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Charge card abuse: Are you guilty?

Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton
State Senior PA NCO

You have a government travel card. You're on annual training and traveling from Connecticut to Fort Drum, NY. It's an eight-hour drive and you're going to miss the noon meal. So you stop at a roadside restaurant for lunch and whip out the government travel card to pay for it. But you're not on TDY orders, so you are wrong. You're traveling from the Hartford Armory to an official meeting in New London and using your POV to get there. You're a little low on gas, so you stop and fill up. You whip out your government travel card to pay for it. But you're not on TDY orders, so you are wrong.

You are on TDY orders, and a group of you decides to go out for dinner. You pay for dinner with your travel charge card. That's ok. But then you take cash out of the ATM go to the movies and have a couple of beers afterward. You are wrong.

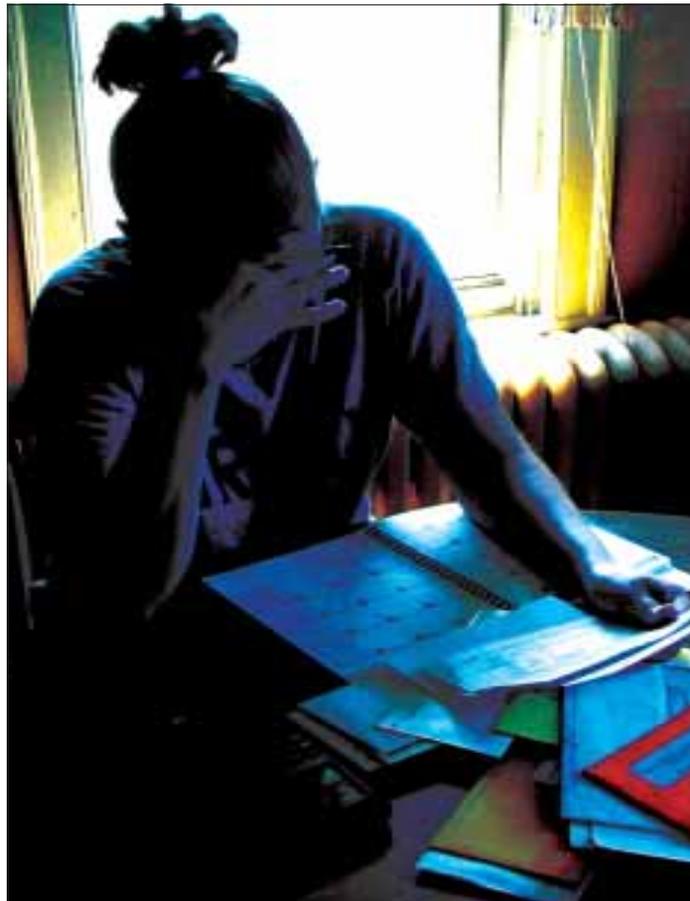
These are just some minor examples of government travel card abuse and misuse. It has become such a problem, that the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Government Accounting Office (GAO) have launched independent task force investigations into the alleged misuse and abuse of the cards.

An even bigger problem, by all published reports, is the fraudulent use of the government purchase cards.

The Army purchase card program is part of the government-wide Commercial Purchase Card Program that is supposed to simplify the process of making purchases under \$2,500.

Soldiers and other Army employees spent hundreds of thousands of dollars last year using their government purchase cards to buy stereo systems, pictures of Elvis Presley, designer clothes, jewelry, fine wine and even escort services according to a publish GAO report. They have also made mortgage and car payments with the cards and, in some cases, paid for medical procedures with them.

The report found the Army's oversight of its 109,000 military and civilian purchase cardholders to be "weak," "ineffective" and inviting rampant abuse.



Government charge card misuse, abuse and fraud can lead to a lifetime of financial problems including the inability to get loans or mortgages. (Computer enhanced photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

The GAO began its investigation into purchase card abuse with the Army because it is the single largest user of the cards. The next hearing on abuse should take place in September and will focus on the Air Force. Investigations into other government agencies are on-going.

On March 19, 2002, the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Dov S. Zakheim, established a Department of Defense (DoD) Task Force to examine the DoD's management of its charge card programs.

The Task Force was directed to examine current charge card operations, identify major deficiencies and develop recommendations for modifying the management of the charge card programs in order to resolve the deficiencies identified.

The Task Force Final Report was issued on June 27, 2002. The full report is available on-line at www.defenselink.mil

In short, the Task Force concluded that the DoD's purchase and travel charge card programs represent sound cost-saving

business practices and that the vast majority of military and civilian personnel use the government charge cards appropriately and exercise proper fiscal stewardship of taxpayer resources.

Problems, however, were identified. For example:

- Purchase card audits and investigations reveal incidents of misuse, abuse and fraud. Causes include inadequate command emphasis and poorly enforced internal controls.

- Travel charge card delinquent payment rates are unacceptably high. While DoD has reduced delinquencies, its rate of delinquent payments is significantly above the average rate of federal civilian agencies. Inadequate command emphasis and lack of compliance with existing policies are factors contributing to delinquencies.

The Task Force developed 25 recommendations that will significantly improve DoD's charge card programs including:

- Increasing management emphasis and implementing improved management metrics.

- Strengthening internal controls and increasing the tools available to managers for enforcing those controls. These include strengthening compliance language in existing regulations and employing data mining technologies to detect fraudulent or abusive charge card transactions.

- Enhancing the capability of the workforce to accomplish assigned charge card responsibilities, to include training and recommending the minimum skills required to perform essential charge card management tasks.

While this report and its investigation was conducted Army-wide, Texas was the only Army National Guard command randomly selected to be involved in the investigation. It is important to note that this overall summary includes all types of DoD charge cards. The Task Force looked closely at the purchase cards and travel charge cards.

DoD operates four types of charge card programs: purchase cards, travel charge cards, fleet cards and aviation into-plane reimbursement (AIR) cards.

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Up Front with the Adjutant General

Keeping First Responders First

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO
ADJUTANT GENERAL



(Editor's Note: This is an excerpt of TAG's Testimony to Congress)

The events of September 11, 2001 have had impact on the organizational structure of our agencies and individuals charged with responding to an emergency within Connecticut.

My testimony before this body last July, which outlined Connecticut's organization to respond to a mass casualty incident, remains factual today as it was then, however I think you will see, we (as a State) have expanded our capabilities and coordination activities with the newly established development of Protective Services Division.

We have also continued our program modeled after Federal Response Plan and ensured actively supports the National Interagency Incident Management System.

Connecticut's Domestic Preparedness Senior Steering Council, which I chair, brings together, on a regular basis, the various stakeholders, representing those, throughout our state that have a role in our Domestic Preparedness.

Governor Rowland "commissioned" this council in May of 2000 and one of its primary functions was to serve as an inclusive body to develop Connecticut's terrorism strategy. In doing so, the council

collectively integrates federal resources at the state and local levels. To this end, much has been accomplished to facilitate the prioritization and flow of limited resources to best deal with today's threats.

In Connecticut, management of an emergency, at the state level, is a collective effort between the Department of Public Safety and the State Military Department.

Mr. Vin DeRosa (Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety, Division of Protective Services) is Connecticut's liaison to Governor Ridge's White House Office of Homeland Security.

In my role as Adjutant General of both the National Guard and Military Department, I oversee our state's Office of Emergency Management directed by John Wiltse.

Both the Department of Public Safety and the State Military Department work together to share actionable information and intelligence to place state and local governments in the best position possible to mitigate and respond to an act of terror.

The states rely on the federal government to share the same...and, to date, I believe much more can be done to streamline the existing protocols and timeliness of such information. I support the idea of the new Office of Homeland Security acting as a clearinghouse for such information. Individuals, at the state and local levels, need to receive timely and critical

intelligence related to terrorist's threats to best serve the our communities.

The events of last September highlight how important it is to arm our first responders to combat the various threats posed to them, not just for the daily routine occurrence, but also for the possible eventuality of a rare catastrophic incident such as on 9/11.

The Connecticut Senior Steering Council, through interagency cooperation, established three priorities to deploy limited federal resources. They are: **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Communications Interoperability, and Training/Exercises.**

Not surprisingly, emergency management agencies, at all levels of government, across the country have also identified these as mission critical requirements.

Connecticut finds itself in a unique position whereas there is no county, or regional, form of government. All 169 municipalities, in most cases, look directly to the state for assistance once their resources are depleted.

In addition, many of our state's municipal emergency management human resources are part-time. The Senior Steering council has recognized the issues that have

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360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105-3795
Phone: (860) 524-4857
DSN: 636-7857
FAX: (860) 548-3207

E-Mail:
debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil
john.whitford@ct.ngb.army.mil

Captain-General
Gov. John G. Rowland

The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno

Commanding General, CTARNG
Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzinski

Commanding General, CTANG
Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps

State Command Sergeant Major Designee
Sgt. Maj. Raymond P. Zastuary

State Command Chief Master Sergeant
Chief Master Sgt. Wanda Wawruck

State Public Affairs Officer
Connecticut Guardian Managing Editor
Maj. John Whitford

State Senior Public Affairs NCO
Connecticut Guardian Editor
Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton

Connecticut Guardian Layout Editor
Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton
and
Patricia Gentry
The Day Printing Company

Contributors

Det. 1, 65th Press Camp HQ, CTARNG

Capt. George Worrall, III
103rd FW PAO, CTANG

103rd Communications Flight, CTANG

First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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Perspectives

"What role did your family play in the success of your deployment?"



Master Sgt. Santos Santiago III, readiness technician, 103rd Civil Engineering Squadron - Qatar

"My family was very supportive back home. It gave me self-pride knowing I have my family was behind me when deployed to field conditions. 9-11 brought so much focus on what the military does for the country that everyone is very proud of what you do for your country. As a guardsman it was great knowing

my job (with the United States Postal Service) was there when I got back, and they were very supportive of my wife."



Spc. Veasna Roeun, Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry - Bosnia
"I got to come home for Christmas and I sure got a lot of hugs. We also had a great Family Support for our unit was great. We also got a lot of packages from other family members."

Spc. Jackson T. Rashad, Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry - Bosnia
"At the beginning my parents didn't support me at first because I was going to another country and they didn't know what was going on overseas. After I sat and spoke with them and assured them that it was something I wanted to do, they were supportive. It was nice to receive the packages and pictures."



Senior Airman Cheryl L. Pilletere, service technician, 103rd Services Flight - Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Air Base

"I left my 6-month-old home alone with her father and what I thought was good was that as stressed as he was, he would always say 'everything is great, the baby never cries.' Because he was strong enough to put my mind at ease, I could focus on the mission and helping others."



Air Guard Security Forces still on the move worldwide

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL
103RD FW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Thirteen Security Forces troops from the 103rd Security Forces Squadron, Connecticut Air National Guard, returned home from the Middle East in the beginning of June.

They had deployed for 90 days to Al Dafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, fulfilling Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) requirements during Operation Enduring Freedom. The squadron is currently rotating flights to provide Resource and Force Protection to different locations.

The 103rd SFS has also deployed flights stateside since their activation following September 11th. They have served in Rome, N.Y., as well as Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

"Our troops are really good at doing their jobs," said Senior Master Sgt. Reed, operations superintendent, 103rd Security Forces Squadron. "At every base and installation we have deployed to, both CONUS and OCONUS, our folks have been put in supervisory and leadership positions. With the Air Force's 'Total Force Concept,' that has to say a lot about the 103rd SFS"

The 13-person team who was deployed to Al Dafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, performed Force Protection and Antiterrorism duties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Most of their duties centered around securing priority weapons systems and an array of aircraft. They conducted base and perimeter patrols, as

well as controlling entry into sensitive Air Force facilities and areas as well as serving as the primary Base Defense element.

Since the activation in October 2001, the troops in the 103rd SFS have struggled to keep their morale high. Many have been away from loved ones for most of the past year. Senior Airman Domenick Agostino, who recently came home from Al Dafra tried to concentrate on the positives of the deployment.

"We understand how hard this has been on our security force members and their families and at each step of the way they have been consummate professions dedicated to their country and the war on terrorism."

Maj. Robert V. Ware

"It was good duty. We were working three and one. We were able to go downtown and see all the sights. They always had activities for us to do – volleyball tournaments, basketball tournaments, horse shoe tournaments. They had pool tables and e-mail. It wasn't terrible. I would go back," said Agostino.

The stresses of the activation's uncertain

length and constant redeployments are understood and appreciated by the leadership.

"We understand how hard this has been on our security force members and their families and at each step of the way they have been consummate professions dedicated to their country and the war on terrorism," said Maj. Robert V. Ware, commander, 103rd Security Forces Squadron.

Before the flight could return, another group of Flying Yankee security forces departed to replace them in the ONE mission.

"It will be an experience," said Senior Airman Joanna M. Galli, security specialist, 103rd Security Forces Squadron, as she waited to depart early on a May morning. "It will be my first deployment with the security forces squadron since transferring from logistics about one year ago."

To prepare for the rigors of the desert duty the flight spent several weeks in the Nevada desert training.

"We went out to Indian Springs Nevada for training and we got used to 120 degree heat," said Master Sgt. Joseph S. Dellamonica who is the flight leader for the deployment. "We got a lot of real good weapons training so we are going to be all set when we get over there."

Although the group kept a positive attitude there was virtually nobody that was not at least a bit nervous about the trip.

"I am a little nervous but I am sure it will be alright," said Senior Airman William H. Beeler, a security specialist activated since

shortly after 9-11 who is a Southington community service officer in peacetime.

"I am a little nervous as it is my first deployment going anywhere, but I am looking forward to it," said Senior Airman Richard P. Marks, security specialist, 103rd Security Forces Squadron.

And for those that were not nervous, many brought along family members to worry for them.

"I am looking forward to it ... I can't wait to go," said Senior Airman Christopher M. Perez who transferred from an Army law enforcement unit in June 2001. His father Carl Perez added, "I am worried a little bit so I came here to see him off."

Dellamonica summed up the group's goal for the next few months succinctly.

"We are going to get out there, do what we need to do, and get back to our families as soon as we can."



Airman 1st Class Jessica L. Roy (left), Staff Sgt. Italo A. Miceli (middle) and Staff Sgt. Kristen E. Little (right), 103rd Security Forces Squadron, on post at Bradley Air National Guard Base in July. (Photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103 FW)



Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer M. Little, budget analyst, 103 Fighter Wing, reviews deployment paperwork with Staff Sgt. Kristen E. Little, security forces specialist, 103rd Security Forces Squadron before deploying in October 2001. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Eileen Casey, 103 CF)

Government charge card programs under investigation

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The first three charge card programs operate under the government-wide SmartPay Program, managed by the General Services Administration (GSA). The AIR card operates under a contract awarded by the Defense Energy Support Center, an element of the Defense Logistics Agency.

The Task Force's efforts focused on purchase and travel charge cards. Fleet cards are relatively low in density and the AIR card program is the subject of an on-going audit by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

Although both the purchase and travel charge cards are issued under the GSA SmartPay contract, they differ significantly in structure and present different problems and possible solutions.

Purchase Cards

Purchase cards are issued to DoD employees designated by their organizations to exercise purchasing authority through the use of the card. The purchase card is issued in the name of the employee and is to be used by that employee only, and only for official purchases in compliance with agency regulations and procedures and the GSA government Commercial Credit Card Services contract.

Misuse of this card is subject to a wide range of administrative and disciplinary actions, as well as criminal prosecution, depending on the nature of the infraction.

Warrant Officer 1 Michael Mastalski is the Agency Program Coordinator of the Government Purchase Card Program for the Connecticut National Guard. He says Connecticut has not had too much of a problem in the Guard during the five years he has been involved with the program.

"We've had maybe one administrative case of misuse or unauthorized purchases a year," said Mastalski. "And we've never had a criminal case. We control the dollar amount that's available to each purchase card holder and we don't give them a high dollar amount to prevent the temptation."

He said Connecticut has been very conservative with the program.

"Our program is very mature," he said. "The people who have the purchase cards for the most part have had them for a long time and know how to use them. It's a young program, but a mature one. We consider it to be very successful."

Mastalski said there are many checks and balances and reports that are generated each month for every transaction made with the purchase cards. If something unusual were to be purchased, it would show up right away.

"In the state of Connecticut, they can't hide unauthorized purchases," he said.

While the purchase card program in

Connecticut has relatively few participants by design, the travel charge card program has 777 active individual accounts.

Travel Charge Cards

The "Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998", Public Law 105-264 (TTRA) requires that government-sponsored, contractor-issued travel charge card be used by all U.S. Government personnel (military and civilian) to pay for costs incidental to official business travel, unless otherwise exempted. DoD receives travel charge cards and related services from Bank of America through a task order to a master contract awarded under the GSA SmartPay program.

There are two types of travel charge cards: Centrally Billed Accounts that are used by organizations to procure travel services such as airline tickets, and Individually Billed Accounts that are issued to individual DoD employees for travel-related expenses such as lodging, car rentals and food.

Payment of Centrally Billed Accounts (CBAs) is a government liability. Payment of Individually Billed Accounts (IBAs) is the responsibility of the individual whose name is on the account.

Travel charge cards are to be used to pay for official travel expense only. Use of the card not related to official travel is considered misuse and can subject the cardholder to administrative or disciplinary action.

Liability

While the government is NOT liable for payment of an individual's travel charge card debt, it is responsible, under the TTRA, to reimburse a traveler for official travel expenses within 30 days of receipt of a properly submitted travel voucher.

The government also has an obligation to ensure that the use of the travel charge card is restricted to official travel. The travel charge card balance is due in full on the date specified on the monthly statement, and there is no option to pay a minimum amount.

This is where the travel charge card and a credit card that most people have differ. Credit cards have monthly payment options for the consumer. But because DoD employees get all their allowable travel expenses reimbursed by the government, and because of the contract the employee signs upon receipt of the card, all balances are due and payable in full. The travel charge card has replaced the travel cash advances DoD employees used to get.

Because a traveler submits a travel voucher and gets reimbursed by the government, there is never a need for the traveler to use his or her own money to pay the travel card bill, if the travel voucher is filed properly and in a timely manner. There is also a section on the travel voucher request where the employee may choose the split disbursement option and enter the

amount of the reimbursement to be sent directly to the bank.

Task Force Findings

The Task Force's report on the travel charge cards shows two different stories, one successful, one struggling.

CBAs have shown a marked decrease in the delinquency rate from a high of 14.3 percent in January of 2001 to the rate of 0.2 percent in April of 2002. This is well below the 1.4 percent delinquency rate for other Government agencies.

IBAs, however, are not doing as well. Late payment and non-payment by military members and civilian employees of DoD are the two biggest problems. Under the contract with Bank of America, cardholders are required to pay off the total balance on their cards within 30 days of the end of the billing cycle. The GSA standard delinquency rate is calculated on balances unpaid after 60 days.

Monthly delinquency rates during the past three years have been as high as 25 percent. These rates are progressively getting better, but are still 50 to 90 percent higher than the average of other federal agencies.

Where Connecticut Stands

According to Lt. Col. Francis Walsh, Financial Manager for the CTARNG, the National Guard national delinquency rate for the month of June was 12.2 percent. Connecticut came in at 6.4 percent. The goal nationally is 4 percent, and Connecticut could soon be there.

"Delinquency rates generally tend to go up in the summer months when more people are traveling," said Walsh. "They go back down near or below the national goal in the March-May timeframe. We reached 2.6 percent in April of this year."

According to Walsh, most soldiers get into trouble innocently enough, but with education and prior planning, that trouble could be avoided.

"It can be very easy to get into trouble with the cards," said Walsh. "For example, you use your card to pay for a meal in a restaurant and go over the per diem for the entire day on one meal. Or because you have the card, you pay for all your buddies, but you only get reimbursed for your expense. It's also very easy to order room service and go over your per diem as that amount is added into your hotel bill, but only the lodging and tax portion of the hotel bill is reimbursable. Using room service is ok, but it must be included in your calculations of per diem."

Common Mistakes

Other areas that some soldiers do not consider, but show up on the hotel bill as separate items are long distance phone calls

from your hotel room home or to friends or long distance internet dial-up charges when you using a laptop to check emails.

"The biggest thing a soldier can do to help himself out before traveling is to determine what his per diem is for the location he is traveling to," said Walsh. There is a website that will tell a soldier what the per diem rate is for every location in the country and many locations overseas. That website is www.dtic.mil/perdiem, then follow the tab for rates and the prompts.

Command Responsibility

Walsh said that at the close of each billing cycle, his office receives two reports that show all activity by organization in the Connecticut Guard. For example, the report is broken down by major command (MACOM), and includes the 85th Troop Command, the 143rd Area Support Group, AVCRAD, the AASF, STARC and Headquarters CTARNG among others. Included in these reports are the names of every soldier or civilian employee who has a travel charge card, the amount they owe, and whether they are current, 30 days past due, 60 days past due or 90 or more days past due. After 60 days of delinquency, a cardholder's account is suspended and will not be reopened until it is paid in full. After 120 days of delinquency, the account is closed permanently and can never be reopened. Nor can the soldier ever get another travel charge card. After 210 days of delinquency the account is subject to salary offset, whereby a portion of the individual's pay will be deducted each month to reimburse the bank.

"MACOM commanders are made aware of those that are delinquent in their accounts," said Walsh. "They are responsible for calling the soldier in and counseling him or her on getting the account paid. Commanders must take an active role in their soldiers' making prompt payments. They need to be aware of who is current and who is past due. They need to find out why the bills are not being paid, especially after a soldier has received his travel voucher reimbursement. They also need to be aware of what the soldiers are charging. They need to emphasize that these cards are only for official government travel expenses."

Walsh said commanders need to take a proactive approach with soldiers to make sure they don't get in trouble with the cards. He said the best way to do that is through education.

"Commanders and other members of the unit with travel experience need to talk to the non-experienced traveler and brief them on what is and is not an allowable expense," said Walsh.

Walsh's views on command responsibility follow very closely with DoD policy as well as the findings of the Task Force.

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Retired National Guardsman Owen McDonell plays his pipes at one of his favorite times of day, sunset on the beach. (Photo by Brian Schill, United States Air Force)

Behind his love of bagpipe music

SPC. VIVIAN RODRIGUEZ
65TH PRESS CAMP

"I do it to please myself and it apparently pleases other people."

He glances at his screensaver, a picture of himself playing the bagpipes on the beach as the sun is setting over the water. His favorite time to play is when the moon begins to rise and the sun begins to set. He says the picture was taken by an Air Force officer who happened to submit the photo as part of a contest in which it received first place as a recreational photograph.

Retired guardsman Owen McDonell, who now belongs to the Celtic Cross Pipes and Drums organization in Danbury, Conn., has been playing the highland bagpipes for the past 12 years. McDonell's interest in bagpipes stemmed from childhood where he remembers having heard bagpipes being played. As a child McDonell developed a desire to play instruments. That desire was never encouraged due to his height. He was instead given a ball to play with.

"Playing the bagpipes is sometimes an icebreaker, people always stop and talk to you" says McDonell.

McDonell recalls the time when there was a couple on the pier where he was playing at the Currituc sound and decided he would play a love song for them. After playing his tune he relocated to a different part of the pier so as to not ruin this couple's romantic moment and continued playing. The young couple

approached McDonell and the young man said that he had proposed to his girlfriend and that she had thought he had hired McDonell.

McDonell has performed at funerals, weddings, carnivals and countless parades.

"I like to play in unique places, like Gettysburg, and play Amazing Grace. Bagpipes were once played during battle and symbolized bravery that inspired the other soldiers in the field."

Bagpipes were once used as a means of communication, a way to call people to battle or to gather people for a celebration. McDonell has also played for the Bermuda Army Tattoo, a military parade in which he and his organization, along with others, were invited as guests.

"Pipes are universal. Many countries have bagpipes, just different kinds," said McDonell "Pipes go back to 3,000 B.C."

Piping organizations have grown and continue to grow. When McDonell first got involved there were only two bagpipe organizations in Connecticut and now there are approximately 10 to 12 organizations. McDonell would like to see his organization play in Scotland or Ireland in the future.

McDonell can be heard every afternoon with his bagpipe at the drill-shed floor in the Hartford Armory.

"I don't see myself as a soloist, I simply play for enjoyment."



Owen McDonell plays Amazing Grace at the Brig. Gen. Steve Cordon Memorial Bench Dedication Ceremony in Litchfield. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

TAG testifies

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surfaced, as a result, and that **regionalization** of most resources is the most reasonable solution. The allocating of limited resources to best meet our state's needs is a priority. **Inclusion**, rather than **exclusion**, at the state level, is essential to the success of fielding federal resources where they can best be utilized.

Outlined in the President's National Strategy for Homeland Security, it is understood that federal funding is no substitute for state and local monetary responsibilities in the emergency preparedness arena. Federal funding for state and local emergency preparedness is obviously limited.

To date, federal funding has supported state and local governments in their efforts to best equip and train our front-line responders. Moreover, as the President's strategy clearly states, the definition of "first responder" has broadened extensively since September 11th. It no longer just includes the traditional fire fighter, police officer, emergency medical technician – it now includes a wide variety of other disciplines, which will require plans and resources, and training funds to fully integrate into our communities' emergency plans.

Planning is clearly a critical function for protecting ourselves from future attacks and improving our efficiency of response. Overall, both at the federal and state levels, we have some excellent base, all-hazards emergency plans, such as the Federal Response Plan, State All-Hazards Plans, and State Radiological Plans that have been refined and advanced over many years. They must remain our basis as we move forward. We are working towards expanding and revising our existing plans to incorporate the new homeland security threat. However, it must be recognized that the threats of deliberate nuclear, biological, and chemical disaster do indeed pose different challenges and issues, which require new, specific, and detailed planning.

The tragedies of September 11th and the biological attacks upon both government officials and ordinary citizens which followed have cause all Americans to assess how we may become better prepared to cope with disasters. In the wake of such tragedy, civic leaders have enhanced responsibility to assess our preparedness. Contemplation of the magnitude of the September 11th attacks leads to the realization that no one agency can be the sole response or planning agency. Such planning and response requires input from numerous if not all levels (municipal, regional, state, federal) and agencies of government.

The Military Department continues to lead efforts to ensure that Connecticut is prepared to respond to catastrophic incidents.

After the terror: A new vocabulary for

SPEC. MARIAN ROSADO
65TH PRES CAMP HQ

Since 9-11 there have been many new words added to our vocabulary. Maybe some of them aren't quite so new, but they are words that many have shown a new interest in.

We are all reading about Afghanistan and the Taliban, anthrax and the dirty bomb, Usama bin Laden and al Qaeda. But do we really know what or who we are talking about?

Islamic State of Afghanistan-

There are more than 4 million Afghans who live outside of the country, mainly in Pakistan and Iran, although almost one million have returned since the removal of the Taliban.

The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan is in reaction to the anarchy prevalent in the country and the lack of representation of the Pashtun (one of the main ethnic groups in the country). The name "Talib" itself means pupil. This group has dedicated itself to removing warlords, providing order and imposing Islam on the country.



In 1994 the Taliban developed enough strength to take over cities across the country. By the end of 1998, the Taliban occupied about 90 percent of the country.

The Taliban has imposed an extreme interpretation of Islam across the entire country and has committed massive human rights violations particularly against women and girls. For example, women were restricted from working outside of the home, pursuing an education, were not to leave their homes without the company of a male relative and forced to wear a traditional body-covering garment called the burka.

From the mid-1990s the Taliban has provided refuge to **Usama bin Laden**, a Saudi national who has fought with the Taliban against the Soviets, has provided financial and political support to the Taliban and has provided a base for his and other terrorist organizations in Afghanistan.



Bin Laden set up his terrorist organization called **al Qaeda** in 1996 and basically has had freedom of action, freedom of training, freedom of movement, freedom to meet (in Afghanistan) to run terrorist training camps

and to direct global terrorist operations.

Bin Laden and his al Qaeda group have been charged with the bombing of the U.S. embassies in 1998 and are believed to be responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist act. Since then the United States and its partners began the anti-terrorism coalition to target terrorist facilities and various Taliban military and political assets within Afghanistan.

President Bush last September said in regard to Osama bin Laden, "I want justice. There's an old poster out West, as I recall, that said, 'Wanted: Dead or Alive.'"

Here are some of the other terror groups that threaten America, its allies and friends, based on U.S. State Department data:

Abu Sayyaf: Affiliated with Al Qaeda, it is the most radical Islamic separatist group in the southern Philippines. The group, led by Khadafi Janjalani, is under attack by the Philippine army and police. It engages in bombings, assassination, kidnapping and extortion. U.S. officials believe it has about 200 hardcore fighters.

Al-Jihad: This Egyptian group seeks an Islamic state in Egypt and attacks U.S. and Israeli interests in Egypt and abroad. The original Al-Jihad was responsible for the 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Several hundred hard-core members operate in Cairo, but the group's network outside Egypt includes Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Lebanon and the United Kingdom. Egypt claims Iran and Osama bin Laden support the Jihad.

Palestine Islamic Jihad: Originating among militant Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in the 1970s, PIJ is one of many groups seeking the creation of an Islamic Palestinian state and the destruction of Israel. U.S. support of Israel makes America a target. The group also opposes moderate Arab governments "tainted by Western secularism." Its strength is unknown, but it has many sympathizers in Palestine and Israel. Based in Syria, it receives money from Iran and limited logistics aid from Syria.

Armed Islamic Group: Seeks to replace the secular Algerian government with an Islamic state. Began violent activities in 1992 after the government voided the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front, Algeria's largest Islamic opposition party. The terror campaign has included wiping out villages and murdering more than 100 foreigners living in Algeria, mostly Europeans. The Salafi Group for Call and Combat is a splinter faction active

since 1998. Group strengths are unknown. Sympathizers and members living abroad provide money and logistical support. Algeria alleges state sponsors include Iran and Sudan.

HAMAS: Also called the Islamic Resistance Movement, this group formed in late 1987 from the Muslim branch of the Palestinian Brotherhood. It has a political arm, but includes terrorism in pursuit of an Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel. HAMAS works through mosques and social service institutions to recruit, raise money, organize activities and distribute propaganda. Activists have attacked many Israeli civilians and soldiers. Officials estimate it has tens of thousands of supporters and sympathizers. It receives funds from Palestinian expatriates, Iran, and benefactors in moderate Arab states, Europe and North America.

Other major threats that the U.S. has faced since Sept. 11, 2001 have been **Anthrax** and the "dirty bomb". Evidence surfaced after the Sept. 11 terror attacks that Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda organization attempted to develop anthrax as a biological weapon.

The threat is real; **Anthrax** was intentionally used as a biological weapon against U.S. citizens. There are three known types of anthrax infection that can kill you with little warning. Cutaneous ("skin") anthrax can occur when bacteria enter a break in the skin, Gastrointestinal ("stomach") anthrax can occur when eating raw or undercooked contaminated meat and Inhalation anthrax can occur when inhaling as few as 5000-6000 anthrax spores—perhaps in a single deep breath.

Men and women

from Florida, Virginia, Washington, DC, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut

contracted cutaneous and inhalation anthrax. There were seven confirmed and four "probable" cases of cutaneous anthrax; all survived. Eleven people contracted inhalation anthrax. Of those 11 people, five died. There is a vaccine that protects people from the infection and it works basically the same way other vaccines do.

The "dirty bomb" was another proposed plan of the al Qaeda to explode the device in the United States. A dirty bomb is conventional explosives surrounded by radioactive material. When the bomb explodes, it spews that material over a wide area in smoke and other particulate matter. The bomb's destructive power depends on the amount, type and size of conventional explosives and radioactive material used.



About Anthrax

Q. What is anthrax?

Anthrax is an acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. It most commonly occurs in wild and domestic cattle, sheep, goats, camels, antelopes and other herbivores, but it can also occur in humans when they are exposed to infected animals or tissue from infected animals.



How is anthrax transmitted?

Anthrax can be transmitted through the skin or through inhalation or ingestion. Spores can live in the soil for many years, and humans can become infected with anthrax by handling products from infected animals or by inhaling anthrax spores from contaminated animal products. It is rare to find infected animals in the United States.



Why has anthrax become a current issue?

Because anthrax is considered to be a potential agent for use in biological warfare, the Department of Defense has begun mandatory vaccination of all active-duty military personnel who might be involved in conflict.



Is there a treatment for anthrax?

Doctors can prescribe effective antibiotics. To be effective, treatment should be initiated early. If left untreated, the disease is often fatal.



SOURCE: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

a new and challenging time

Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen also known as **Abdullah al Mujahir**, and senior al Qaeda leaders had discussions on a plan to detonate a dirty bomb, but it had not gone much past the discussion stage. Padilla was captured when he flew into Chicago's O'Hare International Airport from Pakistan this past May.

It's because of such threats that our Nation's leaders have noted our first priority has to be the security and defense of our homeland.

"The Department of Defense really has two roles to play in providing for the security of the American people where they live and work. The first is to provide forces to conduct those traditional military missions under extraordinary circumstances The second is to support the broader efforts of the federal domestic departments and agencies and indeed the state and local government(s)..." said Department of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

The purpose for a new **Homeland Security Department** is to unify homeland security structure so that it will improve protection against today's threats and be flexible enough to help meet the unknown threats of the future.

Homeland Security is defined as a concerted national effort to prevent terrorist



attacks within the United States, reduce the vulnerability of the United States to terrorism, and minimize the damage and assist in the recovery from terrorist attacks.

Homeland Defense is defined as the protection of United States territory, domestic population, and critical defense infrastructure against external threats and aggression. It also includes routine, steady-state activities designed to deter aggressors and to prepare U.S. military forces for action if deterrence fails.

The National Guard plays a big role in supporting homeland security in several ways. First, by supporting in-state service under the direction of the governors. For example, on Sept. 11, the National Guards of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center. Second, by providing in-state service that support duties of federal interest and finally by providing federal service. For example, when the National Guard is mobilized it serves under the direction of the President or the Secretary of Defense.

The goal is to assure the security of American citizens, territory, and sovereignty by bringing together critical functions and capabilities that in a way will be greater and more effective.

Other ways the nation has dealt with the terrorism is through the **Northern Command (NorthCom)**. The **Unified Command Plan** is designed to deter and defend, transform and stand firm with allies as they take on the global war on terror.

The new commander for the 2002 Unified Command Plan will be responsible for land, aerospace and sea defenses of the United States. He will command U.S. forces that operate within the nation in support of civil authorities. NorthCom will help the department better deal with natural disasters, attacks on U.S. soil, or other civil difficulties. It will provide for a more coordinated military support to civil authorities such as the FBI, FEMA, and state and local governments.

Along with the plans of securing our homeland, the U.S. and other nations unite to combat the war on terrorism. From the Arabian Sea to Kyrgyzstan's airfields and the caves of Afghanistan, the world's military counterparts are supporting U.S. forces in their fight against terrorism. Some 80 nations experienced human loss as a consequence of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. Currently, 68 nations are partnered with the United States in the **global war against terrorism**.

Australian, British, Canadian, Czech, Dane, German, Russian — more than 17,000 troops from 17 nations are currently deployed to the Middle East and Central Asia to help combat terrorism. U.S. defense officials say a total of 68 nations support the war on terrorism in different ways. They've assembled to fight militarily, diplomatically, economically and financially. Some have helped openly; others prefer not to disclose their contributions.

Operation Anaconda is an example of the "cleaning up" U.S., coalition and Afghan

forces have to do in Afghanistan, according to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. The U.S. sent in troops to mop up enemy bunkers in eastern Afghanistan. Once the cleanup operation is complete, the next step is to help the interim and successor governments provide a secure environment.



White House photo by Eric Sogner

In Afghanistan alone, about 6,000 coalition troops are taking part in **Operation Enduring Freedom** and the **International Security Assistance Force** in the Afghan capital of Kabul. They make up more than half of the 11,000 non-Afghan forces in Afghanistan. Coalition forces provide personnel, intelligence, equipment and other air, ground and sea assets. Partner nations have also provided liaison teams, participated in planning, provided bases and granted over-flight permission.

Also in **Uzbekistan**, the coalition has granted the U.S. its airspace for American aircraft and helicopters as well as for personnel employed in search and rescue operations.

According to a Department of Defense fact sheet, a partial list of countries providing support in the war against global terrorism include Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Jordan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

After the terror the coalition forces have not lost focus in attacking a concentration of al Qaeda and non-Afghan Taliban forces. Al Qaeda was most severely hurt when the coalition forced them from Afghanistan. It was considered its safe haven since that was



the one place it could do all of the business it wanted to do in one safe, controlled spot. This is clearly a long-term process that is not going to be done in a month or two months.

SMA urges focus on force protection

DENNIS RYAN
PENTAGRAM, FORT MEYER, VA

WASHINGTON - Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley urges everyone - troops, civilians and retirees - to focus on force protection to prevent another attack like Sept. 11.

"At one time we had 40,000 people on force protection," Tilley said. "As we get further and further away from Sept. 11, we feel it can't happen again."

Tilley said he is worried about the hot summer and how the stress of working long hours might affect soldiers' concentration. "If you don't stay focused, you could die," Tilley said.

Tilley served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 and lost half of his platoon one night.

"We were overrun," Tilley recalled. "I'm not sure if we could have been more focused. I second-guess myself all the time. Every time I go down to that Vietnam Memorial wall, I look for friends' names."

Tilley said there are enough memorial walls to read, so soldiers need to stay alert.

"If you see something wrong and don't correct it, you're part of the problem," Tilley said. "All of us need to stay focused."

Tilley recalled a meeting with the commander of U.S. Central Command, Gen. Anthony Zini, shortly after the embassy bombing in Nairobi, Kenya.

"I talked to Gen. Zini and asked him, do you think this is going to happen again," Tilley said? "And he said 'It's just a matter of when and where.' He said they'll watch us for a long time looking for a weakness."

The 33-year Army veteran also urges veterans to help.

"Our retirees can do so much to help us," Tilley said. "This war on terrorism is going to go on a long time."

The Army's top NCO recalled how he was quite unpopular with the soldiers in Bosnia when he first reported there for duty in 1995.

"They were mad at me because I was enforcing standards," he said. "In the long run they'll thank you."

Tilley praised the Army Reserve and National Guard contributions over the last nine months.

"We couldn't get the job done without the Reserve and the Guard," Tilley said. "They are doing a wonderful job. I can't tell the difference between the Guard and the Reserve. Today they are just as good as regular Army troops are."

Tilley advises soldiers to reassess what they are doing and look for ways to improve their performance. He recalled visiting with wounded soldiers in the hospital in Germany after Operation Anaconda.

"A lot of them had been wounded two or three times, but they weren't looking for a ticket home," he said. "They wanted to be patched up and sent back to fight. The United States has great leadership in President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld, but they can't do it by themselves. They need all of us to help them."

CTANG takes home 'Turkey Shoot' trophy

LT. COL. KEN BALDOWSKI
PAO, GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

It's a long-held Georgia tradition. Annually hunters creep through the heavy timberland of South Georgia in search of the elusive turkey. At the sight of the target, the hunter raises his weapon, zeros in on the objective, and lets go of a burst of buckshot.

Much is the same for the annual Georgia Turkey Shoot of the Georgia Air National Guard except that hunters of another variety replace the avid turkey hunters - seasoned combat fighter pilots flying high performance combat fighters. Thirty millimeter cannons firing 2,000 rounds per minute replace shotguns; and the elusive turkey is replaced by a convoy of old military targets scattered across 5,000 acres of the Townsend Bombing Range near Darien, Ga.

Connecticut's Flying Yankees won the Georgia Turkey Shoot team trophy for combined highest score for bombing and gunnery accuracy, while flying the only A-10's in the competition. The two-man team from Bradley beat 17 teams made up of F-16's, B-1's, F-18's and Harriers in the weapons delivery competition held the same week as Hawgsmoke (the worldwide A-10 competition) in May.

"We learned a lot of lessons from the guys who did it before," said Maj. Peter J. DePatie, D-flight commander, 118th Fighter Squadron. "The maintenance guys worked miracles to provide us and Hawgsmoke with airplanes."

DePatie, who flew Marine F-18's for ten years before coming to Connecticut and the A-10, also won trophies as the best individual bomber and shooter in the competition.

"We had taken the right approach to planning...we had a pretty good game plan," said Capt. John M. Dyer, total force absorption pilot, 118th Fighter Squadron, who with three years in the A-10 was in his first competition. "It was a base effort because with Hawgsmoke we were the only unit that could generate airplanes for both competitions."

Georgia's fifth annual Turkey Shoot took place in May with more than 40 combat aircraft from as far away as Colorado and Connecticut

participating in this one-day, non-stop aerial competition testing the accuracy of America's top fighter pilots.

The Townsend Bombing Range operated by the Georgia Air National Guard hosted more than 450 invited guests, elected officials and employers to this event designed to demonstrate the warfighting expertise of America's fighter pilots. Co-sponsors for the event were the Governor's Military Affairs Coordinating Committee and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The daylong event saw wave-after-wave of combat fighters entering the target area combing the rugged plains for a concealed antiaircraft battery on the range.

In a combat scenario, pilots would also be looking for other aircraft and the inevitable surface to air missile. At the Townsend Range, a simulated SAM missile called the "smokey sam" is fired at the incoming aircraft and corkscrews its way to 3,000 feet before burning out and falling harmlessly to the ground.

Pilots locating the target release a 25-pound, inert bomb before pulling up and away. The bomb hitting the ground throws up a plume of white phosphorous smoke and with several shovel loads of dirt in the display, lacks only the sound and the concussion of real ordnance.

Sophisticated sensors located throughout the range score the accuracy of the bomb's impact on the target. Pilots learn of their accuracy immediately before re-entering for a second chance.

Following the bomb drop, pilots request clearance to strafe a huge bulls-eye target located little more than 300 yards from the spectators. Dropping to treetop levels, the pilots unleash an awesome fusillade of machine gun firepower from 30 and 50mm cannons.

Georgia's Turkey Shoot is a recognized fighter competition for the National Guard with awards being presented for team and individual performances.

(Capt. George Worrall, 103rd FW PAO also contributed to this story)



The winning team from the Connecticut Air National Guard poses with the Turkey Shoot trophy, Capt. John M. Dyer (left), total force absorption pilot, and Maj. Peter J. DePatie (right), D-flight commander, both from the 118th Fighter Squadron (ANG photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103rd FW PAO)

Blum named NorthCom Chief of Staff

(July 31, 2002) – Maj. Gen. H. Steven Blum was assigned as chief of staff, U.S. Northern Command July 29 by Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki. Blum will leave his post as commanding general of one of the most storied units in the National Guard – the 29th Infantry Division – to take the assignment. Blum returned from Bosnia in April, where he headed the U.S. sector during the 29th's six-month peacekeeping rotation. Guardsmen comprised more than half of the 2,700 U.S. troops in Stabilization Force 10, as the multinational peacekeeping force was designated. The Pentagon announced the creation of Northern Command in April and the new command will begin operating Oct. 1 from Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. NorthCom will also encompass the Northern American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, and Air Force Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart will serve as commander-in-chief of the operation. NorthCom will have overall responsibility for homeland defense from a military standpoint and will coordinate with the Office of Homeland Security. The attacks of Sept. 11 forced the Pentagon to organize a command that is responsible for the defense of the United States' territory; NorthCom's jurisdiction will span both coasts and extend 500 miles into the oceans.

Senate confirms new SOUTHCOM, JFCOM commanders

The Senate late on July 31, confirmed all the military nominations reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier that day, including Army Lt. Gen. James Hill as commander-in-Chief (CINC) of Southern Command, and Vice Adm. Edmund Giambastiani as CINC of Joint Forces Command.

At a hearing the week before, Giambastiani said that he favors the formation of a Joint National Training Facility to facilitate combined arms training for the U.S. military.

In addition to Hill and Giambastiani, the Senate approved another 4,694 nominations on voice vote.

Scraba completes Naval War College at Newport

2nd LT. CELINE MARINI
ASSISTANT STATE PIO

"I am very proud and honored to have had the opportunity to attend The United States Naval War College and to have been in the company of such high quality warriors," said Lt. Col. (P) Mark Scraba.

The graduate level, 10-month course in Newport, R.I. that Scraba attended is organized into three trimesters: Strategy and Policy (S&P), National Security Decision Making (NSDM) and Joint Military Operations (JMO).

S&P, employing historical case studies, sharpens the student's ability to isolate the elements of national strategy and to analyze how those elements have contributed to the attainment of national policy objectives.

NSDM focuses on the analysis of properly allocating scarce resources to national security programs and on executive level policy and decision-making.

JMO expands student understanding of how joint and combined military forces can be employed to execute or enhance the execution of national strategy.

The Naval War College (NWC) course objective is to enhance the student's professional abilities to make sound decisions in senior command and staff positions. The curriculum is directed toward expansion of logical reasoning and analysis of the elements of choice, rather than familiarization with masses of factual material. The teaching methodology is built around case study focused seminars

led by resident military and civilian faculty who lead and guide seminar discussion and assist students in their analyses of the cases.

"The entire school and staff are geared toward the students. You truly feel like you were among a chosen few of the armed forces," said Scraba. "They treat you like senior leaders compared to other military courses I have attended."

The NWC mission is to enhance the professional capabilities of its students enabling them to make sound decisions in command, staff and management positions in naval, joint and combined environments. It provides students with a sound understanding of military strategy and operational art and instills in them joint attitudes and perspectives. NWC serves as a center for research and gaming that will develop advanced strategic, war fighting and campaign concepts for future employment of maritime, joint and combined forces.

The student body came from all branches and components of the armed forces, including 40 Active Army Officers and three National Guard officers – one from the Air Guard and two from the Army Guard.

"A major disappointment of the course was that despite more than 30 years of the 'Total Force Policy' concept, there still remains a huge



Lt. Col. (P) Mark Scraba

lack of education, appreciation and respect for the reserve components," said Scraba. "As an officer of the National Guard, I had to win over my active duty classmates one officer at a time. I did establish good credibility and rapport among them but I will admit, it was always an uphill struggle. I don't hold those officers completely responsible for their views of the National

Guard because a lot of the animosity is due to (their) lack of exposure to the Guard, and a lack of understanding and appreciation for what the National Guard contributes."

There were also senior level representatives from other government agencies such as the CIA and FBI.

"Their presence not only enhanced the classroom dynamics, but stressed the importance of inter-agency coordination in joint planning and operations," said Scraba.

"Some of my close friends from school are going off to some very prominent positions. One will be brigade commander at the DMZ, another will be the assistant XO for the Secretary of Defense, another will be the senior artillery officer at the JRTC and another will be the commandant of the Army's Warrant Officer Flight School."

According to Scraba, the greatest treat and honor for students of the NWC came when Gen. Tommy Franks spoke to the college.

"It was a very emotional event; the overwhelming opinion was that he truly was a cut above the rest," said Scraba. "Americans would have felt incredible pride if they, too, were present to hear his candid perspectives and were able to walk away as we did feeling great satisfaction that we are lucky as a nation to have him leading this war (against terrorism)."

While a student at the Naval War College, Scraba received the Admiral James Forrestal Force Planning Award in recognition of his creative accomplishments in the formulation of national security strategy, national military strategy and force structure.

Since completing the Naval War College program, Scraba has been appointed Director of the Joint Office of Military Support, or the J5. The new office, scheduled to be officially stood up in the next few months as part of the adjutant general's Joint Headquarters initiative, will be responsible for directing, coordinating and controlling the joint operations of the Connecticut National Guard. (Editor's Note: See the October 2002 issue of the Connecticut Guardian for more on the J5.)

Scraba received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Eastern Connecticut State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Troy State University. He received a second Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from United States Naval War College. He lives in Old Saybrook with his wife, Liz, and their 5-year-old daughter, Emily.

Connecticut NCOs have sacred ground at Camp Rowland

SPEC. ELVIS R. BRAGA
65th PCH

The Non-Commissioned Officers Hallowed Ground at Camp Rowland is a sacred area where rank can be put aside to a certain degree. The brick path is a place used for award ceremonies and recognition of NCOs.

The idea originated from England where the 51st Highlanders had three spots. Everyone from a newly enlisted soldier to a high-ranking officer had a spot to call his or her own. The spots were broken up by rank. Officers had one spot, followed by Senior NCOs, and Junior NCOs. There was a mutual understanding between the soldiers to respect each of the spots. If a junior NCO wanted to speak with a senior NCO the soldier would have to wait at the end of the spot in parade rest and wait to be recognized.

The Hallowed Ground at Camp Rowland is similar to that of the 51st Highlanders in

England and is a tradition many at the Leadership Regiment thought appropriate for Connecticut.

"NCO Hallowed Ground instills a certain amount of pride in an NCO," said Master Sgt. Christopher Casey, Advanced NCO Course Manager.

Any NCO is welcome to walk and spend time on Hallowed ground as long as the rules are observed and the land is respected. Some of the rules include No Headgear, No Smoking, No Saluting, No Food or Drink and No Foul Language.

NCO Hallowed Ground was funded almost entirely by Army NCOs. Non-Commissioned Officers from the Army Reserve, National Guard, and even retirees helped transform a small plot of land into a hallowed ground.

Donations are always welcome and an official dedication ceremony will be held sometime this fall.



NCO Hallowed Ground entrance way. Ceremonies and recognitions for Non-Commissioned Officers are held on this sacred land. (Photo by Spec. Elvis Braga, 65th PCH)

Listed at the Hallowed Ground are the Army core values, an honor roll of contributors, and the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer. (Photo by Spec. Elvis Braga, 65th PCH)



The 242nd Engineer Battalion is mission ready

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65th PCH

While a lying on the ground as a casualty and waiting for the medic to arrive, one soldier reflected on his experience as he tried to escort other soldiers.

"I learned that I should keep my eyes open at all times. I thought I was safe in my perimeter. Stay alert, stay alive," said Sgt. David J. Witko, Company B, 242nd Combat Engineers, communications chief.

The 242nd Combat Engineers held a Field Training Exercise (FTX) for their annual training (AT) at Fort Drum, NY, July 17 thru Aug 4.

"This is what we do, we train to fight," said Capt. Charlie K. Jaworski, 242nd Combat Engineer Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, from Morris, Conn. "The objective of this mission is to increase our combat effectiveness in basic combat engineering tasks."

The unit also participated in their Mission Essential Task List (METAL) which included lanes training, breaching obstacles, and construct vehicle fighting positions to name but a few.

Company B of the 242nd started the FTX by defending their position against small groups of opposing forces (OPFOR) for an entire 72-hour period, with OPFOR attacking throughout the day and night with simulated gun, gas and mine attacks, according to Jaworski.

Miles gear was used to simulated casualties during a gun attack. Miles gear is a harness with sensors that is strap to a soldier's torso along with a ring of sensors around a soldier's Kevlar helmet. Also, placed on the soldier's M-16 is a sensor that, when triggered will cause a loud continuous tone on the opposing soldier torso harness.

This will signal that the soldier is a casualty. Once a casualty, the medic will observe and determine if the soldier is killed in action (KIA) or wounded. The medic will give the soldier a casualty card describing the injuries.

Other soldiers are extremely excited about the training they received during their AT.

"This is awesome! I can't wait to do more of these," said Spc. Costello A. Camillo, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

B Company took advantage of the opportunity to train with an artillery unit of the 10th Mountain Division.

"We were more than willing to do anything for them," said Capt. Mark A. Zydanowicz, Company B commander.

"We supported the 10th Mountain Division for digging in an entire battery with DC-7 and DC-8 Dozers," said 1st Sgt. William W. Chapman II. "We also used the Squad Excavate Equipment (SEE) to dig in troop fighting positions. The 10th needed precise fighting positions and we gave them exactly what they wanted. This was the first time Company Bhas

worked with the 10th and they seem thrilled with working with us. We did the job in one-half the time it took the engineers of the active component. This was a wonderful opportunity to show the capabilities of the guard."

"We are motivated and everything is running smoothly. This is my second AT with the 242nd and the leadership is excellent," said Pvt. 2 Megan I. Robbins, intelligence analyst.

After a week at FTX, Jaworski gave his impression of the overall mission.

"Things seem to be going well and the troops seem to be motivated. The leadership will evaluate our performance and give honest evaluations during our after action review."

"I learned that I should keep my eyes open at all times. I thought I was safe in my perimeter. Stay alert, stay alive."

Sgt. David J. Witko



Spec. Mario Mentana of the 242nd Engineer Battalion, provides security at the battalion Tactical Operations Center. Mentana and his fellow soldiers were at Fort Drum, NY for their annual training and had the opportunity to work and train with members of the 10th Mountain Division. (Photo by Spec. Joseph Waller, 65th PCH)



Left: Two sappers of the 242nd Engineer Battalion place simulated bangalores in a concertina wire obstacle. (Photo by Sgt. Gregory Harrison, 65th PCH)

Right: Fort Drum, NY was the site for the 242nd Engineer battalion's annual training. OPFOR placed the concertina wire for the engineers to breach with simulated bangalores. (Photo by Sgt. Gregory Harrison, 65th PCH)



Medics preparation is key to safe Annual Training

SPEC. ELVIS BRAGA
65TH PCH

It is hard for the few medics to make sure that all the soldiers will be safe. A lot of the responsibility will fall on the leaders, their comrades and the soldiers themselves. The duty of keeping your fellow soldier safe is a very important one. Some of the basic fundamentals include buddy tick checks, hydration, changing socks and being wary of sunburn.

Members of the 242nd Engineer Battalion were participating in Annual Training at Fort Drum, New York. The weather conditions varied from hot and dry to cool and wet.

The handful of medics from Headquarters, 242nd Engineer Battalion were prepared to handle all the medical needs of more than 200 soldiers of the battalion to ensure a safe mission. This Army National Guard medical staff would have to follow closely with all of the soldiers to guarantee their safety.

"We get to do a lot of high speed stuff



Spec. Camillo A. Costello, a medic with the 242nd Engineer Battalion, treats a soldier who was "wounded" in a firefight while defending the Battalion Tactical Operations Center during annual training at Fort Drum. (Photo by Spec. Joseph Waller, 65th PCH)

and when someone depends on you to save their life, it feels good," said Pvt. Jean Geru, Headquarters, 242nd Engineer Battalion.

There is much time devoted and equipment required to prepare for a mission of this caliber. Some of the precautionary steps essential to the success of this mission were the abundance of medical equipment and

supplies. An adequate amount of water, bug repellent, bandages and sunscreen lotion are just a tiny portion of this medical unit's preparation.

The unit also had to coordinate with local ambulatory and Army medical facilities to treat any major injuries that could not be handled out in the field. In the civilian world many of the medics from the battalion train in the medical fields or go to school studying for a career in the medical field. Their jobs as Emergency Medical Technicians and nurses, or their schooling helps them prepare for their training in the military.

"Sometimes the unit has a different mission than us (medics). We have to make sure all preventive medical conditions are met," said Spec. Camillo Costello Headquarters, 242nd Engineers Battalion, while preparing for a field exercise.

With all the preparation and training the medics from Headquarters, 242nd Engineers Battalion have endured, they were ready to handle any circumstance and treated everything from bug bites to heat casualties.

400 receive environmental management training

Beginning in the last week of January until March 1, the Environmental Management Office sponsored a statewide training seminar for Connecticut Army National Guard personnel.

The participants, which included full-time mechanics from ground support; aviation personnel from the AVCRAD and AASF; armory OICs and DOICs; unit supply sergeants; selected M-Day soldiers and state maintainers.

In all, more than 400 military department employees participated in the two-day hazardous waste and environmental compliance classes and one-day spill response classes. A total of 11 two-day and four one-day classes were held at CTARNG facilities around the state.

Topics from the two-day course included how to read MSDs, learning about chemical hazards in the workplace, container management of hazardous materials and waste, managing hazardous waste at facilities and record keeping. On day two, following classroom discussions, the attendees went into various maintenance shops for hands-on training on how to set up flammable lockers to meet specific safety codes. They also conducted mock environmental compliance inspections.

The one-day spill response class introduced attendees to the hazards and risks associated with hazardous spills.

Topics for this class included spill response procedures, contingency



Sgt. 1st Class Mike Collins, Stones Ranch Range Control, supervises the hazardous material inventory exercise at the UTES. The mission is to identify all materials by size and NSN and to extend shelf life.

planning, hazard and risk assessment and hazard recognition.

Of the four classes committed to spill response, two of them were held for the benefit of the M-Day personnel.

All of the participants that attended both sessions were given certificates of completion.

The response from the participants was extremely positive. The majority of the critique sheets filled out by the attendees

stated how they were extremely surprised by the relevant information offered. All were very pleased with the class and instructors and hoped for the same training in the future.

Engineering-Environmental Management, Inc. (E2M) was contracted to conduct the training. They were chosen for their extensive experience in military training, with many of their instructors being current members of National Guard units, or military retirees.

Federal officials announce anthrax vaccine policy

Officials from the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services have announced the highlights of a coordinated effort to react to possible, future anthrax incidents.

The coordinated efforts of these departments and other federal agencies call for reinstating the use of the vaccine for certain service members, and for the stockpiling of both antibiotics and FDA-approved anthrax vaccine for civilians. Although anthrax poses an extremely lethal threat, events have shown that antibiotics have provided effective treatment if exposure is known before symptoms have appeared.

Accordingly, the policy will focus on reserving stockpiles of the vaccine for emergency situations. Details for the policy for domestic use are being coordinated with the Office of Homeland Security.

The military policy will require mandatory protective vaccination of some troops who will be assigned to certain higher-threat areas.

HHS, DoD and other federal agencies are working vigorously to develop a new generation anthrax vaccine that is expected to offer a more user-friendly regimen than the current vaccine which requires six shots with yearly boosters.

For more information on the Defense Department Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program on the Web, see: <http://www.anthrax.osd.mil/>.

TRICARE dental program alert

The Reserve Officers Association has issued a caution to Service members who enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program and stopped paying premiums before completing the mandatory 12-month enrollment period. Such individuals could be subject to collection actions that could jeopardize their credit standing.

United Concordia has the authority to recoup all unpaid premiums, not only the 40 percent share normally paid but also the government's 60 percent share as well. The company is currently sending letters to TDP enrollees with accounts in arrears to remind them of their 12-month obligation. The letter informs these participants that if they pay their outstanding premiums within a 30-day grace period, they will be reinstated in the program and remain eligible for TDP dental benefits. However, participants who fail to respond within 30 days may be subject to collection actions.

Connecticut airmen capture OEF mission on film

CAPT. SEAN McKENNA
379th AEW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM—There's a group at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, whose primary job is to shoot people. A hit man squad?

Actually the four-person visual information flight with the 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron is charged with meeting the base's photography, videography and graphics needs 24 hours a day. If something needs to be shot, filmed, designed or laminated, these are your people.

All four air national guardsmen are deployed from the 103rd Fighter Wing in East Granby, Conn. and have been serving in Operation Enduring Freedom since early March.

"We're here to document the mission of the wing," said Senior Master Sgt. Linas Venclauskas, a 19-year veteran who leads the unit. "Through photographs and video we capture the daily events that define this base."

Going from working one weekend a month at the 103rd to being tasked full time in the desert has had its challenges, Venclauskas said.

"Transitioning over to active duty took some time to get used to," he said. "When

we got here we had to figure out how the base operated and get used to all the new equipment. It's all come together nicely though."

The photography mission requires the flight to be on alert around the clock. They assist security forces, safety, OSI and the staff judge advocate in documenting evidence for investigations and accidents, including vehicle and aircraft damage, assaults, suspicious packages and stolen goods. On average, the flight responds to 10 alert calls per week, according to Venclauskas.

"It's never any fun getting called out for an assignment on the flightline in the middle of the night," said Staff Sgt. Danielle Upton, a five-year guardsman. "But that's our job and we're always ready to respond."

Besides alert jobs, the flight also takes photos for the newspaper and for scheduled events such as entertainment shows, distinguished visitors, promotions and reenlistments. Since they arrived, VI has documented the visits of Vice President Dick Cheney and Central Command's Gen. Tommy Franks, the Baltimore Ravens cheerleaders and several touring music bands, as well as in-flight refuelings over Afghanistan, Venclauskas said.

Video is also an important part of the mission and that task falls to chief videographer, Master Sgt. Mike Fennessy. He has filmed all of the major events at Al Udeid this spring and made the digital video files available to airmen on both the intranet web page and the IPTV movie service.

"I've made it a priority to give people something to take home with them to remember their experience here and show their families what they did," said the 18-year veteran.

Fennessy said the job is not nearly as glamorous as many airmen think it is.

"For every time we get to film famous visitors and cheerleaders, there are dozens of others where we have to get up in the middle of the night to shoot photos of blown tires and broken tail lights," he said. "It's definitely not all fun and games."

The final piece of the VI puzzle is Tech. Sgt. Bryon Turner, who oversees the graphics department. His multi-faceted role includes designing, producing and laminating full-color signs and maps, designing recognition certificates, unit coins and promotional material, and assisting units with web-page design and construction.

With an extensive web-design resume, Turner said one of his biggest main concerns

has been keeping the VI web site current and accessible to the base population.

"I wanted to give people access to everything through the web site," said Turner, who's been a guardsman for six years. "We offer the latest images and video from most base events, stuff to get the troops pumped up and to have for keepsakes."



Master Sgt. Mike Fennessy, chief videographer, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, films a gathering at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. (Air Force photo, unattributed)



The Connecticut visual information team poses near an F-16 at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, from left to right: Senior Master Sgt. Linas Venclauskas, Tech. Sgt. Bryon Turner, Staff Sgt. Danielle Upton, Master Sgt. Mike Fennessy. (Air Force photo, unattributed)

Vigilance saves lives: Maybe even your own

SPEC. JOSEPH WALLER
65TH PCH

While you are talking, someone you don't know may be listening...and recording.

Your emails may be going to more people than you think, and your discussion postings could be the last piece to a large and interknit puzzle of information that one of our adversaries need to complete the plans for a current or future operation.

The information they may glean from any of our actions may make that operation successful. This is why we continue to practice and focus on OPSEC, or operational security.

OPSEC is, in essence, the concept of keeping as much information, both classified and unclassified, from intelligence gathering methods of all foreign elements, especially our adversaries.

The idea is to create such a void of information that our adversaries make strategic miscalculations that form situations where successful completion of any operation against us is improbable at best.

OPSEC has been a fundamental task that has been taught and reinforced throughout all careers in and connected to the United States military. It is nothing new, and with

the recent events and focus on anti-terrorism, which relies heavily on OPSEC, it is always critical to ensure the safe and successful day-to-day and long-term operation completion no matter what job or branch you work for.

This concept of OPSEC in the United States military dates as far back as George Washington and the colonies' fight during the Revolutionary War. Our first general made a great effort to keep all information, no matter how small or seemingly inconsequential, from his adversaries.



Be careful of what you say and to whom you say it. You never know who might be listening.

Whether you are bringing your uniform to the drycleaner, talking on your cell phone, or you are tasked to routine file maintenance, handling classified material, or even if you are out with friends, every soldier is

responsible and must continue to practice operational security in our military and civilian lives. We must also remember that the responsibility of OPSEC does not end with us, it simply begins there. Everyone has a role in OPSEC, even our families.

"It's hard sometimes to balance both your family and military lives," according to Col. Gary Thorstenson, Plans-operations Training Director "If a family member asks if you are going to deploy...well that's to be expected. But if someone you don't really know asks you if...where...and what kind of equipment you will be taking, they have to report that to their chain of command."

Col. Thomas Heath, the Air Guard Executive Support Staff Officer, says that OPSEC must remain at the forefront of every soldier's words and actions.

"None of this is really new, I think that security responsibilities are the same all over. Security has not changed for the individual so much as it seems a lot more personal now, closer to home, Heath commented."

With this in mind, how do we apply good OPSEC? To answer this, operational security is divided into a five-step process that, when followed, will effectively protect our forces capabilities and intentions.

Identifying all critical information

If you can't identify what information needs to be protected, then it would be impossible to ensure its safety. Critical information

includes security procedures, deployment information and procedures and vulnerabilities. Also included is information that is necessary for an element's ability to carry out its mission and activities.

Unrelated activities could be used to gain critical information. A person who follows an easily discernable day-to-day routine makes it easier to identify when there is a deviation. Such deviations could tip off an upcoming deployment, changes in security, or force intentions. Remember, good OPSEC procedures protect unclassified and sensitive information as well as classified.

Analyze the threat

After identifying critical information, it is important to understand whom you are protecting it from. Looking at your activity from the viewpoint of potential threats will augment your ability to successfully apply these five steps.

Identify any vulnerabilities

Think about what activities you do on a daily basis and, based on your analysis of the threat or threats, identify how you may be targeted.

Assess the risks

Realizing what is vulnerable, assess an adversary's ability to exploit any and all vulnerabilities.

Use countermeasures

When the risks are weighed, countermeasures can now be applied. You can conceal the vulnerability by following good OPSEC procedures. You can deceive any adversaries by changing your routine randomly, confusing the threat, or you can attack and destroy the adversary's ability to exploit the vulnerability.

So, how does this all work? You probably already know. Imagine you are about to go out

for dinner. Afraid of burglars, you realize that while gone there is a perfect opportunity for someone to break in. In response you turn on the television and leave the porch light on. In this example, you have identified the critical information: you are leaving for dinner. The threat was identified: burglars. You realized that your house is vulnerable and believe that the risk necessitates a high priority. You used deception as a countermeasure to protect your house's vulnerability and your critical information.

Is there anything else you should do?

"The most prominent advice I can give, is to be cognizant of what you say and what you do," said Heath. "My advice to commanders would be to continuously reinforce communication security and information security and to remain vigilant.



A new twist on an old campaign

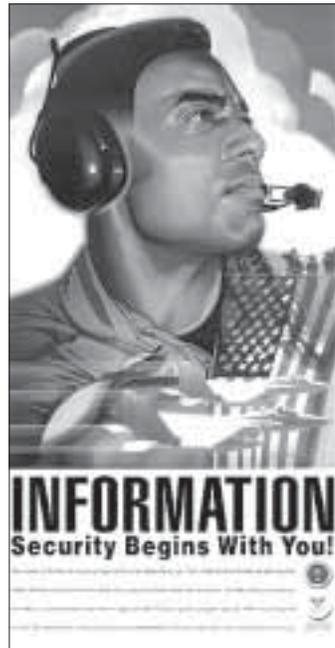
SPEC. JOSEPH WALLER
65TH PCH

The National Security Agency (NSA) has revitalized an old campaign.

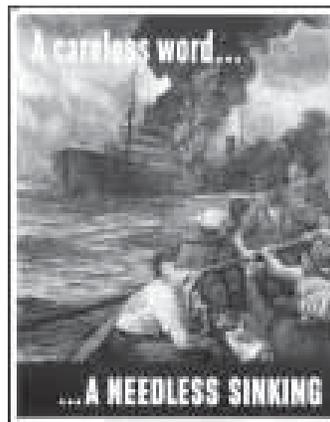
Taking a propaganda campaign idea that was implemented between 1941 and 1945, the NSA has created four posters to remind soldiers and civilians working for the military that information security should be on everyone's minds.

The original campaign, during World Wars I and II had more than twenty-two different posters. Those posters had slogans like "A Careless word...a needless sinking", "If you tell where he's going...he may never get there" and "Who wants to know?: silence means security."

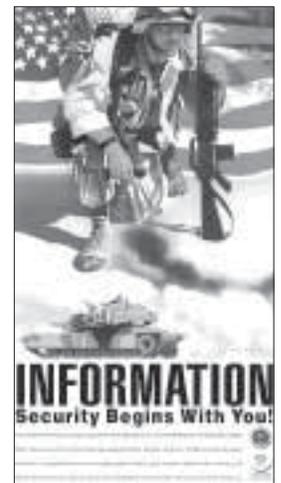
The four new posters each have a soldier on the front, one for the Air Force, the Navy, Army, and the Marines. The slogan for each: "Information security begins with you" a clear and stylish reminder of our responsibilities.



The Air Force version of the latest Information Security campaign.



World War II posters still say it best.



A time to reflect for the Infantry: Mission to Bosnia

CAPT. LOU MARTINEZ
65TH PCH

Three months after getting back from a six-month deployment in the Balkans, members of Bravo Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry took time out to reflect about their mission in Bosnia.

Over hot dogs and hamburgers, the more than 90 infantrymen who served as the guard force at Eagle Base in Tuzla, remember their long 16-hour days securing the Multi-National Division North.

"On a good day we worked 14 hour days. On a bad day we were out there 18 hours. If you're a leader it was much longer," said Capt. Robert Brafford, company commander.

When Bravo Company deployed from its armory in Manchester, in August of 2001, its mission was that of a static defense.

On that dreadful day in September, Bravo Company 102nd Infantry found itself securing the base at Threat-Con Delta. At the highest threat level, the units' mission was now that of area security. This allowed Bravo Company to do the work intended for a battalion minus with a company minus.

"We took over responsibility of Eagle Base at the highest threat level," said Brafford. "We were under strength for the mission handed to us."

Emotions ran high amongst the men. Anger, fear and worry consumed some of them, but adrenaline took over, allowing the unit to concentrate on the mission at hand. After the attacks, every soldier in Bravo Company worked 23 days straight, 16 hours a day.

"We were looking for any unusual activity at Eagle Base," said Brafford. Soldiers wore and trained in "Ranger Body Armor". The bullet-proof armor weighs about 42 pounds; add in the combat load of ammunition and grunts were humping close to a hundred pounds on their backs.

"Physically, it was demanding," said Brafford. "Soldiers were smoked totally."

During this time of tension, the soldiers were also thinking about their families at home. About a dozen took emergency leave to attend to their families and then returned to duty.

The most notable leave came from Sgt. David Aaronson of Waterbury.

Aaronson was in charge of the internal reactionary force in Eagle Base when he learned his wife was in labor. Bravo Company's first sergeant told Aaronson the company would try to get him home but there was no guarantee.

Within eight hours, Aaronson was on a plane back home to see his wife and first born.

"I told everybody I going home. Told the whole family, but didn't tell my wife," said Aaronson.

The day before Christmas, Aaronson was holding his son Lucas. After 10 days of visiting with his bundle of joy Aaronson was on his way back to Tuzla.

"It was hard to go back," said Aaronson. "My wife taped me on video so Lucas could hear and see me. I also carried a picture of him in my helmet. His picture kept me going."

On this drill weekend in July, soldiers of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry relax in their PT uniforms, play some basketball and reflect on a peace-keeping mission that turned into a mission of protection and survival.

"These guys paid attention," said Brafford. "They learned what they needed to do. They were focused."

Members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry relaxed during their July drill with a barbecue lunch. They took time to reminisce about their experiences in Bosnia and to catch up with each others' lives.

The infantrymen return from Bosnia in March and April after a lengthy tour as part of SFOR 10's peacekeeping mission.

Many of the soldiers came home to see newborn children for the first time, and said they have enjoyed the time catching up with their families and friends.

(Photos by Spec. Marian Rosado and Spec. Vivian Rodriguez, 65th PCH)



Connecticut Military Department News

Gen. Darius N. Couch – 'It's time to spike your guns and retire'

PFC. HOWARD MILLER
TROOP HISTORIAN,
FIRST COMPANY GOVERNOR'S HORSE GUARD

(Sixth in a series of profiles of the Adjutants-General of Connecticut)

Darius Nash Couch was born in Putnam county N.Y. on July 23, 1822.

He entered the United States Military Academy at West Point twenty years later and was a member of the graduating class of 1846. Among his classmates were future generals Grant, McClellan, Franklin, Hancock, Stoneman, Burnside, Jackson, Hill, and Pickett.

Upon his graduation, Couch was assigned to the Fourth Regiment of Artillery. During the Mexican War he served under Gen. Wool's command and was brevetted first lieutenant for gallant conduct at the Battle of Buena Vista.

In 1848 he served in Mexico and during the next year he was engaged in the hostilities against the Seminole Indians. In 1850 he was assigned to duty in New York Harbor and then Pennsylvania, North Carolina and on a scientific expedition into Mexico.

In 1855, at Fort Leavenworth Kansas, he resigned his commission. Couch came east and engaged in business in New York City from 1855 to 1857. He then took up manufacturing in Taunton, Massachusetts, for three years.

In 1861 he raised the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment of volunteers and was appointed colonel. In May of that year he was made a brigadier general.

He served at the defenses of Washington until May 1862 and commanded the First Division of the Fourth Army corps in McClellan's Peninsular Campaign. He served with distinction at the siege of Yorktown and the battles of Fair Oaks, Williamsburg and Malvern Hill.

He was promoted to major general on July



General Darius N. Couch from: *Evening Post Annual, 1884*

4, 1862, and commanded a division in the retreat from Manassas to Washington. He engaged in the attack on Maryland Heights, at Harper's Ferry, Sept. 17, 1862, and followed the retreat of Lee's forces from Antietam on the 18th and 19th.

At the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, he commanded the Second Corps, Army of the Potomac. From June 11, 1863 until Dec. 1, 1864, he was in command of the Department of the Susquehanna and organized the militia of Pennsylvania against the invasion of the southern forces under Lee.

On Dec. 15, 1864, he assaulted and successfully carried Hood's extreme left in the battle of Nashville. At Malvern Hill, Chancellorsville, and Nashville, Couch had horses shot from under him and he was wounded several times.

Couch resigned from the service on May 26, 1865, and was an unsuccessful candidate for governor of Massachusetts

in that year. In 1866, President Andrew Johnson appointed him Collector for the Port of Boston but the Senate did not confirm him.

He settled in Norwalk, Connecticut, in 1871. From 1876 to 1878 he served as this state's Quartermaster General on Governor Richard D. Hubbard's staff. On Jan. 3, 1883, Governor Thomas M. Waller named Couch Adjutant General of Connecticut.

Couch believed strongly that the National Guard was a school of instruction and that it should not be stagnated by officers remaining in the same positions for an indefinite time. His views were contrary to those of the administration.

During his term, Couch received an urgent demand from a battery of light artillery that the officers and men be equipped with revolvers, it being urged that in case of war they would require them for purposes of defense. The requisition lay for some time on the general's desk without action. The officers became persistent in their request to have the revolvers issued and finally he responded, saying: "I will disprove that requisition for revolvers for the battery. My experience is that when the enemy gets near enough for revolver fire to be effective, it's time to spike your guns and retire."

Couch served two years as adjutant general and then retired to Norwalk. He died of "neuralgia of the heart" at his home there on Feb. 12, 1897. According to the *Hartford Courant*, "Many persons who possessed the pleasure of General Couch's acquaintance will bear witness to his high character, honesty of purpose and simple unaffected ways. He had been a sufferer for many year from a complaint contracted during the war."

He was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Taunton, Massachusetts.

Foot Guard to participate in Convergence at Lincoln Center

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard Band, under the direction of Capt. Laura Lovich, will participate in *Convergence* at Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival on Sunday, Aug. 18 along with 12 choirs and seven marching bands.

Convergence is the most recent work from composer Neely Bruce, who is a professor of music and American Studies at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. *Convergence* was commissioned by the American Composers Forum as part of its "Continental Harmony" project and was premiered on June 18, 2000 as part of the New Haven International Festival of Arts and Ideas. The piece is a series of three composed parades with auxiliary musical events of stationary nature.

The Second Company Governor's Foot Guard Band will also be participating.

2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard provides Color Guard for OCS ceremony

The 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard provided additional pomp and circumstance to an already tradition-laden event when it appeared at the OCS Class 48 Commissioning Ceremonies held at Camp Rowland, Niantic.

The company will be participating *Convergence* at Lincoln Center along with the 1st Company Governor's Foot Guard later this month.

GFG makes annual trip to Boston for June Day

SGT. M. CHIARO,
FIRST COMPANY GOVERNOR'S HORSE GUARD

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard represented the State of Connecticut in the June Day celebration of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts (AHAC).

As we assembled for the parade at Faneuil Hall in Boston, we could see what an impressive formation our Company made. Captain Conroy headed a contingency of several officers followed by the Colors and then the 15-piece band led by Assistant Drum Major Kevin McCormick.

Unfortunately, the shortage of enlisted personnel from the Command necessitated the Band to relinquish a piccolo player (Col. Faro) to carry the State colors.

This marked the first time in our Company's history that the Colors included a female member.

With the National Colors, the State Flag, and the Centennial Legion Flag waving high in the spring breeze, and their Grenadier reds shining brightly in the mid-day sun, Gerry Santos, Glenn Wagner, Jodi Faro, Mike Pepin and John Ferreira presented a picture-perfect image.

Once in the Common, the various marching groups mustered into one huge formation while the Ancient and Honorable conducted a recreation of their original 17th Century election of officers.

With the announcement of their new officers (and befitting an artillery company), a series of ceremonial canon salutes was fired.

After this impressive artillery salute, Governor Swift expressed her thanks to the Ancient and Honorable for their dedicated service, and the entire formation of units began the short march back to the Park Plaza.



Members of the 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard Color Guard after the Officer Commissioning Ceremony at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)



A young officer candidate practices rendering hand salutes while waiting to in-process for Phase I Officer Candidate School. (Photo by Spec. Shirrod Richardson, 65th PCH)



Officer candidates from throughout New England, New York in formation under the hot sun while their pup tents stand w Phase I of the Officer Candidate School hosted by the 169th candidates spent their time between the classrooms of Camp Reservation. After successful completion of this two-week p year-long Phase II before those still lucky enough to be left phase. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior

Candidates be challenge durin



Pulling guard duty is part of being a soldier. Here one officer candidate looks after his fellow classmates' duffle bags. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



The OCS Bell. The bell and it's stand were designed and presented to the Regiment by this year's graduating class of OCS - Class 48. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65th PRESS CAMP

Guarding ruck sacks, standing at parade rest, running in formation and suffering the penalties of push-ups and sit-ups while Task Assessment Councilors (TAC) bark orders to young candidates throughout the entire day is just the start of a process that will last approximately one year.

Phase One of Officer Candidate School, Class 48, began at 5:50 a.m., Saturday, July 13. All candidates will live, work and attend classroom training at Camp Rowland, Niantic for two weeks. They will have to successfully complete courses such as Leadership, Training Management and Land Navigation.

Phase One is the initial start of the program when candidates go through in processing to make sure the regiment and battalion have all the proper information on file.

According to Sgt. Maj. George L. Brown, 169th Leadership Regiment, Operations Sergeant Major, candidates are put through a stressful environment from the very beginning.

"It's much worse than basic training. We are trying to build officers that will lead other soldiers," said Brown.

Camp Rowland is the central location used by all the companies to train for Phase One for OCS. These companies are from the New England states and New York and New Jersey, which make up Region A.

Once the program begins. Candidates are placed in platoons for the entire two-week phase.

During these two weeks the candidates are scheduled to start at 4:30 a.m. and end approximately at 12 a.m. If a candidate has a problem in any particular



New York, New Jersey, North Carolina and Oregon stand in line for stand watch. The soldiers came to Connecticut to attend the 169th Regiment (LDR) of Connecticut. The students of Camp Rowland and fields of Stone's Ranch Military Academy during the two-week phase, students return to their home states for a week to be left head to Fort Benning, Ga. for the final phase. (Photo by State Senior PA NCO)



Spec. Parker, a medic with the New York Army National Guard, removes ticks and wraps blisters for one officer candidate. (Photo by Sgt. Renee Marie, 143rd FSB)



Officer candidate Anthony Damato of Staten Island, N.Y. completes a quick mid-day shave under field conditions. OCs are constantly aware that they are being watched by the TACs. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

begin the OCS Training Phase I

course an instructor will work with the candidate during study hall hours. The candidate will have to continue with all the additional training while receiving extra study instruction, according to Brown.

Once Phase One is completed, all successful candidates return to their respective home states to begin Phase Two of their OCS training. Phase Two is also known as Inactive Duty Training (IDT) and is conducted during a regular drill weekend for approximately one year.

A typical drill weekend ranges from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and is highly classroom intensive according to Brown. After successfully completing this phase, Phase Three begins and candidates are considered to be seniors.

They are sent to train at Fort Benning for an additional two weeks of instruction. After successfully completing this phase, candidates are ready for graduation.

"Candidates that are in good physical condition have an advantage because candidates will be better able to handle the stress of the coursework," said Lt. Col. Leslie C. Bliven, 1st Battalion (OCS), 169th Leadership Regiment Commander. She also stressed the need for commissioned officers in the National Guard. "I just think self-development is a challenge, so qualified soldiers should take a shot and apply to OCS. We do all we can to keep the soldier in the program" said Bliven.

Anyone who feels they have what it takes to be a commissioned officer should step up to the challenge and call (860) 691-4210 or attend one of the open houses in the months of December or January.



Officer candidates take full advantage of "wait-time" under extreme weather conditions of high heat and humidity. (Photo by Sgt. Renee Marie, 143rd FSB)



There's always a formation to go to...even in the field. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)



An officer candidate stands guard over his fellow students' ruck sacks while the American flag flies in the breeze behind him. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Candidates accepting the commissions as second lieutenants take the oath of office during ceremonies at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)



2nd Lt. Regina Grant has 1st Sgt. William Kittle pin her new rank on her shoulders. Kittle was previously Grant's first sergeant in the 280th Signal Battalion. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Newly commissioned 2nd LT. Marshall O. Patch receives his gold bars from his mother as his mother looks on. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

Officer Candidates complete course, receive commissions

SPEC. ELVIS R. BRAGA
65th PCH

"Expectations were high, we met up to those expectations."

On Saturday July 27, 13 soldiers listened to their classmate, Jeffrey W. Wiesner Jr. say those words as they graduated from the Officer Candidate School.

The Commissioning Ceremony was held at Camp Rowland in Niantic, Connecticut. These soldiers spent a demanding fourteen months training to be officers.

The mission of the Officer Candidate School (OCS) is to develop and evaluate the leadership skills of a future officer. OCS assures that the officer candidate will have the skills, knowledge and leadership ability to support the Army and its' troops.

"Knowledge is a never ending process," said the guest speaker, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Brian F. Phipps. "You are the future of the Guard."

The attendance at the included family and friends of the graduates, the 102nd Army Band, 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard, and 100 fellow National Guardsmen.

There were a large number of sacrifices that had to be made by the officer candidates and by close family members. Maj. Gen William A. Cugno, Adjutant General, Connecticut National Guard mentioned how essential family support and sacrifices are during his remarks at the graduation.

"The most important ingredient in the success or failure of the National Guard is family support," said Cugno.

"We grew as individuals but, most important we grew as a team," said Officer Candidate Jeffrey W. Wiesner Jr. during his honor graduate commencement address. He said expectations were extraordinary for this strenuous school. The reward of graduation made up for those long tough weekends and also made up for those Mondays that were filled with soreness.

The regimental commander, Col. Louis P. Preziosi said it for all the family and friends in attendance, "We are proud of you graduates."



2nd Lt. Stephanie A. Mitchell receives her bars from her parents at OCS Commissioning ceremonies. (Photo by Sgt. Gregory Harrison, 65th PCH)



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 192nd Field Artillery fir a 13-gun salute during the rendering of honors segment of OCS Commissioning ceremonies. (Photo by Sgt. Gregory Harrison, 65th PCH)

A 'family' of musicians making music together

SPEC. VIVIAN RODRIGUEZ
65TH PRESS CAMP

Their history dates as far back as 1863 when they were activated for WWI and continued serving through WWII and the Korean conflict.

The 102nd Army Band has performed for Queen Elizabeth of England, President Reagan, military reviews, parades, concerts and at state official functions.

Some of the Army Band members also have history with the band and most have been with the 102nd for decades.

Take for instance, trombone player, Sgt. 1st Class John C. Bonville who served during Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division, joined the Connecticut National Guard in 1973 and has been serving in the military for more than 31 years.

Those who have just joined the band in recent years intend on re-enlisting and staying in until retirement.

"We are a family of musicians that just happen to be in the military," said saxophone player, Sgt. Christopher A. Langellotti.

Some of the band members may feel like they are a tight knit family, but some really are family members. Sgt. Thomasz D. Dumik, trumpet player, and Spec. Jennifer A. Dumik, piano and saxophone player, are brother and sister.

"For every half hour of television we watched we had to practice a half hour with our instrument," said Thomasz. Although some have been doing this since childhood others learned later in life.

The 102nd Army Band is filled with 41 diverse musicians all rehearsing at Camp Rowland for their Annual Training. The musicians rehearsed for 25 hours prior to their first public concert performance of their annual training cycle, and then as needed. Their Annual Training not only consisted of rehearsals but of several scheduled performances throughout the two weeks.

"We are always interchanging with new music, and often times we turn down some performances in order to get some practice and to get better," said Warrant Officer 1 Mark B. Cummings, commander and trumpet player for the 102nd Army Band.

Every year the Army Band has a recruiting campaign to look for talented and motivated musicians.

"We do a lot of the recruiting ourselves. I mean I remember when we were at 68 percent and now we are at 100 percent strength," said Bonville.

Even though the 102nd Army Band consists of many talented and unique performers there are projected vacancies for those interested.



New Army Uniform Regulations Online

Army News Service reports that the most current uniform policy regulation went online June 25, and clarification of the Army's tattoo policy is only one of two dozen changes or updates that will take effect Aug. 1.

Last December the Army announced that changes were being staffed, and the tattoo policy is one that underwent the most modifications.

Under the old regulation, tattoos were prohibited on the face, neck and head.

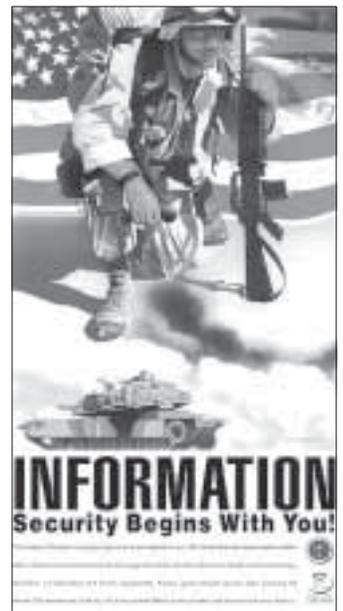
Now, tattoos are not to be visible in the Class A uniform with trousers. Soldiers who currently have tattoos on their hands will be "grand-fathered" and allowed to keep them as long as the tattoos are inoffensive.

Other items that were revised include hair, nails, contacts, cell phones, pagers, headgear, "camelbacks," desert battle-dress-uniform insignia, regimental distinctive insignia, physical fitness uniform wear and pregnancy, the explosive ordnance detachment badge and the black mess uniform.

The beret, which is a new clothing item, is addressed in the updated regulation.

When soldiers are not wearing the beret outside, they should be carrying it.

For full details on the updated policy, visit <http://www.usapa.army.mil>.



(102nd Army Band rehearsal photos by Spec. Vivian Rodriguez, 65th PCH)

Military Matters



CAPT. JIM GUERRERA, HUMAN RESOURCES EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPECIALIST

July 1-31 December officially starts the open season for "The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program". Long-term care insurance provides for on going assistance for those that cannot continue to care for themselves.

What it is

Long-term care is ongoing assistance.

Typically home health aids and other health care providers provide it to people who need ongoing or even lifelong care. The goal of long-term care is to help with day-to-day living.

Long-term care is provided in a number of settings. They include your own home, assisted living facilities, adult day care centers and hospices.

Long-term care is covered completely or in part by long-term care insurance. Most plans let you choose the amount of coverage you want, as well as how and where you want to use your benefits. A comprehensive plan includes benefits for all levels of care, custodial to skilled.

What long-term care IS NOT

Long-term care is not the same as acute medical care. Acute medical care is short

Long term care insurance open season

term, and there's usually an expectation that your medical problem will be cured. Acute medical care is mainly provided by doctors.

Long-term care is not always administered in a nursing home. In fact, more than 75 percent of all people receiving long term care assistance are not in nursing homes.

Medicare or health insurance programs such as TRICARE and FEHB do not cover most long-term care. Medicare pays a limited amount of "skilled nursing care." Neither Medicare, TRICARE, the FEHB Program, nor most other health care plans pay for help with daily activities-which is the kind of long term care most people need.

Federal Employees, and Retirees:

Do you have coverage if you need long-term care?

Medicare:

Medicare, which is primarily for persons 65 and over, generally pays limited amounts for skilled care following a hospital stay. It does not cover custodial care, which assists people with the activities of daily living over a long-term period of time-usually 90 days or more. In fact, the majority of people requiring long-term care need custodial care- whether it's at home, in the community, or in a nursing home.

FEHB, TRICARE, TRICARE for Life, and other traditional health insurance plans:

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB), TRICARE, TRICARE For Life, and other traditional health insurance plans

cover services that help prevent, treat and/or cure an illness or injury. Their emphasis is on medical care, not long term care. Long-term care insurance covers expenses for the on going care of people who are chronically ill, seriously injured, or cognitively impaired (e.g., with Alzheimer's disease).

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB), TRICARE, TRICARE For Life may provide limited coverage for skilled care under certain circumstances.

Disability income & insurance plans:

Disability income insurance plans are only available to those who work and coverage usually ceases at age 65. They're designed to cover a portion of lost wages if you are unable to work due to an injury or illness. Disability income insurance benefits are not designed to cover long-term care expenses.

Medicaid:

Medicaid is a joint Federal/State program for the impoverished. It provides certain types of coverage, including long-term care; but to qualify you must spend down virtually all of your money and assets to state required levels. Under Medicaid, you may have little choice or control over the care you receive.

For additional information call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337)

TDD 1-800-843-3557 or at the web site WWW.LTCFEDS.com

Closing the Back Door: Retention and expectations

CHIEF MASTER SGT. TONY PALLADINO
HQ CTANG, STATE HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISOR

I was having a discussion with an Airman the other day who said to me "Chief, you know I've been a member of the Guard for some time. I love my job, the organization, and the opportunity to serve my country, but there's a couple of things that are bothering me".

"Only a couple," I said. He smiled and responded "Chief, I'm coming up to the end of my enlistment term and I have to make a decision whether to stay or leave, what do you think I should do"?

My immediate intent of course, was to tell him all of the positive reasons why he should stay and continue to be a productive member of the organization, but I didn't. Instead, I thought for a moment and asked him "why are you having difficulty with this decision, it sounds to me like you enjoy being here"?

"Chief," he said, "I can't remember the last time any of my supervisors asked me why I joined the Connecticut Air National Guard, what motivates to me stay, or told me how much of a loss it would be if I left."

Now, before we go on I need to tell you that this story is completely fictional. It didn't really happen, but could it?

While recruiters do an excellent job of bringing new people in, it is actually our organizational culture that retains them. Certainly retention is everyone's job, but more importantly it is commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, senior NCOs, and others in leadership and supervisory positions who need to know what influences and motivates individuals to remain members of the Connecticut Air National Guard for a full and rewarding career.

Getting to know your people and meeting or exceeding their expectations will ensure members are getting a return on their investment of time and energy.

Expectations fall into four primary groups: *Economic, Social, Psychological, and Spiritual.*

Economic expectations are those involving pay, incentives, benefits and promotions. Economic expectations often bring people into the Guard, but they are not often high on the list of expectations to keep people in the organization. Fortunately, retention decisions are not often based on money unless there is a disruption of what is expected by delays in pay or bonuses, or other promises not being met.

Social expectations are often characterized by a sense of belonging. Members with social expectations will be

Education Essentials: *Nontraditional colleges and degrees*

1st LT. PAUL L. DRAPER
EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

Over the next couple of months I will outline some of the great Nontraditional Colleges that can help you get your college degree.

Excelsior College

Excelsior College serves adult learners in the military community by providing the opportunity to earn regionally accredited college degrees with NO RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT.

Excelsior College awards credit for military educational experiences toward 30 degree programs available at the associate and baccalaureate levels. Credit is awarded based on the recommendations of the American Council on Education (ACE).

The College awards over 50,000 college credits annually for military experience. Credit is also awarded for college coursework completed through regionally accredited colleges and universities, for college-level proficiency examinations (Excelsior College Examinations, CLEP, DANTES, and DLPT examinations), and for training courses sponsored by government agencies and business/industry which DOD civilian workers may have completed.

Associate Degree Programs of Interest to Military Personnel

Excelsior College offers four degree programs that are designed specifically to meet the needs of members of the armed services. These programs open up the possibility of earning an associate degree to personnel in more than 200 military career fields across the military branches, and they support service members in their career advancement goals. For prior service personnel and for those who are transitioning out of military service, these degrees will support them as they seek employment in related civilian occupations.

The four degree programs—Associate in Applied Science in Technical, Aviation, or Administrative/Management Studies and Associate in Occupational Studies in Aviation—were developed following an extensive pre-assessment by Excelsior College of more than 200 career fields in the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps, and of the academic credit recommendations made by the American Council on Education (ACE) for the training associated with each career field.

Based on the evaluation the College conducted, each pre-assessed career field corresponds to one of these associate degrees. In addition, the Associate in Applied Science

in Technical Studies provides for specialties in five different categories: Electromechanical Technologies, Electronic/Instrumentation Technologies, Chemical Technologies, Computer Technologies, and Nuclear Technologies.

The College has developed specialized templates to assist military students in conducting self-assessments of academic credentials prior to enrollment in the AAS/AOS degree programs.

Self-Review Assessment Option and Application for Admission

If you would like an assessment of your credits related to requirements in other College degree programs prior to enrolling, you may choose one of two types of pre-enrollment assessment: Self-Review Assessment or our Undergraduate Application for Admission.

Examination Services Provided to the Military Community

Excelsior College Examinations are FREE to All Military Personnel. DANTES funds all undergraduate-level Excelsior College Examinations for active duty military, National Guard, and Reserve Component Personnel. Military service members may

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SERGEANT MAJOR
RAYMOND P. ZASTAURY

Enlisted Update

NCOER season on it's way

With the annual training season just about over, it's time for us to turn our attentions to the NCOER season.

Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports are critical to our soldiers' careers. An honest, well-written NCOER can make or break a soldier's career. Absolutely... a border-line soldier can do well on the promotion board with a well-written NCOER. But if that same NCOER is also honest, it can prevent the soldier from being promoted when he or she may not be ready, and may even help the soldier become better by pointing out his or her weaknesses.

But, before we look at NCOERs, let's think for a moment about our own individual responsibilities as soldiers.

We have the responsibility to make sure we are doing everything we can to improve as soldiers and leaders. We must take all the appropriate NCOES courses as required. We must pass the PT test and meet height/weight standards. We must qualify with our assigned weapon. We must continue our military and civilian education.

M O S - e n h a n c i n g c o u r s e s , correspondence courses, workshops, seminars and additional college credits all help us become better individuals and leaders by increasing our base of knowledge.

It is also up to us to make sure all of our transcripts get placed in our 201 files.

How many times have you heard a young soldier say, "But Sarge, I know I have more credits than that. And I've completed several correspondence courses. How come it's not in my records?"

Well, did the soldier bring all the paperwork in? If in doubt as to whether a course is acceptable for your military records, bring it in and get your unit administrator to send it through. It can't hurt and it can only help.

NCOERs are not a yearly task to be handled because they have to be. Many soldiers responsible for completing them look upon them as evil. It takes time to complete an accurate NCOER for each of the soldiers within your responsibility chain. But if you look upon them as a way to accurately evaluate your soldiers and

as a way to positively motivate your soldiers to become better, you will see the true value in NCOERs.

NCOERs are not really a once a year task. They are quarterly tasks in some sense. On the first page of the NCOER is a section on counseling. All soldiers are supposed to be counseled four times a year, good or bad, to help them lay out the next steps in their career path. The dates the quarterly counseling sessions were completed must be entered onto the form.

New to the NCOER this is an increase in the amount of points that NCOPS boards will award soldiers for promotion based on the commander's comments section on the NCOERs. The maximum amount of points awarded goes from 250 points to 400 points. It now becomes more important that the rater is honest in his or her assessment of the soldier in each section of the NCOER.

Don't take the easy way and give every soldier the same basic evaluation. If you complete the quarterly counseling sessions, you will have the paperwork to back up anything you put in the NCOERs, and the counseling statements will also help you complete the NCOERs.

As a sidebar, an updated Department of the Army pamphlet will soon provide NCOs more robust career development guidance on the path to sergeant major.

The 15-year-old, generic DA PAM 600-25, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Guide, will be replaced by a new guide that will over structured institutional and self-development career advice tailored to each MOS and skill level via the Web sometime this month.

As an e-book, the guide also has hundreds of hyperlinks for more detailed coverage of specific Army subjects and programs.

In conclusion, I would like to share one of General Colin Powell's Lessons on Leadership.

"Don't be afraid to challenge the pros, even in their own backyard." Learn from the pros, observe them, seek them out as mentors and partners. But remember that even the pros may have leveled out in terms of their learning and skills. Sometimes even the pros can become complacent and lazy. Leadership does not emerge from blind obedience to anyone. Xerox's Barry Rand was right on target when he warned his people that if you have a yes-man working for you, one of you is redundant. Good leadership encourages everyone's evolution."

Visit the

Connecticut Guardian

on-line at www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Guard Voices

Taking our nation's patriotism with us while we serve

TECH. SGT. PAUL A. FAZZINI
436TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AFPN) — While traveling across the country, or even while in their hometown, most people would agree there is an incredible amount of patriotism being displayed through the flying of our nation's flag. Since Sept. 11, that patriotism has been more apparent to me everywhere I turn, but never more so than in the men and women I serve with in the Air Force.

I've always thought my level of "gung ho" was higher than your average airman. I always enjoyed getting "caught" during retreat, saluting both senior officers and the most junior second lieutenants. I even enjoy calling those brand new airmen sir or ma'am, and then stand when they enter my office. While they are new to my Air Force, they are professionals and deserve the respect simply because they made the choice to serve this great country.

On a recent trip aboard one of Dover's C-5 (Galaxies) to the country of Kyrgyzstan, located in the former Soviet Union, I had several opportunities to speak with the aircrew members, both officer and enlisted. I found what they do for our nation, far and away, exceeds my level of patriotism. I'm not saying that as a journalist and former maintenance troop my job is less significant, but they really impressed me with their focus, resolve to serve and warrior spirit.

As I spent more time with them — going through the motions of crew rest, eating

when you can, sleeping when you can, and patiently waiting for the alert call to happen — each brought a different experience level to the table. One loadmaster was on his very first mission overseas, while another was on one of many since beginning his flying career during the latter stages of the Vietnam War — more than 20 years on board the C-5 alone.

But, it was during my conversation with a flight engineer that I realized something. The flags that wave in front of homes, businesses and schools may become tattered and torn from the elements, but our service members — these aircrew members — continue to serve without getting torn apart by the daily grind. And, they never seem to waiver in their commitments, their patriotism.

That engineer told me his patriotism is the way it is because he's carrying our nation's patriotism, more specifically your patriotism, wherever he flies. He's taking it to foreign lands where other service members are fighting this war against terrorism.

Are you taking his patriotism to your job? I may never get another opportunity to fly with these individuals again, but they can count on me to press on, to represent them in all I do.

When considering the core value of "service before self," patriotism is almost automatic. But it's really not. You have to want to take your teammate and your nation's patriotism with you. It's your choice and yours alone.

(Courtesy of Air Mobility Command News Service)

Closing The Back Door

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motivated and influenced by sponsorship programs, mentor programs, good supervisory relationships, family and after hour activities. As these relationships develop, members become friends, and peer pressure often influences a member's retention decision.

Psychological expectations are those where the member is getting something from the Guard experience that cannot be gotten somewhere else. Members with psychological expectations will be motivated and influenced by learning new things, supervising others, skill training, meaningful hands-on experience and use of time, professional military education, recognition and personal growth oriented activities. This is often the area where supervisors and leaders influence the member to leave the Guard by not attending to the growth expectations of their members.

Spiritual expectations are characterized by service above self or patriotism. Members with spiritual expectations are motivated and influenced by service,

patriotism, community support, family activities, state emergency response, deployments and other personal contribution activities. When members are given the opportunity to experience the feeling of making meaningful and worthwhile contributions, they will remain faithful and productive members of the Guard.

It's no secret that 9-11 has changed the way we do business in the Guard forever. The ever-present threat of terrorist activity places us in further jeopardy of commitments with regard to Homeland Defense, and deployments in support of National objectives.

Additionally, AEF rotations, ORI's, ancillary training, organizational restructuring and a myriad of other requirements and responsibilities contribute to a member's decision regarding retention.

The bottom line is if we pay close attention to meeting members' expectations we'll be able to sustain our people in the coming years, continue to achieve mission readiness, and minimize our losses.

Then perhaps this fictional story won't become a reality.

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: *Looking at the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy*

COUNTERDRUG STAFF WRITERS

The history of drug control policy and budgets reveals a number of patterns that reflect the mood and spirit of the President and the American people.

Reduced to its barest essentials, drug control policy has just two elements: modifying individual behavior to discourage and reduce drug use and addiction, and disrupting the market for illegal drugs. Those two elements are mutually reinforcing.

Drug control policy has tended to be conceived of primarily as a law enforcement problem. Punishments for drug violations have become increasingly harsh as evidenced by the passage of mandatory minimum sentences and asset forfeiture laws.

Concerning the overall budget, even during times of relative calm, when Presidents Carter, Ford, and Clinton chose not to lead a charge against drugs, the drug control budget has steadily increased.

The share of the drug control budget spent on supply-reduction efforts rose at a steady pace in the 1970s and the 1990s, in direct opposition to the stated policy preferences of the president in those years.

2002 National Drug Control Strategy

In February 2002, President George W. Bush and Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director (commonly referred to as the National Drug Czar) John

P. Walters announced the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy for our nation. "It is a plan that will lay out a comprehensive strategy for our nation. We're putting the fight against drugs in the center of our national agenda," said President Bush.

"We understand we can't do it alone here in Washington. And that's why our approach is a community-based approach. That's why we recognize the true strength of the country is our people," said the President.

The President and ONDCP strategy mobilizes our nation's efforts along three major themes:

Stopping Use Before it Starts

ONDCP engages parents, educational institutions, the media and community coalitions in actions to prevent young people from experimenting with drugs in the first instance and starting on the path that all too often leads to addiction, crime and personal and family destruction.

Healing America's Drug Users

The Bush administration places a strong emphasis on drug treatment. The President has made an historic commitment of \$1.6 billion over five years to increase treatment funding. ONDCP will work to deploy these resources to areas and populations that need it most and provide more effective outreach to the chronically addicted drug-using population.

Disrupting the Market

ONDCP is adjusting the nation's efforts in supply reduction based on market principles and will identify the target strategic vulnerabilities in the business of drug trafficking. ONDCP will attack the drugs, money and corrupt financial institutions, precursor chemicals, key managers and individuals, crops, key transit routes and key communication links that facilitate drug trafficking.

The strategy focuses on results and providing accountability to the American people, to Congress and to America's partners around the globe. "We will measure our success against our national goals of a 10 percent reduction in teenage and adult current drug use over the next two years, and a 25 percent reduction in the current drug use, nationally, over the next five years, measured by the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA)," said Mr. Walters.

The Drug Threat to the U.S.

According to the State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) the drugs that most concern the United States are cocaine, heroin and synthetic amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), in that order. All the cocaine and heroin, as well as the bulk of the ATS drugs, originate from outside the

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CHAPLAIN'S
CORNER
✠

In the garden

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) JOHN C. NODOP
103rd FW

Summer is the season of the garden and I might as well say right now and up front, I hate gardening.

My idea of a garden is to climb on a lawn tractor and mow everything flat, grass, weeds and all. As long as it's green, what do I care?

But the older I get, the more I enjoy and appreciate a garden.

Last month I attended my denomination's annual chaplains' conference where the theme was, "In the Garden," which I thought would be no fun at all. But I learned something about gardens worth remembering.

God likes gardens, creates gardens and chose a garden for an event that changed our destiny. The bible states that we, all of us, came from a garden.

Genesis 2:4-17 is the introduction story of the Garden of Eden, created by God to nurture life, provide for all of man's needs and "please the eye" of the beholder.

It was the place of purity and innocence, but contained a caution: Do not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, "for when you eat of it you will surely die."

God's warning still haunts us today.

Cross the line between doing the right thing to do the evil thing and somebody dies.

So in the somber beauty of a garden, our moral lives began and on a dark and stormy night, Jesus, the Son of God, was buried in a garden, dying for all the times we crossed that moral line. (John 19:38-42)

Gardens are secret, private places, walled or fenced in to keep the pests and the public out.

Life is like a garden; we are private people, keeping our own secrets, walling off those hidden thoughts, memories, dreams we want no one to see or know about.

Gardens are cultivated places and weeds have no place in a garden. Like a garden, we need to weed out the ugly, unkind, uncaring, selfish, hurtful thoughts and memories that threaten to ruin the beauty in our lives.

A garden is our destiny. Like a garden – the Garden of Eden – God will walk through our lives, call for us by name, looking to find the beauty He created in us.

TGIF – The Guard Is Family: *Year of Diversity Scholarship Essay and Art Contest*

CHIEF MASTER SGT. TONY PALLADINO
HQ CTANG, STATE HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISOR

In celebration of the Year of Diversity 2002, The National Guard Bureau Year of Diversity Committee proudly announces two scholarship contests to involve the children of Guard members and military civilians.

Two (2) \$1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded to national-level essay contest winners, one Army and one Air. There will also be six (6) \$100.00 US Savings Bonds awarded to the art contest winners, one Army and one Air, in the age groups 5-9 years, 10-14 years, and 15-18 years.

Essay applicants must be a member of the Guard or the unmarried, dependant child of an enlisted member or officer serving in, or DoD civilian employee working for, the Army National Guard or Air National Guard. Applicants must be a high school junior or senior (as of January 2002) who will attend a full-time, accredited degree or certification program (by Sept. 30, 2003).

Essay entries must be submitted to the

attention of Chief Master Sgt. Tony Palladino, postmarked no later than Oct. 1, 2002, for consideration for State Level competition. Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted. Address envelope as follows: Chief Master Sgt. Tony Palladino, State Human Resources Advisor, c/o Office of the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William



A. Cugno, Year of Diversity Scholarship Essay Contest, ATTN: Army (or Air), National Guard Army 360 Broad St. Hartford, CT 06105-3795.

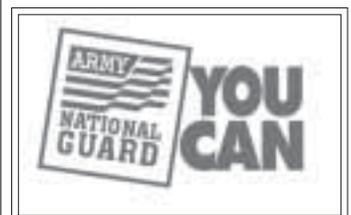
State Level essay winners (one Army and one Air from each state and territory) will be submitted for National Level competition and consideration for the scholarship awards. Scholarship winners will be notified on or before Dec. 31, 2002. Please note: All submissions must be routed through your

State or Territory Office of the Adjutants General in order to be eligible for National Level competition.

All entries for the Art Contest must be submitted to Year of Diversity Art Contest, ARNG Diversity Initiatives Office, 111 South George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA 22204-1382 ATTN: Ms. Nadine M. Meyers, by the close of business on Oct. 1, 2002. Contest winners will be notified on or before Dec. 31, 2002. Late entries will not be accepted. Return packaging and proper postage must be enclosed if artwork is to be returned to entrant upon conclusion of the contest.

The Connecticut National Guard point of contact for further information regarding the criterion for either the Scholarship Essay Contest or the Art Contest is Chief Master Sgt. Tony Palladino, HQ CTANG, State Human Resources Advisor at (203) 331-4834, E-mail tjpalidno@aol.com.

The point of contact at the National Level is Ms. Nadine M. Meyers, Program Analyst, ARNG Diversity Initiatives, DSN 327-7096; Comm (703) 607-7096; or email Nadine.Meyers@ngb.army.mil.



National Drug Control Strategy

From Page 22

United States. Consequently, cutting off their supply has been the principal international counternarcotics goal for more than a decade.

Among these drugs, cocaine still poses the greatest threat. Each year an estimated 300 metric tons or more enter the US, feeding addiction, fueling crime, and harming the social and economic health of the country.

Since all cocaine originates in the Andean countries of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, the US has devoted a significant portion of available resources to eliminating coca cultivation, disrupting cocaine production, and keeping it from reaching the United States.

Precursor Chemicals

Cocaine, heroin and synthetic drugs all require chemicals for their manufacture. This is a vulnerable point for traffickers in all these drugs. Cocaine and heroin refining operations require widely available "essential chemicals." Substitutes can be used, but there are some key chemicals, potassium permanganate for cocaine and acetic anhydride for heroin that are difficult to substitute.

Synthetic drug manufacture requires more specific "precursor chemicals," such as ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine. These chemicals have important but fewer legitimate uses and are commercially traded in smaller quantities to discrete users.

The United States, other major chemical trading countries, and the UN's International Narcotics Control Board worked in 2001 with other states to improve informal multilateral systems of information exchange on chemicals to improve controls on the key cocaine and heroin chemicals,

and those necessary for synthetic drugs.

It is important to chemical control in general and to the effectiveness of these systems that countries have efficient legal and regulatory regimes to control chemicals, without placing undue burdens on legitimate commerce.

Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Counterdrug Support Plan

An understanding of the drug control policy and an insightful assessment of key drug supply and demand reduction trends have enabled Maj. Gen William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General for Connecticut, to formulate a solid and resourceful Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Counterdrug Support Plan.

Cugno has incorporated the National Drug Control Strategy, Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau guidance to formulate the plan. His vision and keen understanding of drug policy and strategies enable the Connecticut Counterdrug Program to give the governor a plan that will work cooperatively across a variety of federal, state and local agencies in support of supply reduction and demand reduction missions.

The Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Counterdrug Support Plan incorporates a number of changes dealing primarily with the military unique resources being applied to each of the Counterdrug missions as well as the benefits of such service to the Department of Defense, the State and the Nation. In keeping with the National Strategy, a greater emphasis has been placed on drug demand reduction programs and specific agency support to disrupt drug markets.

The majority of the information for this article was derived from the ONDCP web site and those seeking additional information concerning drug control strategy and policy can access the web site at <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/>.

RETIREMENT DINNER

In Honor Of Brigadier General Mary Ann Epps

Date: Saturday, 14 September 2002
Time: 6:30 pm Cocktail, 7:00 pm Dinner
Place: Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
 100 Berlin Road
 Cromwell, Connecticut 06416
Dress: Military Personnel are encouraged to wear the service dress uniform. Civilians attire is permissible. (Men, business suit or sports coat; Women, cocktail dress or business suit).
Cost: \$45.00 Per Person
 (Payable to: HQ CTANG Activity Fund)
RSVP: 31 August 2002



FOR TICKET INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:



Tom Marroci, HQ CTANG,
 Hartford Armory - (860) 524-4952
 Claire Pitzer, Soldier-Airman Support
 Center, Norwichee - (860) 878-6713
 Lesko Wheeler, 3rd Finance Office
 (860) 293-2774
 Debra Weisz, 1036 AFS (303) 785-2836

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs:

Domestic violence convictions and the Lautenberg Amendment

CAPT. TIMOTHY TOMCHO
JAG OFFICE

The Lautenberg Amendment (LA) to the Gun Control Act of 1968 (18 USC 922) became effective on September 30, 1996.

The LA is named after its sponsor Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, who by amending section 658 of the Omnibus Appropriations bill (Public Law 104-208) outlawed gun ownership for any person who ever received a misdemeanor conviction for a domestic violence crime.

The law, although soundly premised upon the goal of disarming abusive people before they shoot someone, places an administrative burden upon the Armed Forces to ensure the law is enforced. Congress created no exception for members of the Armed Forces who have a qualifying conviction under the LA to possess firearms.

Specifically, the LA makes it a felony for any person convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence to possess, ship, transport or otherwise dispose of firearms or ammunition. It is also a felony for anyone to allow a person convicted of a

misdemeanor crime of domestic violence to possess, receive or transport firearms or ammunition in the course of their employment.

Commanders must notify their soldiers of the LA. Commanders should also check their unit files for evidence of qualifying LA convictions. Commanders must report soldiers that have qualifying convictions as nondeployable. Additionally, commanders must assign soldiers with qualifying convictions or those they believe to have qualifying convictions to duties not requiring the control, bearing or transfer of weapons or ammunition. Commanders should consult with their Judge Advocate officer in all cases involving soldiers affected or potentially affected by the LA.

A person has a qualifying conviction of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence if:

- a. The person was convicted of a misdemeanor crime, and the offense had as an element the use or attempted use of physical force, or threatened use of a deadly weapon, and;
- b. The convicted offender was at the time

of the offense:

1. a current or former spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim; or
2. a person with whom the victim shared a child in common; or
3. a person who was cohabitating with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, parent or guardian; or
4. a person who was similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim; and
 - c. The convicted offender was represented by counsel, or knowingly and intelligently waived the right to counsel, and; if entitled to have the case tried by a jury, the case was actually tried by a jury or the person knowingly and intelligently waived the right to have the case tried by a jury; and
 - d. The conviction has not been expunged or set-aside, or the convicted offender has not been pardoned for the offense or had civil rights restored, unless the pardon, expurgement, or restoration of civil rights provides that the person may not ship, transport, possess or receive firearms.

NGACT: 5th Annual NGACT Open

SGT. MAJ. (RET.) JOSEPH AMATRUDA
PRESIDENT, NGACT

The National Guard Association is proud to be sponsoring the 5th Annual NGACT Open golf tournament on Friday, Sept. 6 at the Keney Golf Course in Hartford.

The day starts at 9 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast, followed by an 11 a.m. shotgun start, a 50/50 putting contest and a 5 p.m. barbecue and awards dinner.

The tournament includes 18 holes with cart, hot dog and beverage at the turn, \$10,000 hole-in-one contest, closest to the pin contest and long drive contest.

Cost is \$90 per person, or \$35 for the dinner only.

NGACT has been sponsoring this event for the past four years with proceeds going to the Connecticut Children's Hospital in Hartford and the NGACT Scholarship fund for members and dependents of association members.

For further information on the tournament and hole sponsorship, contact Dan Norkun (860) 524-4938, Chris Hawkins (860) 524-4814, John Godburn (860) 524-4808 or James Howard (860) 493-2749.

ESGR: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Employers see Guard and Reserve in action in Washington state

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

Forty Connecticut employers from industry, education, government and chambers of commerce recently returned from a three-day "BossLift" to the Seattle, Wash. area and its surrounding military installations.

Sponsored by ESGR, the trip was designed to allow participants to observe first hand the variety and quality of training required by National Guard and Reserve troops, and to grasp the increasing and vital role they play in our Nation's defense.

Flown in a KC-135 provided by the New Hampshire Air National Guard, the employers witnessed the aerial refueling of A-10 aircraft from Connecticut's own 103rd Fighter Wing, CTANG, on the trip to McChord Air Force Base outside of Tacoma, Wash. Included in the itinerary were visits with an Army Reserve Boat Battalion, the Coast Guard's Seattle Station, the WAARNG UTEs Facility, the Navy's Bangor Submarine Base, the Western Air Defense Sector of the WAANG and the USAFR's 446th Air Wing.

The employers had the opportunity to tour C-17 Cargo Aircraft (the newest in the inventory), to have a complete tour of a Trident Missile Submarine (minus the propulsion area), to tour ARNG tanks and

mechanized artillery and to tour the Coast Guard's largest Ice Breaker as it refitted between cruises from the Southern to the Northern Poles.

They also witnessed how Washington State's Air National Guard operates its responsibility for air sovereignty of the United States entire West Coast and the Western third of the Country – a critical, round-the-clock mission requiring extensive use of technology and training.

One of the highlights was a personal welcome and discussion with the Assistant Adjutant General of Washington's Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Legowik. He focused on the increasing levels of military technology and how important employer support was to not only recruiting, but to its being an even more essential ingredient in the retention of already trained personnel.

"Employer understanding and support are critical to this Nation's ability to field an effective reserve force which is being called upon with increasing frequency to mobilize and project our national objectives," said Legowik.

The employers also had many opportunities to meet and talk with the troops in operational or training situations. Many stated they had difficulty distinguishing Guard and Reserve personnel

from those in the active components both in performance and level of training. Of interest was the fact that many of the outstanding instructors and others in key command roles were members of the reserve components.

In this day when less than six percent of Americans under sixty-five have ever served in either the active or reserve components, this trip brought to many their first appreciation of the military, its complexity, its professionalism and the caliber and dedication of its all volunteer force. Few had recognized that more than half of all Americans in uniform are volunteer members of the Guard and Reserve.

One employer put it clearly, "I never recognized what a demanding commitment such service is on top of their civilian career and family responsibilities. They, and the Nation, must have the support of their employers – that's our contribution to our national defense."

As the BossLift concluded, many employers signed ESGR's Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve and promised to display it prominently in their workplaces to communicate to both their employees and their customers that they understand their responsibilities and that they are more than willing to meet them.

**WANT TO
JOIN OUR
TEAM?**

**CALL
1-800-716-3530**

**Connecticut's
Army
National
Guard**

'Infantry family' gathers together for annual picnic

Sgt. GREGORY HARRISON
65th PCH

Almost perfect weather and idyllic scenery was the setting for the 8th Annual 102nd Infantry Regiment Association picnic held at Hopbrook Lake in Middlebury on Saturday July 20.

This event brings together old soldiers from all over Connecticut to relive past military experiences and enjoy the camaraderie known only to those who have served together in a combat unit.

Membership in the 102nd Infantry Regiment Association is comprised of soldiers who have served or are currently serving in the 102nd Infantry. The 102nd Infantry is the oldest unit in the Connecticut Army National Guard and the second oldest unit in the National Guard having been formed in 1638 as a colonial component of the British Army.

The association consists of approximately 425 members spread all across the United States with roughly 100 members residing in Connecticut.

This year's picnic drew about 70 members accompanied by spouses and invited guests. Activities included lawn bowling, horseshoes, and three raffles, one of which will award the lucky winner a replica Civil War musket at the next Association Muster in October.

What draws all these people together year after year?

According to Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joseph Amatruda, Correspondence Secretary for the Association, it is the chance to see old friends, catch up on current news and relive moments from their youth, which is a quality shared by most senior members of American society.

They come together almost as members of a large family that has experienced rigorous duty and sometimes even the harrowing experience of combat, which of course is the primary function of an infantry unit. When people have been through combat together, their bond becomes perhaps even closer than that of a family related by blood.

The focus of the 102nd Infantry Regiment Association is not always on the past.

"One of the things that we do in our Bylaws, one of our major efforts, is to support the current 102nd in any way we can," said Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Joseph Pouliot, who is the current president of the 102nd Infantry Regiment Association. "An example of this is every year at our Muster, we present an award and a scholarship to the Soldier and the NCO of the Year. We also presented a donation, voted on by the members, of \$1,000 to the unit that went to Bosnia to use in anyway they saw fit."

This kind of dedication continues to confirm the concept of "family" among the members of the 102nd Infantry Association.

Top: Nobody went hungry at the 102nd Infantry Regiment picnic. The day started with a hearty breakfast was followed throughout the day by plenty of other food.

Bottom: Old soldiers gather together to enjoy each others' company at the 8th Annual 102nd Infantry Regiment Association Picnic.

(Photos by Sgt. Gregory Harrison, 65th PCH)



Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno Adjutant General, left, offers testimony on Homeland Security before Congressman Christor Shays (R-CT-4), chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations. (Photo by Maj. John Whitford, State PAO)



Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT-4), center, listens to testimony on Homeland Security offered by Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno. Shays is chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations. (Photo by Maj. John Whitfird, State PAO)

Health & Fitness

Your Health Matters: Hypertension?

CAPT. KATHLEEN L. KING, APRN
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSE

"You said my blood pressure is 156/100? I'm not worried. It's always been high. What's normal, anyway?"

Hypertension is one of the leading causes of health related problems in the nation. According to the New England Journal of Medicine, 27 percent of adults surveyed nationwide were found to have hypertension, or high blood pressure. In a recent survey done on Connecticut Army National Guard technicians, 35 percent of the individuals surveyed were found to be hypertensive.

Now, take a look at two of your comrades. Statistically, one out of the three of you is likely to have high blood pressure.

Hypertension is diagnosed as having a blood pressure of greater than 138/88mmHg (millimeters of mercury) in three successive blood pressure readings. The systolic pressure, or the higher number given first, refers to the pressure in your arteries while the heart is pumping. The diastolic pressure, or lower number, given second, refers to the pressure in your arteries while your heart is at rest.

A person's blood pressure is normally higher when the demand for rich, oxygenated blood is greater, such as to supply your heart and muscles when

exercising. This rise should be temporary, and blood pressure should return to normal limits as the demand is lessened. A consistently high blood pressure coarsing through your system can cause damage to arteries, veins and organs.

Consider that your arteries are like flexible hoses, and your heart is like any other pump.

Normally water flows through the hose at a safe pressure. If you need more water, the pump goes faster, and the arteries can expand a little to accommodate the increase in flow.

However, if a nozzle is placed on the end of the hose (if the hose is partially blocked or reduced in diameter), pressure will build up behind the nozzle (constriction), and can cause damage to the pump.

When the water comes out from the nozzle, it can cause damage to whatever it hits. (Water rushing past the constriction, at higher pressure can damage whatever it hits.) A piece of the nozzle may break off, causing

a complete blockage further downstream.

Now, call the nozzle (the constriction) what it really is, cholesterol, or plaque. Scar tissue can cause damage on the downstream side of the cholesterol (nozzle or) blockage, making the artery even narrower and less flexible. This is called atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries.



The increased pressure may cause the artery to wear away and become thinner, making it easier to burst.

A piece of plaque could break off, causing a blockage further along the artery, resulting in heart attacks or strokes.

Increase d pressure behind the narrowing could cause the heart to fail. (Increasing salt in the body would cause us to retain more fluid, thereby increasing the workload on the already overworked heart. is this needed.)

Studies done in the early 1990s found that individuals with consistently higher blood pressures were at increased risk for other severe health problems later in life, including

heart attacks, strokes, heart failure, blindness and kidney damage. Risk factors that linked to the development of hypertension include: family history of high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, tobacco use, obesity, poor nutrition (high salt), inactivity, stress, alcohol overuse and recreational drug use.

How do you control your blood pressure? Take control!!! Get routine blood pressure checks whenever you can, and record your readings.

Local health organizations frequently offer free blood pressure screenings. Check out local food stores or pharmacies for blood pressure machines. A reading from an automatic blood pressure machine is better than no reading at all.

If you get consistently high blood pressure readings (greater than 138/88), see your health care provider for advice.

Stop all tobacco use (yes, that includes chew and nicotine replacements). Cut back on fats, salt, alcohol and caffeine. See your health care provider prior to starting an exercise program, but get started.

Sooner or later high blood pressure will lead to problems in your life. Take control! Enjoy your life, all of it. If you need any further information, or help getting started, feel free to contact the Occupational Health Nurse at (860) 386-4071x132.

Fit for Life: Options for fitness

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) JAMES FINN

Military Health and Master Fitness Trainers:

Your Master Fitness Trainers (MFT) are alive, coordinating and getting better prepared to serve our Connecticut National Guard Personnel.

The Master Fitness Trainers mission is to assist soldiers in all areas of physical readiness. Commanders use their MFT personnel not only to make sure personnel pass their PT tests, but also to enhance *job performance* (safety, body mechanics, strength, endurance), *quality of life* (proper nutrition, smoking cessation, weight control), and *fitness* (aerobic abilities, flexibility, stamina, recreational sports and supporting activities). The MFTs support Commanders and serve Connecticut personnel.

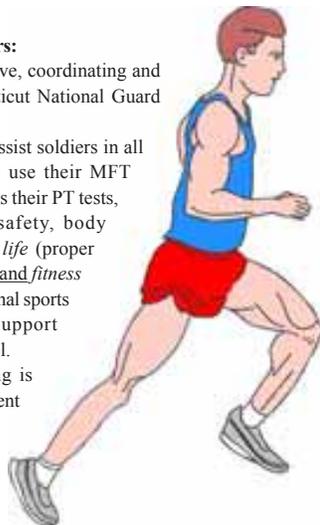
The Army Fitness School at Fort Benning is revising much of their training and assessment strategies. If you have heard talk of changes, don't worry. Ignore the gossip. All the "stuff" about a "new APFT" is on hold, pending further evaluation. Your Readiness NCOs will receive hardcopy and electronic guidance, then inform you at the proper time with the complete information.

For those concerned about passing or even "maxing" the APFT (remember there are promotion points involved) an MFT can help you. We have prepared guidance to

help you make your best effort by preparing effectively. Contact your MFT or training office.

Running Team:

The Connecticut National Guard has a running team, the "G. I. Milers". We also



Upcoming events are as follows:

August:

Torrington Donors 5 Miler
The Bethel Mile 1 Mile
John Kelly Ocean Run 11.6 Miles

(Torrington Connecticut)
(Bethel, Connecticut)
(New London, Connecticut)

September:

New Haven Road Race 5K & 20K
The Cannonball Run 4 miles
Mountain Laurel 5 K
Soapstone Assaults 5.5 / 11 Miles

(New Haven, Connecticut)
(Norwalk Armory) CTARNG Sponsored
(Bloomfield, Connecticut)
(Stafford Springs, Connecticut)

October:

Masons Run 5 Miles
Ridgefield Half Marathon 13.1 Miles
Great Pumpkin Classic 4 Miles
Hartford Marathon and Half
Mystic Marathon and Relay

(Stratford, Connecticut)
(Ridgefield, Connecticut)
(Trumbull, Connecticut)
(Hartford, Connecticut)
(East Lyme, Connecticut)

November:

Tarzan Brown 5.5 Miles
EBAC Fall Challenge 4.75 Miles
Manchester Road Race 4.75 Miles

(Mystic, Connecticut)
(New London, Connecticut)
(Manchester, Connecticut)

sponsor a marathon team to Lincoln, Nebraska every year.

If you are interested in competitive or recreational running call Staff Sgt. David Flounders at (860) 386-4071 ext 165, or 1st Lt. Vincent Belizzi at (860) 224-6959. Those

interested in Triathlons contact Chaplain Finn at (860) 589-9101.

We will develop age group and ability group rosters. An MFT email list will be published soon; so you can contact an MFT with you health / fitness questions.

Sports

Air Force Marathon plans on track

With more than 1,600 runners registered for the Sept. 21 Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson AFB, officials said the race is on track to break all previous participation records.

The 2000 Marathon saw 2,966 runners and walkers take to the course and the 2001 event had 3,500 athletes signed up before being cancelled due to the Sept. 11 attacks. Event organizers say if the current sign-up rate continues, this year's tally could top them all. Runners of all ages, military and civilian, are encouraged to participate in the 26.2-mile marathon. All runners will receive a uniquely designed 2002 Air Force Marathon T-shirt and patch. All participants who finish the marathon within the eight-hour



Air Force Marathon route guides Bobbie Heaston (standing) and Mary McClellan join other cheering race fans in applause during last year's marathon. The two were stationed on the Air Force Marathon's last turn to help runners find their way to the finish line and to cheer them on. (Air Force photo by Spencer P. Lane)

time limit will receive a medallion. Pre-race events include a two-day sports and fitness expo at the Hope Hotel and Conference Center here, Sept. 19-20, sponsored by Marathon organizers.

Vendors will display a variety of sports apparel, equipment, and memorabilia.

Also, representatives from the base health and wellness center will be available to provide information on health, fitness and exercise. A pre-race pasta dinner will be held

Sept. 20. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased on the

registration form. More information on the annual Air Force Marathon, including registration procedures, is available on the web at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil/>

Air Guard family fun golf tournament

The Chiefs Council will sponsor a family golf tournament in July or August.

Any interested guard parents that would like to participate in a FUN 9 or 18 Hole Golf Tournament with their children please contact Chief Macsata, 292-2529 or Senior Master Sgt. Wheeler 292-2432 to get your name on the list.

At this time there is not date, time or place.

We are planning a FUN 9 or 18 Hole event with children. Once we get an idea of the amount of interest parties, we will select a course. We were thinking of doing a Scotch-Double tournament, but we are open for suggestions.



Cost will depend on the number of participants. We would also like to keep the children's age to 16 and under.

If anyone has ideas on how we could make this more entertaining for the children, please let us know. Remember we want to make this a FUN event where all the children will win something.

Visit the

Connecticut Guardian

on-line at www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Change allows more Reserve athletes to compete in military-sponsored events

(COURTESY OF AFRC NEWS SERVICE)

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) — Air Force reservists who attend Air Force or higher-level sports training camps and compete in military-sponsored sporting events are now eligible for pay.

Air Force Reserve Command athletes can now be placed on paid "man-day" status under the Military Personnel Appropriation program, according to the Air Force Services Agency.

Previously, reservists who attended training camps were placed on an active-duty tour in order to receive lodging, travel and points, but were not paid. Now, the allotted MPA man-days cover pay and allowances, while the host training or competition base provides the lodging and travel expenses.

"We had capable competitors who wanted to participate in training but couldn't afford to take a week or two off from their civilian jobs," said Lynda Sheltmire, chief of the recreational support in the AFRC directorate of services. "Now, Air Force competitors can be paid while they are training and competing."

Sheltmire said that "man-days" are also available for some athletes who compete in armed forces competitions when no Air Force tryouts or training camps exist.

"We have had a skeet shooter compete in Pan Am games and the Olympic trials,"

Sheltmire said.

Typically, Olympic-caliber athletes are accepted into the World Class Athlete Program and placed on active duty to facilitate full-time training.

Military athletes apply for training camps using an Air Force Form 303, Request for USAF Specialized Sports Training, a resume-type document used to choose participants. Along with the AF Form 303, reservists submit an AF Form 49, Application for MPA Man-Day Tour, with their supervisor's and commander's approval to use MPA days.

Individuals are allowed up to 139 MPA days during the fiscal year if required, including any MPA days they may use at their respective unit.

Chief Master Sgt. Larry Kalivoda, chief of the air reserve branch at the Air Force Services Agency, said that the only reason MPA days for sports competitions were denied in the past was because of the 139-day MPA limit.

To be considered for Air Force sports competitions, reservists must mail both completed forms to HQ AFRC/SVPR, 255 Richard Ray Boulevard, Robins AFB, Ga. 31098-1637 no later than 60 days prior to the start of the respective training.

If the Air Force approves an application, the Air Force Services Agency allocates the appropriate number of MPA days to the individual's military unit.

5th ANNUAL NGACT OPEN

All proceeds to benefit
The Connecticut Children's Medical Center
with the help of the AFRC and its staff

DATE:
Friday
6 September 2002

LOCATION:
Keney Golf Course
Hartford, CT

TIME:
11:00 am Shotgun Start

COST:
\$90.00 person
(\$30.00 dinner only)

FORMAT:
Four (4)
Person Scramble

Tournament Day Schedule

9:00-10:45 Registration, Coffee, Donuts

10:45-11:00 Depart for starting holes

11:00 Shotgun start

4:00-5:00 50/50 Putting Contest

5:00 Barbecue, Auction, Raffle

Tournament Includes:

- > 18 Holes with cart <
- > Hot dog & drink at the turn <
- > Barbecue to follow golf (beer, wine, soda) <
- > Awards, prizes and raffle <
- > \$10,000 Hole in One contest <
- > Closest to the Pin contest <
- > Long drive contest <
- > 50/50 contest <

For questions or more information contact: Dan Norick (860) 524-4838 Chris Hawkins (860) 524-4814
John Godburn (860) 524-4806 James Howard (860) 493-2749

Returns to NLT 16 Aug 02: NGACT Open, 340 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06103-3795
(Make checks payable to NGACT)

Name	Address	Home Phone	Work Phone
1			
2			
3			
4			

Task Force issues findings on Charge Card abuse, fraud

From Page 4

In a DoD briefing on the findings of the Task Force, Zakheim said that senior leadership will be held responsible for their employees' actions.

Leadership could be held either criminally or civilly liable for their employees' misconduct he said.

"There already is a situation where a person can be liable, and that's the certifying officers. It's called...pecuniary liability," said Zakheim. "All it means is that if you were negligent, you are liable. And we already have that on the books. (This falls under the purchase card rules.)"

Zakheim also spoke of the recommendations made by the Task Force relating to management emphasis and culture.

Zakheim emphasized that the withdrawal of security clearances was not intended as a penalty.

"It is a matter of how you deal with organizational culture," he said. "When people have background checks, one of the things that are checked are the way they have dealt with money issues in their private lives...this goes not to a compliance issue, which some people might think, but rather to an organizational culture issue. We need people who are above and beyond in all respects."

According to Zakheim, the Department of Justice Public Integrity Section is interested in prosecuting crimes involving fraudulent use of purchase cards. Defense agency criminal investigation organizations are going to pursue these cases with the Public Integrity Section for prosecution.

Legal Action

"There is an act that was passed in 1986, called the Program for Fraud Civil Remedies Act," said Zakheim. "That allows the pursuit of civil as opposed to criminal remedies - penalties, rather, against the person who abuses a government charge card. You can be found liable, and if you are, you can be penalized up to \$5,000 per claim, and could also be required to pay double the amount that was falsely claimed."

Misuse, abuse and fraud of government charge cards can cost much more than late payment fees.

The Justice Department's Public Integrity Section will prosecute. Defense will look at pursuing cases in state and local courts provided they could get jurisdiction. DoD may pursue these cases as civil suits rather than criminal ones. And commanders and supervisors must take action in charge card cases. If they don't, they risk being held liable.

UCMJ & CCMJ

According to Col. Michael Tuohy, Connecticut's Staff Judge Advocate, there are a wide range of ramifications and disciplinary action up to and including an other than honorable discharge from the Guard for those found guilty of misuse, abuse or fraud of the government charge cards.

"This goes for military personnel as well as civilian technicians," said Tuohy. "In the technician program, there is the Military Technician Personnel Regulation that holds the potential for firing in these cases. On the military side, and this goes for both AGR and M-Day soldiers, there's the Connecticut Code of Military Justice (CCMJ), the Uniform

Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and the administrative regulations for those on tours."

Tuohy said misuse, abuse and fraud violate several articles of the CCMJ.

"There's the potential for court martial, reduction in rank, payment of fines, payment of restitution and the civilian authorities, state or federal, could get involved and criminal charges could be filed," said Tuohy. And it doesn't end there.

"The side effects are numerous," said Tuohy. "You could wind up with a negative credit report which could mean the inability to get a loan or buy a house. The adverse information in your credit report could cause you to lose your security clearance or the ability to get one, which would affect your ability to get a federal job. The side effects are numerous and could follow you for a very long time."

Fortunately, said Tuohy, there have been no serious cases of misuse, abuse or fraud in the CTARNG; the supervisors or chain of command handled any cases that have come up.

The best advice is to become educated. Check per diem rates before traveling. Know and understand what constitutes a legitimate government expense.

Recommendations

"The Task Force recommends that the investigative community...ensure that supervisors and security managers are informed of allegations of purchase and travel card misuse and abuse, so that an appropriate determination can be made regarding the suspension of security clearances," said Zakheim.

ESGR & DoD salute patriotic employers for their support

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

The Connecticut Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, recently honored several Connecticut companies for their outstanding support of employers who are also members of the reserve forces.

Presented during ceremonies that included a supportive proclamation from Governor Rowland, the coveted "Pro-Patria Award" was presented to Diane Belbusti, Director of Nursing Services, Harbor View Manor, East Haven, Conn.

In accepting this "one-per-state" award, Belbusti became the finest example of those corporations that understand the growing reliance upon America's reserve forces, and provide outstanding encouragement and support to their employees who also serve.

Companies honored with "State Chairman's Awards" for their outstanding support were:

- Connecticut Dept. of Transportation**
Newington
- CDS Business Mapping**
Newington
- CWPM (Connecticut Waste)**
Plainville
- Devar Incorporated**
Bridgeport
- Mohegan Sun Casino**
Norwich
- Six Sense Personal Protection Services**
Norwich
- Sikorsky Aircraft**
Stratford

These honored employers were chosen from among hundreds nominated by their employee/reservists for outstanding support.

The awards are sponsored by the Department of Defense and coordinated by the Connecticut Committee through its "My Boss is a Patriot" Program.

Following the presentations, the awardees and their nominators were flown on a KC-135 aerial tanker from the New Hampshire Air National Guard and observed a mid-air refueling exercise by A-10 Fighter Aircraft from the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Other guests and family members were escorted on a tour of the New England Air Museum at Bradley Field.

- William W. Backus Hospital**
Norwich
- Connecticut Dept. of Public Health**
Hartford
- Connecticut State Police**
Meriden




Retirement



Groton Motor Inn
Groton, Connecticut
99 Gold Star Highway,
Groton, CT 06340

Rooms Available Upon Request

\$45 per person
includes meal, tax, and gift

Cocktails 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Attire
Military: Dress Blues
Class A with bow tie
Semi Formal Civilian
Attire

State Command Sergeant Major

CSM Stephen L. Primett

August 31, 2002

For more information contact:
SOM Joseph Serigny (860)224-4834 or
1SG John Carragher (860)224-4951

Or via e-mail:
joseph.serigny@ct.igh.army.mil or
john.carragher@ct.igh.army.mil

Please Detach and Return by August 19, 2002

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

e-mail _____

Return to:
"Primett Retirement"
c/o 1SG John Carragher
ATTN: CTNG-MJ
360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105-3798

Meal Choices:
Indicate number of each meal

London Broil
Stuffed Chicken
Baked Scrod

Make all checks payable to: Primett Retirement

Hartford Armory CLIN site gets upgrade

SPEC. VIVIAN RODRIGUEZ
65th PRESS CAMP

Community Learning Information Network (CLIN), a program brought about by Congress and the Chamber of Commerce, was developed before computers were as present as they are today.

CLIN's purpose is to provide readiness and training to soldiers along with command and control, and shared usage with the community.

"This is an exciting field to be in its coming of age," says Owen McDonell, the administrator of the learning center.

Upgrading that began in May of 2002, is currently underway providing CLIN with new software and hardware. CLIN is currently being refurbished with Windows 2000, Pentium 4 and large projection screens to include behind screen projections as well.

Software can now be downloaded to the actual server rather than having the software on CDs. This allows a soldier to access any course from anywhere at anytime, making long distance learning easy.

CLIN is primarily geared towards guardsmen, however it can be used by anyone including non-government officials. CLIN labs are free to government employees, but the cost does vary to the rest of the community depending on who needs it, for how long and to what degree.

Video teleconferencing, netmeeting, and more than 1,500 courses are now made available thru the use of CLIN.

Due to current national needs, the National Guard Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP), along with the Defense Language Institute (DLI) have collaborated to provide more than 30 computer based language courses.

Simulations such as marksmanship training along with land navigation programs, are only some of the things made available thru CLIN.

"However, this does not replace school," said McDonell. "This simply provides the convenience of receiving training without

having to travel a distance, without having to leave home or family."

Laptops can even be issued to soldiers who would like to continue taking courses but have to go to the field or who will not be within easy distance of a computer lab.

McDonell feels that the labs go underutilized; that there is a need for awareness of what is available.

"I don't feel that this information is being filtered down to soldiers."

The optimal goal is to have these labs accessible within an

hour's distance from an individual soldier. At the present time there are two CLIN labs in Connecticut. Hartford Armory, one of the first CLIN labs in the country, contains 20 computer stations. The other lab can be found at Camp Rowland in building 101 with 12 stations. Currently there are approximately 300 labs across the country and it is expected to continue growing. There are even future plans to develop a CLIN lab in Waterbury at the University of Connecticut.



Owen McDonell, CLIN director, shows off the upgraded equipment in the Hartford Armory Learning Center. (Photo by Spec. Joseph Waller, 65th PCH)

New Software to Speed VA Claims

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to release software late this summer that will help veterans' service organizations prepare claims on behalf of veterans.

Currently, VSO representatives with powers of attorney can request medical records only in paper form from the VA.

With the new software, they will be able to review medical information in the veteran's electronic record at VA health facilities.

The software has incorporated two features to safeguard veterans' medical records.

First, the software provides read-only access to medical files, so users will not be able to add, delete or modify any information in the veteran's medical record.

Second, the software limits a user's access to the medical records of only those patients for whom the VSO representative holds a valid power of attorney.

Representatives will have access to information from all VA hospitals in which a veteran was treated.



Contact a Recruiter by email at
recruiter@ctbrad.ang.af.mil
or call toll free 1-800-992-4793

Fiber Optic technology moving DOIM forward

Fiber Optic technology is on the move in the Connecticut National Guard, and DOIM is leading the way.

June 24 through 27 marked another milestone for the Connecticut Army National Guard. The Department of Information Management (DOIM) successfully completed its second Phase I Fiber Optic commercial certification basic course and its first Phase II Fiber Optic Instructors course.

The uniqueness of this iteration is that eight full-time and three M-Day soldiers from two different departments were integrated. The DOIM and Data Processing Center (DPC) collaborated to form a strengthened Fiber Optic capability within the state.

With the first iteration of Phase II completed, Connecticut now has the capability to begin training additional members of the Guard with its own staff. This training will begin in TY03 with 20 members of the Wire and Cable platoon from Company C, 280th Signal Battalion. Additionally, selected members from the AVCRAD and AASF will be afforded the opportunity to receive this training.

This training will provide multiple capabilities to the Guard at large.

First, the Guard will acquire approximately 43 new commercially certified Fiber Optic technicians. Next, we reduce or eliminate our

reliance on commercial contractors to provide Fiber Optic support. Connecticut now has the capacity to design, install, test and maintain its Fiber Optic backbone, supporting RCAS and any new requirements deemed appropriate.

In the future, the DOIM in conjunction with the FMO will provide Fiber Optic

Connecticut now has the capability to begin training additional members of the Guard with its own staff.

technical support to new initiatives on Camp Rowland, specifically buildings 10, 11 and 60. These proofs of concept technologies will validate capabilities and responsiveness in support of command initiatives. In addition to routine operations this training has the potential to foster two other significant activities.

First, Lt. Col. Russ Styles, the Deputy Chief of Staff Information Management (DCSIM),

is in the process of developing and writing a formal program of instruction (POI) providing a formal Fiber Optic certification course in Connecticut. This POI will be submitted through the 169th Leadership Regiment to the proponent at Fort Gordon for approval.

Once approved, the Fiber Optic certification course may be given by the 169th Leadership Regiment or the DOIM staff to any soldier requiring these unique talents. Additionally, this course will be offered to other New England states that have already shown an interest in developing these technical traits.

Next, with this newfound capability the Connecticut Army National Guard now possesses an asset that can be deployed supporting Homeland Defense and Weapons of Mass Destruction missions. By having numerous individuals trained in commercial and tactical Fiber Optic operations the command is now in a unique position of offering a valuable resource in support of various contingencies.

In the future this training is to become a joint training program and with this the opportunities abound. The Connecticut DOIM is determined to improve and strengthen its technical skills while providing superior support not only to its membership but also to the state and nation.

Education Essentials

From Page 20

satisfy degree requirements and electives through these proficiency exams in Business, Arts and Sciences, Education, and Nursing.

Credit Bank: One Transcript for All Your College-Level Credit
The Excelsior College Credit Bank option permits you to consolidate your college-level academic credits from campus-based courses, correspondence courses, college-level proficiency examinations, and accredited military or industry training. Your consolidated transcript may be used for promotion, school qualifications, employment opportunities, or educational purposes.

To obtain additional information, contact Excelsior College by telephone at 518-464-8500 or toll free at 888-647-2388 (press 2-7 at the automated greeting) or contact by fax at 518-464-8777, by email at military@excelsior.edu, or by mail as follows: Office of Military Education, Excelsior College, 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203-5159

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

Note: Outdate Closing dates indicate that applications are currently under consideration. Individuals interested in applying for the position are encouraged to do so and may receive an interview, if qualified, and no one else has been previously selected. Several additional job postings are available on the Connecticut National Guard Website.

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Supply Technician	AVCRAD	GS-05	6/19/2002
Maintenance Manager	SMO	GS-12	6/24/2002
Aircraft Mechanic Supervisor	AASF	WS-09	7/1/2002
Military Pay Technician	USPFO	GS-06	7/3/2002
Supply Systems Analyst	USPFO	GS-11	7/3/2002
Secretary (Office Automation)	AASF	GS-05	7/10/2002
Automotive Mechanic Supervisor, Indef.	OMS#5	WS-09	7/30/2002

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing date
Secretary (Office Automation)	AASF	GS-05	7/10/2002
Electronic Integrated Systems Mech., Indef	103 FW, LOG	WG-12	7/16/2002
Ordnance Equipment Mechanic	103 FW, LOG	WG-10	7/17/2002
Electronic Integrated Systems Mechanic	103 FW, LOG	WG-12	7/22/2002
Electronics Mechanic, Indef.	103 FW, LOG	WG-11/8/5	7/22/2002
Aircraft Mechanic	103 FW, LOG	WG-10/8/5	7/31/2002
Airplane Flight Instructor, Indef.	103 FW, OPS	GS-13	8/1/2002
Military Personnel Technician	103 FW MPF	GS-07	8/1/2002

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 Jacqueline Thomas at (860) 878-6729.

Note: Several additional job postings are available on the Connecticut National Guard Website.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Production Recruiter	R&R Command, STARC	SFC/E-7	Open Statewide
Property Book Officer	1109th AVCRAD	WO1-04	On Board AGR Only
Petroleum Supply Specialist	HHC 2/126th AVN REGT	SFC/E7	On Board AGR Only

Air National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Aircraft Mechanic	103 FW, LOG	TSGT	On Board AGR Only
Management Analyst	103 FW, LOG	MSGT/SSGT	Open Air
Military Personnel Technician	103 FW SPT	MASG	Open Air
Ordnance Equipment Mechanic	103 FW LOG	TSGT	On Board AGR Only
Supervisory Info. Tech. Specialist	103 FW, Support	MSGT/CMSGT	On Board AGR Only
Supply Technician	103 FW LOG	TSGT	On Board AGR Only

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

August

August 14

NGACT Executive Council Meeting
1730 hours, Hartford Armory

August 17

Family Day

August 18-22

EANGUS Conference

August 21

Retirees' Picnic

August 31

Command Sgt. Maj. Primett's Retirement Party

September

September 6

NGACT Golf Tournament

September 11

Anniversary of 9/11

September 11

NGACT Executive Council Meeting
1730 hours, Hartford Armory

September 14

Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps Retirement

Date to be Determined

Connecticut Day at the Big E

In the Next CG

9/11 Anniversary: A Look Back

Family Day

Brig. Gen. Epps' Farewell

Retirees' Picnic

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month
previous to publication.



2nd Lt. Liz Cordon remembers her father and mentor. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

Brig. Gen. Steven Cordon Memorial Bench Dedication Ceremony

On-the-Green Litchfield, Connecticut

July 10, 2002

**Father
Friend
Soldier**



Lt. Col. Ron Welch talks about the meaning behind the Steven Cordon Memorial Bench. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Brig. Gen. Steven Cordon's daughters and son (behind his sisters) watch as their father's bench is being placed on the green. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Owen McDonnell pipes 'Amazing Grace' during the ceremonies as Chaplain Kevin Cavanaugh looks on from the left. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Steven Wyzykowski sits next to a picture of his uncle on the Brig. Gen. Steven Cordon Memorial Bench after dedication ceremonies in Litchfield. Young Steven was born only a few months after his uncle passed away. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Lee Cordon watches with tears in her eyes as the bench being dedicated to her late son is uncovered. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



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