



Connecticut Guardian

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War in Iraq:

President Bush addresses troops, nation as war starts

To all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces now in the Middle East, the peace of a troubled world and the hopes of an oppressed people now depend on you. That trust is well placed.

The enemies you confront will come to know your skill and bravery. The people you liberate will witness the honorable and decent spirit of the American military. In this conflict, America faces an enemy who has no regard for conventions of war or rules of morality. Saddam Hussein has placed Iraqi troops and equipment in civilian areas, attempting to use innocent men, women and children as shields for his own military — a final atrocity against his people.

I want Americans and all the world to know that coalition forces will make every effort to spare innocent civilians from harm. A campaign on the harsh terrain of a nation as large as California could be longer and more difficult than some predict. And helping Iraqis achieve a united, stable and free country will require our sustained commitment.

We come to Iraq with respect for its citizens, for their great civilization and for the religious faiths they practice. We have no ambition in Iraq, except to remove a threat and restore control of that country to its own people.

I know that the families of our military are praying that all those who serve will return safely and soon. Millions of Americans are praying with you for the safety of your loved ones and for the protection of the innocent. For your sacrifice, you have the gratitude and respect of the American people. And you can know that our forces will be coming home as soon as their work is done.

Our nation enters this conflict reluctantly — yet, our purpose is sure. The people of the United States and our friends and allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder.

We will meet that threat now, with our Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and

Marines, so that we do not have to meet it later with armies of fire fighters and police and doctors on the streets of our cities.

Now that conflict has come, the only way to limit its duration is to apply decisive force. And I assure you, this will not be a campaign of half measures, and we will accept no outcome but victory.

My fellow citizens, the dangers to our country and the world will be overcome.

We will pass through this time of peril and carry on the work of peace. We will defend our freedom. We will bring freedom to others and we will prevail.

May God bless our country and all who defend her.



A Tomahawk cruise missile launches from the USS Winston Churchill March 23, 2003. The Churchill is operating in the eastern Mediterranean Sea in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Petty Officer Firecontrolman James Krogman)

Up Front with the Adjutant General

Our war on terrorism –

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO
ADJUTANT GENERAL

After countless hours of preparation, about half of the Connecticut National Guard has been deployed in support of operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Liberty Shield. I am extremely proud, not only of our alerted and deployed soldiers and airmen and women, but also of the men and women of our organization who have worked so hard to ensure they are prepared and ready to roll.

The endeavor has not been limited to our men and women who wear the uniform. Relatives and employers have worked tirelessly to support our members and also sustain the families and organizations that they are leaving behind.

The National Guard is unique in that we routinely do the work of a full-time militia but on a part-time basis. The impact of such demands requires teamwork and the support of many outside our Guard.

Today the world is different. We are being challenged with new missions everyday at home and abroad. The primary distinctions we face today are the demands on our force in terms of numbers and how we deploy them in terms of time. Where we once had months or weeks to deploy a small number of soldiers or airmen in the past; today we are deploying many large units in a matter of days.

Many Connecticut Guardsmen and women have worked extremely hard in order for our troops and their families to be prepared, and have sacrificed much of their free time. Although there are many, I would like to recognize a few individuals who have

worked exceptionally hard to insure our units had a head start.

Our family coordinator, Kim Hoffman, continues to play an active role in insuring that the family's needs are being addressed and in a timely fashion. Maj. Shawn Karvelis, our state Mobilization and Readiness Officer, in concert with Capt. Kim Rolstone, our Force Integration Officer, are continuing to work diligently, under very restrictive time constraints, to identify and prepare our units for new mission requirements.

In addition, Capt. Timothy Tomcho, a judge advocate at state headquarters, has worked eagerly to ensure that each individual deploying has completed a thorough legal screening.

These individuals, along with others throughout the command, have had a tremendous impact on the mobilization process and its future. The First Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Joseph Inge, has made a point to complement your efforts in the readiness of the force structure we have deployed. I commend your hard work!

The Connecticut National Guard, along with these individuals, is at its best when a member deploys. I can't overemphasize how important preparation and readiness is to insuring our soldier's safety and ability to accomplish the mission.

Although we have had some deployments over the past few years, this is the first of its size, for combat, since Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Its impact on our Guard family is enormous. It is important that the needs of the deployed soldiers, their families, and their employers be addressed and expeditiously. Although they have left

Connecticut, their home is still here and we will be waiting for them when they return.

As I participated in the many send-off ceremonies, I could not help but notice the families and the number children in the audience. They have so much to be proud of... Each and every soldier is giving to our nation and represents the best our country has to offer. The family's support is a tribute to the soldiers being deployed.

As I have stated in past send-off ceremonies, "You are as much a patriot as the men and women on the front lines."

As we look into the future, let's not forget the role we all play while our soldiers and airmen are abroad. Let's insure continued support for them. Families and friends will be able to maintain contact with loved ones through electronic mail (email) or by sending letters. Families also can obtain information, such as on benefits and the like, by contacting any one of the ten Family Assistance Centers located throughout our state. You can obtain the location and contact information for each center in the deployment insert of this Guardian. The number and centers were established to assist the extended family of a soldier or airmen while their loved one defends the freedoms of this nation while away from home.

Thank you all for the role you played in preparing our members for their next mission.

To all who have left us, best of luck on your new assignment – we all will be anxiously awaiting your return.



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Perspectives

If you could ask the TAG one question what would it be?



STAFF SGT. DANIEL HUGHES
ELECTRONIC INTEGRATED SYSTEMS MECHANIC
103 MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

"Would he feel safe taking the small pox shot? How does he feel about taking it? What are his concerns?"

STAFF SGT. COURTNEY ABBOTT
MUNITIONS SYSTEMS SPECIALIST
103 MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

"How is he preparing us for further duty and obligations to the Guard regarding the balance between Guard commitments versus civilian lives given the increased demand for our military duties?"



1ST SGT. JAMES HUTT
STARC

"What plans can we look for coming out of the Office of the Adjutant General in regards to when our soldiers and airmen return from their current deployments? How will we help them to adjust after what they are currently experiencing or what they might experience?"

CPL. MICHAEL ATUNES
COMPANY A, 143RD FSB

"If someone in your immediate family were to be deployed, how would it make you feel? Would it make you do anything differently than it's being done now?"



War begins: Coalition aircraft attack Iraqi targets

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, March 19, 2003 – Operations to disarm Iraq have begun, President Bush announced during a speech to America tonight.

The president confirmed the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world.

News reports from Baghdad showed anti-aircraft artillery streaming into the sky. Western reporters spoke of hearing bombs drop in the western part of the city – which is home to many government buildings.

“On my orders, coalition forces have begun striking selected targets of military importance to undermine Saddam Hussein’s ability to wage war,” the president said from the Oval Office at 10:15 p.m. Eastern time. Bush stressed this will be a broad and concerted campaign.

He said the coalition – 35 nations contributing in a variety of ways – is moving to disarm Hussein and put a stop to his murderous rule. “Every nation in this coalition has chosen to bear the duty and share the honor of sharing in

our common defense,” Bush said.

Bush had direct words to the more than 250,000 U.S. service members in the area of operations. “The peace of a troubled world and the hopes of an oppressed people now depend on you,” the president said. “That trust is well-placed. The enemies you confront will soon know your skill and bravery. The people you liberate will witness the honorable and decent spirit of the American military.”

He said that once again Saddam Hussein has placed innocent civilians amid military targets. He assured the world that coalition forces will do all they can to minimize Iraqi casualties.

Bush observed the conflict will be dangerous, but U.S. commitment will not end with victory. He promised America will help feed the population of Iraq and rebuild the infrastructure of the oil-rich land.

But even then, the United States will not stay in the nation one second longer than necessary. “We have no ambition in Iraq except to remove a threat and restore control of that country to its own people,” Bush said.

The president also spoke of the sacrifice made by the

relatives of American service members. “I know that the families of our military are now praying that all those who serve will return safely and soon,” he said.

“Millions of Americans are praying with you for the safety of your loved ones and for the protection of the innocent. For your sacrifice, you have the gratitude and respect of the American people. And you can know our forces will be coming home as soon as their work is done.”

Bush pointed out that now is the time to confront the threat Saddam Hussein has become. Waiting will only make things worse, he said. “We will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder. We will meet that threat now with our Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines, so we will not have to meet it later with armies of firefighters, and police and doctors on the streets of our cities.”

He stressed the U.S. military will apply decisive force to ensure a speedy campaign. “I assure you this will not be a campaign of half-measures and we will accept no outcome but victory,” he said.



This detailed map of Iraq shows the country's location in relationship to surrounding countries. It also shows the locations of airfields and the primary road system throughout the country. Coalition forces have begun their bombing and ground missions and are making their way to capitol city of Baghdad. As the war broke out, a new mission name was assigned: Operation Iraqi Freedom. While that new mission was underway, homeland security began a new mission in the United States: Operation Liberty Shield. (Map courtesy DefenseLink website)

Iraq Launches Missiles Into Kuwait

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, March 20, 2003 — Iraq has fired surface-to-surface missiles at U.S. forces based in Kuwait, DoD officials said this morning. There are no reports of casualties.

U.S. Central Command officials said the Iraqis launched missiles into Kuwait. They confirmed that Patriot missiles intercepted the rockets. It is unclear if the missiles contained chemical or biological agents, but forces in the area are taking precautions.

The Iraqi attack follows U.S. air operations launched against targets in and around Baghdad. News reports say the U.S. attacks were part of a “decapitation strategy” aimed at killing senior Iraqi leaders. Media reports indicate Saddam Hussein was the intended target, but the Iraqi dictator went on television and called for his people to “draw their swords” to defend the country.

U.S. Navy ships and submarines launched Tomahawk cruise missiles at Iraq from the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, U.S. Central Command officials said. The ships were the destroyers USS Milius and USS Donald Cook, the cruisers USS Bunker Hill and USS Cowpens and the attack submarines USS Montpelier and USS Cheyenne.

In addition, Central Command officials said a number of aircraft took part in the strikes and all returned safely. They would not detail what types of aircraft or their numbers.

British Defense Minister Geoffrey Hoon told the BBC that the attacks are not the start of the aerial offensive designed to “shock and awe” Iraq. News reports said the strikes came about as a result of intelligence pinpointing the location of Iraqi leaders.

Hoon said the main aerial offensive would begin “soon.”

Sky Watcher



Pvt. Lester Mena, stinger Avenger crewmember, Battery D, 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, scans the skies of Kuwait in search of possible air threats. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Enrique T. Vasquez)



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — Crew chief Senior Airman Benjamin Davis waits for orders as the B-52 Stratofortress nicknamed “Iron Butterfly” readies for a combat mission March 21. Davis and more than 1,000 others are at this forward-deployed location to support the coalition efforts undertaken for Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terrorism. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Tudor)

Maintainers unleash wave of B-52s

STAFF SGT. JIM FISHER
457TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (AFP) — More than 70 aircraft maintainers worked earnestly through the early morning March 21 to unleash the first wave of B-52 bombers on the Iraqi regime from this forward-deployed location.

Later in the day they watched with the rest of the world as their “Buff’s” delivered what would come to be regarded with “shock and awe.”

Maintainers prepared for combat operations beginning Thursday, but things got critical on the tarmac in the final hours before the launch. Motivated crew chiefs and specialists readied the 457th Air Expeditionary Group’s lineup of B-52s Friday morning.

“They’re excited,” said Master Sgt. Tina Marie Schneider, the night-shift maintenance flight chief for the 5th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron here. “The guys were all geared up to do their inspections and hand the aircraft over to the day shift.” They knew the day shift would soon launch the group’s first combat sorties of the war.

Over the previous 24 hours, the aircraft had all systems checked and rechecked, Schneider explained. The lineup of B-52s had to go no matter what. To launch aircraft safely and effectively, crews also generated backup aircraft. The primary and backup war birds were simultaneously pre-flighted March 21 as aircrews and maintainers toiled toward the takeoff time.

“They have go and no-go systems,” Schneider said. “If a problem’s not critical, they may choose to go with it. If it’s not something they can go with, they have another aircraft in the lineup to take its place.”

Though many members of the deployed unit are combat seasoned from duty for operations in Kosovo and Afghanistan, they were by no means unaffected by the impact of their mission Friday.

“I tell you, I’ve been in for seven years and I’ve never been so excited about a launch,” said Simmons, a veteran of both previous conflicts.

After the aircraft launched, steady work continued as the bombers removed from the lineup were brought online. Other Buff’s were pre-flighted for future sorties.

Later in the day, a crowd gathered in front of televisions in the squadron’s break areas as the much-anticipated campaign of “shock and awe” unfolded. The crowd knew many aircraft and hundreds of sorties were being directed at the Iraqi regime Friday. As the ferocity of the attacks increased, the maintainers knew their Buff’s were making an impact.

“To see the results was unbelievable,” Simmons said. “You’re working hard and training everyday to achieve the kind of success we had today. It was an unbelievable feeling.”

Many members of the deployed unit anticipated the operations. They were eagerly awaiting the call before the deployment even began, Schneider said. It all came together March 21.

“I don’t think there was a bit of space in either break room as we watched the action unfold,” said maintenance commander Lt. Col. Danny Curtis. “It was a total team effort with all these specialists working in synch from the bomb loaders to the crew chiefs. This morning we pulled it off - success.”

As midnight on the day of the first launches passed, the night shift received the returning aircraft with their triumphant crews.

“Based on what we learn from the aircrews, we’ll know what we have to take care of and everything will be played out from there,” Curtis said.

With the Iraqi regime still absorbing the impact of the U.S. military’s deadly precision, a new set of aircraft sat on the tarmac, ready to go.

Operation Liberty Shield: Ridge asks governors' help, Rowland says yes

Sgt. 1st Class DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PANCO

With anti-war protesters gathering outside the Hartford Armory, Governor John Rowland began a press conference inside.

"As many of you know, the state has been on heightened alert for some time," he began. "However, today we have elevated our alert status from yellow to orange. What that means is that we are taking even more precautionary measures to keep this state safe."

The governor said he had activated a limited staff in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for monitoring purposes, with other staff members on stand-by.

"We have initiated Level One truck inspections," Rowland said. "This is the highest level and most detailed inspection of both cargo and contents of trucks traveling our roads and highways."

Rowland also said the state had activated the Hazardous Materials Team and the Marine Patrol within the Department of Environmental Protection, and increased the monitoring of all bridges in the state, with particular focus on the Gold Star Bridge in New London and the Quinnipiac Bridge near New Haven.

"We have increased the protection at our key assets and facilities," said the governor. "As of today (March 18), 36 members of the National Guard have been assigned to southeastern Connecticut, covering the Millstone facility and providing additional patrols at Connecticut Yankee in East Haddam."

Both facilities are nuclear power plants.

The governor also said the citizens of Connecticut could expect to see additional National Guard helicopters overhead, overflying key assets throughout the state as part of their regular training missions.

"Finally," the governor said, "I have requested that a no-fly zone be declared by the FAA in the southeast region of our state." That request was denied.

All of these measures were being taken at the request of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, who had contacted the country's governors the night before asking for their cooperation in Operation Liberty Shield. During a press conference on March 18, Ridge said the United States government launched the new operation the night before "to increase security and readiness in the United States.

"This comprehensive national plan of action will help protect our citizens, our infrastructure and, very importantly, help alter those who plan further terrorist attack."

According to Ridge, Liberty Shield is a unified operation that integrates selected national protective measures with the involvement of federal, state, local and private responders and authorities from around the country.

"Last night, we contacted all state governors, all state homeland security advisors and leaders from other state, county and local organizations, as well as the private sector, and reviewed these measures with them," said Ridge. "I specifically asked the nation's governors to deploy National Guard and other law enforcement personnel at critical locations around their respective states."

That is what Rowland responded to. The night he received the phone call, he called out members of the Connecticut National Guard who were in place and on duty early the next morning.

"We are taking all of these measures,

obviously, as precautions," said Rowland. "The best preparedness we can possibly have is to be vigilant, prepared, and aware. I believe Connecticut is as prepared as it can possibly be. We have done the planning, we have the resources - and each and every one of our state agencies is ready."

Rowland said he wanted to assure the people of Connecticut that no matter what happened overseas, they could live their lives as freely as they always had because of the comprehensive strategy the state has in place to protect Connecticut's residents.

"We will remain focused on our airports, power plants, schools, and bigger cities," said Rowland. "If war breaks out, Connecticut is going to step up its level of readiness once again. The state's anti-terrorism efforts have been well-planned, well-coordinated, well staffed and our men and women are well-prepared."

Rowland urged children to ask questions and talk about their fears and feelings. And he urged parents to talk to their children.

"Explain what is going on," he said.

"Talking to your children is the very best way to reassure them."



Soldiers of the Connecticut Army National Guard stand guard at the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant. (Photo by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)



Gov. John Rowland answers reporters' questions during an informal press conference at Millstone Nuclear Power Plant. Behind Rowland is Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the state adjutant general (in glasses) and other members of the governor's staff as well as Millstone officials. Connecticut Guardsmen also stand at the ready in the background. (Photo by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)



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CTMG-PAG

27 February 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Public Affairs Guidelines

1. With the recent mobilizations of units in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, the Connecticut National Guard has drawn a great deal of media attention. Media focus has been on the military as a whole and the families of service members. For numerous reasons, including operational security and unit readiness, members of the Connecticut National Guard must adhere to Public Affairs Guidelines (PAG).

a. The only authorized spokespersons for the Connecticut National Guard are the State Public Affairs Officer and the 103d Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer.

b. When the media (any reporter) contacts a soldier, airman and/or members of their families for purposes related to their military membership, the chain of command and the State Public Affairs Officer at (860) 324-4457 or (860) 463-3345 must be immediately contacted.

c. Do NOT make any statement related to your military membership until approved by the State Public Affairs Officer or the 103d Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer.

d. When approved, you may respond to media questions and be interviewed. In such cases and in relationship to your military status or activities, DO NOT provide opinions or speculate on any given questions, missions or operations.

e. Treat media with the utmost courtesy, respect and maintain your military bearing.

2. Operational Security and Communications Security are to be adhered to at all times when dealing with the media.

3. DO NOT contact the media concerning your military membership or activities without approval from the State Public Affairs Officer.

4. Questions pertaining to PAG or this memorandum may be addressed to the State Public Affairs Officer and to the undersigned at (860) 324-4457.


JOHN R. WEATHERFORD
MAJ. (E-5) (A-1)
State Public Affairs Officer

DISTRIBUTION:
A PLS

Flying Yankees left behind keep

SENIOR AIRMAN CAROLYN ASELTON
103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When Airman 1st Class Bethany A. Carroll enlisted in the Connecticut Air National Guard as an aircraft mechanic a year and a half ago, she knew it came with the possibility of deploying for war. But in February, when a C-17 filled with members of her unit taxied towards the runway for a flight to an undisclosed location overseas to fight the war on terrorism, she was not on the plane. However, she was on the ground launching it.

"It's kind of sad to see everyone go, but I know they're coming back," she said. Only home from her initial technical training seven months, Carroll does not have enough training yet to deploy for this mission.

Like many members of the 103rd Fighter Wing, Carroll has remained home and continues to work and train at the guard base. Each of those members has their own reasons for not deploying, which are as varied as the attitudes towards the deployment.

An impacted wisdom tooth has kept Airman 1st Class David J. Ferrer, a munitions systems specialist, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, from heading overseas. Originally part of the deployment package, Ferrer's processing came to a halt when the base dentist found the impacted tooth and told him it would have to be removed in order for him to deploy. While getting that done his fellow ammo troops have left without him, and he spends his days working in the bomb dump at Bradley instead of the desert.

"One part wanted to go. I said, 'Yeah,' and looked forward to it. I just wanted to

experience an actual deployment and be out there. On the other hand I was concerned about time, how long we were going to be gone and where we were going to be and the danger factor," he said about his activation, which took place in late January. He added that initially spirits were high among his coworkers, but that morale decreased when no departure date was set and the activation turned into a waiting game.

Proof of that game is evident on a white board in the bomb dump's classroom. Across the top of it, written in green marker is the question "When do you think we are leaving?" Below that is a hand-drawn calendar beginning Feb. 24. Individuals wrote their names in various date blocks spanning a two-week period.

"Everything was packed away, equipment was gone. There was only so much we could do, so you kept on bumping into each other," Ferrer said of the days leading to departure when everyone in his shop who was activated reported to base each day.

Like Ferrer, Staff Sgt. Kerry A. Parker, an avionics communication navigation specialist, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, was also scheduled to go, but a family emergency kept her in Connecticut. She also saw the toll of an uncertain departure date play out.

"It's extremely frustrating to think you're going one day and then that day comes and goes. It's frustrating. It creates anxiety," she said. "The continuous, or famous, 'hurry up and wait,' for me, affected my morale, especially with my fulltime job because we

were told to prepare, prepare, prepare, but you can't tell employers anything."

Airman 1st Class Joel Henry, aircraft armament systems specialist, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, did not worry about leaving a job if he was sent to the desert, but his studies as a sophomore at the University of Connecticut.

"I'd rather be over there," he said. "I feel like I'm missing out on a lot."

Only home from his initial technical training eight months, he explained that by not deploying he was missing out on experience that would help him become a proficient loader, as well as "the camaraderie, experience, and stories." He forecasted when everyone was home the halls of the weapons building would be filled with anecdotes and jokes from a trip of which he was not a part.

"On the other hand," he said, "I get to stay in school."

Running Henry's work center is Master Sgt. Richard Remlinger, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, a traditional guardsman who is now the acting shop chief of the weapons section. He feels the effect of the deployment everyday with only three people working in weapons

during the week, down 15 from normally.

Even with a decreased flying schedule, at times it might be possible the loaders will not be able to support flying given the workload and personnel, according to Remlinger. In addition to "loading the block"

and "arm and de-arm," Remlinger added the three loaders also have to conduct scheduled inspections on equipment and aircraft. "A hardship for them," he said, "is that none of them have experience in

the release shop and there is release shop work to be done.

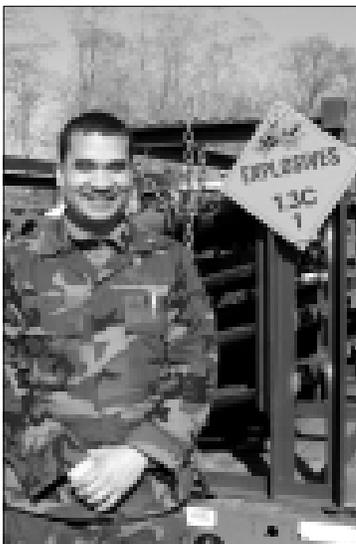
"We'll do the best we can," he said.

Also feeling the brunt of the deployed full-timers is Master Sgt. Peter Santerre, 103rd Logistics Support Flight, who is doing three jobs at once. Typically during the week he is the unit deployment manager and the logistics group budget analyst, but with his experience in the field, he has been tasked with acting as the element chief for munitions while the existing one is in the desert. Having no full-timers in the shop "hurts" but "it's nothing we can't handle," he said.

It appeared the airmen new to their military careers were undeterred by the deployment, maintaining they knew and considered

"Anywhere you want to send me I'm going to go and I'm going to do my best at my job because I have a pretty important job."

Airman 1st Class Bethany Carroll



Airman 1st Class David J. Ferrer, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, supports his unit's home flying missions. (Photo by Senior Airman Carolyn Aselton, 103rd FW PA)



Airman 1st Class Bethany A. Carroll, 103 Aircraft Generation Squadron, sends email to her best friend, Tina a 103rd Maintenance Squadron Senior Airman, who is deployed overseas in support of the war on terrorism. (Photo by Senior Airman Carolyn Aselton, 103rd FW PA)

base and spirits up and running

wartime activation when they enlisted.

"Anywhere you want to send me I'm going to go and I'm going to do my best at my job because I have a pretty important job," Carroll said.

Remlinger said of his airman, "When you're young you always want to get out there."

But for those who have been in for a while and have more demands in their civilian lives than the younger airman, the activation and deployment is not as well-received.

Ferrer has concerns with his civilian job, as well as military benefit issues given he has to care for his 5-year-old son.

"I'm just not happy with certain things," he said. "In the long run I'm sure it will affect my decision to re-up or not."

Parker said this was unlike other deployments in which she participated.

"Having been deployed to other contingencies, we knew when we were leaving, when we were coming home, and what was expected of us," she said.

It is not only through the workload that the members at Bradley feel their deployed coworkers' absence, it is through sight and sound on base as well.

"There's usually tons of people on the flightline, everybody working, it's loud," Carroll said. Now, "It's just quiet."



Airman 1st Class Joel Henry, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, continues his training at Bradley Air National Guard base while other members of his unit have been sent overseas. (Photo by Senior Airman Carolyn Aselton, 103rd FW PA)



Staff Sgt. Kerry A. Parker, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, loads frequencies into the UHF radio on a Connecticut Air National Guard A-10 at home station. (Photo by Senior Airman Carolyn Aselton, 103rd FW PA)

Investment in research yields millions in funding for Connecticut facilities

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65TH PCH

Connecticut may be one of the smallest states in the country physically, but through its military department Connecticut has emerged as one of the largest states in the country fiscally, based on allocations recently approved by Congress.

With the recently passed Future Years Defense Program (FYDP), the Connecticut National Guard has won approval for funding that will support several large military construction projects over the course of the next six years.

The largest project approved for Connecticut, at a total exceeding \$21 million, is the new Regional Training Institute, or military academy, planned for Camp Rowland. The most immediate projects on the state's list are the fire station planned for Stones Ranch and the "Working Animals Building" planned for Newtown. The money for the projects, approximately \$2.4 million and \$2.2 million respectively, could be available as soon as October 2003.

With \$49.5 million coming to Connecticut between Fiscal Years 2004 and 2009, the state will be granted a total that ranks with the largest states in the country, according to Facilities Management Officer Maj. Gerald J. Lukowski.

"The FYDP is \$1.5 billion. The standard

rule of thumb is that Connecticut acquires one percent of the overall funding, because we have approximately 4,000 to 5,000 troops. It's based on numbers of troops and facilities utilized by the troops," Lukowski said.

"So, if we were to receive one percent, of 1.5 billion, we'd get 15 million. But, we're receiving \$49.5 million," Lukowski said. This total is remarkable, considering that the overall FYDP for the National Guard is spread among the 50 states, four territories and the NGB itself. Each of these entities submits two projects per fiscal year, for a total of 110 projects. The top proposals nationwide make the FYDP. Connecticut's \$49.5 million total includes \$43.5 million for construction and \$6.5 million in planning and development.

Lukowski said that there are several reasons that Connecticut did so well in the FYDP. The process begins with the

adjutant general's vision for the future of the Guard and the men and women who serve, Lukowski said. But, in order to gain approval at the federal level, the proposals must contain a tremendous amount of supporting documentation, including complicated project forms that must be

submitted timely and accurately. Lukowski said that this is where Connecticut stands out among all other states and territories.

"We probably rank with the big states: Pennsylvania, Texas, California and Virginia. We're probably not the number one state in the country, but we're in the top 10 for getting money," Lukowski said. He credited Capt. Patrick Altzman, director of

planning for the Facilities Management Office, and Col. Charles P. Sheehan, directorate of facilities and engineering.

"Thanks to Patrick (Altzman), and thanks to Col. Sheehan, we have been successful at the national level. While Patrick was

working the numbers here, Col. Sheehan was at NGB for three months receiving the material and helping it get to where it needed to go for consideration," Lukowski said.

Lukowski added that the adjutant general meets frequently with Connecticut's delegation to the US Congress, explaining that because of the many new missions that the Connecticut Guard has been assigned, they need updated, quality facilities in order to be properly trained.

"Maj. Gen. Cugno had a lot to do with talking to Sen. Lieberman, Rep. Shays and others from the Connecticut delegation," Lukowski said, adding that many of the state's facilities are outdated. For example, some of the buildings at Camp Rowland were built in a period between the 1920s and the 1940s. The average age of Connecticut's armories is 54 years old. The average nationwide is 38.

"In the last seven years, we didn't have anything in the FYDP. The last two projects that we had were AASF and the AVCRAD projects. Both of them came to around \$20 million," Lukowski said.

So, while \$49.5 million has been allocated for Connecticut in one Congressional act, the work behind the state's request goes back several years. It could be described as the result of an investment of years of meticulous research and detailed

"I think one of the reasons that we're so successful is that we look further out than most states do in programming the needs for new mission requirements...not just for the next five years, but for the next 10 years and beyond."

Col. Charles Sheehan



The new Regional Training Institute for Camp Rowland has been funded in the recently released FYDP report. The projected cost of the state-of-the-art facility is expected to be \$21 million. Other projects included in the financial windfall are the fire station at Stones Ranch and a Working Animals facility in Newtown.

Tuskegee Airmen share history, stories during Black History Month Celebration

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PANCO

The clouds on the movie screen gave those in the audience the feeling of flying high above the white blanket.

As the clouds parted, World War II-vintage fighter jets stormed through the sky.

Newsreel footage was interwoven with still photos of young pilots, bombardiers and navigators.

As the video came to an end, the young students and veteran soldiers and airmen were cheering the victories and history.

The screen began to rise at the back of the stage, and the reason everyone was cheering came into view.

Behind the screen, smiling and waving, were Edward T. Hall, Spann Watson, Connie Nappier, Jr. and George Hardy - four of the famous Tuskegee Airmen.

They had come to the auditorium at Central Connecticut State University to take part in the Black History Month Celebration co-sponsored by the Connecticut National Guard and the United States Postal Service.

Hall was drafted into the Army in September 1943, entered the Army Air Force and went to Biloxi, Miss. to qualify for training with the Tuskegee Airmen.

"It was hard when I was drafted," he said. "Because Biloxi had the only reception center that was open to blacks, we had to wait for three months for them to get 30 of us together for Army Air Force training. It was just hard. I didn't realize how many of them didn't want us to fly. They found excuses to drop us out of the program. They did everything you could think of to wash us out."

But this was something that Hall wanted

and he was one of only two or three from his original group of 30 that made it. They were tested to see what they were qualified for in the aviation field: pilot, navigator or bombardier. Many times, if a person qualified in more than one

area, such as pilot and navigator, they were asked to train in the area fewer people wanted because they could always retrain later.

Watson knew from the time he was a young boy watching planes fly overhead that he wanted to be a pilot.

He tried in 1939 to join the Army Air Corps and was told he didn't have the mental or physical coordination to make it.

So he went to Howard University School of Engineering for two years and again applied to the Flying Cadet Army Air Corps Program at the urging of one of his professors. At 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1941, Watson was sworn in as a Flying Cadet.

His boyhood dream had finally come true. When Watson was 10-years-old, his family moved from South Carolina to New Jersey, near Teterboro Airport. His family used to watch as the planes flew overhead, then one day he decided to follow the planes to see where they were going and he walked to the airport. After that, he and his family would go there on Sundays, holidays and some weekdays to watch the planes.

On July 4, 1927, Watson was at the Teterboro Airport for an airshow.

"They were selling tickets for rides in the planes," he said. "We suddenly heard this rumble in the sky and I knew, I think I was the first to realize it, but I knew it was the Spirit of St. Louis flying in to the airport.

"Of course everyone who worked at the airport started scrambling because no one was expecting Lindbergh to be there. I knew then that this was what I wanted to do."

He started building flying models and reading model airplane magazines, and that childhood dream eventually lead him to the 99th Fighter Squadron where he served as a fighter pilot.

Nappier has lived in Connecticut most of his life, attending Weaver High School in Hartford.

He volunteered for the Army Air Corps while still in high school when he heard about



Spann Watson, a member of the fourth class of Tuskegee Airmen, answers questions during the Black History Month Celebration. On the screen behind him is one of the "Red Tails" the Tuskegee Airmen flew. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)

the Tuskegee Experiment, as it was called then. "Back then, Emil Custis was the first black police officer in Hartford," said Nappier. "All the kids knew who he was. One night he just disappeared. No one knew where he had gone or what

had happened to him. We found out much later when a black newspaper arrived and his picture was on the front page. Emil was one of the first five Tuskegee Airmen to earn his wings."

Because Nappier was still in high school, his parents had to sign a waiver for him to enlist. He passed the academic and physical requirements of the program, but still was not accepted. He wrote a letter to President Franklin Roosevelt asking for help.

"I'm sure he didn't see it, but I feel like someone saw it and forwarded it to someone who could help," said Nappier.

Later, when Nappier went to 555 Asylum Street in Hartford to be inducted, he heard his name being called. A sergeant came over to him, told him to take the papers he had in his hand, he had been accepted into the Army Air Corps.

He reported first to Biloxi then went on to Tuskegee for further training.

Nappier graduated from the first class of bombardiers and navigators to come out of the Tuskegee Experiment. He would later go back and graduate with the last pilot class of the program.

He married his high school sweetheart, and after three years in the military, he chose to leave the service.

"My wife, Barbara, had given birth to the first of our five wonderful offspring, and I decided to get an education. I decided to study architecture because I had destroyed so many things as a bombardier, it was time to build some."

Hardy volunteered for the Army Air Corps in 1943, at the age of 17. He was told that if he graduated high school and passed the Aviation Cadet Exam, when he turned 18 he could become an aviation cadet. He graduated, he passed, he was sworn in to the reserves and in July of that year, he received his orders to head for Keisler Field in Biloxi for his basic training.

In September of 1943 he attended the

Tuskegee Institute College to raise his education level. In December of that year, he reported to Tuskegee Army Airfield and began training as a pilot.

He became a P-47 Fighter pilot and flew 21 combat missions out of Italy into Germany.

"Spann was ahead of me as a fighter pilot," said Hardy. "He was one of the old guys!"

When asked if he realized then what kind of impact he and the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen were having on the history of the military and civil rights, Hardy shook his head.

"Then we didn't think of it," he said. "We were just individuals wanting to fly. I just did the best I could. I wanted to prove that I could do it and do it well."

During a question and answer period in the program, one student asked Watson how he felt about the movie, "The Tuskegee Airmen."

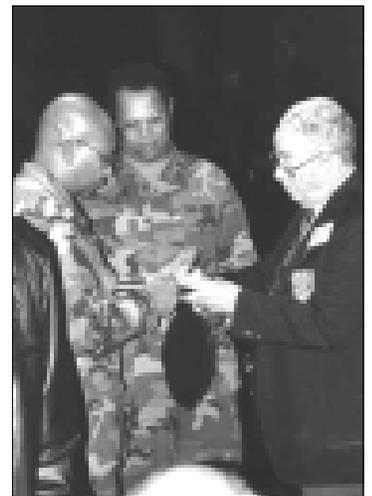
"The movie brought to the attention of the white world that we existed," he said. "But it was never about black and white for us. We just wanted to fly."

Keynote speaker for the event, Maj. Henry L. Davenport, a graduate of Tuskegee University and instructor at West Point, quoted Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower when he said of the Tuskegee Airmen, "Never have so many owed so much to so few."

"Those words apply today, to these four men," said Davenport. "No one knew then that the Tuskegee Airmen would be embarking on a dual battle - the one in Europe and the one at home. The Tuskegee Airmen have spoken through their actions so eloquently. They have taught us well."



Connie Nappier, standing, and Edward T. Hall of the Tuskegee Airmen talk to school students after the program. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



George Hardy, a fighter pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen, signs autographs for Guardsmen after the program. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

Connecticut cop is tops in All-ANG competition

TECH. SGT. DAN NEELY
386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTHWEST ASIA — A Connecticut Airman proved he stands alone on the mountaintop above his Air National Guard peers. Senior Airman Richard Marks, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, won honors as the 2002 Air National Guard Outstanding Security Forces Airman of the Year. When not deployed, Marks is a member of the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Security Forces Squadron, in East Granby.

"It was just unbelievable, and I'm still awestruck" he said about his recent notification via telephone call from his squadron commander back at Bradley. "When he told me, it was definitely one of the high points in my life."

"Senior Airman Marks is a tremendous airman and a superb security forces member, said Maj. Robert Ware, 103rd SFS commander. "He truly embodies the dedication, expertise, and professionalism required by the security forces career field. Since his arrival in the unit, he has been a leader far beyond his rank. He's the first to volunteer and the last to leave at the end of the day."

Marks' climb to the top of his career field was anything but easy. He tenaciously worked his way back after an auto accident at the hands of a drunk driver caused the loss of his right eye, a potentially career-ending injury. Shunning any thought of giving up, the airman fought some staggering odds, as well as strong doubts from others, to retain his job.

"After my accident, I had a lot of people say, 'You're not gonna be able to stay in the Air Force, definitely not as a cop with one eye since you lost your dominant shooting eye.' But I just wanted to prove everyone wrong, that no matter what happened, I'd be able to fight back."

Crediting dedicated help from a fellow cop, Marks worked countless hours learning to fire both the M-9 handgun and M-16 rifle — left handed and with one eye.

"On my days off, Tech. Sgt. (Marc) Cioto taught me how to shoot left-handed," Marks recalled. "It was really hard, just learning how

to hold a gun that way. I was told that, for my waiver, if I could qualify on my weapon, I could stay in as a cop. But Sergeant Cioto helped me so much, the first time I went out to qualify I shot expert."

Ware spoke highly of Marks' winning attitude, both on and off duty.

"It is because of his courage and his never quit attitude that he excels," Ware said. "He has overcome a lot of things people in his position will never have to deal with. He is the best of the best and has a long career ahead of him. I'm proud to serve with him in the Connecticut Air National Guard."

Although Marks is a traditional Guardsman, his young career has been far from traditional, serving two of his three years in active status. He's on his second Southwest Asian deployment, and he volunteered for his present one.

His deployed security forces commander said he's been happy to have the award-winning airman on his team.

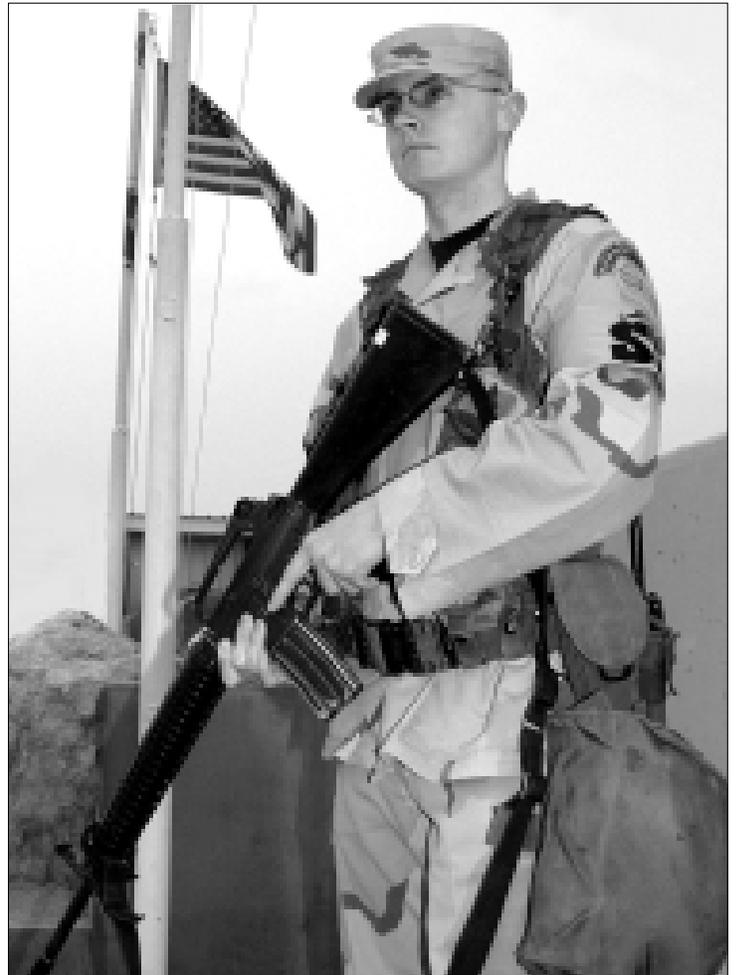
"He impressed me the first day I met him," said Maj. Ron Gray, 386th ESFS commander. "When I visited him on post and saw him in action as the president of the Unit Advisory Council, I knew he was different — and this was before he was notified of his selection as the Air National Guard's Security Forces Airman of the Year. Senior Airman Marks is a bright, humble, young man with tremendous potential. I'm very proud to have him serving in my squadron."

Marks described the factors that motivated him to be the Guard's best security forces airman.

"Definitely the NCOs above me," he responded. "They always stuck by my side. They definitely went to bat for me when the accident happened. When I was in the hospital, my commander got the whole squadron together and came to visit me there. It was inspiring."

"As far as being a cop, I just love the job that I do," he continued. "It might be tedious or boring sometimes, but I just love being a cop."

Marks has proven he sets an example for others to follow, but whose example does he admire?



Senior Airman Richard Marks, a deployed member of the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Security Forces Squadron, keeps watch from his post at a forward-deployed location in the Arabian Gulf with the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Marks recently landed honors as the 2002 ANG Security Forces Airman of the Year. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely)

"Definitely my father. He's always been there for me. When we were kids, he used to work 13-14 hour days, and then after work come coach my football team. (And definitely the major (103rd SFS commander,

Robert Ware) and the first shirt (Master Sgt. Greenwood), and Master Sgt. Copping in ops (all of the 103rd Security Forces Squadron)."

Bush Establishes Medals for Global War on Terror

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

President Bush has issued an executive order establishing two military awards for actions in the global war on terrorism.

The president signed the order March 12 establishing the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

A White House spokesman said the medals recognize the "sacrifices and contributions" military members make in the global war on terror.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal will be awarded to service members who serve in military expeditions to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Operation Enduring Freedom is the prime operation the medal may be awarded for. Personnel assigned to operations in Afghanistan and the Philippines are examples of service members who will receive the award.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to service members who serve in military operations to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Operation Noble

Eagle is an example of the type of operation the medal may be awarded for.

The awards do not take the place of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, established Dec. 4, 1961, or the Armed Forces Service Medal, established Jan. 11, 1996.

"Any member who qualified for those medals by reason of service in operations to combat terrorism between September 11, 2001, and a terminal date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense, shall remain qualified for those medals," the executive order reads. "Upon application, any such member may be awarded either the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or the Armed Forces Service Medal."

No one may be awarded more than one of the four medals for service in the same approved expedition or operation to combat terrorism. No one is entitled to more than one award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. The medals may be awarded posthumously.

DoD and military service officials, including the Coast Guard, are working on provisions to award the medals.

103 ACS: A tradition of service

LT. COL. CHARLES MCKELLAR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER HQ CTANG

During the period following its establishment in 1946, the 103rd Air Control and Warning (103 AC&W) Squadron was assigned to the 151st Aircraft Control and Warning Group with units from Rhode Island and Massachusetts. This assignment permitted the 103 AC&W to participate in a functioning Aircraft Control and Warning System in conjunction with flying activities by the 67th Fighter Wing from Rhode Island.

On March 13, 1951, the unit received orders and was placed on active duty on Sept. 3, 1951. This was during the "Korean Police Action" period when Reserve units were being called to active duty. During the Korean conflict 75 percent of the squadron members served in Iceland and the remaining 25 percent at Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts. The unit members deployed to Otis Air Force Base entered a completely rehabilitated complex. The squadron area was near one of the most active runways where the "Dawn Patrol" of F-86s would roar by causing the men to

awaken at 0645 as the planes flew within 500 feet of the barracks.

The unit established, manned and operated several radar sites and participated in several maneuvers such as "Operation Helping Hand" on Cape Cod and "Operation Snow Fall" in upstate New York. In "Operation Helping Hand" the mission was to insure tactical defense of the area, with close control of fighters and bombers in the "front lines." "Operation Snow Fall" at Fort Drum was an exercise where close coordination and support was established with Army units, especially the 11th Airborne.

On May 1, 1952, a new unit, the 932 AC&W Squadron was formed with personnel from the 103 AC&W and fillers from the 101 AC&W Squadron. This unit was deployed overseas



The adjutant general sent his staff to check the troops while stationed in Germany. From the left: Airman 2nd Class Robert Russo, Brig. Gen. George Stanley, Brig. Gen. James Quinn, Airman Salvatore Chiamonte, Lt. Col. William Pollitt, Airman 2nd Class James LaBanca, Airman 2nd Class Frank Pisacane and Airman Harry Keramidas. (103rd ACS Historical Photo)

to Iceland and created the first radar installation on the island at Keflavik.

During its history, the 103rd Air Control Squadron has seen many changes in its group, equipment and deployments. The site at Hammonasset burned to the ground and personnel were assigned to either Groton or Milford. The headquarters was then moved to the Milford Station and the 151 AC&W Group was disbanded. The unit was then assigned to the 152 AC&W Group stationed at Westchester County Airport, New York.

Active duty came again on Oct. 1, 1961, when President John F. Kennedy called up the Reserves for the Berlin Crisis. Within a few weeks the unit, its equipment and

personnel were at a former Luftwaffe air base at Rothwesten, Germany near Kassel Frankfurt performing their mission as part of USAFE.

However, a few weeks prior to the Germany call-up, a Nike site consisting of a battery and a headquarters building complex was obtained at Orange, Conn. These developments led to consolidating the Milford and Groton units at Orange. A change in organization structure created the 156th Tactical Control Group (156 TCGp) in Rhode Island and the New England units became part of that Tactical Air Control System.

A new role appeared on May 1, 1970, when the unit put its riot control training to use during the May Day demonstrations in New Haven on the "green," at Yale University, the power company and other sensitive facilities in the New Haven area. This was a day the participating members would never forget.

In late 1975 the 156 TCGp was disbanded and the unit again became part of the 152nd Tactical Control Group now located at Syracuse, New York.

103 ACS: From 'kitchen radar' to the Air Guard's best

LT. COL. CHARLES MCKELLAR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER HQ CTANG

The 103rd Air Control Squadron in Orange, Conn. began its history as the 103rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&W), in Hartford during September 1946. The unit is the oldest of its kind in the Air National Guard System.

When the unit was established, its headquarters was located at Brainard Field in Hartford.

Three other sites were established along the Connecticut shoreline at Hammonasset, Milford, and at the Trumbull Airport in Groton.

The Milford unit operated a British built SCR270 radar, which was similar to the radar used at Pearl Harbor in 1946.

The first commander of the 103 AC&W Squadron was Capt. Edward L. Osborn. He served from April through August 1947. The Milford Detachment consisted of 12 men who originally formed the "Kitchen Radar Unit."

They achieved this distinction because they were the 12 men who came together in the kitchen of Lt. Joseph Doolittle's home at 51 Pond St. in Milford.

It was during these kitchen meetings they learned about basic radar theory and the procedures for operating a control and warning system.

They also used Doolittle's living room to setup the unit's radio equipment. During this period, Capt. Richard L. Terry was the

commander. However, during the spring of 1948, the unit moved to Milford Point where Doolittle became the first Officer-in-Charge of the Milford Detachment.

This detachment consisted of 10 enlisted and two officers, which grew to 30 enlisted by the end of the year.

The first Annual Training exercise was conducted from Aug. 22 through Sept. 5, 1948.

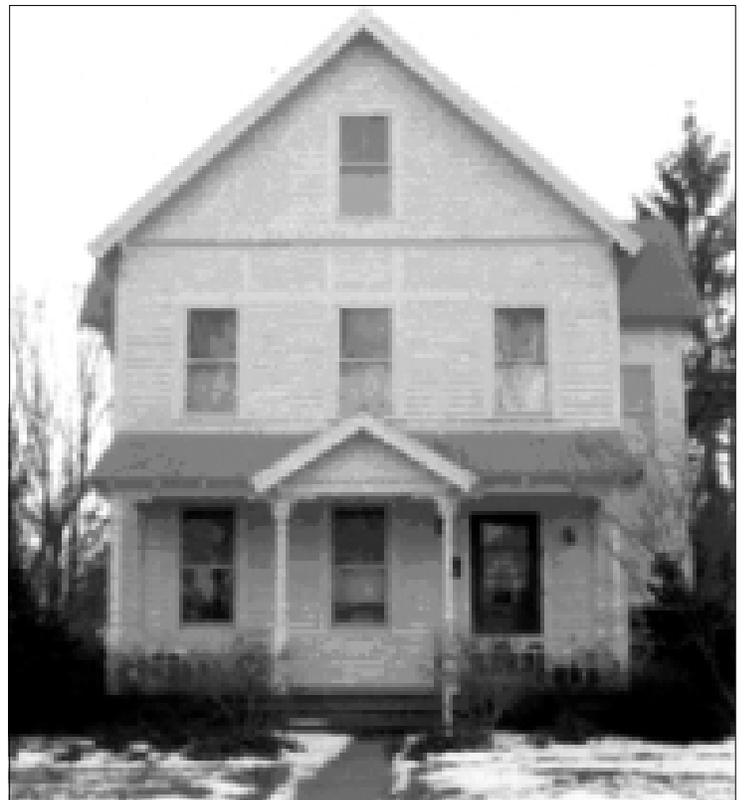
One of the members who attended the exercise was George Damato who left the 103 AC&W Squadron to join the 103rd Fighter Group and State Staff where he retired after 41 years with the Connecticut Air National Guard.

"Today, the members of the 103 ACS will tell you that our achievements did not just happen. They are due to the leadership exercised by our commanders and the dedicated service of members who came before us," said Senior Master Sgt. John Cuomo, Noncommissioned officer of Job Control.

"These members laid the foundation that has enabled the unit to now be the best at achieving our mission."

The men and women speak proudly of their history, tradition, and the challenges of today. The 103 ACS is recognized as a "can do" unit that is often called upon when there is a need to test new equipment, validate new operating procedures, or when there is a call for wartime tasking.

They truly employ the Air Force core values of "Integrity first, Service Before Self, and Excellence in all we do."



This house on Pond Street in Milford was the home of Lt. Joseph Doolittle and served as home to a detachment of the 103rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron in the late 1940's. (103rd ACS Historical Photo)

Connecticut Military Department News

Maj. Gen. Cotter, former AAG, remembered

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PA NCO

Maj. Gen. Albert E. "Custer" Cotter passed away on March 8. He was 83.

Cotter commanded the Connecticut Officer Candidate School at Camp Dempsey in Niantic, and later served as assistant adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard.

Cotter enlisted in the United States Army in 1942 and served two years in the European Theater of Operations during World War II as a platoon leader and battery commander of an anti-aircraft unit, the 838th AAA AW Battalion.

He joined the U.S. Army Reserve in 1946 as the Public Information Officer of the 76th Infantry Division. In 1949 he joined the Connecticut Army National Guard and was assigned as the Public Information and Education Officer for the former 103rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade.

Gov. Abraham Ribicoff named Cotter to his military staff in 1955, and he served there for two terms under Ribicoff and a third term under Gov. John Dempsey.

He received his federal recognition as a brigadier general on Dec. 7, 1965, eventually serving as Chief of Staff for the Connecticut Guard.

In his eulogy of him, Maj. Gen. James



Throwe said of his good friend, "We called him Bud, Al, Custer, Colonel, General. He was a leader who inspired his soldiers and artillerymen to the pursuit of excellence. Immaculate in dress, stiff in stature and with a loud, commanding voice, he demanded the very best you could give in the pursuit of your mission."

According to Throwe, Cotter served his

country in World War II where he earned the Soldiers Medal for heroism saving another soldier's life by risking his own. He served the 43rd Division in Germany during the Korean War as a war correspondent.

While a member of the Connecticut National Guard, he served as commander of the 745th AAAGun Battery, the 192nd Nike Battalion, the 169th Military Police Battalion, the Connecticut Military Academy, the EOH and as assistant adjutant general.

"Now we are left with memories of the green fez, the bell, the jeep with Erin go Bragh painted on it, the Custer Council and a bevy of stories of Albert E. Cotter, a soldier, a hero and a loyal friend to all his old friends," said Throwe.

"He has left his mark on all the units he served as a true leader who knew how to command. Tough, fair and ready to celebrate were his trademarks."

Cotter was a firm believer in the National Guard Association of the United States and served as a member of its national publications committee. He was also an honorary member of several organizations to include the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, First Company Governor's Horse Guard, the Flying Yankee Club, and the Putnam Phalanx.

Cotter is survived by his wife, Dorothy Mathers Cotter, three sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Second Company Governor's Horse Guard celebrates 2003 recruit class graduation

2LT. ROBERT L. DAHM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The Second Company Governor's Horse Guard held a military Graduation Ceremony at its Headquarters located at the barn opposite the old Fairfield Hills Hospital Campus.

The current 11-member recruit class received their diplomas after completing a 16-week basic training course. The training which began last October included training in Military Drill, CPR and First Aid, Tack, Cavalry Drill, Military Courtesy, Care and Grooming of the Horse and Troop Operations, among other topics as well.

As spring nears, each Trooper will begin their Mounted instruction under the careful eye of 1st Lt. Paul Mazzara, Troop Horse Officer. Mazzara also acts as the Troop's riding instructor and will continue to hone the new Trooper's skills in order to prepare them for mounted participation in parades as well as the Troop's famous "Musical Ride".

Graduation ceremonies included the old cavalry tradition of celebrating the event by opening a champagne bottle with a Trooper's saber. After presentation of Diplomas and Spurs in formation, the Graduates attended a reception in the Headquarters building with family and friends. The rest of the Troop was mounted and in formation behind the new Troopers.

Commanding General, CTARNG Brigadier General I.J. Zembrzski also attended the ceremony and was well received by the new Troopers as well as their family and friends. The General thanked the new Trooper's for their commitment and dedication and reminded them that they are now part of a unit with distinguished service to the citizens of Connecticut.



The First Company Governor's Foot Guard band plays for Maj. Commandant John O'Connell prior to the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Hartford. This was O'Connell's last parade as commandant. (Photo by Cpl. Kevin Cormack)

What is Powder House Day?

1st SGT. ROBERT J. DEVANEY
2nd COMPANY GOVERNOR'S FOOTGUARD

It was Saturday, April 21, 1775.

Capt. Benedict Arnold, his wife, Hannah, and the boys were up early. Clad in his new gold-braided red uniform, Arnold strapped on his saber. Then they all walked together to the New Haven green, where his men were assembling and a large crowd was gathering.

Capt. Arnold inspected his men. Then the men stood at ease as a New Light minister, the Reverend Jonathan Edwards, son of the great revivalist who had done spiritual battle with the Old Lights until he had dropped dead, now called down the blessings of Providence on Arnold and his men.

When the brief service was over, Arnold, mounted on his best sorrel, led his men in formation across the green, battle flag flying as the crowd cheered, to Hunt's Tavern, where the town's selectmen were meeting.

Deploying his men around the inn, flintlocks at the ready, Arnold called for the



The 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard Color Guard marches in the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown New Haven, near the green where Powder House Day will take place. (Photo courtesy of the 2nd Company, Governor's Foot Guard)

town's leaders to come out. The selectmen prevailed on one of their number, Col. Wooster, to go out and try to calm Arnold down.

Wooster, head of the colony's militia, stepped outside and reminded Arnold and his men that the town had voted neutrality the night before.

Arnold had little patience for Wooster. He gave Wooster five minutes to turn over the

keys to the town's powder magazine so that he and his sixty men could get gunpowder and march north. Wooster tried to stall Arnold.

"This is colony property," Wooster said. "We cannot give it up without regular orders from those in authority."

"Regular orders be damned," Arnold shouted back. "Our friends and neighbors are being mowed down by redcoats. Give us the powder or we will take it."

When Wooster objected once more, Arnold said that if he were not given the keys at once, he and his men would tear down the doors of the powder magazine and take what they needed.

"None but Almighty God shall prevent my marching!" he roared.

Wooster handed him the keys.

Excerpt taken from *Benedict Arnold - Patriot* by Willard Sterne Randall

Please join the 2nd Company on April 26, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. on the New Haven green for the re-enactment of this historic event. The Foot Guard will march from the New Haven Armory to the New Haven Green. Powder House Day is an annual event in New Haven. Contact (203) 265-1077 for further information.

Postcards Ho



Sgt. Nick Robitaille tries to figure out how his laptop works while getting some down time in the barracks. Robitaille is a member of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment and was mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo courtesy of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment)



Doing laundry and polishing boots never stops no matter where a soldier is or what he's doing. Just ask Pfc. Alan Merriman of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment. (Photo courtesy of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment)



Smiling faces abound after the completion of NBC members of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment. (Photo courtesy of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment)



Spec. Brian Coyle of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment, rests between loading and loading the 53' trailers. (Photo courtesy Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment)



Staff Sgt. Liz Davis of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment is all smiles as she prepares to head outdoors while at her mobilization station. (Photo courtesy Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment)



The M203 firing team of the 143rd Military Police Company. (Photo courtesy of the 143rd Military Police Company)

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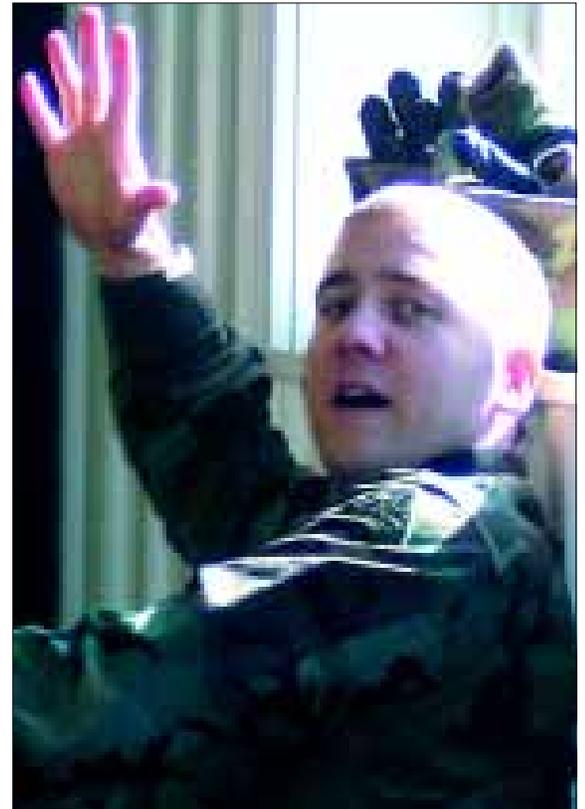
Members of the 143rd Military Police Company take a moment for a coffee break during deployment training. (Photo courtesy 143rd Military Police Company)



training for
(Photo courtesy of



Sgt. 1st Class Tony Savino of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment was dressed for the cold during weapons qualifications. (Photo courtesy of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment)



Spec. Mike Leander of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment waves to everyone back home. (Photo courtesy Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment)



Company enjoy a day in the cold following weapons qualifications. The MPs have been mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo courtesy 143rd Military Police



ANNUAL REDLEG BALL



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

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Date: | Saturday, 27 May 2003 |
| Time: | 1800-1900 Social Mixer/Open Bar 1900- Dinner Presentations Social Hour (followed by Cash Bar) |
| Place: | Trumbull Marriott 180 Hunting Lane Trumbull, CT 06621 |
| Music: | Special Police "Big of Beef" Rock Concert Band Orchestra/Soundlight |
| Dress: | Business Class & in White (Men) and Blue Tie, strong Blue/Green |
| More Details: | Send/Forward |
| Cost: | \$60.00 per person \$75.00 after RSVP |
| RSVP: | 28 April 2003 |

Directions and Hotel Information on back of this form.

**Additional Information: Tel: 203-948-1490
Jack Brown 243-179-3847**

Please detach and return along with check made payable to:
Connecticut Briling
1 Lakeside Dr East
Seymour, CT 06488-0017

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Unit/Postal Unit: _____

Grade: _____

Address: _____

Use mail _____ cell no. _____ ground _____

Return Check: _____
 Special Police "Big of Beef"
 Rock Concert Band
 Orchestral/Soundlight

Officers Club of Connecticut announces April events

Saturday, Sunday, April 5, 6

National Guard Drill
Lunch in the O'Club

Thursday, April 10

John Blair Basketball Tournament

Friday, April 25

Club Night - St. Spring Fling Dinner Dance featuring dancing to the sounds of the Moonliters. Dinner will be served. Call the club for menu and cost. Cocktail hour begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Reservations are required by calling (860) 249-3634

For other events and meetings, check the Officers Club of Connecticut bulletin board, or call the club at (869) 249-3634 during normal business hours

Club open for lunch Monday - Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bar open Monday - Friday

Available for private parties

103rd/932nd AC&W hold reunion

JACK HAMILTON, CAPT. USSFR (RET)

The 103rd/932nd AC&W Reunion was held at the Elks Club in Groton, Connecticut on Oct. 5, 2002 from 12 Noon to 6PM.

There was more than a hundred veterans and wives in attendance. The reunion celebrated more than fifty years since the 103rd was activated for the Korean War in September 1951, and the formation of the 932nd in May 1952.

The 932nd was formed mostly from members of the 103rd and also some members of the Massachusetts and Maine ANG sister squadrons of the 151st Division, along with Air Force Regulars.

The 103rd remained as a Training Squadron at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod, Massachusetts supplying needed personnel to other Air Force squadrons throughout the world, and the 932nd joined the Icelandic Defense Force and was shipped to Iceland to install and maintain the first ground radar on the Island. The 932nd is still operating in Iceland... And the 103rd Air National Guard that has been activated many times since, is in Orange, Conn. where it is undergoing a multi-million dollar facelift to improve its readiness.

This is what we were celebrating on Oct. 5... a time period from September 1951 to September 1953... more than fifty years ago.

The reunion was a fallout from the 103rd Groton Detachment Reunion held the previous year at the same Elks Club. A group of veterans decided to expand the reunion to include the whole 103rd and 932nd Squadrons, which was quite an undertaking. It took a year to account for more than 200 members, many who were deceased. Thank God for the internet, it couldn't have been done without it.

It also could not have been done without a dedicated team of veterans, who all made computer widows out of their wives. Bob Brauch, Stan Taraskiewicz, Ed Petroski, Marty Carver, Ray Peach, Andy Mermina, Carl Kiely and Jack Hamilton heading up the team.

The reunion agenda consisted of a sign-in and reception, followed by a buffet dinner.

After dinner the emcee, Jack Hamilton, started with the opening remarks... Pledge Of Allegiance ... silent prayer to our deceased Airman, and the reading of the poem "Soldier"... and thanks to team and others.



Then the fun part began with the emcee having a Roll Call... which was a kind of free-for-all, where... when your name was called, the emcee would get into personal experiences fifty years ago, which would produce some lively discussions. Also you would be expected to call out your Air Force serial number... amazing how many Veterans remembered. The Roll Call took almost two hours to complete... After that, formal letters from the current Commanders of the 103rd and 932nd Squadrons were read, commending the veterans at the reunion for the legacy they left both of the squadrons during the 1951...1953 time period.

There was not a dry eye among the veterans, after the letters were read. Representatives from the forthcoming Iceland Reunion to be held in Dayton Ohio this April praised the 932nd Trailblazer Veterans for starting the Radar Defense System in Iceland in 1952, and passed out patches to commemorate it.

The formal part of the reunion ended with a general discussion, passing on messages from veterans who couldn't make the reunion, and maybe the possibility of having another reunion. A dessert table with coffee and tea followed.

Several large tables contained hundreds of 1951-1953 memorabilia, along with biographies of the veterans in attendance. A beautiful display of the past time period. All of the veterans were given three CD's... 103rd fifty plus year history... 932nd fifty year history... and a beautiful 1951-1953 photo album. A great time was had by all.



'Women Pioneering the Future'

CAPT. GEORGE WORRALL III
103rd FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An intimate crowd of military members and civilians gathered for the 2003 Women's History Month Celebration, sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service and the Connecticut National Guard, March 21 at the Hartford College for Women.

"We are a stop on the Connecticut Women's heritage trail, so it is a logical place to celebrate women's history," said Susan E. Lennon, director, Hartford College for Women. "This is a wonderful celebration. I think the strengths that women bring are things that are desperately needed in the world today, and it is a wonderful opportunity to talk about the pioneering future of women."

An all woman color guard from the Connecticut Air National Guard opened the event, which included entertainment, influential speakers and a review of influential women from both Connecticut's and the Nation's history.

The assistant adjutant general lead the speakers with his remarks about the impact of women on the nation, the military and women's future in the military.

"Changes in technology have blurred the lines of being in combat," said Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembruski, assistant adjutant general, Connecticut Army National Guard, explaining how women serve in the military. "All you have to do is look at the pictures of Afghanistan to see they are serving. The number of women finding rewarding military careers is increasing ... women serve in key positions nationwide and our position is stronger today because of this. It could not be possible without the rich history of

women who preceded them."

Given the successes and impacts of women, surprisingly women's firsts are still happening today as demonstrated by Reverend Dr. Barbara E. Headely, of Faith Congregational Church, who gave the invocation and was the first female deputy chaplain of the Connecticut Senate. Another first holder present was the event's guest speaker.

"I had no idea I would be stepping into the threshold as being the first woman Chief of Police in the state, since I was just following my dream," said Chief Betsy J.S. Hard, chief of police, Bloomfield, who served as guest speaker. "I am sure the women that we hold in such high regard today were just doing what came natural from their heart. Through education and us proving ourselves by merit, we continue going through thresholds and opening up doors."

With a slide show review of the local women who impacted the nation, the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame Director reviewed many of those who opened doors earlier.

"They are all pioneers," said Dr. Leslie Lindenauer, executive director, Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, after listing notable women who spoke against slavery, demanded women's suffrage, and earned appointment to the federal bench and election as governor. "Their actions made possible the strides women have made and continue to make today. The journey has not been easy and is not over."

The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame brings the message of women's contributions to the state at large. After some entertainment, the postal service unveiled something that will bring messages across the country and

around the world.

"Today I am dedicating a stamp to a person who personifies grace and dignity and touched the lives of so many," said Chu Falling Star, Hartford postmaster, U.S. Postal Service, before unveiling the sneak preview of a stamp honoring Audrey Hepburn.

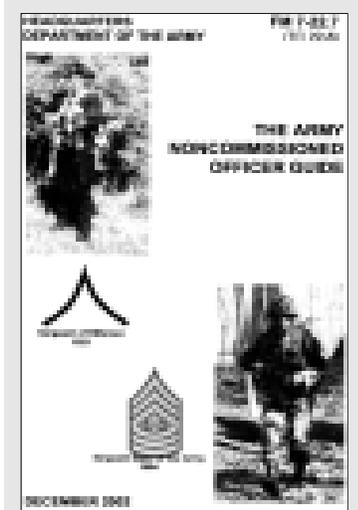
Besides her Hollywood fame, Hepburn served as a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF in the 80's and 90's.

Events cannot happen without the hard work and dedication of women and men. This celebration's success was due to the teams at the U.S. Postal Service and the Connecticut National Guard.

"The entire HRO staff, I mean everyone and I can't name names because everyone works as a team and everybody there makes it happen," said Col. Elizabeth Borbeau, human resources director, Connecticut National Guard, whose office put the event together with the U.S. Postal Service. "I can't say enough about Lee Piscatelli and her staff at the United States Postal Service ... everybody just kicks in and makes it happen."

With female astronauts common, the sky is not even a limit for the "pioneering future of women," which was the celebration's theme, but what is next for women's history in Connecticut?

"We are getting better at sharing women's history with our communities, and making sure women's history is fifty present of the history we teach in our schools," said Lindenauer. "We are not there yet, but these celebrations help even if they are just in March."



NCO Guide available online

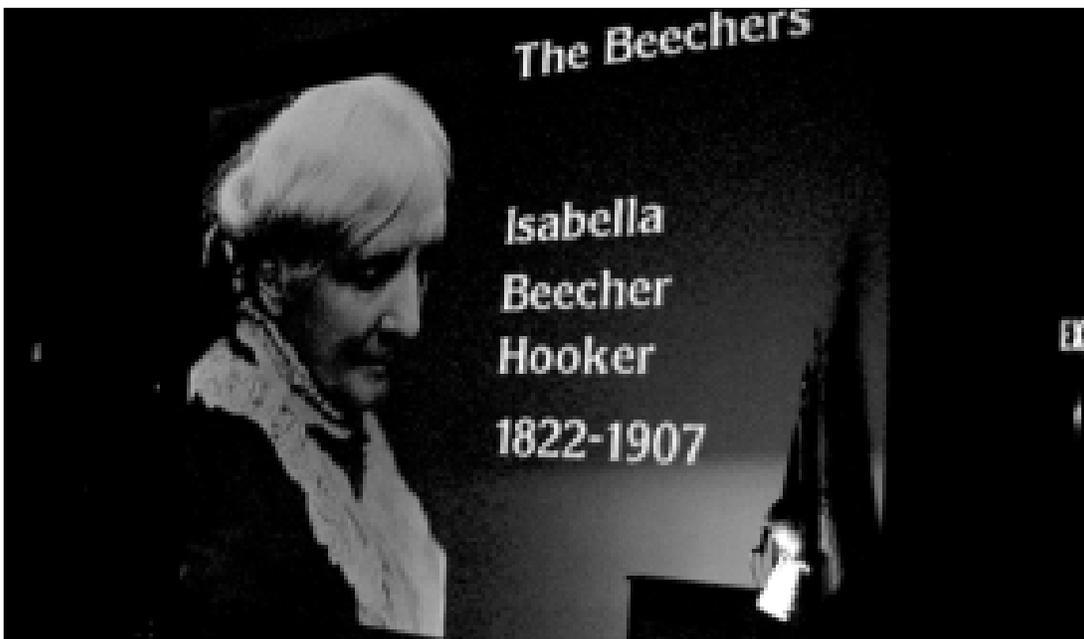
PVT. JORDAN WERME
65th PCH

Away from your unit? Want to reference the NCO Guide but don't have a copy with you? According to the Army News Service similar situations now have easy solutions. Field Manual 7-22.7, the Noncommissioned Officer Guide is now available via the Internet, at the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) website.

Many soldiers are already familiar with AKO, available at www.us.army.mil, a valuable resource to all who are seeking information on all things military. The site includes news articles, Army announcements, links to related sites, email, chat, and many very useful reference materials, among other features. A very valuable resource to all soldiers seeking to keep in touch with ongoing events throughout the Army now includes downloadable versions of several useful manuals.

The NCO guide is not intended as an all-inclusive document or as a stand-alone manual, however it does provide a ready reference for most situations. It covers topics encountered every day by NCOs and their soldiers including leadership, training, duties and responsibility, and history. A downloadable version of the manual is available to registered AKO users by selecting "Manuals" from the pull-down menu on the left side of the home page and then selecting the appropriate link for FM 7-22.7. This, and all other site features, can be used by any soldier who registers with the website and can be accessed from any computer with online capabilities.

The United States Army Sergeants Major Academy home page also contains a direct link to the manual at usasma.bliss.army.mil as well as a link in the "Training and Doctrine" section of the website.



Dr. Leslie Lindenauer (illuminated), executive director, Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, presents slides and information on notable women from Connecticut's History. (Photo by Captain George Worrall III, 103rd FW/PA)

Military Matters



MAJ. BARBARA LUHN

Over the past year, the Connecticut National Guard has worked with FedSource, U.S. Department of the Treasury, for Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services for you and your family members.

Their current provider of the services, Green Spring, will change beginning April 1, 2003 because their contract with FedSource ends.

The new provider is ComPsych. Access to services is 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

They can be reached by calling 1-888-290-4EAP or TDD 1-800-697-0353.

The Employee Assistance Program is a free benefit to you and your family members.

Access to information and tools are also available on-line through www.GuidanceResources.com GuidanceResources Online gives you the power of the internet to get solutions for the issues that matter to you, from personal or relationship issues to legal and financial concerns.

You can go online anytime you need trusted, expert information, resources,

New Employee Assistance Program coming April 1

referrals or an answer to an everyday questions.

~ You will get helpful answers to your questions quickly, easily, and confidentially.

~ Review and print in-depth Help Sheet topics.

~ Ask a GuidanceResources Expert for a personal response via e-mail or phone.

~ Order one of the reference books from the website.

If you are currently in EAP counseling services with Green Spring, you will continue with the same clinician until services have been completed.

In other words, if you started counseling in March and have not finished services in March, you will continue with the Green Spring counselor until completed.

More information will be provided in the near future.

We will be assigned an ID number to use with the web site.

The Human Resources Office will be conducting briefings to discuss the new benefits that we will be receiving from ComPsych.

Education Essentials: The Effect of Mobilization on ARNG Education Benefits

1ST LT. PAUL DRAPER
EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

MGIB Overview ARNG soldiers who are mobilized, remain eligible for the Montgomery G.I. Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR), Chapter 1606, Title 10, United States Code (USC) or the Montgomery G.I. Bill - AD (MGIB-AD), Chapter 30, Title 38, USC, if they were entitled to the benefit prior to the mobilization.

MGIB-SR Extension ARNG soldiers who are eligible for the MGIB-SR who are federally mobilized for 90 days or more will get the period of the mobilization plus 4 months added to their MGIB-SR benefit after the mobilization. To get the additional time added, soldiers must send a copy of their DD Form 214 to their Veteran's Administration (VA) Regional Processing Office (RPO).

MGIB-AD Extension ARNG soldiers who are eligible for the MGIB-AD who are federally mobilized for 90 days or more will have a new 10 year delimiting period established at the point of their latest discharge from active duty. To have the new delimiting period established, soldiers must send a copy of their DD Form 214 to their VA RPO.

Additional Contribution ARNG soldiers who are eligible for the MGIB-AD who are federally mobilized for 90 days or more are eligible to add up to \$600 to their MGIB-AD account and receive up to an additional

\$5,400 in benefits. To contribute the additional funds, soldiers must go to their State ESO or Army Education Office while still on active duty and complete a new DD Form 2366 and submit the form to their servicing finance office.

MGIB-AD Enrollment ARNG soldiers who are federally mobilized for at least two years of continuous active duty may qualify for the MGIB-AD program. These soldiers should consult with their State Education Services Officer (ESO) or Army Education Office prior to coming off of active duty to verify their eligibility and contribute the required \$1,200. These soldiers are also eligible to contribute the additional \$600.

Tuition Assistance - Enlisted ARNG enlisted soldiers who are federally mobilized are not eligible for ARNG Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) but are eligible for Army Continuing Education Service (ACES) Tuition Assistance (TA) available from their servicing active Army Education Center.

Tuition Assistance - Officers ARNG officers who are federally mobilized remain eligible for ARNG FTA because they are NOT eligible for ACES TA due to the required two-year active duty obligation incurred after using ACES TA. The tuition assistance and fee reimbursement rate applied to ARNG officers who are mobilized will match the prevailing ACES TA rate at the time of application: currently 100 percent up to \$250 per credit hour and \$4,500 per year.

COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

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

CAMP ROWLAND POST EXCHANGE

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

ARMY RESERVE CENTER

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

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE

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

COAST GUARD ACADEMY

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

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

WEST POINT, NEW YORK

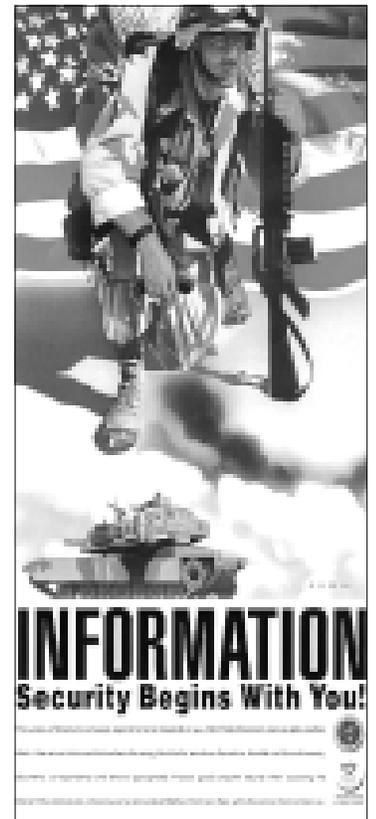
Exchange Hours:
SATURDAY - WEDNESDAY:
10:00 - 6:00
THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 10:00 - 7:00
Phone: (914) 446-5406
Commissary Hours:
MONDAY: Closed
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY:
10:00 - 6:00
THURSDAY: 10:00 - 7:00
FRIDAY: 10:00 - 6:00
SATURDAY: 9:00 - 5:00
SUNDAY: 11:00 - 5:00
Phone: (914) 446-5406

COAST GUARD STATION

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

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





COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
RAYMOND P. ZASTAURI

Enlisted Update

A few thoughts on being your best

First of all, I would like to congratulate Sgt. Francis T. Voity of C.A, 143rd FSB and

Pfc. Gregory R. Gustavson for being selected as the NCO and Soldier of the Year for FY 2003 for the Connecticut Army National Guard.

Both of these soldiers beat out some stiff competition at the State Board held on February 1.

I am confident they both will represent the CTARNG very well during the next step, which is the Area I Board being held at Camp Rowland on April 5.

They will compete against NCOs and soldiers from NJ, NY, RI, MA, VT, NH, and ME.

The OPTEMPO for the Connecticut Army National Guard has been incredible since the beginning of the year.

I really don't believe that this will change for a very long time. Everyone needs to step up to the plate and do their fair share.

I visited with each unit during their mobilization process at Camp Rowland. I must commend the STARC, G-1 Section, USPF&O, ASG HQs, Medical Command, HRO and Family Support for their dedication and professionalism in preparing the deployed soldiers and their families for their mobilization.

Long hours without weekends off from the first of the year, was the Standard Operating Procedure for everyone involved.

The Employer Support of the Guard and the Reserve (ESGR) also played an important role in preparing our soldiers and their employers for their deployment.

ESGR informed the soldiers and their employers of their responsibilities to each other to ensure the soldiers will be employed when they return from their deployment.

Again, I personally want to thank you all for your help.

I attended all the send off ceremonies for the deployed units.

Most of the deployed soldiers had at least four or five family members and friends that came to wish them well as they left for deployment.

It was not unusual to observe some soldiers with eight to 10 people see them off.

The support from families and friends during this time is outstanding.

It is imperative that we as an

organization keep this support to our deployed soldiers/airmen and their families at the highest level.

Every family member deserves nothing less.

I ask all the soldiers/airmen that have not deployed to lend their support to this effort of taking care of the families until their soldiers/airmen to come back home.

You can volunteer to help at one the Regional Family Assistance Centers.

If you have a special skill such as a mechanic, plumber etc., you can contact the Family Assistance Center and they can add your name to their database for support of our families.

Then if a deployed soldiers/airmen family member needs help, the FAC can contact you, and if you are available, their problem can be taken care of quickly.

Also important are all the soldiers that remain in the rear detachments of the mobilized units. We must all do our best to ensure those Pre-IADT soldiers are trained and prepared for Basic Training and AIT.

The challenge to all NCOs at all levels is to guide, mentor and/or preach is necessary. Set the example.

Encourage self-development, but you must be the catalyst.

Let your soldiers know you are ready to help.

The reward will be inside you and will be visible in your soldiers. Do it right, and they will pass it down to the next generation of NCOs.

I challenge those junior NCOs that did not deploy to keep their soldiers busy and train them until they ship to Basic Training. Leadership is character in action.

As I reflect on everything that has transpired over the past several months I cannot help thinking about the importance the service of our soldiers and airmen perform for our Country.

They are the guardians of freedom, liberty and the sacred values and trust of the American people and our nation.

Every one in our nation must understand why you men and women serve in the armed forces and why they put up with the hardships of the military.

They are patriots willing to lay their lives on the line to protect the greatest nation ever created and known to mankind.

I salute our deployed soldiers and airmen and their families and wish all our deployed soldiers and airmen a safe return to their families and friends.

Guard Voices

A soldier's wife shares her views

SUZI POHL

My husband, Kyle was among the 145 men and women from the 142nd Engineer Battalion that flew out of Camp Ripley for Fort Carson, Colo. After a brief period of training and readiness, they will be heading to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

Kyle joined the Army 18 years ago this February, at the age of 17. He served in the Army Reserves for a good many years before transferring to the Minnesota National Guard. One weekend a month and two weeks a year for 18 years, Kyle has put on his uniform and gone to serve his country, in whatever way he was asked.

I recently spoke to the wife of a Vietnam veteran. Her husband returned from Vietnam to an unwelcome and unfriendly homeland. She told me her husband fears the lack of patriotism may be even worse now than it was then. How can this be?

Don't protesters realize they have the right to stand with their signs and chant on street corners because of the men and women who have fought and died for that freedom? Don't people realize we are free to vote and object to what our president says and does because of the voluntary actions of people willing to serve their country?

A poem written by an unknown writer has been circulating on the Internet in the last couple of days. It rings so true. Part of the poem says,

"It's the soldier, not the reporter, who gives you the freedom of the press.

It's the soldier, not the poet, who gives you the freedom of speech.

It's the soldier, not the campus organizer, who allows you to demonstrate.

It's the soldier who salutes the flag, serves the flag, whose coffin is draped with the flag, that allows the protester to burn the flag!"

During the farewell ceremony at Camp Ripley, we were all asked to recite a creed I would like to share as well.

— The American's Creed by William Tyler Page, 1917

"I believe in the United States of America, a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

Many people are opposed to President Bush and the war he has waged against terrorism, but whether or not any of us agrees or disagrees, we need to support and respect the thousands of men and women, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters who are willing to sacrifice their lives to defend our rights and protect our freedom. So even if we do not agree with the politics involved, I pray no one would diminish the sacrifice these heroic people make by the things they say and do. Let's welcome each hero home with open arms and hearts overflowing with gratitude.

What is a Veteran?

COURTESY MASTER CHIEF HANK BAXTER
41° 28' 1.2" NORTH; 72° 11' 40" WEST

He or She is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the bar room loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She (or he) is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He or She is the POW who went away one person and came back another —or didn't come back AT ALL.

He or She is the Parris Island drill instructor who has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He or She is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The

Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He or She is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his or her life's most vital years in the service of their country, and who sacrificed their ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He or she is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: *Why do Ashley and Jimmy use drugs?*

CAPT. ANNE-MARIE GARCIA
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

Right at the top of virtually every parent's concerns is the fear that their children might become involved with drugs. Whether in cities, suburbia or rural communities, whether in wealthy or poor neighborhoods, drugs are now readily available to all young people.

Drugs are an equal opportunity destroyer. Fifty percent of young people have used an illegal drug by the time they leave high school. What's a parent to do? How can you predict if your children are going to use drugs? What can you do to prevent it? How can you help them once they've started using? The first step is to understand your child might be using drugs.

Researchers have identified over 50 factors that might put someone at risk for drug use. These risk factors can be found at the individual, the family, peer groups and broader community levels. They include things like having too much free time, weak family structures, peer group, social pressures and the glorification of drug use by some in the popular media.

But those risk factors really only talk about overall probabilities of whether young people with certain characteristics might be more or less prone to using drugs. Knowing about these risk factors can help keep a parent alert, but no set of risk factors

determines that a particular child will use drugs and many kids who have many of those risk factors don't even try drugs

So parents really have to deal with the individual child's situation and state of mind. **Two Paths to Drug Use** Research on the pathways to drug use and addiction suggests the immediate decision to use drugs is driven basically by one of two types of reasons.



One group of young people seems to use drugs simply to feel good. They are seeking novelty or excitement, to have a good time. I include in this group those who say they use drugs just because all their friends are doing it; they just want to join in common fun or to be "cool."

These kids are the ones most likely to be responsive to prevention programming that educates about the harmful effects of drugs on their bodies and are most influenced by the powerful protective factor of having strong and loving parents interested and involved in all aspects of their lives. But there is also a second, very different group of young people who are using drugs for quite different, actually more intractable reasons. These are

kids who in some way or another are suffering and use drugs to try to make themselves feel better or even normal.

This group often includes people stuck in very difficult life situations - poverty or abusive families, for example. It also includes kids suffering from a variety of untreated mental disorders, like clinical depression, manic-depressive illness, panic disorders, schizophrenia. Estimates are that as many as 10 million children and adolescents may suffer from emotional and psychiatric problems of such magnitude that their ability to function is compromised and the majority of those kids are at extremely high risk of becoming addicted to drugs.

These children are actually trying to medicate themselves with drugs. They use drugs because they think they will make them feel better, or normal, in the same way that other people might be given anti-depressants or anti-anxiety medications.

The problem, of course, is that using illicit drugs is not an effective treatment. In addition to other, perhaps more obvious problems - like that their use interferes with normal functioning - this kind of drug use actually will ultimately make them feel worse, not better.

Medical research has shown clearly that this kind of drug use only exacerbates underlying psychological problems.

What Can Parents Do?

What, if the answer is "yes," your child is using drugs? What do you do? In a small percentage of cases, parents can work with their own kids to get them to stop using drugs. This might be easiest when the young person is just using drugs occasionally to have a good time.

And of course, the earlier you start talking to your children about drugs, the better the chances are they won't become involved with them. If a child reaches the age of 20 without using alcohol, tobacco or marijuana, the probability is almost zero he or she will ever develop a serious drug problem.

But if you suspect your child is really trying to self-medicate, or if you suspect your child is using regularly or even is addicted, you need to get help right away from the professionals.

These are not problems the typical parents can handle alone. There are many professional social workers, nurses, drug counselors, psychologists and psychiatrists well trained to deal with both mental disorders and drug use problems. Your child's school, your family doctor, or community health center can help get you a referral.

If your Community Organization, Educational Institution or National Guard unit would like to become involved in any of the Drug Prevention Programs that the Connecticut National Guard has to offer please contact Capt. Anne-Marie Garcia at 860-493-2724.

Chaplain's *Chaplains ready to assist now*

O CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) MARK R. JOHNSON

r A few months ago, my neighbor was involved in a head on car crash. Her four-year-old son was in the car with her and by the grace of God, they did not suffer serious injury.

n After a trauma like this, we immediately pause and reflect on life and realize how important our relationships are.

e After the tragedy of September 11 we all took inventory of our lives as we grieved with the families who lost loved ones.

r It made us think just how vulnerable we are in this world. Tragedy teaches us not take our relationships for granted.

The Chaplains have been busy the past couple of months assisting soldiers who are deploying. After a unit has received the alert to deploy, the soldier's priorities and goals change in an instant.

What seemed so important before the alert now pales in significance after the alert to deploy. Deployment brings uncertainty and

disruption to lives of soldiers and their family.

Soldiers realize, in a dramatic way, that the most important thing in their lives is their relationships. When the AVCRAD mobilized this Chaplain witnessed many touching moments between soldiers and their loved ones.

I can still see the face of a little girl, with tears streaming down her cheeks, waving good-bye to her Daddy as he boarded the bus. One can only imagine how difficult it was for that father to say good-bye to that beautiful little girl.

Big changes in our lives, whether they be a car accident, a death in the family, a terrorist attack or a sudden deployment, cause many of us to evaluate our relationship with God.

As the Chaplains have assisted in the deployments, hundreds of Bibles were passed out. The Bibles were gladly received by those seeking comfort from its words. Many who took Bibles wanted to reconnect with God.

God desires a relationship with us. He has given us the His Holy Word so that we might not only know of him but that we may know

him in a personal way. He has sent His only Son in the person of Jesus Christ, to make that relationship possible. I have often told the soldiers during Sunday Services that Christianity is not a religion, nor is it a set of rules to follow but it is a relationship with Jesus Christ.

He has given us the Bible that we may know Him in an intimate way.

Some of us may still deploy and some of us will not deploy at all. The lesson we can learn is that we should make our relationships a priority **now**.

Why wait for that traumatic, life-changing event to reevaluate our relationships. Now is the time to play with your children, or take your spouse or significant other on a date. Now is the time to call your mother and father and tell them you love them.

Now is the time to spend with those Grandparents who so forward to your company. Now is the time to get together with our sisters, brothers and friends to share your joys and sorrows. Now is the time to seek God's face, and find comfort, and hope in him.

INFORMATION
Security Begins With You!

NGACT holds annual meeting at Foxwoods: successes and plans discussed

SPEC. JOE WALLER
65th PCH

In the setting of the Foxwoods Resort Casino, the 9th Annual National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) meeting took place on Saturday, March 22.

The NGACT was created in 1994 to be a representative body for both active and retired members (officer and enlisted) of the Connecticut National Guard. Each year the association meets to vote on amendments, elect its executive board, and discuss legislation, both state and federal, that impacts the Guard.

This year, the association discussed its budget and benefits of the Guard, and received remarks from Maj. Gen. William Cugno, Adjutant General Connecticut National Guard. The meeting was opened with the president's annual report by the NGACT's president, Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Joe Amatruda, who addressed many issues, including membership in the association.

"We continue to look for more input. We have asked for representatives from each unit to attend each board meetings," he said.

The plan would increase the representation of the Connecticut National Guard to the association. Amatruda also mentioned the need for younger members to broaden the membership and increase representation. Also to this end, the members of the NGACT will be looking to amend the constitution creating positions for two junior enlisted representatives from both the Air National Guard and the

Army National Guard to sit on the executive board as voting members. This change could occur as early as next year.

Amatruda also spoke about some of changes to the by laws. The amendments included the creation of an awards and recognition committee, as well as additions to the levels of corporate sponsorship for the association in order to reward those corporations who have gone above and beyond in their support. The last amendment, one for bookkeeping, changed the definition of the fiscal year to go along with the meetings of the Association. All amendments passed. Amatruda also mentioned that the NGACT sent three of its members to a leadership symposium to learn skills in lobbying for the association.

Amatruda was followed by Capt. Dave Fecso, treasurer for the NGACT, who explained the past year's expenditures and the standing of the accounts. The association donated money to seven organizations or causes, including the 169th Infantry, NGB Advisory Council, the Black History Month Celebration, Federal Women's Program, the Hispanic Celebration, Summer Youth Camp, and the Connecticut Children's Hospital.

The adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard, Maj. Gen. William Cugno followed with an address that spanned many topics. His presentation included the current standing of Connecticut's National Guard (both Air and Army), 30 percent of which is currently on active duty. "We can sustain what we have deployed, even with increases," he said.

These increases could come with Operation Liberty Shield. The Connecticut National Guard will be taking over security for Department of the Army installations in the region, to include Fort Drum and West Point. According to Cugno, this will be a good-sized operation. (*Editor's Note: See next month's issue for more information on this initiative.*)

"We have the authorization to play up 20 percent of our requirement," Cugno said, which will allow for more slots being available for soldiers to attend classes like Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Training Course, and Basic Noncommissioned Officers training Course, and Primary Leadership Development Course.

Cugno announced that the Connecticut National Guard will also be in charge of security at the Millstone Nuclear Power Point, the Gold Star Memorial Bridge, the New Haven Harbor, and Quinnipiac Bridge.

With the activation of guardsmen, Cugno identified two priorities: benefits for activated Guardsmen, and supporting the Guardsmen's families. Cugno underlined the difference in the benefits of being activated by the state, in comparison to federal activation.

"I want a system where soldiers have a health program that is acceptable and comparable to that of state employees," Cugno said. He then underlined his commitment to a strong family program, saying, "We need to have a very proactive family program; responsive and proactive,



John Helbert, the EANGUS Area 1 chairman, addresses the NGACT membership during the annual conference held at Foxwoods Resort and Casino. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

from social activities to meeting operations requirements."

Eleven family assistance centers will be created, with the goal of immediate response, open 24-hours a day and seven days a week. The centers will know those connected to the soldiers deployed, communicate with them through mailings, create support structures through social activities, and respond to family crises.

To get involved in the NGACT or find out more information, you can visit the NGACT's website at www.ngact.org and download their application.



Members of the National Guard Association of Connecticut listen intently as Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno discusses current world events and the Guard's role in them. Turnout for this year's annual conference was higher than in past years, despite the high level of deployments and mobilizations. Members discussed legislative issues, successes of the past year, acted on by-law changes and voted for executive board members. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

Executive Board Election Results

Army Officer
2nd Lt. Zoraida Wheelock

Army Enlisted
Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton

Air Officer
Capt. George Worrall

Air Enlisted
Staff Sgt. Sabrina Gilfurt

Retiree
Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) John Bednarz

Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: *Dealing with accidents and their claims*

CAPT. TIMOTHY TOMCHO
JAG OFFICE

Soldiers regularly engage in activities that are inherently dangerous to themselves as well as to others. Although we constantly train and hone our skills, always emphasizing safety, the possibility of an "accident" is real. Many soldiers are involved in accidents, often with no fault of their own. After all, an accident is, as defined by Webster's, "something that occurs unexpectedly or unintentionally." We train to avoid accidents, but realize that we must be ready to address them when they happen.

National Guard accidents may result in civilian property loss or personal injury. Such an accident, when the reason for a subsequent civil law suit, is known as a tort, a civil wrong or injury for which a court of law can provide a remedy. The remedy is usually a monetary judgment to compensate the victim for the loss or injury. The compensation is designed to "make the victim whole," and is commensurate to the amount of damages incurred by the victim.

The Federal Torts Claims Act (FTCA) (28 U.S.C. §§ 2671 - 2680) allows claims against the federal government arising from government torts. Under the FTCA, the

United States is liable for the acts of its employees "in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstances."

Broadly speaking, the FTCA will compensate the victims of accidents caused by government employees. Subject to certain exceptions and limitations, the FTCA provides for the payment of money damages, for injury or loss of either real or personal property or for personal injury or death, caused by a wrongful or negligent act or omission of an employee of the United States acting within the scope of employment, where the United States, if a private person, would be liable, according to the law of the place where the act or omission occurred.

The FTCA is the product of years of debate regarding the responsibility of the United States to victims of its torts. By allowing claims against the government, a limited waiver of sovereign immunity, the FTCA eliminated thousands of requests to Congress for private legislative relief arising from government torts. Before filing a lawsuit against the United States, a victim of a government tort (claimant) must file a claim with the government agency



responsible for the tort. If the claim is not adjudicated within six months of filing, the claimant may then file a lawsuit against the United States. It is important to note the FTCA has a statute of limitations, limiting the amount of time in which a victim may file a claim.

Army Regulation 27-20, "Legal Services: Claims," sets forth policies and procedures that govern the investigating, processing, and settling of claims against, and in favor of, the United States. It is intended to ensure that claims are investigated properly and adjudicated according to applicable law, and valid recoveries and affirmative claims are pursued against carriers, third party insurers, and tortfeasors. Chapter four of the regulation implements the FTCA, which covers military technicians and ARNG soldiers performing full-time National Guard duty or inactive-duty training (such as any training or other duty under 32 USC 316, 502-505). To ensure proper handling and processing, all soldiers must immediately and properly report and document accidents, regardless of their scope. For additional information pertaining to accident reporting and safety, contact CW4 Rinaldo, State Safety Specialist, at (860) 386-4071, extension 153.



NGACT elects officers at annual meeting

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

The National Guard Association of Connecticut held its annual meeting at Foxwoods Resort and Casino on March 22 and elected officers to its executive board.

Those elected were:

Army Officer: 2nd Lt. Zoraida Wheelock

Army Enlisted: Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton

Air Officer: Capt George Worrall

Air Enlisted: Staff Sgt. Sabrina Gilfrut

Retiree: Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) John Bednarz

Those positions not up for election were:

President: Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joe Amatruda

President-Elect: Maj. Joe Danao

Treasurer: Capt. David Fecso

Secretary: Warrant Officer 1 Bill Cusack

Army Officer-at-Large: Capt. Kim Rolstone
Army Enlisted-at-Large: Sgt. 1st Class Mike Straite

Air Officer-at-Large: Maj. Barbara Luhn

Air Enlisted-at-Large: Tech. Sgt. Claire Potier



LOU VASQUEZ
ESGR

As many people will recognize from watching TV westerns or movies, branding usually means taking a hot poker and putting a mark of ownership on some poor steer who would much rather be grazing by a cool creek.

If you were to talk to some advertising or marketing firm in Hartford, you might hear of a different type of branding; however, the principal would still be the same, to create an image which is easily recognizable. The Ford Company, Nabisco, Playboy, and Maytag are familiar logos to millions. The red umbrella which the Traveler's recently discarded is such an example. The World Trade Center branded the City of New York.

The Connecticut ESGR Committee does not have a public affairs budget anywhere near what those in business and industry commit to their product, but what we do have is energy and volunteers who brand ESGR for what it can do for our guard and their employers.

How does branding help a guardsmen? For every employer to whom we project the ESGR image favorably or to whom we sell the concept of military service in the guard and reserve, we have made an impression. We target key individuals, CEO's, human

Branding—not only for steers

resource persons, municipal and legislative leaders, in addition to union, police, fire, education and corrections personnel to name a few. We also target those who may not be overly fond of the American military.

How do we brand? We do this in a variety of ways. You may have seen the large highway ad signs that explain how difficult it would be for pilots and tank drivers to do their jobs without employer support. This is a visual depiction soliciting the understanding of employers and the American public.

Another form of branding is in the large numbers of certificates of appreciation and awards that we promote and distribute. We often see these proudly displayed in hundreds of offices, businesses, and municipal agencies in our state.

We also brand through the use of promotional pins, flags, computer mouse holders, books, key rings, pens, and data information brochures on such topics as job rights and responsibilities. My personal belief is that we cannot "buy" the good will of an employer, but we can show our appreciation.

We also plan to use Connecticut buses to carry our logo and messages. "Bus wraps" are a popular method of obtaining ongoing exposure.

We also project expanding the scope and circulation of the ESGR newsletter to a wider and more diverse audience.

Another branding plan will be to have each ESGR committee member visit a Connecticut business to thank the employer personally for his support. During that period we will also talk to the human resources officers and personnel managers on the need to update company handbooks, especially those passages relating to mobilizations, deployments, training duty, and other reserve issues.

We also market the ESGR program by participating in trade shows, seminars, and professional meetings. Last month we spoke to 35 chiefs of police and we participated in the Latino Expo 2003.

We have taken our branding programming into the blue skies and under the seas when we took Connecticut employers on our traditional boss lifts. A unique experience for twenty employers took place at 692 feet below the surface when we held an impromptu ESGR presentation aboard the Groton-based attack sub Miami.

Equally significant was giving the employers an opportunity ride up front with a USMCR crew of a KC-130 and NH Air National Guard KC-135 where they observed Connecticut A-10's being refueled. "Up close a personal" one employer said as he watched the A-10 close with the boom providing aviation fuel. Few Americans ever have this opportunity and we put our brand on this guest.

This month we hope to display a 5'-by-60'

foot banner outside the State Office Building on Capitol Avenue in Hartford. This banner will state that the ESGR Committee supports the efforts of employers in the support of the guard and reserve.

On the more personal side, our committee members brand the ESGR logo by wearing distinctive golf shirts, pins, caps, and badges at numerous National Guard events in this state.

As part of our outreach program we also visit convalescent centers and present patriot pins to residents who served in the military. We find we receive excellent press coverage of such visits, but our real mission is to say thank you to those who have served our country.

The CT ESGR Committee projects doing more outreach with public TV and expanding our efforts to work with call in radio shows. We found that even if people disagree with the politics of possible war, they seldom argue with the view of employers assisting guardsmen and reservists.

We have one TV and radio talk show projected for this month. We also plan to support future fundraisers such as Conn. Public TV-CPTV, where the ESGR flag in the background will brand the importance of service in the Guard.

Everything the CT ESGR Committee undertakes in its branding effort is for one reason, to assist our citizen soldiers and their employers.

Inside OCS

On my way to becoming a leader

OFFICER CANDIDATE ROBERT CARUOLO
OCS CLASS 48

It was July 2002 and I entered Officer Candidate School.

I felt now I would finally be able to think for myself, as I had longed for during basic training. It never appeared to look very difficult, watching a platoon leader rattle off orders and get 30 or 40 soldiers to be in the right place on time. Plan ahead, think on your feet, and care for the welfare of your soldiers.

Fresh out of basic training as an OCS enlistment option, these simple ideas did not come to me as easily as I figured. I thought to myself, "How tough can this really be? We only meet two days a month".

Now that OCS is underway though, I don't breeze through it in the manner I initially figured. What about hydrating? Do you have accountability at all times? Where are we going and how does everyone arrive there safely with the proper equipment?

Now I have an entirely new respect for the role of the officer. They aren't just soldiers who are better paid and have to be saluted. Officers are the ones ultimately responsible for their mission and soldiers' welfare. They decide who will execute a task, what course of action they will take, when it will be done, and how the end goal will be accomplished.

This is never done in a two-day weekend. I find myself planning for the up coming drill as soon as I complete the weekend. It is the only way to ensure the class will be prepared. Being an OCS Enlistment option, I find myself having to double my efforts at times, both understanding my job as a future leader as well as the basic functions of the platoon itself.

Every thought I had of what OCS was going to be like went right out the window, (along with my self esteem for a short while). At first, my TAC officers appeared to be very similar to my former Drill Sergeants during basic training, only there to make my training as painful as possible.

Then I noticed something different.

I noticed that when I made a mistake, I was counseled. My TAC's showed me where my flaws occurred and occasionally gave insight, asking me how I felt the plan could have gone more smoothly.

OCS has taught me respect for the rank of an officer. It is earned, never given to a soldier. I am learning more about the role of a leader during every drill. This has in turn aided my general knowledge of the Army. My soldiers' welfare will ultimately rest in my hands. I now understand why this program is designed to be so challenging from beginning to the end.

During my time with OCS, I have felt my self-confidence improve significantly. I know I have not perfected my leadership skills yet and have more to learn through trial and error. I no longer rely on the initial plan, as a backup often proves significantly more important.

I feel the need to constantly challenge myself, improving upon my previous performance regardless of if it was "good enough".

OCS has taught me that there is always room for improvement. By working towards my goal, the gold bar, I understand the importance of my actions as a potential officer.

When it is finally my turn to lead, I feel the OCS program will have given me the groundwork of how to lead and instilled the confidence for me to succeed as an officer.

Help Wanted

The 1st OCS BN, 169th Leadership Regiment
is looking
to fill the following vacancies for:

Phase I Annual Training at Camp Rowland 12
- 26 July 2003

Phase III Annual Training at Fort Benning 14
- 28 June 2003

AVAILABLE ADSW VACANCIES



TAC's
INSTRUCTORS
SUPPLY SPECIALISTS
COOKS
KP PERSONNEL
DRIVERS



RTO's
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALISTS
MEDICS

There are several available positions in each
field

If interested, please contact:

Maj. Fran Evon

169th Leadership Regiment

(860) 691-4320

francis.evon@ct.ngb.army.mil

Why Diversity?

Cultural differences

SGT. 1st CLASS SCOTT J. FARRELL
STATE DIVERSITY INITIATIVES COORDINATOR (SDIC)

This phrase can bring a myriad of ideas to mind: differing countries, regions, foods, customs, music/entertainment, language and religion. What differences may come to mind for you may be different from someone else.

Our country is rich in differing cultures. The United States has repeatedly been called the "Melting Pot" for good reasons. How many different cultures are evident in your neighborhood, your family, your children's school, your workplace or your unit? Even though it is a melting pot every culture has distinct characteristics that make it different from every other culture.

One main lesson we should learn from our country, which we have volunteered to help

defend, is that we are all enriched by the many cultures that have been brought to and represent our country. How great is it that on any given day we can find a restaurant that serves New England clam chowder, Southern fried chicken, Cajun, Italian, Chinese, Mexican, Brazilian, Thai and the list is endless. Likewise the entertainment that is available is never ending.

To enhance our exposure to different cultures we all must be sensitive and inquisitive. Just like we would like someone not familiar with our culture to be with us. I challenge you to seek out at least one person of another culture. Ask them to share information about their culture and likewise you should share information about your culture with them. Discussing things and sharing experiences with others is almost always worthwhile. No two individuals ever

have quite the same experiences. I guarantee that you will be pleasantly surprised with this engaging and enlightening experience.

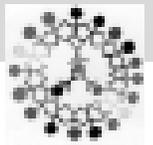
Think about it, the factors of a particular culture are cultivated over hundreds of years, if not more. Stories passed down through generations along with recipes and traditions all have been instrumental in forming today's differing cultures. To assume we fully understand any culture, including to some extent even our own, would be unrealistic. The best place to start is to ask, people are not offended when someone takes an interest in their culture.

If you assume you know someone's cultural differences and customs you will surely get into a sticky situation. You would not be happy if someone assumed they knew your culture or customs. This can be as basic as knowing how kids play. In the city kids will

play certain types of ball games, where as out in the country they may play different types of ball games.

Don't shy away from cultural differences and likewise don't be afraid of what you don't know, instead enrich your life experiences and differing connections. Broaden your horizons. I believe you will be surprised that many of the differences are not so different after all and we are all more alike than you think.

The bottom line is differences between cultures and peoples are real and can add richness to the fabric of life. The assertion is that people everywhere have much in common, such as a need for affiliation and love, participation, and contribution. When the exterior is peeled off, there are not so many differences after all.



Health & Fitness

Fit for Life: *Exercise and Stress*

MAJ. LEO MAHONY, MPT

The United States military services place great emphasis on the role of physical fitness and exercise training in combat readiness.

We train to be physically and mentally capable soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines.

The military also recognizes the many health benefits of regular, moderate physical activity for all beneficiaries. Fitness contributes directly to substantial improvements in the quality of life.

Exercise and physical activity are powerful and readily available tools for preventing and treating symptoms of stress. The old adages "run for your life" and "burn off some steam" merit serious consideration. It is truly possible to walk, bike, run, lift, and stretch your way to a happier less stressful lifestyle. The first step is up to you: make a realistic activation plan for being more active.

The Exercise-Stress Connection

Studies are beginning to show that physical activity enhances psychological well-being and relieves symptoms of depression and anxiety. Here are some of the factors involved:

1. Improved sense of control over other aspects of life, a key defense against stress.
2. Exercise promotes well-being and relaxation. Regular exercisers demonstrate higher levels of self-esteem and confidence and maintain a sense of self discipline. The individual acts upon the belief, "I am in charge of myself and can improve my health and fitness."
3. Moderate physical activity is a natural, physiological outlet for a body in the "fight or flight" state of arousal frequently associated with stress. It cleanses the body of adrenaline, can lower the blood pressure, and relaxes tight muscles.
4. Exercise produces neurotransmitters called endorphins in the brain. These are the body's own natural tranquilizers. Endorphins can make one feel calm and relaxed during and for up to three hours after moderate physical activity. This elevation in mood has been referred to as *the runners' high* but is also experienced by those involved in other forms of exercise.
5. Exercise can cause many people who are physically active to give up unhealthy and stressful habits that interfere with exercise. Smokers may cut down or quit because smoking hinders aerobic performance. Others may eat more nutritiously to improve performance. The chronically busy individual may "work in" a workout to increase energy, alertness, and productivity - clearly a sound business investment with ample rewards.
6. Exercise can be a group or solo activity.

Some individuals seek and develop alliances with other exercisers, which may provide social support - another stress reliever. Others may prefer some private time to exercise alone to "clear the head." Still others prefer some of both, depending on mood and circumstances.

People of all ages can realize these benefits!

Before Starting an Exercise Program

Precautions: Physical activity is an excellent stress management tool when used correctly and safely. However, an inconsistent (sporadic) or hasty ("too much too soon") program invites injury - from trauma to overuse - which can add to stress rather than alleviating it.

Considerations: Most adults do not need to be examined by a health care provider before starting a moderate-level physical activity program.

Exceptions include: men over the age of 40; women over the age of 50; those with one or more cardiac risk factors; and those with signs or symptoms of cardiac, pulmonary, or metabolic disease.

Programs for children should be age-appropriate so as not to exceed strength or coordination abilities, jeopardize normal growth, or pose a serious threat of injury or disability.

Helpful Hints

Start slowly. Begin exercising at your current level and gradually increase the pace or the length of your workouts over time. A helpful "rule of thumb" for a safe progression is no greater than 10 percent increase in total weekly repetitions, resistance, distance, or time.

Unfortunately, many exercisers must stop a program because of an overuse injury; they attempted "too much, too soon." While some morning soreness after a workout is normal, anything beyond this or occurring longer than 24 hours is probably indicative of a hasty progression. Starting slow can be encouraging rather than discouraging.

Set realistic goals. Stop exercising your excuses and start exercising your body! Small steps taken today will help you achieve long-range goals, but it won't happen overnight and it won't happen if you don't start! Daily walks, slow stretching, and a light toning routine can ease you into a realistic plan.

Do it *now!* Many extremely busy people do live healthy lifestyles and exercise regularly. The key is in making fitness a priority. *The commitment is the key.* Waiting until things are less stressful won't work. Find an activity and/or routine that you like and get started! Make and keep an appointment with exercise. The most popular exercise time for the chronically busy is first thing in the morning, before the rest of the world tries to derail you.

Write it down. Many people obtain personal reward and additional motivation by documenting their health and fitness accomplishments. Fitness notes can be as simple as an exercise diary or as innovative as computer software programs that provide personalized feedback with flashy displays and printouts. The best method is whatever motivates you to be consistent.

Stay on track. Don't get discouraged if you miss an occasional workout. We all have days where in spite of best intentions, we did not accomplish all our objectives. Injury, travel, and obligations may force a missed workout. In the context of a lifetime, several days or weeks off is no big deal but don't take a month or two to resume your program. Reaffirm the priority of health and regular exercise and get back on track again as soon as you can.

Enjoy yourself. Working out is something you should enjoy and look forward to. Select a variety of activities that energize you enough to continue performing on a regular basis. Many people make exercise a family activity. This can be a great way to spend quality time with family or friends while establishing healthy habits that last a lifetime.

The Three Phases of a Workout

Warm-Up - Preparation of the body prior to an activity or exercise period through total body movements and stretching for approximately 5 to 10 minutes.

Workout - Activity with intensity and duration (time) to develop or maintain one or more categories of fitness (the "Stress Busters", see page 5).

Cool-Down (or Warm-Down) - Gradual transition from moderate or vigorous activity to the normal state through total body movements and stretching for approximately 5 to 10 minutes.

The "Stress Busters"

There are four broad categories of "stress busting" exercises: aerobic, muscular strengthening, muscular endurance, and flexibility. Each plays an important role in the prevention and treatment of stress-related disorders and contributes to a balanced physical fitness program.

1. Aerobic Exercises or Activities—

Strengthen your heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels and increase stamina.

2. Muscular Strengthening Exercises—

Increase strength and size (bulk) of muscles or groups of muscles.

3. Muscular Endurance Exercises—

Improve stamina (tone) of muscles or groups of muscles.

4. Flexibility Exercises—

Decrease muscle tension, improve flexibility of specific muscle groups, help maintain joint mobility, improve circulation, and help prevent injury.

Your Health Matters:

Ankle Sprains-A pain you don't have to live with

LT. COL. LINDA TAFUTO
MEDICAL COMMAND

Ankle sprains are among the most commonly experienced athletic injuries. Injury or sprain occurs when the stout ligaments connecting bones of the ankle are either stretched, partially ruptured or completely torn. It usually occurs when the ankle turns under. This is associated with an almost immediate onset of swelling and pain along the outside of the ankle.

Ankle sprains are graded in terms of degree of severity.

First Degree ankle sprains are the most common. The ligaments are stretched but not completely torn. There is modest swelling but no gross instability.

Second Degree sprains involve partial tearing of the anterior talofibular ligament. There is more swelling, more pain and generally takes a longer time to recover.

Third Degree ankle sprains involve complete rupture of the lateral ankle ligaments.

Initial treatment for all three degrees of ankle sprains are the same. The ankle should be compressed with an elastic bandage such as an ace wrap. Ice should be applied and the ankle should be elevated. Athletes/soldiers should be placed on crutches allowing weight bearing as soon as comfortable.

If the ankle is allowed to swell initially after the injury, the timetable to recover is markedly delayed, making immediate care the most important aspect of ankle injury.

Visit the
**Connecticut
Guardian**

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

TRICARE for more Guardsmen

As of March 10, National Guard and Reserve forces called up for more than 30 days are now eligible for the Pentagon's TRICARE Prime premium health insurance program.

Previously, servicemembers had to serve for more than 180 days to qualify for TRICARE Prime, which waives TRICARE Standard's \$300 family deductible and increases payments to providers to 115 percent of normal. The project also gives demobilized reservists at least 60 days of health care coverage, with as much as 120 days' coverage provided for some long-deployed reservists. Guard and Reserve sponsors need to verify that DEERS information for themselves and their family members is accurate and up-to-date. They are encouraged to contact DEERS at the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll free at (800) 538-9552. Sponsors and family members may also update their addresses in DEERS on the TRICARE Website at www.tricare.osd.mil

Future updates regarding benefits for members of the Guard and Reserve and their family members will be posted on the TRICARE Website at www.tricare.osd.mil For more general information on TRICARE, see www.military.com

TRICARE Dental available to Guardsmen, families

Spc. MARIAN ROSADO
65th PCH

Your mouth goes through many changes as you age. It is important to understand these changes and what can be done to maintain good dental health. Good home care along with visits to your dentist can help decrease dental problems. More importantly, regular dental check ups can help detect signs of oral cancer and precancerous conditions.

The TRICARE Dental Program provides dental care for active and reserve components. Although new TRICARE dental rates for active and reserve components have been in place since January, Tom Harbold, United Concordia's TDP Senior Vice President said that the increase is less than the annual increase in the dental services component of the Consumer Price Index. The increase for this year totals about three percent more than the previous rate.

"The TRICARE Dental Program continues to provide excellent value for members of the military community, said Harbold.

To qualify for the minimum rate reservists who are activated must be on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days in order to be eligible to pay \$8.14 for a single enrollment and \$20.35 for a family enrollment. Otherwise, the new monthly rate for reserve

components is \$20.35 for a single enrollment and \$50.88 for a family enrollment.

Eligibility for the TRICARE Dental Program requires the sponsor to have at least 12 months remaining on his or her service commitment. If the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) indicates that the sponsor has less than 12 months remaining, the validation of the dental program will be based on the sponsor's intent of continuing their service commitment.

Eligibility of family members includes spouses and unmarried children such as natural, step, adopted and wards that are under the age of 21. Eligibility may be available after the age of 21 if the dependent is enrolled full time in an accredited college of university and is more than 50 percent dependent on the sponsor for financial support. In this case, eligibility is extended until the age of 23 or at the end of their education. Eligibility is also extended for dependents that have disabling illness or injury that occurred before his or her 21st birthday.

If you would like to enroll or would like more information on the TRICARE Dental Program you can log on to www.ucci.com. Enrollment must be completed and received by United Concordia by the twentieth of a month in order for coverage to be processed for the first of the next month. Enrollment may also be completed by mail.



A Connecticut National Guardsman gets his teeth checked by the dentist. Dental health is one of the biggest factors in a soldier being non-deployable. (Guardian file photo)

Home dental care

- Allow about three minutes of brushing to clean all your teeth
- Brush at least twice a day with a soft toothbrush
- Floss once a day or as recommended by your dentist

Cellular phone fire warning

The Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which mobile phones (cell phones) ignited fumes during fueling operations.

In the first case, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump. In the second, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car. And in the third, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were fueling their car.

You should know that:

Mobile Phones can ignite fuel or fumes; Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition;

Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boat, etc.;

Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust, i.e. solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.)

Another related topic for safe refueling regarding static electricity causing fires

at gas pumps...please pass on. Also included are some websites for more information.

CELLPHONES CAUSING REFUELING FIRESFYI:

Hopefully, most of you have heard that it's unsafe to smoke or use your cell phone while pumping gas. Now there's another safety warning you should know about concerning static electricity. Below is an email from Pat Cabiling who works at ChevronTexaco's Richmond Refinery.

To sum it up, here are the: Four Rules for Safe Refueling

- 1) Turn off engine
- 2) Don't smoke
- 3) Don't use your cell phone - leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off
- 4) Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling

Bob Renkes of Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of "static electricity" at gas pumps. His company has researched 150 cases of these fires.

His results were very surprising:

- 1) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- 2) Almost all cases involved the person

getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas, when finished and they went back to pull the nozzle out the fire started, as a result of static.

- 3) Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 4) Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 5) Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas
- 6) It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
- 7) There were 29 fires where the vehicle was reentered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models. Some resulting in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.
- 8) Seventeen fires that occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Mr. Renkes stresses to NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas.

If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door TOUCHING THE METAL, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.



Retirees' Voice

Space-A extends travel privileges to family members on a trial basis; SBP needs revision

SGT. 1ST CLASS (RET.) JOHN BEDNARZ

I received an upbeat message the other day from the Air Force Retirees News. Department of Defense transport officials recently announced a one-year test that would expand Space Available (Space-A) travel privileges to family members traveling within the continental United States (CONUS). The test will begin April 1, 2003 and continue through March 31, 2004. Dependents of Active Duty and retired personnel will be able to travel aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors.

Retirees may sign up for this program in advance, but not before the test officially begins on April 1. Now is the time to research where you can fly out of, and where they can take you. One of a few places I would have recommended to try was Westover Air Force Reserve Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts, but I understand they may have curtailed their Space-A flights during these busy times, although you could call and ask.

One other place to try would be the Air National Guard at Quonset Point in North Kingston, Rhode Island. They have some connecting flights to McGuire AFB in New Jersey or Dover AFB in Delaware, which could get you almost anywhere in the country. Here's hoping the test is successful and the regulation against allowing spouses to travel within CONUS is changed permanently.

Just recently Senator Olympia Snow (R-ME) introduced a bill, S. 451 titled the

Survivor Benefit Plan Benefits Improvement Act of 2003. It is a companion bill to a bill (H.R. 548) introduced in the House in February by Representative Jeff Miller.

As the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) stands right now, when the survivor reaches age 62 the annuity they receive is reduced from 55 percent of the covered retired pay to 35 percent. What the bill would do is increase the percentage by 5 percent each year until there is no longer a reduction. This would take until October 1, 2007 to accomplish.

Many retirees were not adequately informed of the age-62 benefit reduction. I know I was unaware of it. The military SBP compares poorly with that of the federal retiree's plan. They enjoy a government subsidy of 33 to 48 percent while ours is below 17 percent, and they receive 50 or 55 percent for life with no reduction.

Again, the legislation needs co-sponsors (which amounts to support) and we can help by asking our legislators to co-sponsor or support these bills. Ask your Senators to support S. 451 and ask your Representatives to support H.R. 548. You can write to them, or call them, e-mail them, drop them a post card. Those who are members of MOAA (The Military Officers Association of America) have a wonderful website for contacting their legislators. It's www.capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/ and it provides several methods to contact your legislator. You can e-mail or write to them from this site. I am not a member, but I went to their site and successfully e-mailed my Representative and both of my Senators. You should try it too.

For your convenience...

Use the order form below to order name tapes for your Gortex jackets. They **ARE NOT** the same size tapes as the ones you wear on your BDUs or field jacket. You can also use the form to order all other name tapes and plastic name tags.

| ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE | | | |
|--|-------|---------------------|------|
| EMBROIDERED NAMETAPES AND PLASTIC TAGS | | | |
| (ORDER FORM MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY ON MARKET ORDERS) | | | |
| BRANCH OF SERVICE (check): <input type="checkbox"/> US ARMY <input type="checkbox"/> US AIR FORCE <input type="checkbox"/> US NAVY <input type="checkbox"/> US MARINE CORPS <input type="checkbox"/> US COAST GUARD <input type="checkbox"/> US AIR NATIONAL GUARD | | | |
| PRINT LAST NAME ONLY | | | |
| QUANTITY | PRICE | TOTAL | |
| COPIES TAPE | | | |
| NAMETAPES | | | |
| PLASTIC TAGS | | | |
| BRANCH OF SERVICE TAPES | | | |
| YOUR RETURN ADDRESS LABEL | | SHIPPING & HANDLING | 1.00 |
| NAME _____ | | TOTAL _____ | |
| ADDRESS _____ | | TOTAL _____ | |
| CITY _____ | | TOTAL _____ | |
| STATE _____ ZIP _____ | | TOTAL _____ | |
| MAIL THIS ORDER FORM TO: ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE 1400 WASHINGTON BLVD., STE. 200 FT. MONROE, VA 22034 | | | |

BILLETING OFFICE

Employment Opportunity

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT: 03/11/03

LOCATION: 28 South Street, West 805, Camp Beane, Haverhill, CT

TEL: (800) 691-4314

Front Desk Billing (Hotel) Clerk

Part-time (Up to 20 hours) - \$9.00/hour

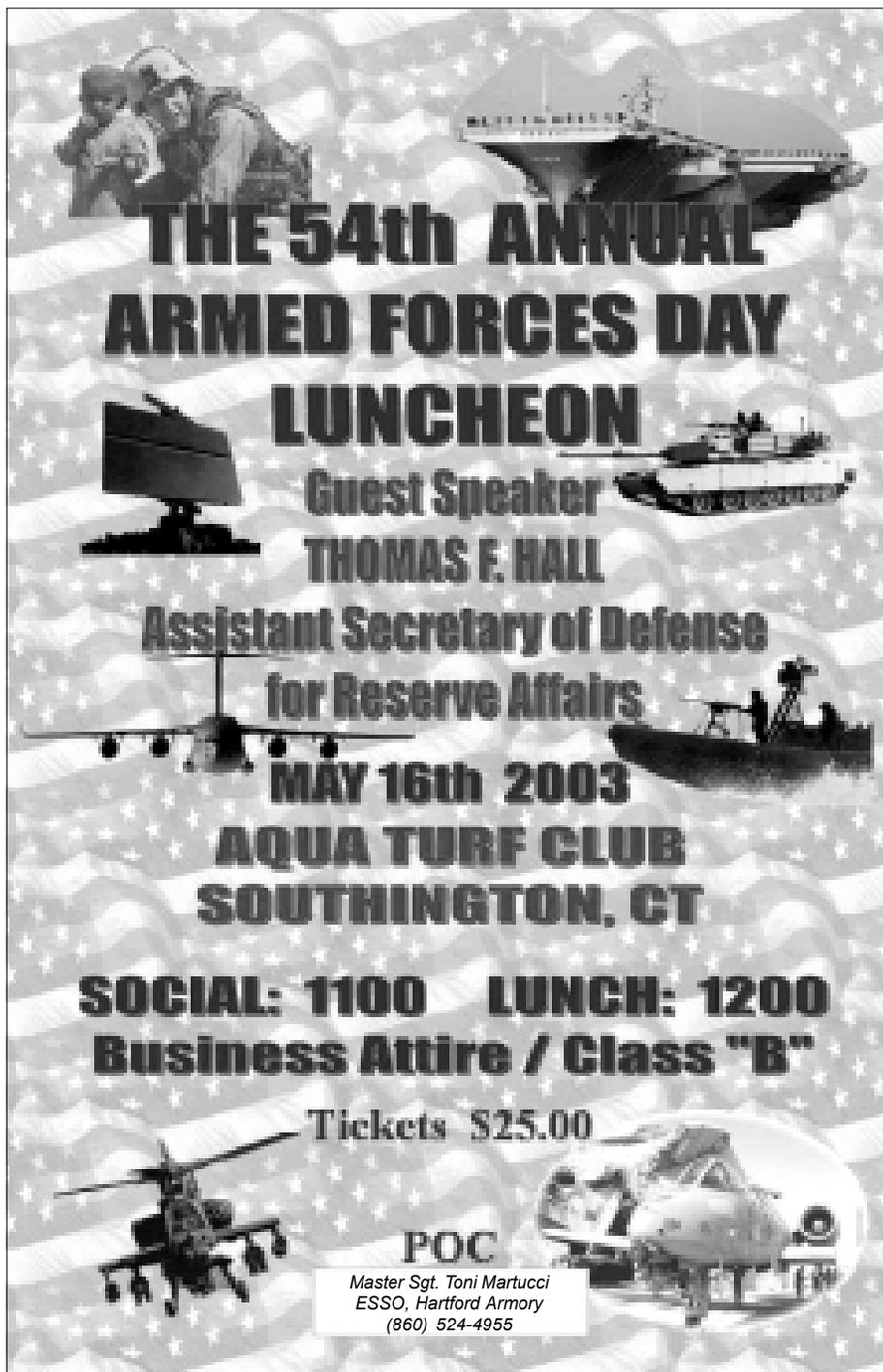
Friday Evening: 3:30pm - 8:30pm.

Saturday: 7:30a.m. - 8:30p.m.

Sunday: 7:30a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Looking for a responsible person (at least 18 years of age) able to work independently. Would be responsible for scheduling billeting usage, checking in/out guests, issuing keys, direct housekeeping priorities and completing minimal documentation.





**THE 54th ANNUAL
ARMED FORCES DAY
LUNCHEON**

**Guest Speaker
THOMAS E. HALL**
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Reserve Affairs

**MAY 16th 2003
AQUA TURF CLUB
SOUTHINGTON, CT**

SOCIAL: 1100 LUNCH: 1200
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Tickets \$25.00

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Master Sgt. Toni Martucci
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WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

CALL 1-800-716-3530

Connecticut's Army National Guard

Coming Events

April

April 19

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

April 19

Easter Eggstravaganza

April 24

102nd Infantry Association Spring Dinner

April 26

OCS Phase 0 begins

April 27

ANCOG & BNCOG Graduation Ceremonies

May

May 11

Mother's Day

May 16

Armed Forces Day Luncheon

May 25

Redleg Ball

May 26

Memorial Day

June

June 14

Army Birthday

In the Next CG

Moms in the Military

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

NCOES Graduation

Air Base Security

Connecticut's New Security Mission

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month previous to publication.

Shipping out



A young couple shares a final farewell before he departs with the 248th Engineer Company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)



Spec. Michael Robinson comforts his girlfriend, Candace Strachman, as he prepares to depart with the 247th Engineer (Well Drilling) Company for Fort Drum, N.Y. (Photo by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)



Staff Sgt. Stephen Pearson gives his wife, Jennifer, and son, Jack, one final hug before departing. Pearson is mobilizing with the 247th Engineer (Well Drilling) Company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)



This sign speaks louder than words as families and friends say good-bye to members of the 248th Engineer Company as they mobilize for Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)



Hands and American flags wave good-bye to members of the 248th Engineer Company as they drive their heavy equipment to their Fort Drum, N.Y. mobilization station. (Photo by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)



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