



Family Deployment Supplement to the Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 4 NO. 9

HARTFORD, CT

SEPTEMBER 2003

Spaghetti dinner, information for family members, friends

SPEC. JOSEPH WALLER
65th PCH

Sharing photographs of the deployed loved ones who have been in Iraq since February of this year can provide family members a unique opportunity to learn about what their family members were doing.

Wednesday night, Aug. 22 gave family members of the deployed 143rd Military Police (MP) Company a chance to do just that at their Family Readiness group's spaghetti dinner.

The 1st Company Governor's Food Guard hosted the dinner at their State Armory in Hartford, Conn.

Faith Roberge, whose husband is a member of the company, spoke a little of why families participated.

"We get together with other family members, share our experiences, and see what is going on."

"My son is in Baghdad. I've been getting calls from him, but I am concerned about the heat, the food, and the living conditions," said Sandy Soucy whose son is a member of the 143rd MP Company. "I want to know how the troops are doing, what their morale is, and when they are coming home. I hope to see him in the slide show. It is hard for them to get to a phone to call us."

Before the dinner was brought out, the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno gave a presentation to the family members.



Family members listen as Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno briefs them on their deployed loved ones. (Photo by Spec. Joe Waller, 65th PCH)

"It is a very busy time for the State of Connecticut and for the military department. My mission tonight is to share some information and to answer your questions.

"I visited Kuwait, but I could not get into Iraq. We reviewed the mobilization process to answer some of the questions that you that we could not answer last time," Cugno said.

In addition to visiting the troops, Cugno and his staff receive updates from the field both verbally and written.

"I received a letter from a lieutenant colonel that is sitting on my desk. He is a battalion commander... he told me in all his career the 143rd MP Company is the best MP Company I have ever served with. They have done phenomenal," said Cugno. Upon hearing this, family members applauded and cheered for their loved ones.

The main question on family members's minds was when were their loved ones coming home.

"The Secretary of Defense has put out very explicit instructions," said Cugno. "The president of the United States has the power to mobilize National Guard troops for a year. And extend for a year. I do not expect them to do that... I assume it will be for a year."

While touring Connecticut National Guard units Cugno was able to visit with a wounded soldier in Germany.

"You know we have a wounded... Spec. Kim from the 143rd evacuated to Germany. I visited him there. He has been returned to Ft. Drum. The system does work. Kim is

doing fine, the unit is doing great."

Towards the end of his presentation, Cugno spoke a little about the conditions the soldiers were living under and about their moral.

"Anyone who tells you that it is not bad over there is lying. It stinks, it's 130 degrees, there is wind and sand... the biggest concern for soldiers is of the one's back home. Send

them pictures, keep writing... when I look through all these pictures they are smiling and they miss you."

A slide show followed the presentation showing the troops going about their lives in Iraq and Kuwait and family members waited to catch a glimpse of their son, daughter, husband, wife, friend, or fiancé.



Family members share a secret during the 143rd MP Family dinner held to give family members of deployed soldiers an update on the MP mission. (Photo by Spec. Joe Waller, 65th PCH)



Sharing a laugh and a soda during a family pasta dinner. (Photo by Spec. Joe Waller, 65th PCH)

Sgt. John Noone, 1109th AVCRAD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD

We give you the gift of a family's love,
from the little white house on Hospital Ave,
for when blue skies turn gray and push comes to shove,
love is all you have.

We give you the gift of a family's blessing,
in troubling, trying times,
and the knowledge that you needn't be stressing,
that which is contained in these wonderful rhymes.

We give you the gift of a picture,
for they often speak louder than words,.
a hearty "hello" from the kitties,
and a signature squawk from the bird.

We give you a poem filled with kisses,
hugs and birthday wishes galor,
with "I love you's" from Nick and the misses,
in a poem that could never be found at the store.

We give you our tenderest dreams,
for a birthday of laughter and fun,
as we sit and patiently wait till they deem,
your work in Iraq "officially done."

WE LOVE YOU.

September 6, 2003

Handyperson Hotline for families and volunteers

Calling all soldiers and airmen, retirees or spouses. This is your opportunity to stop being a spectator and start doing something to help the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard during these unprecedented times.

Volunteer to donate some of your time and expertise to the CTNG Family Program's Handyperson Center. If you are a tradesman or an all around handyperson or a laborer, the Handyperson Center is looking for you!

E-mail your name, phone number skill, status (active, retired, spouse) and hometown to Sgt. Maj. Toby Cormier at toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil or call (860) 209-0770.

The Handyperson Hotline is designed to reduce the stressors on the families of deployed soldiers and airmen by having everyday household problems diagnosed and repaired or referred to competent businesses at no cost for labor.

The program is also designed to get seasonal chores such as window air conditioners installed/removed, pools

opened/closed, leaves removed, items brought to the dump and so on.

All of this can be performed by fellow Guardsmen, retirees or spouses of Guardsmen who are willing to donate their time and expertise to this program.

Here's how the program works:

A deployed family member calls the Handyperson Hotline with a clogged drain.

The Hotline manager contacts a plumber from the Handyperson Database who will contact the family member and attempt to walk the person through correcting the problem (if possible.)

If not corrected, the Hotline will dispatch a qualified person (fellow Guardsman) to the house to correct the problem.

It is designed to give the deployed family somewhere to turn to keep the home operating smoothly without having to pay to get things done around the house that were normally done by the deployed soldier or airman.

To volunteer or for more information, call (860) 209-0770 today.

Where Are All The Yellow Ribbons

By: Peggy Ryan

Mother of Staff Sgt. Shawn P. Ryan
(Serving in Kuwait with 1109th CT AVCRAD)

*Where are all the yellow ribbons that once hung o'er the town
The tiny flags on cars are slowly coming down*

*Most people think the war is over...How wrong their belief
For the families of the injured, dead and lost never lose their grief*

*For those of us parents with loved ones still in a foreign land
We remember them as babies as we led them by the hand*

*We remember every step they took to be who they are today
Though they are miles away from us we pray for them each day*

*What about the husband or the wife that stays at home each night
Worrying about their loved one till the dawn's early morning light*

*What about the children waiting for their parents safe return
Just to have a hug or kiss is something for which they yearn*

*We Americans take so much for granted in this precious land we live
Sometimes we forget the price that others had to give*

*So we can sit beneath a bright blue summer sky
Watching birds and listening as overhead they fly*

*We forget the barren war torn lands where flowers never bloom
We forget the devastation, the misery and the gloom*

*The war has not ended... men and women are dying every day
As our troops still swelter on sands so far away*

*How do you tell the children dad's not coming home today
Or mom's too busy protecting us while she's so far away*

*So remember to feel the worry that their loved ones have to face
And remember to feel the loneliness they feel in that far off place*

*What about their comrades that have died on desert sands
No the war has not ended ...for them no parades or bands*



HANDYPERSON HOTLINE



"CARRYING THE HOMEFRONT"



**SERGEANT MAJOR
TOBY P. CORMIER**
Ph: 860-441-2984
Cell: 860-209-0770
toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil

State laws passed to benefit Guardsmen and their families

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 an 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"

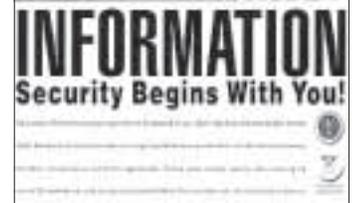
Entitles all honorably discharged veterans who have 90 days of active duty service since August 2, 1990, to Connecticut "war-time" veteran benefits, which includes property tax, education, and other benefits.

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.



COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

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

<p>AIR NATIONAL GUARD East Granby TUESDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 SATURDAY: 10:00 – 4:00 SUNDAY & MONDAY: Closed UTAs: Open Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 – 5:00 Phone: (860) 653-6994</p>	<p>CAMP ROWLAND POST EXCHANGE MONDAY: Closed TUESDAY – SATURDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 SUNDAY: 10:00 – 4:00 Phone: (860) 739-9672</p>	<p>WEST POINT, NEW YORK Exchange Hours: SATURDAY – WEDNESDAY: 10:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 10:00 – 7:00 Phone: (914) 446-5406 Commissary Hours: MONDAY: Closed TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY: 10:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY: 10:00 – 7:00 FRIDAY: 10:00 – 6:00 SATURDAY: 9:00 – 5:00 SUNDAY: 11:00 – 5:00 Phone: (914) 446-5406</p>	<p>SUB BASE, NEW LONDON Exchange Hours: MON., TUES., WED., FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY: 9:00 – 7:00 SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 9:00 – 5:00 HOLIDAYS: 9:00 – 4:00 Phone: (860) 694-3811 Commissary Hours: MONDAY: Closed TUE., WED. & FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. SATURDAY: 8:00 – 5:00 SUNDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 Phone: (860) 694-2244</p>	<p>WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE Chicopee, Mass. MONDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 SATURDAY: 10:00- 5:00 SUNDAY: 11:00 – 5:00 Phone: (413) 593-5583</p>
<p>COAST GUARD ACADEMY New London MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 5:00 SATURDAY: 9:00 – 3:00 SUNDAY: Closed Phone: (860) 444-8488</p>	<p>COAST GUARD STATION 120 Woodward Avenue New Haven, CT MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 4:30 SATURDAY: 9:00 – 2:00 SUNDAY: Closed Phone: (203) 468-2712</p>			<p>ARMY RESERVE CENTER 700 South Quaker Lane West Hartford, CT MONDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 1:00 MONDAY – FRIDAY: 1:45 – 4:00 SATURDAY & SUNDAY: Closed Phone: (860) 236-3393</p>

Family Assistance Center locations

Family Assistance Centers are set-up in the following armories around the state:

Bristol Amory
61 Center Street, Bristol, CT 06010
(860) 582-1206 Toll Free 866-347-2283 1st Lt. Lynda Hedenberg

Waterbury Amory
64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
(203) 574-2406 Toll Free 866-347-2291 Sgt. Jonathon Duffy

Manchester Amory
330 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 646-0780 Toll Free 866-347-2286 Capt. Lauri Tinelle

Windsor Locks, AASF
Bradley International ARPT-BLDG 85-152, Route 75, Windsor Locks, CT 06096
(860) 627-7942 Toll Free 866-347-2292

Groton - AVCRAD
71 Tower Avenue, Groton, CT 06340
(860) 448-3346 Toll Free 866-347-3346 Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Ives

103rd FW, Bradley ANG Base
Bldg 8, East Granby, CT 06026
(860) 292-2730 Mrs. Donna Rivera

Newington SASC
555 Willard Avenue, Building 2W, Newington, CT 06111
(860) 878-6723 (860) 878-6724 Toll Free 800-858-2677
Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Spec. Jessica McKenna and Staff Sgt. Christopher McCarty

Branford Amory
87 Montowese Street, Branford, CT 06405
(203) 481-3874 Toll Free 866-347-3351 Sgt. 1st Class Cheryl Gilbert

Stratford Amory
63 Amory Road, Stratford, CT 06614
(203) 375-8269 Toll Free 866-347-3356 Spec. Tanara Jex

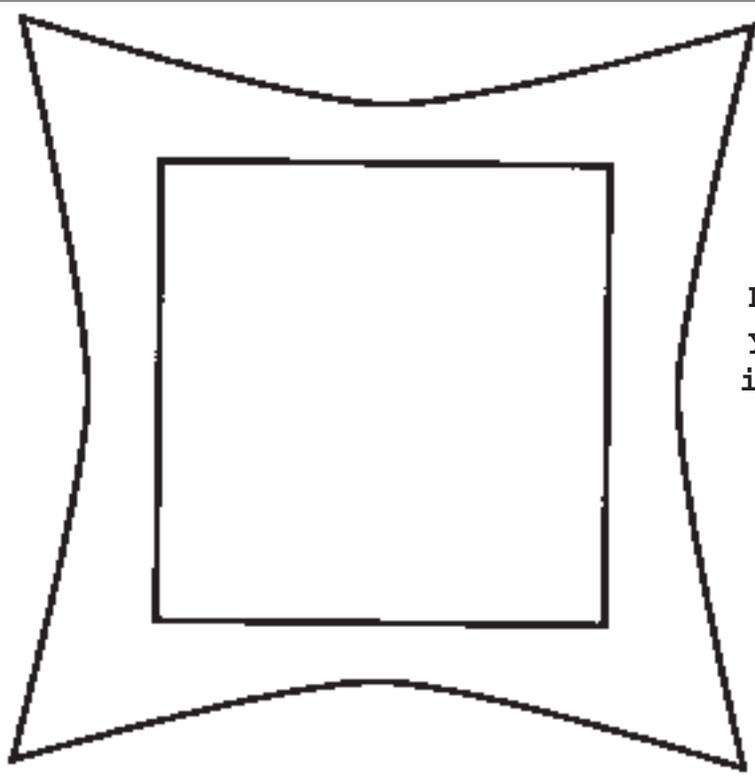
Middletown Amory
200 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 344-9201 Toll Free 866-347-3355 Ms. Michelle McIntosh

Norwich Amory
38 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 887-3911 Toll Free 866-347-3357

103rd Air Control Squadron
206 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477
(203) 795-2983 Charlie and Jane Solomon

Volunteers are needed in each facility,
Those wishing to help out can contact Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Family Program Manager
at 1-800-858-2677.

Any family member or loved one of a deployed soldier who has questions about
benefits or deployment issues may also get answers to their question at the following
email addresses: kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil or julian.muller@ct.ngb.army.mil



Draw a picture of
yourself and send
it to your deployed
loved one.

Kids' Coloring Corner

A MONTHLY FEATURE
OF FUN AND
EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES TO HELP
MILITARY CHILDREN
LEARN ABOUT
DEPLOYMENTS