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November 2024

CTNG appoints first female Command Chief Warrant Officer

Timothy Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

HARTFORD, Conn. — The Connecticut Army National Guard hosted its Chief Command Warrant Officer change of responsibility ceremony between outgoing Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Erkson and incoming Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephanie Richard at the Gov. William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford, Conn. Nov. 3, 2024.

The ceremony was a historic moment as it welcomed Chief Richard as the state's first female chief command warrant officer and celebrated the conclusion of Chief Erkson's career with the Connecticut National Guard as he's set to retire after 40 years with the organization.

"Today, we honor Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Erkson as he passes the mantle of responsibility to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephanie Richard, a capable and dedicated leader in her own right. This moment is not only a reflection of continuity in leadership but also an opportunity to celebrate the immense contributions of one leader and anticipate the tremendous impact of another", said Maj. Gen. Francis J. Evon Jr, adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard. "Today's ceremony is not just a change in leadership; it is a reaffirmation of the values that make the Connecticut Army National Guard such a vital and effective force. To both Brian and Stephanie, thank you for your service, your dedication, and your unwavering commitment to excellence. We are deeply grateful for your leadership and excited for what the future holds."

Erkson became the state's command chief warrant of-

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U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, hands the flag of the warrant officer cohort from Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephanie Richard, Connecticut's incoming command chief warrant officer, during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Gov. William A. O'Neill armory in Hartford, Conn. Nov. 3, 2024. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephanie Richard replaced Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Erkson, becoming the state's first female command chief warrant officer.

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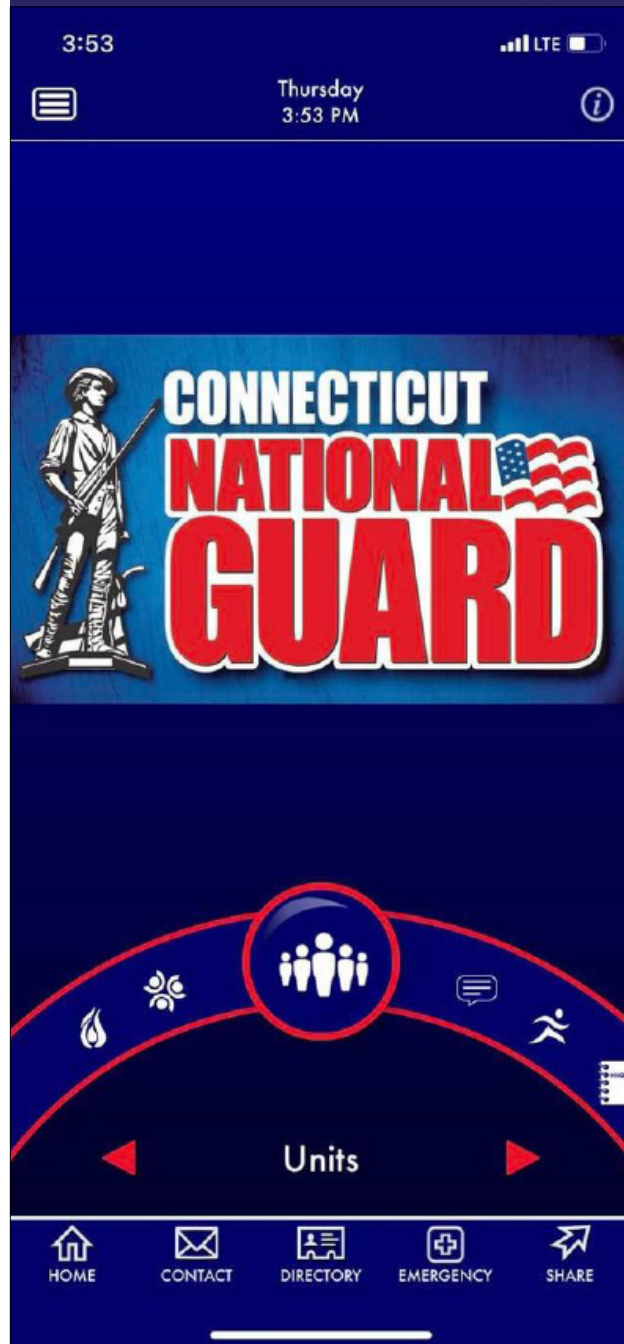


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Richards

Cont. from page 1

ficer on Oct. 1, 2019, and helped oversee the professional development and readiness of the state's warrant officers, preparing them for the challenges of the modern battlefield. As he prepares to retire from the military, he had these words for his successor: "with challenging times ahead, Major General Evon's selection for you to be the fourth CCWO is the right choice at the right time. Your operational knowledge and professional attributes will serve the cohort with great success. You have a well experienced group of warrant officers; their potential and commitment is unlimited. I know you will be exceptional and do well by them."

The command chief warrant officer provides a critical role to the adjutant general and his staff as a subject matter expert and advisor on all issues related to professional development, recruitment, promotions, and policies affecting the warrant officer cohort.

The CCWO is also the primary liaison on warrant officer issues between the Connecticut Army National Guard and the National Guard Bureau.

"I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Major General Evon for his trust and confidence in me," said Richard. "Being selected as the fourth command chief warrant officer for the Connecticut National Guard—and the first female to hold this role—is both humbling and inspiring. To Chief Erkson, thank you for your mentorship and guidance. You've set a high standard of excellence for all of us and I hope to carry forward the path you've laid out."

Erkson joined the Connecticut National Guard in February 1984 as a Lifting and Loading Operator with the 248th Engineer Company. He was appointed to the rank of Warrant Officer One after graduating from the Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker, Alabama in May 1998.

He holds an associate's degree in science-Business Management from Excelsior College and his military awards and decorations include: the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with 3 Bronze oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with 2 bronze oak leaf clusters), and other various awards.

He deployed to Iraq with HSC (1) 118th Medical Battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

Richard enlisted in the Connecticut National Guard in December 1993 as an Automated Logistical Specialist with the 250th Engineer Company.

She rose through the enlisted ranks to Sergeant 1st Class prior to commissioning as a warrant officers in 2010 after graduating from the Warrant Officer Candidate School at the Connecticut National Guard's 169th Regional Training Institute.

She holds an associates of science degree from Eastern Connecticut State University. Her military awards include: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service medal (with one bronze oak leaf cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (with one silver and one bronze oak leaf cluster) and other various awards.

She deployed to Iraq in 2006 with Headquarters, 192nd Engineer Battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and has supported multiple other federal and state missions for the Global War on Terror and natural disaster relief efforts.



U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Erkson (right), the outgoing Connecticut National Guard command chief warrant officer, ceremoniously hands off his work cellphone to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephanie Richard, the incoming CCWO, during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Gov. William A. O'Neil Armory in Hartford, Conn. Nov. 3, 2024.



U.S. Army Warrant Officer One Samantha Sheehan hands a bouquet of flowers to Kaitlyn Richard, the daughter of Warrant Officer 4 Stephanie Richard during a change of responsibility for the Connecticut National Guard's command chief warrant officer at the Gov. William A. O'Neil Armory in Hartford, Conn. Nov. 3, 2024.



Attendees of the initial planning conference for Cyber Yankee 2025 listen to a presentation at the New Hampshire National Guard's Regional Training Institute in Pembroke, N.H. Nov. 13, 2024. Cyber Yankee is the premier regional cyber training event for defense, state and federal agencies, and key utility companies to rehearse prevention and response best practices. And, unlike other cyber-focused training events that focus entirely on threats against the DOD's information network, Cyber Yankee is the only military exercise focusing on critical infrastructure and key resources directly affecting the American people.

Planning Conference bolsters plans for Cyber Yankee 2025

Timothy Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

PEMBROKE, N.H. — Members of the Connecticut National Guard's Joint Cyber Team attended the initial planning conference for Cyber Yankee 2025 at the New Hampshire National Guard's Regional Training Institute in Pembroke, N.H. Nov. 13-14, 2024.

The primary objective of Cyber Yankee 2025 is to improve the New England region's posture in responding to cyber incidents involving the Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR). To achieve this goal, all participants at the initial planning conference worked together with various teams to define a realistic scenario, confirm participation, determine range and tool requirements, and build partnerships.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) Support Annex "describes policies, roles and responsibilities, and the concept of operations for assessing, prioritizing, protecting, and restoring critical infrastructure and key resources of the United States and its territories and possessions during actual or potential domestic incidents. The annex details processes to ensure coordination and integration of CIKR-related activities among a wide array of public and private incident managers and CIKR security partners within immediate incident areas as well as at the regional and national levels."

"The ultimate goal of [Cyber Yankee 2025] is to ensure that the New England region is better equipped to respond to cyber incidents involving CIKR," said Fulsang, a cyber operations officer assigned to the Connecticut National Guard. "By achieving this end

state, the region will be able to mitigate the impact of cyber-attacks, reduce the risk of disruption to critical infrastructure, and improve the overall resilience of its digital systems."

Cyber Yankee 2025 is planning to build upon the three core principles that have guided Cyber Yankee since its inception in 2015: tactical-level focus, a scenario built around the CIKR, and building relationships across military, government, and private industry.

"As the world becomes increasingly dependent on technology and digital infrastructure, the threat of cyber-attacks on Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) continues to grow," said Fulsang. "To address this threat, National Guard Units in Region 1 New England have initiated the formal planning process for [Cyber Yankee 2025]. This exercise marks the 11th year of a collaborative effort to enhance cyber defense capabilities and build relationships across the military, government, and private industry."

Cyber Yankee is the premier regional cyber training event for defense, state and federal agencies, and key utility companies to rehearse prevention and response best practices. And, unlike other cyber-focused training events that focus entirely on threats against the DOD's information network, Cyber Yankee is one of the few military exercises focusing on critical infrastructure and key resources directly affecting the American people.

This year's planning conference had representation from multiple government agencies such as the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, defense departments like U.S. Cyber Command, Marines, Space Force, Coast Guard and National Guard from ten different states, foreign partners from the Royal Bahamas Defense Force, and various state and private industry partners.

Cyber Yankee 2025 is scheduled for May 5-16, 2025.



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Sergeant 1st Class Jack Bennett, a military police instructor with the 169th Regional Training Institute, was also recognized for his work doing criminal analysis reporting for the Hartford, Connecticut police department's Capital City Command Center.

CTNG Counterdrug Task Force celebrates achievements

Timothy Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

HARTFORD, Conn. — The Connecticut National Guard Counterdrug Task Force recognized members of its team for their achievements during an award ceremony at the Gov. William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford, Conn. Nov. 6, 2024.

The Counterdrug Task Force is comprised of Army and Air National Guard officers and non-commissioned officers who're assigned to support the mission of preventing drugs from making their way into Connecticut's communities.

Sergeant 1st Class Michael Beers, a member of the 143rd Military Police Company, was recognized by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, and the Connecticut State Police for his outstanding performance as part of the Task Force. He was included in a unit citation award from the Connecticut State Police for his efforts supporting a criminal investigation in March 2022.

Sergeant 1st Class John Wardrop, a member of the 143rd Military Police Company, was recognized for his work while assigned to the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) performing criminal analysis reporting.

Sergeant 1st Class Jack Bennett, a military police in-

structor with the 169th Regional Training Institute, was also recognized for his work doing criminal analysis reporting for the Hartford, Connecticut police department's Capital City Command Center.

Air Force Master Sgt. Sarah Lorenzini, the first sergeant for the 103rd Mission Support Group, 103rd Airlift Wing, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for her outstanding efforts as the Counterdrug, Drug Demand Reduction Outreach (DDRO) Program manager for the Task Force.

In addition to the awards, two members of the Task Force were promoted. Staff Sgt. Sarah Blodgett, a DDRO specialist was advanced to the rank of Sergeant First Class and Maj. Justin Copeland was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Copeland was recently appointed as the Counterdrug Coordinator to lead the Task Force.

The Counterdrug task force also celebrated their recent completion of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Oct. 26, 2024. The Connecticut National Guard partnered with the Drug Enforcement Agency, Connecticut State Police, and local police departments to dispose more than 8,300 pounds of unwanted, expired, or unused prescription medications voluntarily turned in by Connecticut residents.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was created

by the DEA to help dispose of old, expired, or unwanted drugs in order to reduce the possibility of their misuse. At the end of the event, the Connecticut National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force transported the turned in drugs to be destroyed at an incinerator.

"Disposing of unneeded medications helps us protect the safety and health of our communities. Families can minimize the risk of medications falling into the wrong hands by simply bringing unused medications to one of our more than 4,100 drop off locations on Saturday," said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. "National Prescription Drug Take Bay Day would not be possible without our incredible local and state law enforcement partners and the community groups who work every year to make Take Back Day a success."

According to The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the most frequently misused prescription pain medications include opioids such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, and morphine. Last spring, the DEA and its partners collected more than 335 tons of unused medications around the country, totaling more than 9,285 tons in total since the program began 15 years ago.

For more information about National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, or to find a drop off location near you, visit www.deaakeback.com



Maj. Justin Copeland was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Copeland was recently appointed as the Counterdrug Coordinator to lead the Task Force.



Staff Sgt. Sarah Blodgett, a DDRO specialist was advanced to the rank of Sergeant First Class.



(Above) Members of the Connecticut National Guard assist the Drug Enforcement Agency collect and transport turned in unused and unwanted prescription medications during the DEA's annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Oct. 26, 2024. The Connecticut National Guard partnered with the Drug Enforcement Agency, Connecticut State Police, and local police departments to dispose more than 8,300 pounds of unwanted, expired, or unused prescription medications voluntarily turned in by Connecticut residents.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 66TH AIR BASE GROUP
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MEMORANDUM FOR CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: 66 FSS/FSP

SUBJECT: Announcement for The Connecticut Guardian

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

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

ASHLEY VAZQUEZ, 2d Lt, USAF
Summary Court Officer

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Air Force Gen. Steven Nordhaus, the 30th chief of the National Guard Bureau, hosts the change of responsibility ceremony for the senior enlisted advisor to the chief, NGB, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia, Nov. 8, 2024. During the ceremony, incoming SEA John T. Raines III assumed the duties and responsibilities as the seventh senior enlisted advisor to the chief and the first Army leader to wear the distinctive rank insignia of the SEA. Raines will represent more than 430,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen as the senior most enlisted voice.

Raines Assumes Role as Guard's Top Enlisted Leader

Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Pena
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. - The National Guard bid farewell to its top enlisted leader, Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, after 42 years of military service and welcomed SEA John T. Raines III as the new senior enlisted advisor to the chief, National Guard Bureau, during a change of responsibility ceremony Nov. 8.

Air Force Gen. Steven Nordhaus, who recently became the 30th chief of the National Guard Bureau, presided over the ceremonies that celebrated Whitehead's career and ushered in a new era of enlisted leadership at the NGB.

"Today, we celebrate two men of extraordinary character who have elevated the National Guard and everyone in it," Nordhaus said at Conmy Hall, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. "We celebrate dedicated service members and principled leaders who — without exception — put people first. Every day, we strive to make the National Guard better than the day before, and our senior enlisted leaders are a big part of our success."

Whitehead reflected on his four decades of service and thanked the Guard for giving him the opportunity and training to become something bigger than himself.

"Becoming a member of the National Guard was not a part of my career path, nor was being a career Airman," Whitehead said. "It's interesting how we make decisions that seem short term, like joining the military, but once we're there, we find out that possibilities are endless. And here I am today."

Nordhaus passed the SEA positional colors to Raines, ceremoniously signifying him as the seventh senior enlisted advisor to the chief and the first Army leader to wear the distinctive rank insignia of the SEA.

Raines will represent more than 430,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen as the senior enlisted voice. He will serve as the CNGB's principal military adviser on all enlisted matters affecting training, readiness, health and morale, and enlisted professional development.

"Today is also a day of new beginnings, as John Raines assumes responsibility as the senior enlisted advisor," said Nordhaus. "For decades, John has been a warfighter, senior

enlisted leader, husband, father, teammate, and friend, and set an honorable example by living his core values every day."

Raines brings over 35 years of military service, beginning with nine years on active duty as an Army communications specialist (31N) and an infantryman (11B) before transitioning to the Army National Guard.

"I was a communications guy through Desert Shield and Desert Storm, but I had always wanted to be an infantryman," Raines said. "Like many people who join the military, I didn't know my options. Well, after three years of being in the military, I knew what I wanted to be, so the Army allowed me to reclass to an infantryman, and I have held that MOS ever since."

After almost a decade of service, Raines looked at options outside the military. "I started wondering, 'What do I want to do for the rest of my life?' I wanted to cut my own grass, take care of my own house and see my kids play sports," he said.

When he left active duty, he returned home. "My dad was a district fire chief in Montgomery, Alabama, which is both my wife's and my hometown."

Raines was a firefighter until years later when, on Sept. 11, 2001, he felt a calling to serve again. "I was getting off work from the Montgomery Fire Department when the first plane flew into the World Trade Center. I knew at that time period, it was time to get back in and serve again."

He drove to the Alabama National Guard headquarters and never looked back.

Raines has served as the 13th sergeant major of the Army National Guard since 2022. Before that, he was the command senior enlisted leader of the Mississippi National Guard, the Mississippi Army National Guard state command sergeant major, and the Joint Operations Directorate, J3, senior enlisted leader of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

As the SEA, Raines explained that one of his responsibilities is to gauge the morale of the troops.

"My role as the senior enlisted advisor is to serve as a sensor," he said. "This means ensuring that our policies are effective, that our Soldiers and Airmen have the necessary resources to perform their duties and, ultimately, to communicate the story of the Guard."





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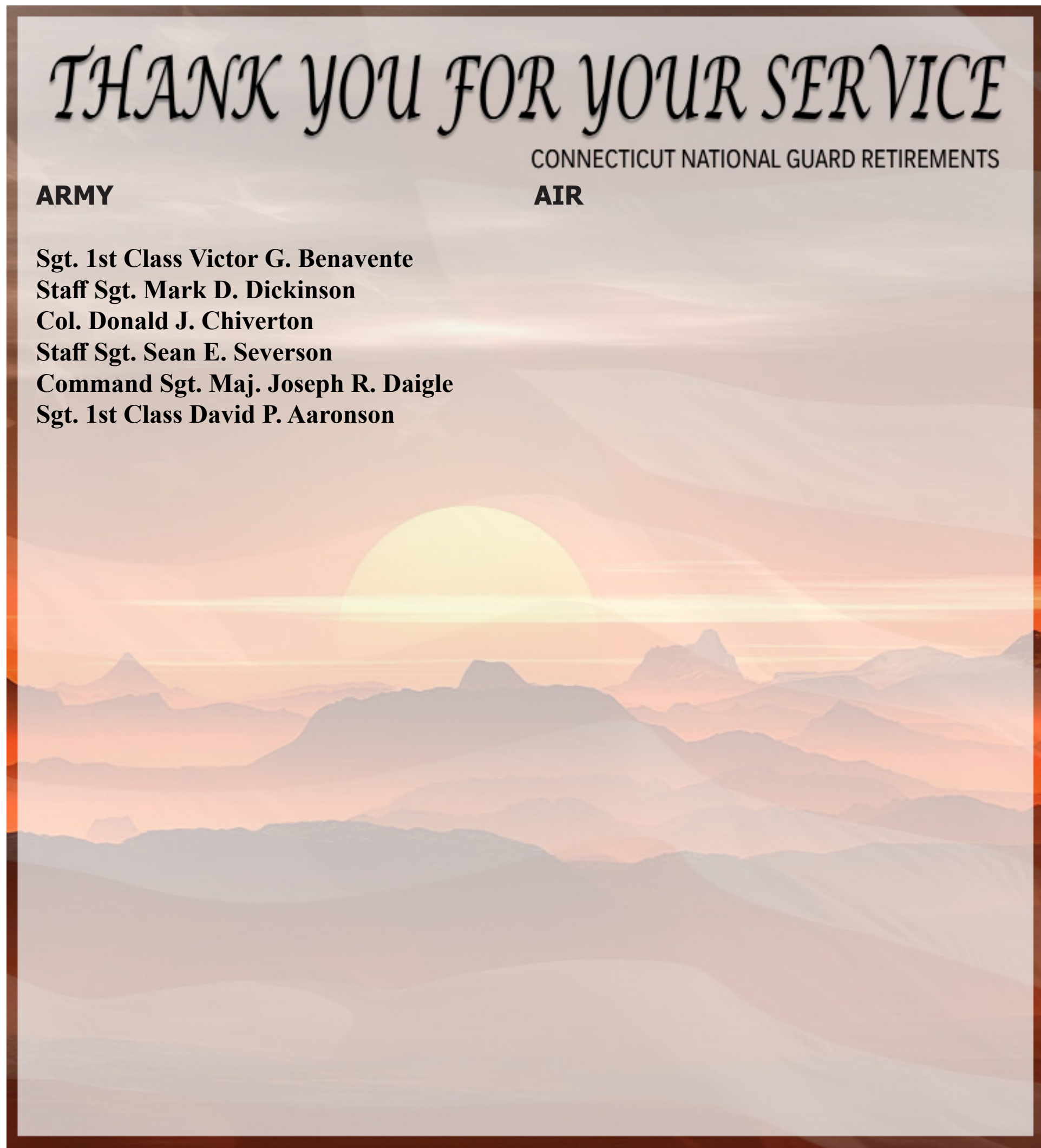
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AIR





Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Tony L. Whitehead receives a traditional clap-out ceremony on his final day at the Pentagon Nov. 6, 2024.

NGB Senior Enlisted Advisor Looks to Next Generation

Joseph Clark
DOD News

ARLINGTON, Va. - Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Tony L. Whitehead didn't think twice in August 2020 before accepting his appointment as the Guard's senior noncommissioned officer and principal military adviser on enlisted matters. It seemed that the Guard had never been in greater demand.

Guard members across the country were mobilized to support communities battling COVID-19 during the early stages of the pandemic. In California, Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen were answering the call as hundreds of wildfires blazed throughout the state during what would become a record-breaking season. And those demands at home, which would continue to play out throughout the following year, were in addition to National Guard deployments overseas.

With nearly four decades of service in the Air Force and Air National Guard, Whitehead was up for the challenge of leading and shaping the enlisted corps of Soldiers and Airmen that make up the backbone of the National Guard when Army Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, then chief of the National Guard Bureau, called to offer him the job.

"He said, 'Are you ready to take this ride with me?'" And I said 'Yes, sir,'" Whitehead said this week in an in-

terview before the ceremony where he closed out his 42-year career and transferred his responsibilities to Army Command Sgt. Maj. John T. Raines.

Whitehead got to work immediately. Just two weeks after accepting the job, Whitehead and Hokanson were on the road to meet Guardsmen in the missile fields of Alaska and on the frontlines of the wildfires in California.

Soon, more Guardsmen were responding to hurricane season. Others were continuing to respond to the pandemic and serving a crucial role in delivering the vaccine across the country.

By June 2021, more than 120,000 Guardsmen were on orders, Whitehead said, including 36,000 Soldiers and Airmen supporting operations overseas.

Those first few months, he said, painted a vivid picture of what the next four years as senior enlisted advisor would be like and reaffirmed what he long knew: that the men and women who make up the ranks are what drive the National Guard's success.

"It was impressive," Whitehead said. "These are our Guardsmen. I felt very, very humbled by that. These are our people."

Answering the Call to Service

Whitehead began his Air Force career on active duty in 1982.

As he reached the end of high school in Jacksonville,

Florida, he said he knew college would not be in the cards. He began talking to Air Force recruiters.

"They showed this really cool video, VHS tape, of security specialists, as we were called back then," he said. "It looked really cool, and I decided that's what I was going to do. So, [I] joined delayed enlistment before I even graduated."

He said basic training was a change of pace, but he quickly found his stride.

"You're talking about a kid that never flew in an airplane until I actually left to go to Lackland Air Force Base," Whitehead said. "And then to meet people from different walks of life, I was like, 'Wow.'"

But he said his upbringing by a hardworking mother who raised him and his seven siblings and growing up in a tight-knit neighborhood served him well in adjusting.

"We just had each other, and so, you know, I became a student of people just by watching them and learning what they were doing," Whitehead said about his youth. "You learn from their work ethic, you know, their commitment to supporting people."

He quickly realized in basic training that although there were people from all different walks of life, everyone was far more similar than they were different.

"It was just a matter of getting there and figuring it all out," he said. "And then when I got there, I was like, 'OK,



Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Tony L. Whitehead shakes hands with Chief of the National Guard Bureau U.S. Air Force Gen. Steven Nordhaus during a traditional clap-out ceremony on his final day at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Nov. 6, 2024. (DoD photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Alexander Kubitzka)

I think I can do this.”

Those childhood lessons served Whitehead long after basic training and were a solid foundation throughout his career.

Whitehead spent nine years on active duty with assignments in South Dakota, Japan, South Korea and Panama before settling closer to home at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia when his mother was diagnosed with cancer.

He left active duty in 1992, returned to Jacksonville and spent 18 months in the inactive ready reserve.

Then, one day, months after leaving active duty, Whitehead saw an Airman wearing a security forces beret in Jacksonville.

“I asked him, ‘What are you doing here? Moody is two hours away,’” Whitehead said.

Through that conversation, he learned about a National Guard unit in Jacksonville and jumped at the chance to wear the uniform again.

As in active duty, Whitehead quickly found his stride in the Guard.

“We had a lot of fun together, but when it was time to turn it on — boom! — we could do it in a heartbeat,” he said.

Leading Through Change

Throughout Whitehead’s career, which began in the Cold War, spanned the Global War on Terror and concluded during a period of refocus on strategic competition, the

National Guard and Reserve Component has become increasingly critical at home and abroad.

And the Guard’s success, Whitehead said, is increasingly defined by its ability to adapt and prevail amid constant change.

“Change is part of who we are,” he said. “It’s in our DNA.”

The ability to adapt to that change is instilled throughout the ranks, and the men and women who serve in the National Guard have demonstrated they are up to the challenge, time and time again.

As senior enlisted advisor, Whitehead focused on ensuring the National Guard’s enlisted corps continued to drive this success.

For the past four years, he has focused on his top three priorities of educating and empowering the force and executing the mission.

When it comes to education, Whitehead said his focus extends far beyond academics.

“It’s about our culture and the people that make up our culture,” he said. “That’s a huge piece of education, knowing the mission, knowing the people that are going to execute that mission, and then, of course, knowing those resources that can help you get after it.”

He added that creating space for junior Soldiers and Airmen to make mistakes is critical to empower the force and spur innovation throughout the ranks.

Whitehead said that the National Guard and active duty noncommissioned officers remain key differentiators in setting the U.S. armed forces apart from all other militaries worldwide.

“When you think about the things that we have to do in the time frame that we have to do it, and the totality of how enormous it can be, it takes ... NCOs to be able to do that,” he said. “We’re empowered to make those decisions, come up with plans of action and execute.”

As Whitehead closes out his long career, the demands on the National Guard show no signs of abating.

But he said he remains confident that the future generation remains up to the task.

“It has been a thrill,” he said. “I’m going to miss it. But I understand that ... as an institution, at some point in time, we need to move on, so that those that are younger, quicker, faster, smarter, can come in and take our places. And we need to be comfortable with that.”

He added that it is critical for leaders to continue to spread awareness about the opportunities available in the National Guard and the value of service.

“We need to promote it more as a nation,” he said. “The long-term gains of us as a nation are going to come from people who understand that they have to invest in what they want to see in the future.”

“And I know they’re out there,” he said. “I see them all the time.”

OCS/WOCS 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.

12 Jan 2025
MAFRC
RM 317 A/B

23 Feb 2025
Camp Nett
RTI

02 Mar 2025
MAFRC
RM 317 A/B

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



**SIGN UP
HERE**



2024 OPEN SEASON FAIR

Federal Benefits
OPM.gov/OpenSeason



Health Benefits

- Enroll
- Change plan/option
- Cancel enrollment
- Self, Self + One, Self & Family
- *Use your agency’s online enrollment system or contact your human resources office.



Dental & Vision

- Enroll
- Change plan/option
- Cancel enrollment
- Self, Self + One, Self & Family
- [Benefeds.gov](https://www.benefeds.gov) or 1-877-888-3337



Flexible Spending Accounts

- Enroll
- Re-enroll (it’s not automatic!)
- Increase/decrease election amount to suit your needs
- [FSAFEDS.gov](https://www.fsa-feds.gov)
1-877-372-3337

EVENT INFORMATION

- Location: Assembly Hall, Maurice Rose Armed Forces Reserve Center, 375 Smith Street, Middletown CT
- Date: 12/5/2024
- Time: 0900 -1200
- Various insurance carriers will be present to provide information and materials to Technicians and Title 5 employees.
- Employee Benefits Specialists will be on-site to assist with processing benefits elections.

**FEHB plan changes must be completed using the GRB Platform Website:
<https://www.platform.army.mil/>*



2024 ADOPT A FAMILY

FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT US AT [1-800-858-2677](tel:1-800-858-2677)

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 FILL OUT AN 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](tel:1-800-858-2677) OR [SCAN THE QR CODE](#)

WHO GETS 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 OF FAMILY?

WE WELCOME THE 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 NO LATER THAN **NOVEMBER 22ND**.

FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT US AT
[1-800-858-2677](tel:1-800-858-2677)

Adopt A Family 2024





THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD TAG INNOVATION CHALLENGE



WE'RE LOOKING FOR ALL IDEAS—BIG AND SMALL!

HAVE YOU DEVELOPED AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION
TO A SPECIFIC CHALLENGE?

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE IT! SUBMIT YOUR
INITIATIVE TODAY.

OPEN TO NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY AND CIVILIANS.



SUBMISSION LINK HERE

WINNING INNOVATORS PRIZE POOL

Top Innovators selected to pitch their ideas to Senior Leaders!
Finalists will receive: The opportunity to implement your idea across
Connecticut National Guard



NOVEMBER KICKOFF
MS TEAMS – CTNG INNOVATION
CTNGInnovation@army.mil



Be Someone's Hero
Give Blood

BLOOD DRIVE

Major General Maurice Rose
Armed Forces Reserve Center
Assembly Room

Thursday, December 5th
1000 to 1500

Please visit **redcrossblood.org** and enter: **CTAFR**
to schedule an appointment.



Scan QR code to
Sign up



Come to give blood for two pairs of **custom**
FRIENDS + Red Cross socks! Keep a pair,
gift a pair and ask a friend to be there too!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

NOT FEELING LIKE YOURSELF?

REACH OUT. STAY MISSION READY.

Military Life is Hard On Your Mind And Body

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

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

Psychological Health Resource Center

Call/Chat with a health resource consultant 24/7 at 888-988-1020 or va.warriorcare.net/livechat

Military Crisis Line

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

VA
MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM
REAL STRENGTH
www.va.gov

MHS
Military Health System
[health.mil](https://mhs.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. 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 Fritzzy Badge on pocket)**
- Army Flight Suit (Green, ACU, or OCP)**
- Army Mess Dress**
- Army Blue ASU (female either pants or skirt)**
- Army Khaki uniform**
- Era equipment that can be added to period dioramas.**

SEXUAL ASSAULT.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT.
NOT IN
OUR ARMY.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinators

CTARNG SARC 860.883.4798

103rd AW SARC (24hr) 860.895.3526

Chaplain and Legal

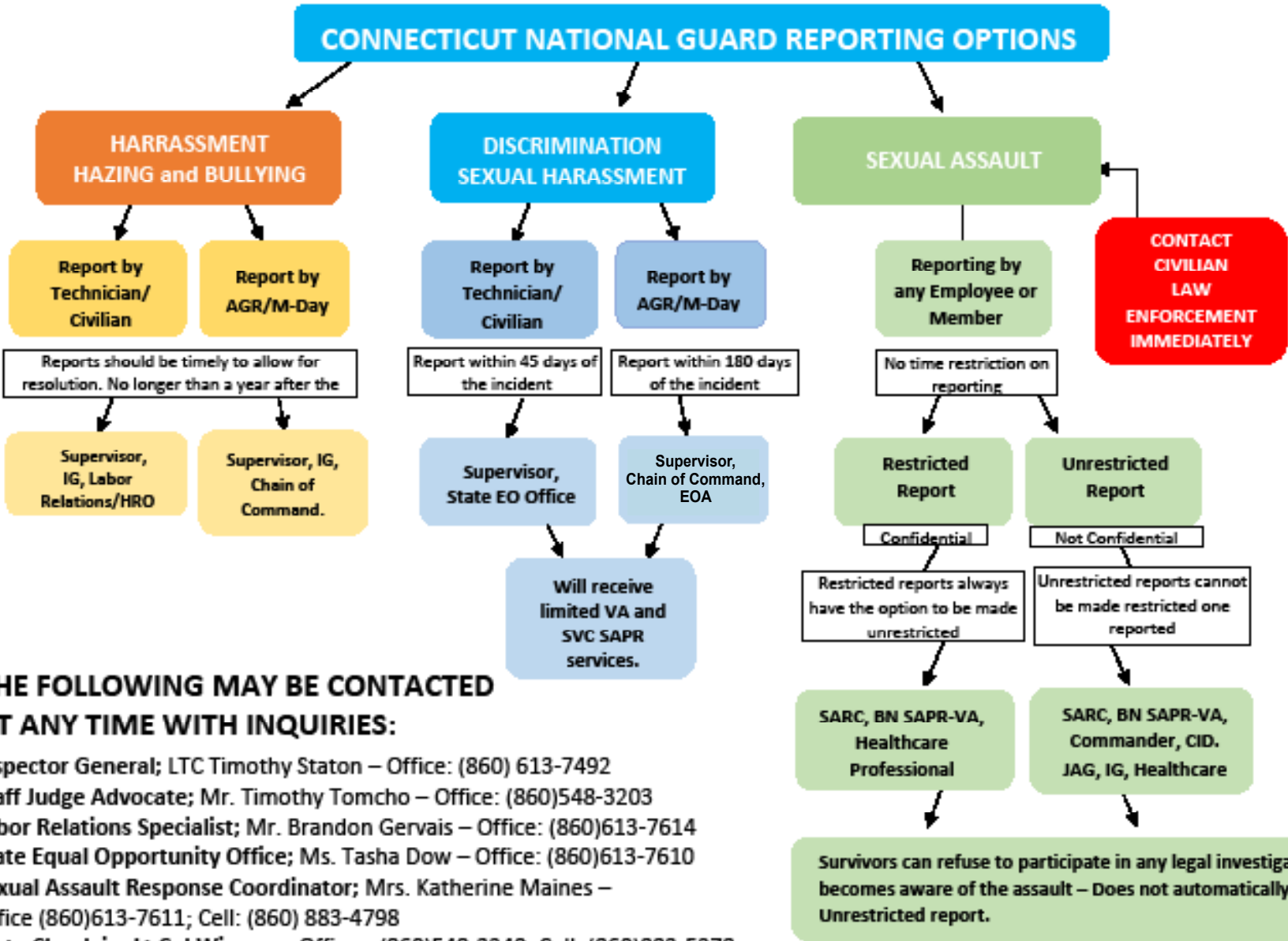
CT Chaplain 860.548.3240

CT Special Victim’s Council 703.607.2263

Medical

Military Treatment Facility (Westover) 413.557.2623

Navy Health Clinic New London 860.694.4123



<div><div></div><div>Service Member and Family Support Center Staff Directory</div><div></div></div>			
William A. O'Neill Armory: 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 (800) 850-2677 Open Monday-Friday			
Director, Service Member and Family Support Center	Kimberly Hoffman	kimberly.hoffman.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 850-2677
Lead Military and Family Readiness	Nicoley Baker	nicoleybaker.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0176 (desk) (800) 850-2618 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Caroline Kyle	caroline.kyle.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0176 (desk) (800) 844-0799 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Jenna Perry	jenna.perry.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0177 (desk) (800) 850-2696 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Michelle McGowry	michelle.m.mcgowry.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0174 (desk) (800) 850-0973 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Madea Rutelwa	Madea.rutelwa.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0173 (desk) (800) 850-2619 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Kelly Stiles	kelly.stiles.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0173 (desk) (800) 840-0613 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Rich Timb-white	richard.h.timbwhite.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 440-3787 (desk) (800) 840-8209 (cell)
Lead GEM & Youth Program Coordinator	Carrie Joseph	carrie.joseph.cdhhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0178 (desk) (800) 850-0964 (cell)
Military Outreach Coordinator	Scott McLoughlin	scottmcloughlin@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-8414 (cell)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Volunteer Support Definition	Jessie Baker	jessiebaker@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0176 (desk)
Personal Financial Coordinator	John Igdel	jigdel@usmilg.mil	(783) 230-0794 (cell)
Base Support Captain	McCall Erik Winner	erik.winner@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0176 (desk) (800) 850-0176 (cell)
Transition Assistance Advisor	Patricia Parra	pparra@usmilg.mil	(783) 230-0573 (cell) (783) 197-0912 (desk)
Connecticut Military Relief Fund	Julian Muller	julian.muller@icg-ct.gov	(800) 840-0176 (desk)
Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center: 375 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Caroline Kyle	caroline.kyle.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0176 (desk) (800) 844-0799 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Jenna Perry	jenna.perry.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-0177 (desk) (800) 850-2696 (cell)
Niantic Readiness Center: 50 Smith Street, Niantic, CT 06357 Open Thursdays			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Michelle McGowry	michelle.m.mcgowry.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 730-1637 (desk) (800) 850-0973 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Madea Rutelwa	Madea.rutelwa.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(860) 730-1637 (desk) (860) 680-3209 (cell)
Windsor Locks Readiness Center: 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 Open Fridays			
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Kelly Stiles	kelly.stiles.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 393-0401 (desk) (800) 840-0613 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Rich Timb-white	richard.h.timbwhite.chdhs@usmilg.mil	(800) 393-0401 (desk) (800) 840-8209 (cell)
163rd AirBt Wing: 116 Rainbow Road, East Granby, CT 06026			
Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager	Adria Cabrera	adria.cabrera.163awc@usmilg.mil	(800) 393-3794 (desk) (800) 730-7403 (cell)
Waterbury Armory: 64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702			
Partner Outreach Service Coordinator	Debra Mollat	debra.mollat@usmilg.mil	(800) 850-0979 (cell)
Military Outreach Coordinator	Scott McLoughlin	scottmcloughlin@usmilg.mil	(800) 840-8414 (cell)

As of 20 April 24

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