



# Connecticut Guardian

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## Reserve and Guard A-10 pilots finish tops in 'Hawgsmoke' competition

CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL  
103RD FIGHTER WING PAO

The Connecticut Air National Guard earned the honor as Top Bombing Team at the worldwide A-10 competition known as Hawgsmoke. Held at Fort Drum, NY in May, the event was planned and organized by the Connecticut Air National Guard.

Representing the 118th Fighter Squadron was the team of Lt. Col. Dennis "Gator" Yount, Maj. Brian "BT" Burger, Maj. Francis "Crank" Dettore, and Maj. Joseph "Brahma" Schulz.

The competition focuses on accurately dropping bombs, firing the Maverick missile and strafing proficiency with the A-10's 30 millimeter Gatling-gun. The competition included 17 teams from the Air National Guard, Air Force and Air Force Reserve. The judges added up the individual and team scores to determine winners based on where their bombs landed and how well they shot.

"With 17 very highly qualified teams there is not a whole lot of points difference between doing very well and ending up near the bottom," said Yount, leader of the Top Bomber Team.

The four-member team from the Air Force Reserve's 47th Fighter Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., took home the trophy and honor as the world's Best Overall A-10



Lt. Col. Dennis Yount of the Connecticut Air National Guard prepares for an early morning flight during Hawgsmoke 2002. (Photo by Spec. Rachel Tolliver, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division journalist)

Team, which the Connecticut team won along with hosting honors in 2000.

"I think what really pulled it off for us were a lot of lessons learned from the last competition," said Maj. Marc "Thor" Olson, pilot and winning team leader, 47th Fighter Squadron. "We came in second in the overall in 2000...and we really wanted to strive to be better than we were before. Our

maintenance people back home play a really big part in making sure the jets and the weapons systems all worked so our success is a reflection on the quality work they did getting us ready."

The runners up, both from the Air National Guard, for the Overall Team Award

See *Hawgsmoke* page 32

## Defense spending bill passes in Washington

SGT. 1<sup>st</sup> CLASS DEBBI NEWTON  
STATE SENIOR PANCO

The House and Senate overwhelmingly passed major defense spending packages on June 27 that will increase pay for the armed forces and provide new money for military hardware and research.

The Senate passed a \$393 billion spending package while the House passed a \$355 billion military appropriations bill. The Senate's bill authorizes the budget and the House bill appropriates the money to fund the budget. The Senate still must pass a bill detailing how it will spend its military dollars; a bill that differs somewhat from the House authorization bill passed in May.

Regardless, both bills show the largest increases in military spending in decades. The Senate bill sets aside \$50 billion more than last year's budget, while the House bill is a nearly \$34 billion increase.

"It meets the the goals that the president has set," said Senator John W. Warner of Virginia, the senior Republican on the Armed Services Committee.

Included in both bills is a 4.1 percent across-the-board pay raise for military personnel, and higher raises for selected personnel.

The vote today is a reflection of the public's strong support for the military," said Representative Jerry Lewis (R-Calif.), chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee after the vote. He said it was the largest vote in support of a military spending bill in recent memory and that it demonstrated that lawmakers were making defense a top priority after Sept. 11.

Senate majority leader, Tom Daschle had told the Senate it would not leave town for a Fourth of July recess until the defense bill was finished.

President George W. Bush, who had urged Congress to pass military spending packages, praised House lawmakers "for their strong, bipartisan show of unity in our war against terrorism" and urged the Senate to approve similar legislation in July.

## Keeping the homeland safe for the holiday



Sgt. Jonathon Leonard cuts the concertina wire off the front of his vehicle in preparation for setting up a roadblock and checkpoint during QRF training held at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)

SGT. 1<sup>st</sup> CLASS DEBBI NEWTON  
STATE SENIOR PA NCO

The Fourth of July weekend has traditionally meant time spent with families, picnics, fireworks and celebrating our nation's independence and freedom. For one group of Connecticut soldiers, this Fourth of July week meant time spent together away from their families, dining facility food, making sure there were no explosions and protecting our nation's independence and freedom.

The week was dubbed "Operation Independence."

Members of Battery A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 192<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery gathered at Camp Rowland for one week of training as a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and were available 24 hours a day for a week if local, state or federal authorities needed their expertise and training. The group of soldiers will all be transferring to the 135<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company when the Field Artillery is phased out, and not only did the soldiers volunteer for the Fourth of July mission, they also decided to stay together as a unit when the phase out is complete.

See *QRF* page 6

# Up front with the Adjutant General

## The return of Family Day

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO  
ADJUTANT GENERAL



August 17<sup>th</sup> marks the return of the Connecticut National Guard's Annual Family Day at Camp Rowland for the first time in two years. The theme of this event is to celebrate the critical role that the "Guard Family" plays in the overall effectiveness of our soldiers and airmen. As units return from deployment, we recognize and thank their families for enduring these long absences. This year's event is meant to honor those service members who have contributed so much in the wake of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. It will also provide us with an opportunity to reflect on this past year and remember the sacrifices made by so many.

We will also remember our brothers and sisters fighting the war on terrorism, and recognize the integral role that the Connecticut National Guard has played in this mission. With our soldiers and airmen deployed around the world, we have come to recognize that the world is not a safe place, not even here at home. This fact has provided the National Guard with the new mission of keeping our homeland safe and responding to threats of terrorism.

In the wake of the attacks, Governor Rowland answered President Bush's request to provide security to airports and other key assets around the state. Our soldiers responded to this call and their actions were heralded by leaders at every level. The 143<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company provided security at Bradley Airport; the

103<sup>rd</sup> Air Control Squadron worked around the clock to provide an "eye on the sky;" soldiers from the MACOMS down to line units did their part to be prepared for any contingencies; and TF Olympics provided security under the watchful eye of the entire world community.

Meanwhile other units carried out their previously scheduled missions; the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing continued to keep the skies over Southwest Asia safe; SFOR 9 returned from Bosnia and soldiers from the 143<sup>rd</sup> FSB and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry deployed with SFOR 10.

Time and time again over this past year, our soldiers and airmen have proven that they are invaluable to our state and nation, and they are the best our nation has to offer. I am proud of all the contributions and sacrifices made by the entire Guard family.

But these contributions have not come without a price, and that price has often been to the families of our people who have also given so much. The spouses, parents and children of our Guardsmen have also made sacrifices – and they have continually demonstrated that mission readiness is a direct result of family support. Without the willingness of our families to endure the separations brought on by long deployments, the missions we undertake would undoubtedly meet with little or no success.

As the Family Day 2002 events will be centered around the units which have returned from active duty in recent months, we will have the opportunity to publicly thank both them and their families for their contributions. They are important to you and, therefore, they are important to the Guard as a whole. However, the leadership of the Connecticut National Guard and the Governor's Office saw the need to do more for our members. In keeping with my promise to keep the focus on people as my highest priority, we were able to spearhead several initiatives to ensure that our members are taken care of when such activations occur. We will, with the help of our friends and supporters continue this effort.

The year has been significantly different for all of us. September 11<sup>th</sup> has dramatically changed the role of the National Guard and the "Guard Family" has become even more important as we adopt our new role in support of homeland defense and continue our traditional roles at home and abroad. The effectiveness of all of us is directly attributed to our family, and Family Day marks only the first milestone in our commitment to our people and their families.

I hope we all take advantage of this year's Family Day and use this time to enjoy the day with our families and recognize their contributions to our military. I look forward to seeing you and your families on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Perspectives

### What have you done recently to advance your military career?



*Staff Sgt. Jayme M. Pace, aerospace ground equipment specialist, 103rd Air Control Squadron. "I stay on top of my training. I volunteer for exercises and deployments to gain experience because with experience when you have problems (with equipment) you know how to respond, and respond quicker. This year (training at Fort Devens, June 2002) I am getting managerial experience...I put together the schedule and I am in-charge of the Aerospace Ground Equipment mission here."*

*2nd Lt. Robert Dollack, 248th Engineer Company, Horizontal Platoon Leader "I just completed my officer basic course. I'm looking forward to my advance course next and then the combined armed service school as far as my military education goes. I look forward to becoming a company commander and moving up in the battalion."*



*Airman Stephanie D. Mencarelli, personnel relocations specialist, 103rd Mission Support Flight. "I joined the base Honor Guard. It is fun and provides discipline...I can't wait to do my first detail. The honor Guard builds character plus the community will get to see me represent the unit. I am going for more training in Colorado August 17."*



*Pvt. 2 Aletha Schneider, 248th Engineer Company, Fuel Handler - 77F, Horizontal Platoon. "I want to work in Military Law, as a JAG. I am working on a B.S. degree in Pre-Law at UCONN and I want to utilize this in going to school to become a JAG. I am also considering going ROTC at UCONN and becoming a commissioned officer."*



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Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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# Arab heritage aids War on Terrorism in Afghanistan

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI  
65" PCH

The terrain varies from treacherous mountains with raging snowdrifts to flat deserts featuring wind-blown sand as fine as talcum powder. The weather can be extreme on both ends of the thermometer, and the activity has been as dangerous as anything faced by U.S. forces in years. The various people involved speak languages that are largely unfamiliar even to fighting forces as diverse as those representing of the U.S.

It might not seem like a logical place to find an architect working alongside a multitude of organizations fighting on the frontlines of the war on terror. But it would have been difficult to find a man better for the job than that architect, Maj. Ahmed Beerman-Ahmed, who is also a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard.

Beerman-Ahmed, a new member of the Connecticut Army National Guard's Civil Support Team for his part-time job, is an architect for the State of Connecticut. With 22 years in service, he recently transferred from the Air National Guard to work with a unit that can be called under certain types of terrorist attacks, intending to offer his military background as a chemical officer.

But once the U.S. military attacked Afghanistan's Taliban regime, Beerman-Ahmed was able to offer expertise on language, culture and tactics, by drawing from his personal background as a native of the Arab world. He served four months on active duty, working with a variety of special operations units in Afghanistan.

He was born in Egypt and grew up in Kuwait, so Arabic is his first language. But, he also has the type of first-hand knowledge of Southwest Asia that was crucial to the success of American and multi-national forces rounding up terrorists from the Al Qaeda network. So, on his recent four-month active-duty assignment in Afghanistan he did much more than translation. He worked alongside U.S. and allied forces fighting the war on terror, assisting them in gathering intelligence and interrogating detainees.

"We went to towns and talked to locals. We went to compounds to look at weapons. We evaluated documents to determine their intelligence value," Beerman-Ahmed said. "We interrogated detainees to determine whether they were innocent or guilty. Some of the captured people were just innocent locals." He spent most of his time working with special operations personnel from the U.S. and allied countries, including the CIA, FBI, NSA and the British intelligence units MI-5 and MI-6.

Shortly after returning from his active duty tour in Afghanistan, Beerman-Ahmed was asked to speak before a luncheon audience comprised mainly of soldiers, airmen and retirees from the Connecticut National Guard.

He demonstrated some of the clothing he wore while in Afghanistan. The local garb had allowed him to blend in with the populace, as he gathered human intelligence.

He then delivered his speech at the State Army wearing his desert battle dress uniform, beginning with some humor.

"I'm not a public speaker. I'm actually more scared now than I was in Kandahar," he said, after opening with a greeting in Arabic.

Beerman-Ahmed was introduced to the luncheon audience by State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. William Cugno, who recalled Beerman-Ahmed's enthusiasm in helping in the war on terror.

"After the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, all of the Connecticut Guard came alive. But, Beerman-Ahmed came in to speak with me and said 'I am an American fighting man, I will do whatever I can to help out,'" Cugno said.

Beerman-Ahmed showed slides gathered from the frontlines of the War on Terror. Among the slides were photos of U.S. troops using donkeys for transport, the insides of reinforced caves, captured documents, tons of weapons and ammunition captured by U.S. troops, a destroyed Taliban headquarters building and mosques that are typical in that region. He showed troops preparing for Operation Anaconda, including photos that represented the extremely difficult conditions faced by the troops he assisted.

"Most of Afghanistan is formidable terrain, as the Soviets found out, and as the British found out before them. In Kandahar, it was very dry, dusty and dirty. Up north, I was in two feet of snow with the special operations forces in the mountains," Beerman-Ahmed said. "It's some of the most difficult terrain in the north. You can't get there, except by helicopter or horseback.

"We had troops from the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, who are trained for that terrain. We had the 101<sup>st</sup> Air Assault, and of course our Special Forces, and those from

Australia, Canada, Great Britain and Denmark. We even had a small contingent of Jordanians who were a mine-sweeping unit."

Amongst the international flavor of those fighting on our side in the war, was a disturbing fact uncovered in searching documents and capturing weapons.

"We captured Al Qaeda training notes. Most of the notes are in Arabic, some are in Chinese. (The terrorists) have been training a lot of people. Most of the weapons we found were Chinese-made," Beerman-Ahmed said. "They had documents on



Maj. Ahmed Beerman-Ahmed discusses his experiences during the War on Terrorism while deployed in Afghanistan during a luncheon held at the Officer's

nuclear explosions, training on making explosives.

"There was information on volatile chemicals and how to obtain them. There were instructions for engineers on how to blow up bridges and railroad tracks and how to make bombs. They had a lot of documents that I can't talk about (because they are classified)."

Regarding one of the questions that has been unanswered to this point in the war, Beerman-Ahmed believes that Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. attacks and is buried under rubble in the Tora Bora region. Beerman-Ahmed was among the troops who went from mountain-to-mountain and cave-to-cave in that region.

Despite his extensive knowledge and experience in his native region, some of what he learned in Afghanistan surprised him.

"I was surprised at the large number of Arabs that went to Afghanistan from far away. They don't speak the language, but they went to help their Moslem brothers in the Jihad."

He said this is consistent with a growing trend among Moslems worldwide. "These are people blinded by religion."

Beerman-Ahmed first came to the United States when he was 19 years old, to attend

Trinity College in Hartford, where he earned a bachelors degree in liberal arts. While working on his master's degree in architecture at the University of Houston, his love of the United States prompted him to join the Army Reserve. Later, he moved back to Connecticut, and earned his commission at the State Military Academy in Niantic.

Although he's officially an engineer officer with the Army, Beerman-Ahmed was also trained as a chemical officer by the Air Force. He has a great deal of experience with the Air Force Special Operations Command. A Gulf War veteran, he has "regularly gone to the Middle East" for a variety of assignments, most of which remain classified. Many of those assignments have been conducted in Kuwait and Iraq. He also served as a United Nations weapons inspector in Iraq between 1996 and 1998.

"I was one of the last people out of Iraq, before Operation Desert Fox started at the end of 1998," Beerman-Ahmed said, adding that he was assigned to replace Scott Ritter, who had been expelled by Saddam Hussein.

With a background that includes training and experience in weapons of mass destruction, he was called to active duty in mid-January. "I went from civilian to soldier in just two weeks – which is incredible," he said.

Already fluent in four languages, Beerman-Ahmed gained exposure to Pashti, a language common among tribes in Afghanistan, prior to departing.

Many Americans didn't seem to expect large-scale terrorism to hit their homeland, prior to Sept. 11, 2001. Beerman-Ahmed had feared something might happen, although the scale of the attack surprised him.

"With my knowledge of the Arab world, I felt that something was going to happen, especially after the U.S.S. Cole was attacked," Beerman-Ahmed said. "When the Cole was hit, I realized that all of the victims were the same age as my son. I thought 'This could happen to my son.' That's when it really hit home with me. I felt for the families of the people who were killed," said Beerman-Ahmed, who has a 20-year old son in the Air National Guard. His 31-year old son, a former Marine, works for the U.S. Government on border security.

For the future, Beerman-Ahmed feels that the U.S. needs to continue supporting the interim government trying to hold power in Afghanistan, a company that has been impoverished by war and corrupt regimes. "They need a lot of support, including financial support, to keep going," he said.

Beerman-Ahmed also told the luncheon audience that he is hoping to have an opportunity to go back to the frontlines to fight the War on Terror.

"Operation Enduring Freedom continues, and I am ready to go," he said. "The war paint is still on... not just for me, but for a lot of people. So, don't mess with the U.S.!"

## Senate confirms Eberhart to head NorthCom

Gen. Ed Eberhart, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command has been confirmed by the Senate to head up the newly created Northern Command. Eberhart also heads up U.S. Space Command and Air Force Space Command and will continue in that position, also.

On the same day as the confirmation, Capitol Hill received word there are no environmental concerns to putting the NorthCom command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.

"NorthCom is crucial to our national security," said Sen. Wayne Allard (R-Colo.). "This keeps us on track for getting NorthCom stood up by October. Eberhart's confirmation was one of the last items taken up by the Senate before its July Fourth recess.

NorthCom will be responsible for the continental United States, Canada, Mexico and parts of the Caribbean and waters 500 miles off all U.S. shores.

Eberhart's final hurdle is having the secretary of defense sign off on his confirmation.

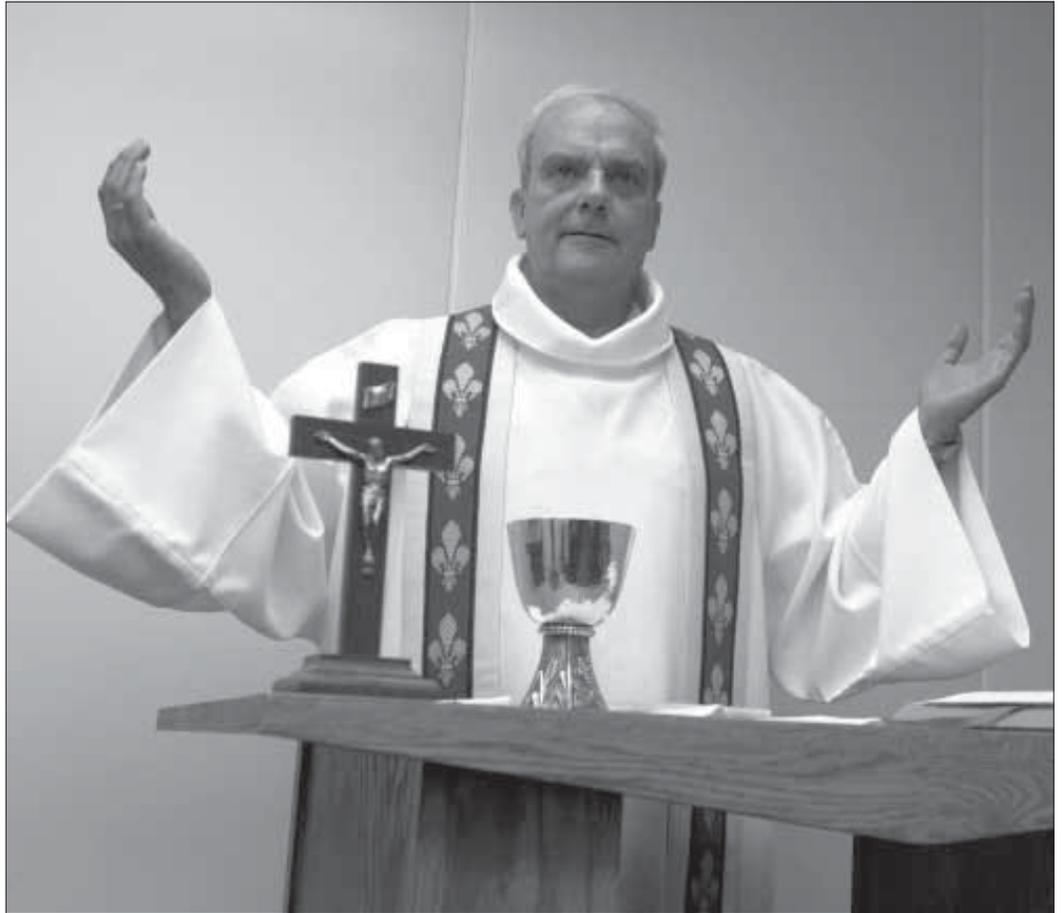
## President nominates Giambastiani Jr. to command Joint Forces

Vice Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr. has been nominated by President George W. Bush to head the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk. Giambastiani currently serves as senior military assistant to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Giambastiani, 54, a Naval Academy graduate and former submarine commander, became Rumsfeld's top military aide in May 2001 and is credited with smoothing communications at a time when relations between Rumsfeld and the military brass were at their lowest point.

If confirmed by the Senate, Giambastiani would become one of nine commanders responsible for commanding U.S. forces on the battlefield and in such critical functional areas as nuclear readiness and homeland defense. Under Rumsfeld's new unified command plan, the Joint Forces Command will focus on transforming the military through innovative uses of joint air, sea and land task forces.

Giambastiani became commander of the Atlantic Fleet's submarine force in 1998. He was the first naval officer to serve as special assistant to the CIA's deputy director for intelligence. He was serving as deputy chief of naval operations for resources, warfare requirements and assessments when he was called to work as Rumsfeld's military assistant last spring.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Charbonneau, deputy chief of the Air National Guard's chaplain services division at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., has been named a monsignor. He has been a priest since 1973. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, NGB)

## Pope names Connecticut Air National Guard chaplain a monsignor

MASTER SGT. BOB HASKELL  
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

Pope John Paul II has recognized an Air National Guard chaplain by giving him the title of monsignor.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Charbonneau, a Catholic priest for nearly 30 years, was notified by the Archdiocese of Military Services of the honor.

"I never saw it coming. I was totally blown away," said Charbonneau, deputy chief of the Air Guard's chaplain services division at the National Guard Bureau here. "I have always felt it is important to do your best by consistently maintaining the ministry and not look for recognition."

Charbonneau is the first Air National Guard chaplain at the bureau to be named a monsignor.

The recognition is significant, other priests said, and it gives him a higher standing in the Catholic clergy's pecking order.

"Monsignor in the spiritual order corresponds to the word officer in the

military," states The Catholic Encyclopedia about the title that dates back to the 14th century.

The lifetime appointment, which is effective immediately, elevates the Connecticut Air National Guard chaplain above the rank and file clergy and goes with the title "Chaplain to His Holiness," Charbonneau said. It will not, however, alter his military duties nor does it mean he will be summoned to Rome.

Charbonneau said he will continue to guide and support the 56 Catholic chaplains who minister to Air National Guard units across the country and to counsel all who seek him out. He will also continue his efforts of the past five years to entice Roman Catholic priests to become Air National Guard chaplains, he said.

"Twenty-two percent of our Air Guard chaplains are Catholic priests, but 29 percent of our force is Catholic," Charbonneau said. "Our goal is increase the number of Catholic chaplains to about 30 percent."

Charbonneau said his main concern, however, remains with the Air National Guard people who must come to terms with the idea of doing harm to others when they are sent to war, and with the unit chaplains who must help those men and women resolve their moral conflicts.

Charbonneau said he has counseled many people about those conflicts as the Guard has taken an active role in the war against terrorism at home and abroad since Sept. 11.

"The satisfaction I get from being a military chaplain is to prepare people to go to war if our country needs them and to help other chaplains be ready to go to war with their units," he said. "It doesn't get any more rewarding than to be there with them.

"We all know that this is the military duty we signed up to do for our country, even if we hoped and prayed as Christians that it would never happen," he said. "We have to believe that, somehow, God will get us through."

## Brig. Gen. Rusconi celebrates his career

LT. COL. CHARLES MCKELLAR  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, HQ CTANG

On June 8, approximately 185 men and women of the Connecticut National Guard, family members and friends of Brig. Gen. Lawrence D. Rusconi gathered to celebrate his retirement. The evening allowed current and past members of the Connecticut National Guard many opportunities to exchange greetings and share memorable moments.

"Tonight, we gather to honor a man, whose career spans 34 plus years of service to the United States Air Force and the State of Connecticut," said Lt. Col. Richard D. Erdmann, commander of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Air Control Squadron. "When Gen. Rusconi entered the service, our country was involved in a great conflict known as the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement. Both of these events challenged our nation in ways it had never witnessed before. These were very trying times for our military and citizens at home.

"The events of September 11 have once again called upon the military, this time to fight a war on terrorism that will be long enduring. This call requires the dedicated leadership from all of us that General Rusconi has exercised throughout his military career. Gen. Rusconi truly represents the Air Force's

three core values of "Integrity first, Service before Self, and Excellence in all we do."

During his career, Rusconi served as a weapons director in various positions of increasing responsibility in the Air Control units in the United States, the Pacific Air Force Theater of Operations and Air Combat Command. After joining the Connecticut Air Guard in September 1974, he held various positions in operations including weapons director, senior director and eventually, commander of the 103 ACS, chief of staff and commander, CTANG. Under his leadership, the 103 ACS and the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing received outstanding unit awards from the USAF, while the Headquarters CTANG twice received the Air Force's Organizational Excellence Award.

When Rusconi decided to enlist in the Air Force in 1966, his plan was to serve his four years and then move back to a civilian career. Serving in the military in the late 60's was challenging, exciting and dangerous he said. So why, some 30 years later, is he still in uniform?

"The answer came with a phone call several years later in 1974 when I received another invitation to join the Connecticut Air Guard's Air Control Squadron in Orange, said Rusconi. "I now had an

opportunity to do something I loved without the necessity to move around.

"A year ago, a senior colonel asked me... 'You have time-in-grade to retire as a general, you have an excellent job as a partner in a national CPA and consulting firm... why do you still serve?' The answer, I think, lies within a quote from an old classmate of mine, Will Rogers (no not really) who said, 'In order to succeed, you know what you are doing, like what you are doing and believe in what you are doing.'"

"Today, the men and women of the Connecticut Air National Guard and the Air Force are better for having served with Gen. Rusconi," Said Erdmann. "There is no greater example of this than during a national emergency when the Connecticut Air Guard mobilizes and integrates seamlessly with our active duty forces – as they have done recently in Bosnia, Kuwait and post-September 11. It is history that measures a person's value to their society and creates their legacy. In both of these areas, the Air Guard was in good hands because the general decided early in his career that he wanted more than just a career in the Air Force. He wanted a career that made a difference in improving mission readiness and the lives of the men and women he led and served with."

## A daughter's tribute to her father



Karen Rusconi

*(Editor's Note: During Gen. Rusconi's retirement party, his daughter, Karen, gave what many at the party called a very moving*

*tribute to her father. Here is the text of that tribute.)*

"Many of you here tonight know Gen. Rusconi as an authority figure, a trusted colleague or a dedicated worker.

To me, he is simply Dad.

His influence and guidance have shaped my values and beliefs and inspired me to pursue a life of helping others. I admire him for his determination, honesty and great sense of humor. I love him for everything he stands for and the wonderful father that he has always been.

As a wife of a naval officer, and mother of three, I couldn't let tonight go by without acknowledging and thanking my mother for her many years of commitment, sacrifice and love. She never missed a beat when Dad was away, whether it was getting me to the rink at 6 a.m. for practice, or keeping everyone safe and calm when lightning hit our house the first night he was away on deployment. She didn't ever tell him until he got home. Thanks for your support, understanding and love over the years.

The events of the past year have brought forth a newfound patriotism throughout our country and a renewed appreciation for the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our freedom. Words cannot express the sense of pride I have in my heart during these difficult times. Feelings of pride and patriotism are not new to me – they are part of me.

My dad is a hero – a hero to his country for the sacrifices he has made, a hero to me for always putting his family first, and a hero to his grandchildren – especially my six year old son, David.

When asked in kindergarten this past year, "What do you want to be when you grow up," he replied, "An Air Force man, like my grandpa!"



Brig. Gen. Lawrence D. Rusconi (left) proudly displays one of the many gifts he received during his retirement party. The shadow box, being presented by Command Master Chief Joseph King, contains a collection of ranks, insignias, patches and awards Rusconi has worn throughout his Air Force career. (Photo courtesy of the Connecticut Air National Guard)

## QRF spends holiday training and protecting the homeland

From page 1

"This is one of the most motivated, cohesive units I've seen," said Lt. Col. Ron Welch who served as the S3 for the QRF. "They are working and training long, hard hours and they're staying together. It's a great bunch."

One sign of their motivation was on the morning of the Fourth, when the soldiers ran the physical training and "smoked us all," said Sgt. Maj. Toby Cormier of the 85<sup>th</sup> Troop Command staff cell on duty that day. But the staff had its revenge when they went out running while the soldiers prepared for the day's activities.

The QRF received training in areas such as introduction to incident command, rules of engagement, execution of general and standing orders, setting up and conducting road blocks, building searches, crowd control air-mobile operations training and reacting to sniper fire to name a few.

Welch likened the training to much of what the troops who went to Bosnia had during T-SIRT (Theater Specific Individual Replacement Training) and SASO (Stability and Support Operations) training. In this case the T was replaced by an H - Homeland.

"The Connecticut National Guard is in a Force Protection Posture," said Welch. "This training will enhance that posture and enable us to be of assistance in the case of a natural disaster, terrorist attack and other emergency operations when called upon by local, state or federal authorities."

Experts were brought in to train the soldiers in different areas. For example, an FBI counter-terrorism expert gave a briefing and the state public affairs officer came in and gave a briefing on how to deal with the civilian media.

"We are training up to deploy and complete missions," said Welch. "We have had some mini-missions that were designed to give the soldiers experience that may come in useful somewhere down the line."

During an evening convoy through the towns of East Lyme, Waterford, Groton and New London, the force was asked to check out a report of a ladder under a local bridge. While checking that out, one of the soldiers spotted a diver in the river, notified the police and assisted in the investigation and search of the diver. The diver turned out to be a retired Navy diver fishing for black fish. One of the soldiers involved with the force has extensive knowledge of diving and his expertise was useful to the local authorities. The experience was also beneficial to the soldiers' training as they were able to see a real-world application to what they were learning.

The soldiers also received basic soldier skill training and traveled to the Sub Base in Groton where they were able to use the range for weapons qualification and familiarization on several types of weapons.

After spending the morning of the Fourth

of July conducting PT and in the classroom, the soldiers of the QRF got some hands-on training when they were given the training mission of setting up a road block and checkpoint at Camp Rowland.

The training scenario had them in a civilian neighborhood where a fire was forcing a mass evacuation. Their mission was to set up a roadblock using vehicles, concertina wire and anything else available to prevent people from entering the area, and yet allow people out. They quickly deployed their vehicles, rolled out the concertina wire, set up sentries and had a search area designated and were ready to roll when the first "civilian" vehicle approach the checkpoint. While still perfecting their location, the soldiers detailed as sentries stopped the vehicle, asked for driver identification, ascertained what he was doing in the area and let him pass.

"This training is invaluable," said Col. Dan McHale, 85<sup>th</sup> Troop Command commander. "This force will be an asset to the Guard and the state. They are a great bunch of soldiers who are working very hard and volunteered to be away from their families during a holiday so they could do what they could to protect our state."



Soldiers of the QRF get ready to board the helicopter that will take them on an aerial recon of the area surrounding Camp Rowland. The soldiers were conducting Homeland Security training during the Fourth of July training week and had all volunteered to be there. The aerial recon was only one portion of the force's training. (Photo by CWO Lou Guske, Jr., 85<sup>th</sup> Troop Command)



Pfc. Edward Weingart rolls out the concertina wire during training on the Fourth of July. Weingart and his fellow soldiers were conducting QRF training. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)



Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 192nd Field Artillery volunteered to spend their Fourth of July weekend away from family and friends in order to receive training as Quick Response Force team members. Here they wait for their helicopter to pick them up. (Photo by CWO Lou Guske, 85<sup>th</sup> Troop Command.)

# A lifelong desire to serve his country (finally) fulfilled

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS JOURNEYMAN, 103<sup>rd</sup> FIGHTER WING

West Hartford resident, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Helkin Sosa, is one of the newest Flying Yankees to join the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, Connecticut Air National Guard.

"I had always wanted to join the Air Force in Colombia," he said. "It was my dream to serve." Originally from Colombia, Sosa immigrated to the United States with his family in the late 1980's.

Shortly after moving to the United States, Sosa earned his GED and continued his education at Hartford Community Technical College. He studied part-time while working in a warehouse full-time. After graduating with an associate's degree in Information Technology, Sosa began working for the United States Postal Service in West Hartford.

"I needed a part-time job as well, and I wanted to serve my country, so I decided to enlist in the Air National Guard."



Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Helkin Sosa completes his final out-processing paperwork at Bradley ANGB while his wife, Claudia, tends to their seven-month-old son Helkin Felipe. (Photo by Sr. Master Sgt. John W. Hancock, 103<sup>rd</sup> Mission Support Flight.)

Sosa began the enlistment process during the summer of 2001. He recalls the morning of September 11th, while working at the Post Office.

"I was in total shock. Everyone was worried and concerned about their safety,"

he said. "September 11<sup>th</sup> motivated me even more to enlist and serve my country."

Sosa completed Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas, in June and is currently enrolled in the Supply Apprentice Course at Lackland AFB.

"Basic training was a challenge," he said. "I am 31 years old, and most of the recruits in my flight were in their teens and early twenties. I learned a lot, though. And I have realized that everything they (the instructors) do is for a purpose — helping you learn to work under pressure." Sosa recognized the critical need for training in today's society. "Readiness is key. We must be ready for everything."

His wife, Claudia, and seven-month-old son, Helkin Felipe, eagerly await Sosa's homecoming in August.

"I was sad to see him leave," said Claudia. "...but I am happy and proud he is doing this. He told me how proud he was the first time he wore the uniform. Everyone supports him at home — his family, co-workers, our church, and our neighbors."

Sosa plans to further his education and will work toward earning a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Central Connecticut State University.

## OEF videographer very 'hands-on' in Qatar desert

1<sup>ST</sup> LT. JOHNNY REA  
379<sup>TH</sup> AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AFP)** — Master Sgt. Mike Fennessy considers himself a very "hands-on" kind of guy, both in uniform and out.

When he is not documenting Operation Enduring Freedom as a videographer, the Connecticut Air National Guardsman is relieving stress and tension as a massage therapist to warfighters deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar.

"Massages improve circulation, relieve muscle tension and give general feelings of relaxation and well-being," said Fennessy, from the 379<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Communications Squadron at Al Udeid. His home unit is the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, Bradley Air National Guard Base, Conn.

Fennessy graduated from the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy — a 20-month course — in 1999, and was certified through the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Body later that year. He is also a member of the American Massage Therapy Association, licensed and insured in Connecticut.

Operating through the 379<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Services Squadron, Fennessy began offering free massages in late May in order to maintain his certification.

"It also appeared there were a lot of stressed out people here, and everyone enjoys a good massage," said Fennessy, who is halfway through a six-month deployment to Al Udeid.

The intense course Fennessy completed covered the gamut from anatomy and physiology to pathology, first aid and ethics.

"We had to learn every bone in the body, every muscle, attachment and movement," he said. "It was very demanding, but well worth it."

The massages are conducted in the equipment supply tent within tent city on Al Udeid. Services handles his schedule — two one-hour appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays, and one on Fridays.

The massage table was constructed by base civil engineers and members of the 200<sup>th</sup>/201<sup>st</sup> Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron deployed to Al Udeid.

"They did a fantastic job on it," said Fennessy. "It's very comfortable and has a small hole cut out so you can breathe while laying face down. And it's sturdy enough to land a KC-10 (Extender) on it."

There are several different styles of

massages, Fennessy said. He is trained in the "Swedish" massage — a gentle, full-body massage technique that he said is the most common throughout the world.

He has given several "first time" massages at Al Udeid and considers it a great opportunity.

"It opens the eyes of a lot of people about massages," he said. "As a male massage therapist, one of the biggest obstacles I face is the reluctance of guys who don't want to receive a massage from another male, or women who feel uncomfortable. I can understand their apprehension, but remember, this is therapy, nothing else."



Master Sgt. Mike Fennessy, from the 379<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Communications Squadron, massages Master Sgt. Scott Wallace, from the 612<sup>th</sup> Air Operations Group, in tent city on Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Fennessy began offering free massages in late May in order to maintain his certification. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Danielle Upton, 103<sup>rd</sup> Communications Flight)

Fennessy requires all clients to first fill out a questionnaire on their medical history, lifestyle habits and expectations of the massage. It also contains instructions for the session: showering beforehand is a must, and clients will be covered by a sheet or blanket, except for the body part being worked on.

"It helped me with some muscle issues I have with my leg and knee," said Master Sgt. Scott Wallace, a design engineer with the 612<sup>th</sup> Air Operations Group at Al Udeid and recent massage recipient. "I've had massages before and I think this is a good service for both therapy focus and the relaxation process."

First Lt. Jennifer Baird had never received a massage in a deployed location before, but when the opportunity presented itself on her first night in Qatar, she did not hesitate.

"My co-worker had signed up for the massage, and unfortunately for her, she was alerted to fly an hour before her appointment," said Baird, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot assigned to the 340<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron at Al Udeid.

"Being the good friend that I am, I stepped in to take her place." Baird said she did not know what to expect, but was pleasantly surprised.

"It was definitely one of the best massages I have ever had," she said. "He has created a relaxing environment, in a tent, in the middle of the desert, for you to unwind and forget about the heat and being separated from your family. It was a great way to end the day, especially here, where there is not a lot of personal time or ways to treat yourself."

Word of Fennessy's service is spreading as he is booked solid through July.

# Reflecting on a 6-month mission to Bosnia

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON  
STATE SR. PANCO

Sitting in his office in the Waterbury armory, Bosnia may seem like a place far away. But for Lt. Col. Michael Casey, it is a place that will remain with him forever.

Casey is the battalion commander of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion, one of two Connecticut units tasked to support the 29th Infantry Division as part of the Stabilization Forces Rotation 10. The other unit was Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry of Manchester.

"We spent months training and preparing for this mission," said Casey during his first weekend drill since the unit returned from Bosnia in March. "But 9/11 had a big impact on how we did business."

The majority of FSB soldiers were sitting at Fort Dix, N.J. waiting to go to Bosnia when terrorists flew planes into the World Trade Towers in New York and into the Pentagon.

"Our soldiers wanted to go to New York or Washington, D.C. to do what they could, but they knew they had a mission they had trained for, and they were going to accomplish it," said Casey.

"It was tough for a while not knowing if we would be going to Bosnia or not," said Casey. "It would have been tough for us to switch gears after all the training and planning. This was our mission."

When they arrived in Bosnia, they walked in to the SFOR 9 method of doing things. In their original plan, Casey said the battalion had planned on having about a month to assimilate and then make adjustments to the way operations were conducted based on the needs of the particular missions.

"We came in with a different mentality because of 9/11," said Casey. "Security now was the top priority. Not only did we have the missions we had trained for to complete,



Lt. Col. Michael Casey (center rear) and other soldiers visited with school children in the nearby villages and refugee camps. There they would deliver all the school supplies and warm clothing that was sent to Bosnia by families, friends and school children in Connecticut. (Photo courtesy of the 143rd FSB)

we now had added security measures we needed to take care of."

During their first month at Camp Comanche, Bosnia, they settled in and conducted the support missions they had been trained for prior to Sept. 11. They prepared equipment and supplies, performed maintenance checks on all equipment, vehicles, aircraft and weapons and provided logistical support to the entire multinational task force that made up SFOR 10. The FSB was responsible for maintenance, supply management, aviation maintenance and medical support. In addition to keeping the Task Force in beans, bullets and blankets, the soldiers of the FSB were also responsible for base security.

Most of the soldiers would work their normal day and then pull an 8-hour guard duty shift.

"Maj. Luke Boutot was our S2 and 3 and he only slept about three hours per week

the whole time we were there," said Casey. "He was kept busy, and he did an outstanding job."

In mid-to late November, security threats were made against Eagle Base and the U.S. Embassy, only about two to three hours away from Camp Comanche. Some members of the Task Force did go on the security mission to those locations, but there were no hostile acts then, or directed at any of the SFOR10 soldiers during the entire deployment said Casey.

"We did improve our counter-terrorism presence throughout the area, though, and I think the area people were glad to see us out and about."

In mid-January, FSB soldiers were again tasked with counter-terrorism mission. Combat medical support personnel were needed to go on a mission to the southeastern section of the MND North area where a large cache of weapons was located and confiscated. A second cache was rumored to be somewhere near the first, but it was never found.

As for the original mission of Task Force Sword, it went on as planned. Everything else was additional to what these soldiers had spent more than a year training for.

They worked under the guidance of the 29th Infantry Division, the largest National Guard command to have served in Bosnia. "We had an excellent community there," said Casey. "We worked with our active duty counterparts in aviation maintenance, we had the heavy mechanics from Mississippi and medical personnel from Maryland and Virginia. We had no major accidents or injuries. That was my personal mission. To make sure everyone came home safe, and we did that."

A typical day in Bosnia meant getting up at 6 a.m. for PT, followed by breakfast and being at work by 9 a.m. Generally the official work day would end at 5 p.m., but many

soldiers pulled guard duty in the towers or on the perimeter of the camp.

The medics also underwent an additional eight hours per day of training to become EMT qualified, which fulfills a requirement for all Army medics to make the conversion in the medical field from medics to EMTs. Some of the medics also trained for, and competed for, the EFMB - Expert Field Medical Badge.

Many soldiers also took advantage of the college course offered at Camp Comanche. Professors from the universities of Marland, Texas and Chicago were on site in Bosnia offering a variety of college courses.

There was also time to use the Cyberhuts to send emails home to loved ones and friends.

"The Cyberhuts were open 24-7," said Casey. "You got half an hour a week to spend on phone calls. Email was the preferred method of communication. It took longer for us to mail stuff home than it did for your mail to get here."

Casey said the support from home was unbelievable.

"We were collecting things from the refugee camps and we'd mention it someone back home and all of a sudden we were getting stuff sent over for the camps," said Casey, who also said the support from home meant a great deal to all of them.

"The care packages from families and friends, and the ones that came in December from the lieutenant governor were amazing," he said. "The cards and letters from the school kids were hard to keep up with, there were so many."

Casey said he was very proud of the way the families back home all pulled together and helped each other get through the rough times, and he was very proud of his soldiers.

"This was an incredible bunch of professional, caring people."



Medics were kept busy in Bosnia, from real-world missions, to training exercises, to schooling. (Photo courtesy of the 143rd FSB)



Bosnian schoolchildren make a friend in an American soldier. (Photo courtesy of the 143rd FSB)

# Company A, 143rd always ready to defend and protect

**SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN  
65th PCH**

Soldiers that take advantage of traveling to different continents can learn about different cultures during a deployment.

The month of April marked the return of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion (FSB) to Southington from their recent nine-month deployment in the Bosnian Theater of Operations.

Many soldiers have returned more mature and with a greater sense of purpose in their lives, according to 1st Sgt. Gregory A. Powell, Company A, 143rd FSB.

While soldiers were at Fort Dix, NJ finishing the last of their medical pre-checks an event occurred that changed their lives as well as the rest of the country. On Sept. 11, soldiers huddled by a radio to listen to news reports describing the horrors of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks. Many soldiers made it clear they wanted to stay home and defend their country, but despite their feeling of patriotism they pressed on with their mission to defend the peace in Bosnia, according to Powell.

Once they landed at Eagle Base, Tusla the unit was sent approximately five miles south

to Camp Comanche and immediately began a "left seat - right seat" ride with the 148th Logistical Task Force from Fort Stewart, Ga. The 143rd FSB had little time to familiarize themselves with Comanche before taking charge of the overall mission, according to Powell.

"Nearly all mission related problems were solved at the noncommissioned officer (NCO) level. This shows the excellent job of all NCO's during the deployment," said Capt. Jorge D. Ortiz, company commander. "We worked on all

kinds of engines from air-condition units to pulling engines from M-998 Hmwv and



*First Sgt. Gregory Powell updates his soldiers' records while fielding phone calls during the unit's first drill back since returning from its deployment to Bosnia. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)*

Bradley's," said Powell.

Despite living and working at a heightened state of alert due to force protection against further terrorist attacks against Americans, soldiers kept in mind their mission and began each day with Physical Training (PT) at 6 a.m.; followed by a work day that started at 9 a.m. and lasted until 5 p.m. On some days soldiers were also held responsible to work eight hours of security after work.

They patrolled the Camp perimeter

several times during the week, according to Powell.

Due to the stress of the deployment, soldiers were provided with many programs that made the deployment seem less taxing.

Some members of the 143rd FSB took college courses, while others attended a medical course. Other soldiers took advantage of the special programs offered by Morale Welfare and Recreation. (MWR)

Concerts featuring performers such as Reggae and Hip Hop artist "Shaggy" and pop star Jessica Simpson performed for the troops. Also, former Harlem Globetrotter great Curly Neal played basketball with and for troops. Later, former National Basketball Association (NBA) stars from the Atlanta Hawks, Spud Webb and Artis Gilmore, played with and against soldiers in a three-on-three tournament.

"That was the one of the highlights of my life and the deployment," said Spc. Lamont T. Jones, 143rd FSB, personnel specialist from Bridgeport. "I never thought I would get to meet and play basketball against former NBA players."

"The mission was a success and I am proud of all the soldiers I served with," Powell.

## Medics warm Bosnian refugee camp with stove and hearts

**SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBIE NEWTON  
STATE SR. PA NCO**

When the medics of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion found out they would be going to Bosnia, they figured they might be doing some sort of humanitarian work while there.

What they didn't figure on was the amount of assistance they would get from the folks back home.

"Some of our folks had been going out to visit the refugee camps when they could," said 1st Sgt. Francis Eastwood, Company B, 143rd FSB. "They knew what was going on out there and what was needed and they asked me to go along with to see what was going on."

That was the beginning for Eastwood and his medics.

He saw the need the local one-room schoolhouse had for safe heat and the need for plumbing upgrades.

He went back a second time.

"When we went into the school, there was the odor of CO2 in the air. The stove exhaust was missing an outside pipe and the CO2 was backing up into the school," said Eastwood. He went to the first sergeants of all the units and took up a collection to help the school out. He collected enough money to purchase all the stove pipe and an electric radiator.

"This was a classroom maybe 35 feet long with one potbellied stove for heat," said Eastwood. "The radiator was a plus for them."

The gentleman who ran the refugee camp

hardly spoke English but was very grateful for the supplies.

There were no ladders in the village for Eastwood to stand on outside while he fixed the missing stovepipe, so he pulled a HUMVEE up to the side of the building and stood on that.

"I was covered in soot by the time I was done," laughed Eastwood. "It was no wonder there was little heat in the building with the missing pipe and the amount of soot collected in what pipe there was."

"The caretaker was very helpful. It was amazing what they did have as far as tools went," said Eastwood. "Of course I didn't have any of my tools with me in Bosnia, but whatever I needed, somehow he got it for me."

Even after purchasing the stovepipe and the electric radiator, there was money left from what had been collected.

"The caretaker started taking us around and showing us how much work needed to be done," said Eastwood. "The plumbing was pretty broken down. We used the rest of the money we had to buy the plumbing supplies and the caretaker and men in the camp made all the repairs."

But it didn't stop there for Eastwood and the medics of the FSB.

They began writing and emailing home about the camp, and specifically, the school. They told their families and friends how the school children in Bosnia lacked the basics...pens, pencils, crayons.

Shortly, their mail was full of care packages for the school. Families, friends and American school children had taken these

Bosnian children into their hearts and were sending more supplies than they could possibly use. Someone even sent watches for the children.

In fact, Eastwood said he and a couple of the soldiers went back to the school and built a locking cabinet to store the supplies in

And then the boxes of winter coats and warm clothes started arriving.

"It was all very rewarding," said Eastwood. "I wish we could have done more."



*Two Bosnian women welcomed the generosity of the American soldiers. (Photo courtesy 143rd FSB)*



*First Sgt. Francis Eastwood (in the cabinet) and two of his fellow soldiers spend time with some of the children in the refugee camp school where they spent as much time as they could. Here they are with the locking cabinet they built for the school to store its supplies in. (File photo.)*

## Medics in Bosnia conduct conversion training

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON  
STATE SR. PANCO

They provided the medical support to base Camp Comanche. They took care of 1,300 troops, ran daily sick call, administered flight physicals, supported the Infantry in some missions, augmented outer bases when needed and supported various missions when combat medics were requested.

And they pulled guard duty. Somehow they managed to also participate in two mass casualty exercises, train for and participate in the Expert Medical Field Badge challenge, and they also managed to get in all the training needed to convert from their current MOS to the new, higher level EMT MOS.

They are the medics of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Todd Wilcox, it was very hard work on everyone's part. "These guys would work a full shift and the take 8-hour classes for the conversion," said Wilcox. "They were the first unit to go through a Bosnian rotation to complete the conversion process at the same time. I am very proud of them. They worked hard for it."

In addition to receiving their EMT training which consisted of more than 100 hours of training, the medics also spent 64 hours in the classroom for Trauma AIMS (Air Integrated Management System) and an additional 24 hours for PHTLS (Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support training. The Army has mandated that all medics currently holding the 91B (medic) MOS, will convert to the 91W (EMT) by 2007.



Medics with the 143rd Forward Support Battalion underwent two Mass Casualty exercise in Bosnia as well as completing their 91M conversions. (Photo courtesy of 143rd FSB)

"It's very time-intensive for the soldiers to undergo this conversion," said Wilcox.

"This was the perfect opportunity to accomplish this conversion."

Everyone from Connecticut qualified, according to Wilcox.

"The soldiers really worked their butts off to do this constantly the way they were," said Wilcox. "They would work an 8-hour shift, then go to class for eight hours. Lt. Col. (Michael) Casey really supported this effort. As the battalion commander he was able to find other units to support the extra missions such as guard duty until these guys finished their training."

Once the training was over, there were

written and practical tests that had to be taken. The soldiers paid the test fees out of their own pockets. They had to be able to do IV needle sticks, immobilize extremities, perform CPR, and now they have to be recertified every two years. "It was very tough on a lot of them," said Wilcox. "But they needed the training and they knew it. These guys are so far ahead of the game now (with this training complete). The rest of the Army is going to have to play catch up."

And how did they do in their quest for the EMFB?

Ten started the quest and three came out. That 30 percent is higher than normal outcomes.

## Guardmember faces challenges head on

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN  
65<sup>TH</sup> PCH

Soldiers of the Connecticut Army National Guard always stand ready to serve their state and country whenever the need of their services arise.

The challenge of the commissioned and noncommissioned officers of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Forward Support Battalion was to work together as a team to ensure the success of their mission to Bosnia.

"The overall mission was a great success," said to Capt. Jorge D. Ortiz, commander, Company A, 143<sup>rd</sup> Forward Support Battalion. "However soldiers and I were faced with difficult challenges to prepare for the mission.

"It was a challenge and trying because I'm a single parent and have custody of a sixteen-year-old daughter," said Ortiz. "Also, I had to go through five weeks of resilience branch transfer because I was switching from the infantry to the ordnance branch qualification course.

"I had to balance my civilian work requirements, being commander of a deploying unit, and the responsibility as a father and head of a household," said Ortiz. "I was so busy I had to juggle, push and press to get everything done," said Ortiz. He also had to attend four weeks of training at Fort Polk, La. and found himself completely immersed in what he was doing.

As a result, once the mission got underway, he said he was fortunate that everything went on schedule. At times there was a conflict of interest between force protection and mission requirements but problems of that nature were effectively reconciled.

"Any issues were always solved at the lowest level. The soldiers all did an outstanding job," said Ortiz. "I am the luckiest commander for I had a dream team serving along with me."



Capt. Jorge D. Ortiz

## Slam dunking with the pros in Bosnia

SPEC MARIAN ROSADO  
65<sup>TH</sup> PCH

"When I first heard I was going to Bosnia, I was preparing myself mentally because I knew there would be no play time. I never thought I would fulfill my dream of playing against a



Spec. Lamont T. Jones watches the computer monitor carefully while doing a research project during his first drill since returning from Bosnia. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)

professional NBA player when I joined the military or in my trip to Bosnia."

Spec. Lamont T. Jones has been with the National Guard thirteen months during which he deployed to Bosnia with the 143<sup>rd</sup> FSB as an administrative specialist last August. He prepared for long days of hard work and commitment and in turn came home with an experience of a lifetime.

Jones is also known as the first sergeant's point guard. The base had a camp-wide basketball league in which every state had their own team with a total of ten to twelve teams per tournament. The 143<sup>rd</sup> FSB took three trophies home, but unfortunately lost to NBA stars Spud Webb and Artis Gilmore and former Harlem Globetrotter, Curly Neal.

Jones was also able to interact with Shaggy, the reggae singer and Jessica Simpson among others, in a concert held at the base in January.

"The activities they held for us definitely served their purpose in taking away the stress as well as serving as a moral booster for myself and the other soldiers," said Jones.

"I did get a lot out of this deployment and I had a chance to see their conditions. Our poverty is not like ours," he said. "It was a learning process for me; I did a lot of regrouping when we returned to the states. I feel like I have changed and I've matured a lot. I just want to get to business and I am more motivated."

# Impressions of a sister/brother team

MAJ. SCOTT G. WILSON  
STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

In July of 1999, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lynda Hedenberg graduated from the State Officer Candidate School Program. Neither she, nor one of her 'TAC' officers, then Capt. Ralph Hedenberg, knew that it was the beginning of a road that would lead both of them to Bosnia – together.

Lynda credits her early interest in the military to her father and uncle's prior service, but points even more strongly to the path her brother embarked on before her.

"He was, and still is, definitely a role model for me," said the supply platoon leader. "I think the family history, my brother's example, and our mom making us watch a lot of M.A.S.H. really got me on this track."

As for their 'joint' service, Maj. Hedenberg says they keep their relationship professional while at work for Headquarters Supply Company, 143<sup>rd</sup> FSB.

"She's a lieutenant and platoon leader, just like any other lieutenant in the battalion. That's how it has to be. Sometimes that makes for some interesting holiday dinners – especially when I was one of her TACs at OCS – but on the whole it is not a problem, and can be a benefit." Ralph is the support operations officer and fulltime battalion supervisor for the FSB.

Both agree that their relationship was a benefit when they deployed to Bosnia as part of SFOR 10.

"We really didn't get to see each other that much, because we were very busy performing our missions," Lynda recounts. "But, occasionally we could share a meal or do some recreational activities together. It was comforting to have a family member there with me." Ralph also found benefit in being able to share some time with his sister while deployed.

"We could compare notes on what each of us had heard from the family at home – it

helped us have a clearer picture of what was going on, and how everyone was doing."

Both officers' perceptions of their SFOR 10 experience were recently recorded in separate interviews. Upon inspection, they show that brothers and sisters do see many things in the same light.

## Mission Challenges:

**Lynda:** "The biggest challenges came prior to deployment. Getting soldiers with somewhat specialized MOSs qualified, meeting all the requirements to deploy – those were the biggest challenges."

**Ralph:** "Preparing for the mission was the biggest challenge. It was a huge time commitment, with longer and more frequent drill schedules, which was tough on the M-Day soldiers."

## Mission Rewards:

**Lynda:** "The unit, and the individuals in the unit, really showed their commitment and drive. It got us through the train-up and staffing issues.

Once we were there, everyone got to perform his or her job in a real environment – it was experience we never would have gotten. Also, just doing things together – work, MWR events – really brought the unit together as a family."

**Ralph:** "The FSB has many 'specialized' MOSs – this was an outstanding opportunity for soldiers to exercise those MOSs, and really learn their jobs by performing them day in and day out. As a unit, we learned about each other – each of our routines, our skills, our likes and dislikes. It has brought us closer as a unit, and made us more effective."

**Lynda:** "The huge support from families and friends back home was humbling. We received packages for individuals, and for distribution to the platoon in general, almost on a daily basis. It was a huge boost of morale, and really made us feel that what we were doing was appreciated."

**Ralph:** "Support from home was key. It made a difference to the soldiers, but also to our mission in Bosnia. Much of what we received was for distribution at the refugee camps, and being able to make an instant difference in the life of a child at one of the refugee camps, by giving him or her a coat or some shoes, was really valuable."

For Lynda, the SFOR 10 experience was an opportunity for not only her soldiers to grow, but for her as well.

"Where else could a lieutenant have run more than 100 convoys, or learned rail load operations? Our unit provided Class III (Fuel) support to three separate base camps, as well as the Multi-National Division North area of operations. It also provided Class V (Ammunition) support for the whole division. It was a huge growth opportunity for me."

Ralph also experienced some personal gratification, which came through the validation of many of the conclusions he reached when writing his thesis at the Naval Post Graduate School.

"I wrote the thesis on Peace Operations, specifically focusing on the mission in the Balkans. It was a pleasure to see that many of my conclusions were correct, and that some of the recommendations I made were implemented, specifically in our train-up and the Mission Rehearsal Exercise we performed at Ft. Polk. I was happy to see that the work was helpful."

Both officers agree on one other point – they were lucky to have the opportunity to bring their family ties with them to Bosnia, but even luckier to have a unit family as fine as the 143<sup>rd</sup>.

# Sharing a life and an experience

Pfc. SHIRROD RICHARDSON  
65<sup>th</sup> PCH

For 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Karen A. Pickel, a maintenance control officer in the 143<sup>rd</sup> FSB, being deployed to Bosnia was a learning experience of a lifetime, and it just made it that much better that she had her husband to share it with.

"I knew that we were getting deployed together," said Pickel, talking about her husband 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David L. Pickel, the executive officer from Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry.

David and Karen Pickel were married in May 2001, and then got deployed in September.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Karen Pickel fills out paperwork during the first 143<sup>rd</sup> FSB drill since returning from deployment in Bosnia. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)

"Our families could not have been more supportive," said Karen. "It's a great feeling to know the people who you care about support you."

"We were stationed at different places once we were in Bosnia," said Karen. "We got to see each other just about every week. When we did get together we tried not to talk about the work and just give the time to each other."

The newlyweds had a chance to go to Germany where they German people to be fabulous and a very appreciative people.

Now that they are back in the U.S., it is business as usual.

"I had a great time in Bosnia, but it's not strange to be back," she said, "What my husband and I got from the whole trip was a once in a lifetime experience. It just made it better that my husband was there. I learned a lot from him. He has been doing this longer and hopefully I'll be doing this for a while longer."

*(Editor's Note: Watch for next month's issue of The Guardian which will feature 1st Lt. Pickel's husband's side of the story as well as stories from other members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry who also deployed to Bosnia.)*



Maj. Ralph Hedenberg, Archbishop O'Brien and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lynda Hedenberg share a laugh in the snow while in Bosnia. The brother and sister were deployed with the 143<sup>rd</sup> Forward Support Battalion to Bosnia as part of the SFOR 10 peacekeeping mission. (Photo courtesy of Maj. Hedenberg)

# New military ID cards make their debut in Connecticut

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI  
65TH PCH

The type of technical advancements that have brought pinpoint accuracy to U.S. weapons, are now also reflected in something that every member of the military is required to carry whenever they wear the uniform – the military identification card.

Not too many years ago, the most sophisticated piece of equipment necessary for a new I.D. card was either the camera or the laminating machine. For those who have been around a bit longer, assembling a name board with small plastic letters was the most time-consuming task in the new ID card project. The entire process took about five minutes.

For Connecticut National Guard members, those days are gone, now that the state is issuing the Common Access Card. Much of the work is done electronically, and because of the technological advancements, the process actually takes longer. Connecticut is one of the few states making these cards for Guard members.

A computer chip, containing the same date that is in the service member's personnel file and medical file, is embedded in the card. The information is downloaded onto the card, through a sophisticated computer system. The average time to make a card is 20 minutes, because the information must be downloaded into the computer chip. Some cards will take longer to make especially if there's a cyber traffic jam.

The service member's photo is in full color, as is the official seal for the branch of service. Also on the front of the card is a bar code, similar to the type on the previous style of card. This represents the soldier's fingerprint, which is obtained electronically.

The service member's name, pay grade and rank are all on the front. The card's issue date and expiration date are on the front, set near the computer chip. At the bottom is the indicator that this is a Geneva Conventions Identification Card.

On the back is an electronic stripe, as well as a bar code that is larger than the one on the front. A small, black and white photo of the service member sits among the blood type, date of birth and Social Security number. The Geneva Conventions Category is indicated on the back.

"This card allows direct access to DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System), that has all of our personnel information. Also, TRICARE uses it to determine eligibility (for medical coverage," said Maj. Robert Pernell, AGR tour manager.

In order to protect service member's information, if the card should be lost or stolen, a personal identification number must be entered, or the card cannot be used



Maj. Robert Pernell, the AGR Tour Manager for the Connecticut National Guard, works on a new computer chip ID card for a soldier at the Soldier Airman Support Center in Newington. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

to access the sensitive information. "The PIN is the new feature. We never had that before," Pernell said.

"All military personnel, active or drilling Reserve and Guard members, and Department of Defense civilians should get the Common Access Card. We still make cards for dependents and retirees, but they get the old type of cards," Pernell said. A uniform is not required for the photo, because just the face is seen in the photo.

Personnel being promoted to E-5 or above, will need to obtain a new card. Changes to one's personal life, such as marriage or divorce, or an added dependent, must be entered into the chip through the same computer system that makes the cards. But, those changes must be made in the DEERS, before they can accurately be reflected on the card itself.

"We have to upload if there are changes in marital status, rank or extension dates. Then, the information can be downloaded into the chip, from DEERS," Pernell said. Backup documentation may be needed during the making of a new card.

"Eventually, you'll be able to access DOD computers. On the civilian side, you'll be able to review your 201-file, or your medical records," Pernell said. He also mentioned that an Army Knowledge Online account will make this possible.

Due to the time-consuming process of making a new card, an individual needs an appointment. Units that would like to send groups of troops to get new cards can do so, but again appointments are necessary.

"We can do only about 25 cards per day, and that's without a glitch. If units give us at least three months notice, we'll block off dates, so an entire unit can go through. We

want to accommodate people, and we want to work with them," Pernell said.

Because Connecticut has approximately 5,000 Guard members, 700 Reservists and 600 DOD civilians, it will take at least two years for all those eligible to obtain new cards, Pernell said. The system arrived in late February, and Pernell estimates that in the first four months, 450 cards had been made at the Soldier and Airmen Support Center, in Newington.

In addition to a large computer processing unit, the card-producing system includes a monitor, a printer, a fingerprint reader and a camera. Also, two card readers are needed. One is for the new card being made, the other is so the machine can be accessed. An official card must be left in that card reader, or no new cards can be made.

At the SASC, located inside the Newington Veterans Administration Hospital, there are four staff members who can work on the system. But, with only one card being made at a time by the complicated system, there is one main operator, who is an employee of Resource Consultants Inc., the Virginia-based contractor for the system. Because she is also a part-time Guard member, Spc. Shagunna Muse wears an Army uniform when she works at her full-time job.

"Because we serve mostly uniformed personnel, we feel it is more friendly for them to have a person in uniform making the cards," Pernell said. That's just fine with Muse, a personnel assistant with the 118th Medical Battalion, who said she prefers wearing the uniform. With her Guard background, she used to make the old cards for unit members, and she knows the difference with the new system.

"With the old system, the process took about five minutes. The new process takes about 20 minutes," Muse said. "And, if a document is missing, we can't go ahead and make the card. Sometimes, we have to call a unit and have the information faxed to us, before we can make the card."

Because the new cards take much more time to produce, Guard members who have been around for a while are usually surprised that they are not able to simply walk in and get a new card.

"They don't understand that it's difficult to just fit them in, especially with just two days notice," Muse said, adding that many soldiers on annual training have called hoping to get in right away, but have had difficulty finding appointments.

Connecticut Guard members can get their new cards at the Soldier and Airmen Support Center, inside the V.A. Hospital, 555 Willard Ave., in Newington. Other Connecticut locations where Common Access Cards can be made include the Army Reserve Center in Newington (at 575 Willard Ave., next to the V.A. Hospital) the 103rd Tactical Fighter Wing in East Granby, the Coast Guard station in New Haven, and the Naval Base in Groton.

To make an appointment with the Soldier and Airmen Support Center, call 860-878-6712. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. On the first two Tuesdays of every month, the center will be open until 6 p.m. On the first two Saturdays, the center will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.



The new ID card camera and fingerprint scanner are attached directly to the computer. The whole process of getting an ID card now takes about 20 minutes. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

# Connecticut Military Department News

## Gen. William P. Trowbridge – Soldier, Engineer and Scientist

PFC. HOWARD MILLER  
TROOP HISTORIAN

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

First Company Governor's Horse Guard  
William Petit Trowbridge was born in Oakland County Michigan on May 25, 1828. At the age of sixteen he entered the United States Military Academy and graduated at the top of the Class of 1848. Made a brevet Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers, Trowbridge served at the Military Academy Observatory making astronomical observations.

In 1852, he was assigned to a triangulation survey off the coast of Maine and surveys of the Appomattox and James Rivers. Trowbridge was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in 1854 and sent to the Pacific coast where he remained until 1856 conducting astronomical, tidal, meteorological and magnetic investigations.

He devised an instrument for determining ocean depth and obtaining specimens from the bottom. The annual report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1854 acknowledged the importance of a collection he sent East which had added "some fifty new fishes alone to the North American fauna." In December 1856 he resigned his commission to teach mathematics at the University of Michigan, but returned to federal service the following year as Scientific Secretary of the Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Survey.

During the Civil War, Trowbridge was in put in charge of the Engineer Department

in New York City. He supervised the building of the fort at Willett's Point and repairs on Fort Schuyler and Governor's Island.

Following the war he became vice-president of the Novelty Iron Works and remained there for four years. In 1870 he accepted a position as Professor of Dynamic Engineering at Yale's Sheffield Scientific School. He taught with distinction at Yale for seven years before accepting a position as head of the Engineering Department at Columbia University's School of Mines.

An author of many scientific works, Trowbridge was a member of the National Academy of Science, the Century Club of New York City and the American Geographical Society. He also served as a member of the board of the New Haven Harbor Commissioners.

In 1873, Trowbridge was named Connecticut's Adjutant-General on the staff of Governor Charles R. Ingersoll. He served in that position with the rank of brigadier general for three years. During his first year term in that position, Gatling guns were introduced into the Connecticut National Guard. In 1876 a contingent of 2,400 members of the National Guard traveled to Philadelphia to appear at the Centennial Exhibition and upon his recommendation, the General Assembly of 1876 passed an Act creating the positions of Brigade and Regimental Inspectors of Target Practice. He also served on the commission for constructing the new state capitol building.

Following his term as adjutant-general Trowbridge continued his academic duties at Columbia. He also served as a Chief Special



Portrait of William P. Trowbridge, from *History of the Sheffield Scientific School*

Agent for the Tenth U.S. Census, collecting statistics relating to "Power and Machinery employed in Manufactures."

His sudden death from heart failure occurred at home on August 13, 1892. *The New Haven Morning Journal and Courier* described him as "a man of conscientious, scrupulous and strong Christian character. He formed strong personal friendships and all who knew him unite in ascribing to him a most lovable tender disposition, a mind cultured, refined and deeply grounded in scientific research and classic lore." Trowbridge was survived by his wife and six children.

## A wonderful day for a wonderful show

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. ROBERT DAHM  
SECOND COMPANY, GHG

Sunday, June 9 was an absolutely beautiful day as were the grounds of the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard in Newtown. The weather could not have been better for a wonderful horse show hosted by the "Second Horse."

Participants came from all over Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. Spectators as well as riders complimented the Troop for putting on a great show.

Multitudes of color seemed to flow throughout the grounds as horse and rider took home many a ribbon. Some of the horses even appeared pleased with their performances as well. Smiles were everywhere. It appeared a good time was had by all.

A Connecticut Horse Show Association event, the show was recognized by the Arabian Horse Club of Connecticut, the Connecticut Morgan Horse Association and the American Saddle Horse Association of Connecticut. Plans are already in the works for expanding the show next year.



Receiving the Adjutant General's Perpetual Trophy from Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General, is Jordan Taylor age 12 of Berlin, Ct. Jordan has ridden since age 2 and started showing at age 3. She is currently a 7<sup>th</sup> Grader at the Catherine McGee Middle School in Berlin. (Photo courtesy of the Second Company, Governor's Horse Guard)



Led by members of the Foot Guard Band, the First Company Governor's Horse Guard of Avon marches from the Church of St. Ann, back to its Avon headquarters after its annual memorial service for fallen ex-troopers. (Photo courtesy First Company, Governor's Horse Guard)

## Horse Guard remembers

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

Following a tradition begun in 1894, the First Company Governor's Horse Guards held its annual Memorial service on May 19, 2002. The service was held in the Church of St. Ann in Avon.

Following an organ prelude and signing of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" troopers and friends heard a reading of the names of those cavalrymen who have passed away during the year: Capt. Warren A. Porter, Capt. Robert W. Outtrim, Pfc. George H. Brookbanks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. David M. Whirty, Cpl. Gilbert Shoen, Pfc. Raymond C. Watson and Pvt. Robert E. Lee.

Members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard Band sounded drums and taps, followed by the National Anthem and a sermon by Deacon Alan D. Campbell.

The guest speaker was Chief Warrant Officer Charles J. Sowles Jr., Caisson Platoon Leader of the Army's "Old Guard" who gave an inspiring address. The program ended with the singing of "America" and "God Bless America."

**CONNECTICUT'S NATIONAL GUARD & MILITIA UNITS**

PRESENT



**A SALUTE TO CONNECTICUT SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN WHO DEPLOYED IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM**

**Saturday, August 17, 2002**  
11:00 a.m.  
Camp Rowland  
Niantic, Connecticut

**FAMILY DAY 2002**

**Schedule of Events**

10:30 a.m. Social Activities  
Booths Open

10:50 a.m. Military Parade  
Introduction of Governor John G. Rowland  
Presentation of Honors  
Family Program Awards  
COL (ret.) Robert B. Nix Leadership Hall  
Groundbreaking  
Remarks  
Military Review

12:30-4:00 p.m. Picnic Style Lunch,  
Activities,  
Games, Military Equipment  
Displays.

1:00-3:00 p.m. DJ Sounds and Dancing

4:00 p.m. Reception at the "Point,"  
Building 554

**Event and Assistance Locations**

Pass & Review, Awards .....Blancher Area

Military Review .....Blancher Area

Medical Assistance .....Troop Medical  
Clinic, Bldg 488

Food Concessions .....Tents, north side  
of Parade Field

Family Services .....Tents, east side of  
Parade Field

**Honor Units and Deployments**  
**Connecticut Army National Guard**

*141<sup>st</sup> Medical Company* Bosnia & Hungary  
New Britain, Conn.  
Stabilization Force 9 Rotation

*143d Forward Support Battalion* Bosnia  
Waterbury & Southington, Conn.  
Stabilization Force 10 Rotation

*B Company, 1st Battalion 102d Infantry* Bosnia  
Manchester, Conn.  
Stabilization Force 10 Rotation

*2d Battalion, 192d Field Artillery* Utah  
Winter Olympics 2002  
Olympic Security

*143d Military Police Company* Cont.  
1st Battalion 102d Infantry  
Operation Noble Eagle

**Connecticut Air National Guard**

*103rd Fighter Wing* Kuwait  
East Granby, Conn.  
Operation Southern Watch

*103rd Air Control Squadron* Orange &  
Orange, Conn. Other States  
Operation Noble Eagle

**Directions:**

195 North or South to Exit 74. End of  
Exit turn right on Route 161. Take a left  
on Smith Street to Camp Rowland.

## NCOs get new career development guidance

JOE BURLAS

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, July 8, 2002) — An updated Department of the Army pamphlet will soon provide noncommissioned officers more robust career development guidance on the path to sergeant major.

Replacing a 15-year-old generic DA PAM 600-25, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Guide, the new guide will offer structured institutional and self-development career advice tailored to each military occupational specialty and skill level via the Web later this month.

"The Army has been in need of this publication for some time," said retired Sgt. Maj. Carl Armentrout, chief of Army Development Systems XXI Enlisted Component. "The field asked for better NCO professional development guidance and it is being delivered. It's very extensive."

Updating the NCO guide was one of the recommendations the Army Development Systems XXI task force made to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki last year. According to its charter, the task force was formed in October 1999 to "chart a course for enlisted and warrant officer development and management required in the next century."

Making the pamphlet an e-book allows it to be updated quickly by MOS proponents and other Army officials when changes occur or more current information is available, Armentrout said.

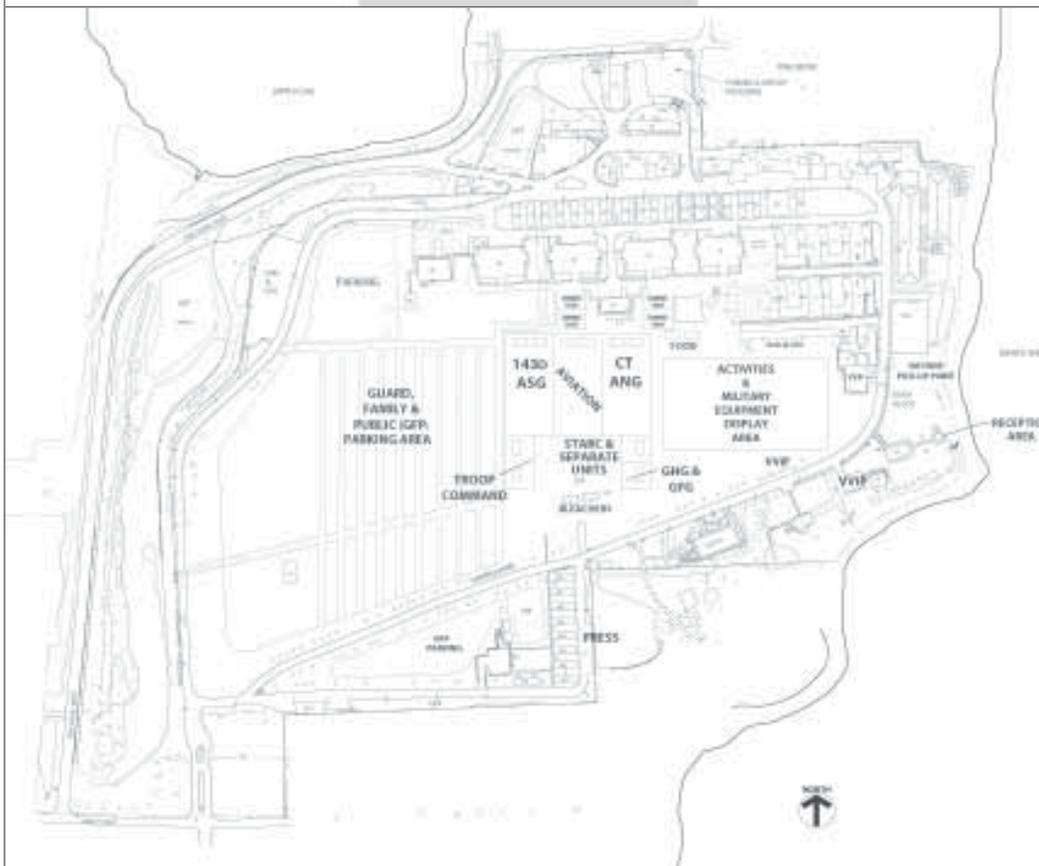
As an e-book, the guide also has hundreds of hyperlinks for more detailed coverage of specific Army subjects and programs. Users can checkout the Army's Credentialing Opportunities Online Web site to see how a MOS compares to a similar civilian profession and what is required to qualify for jobs in that career field. Another link takes users to the Army Education Web site which details information on a myriad of academic degree-building programs and available tuition assistance.

Specifically, the guide lays out the duties, prerequisites, required institutional training and recommended self-development of each MOS by career management field and skill level, Armentrout said.

Armentrout gave an update on other ADS XXI enlisted initiatives:

Career field proponents have made significant progress on the requirement to reduce MOSs to a more manageable level, he said. When the ADS XXI task force formed, the Army had 241 MOSs. The number today is less than 200.

The next step is for the Training and Doctrine Command to look across proponents to see what other MOSs might be consolidated for further reductions, Armentrout said. Low-density MOSs that are not inherently military are also being examined for possible outsourcing, he said.



# 242<sup>nd</sup> Engineers build road to success during AT02

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN  
65<sup>th</sup> PCH

A project that is leading the way to improve both advance and basic soldiers skills is known as Joint Task Force Husky.

Soldiers of Company C, 242<sup>nd</sup> Engineers used Stones Ranch in East Lyme to conduct annual training to improve on technical skills in a real world scenario that began June 1.

During phase one of Joint Task Force Husky, soldiers worked in adverse conditions to construct a road to provide easy access throughout the ranch.

The JTF Husky engineer skills training program pamphlet states, "The mission of Task Force Husky is an engineer skills training program providing participating units with unique, hands-on training opportunities while enhancing engineer construction skills."

"Several years ago Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, adjutant general, Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembrzowski, assistant adjutant general and I came up with the idea to help improve the skills of soldiers and state facilities; this inspired us to create the JTF Husky," said Col. Joseph T. Wojtasik, Headquarters State Area Command, director of logistics.

Units from Delaware and Colorado also participated in annual training at Stones Ranch for road construction, but the 242<sup>nd</sup>

Engineers will train there on drill weekends for many months into the future.

"We have miles of road we can improve," said Wojtasik. "I don't think we will ever see the end of JTF Husky. The terrain is a challenge for all engineer units training at Stones Ranch."

The 242<sup>nd</sup> Engineers took advantage of JTF Husky and trained at Stones Ranch for annual training. A lot of training was conducted such as lanes training, digging trenches for fighting positions and construction of wire obstacles to name a few, according to Capt. Pat A. Libero, commander, Company C, 242<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion.



Sgt. Marc F. S. Mandel of the 242<sup>nd</sup>, places stakes as markers along water run-off control areas. (Photo by Spec. Vivian Rodriguez, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)

During the many days of training, soldiers had to adjust between the high heat during the daytime and on other days they had to once again adjust to the torrential rain while during training and road construction.

Other soldiers reflected on their experience while building an environmental run-off ditch.

"It's been a good AT. I had a lot of good training. I would go to support the active Army in a heartbeat," said Pvt. Dennis M. Bertholet, Company C combat engineer.

While shoveling dirt into a pit to reinforce a trench during the heat of the midday sun, Pvt. Sean F. Mason, 242<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion Company C, combat engineer, expressed his enthusiasm for the training.

"We had to breach an obstacle and simulate a war. I can't wait to go to Afghanistan," said Mason. (Editor's Note: There are no plans for the 242<sup>nd</sup> or any other Connecticut Guard unit to go to Afghanistan.)

The soldiers of the 242<sup>nd</sup> constructed a 500-foot by 40-foot roadway within 72 hours. Many soldiers volunteered their personal time to make sure that the roadway was finish in time. Soldiers had little time for sleep but kept each other motivated, according to Pfc. James M. Deveau, Company C, combat engineer.



Spec. Christopher Chandsais of the 242<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, clears a drainage ditch alongside Road F at Stone's Ranch Military Reservation. The battalion, and engineers from around the country, are conducting real-world training at the Ranch, bringing improved roads and training facilities to the Guard. (Photo by Spec. Vivian Rodriguez, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)

## JTF Husky provides soldiers from around the country with roadwork

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN  
65<sup>th</sup> PCH

Joint Task Force Husky presents a unique opportunity for soldiers from other states to use the landscape at Stones Ranch for specialty skills training.

National Guard Units from Delaware and Colorado attended annual training at Stones Ranch beginning June 1 and ending June 15.

The 160<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, Combat Support Equipment (CSE) from Delaware and the 947<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, Combat Support Equipment (CSE) from Colorado worked and lived at Stones Ranch for the entire annual training period.

The Delaware and Colorado units both worked within the vision guidelines expressed by the engineer skills training program pamphlet which states, "Provide safe and quality hands-on engineer training that have a positive impact on Connecticut's training facilities, while enhancing individual readiness, recruiting and retention."

Moreover, the mission success is defined by the completion of meaningful engineer training conducted safely, that meets the deployed unit commander's goals and supports the completion of quality construction missions, according to Col. Joseph T. Wojtasik, Headquarters State Area Command, director of logistics.

"Whatever the units need we will provide it for them from soup to nuts," said Wojtasik.

Guardmembers from the 160<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, CSE used one week for tactics training while the second week was devoted to constructing a road.

"The mission required us to build a 500-foot by 40-foot roadway under simulated combat conditions but the actual distance completed is 510-foot by 40-foot," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kevin Conley, 160<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company CSE 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon leader. "We followed strict

environmental regulations and created a wetland to protect the endangered salamander. Also, culvert pipe was laid down to provide for a river to flow under the roadway. We did not want to destroy the river," said Conley.

"The state of Connecticut has provided us with everything we needed and is very supportive. Our unit has never received as much support from any task force in the

past," according to Conley.

Guardmembers from the 947<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, CSE from Colorado used the terrain at Stones Ranch to practice basic soldier skills.

"It was a great opportunity for many soldiers to practice their skills on how to properly fix combat positions, prepare fox holes and correctly conduct tactical maneuvers," said Spec. James L. LaPan, 947<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, CSE, heavy equipment operator from Colorado Springs.

More praises of the facilities were echoed by 1st Lt. Chris G. Hunt, 947<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, Combat Support Equipment, detachment commander. According to Hunt, this puts the training in a total picture.

"This is something to look back at to see what was accomplished in only a few days. The facilities are awesome," said Hunt.

"This was good training and the equipment was all here, we didn't have to share equipment with any unit, according to Spec. John J. Franklin, 947<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company,

CSE, heavy equipment operator. "Dump trucks, front loaders and other vehicles were provided."

"We provide unmatched logistics, maintenance and training support," said Wojtasik. "What makes us different is Husky attitude. We never say no."



Army and Air Guard engineer units from around the country are rotating in and out of Stone's Ranch and Camp Rowland this summer to work on various engineering and construction projects. Here, some of the engineers in Phase I of Task Force Husky work on a road at Stone's Ranch. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)



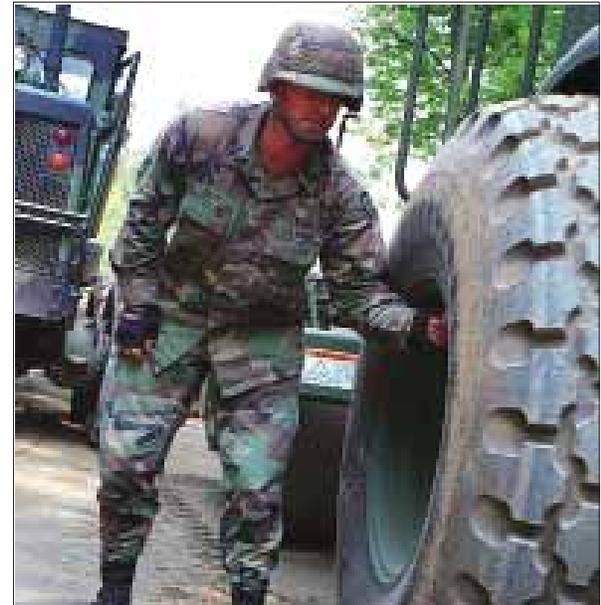
Members of the 248th Engineer Company of the CTARng worked to construct buildings for the new MOU site being built at Stone's Ranch. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Markowski, 65th PCH)



Members of the 250th Engineer Company work on a medium girder bridge at Stone's Ranch. The Connecticut unit was part of Joint Task Force Husky . The Task Force brought soldiers and airmen from around the country to Connecticut for real-world missions and training. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



Spec. Martin S. Russell, 160th Combat Support Equipment (CSE), uses a single engine excavator to clear rocks from around a road construction site. (Photo Spec. Vivian Rodriguez, 65th PCH)



Pfc. Steve K. Brandon, 947th Eng. (CSE) performs PMCS on the wheel wells of a grader. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Not only were the soldiers busy with engineering projects, they also had to train up a hasty fighting position using a mound of earth created during road construction.



One of the many road upgrade projects being done at Stone's Ranch by engineers from around the country. Soldiers and airmen are spending the summer at the Connecticut training facility as part of Task Force Husky, a program designed to improve Stone's Ranch and nearby Camp Rowland, while at the same time giving engineers real-world tasks to perform. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



Spec. Steven K. Brandon, Sgt. Ernesto Garcia 1st Lt. Robert M. Ford, all of the 947th Engineers, remove rocks from a road ditch. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Spec. John J. Franklin, 947th CSE, heavy equipment operator checks oil levels on a front end loader. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Members of the 250th Engineer Company work to construct a medium girder bridge during annual training at Stone's Ranch. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



had to train in military tactics during their annual training. Here a soldier takes ad construction projects. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



Spec. Handy Charaas, 160th (CSE) , heavy equipment operator, checks grader blade. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

# Homeland Defense drives 192<sup>nd</sup> Engineers during AT

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI  
65<sup>th</sup> PCH

The ability to move troops, supplies, vehicles and other necessary assets would be crucial in a response to a potential terrorist attack anywhere Connecticut Guard troops may deploy – even close to home. And with an unpredictable enemy potentially operating right within our cities, training for operations in urban environments is gaining focus.

That's why the 192<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, based in New London, developed a Homeland Defense scenario in its 2002 annual training period. The battalion's scenario for its 72-hour field training exercise focused on responses to terrorist attacks on our home soil.

Meanwhile, continued construction of a mock village for Military Operations in Urban Terrain was a main focus for one of the companies belonging to the 192<sup>nd</sup>. This village will allow Connecticut Guard units to conduct MOUT training at its premiere training facility rather than using borrowed locations.

The 248<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, based in Norwich, has two vertical construction platoons that can hastily produce buildings that can be used for a variety of purposes, such as supply warehouses. The platoons began the first masonry block construction in what will become Connecticut's own MOUT training facility.

Stone's Ranch has long provided Connecticut Guard units with a variety of terrain for training – especially relative to infantry tactics. Under Joint Task Force Husky, engineer units from Connecticut and numerous other states have been training on real-world projects that will continue to benefit Connecticut troops for many years to come. The units are currently building a MOUT training facility on approximately one acre of land on Pump House Hill.

With much of the site work already begun, the 248<sup>th</sup> was able to use this AT period to start on the first building of the new village.

"This is the first time we're doing masonry block construction. We've done the training, but not to this scale," said Capt. Thomas

Dennis, commander of the 248<sup>th</sup>. His company's task for the AT was to build a service station with two bays.

The village, which is styled after the one at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., will contain approximately a dozen buildings, including a church, a city hall, apartments, single-family homes, a school and a bank.

"Some buildings will appear to have been damaged by small arms fire or explosives. Others will appear to have been reduced to rubble. This project will take at least three years," Dennis said.

With 76 soldiers performing AT at "The Ranch," about 15 were dedicated to building the service station. Others were assigned to perimeter security, as the unit operated under a combat scenario. The 192<sup>nd</sup> provided soldiers to play OPFOR (opposing forces), as part of the field training exercise.

"We've never done anything of this scale," Dennis said. "We started train-up in February, on the drillshed floor, by mixing mortar (without cement) and putting up small walls. Then we'd take them down and do it again."

"We're carpenter masons," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Marco, the noncommissioned officer in charge at the MOUT construction site. "We can be assigned to build support structures, such as warehouses and shower facilities. This is a great opportunity, because we're doing the real thing."

After keeping the construction platoons working around the clock during the 72-hour scenario, Dennis said the crews would then work 16 hours per day.

Despite the long shifts and the intensive work, it will all be worthwhile, according to Marco. One reason he gave is the difficulty for Connecticut troops to work on operations in urban environments.

"Once we move into a town, many of the tactics we've used in the woods are not available," said Marco, adding that the village will provide an excellent opportunity for all Connecticut Guard members to work on MOUT tactics.

He also said that the members of the



Soldiers of the 248<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company constructing one building in the new MOUT site at Stone's Ranch. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Markowski, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)

vertical construction platoons will eventually forget the long days, but not forget the achievement of working on the development of the village.

"They can always look back and say that they built this," Marco said.

The 248<sup>th</sup> is the latest engineer unit to work on the village under the auspices of JTF Husky. It is far from the last.

Likewise, with many other projects falling under JTF Husky, the 192<sup>nd</sup>, received assistance from the 249<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment, during this AT period. The 249<sup>th</sup>, of the Delaware National Guard, sent 40 people to work on the engineering projects in southeast Connecticut. Engineer units from Colorado, Texas and South Dakota have also sent troops to Connecticut for the various missions.

Connecticut Air National Guard members from the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing in East Granby will work on these same projects as part of their 2002 annual training.

The two horizontal construction platoons

of the 248<sup>th</sup>, with battalion level support, worked on road improvements, also in line with the scenario developed for this AT period. Stone's Ranch was viewed as a fast-deployment facility to move troops and equipment. They worked on improving the airstrip, roads leading up to the area known as "The Pines," and an aerial platform under the scenario. The roads needed to be widened and improved rapidly in order to handle heavy traffic.

This work was also done during the battalion's 72-hour FTX, with crews working around the clock. Construction engineers from the 248<sup>th</sup> also continued work on the Stone's Ranch barn, while others continued improvements to the soccer fields at nearby East Lyme High School.

Also operating under the 192<sup>nd</sup>'s tactical scenario was the 250<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company. The Putnam-based unit builds bridges that can help vehicles of all types cross bodies of water, ravines, and other obstacles either manmade or natural.

This year, the 250<sup>th</sup> built its medium girder bridge, while undergoing an official evaluation under ARTEP standards. The scenario required the unit to overcome an obstacle presented by terrorist activity.

"Terrorists created an obstacle for us," said Capt. John Novak, commander of the 250<sup>th</sup>, explaining the role his troops had in the scenario. "Our primary mission was to set up a bridge to open a main supply route."

The bridge builders from the 250<sup>th</sup> performed all of the rigorous requirements in full battle gear, operating in a tactical environment. They understand how important their job could be, in supporting any mission that might be presented to them, according to their commander.

"Homeland Defense train-up is important, in case something should happen in the state of Connecticut. We try to make our training as realistic as possible," Novak said.

## Army engineer association forms local chapter

The Charter Oak Sappers became the newest chapter of the Army Engineer Association (AEA) and hosted their initial chapter meeting at the Stratford Armory. Agenda items included unit and individual awards, scholarship programs, membership drives and social activities.

The charter membership is comprised of current and former members of the 242<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion. A chapter goal is to generate membership from other engineer units within the CTARNG as well as U.S. Army Reserve and Corps of Engineers members throughout the region.

Formed in 1991, AEA provides support to the Total Army Engineer family of soldiers and civilians with programs and services unavailable elsewhere. The primary role of the AEA is to promote all aspects of Army Engineering in its multiple missions of national defense, nation building and humanitarian support. This encompasses military and civil/public works responsibilities of both US Army Engineer troop units as well as Corps of Engineers activities.

Membership in AEA is open to all. Ranks are mostly composed of military officers, NCOs, and enlisted soldiers, active, National Guard, and Reserve, as well as civilians of all career fields who are serving or have served as an Army Engineer in any capacity.

Interested persons may contact the chapter treasurer, Capt. Charles Jaworski, (203) 378-8709 x29 or email: [charles.jaworski@ct.ngb.army.mil](mailto:charles.jaworski@ct.ngb.army.mil).



Members of the 250<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, CTARNG work to build a medium girder bridge under tactical conditions at Stone's Ranch. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Markowski, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)

# Space and Aviation Day a good time for a great cause

STAFF SGT. STEPHEN H. MCKAY  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST 103<sup>rd</sup> FIGHTER WING

The Connecticut Air National Guard kicked it into high gear at this year's Space and Aviation Day, a benefit for the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, Connecticut, a camp for children with life-threatening diseases.

The free event offered the general public a chance to come on base, and out onto the flight line to view numerous aircraft, munitions, engines and other interesting military displays.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, area business and foundations Space and Aviation Day again proved that working together we can help others and provide a good time in the process. Produced by the Air National Guard, The Connecticut State Police, Connecticut Fire Academy and the New England Air Museum Aviation Day continues to fulfill multiple community objectives.



Civilians were not the only ones interested in learning about the Harrier Aircraft, even the Air Guard's own Col. Swift picked up a thing or two from Marine CO Mike Santacroce of the Black Sheep Squadron out of Yuma, AZ. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen H. McKay, 103<sup>rd</sup> FW)



Brian Lebatique, age 14, and his friend Caleb Casciani, age 9, of Goshen, Conn. enjoy a briefing on munitions and armament given by Tech. Sgt. Greg Edgerly, a weapons loader in the Munitions Section of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Squadron. "Space and Aviation Day has only gotten better and better each year. Many who attend look forward to getting an up close look at aircraft and the opportunity to ask questions of the aircrew and maintenance personnel." (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen H. McKay, 103<sup>rd</sup> FW)



"It's interesting and nice to get in close to see what's going on. I enjoy this stuff, it's a lot of fun," said Navy veteran, Hugh Fritch of Torrington, Conn. as he checked out a TF34-100A Jet Engine. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen H. McKay, 103<sup>rd</sup> FW)



Sr. Master Sgt. Craig Morris of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Munitions Section gets a chance to show off the Automatic Loading System (ALS) to a group of interested civilians. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen H. McKay, 103<sup>rd</sup> FW)



"The last time we were up here at it was just prior to the Gulf War. The boys really get a kick out of coming on base and just love to crawl all over the aircraft. Thanks for having us," said Boy Scout Troop 92 leader James Purnell of Rockville, Conn. shown with Scouts in front of a Sikorsky UH-60 Blackhawk. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen H. McKay, 103<sup>rd</sup> FW)



Children were beaming as they had a chance to crawl up into some of the aircraft and helicopters on display. Royce Yeomans of Springfield, MA and his 20-month-old son, Jared, were all smiles as they toured the event. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen H. McKay, 103<sup>rd</sup> FW)



Brian Fritz, age 10 of Simsbury, Conn. looks like a potential Air force recruit as he tries on a flight helmet with Tech. Sgt. David Poirier of the N.H. Air National Guard, 133<sup>rd</sup> Air Refueling Section. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen H. McKay, 103<sup>rd</sup> FW)

## Military Matters



MAJ. BARBARA LUHN  
HRO

The Troops to Teachers Program is a program designed to provide eligible military personnel with an opportunity to pursue a second career in public education. It was established in 1994 as a Department of Defense program, presently it is funded to the US Department of Education, but operated by the Department of Defense. The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) manages the program.

The goal of Troops to Teachers is to help improve American education by providing mature, motivated, experienced and dedicated personnel to the nation's classrooms. The three main objectives are to: Help relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other high needs subject areas; Provide positive role models for the nation's public school students, and Assist military personnel to successfully transition to teaching as a second career.

Presently, the program will fund up to \$5,000 in assistance to eligible individuals to help pay for teachers certificate costs, or a bonus of \$10,000 to teach in a "high needs" school. Placement assistance and referral services are available to help participants

### Troops to Teachers

identify employment opportunities and teacher certification programs.

#### Active Duty Eligibility Categories:

AD-1: Retired Active Duty on or after Oct. 1, 1999. Must apply within 4 years after separation.

AD-2: Active duty member with approved date of retirement with one year or less remaining before retirement.

AD-3: Retired or separated on or after Jan. 8, 2002 for physical disability. Must apply within 4 years after separation.

AD-4: Involuntary discharged from active duty from Oct. 1, 1990 through Sept. 30, 1999 due to a Reduction In Force (RIF) and had six or more years of continuous active duty. Must apply by Sept. 30, 2003.

AD-5: Active duty members that applied for and satisfied the eligibility criteria for the original Troops to Teachers program before its repeal on Oct. 5, 1999.

#### Reserve Components Eligibility Categories:

RC-1: Retiring from the reserves with 20 or more years of service after Oct. 1, 1999. Must apply within four years after separation.

RC-2: Currently serving in the drilling reserves with 10 or more years of creditable service towards retirement and commit to serving an additional three years.

RC-3: Retired or separated from the drilling reserves due to a physical disability on or after Jan. 8, 2002. Must apply within four years after separation.

RC-4: Individuals transitioning from active

duty on or after Jan. 8, 2002, and have served six years on active duty immediately before separation, and commit to three years with a drilling reserve. Must apply within four years after separation.

RC-5: Reserve Component member with approved date of retirement with one year or less remaining before retirement.

#### Educational Requirements:

Elementary or Secondary Education: Baccalaureate or advanced degree from an accredited institution at the time of application.

Vocational/Technical Education: Equivalent of one year of college with six years of experience in a vocational or technical field.

#### Service Requirements:

A member of the Armed Forces is eligible to participate in the program only if the member's last period of service in the Armed Forces was honorable. A member selected to participate in the Program before the retirement, separation or release of the member from active duty may continue to participate only if the member's last period of service is characterized as honorable.

For more information about Troops to Teachers, contact DANTES Troops to Teachers, 6490 Sauflay Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32509-5243, or Email: [ttt@voled.doded.mil](mailto:ttt@voled.doded.mil) or their home page: <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt> or toll free: 1-800-231-6242.

### Education Essentials: Explaining the GI Bill

1<sup>st</sup> LT. PAUL L. DRAPER  
EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

This month I will cover some of the basic points of the Montgomery G.I. Bill. It is not a complete outline of the MGIB benefits that we as members of the military are entitled to. For that you should check out the Veterans Administrations web sight at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) or call 1-888-GI-Bill1 (1-888-442-4551).

The Montgomery G.I. Bill Chapter 1606 (Selective Reserve) is offered to members of the National Guard who possess a high school diploma or GED, have completed IADT, are members in good standing in the Guard, have a six year contract and are not receiving financial assistance under Section 2107 of title 10 U.S.C. (ROTC Scholarship).

The G.I. Bill Chapter 1606 effective Oct. 1, 2001 will pay \$272 per month to a soldier who is enrolled full time (12 credit hours) at an accredited institution and has extended, enlisted or reenlisted on or after Oct. 1 1990 for a six year obligation. Three quarter time benefits (nine credit hours) are \$204 per month, half time benefits (six credit hours) are \$135 per month, and soldiers studying

less than half time can receive \$68 per month.

Legislation allows soldiers to use their benefits for vocational, technical, and trade schools in addition to undergraduate and graduate studies.

Soldiers should inform their readiness NCOs or their chain of command that they wish to obtain a Notice of Basic Eligibility. At that time the unit completes a request for a G.I. Bill NOBE (Notice of Basic Eligibility) and forwards it to the Educational Services Office. The Educational Services Office will then issue the NOBE to the soldier for him or her to take to the office of Veteran's Affairs at their school.

Commissioned officers are also eligible for Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits. An officer must sign a Statement of Understanding and an Officer Service Agreement agreeing to serve in the selective reserve for six years.

The Montgomery G.I. Bill Chapter 30 (Active Duty) is offered to members who served on active duty who meet the following two requirements.

To use MGIB after you're separated from active duty, your discharge must be fully honorable. Discharges "under honorable conditions" and "general" discharges don't

establish eligibility for MGIB.

To use MGIB as an active duty member or after you're separated from active duty, you must obtain a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before you apply for benefits. Completing 12 hours toward a college degree before you apply for benefits also meets this requirement.

This is a change in eligibility rules that became effective Nov. 1, 2000. If you weren't previously eligible because you didn't meet the high school requirement, the change provides a second chance. You may still become eligible if you meet the high school requirement and reapply for MGIB benefits.

The G.I. Bill Chapter 30 effective Jan. 1, 2002 will pay \$800 per month to a soldier who is enrolled full time (12 credit hours) at an accredited institution. Three quarter time benefits (nine credit hours) are \$600 per month, half time benefits (six credit hours) are \$400 per month, and soldiers studying for one-quarter time can receive \$200 per month. MGIB Chapter 30 benefits are applied for through the Veterans Administration and the Veterans Office at the school of attendance.

### Closing the Back Door: The Air Guard Lead Referral Program

MASTER SGT. TONY DEANGELIS  
RECRUITING OFFICE SUPERVISOR, 103RD FIGHTER WING

As I've mentioned in the past, the Connecticut Air National Guard has benefited tremendously from member-initiated referrals.

Starting in calendar year 2001, the Air National Guard Readiness Center developed a "National Lead Referral Program" recognizing current unit members with merchandise awards who introduce one, three, or five new members into the Air National Guard. The awards are as follows: One accession - Backpack (with ANG slogan and logo); Three accessions - Outerwear Jacket (with ANG slogan and logo); Five accessions - Black Leather Franklin Planner and Starter Kit (with ANG slogan and logo)

The following members of the CTANG are recognized for their outstanding contributions to our recruiting effort here in the CTANG for calendar year 2001.

For one accession: Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hiram Toledo, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Alejandra Gallette, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Christina Fisher, Sr. Airman John Swift, Sr. Airman Richard Marks, Sr. Airman Kristin Witt, Sr. Airman Conor Thomas, Sr. Airman Dana Babcock, Sr. Airman Shawn Lippi, Staff Sgt. Bambi Putinas, Staff Sgt. Steven Bava, Tech. Sgt. Kevin Flannery, Tech. Sgt. William Riddell, Master Sgt. Larry Mays, Master Sgt. Scott McIntosh, Chief Robert Woodward (retired) and Capt. John Warren. For three accessions; Sr. Airman Benjamin Pagoni.

We are again asking each member of the CTANG to refer at least one person by the end of calendar year 2002. In response, we will continue do our best to process the number of people necessary to reach and maintain our goal of 100 percent effective manning.

As an aide memoire, when you talk to folks about the CTANG, tell them the educational benefits have never been better. There is the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF), members earn college credits for most Air Force course and there is a glut of opportunities for many different types of career training.

There are many opportunities for promotion, an excellent noncontributory retirement program, low-cost term life insurance, free air travel, shopping, and recreational privileges at military installations.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the "National Lead Referral Program", please call Master Sgt. Tony DeAngelis at 1-800-992-4793 or (860) 292-2509.

## Enlisted Update Greetings and Goals

CHIEF MASTER SGT. WANDA P. WAWRUCK



Greetings! It is truly an honor and pleasure to serve you as the next State Command Chief Master Sergeant (CCM). Many of you know me from my technician days where I served in the Human Resource Office, State Headquarters and various squadrons of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing. In 1994, I jumped at the opportunity to fulfill a career goal accepting a position at the National Guard Bureau.

My experience was challenging and rewarding...one that I will continue to share with you as we discuss enlisted issues. Opportunity knocked again in 1998 and I returned to State Headquarters where I coordinated our State emergency action plans with the Army National Guard. Just a little over a year ago, I returned to the Wing as the CCM...a very rewarding, although short assignment.

Returning to the State Headquarters provides me the opportunity to support our enlisted force by working your issues with State and National officials. And like many of you, I too am a traditional guardsman...at your service 24/7. Although I reside in Illinois, I will actively interact with our members...modern technology provides you easy access to me and vice versa. In addition, I intend to make it my mission to visit with you, deployed or at home so that we have face-to-face interaction. With that said, my top three priorities as your State CCM: Jointness, Mentoring and Communication.

Jointness, a term not found in the dictionary, is used universally in our federal mission. We must open our minds to the big picture; understanding where we fit, identifying areas we can assist, educating one another and moving towards a robust homeland security. We can begin by understanding there is another reason why the Guard exists...our state mission. The present is a good time to reflect that we are a state militia first...now more than ever; our state and local officials need us. The need for the National Guard to engage and be more cognizant of our DUAL role is critical to our future.

Involvement is vital to team building and essential to high morale and esprit de corps among personnel. Bottom line...stay connected! Attend state and

local functions in addition to the military department sponsored events.

Continue to build and foster relationships with fellow military members both inside and outside your organization.

One way to sustain relationships is through mentoring. Mentoring others has proven its success towards the health, welfare and future of an organization. In many studies, organizations that have an active mentoring program find that production, attitude, and commitment of their employees exceeds company expectations. In our military environment, supervisors are responsible for mentoring their subordinates.

However, I encourage everyone to seek out mentors who have the tools and skills to assist in your development. Continuously seek feedback from your superiors and mentors to hone your skills. As future leaders, you have an obligation to help yourself through self-assessment, education and readings. Remember, we truly have the best and brightest members in the National Guard and I challenge our Senior NCOs to ensure we stay at the top.

Lastly, I am a strong advocate of constant Communication. As citizen airmen and soldiers, we are not always in a position to know what occurs between drills unless we stay engaged. I challenge full-timers to include our part-time force and I also challenge our part-time force to stay engaged.

Use of technology, i.e. email, cell phone, and DSN has kept me connected during my last two assignments. Despite living in Illinois, I am in constant contact with all levels of leadership. Take an active stance in understanding our numerous roles through education and commitment...the power to make change and improve communication is yours.

We've all made a decision to serve. Our passion to serve directly contributes to our nation's security and peace. Together we succeed...together we make a difference. I look forward to our journey and welcome your constant feedback. Let me close with a favorite quote by W. Somerset Maugham, "It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."

## Guard Voices

### Leadership, Memorial Day and The Army Values

STAFF SGT. JASON HOULE  
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

Memorial Day is a day that is symbolized by picnics, the beach, beer and Memorial Day Weekend Sales. It is much more than this.

It is a day that represents those that have fallen, that have nothing left to give, simply so that we may be able to enjoy all those aforementioned things.

The smallest tribute that is asked of a soldier is that he represent the military and his fallen brethren in a memorial parade. Does anyone stop to think about what they are doing at 0900 on a Monday morning instead of complaining that they can't be preparing their party?

It should be considered an honor to march proudly in front of our citizens; to remember those that have fallen in blood soaked seas off the coast of Normandy; those that have perished in the trenches of the Great War fighting for precious inches; those that have perished in the frozen stalemate of Korea; those that could not muster the last step on the Bataan Death March; those who did survive the ravages of war to return home and be spat on or forsaken by an ungrateful country, to later die cold and alone on the wayside of the freedom they fought to secure.

This weekend is a time to remember the cost of freedom and to honor those whose blood guaranteed the liberty that no document can ensure. It is only through the vigilance and determination by individuals that our rights and liberties are secured.

The torch passes on from generation to generation, the bloody task of ensuring justice and peace may sometime fall into your hands, and when it does what will you think of then? When do you stop to think about the Army Values and applying them to your life and career? It may be time to look into your character and ponder that very fact. This is my opinion and not designed to be forced into your head, but merely to implant a seed that is designed to start the thought process in your own mind and soul.

**Loyalty-** Who do you think is worthy of your loyalty? Is it the soldier, who will share the foxhole with you in the cold of the night? Is it the Army, whose mission it is to secure peace and guarantee the freedoms which the Constitution gives to us? Is it the man who has taken the vow to serve, to stand and fight for what others depend on him for? Who will you stand by when the time comes for your judgment of character, and who will you want to stand by your side on that day?

**Duty-** Whose duty is it to ensure that the evils that threaten the existence of liberty and justice are forever safeguarded? When you are called upon to fulfill that duty, will you proudly answer the call, will you stand beside the person next to you and know that he will stand by you? Will you remember the men and women that have answered that call in the years before you? Will you remember those that have given their lives and souls to defend an ideal in order for the next generation to have the chance to answer that same call? What is your duty now and on this very day?

**Respect-** What do you respect? Who do you respect? What do you respect them for? What are the standards inside of your very being that you hold to be worthy of your respect and admiration? Do you emulate these standards? Do others respect you for your convictions and beliefs? Will the next person down the line respect you?

**Selfless Service-** What is selfless service? Is it the soldier, who does not see his family for months on end, because he is in frigid wasteland, or the heat of a desert, or the dampness of a jungle? Is it the man, who gave his all defending his post and comrades, so that they may live to ensure the success of their mission? If your time to serve required you to make the ultimate sacrifice, would you possess the greatness of character to fulfill that calling?

**Honor-** What does honor mean? Do you possess honor? Does the honor inside you direct your actions in such a manner that you are proud of the decisions you make? Would your parents, spouses and children be proud of you and your actions and beliefs? Are you proud of those that have come before you and have personified this value in their service to their country?

**Integrity-** Do you have the integrity to accept the consequences of your actions, positive or negative? Do your actions coincide with your beliefs? Does the integrity of your character speak for itself? Does the moral fiber of your character inspire others to reach the height of their own personal character?

**Personal Courage-** Do you have the courage to stand for what you believe even in the face of opposition? Do you possess the intestinal fortitude and strength of character to confront the injustices of the world and the individual challenges that present themselves in your journey through life, wherever it may take you? Where would this nation be without individuals, who had the courage to hold the line, in the darkness of night, to ensure that their fellow soldiers did not stand alone in defense of

See Commentary page 29

#### \*\*\*Employment Opportunities\*\*\*

#### Army And Air National Guard Traditional Guardsmen Needed

For Summer Job Opportunities In The Connecticut National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program

Dates: 13 May - 30 Sep 2002

Please Call CPT Anne-Marie Garcia Or MSgt Melisa Lata @860-493-2724

## Homefront

### In Defense of Connecticut's Children: Mentoring: Everyone Benefits

PFC. JOHN CUSTY  
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM

Mentoring is defined as a relationship over a prolonged period of time between two or more people, where an older, caring, more experienced individual provides help to a younger person as he/she goes through life.

Think of that definition for a moment. Then think about what attributes a mentor might have.

The one common attribute that stands out is role model. Now think about that one person who has been a mentor to you in your life. You may have had a mentor and didn't even know it.

It can happen anywhere from work or even at home. The one common factor in being a mentor is being a positive influence in someone's life. That is what being a mentor is all about.

#### The Benefits of Being a Mentor

There are positive benefits for both the mentor and person being mentored. The person being mentored, or mentee, has a very diverse range of positive results.

One such result is a higher level of self-esteem. This is in part due to having someone there that pays attention to them. They feel good about themselves.

Another positive outcome is improved communication skills. This result is because there is a trusting person there to talk to, they feel that they can communicate on everything else, as well.

Lastly, since there is better communication skills and higher self-esteem, there are better relationships with peers/families.

Mentoring as well effects mentors. One effect is a sense of self-worth. This is because the mentor feels that he/she is doing something positive in another person's life. Another positive element is the mentor is exposed to new situations and in turn develops new skills to handle that situation.

#### How to Become a Mentor

Mentoring is such a rewarding experience and as soldiers, you can become mentors. Becoming a mentor is simple.

One way is informally. You can become a mentor to new soldiers right out of Basic Training making sure the new soldier gets adapted to Army life after Basic Training. Another way is through a local community mentoring program. This also demonstrates a positive image in the public eye. There are a wide variety of organizations in Connecticut that support mentoring.

To find out what agencies are near you that support mentoring or volunteer Programs you can call 1-800-CT-MENTOR. To find out more about mentoring you can contact the Governor's Prevention Partnership at (860) 523-8042 and ask for John Custy. For other Drug Demand Reduction Leadership Programs contact Capt. Anne-Marie Garcia or Master Sgt. Melisa Lata at (860)493-2724.

### TGIF – The Guard Is Family: Youth Camp....A huge success

KIM HOFFMAN  
FAMILY PROGRAM MANAGER

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Youth Camp hosted by the Connecticut National Guard Family Program is now just a memory. From June 26-30, Camp Rowland played home to 52 campers (our largest group ever!) and many adult staff members and guest instructors. For five very hot days, these young adults had the opportunity to meet other National Guard children and even some who came to us from the Foot and Horse Guard.

This year's camp brought many new events and activities which included an all-day, all-night trip to Six Flags Amusement Park, raft races in Niantic Bay and an All-American New England Clam Bake at the Point – a perfect setting for such an event.

Guest instructors showcased their talents with marble stone stamping, science projects with magnets and artistic hair designs, to name a few. Each day ended with 52

exhausted campers and an even more exhausted staff!

Many thanks to those who supported the event with the generous donation of their time. Without the loyal help of volunteers, this program would simply not be possible. A very special thanks to Juanita Hunt, Heddy Pallozzollo, Joe Pampena, Ginny and John Bednarz, Dick Welch, Phil Prisk, Willy Royal, Beth and Jack Crouthamel, Chris Bartlett, Bill Grenier, Heather Lussier and Kevin McMahon who took personal vacation time to volunteer and help us. Your generosity will not be forgotten.

If you are interested in sending your child to camp next year or would like to join us as a volunteer, watch for the announcement next winter!

The fun doesn't end there for the Family Program this summer...look for the details of our Family Day inside this issue!

### Your Health Matters: Suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility

CHAPLAIN (COL.) DAVID FEYRER  
STATE CHAPLAIN

The Connecticut National Guard, through its newly formed Health Promotion Council, has taken a pro-active approach to enhancing the quality of the lives of its members. The principal focus is to encourage lifestyles that will improve and protect physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

Another aspect of this program is prevention. Perhaps the single most important preventive program is that concerning Suicide. This program is a continuous awareness creation effort lead by the state chaplains that attempts to insure that every member of the Guard has a sensitivity to the signs which could lead to suicide.

This awareness of the potential signs is an essential first prevention tool available to everyone in the Guard.

Briefly stated, these signs including a generally depressed attitude coupled with talk of death or suicide are significant. DO NOT ignore them. Believe these signs, listen carefully to someone who is exhibiting these signs, get help and be there (stay with them in crisis and stay in touch in the future).

Everyone can be part of the suicide prevention program by their own personal awareness of the suicide prevention tips.

Should you be faced with a suicide situation, 911 and other local emergency numbers are the most appropriate and readily available assistance resources. Additionally, the state chaplains who lead this program are available for further information or for help in a particular situation. Here are your state chaplains and contact information:

Chaplain (Col.) David Feyrer  
State Chaplain  
203-454-5719

Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Cavanaugh  
Troop Command Chaplain  
860-633-9419

Chaplain (Maj.) James Finn  
143<sup>rd</sup> ASG Chaplain  
860-589-9101

Chaplain (Capt.) Mark Johnson  
1/169<sup>th</sup> Aviation  
860-464-1557

Chaplain (1<sup>st</sup> Lt.) David Nutt  
1/102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry  
860-870-9570

### Connecticut's National Guard & Militia Units

Present

# Family Day 2002



Join us for a Welcome Home Celebration for all soldiers and airmen who were deployed around the world this past year

Saturday, August 17, 2002 11 a.m.  
Camp Rowland, Niantic, Connecticut

Connecticut Army and Air National Guard  
Governor's Foot and Horse Guard

# Connecticut Airman named national 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. of the year

**MASTER SGT. BOB HASKELL  
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU**

Their military duties have taken them to South Korea, the Philippines and Hawaii. One holds a degree in microbiology from Texas A&M. Another has worked with the United States Secret Service and the former Soviet Union's KGB. Yet another was nominated as teacher of the year for a high school in Connecticut before becoming a special education teacher in Maryland.

Those are just some of the milestones achieved by the foursome who make up the Air National Guard's outstanding airman and noncommissioned officers for 2002. The National Guard Bureau is honoring them in Washington, D.C., during June's second week.

They are: Airman of the Year - Senior Airman Jonathan Endicott from the Texas Air Guard's 273rd Engineering Installation Squadron.

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - Tech. Sgt. Caesar Kellum from the Florida Air Guard's Southeast Air Defense Sector at Tyndall Air Force Base.

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - Master Sgt. Lester Enoch from the New York Air Guard's 106th Rescue Wing.

First Sergeant of the Year - Master Sgt. Dorene Bosco from the Connecticut Air Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing.

Endicott and Bosco are traditional Guard members. Kellum and Enoch serve full-time with their units and spent a total of 13 years in the Air Force before joining the Air National Guard.

They are being honored this week with the Army National Guard's 16 soldiers of the year. Activities include a Wednesday evening reception by Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, at his Fort McNair home in Washington and a Thursday evening awards banquet at the Doubletree Hotel on Army Navy Drive in Arlington, Va.

Craig Duehring, principle deputy to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, will be the banquet's guest speaker.

Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Benton, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, hosted a welcome reception for the foursome and those traveling with them on Monday evening.

"You represent the best of the best in the Air National Guard," Davis told the four winners who, it was explained, were selected from a field of 160 candidates.

"Thanks for going the extra distance that you do," Davis added. "That's why we're a great organization, and that's why we're a

great country. Now you need to be ready to take more step and go one more mile."

Bosco, 35, joined the Connecticut Air Guard in April 1986 and returned to her home in 1994 after serving for two years with the Hawaii Air Guard. She has been the first sergeant for the 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron at the Bradley Air National Guard Base for three years.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in special education,

and she was nominated as teacher of the year at Stafford High School in Stafford Springs, Conn., in 2001. She is now a special education teacher at Glen Burnie High School in Maryland where her husband, Tech. Sgt. Michael Milewski, is an A-10 crew chief in the Maryland Air Guard.

Enoch and Bosco are actively involved in efforts to bring greater diversity to the Air Guard's ranks. Their recognition as two of the Air Guard's outstanding enlisted people coincides with the National Guard Bureau's Year of Diversity.

Enoch belongs to his New York wing's Cultural Diversity Committee, and one of his articles, "Operation Diversity: At the Forefront of Cultural Awareness," has been published in the Air Guard's Diversity Digest. Bosco was co-founder of the Connecticut Air Guard's Diversity Day Program in 1999.

"This holds you to a higher standard," said Bosco who is the enlisted leader for her Connecticut squadron of 119 people. Being named this year's outstanding first sergeant may be a bit overwhelming, she added, but now "you definitely can't let down."



First Sgt. Dorene Bosco



Master Sgt. Joe Dellamonica of the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing is serving in Al Dhafra and while there had the chance to meet Gen. Tommy R. Franks, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) commander-in-chief. Dellamonica is a police officer with the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing Security Forces section. (Photo courtesy of the 103<sup>rd</sup> FW)



Firefighters from the Connecticut Air National Guard are currently serving on active duty at Nellis Air Force Base. Back row, from left: Master Sgt. Joseph Comarella, Master Sgt. Eric Munsell, Sr. Airman Nicholas Calasetta, Master Sgt. Richard Sawtelle, Sr. Airman Matthew Atwood, Staff Sgt. Thomas Sterling and Tech. Sgt. Daniel McKinstry. Front row, from left: Tech. Sgt. Stephen Bilow, Staff Sgt. Chad Mason and Staff Sgt. William Towers. (Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Joseph Comarella)

## 102<sup>nd</sup> Army Band Announces Summer Concert Series

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Army Band of the Connecticut Army National Guard has announced its Summer Concert Schedule for 2002. All concerts are free and open to the public. The band has grown in numbers and talent over the years and concert segments include patriotic/military music, features by the jazz band and vocal accompaniments by members of the band.

The schedule is as follows:

July 14	Montville Town Hall, Montville	6 to 7:30 p.m.
July 15	Veteran's Memorial Park, Watertown	7 to 8:30 p.m.
July 16	Levitt Pavilion, Westport	8 to 9:30 p.m.
July 17	Brodie Park, New Hartford	6:30 to 8 p.m.
July 18	Town Green, Deep River	6:30 to 8 p.m.
July 19	Town Hall, West Hartford	12 to 1 p.m.
July 22	Lebanon Green, Lebanon	7 to 8:30 p.m.

# Guarding Your Rights

## Legal Affairs: Responding to requests for information

CAPT. TIMOTHY TOMCHO  
JAG OFFICE

A properly issued and correctly served subpoena is essentially an order to appear at a designated time and place to testify about an identified matter.

If the subpoena requires the production of something tangible, such as papers or physical items (subpoena duces tecum), the order will specify the items required to be produced: books, papers, equipment, etc. Failure to properly comply with a request for information arising from a subpoena or some otherwise type of information request may lead to negative legal repercussions.

Likewise, unauthorized disclosure of information may lead to personal criminal or civil liability or worse. What, then, should a soldier do when he or she receives a subpoena or other request for official information?

As a general proposition, Army personnel (which includes all members of the Army National Guard) will not disclose official information in response to subpoenas, court orders or other information requests. Official information is all information within the custody and control of the Army, including but not limited to Army records (electronic or hard copy), documents, books, property or information pertaining to one's military actions, duties or knowledge. When Army personnel receive subpoenas or other requests for official information, they should immediately notify their immediate supervisor and contact the proper office.

Connecticut's Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), in accordance with Army Regulation 27-40, Chapter 7, is authorized to coordinate and resolve responses to subpoenas and other similar requests incident to private

litigation (litigation in which the United States is not a party) that seek official information within the custody and control of the Connecticut National Guard or Connecticut Military Department.

It is important to note that although the SJA is generally not authorized to approve the appearance of Army personnel as expert witnesses, the SJA is authorized to deny such requests or forward them to the Department of Army Litigation Division with, if appropriate, a recommendation for approval.

The SJA may approve the personal appearance of an Army witness for non-expert testimony in private litigation, delineating the scope of testimony, the disclosure of official information and, if necessary, designating a Judge Advocate to accompany the witness.

The Army is dedicated to its policy of making official information reasonably available for use in courts and accessible to the public unless the information is classified, privileged or otherwise protected by law. Requests for records, if not in the nature of the legal process, should be processed under Army Regulation 25-55, "The Department of the Army Freedom of Information Act Program" or Army Regulation 340-21, "The Army Privacy Program."

Release of documents or the providing of testimony that contain information protected by the Privacy Act, such as personal records or medical records, may only be granted incident to a proper court order or upon written consent from the subject of the records.

Other records, such as law enforcement and Inspector General reports, are subject

to separate regulatory release requirements. The SJA decides if the information or materials sought, by subpoena or other information request, may be legally released or withheld.

If you receive a subpoena requesting official information, forward a copy of the request to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA), Hartford Armory, and contact the SJA at (860) 548-3203 for processing instructions.

If you receive a request for information under the Freedom of Information or Privacy Acts, immediately forward the request to the Administrative Services Office, Hartford Armory, ATTN: Management Analyst, or call (860) 493-2730 for processing instructions. All media requests for information must be immediately forwarded to the Public Information Office, Hartford Armory, and (860) 524-4857.

Army Regulation 381-12, "Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the U.S. Army," requires reporting of all attempts by unauthorized persons to obtain classified or unclassified information concerning U.S. Army facilities, activities, personnel, technology, or material through questioning, elicitation, trickery, bribery, threats, coercion, blackmail, photography, observation, collection of documents or material, correspondence, or computer hacking.

Report all suspicious attempts or successful efforts to obtain official information by unauthorized persons to your immediate supervisor and/or the State Security Manager at (860) 524-4950.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

## NGACT: NGAUS and EANGUS conferences scheduled

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

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) has scheduled its annual conference for Sept. 6 to Sept. 9 at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, California.

NGAUS is the national association that fights for equitable treatment for National Guard soldiers. Membership is open to all past and present officers who served, or are presently serving in the National Guard.

Resolutions are passed at the annual conference and forwarded to Congress. NGAUS then has a full time staff that lobbies for those resolutions. Some of their resolutions this year include: Extension of the TRICARE medical coverage at a cost equal to the military retiree; Payment of a full month's flight pay to all crewmembers regardless of how many days they actually fly; Eligibility for burial in VA Cemeteries after 24 months of service rather than 20 years; Unlimited commissary use; Allow Title 32

time to be bought back and counted for federal retirement; Allow retirees to re-select a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) at age 60; Retention of the Selected Reserve Incentive Programs; Tax credits for employers of National Guard members and self-employed members; Payment to RC members for time spent completing Distance Learning courses; An \$8,000 bonus for newly appointed or commissioned officers; and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) teams in all states and territories.

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) has scheduled its conference for Aug 18 to Aug. 22 at the Niagara Falls Visitor's and Convention Center in Niagara Falls, NY.

EANGUS also fights for National Guard benefits. As its name implies, membership in EANGUS is open to all past or present enlisted members of the National Guard. Basically, the same resolutions will be presented to the EANGUS Conference.

Although meetings are held during the

day, nights are filled with social events. Hospitality rooms with free food and drinks abound. All fifty states and four territories come together with family and friends for networking, teamwork and fun.

NGACT members often ask "what do the national associations do for me?" Attending the national convention answers this question and provides attendees the opportunity to be a part of the decision making process.

If you have any questions concerning transportation, rooms, or any conference issues, contact one of the following: Col. Thomas Heath (CTANG) at 860-493-2707 or [thomas.heath@ct.ngb.army.mil](mailto:thomas.heath@ct.ngb.army.mil); Maj. Robert Pernel (CTARNG) at 860-493-2758 or [robert.pernel@ct.ngb.army.mil](mailto:robert.pernel@ct.ngb.army.mil); Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Joseph Amatruda at 860-247-5000 or [joseph.amatruda@snet.net](mailto:joseph.amatruda@snet.net)

Although NGACT has reserved some rooms at both conferences, they are limited. You are encouraged to contact one of the above people as soon as possible.

## ESGR: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

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

Of the close to 87,000 National Guard and Reserve Personnel called into active duty since Sept. 11, the Department of Defense estimates that more than 25 percent have been college students. Although there is no existing federal legislation to support activated students, there is some relief and assistance for those students whose academic careers were interrupted.

Under the coordination of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, a division of the DOD, the academic world has rallied and taken a very supportive position to insure that each involved student gets the most beneficial assessment of their academic status:

- Guidance from the US Department of Education grants relief for activated service members who have subsidized federal loans. It also asks colleges to refund full tuition and other institutional charges.

- A letter from the President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities asked colleges to support activated Guard and Reservists, and encouraged them to renew their policies to assure they are more than fair to activated students.

- A letter from the President of the American Council on Education, and endorsed by Presidents of sixteen higher education associations urged colleges to support activated students by refunding full tuition and institutional charges and encouraged flexible re-enrollment options for those affected.

Local colleges and universities have been subsequently contacted by both ESGR members and representatives of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) to follow through on the above guidance. In Connecticut, the majority of colleges and universities have already, or are in the process of, posting their internal guidance. We're proud to say that our local colleges and universities have not only met the spirit of the guidance, but, in most cases, have exceeded it by proclaiming fair and flexible standards and processes to support the activated students.

The Secretary of Defense has designated Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) as the Department of Defense agency to assist service members experiencing problems with postsecondary education institutions. Guard and Reserve personnel can call SOC at 1-800-368-5622 for assistance.

In addition, SOC has developed a web page with information specifically for activated soldiers and colleges that are affected by the activations. There you will find a checklist for the activated student, sample letters to communicate with your college, applicable state laws, copies of the guidance mentioned above, information on the Montgomery GI Bill and other benefits. Go to ([www.soc.aasoc.org/socguard](http://www.soc.aasoc.org/socguard)) for more information.

# NCOs get new career development guidance

## Connecticut National Guard Soldiers Finish Airport Duty

MAJ. JOHN WHITFORD  
STATE PAO

On the last day of airport duty, the soldiers of the 143rd Military Police Company assembled at Camp Rowland with family and friends to pause, reflect and honor those who gave the last six months of their life to continuous security operations at Bradley International Airport, Groton-New London and Tweed Airport in New Haven.

When the soldiers of the 143rd Military Police of Hartford were called upon, they responded quickly, handling a number of reported incidents since October. While most airport security breaches and other violations were handled by the police, the soldiers, dressed in BDU's and carrying 9mm pistols, provided a visible sense of security to travelers.

Despite the exit, many travelers think the Guard should stay year-round. Many travelers said that they see police all the time but it is not everyday you see military.

The burning question was what would these soldiers do after May 31? Capt. John Dickey, commander of the 143rd MP Company goes right back to work at the State Police and will work overtime. His wife Tracy said that during the past six months that it was intense at times.

"I'm proud of John. The National Guard is part of

our lives that we have accepted and have adjusted to." Sgt. Jason Harvey of the 143rd MP Company, who had been on duty since October said it is back to work. He starts a new job in July at United Technologies.

"This has been a great experience," said Harvey. His sister Pamela Harvey said after the ceremony that she was very proud of her brother.

"Doing this and graduating college at the same time is a such an accomplishment," Pam said.

While performing security at Bradley airport, Harvey continued going to school, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Central Connecticut State University.

For Spec. Dale Cates of Headquarters/Headquarters Company, 102nd Infantry, it is also back to work. Cates, a security guard for Pinkerton, went back to his civilian job a week after his airport duty. His fiancée, Heather Mayer, said that during the last six months both she and Cates had an opportunity to spend more time together. Now they are planning for a wedding.

"We are planning to get married in 2004," said Mayer.

"I am very proud of the professionalism and the performance of our soldiers," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard. "They quickly prepared and responded to this mission and if we are called upon again, we will be there as we have been throughout history."



Cpl. Lange of the 143rd Military Police Company spends some quality time with his daughter following an awards ceremony for the soldiers who spent the last several months on federal airport duty. (Photo by Maj. John Whitford, State PAO)

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**Connecticut's Army National**

Visit the  
**Connecticut  
Guardian**

on-line at

[www.ct.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil)

### 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

**COAST GUARD ACADEMY**

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

**CAMP ROWLAND POST**

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

**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

**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

**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

# Service Flags making comeback as way to honor soldiers

SPEC. RACHAEL TOLLIVER  
10<sup>th</sup> MOUNTAIN DIVISION JOURNALIST

As Americans bring yellow ribbons out of mothballs and U.S. flags are prominently displayed across the nation, there is a little-remembered tradition that honors military personnel in times of war or conflict that has yet to make an appearance: the Service flag.

The Service flag, sometimes known as the "Son in Service" flag, was first displayed during WWI and was a very popular adornment in the homes of military service members' families during WWII.

It is said to have started in WWI with Capt. Robert Queissner of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, who had two sons serving on the front line in Europe. He made a small flag to display at home to honor his sons. The flag was white with a red border and included two blue stars in the middle, one representing each son.

The flag idea caught on, and thereafter became the unofficial symbol of a child in service.

WWII veteran Keith Gillan of Watertown, N.Y., a sergeant in the Army Air Corps, said it was nice to know the flags were displayed at home.

"Yeah, it meant a lot to the soldiers to know these were on display at home," he said. "But it meant more to the neighbors who knew you had a member of the family serving....They should bring (the Service flag) back."

As it turns out, the Service flag never went anywhere.

The Service flag is authorized by the Department of Defense for display by Americans to honor their family members who are serving in the U.S. armed forces **during any period of war or hostilities**. This includes all branches of service whether service members are deployed to a combat zone or stationed on U.S. soil.

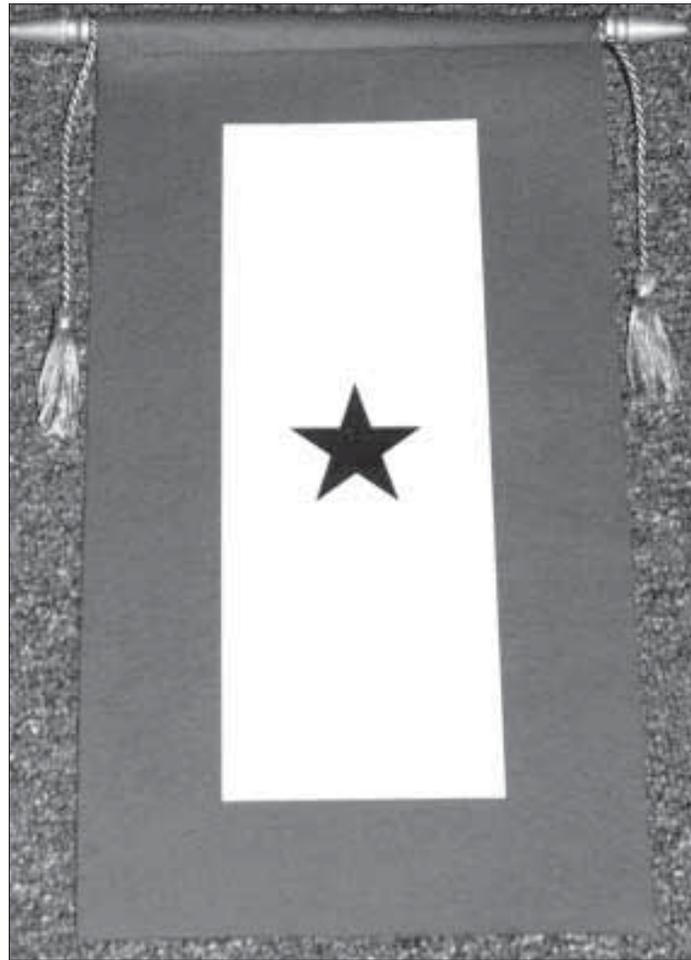
But since WWII, the Service flag has rarely been seen, and these days, few people may know what the flag is or what it represents. After that war, displaying the Service flag fell by the way side, probably due to the lack of support from Americans toward our wars and conflicts, according to Kathy Vairo, co-owner of Battle Born Industries, ServiceFlags.com.

"Korea has been called the forgotten war, and ... (the) Vietnam (war) was not popular at all," she said.

While some families chose to display the Service flag during the Vietnam War, Vairo said most did not, and few knew of its existence.

"Desert Storm was a quick engagement. The nation was not as aware of conflict (in terms) of what we have to sacrifice and what we stand for," Vairo said. "So WWII is really the last time the Service flag was displayed all over the U.S."

But after the Sept. 11 attacks on America, troops started deploying overseas to participate in the War on Terrorism. Vairo said because of the deployments, she and her brother David Smith, owner of



ServiceFlags.com, decided to manufacture Service flags.

"We thought this was a great way to keep positive focus toward the military," she said.

ServiceFlags.com was the first company to manufacture the Service flags, Vairo said, and as of December, there were only three companies in the U.S. manufacturing this symbol of service.

An individual or company wishing to manufacture and sell Service flags must obtain a certificate of authorization from the Department of Defense. Hand-made flags were largely used during WWI and WWII, and if someone wanted to make a flag for personal use, he or she is not subject to the DoD regulations, Vairo said.

During WWII, the Department of War issued specifications for manufacturing the flag, as well as guidelines indicating when the flag could be displayed and who could display it.

Then in the 1960s the Department of Defense revised previous regulations and specifications. According to [www.gideonflags.com](http://www.gideonflags.com), these guidelines are referenced in DoD Directive 1348.20 and 1348.33-M, Manual of Military Decorations

and Awards. The specifics can be found on page 88-93 in the 1996 version.

In addition to family members, the Service flag may also be displayed by organizations to honor their members serving in the armed forces.

The flag is designed to be displayed indoors facing out of the home or organization front window. If the U.S. flag is also displayed, it should take the place of honor above the Service flag, and should be equal to or greater in proportion.

If a family member is killed during a war or conflict, then a gold star covers the blue one. The gold star takes a position of honor nearest the staff and is slightly smaller than the blue star, giving the gold star a blue border. This reinforced the name "Gold Star Mothers," given to women who had lost children in service, which originated in 1918. It was represented by a gold star over a black mourning band symbolizing sons and daughters who had died in combat. ([www.goldstarmoms.com](http://www.goldstarmoms.com))

Family members authorized to display the Service flag include the wife, husband, mother, father, stepfather, stepmother, parent through adoption, foster parents who stood

or stand in loco parentis, children, stepchildren, children through adoption, brothers, sisters, half brothers, and half sisters of a member of the U.S. armed forces.

Grandparents are not authorized to display the flag; however, there is a lobby before Congress to change that, Vairo said.

"There is a lobby before Congress to allow grandparents to display the flag as well," she said. "That is important especially since so many of them served in WWII."

Local retailers, to include the Fort Drum PX, are not yet carrying the Service flag for sale. Sharon Campbell, manager of Military Clothing and Sales here, said the Service flag may be ordered at Annin flags, [www.annin.com](http://www.annin.com). Representatives at Annin confirm they are manufacturing the flag and have been authorized to do so.

AAFES military insignia buyer Ray Howard said AAFES is currently researching the Service flag, waiting for approval to sell it, and will then decide if they can carry it in their inventory, he said.

"I believe the incidents that have happened in the last six months have brought this item back into the limelight," Howard said.

For Americans, WWII started with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Nearly 60 years later, the U.S. came under attack again, and once again families gave up their children to a war effort. Americans now have the opportunity to revive a tradition and display the Service flag, showing their family's contribution to the War on Terrorism.

*(Editor's Note: Since this article was written, Service Flags have slowly been showing up in stores and in windows of military family homes.)*

## Congress authorizes Service Lapel Button and Gold Star Lapel Button

The DoD also authorizes the manufacture and wearing of a Service Lapel Button and a Gold Star Lapel Button.

The SLB may be worn by the same members of a soldier's family who may display the service flag. However, while the flag is allowed to show as many stars as there are family members serving, the button is authorized to show only one star. A gold star is **not** authorized as part of the Service Lapel Button, as it is on the flag.

The GSLB is gold star on a purple disk surrounded by wreath of gold laurel leaves. Members of a soldier's family may wear the pin after the soldier has lost his or her life in conflict or war.



# Sports

## Army Olympian Davenport remembered

MASTER SGT. BOB HASKELL

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 20, 2002)—Army National Guard Col. Willie Davenport believed until the day he died that determined and promising young athletes should have the same chances he had to fulfill their Olympic dreams, according to friends and colleagues.

A five-time Olympian and 1968 gold-medallist in the 110-meter hurdles, Davenport, 59, was pronounced dead at the Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago, the Associated Press reported, after collapsing on Monday, June 17, at O'Hare International Airport while returning to his Northern Virginia home from a National Guard adjutants generals' conference in Boise, Idaho.

He had been chief of the National Guard Bureau's Office of Sports Management since September 1999, and he was planning to retire before his 60th birthday next June. He had coached the All-Army men's and women's track teams to an unprecedented four undefeated seasons from 1993-96.

Davenport, whose own Olympic career spanned a remarkable 16 years, was responsible for getting the National Guard's sports program validated by the U.S. Army so that it could be funded with \$4 million for four years beginning in 2003, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dennis Loy.

Born in Troy, Ala., he was the oldest in a family of seven children, and he became a state high school hurdling champion in Ohio before joining the Army in 1962 and making the U.S. Army track team.

Davenport made the 1964 U.S. Olympic team for the Tokyo Games where he advanced to the semifinals in the high hurdles. He won his gold medal in Mexico four years later, after leaving the Army and while studying physical education at Southern University A&M in Baton Rouge, La.

The man nicknamed "Breeze" finished fourth during the 1972 Summer Games in Munich, and he took the bronze medal during the Montreal Games in 1976, when he was 33 and after he had recovered from a severe knee injury.

He became one of two African-Americans to first make the U.S. bobsled team for the 1980 games in Lake Placid, N.Y. Davenport's four-man team finished 12th in his fifth and final Olympics.

Davenport was honored as one of this country's 100 Golden Olympians before the 1996 Centennial Olympics held in Atlanta, Ga., after being inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1991. He was first vice president of the U.S. Olympians, the governing branch of the 6,000-member U.S. Olympic Alumni Association. He was also in the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame.

"Competing in five Olympics was phenomenal," said Paulette Freese, manager



of the Army's World Class Athlete Program since 1994. "And he didn't just show up. He brought back the medals. He was a winner."

Davenport never forgot his roots, added Freese. "He gave the Army credit for his medals and for much of the success he achieved in his life."

"Colonel Davenport was always a strong advocate for Army sports, not just for the National Guard soldiers but for all Army athletes," she said. "He never gave up the battle when it came to fighting for the rights and for funding for the soldiers."

The United State Olympic Committee called Davenport one of the greatest U.S. Olympians of all time in a June 19 press release.

"Willie Davenport was a true Olympian in every sense of the word," said University of Alabama-Birmingham Athletic Director Herman Frazier, a USOC vice president and Davenport's teammate at the 1976 Olympic Games. "And, like many Olympians, Willie gave back to the movement by remaining active in support of not only America's athletes, but also sport around the world."

"He really relished working with young people and helping them along, and he understood how the Army's sports program worked," Loy said. "We patterned our National Guard Bureau office after the Army's program."

Davenport's sports "Tiger Team" at the Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., was increased to five people early this year.

"He was probably the most demanding boss I've ever had," Loy explained. "With Col. Davenport, you had to hit the ground running and keep on running. But I learned more from him than I learned from anyone else."

Davenport received a direct commission after joining the Louisiana Army Guard in 1981. He was a National Guard community relations officer for nearly five years, and he commanded the Oregon Army Guard's 741st Corps Support Battalion for 19 months until September 1998.

Davenport is survived by one daughter, Tanya Davenport Morris of Monroe, La., and two sons, Willie Davenport Stewart Jr. of Youngstown, Ohio, and Mark Davenport of Baton Rouge, La. He was engaged to Barbara Henry of Louisiana.

(Editor's note: Master Sgt. Bob Haskell is a writer for the National Guard Bureau.)

## CTNG Marathon Team Competes in the Lincoln Marathon

MAJ. JOSEPH DANAQ  
MARATHON TEAM MEMBER

On May 5, 2002 the Connecticut National Guard was represented at the Lincoln Marathon in Lincoln, Neb. by Maj. Joe Danao, 2nd Lt. Sandy Webb and Master Sgt. Linda Rocco. All three Marathon Team members finished the race.

One finisher in particular earned top honors. Rocco finished the race in 4:13:22. She placed first in her age group and also earned a position on the 2002 National Guard Marathon Team. This was Rocco's first Lincoln Marathon and third marathon overall.

Webb finished in 4:26:39, an excellent time that earned second place in her age group. This was Webb's second Lincoln Marathon and fifth overall.

Danao finished his 10th Lincoln Marathon and 16th Marathon overall in 3:52.

The National Guard Bureau sponsors the Lincoln Marathon. The race serves as the National Guard Team Trials for selecting the All Guard Team. The Team will compete with all other services at worldwide running

events during the coming year.

The Lincoln Marathon is run the first Sunday of May each year. The event consists of up to four days TDY. This includes travel days, race day and a day of classes on fitness and recruiting. The Nebraska National Guard and National Guard Bureau Recruiting and Retention Division provide a quality seminar environment and a first class sporting event.

If you would like to participate in the 2003 National Guard Marathon Trials, Lincoln Marathon please contact one of the above members for more information. Lincoln is a great place to visit and the race is flat and fast.



Master Sgt. Linda Rocco, Maj. Joseph Danao and 2nd Lt. Sandy Webb

# 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NGACT OPEN

*All proceeds to benefit  
the Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
with NGACT's Scholarship Fund*

DATE:  
Friday  
6 September 2002

LOCATION:  
Kensy Golf Course  
Hartford, CT

TIME:  
**11:00 am Shotgun Start**

COST:  
**\$90.00 person**  
(\$35.00 travel 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, Awards, 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 Nerkan (860) 524-4938	Chris Hawkins (860) 524-4814
John Godburn (860) 524-4808	James Howard (860) 493-2749

**Return to NLT 16 Aug 02: NGACT Open, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795**  
(Make checks payable to NGACT)

Name	Address	Home Phone	Work Phone
1 _____	_____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____	_____
3 _____	_____	_____	_____
4 _____	_____	_____	_____

# BTOC gives enlistees a head start on basic



Drill Sgt. Angel Ortolaza of the United States Army Reserves gives instruction to the BTOC class. (Photo by Maj. Scott Wilson, State PIO)

**SPC. MARIAN ROSADO  
65<sup>th</sup> PCH**

Connecticut's Basic Training Orientation Course has been successful in preparing new enlisted service members for Basic Training. These new members spend a weekend with Drill Instructors who commit their time and ensure they provide the new enlisted members with everything they need to know about Basic Training.

This past class consisted of twenty new enlisted members who were given classes on personal hygiene, barracks maintenance, military rank as well as a Safety Briefing and Drug and Alcohol Briefing.

Drill Sgt. Angel Ortolaza also taught the students Drill and Ceremonies.



Pvt. Barclay

Among the new enlisted members was Pvt. Juliat Barclay of Bridgeport who is a 29-year-old mother of three. She said that she joined the military for personal growth.

"I need to further my education and secure a stable

future for my children," said Barclay. She also said that Basic Training was going to be tough because she will be leaving her husband and three children behind.

"This is all a learning experience and it's something I've always wanted to do; I'm just glad that I have the support I need," said Barclay. She was thankful she had the opportunity to go through BTOC. "The first thing I learned this weekend has been commitment and reliability. They say a time and you have to be there on time not a second late."



Pvt. Mills

Pvt. Sergion Mills of Hartford also attended BTOC. He just graduated from Bulkely High School and leaves for Basic Training in early July. Mills is looking to go to college in the future and has joined the military for the college tuition waiver.

"Spending the weekend has been a good experience for me. I now have an idea of



Pvt. Cutter

what to expect and I feel it is preparing me to go to Basic," said Mills.

Pvt. Lisa Cutter of Enfield also took advantage of BTOC. "I need to learn everything I can this weekend. I'm 35 years old and I'm just starting to learn a new definition of discipline. I'm nervous, but I'm looking forward to Basic in a positive way," said Cutter. She joined the military because she wanted to do something different than her civilian job. Cutter has already drilled with her unit and is looking forward to Basic Training in August.

During the weekend at BTOC the Drill Sergeants ensure that the students have all the paperwork up to date and they answer any questions the enlistees may have about their enlistment, unit or Basic Training. At the end of what may seem a long weekend for these students, they leave with handouts, information packets and an idea of what to expect at basic training.

## New Department Would Unite Homeland Security Efforts

By LINDA D. KOZARYN  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, July 10, 2002 — The Homeland Security Department proposed by President Bush would have nearly 170,000 employees and a budget of more than \$37 billion, double what the government spent in the previous fiscal year, Gov. Tom Ridge said today.

Speaking to about 3,000 federal employees at Constitution Hall here, the president's homeland security director said the new department would unite the efforts of 100 federal agencies and organizations that play a role in homeland security.

"The new department will not be driven by how many boxes on an organizational chart we can move around," Ridge assured the federal workers. "It will be driven by one thing and one thing only: how best we can work together to protect our fellow citizens and our way of life."

The nation is fighting a new type of enemy, Ridge stressed, "one that uses our 21st century technology, transportation and economy against us. Speed and surprise are the terrorists' most effective weapons."

The United States must be "just as nimble and even better prepared," he said. This requires attracting and retaining the best people and rewarding their best efforts. "To protect the homeland, it is critical that we get the right people in the right place in time to make a difference," he said.

Federal workers transferring to the new department would bring their current pay and benefits packages with them, and the department would be run under the merit system.

"President Bush is committed to a federal workplace united in spirit and effort and one that is free from discrimination and retaliation," Ridge said.

The new department would be built on four pillars: border and transportation security; emergency preparedness and response; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear countermeasures; and information analysis and infrastructure protection.

Ridge said the president's fiscal 2003 budget includes "a tenfold increase in spending for first responders, a 300 percent increase for biodefense, and a 60 percent increase for cyber security."

He said the new department would:

- Ensure that police, firefighters and hospitals have the equipment, training and communications they need.

- Help protect the nation's waters, airports and seaports.

- Monitor all visitors to this country.

- Set guidelines and conduct drills to help states and local communities prepare for possible attack.

- Lead a national scientific effort to develop diagnostics and vaccines against bioterrorism.

- Communicate serious and credible threats to public officials and the private sector.

- Fuse threat intelligence from the FBI, the CIA and other agencies and match it against vulnerabilities in the nation's critical infrastructure.

"If there's a critical threat that matches a vulnerability," he said, "then this new department can give instructions as to what protective measures we need to take as a country in anticipation of that potential threat," he said. This would make America "significantly safer and reduce our vulnerability."

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State Command Sergeant Major  
**CSM Stephen L. Primett**  
**August 31, 2002**

For more information contact:  
 SGM Joseph Sevigny (860)524-4834 or joseph.sevigny@et.ngb.army.mil or  
 1SG John Carragher (860)524-4951 john.carragher@et.ngb.army.mil

Please Detach and Return by August 19, 2002

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Return to:  
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 c/o 1SG John Carragher  
 ATTN: CTNG-MS  
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 Hartford, CT 06105-3795

**Meal Choices:**  
(Indicate number of each meal)  
 London Broil  
 Stuffed Chicken  
 Baked Scrod

Make all checks payable to: Primett Retirement

# LILLIE B. HAYNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS SAY THANK YOU

Visit the  
**Connecticut  
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on-line at  
[www.ct.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil)

Lillie B. Haynes School  
Camp Rowland  
Niantic, CT 06357  
June 13, 2002

Dear Major General Cugno,  
Lieutenant Colonel Kowalski,  
and Captain Bostick,  
Thank you for letting our school stay on your military base. My name is Kelly Connell and I am in Mrs. Rame's class in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. At first I thought that you guys were just letting us use the rooms but you gave us so much more! You all are very nice of you all for letting us stay here.

You guys are really nice and all but I have a question; what are your jobs?

Thank you very much. This experience is my favorite part of base B. ever!

Sincerely,  
Kelly Connell

Lillie B. Haynes School  
Camp Rowland  
Niantic, CT 06357  
June 13, 2002

Dear Major General Cugno,  
Lieutenant Colonel Kowalski,  
and Captain Bostick,  
I'm a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student here and I know that you would have equipment, but not my school. I hope you can help me for letting us use your rooms for the rest of the school year. I love you. Thank you for letting us stay on the base. I love you.

Sincerely,  
Katie E. Brown

Lillie B. Haynes School  
Camp Rowland  
Niantic, CT 06357  
June 13, 2002

Dear Major General Cugno,  
Lieutenant Colonel Kowalski,  
and Captain Bostick,  
I am a fourth grade student from Lillie B. Haynes. We thank you greatly for all the things you let us do. I was really surprised when we didn't have to use the post office! It was also really cool to see a helicopter landing. I really miss the old school because I was only there for a year. I can't wait to go back to the new one. What are your jobs? They must be very nice since you are our military jobs. I just can't stop saying thank you to you all. I love you!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer K.

Lillie B. Haynes School  
Camp Rowland  
Niantic, CT 06357  
June 13, 2002

Dear Major General Cugno,  
Lieutenant Colonel Kowalski,  
and Captain Bostick,  
Hi, my name is Doug Raffuse and I am a fourth grade student Lillie B. Haynes School. I want to thank you for letting us use Camp Rowland. I really like the middle I can see out side of my class room building 29. Do you like your job? I really like your job. I think you are because you let us stay here.

Sincerely,  
Doug Raffuse

## Commentary

From page 21

democracy? Where does the limit of your courage stand on the battlefield or in the situations in which you may find yourself?

The Army Values extol the virtues that are present in men who have been honored by name, deed or accomplishment. Those whose names can be found in the annals of history or through word of mouth, or by the uniform they wear. These are the men and women that have served their country proudly, who have given their lives in her defense so that we may live in freedom.

You are in a position to influence many people, by your beliefs and actions. When they look upon you, what do you want them to see? How do you want to be remembered? Your character can live on through those that you mentor and touch. The Army Values are not a difficult standard to live by, they are not an unattainable goal, revered for a chosen few. You possess the tools within your own soul. You have the ability to let those values shine through, to present yourself to others in a manner that inspires respect.

It is mandatory that you, as leaders, demonstrate these values. Your example is what individual soldiers will strive to achieve. Do you want that example to be positive or negative? If you cannot demonstrate the Army Values, then you cannot reasonably expect your subordinates to demonstrate them either. This is where the failure of Leadership begins. Take the opportunity to **LEAD BY EXAMPLE**.

Remember those whose blood has been shed on the battlefield or in the emptiness of the forgetfulness of a misguided nation. The words of Thomas Jefferson will remain ever true.

"The Tree Of Liberty Must Periodically Be Watered With The Blood Of Patriots and Tyrants."

## Retirees' Voice: Remembering the way it used to be

COL. (RET.) EDWARD POLANSKI

In 2000 I was asked by the Wallingford Veterans Memorial committee to be the Guest Speaker at a ceremony remembering the Korean War days. I did this hoping that others would do the same so that their offspring would have an idea what it was like for their parents growing up in Wallingford.

On this day of Remembrance, I think it would be fitting to spend some time to stroll down memory lane to retrace our lives, and the lives of those service men and women who grew up in Wallingford, and served so that we could enjoy our freedoms. Let us follow this Polish boy, from the other side of the tracks, who learned to speak English at Washington St. Kindergarten, on his way to be a veteran.

We were born during the depression when there was no welfare, no healthcare or unemployment insurance, and you had to depend on your friends and relatives to help you. Local Mom and Pop grocery stores allowed you to "put on the cuff" your food purchases until you could get some money.

In the '30's if you were lucky, and had a dime, you could go to the Saturday morning movies, at Wilkinson or the Strand Theater to see your heroes, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers and on a special day, stop at Mr. Foote's Ice Cream Store or buy Cracker Jacks and get a prize.

Our window on the world in 1930's was the Radio, and you listened to Jack Armstrong, Terry and the Pirates, The Shadow and of course, the Lone Ranger.

How great it felt when you were old enough to wear long pants instead of knickers.

One day in 1937 you looked up into the sky and saw a great airship from Germany, with a swastika on its tail. And you wondered if you would ever be able to visit a country on the other side of the ocean.

1938 was the year that one afternoon the sky was filled with paper as the Backes Fireworks Plant exploded.

And every year you recited "In Flander's fields the poppies blow", while a distinguished man in a WWI uniform, told stories of the war to end all wars. Then a moment of silence, on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. Church bells rang, while the whole town remembered those who gave their lives for our country. Why don't we do that anymore?

Then Mother Nature reminded us who was boss as she brought in an unexpected hurricane in 1938 and we were devastated with flooding, high water, high winds and hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage.

In the movies we watched Wizard of Oz go from black and white to color and we went to New York to visit the World's Fair.

## Federal Help Wanted

### Transportation Security Screeners

SV-0019-D  
Salary Range: \$23,600 to \$35,400 plus locality pay  
Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks  
Preference given to veterans  
For information and application, go to [www.tsa.dot.gov/workingwithtsa](http://www.tsa.dot.gov/workingwithtsa)

### Supervisory Transportation Security Screeners

SV-0019-G  
Salary Range: \$36,400 to \$56,400 plus locality pay  
Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks  
Preference given to veterans  
For information and application, go to [www.tsa.dot.gov/workingwithtsa](http://www.tsa.dot.gov/workingwithtsa)

### Lead Transportation Security Screeners

SV-0019-F  
Salary Range: \$31,100 to \$46,700 with locality pay  
Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks  
Preference given to veterans  
For information and application go to [www.tsa.dot.gov/workingwithtsa](http://www.tsa.dot.gov/workingwithtsa)

### PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

USAJOBS Control No. IC4618 FO  
Salary Range: \$23,417 - \$26,200 Annual  
Series and Grade: GS-0661-04/05  
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration, West Haven

### CLINICAL NURSE

USAJOBS Control No. BY4769 FC  
Salary Range: \$  
Series and Grade: GS-0610-09/09  
Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons/  
Federal Prison System, Various locations in the Northeast US  
Announcement No. 01-NER-CN09 (Must be on application) For information, contact Marcy Sandum, HRS at (215) 521-7364

### CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR

USAJOBS Control No. XA0561 FO  
Salary Range: \$33,254 - \$52,305 Annual  
Series and Grade: GS-1102-09/11  
Department of Defense, Defense Contract Management Agency, East Hartford, Conn., Windsor Locks, Conn., Stratford, Conn.  
Announcement No. DCMDE-01-1102SR (Must be on application) For information, contact DLA DEU TEAM at (614) 692-0200

### PROCUREMENT TECHNICIAN (OFFICE AUTOMATION)

USAJOBS Control No. XA0583  
Salary Range: \$21,947 - \$31,798 Annual  
Series and Grade: GS-1106-05/06  
Department of Defense, Defense Contract Management Agency, Stratford, Conn., Indianapolis, Ind., Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Announcement No. DCMDE-01-118492-006 (Must be on application) For information, contact DLA DEU TEAM at (614) 692-0200

### Retirees Picnic - 2002

**August 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**1200-1700**  
**Camp Rowland, Niantic CT**



Bring a yourself	Refreshments
As Little Cash as Possible	Lots of Food, Beer & Soda!
Pass the word!	Live Music!
Meet and Greet!	Cost: \$5.00

**Come Join the Fun!**  
**Mark your calendar!**

Decision 2002 10:00 to 11:00 AM Daily  
2002 Retirees Picnic - Cost: \$5.00 per person by July 18th  
1200-1700 hours on July 19th

Name: _____	Rank: _____ Agency: _____
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SO, WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS? MONEY FOR COLLEGE, TRAVEL, ADVENTURE?

I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY... I GUESS I JUST WANT TO DO ARMY STUFF.

ARMY STUFF... HOO-BOY THIS ONE'S RIPE FOR THE PICKING!

SON, I'VE GOT JUST THE JOB FOR YOU... 11 BRAVO, AIRBORNE, OF COURSE!

AIRBORNE? DOES THAT MEAN I'LL GET TO FLY?!

YOU'LL HAVE PLANES TAKING YOU UP ALL THE TIME!

LET'S DO IT!

RIGHT ON!

## *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 Salisbury 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](http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil)

## Coming Events

### July

**July 4**  
Independence Day

**July 27**  
OCS Class 47 Commissioning Ceremony

### August

**August 14**  
NGACT Executive Council Meeting  
1730 hours, Hartford Armory

**August 17**  
Family Day

**August 21**  
Retirees' Picnic

**August 31**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Primett's Retirement Party

### September

**September 6**  
NGACT Golf Tournament

**September 11**  
NGACT Executive Council Meeting  
1730 hours, Hartford Armory

**Date to be Determined**  
Connecticut Day at the Big E

## In the Next CG

Brig. Gen. Cordon Bench Dedication  
Trinidad/Connecticut Infantry Exchange  
Government Credit Card Abuse Crackdown  
Information Security

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month  
previous to publication.

# Hawgsmoke draws the best in the world to Fort Drum

From page 1

were the 131st Fighter Squadron, Barnes Municipal Airport, Mass. in second place and the 104th Fighter Squadron, Baltimore, Md. in third place.

"Two reasons the Guard and Reserve did so well is the average experience level is higher than the active duty, and while the Guard and Reserve operations tempo is higher than it was, the active duty tempo is still higher," said Maj. Kevin J. "Stubby" Campbell, who led the third place team, 104th Fighter Squadron, Baltimore, Md. "Their (active duty) ability to focus and prepare for this competition is more limited. Each member of my team had 1,500 flying hours, on average about 500 hours more per team member than the active duty."

The 62 A-10 aircraft, commonly called "warthogs," represented all but one of the world's A-10 units. Crews came from as far away as Germany and Korea to pilot their A-10 Thunderbolt II's in the competition, which was hosted by the previous winning team from the Connecticut Air National Guard's 118th Fighter Squadron.

"Day one was a tactical competition where

they practiced employing against a target out on the field with controlled timing and day two was live bombing a strafing (firing the A-10's Gatling

gun against a target)," said Lt. Col. Landis Cook, pilot and Hawgsmoke lead judge, 118th Fighter Squadron.

Cook explained that the judges compared the digital tape that objectively shows the details of the mission to the videotape from inside the aircraft that shows what the pilot



As Connecticut's A-10's arrived May 16 at Fort Drum, N.Y., maintenance crews fueled and loaded bombs for the 2002 Hawgsmoke competition. (Photo by Senior Airman Jeremiah Macht, 103rd Communications Flight)

and their instruments saw to determine accuracy.

At the awards ceremony, Lt. Col. Daniel Peabody, commander, 103rd Operations Group, Connecticut Air National Guard, explained that they decided

to continue with the competition for two reasons after the events of September 11. One reason was because the relatively small community of A-10 units can benefit from the personal relationships that competition fosters as they work together on tactics in

military hot spots across the world.

"The other reason is to send the message that (although) we don't have a lot of smart weapons on the A-10 ... we have a lot of smart pilots and maintenance people who can deliver actual ordinance onto actual targets," said Peabody, commander, 103rd Operations Group, Connecticut Air National Guard.

In addition to the top overall team, awards were presented to individuals and for the subcategories that made up the overall award. First in the major subcategories were the 118th Fighter Squadron, Bradley International Airport, Conn., as the Top Bomber Team, and the 131st Fighter Squadron, Barnes Municipal Airport, Mass., as the Top Tactical Team, both from the Air National Guard. The top overall pilot award was earned by Maj. Kevin J. "Stubby" Campbell, 104th Fighter Squadron, Baltimore, Md.

"I would be lying if I did not say there was some luck involved," said Campbell of his accomplishment. "Given the caliber of those in the room anybody could have done it."

## A-10 crews from around the world gather for competition

Pvt. ANTONIETA RICO  
STAFF WRITER, THE BLIZZARD  
FORT DRUM, NY

Out of the concrete flight line of the airfield rise the titanium lines of the Warthogs. And on this overcast day they emerge from the silver-lined clouds, indeed, like thunderbolts – A-10 Thunderbolt II's to be exact.

Seventeen four-man A-10 teams and their crews over ran the skies of Fort Drum as part of the international "Hawgsmoke" competition held May 16-17 at Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield.

The contest drew every single A-10 unit in the world except for one. The crews of the A-10, nicknamed the "Warthog," battled in bombing, missile and gun events for the right to call themselves the best in the world.

The competition tested the pilots' accuracy in bombing a target, followed by the firing of their Maverick missiles and their strafing capabilities with the A-10's 30-millimeter Gatling gun.

There was general agreement among the pilots and the crews that the competition gave every soldier real-world training experience.

"This is a strange range for us, which would sort of match a combat situation," said Maj.



Maintenance crews remove a travel pod as an A-10 arrives at Fort Drum, N.Y. for the 2002 Hawgsmoke competition, May 16. (Photo by Senior Airman Jeremiah Macht, 103rd Communications Flight)

Steven "Chappie" Chappel with the 303rd Fighter Squadron, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. "We are sighting targets that we've never seen before, so that is in direct relation to a combat scenario."

Pilots are not the only ones who benefit from the real-world training.

"(The training is) just as important for the crew as it is for the pilots," said Lt. Col. Hugh Edmonds with the 103rd Fighter Wing, Air National Guard, Conn. "This is unique for our folks because they are rainbowed (combined units) with A-10 people from all over."

The competition provides the newer pilots and crew members a chance to learn and get feedback from the other members of the A-10 culture.

What the pilots and crew members find significant above anything else is exactly the mentoring that is available and the general experience of having the world's A-10 community gathered in one place.

"The event itself is very important just for a lot of the intangibles of being a fighter pilot. There is a lot of camaraderie that goes along," said Capt. Jon A. Culp, a pilot with the 355th Fighting Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, Ala.

"The pilots share their experiences from Korea, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Southern Watch and all the places the A-10 pilots have been," Culp said.

Pilots talk about the lessons they have learned, what procedures work, and what can be done to make the airplane better and more effective for the Air Force said Culp.

"It's like a reunion with a big friendly competition imbedded in," said 1st Lt. Oliver R. Rick, a pilot with the "Flying Tigers" 74th Fighter Squadron of Pope Air Force Base.

A relatively young team, the energetic members of this squadron relish the

opportunity to compete.

"It's nice being able to come here as a first lieutenant and compete with guys that have a thousand hours (flying time) more than we do," said 1st Lt. Aaron R. "Gecko" Blum, a fellow member of the "Flying Tigers."

The whole team agreed that it is a great experience. They said the event is competitive, but all the teams are basically competing for the bragging rights.

"It's big bragging rights for each unit that does well and something that you'd probably buy beers over if you didn't do well," Culp said.

"There is also something unique about the hog community in general," said Capt. Diane E. Vitas, another member of the Flying Tigers. "Compared to other fighting communities, there is something unique, the bond that A-10 pilots share. We are not the pretty boys...we do the down and dirty work so it's pretty cool to come out here and (get a chance to) compete."

This year's trophy, and the right to say they are the best in the world, went to the 47th Fighter Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

(Spec. Rachael Tolliver contributed to this article.)



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