



# Connecticut GUARDIAN

*The Yankee Courier on page 15*

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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

May 2022

## CTNG Hosts first in-person Armed Forces Day Luncheon in two years

**Tim Koster**  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

SOUTHINGTON, Conn. – The Connecticut National Guard hosted the annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon in-person for the first time after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic May 20, 2022.

The luncheon is a state tradition that dates back to the 1960s and brings together members of Connecticut's military, veteran, civic, and business communities to celebrate military service and to honor those who have served, or continue to serve, the state and nation.

"It's great to be able to gather after an unprecedented pandemic prevented us from formally celebrating Armed Forces Day the past two years," said Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard. "The Connecticut National Guard has been honored to host this event for over 20 years, paying special tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces."

This year's event saw more than 700 service men and women from nearly every branch and component of the military, veterans whose service dates back to the Vietnam, Korean, and Second World War, as well as prominent local business supporters in attendance.

The luncheon featured speeches by keynote speaker Maj. Gen. Lee M. Ellis, assistant deputy commanding general for National Guard affairs at U.S. Army Mater-



*A member of the 1st Company Governor's Foot Guard salutes as the colors are posted during the opening of the 73rd annual Connecticut Armed Forces Day Luncheon in Southington, Connecticut, May 20, 2022. The luncheon is a state tradition that dates back to the 1960s and brings together members of Connecticut's military, veteran, civic, and business communities to celebrate military service and to honor those who have served, or continue to serve, the state and nation.*

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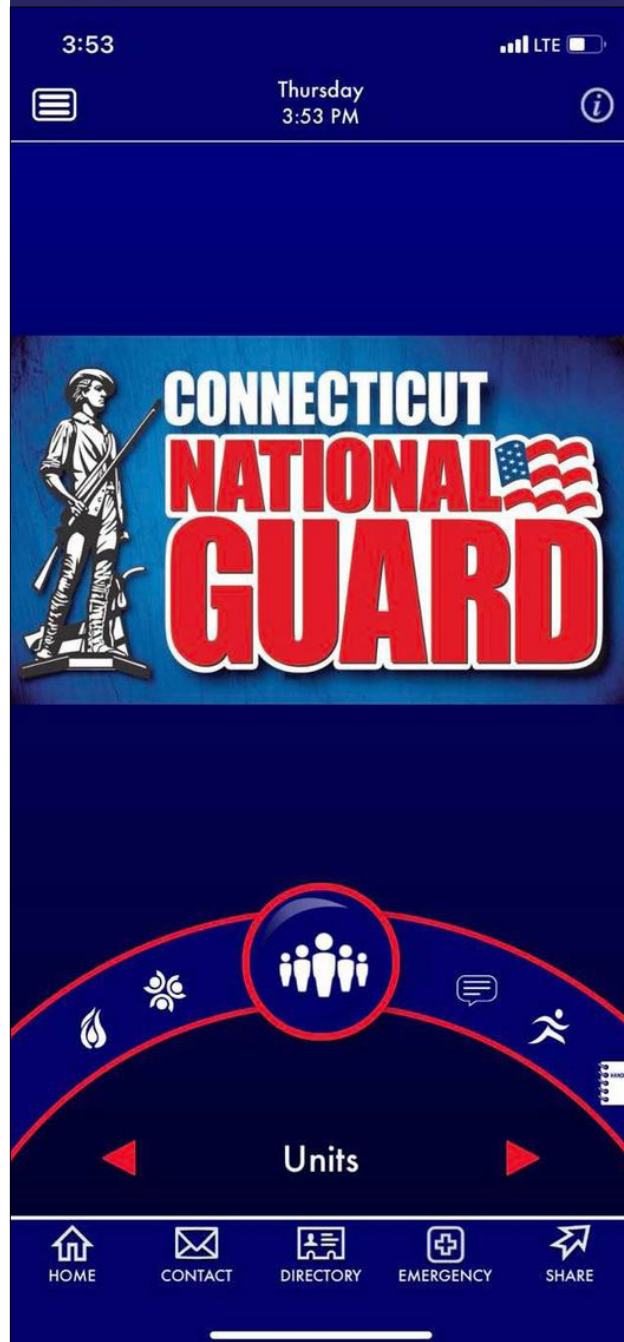


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your chain of command or unit admin.

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A CH-47 Chinook and UH-60M Blackhawk, both assigned to the 1-169th Aviation Regiment, scoop water from the Chicopee Reservoir at Chicopee Memorial State Park, Chicopee, Massachusetts May 24, 2022, as part of a joint BAMBI bucket training exercise between the Connecticut National Guard and Westover Fire Department. This was the first time the two agencies partnered together to train in aerial firefighting techniques.

## CTNG, Westover Fire Department conduct first-ever joint aerial firefighting training

**Tim Koster**  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CHICOPEE, Mass. — Soldiers assigned to the 1-169th Aviation Regiment and firefighters from the Westover Fire Department teamed up for the first time to conduct a joint aerial firefighting exercise at Westover Air Reserve Base May 24-25, 2022.

While the Connecticut National Guard aviators are required to conduct this type of training every year to maintain their readiness in the event of a wildfire, having the ability to train with professional firefighters who serve as the eyes and ears on the ground was a valuable experience for both units.

“This is by far, according to everyone I’ve spoken to, the best way we can do the training, said Capt. Marc Winchester, a soldier assigned to the 1-169th Aviation Regiment. “Doing it in conjunction with the firefighters has brought the training to a whole new level.”

Tuesday’s training was primarily focused on the pilots and air crews getting refamiliarized with the BAMBI bucket system and the effects of hauling more than 500 gallons of water in a bucket suspended by cables from the aircraft. This was also the only day to incorporate both UH-60M Blackhawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters into the training.

Pilots first flew their respective aircraft to the Chicopee Reservoir in Chicopee Memorial State Park where the crews would fill the bucket before returning to the training area where orange cones were set up to simulate the location of a fire. Using effective communication via radio, a firefighter on the ground would direct the pilots and crew where and how to dump the water.

Captain Paul Bradford, a Westover Air Reserve Base firefighter, explained that while a bucket of water can be used to douse a single, small problem area, most water drops in major wildfires are used to contain the fire and prevent it from spreading. Having trained fire fighters on the ground to inform air units where to drop their loads can ensure accurate placement and quicker containment.

Wednesday’s training also involved water drops using a UH-60M Blackhawk but was more focused on the firefighters — many of whom have limited experience being the one on the radio to instruct aviation assets. It also provided an opportunity for them to take a ride on the helicopter to get a better understanding on what goes into the aviation aspect of the mission.

The process for conducting a water drop is more complex than it may appear in video

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# Luncheon

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el Command, and guest speakers Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont and Attorney General William Tong.

kicked off with two keynote speakers, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont and Maj. Gen. Lee M. Ellis, assistant deputy commanding general for National Guard affairs at U.S. Army Materiel Command.

Lamont thanked the veterans and service members, making special note of everything the National Guard did for the state during the COVID-19 pandemic, and shared a personal story about his uncle who served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II.

“His submarine went missing during the very last weeks of the war,” Lamont said. “It wasn’t until many months later that our family realized what happened to the submarine. My family talked about it as though he had just left the room for the next 50 years ... Freedom isn’t free. My heart goes out to all of our extraordinary service men and women who provide their service on behalf of this nation.”

In addition to providing remarks, Lamont also took a moment to officially re-appoint Maj. Gen. Evon to serve four more years as Adjutant General and commander of the Connecticut Military Department.

While the Armed Forces Day Luncheon is meant to be a celebratory event and build camaraderie among the different branches, it’s also a time to reflect of the service and sacrifice of those no longer with us and those left behind.

“As we approach Memorial Day next weekend, it’s important that we remember and pay homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Evon. “Today, we continue to honor those left behind—those who paid a very personal price for us and our nation, our Gold Star Families. Allow me to express our appreciation to you on behalf of all those present today. We are humbled by your



Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont makes remarks during the 73rd annual Connecticut Armed Forces Day Luncheon in Southington, Connecticut, May 20, 2022. Lamont used his time to thank the troops and veterans as well as officially re-appoint Maj. Gen. Francis Evon as the state’s adjutant general and commander of the Connecticut Military Department.

sacrifice, inspired by your resilience, and grateful for your continued service to your communities.”

Armed Forces Day is a national observance in the United States, celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May

each year. The holiday was created on Aug. 31, 1949, by then-Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson at the behest of President Harry S. Truman to replace the separate armed forces branch observance days.

## A McCarty Memorial Day Tradition

CW4 (ret.) Chris McCarty  
Contributor

Each year in Southington the American Legion places flags at every gravesite of a servicemember in preparation for Memorial Day. Originally called Decorating Day the holiday has come to be a rime of reflection on the few who raised their right hands and said yes to the service, sacrifice, and hardship to the great peoples of the United States. American Legion Post 72 works to never forget those who’ve served.

That simple act, walking cemeteries and placing flags, preforming a civic service, has taken on greater meaning in Southington and for the McCarty family. The annual call from Dah, or CSM (Ret) Steven McCarty, goes out to his family and to the Southington community. People from across the town volunteer to help walk the rows of headstones, trying their best not to miss a vet. It is fun to see all the help and how quickly the cemeteries become dotted with flags. Students from Southington High School, where Dah is a permanent substitute, join the action. They perform their community service while being entertained by stories. Members of many of the towns civic organizations show up at the cemeteries all over the community. The flag placing and Memorial Day preparation is an event unto itself.

Dah is always at Oak Hill, handing bundles of flags, picking older flags up, and imparting history and tall tales to anyone who will listen. There is always the question of breakfast, as if there is no better meal of the day. But in today’s hustle and bustle little league, homework, jobs, and housework take over the minds of the people including the McCarty’s gathered for the event. The occasion serves as a McCarty family reunion of sorts, and despite life’s requirements there is always a bit of lingering at the end of the morning. Placing the flags has involved Dah’s brothers, nieces, children, and grandchil-



Members of the Memorial Day flag placing team at Oak Hill Cemetery. Command Master Sgt. (Ret) Steven McCarty third on left in blue. Students from SHS Kiwanis club on right. Headstone of Reverend (Tech Sergeant) Thomas McCarty on left.

dren over the years. Each one of them look forward to finding that headstone missed and placing a flag. The family and friends always finish at the gravestones of Reverend Thomas McCarty, WWII and his wife Virginia. One row away is the stone for Reverend Clifton McCarty, WWI, and his wife Ethel.

Five generations of McCarty’s come together, the younger ones run in contest with each other to get more finds and correct placements while reading in astonishment how old some of the gravestone’s date. There is always laughter and a little pride in doing the veterans at rest another small service. But with the McCarty family, Memorial Day preparation is another family gathering.

Take time with your families this Memorial Day, and don’t forget to have a hamburger!





U.S. Army Pfc. Richard Kurtz (retired), a Korea War veteran who was assigned to the 13th Ranger Company, 43rd Infantry Division, poses for a photo with family, friends and U.S. Army Col. David Pickel, commander of the 143rd Regional Support Group, Connecticut Army National Guard, during a celebration at Suffield VFW Post 9544, West Suffield, Connecticut, May 19, 2022. The celebration honored Kurtz and his extraordinary military service. (Courtesy photo).

## 143rd RSG Commander Bridges Past With 43rd ID Veteran

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

HARTFORD, Conn — U.S. Army Col. David Pickel, 143rd Regional Support Group, Connecticut Army National Guard, gifted his shoulder sleeve insignia to Korean War veteran U.S. Army Pfc. Richard Kurtz, 13th Ranger Company, 43rd Infantry Division (Retired) during a brief ceremony at the West Suffield, CT VFW on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Pickel is the commander of the 143rd Regional Support Group, which carries on the lineage of the 43rd Infantry Division. Kurtz served with the 43rd, then part of the Connecticut Army National Guard, after the unit was federalized following the start of the Korean War.

In March of 1951, Kurtz volunteered to join the 13th Ranger Company, which had just been organized a month prior on Feb. 1, 1951. Ranger companies were a newly formed type of unit that trained for special operations but were organic to larger units. Soldiers of these companies had to be extremely physically fit and would all become airborne qualified, meaning all soldiers in the company were trained in airborne operations and had to complete five jumps from a military aircraft, unless they were a paratrooper previously during World War II, in which case they would only have to do one jump. Kurtz trained to become a Ranger, splitting his time between Fort Pickett and Fort Bragg. He would pass training and qualify as a Ranger, returning to serve in the 13th Ranger Company until he volunteered to serve in Korea with the 101st Airborne Division.

The 43rd Infantry Division was constituted on October 19, 1920, with the division

headquarters being federally recognized later on March 21, 1920, in Hartford, Connecticut. This division would be one of 18 National Guard divisions created as part of the 1920 amendments to the National Defense Act of 1916 and would be the sole National Guard division allocated to New England. The 43rd served in World War II, going overseas on October 1st, 1942 to fight in the Pacific Theater of Operations, or PTO. There, the 43rd participated in combat operations on Vangunu, Rendova, New Georgia and notably made an amphibious assault landing in the San Fabian area of Lingayen Gulf, Luzon. The division eventually put boots on the ground in Japan on September 13th, 1945 as part of the occupation following the end of the war.

During the Korean War, the division was federalized once more and sent to Germany, serving overseas until released from active federal service on June 15, 1954. The division was inactivated on May 1, 1963 as part of the National Guard restructuring and its headquarters elements would become part of the 26th Infantry Division, also known as the Yankee Division. The 43rd Infantry Division lineage and insignia was carried on by the 43rd Infantry Brigade until 1997, after which the unit was inactivated once more. It wasn't until July 18, 2020, that the black grape leaf patch of the 43rd Infantry Division would shine again in the sun, this time as the shoulder sleeve insignia of soldiers assigned to the 143rd Regional Support Group, Connecticut Army National Guard for their deployment to Jordan. It would be the first time the insignia of the 43rd was worn since 1997 and after the deployment marked the first time the patch was worn as a shoulder sleeve insignia of wartime service since World War II.



# Bambi

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and photos. While this exercise offered pristine conditions, most real-world situations would be far more complex. For example, line of sight between the firefighters, pilots, and crew members are typically hindered by forest canopies and smoke, so understanding each other’s terminology and being able to give clear vocal instructions is paramount to mission success.

While these two days provided an excellent opportunity for both the Soldiers and fire-

fighters to hone their skills, the training’s true value came from building relationships and understanding of the different agency’s mission in the event they get called upon to serve in a real-world emergency.

“The National Guard routinely has been called up from many different areas to support fires out west,” said Winchester. “So, we need to be ready not only to support locally, but if things get to the point where they’re calling for all assets, we’ll be ready and available to go.”



A CH-47 Chinook assigned to the 1-169th Aviation Regiment dumps its BAMBI bucket load over a simulated fire, marked by orange cones, during a joint aerial firefighting training event between the Connecticut National Guard and Westover Fire Department at Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee Massachusetts May 24, 2022. This was the first time the two agencies have partnered together to train.





## And the Winners are ...

Soldiers from the 143rd Military Police Company hoist the Connelly Cup at an awards banquet in Chicago, Illinois. The Connecticut National Guard Culinary Specialists won first place in this year's competition. The Philip A. Connelly Awards Program was established on 23 March 1968 to recognize excellence in Army Food Service. The program is named for the late Philip A. Connelly, former president of International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA). On 1 January 2014, the Army partnered with National Restaurant Association (NRA). The NRA and the military will strive to build on the high standard of excellence previously maintained with IFSEA. During Connelly competition events, culinarians are exposed to the highest level of expertise in the Military and Civilian industry alike. The Connelly competition represents a personal challenge to individual Soldiers. The end result is a proliferation of outstanding effort as one individual inspires another to seek the satisfaction found in performing a job well. The Connelly competition is comprised of four categories: Active Army Garrison, Active Army Field, Army National Guard Field and Army Reserve Field. Field food service operations are an organic element and provide food service to a unit in the field.



# LEADS TO ENLISTMENTS

## FY-22 ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AWARDS PROGRAM

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Choice of: National Guard Sweatshirt  
OCP Backpack or Personalized Tumbler



### 2ND LEAD TO ENLISTMENT

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# Connecticut National Guard Clergy Day 2022



## Free Blackhawk Flight!

Clergy from all faith traditions are invited to take part in this unique event.

Learn about ministry in the military. Get hands on with military equipment and fly in a Blackhawk!

The day will include a FREE lunch.

**When:** Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 10:00-2:30

**Where:** AASF

155 Light Ln, Windsor Locks, CT

**Must RSVP by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**

### To learn more or register:

Chaplain: LTC Eric Wismar

Office: (860) 548-3240

Email: [eric.a.wismar.mil@army.mil](mailto:eric.a.wismar.mil@army.mil)

OSM: CPT Mark Soltau

Cell: (860) 982-2852

Email: [hewan.m.soltau.mil@army.mil](mailto:hewan.m.soltau.mil@army.mil)





A Connecticut National Guard color guard presents the colors during the playing of the National Anthem prior to the beginning of the NCAA lacrosse championships at Rentschler Field in East Hartford May 30, 2022. (Connecticut National Guard photo by Mr. Tim Koster)



A U.S. flag flaps in the wind during a Memorial Day celebration in East Hartford, Connecticut, May 30, 2022. The Connecticut National Guard participated in several ceremonies across the state to remember those who gave their lives for the nation and the freedom we enjoy every single day. (Connecticut National Guard photo by Maj. David C. Pytlík)



A CH-47 Chinook and two UH-60M Blackhawk helicopters perform a three-ship flyover at the conclusion of the National Anthem at the beginning of the NCAA lacrosse championships at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Connecticut May 30, 2022. (Connecticut National Guard photo by Mr. Tim Koster)





Members of the 103rd Airlift Wing march in a Memorial Day parade in East Granby, Connecticut, May 30, 2022. The parade was one part of an observance to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation's freedoms (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Tamara Dabney).



Members of the 103rd Airlift Wing salute the American flag during a Memorial Day parade in East Granby, Connecticut, May 30, 2022. The parade was one part of an observance to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation's freedoms (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Tamara Dabney).



Members of the 103rd Airlift Wing march in a Memorial Day parade in East Granby, Connecticut, May 30, 2022. The parade was one part of an observance to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation's freedoms (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Tamara Dabney).



# Mental Health Awareness Month highlights resources available for those in need

Greg Wilson  
Contributor

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. — May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and it comes at a time when active-duty and veteran suicides are at alarming levels. The U.S. Army, and the U.S. Army Sustainment Command in particular, are making enormous efforts to help Soldiers, Civilians and their families be aware of mental health problems and offer support and services to those who need them.

This year, at least to this point, offers a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy picture. According to Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, testifying before Congress on May 11, Soldier deaths so far this year are “significantly lower” than during the same period last year. And rates of suicide in the Army are lower at this point than during the most recent five-year and 10-year average for the combined forces.

That’s good news, but a Department of Defense report published in September 2021, said, “In CY (calendar year) 2020, there were 580 service members who tragically died by suicide.”

The suicide rate for veterans is even worse. According to the 2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention annual report from the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, an average of 17.2 veterans took their own lives each day in the year 2019. That’s up from an average of 16.4 per day in 2001.

Dr. Joy Summerlin, Health, Wellness and Resiliency Program specialist with ASC, said “Recognizing that our mental health is just as important as our physical health, and accepting individuals who struggle for a period, or for a lifetime, is critical to reducing the fear, worry, blame, and shame that families and their loved ones experience, and increases the likelihood that those who are in need will seek the support and treatment they deserve.”

Not everyone who faces mental health problems is suicidal, but situations can negatively impact daily life for those who have anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar mood disorder, trauma, eating disorders and other issues.

Sometimes it’s not a particular mental health issue, but someone could be going through a rough period in their life, and could use some support or perhaps just someone to talk to.

ASC and Rock Island Arsenal offers numerous services to those suffering from mental health issues, along with programs that help people deal with everyday stresses.

“Active-duty military personnel and their families may access behavioral healthcare resources through the respective military/local communities,” Summerlin said. “Locally, the Woodson Health Clinic at (866) 524-4677 (HOSP).”

Summerlin also said the Employee Assistance Program has trained counselors who offer free and confidential assistance for Civilians with challenges in job performance, personal relationships, and alcohol or other drug usage. You can schedule an appointment with the Rock Island Arsenal Employee Assistance Program at (309) 782-4357.

The problem of severe depression was recently thrust into the public spotlight with the suicide death of country music star Naomi Judd, who battled depression for years, and finally succumbed to the illness.

“While mental health is entering more and more of our daily conversations,” Summerlin said, “it’s critical that everyone has a solid foundation of knowledge about mental health. Mental Health America’s focus for this year is ‘getting back to basics.’”

“We are continuously striving towards zero suicides,” Summerlin said, “and it is vital to remove suicide as an option for resolution to life’s problems or challenges, no matter how severe.”

She said this means teaching individuals to truly value life. It’s also important to provide individuals with resilience tools and resources to cope with challenges at the lowest level. Summerlin added that we need to learn and listen for warning signs that someone may be a danger to themselves.

Some of the warning signs are:

- Distress, anxiousness, agitation, or behaving recklessly.
- Rage, anger, or seeking revenge.
- Talking about hurting themselves or others.
- Seeking access to pills, weapons, or other lethal means.
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.



*Mental Health Awareness Month highlights resources available to Soldiers, Civilians and their families. This comes at a time when active-duty and veteran suicides are occurring at an alarming rate. (Courtesy photo) (Greg Wilson)*

- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Talking about being a burden.

If you sense someone is struggling with suicidal thoughts, Summerlin said the most important thing to do is to act or intervene at the earliest opportunity. She said most mental health organizations focus on applying some measure of “Ask, Care, Escort.”

- Ask: Ask them directly if they are thinking of killing themselves. Asking does not put the thought in their head.
- Care: Express concern and empathy. Acknowledge and validate how they are feeling. Stay present mentally and, if possible, physically with the person. If on the phone or social media, do not hang up
- Escort: If physically present, take them to an emergency room or behavioral health provider. If not physically present, get their location and have someone else call 911 emergency resources to go to

the person while you stay connected with them. Make sure you follow up to see how they are doing.

The reasons for someone taking their own life are almost always complicated, but people need to be aware that there is help available, with hotlines and many other resources to help them cope, with the hope that many of these tragic deaths can be averted.

Additional Resources:

National Suicide Hotline number: (800) 273-TALK (8255).

National Domestic Violence Hotline, (800) 799-7233 or thehotline.org

Military Crisis Line number in Europe is 00800-1273-8255, or DSN 118

DoD Safe Helpline: (877) 995-5247; Text in the US: 55-247 and outside the US: (571) 470-5546



# DEVCOM, Army Special Forces collaborate with international partner to test additive manufacturing technology

Argie Sarantinos  
DEVCOM HQ Public Affairs

On a battlefield in the future, Soldiers deployed to remote areas around the world will use sophisticated additive manufacturing printers to ‘print’ virtually everything they need, from food to shelter to weapons. The Army has made additive manufacturing a priority and DEVCOM is supporting the effort with Project Prime, a collaboration with U.S. Army Special Forces and an international industry partner.

The Project Prime team consists of the U.S. Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne); U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command International Technology Center – United Kingdom; DEVCOM Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Combat systems, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center; and Defend3D, a company based in the United Kingdom that enables secure transmission of remote 3D printing.

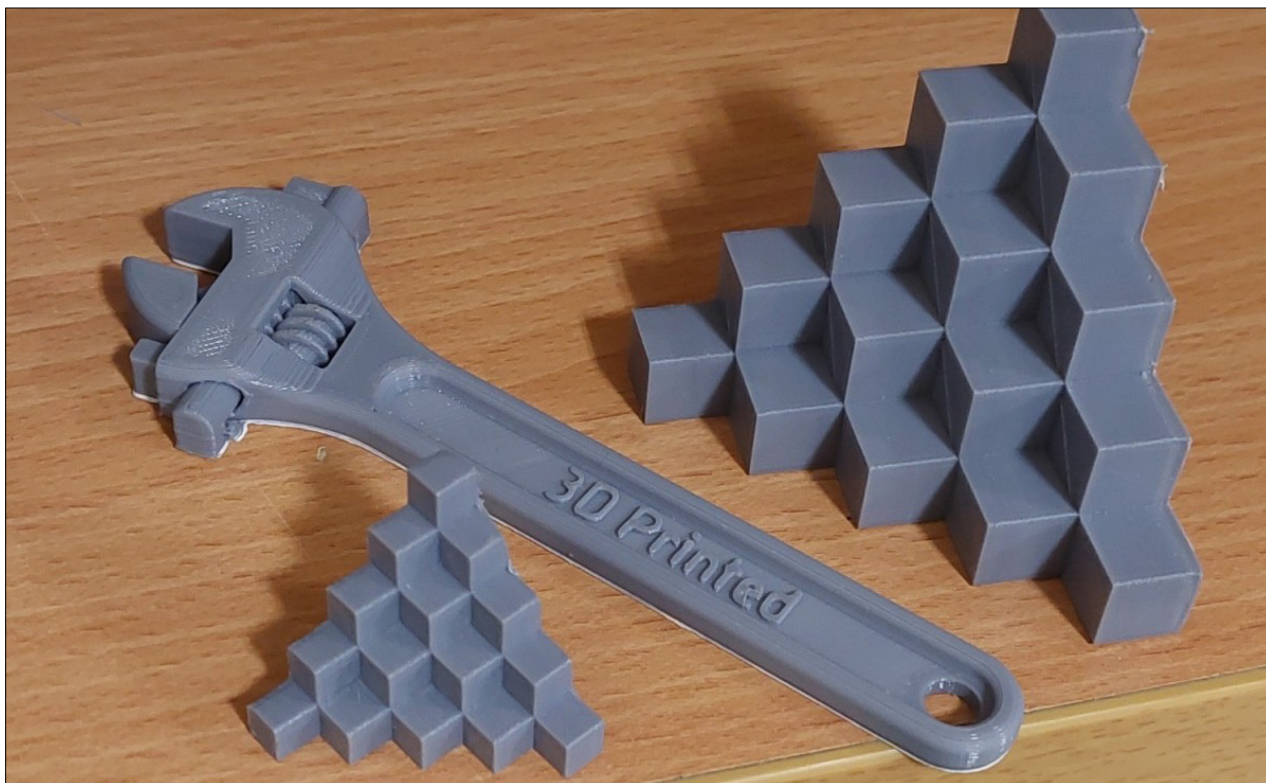
Soldiers from the 7th SFG (A) tested the technology by repeatedly adding and printing additive manufacturing files using Defend3D’s Virtual Inventory Communication Interface. VICI provides a server application that manages the virtual inventory, assigns rights to remote manufacturers and provides the product in a ‘one-click-print’ format with minimal training for the end-user to securely stream.

“Despite a network connection categorized commercially as having low to no connection, VICI facilitated speedy, secure and accurate printing. Based on expectations set at the beginning of the project, VICI did everything we needed it to do, and 7th SFG (A) was satisfied with the system performance and endorsed the capability for further development and implementation,” said Dr. Patrick Fowler, DEVCOM Global Technology advisor at ITC-UK.

Each DEVCOM ITC has a Global Technology advisor who scouts technology in their area of operation. Project Prime began when a DEVCOM Global Technology advisor was scouting additive manufacturing technology in the Atlantic region, which includes London, United Kingdom; Paris, France; Frankfurt, Germany; and Tel Aviv, Israel. The ITCs, which are part of DEVCOM’s Global Enterprise, serve as the forward-deployed ‘eyes and ears’ of the Army Science and Technology Enterprise. Other DEVCOM ITCs include: North America; South America; Northern Europe; Southern Europe; Northeast Asia; Southeast Asia; and Southern Hemisphere.

VICI ensures end-to-end encryption by enabling organizations to store their designs locally and use the virtual inventory to manufacture parts in remote locations. For example, a deployed Soldier communicates a need, such as a spare part or a modification to an existing part, to the Computer-Aided Design element at 7th SFG (A). The CAD element either designs the part from scratch or selects from a database of commonly used parts. This is then streamed to the Soldier in the field, who prints the part. Because the file is never sent, VICI prevents adversaries from accessing the information and identifying vulnerabilities in equipment and capabilities.

“We made it a priority to pursue avenues that will allow us to operate in environments that are not conducive



*The Army has made additive manufacturing a priority, and a team that consists of U.S. Army Special Forces, DEVCOM and an international industry partner supported the effort with Project Prime. Project Prime enables secure transmission of remote 3D printing. (Courtesy Photo)*

to regular resupply efforts. For detachments to stay in the fight in these environments, we explored systems that operate outside the conventional supply chains. Project Prime’s deployable 3D printer and VICI software enables secure transmission and an easy-to-use interface,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jesse Peters, Innovation Cell, 7th SFG (A).

Other benefits of the technology include:

- The 3D printer operator does not need to be an expert in 3D printing to print the required files.
- The interface prevents overloading the network since forward-deployed Soldiers only see objects they have requested for their mission.
- It securely stores files in a sharable repository, including files created by the Department of Defense and coalition networks.

“Imagine this scenario – a clever Green Beret on a remote base develops a novel attachment for an existing Unmanned Aircraft System, which is stored in VICI. Then, a clever Airman across the world at a remote airfield sees it and adds his/her twist. Next, a British Soldier prints it and starts using it in his/her own operations,” Fowler said.

During the training event, feedback was gathered in real-time as the deployed Soldiers communicated with the 7th SFG (A) Innovation Cell. Other information was collected after the training, including the pros and cons of the system, software interface, training requirements and long-term durability.

7th SFG (A) plans to train more of their Soldiers on the technology to support a U.S. Army Southern Command deployment. Once the deployment is completed, ITC-UK will document all of the activities and achievements of

Project Prime and make it available to the broader Department of Defense community. The information will benefit other DEVCOM centers and research laboratory, particularly the C5ISR Center, which focuses on securing communications to the tactical edge. The technology may also fill gaps with other Army units.

“We’re looking for funding to further develop VICI to make it operable on a cell phone or a small device, including a Raspberry Pi, which is a very small computer that plugs into a computer monitor, TV, or similar small end-user devices. This will make the solution, which is currently used on a laptop, even more deployable,” Fowler said.

The U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, known as DEVCOM, is home to thousands of Army scientists, engineers, technicians and analysts working around the globe to leverage cutting-edge technologies and empower the American warfighter with the data and abilities to see, sense, make decisions and act faster than our adversaries – today and in the future.

As part of the Army Futures Command, DEVCOM takes calculated risks to find new technological solutions each day. Our experts drive innovation, improve existing technologies and engineer solutions to technical challenges. Our work goes beyond theory to simulation and prototyping. We take potential science and technology solutions from the lab “into the dirt” for experimentation alongside Army Soldiers. DEVCOM prides itself as a global ecosystem of innovators, from world-class universities and large defense contractors, to small, minority-owned businesses and international allies and partners.





Lt. Gen. Willard Burleson (left), the Combined Forces command chief of staff and commander of Eighth Army, greets South Korea's president elect, Yoon Suk-yeol, at Desiderio Arifield on Camp Humphreys, South Korea on Apr. 7, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Diana Rose Faulve)

## Army leaders say alliances will be key to success in the Indo-Pacific

Joe Lacdan  
Army News Service

HONOLULU — More than 70 years ago, U.S. forces learned the importance of readiness and partner nation alliances during the Korean War, an Army leader said during the 2022 Land Forces Pacific Symposium, or LANPAC.

Lt. Gen. Willard Burleson, Eighth Army Commander, said the U.S. forces' inability to prevent North Korea's recapture of Seoul stemmed from a lack of readiness.

"We failed. We did not stop the North Korean advance," Burleson said during a LANPAC panel discussion. "We were not prepared. We didn't have the training. We didn't have the material. We didn't have the readiness."

Burleson added that the alliance formed between U.S. forces and the South Korean Army helped avoid greater loss of life.

"What's the answer? ... alliances and partnerships," Burleson said. "The alliance between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea, or United Nations has been around for a long time. And training and readiness is really important."

Today the Army maintains a strong presence in the country with a major command, the Eighth Army, stationed at Camp Humphreys.

Burleson stressed building readiness and unit cohesion with multinational exercises including the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center held in Alaska and Hawaii will be crucial. Army units including 25th Infantry Division practiced training in jungle and maritime environments on Oahu and on the Island of Hawaii last October.

Army units in Alaska took part in their rotation of training in March. Soldiers learned to operate in harsh arctic climates. The Army recently introduced its Arctic Strategy earlier this year to maintain regional stability and augment its ability to operate in colder weather.

"What they get from learning about interoperability, human procedures and technical [skills] out of these regional training experiences is tremendously important," Burleson said. "So participation within southeast and northeast Asia in our training exercise not only builds readiness for our combined security, but it develops leaders for the future."

During the Association of the U.S. Army Center of Leadership's Junior Leader Solarium, participants from across the Army and ally nations took part in leadership discussions

to share ideas on coalition building, multi-domain operations and leading Soldiers.

About 56 Soldiers and civilian leaders from across the Army and 24 members of U.S. ally nations participated in the program, where they discussed leadership challenges and developed solutions.

Retired Gen. Robert Brown, the former commander of U.S. Army Pacific, founded the Center of Leadership in October 2021 to connect leaders and help form unit cohesion across the service.

Burleson said the solarium will be critical in mentoring future leaders that could influence tactical decisions in the region for years to come.

Col. W. Bochat, who serves as the chief of staff of the 2nd Infantry Division/Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, said that her units build unity among its teams by training alongside South Korean troops as well as spending recreational time with their South Korean counterparts.

She added that American and South Korean troops share ideas and debates. Bochat said that time among her South Korean peers builds cohesion that can be critical to joint defense in the Indo-Pacific.

"Relationships start long before the first shots are fired," said Bochat. "Serving next to my ROK counterparts at the division, brigade and battalion level builds that necessary trust for armistice and conflict. While we speak two different languages, our true interoperable language is tactical and operational competence at our assigned fields."

Retired Korean Lt. Gen. In-Bum Chun witnessed the close bonds formed between U.S. Army commanders and non-commissioned officers while attending an international military meeting in Washington years ago. He said he saw a U.S. Army sergeant major talk about his commanders as "partners."

He believes that type of relationship and camaraderie can be forged in the Indo-Pacific among U.S. ally forces.

"I have discovered the secret to the U.S. military's ability to win wars," Chun said. "And I don't believe it is the F-35 [Lightning II] or the [aircraft] carriers. I believe it is your relationship between your officers and your NCOs. This is something that is doable right now."



# The YANKEE COURIER



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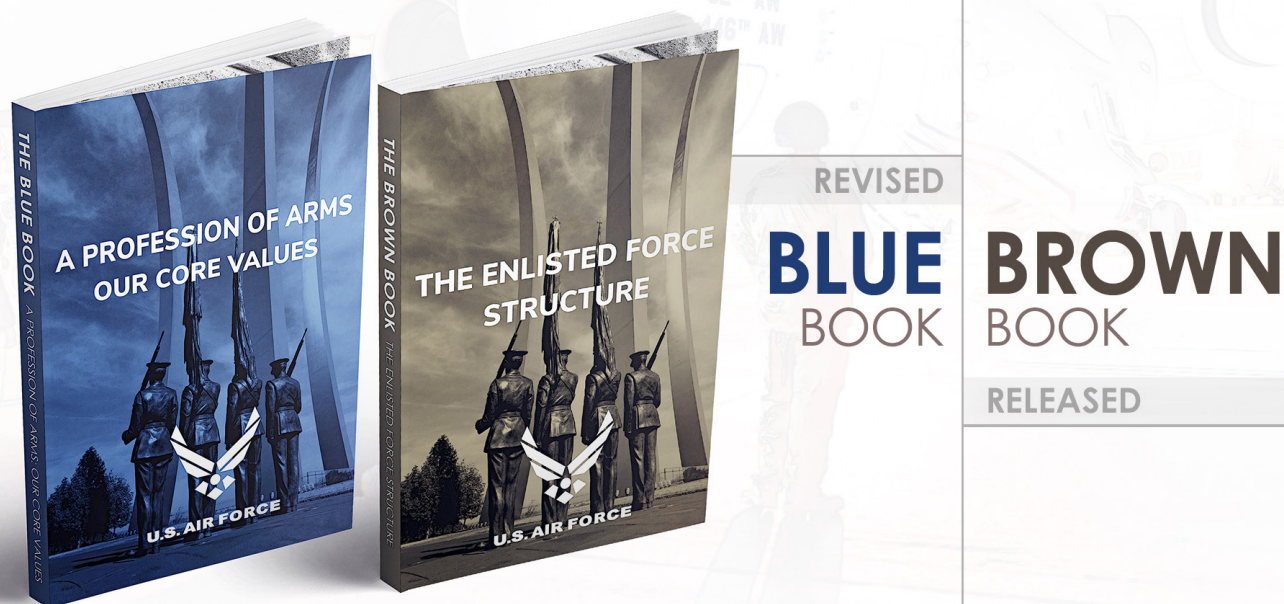
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May 2022



Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Eric Hady (right), an aircraft loadmaster assigned to the 103rd Operations Group, 103rd Airlift Wing, Connecticut Air National Guard and Italian paratroopers prepare for a jump during an airdrop mission, as part of Exercise Swift Response 22, May 11, 2022, in Pisa, Italy. Swift Response is a U.S. EUCOM scheduled, U.S. Army Europe and Africa conducted, and SETAF-AF led global exercise, focused on Allied Airborne forces' ability to quickly and effectively respond to crisis situations as an interoperable, multi-national team. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)





The Air Force recently updated the contents of *The Enlisted Force Structure* and *The Profession of Arms: Our Core Values*, more commonly known among Airmen as the “Brown” and “Blue” books. The updates outline modernized development changes within the Air Force, in line with the vision to accelerate change across the enterprise. (U.S. Air Force illustration by Travis Burcham)

## Revised ‘Brown, Blue Book’ released

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs  
Contributor

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- The Air Force recently updated the contents of *The Enlisted Force Structure* and *The Profession of Arms: Our Core Values*, more commonly known among Airmen as the “Brown” and “Blue” books.

Tradition and heritage are themes found within the revamped foundational guides for Airmen to emulate throughout their career.

“Our Airmen are the greatest competitive advantage we have to deter and defeat the fast-paced, complex threats we face around the globe,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. “Airmen should approach our mission with the mindset of respect, pride, innovation, and a continued commitment to anticipate and embrace change to achieve excellence.”

The *Enlisted Force Structure*, or “Brown Book,” provides a standard baseline to best meet mission requirements, while outlining foundational and occupational competencies Airmen should develop as they progress in rank and responsibility. It underscores the importance of character in each tier of the enlisted structure, and clearly outlines standards Airmen must meet and enforce to ad-

vance a culture of trust, respect and inclusion.

Although the core of the enlisted force structure remains the same, the updated “Brown Book” supports developing current and future Airmen by adding topics such as: Airman Leadership Qualities, teaming, force development and multi-capable Airmen. The updates outline modernized development changes within the Air Force, in line with the vision to accelerate change across the enterprise.

*The Profession of Arms: Our Core Values*, known as the “Blue Book,” was originally published in 1996 and provides guidance to Airmen at all levels on the service’s institutional values and guiding principles. This revision extensively explains the Profession of Arms; Service Oaths for Enlisted, Officers and Civil Servants; Air Force Core Values and the Code of Conduct.

“We must periodically review and refresh our foundational guides to ensure we’re giving Airmen the tools they need to succeed in the future force,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. “What hasn’t changed, is every Airman’s responsibility to inspire others, set an example through personal conduct, and promote leadership and accountability across our force.”

The Blue Book calls on Airmen to be dedicated to continuous individual and institutional improvements. It emphasizes the importance of showing respect for others and

implements a recommendation of the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military by clarifying that engaging in and tolerating sexual assault and sexual harassment are violations of the Air Force Core Values. Stalking, bullying, extremism and discrimination are additional behaviors cited as eroding the foundation upon which the Air Force was built.

In addition to the “Brown” and “Blue” books, Airmen can expect a new “Purple Book” to be released in the summer. The “Purple Book” will aim to educate Airmen about how Airpower fits into the joint-force environment, and connects joint doctrine, values, capabilities and warfighting concepts that capture how the Air Force effectively partners with other services to protect America’s interests across the globe.

“Updating these foundational guides equips Airmen with the resources needed to become highly trained, educated, and adaptable to the threats our competitors present, and the significant role every Airman plays for the mission to be successful,” Bass said.

Developing and updating these guides was part of the 28 Enlisted Force Development Action Plan objectives focused on developing the future enlisted force. The revised “Brown Book” can be found [here](#) and the revised “Blue Book” can be found [here](#).



# Air Force announces new mustache policy, sister service and joint unit patch update

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs  
Contributor

The Air Force recently published a memorandum outlining updates to the Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of United States Air Force and United States Space Force Personnel, which include mustache, sister service and joint unit patch wear guidance. The updates are effective immediately for Airmen.

"These changes will allow Airmen additional flexibilities as to how to wear mustaches" said Gwendolyn DeFilippi, acting Deputy Chief of Staff for manpower, personnel and services. "Additionally, allowing Airmen to wear sister-service patches in their current color configuration influences cohesiveness and pride while assigned to joint organizations."

**Mustaches:** No portion of the mustache will extend below the lip line of the upper lip. Additionally, the mustache will not go beyond a horizontal line extending across the corners of the mouth and no more than 1/4 inch beyond a vertical line drawn from the corner of the mouth.

**Patches:** Airmen assigned, attached, detailed, or activated in support of sister-service units or joint organizations can now wear the unit's patches in accordance with the sister service or joint organizations wear instructions.

The badges or patches can be worn in the sister service or joint organization's color configuration and will not be converted to the spice brown color.

DAFI 36-2903 takes precedence if a sister service or joint organization wear instructions cause a conflict in Air Force patch configuration guidance, i.e. the wear instruction might switch a patch designated as a "left sleeve" patch to the right sleeve.

These updates were based off feedback provided to senior leaders and the updated DAFI will be published at a later date.



*Tech. Sgt. Justin Bogushefsky, 436th Mission Support Group commander's action group, participated in Mustache March March 27, 2014, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Mustache March is an annual Air Force tradition. Bogushefsky was one of many Airmen that have taken Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, challenge to heart. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Zachary Cacia)*

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Members of the 134th Security Forces Squadron perform Honor Guard duties for the funeral of Master Sgt. Gabriel Griffin, at the East Tennessee State Veteran's Cemetery October 11, 2019. Friends and family gathered to honor Master Sgt. Griffin, a member of the 134th ARW SFS, who was active with the Wing and his community throughout his career. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Teri Eicher)

## Honoring those who served

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

Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor the soldiers and sailors who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Today, it has become the day we recognize those service members who have died. Often there is a roll call of the dead, and their names are read once more in recognition of their service. These ceremonies remind us that, as military veterans, we are entitled to a military funeral. If this is a veteran's desire, their wishes should be made known and those carrying out their wishes should know how to get it done.

The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing funeral honors under the program. "Honoring Those Who Served" Public Law 106-65, Section 578 of the National Defense Authorization Act, authorization date, January 1, 2000, mandates that the United States Armed Forces shall provide funeral honors for any eligible veteran if requested by his or her family.

An eligible veteran is one who was discharged under circumstances other than dishonorable. The veteran's DD Form 214 will be required to establish eligibility for military funeral honors. Veterans eligible for military funerals and full honors include the following: Active duty or Selected Reserve in the US Armed Forces, former active duty or Selected Reserve who departed under conditions other than dishonorable, former enlisted servicemen or servicewomen who completed at least one term or period of ini-

tial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable, and former servicemen or servicewomen who were discharged due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

The burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of no fewer than a two-member honor guard of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent armed service of the deceased veteran. The minimum requirements of the honor guard detail will be to perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the flag of the United States to the next of kin and the sounding of Taps by a lone bugler. If a bugler is not available, an audio recording may be used. Federal law does allow National Guard and Reserve units to assist with funeral honors duty when necessary and appropriate. A rifle squad, recognized as part of the traditional military funeral, can be requested, but is not considered a necessity. Veterans' organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors.

If you're a veteran and your discharge was not dishonorable, you are probably eligible for burial in a national veterans or state veterans cemetery. If you're buried in a private cemetery, your family may be entitled to a veteran's burial allowance. The Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration cemetery staff can also assist with arranging military funeral honors at VA national cemeteries. You can receive military funeral honors and memorial items whether you're interred in a veterans cemetery or a private one. Veterans buried in private

cemeteries may be eligible for burial benefits. The United States Navy and United States Coast Guard provide burial at sea.

Upon request, The VA furnishes, upon request and at no charge, a government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. For eligible Veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, the VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to a privately purchased headstone.

Veterans or their spouses can apply to see if they qualify to be buried in a VA national cemetery. Getting this qualification or pre-need decision letter confirming eligibility will make it much easier on the family when scheduling the place of burial.

For more information concerning military funerals and burials contact or go to the websites of the Department of Defense, Burial and Survivor Benefits for Veterans at USA.gov, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

One does not like to think of one's death. But just like with all end of life matters, one must make their wishes known. Any veteran who wishes to have a military funeral or burial in a national or state veterans' cemetery should make sure that it is known.



# PHOTOS FROM THE FORCE



Navy Diver 2nd Class Chase Marini, assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Three, plays tic-tac-toe with Sebastian Medina and his friend, Joseph Park, from inside his dive tank as part of a Make-A-Wish visit during Los Angeles Fleet Week (LAFW) in San Pedro, Calif., May 29, 2022. (U.S. Navy video by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class David Negron)



Green Berets with 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) provide aid to a simulated casualty during a Tactical Combat Casualty Care training scenario on Fort Carson, Colorado, May, 11 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jordan Worthy)



A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor with the 325th Fighter Wing, approaches a KC-135 Stratotanker with the 117th Air Refueling Wing, Alabama Air National Guard, to refuel in-flight during Sentry Savannah May 11, 2022, (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Caila Arahood)



# PHOTOS FROM THE FORCE



Airman 1st Class Courage Krueger, 341st Contracting Squadron contracting apprentice, is lifted into a UH-N1 Huey during a search and rescue exercise May 24, 2022, over the Highwood Mountains near Great Falls, Mont. Krueger was acting as an injured hiker who went missing during a hike. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Mary Bowers)



Members of the public stop and read some of the names of fallen Oregon service members from World War II following the Memorial Day ceremony held at the World War II Memorial in Salem, Ore., May 30, 2022. (photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



A roadway where workers with Mathy Construction of Onalaska, Wis., have completed roadwork is shown May 2, 2022, on the cantonment area at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. (U.S. Army Photo by Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy, Wis.)



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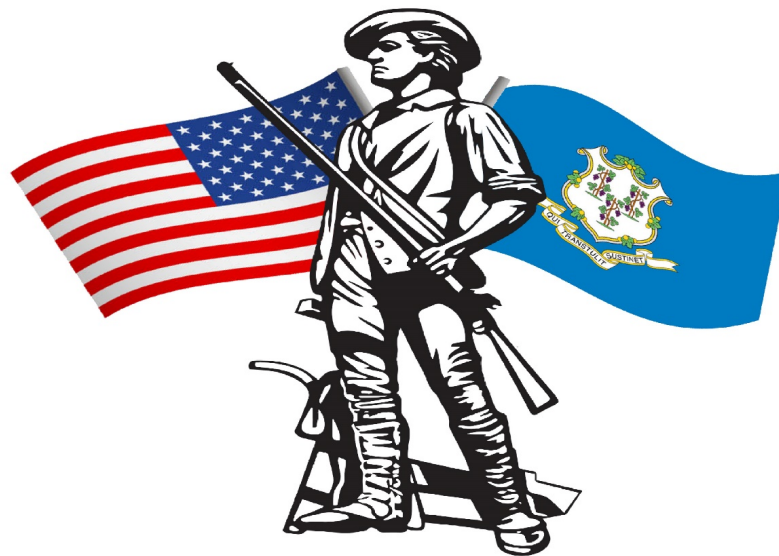
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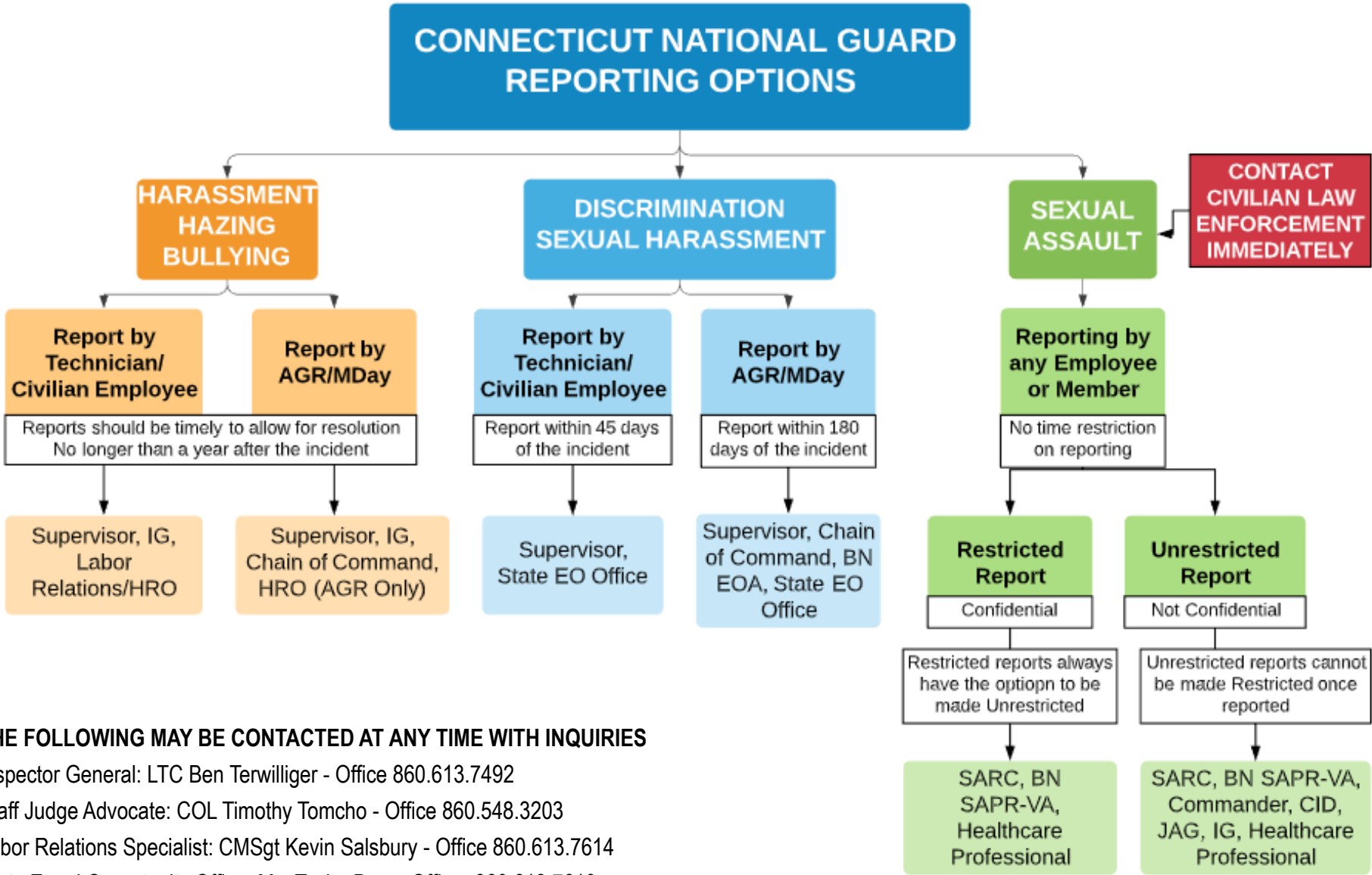


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Sexual Assault Response Coordinator: Mrs. Katherine Maines - Office 860.613.7611; Cell 860.883.4798  
State Chaplain: LTC Eric Wismar - Office 860.548.3240; Cell 860.883.5278



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