



Connecticut Guardian



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"Stick Time..."

Story and Photos by Capt. Scott Wilson,
Assistant PAO, CTARNG

The demonstrators constructed a barricade of stones and logs across the secondary road for the second consecutive day, blocking the path of the engineer convoy on its way to continue improvements to an MSR (Main Supply Route) not more than another half mile down the road. Faced with no other option, the convoy halted and a designated spokesperson went once again to negotiate with the demonstrators. The physical barricade really was not the problem...it was the human barricade, both emotional and embodied, that posed the largest obstacle to the success of this mission. Yesterday, the demonstrators threw rocks (simulated by water balloons); it was anyone's call what they would do today. The only thing that was clear was that they did not applaud our presence in their

country.

So began another day of training juxtaposed with a real-world production mission for the 242nd Engineer Battalion. Extending the entire month of June, the battalion's Annual Training (AT) mission is to improve/construct several secondary roads from existing trails, create and improve several bivouac sites, improve and verify the accuracy of the Stone's Ranch land navigation training course and construct a new MEDEVAC landing zone. This work will be completed in stages by companies A, B and C over the course of the month. And it will contribute to the accomplishment of a larger mission...the opening of several areas of Stone's Ranch so that they are more accessible and useful for training by all units in the Connecticut National Guard.

Lt. Col. Thomas E. Bendernagel, the commander of the 242nd, added some twists to this AT rotation to make it more realistic. The demonstrations, to him, represent "great dispute resolution training for our leaders - it teaches them how to employ non-lethal force, or no force at all - to use their wits. While it is a challenge to concentrate on production and incorporate the training we need (like the demonstrations) that we would potentially face on a real mission, it is absolutely necessary to our long-term



The "D-7" bulldozer is a staple of the engineer's equipment

success, and we are getting it done."

Aside from the manufactured obstacles, Mother Nature also threw obstacles at the battalion in the form of unanticipated heavy rainfall and huge boulders, both of which

see **ENGINEERS** on page 20

Ortiz Receives the 2000 National Image Award

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
PHOTO BY MAJ. JOHN WHITFORD

For the second year in a row, a Connecticut Guardsman has received the prestigious National Image, Inc. Meritorious Service Award presented by the Department of Defense.

Staff Sgt. Ana V. Ortiz of the 103rd Fighter Wing, Connecticut Air National Guard received her award in an emotional ceremony in her homeland of Puerto Rico with both of her parents in attendance.

"I was happy when I heard about the award," said Ortiz. "But I didn't know how big it was until I walked into the room and saw how many people were there. Once I realized how big this was, I was even more happy."

Making it an even bigger day for Ortiz was the fact that both of her parents were able to be with her for her big moment. Her father had recently been ill, and having him

w e l l enough to attend the ceremony in his homeland, made the event that much more special for Ortiz.

T h e personnel specialist with the Mission Support Flight, Ortiz received her award for leadership, community service and other endeavors. Given to Hispanics for achieving success through diversity in government and industry, the award was presented during the 29th National IMAGE



see **ORTIZ** on page 13

Guardsman Rescues Injured Lake Compounce Employee from Cliff

By MAJ. JOHN R. WHITFORD,
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

It was a rainy, but fun day at Lake Compounce in Bristol for Spec. Gary Mandelburg of Connecticut's Aviation, Classification, Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) and his family. At about 4:30 p.m. Mandelburg and his wife sat down to eat dinner in the Picnic Pavilion when his wife heard someone off in the distance calling for help. Gary could not hear it, but his wife convinced him that someone was in trouble, so he walked into the woods to investigate.

As Gary headed towards the large rocks near the Pavilion, he realized that someone was in the woods. "I decided to walk further to hear more clearly. As I made my way up the 45-degree incline through

the overgrowth, rocks and trees, I could clearly hear someone yelling for help," said Mandelburg.

When he got to the top of the incline, he saw who was in trouble. When it started raining, the Chair Lift was shut down. The Lake Compounce attendant operating the booth at the top of the lift was going to be picked up by other employees, but he decided to walk down the hillside rather than wait. The attendant lost his way in the rough terrain, fell off a 20-foot cliff and landed on rock. His shoulder was dislocated, his ankle was twisted and his nose had been cut from top to bottom and was lying over on the side of his face.

"He was bleeding all over the place, but I knew I couldn't react to what he looked like," says Mandelburg. "At the same time

See **RESCUE** on page 17

UP FRONT WITH THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

By MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO

Today's National Guard is making history and going places. Just this past March, the 49th Armored Division of the Texas National Guard assumed command of a U.S.-led multinational peacekeeping force in Bosnia. This is the first time a National Guard headquarters has commanded multinational troops since the 1995 Dayton Agreement ended the three-year war. Earlier this year, members of our own 65th Press Camp Headquarters, Det. 1, left for a nine-month deployment in Bosnia.

This is a step toward realizing the Department of Defense's goal of making the Army's regular and reserve units true partners in our nation's defense. Today, the Guard is meeting the challenge of posturing our forces for the 21st century, maintaining our readiness and contributing towards peace.

All senior leaders and commanders need to be aware of the National Guard Stabilization Force (SFOR) rotations as we expand our responsibilities and

capabilities. Connecticut will play a part in SFOR-7 rotation with Detachment 1, 65th Press Camp Headquarters (PCH), SFOR-9 rotation with the 141st Medical Company of New Britain and SFOR-10 rotation with members of the 1/102 Infantry Battalion of New Haven and the 143d Forward Support Battalion of Waterbury deploying in March and October of 2001.

The SFOR-7 mission required a 270-day presidential selective reserve call-up (PSRC), and our Connecticut soldiers of the 65th PCH are serving nine months in Bosnia, while the 141st Medical Company, 1/102 Infantry Battalion and the 143d Forward Support Battalion will be in Bosnia for 179-day rotations. The reason for the 49th Armored Division and the 65th's 270-day PSRC is to avoid changing command during an important Bosnian election period.

The 103d Fighter Wing of the Connecticut Air National Guard will deploy about 800 airmen to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Guarded Skies to monitor the no-fly zones in Iraq in the summer of 2001.



2001 will be a very important training year for the Connecticut Guard. During the year, we will deploy over 1000 soldiers and airmen overseas to provide support to our active duty counterparts, which is about 25 percent of the Connecticut National Guard force.

I am calling upon all guardsmen and women to be prepared to provide administrative, logistical and training support to units and personnel being deployed. Their success is our success.

The assigned missions will be challenging for our soldiers. Maintaining communications at all levels will be paramount throughout the coming months. I am confident that I can count on your full cooperation during the busy and historic months ahead



By STATE
COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR
STEPHEN L.
PRIMETT

Congratulations to our most recent graduates of

the Sergeants Major Course at Fort Bliss, Texas. They are Command Sgt. Maj. David Warner, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Aparo, 1st Sgt. Thomas Donnee and Sgt. Maj. Barbara Montigny.

Warner serves with the 242nd Combat Engineers in Stratford. He and his family just returned from nine months of residency at Fort Bliss. Warner is a New York City detective.

Aparo serves with the 102nd Infantry Battalion and just completed the two-year non-resident course in only one year. As a civilian, Aparo is a licensed electrician.

Donnee serves with the 1109th AVCRAD and completed the two-year non-resident course. He is a full time member of the AVCRAD where he works in the aviation production control division.

Montigny, of Headquarters STARC, also finished the non-resident course. As a civilian, she is self-employed.

The non-resident Sergeants Major course is two years in length with a three-week residency phase at the end required for graduation. The resident course is nine months in length. In order to be promoted to sergeant major or command sergeant major, a soldier must either attend or be enrolled in the Sergeants Major Academy. This is one of the few ranks to which a soldier can be promoted conditionally. All soldiers should strive to become sergeants major.

The Connecticut National Guard had two Command Sergeants Major retire this year, Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Hooks and Command Sgt. Maj. Otis Campbell.

Hooks served for 34 years with the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry, the 2nd Battalion, 102nd Infantry, the 1st Battalion, 169th Infantry, the 143rd Forward Support Battalion and Headquarters STARC.

Campbell served for 35 years with the 242nd Engineer Battalion, the 169th Leadership Regiment, and then back with the 242nd.

Ray and Otis, you will both be missed. We wish you the best of luck in the future.

The true leader inspires in others self-trust, guiding their eyes to the spirit, the goal.

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Deadline for submissions is the first Friday of the month prior to the month of publication.

Andrea Doria Draws Diver to Discover her Secrets

By SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG,
103RD FIGHTER WING,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Imagine what it would be like to climb Mount Everest, battling altitude sickness, wind chills that can freeze exposed flesh in seconds and unexpected snow storms that can dump a foot of snow in a couple of hours. As far as we know, no Connecticut Air National Guard (CTANG) member has ever taken on this deadly challenge, but one Flying Yankee has accomplished what is believed to be an equally challenging and life-threatening journey.

In July of 1999, Staff Sgt. Darryl Johnson, munitions specialist, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, literally took the plunge of his life. Johnson is a technical scuba diver, and after six years of training specifically for this endeavor, he dove into the Atlantic waters to experience the Andrea Doria shipwreck.

The Andrea Doria, located approximately 60 miles off the coast of Nantucket, is known by many as the most famous modern shipwreck next to the Titanic. This Grande Dame of the Sea, Italy's proudest and most luxurious ocean liner, was designed in the late 1940's with murals, rare wood panels, ceramics and mirrors. At 29,100 gross tonnage, 697' in length, 90' wide, and a top speed of 23 knots, she was one of the largest and fastest ships in the world, until one ill-fated summer night in 1956.

While the Andrea Doria was making her way towards New York, the Swedish-American liner Stockholm collided with her, leaving a 30-foot gash. The Doria stayed afloat for nearly twelve hours until 10:09 a.m., July 26, 1956. Fifty-two of the 1,709 passengers died in the shipwreck.

Johnson has been an avid SCUBA diver for 11 years. He is currently a certified SCUBA instructor for recreational and technical diving. Some of his previous technical dives (dives beyond 130 feet) include the Nazi U-853 and the U.S.S. Bass, both off the coast of Block Island, as well as the U.S.S. Monitor, on the outer banks of North Carolina.

Technical diving is like a science. Because the equipment is very complex, there is a great deal of preparation that takes place. "Before hand, you have to get all your gases mixed," explained Johnson. Oxygen, nitrogen, and helium are mixed in tanks to create trimix for use in extremely deep dives. "You usually bring your tanks somewhere a week to two weeks in advance of the trip to make sure you have all the

right percentages. You also have to use computer-generated tables for the depths where you will make your stops."

The top of the Andrea Doria is 177 feet below the surface while the bottom lies in the sand at 245 feet. A few times on his way down, Johnson had thought he had seen the wreck, but this was actually just an effect of the vertigo he was experiencing. "At 120 feet I saw it for real, and there was no question that it was real this time," he said. "It was enormous. It's nearly 700 feet long."

Johnson and the other divers swam through the boat deck and the promenade deck. They saw a hole, Gimbel's hole, which is a hatch that had been burned through the deck for divers to gain access to the interior of the ship. "The next day we went into the hole and worked our way down a couple levels into the first-class dining area. There was a staircase there, and behind the staircase there was a china closet from which we able to take some plates and bowls."

On the second dive, when the divers went to collect their souvenirs, Johnson described a nerve-racking experience. "At that point everything was pitch black. It was getting eerie. I've done a lot of rec diving, but you better be prepared to die, because if you do, this is where it's going to happen." The divers swam into Gimbel's hole and over to the china closet. "We had lost all ambient light. We were so far from Gimbel's hole that we couldn't see any light coming into it. So the only thing we could see was what was in our beam of light."

After they filled their mesh and nylon bags with artifacts, they turned to head back. Suddenly, Johnson felt his bag catch on something. "I had the bag hooked to me so I couldn't go anywhere. But I was so pumped with adrenaline at that point, I said 'nothing's going to stop me. I'm not dying down here.'" After several tugs, Johnson freed himself and successfully returned to the surface.

Sadly, one of the other divers wasn't as



Johnson with some of his artifacts taken from a china closet in the Andrea Doria.

successful during that dive. "On the way down, the guy who was behind me had aborted the dive. It was his twenty-fifth dive on the wreck." Johnson explained that the currents were strong and someone had seen him struggling. Apparently, he lost the anchor line back to the boat. "When you exercise a struggle like this, carbon dioxide builds up." This caused the diver to lose consciousness. "When I came back, I said 'Where's Charlie?' And they said, 'What do you mean, he's with you.' I said, 'No, he aborted the dive.' And they said, 'He never came back.'" Unfortunately, Charlie, a former green beret and Vietnam veteran never made it back to the boat.

The Andrea Doria site is known as the "Mount Everest" wreck because in the 1960's, it was considered one of the world's most dangerous dives. The conditions of deep, cold, dark water, strong currents, entangling fish nets, and other obstacles are sometimes deadly for even the most experienced divers. Each year the Andrea Doria claims a few lives.

In the future, Johnson says he would like to dive the Lusitania off the coast of Ireland, which is 315 feet deep, and the Titanic's sister ship, the Britannic, off the coast of Greece, which lies almost 400 feet under the sea. He is also currently writing a fiction novel based on some of his personal dive experiences.

The reward of a thing well done is to have done it. ~ Emerson

RED CROSS SEEKS HEROS

The Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Red Cross is looking for local heroes (within the 58 towns its serves – see below). Do you know a person who has performed an extraordinary act of courage to save someone's life? Or maybe you know someone who commits countless hours to a special cause? The Red Cross wants to honor and celebrate these individuals at the Heroes of Greater Hartford event. Nominate your special hero today.

Categories for nominations are: Fire Fighter, Law Enforcement, Medical, 911 Dispatch, Good Samaritan Adult (21 years and older), Good Samaritan Youth (under 21 years), Military, Animal Rescue (Person who saved an animal or an animal who saved a person) and Community Impact (Person who is involved in project or on-going effort that directly impacts the community).

For more information, call (860) 678-2787, or contact Staff Sgt. Josephine Grey at (860) 548-3230. Grey was last year's Military recipient for her efforts on an airplane that helped saved the life of a fellow passenger. To download a nomination form, visit the Red Cross on-line at:

www.greaterhartfordredcross.org

Nominees must live or work in one of the following towns: Andover, Ashford, Avon, Barkhamsted, Bloomfield, Bolton, Bristol, Brooklyn, Burlington, Canton, Chaplin, Colebrook, Columbia, Coventry, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Eastford, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington and Glastonbury.

Also, Granby, Hampton, Hartford, Hartland, Hebron, Killingly, Manchester, Mansfield, Marlborough, New Hartford, Newington, Norfolk, North Canaan, Plymouth, Pomfret, Putnam, Rocky Hill, Scotland, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Southington, Stafford and Suffield.

Also, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Willington, Winchester, Windham, Windsor, Windsor Locks and Woodstock.

The awards will be presented at the Heroes Of Greater Hartford Breakfast to be held Nov. 30, 200 at the Hastings Hotel in Hartford.



American Red Cross

Common Tasks for TY2001 Announced

The United States Army Training Support Center at Fort Eustis, Virginia has announced the tasks for Fiscal Year 2001's Common Task Testing cycle.

Skill Level 1 (For ALL soldiers)

- 031-503-1013 Decontaminate Yourself and Individual Equipment Using Chemical Decontamination Kits
- 031-503-1015 Protect Yourself from NBC Injury/Contamination with the Appropriate Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) Gear
- 031-503-1017 Respond to Depleted Uranium/Low Level Radioactive Materials (DULLRAM) Hazards
- 031-503-1019 React to Chemical or Biological Hazard/Attack
- 031-503-1035 Protect Yourself from Chemical/Biological Contamination using your Assigned Protective Mask

- 031-503-1036 Maintain your Assigned Protective Mask
- 071-311-2025 Maintain an M16A1 or M16A2 Rifle
- 071-326-0510 React to Direct and Indirect Fire
- 071-329-1006 Navigate from One Point on the Ground to Another Point while Dismounted
- 071-990-0002 Operate an M16A1 or M16A2 Rifle
- 081-831-1000 Evaluate a Casualty
- 081-831-1005 Perform First Aid to Prevent or Control Shock

Skill Level 2 (Sgt. thru Sgt. 1st Class – in addition to above)

- 071-326-5505 Issue an Oral Operations Order
- 071-990-0004 Conduct Pre-Combat Checks

Skill Level 3 (Staff Sgt. thru Sgt. 1st Class – in addition to above)

- 071-326-5610 Conduct Movement Techniques by a Squad
- 154-385-6263 Conduct a Risk Assessment

Skill Level 4 (Sgt. 1st Class – in addition to above)

- 071-332-5000 Prepare an Operation Overlay
- 071-430-0006 Conduct a Defense by a Platoon

It is the responsibility of all soldiers to study tasks prior to the testing. The CTT has become paperless, meaning no new manuals have been printed. Do not use the old books as many of the task number have been changed, some tasks have changed skill levels (for example, some that were previously Skill Level 1 are now Skill Level 3), and new tasks have been added.



Soldier's performance task standards, CTT Notice and CTT Administration Manual are available on the internet for downloading and viewing. Go to <http://www.atdtdl.army.mil>

Diversity Dialogue

THE TWELVE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DIVERSITY IN THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

RESPONSES BY
DR. SAMUEL BETANCES
 SENIOR CONSULTANT SOUDER, BETANCES AND ASSOC.
 INC.
 SUBMITTED BY SMSGT TONY PALLADINO, HQ
 CTANG
 STATE HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISOR
 Part 3 of a 4 part series

Question 7: How is Workforce Diversity tied to our mission?

Undoubtedly, since the Guard seeks to remain a viable organization, the citizen soldiers of the future must reflect the demographics in the general population. Should the Air National Guard choose not to recruit from non-traditional talent pools, it will not be able to remain mission ready. If people in the organization resist welcoming and creating the necessary changes in the organizational culture so that these "newcomers" become integrated into work teams and are promoted by virtue of their talents and passion, these new recruits may not contribute their best, or possibly not remain in the Guard but seek employment in a more respectful and hospitable workplace.

Simply put, there are not enough people from the traditional recruiting sources of the past to fill all of the positions required by the Guard to continue to be mission ready. They

are simply not there. These positions can be filled, if the Guard gets the message to minorities and women, that there is a place for them which respects their differences and welcomes their outlook and contributions.

White males must welcome this change, which is inevitable, for the best interest of the Guard. Diversity Training adds to this quest. By the same token, the women and minorities who constitute non-traditional members of the workforce must not come with chips on their shoulders. They must not be indifferent to the core values of the Guard. They must not under any circumstances participate in white-male bashing. Nor should they engage in self-segregation.

In this context, Workforce Diversity is clearly linked to the mission of the Guard, which above all else involves securing the talent and strengthening the relationships of people in work teams to guard our country.

Question 8: I think we have had enough training and discussion about diversity. Everything is fine in our organization. What more are we supposed to do?

Diversity training is a relatively new concept in private and public organizations. Some people may equate Social Actions and Equal Opportunity Training with Diversity Training. The "been there, done that" attitude may stem from this confusion and constitutes a significant barrier in the Guard's efforts to recruit and shape new teams.

Everything is not fine in the organization. Not enough people are joining the Guard. Some are not giving a hundred percent. Other very good people are choosing to leave. Leaders are challenged to reverse these trends in order that the Guard secure and keep the talent it needs to survive and accomplish its mission.

Every Unit in every State must focus on introducing organizational/structural reforms that are specific to their organizational needs in order to meet this challenge.

Question 9: Some people feel diversity is about bringing in numbers. Others feel diversity is about the culture of the organization. Which is correct?

Both are correct. But they must be understood in a broader context in order for diversity to make sense. A



great danger in implementing diversity initiatives, by those who take too narrow a view, is that they may be tempted to increase their minority talent pool and assume that they have fulfilled their obligation.

Not so! Viewed apart from prevailing demographic trends – the shrinking workforce, fewer males, larger numbers of women being born, increasing numbers of minorities and newcomers, the aging population, etc... - there may be a tendency to trivialize the issue of diversity. Diversity is not about counting heads; it is about making heads count. Nonetheless, you need heads in order to make them count. Above all else, the organizational culture must be continuously shaped into a working climate which promotes collaboration and teamwork.

**Perpetual
 optimism is a
 force multiplier.**

Colin Powell

Riding to Glory – With the Governor’s Horse Guards

By Pfc. HOWARD L. MILLER,
1ST COMPANY GOVERNOR’S HORSE GUARD

Accompanied by the drumbeat of pounding hooves, the riding platoon of Connecticut’s First Company Governor’s Horse Guard performs mounted drills on its parade ground in Avon every Thursday evening. In formations taken from the pages of early U.S. Cavalry manuals, the troopers and their mounts constitute a unique chapter of Connecticut history and an exiting link with the past.

First chartered in 1788 as the Governor’s Independent Volunteer Troop of Horse Guards, the unit was composed of prominent Hartford men. Many were veterans of the War of Independence who banded together to form a mounted honor guard for the governor and to provide ceremonial escort to prominent visitors to Connecticut’s capitol city. Through much of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the Horse Guard provided a colorful and dignified escort to governors, presidents, military heroes and other dignitaries including George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, Commodore Thomas McDonough and Lafayette.

The unit came to be better known as the First Company Governor’s Horse Guards and they regularly escorted the state’s chief executive to his inaugural ceremony and parade. Early commandants included prominent businessman John Caldwell and Thomas Y. Seymour, a hero of the Revolution.

Shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, the First Connecticut Volunteer Cavalry Regiment was mustered into duty in Meriden with Maj. Henry Boardman of the Governor’s Horse Guard as its titular commandant. Although neither Boardman nor the Horse Guard as a unit traveled to the seat of the fighting, a number of the troopers served in the conflict.

After the war, the Horse Guard resumed its ceremonial function, escorting President Andrew Johnson, generals Grant, Sheridan and Sherman and a national gathering of the Grand Army of the Republic to Hartford. Operating from its own armory on Main Street in Hartford, the Horse Guard members turned out annually for drills, parades, dedications, social functions and maneuvers at the state’s military training ground in Niantic. They also represented the state at fairs and national expositions.

In 1911, the status of the unit changed dramatically when its members voted to become Troop B Cavalry, Connecticut National Guard. Five years later the unit

was sworn into Federal service and joined troops from other states patrolling the Arizona/Mexico border during a period of tumultuous revolution south of the border. Losing only one man to blood poisoning, the unit returned to an enthusiastic Hartford homecoming parade and settled into its new armory on Farmington Avenue in West Hartford.

In 1917, the unit was again sworn into Federal service, this time on foot, as Company B, 101st machine Gun Battalion. The unit saw hard fighting in France as part of the 26th Yankee Division and participated in some of the war’s major campaigns, including the Meuse Argonne and St. Michiel offensives. Meanwhile, veteran Horse Guard members back in Connecticut served as members of the State Home Guard and participated in efforts to safeguard munitions plants, roundup draft dodgers and discourage subversive elements from hampering the war effort.

Following the armistice and a victorious 1919 return to Hartford, Troop B regained its status as mounted cavalry as part of the reorganized 122nd Cavalry Squadron and through the 1920’s and 30’s, sponsored polo matches, mounted drills, gymkhanas and horse shows. The highlight of the governor’s annual review of the National Guard in Niantic was often the mounted drills and thundering charges on horseback by Troop B members.

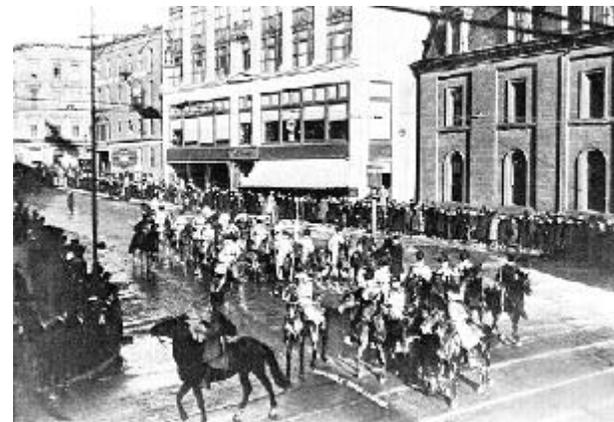
In the late 1930’s, mechanization and economic realities doomed the horse cavalry of the United States. However, a group of veteran horse soldiers were reviving the old First Company Governor’s Horse Guards to continue the unit’s cavalry traditions.

Shortly before the start of World War II, the unit federalized for a third time, becoming part of the 208th Coastal Artillery regiment, manning the heavy guns which defended America’s wartime coastline and in the Pacific theatre. At the same time, veteran troopers of the Governor’s Horse Guard, as they had during the first world war, served as part of the Connecticut State Guard, performing internal security and

civil defense functions.

As the veterans came back to Connecticut after the war, the First Company Governor’s Horse Guard was revitalized and reorganized as a State Militia unit, serving at the pleasure of the governor. The unit has participated in presidential and gubernatorial inaugurations and special events all over the Eastern United States.

Today, the troop is part of the Organized Militia of the state. Operating from its facility in Avon, the traditions of Connecticut’s cavalry are demonstrably



and rescue mission in East Hampton. Thirty-three troopers reported for duty and put their mounted skills and tactics to work in a humanitarian operation.

Among the collections of the State Library are numerous historical manuscripts and photographs pertaining to this unique military group. The Dudley Collection of photographs contains over 200 images of the Connecticut troopers on the Mexican border, while the Annual Reports of the Adjutant General routinely include the activities of the State Militia including both the Horse and Foot Guard units. *Origins and Fortunes of Troop B*, is a comprehensive published history of the Horse Guard, authored in 1921 by one of its commanders, James L. Howard. Newspaper accounts of inaugural parades going back to the late 18th century include descriptions of this colorful unit.

Riding into the 21st century, the men and women volunteers of the First Company Governor’s Horse Guard continue to uphold and preserve the proud traditions of the cavalry and the State of Connecticut. The unit welcomes visitors to its facility on West Avon Road. For information, call (860) 673-3525.

(Pfc. Miller is a curator at the State Library’s Museum of Connecticut History and Troop Historian of the First Company Governor’s Horse Guard.)



alive and kicking. Currently, the membership is some 50 active troopers and staff veterans. Thirty-five horses are ridden and cared for in addition to the requisite McClellan saddles, tack and other equipment needed to support a troop of cavalry.

Men and women serve equally, drilling every Thursday evening in formation riding, search and rescue and crowd control techniques. A week of annual training every year in Niantic combines bivouacs, weapons training, route marches and other exercises that recall the glory days of the horse cavalry. The Troop also participates in civic projects, youth drug prevention programs, parades and other ceremonial events.

On May 16, 2000 yet another chapter of unit history was written as the Horse Guard was activated to support a search



COMPUTER SPECIALISTS REQUIRED - TRAINING PROVIDED

By MAJ. PETER YANKOWSKI,
STARC-DOIM

Have you noticed a change over the past year? The Connecticut National Guard (CTNG) is working hard to leverage the advantages of Digital Information to meet the challenge of doing more and broader military missions without the benefit of expanding resources. This past training year's (TY00) primary accomplishment was fielding a wide area network of workstations, mostly to key full-time members and support agencies. That network of about 150 users is scheduled to double next year (TY01) and the year after (TY02). Unfortunately, even basic computer technology is still complex enough to require several years of daily exposure before most users will feel comfortable with new equipment. Therefore, the real challenge is to use computer training to shorten the learning cycle and take advantage of the technology today.

Going Purple Early.

The Connecticut Guard is fortunate in one respect. We enjoy one of the highest concentrations of Information Technology (IT) professionals in the country. Right now they operate in fragmented teams, each running their own local Domains and tied in to their Parent Agencies in Washington, DC (Air Guard – Air Force, Army Guard-NGB, etc....). One thing is clear: trying to absorb this technology within your own little domain is not working fast enough. However, a grass roots initiative by the State Military Department's Information Management Council has come up with a solution. Together, we do have both enough resources and time to take the lead and meet today's challenges. The council has set a goal of integrating all computer training for IT Specialists in TY01, with an eye towards integrating all State Military domains as quickly as possible. Current members of this group include STARC (DOIM, DPI, G3, CLIN) the Air Guard, AVCRAD and others. You can join this training initiative also, by contacting the DCSIM Lt. Col. Russ Styles at russ.styles@ct.ngb.army.mil

IT Training Plan Emerging

In order to use the network we are fielding, there are two key groups that need training to survive today. Unit Level Users and the IT Specialists, who field the technology and keep it running. Currently, the best option for Unit Level Users to get the skills and information they need is through interactive courseware (Such as CBT – See Below). The CT Guard is fortunate to have a first rate classroom (CLIN) available in the Hartford Armory where soldiers and airmen can go to log on and take advantage of this training at their own pace. The G3 is leading the effort to better define the most important computer skills required at the

unit user level and package and resource focused training programs to be pushed down to unit commanders. The point of contact for this initiative is Sgt. Maj. Joseph Sevigny at joseph.sevigny@ct.ngb.army.mil. IT Specialist training is currently done primarily through DOD schools. That will change this year, as funds for travel are reduced and the demand for broader training increases. Instead, the CTNG is going to better utilize peer to peer training to capitalize on redundancy between agencies and allocate savings to pay for the best off-the shelf, hands-on training currently available on the civilian economy, to fill in the gaps. Quality training is the key to attracting, developing and retaining the kind of talent the Guard needs in the IT field. Currently the IM Council is conducting an IT Skills Assessment for all State Military Department Agencies. The point of contact for this initiative is Maj. Peter Yankowski in STARC-DOIM at peter.yankowski@ct.ngb.army.mil.

One current trend we have to be aware of is the growing gap between these two groups (Unit Level Users and IT Specialists). Programs and equipment are getting easier to use out of the box for any specific task, but the variety of automated tasks and products is growing exponentially to the point it has become foolish for anyone to claim they are a computer expert. Over the next few years there will be a lot of opportunity for those with the ability to instruct. If you are either an IT Specialist who can talk in simple terms that Unit Level Users can absorb, or a high speed user with enough talent that you can inspire new users to learn, then the Guard needs you. Primarily, you need to document your skills. Start today. Certification can lead to significant opportunities as an instructor, or someone who desires to become an IT Specialist in either the Military or Civilian Sector. If you are interested, please contact Maj. Peter Yankowski in STARC-DOIM at peter.yankowski@ct.ngb.army.mil.

CBT: Free Web Based Computer Training for Army Soldiers & Army Civilians

You've heard about it, thought about it and now here is the real deal on what to expect and how you can get some of the specific computer training you need to survive.

CBT stands for Computer Based Training and is an off-the-shelf commercial package of courses you can take over the Internet or you may download and do the courses on your own home computer or workstation.

Who: The Army has bought and paid for the rights for you to do as many of these courses as you can. I cannot say yet whether this will include our fellow purple suit Air National Guard members, but the Student Registration screen emphasizes CBT is currently for Army, Army Reserve and

Army National Guard Only. One good feature about these courses is that you can print out a completion certificate at the end of each exam and ultimately you can obtain certifications (Such as Novell or MSCE) and even college credits.

What: The list of courses is long and impressive but not all encompassing. What I found at CBT are those focused on Commercial Operating Systems (Windows, UNIX),

Networking and the Internet and general applications found in industry such as Microsoft Office, C++ Programming, Oracle Databases and many others. You will not find Custom Applications like ATTRS or SIDPERS or other more specific Commercial Applications like Adobe or Corel Graphics. All I can say is go there and you will find dozens of courses you will want to take, if only you can find the time.

Where: Before you go to <http://www.armycbt.army.mil>, make sure you are on a military networked machine. The site will use the address you are entering from as part of the process to ensure you are an authorized visitor. In practical terms, go to Hartford to the CLIN on the bottom floor of the State Armory, the first of several nice new state of the art computer training classrooms the Guard is going to use to replace those expensive TDY trips to schools and courses outside of easy driving distance. Call Master Sgt. (Ret.) McDonnell at 860-524-4835 (or owen.mcdonnell@CT.NGB.ARMY.MIL) to ensure the CLIN will be open for walk-in users at the desired time and date.

When: This is free, what are you waiting for?!?! Seriously though, plan about 30 minutes to register, and make sure you do it on a military machine. Then you may have to wait several days for a Student ID and Password confirmation. Next, plan one to two hours, up front, just to download and install the Player Program and Uninstaller, plus browsing, selecting and downloading your first course. If you want to do this from home you can, in theory. I tried, and was totally disappointed using my 28.8 modem connection. You can also choose to run the course live without downloading it. Again, I tried and was totally disappointed at the speed and screen lock-ups even though I used the fast T1 network connection at the CLIN. Bottom line, you can start at the next opportunity you have at least four hours to spend uninterrupted at the Hartford CLIN. Register first and get a student ID before you go.

Why: Read the news. The Information Age is here and the Army is playing catch up. It is your choice whether you climb aboard the train or get left behind.

ALVARADO cont'd from page 9

agency that often exposes workers to tragic conditions they would never imagine otherwise, Alvarado's enlistment in the Guard expired. He advanced in his career in social services, he and his wife Betsy, 26, a social worker with the DCF office in Torrington, concentrated on raising their family. Their daughter Chlouie is now 7, and their son Elijah is 3.

As a husband and a father, Alvarado's interest in helping young people in his community keep out of trouble grew and became manifested in an organization called the Hispanic Coalition, of which he is the president. The non-profit entity, funded with grant money, advocates bilingual therapeutic services for families with children with mental health issues and offers free after school programs for disadvantaged children ages 3-5. Alvarado, also runs a group for young fathers between the ages of 13 – 15.

By 1998, his career and community service interests were moving along amidst a fulfilling family life... but something was missing. He had no connection with the organization that prompted his interest in social work and helped him earn his education, which now included a master's degree in social work from UConn.

He missed the military.

After signing up for a one-year option in 1998, he discovered that there was an unfilled position in the Guard for a licensed social worker. He pursued the slot while serving as a field medic with the 143rd Forward Support Battalion. With a master's in social work and necessary credentials met, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant, becoming eligible for the only social worker position in the Connecticut Guard.

Although it's a new position in the Guard, it's one that could become more valuable as more units prepare to answer the nation's call for active service, whether it be in the Balkans for peacekeeping missions, at home for a natural disaster or mass casualty incident, or to protect freedom in another part of the world. Whatever the case may be, 2nd Lt. Javier Alvarado hopes to be there to provide assistance in whatever ways he can, to his community — in this case — the Guard community.

Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.
Anthony J.D'Angelo



65th PCH experiences Croatia



By MAJ. SHERMAN MCGREW,
DET. 1, 65th PCH COMMANDER

This deployment is certainly going to be interesting. It is turning into a study in contrasts. The range of events runs from the ceremonial to the grim.

A few days ago I escorted Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Passamonti to Okucani in Croatia. The United States National Support Element, where I am the Public Affairs Officer, supports a small contingent of military police in Okucani. The chaplain was travelling there for services to the troops.

I will never forget the ride down through Croatia. We passed through village after village where the ravages of recent fighting were all too apparent. In some of these small towns, every single home has bullet holes in its sides. I would guess the number of bullet holes per home at about fifty, some more, some less. I can't stress enough that these were homes that had absolutely no military value. The shooters had driven up and down the street firing from vehicles. Artillery and mortars had blown other homes apart.

Passamonti pointed out numerous churches that were either shot up or of which nothing but rubble remained. "The churches were the first to buy the farm because they make good sniper positions," he told me. And if churches with bullet holes weren't enough, schools had also been targeted.

Croatia is calm now. The fighting stopped a few years ago. Yet these reminders still remain. Many of the buildings are booby-trapped and there are still tens of thousands of mines left scattered throughout the countryside. Many of the cemeteries still have stark, makeshift wooden crosses. Grim reminders of those killed.

I am convinced that our mission in the Balkans is a good one. The killing has stopped and the children are back in school. The people feel safe because of the presence of NATO soldiers. The children and people are friendly. The towns are rebuilding. The bullet holes are being plastered over. But I can't grasp what happen here. The people of the United States sometimes have difficulty in getting along, yet, despite our differences, we are far cry from driving through town after town and shooting into each and every home we see.

Next, it was back to Hungary and the National Support Element. Of all the places the Army could send me, how I ended here is a mystery to me. I'm not complaining, though. Hungary is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been. The countryside is composed of gentle rolling hills where huge fields of crops cover the ground. The cities and towns are beautiful and very old world.

The Hungarian people are very friendly. Here's a big hint to all of you who are going to deploy in the near future. If you want to make the most of your deployment, start learning the language of whatever country you are going to right now. It will make all the difference in the world. If you have the ability to speak with the local populace, every trip you make will be an adventure.

The job as the Public Affairs Officer in Hungary for the National Support Element is certainly interesting. I have had the opportunity to meet and socialize with Representative Steve Buyer from Indiana and a member of the House Armed Services Committee. He is also a Reserve lieutenant colonel. As one of our few representatives with military experience, and currently serving, no less, he has the unique ability to know the military like few of his colleagues.

I have also had the opportunity to meet, and hold a press conference with, Ambassador Tufo from the American Embassy in Budapest and the head of the Hungarian Air Force, Maj. Gen. Tallah. This was in regards to a joint US Navy and Hungarian exercise. It was interesting, to say the least, to see the F-18 dog fight against the MIG 29. Afterwards, there were photo opportunities for all. To see a young American soldier climb into the cockpit of a MIG for a photo is still something that amazes me, even though the wall fell ten years ago.

So much more has happened than there is room to tell about. The decision to deploy was not an easy one. There are always family issues and employment issues that must be dealt with. In retrospect, now two months into my deployment, it has been an incredible experience. If your unit is called upon to deploy, all I can say is, "Go!" You will not regret it.



Dispatches from the Front

By SGT. JOSEPH C. DECARO,
65th PRESS CAMP HEADQUARTERS

EAGLE BASE, TUZLA — Servicemembers on Eagle Base here need to be aware of the danger posed by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in what are considered cleared areas on and around base.

There are literally hundreds of thousands of mines in BiH, said Capt. Geoffrey C. Ryan, 49th Armored Division officer-in-charge of the Mine Action Center (MAC) here on Eagle Base.

Any documentation of the location of these mines is placed in what are called "Red Task Folders" which are used as planning guides for humanitarian mine clearance (demining) operations. That's because

mined area records only give an indication of what mines might have been laid and where they might be located since mines may have been repositioned or added at a later date, according to the Entity Army Mine Clearance Operations SOP.

For example, the PMA-3 anti-personnel mine has a rubber diaphragm filled with air that protects it from sympathetic detonation from nearby explosions. But the waters after the winter thaw might displace the mine, which can then float into a previously cleared area, said Ryan.

In addition to mine relocation, Ryan said that only 60 percent of the known minefields have been accounted for in BiH. He said as Eagle Base expands, more mines might be discovered.

Recently, three PMA-2 mines were discovered in a cleared area on the perimeter near Outpost #3.

"How clear is clear?" asked Ryan.

Unless by chance, mines are routinely detected by disciplined, cohesive teams of deminers who are accustomed to working together in dangerous environments.

Demining techniques may be modified for different sites according to their vegetation, soil content — as soils with high metallic content can render metal detectors ineffective — and types of mines present, according to SOP.

After consulting the Red Task Folder, a visual inspection is made of the mined area followed by a tripwire feeler drill — similar to the IRT training soldiers here received at Fort Benning, Ga. prior to their deployment — to check for booby traps. The area is then cleared of vegetation, which is systematically collected and burned. Only then is a mine detector employed. If a signal is detected, any discovered device is marked for later removal or detonation in place.

Though this manual procedure is a relatively safe, it is very time consuming. Mechanically supported clearance operations — such as the Mine Clearing Armor Plated (MCAP) dozer — are faster, but machines might redistribute broken or damaged parts of mines, some of which can still be fully functional.

It may take anywhere from 250 to 2,500 years to clear all the mines from Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to Ryan.

When an area is declared cleared, it is formally handed over to a representative of the local or national authority.

In 1996, there were 190 mine strikes in BiH that killed or injured 277. In 1999, there were only 22 mine strikes, but they killed or injured 34.

Ryan said that despite the decrease in mine strikes, the reason the ratio of strikes to injuries has risen is indicative of a trend of complacency concerning the deadliness of these devices.

Ryan advises Eagle Base personnel not to

take any shortcuts since you never know just how clear is clear.

EAGLE BASE, Tuzla — The editor of the Talon was finally released from his windowless office on the third floor of the Eagle Base White House to journey to Sarajevo.

Most members of the Talon staff have been cooped-up in their offices putting the magazine together while the acquisition teams have been busy traveling about the countryside to write stories.

The trip to Sarajevo was no small task as the roads in Bosnia are narrow and filled with curves and twists that obstruct the view of oncoming vehicles, making passing an adventure in itself.

To combat this, courteous Bosnian drivers will signal right for you to pass, left for you not to pass and flash their lights if police are ahead.

This is appreciated when you are driving in a van behind a slow truck carrying logs with an uparmored HUMVEE — whose extra weight requires more stopping distance — close behind you as an escort.

On the way to town, the small convoy passed children selling wild strawberries by the roadside.

Many homes were seen being rebuilt one story at a time. According to Capt. Geoffrey C. Ryan, 49th Armored Division, the returning residents are rebuilding their homes piecemeal with international loans and grants. They would usually rebuild a small living space and then slowly begin work on the rest of the home. Sometimes they incorporate a store on the ground floor and use the profits to subsidize remodeling of the rest of the home, he said.

Not all the buildings were destroyed by the war, however. But many homes and workplaces were damaged, depending on who owned them. Almost all homes, whatever shape they were in, had small TV satellite dishes for reception.

There were also numerous restaurants and nightclubs advertised along the road to Sarajevo. When the editor of the Talon asked why there were so many of these in a predominately Muslim country, he was startled by the reply of Damir Osmanovic, a contracted interpreter.

"This isn't Iran man," he said.

And it wasn't. Sarajevo is a city steeped in tolerance, where mosque and cathedral sit side-by-side, sharing the same air as their structures seemed to reach far into a cloudless sky, giving an aura of freedom to a once embattled city.

It was just another good reason to get out of the Talon office that day.

**We are not interested in
the possibility of defeat.**

Queen Victoria

CT ESGR Honors Maj. Whitford

The Connecticut Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, recently presented Maj. John Whitford, CTARNG, with its coveted Seven Seals Award for his outstanding and continuing efforts in supporting and coordinating those ESGR activities associated with the Connecticut ARNG. The Seven Seals is the highest award that can be awarded at the state level and represents the seals of the seven US Armed Forces. Whitford is assigned to the State Public Affairs Office, State Area Command.



Whitford is presented the Seven Seals Award by Carl Venditto, Col. USMCR-Ret., chairman of the Connecticut Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Assisting in the presentation are Gov. John Rowland and Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, state adjutant general.

The great pleasure in life lies in doing what people say you cannot do.

Walter Bagehot

EDUCATION ESSENTIALS

By CAPT. SCOTT BROWN,
STATE EDUCATION OFFICER

I would like to begin this month's column by passing on some information of importance to all soldier-scholars. Funds still remain available for Tuition Assistance. When filling out the application, DA 2171, you must include all data concerning the courses you will be taking. Make sure that you sign the form and that your unit commander or his representative signs as well. The unit will send the form to our office for processing.

We have noticed that there are some company grade officers who have not completed their civilian degrees or necessary military education. It is of the utmost importance that you meet the educational requirements needed to meet promotion criteria.

It is your responsibility to complete these requirements and to have the appropriate documents placed in your Military Personnel Records. Call our office with any questions concerning your education. Do not wait until the last minute.

We continue to receive updates on educational opportunities. Drop by or contact us. Our office can provide educational counseling, testing and help with the Veterans Administration, virtually any help you may require. Our phone number is (860) 524-4816.



Safe GUARDing Connecticut's Youth

Drug Demand Reduction, The Premier Support Agency for Community Organizations

By MAJOR CHUCK STRONG,
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

Connecticut's Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP) has grown over the past six years into the premier support organization for youth across our state. Drug education, positive role models, leadership camps and state-of-the-art live satellite broadcasts are but a few activities our office provides to community based anti-drug agencies.

This summer we are co-sponsors in two summer youth leadership programs for the Cities of New Haven, New Britain, Norwalk, Stamford and Groton.

DRUG EDUCATION FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP (DEFY): A two-phase leadership approach, featuring a one week residential camp facilitated by the DDRP, Department of Justice and Community Outreach Programs. This unique program emphasizes substance abuse prevention, self-esteem, conflict resolution, life opportunities, physical fitness, goal setting and positive character traits. The residential camps are conducted at Camp Rowland.

AVIATION CAREER EDUCATION (ACE) LEADERSHIP CAMP: ACE is a weeklong program introducing children to aviation career opportunities, which demand outstanding performance in the fields of science and mathematics. The program seeks to show young adults that aviation and space-related careers are attainable for any student who is drug free, sets goals and works hard. Participating agencies include the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Connecticut Department of Transportation, Connecticut Department of Education, law enforcement agencies, aviation clubs and youth organizations.

CHECK THIS OUT! Anti-Drug messages have proven to be effective deterrents for drug abuse among our nation's youth. Statistics have also shown that if the perception of risk is high, the use of illicit substances is low. The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has unveiled a media campaign designed to reduce youth drug use and its consequences. You probably have seen many of the television, radio and newspaper ads sponsored by ONDCP. As part of the campaign a website has been designed for young people to learn more about drug use and its consequences. The recent media campaign flash is reprinted for your information and use:

NATIONAL YOUTH ANTI-DRUG MEDIA CAMPAIGN FLASH

YOUTH-FOCUSED GROUPS JOIN ONDCP IN OFFERING TWEENS AND

TEENS A
FRESHENED-UP
FREEVIBE WEB
SITE



The Office of National Drug Control Policy and Sony Online Entertainment (SOE) have partnered to re-design Freevibe (www.freevibe.com), the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign's Web site for kids. The collaboration represents one of the largest online youth-focused drug prevention efforts and offers local drug prevention and related groups another tool to use in spreading anti-drug messages to teens and tweens. Several key Campaign partner organizations have also taken a leading role in recognizing Freevibe as a dynamic, engaging and valuable resource for young people by publicizing the re-introduction of the site among their constituencies. Each of these organizations — the Girl Scouts of the USA, National Association for Children of Alcoholics, National Education Association Health Information Network, National FFA Organization, Students Against Destructive Decisions, YMCA of the USA and Youth Service America — is dedicated to helping tweens and teens make positive, healthy decisions and to educating them about how anti-drug lifestyles lead to future success.

With these groups' support, the Campaign's presence is steadily growing and reaching more of America's young people every day. All of the site's content is designed to provide honest, straightforward information and advice on the dangers of drug use. The Freevibe Web site is divided into three distinct content areas:

** "Heads Up" openly and honestly talks to young people about drugs; includes a variety of resources for teens and tweens including a database on drugs, questions and answers about the effects of drugs and ways kids can say no to drugs.
** "Hangtime" entertains young people with a variety of fun activities, each designed to encourage positive uses of time and independent thinking; offers games, movie and music reviews.
** "Shout Out" gives young people an opportunity to talk to their peers about drugs; includes message boards, polls, personal accounts of drug use and an opportunity for teens to become a message board leader. Check out and link to the re-designed www.freevibe.com Web site today!

For more information please call Maj. Chuck Strong or Sgt. Marnie Robbins at (860) 493-2724.

Supporting Three Communities – He’s Motivated to Help

By Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski,
Det. 3, 65th PCH

As an organization comprised of citizen-soldiers, the Army National Guard offers unique opportunities to serve the country and the community simultaneously. That’s been the experience of many Guard members through the years, as they’ve learned that one person really can make the difference in serving a community.

When a person has three communities to support, the benefits then become threefold... at least.

That’s the case with Javier Alvarado, an experienced state social worker, the president of a nonprofit social services agency focusing on assisting Hispanic children, and now the only member of the Connecticut Army National Guard to hold a position as a social worker.

Alvarado, 31, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in April during a ceremony in the office of State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno. He is now the officer-in-charge of the Behavioral Science Section of the 118th Medical Battalion in New Haven. He returns to the New Haven Armory, where he previously was a member of the 142nd Medical Company, deploying with the unit to the Persian Gulf War.

His new job in the military is largely the result of his civilian education and experience, which are actually a result of his original job in the military – a medical specialist. Alvarado, 31, is a social worker with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families office in Waterbury, where he supervises an investigations unit. He and his staff respond to complaints of child abuse and neglect, and he works often with police officers and medical professionals, especially those in emergency rooms. He points to his early time in the military for generating his interest in social work, and helping him earn the extensive qualifications necessary for such a career.

As the first soldier in the Connecticut Army National Guard holding a position as a social worker, Alvarado said he can provide a wide array of mental health services for his fellow soldiers.

“I’ll be available for personal family issues, deployment and separation counseling,” Alvarado said. “In a mass casualty situation, I can be there for an advance briefing to tell soldiers what they’ll be going through, and then counsel them afterward. In that type of situation, I can also respond to an emergency and help set up a support center for the victims’ family members.”

Deploying Guardsmen might also have more common concerns that can be alleviated through counseling, for example being away from a sick relative, such as a

parent. One type of mental health issue that could effect military personnel is post traumatic stress disorder, which can be lessened with early intervention.

“PTSD is an actual diagnosis that can be related to a soldier’s mission. Clinically, it’s also called battle fatigue or shell shock,” Alvarado said. “Unfortunately, our job (as Guard members) deals with some types of crises – activations, natural disasters, riots.”

He is also aware that he could be called on to provide a social service that could be necessary for his fellow Guardsmen, or their families — bereavement counseling.

“Guardsmen get called out for to respond to unforeseen events, such as natural disasters. Or we get called out to defend freedom, such as in the Gulf War. These events could involve tragedies of various degrees, and it could be helpful for Guardsmen and their families to have counseling available,” said Alvarado, who experienced the effects of combat in Kuwait and Iraq with the 1st Infantry Division.

Individual and family counseling are not new for the military. Chaplains are well known resources for counseling soldiers, as Alvarado remembers from the Gulf War. Connecticut has a very active Family Services program that provides excellent resources for the families of Guard members, but that’s a resource that is mainly geared toward dependents who are left home during a deployment. Having a trained social worker available could provide another resource for the soldiers, especially after they deploy, Alvarado said.

With several Connecticut units preparing for extended deployments, Alvarado anticipates providing valuable services that

deploying Guardsmen and their families might not know is available. He remembers his deployment experience with the 142nd and feels that, if asked, he can help families of deploying Guardsmen understand the circumstances and cope with separation.

“I know how my family felt. My parents cried, and were afraid something would happen to me,” he said, adding that he’d like to help alleviate such natural reactions for others. He also can provide post-deployment counseling once soldiers return home.

Becoming a military social worker is a bit of an ironic twist that shows Alvarado carrying through on his motivation to help out whatever community he can. His interest in social work originated after returning to his neighborhood from basic and advanced individual training.

When Alvarado returned from his military training, he was a field medic with the Army Reserve. He was also a bit disillusioned. He noticed things were a bit different

It wasn’t just his time with the military that offered a different perspective on life in the south end of Waterbury. It was the life outside the military that many of the people in his inner-city neighborhood were exposed to, and all too often consumed by.

“When I returned from my training, a lot of my friends, kids I grew up with, were in jail or in gangs, such as the Latin Kings. I saw a lot of bad things happen in the south end of Waterbury, and I wanted to do things to make a difference,” he said.

He felt social work would allow him to help younger people avoid being lured by gangs

and other vices that often attract children of an inner city. He began studying sociology at UConn, and eventually found it necessary to transfer to the Connecticut National Guard, for the extra financial aid available in the form of the tuition waiver that the Army Reserve does not offer at state colleges.

His time in the Reserve showed him another perspective that people in his neighborhood most likely would not be exposed to, and in fact most people in the Army might not experience unless they spend a lot of time in military or veterans’ hospitals. He worked as a medical specialist, basically as a nurse’s aide, in the Veterans Administration Hospital in West Haven. Among his duties were administering intravenous treatments, changing catheters and assisting patients with personal hygiene, such as shaving and bathing.

But, as an individual, he saw much more.

“It was pretty sad. These were all veterans, and their general appearance was not very good. They needed help with basic hygiene. A lot of them didn’t have many visitors. It was almost like a nursing home for many of them, where they would just go there until they died,” Alvarado said, lamenting the fact that brave, dedicated veterans were seemingly forgotten by too many people.

Every patient’s tattoo told a story about when that veteran was younger and serving the country, doing the right thing. The ink design might have symbolized a military branch or served as a constant reminder of a loved one left behind. It was a chapter in an interesting autobiography that was never written.

But, the body art gave a different look on wrinkled skin as the veterans grew older and in too many cases lonelier. Although it saddened Alvarado to see what happened to many of the brave people who served the country, he did get much more than just medical experience from his drill weekends.

“Although it was kind of sad, in a way it was rewarding for me, because once a month, I knew I’d be able to give them that special, one-on-one attention they might not get, otherwise,” he said.

That seems to be what interests and motivates Alvarado the most, in his civilian career, his service to his community and his service to the Connecticut Army National Guard. It’s providing a specialized one-on-one service that might not be available, otherwise. If he can provide such services, highly specialized or not, he is ready to help.

In 1995, amidst the demands of a young family and a career in a social services



Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno (L) stands with 2nd Lt. Javier Alvarado and the social worker’s family, Betsy, also a social worker, Chlouie, 7, and Elijah, 3.

Guard Master Sergeant Direct

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAPT. SCOTT WILSON,
ASSISTANT PAO, CTARNG

The first. It is always good to be the first, because you can set the standards. You can create, and be creative. You can build a dream – there is nothing to hold you back. What is right and wrong? Who knows, it has never been done before.

Angel Huertas got the opportunity to be involved with the building of a first...and his dreams became reality.

Huertas, a first sergeant in the Connecticut Air Guard, is the director of the Hartford Boys and Girls (B&G) club on the campus of Trinity College. This is the first club of its kind in the country, partnered and sponsored by a major college. But Huertas had a bit of a road to walk before arriving at his current location and position.

A native of Hartford who grew up on Ward Street just a couple of blocks down the street from the new club's location, Huertas knows the area well. He is a product of the Hartford public school system, and graduated from (now Teikyo) Post University in Waterbury in 1982. Huertas started with the B&G club of New Britain in the same year he joined the Connecticut Air Guard (1985). Immediately experiencing a love for service with the club, he continued his affiliation and made it his life's work. He has since worked in the B&G Club of Waterbury and as a field representative for the Connecticut Human Services Department in Hartford. In 1998 he got the call to consult on the Trinity Project, headed by Trinity's president, himself a former B&G club member.

"They asked me to help because of my past experience and my knowledge of the area," Huertas stated. "It was like a dream come true for me. I knew immediately it was something I really, really wanted to help with." His local knowledge and experiences also contributed to his being chosen as director of the new program and facility.

Since then, things have been great for the club. Huertas pushed for a larger construction than



A small portion of the 900 members of the Boys and Girls Club on the campus of Trinity College in Hartford poses for a group shot.



Whether it's basketball or jumping rope, fun is always the descriptor. The indoor gymnasium offers plenty of opportunity, rain or shine.

originally planned, to include an indoor gymnasium, and his efforts were rewarded. In 1999, the new club opened to the public and has grown exponentially.

"The interest in the program is fantastic. When we started, we enrolled 620 new members in the first year. Now we have 900, and we see about 150-175 kids between the ages of six and fifteen each day," Huertas observed. The club boasts a state of the art computer education center and program complete with professional instruction on using the Internet, typing and learning from "Knowledge Adventure" software. Through its partnership with Trinity College (which owns the facility), the club has an energetic young staff of college students that interact with the children daily. "It's just a great atmosphere for these kids," Huertas noted. "The college staff act as role models for them, and show them what can be achieved through hard work and dedication."

With over 5000 clubs nationally, the B&G club continues to grow. New initiatives include clubs on many military bases, and programs like the partnership in Hartford. Ironically, the very first B&G club in the nation was in Hartford. Huertas

loves to show off this "new first" to interested parties.

"So many other colleges and universities are looking into partnering with the B&G club the way Trinity has, and we really set the standard, so they come here to learn. It's great for us, and it is great to see the direction the program is heading nationally." The program is featured in the "Someone Cares" video put out by the B&G club, and even had such distinguished guests as General (Ret.) Colin Powell at its dedication and opening.

"These kids are my customers. I tell my staff that we have to treat each and every one of them as if they were our own," Huertas explained. The program is very structured, and benefits the kids in many ways. It teaches the rules of games, not just giving the opportunity to play them.

"The kids end up policing themselves and teach each other. It is great to see." Huertas explained. "We have rule consistency for all the kids here, of all ages – we expect the older kids to act as role models for the younger ones and to help enforce the rules. There are suspensions for breaking the rules...what the kids learn here is that they have to be responsible for their actions.

"First" for Boys and Girls Club



In addition to educational and athletic activities, club members are afforded the opportunity to explore artistic skills.



The club boasts a state of the art computer facility that aids in the children's typing, computing, Internet and overall education.



Bumper pool is a club favorite. When recognized as a "youth of the month, children have the opportunity to manage the "play list" for this activity, teaching them organization and management skills.

They also learn that they can and will be treated with respect, which is important."

The club breaks its members into several age categories, including six to eight-year-old "peewees"; nine to ten-year-old "midgets"; eleven to thirteen-year-old "juniors"; and fourteen to sixteen-year-old "cadets." In the future, it will include seventeen to eighteen-year-old "seniors," especially those that have grown up in the program and become leaders.

Two kids from each age category are rewarded each month by being named the "youth of the month" – this award, judged on leadership, attitude, participation, sportsmanship, improvement and respect of club/members/staff, includes getting a T-shirt, a framed certificate, lunch with the staff and being given the honor of being in charge of the bumper pool play list for one week. Huertas likes that last part of the award.

"Not only are the kids rewarded with things, they are rewarded with responsibility, and that is an important thing to experience."

Huertas sees a strong connection between his service in the Air Guard and his service with the B&G Club. As the commander's/headquarters first sergeant of the 103rd Fighter Wing, "my creed says to take care of people," notes Huertas. "I carry that over to the club. We set high standards, just like we do in the military. If we didn't, the kids would meet them the first day and have nothing to strive for."

These standards include a "buy-in" of \$3 that each child must pay his or her self; if they don't have the money, Huertas gives them the opportunity to "work off" their debt on chores at the club. Other standards stressed by the club include integrity, honesty, citizenship, respect, responsibility and self worth.

"By setting these standards now, I can recruit kids

into the Guard from the club. I give all of them the opportunity. If they can pass the entrance exam, then we talk about what military service means and how it can help. If they can't, then I help them get some more educational help that will get them there later," Huertas notes. "But we have a strong 'nothing for nothing' philosophy here. They have to show the commitment before we can help them."

Many of Huertas' club members have followed his footsteps into the military and taken advantage of the educational opportunities it offers. One, named Joey, is Huertas' unofficially "adopted" son. Joey and Huertas met when Huertas worked at the B&G club in Waterbury. He is now a member of the Air Guard with Huertas, and Huertas' Program Director at the club.

"Joey is a great example of what you can do when you commit, and he is a great example for these kids. I'm proud to work with him at the club and in the Guard. I'm proud of him, period. He teaches these kids a lot, and I couldn't ask for a better role model!" Huertas boasts fondly.

Huertas has a message for the Guard. "Your presence here, helping, also could serve as a great example for these kids. We would love to have you." He also has a message for parents. "We don't want you to send your kids here all day...by that I mean that parents should spend time with their kids. But, in some cases, we know this isn't possible, so we are here to fill in and meet that need. This is a safe, great place to have kids come, and parents in the community know that. The kids are our customers here, and we love to have them. Please let us know if we can help."

If you're interested in helping or want more information, call Angel Huertas at 860-727-4154.



The Emblem of the Department of the Army

and its people.

The Phrygian cap (often called the Cap of Liberty) supported on the point of the unsheathed sword and the motto "This We'll Defend" on a scroll held by the rattlesnake signify the Army's constant readiness to defend and preserve the United States.

The colors of the design elements are traditionally associated with the ideals of the United States and the Army. The flags are in proper colors. Blue is symbolic of loyalty, vigilance, perseverance and truth. Red denotes courage, zeal and fortitude. White alludes to deeds worthy of remembrance. Black is indicative of determination and constancy. Gold represents achievement, dignity and honor.

(Source: Department of the Army)

The center element of the Army Emblem is a Roman cuirass, a symbol of strength and defense. The United States Flag, of a design used in the formative years of the Nation, and the United States Army flag emphasize the role of the Army in the establishment of and the protection of the Nation. The sword, esponent (a type of half-pike formerly used by subordinate officers), musket, bayonet, cannon, cannon balls, mortar and mortar bombs are representative of traditional army implements. The date 1775 refers to the year of the Army's establishment.

The drum and drumsticks are symbols of public notification of the Army's purpose and intent to serve the Nation

The Emblem of the Department of the Air Force

The predominate colors, ultramarine blue and gold, are the colors of the Air Force through transition from the Air Corps. The 13 stars represent the Thirteen Original Colonies of the United States. The grouping of three stars at the top of the design portrays the three departments of the National Defense Establishment (Army, Navy and Air Force). The crest includes the American Bald Eagle, which is the symbol of the United States and air striking power. The cloud formation depicts the creation of a new firmament, and the wreath, composed of six alternate folds of silver and blue, incorporate the colors of the basic shield design.

The shield, divided with the nebuly line formation, representing clouds, is charged with the heraldic thunderbolt. The thunderbolt portrays striking power through the medium of air. The Roman numerals beneath the shield indicate the year 1947 in which the Department of the Air Force was established. On a band encircling the whole is the inscription "Department of the Air Force" and



"United States of America."

The entire design used on the shield of the Air Force Seal is taken from a heraldic representation of the mythological thunderbolt, also termed Jupiter's thunderbolt. Jupiter was the Roman mythological God of the Heavens. At the honor point of the shield is a lightning bolt or elongated projectile-like mass, conceived of as the missile cast to earth in the lightning flash. The word thunderbolt, a single discharge of lightning with the accompanying thunder, derived from the idea that lightning was a bolt thrown to earth by a god. The pair of wings and smaller lightning flashes surrounding the bolt complete the design.

The eagle's head is turned to the right and symbolizes facing the enemy, looking toward the future and not dwelling on past deeds.

(Source: Department of the Air Force)

Family Program Lists Activities

Listed below you will find a current activity list from the State Family Program Office. Unless otherwise stated, all of these programs and events are available to the entire Guard community which includes the federal and state civilian employees of the National Guard, State Military Department and Office of Emergency Management.

If you require more specific information about any of these items or have other family program questions, please contact Kim Hoffman at (860) 524-4801 or 1-800-858-2677.

Six Flags Tickets : One day adult passes are available for \$20.00 vs. \$32.00 at the gate. An adult is anyone 48" and taller.

One day child passes are available for \$16.00. A child is anyone 37" and taller. Children 36" and shorter are always admitted free.

Summer Youth Camp: Sunday, July 30th - Saturday, August 5th, \$150.00 per child. If anyone is still interested in sending their child or grandchild to camp, please contact me. We have a few openings remaining and would be glad to have your child attend. This is our largest camp in its six year existence and we welcome new participants. Please call me for more specific details.

We are seeking volunteers for our field trips to Lake Compounce, Laser Tag at the Sub Base, and to Dodd Stadium to see the Norwich Navigators. If you are interested in helping us out, we'd appreciate your time. Please contact Kim Hoffman.

Guard Family Day 2000: Saturday, August 12th, Camp Rowland - RAIN OR SHINE All federal civilian employees, State Military Department employees and OEM employees are reminded that this is an agency-wide celebration and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be plenty of children's activities for your kids to participate in as well as food and static displays. Please plan on joining us.

West Point Football: Saturday, September 23 (West Point vs. Memphis) Grp # 401 Saturday, November 18 (West Point vs. Alabama-Birmingham) Grp # 1000 The Family Program Office has 2 blocks of tickets reserved for the above games. Tickets are \$20.00

per person and are available by contacting West Point Ticket Sales directly at 1-877-849-2769. Mention the group number listed beside each date above and charge them to your Master Card, Visa or American Express. This is the only way to purchase your tickets - I do not have any tickets in my office.

We are exploring the possibility of renting a bus for the trip. Depending on the number of tickets sold to each game and the interest expressed in charter transportation, we will make a decision. Estimated cost per person for bus transportation is \$20.

For those who have inquired about group tickets for the Army-Air Force Game and the Army-Navy Game, they are not available at a group rate. However, you can purchase them on your own at the same number for the Army-Air Force Game. The Army-Navy Game is in Baltimore this year, so if you would like to try and get there for that one, give them a call and see if there are any seats available.

Broadway Show Tickets: We recently enrolled in a discount Broadway show ticket club and the following discount tickets are currently available:

CATS - Winter Garden Theater - now through July 5th

Over the River and Through the Woods - now through July 30th

If you are interested in obtaining these discounts, please contact me personally for special instructions on how to purchase them.

ITT @ the Sub Base: The ITT (Information, Tickets and Tours) Office at the Sub Base in Groton offers a variety of other discount tickets to local and out-of-state attractions such as Mystic Seaport and Aquarium, Pequot Museum, Walt Disney World, Sea World, Busch Gardens and more. They also accept phone orders with major credit cards. They can be reached at (860) 694-3238. Remember, you must have a valid military identification card or dependent identification card to purchase their tickets.

Space & Aviation Family Day Attracts 2,800 People

The Connecticut State Police estimated that 2,800 people attended the 2nd Annual Space & Aviation Family Day at the Connecticut Air National Guard Base in Granby, the New England Air Museum and the Connecticut Fire Academy. The event is a benefit for The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp and attracted many young families and space and aviation enthusiasts who came to see and be photographed in a variety of aircraft.

In the morning a Corporate Co-ed Relay Race was held with each company donating \$200. First place winner was the Air National Guard team with second place honors going to Konover Hotels-Crooked Street Station group.

The Connecticut Air National Guard Base had A-10 Warthog aircraft and Army

National Guard Huey and Chinook helicopters for viewing.

Throughout the day people could have their photographs taken sitting in the cockpit of an A-10. The Connecticut State Police also had displays of the Dive and SWAT teams as well as the Children's ID Unit at the Guard Base.

The Lego Brick Building held at the New England Air Museum was a popular attraction for children.

On display were the museum's well-known vintage aircraft and displays of aviation history. There were fire and safety demonstrations at the Connecticut Fire Academy along with the large inflatable games for children and the Kids Fire Safety House.



A member of the Air National Guard shows onlookers how to use night vision goggles at the Aviation and Space Family Day.



The winning relay race team at the recent SPace and Aviation Family

Instructor Position Available at 169th

The 169th Leadership Regiment (GS) has a TDA vacancy position of Instructor, Staff Sergeant, MOS 11B, available for the right person.

Requirements for this position are as follows:

- Be MOS qualified as an 11B30
- Be fully completed with BNCOC, Phases I and II
- Have at least three years remaining with the CTARNG
- Meet the height and weight requirements of AR 600-9
- Possess a current APFT and weapons qualification score

Staff sergeants interested in this position must be willing to complete and accomplish the following:

- Complete The Army Instructor Training Course (TAITC), at Camp Rowland (Two MUTAs), or have previously completed the Battle Focused Instructor Training Course (BFITC)

- Attend AT each year at Phase II, 11B Regional Training Institute in Vermont

- Conduct at least three liaison visits with the Vermont RTI each year

- Be assigned to the 169th Leadership Regiment, (General Studies Battalion), at Camp Rowland, Niantic

- Agree to serve a three year tour and then be reassigned to another unit unless sooner selected through the NCO Promotion System

Interested NCOs are to contact Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel G. Norkun, Jr., Regimental command sergeant major, utilizing their NCO support channel.



A member of the Air National Guard relay team accepts the handoff as they go on to win the corporate relay held

IT'S ALWAYS TOO
EARLY TO QUIT.

Norman Vincent Peale

ORTIZ cont'd from page 1

Training Conference and Convention in Rio Grande, San Juan, Puerto Rico. There are 12 awardees chosen nationally (including the 50 states and four territories) for this award; one officer and enlisted in each of the armed forces as well as one member each in the Army Guard and Air Guard.

Ortiz is principal of Dr. Ramon E. Bitances School in Hartford. The school serves pre-kindergarten through sixth grade students. She began her career in education as a teacher in Puerto Rico then came to the United States where she was a classroom teacher for one year. She became a reading consultant for six and a half years, then served as assistant principal at Hartford's Quirk Middle School for 2 and a half years before taking on her current assignment.

As busy as her job as principal and the Guard keep her, Ortiz somehow manages to find time to be very active in her community, just what the award is all about.

She serves on the Language Arts Committee that develops the Connecticut Mastery Tests, is on the Board of Directors for the Bushnell Park Foundation and volunteers for the Charter Oak Center and the Center City Churches.

**The dictionary
is the only
place where
'success' comes
before 'work'.**

Vidal Sasoon

T.G.I.F.

The Guard Is Family



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An Alaskan retreat for military guests, the \$11 million Military Recreation Retreat opened in 1996. The Army operates charter fishing vessels in addition to lodging and outdoor recreation programs. Call toll free 1-800-770-1858.

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102nd Infantry Regiment Association to hold reunion



All veterans and current members of the 102nd Infantry Regiment are invited to a reunion sponsored by the Association on Saturday, July 29, 2000 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hop Brook Lake, junction of routes 63 and 188 in Middlebury, Conn. For additional information, write to:

102nd Infantry Regiment Association
National Guard Armory
290 Goffe Street
New Haven, CT 06511-3395

NGACT: National Guard Association of Connecticut

By Lt. Col. Bill Shea
President

This past March, the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) held its Annual Conference. A new slate of officers assumed their duties on the NGACT Executive Council. You elected them as your representatives. They are your direct representation in the association's business. This includes both the state and national level. They come from both the Army and Air National Guard. They are officers, enlisted soldiers & airmen, and a retiree. They are a cross spectrum of the Connecticut National Guard.

The Executive Council meets monthly, sometimes more often. They meet to provide direction for the association. They decide on what activities NGACT will pursue and participate in. They provide direction for various committees and help to steer these committees toward the goals of the organization. They share ideas and develop a vision for the organization. They best ideas that they present come from you, the members of NGACT. Please take the time to share any ideas that you have about the NGACT with any of these association officers. If are interested in volunteering your time to make the Connecticut National Guard and NGACT better, please contact any of the association's officers. They can tell you about some of the areas that we need volunteers to participate in assisting with

committees and various activities.

The officers of the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) are as follows:

President – Lt. Col. Bill Shea – william.shea@ct.ngb.army.mil

President-Elect – Chief Master Sgt. Tony Palidino – tjpalidno@aol.com

Secretary – Maj. Trish Nicholson – patricia.nicholson@ctbrad.ang.af.mil

Treasurer – 1ts Lt. Dave Fecso – david.fecso@ctbrad.ang.af.mil

Army Officer Member – Maj. Vincent O'Neill – vincent.oneill@ct.ngb.army.mil

Army Enlisted Member – Staff Sgt. Dan Damon – daniel.damon@ct.ngb.army.mil

Army Officer – Member-at-Large – Maj. Ted Murphy

Army Enlisted – Member-at-Lange – Master Sgt. Richard Miller – richard.miller@ct.ngb.army.mil

Air Officer Member – Lt. Col. Tom Heath – thomas.heath@ctbrad.ang.af.mil

Air Enlisted Member – Tech. Sgt. Claire Potier – claire.potier@ct.ngb.army.mil

Air Officer – Member-at-Large – Col. Ed Waitte – eddie@downcity.net

Air Enlisted – Member-at-Lange – Tech.

Sgt. John Wiggett – john.wiggett@ctbrad.ang.af.mil

Retired Member (Officer or Enlisted) – Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Raymond Veilleux

Co-Executive Directors – Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joseph Amatruda – joseph.amatruda@snet.net and Col. Anthony Vallombroso – anthony.vallombroso@ct.ngb.army.mil

NGACT Scholarship Program Update: The Executive Council of NGACT has decided to extend the deadline for submission of scholarship applications to 15 August 2000 so that more people could apply. So there is now additional time to apply for the NGACT's Second Annual Scholarship program. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, trade school or business school. NGACT members, their spouses and unmarried sons and daughters are eligible to apply. The revised deadline for all applications is Applications may be obtained by e-mail request at debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil or by contacting the NGACT Office at (860) 247-5000.

You can reach the NGACT at our office (860) 247-5000. There is an answering machine in the office. If no one is in the office, please leave a message you will receive a return call. The NGACT Website is <http://www.ngact.org>.



ESGR

By Lt. Col. (Ret)
Harry Ritson
ESGR Public Affairs

Are you experiencing employment problems because of your participation in the national Guard or Reserves? If so, or if you are interested in learning more about your employment rights and responsibilities, you may request assistance from Connecticut's Ombudsman, Capt. Thomas Langlais, USCGR-Ret., (860) 283-4222.

Sponsored by the Connecticut Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Langlais is specially trained in the application of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) to potential employment situations arising from the dual careers of employees who also serve in the reserve components. The law is officially administered by the Federal Department of Labor (DOL), but the Ombudsman has the authority to explain the application of the rights and

responsibilities of both employees and employers under the law, and to seek problem resolution by providing information, education and mediation services prior to referral to the DOL. These discussions are informal and are not entered into personnel records. The objective is to eliminate misunderstandings and resolve difficulties to the satisfaction of all, and, in Connecticut, satisfactory resolution is achieved in over 98 percent of situations referred to Langlais and his associates.

The first attempt to resolve a problem should always be made at the employer-employee level. Often a calm, objective discussion can reveal solutions if conducted in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation. Informational material is available to support those discussions and can be requested from the Ombudsman. If that fails, your unit commander may be able to explain the situation or suggest

compromises that will satisfy everyone's needs.

If those efforts fail, then a call to Langlais is appropriate. His staff of trained Ombudsmen is made up of prior service members and local business leaders who understand both sides of the problem and can help mediate meaningful solutions. They are qualified to help and are sympathetic to the needs of both employers and employees. All actions or employer contacts are kept under the control of the individual making the referral, and recognize the sensitivity of the employment relationship.

Please note: ESGR's Ombudsmen handle only employer-employee conflicts involving military service. Recruiting and inspector general complaints should be referred to the appropriate agencies.

Connecticut's ESGR Ombudsman (860) 283-4222

Air Guard Shooters on Target

Four members of the 103rd Fighter Wing traveled to Camp Smith, New York in April for the 22nd Annual TAG Matches. Teams competed in two disciplines, Light Machine Gun and Combat Rifle.

The M-60 machine gunners participated in four events and fired using the tripod and the bipod. Courses of fire had the M-60 team making multiple barrel changes, reloads and gunner swaps in minimum time allowances.

"It was pretty intense at times. The fact that the majority of people we were competing against were Army Guard members made us want to win that much more," said Senior Airman Napoleon Tetreault. "The Army Guard does not traditionally see us Air Guardsmen as being proficient with shoulder-fired weapons. I think that the team, led by Master Sgt. Brian Roy proved otherwise."

Additionally, competitors fired from the standing position with the machine gun held in the shoulder, under the arm and from the hip. Targets were engaged from 10 to 300 meters. At the end of the day,



Senior Airman Peter Owen (shooting) and Senior Airman Napoleon (feeding ammunition) compete in the light machine gun competition.

when all the smoke had cleared and the mound of spent cartridge cases had been picked up, the team consisting of Senior Airman Peter Owen and Tetreault of the 103rd Security Forces Squadron placed third out of 18 teams.

The combat riflemen fired in three events. These included conventional shooting positions such as prone, sitting and kneeling while engaging targets from 25 to 300

placed third and Tech. Sgt. Scott Ashley placed 21st out of 120 shooters.

In May, four Flying Yankees traveled to Camp J.T. Robinson, Arkansas to compete in the 2000 Chief of the National Guard Bureau Tournaments. The team competed in the Small-Bore Rifle discipline, an event consisting of 20 shots for record at 50 yards in each of three positions, prone, standing and kneeling.

The four-man team of Roy, Ashley, Master Sgt. Wayne Hatch and Senior Airman Paul Thaxton finished third in a field of five teams. These five teams were the best in the National Guard having won their chance to represent their states during the first two phases of competition that began with more than 65 teams.

Ashley won the prone match with a score of 188. Roy won the standing match and the kneeling match to become the Individual Grand Aggregate winner with a score of 535.

These matches and all the practice that led up to them provide a valuable training tool and increase the mobility readiness of the unit along with increased qualification scores. Each team member that attended these events have had the opportunity to fire the M-16 service rifle, the M-9 Beretta Service pistol and the M-60 Light Machine Gun.

meters. There were also movement stages that had competitors with weapons loaded on "SAFE" and in the alert position advancing on line. When the targets appeared, the riflemen would run to the firing line, assume the kneeling position and fire the required number of rounds. Roy

Nineteenth Annual SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER FORMAL DINING-IN

DATE: 5 October 2000 (Thursday Evening)

TIME: 1830 Hours

PLACE: Aqua-Turf Club, Southington, Connecticut

COST: THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$39.00)

ELIGIBILITY: Noncommissioned Officers and Chief Petty Officers, E-7 and above. All eligible ARNG and ANG NCOs are expected to attend. CPOs are invited to attend. Retirees are most welcome.

UNIFORM: Army Dress Blues with Bow Tie or Army Greens with white shirt and black bow tie. Appropriate attire for other services. Retirees may wear the uniform or a business suit as meets their desires.

HOST: Command Sergeant Major, Connecticut Army National Guard

GUEST SPEAKER: CSM Collin L. Younger US Army
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs

APPLICATION DUE DATE: Military Protocol requires prompt response (within 72 hours of receipt of flyer).

I will attend the Senior NCO Dining-In on 5 October 2000.

My check in the amount of \$39.00 is attached.

NAME: _____ RANK: _____

Home address: _____

Code: _____ Zip _____

UNIT: _____

Indicate your preference for Fish in lieu of Roast
Beef: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "CSM Stephen Primett"

Mail returns to: Command Sergeant Major
Connecticut Army National Guard
National Guard Armory
360 Broad St.
Hartford, CT 06105-3795

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD CONCERNING THE DINING-IN!

Let other E7 and above NCOs and CPOs, who have never attended, know about this grand affair. NCOs and CPOs make it happen!

No responses accepted after 25 September 2000

By Lt. Col. James A. Grasso

Do you know what distinguishes the National Guard from the active services? A salient distinction is the benefits that individuals take back immediately to their civilian lives through the education, training and discipline the Guard provides.

One of those benefits is the sexual harassment training that each and every soldier and airman receives from the Connecticut National Guard (CTNG). The basic principles and who the training supports does not just protect us while we are wearing the uniform, but carries over to our full time jobs. Sexual harassment in the workplace is just that, sexual harassment in the workplace; there is no distinction between wearing a uniform or civilian attire. If your civilian place of business has failed to conduct or display sexual harassment policy it still means you are covered, this time by state and federal laws. Do what the Guard has taught you!

1. Confront the harasser. The best time to stop harassment is as soon as it starts. Be calm, but firm in telling the person you will not tolerate their behavior and that you will file a complaint through channels if they continue.
2. Use an intermediary if the first method is too intimidating for you to use finds someone who you feel will be able to address the harasser. Make sure your representative will tell the person that their behavior towards you must stop, and that you will go through formal channels if it does not stop or if reprisals occur.
3. Write a letter to the harasser.

Politely, firmly and objectively, describe the specific

incident of harassment, your feelings now and at the time you were harassed, and what corrective action you want the harasser to take.

4. Keep a journal. Write down details of the harassment, noting times, places, witnesses, and any actions you took at the time to make the harasser stop. Keep the journal out of the office; don't show it to others.

5. Report any incident of sexual harassment, especially severe harassment you cannot curtail by confronting or writing the harasser. Only you can decide whether to file a formal EO complaint or complain less formally through your chain of command.

Like the Guard your civilian employer is subject to penalties for failing to protect you. In the military if a superior fails to take the appropriate actions to stop sexual harassment he or she can be charged with Article 92 of the UCMJ: failure to obey an order or regulation by condoning sexual harassment behaviors. In private business your employer could be subject to a lawsuit for violating Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Remember, sexual harassment has been traditionally classified in one of two categories. The first one is, quid pro quo, which is Latin for, "this for that." It refers to the conditioning of job rights and benefits, continued employment, raises, promotions and the like. The second is referred to as hostile work environment harassment, which includes all other

sexually offensive conduct such as uttering offensive slurs, displaying sexually explicit photos or cartoons, and other offensive behavior which has a detrimental impact upon the victim's ability to perform his or her job.

The United States Supreme Court addressed employer liability recently. The basic principle that emerged was that an employer would be liable for damages when a supervisor engages in either quid pro quo or hostile work environment harassment and the victim suffers a tangible employment action. If no tangible employment action was taken against the victim the employer can avoid liability by correcting the sexual harassment behaviors.

As always if you have any questions

**CT Army National Guard
Discrimination Complaint Process**

Individual Filing Complaint
180 Days

EOA, EOR,
Unit Commander

Unit Members
60 Days

Next Level of Command
30 Days

Next Level of Command
(If appropriate)

TAG
60 Days

National Guard
Bureau

concerning your rights as a member of the Guard contact your unit's Equal Opportunity Representative. If you feel that you are experiencing sexual harassment in your civilian work place, contact your company's human resource office or the State of Connecticut Human Rights and Opportunity Commission. They can advise you on your options, but only you can decide what you want done about it.

CTARNG EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE
SOLDIER & AIRMEN SUPPORT CENTER

LTC GRASSO CW4 UVA ILT GARCIA SGM ROVALDI
MSG ALVERIO
860-524-4913

CLOSING THE BACK DOOR

MAJ. MICHAEL A. VASILE,
RECRUITING AND RETENTION COMMANDER

As we enter the final quarter of this fiscal year we must focus our efforts on the second and third tenets of Strength Maintenance, that being unit retention and attrition management. As a state we have done an excellent job of maintaining the strength of our Guard this year. Now is the time for every leader in our organization from corporal to colonel to "save a soldier" through concerted efforts in extending soldiers scheduled to complete their current enlistment contract.

Probably the most effective way to accomplish this is for us as leaders to remind our soldiers just how important they are to our Guard team. Individual recognition or a "pat on the back" goes a long way to getting this done. Our members need to be reminded of potential enlistment bonuses, opportunities for promotion and where they stand on longevity towards retirement. The bottom line is that they need to know that

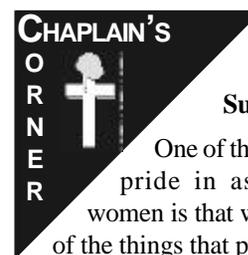
we care.

Let's set an objective in this final quarter to extend every eligible soldier scheduled to ETS. We must not accept no for an answer but rather find out what we as leaders can affect that will lead to a yes to extend.

Next, we must make a concerted effort to reclaim those soldiers from within the eighteen to thirty sixth months of an enlistment who no longer feel they are a part of our team or feel they won't be missed if they quit. Far too many soldiers end up as noval pay statistics, meaning they haven't been to drill in three months.

I am requesting that my staff contact each and every soldier currently listed in a noval pay status in an effort to get them back to drill. I ask leaders at all levels to do the same.

Let's finish first in the Northeast again this year by achieving our objectives in all three tenets of strength maintenance; recruiting, retention and attrition management.



By CHAPLAIN
(LT. COL.) DAVID FEYRER

Suicide Prevention

One of the things that we take pride in as Guardsmen and women is that we are a family. One of the things that people in families do is care for one another. It is not a relationship that we leave at the office door. It is a relationship that shows concern beyond the walls of our workplace.

During the past years, several members of the Connecticut National Guard have, tragically, been affected by loved ones taking their own lives. This has brought all of us a level of sadness and hopefully a renewed attitude of prevention. Suicide is preventable, through the use of what I will call "family" attitudes.

Family attitudes are a willingness to get involved in someone's life in times of stress and turmoil.

We, as family, often see the signs of potential suicide: confusion, financial

reversal or loss of social status, a family history of suicide, previous suicide attempts, feelings of failure, talk about death or committing suicide, lack of roots or social relationships, over-emphasizing a lack of suicidal thoughts, withdrawal from others and outside activities or the recent breakup of a significant relationship.



When we see these things happening are we willing to provide AID?

Ask – Don't be afraid to ask, "Are you thinking about hurting yourself?"

Intervene – Immediately

Don't – Keep it a secret.

If we can rely on the value each of us have for the Guard as a family, hopefully we will be more willing to get involved, provide AID and prevent suicide.

Thanks for your help.

BTOC GIVES RECRUITS A HEAD START AT BASIC

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON

The Connecticut Army National Guard has run the Basic Training Orientation Program (BTOC) for new recruits since the mid-70s. The program, a joint venture of the Recruiting and Retention Command and the 169th Leadership Regiment, gives the new privates an opportunity to experience in two days a brief overview of what basic training will be like.

Newly enlisted soldiers arrive at Camp Rowland, Niantic, not really knowing what to expect, and after in-processing head to the classroom where they are met by drill sergeants from the Army Reserve.

They are given instruction in basic drill and ceremonies, sexual harassment policies, physical fitness training, military time and the phonetic alphabet, how to make a military bunk, alcohol and drug abuse policies and more drill and ceremonies.

This program has been credited in the past with reducing the basic training drop-out rate of Connecticut Guardsmen from approximately 30 percent to three percent. Many of the Connecticut soldiers are made squad and platoon leaders and are given greater responsibility at an early time in basic than their fellow soldiers from other states because of the head start they received during BTOC.

The program is run every month with the exception of July and August.



Soldiers receive instruction from drill sergeants during the basic training orientation course at camp rowland.



RESCUE cont'd from page 1

works for the roller coaster company also came on the scene. He had been walking the coaster tracks and heard the cries for help."

Since the victim was bleeding heavily, Gary and Jim decided the best course of action was to stabilize him.

"We had no first-aid equipment to stop the bleeding, so I told the victim to cup his hand over his nose. Jim and I realized that we had to get this guy down the rocky terrain as quickly as possible," says Mandelburg. "We made the decision that if one of us went for help and the other stayed, by the time help arrived, the victim might bleed to death, so we wanted to get him moving down the hill where EMT's could get to him."

Gary and Jim came up with a plan whereby Jim went ahead and scouted the safest path down the hill while Gary helped the victim down.

Gary was concerned with the victim passing out because he weighed over 200 pounds and had fallen onto another cliff just six feet away from a 40-foot drop to rock.

"To get the victim off the cliff, I slid backwards down the rocks on my stomach with the victim's feet on my shoulders. He slid off the rock on top of me," said Mandelburg.

With Jim navigating, Gary led the victim down the hillside 10 feet at a time. "He had his arm around me and was hopping down. When it got steep enough to where we could not walk, we would sit down and slide together down the terrain," said Mandelburg.

The trio worked their way down for about 35 minutes, then Jim left to get help. The EMT's were on the scene within 15 minutes. They bandaged up the victim, and as a team, they collectively carried the victim the rest of the way down the hill. It had been about an hour and a half since Mandelburg's wife first heard the cries for help.

The next day Gary heard that the victim received 45 stitches in his nose and was severely bruised from head to toe. His shoulder had been dislocated, but in the process of sliding down the hill, it popped back into place.

"When we got to the bottom, we slapped each other five and he thanked me. I sat down on the bench and realized I was exhausted," says Mandelburg. "Having time to think about the experience, I don't think what I did was special. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time to help someone out."

Great deeds are usually wrought at great risks.

Herodotus

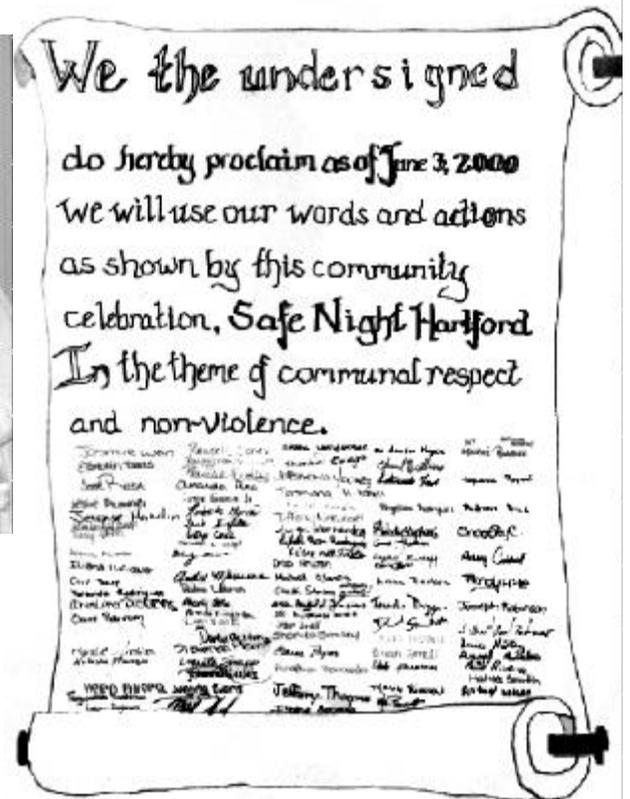


GIVING YOUTH A SAFE-NIGHT OF FUN IN HARTFORD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON

They came. They danced. They ate pizza. They showcased their talents. They danced into the evening. They sang karaoke. They listened to other teens as they explained ways to stay safe and healthy. They listened as a television news personality told them they mattered. And they had fun.

The students of Quirk Middle School in Hartford participated in Safe-Night Hartford, an evening billed as being drug free, alcohol free, argument free and weapon free. The 150 students came to school to have a safe environment to enjoy themselves in and to experience firsthand ways to express themselves without



violence, drugs or alcohol.

The program was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Army National Guards' Drug Demand Reduction Program, Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council, Connecticut Children's Center Violence Prevention Program, Greater Hartford Violence Prevention Coalition, Hartford Interval House, Hartford Youth Network and Prudence Crandall Women's Center.

The evening started with Channel 30's Lew Brown telling the youth that they mattered.

"I grew up around the corner. I'm one of you," he said, bringing cheers from the crowd. "I am disappointed in my profession right now, though. Where are they? Where are the tv cameras? You can bet that if one of you threw a rock through one of these windows right, they would all

be here, but when you are doing something

positive like this, where are they?"

After showing the students pictures of himself as a high school and college student, Brown turned the program over to the evening's DJ and then stayed around for a while to chat with the kids and adult volunteers.

Looking In Theater, a group of high school students who performs situational programs around the state, entertained and enlightened the students with improvisational skits for about a half hour followed by a question and answer period that enlightened many of the adults in the audience with its candor.

Situations portrayed on the stage included hiding a weapon for a friend, date rape, alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Many students in the audience were absolutely outraged when one of the male actors threw his actress date across the floor and she forgave him because she "loved" him. During the question and answer period, students spoke openly about their views on all the topics covered by the program, showing the adults that they (the students) were more aware of the hidden dangers now facing society than many had thought.

A talent show followed, showcasing the dancing singing and lip synching talents of many of the students in attendance and featuring local rapper Tall T. A pizza party and dance rounded out the evening.

SafeNight USA was started in Milwaukee in 1994. Since then 500 SafeNight events have taken place in Milwaukee and became a statewide event in 1996. This year, SafeNight USA held parties all across the country on June 5. Two were held in Hartford alone.

The Connecticut Army National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program has plans to continue its participation in future. To volunteer as a chaperone or in any other capacity, contact Maj. Chuck Strong at the Hartford Armory.

"Help one another; there's no time like the present and no present like the time."
—James Durst





RETIREE'S VOICE

Retirees Picnic 2000

August 16th

1200-1600

Camp Rowland,
Niantic CT



Bring a guest!

Active Duty Welcome!

Pass the word!

Meet old friends!

Raffle!

Prizes!

Lots of Food,

Beer & Soda!

Live Music!

Card Games!

Come Join the Fun! Mark your calendar!

Detach and return to COL(Ret) Bob Kelly

2000 Retirees Picnic Cost: \$16.00/person by July 28th
\$18.00/person after July 28th

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Army Air
Address: _____ Return with payment:
City: _____ COL (Ret) Bob Kelly
State: _____ Zip: _____ 214 Church Street
Phone: () _____ Wethersfield, CT 06109
1-860-529-6851

I would like to volunteer Make Check payable to: NGA CT

My Address has changed from last year.

102nd Army Band announces summer concert schedule

Date	Location	Concert Time
16 July 2000	Bethel, CT Municipal Center Gazebo	6- 7:30 PM
18 July 2000	Old Saybrook, CT Town Green	7- 8:30 PM
19 July 2000	Meriden, CT Hubbard Park	7- 8:30 PM
20 July 2000	Westport, CT Levitt Pavilion	8- 9:30 PM
24 July 2000	Niantic, CT McCook's Point	6:30- 8:00 PM
25 July 2000	Bristol, CT Rockwell Park	7- 8:30 PM
26 July 2000	New Britain, CT Walnut Hill Park	7- 9 PM
27 July 2000	Rocky Hill, CT State Veterans Home And Hospital	1:30-2:30 PM

COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

Here is a current directory of area commissaries and exchanges along with their phone numbers. Always call ahead to verify hours as they may change without notice. A valid i.d. card is necessary to use these facilities. Contact your unit administrator if you or your dependants need a card. If you have trouble, contact the State Family Program Office at 1-800-858-2677.

CAMP ROWLAND POST EXCHANGE

MONDAY: Closed
TUESDAY – SATURDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
SUNDAY: 10:00 – 4:00
Phone: (860) 739-9672

ARMY RESERVE CENTER

700 South Quaker Lane
West Hartford, CT
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 1:00
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 1:45 – 4:00
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: Closed
Phone: (860) 236-3393

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE

Chicopee, Mass.
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
SATURDAY: 10:00- 5:00
SUNDAY: 11:00 – 5:00
Phone: (413) 593-5583

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

East Granby
TUESDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
SATURDAY: 10:00 – 4:00
SUNDAY & MONDAY: Closed
UTAs: Open Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 – 5:00
Phone: (860) 653-6994

COAST GUARD STATION

120 Woodward Avenue
New Haven, CT
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 4:30
SATURDAY: 9:00 – 2:00
SUNDAY: Closed
Phone: (203) 468-2712

SUB BASE, NEW LONDON

Exchange Hours:
MON., TUES., WED., FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 – 7:00
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 9:00 – 5:00
HOLIDAYS: 9:00 – 4:00
Phone: (860) 694-3811
Commissary Hours:
MONDAY: Closed
TUE., WED. & FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
SATURDAY: 8:00 – 5:00
SUNDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
Phone: (860) 694-2244

COAST GUARD ACADEMY

New London
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 5:00
SATURDAY: 9:00 – 3:00
SUNDAY: Closed
Phone: (860) 444-8488

WEST POINT, NEW YORK

Exchange Hours:
SATURDAY – WEDNESDAY:
10:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 10:00 – 7:00
Phone: (914) 446-5406
Commissary Hours:
MONDAY: Closed
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY:
10:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 10:00 – 7:00
FRIDAY: 10:00 – 6:00
SATURDAY: 9:00 – 5:00
SUNDAY: 11:00 – 5:00
Phone: (914) 446-5406



Maintenance keeps the mission moving forward.

ENGINEERS cont'd from page 1

impacted the unit's production schedule.

However, as Company C 1st Sgt. Charles S. Rood observed, "The equipment operates better when it gets a good workout, and we are definitely giving it one. The difficulties we've experienced on the production side are really helping us, in the long run, on the training side."

"Engineer units are presently used heavily during peacekeeping operations, so we must stay sharp," agreed Bendernagel. "We have fantastic unit strength, but this is a young battalion. It is really exciting to see our new people stepping up and getting the job done and learning. This is a great mission for us to do for AT...it is just what we need to be doing."

The 242nd, like many engineer units, is truly diverse in its depth and breadth of missions. These include vertical construction (roads, bridge abutments, landing zones, bivouac sites, etc.), and demolitions/ SAPPER missions (which part of the unit trained on at Ft. Dix, NJ, during this AT). The unit is also set up to perform many missions, like operating a quarry

that can only fall into the category of "other." As Capt. Charles K. Jaworski, the Commander of Co. C observed, "We are very diverse, and have a lot of capability."

The unit's equipment includes eighteen five-ton dump trucks, twelve bolster trailers (flat - carry pioneer/engineer tools), seven highly-mobile multi-wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), two cargo "Hemmitts", six small equipment excavators, four bulldozers, four "920" tractors with flatbed trailers, three graders and two bucket loaders. The unit is also authorized twenty-five ton cranes.

With this much equipment and such diversity of mission responsibility, "stick-time" (the time operators actually get to train and test their skills operating the equipment) is a unit priority. It was the catch phrase used consistently on this AT rotation.

What does it take to build a road? 2nd Lt. Andrew P. Ossolinski, the Co. C project officer-in-charge for the Stone's Ranch "D-1" road construction project, laid it out as he watched his soldiers getting their "stick time."

"We are opening this road, which could only previously be called an infantry trail since it was only eight feet wide, to a width of forty-five feet, including a drainage ditch. We go at it in several stages...first, surveyors give us vertical/horizontal control points, which help

determine where to cut and where to fill so the road is flat even though it is going uphill.

"We then place erosion controls - silt fences - along the sides of the construction to stop silt from getting in the fresh water and streams in the surrounding area. If we didn't do this, it would choke out the wildlife living in the water. Then we "skim" the road - we cut the topsoil and organic material off - if we didn't, it would disintegrate and make hollow spots, which makes a bumpy road.

"After skimming, we lay 'three inch minus' stone material, which forms the real base of the road. We lay it twelve inches thick and then spread it out with dozers. Then we compact it with a vibratory roller. Towards the end of the process, we put down an eight-inch base of three-quarter inch processed stone. We use this smaller size because it can be easily smoothed out and is a very smooth top cover. After that, we cut in a 'V' ditch for drainage alongside of the road, and then comes the best part...we name it. I think this one will be called 'Rock Road' because of the huge stones that came out."

Meanwhile, in another area of Stone's Ranch, Co. As soldiers were busy clearing bivouac sites



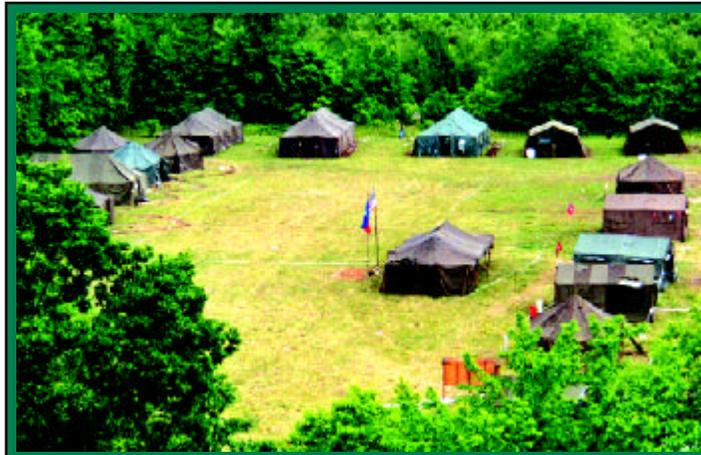
A "SEE" (Small Excavating Equipment) begins preparation of a drainage ditch bordering the new road.

The enabler of much of this work, though, is the maintenance support provided by the headquarters and support platoon of the 242nd. Working side by side with full time maintenance personnel at the Stone's Ranch maintenance facility, these soldiers provide contact teams that recover vehicles, assess their damage and fix them on-site or transport them back to the maintenance facility for more major repair. The engineer's work is physical and tough on equipment, so without this support the unit would fail.

Sgt. Heyward Fogle, the recovery supervisor, was impressed with his unit's ability to turn around equipment and get it back into operation in a short period of time. "This is great because we get a chance to exercise recovery operations skills and maintenance for real. We are really having great turnaround time on getting vehicles unstuck, repaired and back out into action."

At the end of a long day of work, the soldiers of the 242nd retire to their base camp. A facility they constructed and set up, it is reminiscent of many of the base camps that can be found at the Army's various peacekeeping and humanitarian missions around the world. The 242nd has even installed electricity throughout the camp, has an MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) tent complete with juice/soda bar and snacks, and a nightly movie for entertainment. Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin P. Cavanaugh conducts weekly services and provides support throughout the AT. "This is the first time we have had this support at AT and it really pays off. We are having great, well attended services, which contribute even more to our already high morale," noted Bendernagel.

At the end of this AT, roads will be completed, bivouac sites opened, training sites improved and there will even be a dedication ceremony with a plaque presentation commemorating the completion of the landing zone. But, what really mattered to the soldiers of the 242nd at the end of the day was the sense of ownership they got from working on these projects and the training it provided them. They routinely called their projects "our road" or "our LZ," demonstrating that ownership without thought. And they did it all while getting stick time.



Base camp, as it would be anywhere in the world.

large enough to fit an entire engineer company and all its equipment. In one case, the bivouac site was non-existent, so the soldiers had to start by doing a "clearing" operation off all the trees and underbrush. This constituted a very manual task, as they had to utilize chainsaws and machetes before they could even begin to improve the site to the standard they desired, which would include cut-out areas for equipment to park and entry/exit roads.

Capt. Paul Thompson, the Co A commander, thought the work was great for the unit. "Our soldiers are always so close to using the equipment, but don't always get to do it under real mission conditions; now at AT, they are really using the equipment and it excites them to get the stick time. It is a real morale enhancer and when you are dealing with a unit that already has high morale, it is a real plus."



The makings of a new road...



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