



# NEWS RELEASE

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October 17, 2016

## **CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD INFANTRY BATTALION RE-PATCHES AS ASSOCIATED UNITS PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY**

EAST LYME, Conn. – Nearly 600 members of the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1-102nd Infantry Regiment traded in the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team unit patch for the historic crossed swords of the 10th Mountain Division in a ceremony at Stones Ranch Military Reservation, Oct. 15.

As part of the Army's Associated Units program, select units in the Active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve were paired units to better integrate the three components.

The 1-102nd Infantry Regiment's higher headquarters, the Vermont National Guard's 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, was one of the 27 units selected for the pilot program. All subordinate units of the 86th are now aligned under the 10th Mountain Division, headquartered in Fort Drum, N.Y., which will increase the number of training opportunities available to units involved in the pilot program.

With Connecticut National Guard leadership in attendance, Lt. Col. David Pickel, Battalion Commander of the 1-102nd Infantry Battalion, marked the historic occasion with a speech urging the men and women under his charge to train hard towards a brighter future.

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“The patch may seem like just a small piece of fabric, but to the men and women who don it, it means so much more,” said Pickel. “Each and every one of these Soldiers knows how much of an honor it is to represent a historic organization like the 10th Mountain Division.”

The 1-102nd Infantry Regiment, headquartered in New Haven, Conn., is the Connecticut Army National Guard’s largest battalion, making up nearly 20 percent of the force’s total strength. It also has extensive experience with the 10th Mountain Division during three of its most recent deployments: 2001 in Bosnia, 2006 and 2009-10 in Afghanistan. Since 9/11, elements of the battalion have also deployed to Iraq in 2004-05.

The 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Jericho, Vermont, is comprised of units located in Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut. A field artillery battalion of the Colorado National Guard will join the brigade in 2017.

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Lt. Col. David Pickel, Battalion Commander of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, applies the patch of the 10th Mountain Division to Capt. Patrick Montes, Commander of Alpha Company, 1-102nd Infantry Regiment during a battalion formation at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, Oct. 15. (Photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Bartlett, 1-102nd Infantry Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representative)



A close-up of the 10th Mountain Division patch, now worn by the men and women of the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1-102nd Infantry Regiment. (Photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Bartlett, 1-102nd Infantry Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representative)