

Connecticut Guardian

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President visits Connecticut, meets and greets Guardsmen



President George W. Bush reaches over a barrier at the Bradley Air National Guard Base to shake hands with Connecticut Army and Air National Guardsmen during a trip to Connecticut. While the president's visit was not military-related, he took the time to stop and thank the Guardsmen, some who have returned from overseas duty in the war on terrorism, who had gathered to greet him upon his arrival. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

President nominates retired general as CSA

ANGELA YEOH
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

President Bush has nominated retired Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker to be the U.S. Army's new chief of staff, following the retirement of former Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

Schoomaker spent three years as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., before retiring in 2000. He would be the first retired four-star officer ever to be called back to serve as the U.S. Army chief of staff.

In fact, Schoomaker is the first retired general to be called back to active duty with the Joint Chiefs since President John F. Kennedy recalled Gen. Maxwell Taylor in 1962 to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced that the president had nominated Schoomaker as Army chief of staff. Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John M. Keane has served as acting chief of staff since Shinseki's retirement June 11 and will continue in that position until the Senate confirms Schoomaker.

Schoomaker received a bachelor's degree in Education Administration from the University of Wyoming and an MA in Management from Central Michigan University. He was appointed as a second lieutenant in June 1969 and went to the Armor Officer Basic Course.

He served as a reconnaissance platoon leader from January 1970 through April 1971 at Fort Campbell, Ky. He then served as a rifle company commander in Germany through June 1972, and also commanded a troop of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment from April 1973 through June 1974.

Schoomaker next spent 14 months in Korea, where he served as an assistant inspector general for the 2nd Infantry Division and then as a battalion operations officer.

In February 1978, he assumed command of the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

See **SCHOOMAKER** Page 10

A grateful community welcomes home Connecticut's Flying Yankees



Lee Greenwood came to Connecticut to sing his hit, "God Bless the USA" to members of the 103rd Fighter Wing during a welcome home celebration in their honor. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas K. Venclauskas, 103rd Comm. Flight)

STAFF SGT. CAROLYN A. ASELTON
103 FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When the 96.5 TIC FM staff came to Bradley Air National Guard base Sunday, June 8 for the official welcome home celebration for the 103 Fighter Wing they brought seven giant "Wall of Support" banners to be hung on the walls of the main hangar.

The banners had been signed by people around the state with words of encouragement, love, and gratitude for the 300 airmen who deployed to Southwest Asia in support of the war on terrorism. One caption read, "God bless you and thank you all for making this world a safer place. You are all our heroes."

And a hero's welcome they got.

Up-and-coming country singer Ashley Gearing sang the national anthem for the unit members, their loved ones, and visiting dignitaries.

See **WELCOME HOME** Page 14

Up Front with the Adjutant General Surgeon General and AT visits



MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO
ADJUTANT GENERAL

June was a busy and exciting month. On June 8 and 9, the United States Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona visited the state and spent the majority of his time touring Connecticut National Guard facilities. Dr. Carmona is a true friend to the Guard and is no stranger to the military.

Born and raised in New York City, Vice Admiral Carmona dropped out of high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967. While enlisted he received his Army General Equivalency Diploma, joined the Special Forces, ultimately becoming a combat-decorated Vietnam veteran, and began his career in medicine.

Dr. Carmona went on to work in various positions in the medical field and completed a surgical residency at the University of California, San Francisco. He is a fully qualified peace officer with expertise in special operations and emergency preparedness including weapons of mass destruction.

Dr. Carmona brings knowledge, expertise, and experience to the office of the Surgeon General. Displaying a personal commitment to emergency preparedness, Vice Admiral Carmona is truly "Up Front" on today's issues.

It was a great honor and privilege to spend time with this outstanding individual.

June also posed the opportunity to visit Connecticut Guard serviceman conducting Annual Training.

TF Husky was a complete success. The 242nd Engineers, under command and control of the 85th Troop Command, exceeded all expectations on the road project at Stones Ranch Military Reservation.

Despite heavy rainfall during the week, the unit was able to accomplish all goals in completing more than 300 feet of road. The 102nd IN and 143rd FSB performed superbly in support of the TF Husky mission. Soldiers were motivated and morale remained high throughout the operation.

The month ended with a visit to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. to visit the 143rd ASG. After almost two years of planning and preparing, the ASG supported operations to facilitate the deployment, staging, integration, and regeneration of combat power to the 30th eBDE from the North Carolina National Guard.

The ASG coordinated the operation of a Rail Support Area (RSA) and a Logistical Support Area (LSA) to assist in ensuring the BDE did not lose a single day in the exercise due to maintenance problems.

Col. Joseph Perkins and the Group facilitated the offloading of 1944 pieces of equipment from four different states to include North Carolina, West Virginia, South Carolina, and Indiana.

Maj. Gen. William Ingram, the adjutant general of North Carolina, commended the unit for stepping up and providing extended support in backfilling for units slated to participate that deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. An outstanding job to all in the ASG.

On the way back to Connecticut I had the very fortunate opportunity to attend the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy Graduation Ceremony at Fort Bliss, Texas. More than 500 soldiers upheld the high standards of educational excellence and earned the right to join the growing number of Academy graduates.

My personal congratulations are extended to Sgt. Maj. Gregory A. Powell (143rd ASG)

and Sgt. Maj. J.D. Thomas (169th REGT LDR) for their successful completion of the course. Best wishes for continued success in your future careers.

On June 8, I had the opportunity to attend the Air Guard homecoming ceremony. The Air Guard hosted a community-sponsored event that featured Lee Greenwood, who sang his patriotic standards, 'The Great Defenders' and 'God Bless the USA'. Governor Rowland, Representative DeLauro and Attorney General Blumenthal were in attendance in honor of more than 3,000 attendees, consisting of airmen and their families.

The Connecticut Air National Guard deployed personnel and equipment to five overseas locations in January, February, and March of 2003 and approximately 300 returned in May when their role in combat operations was complete. Approximately 100 Security and Air Control personnel remain deployed from the Connecticut Air Guard. Great day for all who attended, detailed preparation was truly a key to the success of the event.

July brings the celebration of Independence Day on the 4th and has special significance as the United States continues its efforts to liberate Iraq and continues to demonstrate its unwillingness to tolerate terrorism against our homeland.

The Connecticut Guard continues to answer the call in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Please join me in remembering and praying for the servicemen and women and their families who continue to uphold the traditions of the Citizen Soldier. God bless you and God bless America.

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Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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Perspectives

What makes a person a good leader?



SENIOR AIRMAN MAUREEN T. SMITH
MUNITIONS SYSTEMS APPRENTICE
103RD MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

He has people that follow him because they respect and like him rather than fear him. They really care about the people under them, sincerely take an interest in them.



PFC. JOSEPH MONTANA
FORCE PROTECTION
STATE AREA COMMAND

A good leader is someone who looks out for their troops, who looks out for their (the troops) well being before their own.



SPEC. GUIDO CONSTANT
BRIDGE CREWMEMBER
250th ENGINEER BATTALION

A leader is someone who knows and satisfies what their soldiers need.



MASTER SGT. TERESA GROMELSKI
FLIGHT MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR
103RD OPERATIONS SUPPORT FLIGHT

Someone who will actually listen to their people. Someone who is open-minded and fair.



STAFF SGT. GENE TEWKSBERRY
SQUAD LEADER
250th ENGINEER BATTALION

Decisiveness, knowledge, integrity and the ability to motivate makes a good leader.



SGT. WILLIAM MELANSON
BRIDGE CREW CHIEF
250th ENGINEER BATTALION

Someone who leads by example, who believes in leading from the front.

250th Engineers arrive home after preparing for deployment

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65th PCH

The gymnasium had banners of red, white and blue hanging from the walls and donated gifts lining the tables. More than 100 family members, servicemembers from the Army National Guard, Air National Guard and dignitaries attend the morning event to congratulate soldiers.

A special homecoming ceremony was held for members of the 250th Engineer Company on Saturday June 6 at 10:00 AM on the drill shed floor at the State Armory in Hartford.

Ray Dunaway, WTIC radio's morning announcer hosted the event.

Maj. Gen William A. Cugno, adjutant general, began the festivities by praising the actions of the 250th Engineer Company on their five-month deployment to federal service at Fort Eustis, Va.

Cugno explained the unique circumstances that prevented the 250th from participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The Iraqis simply did not blow up enough bridges," said Cugno.

The 250th Engineer Company is trained and prepared to build bridges over obstacles and Gen. Tommy Franks, U.S. Central Command, decided not to deploy the 250th, according to Cugno.

Joe Rohfritch, an aide representing U.S. Rep. Nancy L. Johnson read a speech written by Johnson to express gratitude to the 250th.

"They are helping to ensure a peaceful future for the United States and the rest of the world and their efforts must never be forgotten," said Rohfritch.

However, while the men and women of the 250th stood in formation listening to guest speakers, many began to reflect on their recent experiences while on active duty.

It all began when the 250th was alerted in January and went on orders for Title 10, (federal service) according to Sgt. 1st Class Trevor R. Evans, 250th Engineer Company, medium girder bridges, readiness/operations noncommissioned officer.

The unit was then transported, equipment and personnel, to Fort Eustis for weeks of training and validation.

The training consisted of Common Task Tests (CTT) such as handling enemy personnel and equipment, adjusting indirect fire and locating a target grid coordinates.

The training schedule included a full day of events. Wakeup started every weekday morning at 0530 followed by physical training at 0600.

"I'm a better soldier after going through five months of training, I understand the unit better as well," said Sgt. John D. Araugo, 250th Engineer Company, bridge crewman.

Working as a bridge crew operator requires a lot of heavy lifting. It is up to the individual soldier to always stay in good physical condition, according to Evans.

Members of the 250th Engineer Company

worked daily until 1800. Other days, the company would continue training with night vision goggles or practice nighttime fire far into the night.

Some young soldiers reflected on their recent training as they were preparing to go to combat for the first time to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We took the classes and everything so seriously during all the training because we were really ready for war," according to Pvt. Curtis G. Richards, 250th Engineer Company, bridge crewman.

Throughout the training at Fort Eustis, the 250th was prepared to leave for the Persian Gulf but was told to stand down on numerous occasions. Finally, after five months of training, the unit was ordered to return to home.

Some soldiers were stressed with the possibility of going into combat but others had a way of dealing with it.

"I was a little nervous but I overcame it by gaining confidence while training with my unit," said Spc. Kristin L. McMaster, 250th Engineer Company, logistics specialist.

However, despite the long days of training that included body aches and lack of sleep, it all seemed minor for one 15-year veteran currently serving in the active guard. Evans said he learned a valuable lesson about life while serving at Fort Eustis.

"I will not take my family for granted. I was gone for five months and I really missed them," said Evans.



Soldiers of the 250th Engineering Company stand in formation during ceremonies welcoming them after their deployment to Fort Eustis, Va. The 250th is a medium girder bridge company and had gone to Fort Eustis to be validated for service in Iraq, but due to the short nature of the war and the fact that bridge destruction was not as great as had been anticipated, the unit was released from active duty and sent home. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)

America's Chosen

You're in a land unlike your own, thoughts of loved ones you have left at home.

Your hopes are that it won't be long till this and all wars will soon be gone.

But till that time here you are in a foreign land taken so far.

A choice you have made to put yourself in harms way.

Your journey has been determined, but as of yet not your fate for that is uncertain.

On land in the air and out at sea, it is you who guards us and keeps us free.

The evil you have sought will soon be at your door. You have fears and doubt your bravery, believe me it is one that can't be beat.

With a nation and a people behind you there will be no defeat.

We'll say a prayer every day for your safe return, to a land of freedom family and friends you left without delay, to put yourself in harms way.

The place you call home that seems so far and distant, this land you pledge to protect and defend will be here waiting on that you can depend. All that you hold true and sacred and believe with all your heart, this is why you there to give it all you've got.

Gary F. Brooks

Connecticut Guardian, staff receive awards

The Connecticut Guardian received second place in the tabloid newspaper category of the 2002 National Guard Bureau Public Affairs competition. This was the first year the paper was entered.

Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski received first place in Feature Writing and third place in Photojournalism.

Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton place first in the Senior Level Writing category for the second year in a row.

The writing and photography categories have the soldiers competing against all National Guardsmen throughout the country, while the publication categories are based on size and type of publication.



Joint Task Force Husky provides sailors while improving



Sgt. Brian N. Corson of STARC, makes his way up a hill carrying a weed whacker. Corson was one of many STARC soldiers tasked with clearing terrain surrounding land navigation points at Stone's Ranch during Joint Task Force Husky. (Photo by Sgt. Greg Harrison, 65th PCH)



Spec. Tessifya E. Dickenson of 143 Area Support Group dumps a load of gravel into a dump truck during Joint Task Force Husky at Stone's Ranch. Dickenson was one of many soldiers doing cross training in a different military occupation. His regular Guard job is light vehicle mechanic. (Photo by Sgt. Greg Harrison, 65th PCH)



Sgt. Laura H. Cruz and Sgt. Brian N. Corson, soldiers from the State Area Command, plot grid coordinates of the Land Navigation points in order to find and then clear them as a mission of Joint Taskforce Husky. (Photo by Spec. Joseph Waller, 65th PCH)



training for soldiers, airmen, state training facilities



Sgt. GREGORY HARRISON
65th PCH

The function of a combat engineer is multipurpose in nature: to build roads, bridges, and buildings, clear mines and booby traps, and to devise and detonate various demolitions to hinder the enemy.

Training for these kinds of tasks cannot be fully undertaken in a classroom or armory. Engineers must take to the field with their equipment in order to learn and improve their engineering skills.

The Connecticut Army National Guard has just such an opportunity for any engineering unit in any branch of the United States military, whether it is an active or reserve unit.

Joint Task Force Husky is an engineering skills training program held annually at Camp Rowland and Stone's Ranch. The mission of J T F

Husky is to provide engineering units with hands-on training opportunities while enhancing Connecticut National Guard training facilities.

"We provide training opportunities for many engineers throughout the country," according to Col. Joseph T. Wojtasik, Commanding Officer of Joint Task Force Husky.

"Our goal is to build facilities that are attractive to as many units as possible."

Master Sgt. Richard Orzel, who is part of Operations for Joint Task Force Husky echoes this sentiment.

"We're trying to promote our facilities so that other units want to come here. We feel there is great diversity in training for the units. Whatever training they want to do, we'll support it to the best of our ability."

Joint Task Force Husky,

which, during this fiscal year, lasts from March to September, consists of eight phases in which different units are tasked with achieving specific engineering goals.

Among the units participating this year are the 181st Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron from the Indiana Air National Guard, who has been tasked with working on shower/latrine facilities at Stone's Ranch and continuing masonry construction at the new MOU (Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain) village known as Huskyville.

Training concurrently for a week with the 181st Fighter Wing CES will be the 103rd Fighter Wing CES from Windsor Locks, Conn.. Their mission will be identical to the 181st's mission.

Another unit scheduled to participate this year is the 160th Engineer Company from the Delaware Army National Guard that is slated to continue construction of Road Charlie.

Road Charlie is one of the main roads traversed by units at Stone's Ranch. Connecticut's own 242nd Engineer Company also contributed to the construction of Road Charlie, laying down about 550 feet of gravel road. This

was accomplished with a less than full strength company as many sappers of the 242nd Engineers were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We had to use many internal assets to keep the mission going," said Sgt 1st Class Ray Beausoleil of Operations Staff for JTF Husky.

One of those internal assets was STARC (State Area Command) soldiers.

These soldiers were tasked with a dual objective: to train in land navigation and to clear overgrowth surrounding land navigation markers.

In addition, several individual members were cross-trained in the operation of the five-ton dump trucks and loaders.

"This training has been good motivation. We've experienced a lot of changes. There's been a lot of cohesiveness and flexibility. We've had some big time cross-training. It's taught me that I have to accept change and just move on," according to Sgt. Laura H. Cruz of STARC.



Spec. Tessifya E. Dickenson of 143rd Area Support Group digs in with a MW24C Loader to ready a load of gravel for dumping. Dickenson was cross trained in the operation of the loader while assigned to Joint Task Force Husky at Stone's Ranch. (Photo by Sgt. Greg Harrison, 65th PCH)

Using internal resources to accomplish the mission

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PANCO

Joint Task Force Husky is an engineering initiative that has been going on for the past several years.

The project brings together Army and Air National Guard units and reserve units from several branches of service to upgrade and modernize the training facilities at Camp



Members of STARC spent part of their annual training refurbishing The Point at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)

Rowland and Stone's Ranch Military Reservation.

With the current deployments of Guard and Reserve component units in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, JTF Husky was at risk this year.

"Several units scheduled to come to Connecticut to participate in Task Force Husky had to pull out because they were deployed or other engineer units in their home states were deployed and they needed to remain at home," said Col. Joseph Wojtasik, Task Force commander for the Connecticut Army National Guard. "We still had missions that needed to be accomplished and we had to become a bit more resourceful."

That's where members of the State Area Command (STARC) stepped in to help out.

Earlier in the year, Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's adjutant general, had ordered that all members of STARC would spend their two week's of annual training on a Joint Task Force Husky rotation in a support role. Not only would this provide the support staff that the task force needed, but it would also give members of STARC an opportunity to lend their MOS expertise to a large mission involving hundreds of soldiers, airmen and sailors from around the country.

However, cross-training became the buzz word for the first two rotations of STARC personnel due to the large number of engineer units that were forced to pull out of

the mission.

Master Sgt. Ray Beausoleil, one of the project NCOICs for JTF Husky was a key player in the transformation of STARC's role in the mission. He cross-trained several of the soldiers in order to get the job done.

Without the engineer units on site, STARC had no troops to support.

"We used our internal resources to accomplish the mission," said Beausoleil.

Spec. Mariah Brown, a fulltime logistics specialist with the state headquarters, was one of the soldiers cross-trained.

"I was asked to cross-train," she said. Brown was cross-trained on the operation of the 5-ton dump truck and spent much of her two weeks of annual training operating the vehicle at Stone's Ranch, hauling stone from the airstrip to Road Charlie and the MOUT site.

"I wasn't too nervous about it," said Brown. "I already knew how to drive a standard. What I was nervous about was going uphill. I've seen people stopping on the hills to shift gears, and sometimes they would start rolling back downhill, or jerk the truck or stall."

Brown said it took about two days for her to become trained and comfortable with operating the 5-ton. She said the whole experience was great for her and for the unit.

"We really came together a lot," said

Brown. "I've never really worked with a lot of these people before. It was a really good experience. It worked really well."

"I think we all realized we had to do this. We had to come together to make this work, to support the mission without the engineers being here," said Brown.

While Brown and other members of her team were transporting the road material, several other STARC soldiers were out in the woods finding and clearing land navigation points.

"Some of these points haven't been used or found in years," said Sgt. Dave Robertson, a computer specialist in the DOIM. "The points were so grown over, you couldn't see them."

For several days, the land navigation team would load up with water, safety glasses, work gloves and weed whackers and head out on their daily stroll through swamps, briar patches, thickets, poison ivy and heavy mountain laurel, all in their quest for land navigation points.

Over the course of three weeks, the team was able to find and clear all but three of the many dozen points on the property.

And while the road and land navigation missions went on, other soldiers joined members of the Training Site Command in tearing out the floor boards of the deck at The Point, putting in joist hangers, replacing the decking and painting the exterior trim of the building.

Guard artist paints rocks at Stone's Ranch

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PANCO

A rock garden is growing at Stone's Ranch Military Reservation.

The garden began earlier this year with two rocks painted by engineer units who had participated in Joint Task Force Husky and has doubled in size thanks to the artistic talents of Sgt. Delores Burpee, a senior medic with the 118th Medical Battalion who was assigned to JTF Husky during annual training.

"I was at a staff meeting for Husky and was talking to Col. (Joseph) Wojtasik about Maine," said Burpee. "He has a place in Maine and I was telling him about the oil paintings I've done of Maine. He asked me if I would be interested in painting a rock with the Joint Task Force Husky logo on it and I said sure."

The rock garden is located along the main entrance route to Stone's Ranch leading into the Milk House, or Range Control building. It is hoped that other units that come in for their JTF Husky rotations will also paint a rock to commemorate their participation.

"NTC and other national training sites have rock gardens that have been growing for years," said Wojtasik, task force commander. "Why not have one here?"

One of the Air Guard units that came in last year began painting their own rock, but, unable to get it finished before the end of their rotation, took it home with them and plan on bringing it back this year, said Wojtasik.

Burpee said it took her three days worth of work to paint the first rock, the Joint Task Force Husky logo.

"It rained all the time," she said.

Burpee has painting since she was a child, she said, and now sells many of her paintings. In fact, it was her painting that brought her into the National Guard.

"I came into the Guard to take advantage of the tuition waiver program because I wanted to become an art teacher," said Burpee. "I ended up becoming a nurse because being a starving artist didn't appeal to me."

The Guard has been a great career for her said Burpee.

"The Army has brought me everything good in my life. It has given me a career, professionalism, camaraderie, friends, confidence and my husband. It has given me all kinds of real personal attributes," said Burpee.

Burpee has been in the National Guard for 14 years, serving in medical positions in various units throughout the state.

She says her favorite thing to paint is New England landscapes. She sells her paintings mostly by word of mouth and by hanging them in a coffee shop in Bristol. She also works on commission.

When she finished the JTF Husky rock at Stone's Ranch, Wojtasik was pleased enough with it that he asked her to paint one for the Sea Bees who have been working at Camp Rowland and Stone's Ranch.

Something she readily agreed to do. She now has two rocks in the growing rock garden.



Two of the new rocks that are the beginnings of a rock garden at Stone's Ranch were painted by Sgt. Delores Burpee during her off-duty time at annual training. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)

Sea Bees head inland to Camp Rowland; provide engineering expertise to Joint Task Force Husky

Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton
State Senior PA NCO

The Sea Bees have landed!

They've landed at Camp Rowland and will be returning in August to Stone's Ranch Military Reservation.

They are not invading the two National Guard training sites, but they are preparing for an invasion by others...sort of.

The U.S. Navy Sea Bees, part of the 202nd CBMU stationed at the Groton Sub Base, are all reservists who have come to Camp Rowland to take part in an engineering project known as Joint Task Force Husky.

The invasion the Sea Bees are helping the National Guard prepare for, is the invasion of soldiers and airmen who will be using the facility for training.

"With the Sea Bees joining us, we have truly become a 'joint' operation," said Col. Joseph Wojtasik, Task Force commander for the Connecticut Army National Guard. "For the past few years we have had Army and Air National Guard engineering units from around the state and country come here for real-world, hands-on engineering training. Now we add in the Sea Bees and we become even more inclusive and joint."

Joint Task Force Husky is an initiative that began several years ago to upgrade and modernized the training facilities at Camp Rowland and Stone's Ranch. Projects include road upgrades, parking lots, latrine



Petty Officer 2nd Class Troy Jacobson shoots a grade while Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Harrison looks on. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)

and shower facilities, and what many term the jewel of the future, the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site, or "Husky Village."

For the past several months the Sea Bees have been working on a parking lot at Camp Rowland. The lot will be used for the future Col. Robert Nett Leadership Hall.

The Sea Bees have been spending their weekend drills on the project doing such things as cutting the ground, removing topsoil, laying in the new materials and grading and rolling the new surface.

"It's good experience for a lot of the younger guys," said Petty Officer 1st class

"Just give us a mission to do, and we'll get it done."

Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Ferreira

Steven Ferreira, equipment operator first class and operations chief for the project. "We're

getting in a lot of equipment operations work. It's been a great tasking project for us. We look forward to more work with the Army on more projects."

The Sea Bees will be returning to Camp Rowland and Stone's Ranch in August for their annual training period.

During that two weeks, the Sea Bees will be working on Road Charlie at Stone's Ranch, improving the surface and widening the road.

Sgt. 1st Class Ed Beale, the Connecticut Army National Guard Facilities Maintenance Office engineer who designed the parking lot said he couldn't be more pleased with the work of the Sea Bees.

"Their work has probably saved about \$20 thousand for us," he said. "They have been here on their drill weekends since April and have even come in on off weekends to accomplish their mission."

According to Ferreira, the Sea Bees have been working with Lt. Col. Wayne Kowal, the National Guard's Training Site Command (TSC) commander to get this project off and running. Future projects are being coordinated even while the current projects are ongoing.

During one weekend of training, some of the Sea Bees learned that members of the State Area Command (STARC) and TSC had spent a great part of the weekend ripping the old deck floor boards off the building known as "The Point" at Camp Rowland.

They joked that if they had known, they would have brought their equipment over and torn the deck off for the soldiers.

"We'd love to work on the MOUT site or other building sites," said Ferreira. "We like projects such as the parking lot and road work we've done, but we like working on vertical projects, too. Just give us a mission to do, and we'll get it done."



Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Ferreira and CPO2 Bruce Fournier take measurements to check for level. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)



Petty Officer 2nd Class Bruce Fournier ties a line to a stake to measure for level in a parking lot job at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)



Using the grader to level the surface of the new parking lot at Camp Rowland is Petty Officer 2nd Class Shane Shilosky. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)

Small in size, unlimited in capabilities:

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65th PCH

Connecticut Guard members seeking to protect against terrorism have an opportunity in the 14th Civil Support Team (Light).

The 22-member unit is small, but its capabilities are not. Although the team is designed to respond in the event that a WMD attack occurs, it can actually help deter terrorist attacks by being well prepared. The deterrence is a scientifically sophisticated application of the concept of "peace through strength."

The unit is in the process of acquiring some of the most specialized assets available in the fight against weapons of mass destruction (WMD). These include individual skills and unit equipment not widely available in the civilian sector. In order to put this equipment to work, the Connecticut Guard needs soldiers and airmen who are willing to become some of the best trained among the USA's fighting forces.

Potential changes for the unit could have a dramatic impact on its members, and a positive impact on Connecticut's state of readiness against WMD. The 14th could be going from a "Light" team to a "Heavy" team.

CST candidates are traditional members of the Army Guard and of the Air Guard who are in good physical condition and are interested in completing hundreds of hours of diverse emergency response training. Such training would be difficult and very expensive to obtain in the civilian sector.

In addition to seven officer positions, there are 15 positions available for enlisted members, none of which is below E-5. Soldiers below the rank of E-5 will be considered, and the CST will work on promoting qualified soldiers. The makeup of the CST is an example of the state Guard's plan to build a joint command for the Army Guard and Air Guard.

"This is a perfect example because it's a joint operation, but it also has a deployable mission and the right type of sophisticated equipment needed to respond to a WMD incident," said Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno.

With that sophisticated equipment, CST members are available to protect their home state.

"This is emblematic of what the National Guard is about," said Lt. Col. Paul Ciesinski, commander of the 14th CST. "We have our

federal mission to respond to external threats, such as al Qaeda. Our federal mission supports our federal Constitution, whereas our state mission supports our state constitution.

"For the typical infantry or engineer unit, the domestic mission seems to be secondary to the federal mission. For this team, the missions are equal. When we talk

about WMD the domestic threat is as important a consideration as the foreign threat,"

Ciesinski said. "It makes sense that this asset is in the National Guard."

CSTs are found in every state and four U.S. territories.

Most of them are "Heavy" units, or fully manned with 22AGR Army & Air Guardsmen.

Every Federal Emergency Management Agency region has at least one of these

teams. The remaining teams are "Light," meaning they are staffed with traditional Guardsmen and have not been fully equipped. Five CSTs recently made the transition from "Light" to "Heavy," filling all of their positions with AGR personnel and receiving all equipment, training, and certification.

"Traditionally, our threat is not on our soil. This unit responds to the non-traditional threat. That's why it's important that this team be here and be ready," said Sgt. Maj. Tom Donlon, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Director of Military Support.

While a CST may not have the capability to detect and thwart terrorist attacks, it does provide an option to minimize the hazards presented by potential attacks using WMD. This capability makes it less likely that terrorists will invest the time, resources and effort to carry out such attacks.

"We don't prevent the threat directly. But by being prepared to mitigate the effects of a WMD attack we reduce the payoff. If a terrorist is not going to get the desired payoff, then it's less likely that he will go through with such an attack," Ciesinski said.

"By providing civil authorities with the

analysis and information they need in real time, (the CST) allows the first responders to more efficiently mitigate the effects of a WMD attack," Donlon said.

The extensive capabilities, high-tech equipment and quality-trained personnel of a CST are not available to first responders in the private sector, said Ciesinski, an experienced police sergeant in his civilian career. The price, complexity and training are beyond the affordability of a municipality. This includes the nation's largest cities with their vast emergency response resources and despite the consideration that large population centers are potentially the most likely terrorist targets, Ciesinski said.

"If you're in this unit, you will get training from the best subject-matter experts in the world," said Ciesinski, adding that one such expert is Dr. Ken Alibek, author of the book "Biohazard: The Chilling True Story of the Largest Covert Biological Weapons Program in the World—Told from Inside by the Man Who Ran It"

"The training CST soldiers receive is phenomenal in its intensity and sophistication. What is beyond the reach of municipalities is commonplace for the CST," Ciesinski said.

The Unified Command Suite

In many emergencies, standard telephone service and cellular phone service will be dramatically reduced – if not completely unavailable. The CST's Unified Command Suite possesses direct-link satellite capabilities that will allow team members to communicate across the country, even without cellular service. During such emergencies, CST members will be a priority for access. Civilian entities, including television crews that use satellites, will be bumped in favor of such a UCS.

In the event of a possible WMD attack, a CST's "survey team" will don protective gear and enter an area that might be contaminated. Operations team members will gather samples and bring them back to a Mobile

Analytical Laboratory System (MALS).

The CST's equipment "can identify a suspected WMD substance within minutes. Our method can break down a substance into singular parts per million," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Straite, Reconnaissance NCO.

"The Nuclear Medical Science Officer receives the sample in the MALS, analyzes the substance, and compares the results with documented known substances. Then he takes that data, encrypts it, and sends it

digitally, in real-time, to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC then analyzes the results and confirms or denies the substance. It is critical (for an incident commander) to know immediately, in case an area, such as a residential neighborhood, needs to be evacuated. We provide the incident commander with immediate information" Straite said.

How the CST does this is represented in the sophistication of its equipment. The MALS is digitally linked to the UCS, so it can transmit an electronic rendition of a microscopic sample. A sample can be recorded with the highest quality video and audio capabilities available. The quality is so good, "it's like watching digital television," Ciesinski said, adding that the UCS has satellite television access, in order to monitor broadcast news reporting from various sources.

The UCS can make a real-time link to the CDC and whatever other organizations whose expertise might be needed to identify any potential contaminants. CST members work closely with many different entities with various areas of expertise, one of which is a Nuclear Emergency Search Team, as portrayed in the film "The Peacemaker." Another specialized team is the CBIRF, or Chemical Biological Incident Reaction Force, comprised of Marine Corps assets out of Camp Lejeune. The CST advises the civilian first responders on the best way to respond to a WMD incident. It assesses a WMD incident to determine the type and quality of an agent, and then facilitates the follow-on Department of Defense support. CST members do this through the incident commander, usually a fire or police official.

"Guard members respect the dangers

presented by WMD, but don't have an irrational fear of them,"

said Ciesinski, adding that even the NBC warfare training that Guard members receive in basic training gives a head start in understanding the capabilities of a CST.

"We know that we can go into a contaminated area,

"Traditionally, our threat is not on our soil. This unit responds to the non-traditional threat. That's why it's important that this team be here and be ready."

Sgt. Maj. Tom Donlon

do our job and get out safely. This is what makes it less likely that a WMD will be used., if terrorists don't get the desired result, it's less likely that they will go through with an attack. That's because they won't get the "bang for the buck."

The CST consists of 22 members, seven officers and 15 enlisted. The 14th CST (Light) recently sent members to Kansas to learn how that state's team transitioned from Light to Heavy. Every state has a CST. On



CST looking for dedicated members

September 11, 2001, Connecticut's team sent members to Albany, NY, to assist that state's SEMO, State Emergency Management Office, while their Heavy Team went to ground zero. In the past 18 months, New York's team has deployed into Manhattan multiple times for survey operations.

Other states have deployed their teams for possible WMD incidents. The team based in Washington State recently responded to an anthrax scare. After the horrible re-entry accident involving the Space Shuttle Columbia, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Florida, were some of the teams used to mitigate the hazardous effects of the pieces on the ground.

The lowest rank on the team is E-5. But, the unit will accept lower-ranked soldiers and will work to promote them. With positions open to Army and Air Guard members, the promotion systems of the respective services will not be applied. Promotions in the CST will be at the discretion of the commander.

Each individual must complete an average of 550 hours of individual training. Some assignments require more training than others. After all unit individuals are trained, the unit goes through a collective validation process.

"The selection board process will be challenging and focus on the overall individual, not just on qualifications," Donlon said. Members will have to meet the requirements of a Chapter 2 physical, the same type of physical given to prospective new recruits.

Members must also pass the OSHA Respiratory Protection Program, which is a "pulmonary function test, in order to assure that an individual can safely wear respiratory

protection for an extended period of time," Ciesinski said.

Currently, the 14th CST has openings available for M-Day soldiers and airmen. When the team goes from Light to Heavy, full-time, AGR positions will be authorized.

The 14th CST plans to hold a two-day

open house this summer to allow anyone interested to view and try out the equipment, and to talk to the well-trained professionals who use the equipment. One day would be on a weekend, in order to accommodate traditional Guard members. The other would be a weekday, for full-time

Guard members interested in pursuing a new career path – when full-time CST positions become available.

If interested in the CST and the open house, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Michael Straite at (860) 524-4951 or at michael.straite@ct.ngb.army.mil.

WMD-CST (Light) Make Up
Light Capability for WMD Response
Specializing in Non Technical Analysis and Mass Decontamination

CMD SECTION OPERATIONS SECTION COMMS SECTION ADMIN & LOG SECTION
 MASS CASUALTY MED MGMT SURVEY & DECON CMD SURVEY & MASS DECON TEAM

Governor Rowland appointed to Homeland Security Panel

WASHINGTON, D.C. - United States Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge has announced the appointment of Governor John G. Rowland and twelve other national leaders as members of the State and Local Officials Senior Advisory Committee to the President's Homeland Security Council.

"I am grateful that these accomplished and experienced citizens are willing to serve and provide valuable insights on critical homeland security issues," said Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge. "By bringing together members from diverse public and private sector backgrounds, these members will provide recommendations that will help DHS more effectively integrate our nation's effort to make the homeland more secure."

The purpose of this committee is to provide the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council with advice on improving

national security efforts from experts representing state and local government.

"I am truly honored by the confidence that President Bush and Secretary Ridge have shown in me by way of appointment to this very important advisory committee," said Rowland. "I will do my best to represent the views of not only Connecticut, but first responders from across our great nation. Nothing is more important than the security of our nation."

In August of 2001, Rowland set the standard for many states by creating his own Domestic Preparedness Senior Steering Council to advise him on terrorism response issues and a Division of Protective Services within the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, the forerunner of the current Division of Homeland Security. The Division of Homeland Security now includes special units dealing with intelligence gathering, critical

infrastructure protection, and grants management. Connecticut has also created a State Anti-terrorism Task Force to better coordinate information with local law enforcement agencies and is developing Urban Search and Rescue and Disaster Medical Response Teams.

Connecticut has secured over \$36.5 million to date in federal homeland security funding with a large percentage of the funding being used to purchase response equipment for local first responders. Connecticut has obligated approximately 80 percent of all Department of Homeland Security equipment grant funding received to date.

"I'm extremely proud of our efforts on behalf of Connecticut's dedicated first responders," said Rowland. "Our focus has been on giving them the tools they need and not overburdening municipalities with administrative requirements. However, this

is much more work to be done. My service on this committee will help keep local needs at the forefront of the national homeland security agenda."

The State and Local Senior Advisory Committee also includes representatives from the National Governors Association, the Council of State Governments, the United States Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the International City-County Managers Association.

Governor Michael Leavitt of Utah will serve as chair of the Advisory Committee.

Rowland is expected to be formally sworn in to the Advisory Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting in October. Effective immediately, he will participate in all committee business and teleconferences.

Fighter Wing to undergo reorganization

MAJ. GEORGE WORRALL III
103rd FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 103rd Fighter Wing and all other wings in the Air Force are being reorganized into a new wing structure.

Summarized below is the new structure from the 38-page Combat Wing Reorganization Plan 03-01 (CWO P-Plan), dated April 4, 2003. The changes follow a Chief of Staff of the Air Force Logistics Review or "CLR," which began in 1999. The CLR resulted in initiatives to enhance expeditionary capabilities and standardize operations across the Air Force, to include the Air National Guard.

The new structure will change the 103rd Fighter Wing by:

1. Assigning all aircraft maintenance personnel now in the Operations and Logistics Groups to a Maintenance Group (MXG);
2. Merging the Supply and Transportation Squadrons into a Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS);
3. Placing Logistics Plans into the new LRS, and
4. Putting the new LRS and Contracting into the existing Support Group to form a new group named Mission Support Group (MSG).

The stated CSAF vision is that groups in

our wing will focus on the essential core capabilities as listed by Group.

Operations Group: Activities will focus on planning and executing air and space power. Commanders in the operations group are charged with leading their units in combat. The AF and ANG have recognized the emerging necessity to more closely integrate tactical skills with execution at the operational level of war. Operations Group Commanders will be increasingly involved in planning and training for the operational level of war.

Maintenance Group: Aging fleets and years of resource shortfalls require increased attention to the balance of sortie production and health of our fleets. This makes maintenance of our air and space weapons systems a core competency and requires career maintenance professionals able to develop the same level of skill and proficiency demanded of our operations, mission support and medical professionals.

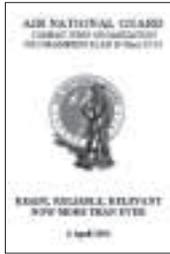
Mission Support Group: The Air National

Guard will develop a career path for commanders who understand the full scope of home station employment/sustainment and deployment, beddown, and sustainment at contingency locations: Crisis Actions, UTC preparation, etc.

Medical Squadron/Group: Medical support to expeditionary, rapid reaction contingencies and humanitarian missions is a core competency. The 4-tier mission of the Air National Guard Medical Service is to provide a structure of personnel to support the current and future Operation Plans of the Expeditionary Air Force, steady state operations, State Mission Support (natural and manmade disasters) and the medical needs of ANG bases and Air Wings to include maintaining a fit and ready force.

In summary, the Air National Guard will standardize its wing structure through the organizational changes to focus each group within the wing on their core capabilities to improve combat capability.

The goal of the CWO P-plan is to convert all ANG wings by September 30, 2003. The 103rd Fighter Wing will begin the new structure this month. Look for more guidance about how your duty section, squadron, group and office symbol will be affected in the coming weeks.



Happy



4th of July

Schoomaker nominated as next CSA

From Page 1

Then in August of 1981, he attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

From October 1983 until February 1984, he was in Beirut, Lebanon, as part of the DoD Commission investigating a terrorist incident there after a vehicle loaded with explosives ran a road block, killing U.S. Marines in their barracks.

Schoomaker attended the National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., from August 1988 to June 1989. Then he commanded the Combat Applications Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg. He next served as the assistant division commander, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, from July 1992 to July 1993.

Schoomaker then served as deputy director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization for the Army at the Pentagon through July 1994.

He commanded the Joint Special Operations Command, United States Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, through August of 1996. Then he became commanding general of the United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg until October 1997.

In November 1997, he became the commander in chief of the joint United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, where he served until retiring.

DOD starts secure Internet registration and voting demonstration for 2004 election

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), in conjunction with several states and counties, has begun conducting a large Internet registration and voting demonstration for the 2004 election. This Congressionally mandated project is called SERVE, which stands for Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment.

Thousands of absentee uniformed services personnel, their dependents, and overseas U.S. citizens will have the opportunity to register to vote and cast their ballots from any Windows-based computer with Internet access, anywhere in the world. County election officials will use the SERVE system to receive voter registration applications, provide ballots to voters, and accept voted ballots. These officials will use their existing election administration systems to process registrations and ballots.

"Security is everyone's first question about Internet voting, so we made security the driving factor in the SERVE system design," said FVAP Director Polli Brunelli.

"We are working closely with state and local election officials to ensure that the integrity of the electoral process is maintained."

States currently expected to participate in SERVE are Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Washington.

The SERVE project is the latest in a series of technology initiatives undertaken by FVAP as part of its mission to improve access to the polls for uniformed services personnel and overseas American citizens. A small-scale proof of concept pilot, Voting Over the Internet, was successfully conducted for the 2000 election. In that experiment, 84 citizens located in 21 states and 11 countries returned ballots to jurisdictions in Florida, South Carolina, Texas and Utah. This was the first time that binding votes were cast over the Internet for federal, state and local offices. The new SERVE system will build on the knowledge and experience FVAP gained in this groundbreaking and highly successful project.

Brunelli said that all eligible absentee uniformed services personnel and U.S. citizens overseas are encouraged to use SERVE to register and vote in 2004 by logging on to www.SERVEUSA.gov

The Federal Voting Assistance Program is an element of the Department of Defense.

Additional information on FVAP is available at www.fvap.gov

Attention Soldiers, Airmen and Families The Connecticut Guardian wants your photos!

If you have photos you wish to share with the rest of our Guard family, we would like to publish them in the Guardian.

We are looking for photos of soldiers and airmen who are deployed either relaxing or working. We are looking for photos of family members at home or at play. We are looking for photos of families packing care packages to send to their loved ones.

We will print them in the Guardian as space allows so they can be seen and shared by Connecticut Soldiers, Airmen and families around the world.

Please e-mail your photos to ctguardian@ct.ngb.army.mil

Flying Nomads discuss living conditions, workload

(Editor's Note: Members of Company G, 104th Aviation Regiment are currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They have a website established where interested family members and friends can get updates on what they are doing. The address is: www.flynomads.com. The following is excerpted from the May 30, 2003 entry and is printed as it appears on the website with some locations deleted for security.)



bright (brite) adj. 1. shining with light 2. brilliant in color or sound; vivid 3. lively; cheerful 4. mentally quick; clever 5. favorable or hopeful – bright'ly adv. – bright'ness n

Shining with light is a great description of our living conditions here in Qatar. We are now approximately 350 miles closer to the equator and apparently the sun is 1,000 times stronger!

Our living tents are completely dark during "nappy time" until we turn on the interior lighting. Because the sun is so bright and the sand is so white, the moment one steps outside into the daylight, they are sent scurrying back into the tent as if they have just been poked in the eye with hot pokers. Even with sunglasses, which are almost required attire to go to the showers, you still have to squint because of the brightness.

Many of us have commented that one of the easiest jobs in the world would be an Air Force Weather Forecaster here at Al Udeid AFB in Qatar. The daily forecast is constant: "Hello Mr. and Mrs. America and all her ships at sea, this is SGT Justin Paul bringing you the weather forecast. Today will be clear blue skies with unlimited visibility with occasional blowing sand. Winds will be variable from 5-15 knots with scorching temperatures in the range of 110°-125°F. The low tonight will be around 95°F with 5-knot variable winds. This forecast will be valid for the next 30 days. In 30 days, spring will be over and we can expect higher temperatures for the summer!" *YIKES!*

I can remember bits of two different stories that I had read in high school. Although it was a long time ago, I do remember some of the lines.

Charles Dickens wrote the first story. The story was "A Tale of Two Cities" and it began with "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

The second story was Dante's "Inferno" where he describes *Paradisio, Purgitorio*

and the *Inferno*.

The journey of the beloved, yet heroic, NOMADS can be related to these stories.

First, we were deployed to Kuwait. Living conditions were primitive at best (The *Inferno* and the worst of times).

We are now in the country of Qatar, pronounced "cutter," or so we have been told. I think every time I pronounce the word as "cutter," my eighth grade world cultures teacher does somersaults in his grave. Anyway, I equate Qatar as the best of times or *Paradisio*.

From what we have been led to believe, Afghanistan is somewhere in between. Hence, *Purgitorio*.

Living here among our Air Force brethren has opened our eyes to a whole new lifestyle.

Here we have air conditioned tents, numerous showers, commodes that flush, crushed gravel to walk on instead of sand, bunk beds with fresh linen and pillows, fabulous food with a great selection, service with a smile, movie night, basketball, volleyball, bingo, DJs and dancing (for the younger crowd) and best of all we no longer have to pilfer napkins from the mess hall because the Air Force supplies toilet paper. Talk about Paradise!

But much to our dismay, this small oasis amid this barren desert will be a short-lived mirage.

Since our arrival here, we have much work to complete before our journey northward can begin. Many of us have been working tireless hours in preparation for this new deployment. Some of us have even seen the sun rise twice before getting to sleep a few hours, only to wake up and begin again.

The maintenance platoon, led by CPT Dave Sale, SFC Bill Yungk and SFC Ed Beadle and the Component Repair platoon,

"Terry's Kids," led by SFC Terry Jones and CW4 John Hawk, have been working 24 hour shifts to ready the helicopters for air deployment via C-17 airplanes.

All of the mechanics and repairpersons have been wrenching away at break-neck speed to ensure we are ready to go. People like SPC Chuck Borden, SGT Ben Davis, SSG Ken Ham, SSG Liz Davis, SFC Jim Duggan, SSG Ken Butler, SPC Mike Leander, SPC Jason LeMesa, SGT Adam DeLaura and others have been doing their part to ensure success.

The headquarters and POL platoons have been diligently working at repackaging all our personal equipment, unit equipment and vehicles for our journey north.

Under the tutelage of 1LT Keith Graham, SFC John Rea and SFC Rich Francke, the platoons have been working 20 hours per day in the motor pool to palletize the equipment for airlift, as well as ready the other equipment for shipment back to the states. Because our mission does not require all of our organic equipment, over 50 percent of it will be shipped back to Ft. Indiantown Gap.

The effort to ship equipment home will be led by 1SG Dell Christine, SSG Shawn McCurdy, SSG Vinceta Dolan, SSG Tom Becker, SGT John Sanchez, SGT Romain Parker, SPC John Gaultney and SGT Shawn Witmer. They will spend a few extra days/weeks here in *Paradisio* to help in the shipment. We are hoping that none of them will try to manifest themselves as "stowaways" in any of the equipment! As you can imagine, we have had at least 192 volunteers to accompany the equipment home!

The flight platoons have also been gainfully employed in working on the helicopters. SGT Eric Esposito, SGT Scott

Mowry, SSG Scott "Mongo" Sheroky, SSG Pat Sevetsky, SGT Jim Greenawalt, SGT Ryan Stanley, SGT Brian Perez, SGT Carlos Valasquez and SGT Chris Richards have been spending tireless hours at the hangar with tool in hand.

I must comment that to see the amount of maintenance work that has gone on thus far is phenomenal. These once hulking helicopters have now been dismantled into a sheet metal shell with wheels. It

is quite a colossal event and one that this company and their respective State Commands can be very proud of.

A NOMAD congratulations go out to newly promoted MSG Rich Francke and SGT Bill Barry! We are expecting a huge promotion party once we get in country. By the way, the people whom got promoted get to throw the party with their new pay increase. So Mrs. Francke and Mrs. Barry, don't expect any extra cash just yet!

Lastly, to our family, friends, full-time employers and employees:

Please keep in mind that none of us WANT to do this job, but we have made a commitment to our country that we would help defend our nation and the people of our nation.

If any individual among us could make these crackpot terrorists stop all this needless violence, we would do so in a New York minute.

But the bottom line is that it will take a collective effort of many people from many countries to keep the evildoers at bay. And we are part of those many people.

Although I try to make light of our mission here in these newsletters, every last one of us would much rather be at home with our families, leading our everyday common lives.

But until such a time, continue to pray for us and our well being, as we do for you.

Until next time, God Bless America and God Bless the Nomads.



242nd engineering security for Bradley ANG Base

MAJ. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As part of a national plan, members of Connecticut's own 242nd Engineer Battalion began serving at Bradley Air National Guard Base February 15.

In December the Army and the Air Force, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, signed a memorandum of agreement for the Army to mobilize Army National Guard soldiers to provide security at many Air Force installations.

"We are leveraging all of our active and reserve assets, in the spirit of joint operations and inter-service cooperation," said Thomas F. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

The soldiers here in Connecticut have already impressed the 103rd Fighter Wing's airmen with the quality of their training.

"All the guys I have worked with know the job very well," said Tech. Sgt. Matthew Perkins, security controller, 103rd Security Forces Squadron. "It is a pleasure to work together."

"I think this proves the Army and the Air Force can work together," said Maj. Robert V. Ware, commander, 103rd Security Forces Squadron "We could not be happier with the individuals we have."

The engineers of the 242nd volunteered for the security duty, many before they knew where or exactly what they would do.

"I volunteered before I knew what we would be doing," said Staff Sgt. Eric Shaw, combat engineer, 242nd Engineer Battalion, who has been happy with his hosts. "Since we got here the Air Force has treated us very good."

Although all the volunteers have their own reasons for coming forward, the work is different from what the engineers were originally trained to do.

"Usually as engineers we breach obstacles," said Spec. Haralambos Angelakopoulos, combat engineer, 242nd Engineer Battalion, who volunteered to be "a part of something. It is our chance to do something a little different."

For the traditional Guard members, it is also a chance to do something different than their full time careers.

"I did not want to see myself sitting in front of a computer all day, so I volunteered to do



Spec. Haralambos Angelakopoulos (left), combat engineer, 242nd Engineer Battalion and Tech. Sgt. Matthew Perkins (right), security controller, 103rd Security Forces Squadron, complete and incident report from the central security control center in May. (Photo by Maj. George Worrall, 103rd FW PAO)

something different and more active," said Spec. Erik Heuser, combat engineer, 242nd Engineer Battalion, who was working in technical support for an internet service provider. "This is the best job I have had."

The engineers also bring some welcome change to the members of the 103rd Security Forces Squadron they are augmenting.

"We still have people (from this security unit) overseas so if it was not for them (242nd) we would be s u p e r

short-handed and working very long hours," said Tech. Sgt. Matthew P. Gagnon, A-flight chief, 103rd Security Forces Squadron, who returned from Southwest Asia in May. "This is the first eight hour shift I have worked since September 11th of 2001. It is a welcome relief and we really got a great bunch of guys."

The Army is expected to augment force protection at Air Force installations worldwide for up to two years while the Air Force phases in permanent solutions.



Spec. John Leroux (left), heavy equipment operator, 242nd Engineer Battalion, and Pfc. Justin Marshall, combat engineer, 242nd Engineer Battalion, stand on their flight-line post during a light rain at Bradley Air National Guard Base in May. (Photo by Maj. George Worrall, 103rd FW PAO)

Connecticut Military Department News

Changing of the Foot Guard

CAPT. LOU MARTINEZ
STARC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The newly elected commandant for the 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard has a new vision for the organization. Maj. Peter Jenkin of Hamden was elected as the latest Commandant of the historic militia unit.

A member of the Foot Guard for 27 years, Jenkin was recruited into the militia in 1976 to serve on the rifle team. He was following in his father's footsteps. He was honored to gain the confidence of his peers and their votes.

"I didn't seek the office, troops came to me and asked me to run," said Jenkin. "They thought I was the guy for the job." Jenkin beat out the incumbent commandant, Maj. Peter Wasilewski. "It was a great grassroots effort, it made for a tight race," said Jenkin.

The new major commandant of the 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard already has a vision in place for the next four years. Jenkin wants to strengthen the militia's relationship with the City of New Haven and Yale University.

"As a unit we have ignored City Hall for many years," said Jenkin. "Political influence can be helpful." Two years ago, the 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard participated at a Yale graduation. The reception by the Eli's was overwhelming.

"They really appreciate us. We don't pay much attention to them. They are a good source to build up our band."



Jenkin also wants to increase recruiting and retention, and spruce up the image of the Foot Guard.

"I want to increase recruitment. I will challenge every member to bring a friend into the foot guard within the next six months," said Jenkin.

Jenkin has no specific number for recruitment. He does not want it to be unattainable. Jenkin would like to fill at least two rifle companies and have one basic training company.

"A lot of people coming in don't have the military training, some don't know how to handle a rifle, left or right face," said Jenkin. "I want to set up a training cycle so people can learn drill and ceremony; and train new recruits in the proper wear and care of the uniform."

The militia unit is made up of former military and civilian personnel. The unit serves mainly a ceremonial purpose; it has escorted every Connecticut Governor since 1775, including 14 U.S. Presidents.

But, Jenkin wants to prepare the 2nd Foot Guard for a secondary role; to back up the National Guard in times of emergency.

"After September 11th, it hasn't been enough to be a ceremonial unit, not anymore," he said. "Now I want to train the unit so it can be more useful to the adjutant general."

Jenkin will hold the office of Commandant for the next four years. He vows not to seek re-election.

"I won't run for re-election, I will hit the mandatory retirement age three months before my term ends."

Gov. Foot Guard marches in Boston

Members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard participate in a the annual June Day Celebration and election of officers for the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Boston, Mass.

Participants also included members of the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard, the First Company Governor's Horse Guards and the Honorable Artillery Company of London, England.



Major Commandant Dennis Conroy, First Company Governor's Foot Guard, salutes during the pass in review. (Photo courtesy of the First Co., Governor's Foot Guard)

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

New major commandant for 1st Company Gov. Horse Guard

HOWARD MILLER
1st Co., GHG

On April 24, 2003 the First Company Governor's Horse Guard gained a new major commandant. James P. McGovern formally took over the reins of command from Maj. Richard J. Belliveau who has retired.

The change of command ceremony took place on our drill field in Avon, under the supervision of Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the State Adjutant General. Numerous family, friends and dignitaries witnessed the event as the entire company was assembled on the field. Belliveau was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel and received a special "Governor's Coin" as a token of his achievements as 1GHG Commandant.

McGovern was born on November 15, 1949 in Enniskillen, Ireland, and spent much of his early life on a working farm. His life long love of horse started with working and riding, driving and jumping hunters during these early years.

As a teenager, his family immigrated to the Bronx, New York and he graduated from Saint Helena's High School.

After high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy and was sent to basic

training at the Naval Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. After graduating as Battalion Recruit Honor Graduate, he was assigned to Radar Surface Warfare "A" School and Electronic Warfare "C" School, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Seaman McGovern was then assigned to Naval Tactical Data Systems School in Dam Neck, Virginia. Prior to joining his ship the yet to be commissioned *USS Dewey* (Guide Missile Frigate) # 14, he attended various other Air, Surface and Subsurface Warfare Schools in Norfolk, Virginia and New Port, Rhode Island.

After joining the *USS Dewey* as a commissioning plank owner Petty Officer Third Class McGovern was assigned to the Ship's Combat Information Center known as CIC.

Soon after commissioning the *USS Dewey* was ordered underway for surface combat warfare training, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. On

completion, the *Dewey* was ordered to join the Seventh Fleet at Yankee Station, Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam.

During the 1972 Campaign know as Operation "Line Backer 1 and 2" the *USS Dewey* was assigned to blockade the North Vietnam coastal port of Vinh and Haiphong acting as PRI - RAZ identification friend or foe station.

Petty Officer Second Class McGovern's last duty assignment was CIC Watch Supervisor on the *USS Dewey* stationed of Alexandria, Egypt during the Israel / Arab War of 1973.

Enlisted into the 242nd Combat Engineer Battalion, Headquarters Company, Westbrook, Conn. as a communication sergeant in 1980, under the command of Major Peter Terragna.

While serving in this unit he was awarded 242nd Combat Engineer Battalion - Solider of the Year.

Private McGovern joined the Governors

Horse Guards in 1990 as a recruit and process through its enlisted ranks to become First Sergeant and Master Sergeant...Awarded Trooper of the Year in 1993 and Solider of the Year in 1994.

He served in the Riding Platoon for two years before being assigned as Stables NCO. In 1995 he was promoted to First Sergeant and severed in that position for three years.

In 1998, due to a work related promotion and required travel he requested transfer to the open Master Sergeant Operations position. In July of 2002 Lt. McGovern became Troop Adjutant and served in that position until now.

He has 22 year of combined Federal and State Horse Guard Service. On April 21, 2003 was promoted to the position of Commandant of the 1st GHG with rank of major.

McGovern is married to Barbara Bentham formerly of Oxford, Conn. And has three grown children Gena, Aileen and Rory. McGovern lives in Suffield, Conn. and is the control room manager at the New England electric power grid known as ISO New England, located in Holyoke, Mass.



Welco



Families sing along to God Bless the U.S.A. with Lee Greenwood June 8 in the Bradley Air National Guard Base hangar. Greenwood gave up part of a family vacation in Florida to welcome home the airmen of the 103rd Fighter Wing. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas K. Venclauskas, 103rd Communications Flight)



Governor John G. Rowland (r) spends time with the families of returning members of the 103rd Fighter Wing. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas K. Venclauskas, 103rd Communications Flight)



As returning Operation Iraqi Freedom deployers walk to their seats to begin the welcome home ceremony the 2500 person crowd erupts in cheers and applause June 8 in the Bradley Air National Guard Base hangar. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas K. Venclauskas, 103rd Communications Flight)

come Home!

From Page 1

State officials, including Gov. John G. Rowland, Sen. Chris Dodd, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, Congresswoman Rosa L. Delauro, Congressman Christopher Shays, and Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz attended the 90-minute morning ceremony in the main hangar. Each said a few words thanking unit members for their service.

"We are so grateful that you are back," Delauro said. "Your efforts are the vanguard of our vigilance."

The deployers stood and applauded their loved ones when Dodd thanked their family and friends. He told unit members that they made a difference to the people in Iraq.

Grammy-winning recording artist Lee Greenwood, an active member with the United Service Organizations, took time from a family vacation in Tampa to spend the morning at the base. He sang "the Great Defenders" and "God Bless the U.S.A."

The ceremony had a few somber moments amid the cheers and whistles. More than one speaker reminded the audience that service members, to include the 103 FW's security forces, as well as the Air Control Squadron, were still serving in the war on terrorism. Also, speakers remembered service members that had given their lives during the war, namely those from Connecticut, Marine Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Jordan and Cpl. Kemaphoom A. Chanawongse.

Col. Daniel R. Scace, Commander, 103 FW, spoke briefly about the unit's mission—to deny the Iraqi mission, which put our unit members in "dangerous" and "austere conditions."

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General, Connecticut National Guard, said the most difficult part of his job was "to send members of my command in harm's way." He told the 103rd that he could think of no greater honor than to salute it.

Rowland told the Guardsmen that they were American heroes, and thanked them for standing up for what is right. Referencing the state flag, he said to Lt. Col. Dennis Yount, commander, 118th Fighter Squadron who commands the activated detachment, "I asked you to bring the flag home, and your people home, and you did that."

After a roll-call of the deployers that included group photos with the VIPs, the audience watched a tribute video produced by members of the 103rd Communications Flight. It was a touching montage showing video and still shots of the wing preparing to leave, deployed, and then coming home.

Funding and support for the ceremony and party afterwards came from more than 40 different community groups and businesses that wanted to thank the deployers, and members and families at home. They included Pratt and Whitney, Maneely's, and 96.5 WTIC FM.

While enjoying lunch with his family and girlfriend under the big, white food tent, deployer Staff Sgt. Bret Mazur, avionics journeyman, 103 Maintenance Squadron, said it was good to have Greenwood and Rowland as part of the welcome home.

"It's good to see the turnout of all the dignitaries," he said.

The celebration is bittersweet for his family, though, as his brother, Bart, a specialist with Connecticut Army National Guard leaves soon for a deployment to West Point.

"I have one coming and one going," said their father, Greg.



Staff Sgt. Cheryl L. Pilletere, base honor guard member, 103rd Fighter Wing, and her daughter, Tori share a snack before the welcome home ceremony begins June 8 in the Bradley Air National Guard Base hangar. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas K. Venclauskas, 103rd Communications Flight)



Lt. Col. Dennis Yount, commander, 118th Fighter Squadron, returns the state flag to Governor Rowland which flew in combat missions over Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The flag was presented to the unit at the January departure ceremony in the Hartford Army. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas K. Venclauskas, 103rd Communications Flight)



Thousands of family members and friends turned out to welcome home the 103rd Fighter Wing. The wing had been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The ceremony was held at the Bradley Air National Guard Base. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas K. Venclauskas, 103rd Communications Flight)



Governor John G. Rowland addresses members of the 103rd Fighter Wing and their families during ceremonies to welcome home the airmen who were mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas K. Venclauskas, 103rd Communications Flight)

Lillie B. Haynes students return to Camp Rowland for an end-of-the-year Fun Day

SPEC. MARIAN ROSADO
65th PRESS CAMP

The sun came out just in time for "Fun Day" at Camp Rowland, Niantic. Approximately 300 students from the Lillie B. Haynes Elementary School of East Lyme enjoyed a fun filled day as a continuation their relationship with the Connecticut Army National Guard.

This bond was created last year when the East Lyme School system began its search for a place to house their students while the school's demolishing plans were on its way.

Last year, East Lyme First Selectman Wayne Frazer contacted Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, concerning the possibility of using Camp Rowland's facilities for the remainder of the school year. A plan was set and nearly 100 staff members and 300 students used the facility for five and a half weeks.

"That's our general, the one that let us stay here last year," said Shanelle D'Alessio, a fourth grader in Mrs. Shella Reams' class. "Last year was cool because we got special treatment that no one else did," said Cassie Bonan, also of Mrs. Reams class.

"We are having a 'Fun Day' today! Are you ready?" said Dr. David Miko, the principal of Lillie B. Haynes Elementary



Children race under a colorful parachute at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)

School. "Do you want to do this again next year?" The energy and the anticipation of the day's activities elevated and the students cheered, "YES" with enthusiasm.

The celebration, held at Camp Rowland's pavilion, began with a performance by the Silver Dolphins. This Navy Exhibition Drill Team, based at the Submarine Base, Groton, marked the commencement of "Fun Day." There was also a special appearance

of Sgt. Snuffy, an old time favorite of the students, who took a moment to meet and greet his young friends. Sgt. Snuffy is a ten-foot replica of a soldier used as a marketing tool.

Instantly the mood over Camp Rowland elevated as the students sang one of their school songs: "I'm going to be the best that I can; the best that I can be..." With school spirit and much anticipation, the kids were off to enjoy a fun filled day in the sun.

"Today is a fun day. We have about 30 teachers, 30 staff support, parents and volunteers to ensure everything goes smoothly," said Principal Miko. "The ultimate goal is fun and other goals such as cooperation, problem solving, physical activity and learning interpersonal skills."

"Now that we are in our new school the kids always reflect back to their experience in Camp Rowland," said Judy Debb, the students' physical education teacher. "They even write in their journals how they want to be soldiers when they grow up. I remember when the servicemen were teaching the kids how to march and how to do their pushups. The kids were fascinated by these guys, they really had a positive influence," said Debb.

Camp Rowland's field was invaded by two moonwalks, a rainbow parachute, a tent for face painting, cones, ropes, balls, hula-hoops, a HUFFY spaceship and much more. The air was filled with the smell of popcorn and sounds of laughter and excitement of 300 students having a "Fun Day".

Some fourth graders from Mrs. Reams' class took some time from their activities to send to following messages:

Briana Smith, "Thank you very much for having us here and for the hummers and the helicopter.

Iola Harris, "Thanks for letting us stay here last year."

Officers Club of Connecticut announces July events

Friday, July 4

Independence Day - Club closed

Friday, July 11

DCF Luncheon - Club closed for lunch

Monday, July 14

House Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 17

Board of Governor's Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 22

Ladies O' Club Luncheon, 12 noon

The Officers Club of Connecticut

is available for parties, dinners and luncheons. Contact the club at (860) 249-3624 to book your event.

Club open for lunch Monday - Friday

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bar open Monday - Friday

102nd Army Band presents Summer Concert Series

July 1

Roseland Cottage, Woodstock

7 - 8:30 p.m.

July 2

Harkness Park, Waterford

6 - 7:30 p.m.

July 3

Town Hall Bandstand, Brookfield

6:30 - 8 p.m.

July 5

Riverfest - Founders Plaza, East Hartford

6 - 7:45 p.m.

July 8

Seth Thomas Park, Thomaston

7 - 8:30 p.m.

July 9

Columbia Recreation Pavilion, Columbia

7 - 8:30 p.m.

O' Brother how art thee?

BOB WHISTINE
AMC-LSE-SWA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

"During Desert Storm, I stayed in the states with the unit now I'm married with two kids and I'm over here. This time around is a whole different ball of wax," stated Joyce.

Being the first sergeant of the unit puts Dan Joyce in a position of being indirectly Kevin Joyce's supervisor.

"He works for an NCOIC for his division that comes between he and I. I do outrank him and do have a little bit of supervisory responsibility over him. But that fact was never an issue," said Joyce.

Dan Joyce is the first sergeant of the 1109th AVCRAD. His hometown is Clinton, Conn. He has been in the unit for 19 years and works for Dept of Navy in Quality Assurance in building submarines at Electric Boat in Groton, Conn.

"Beingh is brother, I don't expect more out of him; however, I do know more of what he is capable of and at times we have had differences of opinion about how things should be handled or done. I value his advice, but ultimately I have to make my own decision. Hopefully, he understands that and hopefully he has a little more patience with me than the next guy because he is my brother and he has a little more insight into what I'm doing something or the reason I'm doing something.

"Our mother is very proud of both of us and I know she is very concern for our safety and well-being. It gives her some comfort in knowing that we are over here together and looking out for each other. It's very interesting that we have two sets of brothers

and a father and daughter in our unit and you find that more often in National Guard units," Joyce said.

"As the first sergeant, this is the first time that I have had so many soldiers, about 275, that I supervise and that takes some adjustments. You learn to manage and break it down into smaller workable groups and that is what a part of the NCO corps is for. I deal with senior NCOs and they deal with the soldiers under them but I'm also available to anyone. I do have some communication challenges with having the supply support activity up at Camp Doha but I have good NCOs up there. I fill comfortable that they can handle any situations up there. The lack of having our equipment has brought on a lot of frustrations for the troops and me. We are aircraft repairers and not having our equipment here is pretty frustrating not to be able to accomplish your job. I think we will all be happy when I tools arrive and we can get down to doing what we are trained and paid to do and that fix aircraft and keep them flying," said Joyce.

His brother is three years older; however, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Joyce has a little more than 20 years towards retirement. First Sgt. Joyce has about 16 years. Dan joined two weeks later than Kevin. Kevin joined while he was in high school. Dan joined while in college.

In the Army, rank sometimes has it privileges. But not when it comes to these brothers.

Kevin, a Production Control NCO, 1109th AVCRAD is from Lancaster, Mass. He works at BMC Software as a Tech Support Analyst



When it comes to soldier duties, the Joyce brothers are all business. (Photo by Bob Whistine, AMC-LSE-SWA, Public Affairs Officer)

and he supports many in-house software tools that his company develops.

"In the unit, I'm in charge of tasking and work loading of the various shops and the aircraft mechanics on the floor. We make a determination when an aircraft comes in for repair, when it goes into the production schedule to get it back to the customer as quickly as possible. Make sure the parts and labor coincide with each other to get the aircraft recycled and repaired," said Kevin.

"My brother is the first sergeant of the unit and he has a task that is not easily done and it comes with a lot of headaches. A lot of responsibilities go along with being a new first sergeant

and having to get a unit ready to deploy was a big task that he undertook. We were both activated for Desert Storm, but we both stayed stateside. I was in Brussels doing my annual training and I got activated after the unit did. It is the first time that we have been deployed outside of the country together. I was not worried about my brother during the Scud attacks, the Army does a good job in training people and I felt comfortable in his abilities and I know mine because I used to teach it at the state level," said Kevin.

"I plain on retiring when I get back. Can't wait to get home and be with my wife and daughter. Mom asked us to take care of ourselves and let us know that she cares for us and wants us to come home safely. She is a military spouse herself and she understands about being deployed."

Joining together to deploy together: Cortes brothers overseas

BOB WHISTINE
AMC-LSE-SWA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

"People always get us mixed up. They get us confused everyday. People in the unit are always thinking I'm him or he is I. It's not funny when they think it's him and I get called on his detail," quips Spec. Irving Cortes.



Brothers, Spec. Irving Cortes, 1109th AVCRAD avionics mechanic and Spec. Ricardo Cortes, 1109th AVCRAD engine mechanic, stand in front of a Chinook that is being repaired. (Photo by Bob Whistine, AMC-LSE-SWA, Public Affairs Officer)

Spec. Ricardo Cortes is an engine mechanic. He has been in the 1109th AVCRAD for two-and-a-half years and lives in Newington, Conn.

"I've always been interested in going into the military. It is a good experience for me. I didn't want to go full time; I wanted to go

into the National Guard so I could go to school at the same time. I go to Manchester Community College and I'm studying sports and exercise courses."

This is Ricardo's first time to deploy. He works the morning shift from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is waiting on his tools and equipment to arrive in country.

"I'm not really sure how regular Army units deploy; I think we are new to it and we are finding out things as we go. It's pretty good having my younger brother here, but I don't get to see him that much. My parents told us to take care of each other, so we could both come back home. During the first Scud alerts I was concerned. I really remember the first one we had, I was nervous but I was ready. One of the first things I thought about was where is my brother and what is he doing.

"I'm always thinking about my wife and daughter and going home back to them no matter what. I knew my mother was going to be all right because I've been out of the house for a while. I think my mother worries more about my younger brother because he still lives at

home. Mom knows we are fighters and will be alright," said Ricardo.

Irving is an avionics mechanic with the 1109th and is from Vernon, Conn.

"While I was in the process of joining the unit, I was telling Ricky that he should think about joining the unit. There were some good benefits and it would help pay for college. It was only one weekend a month and he joined a month after I did," said Irving.

"I think it's good that we are both over here together. You really get to know the people in the unit over here but there nothing like having your brother in the unit because like they say blood is thicker than water. When we had the Scud alerts, I was concerned about my brother, but I knew he could take care of himself. I had no doubts about that.

"It will take us some time to get ready to do our jobs over here. We have to build our work area in warehouse 12 where we live right now. We have to build our work stations but once that is set up, we should have a regular rotation of aviation work," said Irving.

Irving also goes to school full time at Manchester Community College. He is working on a degree in Management Information Systems.

Military Matters



Soldiers and Airmen to find extra dollars in their pockets: Monthly SGLI premiums reduced

(REPRINTED FROM NATIONAL GUARD MAGAZINE May 2003)

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that premiums for the Service Members Group Life Insurance (SGLI) will be reduced, handing military members a few extra dollars in their pockets each month.

SGLI provides coverage of \$250,000 to

active duty service members and most Guardsmen and Reservists. Coverage of \$100,000 has also been provided for spouse of participating members with free coverage of \$10,000 for dependent children. Reduced levels of coverage may also be elected.

Beginning in July, the cost for a \$250,000 policy - the maximum coverage - will drop from \$20 to \$16.25 monthly, a \$3.75 savings.

Premiums will also be reduced for SGLI Family coverage, with rates varying among age groups. Spouses between the age of 35 and 39 will have the biggest drop in premiums - almost 50 percent. Service members currently pay \$13 for \$100,000 family policy. That policy will cost \$7.50 beginning in July - a \$5.50 savings.

On the average, military families will save

about \$100 per year. The VA estimates that service members collectively will save about \$96 million in premiums and \$42 million in family coverage premiums each year. For more information about the change in SGLI premiums can be found at www.insurance.va.gov or call the Office of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance toll-free at 1-800-419-1473.

Military Mobilization Fact Sheet

for Federal Family Education Loan Borrowers

If your National Guard or Reserve unit has been called to active duty, or you are a regular, active-duty member of the Armed Forces who has been reassigned to another duty station, you may be eligible for benefits on any Federal Stafford, SLS, PLUS, and Consolidation loans you borrowed under the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).

If you are still in school, contact the registrar and financial aid office at your school. Ask about dropping your classes, possible refunds, or consulting when you return, and any school policies that may affect you during and after your deployment.

You should also contact your lender to ask about an extension of your in-school status if you are ordered to active duty or reassigned for more than 30 days. During this extension for as long as three years, including the time it takes you to resume enrollment after you return, you may not be required to make FFELP loan payments.

If your loan is in the grace period, contact your lender. The grace period is a 6-month period after you stop being enrolled at least half-time. During this period, no payments are required on your FFELP loan. If you are ordered to active duty or reassigned for more than 30 days during your grace period, you may be entitled to a military extension of that period. If you return to school at least half-time at the end of this extension, you are entitled to a new grace period when you stop being enrolled at least half-time again.

If your loan is in repayment or delinquent, contact your lender about what options are available. You may qualify for a forbearance, which is a temporary postponement of payments for up to 18 months. You may also qualify for a military deferment if you have an outstanding FFELP loan made before July 1, 1991, or you have a delinquent on a FFELP loan when you

received another loan disbursed on or after July 1, 1991. If your income is reduced because of your deployment, ask your lender to help you determine if you qualify for an economic hardship deferment. During deployment periods, you are not required to make payments on your loan.

Ask your lender about interest on your loans during deployment. If you have a subsidized Stafford loan that is in in-school status or a grace period, or you are approved for a deferment, the government will pay the interest on your loan. You may not be required to make payments during your deployment, but you are responsible for all interest that accrues on your unsubsidized Stafford, SLS, or PLUS loans and the portion of your Consolidation loan that paid off your unsubsidized Stafford loans. During a forbearance, you are also responsible for interest on your subsidized Stafford loan. If you are responsible for accruing interest, you will have to make periodic interest payments or have your interest added to your loan (capitalized) at the end of your in-school, grace, or deferment periods.

Ask your lender and school about deployment documentation they may require. You may need to provide a written statement from your commanding officer or personnel officer, a copy of your official military orders, or a copy of your active duty military identification card. Your lender may also need your updated address, or the address of a friend or relative who can contact you, for future mailings with information about your loan.

If you need help locating your lender. You'll find information about your FFELP loans and your lender's name and contact information from the Department of Education's National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) at www.nslds.ed.gov or 800-4-FED-AID. You may also find information about your loans and links to online loan information on NSLDS' website at www.nslo.org/loan.htm.

For deployment-related questions, call
1-800-858-2677

15th Anniversary of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion Dinner Dance

August 24, 2003
Social Hour 1700 hours
Dinner 1800 hours
(Dancing following dinner)
Aqua Turf, Southington, CT

Uniform: Dress Blues/ Class A w/ white shirt and bowtie/ Civilian equivalent

Officers - \$40 / person Enlisted - \$35 / person
Make checks payable to 143rd FSB
Send to 64 Field St, Waterbury, CT 06702-1991

For more information contact Laurie Casey at (203) 888-5961 or Ralph Hedenberg at (203) 759-0503, ext 28



CHIEF MASTER SGT.
WANDA WAWRUCK

Enlisted Update

People, Educational Programs and the 4th of July

Hats off to the men and women who planned and carried out the Welcome Home celebration last month for the 103d Fighter Wing – nothing but a first class event! I hope you and your family had as good a time as mine.

This month I would like to continue recognizing our outstanding airmen, bring awareness to several under-utilized educational programs, and close with a small dose of Connecticut Military History.

Our Security Forces has done it again!! They are again in the forefront of our headlines, doing great things for our country and continuing their professional development.

First let me congratulate Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Harris again for receiving recognition as the Honor Person of the Year.

As many leaders look for those who rise above others, Harris is one that stands out. While serving in a deployed location, Harris found time Professional Military Education (PME) by completing the Noncommissioned Officers Academy (NCOA) Course.

Her drive and perseverance to obtain the skills needed to succeed and become a future leader of our Armed Forces has exceeded the standards – certainly a role model for others.

Additionally, I'd like to congratulate Sr. Airman Susan Flannery, who was recognized by her leadership as "Airman of the Month" while in a deployed location.

As we eagerly await the HQ USAF Evaluation Team results for the 2002 USAF Outstanding Security Forces Unit Award, there's no doubt that our Security Force's men and women have a great chance to receive this prestigious award.

As written in earlier articles, I have highlighted new or existing programs that many members are not aware of.

I recently attended a quarterly Enlisted Field Advisory Council (EFAC) meeting where members of the Personnel and Training community requested our assistance in getting the word out about several under-utilized programs.

First, the Air National Guard Tuition Assistance Program offered since FY00, is available to all drill status guardsmen (DSG) and technicians of the Air National Guard pursuing higher education.

Second is the Spouse Testing Program, offered to spouses of DSG and technicians; providing opportunities for spouses interested in DANTES, CLEP, and GMAT testing, to name a few.

Lastly AGR Tuition Assistance Programs are offered through the servicing host base - our servicing host base is Hanscom Air Force Base.

For more information on these and many other educational programs, please consult the 103 Fighter Wing Education Office.

Two hundred and twenty-seven years ago, Connecticut was one of thirteen colonies to sign the Declaration of Independence.

This declaration officially severed ties with England declaring our freedom and gave birth to our nation.

Approximately twelve years from this historical event, the Governor's Independent Volunteer Troop of Horse Guards was formed. We now know these organizations as the Governor's Horse Guards and Governor's Foot Guards.

The Horse Guards started their service as dignitary escorts and ceremonial teams; however, the call to federal service changed their mission as they assisted in defending our borders in 1911. At this point, you're probably wondering what do the Governor's Horse and Foot Guards have to do with the Declaration of Independence?

Simply stated by George Washington, "By keeping up in Peace a well-regulated and disciplined militia, we shall take the fairest and best method to preserve for a long time to come the happiness, dignity and Independence of our country."

Similar to today, our country has called upon the militia to fight the Global War on Terrorism. The militia has contributed significantly to the defense of our homeland and the successful operations abroad.

As we forge ahead during these difficult times, let us not forget those militia organizations that were responsible for the birth of our nation and ongoing operations.

In closing, remember as you celebrate the Fourth of July with your family, the cost of Freedom remains high - let us not forget those who continue to serve. Please include them in your thoughts and prayers as you have a safe and healthy holiday.

Guard Voices

Rumsfeld's Message to the Troops

This Fourth of July marks the 227th anniversary of the birth of our nation, the day when brave and dedicated patriots made manifest their love of liberty and founded a nation based on freedom. And from that day to this, the world has never been the same. As Lafayette put it, "Hu manity has won its battle. Liberty now has a country." Indeed it does. For more than 200 years, America has stood for freedom.

So, on the Fourth of July we mark more than a birthday. We celebrate our God-given rights to liberty and life, and we honor all those who, over the centuries, have been willing to fight and die to keep our country free. Today we are engaged in a struggle as great as any America has faced throughout her long and honored history.

It is a struggle every bit as much a fight for freedom as the war that was fought in 1776. Once again it is a battle for humanity, for the right of all people not just Americans to live in a world free of terror and fear.

You are the men and women who are fighting this new war. Your gallantry and courage in the face of evil has stirred the souls of all Americans. Day after day, week after week, they have seen your faces and read your stories. They have shared your sorrows and celebrated your victories. And in each one of you they see reflected their deeply-felt honor, pride and patriotism. Through your valor and sacrifice, our Republic has been strengthened and renewed.

So, as we celebrate the founding of our Nation, we honor you – the men and women of the U.S. military who volunteer to help make our freedom possible.

Through Operation Tribute to Freedom, Americans across the land are participating in hundreds of local activities and events, honoring their hometown heroes, and expressing their appreciation and support for your service and your sacrifice.

The global war on terror is far from over. While freedom has been restored to the people of Afghanistan and Iraq, dangerous threats remain in those countries and across the globe. The transition from tyranny to a free society will take time to accomplish. As Thomas Jefferson so aptly described it, "We are not to expect to be translated from despotism to liberty in a featherbed."

Meanwhile the tyranny of terrorism continues, and so must the global war on terror — until tyranny has been defeated wherever it threatens free men and women. As President Bush has said, the threat may be new, but America's duty is familiar: to defend the safety and security of our people and the hopes of all mankind.

I thank you for volunteering to serve our country and the cause of freedom. May God bless and protect you and those you love, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

Air Force leaders send July 4th message

For 227 years, Americans have gathered on the Fourth of July to celebrate the virtues of freedom, democracy, and patriotism, and to commemorate the sacrifices of brave Americans.

From the Revolutionary War to operations today in the ongoing global war on terrorism, Americans have sacrificed their sons and daughters to defend our inalienable rights of life, liberty, and equality.

On this Fourth of July, as Americans throughout the world gather to celebrate these rights and our freedoms with public celebrations of fireworks and patriotic concerts, let us never forget the members of our ranks who have recently fallen in battle. They are heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice to make freedom possible for millions who have, until now, never experienced the liberties we enjoy today.

Remember them this Independence Day, as well as those who stand guard while we celebrate our nation's birthday.

The American people look to those in uniform as symbols of the strength and commitment of this nation. We live up to a high standard because there is nothing more meaningful, more appreciated, or more cherished than our precious freedoms. We are proud of you and salute each and every one of you.

We wish you and your families a very safe and happy Fourth of July!

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper

Foot Guard Band impresses Stewart

Dear Major General Cugno,

I wanted to write and let you know how impressed I was with the Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard Band who visited our studio a few weeks ago.

They performed beautifully and I know the segment will be a wonderful addition to our Fourth of July Program.

Please pass on my thanks to CW4 John DePastino and all the members of the Band. They did an excellent job and certainly made our shoot day one to remember.

Martha Stewart

HANDYPERSON HOTLINE

CALL (860) 209-0770 TODAY

TO VOLUNTEER YOUR SKILLS

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: Drug Abuse Resistance Education

CAPT. ANNE-MARIE GARCIA
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

Many of you in the Connecticut National Guard know Master Sgt. Dennis Kaiser from 85th Troop Command. He is the Senior Logistics NCO and Property Book Subject Matter Expert.

As a property book NCO he has mobilized more units in his career than any logistician and has every Line Item Number (LIN) for property located in the state memorized in his head.

And, although Kaiser's supervisors and commanders throughout the years have been more than pleased and proud of his accomplishments in the Guard, it does not compare to the pride that is displayed in the voice and on the face of Kaiser when he talks about his most important protégé, his granddaughter Emily Brown.

Recently Miss Emily Brown, a 4th grader at Buckingham Elementary School in Norwich, Conn. won an essay contest. The following essay was reprinted with permission from Emily Brown's grandfather Master Sgt. Dennis Kaiser.

D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

"What it does for kids is help them stay away from medical and street drugs and teach them how to work problems out without having violence involved. I feel the D.A.R.E. program is very educational and what it means to me is so important words can't completely describe.

D.A.R.E. is like a guide for life, so that I'm prepared for what to say when I'm offered drugs. For example if someone came up to me and asked "Hey kid, want a smoke?" I could simply say "No" while looking them in the eye.

Right now D.A.R.E. is the most important thing in my life because I have family members that could use my help. I've had people close to me wreck their whole lives, even ruin their families because of drugs, alcohol and violence. D.A.R.E. is very important in life because you can depend on it when you're in a situation involving drugs.

You can refer to D.A.R.E. and say I learned what could happen to me if I take this drug and I don't want to take it because I learned what could happen to my body. It's also important because if you take drugs you could end up hurting somebody you didn't mean to.

It also causes trouble. I'll give you examples.

For example a very close friend of mine lost his parents because of drugs. My aunt adopted him since this tragedy and it's cool that my good friend is now my cousin, but he still has a hard time dealing with what happened. I feel horrible because there's nothing I can do to make it better.

I wondered what it was like to have someone very close to me die and unfortunately I found out.

One morning when I woke up, my mom and dad told me that my 5-year-old cousin Brian was killed by a gun. No one knows what really happened that night.

My cousin, Bethany and I are very upset because it used to be the 3 amigos and it's only the 2 amigos now. We used to play together on the weekends, we went to

carnivals and we ate ice cream sundaes and even vacationed together. When this tragic thing happened it ended our lives together.

That's why Bethany and I now always stick together and see each other every single weekend. Even though we don't cry in front of people we stand strong and then cry together when no one's around. We miss him very much.

Another upsetting experience that will keep me away from drugs and violence is not being able to spend time with someone I love very much. I had a special place where

I used to spend Saturday nights, but now



because one of the people there has started drinking very heavily, so I can't go there and the things I miss most are my dog Natasha, the dolls my grandmother has collected since I was a baby and my bedroom. Natasha isn't walked anymore and must stay in all day and all night.

As you can see, the lessons taught by Officer Creamer are very important. I am happy I have a safe and joyful home and I feel that I have learned a lot from my personal experience with weapons, alcohol and drugs.

When I grow up I'm not going to use drugs because of all the things I have seen. I would love to help people who do drugs to stop using drugs. Then maybe if I show them this D.A.R.E. essay they'll see how bad it could be if they keep using drugs.

Maybe they'll change their whole life, go to a Rehabilitation Center and get help. That way they can have a family or even apologize for wrecking their relationship with their family.

If they just won't get help, they will stay the way they are.

The D.A.R.E. Officer has done an awesome job teaching other students and I feel I can trust him enough to talk to him about any personal problems and I thank him. I'm nine years old and I've seen and heard enough to know that I have choices and wrong choices can affect you throughout the rest of your life. I've also learned the right way to say no and really mean it. I've also learned how drugs can affect the way your mind and body work.

Have you learned enough from my experiences not to do drugs? I hope you have because once you start you can't stop. There's going to be a conflict, whether the conflict is losing your family and friends or it's getting very sick and then unfortunately dying. So DON'T DO DRUGS because you could end up being the victim."

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 Corner: Preparing for re-entry into family life after deployments end

CHAP. (MAJ.) KEVIN CAVANAUGH
STATE CHAPLAIN

"There's no place like home, there's no place like home."

Dorothy Gayle immortalized these words in the timeless classic "The Wizard of Oz." With a little help from Glenda she had to merely close her eyes and tap her ruby slippers together and she was quickly transported back to her native Kansas.

If fiction were reality, she would be the envy of many of our soldiers. Those who I have corresponded with have had one question on the tip of their tongue; "When are we going home?" The answer to that particular question differs for the members of each unit.

When I have been asked the "favorite

question" I've replied by asking; "How are you preparing for reentry?"

Realistically, it is important for the returning soldier and his or her family, spouse or close friends to prepare for reunion and to realize that things may not be the same as when they left or may not have developed exactly as they expected.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you prepare for reunion:

Things May Have Changed with the Soldier

- You have been running at a faster pace than your family is used to.
- You may be more tired and want to rest while your family wants to "show you off."
- You may need to readjust to a normal sleep schedule and find yourself waking at "0 dark 30."
- You have developed close friendships with

people that your family doesn't know.

· You have "war stories" and experiences that your family and friends may not be able to relate to.

Things May Have Changed for your Family, Spouse or Friends

- They have "closed ranks" and assumed some of the tasks that you did when you were at home.
- Rules and ways of doing things may have changed in your absence – find out what the new rules are.
- Children may have matured and friends may have changed in your absence – don't expect to just "pick up where you left off."
- Someone else has been "running the show" in your absence – resist the desire to assume command when you walk

through the door.

· Expect that others may have grown more independent in your absence – compliment them on their achievements.

Hints for a Successful Reunion

- Accept that things may be different.
- Give your spouse time to readjust.
- Give the kids extra time and attention.
- Go slowly, take time to readjust and get reacquainted.
- Talk to your family share your experiences where appropriate.
- Listen to their story.
- Acknowledge each other's sacrifices and successes.
- Forget the fantasy – live in reality.
- Let intimacy return naturally – don't rush things.

Retired from the Guard, but still serving with honor & pride

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65th PCH

Walk through any Connecticut State Armory and one may be surprised at the amount of civilians available to help provide soldiers with expert service and advice. These civilians have years of on-the-job training and are proudly serving their state and country.

Many civilians are military retirees that are constantly using their prior military skills to help them excel in their present occupations. "If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't change a thing," said Frank Soucy with a smile.

Soucy a former sergeant major and warrant officer, spent 42 years in the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) and presently works at the State Area Command (STARC) in the Distance Learning Center as an assistant administrator.

Soucy learned about motivation and leadership skills as a young soldier.

"I joined right after the Korean War," said Soucy. "I did not attend basic training but trained here instead." This is when STARC was once the 43rd Division Headquarters, according to Soucy.

In the early years, while in the Guard, Soucy received on-the-job training. He also had to develop motivational skills to get him through reading thick manuals to stay current on the latest technology. Today, soldiers have the option to attend advance training to be current with their job.

Soucy reminisces on how technology has changed over the past 40 years.

"I started working with information technology when computers were using only punch cards," said Soucy. Using the punch card system, would have taken Soucy two days for him to help a soldier. Now, Soucy can provide assistance and answers to soldiers in two hours with today's technology.

Throughout his military career and experience, Soucy became a warrant officer and helped trained soldiers on the latest computer technology.

"I met a lot of people in 40 years. We all

became good friends," said Soucy. "I feel the guard has provided me with an opportunity and I took advantage of it."

Presently, Soucy uses the same drive and determination working at the Distance Learning Center at STARC. Soucy, is a technician of information management and helps soldiers earn an education through the distance learning program.

Owen O. McDonnell also works in the Distance Learning Center as the facility's administrator. McDonnell credits his military experience with providing him with a place to sharpen his civilian skills. First, McDonnell served in the Marine Corp. He later served 18 years in the CTARNG. While he served part-time in the guard, he became schoolteacher and later became a school principal with two master degrees in education and finally receiving a Doctorate in Education. McDonnell states that time management

is a quality that he has truly used to his advantage. McDonnell's other activities include working as a trainer for the Connecticut Office Of Emergency Management, blue and gold officer for the United States Naval Academy, high school official for soccer and baseball games for Western Connecticut and a bag piper of the Celtic Cross Pipes and Drum in Danbury, Conn.

During the time of his military career, McDonnell developed a system to handle multi-task functions. "I would make a list of all the things I had to get done daily and would go down the list until every thing was done," said McDonnell.

As McDonnell leaned back in his chair and reflected on the importance of leadership.

"There is no other place to learn about leadership than in the military. As a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps, I was in charge of two platoons and expensive equipment in a truck unit right out of college," said McDonnell.

"Where else do you learn comparable work experience right out of college that can carry you through your entire life other than the military."



Owen McDonnell



**TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL
SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS' DINING-IN**

DATE: THURSDAY, 02 OCTOBER 2003
TIME: 1800 HOURS
PLACE: AQUA TERF CLUB, SOUTHTONINGTON, CONNECTICUT
COST: FORTY DOLLARS (\$40.00)
GUEST SPEAKER: CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT RICHARD M. GREEN,
Fourth Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air National Guard
ELIGIBILITY: Senior Noncommissioned Officers (Platoon Sergeants, Chief Petty Officers, Gunnery Sergeants, and Master Sergeants [E-7 and above]). All eligible Army and Air National Guardsmen are expected to attend. Retirees are most welcomed.
UNIFORM: Appropriate FORMAL military attire for all services. Retirees may wear the uniform or a business suit.
HOST: Chief Master Sergeant Waanda F. Wawrock,
Command Chief Master Sergeant, Connecticut National Guard
RSVP: Military protocol requires prompt response (within 72 hours of receipt). *Note: No responses accepted after 24 September 2003!*

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

The cost of the affair includes a full course dinner (meat entree - Roast Prime Rib of Beef or a Fish entree upon special request) and refreshments before dinner; a cash bar is available immediately following dinner. Upon receipt of your application to attend, you will receive a "Rules of the Menu" package specifying uniform requirements and sequence of events. You are expected to know and follow military protocol while in attendance. The Aqua Terf Club is located on Malberry Street, Southington, Connecticut, a short distance from Routes 18, 84, 122, and 696.

Seating is arranged with unit integrity or upon specific request (table of ten). Violation of the menu will impose a fine. The President of the Menu or Master/Madam Vice will determine the amount of fines (one dollar minimum). It is advised that you arrive with single one-dollar bills. Master/Madam Vice will not make change. All fines will be donated to a charity chosen by the hosting service.

Your support towards the Senior Noncommissioned Officers Dining-In has been superb! It is requested that you continue to support your Dining-In and continue the great tradition. Submit your application to attend as soon as possible - early response enables the committee to better plan the Dining-In and make it a more enjoyable evening for all. Spread the word...look forward to seeing you there!



**TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL
SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS' DINING-IN**

APPLICATION PROCESS

Make checks payable to: "CTANG Activities Fund"

Mail application and check (no later than 24 Sep 03):
 Command Chief Master Sergeant
 Connecticut Air National Guard
 National Guard Armory
 360 Broad Street
 Hartford, Connecticut 06105-3795

Detach between the double lines and mail to address above:

I plan to attend the Senior Noncommissioned Officers' Dining-In on Thursday, 02 October 2003. My check in the amount of \$40.00 is attached.

NAME: _____ **RANK:** _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

UNIT: _____

(*Retirees, please indicate your unit of assignment prior to retirement)

Indicate your meal preference for fish in lieu of Prime Rib:

Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: *State laws passed in 2003 to benefit Guardsmen and their dependents*

CAPT. TIMOTHY TOMCHO
JAG OFFICE

With the adjournment of General Assembly on June 4th, the 2003 Connecticut regular legislative session ended. The 2003 regular session, which began on Jan. 8, passed numerous bills favorable to members of the Connecticut National Guard.

The bills, which became Public Acts upon Governor Rowland's signature, were designed to alleviate some of the hardships incumbent with mobilization and to recognize the significant contributions members of the Connecticut National Guard make to our state and country. The following are summaries of the new laws passed during the 2003 session.

Public Act 03-3, "An Act . . . Providing Benefits to State Employees in Certain Active Military Service and their Dependents," expands state law to allow state employees called to federal or state active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Nobel Eagle, Operation Iraqi Freedom or a properly authorized operation to combat terrorism, to take thirty days of paid military leave. Upon exhausting the paid military leave, the law authorizes state employees to receive differential pay for the difference between their state-employee pay and their military pay, if such military pay is less than the state employee's regular pay (base pay, plus longevity, in their primary state position). Additionally, the law allows the state

employee called to such state or federal military service to continue their existing state group hospitalization, medical and surgical insurance plan, for themselves and their dependents for the duration of the active service.

Public Act 03-24, "An Act Concerning Eligibility for Mortgage Financing for Individuals Serving in the Military Reserves or the National Guard," requires financial institutions and federal banks to maintain on file for two years and two months the mortgage application of a member of the U.S. armed forces reserves or National Guard who is called into active duty after submitting an application but before a financial institution or federal bank makes a determination on it.

The bank or other financial institution must maintain the application on file if, within 30 days after being called into active duty, the member submits a written statement to the financial institution or federal bank (1) indicating that he/she she has been called into active duty and (2) requesting that the bank maintain his application on file. If an applicant returns from active duty within two years after submitting his mortgage application and, within 60 days after discharge from active duty, submits a written statement that there has been no material change in his/her income, assets, debts, or employment, the law requires the financial institution or federal bank to finish



processing his loan application in accordance with the same terms and conditions made available to the applicant at the time of his initial application.

The law also requires the financial institution or federal bank to offer the applicant any different terms and conditions it is offering to the public when the applicant returns from active duty. It applies to applications for home purchase loans, home improvement loans, and other mortgage loans on one-to-four family, owner-occupied, residential real property.

Public Act 03-33, "An Act Concerning Student members of the Armed Forces Called to Active Duty During a Semester and College Course Fees," requires the state's community-technical colleges, Connecticut State University System, and University of Connecticut to allow students called to active duty in the armed forces during any semester to reenroll in any course for which they paid tuition but did not complete because of their active duty status. Such students have four years from the date of release from active duty to reenroll. The schools may not impose any additional tuition, student fee, or related charge on the affected students for the courses, unless they had fully reimbursed the students for courses not completed.

Public Act 03-44, "An Act Concerning an Optional Increase in the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption," expands the number of veterans and their surviving spouses

eligible for an optional property tax exemption. Specifically, it increases the maximum income a person can have and be eligible for the program by \$25,000, to \$41,200 for a single veteran or a survivor of a veteran and \$45,000 for a married veteran. To be eligible for the optional benefit, the person must be eligible for the \$1,000 property tax exemption that municipalities must provide for veterans and their surviving spouses. Under current law, municipalities can exempt up to \$10,000 of the property's value. The law alternatively allows the municipality to set a maximum exemption of up to 10% of the property's value.

Public Act 03-85, "An Act Concerning Eligibility for Benefits to Veterans," entitles all honorably discharged veterans who have 90 days of active duty service since August 2, 1990, to Connecticut "war-time" veteran benefits, which includes property tax, education, and other benefits. Under current law, only veterans who served during (and in some cases, in) specific conflicts or operations are eligible for these benefits. The most significant aspect of this law is the extension of veteran tuition waivers to many who were ineligible under the old law. Connecticut law waives tuition at the state's public colleges and universities for wartime veterans. The waiver applies to the regional community colleges, state technical colleges, Connecticut State University, and the University of Connecticut.



CARL R. VENDITTO
CT ESGR

Educating Connecticut citizens on the role of the Guard and Reserve

I challenge you to undertake an informal personal survey on how your neighbors, fellow students, co-workers, and employers might have obtained their insights and viewpoints on the American military and in particular the Guard and Reserve.

You might agree with me that many people obtain information from watching historical documentaries, reading books similar to those Tom Clancy, viewing the evening news, and from their attendance at parades and ceremonies. Another source of information is from relatives and friends who have served in wars and conflicts. High schools receive information from various courses. In some courses, veterans visit to tell students of their experiences.

In many of our colleges it has become fashionable to have a core of instruction centered on the role of the military. Few of these instructors, however, have had any direct experiences in or around the military.

In some cases information about the military is provided through films and TV programs. These are often entertaining and very graphic. Often these same films are filled with inaccuracies, but people do watch them and do leave the theater with a message and image that they may choose to believe or not believe. Military character and family values may not always be emphasized in such films and programs.

In one sense our state might be considered disadvantaged because of lack of a large mass of military personnel whom our residents can observe. Interaction with the military is often limited.

The opposite is true in North Carolina where large bases exist and citizens identify with the Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg and with the Marines at Camp Lejeune. They see these service personnel shopping, at the beaches, playing with their children, and volunteering at the local cookout.

A business person in San Diego sees the United States Navy. If he drives by the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot he will hear and see Marines from the expressway undergoing

boot camp training.

The people who live in the large military complex of Norfolk, Virginia observe giant carriers returning from combat and have been hearing military jets over Virginia Beach for many years. The local papers and TV programs chronicle the military. In short, one "feels" the military presence on a daily basis and the local economy prospers because of the service dollars spent.

Connecticut has a small military, thus a smaller image on the screen of life. My point is not to make a social commentary, but to explain why the Connecticut Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) plays such a vital role in promoting the military of our state. We do this because it is NECESSARY AND NEEDED to maintain, emphasize and promote the contributions of the wonderful men and women in our Guard and Reserve.

The job of our committee is to promote the understanding by the Connecticut public of the vital job being done by our military. We do this by TV programming, by advertisements on the highway, by "spot" radio blips, by speaking to Chambers of Commerce, and fraternal and social groups. We also post large banners throughout Connecticut to "brand" the ESGR concept whenever possible. We attend trade shows to "sell" to employers the view that Guardsmen and Reservists have unique skills that can assist in the marketplace. We speak about and promote the Guard and Reserve because we are part of the civilian community and we have credibility.

Today the CT ESGR Committee is in the business of education. Our charge is to gain and reinforce the support of America's employers for a strong National Guard and Reserve. We also have the job of educating the general public.

In conclusion, the vast numbers of deployed Guardsmen and Reservists this state provided to the war on terrorism and in homeland defense communicates the message that although we are a small state, our citizen soldiers are among the best and were among the most heavily utilized in support of the goals of this nation.

The job of our committee is to continue to promote that message.

Inside OCS

Leading from the front: Enduring challenges to pursue his leadership aspirations

SENIOR OCS ADAM McOMBER
OCS CLASS 48

Ever since I was young I knew that being a part of the Connecticut Army National Guard was something I wanted to do. I did not know what to expect at first, but knew I would quickly learn. I entered the Connecticut Army National Guard in September of 1999.

During my first few years in the military I underwent basic combat training and UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter technical training.

I entered the military wanting to be a pilot but knew this would not be an easy task to accomplish. The pilots and officers in the military are of the very best and would accept nothing less.

Knowing this, I would have to endure many challenges and excel in every avenue. In order to pursue my aspiration of becoming a pilot, I knew that I must complete some type of officer training. In addition to the OCS program and my desire to become an Aviation Branch Officer, I was also advised by my superior officers to attend OCS while simultaneously completing my college education at Western Connecticut State University.

My perception of the officers before OCS

was that they were simply the decision-makers of the military. As my time continued in the military I looked up to the officers more and more and realized how much more responsibility was truly instilled in those appointed over me. I learned that these officers not only uphold the Army values with the highest standards, but also take care of fellow soldiers with great stride.

At this point, OCS was a foreign language to me and I had little to no idea of what to expect. All I knew was that it was an intense officer-training program.

As I began the entrance process into OCS, the support of my fellow soldiers was unrenowned. Both the officers and the noncommissioned officers in my unit were there to answer each and every question. These interactions with my fellow soldiers increased my desire to become an officer and to do the same which they had done for me. It was an inspiration to see the support and knowledge of the officers appointed above me and I was looking forward to gaining the same knowledge and experience in OCS.

The OCS program involves several decision-making processes. I got my first taste of this during Phase Zero at Camp Rowland in Niantic, Conn., where I was

chosen to be acting platoon leader for 29 soldiers. This opportunity would be my first taste of leadership and would be the foundation of my officer career. The time in Phase Zero not only gave us a feel for the OCS environment, but also helped groom us for the challenges we would be facing in Phase One.

Phase One consisted primarily of entry-level leadership training along with intense land navigation. As we progressed into Phase Two, the leadership training intensified, as we, the officer candidates, experienced varying leadership roles, from company commander to team leader. In addition to this leadership training, we also underwent tactical field training as a form of preparation to lead our troops in the tactical environment.

Currently, I am looking forward to the challenge of Phase Three at Ft. Benning, Ga., where we will utilize all of our training from Phases One and Two, as well as the opportunity to show our instructors what we have learned in our final efforts to complete OCS.

During my entire OCS experience my interactions with the TAC staff and instructors engulfed me in various decision-

making processes. The OCS TAC staff consists of the army's finest officers and as an officer candidate, I found myself soaking up every word from the staff.

The staff used a structured form of instruction based upon the "Troop Leading Procedures." These procedures are the backbone in leading soldiers in any and all missions. The instruction given to all candidates provides ever-changing situations to make us the best officers we can be.

In my past three years in the military I can say this is the finest training any soldier can endure and I'm looking forward to putting my training to use as a platoon leader.

As a platoon leader, I will utilize my training in OCS and continue to learn from other officers not only to better myself, but also to support my soldiers. I take great pride in being able to train with such fine officers and officer candidates. I will strive to uphold the highest standard and instill that upon those whom I will one day lead.

For it is our motto: "Road to Gold – Strong and Bold" that describes the officers that we will have become.



NGACT helps push through state legislation benefitting Guardsmen; EANGUS/NGAUS conferences scheduled

The 2003 Legislative session has been a busy one for the NGACT. Members have been working hard this year to get state and federal legislation passed that benefits Guardsmen, their families and their employers.

While much remains to be done, especially at the national level, there have been successes at the state level, with three bills having been signed into law.

Public Act No. 03-33, effective Oct. 1, 2003, is a huge success for any National Guardsman who was attending college at the time he or she was called to active duty.

If the student was enrolled in courses at any of the state's community-technical colleges, Connecticut State University system or the University of Connecticut, and was called to active duty, they will now be able to go back to that school and re-enroll in the same courses for no additional cost.

"Such course re-enrollment shall be offered to any qualifying student for a period not exceeding four years after the date of release from active duty without additional tuition, student fee or related charge, except if such student has been fully reimbursed for the tuition, fees and charges for the course that was not completed."

Another success is the signing of Public Act No. 03-24, An Act Concerning Eligibility for Mortgage Financing for Individuals Serving in the Military Reserves or the National Guard. This act is effective July 1, 2003.

This act requires financial institutions and federal banks to maintain on file for two years and two months the mortgage application of a member of the U.S. armed forces reserves or National Guard who is called into active duty after submitting an application but before the financial institution or federal bank makes a determination on it. The bank or other financial institution must maintain the application on file if, within 30 days after being called into active duty, the member submits a written statement to the financial institution or federal bank (1) indicating that he has been called into active duty and (2) requesting that the bank maintain his application on file.

If an applicant returns from active duty within two years after submitting his mortgage application and, within 60 days after discharge from active duty, submits a written statement that there has been no material change in his income, assets, debts, or employment, the act requires the financial

institution or federal bank to finish processing his loan application in accordance with the terms and conditions made available to the applicant at the time of his initial application. The act also requires the financial institution or federal bank to offer the applicant any different terms and conditions it is offering to the public when the applicant returns from active duty.

The act applies to applications for home purchase loans, home improvement loans, and other mortgage loans on one-to-four family, owner-occupied, residential real property.

Public Act 03-85 is an Act Concerning Eligibility for Benefits to Veterans, and changes the basic definition of veteran.

This act makes all veterans who have 90 days of active duty service since Aug. 2, 1990 eligible for several property tax, education, and other benefits. Under previous law, only such veterans who served during (and in some cases, in) specific conflicts or operations are eligible for these benefits. It also extends benefits to all veterans who served during the conflicts in Somalia after Dec. 2, 1992 and Bosnia after Dec. 20, 1995. Under the previous law, the veteran had to have served in those countries to qualify.

On the other hand, it eliminates benefits for veterans with active duty service in several locations during specified dates.

As there is a great deal to this act, we will discuss it in more detail next month.

In other NGACT news, the EANGUS and NGAUS national conferences are coming up quickly.

The EANGUS conference will be held Aug. 17-20 in Toledo, Ohio. Contact Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joe Amatruda at joseph.amatruda@snet.net for further information.

The NGAUS conference will be held Sept. 15-17 in Biloxi, Miss. Contact Maj. Bob Pernel at (860) 878-6728 or Col. Thomas Heath at (860) 493-2707 for further information.

Finally, applications are still being accepted for the NGACT Scholarship. To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be members of NGACT or dependents of members. For applications and information sheets, contact Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton at debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil or Capt. Dave Fecso at david.fecso@ctbrad.ang.af.mil

Health & Fitness

Your Health Matters: BUG OFF to protect yourself from disease this summer

MAJ. SHIRLEY Y. SAMY
HEALTH PROMOTIONS OFFICER, 103RD MEDICAL SQUADRON

Insect repellents have been used on the skin for many years, primarily to prevent mosquito bites, which transmit malaria, West Nile virus, and various types of encephalitis. With increased concern about Lyme Disease, skin and clothing repellents are now also recommended for protection from ticks.

DEET repels a variety of mosquitoes, chiggers, ticks, fleas and biting flies; no topical repellent is effective against stinging insects, such as bees and wasps. In the United States, DEET is available in formulations of 5-40 percent and 100 percent but products containing even 20 percent of DEET or less can provide complete protection for one to three hours. Higher concentrations provide longer-lasting protection (up to 12 hours).

A long-acting DEET formulation, originally developed for the US Armed Forces is available as Ultrathon by 3M; it contains 25 percent or 33 percent DEET in a long-acting formulation which prevents loss from the skin surface through sweating. This product provided more than 95 percent protection against mosquito bites for six-12 hours depending on the environment and the kind of mosquito. This was similar in effect to 75 percent DEET in the usual alcohol base.

OTHER REPELLENTS without DEET offer similar duration of protection against

mosquitoes but not against ticks. Citronella-based repellents provide less than an hour of defense. There is a new eucalyptus-oil-based repellent, which provided up to four hours protection against mosquitoes. Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard Plus provided about 20 minutes protection and soy bean oil in Bite Blocker about 95 minutes.

A new product that is already available in Europe and Australia will soon be marketed here. Picaridin is the active ingredient and may prove to be as effective as US ARMY formulation DEET.

PERMETHRIN, is used for the treatment of lice, Nix, but is also marketed as a solution or spray for application to clothing, mosquito nets, tents and sleeping bags to protect against both mosquitoes and ticks. Permethrin is more effective than DEET against ticks and this combined with DEET-containing repellent may be the most effective way to prevent insect bites.

SAFETY-DEET can damage clothes made from synthetic fibers and plastics such as eyeglass frames and watches. Despite some earlier concerns, toxic and allergic reactions to DEET are uncommon. If used as directed, formulations up to 50 percent appear to be safe, even in young children. More serious problems occurred with prolonged use in infants and children and with ingestion. It has been used safely in second and third trimesters of pregnancy.

Fit for Life: Maxing your APFT made easy; if you follow your schedule

MAJ. JAMES FINN
MASTER FITNESS TRAINER

How does one max his or her PT test? In one word: HABIT.

During the next eight weeks develop a Fitness Habit.

The bad news: July is here and many people have less than two months to pass an APFT or else...

The good news: Weather, sunshine, and time are on your side.

You can pass, even score 300, on your next APFT if you want, and are willing to do some work.

For those looking for easy promotion points, follow the plan in the chart below.

Build your habit with four steps: schedule, protect, stretch, and weigh.

Schedule: Plan to do eight to 10 sets of push-ups and sit-ups, per day, three times a week. Spread your sets out during the day. When you get up do a set, do sets between classes, during coffee breaks, after bathroom trips, when you walk in the door, during commercials.

Your running workouts will also be three times a week.

Every Saturday give yourself a diagnostic fitness test to build confidence!! You will actually see improvement every week. This will also get your arms and gut used to doing two-minute workouts. The entire schedule can be shifted to match up with your record APFT or to put your "rest day" on Saturday or you weekday off.

Protect: Do not work to muscle failure! At no time during your eight weeks should you force you muscles and aerobic capacity to "muscle failure." Working muscles to the point where they are too exhausted to function (when preparing for an APFT) is

actually counterproductive and potentially injurious.

A good progressive incremental workout program will produce very little "aches and pains." You should not wake up the next day sore from acid build up in your muscles. You may even feel like doing more P&S. **Don't. Your muscles need time to recover and get stronger, which takes (for most people) between 36 to 72 hours.**

Other activities on Sunday or your Sabbath: (depending on your faith) go for a comfortable walk, swim, bicycle, or participate in another non-strenuous sport. Don't forget to include family.

Stretch: The Army recently did a research project and determined that incremental training (including calisthenics) will increase your health, fitness, work performance and prevent injury. The Army has renewed its Calisthenics program with two drills of 12 exercises. These exercises, when done correctly, will improve your range of motion, flexibility, stamina, endurance, and prevent injury. Static stretching is also needed to prevent pulled muscles, torn tendons, joint injuries, etc. Contact your unit Master Fitness Trainer, a personal trainer, or go online to the Fort Benning, Army Fitness School website for more information on stretching. If you don't have an Army

Knowledge Online account, get one.

Weigh: I have done some informal research with soldiers during the last few years and determined two rules:

1. Two mile run times improve when soldiers lose weight. (Even if they do not change their fitness training in any other way!!!)

For about every 10 percent body weight soldiers lose, they reduce about a minute

Substitute one pint of water for one can of soda per day (or one coffee, or one beer, or one . . .) and you will lose weight.

***P & S = Push-ups and Sit-ups: 10 repetitions per set and at least eight sets per day.**

Intervals: If you do not train to run faster than your last PT test you will not increase your speed. The easiest speed workout that I know is a simple two-mile workout. If you live near a high school track do the following workout (or else measure your own neighborhood course). Do not use a treadmill.

Step 1: Warm up: Run easy (or jog) two laps or half a mile.

You should break a light sweat and be breathing harder but should be able to talk to another runner at the "easy" pace

Step 2: Run: One lap (a quarter mile) at five seconds faster than your last APFT pace.

Figure the pace by dividing your run time by eight. Example: last PT run 20:00 minutes 20:00 minutes, 8=2:30 per 1/4 mile; 2:30-5 seconds = 2:25 per lap for intervals

Step 3: Recover: walk for the same amount of time.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you complete four intervals (laps) with a recovery walk.

Step 4: Cool Down: after recovery walk Run easy (or jog) another two laps or a half a mile.

The quarter mile interval laps should not have felt difficult because of the relatively slow pace and recoveries. Each week reduce the time for the Run and Recover intervals.

For more information on fitness improvement or other tips on how to max your APFT contact your unit's Master Fitness Trainer.

The 8 Week Plan							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	Rest or Other	*P&S 10XB	Intervals - 5 sec	P&S 10XB	Run 2 miles	P&S 10XB	DAPFT
Week 2	Rest or Other	P&S 10XB	Intervals - 5 sec	P&S 10XB	Run 2.5 miles	P&S 10XB	DAPFT
Week 3	Rest or Other	P&S 15XB	Intervals - 10 sec	P&S 15XB	Run 3 miles	P&S 15XB	DAPFT
Week 4	Rest or Other	P&S 15XB	Intervals - 10 sec	P&S 15XB	Run 3.5 miles	P&S 15XB	DAPFT
Week 5	Rest or Other	P&S 20XB	Intervals - 15 sec	P&S 20XB	Run 4.0 miles	P&S 20XB	DAPFT
Week 6	Rest or Other	P&S 20XB	Intervals - 15 sec	P&S 20XB	Run 4.0 miles	P&S 20XB	DAPFT
Week 7	Rest or Other	P&S 25XB	Intervals - 20 sec	P&S 25XB	Run 4.0 miles	P&S 25XB	DAPFT
Week 8	Rest or Other	P&S 25XB	Intervals - 20 sec	P&S 25XB	Run 2.0 miles	Rest!!!!	Record APFT

Other: swim, bicycle, roller blade, jump-rope, golf, walk-the-dog.

*P & S = Push-ups and Sit-ups: 10 repetitions per set and at least 8 sets per day.

off their two-mile run. If you put on 10 pounds during the winter and failed your two-mile run by 30 seconds, now you know why.

2. Switching from beverages to drinking non-mineral water helps lose weight.

The typical Connecticut resident needs to drink about two quarts of "just plain water" every day. During winter, while working indoors, even when you don't feel like you're sweating, you need water. Your body is a machine that produces toxins. The toxins must go somewhere. Drinking water allows your body to get rid of the poisons. If you do not drink water your body stores the waste (in your liver, fat tissue, kidneys, and any where there is space, skull?). You become your own bio-landfill of toxic waste. Drinking water flushes your system and will help you lose weight. One can of soda is 150 calories.

Postcards Home



Connor and Evyn Callahan, son and daughter of Staff Sgt. Gerard A. Callahan of the 1109th AVCRAD, decorate their daddy's care package. The children's father has been deployed overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo courtesy of Toni Callahan)



Members of the 143rd Military Police Company who are also Connecticut State Police Officers placed one of their trooper seals on their Humvee to remind them of home. (Photo courtesy of the 143rd MP Company)



Sgt. 1st Class Steven Oshana of the 143rd Military Police Company shows off dessert cuisine. (Photo courtesy of the 143rd MP Company)



Members of the 143rd Military Police Company clear debris in an undisclosed location while under the curious eye of local children. (Photo courtesy of the 143rd MP Co.)



Members of the 247th Engineer Company (Well Drilling) take time out for a photo shortly after their arrival overseas. (Photo courtesy of the 247th Engineers)

Retirees' Voice

Army Echoes: The communications link

SGT. 1st CLASS (RET.) JOHN BEDNARZ

The *Army Echoes* Bulletin, May 2003 edition, finally arrived.

I look forward to receiving it because it contains a wealth of information for the retiree. This edition reported on the Retiree's Council, which I mentioned a few columns back. The latest Council met April 7-11th, and addressed some important issues, such as concurrent receipt, the elimination of the reduction to the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity at age 62, and acceleration of the start date of the paid-up provision of the plan.

The council also made many suggestions for the improvement of TRICARE such as raising reimbursement levels, eliminating TRICARE prime co-payments for retirees and family members under 65, expanding information campaigns, and improving the relationship between DoD and VA health care departments.

One communications goal, which I think is important is the quarterly funding of *Army Echoes*, the only communications link that reaches all retirees, families, and survivors. The council co-chairmen will continue to meet periodically with the Chief of Staff, Army during the year to discuss progress on these issues.

Also in this edition is a reminder that the three-year commemoration of the Korean War is coming to an end later this year. In that same vein, there is a reminder of the new defense medal, which will eventually be issued to those members who served in the Republic of Korea, or adjacent waters, after July 28, 1954, to an undetermined ending date. The U. S. Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM), as it is called, is not to be confused with Republic of Korea War Service Medal for personnel who

served between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953. The DoD is still working on the process for this new medal, which can take over a year.

Also in this edition are a few articles that urge retired members to take advantage of the Commissaries and Exchanges on the nearest military base. They are an important benefit. AAFES can also be accessed from on line at <http://www.aafes.com>.

For those who are on disability and receive disability compensation, there is an article on the status of the Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) payable to certain disabled retirees who have at least 20 years. These retirees who have 10 percent or higher disabilities associated with the Purple Heart, or 60 percent and higher for other disabilities attributed to combat situations, training, or hazardous duty, or instrumentality of war must apply to receive this compensation.

If you feel you may qualify, you should prepare to apply by gathering and copying records showing that you qualify. This includes records that show your rating is combat related. A DoD committee has been working to develop guidance and an application form. When the form is ready it will be available through the Retirement Services Offices.

These and many other articles on such subjects as: New privacy standards in the DoD Military Healthcare System, TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy begins, VA expands Agent Orange benefits, and others complete the latest issue of *Army Echoes*. If you get it, read it all. If you don't get it, find out why.

I also need to apologize to 'my wife Ginny' and others who commented, for referring to her in my last column as "the wife."

Do you know these guys?



Col. James Throwe (l) and Maj. Gen. John Freund (r) escort Gov. Ella Grasso during Governor's Day at Fort Drum, N.Y. in 1978. Also pictured are State Rep. Chet Morgan, Master Sgt. Tom Howe and Col. Joe Lebel. (Photo courtesy of Chet Morgan)

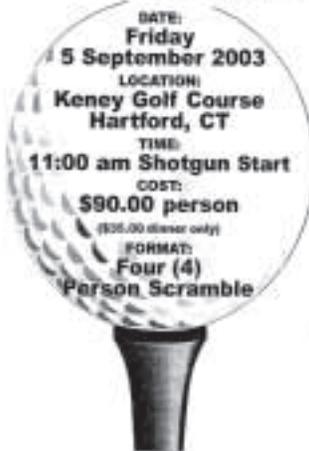
If you have a picture of historical nature to share with our readers, email if possible to debby.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil or mail to Sgt. 1st Class Debby Newton, Public Affairs Office, National Guard Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795. All photos will be returned.



6th ANNUAL NGACT OPEN



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



DATE:
Friday
5 September 2003

LOCATION:
**Keney Golf Course
Hartford, CT**

TIME:
11:00 am Shotgun Start

COST:
\$90.00 person
(\$35.00 dinner only)

FORMAT:
**Four (4)
Person Scramble**

Tournament Day Schedule

9:00-10:45	Registration, Coffee, Drinks
10:45-11:00	Depart for starting holes
11:00	Shotgun start
4:00-5:00	Catered-in Host
5:00	Barbecue, Awards, Raffle

Tournament Includes:

- > 18 Holes with cart <
- > Hot dog & drink at the 18th <
- > Barbecue to follow golf (beer, wine, soda) <
- > Awards, prizes and raffle <
- > \$25,000 Hole in One contest <
- > Closest to the Pin contest <
- > Long drive contest <
- > 50/50 contest <

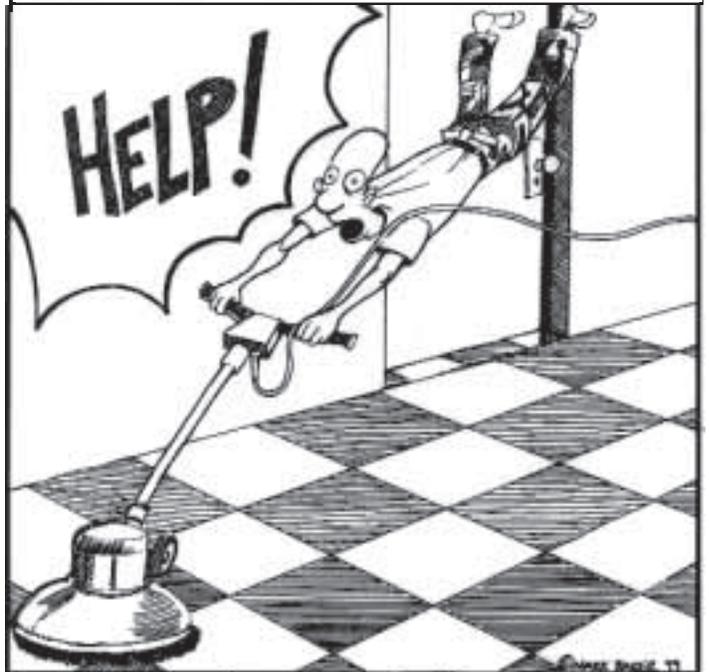
Hole sponsorships available - see enclosed information

For questions or more information contact:

<small>Joseph Amatore (860) 247-5000</small>	<small>Chris Hawkins (860) 324-4814</small>
<small>Juba Godwin (860) 534-4808</small>	<small>Joseph Deaso (860) 883-5975</small>

Return to NLT 15 Aug 03: NGACT Open, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795
(Make checks payable to NGACT)

Name: _____ Account: _____ Host: _____ Photo: _____



134th MPs head to West Point to provide Force Protection

SPEC. JOSEPH WALLER
65th PCH

The sun ended its absence on Tuesday, June 10 to see off the 134th Military Police (MP) battalion at the Norwich Armory.

The battalion will go on to Ft. Drum for training and qualifications and then proceed to West Point to supplement security forces with the unit's fifty-one soldiers. The unit will be participating in Operation Noble Eagle III, for which Connecticut will provide the command and control element for the Northeast region.

What you could not have guessed from being at the send off was that this unit did not exist more than a month ago. Newly formed in response to the new force structuring within Connecticut, the 134th MPs are ready to serve. John S. Carragher, first sergeant for the battalion pointed out some of the challenges that they would face.

"(This unit) is unique in that the soldiers have not worked together before, because the unit didn't exist. But, we have good soldiers; motivated and dedicated, and that is more than half of it," Carragher said.

With the majority of the soldiers in the unit formerly from other units with missions other than military police, they will have to get qualified to begin their mission.

One such soldier, Spec. Sarah Millette a member of the first squad, was looking forward to officially becoming an MP.

"I am happy and excited to be going, I wanted to be an MP when I joined, but there were no slots available in Connecticut. I am looking forward to the training, qualifying with the 9mm. It will be a good experience

for me," said Millette. "Hopefully, when I come back, I will go back to school, I want to become a police officer." Another soldier, Sgt. Ricardo Valle, also soon to be an MP was positive about the deployment.

"Our deployment is a good thing; we are up to accomplishing our mission," he said. "My family is positive and very supportive of the whole thing. I talked to them about the mission and they understand and support what I am doing."

Valle also spoke of what he thought was the unit's greatest challenge, agreeing with his first sergeant, and even complimenting his chain of command.

"Getting to know each other, and trying to work together will be challenging, we haven't spent a lot of time together. I am pretty confident that we will and our chain of command has been very helpful, supportive and accommodating."

Pfc. Ben Burbank was also impressed with his chain of command, nothing that, "They are doing well, they got us squared away and motivated real quick, we are ready to go."

Sharee Burbank, on hand to see her two sons go, said "I am very proud of them, but that's all my children, so I hope the Army takes care of them."

Among the well-wishers was a former Assistant Adjutant General (Ret.) John Carragher, to send off his son. Having been through many deployments before, he cast an experienced eye over the assembled soldiers.

"I think they are well qualified and trained. These men and women will do us proud."



Tender moments such as this between 1st Sgt. John Carragher and his son, will be in short supply for the soldiers of the 134th Military Police Company, based out of Norwich, as they begin their deployment to West Point Military Academy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Sgt. Greg Harrison, 65th PCH)



Connecticut soldiers head out in support of Operation Noble Eagle

SPEC. MARIAN ROSADO
65th PRESS CAMP

While plans were being made to welcome home Army and Air Guard members, families and friends gathered for a departure ceremony held for 300 soldiers being deployed.

The ceremony was held at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks. Approximately 300 soldiers from 134th MP Company of Norwich, 103rd CM Company of Naugatuck, 102nd Infantry of New Britain, and C Company 242nd Engineer Battalion of Branford mobilized in support of "Operation Noble Eagle." Five members of Detachment 2, Company I, 185th Aviation of Groton were also mobilized for "Operation Enduring Freedom," in Southwest Asia.

Operation Noble Eagle was created as a response to the September 11 attacks leveled at the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

The focus of the mission is to lend the ready reserves for homeland defense and civil support.

Moreover, Operation Enduring Freedom, as stated by President George W. Bush, is "the destruction of terrorist training camps and infrastructure within Afghanistan."

"The men and women from your community have made us all proud," said Maj. Gen. William Cugno, Adjutant General of the Connecticut Guard. "Not one said 'I won't go.' Not one said 'I'm too busy.' It's a tribute and a testament to the men and women in the Connecticut National Guard and something we should all be proud of. I am."

Some soldiers left immediately following the ceremonies, and others within a week and traveled to their mobilization stations

at Ft. Drum, N.Y. and Ft. Benning, Ga. They are scheduled to be on active duty for one year.

"This brings the number of Connecticut National Guard soldiers activated for Operation Noble Eagle to more than 400," said Cugno. "We live in a time where homeland security alert levels have become a way of life. Connecticut National Guard soldiers have answered the call of duty to keep us safe from the evil that wants to harm us."

The number of Connecticut National Guardsmen on active duty to date is approximately 1300. The majority of these guardsmen were deployed overseas to Kuwait or Iraq. Some of those units have returned home to their families, while others continue to serve or have recently been shipped over.



A young girl looks around for her father while sitting on her grandfather's lap during send-off ceremonies for the 192nd. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)



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