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A Touching Farewell for 250 Guardsmen

CAPT. LOU MARTINEZ
65th PCH

"It was hard to fight back tears," said Sgt. 1st Class Isidro Maldonado, 143rd Forward Support Battalion (FSB). Maldonado is one of about 250 Connecticut Guardsmen deploying to Bosnia as part of the Stabilization Force 10 Rotation (SFOR-10). Members of the FSB and Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry were honored with a send-off ceremony for the deployment to the Balkans for "Operation Joint Forge."

You could tell who's loved ones were shipping out. All you had to do was look into their eyes. It was hard to miss the tears flowing and somber faces. Governor John Rowland gave children of soldiers deploying some fatherly advice, "be good to your parents, mommy and daddy will be home very soon and safely." To adults, the governor reminded them how their loved ones display the virtues of the Army, "duty, honor and commitment."

The ceremony was filled with plenty of flair, the 102nd Army Band played the national anthem, VIP's from around the state attended, Connecticut's junior senator, Joseph Lieberman, congressmen John Maloney, Robert Simmons and John Larson made time to attend this farewell ceremony. Lieberman told the crowd, "The troops are part of a great generation that has learned the lesson of World War Two. They are needed to stop and prevent



A Connecticut Guardsman shares an emotional moment with his loved one before getting on the bus for Fort Dix. (Photo by Pfc. Shirrod Richardson, 65th PCH)

conflicts in Europe. If not they will spread". Rowland, along with the adjutant general, Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, conducted the traditional trooping of the line, a pass and review of the deploying units. Rowland also administered the enlistment oath to 35 soldiers who re-enlisted for this deployment to Bosnia.

The adjutant general gave the families of deploying soldiers words of inspiration. "We're grateful for what you're doing. Thank you for making this sacrifice for the next nine months for this very important mission," said Cugno. "We owe you a debt of gratitude and we will always be here for you."

See DEPLOYMENT p. 3

President nominates Myers for top military post

AIR FORCE NEWS

Calling Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers a man of "steady resolve and determined leadership," President George W. Bush tapped the Kansas native to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a news conference in Texas on Aug. 24.

If confirmed by the Senate, Myers would succeed Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton as the top uniformed officer in the U.S. military, and become the first Air Force officer to hold that post since Gen. David Jones (1978-1982). Bush also nominated Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, currently commander of U.S. Southern Command, to become vice chairman, replacing Myers, who has held that position since March 2000.

Bush, speaking before reporters at his ranch near Crawford, Texas, called Myers "the right man to preserve the best traditions of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future. His is a skilled and steady hand."

Those sentiments were echoed by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of the Air Force James Roche.

"I've had the great fortune to work closely with Dick Myers and with General Hugh Shelton over these past few months," Rumsfeld said. "What I have come to know and expect of General Myers is candor, deliberation, judgment, keen insights, fiber and good humor. His career is the embodiment of the transformation with which he will be charged as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is a leader."

Roche spoke confidently of the general's qualifications for the job at hand.

"I am extremely proud that President Bush has decided to nominate General Richard Myers to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Roche said. "His long service to our country and extensive knowledge and broad range of experience of command in important geographic and regional assignments will ably serve the president and Secretary Rumsfeld as we proceed into a new era."

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JTF: 85 Years Later, AZANG Repays Pershing's Debt



Members of the Arizona Air National Guard work on the shell of a training pavilion at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Gray, 161st Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), AZANG)

MAJ. SHERMAN R. MCGREW
JOINT TASK FORCE HUSKY

In 1916, the 1-102nd Infantry, Connecticut National Guard, mobilized and deployed to Arizona to assist General Pershing patrol the border against the raids of Pancho Villa. Eighty-five years later, the Arizona National Guard came to Connecticut and returned the favor, ala Pershing, "Rowland, we are here." The heat was definitely on, but that didn't seem to bother the 161st Civil Engineering Squadron from the 161st Air Refueling Wing. After all, they are part of the Arizona Air National Guard (AZANG). Now the humidity was another matter...

They arrived in Connecticut on August 5 for their two-week Annual Training not quite knowing what to expect as the newest participants of Joint Task Force (JTF) Husky. Their commander, Maj. Jeffrey Garland, originally from Hanson, Massachusetts and now living in Phoenix, knew what the weather would be like. "The guys have got to get used to the humidity, but we're used to 112 degree heat."

See ARIZONA p. 24

UP FRONT WITH THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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



The Connecticut Guard at it's Best

After countless hours of preparation, Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry and the 143rd Forward Support Battalion have departed Connecticut for deployment to Bosnia. I am extremely proud of all these soldiers and the effort that has been made to get them ready. The effort has not been limited to our men and women who wear the uniform. Relatives and employers have worked tirelessly to support the deploying soldiers and also sustain the family or organization that the soldiers are leaving behind.

The National Guard is unique in that we routinely do the work of a full-time militia but on a part-time basis. The impact of such a mission requires teamwork and the support of many outside our guard. As with many deployments, we have been asked to conduct a peacekeeping mission an ocean away for a sustained period of time. Although these soldiers have just left, the preparation for this deployment has been continuous for well over 18 months, twice the length of the deployment itself. Many soldiers and staff worked extremely hard in order for our troops and their families to be prepared and sacrificed much of their free time. Although there are many, I would like to recognize a couple of individuals who have worked exceptionally hard to insure our units had a head start.

Our family coordinator, Kim Hoffman, played an active role, and will continue to

do so by insuring the families' needs are being addressed in a timely fashion. She also was instrumental in the organization of our recent deployment ceremony honoring these men and women.

Maj. Shawn Karvelis, our state Mobilization and Readiness Officer, worked diligently as a liaison between the 29th Infantry Division and our Connecticut Guard. He also played the same role with the National Guard Bureau. He spent countless hours insuring that every detail was addressed and that all soldiers and their families were informed. His efforts helped significantly in the readiness of these units. The Connecticut National Guard, along with these individuals, is at its best when a soldier deploys. I can't overemphasize how important preparation and readiness is to insuring our soldier's safety and ability to accomplish the mission.

Although we have had some deployments over the past few years, this is the first of its size since Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Its impact on our guard family is enormous. It is important that the needs of the deployed soldiers, their families, and their employers be addressed in a timely fashion. Although they have left Connecticut, their home is still here and we, as waiting commanders, will ensure their families every need attended to.

Governor Rowland, Senator Lieberman, Representatives Larson, Maloney and

Simmons were key officials who attended our "send-off" ceremony honoring our soldiers. Their attendance signified the importance of soldiers serving their country and the importance of supporting them. As I was inspecting the troops that day, I could not help but notice the families and the number of children in the audience. They have so much to be proud of. Each and every soldier is giving to our nation and represents the best our country has to offer. The family's support is a tribute to these soldiers being deployed. As I stated during my address at the "send-off" ceremony, "You are as much a patriot as the men and women on the front lines".

As we look into the future, let's not forget the role we all play while our soldiers are abroad. Let's insure continued support for our soldiers. Families and friends will be able to maintain contact with loved ones through electronic mail (email) or by sending letters. Families also can obtain information, such as benefits and the like, by contacting this toll free number: (888) 548-7272. Governor Rowland and I will be personally visiting our troops, in country, this December - an event I am looking forward to.

Thank you all for the role you played in preparing our soldiers for their next mission. To Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry and the 143rd Forward Support Battalion - Best of luck on your new assignment - we all anxiously await your return.

Connecticut Guardian

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By STATE COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR
STEPHEN L. PRIMETT

ENLISTED UPDATE

A Great Send-Off for Bosnia-Bound Soldiers

I can't tell you how proud I was to be a part of the great send-off of the SFOR 10 rotation to Bosnia conducted here at the Hartford Armory. The support of the families and the people in attendance was outstanding with soldiers from units throughout the state and some from the 29th Infantry Division in Massachusetts came to the send-off.

The soldiers of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion from Waterbury and Southington and Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry from Manchester could not have looked better. The Armory drill shed floor with all the bunting and the flags was done

by our own Family Support people headed up by Kim Hoffman who outdid themselves. I heard more family member's say how proud they were of their loved one's commitment to this mission than questions such as "Why are we going?" Most soldiers said they just want to get it started, it's what they've trained for and they're ready to go.

Having lived through deployments in the past, I can tell you from experience just how important that family support group is about to become. Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno told everyone in attendance that the Connecticut Army National Guard was here to help in any way possible to support soldiers and their families, and believe me, he won't have to say it twice.

The soldiers need to stay in contact with their families by writing home and sending e-mails and, of course, phoning when possible. The families also need to write and send along photos and maybe a drawing that the little ones drew for Dad or Mom or sister or brother. These things mean a lot to a soldier at mail call.

We here at the Hartford Armory are ready and able to assist in any way to support those soldiers deployed and their families. Again I can not tell you how proud I am of the soldiers of the 143rd FSB and B Co., 1/102nd Infantry.

God speed and God Bless and stay safe.

Deployment Ceremony Draws Hundreds to State Armory

From p. 1

Family members found the farewell ceremony, touching. "I have to admit it was emotional. It's upsetting because my sister is going overseas. I don't want her to go, but I'll be counting the days until she comes home," said Maria Dominguez.

"I was overwhelmed by the number of people that showed up to see us off. The deployment ceremony was well presented," First Sgt. Orlando Anderson, Headquarters Support Company, 143rd FSB. "It's my first send-off. It was nice to get this support."

The send-off would not be complete without the guidance of Connecticut's Rolling Flags. This is the same organization that led the 142nd Medical Company out of town during the Persian Gulf War deployment 10 years ago. Dan Gertsch of East Haven has a special place in his heart for guardsmen. There is a good reason for that; Gertsch is a three-war veteran. He served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and has dedicated his time to escort guardsmen out of town on deployments for more than a decade. Gertsch says he's been on plenty of trips overseas

"Every time I left I had no one to wave good-bye to; it was the same when I returned. This is my way of being there for the soldiers and keep morale up," said Gertsch. "I'll be here when they come back home."

(Photos by Pfc. Shirrod Richardson, Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski and Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)



From Honeymoon to Mission Rehearsal Exercise: Soldier Prepares for Deployment

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65TH PCH

As Spc. Ian Brathwaite, 30, was preparing for his unit's deployment to Bosnia, he probably had a lot on his mind. Through all the confusion that accompanies the preparation for a 270-day activation, one fact was clear in his mind — a honeymoon in Key West, Fla., beats a mission rehearsal exercise at Ft. Polk, La.

Brathwaite sacrificed two days of his honeymoon to join his unit at the Joint Readiness Training Center, in order to participate in the realistic, and mandatory, Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE).

Ian and his bride Latisha (Richards), 23, had planned their wedding and honeymoon about 18 months in advance. In the meantime, the 143rd Forward Support Battalion received word that the unit would be activated for the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. The MRE at Ft. Polk is a mandatory step in preparing soldiers and units to participate in Operation Joint Forge, and the timing went against the Brathwaites.

"It just came at an inopportune time, that we would be going to the MRE, and then to Bosnia," said Brathwaite, an ammunition specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company. "We planned our honeymoon to be seven days, so we just made it five days."

The two were married May 25, at Messiah Baptist Church in Bridgeport, and then left for their honeymoon. But that trip to the paradise of Key West, had to be cut short so Ian could join his unit at the JRTC.

As a scout with the Army, Brathwaite deployed often during his three years on active duty, including extended overseas tours. And during his three years as a Guardsman with the 143rd FSB, Brathwaite knows about the commitments involved, and the possibility of an extended deployment is always there for a person in uniform. It's a lesson his wife is learning the hard way, right now.

"She's getting into the feel of the military. I try to explain it to her as much as I can. I think she's starting to understand life in the military," Brathwaite said.

Part of that lesson will include Latisha performing the very difficult job of single parent, with two girls at home. But her husband is sure that Jamila, 5, and Kamaria, 2, are in good hands.

"We have a good core group behind us, with my mother, her mother, and others. I feel pretty good leaving (Jamila and Kamaria) behind with them. They're always there whenever we need something," Brathwaite said.

Letters will have to take the place of his nightly reading to the girls, but a co-worker offered another suggestion to keep in touch with the family.

"He recommended that I get a camcorder and send videos home. I'll try to do that every week," he said.

Brathwaite also hopes to take some college courses while on the deployment, as long as he has the time, so he can return home closer to a bachelor's degree in psychology. He and Latisha both have been working at Home Depot and studying in college, as they pursue careers as nurses.



Spc. Ian Brathwaite

With all they have in common, there is a key difference. He is in the military, but she is not. Still, they're both doing something heroic, in support of peace.

The Flag Man of Waterbury Salutes CTARNG Soldiers



Zeqir (Ziggy) Berisha salutes the soldiers of the Connecticut Army National Guard who are deploying to Bosnia on a peacekeeping mission.

Ziggy is a native of Kosovo who now lives in Waterbury and is well-known to residents there as "The Flag Man." He says he is proud of the flag and his new country and wants everyone to be grateful for the many freedoms they enjoy in the United States. Ziggy was at the Hartford Armory to show his support to the 143rd FSB, headquartered in Waterbury and the 1/102nd Infantry. (Photo by Pfc. Shirrod Richardson, 65th PCH)

Sibling Officers Head to Bosnian Mission

CAPT. ROBERT BARTHOLOMEW
65TH PCH

For most soldiers who deploy to some far away land, their fellow soldiers become their "brothers and sisters" during training and the mission. Two soldiers of Headquarters Supply Company, 143rd Forward Support Battalion can lay claim to the fact that they really are brother and sister.

Maj. Ralph Hedenberg, support operations officer and 2nd Lt. Lynda Hedenberg, platoon leader, are among the 250 soldiers who will be heading to the Balkans as part of Stabilization Force Rotation 10 (SFOR 10) this fall. Because Ralph has already been in Bosnia during an advance mission, he knows what to expect. However, Lynda is wondering what life will be like in her new temporary home. And she left college with

only one class to take for her degree to work full-time in the Waterbury armory in preparation for the deployment.

"My brother and I keep it professional while in uniform," said Lynda. "But while we're there, he'll be my security blanket."

When asked about his first experience in Bosnia, Ralph said, "I was amazed at the lengths that they would go to to destroy non-strategic targets. Buildings with no tactical advantage were destroyed just because."

Families always worry when their soldiers deploy, but big brother has special instructions from the Hedenberg family to keep an eye on his little sister.

Soldiers or not, it just goes to show that to parents, they are just the kids.



The Hedenbergs take a moment for pictures together during the deployment send-off ceremony at the Hartford Armory. Both are members of HSC, 143rd FSB and are deploying to Bosnia this fall. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)

Connecticut Guardsmen Always Ready When Duty Calls

SPC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65th PCH

The soldiers of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion (FSB) and Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry left for their peacekeeping mission in the Balkans Theater of Operations on August 23. Many soldiers have all kinds of personal reasons for going on the mission.

However, two such soldiers are planning to make a difference in someone's life. Sgt. Benjamin J. Mericle, 143rd FSB, petroleum specialist and Sgt. First Class Isidro Maldonado, 143rd FSB Headquarters and Supply Company, ammo section chief returned to the 143rd FSB to participate in the peacekeeping mission there.

According to Mericle, he joined the mission to help prevent any future massacre of children. Mericle has a total of 15 young nieces and nephews and cannot fully understand why adults use children as victims during times of war. Mericle wants to use his many years of experience in the Army National Guard to help provide young war victims and adults with a second chance of having a better life.

First, Mericle was with the 143rd FSB and then in the fall of 1996 until the middle of 1998 Mericle was a member of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment as a refueler at Bradley airport.

But once the Connecticut Army National

Guard (CTARNG) began asking for volunteers to support the peacekeeping mission Bosnia, Mericle rushed back to rejoin the 143rd FSB.

He has more than 20 years experience in the CTARNG with only one year of service in the Florida Army National Guard (FANG) with the 265th Artillery maintenance section.

Mericle is scheduled to work for nine months in Tuzla, Bosnia as a refueler. "I will be responsible to refuel anything that flies or drives," said Mericle.

Maldonado returns to the 143rd FSB due to strong belief in commitment to the Army and his former unit.

"I came back to the unit because volunteers were needed and I wanted to support the

mission of peace. This is my first deployment to Europe in 22 years of service in the Connecticut National Guard," said Maldonado.

Maldonado first join the Connecticut Army National Guard in 1978 and has witnessed the changing role of the Guard in world affairs.

Maldonado's civilian occupation is with Hartford Public Works and he says "they are supporting me 100 percent by giving me all the time I need to support the mission."

The efforts of Mericle and Maldonado are shining examples of continuing the outstanding tradition of Guardmembers serving their state and country whenever called upon.

Those Who Deploy Together – Get Married

CAPT. ROBERT BARTHOLOMEW
65th PCH

Second lieutenants David and Karen Pickel are not your standard husband and wife.

When they first heard their units (Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry and Company A, 143rd Forward Support Battalion, respectively) were going to be deployed to Bosnia, both soldiers were very single. A few weeks later they were dating. A year and three months later and they were married.

Not that a wedding and a deployment in less than a year-and-a-half weren't enough, but Karen also went to Officer Basic Course and graduated from college with a bachelors of arts degree in Pharmacy.

While Karen was busy with her education, wedding plans and deployment preparations, husband David quit his job

with United Technologies to work full-time with the Connecticut Army National Guard preparing for his unit's deployment.

David missed the send-off ceremony for the infantry and FSB because he was already at Fort Dix on the advanced party, helping to get things ready for the Connecticut units' arrivals.

"We're in different units and will be based in different camps in Bosnia, but we'll be close enough for visits," said Karen. "We do everything together, so we might as well deploy together.

"We have different adjustments than most couples that have a deployment to go through," she said, referring to couples where only one member is in the military.

"It makes me feel good that we will have the same experiences to share when we return."



2nd Lt. Karen Pickel

Wondering and Comparing

CAPT. ROBERT BARTHOLOMEW
65th PCH

Thoughts of the upcoming deployment occupied the mind of one soldier during the recent send-off ceremony held at the Hartford armory for the units deploying to Bosnia.

Sgt. Gerard E. Bessenaire of Company B, 143rd Forward Support Battalion has been thinking about the situation in Bosnia and how easily his unit could be drawn in while deployed in Bosnia. Being a medical unit, he says anything could happen.

"I've been doing a lot of thinking about other deployments I've been on and how they went," said Bessenaire. "I'm wondering how this one will go."

Even while wondering how this deployment will compare with his previous ones, Bessenaire took the time to talk about how impressed he was with the send-off ceremony.

"This send-off is great," he said. "I never had one before and I really like it."



Sgt. Gerard E. Bessenaire

A Dedicated Soldier Ready for Deployment Returns to Connecticut and Former Unit

SPC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65th PCH

There are many stories of soldiers rising to the occasion due to their dedication to their unit. One such soldier is Sgt. Matthew W. Enzor, Company C, 1st Battalion 102nd Infantry, military intelligence.

From March of 1999 until September of 2000 Enzor attended drills each month by driving 11 hours one way from Fayetteville, N.C. to Manchester, Conn. and return to Fayetteville in time for work the next day. He later decided to drill with the Virginia National Guard located in Lynchburg since it was closer to his home in North Carolina.

However, he attended drills with the Virginia National Guard for only six months before returning to Connecticut to volunteer for the infantry deployment to Bosnia.

According to Enzor, the time spent with the Virginia National Guard was very valuable but he considers the 102nd Infantry one of the best units he has ever been a part of.

Moreover, he did not have to think twice about going to Bosnia for he believes it is an honor and a privilege to support his unit and his country to insure the peace in the former Yugoslavia.

"My family fully supports my decision to

go Bosnia because they know I enjoy my time with the Army," said Enzor.

Enzor spent three-and-a-half years on active duty with the Army before joining the

Connecticut National Guard, is Airborne qualified and plans next to attend Ranger school after the deployment.

He enjoys playing golf as a hobby and plans to attend Coastal Carolina located in South Carolina to study Golf Management.

"There is no doubt about it I plan to make the Army a career, said Enzor.

Couture Moves Coast to Coast to Deploy with His 'Corps'

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65TH PCH

Living in California is probably a lot different from a military deployment to Bosnia, so when given the option of either, the choice might be obvious.

Well, actually, that might depend on who the travel mates are. If the travel mates are almost like family, then a trip to Tuzla could be the destination of choice, rather than the U.S.A.'s most populous state.

When presented the option, Staff Sgt. Chris Couture, a Meriden, Conn. native, figured he really didn't have a choice. That's why he and his fiancée, who had taken an 18-month assignment as a nurse in California, repacked their belongings and returned to Connecticut. He did this just so he could deploy to Bosnia with the 143rd Forward Support Battalion.

By rejoining the 143rd Forward Support Battalion in time for its activation and deployment to the Balkans, Couture, a combat medic with Company B, was living up to an agreement he made a long time ago, with some of his best friends in the unit.

"I've been with this unit for about eight years," Couture said, standing outside a bus chartered to transport the activated soldiers who were getting ready for their overseas deployment. "I'd say 10 of the guys on this bus now, have been in with me for that same eight years. We always said that we'd stay together if anything came down."

Couture, 29, referred to that group as "the corps," and it basically is comprised of soldiers who've stayed in the unit, and have now advanced in rank to become its noncommissioned officers. The members are a close-knit group who spend a lot of time with each other and each other's families.

Their spouses plan to spend a lot of time together during the current deployment, as they lead the activities of the unit's family program.

At the end of the summer of 2000, Couture quit his full-time job as a math teacher and left the 143rd only by geographic necessity, when his fiancée accepted the job on the west coast. They settled in California, but he could not find a reserve component unit comparable to the 143rd FSB. So he accepted an honorable discharge.

But, when his buddies in the 143rd learned that a peacekeeping deployment was imminent, they started to call Couture in California. That was during January.

Staff Sgt. Gerald Watford was the first to call. He was not the last.

"He (Watford) said the unit was getting activated and needed some qualified leaders to make sure we had the right people going over (to Bosnia)," Couture said. "Then a slew of calls came from my other friends. And then a slew of emails came in. The corps called, and I had to go!"

After making sure he'd have a slot with the deploying unit, he returned to Connecticut and reinitiated his enlistment. He also started working as a salesman for ADP.

But, the life-changing didn't really begin or end there.

"I talked it over with my fiancée, and we agreed to get married early. And here we are..." Couture said. The "here" he referred to was the chartered bus with his buddies aboard, which was set to bring the soldiers to some of the last stages of administrative processing before the deployment. The woman formerly known as his fiancée Jill Arcari, is now Mrs. Couture. She's a nurse



Brothers-in-law Staff Sgt. Chris Couture and Sgt. John McMahon of the 143rd FSB. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

practitioner at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam. They recently settled into a home in Vernon.

The two originally planned to get married in June 2002, but moved up their special plans by almost a year, to July 15, 2001. Then they enjoyed a honeymoon in Italy, just prior to the August activation.

And although Couture's new bride will not be joining him on his next overseas trip, he will be accompanied by a newly acquired family member.

"Sgt. John McMahon is her (Jill's) brother," Couture said. "I met her through him. He's one of my 10 buddies on the bus."

So, it's not almost like family... it is family.

McMahon and members of "the corps," were on a ski trip in Vermont about three years ago. His sister and some of her friends

were on a ski trip at a different mountain in Vermont.

"So, I called her up and told her to come over to where we were staying... and they just hit it off," McMahon said.

"He's a great guy, and he's really squared away," said McMahon, who was one of the unit members who called Couture to tell him about the upcoming deployment of the 143rd. The reunion of Couture and "the corps" also sped up the process of McMahon getting a member of "the corps" as his new brother-in-law. And McMahon seems happy for Couture.

"He missed the Guard a lot," McMahon said. "He and I have been together for a long time."

The deployment, both directly and indirectly, will bring them closer together for a longer time.

Behind the Scenes of a Deployment Send-Off Ceremony

PFC. SHIRROD RICHARDSON
65TH PCH

My story of the send-off ceremony for the soldiers deploying to Bosnia begins a few weeks before the actual ceremony. I first started working with Maj. John Whitford and Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton when I wanted something to do with the rest of my summer.

During the day, it seems as if I will do about every task under the sun. I always want to do more, but sometimes it's just not possible. As a private first class in the Army National Guard, my jobs will never be as important as the professionals I work for.

We all do our parts, and in that way, important is a term that can be taken in different ways. If all the lower ranking personnel in the service stopped doing their jobs, the military would be serious trouble.

I gladly do what I do for them. I believe we have some of the best jobs period, not just in the military. They are wonderful to work

for and always treated me as a part of the team, not just another private.

The ceremony for the deployment of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion and Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry have taken up a lot of time from my superiors. It's not like all their other work stops. But this is our chance. A chance to create and be a part of something the National Guard can be proud of.

This is also the first time I really had



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

anything to do with Kim Hoffman, Connecticut Army National Guard Family Program Manager. She made sure the area was looking it's best for the ceremony. Soldiers like Pfc. Marta Valverde of the 141st Medical Battalion sat quietly and did the jobs that had to be done. Thankless as it may seem, many people put a lot of time into the ceremony.

Most people don't think about how one of those neat little gift bags for the families gets put together, let alone 250. It's things like that that make the workday so long. At times you work so hard and so long and yet you almost feel bad for going home - like there is more you should do.

People like Sgt. Maj. Barbara Montigny were a joy to work with. Her great personality makes it seem not so bad, because it wasn't.

If you think about it, really it's a part of history being put together. I was proud to

be a part of that. I was almost sad to see it be over.

The units deploying are just another reminder to me that the National Guard can do amazing things when it comes together. If you were there to see the state of the drillshed floor before we took our time and made it look great, you would know what I mean.

Many people came together to see the units off. People gave a little bit of themselves for those who were about to give their all. That's what I think is so amazing, that so many people can come together to show their support. I think that truly was historic.

Our work is not over, however. Supporting the soldiers overseas is now our new mission. When I say we, I mean all of us. The families, the employers and guardsman - we all have a job to do. And we will gladly do it as we always have, and we always will.

Air Force Meets A.R.M.Y. to Keep Kids off Drugs

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
103rd COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

On Monday, August 13 nearly thirty summer campers of the Norwalk Community Service Academy D.A.R.E. camp watched an OH-58 Kiowa, scout helicopter, touch down at Taylor Farm in Norwalk, Conn. The mission of the crew was an important one, drug abuse prevention and education. Military personnel of the Drug Demand Reduction office came to deliver the Aviation Role Models for Youth (A.R.M.Y.) message, which emphasizes education, hard work and a drug-free lifestyle as the keys to success.

Campers were encouraged to look inside the aircraft and ask questions of the crew. Crewmembers spoke with the children about the dangers of drugs and the variety of opportunities that exist for individuals who are drug-free.

"Whatever you want to do, go after it, but don't do things that are self-destructive along the way, and don't let other people convince you to hurt yourselves," said Army Capt. Joel Finnell, Mass. Army National Guard.

"This particular program is unique in the sense that we can reach many more youths at once than we are able to with the other camps we offer," said Staff Sgt. Napoleon Tetreault III, camp counselor, Connecticut National Guard Counter-Drug Office.

The Community Service Academy D.A.R.E. program is headed by the Norwalk Police Department Community Services and the

Human Services Council of Mid-Fairfield. Earlier this summer, these sixth grade students were afforded the opportunity to attend the week-long Drug Education for Youth (D.E.F.Y) camp at Camp Rowland in Niantic, Conn.

"Whenever we find a vessel out their that will help communicate with and educate these children, we welcome it. We're very fortunate to have the support. The more different people the message comes from makes it more exciting for the children," said Venus Burgess, camp co-director.

(Photos by Senior Airman Julie Bragg,
103rd Communications Flight)



Dispatches From the Front: A Final Mission and Homeward Bound

SGT. PHILIP GORMAN
141st MEDICAL COMPANY

You can start to feel the excitement in the air here at Eagle Base. The first of the SFOR 10 personnel are beginning to trickle in; MP companies, advanced parties, and division level individuals mainly, but everyone knows that we are getting close. As of this moment, all of the soldiers of Task Force Med Eagle will be on their way home in just 28 days, and it's a wonderful feeling. Awards are beginning to be processed, milvans are being packed. All signs of our impending return home. Most can't say that we've had it bad here, but we are all ready to get back home to our friends and families. However, there is still work to be done in MND-N.

I had the pleasure of being part of the support team that provided medical coverage to the March & Shoot competition. This was a competition put together by MND-N to help foster relations between the soldiers of SFOR and members of the Bosnian Army. The competition consisted of a 12-kilometer (approximately seven miles) road march through some of the most mountainous

terrain most of us had ever seen. Along the way, each 11-member team was also required to complete a 200-meter equipment carry and a 200-meter litter carry. At the conclusion of the march each team went straight to the range to qualify on their respective weapons.

It was a very long, very hot day for the competitors. At the conclusion of the competition the three teams from the Bosnian Army (4th, 6th, and 1st Corp VRS respectively) took the top three places in all events and in the overall competition, which was held at the VRS military facility in Tuzla. MND-N commander, Maj. Gen. Walter Sharp, spoke at the awards ceremony and congratulated the winning teams. The team from TFME placed fifth overall, and was the top American team. All of the NATO competitors admitted that they greatly underestimated the caliber of training that the VRS forces went through, and were very impressed with the teams' performances. The awards ceremony was followed up by a huge barbecue were all 11 teams and unit

members that had come out in support all had an old-fashioned cookout. Bosnians, Russians, Danes, Turks, Americans, Poles, and Latvians all sitting around picnic tables joking with one another while feasting on baked beans, ribs and hamburgers. It was truly a sight to see.

This past month has also brought success in the educational front for some of the soldiers of TFME, and the 141st specifically. The Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) was held recently at Eagle Base hospital to re-certify the doctors and RN's that have yet to complete the course under the newly published standards. The course instructor opened the course to members of the ER who believed that they could handle the course. As a result, four of our eight personnel are now ACLS qualified. The four individuals who took the course surprised and earned a newfound respect from the instructors and other members of Task Force Med Eagle for going far above and beyond their supposed skill level.

All in all, this deployment has been an

experience for us all. Whether it was good or bad, and it was often both, it was still a life-altering experience. We are proud to have done our part and hope that we leave this country a little bit better than how we found it. We've had our fun, but now its time to go. We want to thank everyone for all their support, especially the veterans from the Marine Corps League, whose care packages kept coming, just as they promised. We will see all of you in less than a month.

Visit the new
Connecticut
National Guard
website at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

JEAC Holds First Combat Dining-In For Junior Enlisted

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
103rd COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

On July 14, 2001, the 103rd Junior Enlisted Advisory Council hosted its first ever Junior Enlisted Combat Dining-In. Nearly eighty troops, ranks E-6 and below from both the 103rd Fighter Wing and the 103rd Air Control Squadron, joined in an evening of festivities which included dinner, live entertainment, fun and games. The event was held in the base dining facility at the Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby. The atmosphere reflected one of a true military dining-in, complete with camouflage netting, a low-crawl, strict combat dining-in protocol, and grog bowls.

Interesting and unique to a junior enlisted combat dining-in, the 103rd Chief's Council and several First Sergeants served the meal, proving to be some of the area's finest waitstaff.

Senior Airman Cyril Charity, 113th Security Forces Squadron, Washington, D.C. Air National Guard, named Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year for 2000, was the keynote speaker of the evening. Charity spoke on the importance of the role of the junior enlisted in the Air National Guard and the United States Air Force. Recently deployed with the 363rd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in Saudi Arabia for two and a half months, he shared some of his insights.

"Everyday as we went out on post, I would notice that you pass by entry control points, you pass by engine shops, you pass by crew

chiefs on their way to work, services personnel in the chow hall, civil engineering personnel doing structural maintenance and various other tasks. And you notice that none of them have any chevrons pointing up. On a base of more than 1100 people, 800 at the very least were tech. sergeants and below. You make up this Guard. All of the awards, all of the recognition we receive from active duty forces, it is all because of your hard work; our hard work." His speech was received with a well-deserved standing ovation.

"The respect for the formality part of the event was definitely present," said Staff Sgt. Michelle Wink, JEAC president. "And the airman had a blast during the informal part." After the meal and speeches, the crowd retreated outside to partake in competitive, yet camaraderie-building games. "It was nice to see, specifically in the relay races, the Air Control Squadron running around with Comm. Flight. And Maintenance was running around with Security Forces. It made me really happy to see that."

The "cool down" to the event at the end of the evening involved a friendly water balloon toss, which quickly turned into an ambush against the 103rd Fighter Wing commander, Col. Dan Scace.

At the end of the evening, when all the balloons were broken, and most of the airmen were soaked, it was obvious the JEAC's first ever combat dining-in was a huge success. "This is definitely something we can't wait to do again next year," said Wink.



Senior Airman Jesse Reynolds (left) and Master Sgt. Lisa Todaro race with extreme agility in the spoon and egg race, just one of the many relay races run at the Combat Dining-in. (Photo by Senior Airman Jennifer Gray, 103rd Vehicle Operations)



Members share in a swig from the grogbowl, a fair sentence for regrettably failing to don their unit patches at the event. (Photo by Senior Airman Jennifer Gray, 103rd Vehicle Operations)



Members of the 103rd Air Control Squadron assist their squadron commander, Lt. Col. Richard Erdmann, in shaving, his punishment for arriving to the dining-in unshaven. (Photo by Senior Airman Jennifer Gray, 103rd Vehicle Operations)



Staff Sgt. Michelle Wink, Senior Airman Cyril Charity, Lt. Col. Richard Erdmann, commander, 103rd ACS, Lt. Col. Rafael Marquez, Col. Dan Scace, commander, 103rd Fighter Wing, CTANG. (Photo by Senior Airman Jennifer Gray, 103rd Vehicle Operations)



Members of the 103rd Fighter Wing await the event with great anticipation. (From left to right) Senior Airman Erin Hurley, Staff Sgt. Jeanene MacDonald, Airman 1st Class Morgan McKinnon, Senior Airman Michael Fielder, Senior Airman Chris Coutu, Staff Sgt. Jenice Holmes. (Photo by Senior Airman Jennifer Gray, 103rd Vehicle Operations)

Summertime at the Cape: 103rd ACS Conducts Annual Training

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
103rd COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

Impressive does not even begin to describe how the 103rd Air Control Squadron (ACS) deploys to a remote location.

"We take a dirt field and turn it into a combat air control site," said Lt. Col. Richard Erdmann, commander, 103rd ACS.

On August 6 approximately 200 Air Guardsmen and four convoys containing 90 vehicles departed their home station in Orange, Conn., and set out for some serious annual training at Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass. Nearly twenty-four hours later the squadron had turned a sandy hilltop overlooking the shores of Cape Cod into a compound fully equipped for air surveillance.

For two weeks the squadron worked together to provide the "operational mission of controlling aircraft and providing pilots a third set of eyes," said Maj. Cindi Nadelman, chief of maintenance, 103rd ACS. In addition to training with simulated scenarios in Korean and Middle Eastern airspace, the 103rd ACS controlled several daily live missions. During one particular mission, "Our radar operations troops controlled four F-15's out of Otis and four F-16's out of Atlantic City, N.J., and Burlington, Vt. who were dog-fighting," said Erdmann.

Through the use of a super high frequency satellite dish and radar antennae used for identifying friend or foe aircraft, air surveillance specialists monitor air refueling, air-to-air, and air-to-ground missions. Once radar pictures are gathered from these different technological platforms, the personnel compile the information into one recognizable air picture. The data communications specialists then upload the information, forwarding it from a remote location back to headquarters.

The technology the 103rd Air Control Squadron possesses makes the squadron truly unique in a way that allows them to be virtually self-sufficient in a deployed mode. "We provide our own power, air conditioning, and on-site local telephone

service," said Nadelman. "We also have sections that provide our own force protection, food service and vehicle maintenance." Because their deployed location is usually quite similar to the barren, sandy hilltop at Otis ANGB, the 103rd ACS has become accustomed to relying heavily on their own resources.

The 102nd Fighter Wing, Otis ANG Base, provided vehicle support. "We also had a lot of support from the 253rd Combat Communications Group and the 267th Combat Communications Squadron," said Nadelman.

In addition to mission training, the squadron secured ancillary training which included disaster preparedness, combat arms, and antiterrorism training, to name a few. Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) training was conducted during the Unit Training Assembly (UTA) weekend.

According to Erdmann, "Annual training deployments like these are a true verification of our teamwork. During AFT, you wouldn't know by looking at someone whether he/she is a part-timer or a full-timer. Everyone just melds together and helps each other accomplish the mission."

The deployment also proved to be a tremendous mentoring opportunity for young troops. Senior Airman Matthew Allard, satellite wide-band telemetry systems technician, 103rd ACS, commented on his first deployment, "I am definitely meeting a lot of people and learning a lot about how the different shops work together. It's a great experience."



Senior Airman Matthew Allard, satellite wide-band telemetry systems technician, 103rd ACS repairs test equipment on the TPS-75 Radar Set. (Photo by Senior Airman Julie Bragg, 103rd Communications Flight)



This TPS-75 Radar Set used for phase array intelligence is a set of three antennae used for listening to and detecting friend or foe aircraft with a radius of approximately 250 miles. (Photo by Senior Airman Julie Bragg, 103rd Communications Flight)



Lt. Col. Richard Erdmann, commander, 103rd Air Control Squadron escorts Brig. Gen. Mary Epps, assistant adjutant general-air commander, CTANG, and Chief Master Sgt. Joseph King, command chief master sergeant, HQCTANG, on a tour around the compound. (Photo by Senior Airman Julie Bragg, 103rd Communications Flight)



Tech Sgt. Dan Stafko, EP technician, detects aircraft on a radar screen in an operation module at the air surveillance compound. (Photo by Senior Airman Julie Bragg, 103rd Communications Flight)



Above: This TSC-100A satellite is a twenty-foot super high frequency satellite dish which communicates with a military satellite. Using fiber optic cable, the satellite transports the signal carrying a raw picture of airspace to operation modules. (Photo by Senior Airman Julie Bragg, 103rd Communications Flight)

Left: Staff Sgt. Milton Alban (ladder) and Staff Sgt. Kevin Townley, satellite maintenance technicians, work to set up a Horn Antenna, an antenna designed for line of sight communication. (Photo by Senior Airman Julie Bragg, 103rd Communications Flight)

Experiencing the Joint Readiness Training Center

**CAPT. LOU MARTINEZ
65TH PCH**

Putting their skills to the test. That's what several Connecticut Army National Guard units did for their two weeks of annual training, at JRTC, the Joint Readiness Training Center, in Fort Polk, La.

Connecticut soldiers from the 43rd Area Support Group deployed to a land where the bugs bite persistently and the sun drains the life out of you. Drinking water during J.R.T.C. was not an option it was an order!

Connecticut guardsmen, along with units from New York, New Jersey and as far west as California, made up the Joint State Task Force, set out to defend the country of Cortina. Army units go through extensive training to make it to JRTC. Once in the box, guard units learn where they stand in their training. JRTC is not a place for units get dinged for what they do wrong. It's where the Army points out what is the best way for soldiers to successfully complete their missions.

From day one, 143rd MPs provided security to the entrance of the ISB. "No one gets through this gate without proper identification," said Specialist Vidal Velasquez with the 143rd MPs. Velasquez spent twelve-hour days, on top of his humvee, with binoculars to his eyes and a Mark 19 ready to engage the opposing force (OPFOR).

Units brushed off a potential encounter with Mother Nature; Tropical Storm Barry was threatening the exercise. That threat was not enough to keep soldiers from digging their fox holes armpit deep, laying down concertina wire, in essence turning their base camp into a defensive fighting position. "Everyone gets involved, I'm a legal clerk but I still have to make sure my M-60 position has overhead cover, and provides excellent fields of fire," said Sgt. 1st Class Greg Butko, 143rd ASG.

They had every reason to protect themselves. JRTC takes units as close to combat as possible. The opposition force for this

rotation, were members of the 1st 509th Airborne Infantry. Eight-man teams made up of active duty soldiers. Before the exercise went hot, the OPFOR demonstrated its ability to jump over concertina wire and wreak havoc on guard units. Most importantly, the OPFOR commander explained the exercise rules of engagement. One of the units in high demand during the exercise was the 143rd MPs. The MPs served as a convoy security force for civil affairs units negotiating with towns people during the exercise.

"We keep our distance from the civil affairs operation, but we stay close enough to react if something were to happen in the village," said Sgt. Glenn Bounabucci, 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, 143rd MPs.

The bugs were unbearable and the heat draining, but overall Connecticut soldiers who had the opportunity to experience a rotation at JRTC, all agree, the exercise was an experience they will never forget.



(Photos by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)

Connecticut Military Department News

Organizational Restructure of Military Department Announced

MR. LARRY ALIBOZEK
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/PPO

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno and Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski have been leading efforts to transform and modernize in the Connecticut Military Department's vast infrastructure. Their efforts have resulted in new construction, renovations and land use enhancement across the state. Though much work remains to be done, accomplishments to date have brought a tremendous amount of positive visibility and renewed interest in the Connecticut Military Department, its mission, its people and its infrastructure.

Focus is now on the strategic redefinition of how we will conduct our business to meet aggressive infrastructure modernization and maintenance plans. The process we have

introduced is represented on the accompanying organizational chart and adds detail to how the Deputy Commissioner/Property and Purchasing Officer will conduct his operation. One objective of this organizational structure is to better synchronize and incorporate operations within the Military Department drawing unilaterally and cooperatively from Federal, State and Military expertise.

The PPO Organization

Air National Guard Support Services: Structure will remain the same under the direction of Lt. Col. Robert P. Fink, Base Engineer.

Fiscal Management: Joe Duberek has been promoted to the level of Fiscal Administrative Supervisor and will be the

lead person for budgeting, accounting and grants management.

Procurement Services: Joe Balesano has been promoted to the lead position in this section and will manage rentals, leasing and the warehouse. Marie Thompson has been promoted to the level of Fiscal Administrative Officer and will be the lead on purchasing, reporting to Balesano.

Construction, Properties and Facility Services: Maj. Gerald Lukowski, Jr. has assumed the lead role of this area. His area will be made up of five units: Facilities and Planning, Construction, Engineering and design, Environmental Services and Maintenance.

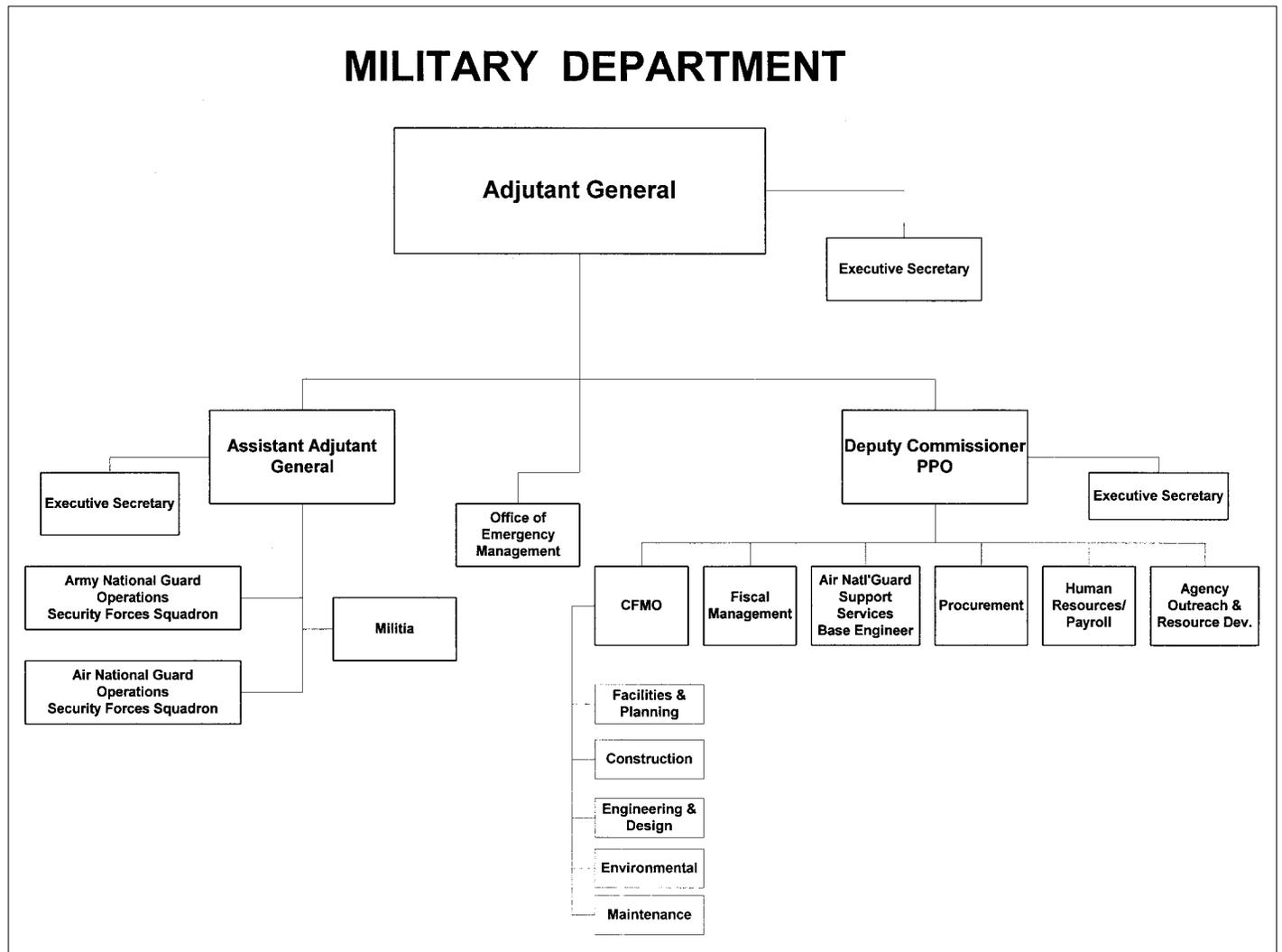
Outreach and Resource Development: Merrily Moynihan will head up this section

and oversee the development of improved business processes and information systems. Moynihan will assist in governmental and legislative affairs for state matters.

Human Resources/Payroll: Tony Lewis will remain as the head of this section.

With this organizational structure we are poised to meet the ever-increasing demands placed on the Connecticut State Military Department.

(Editor's Note: Beginning this month, the Connecticut Military Department joins the CG with a monthly page of their own. Look for news for and about our civilian employees.)



Annual Retiree

August 15
Camp Rowland

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi



Seniors Picnic

Sept. 15, 2001
Niantic, Niantic

Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO





Hartford Police Department Employment Information



Police Officer Recruitment Now Under Way

Applications are now being accepted until Friday, October 5th, 2001 only!

Be sure to return with your application a copy of your driver's license and high school diploma or GED.

Job Announcement - Police Officer

Salary: \$651.50 - \$967.75

NOTE: The initial pay rate for Police Officers shall be five percent (5%) below the base rate for their first six (6) months of employment.

POSITION

Vacancies are in the Police Department. Under supervision, performs law enforcement duties involving the protection of life and property, the prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminal suspects; and performs public service duties involving non-criminal calls for service, the preservation of peace and working with the community. Works 40 hours on a shift rotation schedule involving weekends and holidays. Performs related work as required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

AGE: Must be 21 of age by January 1, 2002.

EDUCATION: High School Diploma or GED*.

A COPY OF THE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED CERTIFICATE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION.

*Please contact the Personnel Department about other acceptable documentation.

DRIVER'S LICENSE: Valid Driver's License required.

A COPY OF THE LICENSE MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION.

PHYSICAL CONDITION: Must pass a thorough medical examination.

VISION: Without correction, not less than 20/100, in both eyes; with correction not less than 20/30 in both eyes.

UNITED STATES CITIZEN: Applicant must be a citizen of the United States.

ALL EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE VERIFIED. A BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION WILL BE ADMINISTERED. FALSIFICATION OF ANY INFORMATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFY YOU FROM FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE RECRUITMENT AND TESTING PROCESS.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED WITHOUT THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED.

EXAMINATION

Open to all applicants who meet the above qualifications. The examination process consists of a written test, an oral test, a drug test, a background investigation, polygraph examination, an interview with the Chief of Police, a psychological examination, physical agility test and a working test/probationary period of one year (beginning on the date sworn in). All parts of examination are designed to determine the ability of applicants to learn and perform the duties of a Police Officer in a multi-culturally diverse environment. This examination is subject to all Federal, State and Municipal laws, rules and regulations.

Employment Benefits Include: Health Plan and Hospitalization, Paid Vacations and Holidays, Retirement Plan, Group Life Insurance, Sick Leave.

Veteran's Preference: Preferential points may be given to eligible veterans. Check with the Personnel Department. If requesting an application please be sure to request the veteran's preference points form as well.

RESIDENCY INFORMATION

HARTFORD RESIDENTS SHALL HAVE TEN PERCENT ADDED TO THEIR PASSING GRADE. A CITY OF HARTFORD RESIDENCY AFFIDAVIT FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION OF RESIDENTS WHO CLAIM THE TEN PERCENT.

CITY OF HARTFORD RESIDENCY AFFIDAVIT

In order to qualify for residency with the City of Hartford Personnel Rules and Regulations, the City of Hartford requires that you provide irrefutable evidence to substantiate that at the date of your application for employment you are domiciled in the City of Hartford.

For the purpose of this Request, "DOMICILED" is defined to be "that place where an individual has his/her true, fixed and permanent home, where he or she normally eats and sleeps and maintains his or her normal personal and household effects."

You are required to complete and submit this form at the time of your application for employment. You must also be prepared to submit any additional documentation, as the Director of Personnel may require. This information will be subject to verification during the background investigation.

NOTICE: THE APPLICANTS BEARS THE BURDEN TO SHOW LEGAL DOMICILE. ANY FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION OR DISMISSAL.

APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 5:30 P.M. FRIDAY OCTOBER 5, 2001.

For more information contact:

The City of Hartford Department of Personnel
Municipal Building

550 Main Street

Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Officer Jaime Rios at 860 722-6148

**The Connecticut National Guard,
The United States Postal Service,
Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs
Commission, and
The Connecticut Historical Society**

Invite you to join them in celebrating

Hispanic Heritage Month

"Paving the Way for Future Generations"

Wednesday October 10, 2001 at the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT 11:30am to 1:00pm

For more information please call:

CW4 Tony Uva at (860) 878-6718
or
Manny Rivera at (860) 285-7227

26th Annual Military Department Picnic and State Employees Recognition

Tuesday October 2, 2001
At the Point and the Pavilion
Camp Rowland, Niantic

Award Presentations Commence at 1100
Picnic begins at 1200

\$11.00 per person

Reservations must be made by
September 28th, through your Outing
Representative.

Please make checks payable to:
"Military Department Outing"

Menu

New England Clam Chowder
Mixed Salads
Corn on the Cob
Sausage & peppers
Kielbasa & Sauerkraut
BBQ Chicken
Ice Cream Sundaes

Outing Representatives:

CO-Chairmen:	Bob Pernel & Barbara Luhn
Treasurer:	Tony Uva
Retirees:	Lisa Wackerman
143rd ASG:	Larry Fitzgerald
State Employees:	Cheryl McKenney
USPFO:	Dave Jurenka
Camp Rowland:	Wayne Kowal
Troop Command:	Chuck Strong
Air National Guard:	Toni Martucci
Hartford Armory:	Jim Howard
Separate Units:	Mark Marini
AASF:	Henry Fisher
CSMS:	George Ekmalian
AVCRAD:	Richard Augustinsky
State P & PO:	Donna Halligan

Rain Date
October 3, 2001

For more information

Please call Major Pernel (860) 878-6728, Major Barbara Luhn (860) 878-6719 or Mr. Uva at (860) 878-6718

To: Outing Representative

Name: _____ **Unit:** _____

The Korean War: Airborne Rangers from the 43rd

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. (RET.) FRED S. McDONALD
13th RANGER COMPANY AND CTARNG

The 43rd Division had been activated in July 1950 and at the end of August, sent to Camp Pickett, Va., their new home. In January 1951, the call went out for volunteers to form a Ranger Airborne unit from the 43rd Division. Four hundred soldiers stepped forward and said, "I'll go."

So began some physical and aptitude training, with the knowledge that failing either of these tests would mean a return to your unit of origin. The PT was very demanding, with obstacle courses, running and the usual push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups and so on. The emphasis was on the mental and physical toughness of the individual in order to weed out those who would not be able to stay with the demands put upon them at Fort Benning and later at Camp Carson, Colo.

On March 9, 1951, seven officers and 182 enlisted men were handed copies of SO 61 and were directed to proceed to Fort Benning and report in no later than March 13, 1951. This started what was by all accounts, the toughest, most stressful, and yet proudest time in our young lives. Airborne training was all we were told it would be. Thank God for all the PT training at Camp Pickett. Most of us sailed right through. The day they pinned those wings on my chest, I thought my buttons would blow off my shirt and kill anyone within 10 feet!

My superhero feeling was soon shattered by the start of Ranger School. We thought we knew all about the infantry and had at least a small grasp of tactics and weapons – WRONG. We were babies in an alien world. There was little sleep, run, run, run, try to move with your platoon and get to the objective. Everyone was so tired, a map had to be read and checked at least three times. Saturday mornings were a 20-mile hike with

full field gear and river crossings with homemade rafts to ferry your equipment and all crew served weapons. At the end of the Ranger training we all felt like we were bullet proof and could go one on one with any soldier in the world.

The last phase was the Mountain School at Fort Carson, Colo. This school was run by the Army with some civilians from Switzerland as instructors. We were also the last units trained in using Army mules for pack animals. These mules were very difficult to control and always wanted to go in the other direction from where you wanted them to go. The mountain training was very demanding and required your strict attention at all times to prevent an accident involving yourself, or worse, your buddies. Somehow, most of us finished the course and were packed on a train and sent back to Camp Pickett to join the 43rd Division in a huge maneuver named Southern Pines.

When we arrived at Camp Pickett, we found out that we would be around for a week prior to leaving for this maneuver. All of our equipment, both personal and unit was still packed on the train and would stay there until we went to Southern Pines.

Our commanding officer went to division headquarters along with our first sergeant and asked the division commander (Gen. Cramer) for a week of leave for us and was denied. He then asked for a three-day pass and again was denied. The end result was that more than 50 percent of the unit went AWOL and all came back in time for the big event. Later we were all fined \$50 and reduced one rank.

During the events at Southern Pines, someone penetrated all the security at division headquarters and removed the marker plate with the stars from Gen. Cramer's jeep. To this day, it hangs in a certain place of honor, on a wall in a well-used recreation

room in a private home.

All the Ranger units were deactivated in late 1951 and the members either went back to their old units or were allowed to transfer to an Airborne unit of their choice. I chose to serve with the 187th Regimental Combat Team from the 11th Airborne Division. The final strength of the 13th Ranger Company (Airborne) was five officers and 118 enlisted men. During the Korean War there were 15 Ranger Infantry companies (Airborne) formed and trained.

Recently, we had a great time at the 50th Anniversary of the Airborne Rangers at Fort Benning, Ga. It was fun to see and talk to all the old guys from this unit. A lot of them have passed on, but the guys who are still left are still very proud of what they did. We all enjoyed meeting the young Rangers of today. We attended a graduation ceremony and pinned the Ranger Tab on the new Rangers. We marched in a parade with them and had them as our guests at a large banquet and dance in Columbus, Ga.

So, yes, Virginia, there was an Airborne Ranger unit from the 43rd Division (13th Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) and most of its members were from units of the Connecticut Army National Guard.

(Editor's Note: In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War, we have been running a series of articles chronicling the Connecticut National Guard's involvement. Several veterans have contacted us with their stories and they have been interviewed, will be interviewed or have written their own articles. If you have a story you want to share, please contact us at (860) 524-4857 or by email at debbi.newton@ctnbg.army.mil We are looking for stories from veterans, spouses of veterans or civilians who supported the war effort in factories or with the Red Cross.)

Helicopter Incentive Flights Come to Air Guard

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
103rd COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

The 103rd Fighter Wing Chief's Council recently initiated a recognition program for the unit's monthly award winners. The Chief's Council now coordinates with the base recognition program to offer monthly recognized enlisted personnel a helicopter ride at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF), Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG).

"We feel the program lets our enlisted troops know we value their hard work. At the same time, it lets them know who we are and that we're here for their support," said Chief Master Sgt. Bob Gillanders, services superintendent, 103rd Services Flight.

Senior Airman Jennifer Gray, 103rd Vehicle Operations, flew in a UH-1H Iroquois "Huey" in May. "I think it is fantastic what the chiefs are doing with this recognition program. It is a fun ride with a terrific view. And it gives us an opportunity to see what the Army personnel do over at the AASF."

Much thanks goes to Army National Guard Capt. Mark Strout, operations officer, and Staff Sgt. Anthony Savino, flight engineer instructor, both of the Company B, 2nd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, CTARNG, for coordination of the flights.



Staff Sgt. Dave Secker, Senior Airman Jennifer Gray and Senior Airman Julie Bragg.

Governor Announces New Homeownership Program

MAJ. JOHN WHITFORD
STATE PAO

Governor John G. Rowland has announced a new state homeownership initiative designed to benefit private sector employers and their employees. The new program is called the Urban Rehabilitation Homeownership Program (UR Home) to increase homeownership in Connecticut's areas.

The UR Home Program offers special low interest rate mortgage financing from the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CFHA). In addition, state grants of up to \$35,000 are available to eligible private sector employees who purchase and rehabilitate a home in the town where they work.

UR Home Program is a two-year pilot program aimed at revitalizing 16-targeted urban communities in Connecticut. The

program offers a low interest rate, 30-year CHFA mortgage loan with low-cost down payment assistance for the purchase of the home. Zero interest rehabilitation loans are available through the State of Connecticut up to a maximum of \$35,000.

State, municipal, and private sector employees who want to live in the municipality where they work may qualify for a UR Home loan regardless of prior homeownership status or income.

"The UR Home Program is opening the door to homeownership in our cities," said Rowland. "Homeownership is the foundation to stable neighborhoods, and strong neighborhoods are the key to revitalizing our cities."

The governor has invited Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General and

Commissioner of the Military Department to partner with the state to provide the benefits of this program to our employees.

Rowland feels participation in this program will not only help support the revitalization efforts of the community, but it will also help in reducing traffic on our highways by encouraging employees to live in the community where they work.

The CHFA Urban Rehabilitation Mortgages are offered through seven lenders in the Sstate. You will need to contact one of the lenders listed in order to apply for the mortgage:

GMAC Mortgage Corp. (800) 766-4622, www.gmacmortgage.com

First Eastern Mortgage Company (800) 955-5022, www.firsteastern.com

Liberty Bank (800) 433-3656, www.liberty-bank.com

The McCue Mortgage Company (800) 382-0017, www.mccuemortgage.com

Old Kent Mortgage Company (800) 677-9311, www.oldkentmortgage.com

People's Bank, (800) 772-1090, www.peoples.com

Webster Bank (888) 681-7788, www.websterbank.com

"Owning a home is the American dream," said Rowland. "Don't miss out on the opportunity to help your employees obtain homeownership."

For further information you can also call the Single Family Underwriting Unit at (860) 571-3502, or visit the web site at www.chfa.org.

TGIF – The Guard Is Family

The What, Why and Who of the National Guard Family Program

SGT. MAJ. BARBARA MONTIGNY
CTARNG FAMILY PROGRAM

The National Guard Family Program is a special program designed to enhance readiness, retention and quality of life. The program, under federal and state guidance partners the unit commander with the State Family Program Coordinator (SFPC) to set up and guide the program. Because the program depends on volunteers, the success of a unit program depends on volunteer participation and command emphasis.

The backbone of the Family Program is the Family Support Group (FSG). For each unit the guard member's spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, parents, children, any other members of the immediate or extended family, and retirees, employers and civilian co-workers give of their time, talents and energy to provide the information and support system the program depends on.

Family activities and involvement are encouraged. For example: Unit Information briefings when unit families can learn about what's going on in the unit. They may be formal or informal events combined with activities such as family days, open houses, award ceremonies, unit picnics and holiday meals. Helping coordinate these activities the FSG members learn more about each other and the Guard Family as well as allowing the military member to concentrate on military duties. A fully functioning FSG adds value to the unit activities while reducing time requirements of military personnel. What is the status of your unit FSG? For instance... Who does all the work for your unit picnic or Christmas Party? ... Military members or civilians?

Each FSG is a voluntary organization that determines its own goals and activities. The FSG helps its members to:

*Communicate with each other and the military, provide a chance to ask questions, and express ideas and concerns.

*Share the volunteer work and activities that make military life easier and more rewarding.

*Support each other. People who understand military life are a source of strength and comfort to one another. They share many types of practical and emotional support.

*Opportunities for learning and recreation that best suits their needs—from social groups to training in car maintenance.

The Family Program in conjunction with the State Advisory Team (SAT) and FSGs may offer a variety of classes and workshops. In addition to basic information on Guard organization, benefits, entitlements and resources topics can include stress management, parenting, family finances and a variety of other subjects. The Family Program Office also provides a link to other Guard programs including international affairs, the State Partnership Program (Connecticut is partnered with Uruguay) and Drug Demand Reduction.

Other activities may be organized to do a specific job, raise funds or just get together. They might include: Community action projects, sports activities, holiday gatherings and craft fairs.

Why ??? To meet family needs, get the most out of the Guard experience, make families aware of their importance to the National Guard and to the success of its mission! That's why!!! If there isn't an FSG at your unit, it only takes one person to get the ball rolling! Call the Connecticut Family Program Coordinator at 860 878-6723 or 6724.

NGACT:

Officer and Enlisted National Conferences

LT. COL. BILL SHEA
PRESIDENT, NGACT

william.shea@ct.ngb.army.mil or
president@ngact.org

As I write this article, members of your association are getting ready to attend two national conventions.

The enlisted members of our association are on their way to attend the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Annual National Conference. This years conference is being held at the Mobile Convention Center in Mobile, AL from 19 – 22 August 2001. The agenda for the conference is packed with some great speakers, loaded with many events of interest, and exhibits. Command Master Sgt. Tony Palladino, NGACT President-Elect, will be writing an article for a future issue of the Connecticut Guardian on his observations from the conference. More information regarding EANGUS and the conference can be obtained from the EANGUS web site at <http://www.eangus.org>.

The officer members of our association will be leaving to attend the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) 123d Annual Conference. The NGAUS Conference will be held 25 – 27 August 2001 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Like the EANGUS Conference, the NGAUS Conference agenda is also packed with great speakers. Scheduled speakers include the Honorable James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force; Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis, Chief, National Guard Bureau; and Gen. John M. Keane, Army Vice Chief of Staff. There are numerous events for the all attending to include spouses and family members. I will be writing an article for a future issue of the Connecticut Guardian on my observations of

the conference. More information regarding the conference can be obtained from the NGAUS 2001 Indianapolis Convention web site at <http://www.ngaus2001.org> or from the NGAUS web site at <http://www.ngaus.org>.

Both EANGUS and NGAUS were created for the purpose of providing National Guard representation before Congress. Both have the goal of obtaining better equipment, standardized training and a more combat-ready force by petitioning Congress for resources. Both of these conferences are great opportunities to learn more about the role that these organizations play in making the Army & Air National Guard better organizations. If you have never attended a national conference, it is a worthwhile experience and I ask that you consider attending next year.

NGACT Golf Tournament. The NGACT Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday 6 September 2001 at the Keeny Golf Course in Hartford, CT. It is an 1100 shotgun start. This is a great event that has raised an enormous amount of money for both the Connecticut Children's Hospital and the NGACT Scholarship Fund. I would like to thank in advance Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Godburn and the group that is working with him to put on this event. Their efforts have made an impact with the community as well as with our own soldiers and airmen.

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. SGMgt. Maj. (Ret) Joe Amatrua is our Executive Director. He is usually in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He can be reached at (860) 247-5000 or via e-mail at joesph.amatrua@snet.net.

The NGACT Website is <http://www.ngact.org>.

Education Essentials

New Education Services Specialist, and One Not-So-New Program

2nd LT. ELIZABETH CORDON
EDUCATION SERVICES SPECIALIST

Let me introduce myself. I am 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Cordon and I am taking over the Education Services duties from 1st Lt. Paul Draper while he is deployed in Bosnia. I have been working with Draper to come up to speed with all of the Education Office's programs, but bear with me if I need to take some time to answer your questions. The office phone number is the same, (860) 524-4816. The fax number is (860) 548-3207.

The program that I would like to discuss this month is the Army Personnel Testing

Program (APT). The APT is a program that has been around the Education Office for years, but is not that well known. The tests within the APT include Army Flight Aptitude Selection Test (AFAST), Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB, for soldiers already in the armed forces), Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT), and the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB). The AFAST and ASVAB are stocked in the Education Office, and test dates are posted monthly. The DLPT and the DLAB need to be ordered, so this must be taken into consideration to meet any time constraints the soldier has.

Please allow about three weeks for test delivery before expecting to take the test.

All test requests should be completed at your unit and forwarded to the Education Office. If your unit does not have the Test Request Form, please have them call the Education Office and an electronic copy will be sent out to them. If you happen to be around the Hartford Armory and want to come in to request a test, please be sure to fill out this form in the Education Office.

I look forward to assisting all CTARNG soldiers with their educational needs. For more information please feel free to contact 2nd Lt. Cordon at (860) 524-4816.

Educational Services Testing Dates

SEPTEMBER:
13th at 0800hrs
22nd at 0800hrs (ACT only)

OCTOBER:
5th at 0800hrs
18th at 1600hrs

Test Sites Located at the Hartford Armory.

For a Test Request Form, please see your unit RNCO, or stop by the Education Office.

Inside Officer Candidate School: Know Your Enemy

O.C. STEVEN LEACH
OFFICER CANDIDATE CLASS 47

The National Guard commitment acquires a whole new meaning one weekend a month during Officer Candidate School (OCS). First, a soldier must master the art of planning for a fast paced training session. Second, we must perform the duty of executing orders to the best of our ability. Next, sustaining the motivation of the troops becomes a struggle, like running against hurricane force winds. Finally, throw in an ominous enemy, TAC Officers, who seem to pop up around every corner. There is no end to the stress. As an Officer Candidate (OC), the controls we put in place to reduce the stresses are the Troop Leading Procedures (TLPs), the standards, understanding the reality of the situation, and what is learned. The enemy already knows our systems and wins the weekend battles. We will win the graduation war.

The TLPs are the tools we use for soldier planning. OCS compiles some of the most qualified soldiers from the existing members of the Guard and Reserves. Most of the OCs are natural leaders, which makes the "team" concept very difficult. Even if the TLP's have excellent execution by the individual soldier, the rest of the OCs must work together as a team or even the best plans will fail. The enemy has the high level of expertise necessary to distract the OC leadership from their mission. Their knowledge and communication far exceeds the level of the OCs. This will not last forever; soon we will

figure out their tendencies and exploit them in the planning stage. Each month the communication of our experiences will add strength to the team. Tentative plans will emerge from past encounters and have more meaning. OCs will believe in the leadership, which will make execution smoother. Intelligence will flow through the OC leadership rather than stop with one soldier. Overall, the Operations Order will dictate clear concise objectives, easing supervision. The Enemy does not stand a chance.

Missions vary through the weekend. Some of them may seem frivolous at times, but teach huge lessons. The little details on the simple tasks in the rear make the difference between life and death in real operations. Uniformity is the biggest challenge on an OCS weekend. Every soldier will read a Standard Operating Procedure and interpret it a different way. The Enemy looks for this in order to exploit the weak link. Time hacks gage the effectiveness of the OCs. Success in training equals success on the battlefield. Accountability formations comprise the most important aspect of a drill weekend. Sending everyone on his or her individual tasks and having the chain of command communicating with each other comes first. We cannot afford to lose one soldier to the enemy.

Standards define an army. Uniform appearance can show much about an OCs characteristics. Winning the battle starts with showing you care. OCs must show

excellence in physical fitness to be able to effectively train and fight. Spot reports give the OC a chance to understand the standards and how they affect the organization. These reports also give the OC a chance to correct deficiencies. Exams must have a passing grade to prove that a soldier can absorb the information. The Enemy respects the highest of standards.

We strive for excellence in leadership skills at OCS. In reality, an army of leaders does not win wars. First, we must all learn to become quality followers. Learning to decipher between a time to question a decision for the search of a better way and the time to just execute, as a member of a team is difficult. Second, when the leadership position comes to other soldiers they must remember times another leader had failed for not making a decision when time was running out. Making a poor decision far outweighs not making one at all. Sitting sedentary invites the enemy to make a plan and engage. The enemy must react to us; we do not need to react to them. Next, as a leader understanding who or what the enemy reacts to could earn the respect of your peers. If a certain OC gets shot at on a certain type of mission don't send that OC on the mission again. Finally, the tendencies of the enemy need to be well documented for use of future leaders to understand how to defeat the threat.

Soon, the battle ends for the weekend. The enemy gives a list of missions that seems

insurmountable to prepare for the next drill weekend encounter. During the month time management becomes a major factor to accomplish the missions. Citizen soldiers never rest. Planning for the next battle seems to be so far away, but in reality it will be here right after that weekend with the family. Drill weekend arrives with an adrenaline rush as the Operations Order of the next OC leadership barrels down. Motivation drives a team through even the worst of times. The TAC Officers come in with their own plan. Our plan only has one aspect, know your enemy. Our enemy expects the OCs to know the TLPs. Then, set the standard for excellence. Next, understand the reality of the situation, even through the most stressful of times. Finally, learn from each other and our own mistakes. This by far outweighs all the other expectations. The enemy already knows our systems and wins the weekend battles. We will win the graduation war.

OCS Class 47 would like to thank all the Soldiers in the Connecticut Army National Guard for their support. In an effort to defray cost to make Class 47's Dining In the most successful in recent history we are soliciting the help of Alumni of OCS and others interested through donations payable to:

OCS Class 47 (non-profit)
83 Cedar Swamp Rd
Tolland, CT 06084

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

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

CAMP ROWLAND POST EXCHANGE

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

ARMY RESERVE CENTER

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

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE

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

COAST GUARD ACADEMY

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

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

WEST POINT, NEW YORK

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

COAST GUARD STATION

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

SUBBASE, NEW LONDON

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

HUGE TAG SALE

Saturday
October 13, 2001
8 am – 12 noon
Rain or Shine

Groton – New
London Airport

Benefits the CT
AVCRAD Family
Support Program

In Defense of Connecticut's Children Back to School: Back to Basics

CAPT. ANNE-MARIE GARCIA
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

Soon summer will be over, the foliage will once again blanket New England in its beauty and the leaves will fall, the school buses will be on the road again and yes once again our children will return to school. Now is the perfect time to talk to our kids about drugs. Many parents may ponder how do I really get the message to my kid. Just say no, sometimes it is not as simple as that. Another question you may consider is when are they too young or too old to listen and hear your advice about not getting involved in drugs.

Making your position clear

When it comes to dangerous substances like alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, do not assume that your children know where you stand. They want you to talk to them about drugs. State your position clearly; if you're ambiguous, children may be tempted to use. Tell your children that you forbid them to use alcohol, tobacco and drugs because you love them. (Don't be afraid to pull out all the emotional stops. You can say, "If you took drugs it would break my heart.") Make it clear that this rule holds true even at other people's houses. Will your child listen? Most likely. According to research, when a child decides whether or not to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, a crucial consideration is "What will my parents think?"

Teachable moments

Another way to talk about drugs is to take

advantage of everyday "teachable moments." If you and your child are walking down the street and you see a group of teenagers drinking and hanging out, talk about the negative effects of drinking alcohol. Newspapers are full of the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse. Take your examples right off the front page. Ask your child if she heard about the mother who used drugs and was arrested. Who will take care of her baby now? Did she make a good decision when she used drugs?

Watch TV with your children and ask them what they think. Do the programs and advertising make drug use look acceptable and routine or do they show its downside? When you see a news item involving drug use, point out the story's full implications to families and all of society: Drug addiction can cause or aggravate many tragedies involving child neglect and abuse, family violence and rape, HIV transmission, teenage suicide, and teenage pregnancy.

Whenever you see an anti-drug commercial on TV, use it as an opening to talk with your children about drugs. Ask them what they think about the commercial. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, in conjunction with the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, has embarked upon an unprecedented national anti-drug media campaign that will provide many opportunities to discuss drugs with your children.

Closing the Back Door

The TAG's FY 01 Strength Management Awards

MAJ. MICHAEL VASILE
RECRUITING AND RETENTION COMMANDER

On Wednesday, 26 September 2001, the Adjutant General will recognize units of the Connecticut National Guard at the company and battalion level that have achieved or exceeded the Adjutant General's Strength Management Goals for FY01. Command cells from all detachment/company-sized units, battalions and MACOM's will report to the Hartford Armory drill shed at 7 p.m. Command cells will consist of the commander, command sergeant major or first sergeant, and guidon/color bearer.

In FY01, units were missioned to achieve attrition rates of 18 percent or less and retention rates of 85 percent or greater. The general will formally recognize units as annotated below:

- Company Sized units who achieved Attrition of 18 percent or less
- Units whose retention rates are 75 percent or better
- All battalions realizing a positive increase in end strength
- The best unit attrition and retention in each MACOM
- Best unit attrition in the state
- Best unit retention in the state

Classified Ads On the Way

Due to popular request, the Connecticut Guardian will begin printing classified ads starting with the October issue.

Free, one-time only ads will be taken from Guard members, State Military Department employees and retirees within a limited scope.

ONLY For Sale ads and ads looking for specific items to purchase will be accepted.

Deadline for inclusion in the October issue is Friday, Sept. 14. After that, the deadline will be the first Friday of every month for the following month. (Example: Oct. 5 is the deadline for the November issue.)

Ads may be emailed to debby.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil, or sent via postal service to Sgt. 1st Class Debby Newton, Public Affairs Office, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795. Absolutely no ads will be taken by phone.

Please keep your ads short and within good taste. We reserve the right to edit for space and to reject any questionable ads. For further information, contact Maj. John Whitford or Sgt. 1st Class Debby Newton at (860) 524-4857.

Go the extra mile.
It's never crowded.

ESGR: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Connecticut ESGR Hosts Puerto Rican Employers

LT. COL. (RET.) HARRY RITSON
ESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In early September, thirty prominent business, civic and military leaders from Puerto Rico visited Connecticut to view military installations within our State and to witness the type and level of training that employees receive during their National Guard or Reserve duty periods. Ten members of the Puerto Rican ESGR Committee accompanied them on this "BossLift".

The purpose of these "BossLifts" is to provide an orientation on the military, its missions, and its operations. Specifically, they provide an on-site opportunity to observe members of the National Guard and Reserves undergoing identical training as the active forces, and to witness their integration with those active forces. Also stressed was the growing and essential contribution the reserve components make to the Nation's total defense and peacekeeping efforts.

After touching down at the Connecticut Air Guard's facility at Bradley Field, the group was welcomed by Col. Daniel Scaee, Commander of the 103rd Fighter Wing, Carl Venditto, Chairman of the Connecticut ESGR Committee and other invited guests.

That began a rather intense, three-day itinerary that included:

A tour of the Broad Street Armory, and a visit with Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno. Then on to a tour of the Legislative Office Building, the Capital and its Hall of Flags, and then the Governor's Office.

A visit with the 1205th Railway Operating Battalion, USAR, in Middletown for a briefing, and greetings from the Mayor of Middletown.

Billeting was in the new quarters at Camp Rowland, and a reception dinner was held at the "Point".

A tour and briefing of Camp Rowland including its mission and utilization and that of the local maneuver area.

A briefing and tour of the Connecticut National Guard's 1109th AVCRAD Facilities at Groton Airport.

Lunch at the US Coast Guard Academy's Officer's Club, followed by a briefing and bus tour of the Academy, and a deck visit on the training vessel Eagle which had just returned from its summer cruise.

A tour of the US Navy Submarine Base and a briefing by the Submarine Force Commander preceded a visit to the USS Nautilus and the Submarine Museum.

A tour and briefings at the USNR/USMC Training Center in Plainville. The Marines displayed and briefed on their weapons and their winter/summer combat gear, and then briefed on the FAST System and gave "hands on" experience to those who wanted to participate. The Navy briefed on its mission, make-up and approach to training.

A tour and briefing by the CT ANG's 103rd Fighter Wing at Bradley Field completed the group's visit and they departed for their

return flight to Puerto Rico.

The Chairman of the Puerto Rico ESGR Committee, Maj. Gen. Jorge Arzola, USAR-Ret., was generous in his praise for the various military installations and individuals who made the visit such a comprehensive and educational one – especially for those visitors who had no previous military experience or exposure. He especially appreciated that many of the units and installations utilized Hispanic-speaking members of the military for the briefings. He was sure that everyone carried away with them a broader understanding of the role their employee/soldiers play in this Nation's defense, and the contribution they must make as employers in support of their training and duty periods.

The Connecticut ESGR Committee also wants to add its thanks to all those who made this visit such a success – "a job well done!"

Military TSP Savings Plan Enrollments Start Oct. 9

GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Service members starting Oct. 9 can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings and investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

The TSP, administered by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, previously has been available only to federal civilian employees. The fiscal 2001 Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act extended TSP participation to active duty and reserve component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system, which is based on years of service and rank.

The first enrollment window for persons who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001, is from Oct. 9, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2002. Persons who enroll during this period will see TSP contributions deducted each month from their pay starting in January 2002. Persons who join the uniformed

services after Dec. 8, 2001, will have 60 days after entering service to enroll in the TSP.

After the special first enrollment period, service members may use two "open seasons" each year to join, quit or change the amount of their contributions. Currently, these periods are May 15 through July 31 and Nov. 15 through Jan. 31.

Military members enroll in TSP by completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office. Enrollment forms are available for download on the TSP Web site, http://www.tsp.gov, or can be obtained at local military finance offices. Participants can invest any whole percentage of up to seven percent of their base pay in any or all of five TSP funds:

The conservative G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short-term, nonmarketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 6.74 percent.

The F Fund is TSP's bond market index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 7.87 percent — and 12.78 percent in the past 12 months ending July 31.

The C Fund is TSP's large-company U.S. stock index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 17.43 percent, but it has reported a 14.3 percent loss in the past 12 months ending July 31.

The S Fund is TSP's medium and small company stock index fund. The I Fund is its international stock index fund. Both funds opened in May, so neither has a long-term track record.

Only G Fund investments and earnings are backed by the U.S. government against loss. TSP participants risk losing some or all their investments and earnings in the F, C, S and funds — but the funds' earning potential is unlimited.

Service members can contribute as little as 1 percent of their base pay per pay period, up to the seven percent limit in 2002. The limit increases by one percent per year until 2005, after which contributions will be limited by Internal Revenue Code guidelines.

Members may also elect to contribute any amount of incentive pay or special pay, to include bonus pay.

Like civilian workers covered by the old Civil Service Retirement System, service members

generally will not receive TSP matching funds from the government. One exception is troops in specialties designated critical by their service secretaries; those receiving matching funds will be obligated to serve a six-year active duty commitment.

Strict rules apply to service members' withdrawal of funds from TSP accounts before they retire. Federal and state income taxes on investments and earnings are deferred so long as the money stays in the TSP account. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, and early withdrawals are penalized under some circumstances.

Military members who already have a civilian TSP account, such as past and present federal civilian employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, can open an entirely separate, second TSP account.

The 47-page booklet "http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/forms/tspbk-u-08.pdf" "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services" and other information on military participation in TSP can be found on the Web at www.tsp.gov. The booklet requires the free "http://www.adobe.com" Adobe Acrobat reader to view.

Readiness Support Web Site Assists Guard/Reserve Families

GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Families of Guard and Reserve members will soon be able to obtain quality-of-life support information over the Internet to resolve issues while sponsors are away.

A Family Readiness Tool Kit will become available Oct. 1 on the Office of the

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Web page at <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra>. Army Col. Jim Scott, program manager for the National Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Strategy

Plan, said information in the tool kit is for service members and their families, commanders and family support groups.

The five-year strategic plan, implemented in March 2000, contains quality-of-life initiatives that help family members and commanders prepare for deployments, he said.

Later this month, Scott said, Guard and Reserve family support organizations will be able to post deployment training information to a Family Readiness Calendar at the same Web address.

An August 2000 survey of reserve component spouses showed that those having the most difficulties during deployments "were the young families with young children" that hadn't experienced deployments before, Scott said.

"Unit or mission readiness is intrinsically linked to family readiness," he said. "We're trying to encourage commanders and unit leaders to work with new members of the units to educate and assist them in preparing for that first deployment.

"The tool kit is going to be a resource for commanders and unit leaders and family members to pick the tools that they think will be most useful for their particular situation."

For families, the tool kit lists Web sites and toll-free numbers for medical and pay assistance, financial management tips and other information, Scott said. The site will also contain a sample checklist that describes tasks families should accomplish before sponsors deploy.

A kit supplement, called a "help guide," contains examples of best practices that have been used by commanders to prepare families for deployments, Scott said. Included are examples of how to create mission fact sheets, press releases, newsletters, and automated family-member information databases.

"The spreadsheet format compiles basic data on each member of the unit. It can be used to monitor and update family member information," he said. Data include the number of children, where families live, and the existence of deployment family plans.

The reserve components make up half of the Total Force. In the past decade,

Guard and Reserve members have been increasingly called up to serve with active

duty troops in Bosnia, Kosovo and other military operations in support of U.S. security interests.

Service officials note that 54 percent of today's 1.3 million Guard and Reserve members are married and 34 percent have children. Scott said quality of life issues affecting Guard and Reserve families during deployments can impact military morale, mission accomplishment and retention.

"If the family member has a problem that can't be resolved while the service member is deployed, and if it is significant or severe enough, it is going to cause the service member to be sent back home on emergency leave or, at the very best, get involved in solving the problem back home."

Family crises affect active and reserve service members' ability to serve the unit and perform the mission, Scott noted. But most active duty families live on or near military bases or are just a few miles away from support facilities, while about 24 percent of reserve component members live up to 50 miles away from their units, according to DoD documents. Many other reservists serve in units hundreds of miles from their homes, Scott added.

When a family lives far from the service member's unit, "it is difficult ... to get up-to-date information and understand exactly what is going on with their service member," Scott said. "We want to help prepare them in advance to be self-sustaining while their service members deploy."

When family members need support or information from the military, they need someone close at hand to turn to, Scott said.

"That's one of the reasons we're asking commanders and other leaders to use the

Internet, telephone, teleconferencing — any tool that they might have available at their facility in order to better communicate with families," he concluded.

Educational Services Office Testing Dates

SEPTEMBER:
13th at 0800hrs
22nd at 0800hrs (ACT only)

OCTOBER:
5th at 0800hrs
18th at 1600hrs

Test Sites Located at the Hartford Armory.

For a Test Request Form, please see your unit RNCO, or stop by the Education Office.

For more information please feel free to contact 2nd Lt. Cordon at (860) 524-4816

Tests Offered:
ASVAB AFAST ACT

Army Unseats Marines for Softball Tourney Gold

Sgt. Kap Kim, USA
SPECIAL TO THE AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

It was a tough battle, but the All-Army men's softball team never let up on its quest for gold during the Armed Forces Softball Tournament here Aug. 15-17.

The Army team went 8-1 in play, repeating what the defending champion Marine team did last year. The last time the Army captured gold was in 1995.

Army head coach Chief Warrant Officer John Watts of Yongsan, South Korea, and assistant coach Sgt. 1st Class Luis Ortiz of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, built their team on a strong foundation of veterans who were previous gold medalists.

Their arsenal of poised power hitters and fresh, young infielders included return players Sgt. 1st Class Albert Kemp of Alexandria, Va.; Sgt. 1st Class Jim Cabrera of Fort Hood; Sgt. Elmer Mason of Fort Knox, Ky.; and Sgt. Tyrone Avery, also from Hood. Rookies included Spc. Darren Poole of Camp Humphreys, South Korea, and Sgt. Jerry Surber of Fort Myer, Va.

"Those are the guys who brought us here," said Watts, in his first year as head coach. "It was a great team effort, and it took everybody."

The Army's road to victory was an empty four-lane highway except for an Air Force roadblock. On the first day, Army beat Navy, 26-14 and the Marines, 8-6. Air Force kept pace by edging the Marines, 14-12 and dumping Navy 26-11.

During evening games, the Marines beat Navy 18-6, while the Air Force handed Army its lone loss, a close 4-3. After that game, Watts, at a loss for words, said only that his team just couldn't hit that night.

Air Force head coach Jack Hayes, a retired senior master sergeant, credited his team's victory to a strong defense. He changed the lineup from the morning games and went with a rookie-heavy defense, which made up half the Air Force team. Airman Ryan Coe of Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., earned the nickname "Vacuum" for game-saving Brooks-Robinson-like glove work at third base that helped lead Air Force to the win.

Air Force went into the second day undefeated, but Hayes' intuition led him to say simply that it ain't over till it's over. Events proved him right.

The Army came out rockin', beating Navy, 19-16, in the morning and the Marines in close combat, 9-7, in the afternoon. The

soldiers came out at night and shot down Air Force's high with a 26-17 victory in pouring rain. The Army and the Air Force were tied with a 5-1 record.

Many of the diehard spectators at that point jumped on the Army bandwagon. The Navy and Marines at that point could spoil someone else's chances at winning the gold. They did just that.

During their last match up, the Marines downed Air Force, 18-9. That dropped the airmen's record to 5-2 and their shot at gold to slim — but there.

Army's built a dominating momentum after the team's big win against Air Force that did not slow down for even one inning. Army beat Navy 18-10 in the morning. After that, the soldiers went back to their quarters to rest for what they thought would be the game that decided who would get the gold.

Meanwhile, the underdog Navy lineup put on a show and upset the heavily favored Air Force, 11-6. The Army's path to gold was clear and the Air Force could do nothing about it.

"That was a big loss ... that was the tournament," said Air Force second baseman Daniel Simpson, a staff sergeant from

Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "I guess we just ran out of gas on the bats."

Hayes said the rookies who helped win the game against the Army the first night didn't have the experience to pull out of a slump that sent them through four straight losses.

Although Army cinched gold, the last match-up against the Air Force was important to both teams. Simpson said the last game was all about pride.

"You don't want to walk into a medal," Watts said. "You want to earn it."

So, the Army earned the win against the Air Force, 12-10. The Navy beat the Marines 26-19 in the other game. The Army won the gold with an overall 8-1 record; the Air Force won the silver with a record of 5-4, the Navy 3-6, and the Marines with a record of 2-7.

The big story of the tournament was the all-out dominance of Army's giant, Kemp. Through one stretch, he launched eight homers in 10 at bats. He would finish the tournament with an impressive 12 home runs. Many spectators said it was his intimidation at the plate and his absolutely towering blasts that won the Army the gold. However, Kemp was quick to say that it was all a team effort.

Twentieth Annual Senior Noncommissioned Officer Formal Dining-In

DATE: 4 October 2001 (Thursday Evening)

TIME: 1830 Hours

PLACE: Aqua-Turf Club, Southington, Connecticut

COST: **THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS** (\$39.00)

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

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

HOST: Command Sergeant Major, Connecticut Army National Guard

GUEST SPEAKER: **CSM Theodore (Ted) Perry US Army Connecticut Resident**

United States Army Special Forces Retired

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

No responses accepted after 25 September 2001

The formal military dinner ceremony known as the "Dining-In" is an old and traditional military affair believed to have its origins in medieval England. The Dining-In is now recognized as an occasion to foster ceremony, tradition, and camaraderie within an organization and to emphasize their importance in the life of a service member. It is an excellent occasion to bid farewell to service members who have departed, to welcome new ones, and to recognize the achievements of military service and individual members. Please note the guest speaker!

The cost of the affair includes a full course dinner (main entree: Roast Prime Ribs of Beef, or a fish entree upon special request) and refreshments before and during dinner. A cash bar will be available after dinner. On receipt of your application, you will receive a mailing that will include specific uniform and protocol information.

The Aqua-Turf Club is located on Mulberry Street in Southington, Connecticut. It is a short distance from Routes 84, 691, 10, and 322.

Your support of the only Senior Noncommissioned Officer activity, the Dining-In, has been superb. It is requested that you continue to support this, your Dining-In, and continue the great tradition. Submit your application to attend as soon as possible after receipt of this notice. Early response enables the committee to better plan the Dining-In and make it a more enjoyable evening for all.

NOTE: Seating will be arranged with unit integrity or upon a specific request for tables of ten. Appropriate fines will be imposed for violations of the Mess. Cost of fines will range from \$1.00 to whatever is deemed appropriate by the President or Mister Vice.

We look forward to seeing you there!

DETACH AND MAIL PORTION BETWEEN DOUBLE LINES

I will attend the Senior NCO Dining-In on 4 October 2001.

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

NAME: _____ RANK: _____

Home address: _____

Zip Code: _____

UNIT: _____

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "CSM Stephen Primett"

Mail returns to: Command Sergeant Major

Connecticut Army National Guard

National Guard Armory

360 Broad St.

Hartford, CT 06105-3795

Our Mission, Our Responsibilities

LT. COL. ELIZABETH BOURBEAU

The Connecticut National Guard Soldier-Airman Support Center (SASC) is a joint Army National Guard, Air National Guard and civilian civil-service activity that serves as The Adjutant General's single point of control for personnel-manpower management and administrative support to all CTNG federal full-time personnel programs. Our mission is to provide leadership in human resource management that is responsive to the needs of the Connecticut National Guard and its full-time workforce. This requires that human resource management be in tune with the strategic goals of our senior leadership and that policy be developed and focused in a manner to assist us in meeting these objectives.

The Soldier-Airman Support Center will achieve its goals by practicing values of accountability, customer focus, excellence, innovation, mutual respect, results and most importantly - teamwork. Core competencies of our staff will therefore focus on respect for the individual soldier, airman, non-dual status employee and their families - and a work ethic that strives for high quality "customer" satisfaction. This approach to human resource management is consistent with personnel management trends of the future and embraces the concept of "people" as our key source of success.

In addition to other responsibilities, the Connecticut National Guard Human Resource Office is very pleased to serve as co-sponsor of several nationally observed Special Emphasis events. Among these are included the National Hispanic Heritage



Celebration scheduled to take place in October, the Black History Month Celebration conducted each year in February and the Federal Woman's History Month celebrated in March.

There is good reason for all this attention. Current sources show that significant demographic trends are certain to take place in the U.S. labor market over the next 10 to 15 years. Our nation's population and labor force will increasingly diversify as immigration continues to account for a sizable part of our population growth. Of the nearly 15 million "worker" increase by the year 2006 - 7 million will be Hispanic or Asian. By 2006, women will account for nearly half (47 percent) of the total United States workforce.

Most dramatic are the projected changing patterns of demographic growth among "prime age" workers age 25 to 54 and older workers age 55 and older. Declining birth rates and aging will dramatically expand the numbers of "most experienced workers" (age 45-54) within the United States labor force. These demographic trends raising the percentage of older workers will undoubtedly pose a very real challenge to our future "Guard" as well as our federal workforce.

Continued success of our organization and our nation therefore *depend* on the benefits of diversity. A key tenet of the Connecticut National Guard is ensuring the creation of a diverse workforce through recruitment, professional development, upward mobility, ensuring equal opportunity and valuing the strengths diversity brings to our organization. At its core $\frac{3}{4}$ human relations is simply treating others with dignity and respect.

The Connecticut National Guard recognizes the value of people with different backgrounds and heritage and is committed to incorporating all individual talents to its team. By capitalizing on each persons uniqueness, respecting differences, maximizing individual potentials, and synergizing collective talents and experiences, the Connecticut National Guard solidifies future success.

In his book, *Human Resource Champions*, David Ulrich speaks of a new vision of Human Resources, "that it be defined not by what it does, but by what it delivers" results that enrich the organizations value to the customer, taxpayers, and employees."

The goal of the Soldier-Airman Support Center (SASC) is to support the Connecticut National Guard in its endeavor to have the best full-time federal workforce possible. We commit ourselves to serving our Soldiers, Airmen, Employees, Retirees and their Families; through information, pay administration, benefits delivery and an ever-continuing effort to improve the process. We look forward to working with you.

Myers Nominated

From p.1

"The entire Air Force is proud to have one of our own nominated to this high position of trust and responsibility representing all our men and women in uniform," Roche said. "Should he be confirmed, I look forward to serving with him as we ensure our armed forces remain the best in the world."

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, said that Myers possesses all the right qualities to help the U.S. armed forces remain the very best in the world.

"I've known and worked with General Dick Myers for over two decades ... I'm both personally and professionally pleased to see his nomination as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Ryan said. "He is a man of great integrity, combat proven, with an extremely sharp mind. His operational command expertise circles the globe and spans into space. His experience reaches into the political realm as the assistant to the chairman working closely with the secretary of state.

"With all these credentials, he is still as down to earth as the Harley he drives, the sheep dogs he owns, or the TR6 (car) he has rebuilt," Ryan said. "He and Mary Jo are a couple who have given their lives to the service of our country. As the vice chairman he has earned the trust, respect and confidence of the administration, Congress and each of the services. If confirmed, I am confident he will make a superb chairman."

Myers is a 1965 graduate of Kansas State University and a veteran of the Vietnam War with more than 600 combat flying hours. He said he is ready to roll up his sleeves and get to work, building the kind of military envisioned by Bush — one that will meet "current obligations and emerging threats."

"If confirmed," Myers said, "I very much look forward to remaining part of this terrific defense team, captained by a dedicated and principled secretary of defense."

Myers joined the Air Force in June 1965 and has seen a variety of assignments, ranging from squadron and wing commander to inspector general. Before taking the position of vice chairman of the JCS, he served as commander in chief of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, and commander of U.S. Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER A New Routine

CHAP. (1ST LT.) DAVID C. NUTT
1ST BATTALION, 102ND INFANTRY

September is a time when the somewhat less than hectic pace of life we all just got used to in summer, begins to pick up again. The kids are back in school, many houses of worship, which go to a different schedule for divine services in summer, are back to their "regular" service times, and many work places shift into high gear again. For most units, AT is over (including the clean up & maintenance!) and the training focus begins to shift to what can make the next AT better. It is a time to get back into the routine of the year, a time to prepare oneself to work until the next summer. Most important it is a time to get back into the rhythm of day to day living.

How about getting God into the routine?

Spending time in prayer can be the most rewarding and refreshing "new" routine

you can add to your daily routine. Here are some suggestions to help you start:

Take advantage of the commute. While in the car take time to pray. If you travel alone pray out loud. If you carpool, pray silently.

Take five minutes at your desk before you start the day. As soon as you get into the office, take five minutes to pause silently and offer up prayers to God for the day. If you think of it, you might want to read some scripture and meditate on a passage or two for prayer.

Five in the driveway. As soon as you pull the car into the driveway or parking space and shut off the engine, take five quiet minutes. You can do this at the beginning or end of the day...or both!

Take five when you can. Sometimes, situations make it difficult to set aside a certain time, even as short as five uninterrupted minutes. If this is your case, then grab five quiet minutes as the opportunity arises.

With your spouse. In the morning, just before the routine of the day has to begin take the

time to pray together. It'd a great way to start the day.

With your children. Circle up the kids in "group hug formation" and say a quick prayer with them before they start their day. Bless them and send them on their way!

At the close of day. Right before you go to bed. A time honored tradition that still works for both adults and children.

Studies have shown that those who develop and maintain a consistent prayer discipline find it easier to manage stress in their lives, feel they have keener perception and intuition, and have more energy in dealing with people and situations as they arise during the day. Prayer does not have to be flowery language or memorized formulas. It can be as simple as "God, this is (your name), here's what is on my mind..." The important thing to remember is to do it. Pray daily. And if you are troubled for words, just spend the time in silence. Listening to what God has to lift up to you is prayer too!

Visit the
Connecticut
Guardian
on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the Technician vacancy Announcement, see your technician/military supervisor or call Master Sgt. Kevin Salsbury at (860) 878-6739

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Civil Engineer	CFMO	GS-11	Sept. 11, 2001
Aircraft Mechanic	AASF	WG-10/08/05	Sept. 4, 2001
Materials Handler	USPFO	WG-06	Sept. 10, 2001
Supply System Analyst	USPFO	GS-09	Sept. 4, 2001
Supply Technician	USPFO	GS-05	Sept. 4, 2001
Welder	AVCRAD	WG-10	Sept. 6, 2001
Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer	UTES	WG-09	Sept. 6, 2001
Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer	OMS 8	WG-09	Sept. 13, 2001
Training Administrator	169 th Ldr. Reg.	GS-12	Sept. 24, 2001

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing date
Secretary	103 rd ACS	GS-05	Sept. 6, 2001
Airplane Flight Instructor	103 rd FW, Ops	GS-13	Sept. 30, 2001
Military Personnel Technician	103 rd FW, MSF	GS-06	Sept. 11, 2001
Supply Management Specialist	103 rd FW, Spt.	GS-09	Sept. 5, 2001
Automotive Mechanic	103 rd FW, ACS	WG-10	Sept. 12, 2001

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, see your supervisor or call Sgt. 1st Class Terry Atkins at (860) 878-6729.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Force Development NCO	HQ STARC	SFC/E-7	On Board SFC/E-7
	DCSFOR, FDB		Only
Production Recruiter	R&R Cmd.	SFC/E-7	Open Statewide
Aircraft Electrician	AVCRAD	SSG/E-6	Open Statewide
Gunnery Sgt./Readiness NCO	Bty B 2/192 FA	SFC/E-7	Open Statewide
Operations Officer	169 th Ldr. Reg.	CPT/O-3	Open Statewide
		MAJ/O-4	
Sr. Personnel Service Sgt.	HHD 192 ENG	SFC/E-7	Open Statewide
Supply & Services Officer	HQ 143 ASG	CW2/W-2	Open Statewide
		CPT/O-3	

Air National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Supply Management Specialist	103 rd FW, LOG	SMS	On Board AGR Only
Automotive Mechanic	103 rd ACS	SSG	On Board AGR Only
Retention Office Manager	103 rd FW	MSG	Open AGR

The complete listing of both Technician and AGR vacancies and job descriptions can also be accessed by going to the Connecticut National Guard website at www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Coming Events

September

Annual Training 103rd Fighter Wing Southwest Asia

September 9

Cannonball Run, 10:00 a.m., Norwalk Armory

September 12

NGACT Monthly Executive Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
NGACT Office, Hartford Armory

September 15

Dedication of Manchester Soccer Fields

September 19

Connecticut Day at the Big E

September 26

Recruiting and Retention Awards Ceremony

September 28

Salute to Veterans at the Big E

October

October 2

26th Annual Military Department Picnic & State Employees
Recognition
12 Noon, Camp Rowland, Niantic

October 4

20th Annual Senior NCO Dining-In, 6:30 p.m.
Aqua Turf, Southington

October 10

Hispanic Heritage Celebration, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford

November

November 6

Election Day

November 8

Officer's Dining In, Hosted by the 169th Leadership Reg.
Aqua Turf, Southington

November 10

MetroHartford Veterans Day Parade, Hartford

In the Next CG

103rd Fighter Wing Deploys to Kuwait

National Guard Association of Connecticut Annual Golf
Tournament

Connecticut Day at the Big E

103rd Air Control Squadron Construction

Deadline for submission is the first Friday of the month
previous to publication.

Arizona Air National Guard Assists JTF Husky

From p. 1

Judging by the accomplishments of the AZANG, they have adapted to Connecticut in a big way. On the job everyday by 6:30 a.m., they dove into the work projects with a vengeance, erecting a new All Weather Training Shelter at the Fire Arms Training Simulation facility, pouring sidewalks at Camp Rowland, performing a vast assortment of maintenance tasks around the post, and doing finishing work out on the Stones Ranch road network.

"Our motto has always been, 'Work hard. Play hard. That's what makes it fun,'" said Staff Sgt. and Structure Specialist John Bowman. Bowman is part of the crew

working on the All Weather Training Shelter. "Our boss is Master Sgt. Carlos Munoz. He's a Master Carpenter with 20 years in the field with lots of knowledge that we are trying to sap up. He's a pretty hard taskmaster, but we like it that way," said Bowman.

Staff Sgt. and Structure Specialist Reden Felt had an interesting inscription on his work apron: "1400, 8 August 2001." Felt explained that this was the first time ever that Master Sgt. Munoz had called a break. It was speculated that this extraordinary event was due to the heat and not the boss getting soft. "Some people pay for a sauna, but we're getting paid," said Staff Sgt. Bowman.

Chief Master Sergeant Bruce Lawson, a 32

year Air Guard veteran, said, "The projects are excellent because they encompass all the career Air Force Specialty Codes. They relate to our 'Prime BEEF' Mission." Prime BEEF is short for Base Emergency Engineering Force.

"If mobilized, we would be doing the same type of things we are doing now," said Lawson. The equipment operators got great experience out at Stone's Ranch. They are part of the RRR, Rapid Runway Repair. They are all qualified to fill-in bomb damaged runways."

Garland had nothing but praise for the JTF. "Support has been excellent, far better than

we expected it to be," Garland explained. One of the critical areas for a unit like his is for the support and materials to be laid on so that his Airmen can concentrate on performing their mission. He described the prep work by JTF Husky as "Just spectacular. I think we're working very well together."

"I've heard a lot about the Army, but you guys are pretty cool," said Staff Sgt. and Structure Specialist Colin Lee.

Many of the Airmen especially enjoyed the attractions of the Niantic area. Staff Sgt. Heather Gray, Admin Specialist for the 161st said, "I love it here. I'm going to have a summer home here someday."



Staff Sgt. Heather Gray and Master Sgt. Hector Encinas lay out sidewalk at Building 52 at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Gray, 161st Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), AZANG)



Staff Sgts. Colin Lee and Reden Felt installing the roof on the All Weather Training Shelter. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Gray, 161st Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), AZANG)



The 161st dresses the edges of the road network at Stones Ranch. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Gray, 161st Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), AZANG)



Master Sgt. Hector Encinas grades sidewalk by building 52 at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Gray, 161st Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), AZANG)



Members of the AZANG work on the interior of a training pavilion at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Gray, 161st Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), AZANG)



Staff Sgt. Brain Ellspermann and Staff Sgt. Brian Alexander inspect Building 29. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Gray, 161st Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), AZANG)



Tech. Sgt. Fidel Sandoval and Tech. Sgt. Ron Romo fix plumbing at Building 68 at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Gray, 161st Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), AZANG)



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BRANCH
NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY, 360 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06105-3795

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