



# Connecticut Guardian



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## Epps makes History: Two Firsts Upon Assuming Command of CTANG

STORY BY LT. COL. CHARLES MCKELLAR,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, HQ CTANG  
PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. LINAS VENCLAUSKAS,  
103RD COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT, CTANG



Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps assumed command of the Connecticut Air National Guard during a Change of Command ceremony at Bradley Air National Guard Base April 8, before an audience of guardsmen, dignitaries and family members.

As master of ceremonies, Lt. Col. Joseph Tolisano began the ceremony by welcoming everyone to the Change of Command ceremony. Talisano said, "The Change of Command ceremony you are about to witness is deeply rooted in military tradition, predating the Norman Conquest of England."

The purpose remains to allow subordinates to witness the Change of Command. However, in the ceremony today, Epps, the new commander, takes her place before Maj. Gen.

William A. Cugno, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, and says, "Sir, I assume command." Only four words are spoken, but in these few words there begins a new chapter of command.

For Epps, the words herald a new and challenging tour of duty. Epps becomes the first female and first African-American to achieve this position and level of command in Connecticut's history.

With the reading of the orders, Brig. Gen. Lawrence D. Rusconi is relieved of his command and Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps is appointed Commander, Connecticut Air National Guard, effective 8 April 2001.

During his remarks, Cugno spoke of the many civic contributions Epps and her family have made. He also thanked General Rusconi for leading the Connecticut Air National Guard during this transitional period. Cugno said, "A long time ago, there was an American hero who made a great speech, that today is referred to very often. He was Dr. Martin Luther King. He said, I have a dream. People like Mary Ann Epps are the fabric that helped build that dream. I am proud to be a part of it today, and I look

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President George W. Bush, Commander-In-Chief of the U. S. Armed Forces, visited Connecticut recently to honor a Waterbury elementary school that is showing great success with Mastery Tests. The president landed at Bradley Air National Guard Base in Granby where he met with Governor John G. Rowland (in top photo). Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General, also greeted the president and presented him with the Connecticut Adjutant's General coin as Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzski, Commanding General of the Connecticut Army National Guard looked on. (Bottom photo) President Bush arrived aboard Air Force One, then flew to Waterbury on Marine One. He later returned to the air base for the return flight to Washington, D. C. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, PA NCO)

## Maj. Gen. John F. "Fritz" Freund Memorialized: Former Adjutant General

John Frederick "Fritz" Freund VI, 82, a retired Army Major General, who served for 10 years as the Adjutant General for the state of Connecticut and whose unique insight and access within the South Vietnamese military made his advice invaluable to several Army Chiefs of Staff during the war in Vietnam, died of Cancer on March 22, 2001 at his son's home in New York City.

Freund, a New York native was a 1940 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis MD. Though medically disqualified from Naval commission, Freund petitioned his Senator and was offered a regular Army commission. His first duty assignment was a skipper of the USS Schofield, an Army minesweeper. As a second lieutenant, he was the first of his Naval Academy class

to command a ship. In 1941, he transferred to field artillery and served three years in combat during World War II. Freund served



as a battery commander, executive officer and battalion commander in campaigns in

North Africa, Sardinia, Italy, Corsica, France and Germany.

After the war, Freund attended the University of Southern California and received a master's degree in aeronautical engineering. He then became commander of the Army's first Guided Missile Battalion at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, and later became the commanding officer of the Army's first Guided Missile Group.

From 1953 to 1957, Freund was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of

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# UP FRONT WITH THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

BY MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL



## TAG'S MEMORIAL ADDRESS

Memorial Day is a unique national holiday. If not the most important national day of patriotic observance, it can certainly be argued as the most solemn day we set aside for recognition.

This is a day of mixed emotions. It is a day for reflection in honor of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coastguardsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice throughout our history. The number is truly staggering. More than one million active and reserve affiliated service members have fallen in battle.

I don't think it is possible to truly grasp what that loss really means, but it should be obvious to every American that this sacrifice deserves much more appreciation than we could possibly demonstrate on one day a year.

This is a day of personal sorrow for those who have lost loved ones in uniform. It is also a reflective day for those who have held fallen comrades in their arms as they lied dying on many lonely battlefields. As a nation, this is both a day of national mourning but also a day to celebrate our national pride and hopefully be appreciative of the sacrifices that so many of our friends, neighbors, brothers, sisters, moms and dads have all made for the freedoms that endure today. We honor these brave warriors by not forgetting them. We honor them by not taking for granted what they did for us.

Tradition is a special part of this holiday, which dates back to the Civil War. As the battle raged, Confederate widows and grieving family members began placing wild flowers on the graves of their

loved ones. They did this for the Federal soldiers buried in their states, as well, and a similar custom arose in the North around the same time.

By 1882, what was called Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and the holiday had broadened to honor service members from all of America's wars. In addition to decorating graves with flowers and wreaths, citizens also held parades and listened to speeches and the playing of taps.

The renowned jurist and Civil War veteran Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., believed that this holiday was the most sacred day of the year. Memorial Day, he declared, should have a meaning for all Americans. He asked people not to conclude the holiday with sad thoughts of the passing of our heroes, but rather with thoughts of their legacy, of the life that was made possible by their commitment and their pain.

As American citizens, we try to comprehend our fallen heroes' immense sacrifices. Those who have seen or experienced the horrors of war first-hand have no need to use their imaginations or rely on second-hand testimonies. They know too well the horror of war and the often referred to fog of war. But it is important for the rest of us to place ourselves in the shoes of those who have faced the terror of combat. Only with such empathy can we begin to appreciate the sacrifices that we honor.

We might recall wars fought on our own soil or those that raged in foreign lands. It is a testament to our strength that the majority of our brave service members fell on foreign soil, stopping aggression before it ever reached our shores. Those

warriors who fell on strange terrain - as even our modern veterans have done - must have died an even more difficult death than those who were struck down near their own homes since they were so distant from loved ones.

Though the adversary may change and the venue of battle may vary between land, sea and sky, the grim experiences of war remain constant. Like so many fine warriors of the past, today we see young adults, barely having come of age, facing their duty with little complaint. While those who have died tried their best to hide their fears from home, they went into battle scared. But still they went, and in a flash of violence and horror - whether they had time to realize it or not - they made the ultimate sacrifice.

World War II and our landings on Normandy during D-Day in 1944 quickly come to mind. Clearly, this is an example of our veterans facing the impossible. For those of you who have seen the powerful film "Saving Private Ryan," surely there is a permanent image burned into your memory - an image of men who faced the certainty of death as they bravely carried out their orders. And yet they overcame, they were victorious, and we have never forgotten them. Could we ask for greater heroes?

Connecticut has many great heroes. Of the 300,000 U.S. Army soldiers nationwide who died during World War Two, 4,347 of them were from our

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## ENLISTED UPDATE

By COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JOSEPH APARO,  
143RD FORWARD SUPPORT BATTALION

State Command Sgt. Maj. (Steve) Primett asked me to write a brief note on my recent recon mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. My name is Joseph H. Aparo. I am the new Command Sergeant Major for the 143rd Forward Support Battalion (FSB).

The FSB is deploying with 179 soldiers from around the state to Bosnia for six months in October 2001. The rotation is called Stabilization Force 10 (SFOR 10).

The purpose of the recon mission to Bosnia was to gather information and expose different elements of the Battalion to our counterparts that are operating in country right now. The present occupying unit is a part of SFOR 8. They are an active duty unit from the 26th FSB, 3rd ID, FT Stewart, GA.

Taking part in this recon along with me were: the FSB commander, Lt. Col. Casey; the executive officer, Maj. Lavery; the support operations officer, Maj. Hedenberg; the health service support officer, Capt. Stanco; the intelligence/operations officer, Capt. Boutot; the logistics officer, Capt. McCauley; Company B commander, Maj. McDermott; Company A commander, Capt. Ortiz; Headquarters Support Company

commander, Capt. Bordner; Company A maintenance platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Craig; Company B, 1st Sgt. Eastwood; Company A, 1st Sgt. Powell; operations NCO, Master Sgt. Connelly; personnel NCO, Sgt. 1st Class Taylor; and HSC readiness NCO/battalion communications chief, Sgt 1st Class Davis. All of these soldiers stand ready to answer any questions you might have about our experience.

My first experience in Bosnia was one of realization. It set in during our flight safety briefing in a C-130 from Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany to Eagle Base, Tuzla Bosnia and Herzegovina. The briefing was highlighted by the comment, prior to entering Bosnia air space that all passengers must be seated and buckled in case we need to take evasive maneuvers. Then, prior to entering Bosnian air space, the crew members all put on their body armor and helmets and took up positions at the windows to act as spotters. This made me feel a bit helpless as I sat there in my battle dress uniform (BDU's) with nothing but a box lunch for protection. When we arrived at Eagle Base the C-130 did a hot load, which means the aircraft does not shut down its engines. The ramp dropped down from the

back of the aircraft and we off loaded in single file and passed another single file of soldiers loading the plane to leave Bosnia. I caught myself wondering who are these soldiers, where have they been and what did they see.

Once on the ground we were greeted by Command Sgt. Maj. Newton from the 26th Logistical Task Force SFOR 8. He is my counter part that I observed during my stay. We were loaded on to a shuttle bus and brought to Camp Comanche, which is about five to 10 minutes down the road from Eagle Base. Camp Comanche is the base camp where the FSB will be living and operating from.

During our shuttle ride over to Comanche I could not help but to notice the red triangular signs, which indicate unexploded ordinance. These signs were located both on and off of Eagle Base. Anyone that has done a tour in Bosnia will tell you "DO NOT STEP ON THE GRASS". Stay on the road at all times. There are approximately one million land mines still unaccounted for on the ground.

The countryside looked as if I had stepped

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## Connecticut Guardian

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The Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno

Assistant Adjutant General, Army

Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembrzski

State Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen L. Primett

State Command Chief Master Sergeant

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Connecticut Guardian

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

## State Military Department has New Deputy Commissioner

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON,  
PA NCO

Photo by Maj. John Whitford, State PAO

Larry Alibozek has been named Deputy Commissioner for Support, and Property and Procurement Officer (PPO), Connecticut Military Department. Alibozek began work in both positions on April 1, 2001.

"Mr. Alibozek brings many years of experience in both public and private sectors and will play a critical role in the statewide transformation and modernization of the Connecticut Military Department's vast infrastructure," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General, when announcing the appointment.

Alibozek said he is eager and excited about this new opportunity.

"General Cugno feels strongly about modernizing the Military Department," said Alibozek. "He knew of my experience and success in reorganizing and modernizing other departments I've worked in. I'm really looking forward to this new challenge."

Most recently, Alibozek was the Executive Director of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind where he was responsible for rebuilding, reorganizing and stabilizing the department. He has also

served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor John Rowland, Deputy Commissioner and Human Resource Management Director for the Department of Economic and Community Development and worked for 20 years for CIGNA Corporation.

"All of the experience I've had with seven different state agencies in organizational and operational improvements as well as the knowledge of the Military Department I've gained through my work with the other agencies, commissioners, the Governor's office and legislature will be of great help in the job I've been asked to do here," said Alibozek. "My background and experience in improving organizational structure, operational results and team building will be



helpful in the furthering of the general's modernization plan for the Military Department."

The job Alibozek has been asked to do includes dealing with all aspects of property and facilities services within the Military Department. He is responsible for going out and getting the dollars to get the job done; introducing the Military Department to other state agencies and the legislature to "broaden their understanding of the

military and to explain the tremendous partnerships we have to offer which will help bring in additional funding," said Alibozek.

As examples he cited the partnership between the Waterbury Armory and Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury who uses the armory's drill shed as their basketball court, enabling them to once again play home games.

"There's tremendous potential with the State

Militias, also," said Alibozek. "Take the Governor's Horse Guard. Together with the Department of Families and Children, Mental Retardation and Services for the Blind, there is a great deal that can be accomplished. Mutual training and facilities shared with local police departments are other areas we will be looking at."

Alibozek's responsibilities also include the financial portion of the state Military Department, to include purchasing, rental and leasing of facilities and equipment used by the Military Department. That means everything from paper clips to buildings.

"We're going to go after all avenues that lead to state and federal funds," said Alibozek. "This is a different role for this office than before. It's going to be broader and more inclusive than before."

Alibozek has a Bachelors of Science degree in Education from Central Connecticut State University, where he has also taken graduate course work. He lives in New Hartford with his wife and their two children, a son age 13 and a daughter age nine who keep him busy during his off hours. He also enjoys landscaping and horticulture activities.

## Minister of Defense of Uruguay Visits Connecticut Army National Guard Visit Is Part of National Guard Bureau's Partnership For Peace

Story and photos by Maj. John Whitford,  
State PAO

The Minister of Defense of Uruguay, Mr. Luis Brezzo, visited the Connecticut Army National Guard and toured several facilities as part of the National Guard Bureau's Partnership for Peace Program.

Mr. Brezzo and his wife arrived Wednesday April 4, 2000 at Bradley International Airport at approximately 2:00 p.m. A reception was held at the Goodwin Hotel in Hartford later that evening.

During his visit, Mr. Brezzo toured the Office of Emergency Management, received a U.S. Coast Guard operations brief and toured the Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) in Groton.

The National Guard State



*Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno and Mr. Luis Brezzo, Minister of Defense for Uruguay, exchange mementos of the meeting between the two.*



*The Brezzos and the Cugnos with the Color Guard of the 1st Company, Governor's Foot Guard*

Partnership for Peace Program began in 1992. The State Partnership for Peace links U.S. states and emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia and Central and South America through ties with the state governor and the state National

Guard with the ministry of defense and the soldiers of the partner country.

"The National Guard's goal with this program is to demonstrate, through the example of citizen-soldier the role of the military in a

democratic society. The dual state and federal role of the Guard serves as a valuable model of capability and cost-effectiveness," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard.

# The Road to Bosnia: FSB Hits the Ranges at Dix

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. JEFFREY AUSTIN, 65TH PCH

During the weekend drill of April 7 and 8, the 143rd Forward Support Battalion (FSB) traveled to Fort Dix in New Jersey to conduct weapons qualification for its soldiers.

The 143rd FSB continues to train in preparation for its scheduled mission to join Stabilization Force (SFOR 10) in peacekeeping duties in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH)

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph H. Aparo, 143rd FSB, the weekend mission included qualifying the soldiers on the firing of the M-16A2, M-9, and familiarization of 50 cal. weapons.

Despite training in inclement weather throughout the entire weekend drill, all the soldiers of the 143rd FSB continued to stay motivated and are looking forward to serving in the Balkans Theater of Operations.

The weekend drill began with an early morning Saturday breakfast and a formation to prepare for the day's events. Later the FSB took a bus ride to firing range 28 for zeroing weapons and firing range 38 to train on pop-up targets.

A Bristol native who recently graduated from Central High in Bristol, Pfc. Frances D. Toro, 143rd FSB, Automated Logistics Specialist, describes being very excited to join SFOR 10 later in the year.

"I have never been overseas before," said Toro. "I joined the unit in September of 2000 after graduating from both basic training in Fort Jackson, SC and advance individual training in Fort Lee, Va."

Other soldiers expressed their eagerness to begin their future mission in BiH.

"I am very dedicated to my flag, country and my unit. I always stayed motivated and have been preparing for the mission for the past 14 months," said Sgt. 1st Class Isidro Maldonado, Ammunition Section Chief.

Other soldiers took time out during training and reflected on why they volunteered to join the 143rd for the upcoming mission.

"I have a skill that the Army needs and the Connecticut National Guard has been good to me, so I decided to volunteer for the mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph A. Viering, 143rd FSB, Battalion Communications Section Chief. "Some soldiers spend 20 years in the Guard and never leave the United States. I think it is a good opportunity when National Guard soldiers are able to work with the active army."

The training continued into the night with soldiers practicing night fire and firing weapons while using NBC gear.

However, the training ended late in the

evening and soldiers used their personal time to reflect on the training they received.

A former active Army soldier from Hartford, Conn., now living in West Haven, Conn. Spc. Shelvyjoyel Davis, 143rd FSB, Fuel Handler said, "The training is very detailed. The night fire training was fun. There are many aspects of the National Guard I enjoy more than the active Army and the weekend drills are a valuable source for teaching soldiers skills."

Much of the weapons training continued into Sunday with soldiers continuing to zero weapons as well as firing on targets.

"The mission of getting everyone qualified was achieved," said Aparo. The unit intent was to qualify all individuals on weapons such as the M-16A2 and M-9.

The 143rd will continue training in preparation of SFOR 10 and in the upcoming weeks, the unit's progress will be reported



*Pfc. Frances D. Toro, 143rd FSB Automated Logistic Specialist prepares to fire the M16A2 down range at pop-up targets.*



*Soldiers of the 143rd FSB zeroing M16A2 at 25 meter targets.*

***A LOUD VOICE CANNOT COMPETE WITH A CLEAR VOICE,  
EVEN IF IT'S A WHISPER.***

**Barry Neil Kaufman**

## 141<sup>st</sup> Makes International Headlines in Bosnia: Participates in Mass Casualty Exercise at TFME

Story by Sgt. Dave Lietz, 318<sup>th</sup> PCH, Eagle Base, Bosnia

Photos by

A mass casualty exercise here (Bosnia) March 21 validated the left seat-right seat training by the current Task Force Med Eagle (TFME) personnel as the new medical units for SFOR9 prepared to take over the mission from SFOR8. Their transfer of authority followed on March 24.

The new units staffing TFME for SFOR9 are the 28<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital (China Dragons), Fort Bragg, N.C., the 141<sup>st</sup> Ground Ambulance Company, New Britain, Conn. and the 1022<sup>nd</sup> Air Ambulance Company, Cheyenne, Wyo. and Denver, Colo.

"These exercises are done every rotation. We start with an initial practice or walk through and then follow that several days later with an exercise," explained Capt. Terrie Pittman, TFME S-1 officer for SFOR8. "This allows the two rotations to interact," she said.

"Today, we are doing a simulated mass-cal (mass casualty exercise) to make sure we have a smooth transition of personnel," explained Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Humphries, 28<sup>th</sup> CSH, emergency room NCOIC.

The first two simulated emergency scenarios began with two motor vehicle accidents, one which resulted in a victim sustaining a severe head injury and the second accident resulted in one patient with a pelvic fracture and another with a chest injury. A third scenario involved a pregnant woman who became unstable and started bleeding. The fourth scenario was another motor vehicle accident that resulted in a patient with a scalp laceration and a shoulder fracture. Danish troops participated in the final scenario that involved a simulated explosion in a remote location.

There were a total of seven patients treated during the exercise.

"They were good, realistic scenarios," said Lt. Col. Michael R. Dunham, deputy commander for clinical services, 28<sup>th</sup> CSH.

In addition, most incidents that cause injury to soldiers and civilians here in Bosnia-Herzegovina are the result of traffic accidents, according to Sgt. Matthew Perry, military policeman, HHC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized).

"We have to prove that we can handle any medical emergencies," explained Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Loran Wade, 28<sup>th</sup> CSH chief ward master. "We do mass-cals all the time back home."

Simulated casualties were picked up at various areas of Eagle Base and transported to TFME by ground ambulance, SISUS and Blackhawk helicopters that were dispatched to the scenes.

"Whenever patients have to be picked up,



my team will go out, pick them up, stabilize them and bring them back here for treatment," explained Staff Sgt. Pablo Lopez, 141<sup>st</sup> GAC. "We can stabilize any injuries they might have."

Life-threatening injuries are stabilized using basic life support equipment in the field before arriving at the emergency room. "The medics can provide basic care, like managing wounds, checking vital signs, starting IV (intravenous) fluids and providing rapid transport to the hospital," said Dunham.

Maj. Leonard Hall, a physician attached to the 28<sup>th</sup> CSH, was standing ready to help when the 'casualties' came in.

"The main purpose of this exercise is to test our system to respond to a flood of patients," Hall said. The patients first go through triage according to the severity of their injuries. "Once the decision is made, there are four teams standing by to treat the patient. We can take care of anything. We have doctors that can do trauma surgery. Anything that could possibly come through here we can handle," he said.

In most cases, UH-60 Blackhawks are used to transport patients by air.

"We try to be off the ground within five minutes," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Austin, 1022<sup>nd</sup> AAC. "Our crew was dispatched to pick up two 'patients' and transport them here." The aircrews can fly at 170 miles per hour to a location. The aero medical crews can provide BLS (basic life support) and ALS (advanced life support) and are "hoist capable."

"According to our DCCS (deputy chief of clinical services) the exercises went very well," said Capt. Teri McClure, TFME public affairs officer.

"My folks did a real fine job in managing the patients. They were excellent," said Dunham. "We have completed our transition and are fully mission capable at this time."

*(Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the TALON, a weekly magazine produced in Bosnia for the service members of Task Force Eagle. The photos were supplied independently by the 141<sup>st</sup> GAC members currently deployed to Bosnia.)*

# OCS Class #46 Hosts Dining-In

STORY BY OFFICER CANDIDATE ZORAIDA GIOLLI  
PHOTOS BY OFFICER CANDIDATE DEIRDRE ZIEGENHAGEN

On March 9, 2001, the Connecticut Officer Candidate School (OCS) Class #46 hosted their Dining-In in the Officers Club, located in the State Armory. The class was responsible for coordinating the event and implementing a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that would be used to standardize all OCS Dining-In events.

OCS Class #46 President, Officer Candidate Alan Boudreau, Vice President Officer Candidate David Tripp and their class members diligently worked towards perfecting the outcome of the event. Weekly meetings and rehearsals were conducted prior to the event. The posting of the colors, the punch bowl ceremony and the traditional toasts were some of the events rehearsed each week.

The class's goal was to bring back the traditions practiced at Dining-In's as early as the eighteenth century.

The exact origin of the Dining-In is unknown, but it is believed to go back to a formal Viking traditional ceremony used to celebrate "great battles and feats of heroism". It wasn't until the early eighteenth century that the British Army incorporated the practice of the Dining-In and rules of the mess became part of the event. Britain's Queen instilled the rules of the mess to govern the actions and conduct of her Army. America adopted the Dining-In during the World Wars when the American and British Army were closely associated.

Today, the Dining-In is a formal dinner held by a military unit or organization and is used

to build and celebrate tradition and esprit de corps. The event is used to showcase comradeship, custom and history.

Guest speaker Brigadier General I. J. Zembrzski's speech embraced the spirit of the night as he shared some of his experiences as an Officer Candidate. He spoke about the leadership that influenced his life as a candidate, the lessons that taught him to always do the right thing. He also reminded us of the traditions we as guardsmen and guardswoman must work in preserving. The event was a success! The Dining-In experience helped deepen the level of pride our class had for the OCS program and the Connecticut Army National Guard deepened.



OC Erik Aigner and OC Pedro Rosa hold an animated discussion during a skit performed at the OCS Dining-In.



OC Miguel Colon tries to jump up from the operating table as OC Erik Aigner and OC Pedro Rosa (with mask on) attempt to "operate."



OC Miguel Colon rests during a PT session directed by OC Erik Aigner at the OCS Dining-In

## Dispatches From The Front

By SGT. DYLAN LOCKE,  
141<sup>st</sup> MEDICAL COMPANY

Detachment 1 Forward 141st here from Taszar Support Base, Hungary. The soldiers from the 141st Medical Company have finally made our new homes here in Hungary. Our first month has been, and still is, very busy with down range missions, PT and adjusting to our new jobs. We have dealt with some adversity getting used to our new situation, but overall we have been able to maintain a high level of moral.

The Det. 1 soldiers are now an integral part of Medical Task Force 28 (MTF28), the medical treatment facility here on Taszar Support Base (TSB). Our job is to provide 24 hour ground Medevac services to TSB, to include a fifteen mile perimeter around the post. We have connections with several of the local hospitals and are authorized to transport patients to them if

necessary. In order to communicate with the local physicians, we first hand with a four-person crew of highly qualified translators.

On top of our evac responsibilities, Det. 1 handles sick call five days a week and trains with outstanding Ft. Bragg medical personnel. Being field medics, it took some adjustment getting used to a clinic environment, but all of us have learned fast. It's a good thing too, because sick call has been quite busy lately.

The adjustment to active duty has been smooth for Det. 1 due to the support of the 28th CSH soldiers that we work with. All of us have made friends that we will remember forever. There have been some jokes about the National Guard, but they have all been in good fun. And regardless, the 141st soldiers are very proud to represent the Connecticut Army National Guard. We are currently setting the standard for any

guardsmen who follow our path through our hard work and dedication to mission readiness.

One of the highlights for us Det. 1 soldiers was being sent to Port Rijeka, Croatia to work in the Aid Station. The mountain vistas we viewed from our vehicle were breathtaking. Croatia is filled with mountains of white stone, lush green valleys, cobalt green rivers and lowlands covered in fog as the fog were a blanket of snow. The ride to Rijeka was very long. When I initially got my USAEUR drivers license, I figured that I would never actually use it. Boy was I wrong! European driving is definitely an interesting experience. It is refreshing to know that the U.S. isn't the only place in the world that has crazy drivers with road rage.

While at Port Rijeka, we once again made friends. This time it was with nearly everyone on the small post. Maybe it's our

Connecticut charm, I don't know, but people just love us. During our three weeks in Rijeka we had ongoing jokes with the MP's that worked the graveyard shift, and lots of interesting conversations with members of the Army Dive Team. Before meeting the divers, I had no idea their purpose was underwater engineering. It was fascinating to watch the divers work through the crystal blue water of the Adriatic Sea. We were also lucky enough to witness the process of shrink wrapping and loading helicopters onto huge cargo ships set to the backdrop of blue sea and distant mountains.

Back at TSB we are currently working on mass casualty and force protection exercises. These exercises should heighten our awareness of mission readiness, and boost the morale of our troops.

Till next month.

## THREE FROM CONNECTICUT INDUCTED INTO OCS HALL OF FAME



**Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski**



**Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Paul Viola**



**Col. (Ret.) Brian Phipps**

By SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON, PA NCO

The Connecticut Army National Guard has had three officers inducted into the Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Ga.

During ceremonies held in April at Fort Benning, Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski, Commanding General, Connecticut Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Paul Viola and Col. (Ret.) Brian Phipps were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame is intended to honor graduates of the Officer Candidate School

Program who have distinguished themselves in military or civilian pursuits. Selection is not guaranteed. The criteria for selection is very stringent.

The selectee must have been commissioned from any Active Army OCS program and have accomplished at least one of the following: been awarded the Medal of Honor, attained the rank of colonel while serving on active duty or in the reserves, been elected or appointed to an office of prominence in the national or state government, achieved national or state recognition for outstanding service to the

nation, or attained an exceptional wartime service record.

A voting board is used to select nominees to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The Board consists of the 11th Infantry Regiment Commander, the Deputy Assistant Commandant, U. S. Army Infantry School (USAIS), the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army Infantry Center, the Special Assistant to Commanding General (National Guard) and the Assistant Commandant USAIS. A majority vote is required for selection. The Commanding General, USAIS will approve nominees for induction into the Hall of Fame.

## Air Guard's Combat Dining-In to Make Debut

By SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG,  
103<sup>RD</sup> FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Music, dancing, volleyball, softball, tug-of-war, relay races, and the ultimate water fight! These are just some of the highlighted events planned for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Junior Enlisted Formal Combat Dining-In scheduled to take place Saturday evening of the July drill. According to Senior Airman Karen Batterby, 103<sup>rd</sup> Military Personnel Flight, some of our younger troops don't always like the idea of "mandatory merriment" activities. This camaraderie-building event is sure to be classified as voluntary hard-core fun. "It's your party. Have fun with it. Enjoy!" said Staff Sgt. Michelle Wink, president, 103<sup>rd</sup> Junior Enlisted Advisory Council.

The 103<sup>rd</sup> JEAC will host its first ever Junior Enlisted Formal Combat Dining-In on July 14, 2001 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. The evening's events will be held in the dining facility, building 24 at Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby.

Festivities will kick off at 5:30 p.m. with check-in and cocktail hour. Opening ceremonies will begin at 6 p.m. and will include paying respect to the American flag and a toast in remembrance of Prisoner of War and Missing In Action service members. Dinner, a chicken pasta dish, will be served by some of the area's finest wait staff, the 103<sup>rd</sup> Chief's Council.

The meal will be followed by a few words from the guest speaker, Senior Airman Cyril Charity, 113<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, Washington D.C. Air National Guard. Charity was named Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year for 2000. He will speak on the future role of the junior enlisted in the Air National Guard.

The remainder of the evening will include musical entertainment provided by Goodtime Productions and several outdoor events.

Col. Dan Scace, commander, 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, will be in attendance as an honorary staff sergeant for the evening. A surprise mystery guest will provide comic relief, bringing you back to remembrances of your basic training days.

The uniform for the event will be Battle Dress Uniform (BDU's). Be certain to bring a change of clothes for the drive home so you are prepared to get soaked during the ultimate water fight.

All members E-5 and below of both the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing and the 103<sup>rd</sup> Air Control Squadron are invited to attend. Tickets are \$10 each and there is limited seating available, so you may want to purchase your tickets quickly. Tickets will be sold by the dining facility during UTA lunch hours, or you may contact Staff Sgt. Michelle Wink at 292-2419 or Senior Airman Cheryl Pilletere at 292-2443.

## Eagle Base

By SGT. PHILIP N. GORMAN, 141<sup>ST</sup> MED. Co. (GA)

It's been almost two months since the contingent of eight soldiers from the 141<sup>st</sup> Med. Co. arrived on the ground here at Eagle Base, Bosnia. Adjusting to our new role here took us a while, but now that we've had a chance to settle in, we've pretty much got the hang of it. Our duties as Ground Evacuation support for the 28<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital here at Eagle Base allows us the opportunity to get outside the perimeter on a variety of missions. Most recently, a few of us went on a mission that spanned three days as medical support for a platoon from the 648<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers, Georgia National Guard. We provided the medical support while they rebuilt a bridge in the village of Moaca. It was a wonderful opportunity to get outside the perimeter and see first hand some of the good things SFOR is doing in the region. The farmer who lived next to the bridge was very hospitable. We learned, through our interpreter, that he was happy to see us there and that the village was grateful for the work that was being done.

The training conducted here at the hospital is also testing our skills. Our eight-man ambulance section is about to start a Dynamic Response exercise. The exercise consists of multiple mass casualty situations, even multiple MASCALs in the same day. The MASCALs are going to be constant, at all times of day and night. It is sure to be a formidable test of our skills.

Recently, the members of the 141<sup>st</sup> and other ER personnel got to put our skills to the test with a real-life mass casualty situation. An automobile accident on one of our travel routes deposited six patients into our ER at once. Everything from head injuries to broken arms were seen, and at the time we had a seriously ill patient already in the ER. I am pleased to report that everyone performed admirably. All of the ER staff was definitely up to the task. This being our second major medical emergency, and having seen over 2000 patients thus far, we still have zero fatalities.

Overall, our integration into the Active duty component has gone well. Most of the personnel here at the hospital were pleasantly surprised at our level of competency in a wide range of skills; from pre-hospital care to Emergency Room procedures. We owe all of this to the personnel from the 141<sup>st</sup> and TSB Devens who worked so hard to train us in the year preceding our deployment as well as the variety of experiences from our civilian jobs that we can all draw on. To our families and friends back home, we are all doing great and we can't wait to get back to you all.

In difficult situations when hope seems feeble, the boldest plans are safest. Livy

# Women's History Month Presents: A Passion for Justice; The Prudence Crandall Story

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LT. COL. CHARLES MCKELLAR,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER HQ CTANG

On April 5, members of the Connecticut National Guard, United States Postal Service and community leaders gathered at the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven to witness a one-act play dedicated to Prudence Crandall, an educator and human rights advocate.

Sherri E. Pullum, the one-act actress, takes the audience on her journey from Danitra M. Jameson, a high school student, to the drama of Prudence Crandall's many successes, failures and frustrations.

The play, "A Passion for Justice, The Prudence Crandall Story," was presented by the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League and Young Audiences of Connecticut. The play's theme was 'One person can make a difference,' proved to be true as Leigh A. Piscitelli, the master of ceremonies, noted during her opening remarks. She showed the audience two newspapers that had recent articles on hate crimes that were happening in Connecticut.

The setting is Danitra's bedroom, a set for this play that is very basic, a desk, two armchairs and a coat rack. Hanging from the coat rack is an antique utility dress of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, and a white Quaker cap and scarf. The desk is covered with old books and sheets of paper. Danitra is a black female high school student who has been given a history assignment to write about and present to her class. As the lights come up, the sound of rap song (Lauryn Hill) is heard being blasted. Danitra is seated at the desk. Obviously involved in the music, Danitra makes an attempt at writing a few sentences of a school project. She reads what she wrote and makes a face, slumping in her chair.

The next song comes on and Danitra turns it up to a danceable level. She reaches for the phone and dials a number. Rap song ends and there is a moment of silence. When her best friend Sheryl answers, she immediately kicks into high gear with the youthful

language of today. Hey girl! What's goin' on? This dialogue continues with girl, I just ant to this thing done! It's not like I'm doing this for my own enjoyment or anything. So what if American History is my best subject? I didn't get to choose my own topic. If I did, this project would have been finished a week ago. Speaking of topics...

So Sheryl, who's your report on? I know we are not supposed to reveal our topics, but we're gonna find out tomorrow anyway. This dialogue leads to Sheryl telling Danitra that she is writing about Phyllis Wheatley, a famous African-American poet. She then tells Sheryl that her topic is Prudence Crandall. Who is Prudence? Danitra M. Jameson, have to put on a pilgrim suit and pretend I'm some dusty old white lady abolitionist named Prudence. PRU-DENCE. You know I'm not feelin' that.

As the act continues, the audience finds a transition of Danitra who is dressed in dark leggings and an olive green long-sleeved blouse, into her role as Prudence Crandall. She's riveting. She's absolutely beautiful, and speaks eloquently. At this point it is only a few minute into the play, but Danitra has captured the audience and she has them in the palms of her hands.

With a determination to make the best out of a not so good situation, Danitra becomes Prudence Crandall as she dons the utility dress and White Quaker cap and scarf. This journey from a young teacher Prudence, to an older Prudence, who in 1832, established a private school to instruct local girls and boys, is a significant part of America's history. Located in Canterbury, Connecticut, the school thrived with the complete support and encouragement of the community until the fall of 1832. That was when Sarah Harris, a twenty-year old black woman, was admitted to the school.

As the enraged community withdrew their children one by one, Crandall conferred with local Abolitionists and later reopened the school to instruct "Young Ladies and Little



Misses of Color." This action resulted in her arrest and eventual imprisonment for violation of the infamous "Black Law." Although she was released on a technicality, Crandall and her students could not escape the community's merciless harassment. Following a mob scene, where Crandall feared both for her life and the life of her students, she was forced to close the school.

Prudence Crandall's legacy as an educator continues to thrive along with her timeless courage and determination. Through Sarah Harris, Crandall's educating of "Little Misses of Color" continued through the school she opened in the black community. The theme "One person can make a difference" lives on today.



# Camp Operations: Smalltown USA Home to 1/102nd

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVID MOORE,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF, FORT DIX

For six months soldiers of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division task force will have a new home.

They will be property holders of Eagle Base, Comanche Base and Connor Base, Bosnia.

And with being property holders, the soldiers must manage not only their individual 80-square-foot of living space, but base camp operations as well.

Early in April, when soldiers of B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry teamed up with soldiers of the Maryland National Guard to conduct stability and support operations (SASO) training at the simulated Camp Dobol at Fort Dix, they found out managing their real estate can be as equally eventful as it is for those travelling down Fort Dix training lanes run by the 78<sup>th</sup> Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Fort Meade, Md.

The simulated Camp Dobol is the location where soldiers will be dispatched for missions as if they were in Bosnia. Along those training lanes the soldiers will have to travel through areas that contain such training events as civilians on the battlefield, unexploded ordnance and an inspection of a weapons storage facility. But back at home base, they have to ensure those soldiers are fed, bed and secure despite base camp challenges.

"Basically, the base camp infrastructure is operated just like any small town in the U.S.A.," 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Pickel, B Company said.

As a result, the base camp has a mayor and staff to support the base camp operations. The unit reports the whereabouts of soldiers in and out of the base camp to the mayor's cell. In addition, the mayor's cell personnel may also find themselves negotiating with the local populous and serves as a gateway to the United Nations relief organizations working in the area.

"Communities in Bosnia have a government body where they have a mayor. As a result, when someone in the governing body of the community approaches the base camp they will normally discuss the matter with someone in the mayoral cell or the mayor himself," Pickel explained.

Normally the mayoral cell is made up of higher ranking officers, but all units training at the installation need to be educated in the military's mayoral cell functions when they are in the Balkans.

For the training scenario at Dix, the mayoral cell is tested as a result of community unrest. "we become evaluated on how well we deal with the local populace. We are tested day and night so we get the full experience," Pickel said. "It's truly challenging."

Another important feature of base camp

operations is the matter of force protection; as a result, security forces are present who are trained to identify both violent and passive demonstration. The soldiers have to know the rules of engagement during these incidents and what resources are available to settle a civil disturbance in the area using local law enforcement authorities.

The mayoral cell could also interface with the base camp civilian contracting organizations to insure the base camp infrastructure, like that of a town, is in full repair and services are adequately performed.

So force protection security is conducted by many of the soldiers where they will be tested and evaluated through various scenarios whether it's civil unrest or one civilian approaching the gate.

"We have to protect ourselves and minimize the hostile action in the event of problems," Pickel said.

For the training, and even deployment, B Company provides a logistics section that makes sure the soldiers have the equipment needed to conduct the mission.

Staff Sgt. Rich Provencher, an active duty Guard soldier with B Company, explained the section has the entire logistics support mission so the soldiers conducting lanes training or during the deployment presence patrols have what they need to do the job.

"When they are out there doing either their training or real world mission, we want to make sure they are not worried about whether or not they are being taken care of," he said.

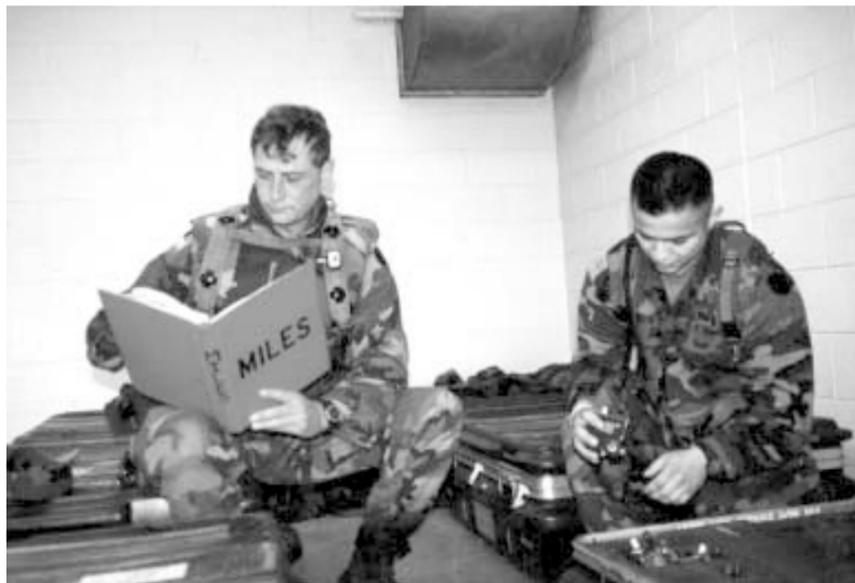
"For training purposes we make sure they have a hot meal for breakfast, an MRE for lunch and a hot meal for dinner."

Sgt. Paul Saucier, a corrections officer who is an NBC NCO, said the training and eventual deployment to the Balkans appears to start at Fort Dix. "It seems everything here is just like what we'll see in Bosnia," he said.

Besides serving as an NBC NCO, Saucier also works with Provencher to make sure the soldiers' needs are being met. "We do everything from issuing ammunition to dispatching vehicles for each training mission," he said.

Saucier, the father of three daughters, said he is prepared to deploy to Bosnia as part of SFOR10.

"The Army has provided me with all the training I need for this mission, and what the Army hasn't prepared me for my one daughter is also educating me on the mission. It's kind of a family thing."



*Beans to Bullets—Sgt. Paul Saucier and Cpl. Mike Aparacio, B Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry, conduct an inspection on MILES equipment issued to soldiers for training.*



*Preparing to Move—Spc. Ted Majoha, at the top of the humvee at right, conducts a pre-execution checklist before leaving the simulated Camp Dobol.*



*On the Move—Soldiers of B Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry begin their convoy move out of the simulated Camp Dobol at Fort Dix during recent SASO training.*

# Army Guard Family Program Hosts Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

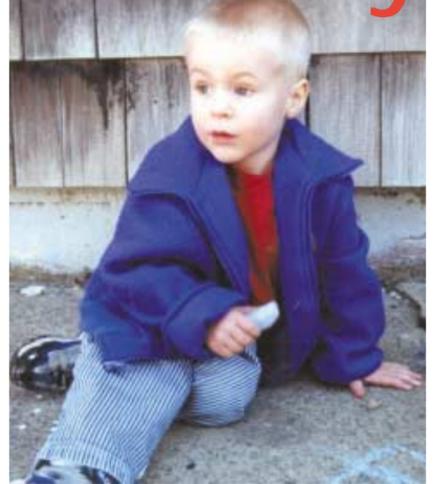
STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPEC. MARIAN ROSADO, 65TH PCH

Once again the Connecticut National Guard held a Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 14 at Camp Rowland, Niantic. A total of 56 families signed up for the event and children of all ages were able to enjoy a day with the Easter Bunny.

The morning started off with a breakfast, which consisted of pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit and cereal. During this time the Easter Bunny made his appearance and the children were able to take pictures with him and later participate in the activities the volunteers had set up for them.

The children played games like pin the tale on the bunny and bean bag toss. They also had sidewalk chalk and signed Easter cards for the troops currently in Bosnia. They were given kites, coloring books, picture frames, bubbles and many other prizes.

After the activities, everyone paraded to The Point where the main event took place. Hundreds of eggs were placed on the ground and as soon as the Easter Bunny gave notice, the children anxiously ran to collect them. Each child had a bucket full of eggs and at the end of the event they were each given an Easter Basket.



# Air Guard Family Program Sponsors Easter EGGStravaganza



STORY BY CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL,  
103<sup>RD</sup> FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JEANNE DAIGNEAU, 103<sup>RD</sup>  
COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

The 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing family program hosted an Easter Egg Hunt April 14 for unit members and their families at the Bradley Air National Guard Base dining hall.

The event drew nearly 200 children and their families spilling outside to the tent and tables beyond the dining hall.

The sunny day brightened the festivities inside the dining hall as the families enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs, popcorn and the USO supplied baked goods and coffee.

Of course, the main event was the egg hunt where children were separated by age group and released for the hunt. Children also posed for pictures with the Easter Bunny, popped balloons for prizes, made crafts and got fun tattoos.

The final event was the "goodie drop." Outside in the gazebo, the children were again separated into groups by age, and then each child pulled on a string to release a rain of candy treasures.

## CHAPLAIN'S

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## Rain

Rain falls from the sky,  
upon a leaf it splatters.  
It trickles down a slanted roof,  
upon a rock it shatters.

Oh, the substance sent from God  
like manna from His hands.  
It cleans, refreshes, soothes parched lips, makes  
blossoms in dry lands.

Do you ever get the feeling that life is raining  
on your parade? A while back there was a  
song that said: "Rainy days and Mondays  
always get me down." Do you ever feel like  
that? If you said yes, then you're normal.  
From time to time life can seem to be  
overwhelming. That's why I want to share  
with you how I came to writing "RAIN", the  
poem you just read.

If you thought from the copyright date that  
it was just written this year, you would be  
wrong. The poem came to me 38 years ago  
when I was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I was attending  
a boarding school far away from my home.  
Outside of a two week YMCA summer camp,  
this was the first time that I had ever been  
away from home for any length of time. Do  
you know how hard it is for a 15-year-old  
boy not to cry in front of his peers? I never  
had a "rainier" time in my life. In the past  
when I had problems, I would simply call  
upon Mom and Dad to bail me out. But, they  
weren't there. I felt frustrated, scared, alone  
and deserted. You name it, if it was a negative  
emotion...I felt it.

At first, I was upset with my parents and  
those in authority over me. Why couldn't  
things just stay as they were? Why must I  
go this time alone? Although I would not  
accept it at the time, the answer was simple.  
Dad knew that he was being transferred from  
Baltimore to New York City within a year or  
so after I would be starting high school. The  
alternative would have been to pull me out  
of my class and thrust me into a strange  
school during a critical period of

The liquid sent to bring new life  
so abundant and so free  
comes flowing from our Father's will  
to sustain both you and me.

Man thinks not of the use it is,  
nor of the life it brings,  
but only when the rains are truced,  
and he can do his senseless things.

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development in my life. You see, Dad knew  
going off to High School in New Jersey  
would be hard... but it was the best thing  
for me. Looking back, thirty-eight years later,  
I see more clearly how hard it was also for  
him. I realize how much love it took for him  
to do what was best for me. The same thing  
applies in your life when God, the Heavenly  
Father, allows some "rain" to come falling  
down upon you.

Part of finding peace in your life is to realize  
when God allows it to "rain", He has a  
reason. He has a reason, even if it doesn't  
make sense from our perspective. And there  
in lies the KEY — "Proper Perspective". We  
need to stop looking at our lives from only  
our point of view, our desire, our interests,  
and seek to see it from His.

Fellow soldiers and family members, the  
question for us is not "If" but "What" to do  
"When" we find ourselves feeling inundated  
by life's "rain". Remember what God said to  
another soldier Joshua (the commanding  
general of Moses' army) a long time ago. He  
said: "Have I not commanded you? Be  
strong and courageous. Do not be terrified;  
do not be discouraged, for the LORD your  
God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

I'd like you to also remember that you don't  
need to go through the "rain" all alone. Call  
upon your Clergy to help you get through  
life's puddles. If you do not yet have one,  
don't despair. Just remember to call your  
unit's Chaplain any time day or night, we're  
pretty good at holding umbrellas as well.

## In Defense of Connecticut's Children Inhalants: A Dangerously Popular, and Deadly, Craze

By MAJOR CHUCK STRONG,  
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

"The number of children using inhalants has  
nearly doubled in the last 10 years. Youth are  
using regular household, office and classroom  
products to get high, and many are suffering the  
damaging effects to the heart, kidney, liver and  
brain. Some are even dying from this  
dangerously popular craze."

—Vivian L. Smith, M.S.W., Director, Center  
for Substance Abuse Prevention

Inhalants affect your brain. Inhalants are  
substances or fumes from products such as glue  
or paint thinner that are sniffed or "huffed" to  
cause an immediate high. Because they affect  
your brain with much greater speed and force  
than many other substances, they can cause  
irreversible physical and mental damage before  
you know what's happened.

Inhalants affect your heart. Inhalants starve the  
body of oxygen and force the heart to beat  
irregularly and more rapidly — that can be  
dangerous for your body.

Inhalants damage other parts of your body.  
People who use inhalants can lose their sense of  
smell, experience nausea and nosebleeds and  
develop liver, lung, and kidney problems.  
Chronic use can lead to muscle wasting and  
reduced muscle tone and strength.

Inhalants can cause sudden death. Inhalants can  
kill you instantly. Inhalant users can die by  
suffocation, choking on their vomit or having a  
heart attack.

Get the facts. Inhalants can kill you the very  
first time you use them.

Stay informed. Inhalants include a large group  
of chemicals that are found in such household  
products as aerosol sprays, cleaning fluids, glue,  
paint, paint thinner, gasoline, propane, nail  
polish remover, correction fluid and marker  
pens. None of these are safe to inhale—they all  
can kill you.

Be aware. Chemicals like amyl nitrate and isobutyl  
nitrate ("poppers") and nitrous oxide  
("whippets") are often sold at concerts and dance  
clubs. They can permanently damage your body  
and brain.

Know the risks. Chronic inhalant abusers may  
permanently lose the ability to perform everyday  
functions like walking, talking, and thinking.

Look around you. The vast majority of teens  
aren't using inhalants. According to a 1998 study,  
only 1.1 percent of teens are regular inhalant users  
and 94 percent of teens have never even tried  
inhalants.

How can you tell if a friend is using inhalants?  
Sometimes it's tough to tell. But there are signs  
you can look for. If your friend has one or more  
of the following warning signs, he or she may be  
using inhalants: slurred speech, drunk, dizzy, or  
dazed appearance, unusual breath odor, chemical  
smell on clothing, paint stains on body or face,  
red eyes and runny nose.

What can you do to help someone who is using  
inhalants? Be a real friend. Save a life. Encourage  
your friend to seek professional help. For  
information and referrals, call the National  
Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information  
at 800-729-6686.

Curious about the TV ads of the National Youth  
Anti-Drug Media Campaign? Check out the Web  
site at <http://www.freevibe.com> or visit the Office  
of National Drug Control Policy Web site at <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>.

The bottom line: If you know someone who uses  
inhalants, urge him or her to stop or get help. If  
you're using inhalants—stop! The longer you  
ignore the real facts, the more chances you take  
with your life.

It's never too late. Talk to your parents, a doctor,  
a counselor, a teacher, or another adult you trust.

Do it today!

## Asian Pacific / Pacific Islander Heritage

By COL. ANTHONY VALLOMBROSO, HRO

The following extract from several sources, to  
include an interim report to the President on Asian  
Americans and Pacific Islanders, is presented as  
we celebrate Asian Pacific / Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month. This information provides an  
interesting background on a segment of America  
that does not always receive the recognition that  
is well earned and deserved. I would precede each  
of these facts with "Did you know that..."

As of July 1999, there were 10.9 million Asian  
Americans and Pacific Islanders, or four percent  
of the U.S. population? This is an increase from  
the 1.5 million in 1970.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander remains

the fastest growing racial/ethnic population in  
the U.S., increasing 95 percent from 1980 to 1990  
and another 43 percent from 1990 to July 1999?

80 percent of Asian Americans and Pacific  
Islanders reside in ten states (California, New  
York, Hawaii, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois,  
Washington, Florida, Virginia and  
Massachusetts). The fastest growing Asian  
American and Pacific Islander populations are in  
states such as Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina,  
Nebraska, Arizona, Delaware and New Mexico?  
49,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders  
reside in Connecticut representing 1.5 percent of  
our State population?

The Asian American and Pacific Islander

population in the U.S. is expected to continue to  
grow, to 37.6 million persons, or nine percent of  
the U.S. population, by the year 2050?

Asian American and Pacific Islander's influence  
on our society is disproportionately greater than  
the actual number of Asian Americans and Pacific  
Islanders?

There is a widespread belief that Asian and Pacific  
Americans do not suffer the same discrimination  
and disadvantages associated with other minority  
groups? The fact is that in spite of efforts to  
promote civil rights and equal opportunities for  
ethnic minorities in the United States, Asian and  
Pacific Americans have been largely neglected and  
ignored.

There have been nine Asian American Medal of  
Honor Winners?

There are 40 Asian Pacific/Pacific Islanders in  
the Connecticut Army National Guard and 4 in  
the Connecticut Air National Guard representing  
1% of our Guard family?

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1999 and 2000;  
Department of Health and Human Services, 1999;  
Urban Institute Metropolitan Housing and  
Communities Center, 2000, DEOMI and HRO-  
CT Statistical Data.

The Theme for Asian Pacific/Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month is "Asian Pacific Americans  
Emerging Together"

# NCOs GRADUATE FROM BASIC AND ADVANCED COURSES

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON

After six months of intensive classroom instruction, noncommissioned officers from the Connecticut Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserves and the state militia graduated from the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course (ANCOC) during ceremonies held at Camp Rowland, Niantic.

The NCOs were schooled in such topics as equal opportunity, risk management, troop leading procedures, counseling, drill and ceremony, physical fitness training and many more. This was also the second year that members of the Governor's Horse and Foot Guards participated in the two courses.

Recognized for their participation in BNCOC were Sgt. Anna Bongiorno, 1st Company, Governor's Horse Guard and 1st Sgt. Theodore Corcanges, 1st Company, Governor's Foot Guard. Command Sgt. Maj. David Warner of the 242nd Engineer Battalion was the guest speaker and he helped present awards to the following: The Sergeants Major Council Award for the Honor Graduate was presented to Sgt. Frank Dostie of Company G, 104th Aviation Battalion. Dostie also received the Physical Fitness Award for scoring a perfect 300 on the PT test. Receiving the Overall Excellence in Academics Award was Sgt. Brett Wilson, Headquarters/Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment. The final BNCOC award was for the Outstanding Instructor, and this award went to Sgt. 1st Class Michael Novajaski, 14th Battalion, 6th Brigade, 98th Regiment, United States Army Reserves.

Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski, Commanding General, Connecticut Army National Guard, was the guest speaker for the ANCOC ceremonies. He helped recognize 1st Sgt. Chris Miller, 1st Company, Governors Horse Guard and 1st Sgt. Gerald Santos, 1st Company, Governors Foot Guard for their completion of the course as well as the following outstanding students: Staff Sgt. August DeFrance, 169th Leadership Regiment, received the Maj. Gen. E. Donald Walsh Award as the Honor Graduate of the course. Staff Sgt. Brian Young, 143rd Military Police Company, received the Excellence in Academics Award; Staff Sgt. Dennis Marolda of the 102nd Army Band received the Overall Excellence in Physical Fitness Award for scoring a 295 on the PT test; and the Outstanding Instructor Award went to Master Sgt. Robert Germinaro, 14th Battalion, 6th Brigade, 98th Regiment, United States Army Reserves.



Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski addresses the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Class of 2001 as Col. Louis Preziosi, Lt. Col. Gary Ottenbriet, Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Primett and Command Sgt. Daniel Norkun look on. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)



Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Staff Sgt. Jimenez (an instructor for the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course) and Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)



Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Albert Deshaies sings the Army Song. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)



COMMAND SGT. MAJ. DAVE WARNER ADDRESSES THE BASIC NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER CLASS. (PHOTO BY CAPT. ROBERT BARTHOLOMEW, 65TH PCH)



1st Sgt. John Butler and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Norkun hold the plaque with the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer engraved on it, which was presented to the 2nd General Studies Battalion by the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Class of 2000. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)



Sgt. Anna Bongiorno, a member of the 1st Company, Governors Horse Guard recites the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer as her Basic Noncommissioned Officer classmates enter for the ceremonies. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)



The 102nd Army Band performed for both graduations. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Primett, Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Norkun present the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Outstanding Instructor Award to Sgt. 1st Class Michael Novajaski, 14th Battalion, 6th Brigade, 98th Regiment, U. S. Army Reserves, as Master Sgt. Joseph Chamberlain (seated) looks on. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)



Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Primett and Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno present The Sergeants Major Council Award to the BNCOC Honor Graduate Sgt. Frank Dostie of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment as Sgt. Maj. Daniel Norkun looks on. Dostie was also received the Overall Excellence in Physical Fitness Award for scoring a perfect 300 on the PT test. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)



Sgt. Brett Wilson, Headquarters/Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, receives the BNCOC Overall Excellence in Academics Award from Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Primett, Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Lt. Col. Gary Ottenbriet, Col. Louis Preziosi and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Norkun. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)



Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski presents the ANCOC Outstanding Instructor Award to Master Sgt. Robert Germinaro, 14th Battalion, 6th Brigade, 98th Regiment, U. S. Army Reserves. (Photo by Pvt. 2 Shirrod Richardson, 65th PCH)

NGACT: Your Executive Council

By Lt. Col. Bill Shea

[william.shea@ct.ngb.army.mil](mailto:william.shea@ct.ngb.army.mil) or [president@ngact.org](mailto:president@ngact.org)

This past March, the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) held its Annual Conference at the Air National Guard Base in East Granby. 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 (the schedule can be found on the NGACT Web Site). 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](mailto:william.shea@ct.ngb.army.mil) or [president@ngact.org](mailto:president@ngact.org)

President-Elect – Chief Master Sgt. Tony Palidino – [tjpalidno@aol.com](mailto:tjpalidno@aol.com) or [pres-elect@ngact.org](mailto:pres-elect@ngact.org)

Secretary – Maj. Trish Nicholson – [patricia.nicholson@ctbrad.ang.af.mil](mailto:patricia.nicholson@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)

Treasurer – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dave Fecso – [david.fecso@ctbrad.ang.af.mil](mailto:david.fecso@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)

Army Officer Member – Maj. Vincent O'Neill – [armys3@uconnvm.uconn.edu](mailto:armys3@uconnvm.uconn.edu)

Army Enlisted Member – Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Debbi Newton – [debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil](mailto:debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil)

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

Army Enlisted – Member-at-Large – Master Sgt. Richard Miller – [richard.miller@ct.ngb.army.mil](mailto:richard.miller@ct.ngb.army.mil)

Air Officer Member – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Wayne Ferris – [wayne.ferris@ctbrad.ang.af.mil](mailto:wayne.ferris@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)

Air Enlisted Member – Master Sgt. Sabrina Gilfurt – [gilfursk@pweh.com](mailto:gilfursk@pweh.com)

Air Officer – Member-at-Large – Col. Ed Waitte – [eddie@downcity.net](mailto:eddie@downcity.net)

Air Enlisted – Member-at-Large – Tech. Sgt. John Wiggett – [john.wiggett@ctbrad.ang.af.mil](mailto:john.wiggett@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)

Retired Member (Officer or Enlisted) – Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Raymond Veilleux – [sgmrav@home.com](mailto:sgmrav@home.com)

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

NGACT Scholarship Program Update: The NGACT is sponsoring its Third Annual Scholarship Program for 2001. The deadline for submitting applications is 15 August 2001. Applications must be postmarked NLT 15 August 2001. 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. Applications may be obtained by e-mail request at [debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil](mailto:debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil) or by contacting the NGACT Office at (860) 247-5000 or from the NGACT Web Page at <http://www.ngact.org>.

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>.

### 102nd Army Band Announces Summer Concert Series

The 102nd Army Band will be performing a number of concerts throughout Connecticut this summer. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Date	Location	Concert Time
15 July 2001	Town Green, Colchester	6- 8:00 PM
16 July 2001	Riverfront, Hartford	11:30 AM- 1:30 PM
17 July 2001	Town Green, Naugatuck	7- 8:30 PM
18 July 2001	Hubbard Green, Glastonbury	7- 8:45 PM
19 July 2001	Quinebaug C.C., Danielson	7- 8:30 PM
23 July 2001	McCook Point, Niantic	6:30- 8 PM
24 July 2001	Town Hall Green, Trumbull	7- 9 PM
25 July 2001	Town Green, Litchfield	7- 8:30 PM
26 July 2001	Veterans Hospital, West Haven	12:15- 1:15 PM



**ESGR**  
By Lt. Col. (Ret)  
HARRY RITSON  
ESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## Are You Helping Your Employer Support Your Military Career?

It's no secret that a successful second career in the National Guard or Reserves requires good soldiering! Less apparent is the support it also requires from family members and employers, both of whom are without the presence of the soldier during periods of training and, more acutely, deployment. While the former is a personal matter, the later is becoming more of an issue during these times of accelerated training and increased deployment tempo. In fact, statistics list "employment conflicts" as the cause for one-third of all failed retentions in the Reserve Components. This is a serious loss of trained soldiers who were previously motivated to join the Guard or Reserve and serve their country. This becomes a critical loss of trained manpower particularly with the current and increasing reliance on the Guard and Reserves to meet our Country's military obligations.

Most employers value the existence, and recognize the part the Guard and Reserves play in allowing them to operate in a free market, American way of life. They also believe that by supporting the Guard and Reserves, they are fulfilling one of their

obligations to help maintain America's security. And while many employers also state they believe Reservists bring extra employee values because of their training and experience, they consistently express two offsetting concerns:

One, lengthy deployments over 180 days cause staffing and operational problems, particularly when it involves employees in higher level or unique career positions. And, Two, normal training periods (weekends, annual training, etc.) are not considered overly burdensome, but employers must receive advance notice of the absence in time to arrange backup staffing to preclude any operational difficulties.

The Department of Defense has recently responded to the first concern by reducing the length of most long term deployments to 180 days "in country", and to reducing those in critical career professions to even less. While this responds directly to the employer's concerns, we should recognize that it could call for even more deployment rotations to meet our Country's obligations.

The second concern is the simplest to fix,

but here in Connecticut, it is the largest cause of employment conflict situations. The bulk of all conflicts that our ESGR Committee mediates result from the failure of a Guard member to keep their employer informed of their drill and AT schedules. Usually it's the situation where the employer plans on an employee's presence during a weekend or regular work period only to find out at the last moment that the employee will be absent because of a scheduled drill or AT. Many employees tend to delay notification because they don't want to rile the boss until the last moment. That's wrong! That's what causes the problem! The solution? Give your employer a copy of your training schedule and AT orders as soon as you receive them.

Take the mystery out of your participation.

Another consideration would be to make your employer feel a part of your participation by inviting him or her to your unit's "Open House", by nominating them for an award under the DOD's "My Boss Is a Patriot" program, and by inviting them to the periodic "Briefing With The Boss"

luncheons that our Committee sponsors throughout the year.

Have you ever talked to your employer about what you are learning, doing and experiencing during your training periods, and how much of that is transferable to your work? Only six percent of Americans under the age of sixty-five have ever served in the Armed Forces and the rest don't really understand or comprehend what goes on in the military. I'm sure they would be interested.

Maintaining harmonious relations with your boss over your military career is a matter of open and continuing communication. It's essential to their support and it's imperative that you take the responsibility to make it happen.

*Enthusiasm is the foundation of victory.*  
*Anonymous*

# Potato to Potential

By CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL,  
103<sup>rd</sup> FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF LT. COL. ROBERT P. FINK

"I turned thirty as an out-of-shape couch potato," said 41-year-old Lt. Col. Robert P. Fink, Commander 103<sup>rd</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron. A description difficult to believe looking at the world-class athlete he has become.

It was 1990 and the former Notre Dame Swim Team member had decided it was time to get back in shape. He started swimming competitively again and met triathletes at some events. They were in training so he decided to take the challenge himself.

"I never knew I would be particularly good in the triathlon," he said. "I was just a mediocre college swimmer, but by the end of my first season I was one of the best [triathletes] in the nation for my age group."

In the first season he became the top finisher for the military in Norfolk, Va., earning him the top American honor and selection to represent the U.S. Armed Forces in Fontain Bleau, France.

Eleven seasons and more than ten years later, his record is impressive.

"Overall I have won about 90 races," he said. "I was one of the top in the nation for any age group in 1991-1995 and still win local races." He normally competes in 12-15 races a year.

"Probably my best race was in 1994 because it was a national championship and I beat all the young guys." Competing in age group competition at the Military National Championship, he beat not only his age group, but also every other competitor in the triathlon. Adding to the honor the race was broadcast on the ESPN sports channel.

Fink has represented the U.S. Armed Forces at world championships five times. Two of those competitions were Military World Games, held in Croatia and Rome during 1995 and 1999.

"Those two years it was a mini-Olympics using real Olympic venues for competition," he said. Fink explained some of the other countries get the best athletes with national military conscription. The United States has a world-class athlete program where every military service has an opportunity to admit competitors.

He continued to work in the Air Force and raise a family versus the full-time training work of many competitors. "Now I am third or fourth [in his age group] since the others are full time training."

He normally competes in Olympic distance triathlons with a 1,500-meter swim race, 40-kilometer bike race, and a 10-kilometer run. He says he is good at that distance because the amount of time spent running is not as great.

"Running is my Achilles heel," he said. "If there was a swim, bike and golf event I would be better."

The most well known triathlon is the Ironman competition. Ironman is a 2.4 mile swim race, 112 mile bike race, and a full marathon 26.2 miles, which Fink calls "a long run for a non-runner."

His self-described non-runner status notwithstanding, he capped the 2000 season competing in his first Ironman in Hawaii.

"In a normal race I am thinking can I go faster? Can I handle a higher gear [on the bike]? But at Ironman I was thinking am I going too fast? Will I be able to finish? The Ironman was my longest bike race, followed by the longest run of my life ... all in the same day."

He finished very well at nine hours, 46 minutes, and 46 seconds. He garnered third in his age group, and the Air Force Team he competed on won the team competition. The military is a sub-race within Ironman where the top three finishers' scores from each service are averaged.

He received good advice from his Air Force teammates on pacing and nutrition, "I did not understand it, I just did it," he said.

"I drank 30 pounds of Gatorade that day." The nutrition advice required him to drink 48oz of sports drink per-hour, plus powergel and salt tablets. "I swim 8,500 yards a week, bike 50-70 miles a week and run 20 miles a week, by Ironman standards that is ridiculously low," said Fink "But that ten hours per week is all I can do with a job and family."

"Part of my training ... I race every weekend so I know I get at least one hard workout," he said. "My family has to make sacrifices, this year my wife went to Florida and Hawaii with me. My kids go to local races and my daughter volunteers."

Both of his children Jackie, 13 and Brian, 10 did their first triathlons at around eight years old. "Neither has caught the bug," said Fink.

What is next? He is scheduled for a half-ironman distance race in St. Croix May 6. "I will do an Ironman again if I qualify for the Air Force team."



**“I never knew I would be particularly good in the triathlon. I was just a mediocre college swimmer, but by the end of my first season I was one of the best [triathletes] in the nation in my age group.”**



# TGIF: The Guard is Family

29TH DIVISION HONES FAMILY SUPPORT PLAN  
By DAVID MOORE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF, FORT DIX

All the legs of a three-legged stool must be strong for it to be a firm foundation.

Those were the words used by the 29th Division (Light) commanding general, Maj. Gen. H. Steven Blum at the opening session of the first of its kind Family Readiness Conference at Fort Belvoir, Va. in April.

The conference targeted Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve, family support and public affairs officers as the three strong legs the division must build to support deployment of more than 3,200 soldiers this summer to the Balkans for SFOR10. More than 2,000 soldiers, including many from the 143rd Forward Support Battalion and Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry, Connecticut Army National Guard, will mobilize through Fort Dix.

Blum said he saw the conference as a major part of building a "team of teams" for soldiers from 20-plus states who will take up peacekeeping operations late this summer after they mobilize through Fort Dix.

While this isn't the first time the National Guard has led a division into Bosnia, the challenges of bringing together a force structure from across half the United States adds new challenges for the 29th Division. While the Texas Army National Guard's 49th Division was part of SFOR7, with many of the assets coming from one state, the force structure for this division is 80 percent Army National Guard and Army Reserve and only 20 percent active-duty soldiers. Units from four United States Army Reserve Commands

are included in this deployment.

Blum explained that while soldiers are coming together from across the country, he sees the division as a force that shows the United States as a whole to the people of Bosnia. "We can come together as one from various ethnic backgrounds and work together. Our diversity as a division is an example of why we are a successful country."

For this deployment, one unit that comes from the Texas Army Guard and is stationed near the Mexican border plans to send the news home after they transcribe the information into Spanish.

"Because of diversity, soldiers have worked miracles and stopped tragedy in a country that knows nothing but tragedy. Our diversity has been a catalyst for their healing," Blum said.

Blum explained that bringing together each of the legs of the support stool is a major component of the total support package for the citizen-soldier. He added he wanted to see as much work done for the soldiers as possible before they reached the mobilization station.

"I want everything worked out here, so not one soldier falls through the cracks and doesn't receive the assistance needed," he said.

Two keynote speakers for the event were Mark Brinkman, CEO of Brinkman Technologies, Texas, and 1st Lt. Craig Yardborough, an employee of the corporation, who had been called to active duty to serve in Honduras, Italy and then Bosnia. Brinkman wrote a letter to the 49th Armored Division's commanding general requesting that the first lieutenant not deploy. The reply back to the CEO was no.

So Yardborough deployed, and later Brinkman flew to Bosnia as part of an ESGR civic leader visit Boss Lift.

"It was on my visit there that I learned that because of what these soldiers do, I and other businesses are successful. They give us the freedom we need to succeed and keep the country strong," he said.

He said later that in retrospect, if he had known the entire picture of the work the military was doing in Bosnia beforehand and had educated himself, he would never have written the letter to the general.

In the family support area, the 29th Division plans to place family support coordinators in the armories and reserve centers from which soldiers will mobilize.

"Everyone knows where the soldiers go to

train, and family members are familiar with the folks in those armories and reserve centers," Blum said.

A key link for families will be video teleconferencing, a recent initiative to keep soldiers in touch with those at home.

In the public affairs arena, National Guard Bureau is launching a web site that will focus on command information, family support and ESGR. Operational methods were also established to tell the 29th Division story.

The Fort Dix Home Page has a segment that focuses on the 29th Division mobilization and will link to the site as well as filling in the post's role in the mobilization process.

Blum also encouraged units to adopt schools in their communities so soldiers can write to students about their mission in Bosnia. A Company, 158th Cavalry Squadron, Maryland Army National Guard has done this with a local elementary school in the Annapolis, Md. community.

In the ESGR category, the Boss Lift program will be used to transport employers as well as civic leaders to see first-hand what soldiers are doing in the Balkans.

Blum explained that orders should be out about 90 days before mobilization day so employers can plan on the day the soldier leaves for deployment and the day he or she will return.

Representing Connecticut at this first of its kind conference were: Col. (Ret.) Carl Venditto, ESGR; Sgt. Maj. Barbara Montigny, Family Program and Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, Public Affairs.



## EDUCATION ESSENTIALS

By 2ND LT. PAUL DRAPER,  
EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

The Army American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS)

A partnership between the Army and the American Council on Education (ACE) now has soldiers' transcripts on line. The transcript translates a soldier's formal military education and job experience into civilian language and includes college equivalent credit recommendations.

An eligible soldier or veteran, just by visiting the AARTS transcript page (<http://aartstranscript.leavenworth.army.mil/>), has easy access to his or her military education history. An official signed copy can be requested from AARTS and sent directly to a college, employer, or other third party. Soldiers may mail or FAX a signed transcript request to: AARTS Operation Center, 415 McPherson Ave., Fort Leavenworth, KS, 66027-1373, FAX (913) 684-2011 or DSN 552-2011.

CTARNG Testing of CLEP's, DSST's, ACT's, AFAST's, ASVAB's, and AFCT's.

All soldiers who wish to take advantage of the CTARNG Test Center in the Hartford Armory Education Services Office must submit a written request. The written request must contain the name of the soldier taking the test, unit, address (home and unit), phone (best way to contact soldier), specific test(s) requested and signature of the soldier taking the test. Upon receipt of the written request, the Test Control Officer will order the specific test and contact the soldier upon its arrival. Turn around time for test delivery is between two to six weeks. The soldier has 30 days from the delivery date of the test to take the test or it will be returned without action. The tests will be conducted on the published test center dates. The CTARNG Test Center is here to take care of soldiers. For further information please contact 2nd Lt. Draper at (860) 524-4816 or Master Sgt. Miller at (860) 524-4807.

### UPDATE from page 2

back in time. The majority of the homes had gardens that took up most of their yards. We passed by some locals herding sheep and some were cleaning chickens for what must have been the evening meal. I did not see any grocery stores or strip malls. Some of the homes were battle scarred with bullet holes or burn marks from explosions. This was a sight I will never forget.

My first interview with Newton included a mission statement of three things. Force Protection, Mission Accomplishment and Training. When you're not doing the first two, you must do the third. This includes weapons qualification, physical fitness, common task testing and individual training.

From what I've seen, the soldiers are very well taken care of. Besides the monetary incentives, Camp Comanche offers a wide variety of extra curricular activities. A soldier can attend college and Noncommissioned Officer courses. Military courses such as combat lifesaver and battle staff will also be run.

The Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR)

runs a state of the art gymnasium with weight lifting equipment, basketball court, volleyball courts and a rugby field that is used for football and soccer. There is also a four-mile running track inside the perimeter of the base camp. They also operate a communication center where soldiers can use computers to send e-mail to family and friends. There is also a movie theater, which has a wide screen TV and plays a movie of the day.

Camp Comanche has a dining facility, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, buffet style. The base camp also has medical and dental services. The post office offers free postage to out going mail. There is a chapel for religious services. The base has a PX, a cappuccino bar, free one-day turn around laundry and a barber shop where I got my hair cut for three dollars.

This is a great opportunity for the CT Army National Guard (CTARNG). We not only get to prove our worth as an organization, but also get to contribute to the National Security of this great nation. I'm proud to be a member of the CTARNG.

# This Is Only An Exercise

By MAJ. JOHN R. WHITFORD, STATE PAO

Governor John G. Rowland declared a state of emergency at the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Waterford, Connecticut. Appropriate state and federal emergency management officials were notified and the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at the State Armory in Hartford. Town officials have also been notified and local emergency operations centers were open in each town within ten miles of the plant.

Based on the continuing emergency, Gov. Rowland has declared that a state of civil preparedness emergency exists. By declaring a state of emergency, the Governor has taken control of any or all parts of civil preparedness forces and functions in the state. The Governor's proclamation of emergency directs state agencies to make extraordinary use of state resources to respond to the situation. State resources and response actions are coordinated through the State Office of Emergency Management in Hartford. The proclamation also allows the state to request emergency response assistance from federal agencies (for radiological monitoring, laboratory services, etc.), and later to request federal disaster assistance programs to help affected individuals and government agencies.

Residents in those areas affected by the emergency are requested to listen for the sound of sirens. If sirens are activated, tune in to an Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio or television station for specific information concerning the protective actions that have been ordered. Information on evacuation

routes and take shelter precautions can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the Yellow pages in the telephone directories for the towns surrounding the plant.

This was just part of an exercise conducted by the Office of Emergency Management, Millstone and other state and federal agencies. Key players from each agency participated in this drill.

"This four hour exercise was designed to bring all agencies together, to communicate, react and respond to this incident and to help prepare for this type of emergency," said John T. Wiltse, Director of the Office of Emergency Management.

The Connecticut School of Broadcasting was also included in this exercise in playing the part of media. "This was essential to all agencies in anticipating questions and answers in the event that this was a real emergency," said Wiltse.

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO), the State of Connecticut's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and the communities surrounding Millstone Station have developed comprehensive plans for responding to nuclear power plant emergencies.

State and local officials are responsible for notifying the public and initiating actions, if necessary, to protect the health and safety of the public.

This exercise is federally evaluated every other year and the Office of Emergency Management conducts this exercise every year.

Again, this was only an exercise.

## FREUND from page 1

Defense, Weapons Systems Evaluation Group where he helped to develop the nation's first nuclear air defense capability. He personally witnessed four above ground atomic detonations at the Nevada test site during the Teapot series of tests.

Returning to Europe in 1957, he served in various capacities at Headquarters U.S. Army Europe and in 1959 became commander of the nuclear equipped 36<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Group. Freund attended the National War College in 1960 and then served for one year on the Army General Staff and for two years with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He was assigned to Vietnam in 1964 and stationed there for the next three years. Freund served as II Corps senior military advisor, Director of Training for the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Special Assistant to General William C. Westmoreland and Commanding General of the 199<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade (separate). In 1965, Freund was singularly responsible for quelling an uprising among the Montagnard tribesmen in the central highlands of Vietnam against the South Vietnamese Government. Though taken hostage himself by the rebel Montagnards and cutoff from all outside contact, he used his fluent French to negotiate the release of over 80 Vietnamese and American hostages and an end to the uprising. The hostage

taking and revolt was widely covered in the American media at the time. In 1967, as commanding general of the 199<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, Freund was wounded in action while leading his men during an air assault operation.

In 1968, Freund served as Chief of Staff of the Army's VII Corps in Stuttgart, Germany. Returning to the Pentagon in 1969, he served as special assistant for Counterinsurgency on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and then as the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence. Freund then became the Commanding General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Region Army Air Defense Command. He was responsible for the air defense of the United States east of the Mississippi.

Upon retirement in 1972, Freund was appointed as the Adjutant General for the State of Connecticut. He served in that capacity for 10 years in the administrations of governors Meskill, Grasso and O'Neill. Surprisingly, in early 1975 he was recalled to active duty by the Chief of Staff of the Army to conduct an immediate evaluation of the deteriorating military situation in Vietnam. Sadly, it took very little time for him to determine that the situation in South Vietnam was very grave.

Maj. Gen. Freund was buried at the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on April 5, 2001. A memorial service was held at the Christ Episcopal Church in Avon, Conn., on April 9, 2001.



## POW Recognition Day Draws Crowd to State Capitol



PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON, PANCO

For the ninth year in a row, POW Recognition Day has brought many people to the Hall of Flags at the State Capitol in Hartford. Guest speaker for this year's event was Robert Mazzacane, a former POW who served with the 100th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force (left photo). Mazzacane spoke about how he was captured and then survived being a POW. In the center

photo, Former POWs place small flags into the wreath of red, white and blue flowers that was placed at the POW monument outside on the grounds of the Capitol Building. Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's Adjutant General also addressed the crowd. Cugno spoke of his own uncle's time as a

POW and thanked all who have served and continue to serve the United States. He urged everyone to always remember the sacrifices all POWs have made – those who returned home, those who have yet to return and those who never will.

# TRAINING THE TRAINER: LEADERSHIP REACTION COURSE

## FROM A STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

By CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 SALIH UKPERAJ, HQ STARC

If you're ready to be innovative and test your leadership skills, the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) is an excellent, change of pace challenge for you and your soldiers.

Approximately 77 soldiers, from the rank of sergeant to major reported to the Milkhouse at Stones Ranch on March 29 to become certified for usage of the LRC and Confidence Course, and to review Stones Ranch's current standing operating procedures. The weather could have been warmer, but we all know, if it's not raining, it's not training. We were split into three squads (I was in the first squad) as we rotated through each hands-on demonstration, with our last round robin being the LRC.

Waiting for us at the LRC was Capt. Boski who began the instruction with a safety brief and a risk assessment of the course. He then continued to the

all-important stretching exercises, to loosen those body parts that we hardly ever use, but will use today. Let the games begin!

Our first task... we were advancing into enemy territory to establish a forward observation post, when we encountered a minefield and tank trap. Our mission was to get our drum, filled with sensitive radio equipment, across and over a fairly steep incline wall approximately 12 feet high, with the use of a rope that was fastened to the top of the wall, and some quick-thinking creativity.

All of this while we were timed, booby-trapped and being watched by the Catwalk operator, who rotates through each event. "Good Luck"

Once we successfully crossed, I saw highly motivated soldiers, who had achieved teamwork.



## Announcing the Inaugural Aviation Command Military Ball

A military ball, hosted by the 1109th AVCRAD, will be held Friday, May 11, 2001 at the Marriott in Rocky Hill, Conn. The event begins at 6:00 PM and ends at 12:30 AM. It is open to all military personnel, their spouses or guests and military retirees. Highlights of the evening include recognition of some retirees and the command enlisted personnel.

The meal includes hors d'oeuvres, salad, choice of stuffed filet of sole, chicken Kiev or sliced london broil in peppercorn sauce, and cheesecake.

Tickets are available by contacting Maj. Scott Panagrosso at (860) 441-2955.

A discount room rate is available for \$74 per night, or \$84 per night to include a breakfast buffet for two the following morning.

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
<b>PVT-SGT</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$48</b>
<b>SSG-SFC</b>	<b>\$28</b>	<b>\$54</b>
<b>MSG-SGM</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>\$60</b>
<b>WO1-CW3</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>\$60</b>
<b>2LT-1LT</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>\$60</b>
<b>CW4-CW5</b>	<b>\$34</b>	<b>\$66</b>
<b>CPT-GEN</b>	<b>\$34</b>	<b>\$66</b>



## ANNUAL REDLEG BALL



You are cordially invited to join the members of the Connecticut Redleg Chapter of the US Field Artillery Association at their Annual Redleg Ball.

**Date:** 19 May 2001

**Time:** 1800-1900 Cocktails

1930 Dinner  
Presentations  
Social Hour

**Place:** The Hilton  
1284 Strongtown Road  
Southbury, CT 06488

**Menu:** **Roast Prime Rib of Beef**  
(Served with au jus & horseradish cream sauce)  
**Chicken Marsala**  
(Sautéed chicken breast in marsala wine with fresh sliced mushroom)  
**Surf & Turf**  
(Baked stuffed shrimp with grilled filet mignon)

**Dress:** **Military: Class A w/ White Shirt and Bow Tie, Army Blues/Dress Mess**

**Civilian: Semi-Formal**  
**Cost: \$50.00 per person**

**RSVP:** 27 April 2001

Directions and Hotel information on back of this flyer.



**Additional Information: Tim Yahn (203) 968-1456**

Jack Duncan (845) 278-1840

### Retiree's Voice

By Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton  
Long Standing Tradition Continues

A 46-year-old tradition in the Connecticut Army National Guard has been continued with the recent presentation of a special, silver first sergeant's pin to 1st Sgt. Dean Yatrouris.

This special First Sergeant's silver pin with the cutout diamond has a long and honored history in the Connecticut Army National Guard. Over the years those who have worn it have presented it only to illustrious individuals. When the first sergeant holding the pin is promoted, moved to another position or retires, the pin is passed on to a new first sergeant who is deemed worthy to wear it. A commitment is made by the honoree to uphold the tradition and the lineage tale is repeated with the new owner added to the list.

The history began in 1955 when the pin was worn by 1st Sgt. Gene Lucente of Headquarters/Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry (HHC 1st Bn. 102nd Inf). Lucente ended his career as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in Headquarters, State Area Command (HQ STARC) in 1993.

In 1959 possession was passed to 1st Sgt. Gil Mandy of HHC 1st Ban. 102nd Inf. Mandy ended his career as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in HQ STARC in 1990.

In 1973 possession was passed to 1st Sgt. Jack Kelley of Headquarters, 43rd Infantry Brigade (HQ 43rd Bde.). Kelley ended his career as a sergeant major in HQ STARC in 1990.

In 1978 possession was passed to 1st Sgt. Jack Rovaldi of HQ 43rd Bde. Rovaldi is presently a command sergeant major with the Human Resources, Equal Opportunity section, HQ STARC.

In 1988 possession was passed to 1st Sgt. Chet Morgan of HQ STARC. Morgan ended his career as 1st Sgt., HQ STARC in 1996.

In 1995 possession was passed to 1st Sgt. Dan Morgan of Company A, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry. Morgan is the son of Chet Morgan and is presently attached to the 2nd General Studies Battalion, 169th Leadership Regiment.

In 2001 possession was passed to 1st Sgt. Dean Yatrouris of HQ STARC. Yatrouris has recently retired and will continue the tradition of passing the pin to a worthy individual sometime in the future.

This special pin brings with it a distinct responsibility and the potential to reach an ultimate goal. Its safety needs to be ensured and utmost care must be taken when passing it to the new first sergeant. It can be presented only to an NCO who has faithfully and unselfishly upheld the traditions of the Guard and knows the meaning of "I AM THE GUARD."



Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Norkun, 1st Sgt. Dean Yatrouris (Ret.), 1st Sgt. (Ret.) Chet Morgan, 1st Sgt. Dan Morgan and Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Warner during the recent presentation of the silver First Sergeant's pin to Yatrouris. (Photo by Maj. John Whitford, State PAO)

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**FRIDAY,  
MAY 18, 2001  
11:15 A.M.**

**FORCES**

**AQUA TURF  
COUNTRY CLUB**  
*Southington, CT*

**GUEST SPEAKER:  
RADM PAUL E. SULLIVAN**  
*DIRECTOR, SUBMARINE WARFARE DIVISION*

**DAY**

**\$25 IN ADVANCE \$30 AT THE DOOR**

**2001**

**CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAM  
7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH CAMP**



JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> -30<sup>TH</sup> - CAMP ROWLAND  
FEE: \$150 per camper or includes meals, lodging, trips and activities  
AGES : Campers: 10 to 12 years old  
Teenagers can come too! Be a Counselor! (Same Fee) Participate in all activities and get leadership experience. Can also be used for community service hours when applying for National Honor Society or to meet H.S. Graduation requirements. Must be at least 14 years old!  
**ADULT VOLUNTEER STAFF ALSO NEEDED!**  
The number of campers accepted depends upon available staff.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
APPLICATION DEADLINE -Tuesday, 15 May  
ACCEPTANCE LETTERS MAILED OUT NLT - Friday, 25 MAY  
CAMP ORIENTATION NIGHT - Wednesday, 6 JUN Location: TBA

**EPPS from page 1**

forward to working with Mary Ann. To her family, thank you for sharing Mary Ann with us for all these years."

After relinquishing command, Rusconi addressed the audience by saying, "This Change of Command ceremony today completes the transition in leadership, which began in January, of this year, when Brig. Gen. George Demers retired after a long distinguished career culminating as our Assistant Adjutant General and Commander.

Rusconi spoke of the honor of being Chief of Staff since 1996, and how appreciative he was of the work and accomplishments of the entire organization during the past five years.

He commented that his focus as Chief of Staff, and as Squadron Commander, has always been to ensure he did all that he could to help our guard men and women be in a position to perform their federal and state missions. He said, "You have done just that."

He then said, "As I pass the banner of command today to Brigadier General Epps, we can be proud of who we are and of what we have accomplished – it is a record of honor and of service with distinction." He thanked the men and women of the Connecticut Air Guard by saying, "The opportunity to have served in the Chief of Staff position alongside you, is one I shall never forget; it has been an honor and privilege to serve with you, America's premier citizen-airmen."

After Rusconi's comments, Epps addressed the audience by commenting that it was an honor and privilege to accept command of the Connecticut Air National Guard. She added that she was grateful to return to Connecticut where she started her career in 1976. She also commented that her career mirrors the growth of diversity in the Air Force and the Department of Defense. As barriers have fallen, she had the good fortune to be in a position to accept additional responsibility. She said, "Before you stands a bi-product of diversity and I am truly grateful to serve as your next commander."

Epps commented that Rusconi had transferred to her three units that have excelled in their missions over the past decade. She spoke of the remarks that Demers made during his recent Change of Command by saying, "The Connecticut Air Guard is comprised of exceptional individuals, serving in ever changing missions and continuing the legacy of the citizen soldier.

"These men...and their legacy of excellence are role models we should continue to emulate. They have demonstrated the importance of treating our members with dignity and respect. The achievement of our organizations are a testimony to what can be accomplished when people, our most important resource, are treated with respect and given latitude in accomplishing their goals."



Epps called the Air Guard members to action by saying, "As I approach the shadow of these great leaders and prepare to take up this formidable challenge, I trust you will support and work with me in continuing the tradition of excellence. We are members of a comprehensive team, built on tradition, dedicated to a strong readiness posture and recognizing the dignity of our members and their families. These are the core ingredients of our success and the basis for meeting our future challenges."

Epps then pledged to the officers and airmen of the Connecticut Air National Guard, that she would do her best as commander to continue to promote the values and standards of excellence, which make the guard a premier organization in the United States. She then said, "We are an Air Force that is rich in its heritage, and is becoming more diverse in its members and operational thinking." She then thanked the members for the opportunity to serve as their commander.

In closing, she said, "Let us reflect on the words of an accomplished leader, 'Mission First, People Always,' and remember, together we succeed."

**To dare is to lose  
your footing  
momentarily. To  
not dare is to  
lose yourself.  
~Kierkegaard~**

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**UP FRONT from page 2**

great state.

During the Korean Conflict, of the 33,642 service members who made the ultimate sacrifice, 314 were from Connecticut.

During Vietnam, 126,000 Connecticut citizens served. Of that, 491 were killed in action and 98 died as a result of accidents, disease, or non-hostile action. More recently eight service members from Connecticut died in the Persian Gulf War.

So how do we as a nation adequately preserve the memory of these valiant men and women and the gifts that they secured for America? Aside from honoring those veterans who are still with us today, we remain in touch with the past through symbols. "Memorial" can be defined as something, such as a monument or a periodic observance, designed to preserve the memory of a person or an event.

America has recently erected several key monuments to serve as the bold reminders that we so desperately need. Joining the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in our nation's capital is the Korean War Veterans Memorial, dedicated in 1995. Two years later, we received the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. Last year, I had the honor of being the keynote speaker at New Britain's Rededication Ceremony to celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Civil War Monument "Winged Victory" honoring those who died for their country and the citizens who contributed to erect this monument.

Not only have these become instant landmarks for people visiting our nation's capital, but each has been replicated in a number of towns and cities throughout America. In 1998, a scale model of the Vietnam Memorial was launched on a nationwide tour. Since then, the "moving wall" as it is often referred, has passed through Meriden, Waterford and this year will be in Putnam over the Memorial Day weekend. This exhibit has served as a bridge of national recognition for those who sacrificed in Vietnam to those still suffering with their losses in communities large and small. For those who were there, and for those who lost a friend or family member there, it will forever be a painful reminder of a youthful time past. For critics, it continues to be a war that they just can't lay to rest. Soon we will have the long-awaited memorial that honors our World War II veterans, both those living and those no longer with us.

Tom Brokaw memorialized our World War II veterans in his book "The Greatest Generation," and later with "The Greatest Generation Speaks." As he pointed out, they were so busy getting on with their lives after winning the most destructive war in human history that they didn't take the time to memorialize their great triumphs.

At the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, with its endless rows of white crosses and Stars of David, soldiers and Marines from the Civil War lay near pilots and aviators from the Persian Gulf War. Located nearby is the Tomb of the Unknowns, with its ever-present guard who protects, with fixed bayonet, the symbol of all of our fallen warriors.

Thousands of miles away, in a place disturbed one certain Sunday morning on December 7, 1941, we are reminded of the sacrifices made at Pearl Harbor. The monument of the USS Arizona is a lasting memorial to those sailors, soldiers and airmen who faced impossible odds that fateful, black Sunday morning.

Still, we accept as our inherent duty the protection of all people. It seems difficult to believe that ten years have already passed since the Allied success of the Persian Gulf War. Since that time American

forces have faced enemy fire in Somalia, Bosnia and Kosovo. We all know that we don't have to be in a war to have casualties. Sometimes it may seem as though losing warriors in these 'operations other than war' is more difficult to take than it is in purely wartime operations. And our forces face dangers every day, whether on training missions, patrolling hot border areas or assisting with humanitarian aid across the globe.

This year our own Connecticut Army National Guard will deploy over 400 soldiers to Bosnia. Members of the 143d Forward Support Battalion of Waterbury and B Company of the 1/102 Infantry of Manchester will leave their families and their full time jobs and deploy to Bosnia in support the Stabilization Force (SFOR) mission. This will mark the largest Connecticut Army National Guard deployment since the Korean War. Similarly, this fall, our Connecticut Air National Guard will deploy over 300 airmen of the 103d Fighter Wing in East Granby to Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch to monitor the Southern No-Fly Zone in Iraq.

Regardless, the Armed Forces of the United States stands guard in a world that continues to pose significant threats to our country and to our Allies.

This continued vigilance itself is an important way of honoring those whom we remember today. We learn from history, from our mistakes, and from our victories because we don't want to lose the precious ground bought with the blood of those who came before us.

The Armed Forces of the United States, both active and reserve are fully prepared to meet the challenges of this new century.

Recently, Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki got to the heart of this issue when he said: "Our soldiers are the finest Americans you will find anywhere - dedicated, disciplined, proud, tough, and compassionate. They are on point for the Nation around the globe, and in the face of significant challenge, they are training hard every day to be ready to fight and win our Nation's wars."

Today, the general population, and especially those young people thinking of joining our ranks, are hearing a new advertising theme for our Army. "An Army of One" - though a new slogan focused purely on the Army, it summarizes the expectations we have today of members throughout all of our armed forces. It focuses on the strength and teamwork of the U.S. Army as a united force of many soldiers. Yet, it also reinforces the concept of each individual making a unique contribution to the Army's success.

One of our country's most brilliant examples of a committed individual who served in both the National Guard and the Army was Theodore Roosevelt. He was a citizen-soldier and a veteran who knew how to keep patriotic holidays sacred. He was recently posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Spanish American War.

Connecticut has 74 Medal of Honor recipients. Their names are proudly displayed in the concourse between the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol.

Theodore Roosevelt, and others who speak with the experience of combat, realized the importance of remembering those who didn't make it home. These one million men and women, whom we honor here today, will indeed continue to live on in our nation's memory.

It is within our power to keep them alive. In fact, it is our debt. Let us leave here today not with sadness for those we honor, but with gratefulness for their contributions and selfless duty. Because they died, we may live.

*(Editors Note: This is the text of speech the Adjutant General will deliver in Naugatuck on Memorial Day and was written through a collaborative between DoD and the Connecticut Military Department.)*