

The room was named the 1636 Room as a tribute to the year the National Guard, America's first organized military, was founded and all the traditions and heritage that carry on nearly 400 years later.

"The 1636 Room is a tribute to that tradition, a commemoration of a force unlike any other—one that continues to have an impact as 20% of the Joint Force and continues to shape the course of history," said Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, during the ceremony unveiling the exhibit Nov. 1.

"When I travel across the 54, I always ask to see their heritage rooms," said Hokanson. "A lot of them are pretty amazing and what they do, is they capture the history of that unit and the people and the community that created that unit and its history. [What] makes this one unique is we try to capture that for the 54 and really our historical team has done incredible work to look at our history from the National Guard going back to the beginning."

The National Guards of each of the 54 states and territories were asked to submit a display or artifact that best represents that state's military history. Connecticut has a storied history that dates back to before the Revolutionary War and boasts many crowning achievements that would be valuable additions to the 1636 room, but Sgt. Stubby is probably the most famous and a favorite among Connecticut National Guard troops.

The display was designed and built by a team of Connecticut National Guardsmen, including: Lt. Col. Steve Landry, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Damon, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Shadlich, Sgt. Blake Dominello, and Sgt. Ricardo Alavezeveros.

Sergeant Stubby was a Boston Terrier who wandered onto the campus of Yale University in 1917 as members of the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment mustered and prepared to deploy to Europe during World War I. There, a young Corporal named James Conroy befriended the pup and smuggled him onto the boat the troops were using to sail to France.

Stubby served alongside the 102nd for 18 months and participated in more than 17 battles over four different offensives, including the United States' first major engagement at the Battle of Seicheprey, France. In that battle, he was injured and sent to the rear where he recovered and helped improve the morale of wounded Soldiers.

When he returned the front line, he was provided a specially designed gas mask to

protect him from the German military's mustard gas attacks. Because of his acute hearing and sense of smell, Stubby became a vital asset to the Connecticut Guard Soldiers as he could warn them of impending gas and mortar attacks before the humans were aware of the threats. He earned the rank of sergeant when he single-handedly (pawedly?) captured a German spy in the Argonne.

Stubby was not only beloved by the men of the 102nd. After the U.S. forces retook Chateau-Thierry, a commune in the department of the Aisne, province of Champagne, France, the women of the town made him a chamois with all his patches and medals sewn on. By the end of the war, Stubby had been injured three times from either mustard gas or grenade shrapnel, but he and Cpl. Conroy returned home at the end of the war.

After the war, Stubby was a celebrity. He met Presidents Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, and Warren G. Harding and led and marched in parades around the country. He was awarded the Humane Education Society's gold medal from Gen. of the Armies John Pershing and became Georgetown University's mascot and performed shows at halftime.

Stubby passed away peacefully in his sleep in 1926. His body was preserved through taxidermy and is currently on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in its Price of Freedom: Americans at War exhibit.



Major Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Fredericks, senior enlisted advisor, stand in front of the new Sgt. Stubby display at the National Guard Bureau's heritage room in Arlington, Virginia.



Connecticut Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Nikola Tili, left, and Connecticut Air National Guard Tech Sgt. Michael Choothesa, right, mission systems operators assigned to the 103d Air Control Squadron, monitor radar and electronic systems to assist friendly aircraft conduct Defensive Counter-Air Operations during a training exercise at Orange Air National Guard Station, Orange, Connecticut, Oct. 31, 2023. The 103d Air Control Squadron routinely supports pilots conducting flight training out of Atlantic City Air National Guard Base, Barnes Air National Guard Base and Vermont Air National Guard Base. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew Lucibello)

Connecticut Air Guard unit completes MSO Conversion

Sgt. Matthew Lucibello
130th Public Affairs Detachment

ORANGE, Conn. — The 103d Air Control Squadron of the Connecticut Air National Guard is the first unit in the National Guard to have completed the mission systems operator, or MSO, conversion and will also be part of more modernization efforts including testing cutting edge equipment like the Tactical Operations Center - Light and the TPY-4 radar as the Air Force and Air National Guard look over the horizon and ready themselves to be able to respond to any potential future conflict.

According to their website, the unit, based in Orange, provides “air battle management, radar surveillance, air space control, and long haul communication capabilities to plan and execute combined air operations, air superiority and air strike ground attack operations. Additionally, the 103d ACS provides state authorities with a dedicated force ready to react to local and national emergencies.”

To conduct air battle management, radar surveillance and airspace control, the 103d ACS relies on a team of highly proficient air battle managers, or ABM’s, weapons directors, or WD’s and mission systems operators, or MSO’s, within their command and control section, led by Connecticut Air National Guard Maj. Seth Bopp.

The MSO position is a newly created specialty that combines and streamlines three separate technician fields: surveillance technician, air surveillance technician and interface control technician.

The majority of the MSO’s within the 103d ACS were formally one of these three positions.

Additionally, the 103d ACS laid the foundation for all

future MSO’s within the Air National Guard as they were the ones who created a training curriculum, which once approved, became the standard operating procedure for the MSO conversion training.

“We authored the syllabus for the [MSO] conversion and sent it to NGB for approval,” said Bopp. “It’s being used as a template for all ten Air National Guard CRCs (Control and Reporting Centers) [during the conversion].”

Despite the position being in its infancy, the 103d ACS has its operators constantly training using simulations designed to mimic real world conditions. Additionally, the MSOs are completely integrated with the ABM’s and WD’s within the section, which enhances unit cohesion and facilitates a better understanding of their role in command and control.

When they aren’t training, these MSO’s, ABM’s and WD’s work around the clock supporting pilots out of regional air bases such as Atlantic City Air National Guard Base, Barnes Air National Guard Base and Vermont Air National Guard Base as they conduct real-world flight operations.

“Airmen here are not just training for contingency operations; we have operators controlling live-fly events weekly,” said Connecticut Air National Guard Major Katriina Clegg, the 103d ACS Commander. “I am impressed with their dedication to the mission and the hard work they put in daily.”

One such operation took place on Oct. 31, as F-15 aircraft out of Barnes Air National Guard Base conducted a simulated Defensive Counter-Air Operations mission. During this operation, MSO’s, ABM’s and WD’s from the

103d ACS monitored and analyzed radar returns to inform friendly pilots of a flight of incoming opposing force aircraft. After identifying the aircraft to be hostile fighters, the team from the 103d ACS determined the type of aircraft the simulated enemy were flying, their combat capabilities and their objective within the 103d ACS’ airspace. Following this initial situation report, operators from the 103d ACS kept friendly pilots informed throughout their dogfights by constantly updating them with changes in enemy activity. This persistent filtering and dissemination of information gave our aviators the upper-hand and enabled them to come out on top without any casualties during their defense.

In addition to providing operators to support flight training, the 103d ACS also routinely deploys on its own and or to augment active duty command and control units when needed, usually in the event a unit needs additional manpower. For the airmen of the 103d ACS, this historically has meant deploying boots on the ground to the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility, or CENTCOM. However, in some cases, airmen are able to accomplish their mission by controlling airspace in theater from command and control centers stateside.

Notably, the 103d ACS was the first, and last, Air Force unit to control airspace over Afghanistan during the Global War on Terror. The unit first controlled airspace over the country after being transferred the responsibility from the U.S. Marine Corps in 2003, and lastly, during the Kabul Airlift in 2021. Throughout that deployment, the 103d ACS controlled a 4.1 million square mile area of responsibility.



The First Company Governor's Foot Guard 2023 Warm Coat Drive

Connecticut's First Company Governor's Foot Guard is hosting a coat drive to spread some warmth to those in need this winter. The unit is accepting coats of all sizes: adults, children, toddlers, and babies. Any used coats must be clean and wearable. They cannot be torn, stained, or dirty.

If you're unable to donate a coat but want to contribute, the unit has also created a fundraising page on the One Warm Coat website. One Warm Coat is a national cloud-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN 74-3045243) that provides free coats to children and adults in need.

Please contact Lt. Brittany Franco at 1GFG.Franco@gmail.com to arrange a drop off/pick up of coats or for the link to the fundraising website.



Honoring Those Who Served

Staff Sgt. John Randall
130th Public Affairs Detachment

WATERBURY, Conn. (Nov. 8, 2023) - Honor is one of the core values of the Army, and it is the foundation of what makes up the commitment of the funeral honors team in the Connecticut National Guard.

"After being on the team for a while," says Army Spc. Malik Goethe, member of the Connecticut Honor Guard, "I really found the honor in this job and just the respect for the family and the deceased."

Soldiers conducting the honors go through hours of training. "Level one training is a 40-hour course," says Sfc. Anthony Ricco, Operations NCO for the Connecticut Honor Guard, "Instructors go onto another 80-hour train the trainer course."

"There's a lot more honor behind doing everything that we do," says Sgt. Alex Rivera, member of the Connecticut Honor Guard, "Behind the ceremonies, behind the practices, behind the preparation of the uniform."

"We do a lot of training," Goethe says, "We train multiple times a week, if we have down time we're conducting training; folding flags, conducting funerals, and just practicing all the time."

"Everyday there's training," says Rivera, "Folding the flag, seeing where we're going to stand, hand placements, eye contact, small subtle movements that we can communicate with each other during the ceremony others might not notice."

Funeral honors consist of firing parties, the playing of taps, the folding of the flag, and presentation of the flag to the family.

Last year the team conducted 1,531 funerals, and assisted with 2,885 firing parties. The firing parties consists of the volunteers with veterans organizations like the American Legion and Marine Corps League. In Connecticut, all veterans receive a firing party.

"We really do this for the family," says Goethe, "We don't wear name tapes specifically because it's not for us; it's for the family."

"I say it's something to be proud of," says Rivera, "It's not everybody that gets to do something so beautiful for other people. When you finally get to do the service, when you hand the flag over to the person and you look in their eyes and you tell them how much it is appreciated that their loved one served, it really does get to your heart."



Sgt. Alex Rivera and Spc. Malik Goethe, Connecticut Honor Guard, practice transitioning the flag after conducting funeral honors on Oct. 19, 2023. The Connecticut Honor Guard conducting nearly 1,600 funeral honors last year.

Retiree Voice – Gray Area Retirees.

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

Gray Area Retirees are members who served in the Guard or Reserve who are qualified for retired pay. They have retired from their service but are not yet reached the age where they can start receiving retired pay. The time retirement from the service and the date when they can begin to receive retired pay is called the "gray area." The "gray area" applies even if the member is in the Retired Reserve.

A new kind of myPay account especially for Gray Area Retirees, has been created to help Gray Area Retirees to stay connected and informed until they start receiving retirement pay. This basic "Future Retiree" myPay account provides a convenient way to keep contact information current with DFAS during the gray area period, and receive important information from DFAS and from Army. If DFAS has a Gray Area Retiree's current contact information, the retiree will be kept informed about changes in policy or the law that may affect them. Retirees will also receive both the Army Echoes Retiree Newsletter and the DFAS Retiree Newsletter. DFAS will also send notification when the Gray Area Retiree will be able to apply for retired pay.

If DFAS has the current contact information in the new myPay account for the Gray Area Retiree, when DFAS receives a completed Gray Area Retiree application for

retired pay (uploaded from HRC), DFAS will send email status notifications to the retiree that include verification that DFAS received the application, when DFAS begins processing the application, and when the application is completed.

Guard members are not usually eligible for retired pay until age 60, but in some cases periods of active duty or service can reduce the age below 60 years. If a retiree thinks they might have such service, they should consult the Army about specific information, and then check their respective states to verify which orders are eligible for the reduced age retirement. In any case, age 50 is the earliest age a Gray Area Retiree can start receiving retired pay.

There are some important things for Gray Area Retirees to remember. Retirement pay is not automatic, one must apply for it. Retirement Packets can be submitted starting at nine months and at least ninety days before the retiree's eligible retirement date, which is one's 60th birthday or reduced age retirement date.

DFAS recommends working with an ARNG Retirement Service Officer (RSO) to vet the packet for errors first. Then the service member sends the packet to the Army Human Resources Command.

As Gray Area Retirees, they have the following benefits. Once they retire into gray area status, the individual and their dependents should get new ID cards and enroll in DEERS. This will give them access to most military in-



stallations, Exchange/PX/BX/Shopettes, commissary and base gas stations, MWR services, and Space-A travel.

Gray Area Retirees may use TRICARE Health Insurance Plans or US Family health Plan, and TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. Both have premiums and are cost sharing.

For complete information on myPay for Gray Area Retirees use the website: www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/plan/Gray-Area-Retirees. Military.com is the best place for detailed information about Gray Area Retirees' military benefits.

WANTED

OLD UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

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

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

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

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc Announces Scholarship Recipients for 2023 – 2024 Academic Year

John Godburn
Contributor

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce it has awarded scholarships to the following recipients for the 2023-2024 academic year. The Foundation granted a total of eight scholarships this year totaling \$24,500.00. Congratulations to all the recipients.

Airoidi, Marissa: Marissa is a member of the 103rd Air Lift Wing MXS/MXG, enlisting in the CT Air National Guard in February, 2019. She lives in Tolland, CT. She graduated from the University of Connecticut in May 2022, cum laude, earning a degree in biological sciences and a minor in molecular and cell biology. She is furthering her education by attending the University of Connecticut, School of Dental Medicine.

Cardozo, Madison: Madison is the daughter of MSG Michael Cardozo, 14th Civil Support Team (WMD), CTARNG. Treasa lives in Litchfield, CT and is a 2022 graduate of Quinnipiac University with a major in Health Science Studies and a minor in Psychology. Madison is currently enrolled at Sonoran University, pursuing a degree in the Naturopathic Doctorate Program. Her ultimate goal is to become a Naturopathic Doctor.

Estevez Jimenez, Ginni C.: Ginni is a member of HHD 1109th TASMG, CTARNG. Ginni lives in Groton, CT. She graduated from Post University in 2022, earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, and is a graduate of Post's Master Program in June 2023. She is furthering her education by pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration

(DBA) at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia.

Strong, Alexis: Alexis is the daughter of CW2 Christopher Strong, CT Training Center, CTARNG. She lives in Southington, CT and is a 2023 graduate of Southington High School. She will be attending Worcester State University, Worcester, MA pursuing a degree in Psychology.

TOZIER, Katrina: Katrina is the daughter of CW4(Ret) David W. Tozier, formerly with the 1109th TASMG, CTARNG. She lives in East Haddam, CT and is a 2023 graduate of Nathan Hale Ray High School, Moodus, CT. She plans to further her education by attending Merrimack College, focusing on obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree.

SGT Felix M. Del Greco, Jr Memorial Scholarship(s)

The purpose of the SGT Felix M. Del Greco, Jr. Scholarship is to honor his memory by awarding annual scholarship(s) to children of Connecticut Army National Guard members who are attending an accredited undergraduate degree program.

Allain, Marlei: Marlei is the daughter of SSG Collen Dunn, 1109th TASMG. Marlei is attending the University of New Haven.

Sholes, Zachary: Zachary is a 1LT in the 118th Med Bn, and the son of SGM(Ret) Kelley Sipples. Zachary is attending the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

White, Victoria: Victoria is the daughter of SFC David White, 102d Army Band. Victoria is attending the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

First Lady Welcomes Guard Families to the White House

Sgt. 1st Class Zach Sheely
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON - For the second straight year, first lady Jill Biden welcomed National Guardsmen, spouses and children to the White House to discuss their challenges and how best to support them.

The first lady heard stories of the pride and resilience children show in the face of frequent calls for their Guard parents to serve their nation, state and community.

"Our National Guardsmen and women have to be ready to go on support missions at a moment's notice," she told them. "And that means that their kids — all of you — know what it's like to have your mom or your dad missing at the dinner table every time they're called to duty.

"And you do it with humility and honor," she said. "I want you to know that my husband, President Biden, and I are so grateful and so proud of all of you. We know it isn't easy."

Since 9/11, more than 1 million Guardsmen have deployed in support of operations around the globe. Because the National Guard is the combat reserve of the Army and Air Force, its members are trained and equipped to help with first-response efforts at home during a crisis.

Today, the Guard stands at more than 430,000 members strong. As the second largest military organization in the Department of Defense, its mission, motto and promise to America is to be Always Ready, Always There.

The National Guard is in about 2,800 communities — almost every ZIP code. Most Guardsmen serve part-time and balance their service with civilian careers and family responsibilities.

Kelly Hokanson, the National Guard senior spouse and mother of three service members, told the group that growing up as a military child is a sacrifice and a gift. Kelly's husband, Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, is the 29th chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Gen. Hokanson has served in duty stations across the United States and deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

"It's a sacrifice of time with your family — a sacrifice every member of our community shares," Kelly Hokanson said. "But it's also a gift. A gift of compassion, service and unfathomable strength and resilience."

Caleb Greico, 14, a New Jersey native, attended the event with his parents and sister, Penelope. He introduced Jill Biden to the group, a responsibility he relished.

"Thank you for inviting me and my family to the White House," Caleb told her. "We are very honored to be here with you.

"It's not just my family, but everyone here has a family member that has been contributing to this country."

Caleb's mom, Army Spc. Laura Greico, a signal support systems specialist assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey National Guard, is preparing to deploy with her unit.

Caleb asked other children for advice on how to cope with a parent being gone for an extended time. Staying active and connected in community circles were common themes from those whose parents have deployed or been away for long durations.

"Focus on the stuff you enjoy and work on yourself," said Aiden Buckner, 14, from New Mexico.

Aiden's dad, Air Force Capt. Thomas Buckner, is the

deputy commander of the New Mexico Guard's 150th Civil Engineering Squadron.

"Try your best to work and focus on your goals," Aiden said.

Eight-year-old Marina Munyabuhoro immigrated to America from a refugee camp in East Africa with her parents when she was 11 months old. Her father, Airman 1st Class Theogene Munyabuhoro, joined the New Hampshire National Guard and became an American citizen.

Marina told the first lady she wants to serve in the military "to honor my father's legacy and to be a symbol of hope ... and a good example to other immigrant kids.

And to protect and defend this blessed country."

The president and first lady are familiar with National Guard service: their son, the late Army Maj. Beau Biden, served in the Delaware Guard, leaving behind his children to deploy on a tour in Iraq. It's part of why Jill Biden helped establish Joining Forces to support service members, veterans and those they hold most dear.

She encouraged the children in attendance to share with their teachers, coaches and influential people in their lives that their parents serve.

"As a teacher, I ask my class, 'Is anybody here militarily connected and what are your connections?'" she said. "That helps me to understand that they might be going through a rough patch or might be absent for a day."

Guard leaders and families — more than 200 representing 36 states and territories — attended the event, which included a holiday presentation and the first lady's unveiling of the 2023 White House "Magic, Wonder & Joy" holiday theme and decorations.

Pre-Holiday Fitness Event and Food Drive!!

Start out your Holiday Celebrations with a Physical Fitness Opportunity!

Event: 6-mile Road March

Date: Friday, 22 December 2023

Time: Step Off at 0700

Location: Hubbard Park, Meriden, CT

Participants:

- All CTNG AGR Soldiers are encouraged to participate.***
- CTNG Technicians are welcome to participate; must be in a leave status.***
- Traditional Soldiers/Airmen are welcome to participate in a non-duty status.***
- CTANG Airmen are encouraged to participate! Air technicians must also be in a leave status and traditional Airmen in a non-duty status.***

Uniform: Army Combat Uniform or Air OCP, boots, patrol cap; Ruck sacks based on individual ability (the goal is participation!). Bring your own water.

Unit Guidons/Colors are encouraged!!

We are also conducting a food drive. Please bring non-perishable foods to be donated to CT Food Share!

POC is CSM Fredericks or any of the Brigade Operations NCO's/JFHQ primary staff NCOs. Please coordinate with your chain of command. Brigade Operations NCOs and primary staff NCOs will need a headcount by 20 December 2023.



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

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ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire - U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Randy Kwiatkowski, U.S. Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa command chief, speaks at the first Air Force African Senior Enlisted Leader Summit in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Nov. 7, 2023. The three-day summit was hosted by U.S. Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa and Côte d'Ivoire air force senior enlisted leaders.

National Guard Joins Air Force African Senior Enlisted Leader Summit

Staff Sgt. Heather Ley
USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire - Senior enlisted leaders from the United States, including the State Partnership Program, and 20 African nations attended the African Senior Enlisted Leader Summit Nov. 7-9.

The meeting was a first-of-its-kind gathering of African Air Force senior enlisted leaders.

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Randy Kwiatkowski, U.S. Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa command chief, co-hosted the summit alongside Côte d'Ivoire air force Chief Warrant Officer Okoue Denis, Côte d'Ivoire air force senior enlisted leader.

In opening remarks, Kwiatkowski said the foundations of a great partnership are respect, friendship and trust.

"We have an opportunity this week to cultivate and nourish the friendships that we have among one another," said Kwiatkowski. "I look forward to growing and sharing this experience with each and every one of you."

During the three-day event, senior enlisted leaders from each country shared their insights on noncommissioned officer development and problem-solving and answered questions from their counterparts.

"It's important to gather and share ideas at a summit like this because it helps us to know each other better, understand our different cultures and develop oneself so we can all raise each other up," said Denis.

One summit section focused on advancing the Women, Peace and Security initiative, which recognizes women as critical to achieving sustainable international peace and security. Additional topics included enlisted force development, the U.S. Space Force, the Department of Defense National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program and profes-

sional military education.

"A topic we discussed that greatly interests me is the Women, Peace and Security initiative," said Denis. "We need to improve the life of women in the military and how to help female NCOs manage their careers and find that work-life balance that many struggle with."

Denis also spoke about the importance of NCOs and how they need to be a transition point between officers and the lower enlisted. He emphasized the need to empower them through delegation, allowing them proper authority to accomplish tasks, which frees officers to focus on the bigger picture.

Throughout the summit, many senior enlisted leaders discovered they faced similar challenges in caring for their Airmen.

"We really want to establish a network where we are leaning into each other's challenges and successes," said Kwiatkowski. "This event allows us to communicate across that network to help each other grow and to enhance those partnerships, friendships and the trust that we have in each other."

The African countries that participated in ASELS 2023 were Benin, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zambia.

Other U.S. representatives attending were senior enlisted leaders from the Inter-European Air Forces Academy, the 406th Air Expeditionary Wing, the USAFE Directorate of Space Forces and the U.S. Africa Command.

"The Airmen we are developing now are going to lead us through the challenges we face 20 years from now," said Kwiatkowski in closing remarks. "We cannot take their development lightly."



Army Maj. Gen. John C. Harris, the adjutant general of the Ohio National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Barga, the command senior enlisted leader of the Ohio National Guard, discuss framed Army patches and unit emblems during the opening ceremony at The 1636 Room at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall's Patton Hall in Arlington, Virginia, Nov. 1, 2023. Named in recognition of the first organized militia in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636 – the predecessor of today's National Guard – the exhibit space runs the gamut of strategically placed artifacts, framed flags, panel displays, photographs, visual arts and replicated items.

National Guard's Heritage Honored at Storied Army Base

Air Force Master Sgt. Erich B. Smith
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – In a hallowed corner of Patton Hall at Northern Virginia's Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, a journey through the annals of American military history awaits. An officer's saber from the late 19th century, a World War I-era combat helmet, and a flag that bore witness to the attack on Pearl Harbor stand as sentinels to a remarkable legacy.

Welcome to The 1636 Room, a treasure trove of nearly 200 unique artifacts curated by the National Guard's 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia. It's a living tribute to the nation's oldest military organization.

For Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, the room honors the Guard's heritage and its legacy of "courage, duty, honor and service."

"The 1636 Room is a tribute to that tradition, a commemoration of a force unlike any other — one that continues to have an impact as 20% of the Joint Force and continues to shape the course of history," Hokanson said during the ceremony unveiling the exhibit Nov. 1.

The idea for The 1636 Room originated late last year when Hokanson asked the National Guard Bureau History Office to develop a plan for a heritage space where Guard members could gather for events and social occasions and for others to learn more about the force.

By spring, he signed off on the history office's recom-

mendation that Patton Hall would be the ideal spot, said Richard Clark, NGB chief historian.

"It is centrally located, and it has a rich history of its own," he added, noting the 3rd U.S. Regiment, as "the oldest regiment in the Army, has a room at Patton Hall, and it seemed appropriate for the oldest U.S. military organization to have a place there as well."

Honoring the roots of today's National Guard, the exhibit space is named in tribute to the 1636 Massachusetts Bay Colony militia and boasts an extensive array of strategically positioned artifacts that include framed flags, panel displays, photographs, visual artworks, and replicas. Clark explained each item encapsulates the essence of unique events, remarkable achievements, unit emblems, and historic missions undertaken by different Guard elements.

Army Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, adjutant general of Virginia, said the series of framed pictures showcasing Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division from its beginnings in World War I to Operation Iraqi Freedom was a fitting contribution to the room.

"For us on the Virginia side, we carry heavy within the 29th," said Ring, who attended the ceremony along with nearly 150 senior Guard leaders.

While the photographs are significant for Virginia Guard members, Ring said the room's spirit can resonate with all Soldiers and Airmen.

"This is a chance for all of us to have the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the Citizen-Soldier and Airman

tradition of those that came before us," he said. "It's a tremendous honor to be here today."

NGB history officials emphasized the room's purpose extends beyond showcasing history.

There is a canteen, cup and mess kit engraved by Soldiers from New Mexico National Guard's 200th Coast Artillery during World War II. These very Soldiers later endured the harrowing Bataan Death March, followed by internment in POW camps.

The artifacts represent valor and immense suffering. Of the roughly 1,800 Soldiers from New Mexico who fought in the Pacific Theater, only about half returned at the war's end.

The history office will continue updating the room as it receives more items representing different aspects of Guard heritage.

"As the National Guard evolves, the room will evolve with it," said Clark, adding the room "is not a static display. It's a dynamic space that evolves as states swap out artifacts, and as additional states and territories and District of Columbia identify their contributions."

In his closing remarks, Hokanson said the room — with the intent and purpose of honoring Guard heritage with unique items from the past — is only the beginning.

"These items are not only part of our history — they are part of our ongoing story," he said.



Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, presents the positional colors to Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., Nov. 1, 2023. This marks the first time a senior enlisted advisor to the National Guard chief is recognized with such colors, a milestone in a tradition that dates to 1636.

National Guard Unveils Senior Enlisted Advisor Positional Colors

Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Pena
National Guard Bureau

JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL, Va. — Almost 150 people from all service components, including National Guard leaders from all 50 states and four territories, gathered in Patton Hall to witness a defining moment in National Guard history: the unveiling of the positional flag for the senior enlisted advisor to the chief, National Guard Bureau.

Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, the National Guard's top officer, noted the significance of the day, emphasizing the ever-evolving nature and significance of the Guard.

"Tonight, we honor a new chapter in the National Guard Bureau's history," said Hokanson. "This role joins two enlisted forces with two unique cultures — the Army and the Air Force — united by their duties and identity as Guardsmen. The SEA's colors and insignia make it clear: Today's National Guard is a valued and valuable force — on the world's stage, in the homeland we defend, and at the highest levels of military leadership."

With a history dating back to 1636, the National Guard boasts centuries of tradition and tenacity. However, this marks the first time a senior enlisted advisor to the National Guard chief has been recognized with positional colors. The introduction of the colors symbolizes an acknowledgment of a storied past and the forward momentum of the enlisted force.

Tony L. Whitehead currently serves as the SEA to the CNGB and is the sixth Guardsman to hold this position.

He's the first to bear the unique Air Force rank of SEA — equivalent to the Guard's parent service senior enlisted leaders, the sergeant major of the Army and chief master sergeant of the Air Force — and the position now has the unique associated colors. At the pinnacle of enlisted leadership, Whitehead steers the enlisted force and voices their interests.

Whitehead, a Jacksonville, Florida, native, began his Air Force career in December 1982 and transitioned to the Air National Guard in 1994. He served in a range of roles in Air Force security specialist and security forces career fields. With retirement on the

horizon, he envisions the new colors as a beacon, signaling to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen that all achievements are within reach.

"After over four decades in this uniform, there are goals you set, and then there are transcendent moments that defy description," Whitehead said. "Being here, recognized in this new capacity, is not by chance. It's the fruit of guidance from pioneering leaders and mentors. I see this as a turning point to uplift our enlisted ranks, solidifying the National Guard's stature for future generations."

The National Guard, comprising roughly 430,000 Soldiers and Airmen, makes up about 20 percent of the Department of Defense's Joint Force. Today, some 20,000 Guard members are on overseas assignments, underscoring the National Guard's pivotal roles in homeland defense and the National Defense Strategy.

"What does the future hold for the senior enlisted advisor role?" Whitehead said, adding that he believes the new colors are an acknowledgment of unwavering dedication and a nod to the foundation they've laid.

"In the National Guard, when we join hands with our allies, it's less about showcasing our prowess and more about underscoring the respect and dedication intrinsic to our role," he said.

In recent years, Whitehead has traveled globally, forging connections with military leaders, Soldiers and Airmen. His core principles — educate, empower, execute — will define his legacy.

Whitehead's philosophy centers on the idea that every service member has the potential to drive change and exhibit leadership qualities. He believes continuous learning and growth are critical to build an educated and effective military force. He encourages service members to empower those around them, enabling them to showcase their talents and skills and execute missions with their knowledge and expertise.

"The positional colors echo the spirit of the entire National Guard, not merely the enlisted," he said. "These colors resonate strength, power, humility and service that embodies us in the National Guard. Our mantra remains, Always Ready. Always There."

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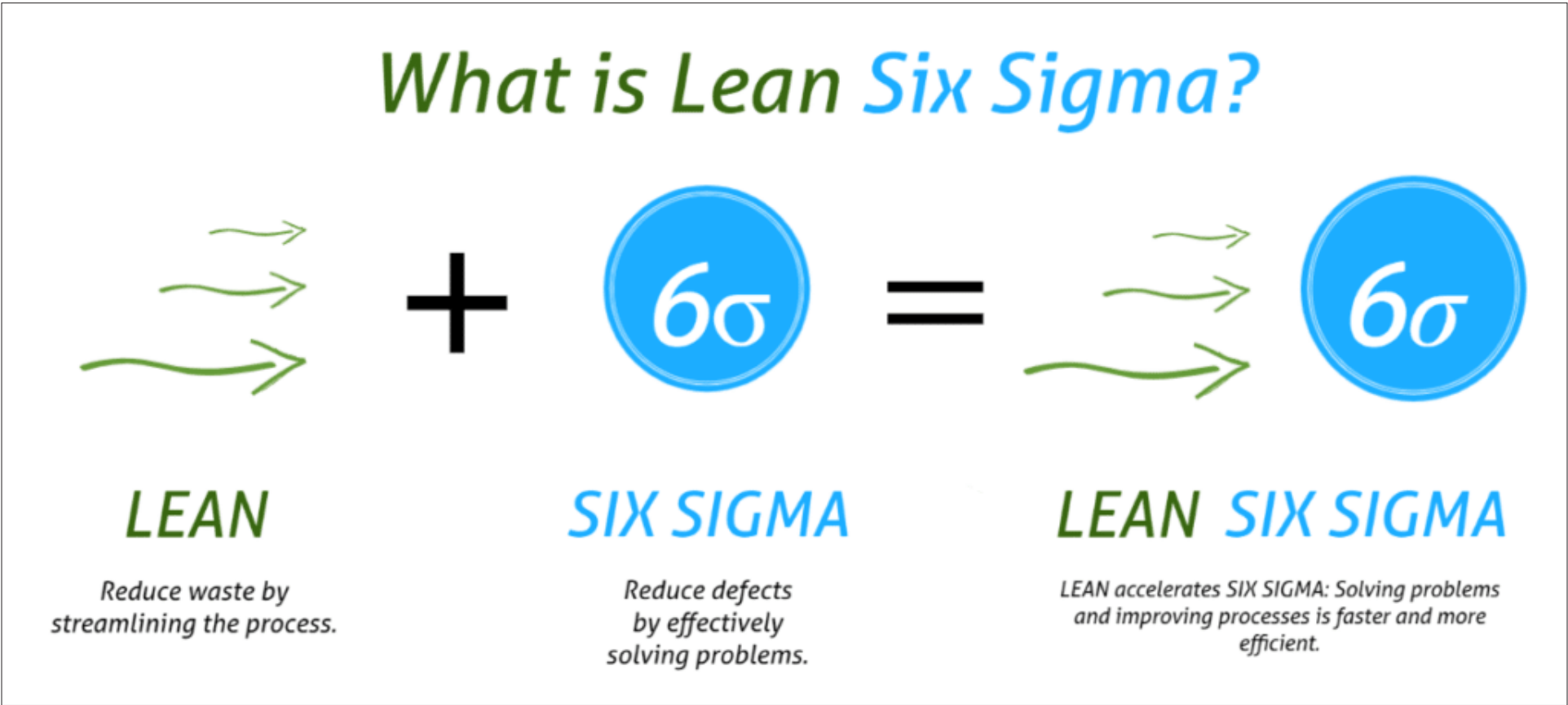
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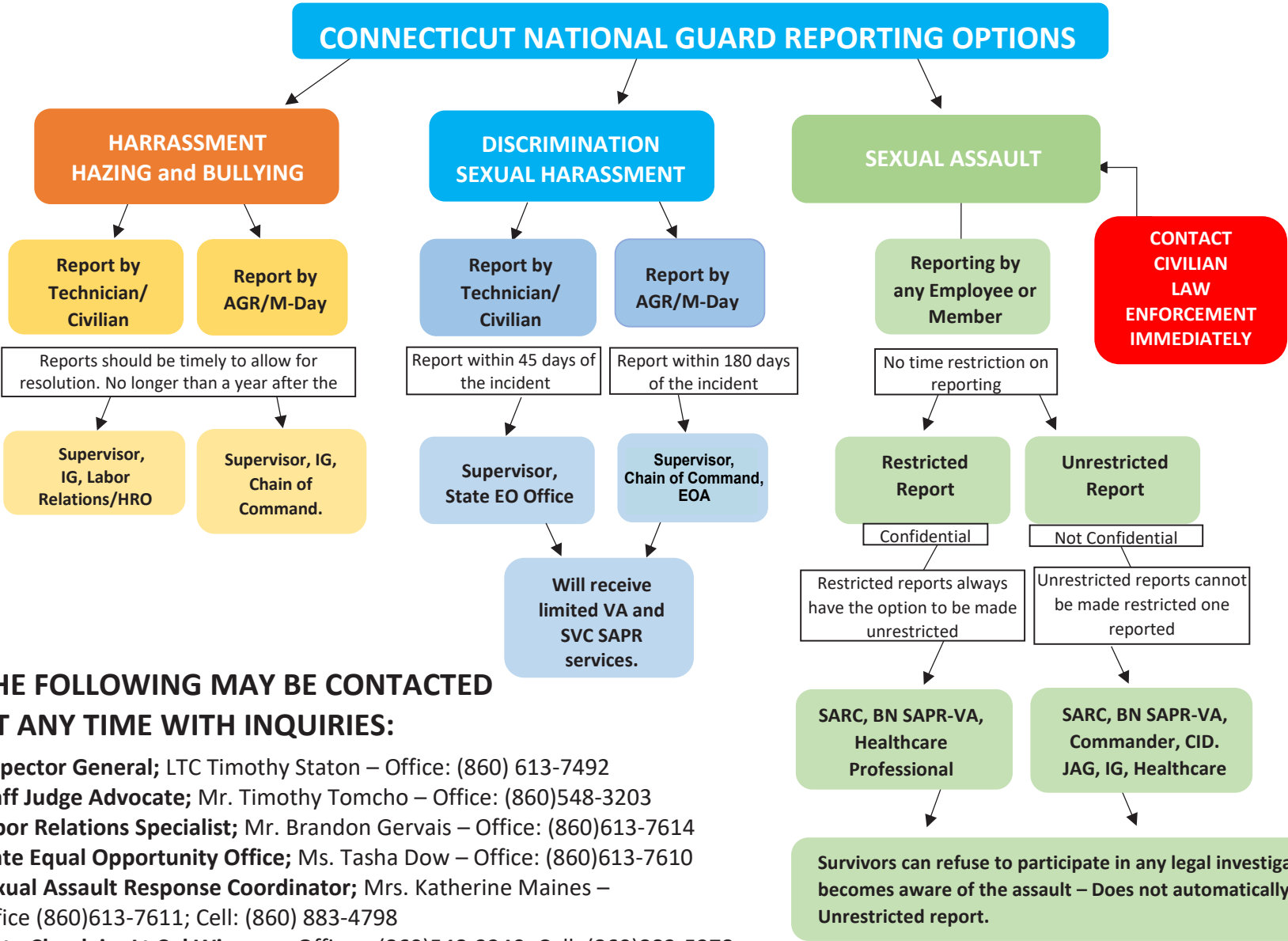
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