



Connecticut GUARDIAN

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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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Welcome Home! TASMG Mission Complete

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman shakes hands with the 65 members of the 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group following a formal welcome home ceremony in their honor at the 1109th TASMG facility in Groton, Connecticut, December 18.

The 1109th TASMG deployed to Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of NATO's Resolute Support Mission. There are only four TASMG's in the nation, and Connecticut's is responsible for providing technical and mechanical support to the rotary-wing assets of 14 states.

During its 11-month deployment, the TASMG was responsible for maintenance and contract oversight that proved crucial, providing supported units with safe, reliable aircraft.

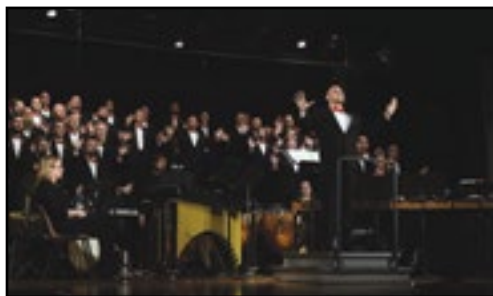
"A Freedom Salute ceremony to officially celebrate a unit's overseas achievements is always made better knowing that these brave men and women will be with their families for the holidays," said Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard. "With this, we focus our attention on the nearly 100 Connecticut National Guard Airmen currently deployed, and the 300 that will be joining them in the near future." (Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Wrigley, JFHQ Public Affairs, CTARNG)



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TAG Memorandum: Policy Letter Number 29

Equal Opportunity & Diversity Affinity Awards

FROM THE OFFICE OF MAJ. GEN. THAD MARTIN
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, CTNG

The Connecticut National Guard recognizes the actions of our members to increase diversity awareness and professional development. Our continued organizational strength and viability rests upon our culture of diversity and inclusion. To facilitate the recognition of our members who demonstrate our culture of diversity and inclusion in their values and behavior, the CTNG will annually nominate a member to the National Guard Bureau for each Affinity Award.

Wing and Major Command commanders will submit at least one candidate annually for each Affinity Award. The annual nomination submission must be timely and properly formatted IAW the enclosed template.

The Wing/MACOM commanders will make their annual submission through the State Equal Employment Manager (SEEM) to the Joint Diversity Executive Council for consideration. The schedule for this annum’s nominations requires submissions to the SEEM no later than the close of the respective performance period. The SEEM will hereafter issue annual guidance for the schedule of submissions .

The point of contact for this policy is the SEEM, 1st Lt Ryan Serfes, who is located at the Middletown Armed Force Readiness Center, Human Resources Office, 375 Smith Street, Suite 111, Middletown CT 06457. The SEEM may be contacted at 860-613- 7610 or via email at toby.r.serfes.mil@mail.mil.

Fiscal Year 2017 Affinity Awards and Deadlines

- Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) Military Meritorious Service Award - **February 12, 2017**
- Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) Meritorious Service Award - **March 5, 2017**
- League of the United Latin American Citizens Excellence Award - **March 5, 2017**

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Roy Wilkins Renowned Service Award - **March 5, 2017**
- Blacks in Government (BIG) Meritorious Service Award - **March 5, 2017**

- National Organization for Mexican American Rights (NOMAR) DoD Meritorious Service Award - **April 2, 2017**
- National Image, Incorporated (IMAGE) Meritorious Service Award - **April 2, 2017**
- Connecticut (CT) Excellence in Diversity Individual and Unit Awards - **November 5, 2017**

General Evaluation Criteria for all Award Packages:

- The nominee distinguished himself or herself by promoting the tenets of civil/human rights, equal opportunity, diversity , human relations, and/or public service.
- The nominee displayed exceptional character that distinguishes an individual as an outstanding leader, role model or mentor by promoting the development or advancement of all Department of Defense (DoD) personnel including women and minorities.
- The nominee contributed to the equal opportunity for selection, promotion or retention of women and minorities in senior grade level positions and under-represented occupations.
- The nominee believed in and practiced the tenets of a democratic society, including the U.S. Constitution-the belief that all people are created

equal, and that freedom is a right that must be protected at all times.

- The nominee assisted in overcoming discrimination and eliminating barriers that hinder equal opportunity for all members of the Armed Forces and civilians including women and minorities in the Armed Forces.
- The nominee supported the full integration and promotion of all DoD personnel to include minorities and women within the Armed Forces and civilian workforce .
- The nominee created opportunities that support and contribute to the mentorship, development, advancement or retention of all personnel including women and minorities in government service consistent with merit principles.

The nominee created job or training opportunities that will support and contribute to advancement of all Service members including women and minorities in the Armed Forces or civilian workforce.

For more about the specific nomination criteria for each service award, contact the CTNG Human Resources Office through your chain of command or contact 1st Lt. Ryan Serfes, SEEM, at 860-613-7610 or via email at toby.r.serfes.mil@mail.mil.

Changing Your Address

If you move and would like to continue receiving the *Connecticut Guardian*, please change your address by contacting the editor by phone or email at (860) 524-4858 or allison.l.joanis.civ@mail.mil.

To change your home of record, please see the following:

CTNG Retirees: Contact Sgt. 1st Class Ericka Thurman at ericka.g.thurman.mil@mail.mil or 860-524-4813.

Militia Members: Contact your chain of command or unit admin.

Current CTNG Members: Contact your chain of command or unit admin.

Any other questions about the Guardian, contact the editor directly.

Connecticut

Aviators,

Crews Put

Training to

the Test -

Respond to

Emergency

Landing

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ANTHONY V. SAVINO
1-169TH GENERAL SUPPORT AVIATION BATTALION

Hours of simulated and real world flight time prepare pilots and crews for hundreds of flight scenarios.

From weather issues to equipment malfunctions, Soldiers are ready to make split second decisions in order to adhere to the highest standards in safety.

So when a master caution light illuminated in a UH-60L Blackhawk following a routine drill weekend flight mission on November 20, 2016, the pilots and crew knew that they had to land the aircraft immediately.

“When we got the master caution light, per our



Members of the DART use a UTES 20-ton crane to load the dissasembled UH-60L Blackhawk Helicopter onto a heavy duty low boy in preparation for transport to the AASF, November 23. The aircraft was dissembled and moved following an emergency landing made by aviators of the Connecticut Army National Guard in South Salem, New York, November 20. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony V. Savino, 1-169th GSAB)

emergency procedures, we knew that we had to land as soon as possible,” said Capt. Christopher Barker, Commander, D Co. 1-169th General Support Aviation Battalion.

Two Blackhawks,piloted and crewed by Soldiers, assigned to Charlie Company, 3-142 Aviation had just dropped off OCS Candidates of the New York Army National Guard at Camp Smith, N.Y. and were on their way back to the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Conn. when the emergency light in one of the aircraft illuminated.

Safety was the name of the game, especially with the potential immediacy of the situation, and the aircraft was expertly landed on a farm in South Salem, New York, just five miles from Ridgefield, Conn.

It was time to get to work and exercise the protocols members of the Aviation community are trained on from day one.

Unit Flight Operations alerted the Chain of Command of the situation and the unit’s full-time employees provided Maj. Ian Feyk 24-hour security at the location. After extensive maintenance operational checks

were performed over the next 48 hours, it was determined that the main transmission was failing and the aircraft could not be flown to a maintenance facility. The transmission required replacement.

The Downed Aircraft Recovery Team (DART) of the AASF mobilized on Tuesday, Nov. 22, and moved the aircraft to a location where a portable crane, maintenance stands and other special tools allowed the DART to remove the main rotors, tails rotors, stabilator, and tail pylon in order to have it ready for transportation to the AASF via truck.

On Nov. 23, the aircraft was lifted onto an extended tractor trailer by a 20-ton crane, and it was prepared for the move back to Windsor Locks.

Upon arrival, the aircraft was safely unloaded and placed in the hangar, where it will undergo a main transmission change and installation of all the components that were removed in order to have it fit on the low boy.

“When something like this happens, it takes total communication and crew coordination,” said Barker. “There is a lot happening, from safely landing the aircraft to coordination to get the aircraft home. Everyone did a fantastic job.”

“This operation wasn’t easy,” said Maj. Ian Feyk, Commander, 1-169th GSAB. “To have multiple sections of the Connecticut Army National Guard come together from all over the state on short notice showed the versatility and flexibility a DART provides.”

Feyk said he was pleased not only for the success of the whole operation but knowing all the participants would be home with family and friends for Thanksgiving.



Local residents watch members of the CTARNG DART slowly lift the UH-60L Blackhawk onto a specialized civilian heavy duty low boy trailer in South Salem, New York, November 23. The trailer then moved the disassembled aircraft back to the AASF in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony V. Savino, 1-169th GSAB)

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“Always Ready, Always There”

The Connecticut National Guard Stood By its Motto in 2016

MAJ. MIKE PETERSEN
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The Connecticut National Guard started 2016 out with a bang: welcoming home a unit after nine months at Guantanamo Bay and cutting the ribbon on a new maintenance facility. Throughout the year, the Guard faced a variety of challenges, rising to the top and living up to the motto, “Always Ready, Always There.” This month, we revisit some of the highlights of the first half of the year, following with a look at the second half in February’s issue.

January/February

What better way to cut the metaphorical ribbon on a new year than by cutting the actual ribbon on a brand-new facility? The Connecticut National Guard did just that, opening the \$25 million, 112,000-square-foot **Combined Support Maintenance Shop** at Camp Hartell, Jan. 14. Joined by Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut National Guard leadership spoke about what an important piece the CSMS played in the transformation of Camp Hartell.

“The maintenance shop is now the crown jewel of the post,” Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, said in a press release.

The facility is staffed by more than 60 full-time employees, all of which were temporarily displaced for two years as the CSMS was erected.

Just ten days later, a Major Subordinate Command changed hands as **Col. Robert Nugent** assumed command of the **143rd Regional Support Group** during a change of command ceremony at the Middletown



1st Lt. Nichole Giunto of the 192nd Military Police Battalion is welcomed home by Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Mark Russo at the Windsor Locks Readiness Center in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, Jan. 27. Giunto and her unit returned home after a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Maj. Jefferson Heiland, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



Loadmasters assigned to the 103rd AW prepare to drop a bundle out the back of a C-130H over the 439th Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, Massachusetts during a Low Cost Low Altitude Air Drop, March 5. (Photo by Senior Airman Emmanuel Santiago, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

Armed Forces Readiness Center, Jan. 24. Nugent took over for outgoing commander, **Col. Daniel Spinetti**, who retired following a 30-plus year career.

“I commit to you that I do my best to ensure your success, support your development as leaders, and work together with you and your families to provide our nation and the state of Connecticut our best possible service and support,” Nugent said after assuming command.

January also marked the redeployment first of three Army units deployed at some point during 2016, when the **192nd Military Police Battalion** returned from a nine-month mission to **Guantanamo Bay, Cuba**, Jan. 27.

Commanded by Lt. Col. Paul Deal, the 50-Soldier unit returned to Connecticut after spending the majority of 2015 in charge of detainee operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Over the 100-plus years, the drill shed floor of the **William A. O’Neill Armory** in Hartford has played host to everything from a U.S. President to antique shows. It continued to serve as a versatile space when the **Connecticut National Guard Recruiting and Retention** hosted over 20 colleges/universities and more than 300 people during the first annual **College and Career Fair**, Feb. 27.



Master Sgt. Greg Baluha, 143rd Regional Support Group, instructs members of the 1048th Medium Truck Company on riot control techniques at the unit’s home station in Enfield, Connecticut, March 12. The training prepared the unit for their validation as National Guard Response Force Soldiers. Each year, one CTNG unit is tasked as the NGRF for the state, prepared to augment the state’s first responders and civil unrest authorities. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Boffen, 130th PAD, CTARNG)

The fair’s goal was to not only connect prospective college students with local campus representation, but to also highlight the Guard’s higher education incentives and vast array of benefits that come with joining.

“We wanted to take this opportunity to also show



Spec. Nathan Havens of HHC, 1-102nd Infantry Regt. completes a 12-mile road march at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, Connecticut, April 2. The march was part of the State Best Warrior Competition and upon completion of the four-day event, Havens was named the 2016 Connecticut Soldier of the Year. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Brocuglio, 130th PAD, CTARNG)

everything the Connecticut National Guard has to offer,” said Maj. Janae Grant, Operations Officer for the Connecticut Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion. “When you think of the Guard, you may not immediately think about firefighters, musicians, or some of the other capabilities we have.”

March

The Flying Yankees of the 103rd Air Wing

have been racking up milestones since the unit’s conversion to a C-130H mission. They took one step closer by executing the unit’s first ever

low-cost, low-altitude drop during a training exercise in coordination with the 439th Westover Air Reserve Base, successfully dropping training bundles tailored for this mission.

“It gives the wing as a whole another capability, especially in the desert – it’s such a dynamic environment, we’ll have the opportunity help others in dire need,” Master Sgt. Bryan Watson, load master with the 103rd Airlift Wing said.

Programs for military children provide a much-needed respite from the uncertainty of life in the National Guard. The **First Company Governor’s Horse Guard’s Horses for Little Heroes** program got underway at their Avon facility, Mar. 5, providing youths from military families an opportunity to learn about horse care.

The program, from children aged 3-11, taught children the respect and responsibility that goes into caring for the animals one Saturday a month from March until November.

Windsor Locks once again played host to the tearful and long-anticipated return of a Connecticut National Guard unit. The **1-169 General Support Aviation Battalion**

Support Facility on the afternoon of March 12 after spending 11 months at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

Over 90 Soldiers assigned to the 1-169 GSAB provided transportation support, aerial medical evacuation, maintenance and fueling capabilities. Early in the deployment, the unit found itself supporting local authorities after southern Kosovo experienced an outbreak of forest fires. Pilots dumped buckets of water to assist in extinguishing the flames, which resulted in any loss of life or property damage, according to local authorities.

The next day, the **1048th Medium Truck Company** completed certification as a National Guard Response Force after successfully navigating a validation exercise at the New England Disaster Training Center, Camp Hartell, Windsor Locks, Conn.

More than 100 Soldiers were prepared to augment the state’s first responders and civil unrest authorities, if the need ever arose. Each year, one CTNG unit is tasked to serve as the state’s NGRF. The 1048th was trained by members of the 143rd Military Police Company.

Some of the skill sets trained included vehicle and detainee search, medical evaluation and evacuation and riot control tactics.

Just as the month started with programs for children, the month wouldn’t be complete without the annual **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**, held at the Hartford Armory, Mar. 26.

The 19th edition of the event saw over 400 military children and family members treated to a pancake breakfast and a visit from the Easter Bunny before the traditional Easter Egg hunt had children of all ages scrambling across the drill shed floor.

April

Over 30 Soldiers battled it out for the title of Connecticut Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year during the **2016 Best Warrior Competition**, Mar. 31-Apr. 3.

Continued See 2016 REVIEW on Page 10



Members of the Connecticut Army National Guard aviation community check out the first of three new HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters that touched down on the flight line of the touched down at Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, April 5. (Photo by Maj. Mike Petersen, State Public Affairs Officer)

Western Connecticut State University Honors Veterans

1st. Lt. MATTHEW T. KUCHTA
WCSU VETERANS AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

Western Connecticut State University takes great pride in the dedication to service displayed by all Veterans and took the time to show its gratitude to that community during its Veterans Week activities on campus in Danbury, Conn.

WCSU is home to over 185 student-veterans, one of the greatest percentages of student-veterans in the university population throughout schools in Connecticut. These student-veterans range from newly-enlisted Recruit Sustainment Program recruits such as Pvt. Nasser Rivera to Korean War Veteran Rudy Behrens.

Annually, WCSU proudly displays the Field of Flags – a display in which an 8-by-12-inch flag is placed for each and every service member who has been killed in the line of duty due to hostile fire since Sept. 11, 2001. Each flag is proudly made in the U.S.A. and is carefully stored when not in use. This year, 7,008 flags were hand-placed on the front lawn of the Midtown Campus.

“In years past the Field of Flags would line the sidewalks in the interior of the Midtown Campus. This year we decided to make the display more accessible for the general public and opted to place the flags in one large formation in front of the University,” said Bret J. Pikul, President of the WCSU Student-Veterans Organization.

Traffic nearly slowed to a standstill during the two days the Student-Veterans were placing the flags – a task that once took nearly a week. Many of the cars were honking horns to signal approval for the project and even some pedestrians stopped by to shake the hands of the student-veterans.

Following the success of the Field of Flags, WCSU held its Veterans Day ceremony, Nov. 9, in the Westside



In honor of Veterans Day, a display of 7,008 American Flags covered the lawn in the front of the Midtown Campus of Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut. Each flag represents a Service Member who has been killed in the line of duty due to hostile fire since Sept. 11, 2001. The Field of Flags is an annual occurrence for WCSU, however, this year was the first year that the flags were placed in one concentrated location in front of the university to make the display more accessible to the general public. (Photo courtesy of 1st. Lt. Matthew T. Kuchta, WCSU Veterans Affairs Coordinator)

Campus Center. Speakers included Danbury’s Mayor Mark D. Boughton, WCSU President John B. Clark, WCSU Veterans Affairs Coordinator Matthew T. Kuchta, WCSU SVO Treasurer Jonathan B. Gonzalez and WCSU SVO President Bret J. Pikul.

The invocation and benediction were provided by Connecticut National Guard State Support Chaplain, Maj. David C. Nutt. WCSU’s own Connecticut Army National Guard Recruiter, Staff Sgt. Joseph Benete, commanded an Honor Guard for the ceremony and the Bethel High School Naval JROTC opened the ceremony with a demonstration by its Color Guard, commanded by U.S. Marine Corps Master Sgt. (Ret.) Joe Meehan.

The keynote address was delivered by Jonathan B. Gonzalez, where he spoke of his deployment experiences in Afghanistan with the Connecticut National Guard and the transition to life as a student:

“The transition from conducting convoy security operations alongside my Battle Buddies to attending college classes with recent-high school graduates was not easy. Thankfully, the Veterans Affairs Coordinator and my advisors at WCSU are always there to help, no-matter what the situation,” Gonzalez said.



Students adorn the Westside Dog Tag Tree with identification tags embossed with messages of Veteran support outside the campus center of Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut. (Photo courtesy of 1st. Lt. Matthew T. Kuchta, WCSU Veterans Affairs Coordinator)

Immediately following the ceremony, attendees were invited to dedicate the new Westside Dog Tag Tree just outside of the Campus Center. Over the months of September and October, students, faculty and administrators wrote phrases of appreciation and support for all Veterans which were then embossed onto regulation-sized identification tags. These tags were then hung on the limbs of the Westside Dog Tag Tree and will remain there for all to see.

This is the second Dog Tag Tree on a WCSU campus with the first being dedicated during the 2015 Veterans Week on WCSU’s Midtown campus. Former WCSU student-veteran Staff Sgt. John Cummings, assigned to the CTNG’s 1-102nd Infantry Regiment, was instrumental in acquiring and embossing the identification tags.

Western Connecticut State University is located in Danbury, Conn. and has been approved to train Veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapters 30 & 1606), Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31) and dependents using the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35). WCSU also accepts the Connecticut National Guard Tuition Waiver, as well as the Connecticut Veterans Tuition Waiver. WCSU employs a full-time Veterans Affairs Coordinator who oversees all aspects of veteran and military programs for a one-stop-shop in an effort to eliminate all guess work regarding continuing education during and after military service.



Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Cuebas leads the Hartford Gay Men’s Chorus in a sign language rendition of “Silent Night,” Dec. 2 at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Aetna Theater in Hartford, Conn. Cuebas joined the CTARNG in 1998 and is currently the NCOIC of the Small Arms Readiness Training Section in the Regional Training Institute. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CTARNG

Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Cuebas was silent as he faced the seated audience in the Wadsworth Atheneum, Aetna Theater in Hartford, Conn., Dec. 2.

He slowly moved his arms, and the chorus members behind him followed. Hushed sounds of the men’s sleeves brushing against their suit jackets filled the auditorium. The group concluded their sign language rendition of “Silent Night,” and the audience stood, clapped and cheered. The applause extended well into the next song.

Cuebas is a member of the fast-growing Hartford Gay Men’s Chorus. The group just wrapped up their annual holiday concert, “A Wish Come True,” in the filled-to-capacity museum theater. This was Cuebas’ third year with the group, which is celebrating its five-year anniversary.

“We’ve built such a brotherhood here,” said Cuebas, regarding the group. “Like the military, we all have differences and different beliefs, but we all support each other.”

The HGMC holiday concert, “A Wish Come True,” was dynamic, passionate, composed and conservative, as renditions included the traditional, “O Come All Ye Faithful,” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” but also the classic Puerto Rican carol, “A La Media Noche,” and the Nigerian hymn, “Betelehemu.” Mrs. Claus also made an appearance on stage in “Mrs. Santa and the Clausettes.”

Cuebas’ outreach within the communities of the greater Hartford area doesn’t end on stage. He serves as a Mental Health and Addictions Clinician in East Hartford, Conn. In the Connecticut Army National Guard, the graduate of the Marriage & Family Therapy program at Central

Conn. State University, is the NCOIC of the Small Arms Readiness Training Section at the 169th Regional Training Institute.

Between training Soldiers, assisting those in need, and providing holiday cheer through song, Cuebas’ outreach touches a lot of lives.

“The most fulfilling part of my civilian job is the opportunity to give back by providing guidance, support and care to individuals affected by mental health and/or addiction,” Cuebas said. “To see them face adversity and overcome it is gratifying.”

The SART assists CTARNG units with marksmanship training plans and also hosts and organizes the state’s annual TAG Match, which awards marksmanship awards to Connecticut’s top shooters. In addition to marksmanship training, Cuebas affirmed that a primary role of SART is to actively mentor young Soldiers – a job he takes tremendous pride in as a Senior NCO.

As SART NCOIC, Cuebas is responsible for running the annual, two-phase, four-day Unit Marksmanship Training Coordinator Course. With individual weapons qualification still one of the backbones of Soldier training, the course is designed to provide an individual with the skills and training needed to return to his/her unit a subject matter expert in marksmanship.

CTARNG Soldier Delivers Holiday Spirit to Hartford

Cuebas’ role in the HGMC has changed since he first arrived, having grown from 20 to 50 chorus members since 2012. The chorus is also now able to support several sections: tenor, tenor II, baritone, bass and acapella.

Cuebas works tirelessly to support new members and said the chorus has even recently practiced team-building exercises in order for the singers to get to know and build confidence in one another.

The HGMC performs in multiple venues in the Hartford area throughout the year. The chorus is scheduled to perform their yearly spring concert, May 2017.



Michael Winslow, (left), HGMC Artistic Director, and Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Cuebas take a breather from rehearsal and concert preparation to pose for pictures, Dec. 2. Winslow, a school music teacher, has been a member of the HGMC for four years. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Simon, JFHQ Public Affairs)

Medical Officer Takes Part in Exchange Program

CAPT. MICHAEL VAUGHAN
141ST MEDICAL COMPANY
CTARNG

Editor’s Note: The Military Reserve Exchange Program is designed to enrich and enhance the relationships with our NATO partners. Capt. Michael Vaughan of the 141st Medical Company took part in the program with Capt. Paul Winter of 161 Squadron, 254 Medical Regiment. This is an account of his experience:

Just like most Army schools, my experience in the Military Reserve Exchange Program started with distance learning and online requirements, totaling approximately eight hours.

Prior to serving as hosts for the MREP, a two-day conference at the National Guard Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Arkansas served as a planning conference and meet-and-greet with others participating in the program.

Capt. Paul Winter and I chose to personally pick up each other at the airport upon entry into the respective country. This was not required by the MREP program, but a suggestion given at the planning conference and

an opportunity to further get to know my counterpart on the ride from the airport to billeting.

The training conducted by both my unit and Capt. Winter’s unit, the 254 Medical Regiment, mirrored each other closely. As my company had a 10-hour drive to Fort Drum, N.Y., Capt. Winter’s company had a 10-hour drive to Camp Barry Budden, Scotland.

The similarities didn’t end there: When military leadership from both organizations visited at each site, the units were actually conducting the same training event: Patient extractions from vehicles.

We fully integrated Capt. Winter into our training as much as possible. During our field training exercise, he provided invaluable feedback as an Observer/Controller. His experience as a United Kingdom Army Nurse was invaluable for the medics looking for a fresh perspective.

In order to provide Capt. Winter with a good taste of American culture out of uniform, he joined the unit at the most American of traditions: a baseball game. He appreciated the experience, as well as some of the historic



During his time in the U.K., Capt. Vaughan joined the 254 Medical Regiment (U.K.) during their Field Training Exercise. Here, members of the regiment offload a patient from a military vehicle. Vaughan traveled to Camp Barry Budden, Scotland to train with the 254th as part of the Military Reserve Exchange Program. (U.S. Army Photo by Capt. Michael Vaughan, 118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, CTARNG)

greatly from their own course, according to Capt. Winter.

During my visit to the United Kingdom in September, I spent the first day in-processing and receiving my issued equipment. The four Americans serving with the program were then provided a half-day tour of Cambridge, to include a tour of the Cambridge American Cemetery.

The rest of my experience mirrored my Annual Training earlier in the year. Ten hours of travel to Scotland, two day on the range, three days of medic classroom instruction and practical exercise, and a five-day field training exercise.

In addition to all this training, we had a day of swim testing for physical fitness, followed by a Regiment trip to Edinburgh Castle. Edinburgh Castle also happens to be the place American POWs for the “War for American Independence,” were kept.

The five-day exercise was extensive. Upon receipt of the Operations Order, four small Role I hospitals jumped from site-to-site to provide continuous medical support while validating skills in both clinical and trauma medicine.

Role players were sourced both internally from the regiment, and from the group, Amputees in Action, who added a touch of realism to the training. The exercise concluded in a mass casualty exercise that included all personnel.

Finally, a day of travel back to England followed by a day of maintenance for the companies. The four Americans were given a partial day in London to round out the cultural experience.

With budgets getting tighter, the MREP program is an excellent opportunity to reward our high-speed Soldiers with a broadening opportunity. I would encourage all Soldiers to contact their chain of commands for more details about this once-in-a-lifetime chance to learn more about the world around us.



During his time in the U.K., Capt. Vaughan joined the 254 Medical Regiment (U.K.) for their Field Training Exercise. Here, Lance Cpl. Martin Truelove is providing hands-on training in neck stabilization on his patient, Pvt. Chrissie Roberts. Vaughan traveled to Scotland to train with the 254th as part of the Military Reserve Exchange Program. (U.S. Army Photo by Capt. Michael Vaughan, 118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, CTARNG)

1-102nd Gives Back To Those In Need

SGT. 1ST CLASS MICHAEL FINNEGAN
HHC 1-102ND INFANTRY REGIMENT UPAR

Soldiers from the Connecticut National Guard’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-102nd Infantry Regiment, conducted a Thanksgiving Food Drive at the Branford Stop & Shop, where they collected over 900 lbs. of food donations, Nov. 19.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Ciullo, unit Supply Sergeant and coordinator for the drive, is not new to these events. He coordinated a successful similar event while attending Warrant Officer Candidate School

“I felt that a food drive was a perfect event because it’s different from the traditional events that most Guard units execute,” Ciullo said. “I wanted to show the community that we are here to serve the local people, not just defend our country. The anticipation was that someone would see us doing this good deed, and decide to join the CTARNG.”

The outpouring of support from the community overwhelmed the unit’s volunteers, according to Sgt. Joseph Case.

“Almost instantly, all three Soldiers present were locked in conversation with shoppers,” said Case, a squad leader in the unit’s scout platoon. “Every single person wanted to stop and chat with us, which lead to over 900 pounds in canned goods donated.”

The volunteers showed up in style, parking their vehicle in



Sgt. Daniel Buerk (left) and Sgt. Joseph Case of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-102nd Infantry Regiment, CTARNG volunteer at the Thanksgiving food drive organized by HHC 1-102nd at Stop & Shop in Branford, Connecticut, November 19. The food drive collected more than 900 pounds of food that was then donated to the Branford Food Pantry. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Michael Finnegan, HHC, 1-102nd Infantry Regiment, UPAR)

front of the two-table display to draw attention to their efforts.

“We took an Humvee from the Branford Armory, drove it to the Branford Stop & Shop,” Sgt. Daniel Buerk, a unit member who volunteered to be a part of the drive. “We set up two tables at each entrance and conducted a four-hour food drive and recruiting event.”

Ciullo had little difficulty getting his idea off the ground. With a little coordination, the idea had taken off.

“It was easy, I coordinated with the Branford Food Pantry to see if they had room on their shelves and identify which items were their top priority,” Ciullo said. “Then, I coordinated with the Branford Stop & Shop to see which day they had available for us to run the food drive.”

Ciullo was very pleased with the turnout and that the unit was supportive of his efforts to do a little good in the community.

“I would absolutely conduct more food drives in the future,” Ciullo said. “I considered this event successful for two reasons. First, we collected over 900 lbs. of food that was donated to the Branford Food Pantry, who then donated the food to less fortunate families for Thanksgiving. And second, we had a local person from the community express

interest in joining the CTARNG. At the end of the day, everyone that was involved with the food drive and recruiting event was extremely satisfied with the results of the day.”

Sgt. Joseph Case of HHC, 1-102nd, a Scout Platoon Squad Leader, also one of the volunteers that day, said: “The Stop & Shop manager was encouraging and said we could set up our booth anywhere.”

According to Sgt. Buerk, The event went a lot better than anticipated. Even though we fell short by about a hundred pounds of reaching our goal of beating the Girl Scouts food drive. We were able to raise about 900 lbs. in food donations during the four hour event, which was pretty incredible.

“It was a great way to build some good rapport between the Guard and community. It was also a good way to help educate people about the benefits that the Guard can offer,” said Buerk.

The Companies of the 1-102nd are no stranger to community outreach and Holiday giving, organizing hospital visits and food drives around the state throughout the year.

“The holiday season is an excellent time to get out with the local communities and show the community that the National Guard is always ready to support them,” said Sgt. Case. “No matter if it’s fighting our nation’s wars or running a food drive.”

Looking Back on 2016

Always Ready Always There

2016 REVIEW from Page 5

Winners **Spc. Nathan Havens, HHC 1-102nd Infantry Regiment**, and **Sgt. 1st Class David Earle, 1-169th Regiment**, Regional Training Institute, were crowned champions of their respective divisions, and earned the right to represent the Connecticut Army National Guard during the Region I Best Warrior Competition – where the duo would have a home field advantage.

Rotary-wing aircraft is not new to the Connecticut National Guard. Both Blackhawks and Chinooks have dotted Connecticut’s blue skies for years. But residents will now see new Blackhawks with large red crosses painted on the side, as the CTNG prepared to activate a new aviation unit dedicated to air medical evacuation.

The first of three brand new **HH-60M aircrafts**



Sgt. 1st Class David Earle participates in the stress shoot event of the 2016 State Best Warrior Competition at East Haven Rifle Range, East Haven, Connecticut, April 1. After completion of the four-day competition, Earle was named 2016 NCO of the Year and went on to compete at the regional level where he also emerged victorious and was named Region I NCO of the Year. (Photo by Maj. Joseph Brooks)

touched down in Windsor Locks, Apr. 5, signaling the start of a new era in CTNG Army Aviation.

The aircraft were assigned to Detachment 2, Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment (or Charlie 3-126 for short) and will be primarily used to provide aeromedical evacuation, en-route critical care and medical support while moving patients.

Continuing its long tradition of working in and with the community, Camp Niantic once again hosted the Eastern **Connecticut Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Program** on its Military Affairs tour.

After an in-briefing by **Col. Gerald Lukowski**, Chief of Staff of the CTNG, the nearly two dozen participants got a walking tour of Camp Niantic that included equipment displays, followed by a tour of southeastern Connecticut from the skies aboard a Blackhawk. **May**
Sgt. 1st Class David Earle continued his winning ways by claiming the **2016 Region I NCO of the Year** title during the **Regional Best Warrior Competition** held in Niantic and East Lyme, Conn., May 2-5.

His triumph over six of the region’s top NCOs punched his ticket to the National Competition at Camp Edwards, Mass. in June, where he fought tooth and nail, but did not come out on top.

In a reciprocation of an August 2015 exchange where top military officials from Uruguay visited Connecticut, key leadership from the CTNG Joint Staff spent a week in **Montevideo, Uruguay**, May 8-12.



Members of Charlie Company, 572 Brigade Engineer Battalion assembled for its first Annual Training period at the New London Armory in June, 2016, (Photo provided by C Co., 572 BEB)

Brig. Gen. Ron Welch, Director of the Joint Staff, and Col. Lukowski, spent five days in the South American nation’s capital as part of the State Partnership Program’s Key Leader Exchange.

“It was an incredible learning and cultural experience,” said Welch. “To not only have the opportunity to meet with the country’s top ley Army, Navy and Air Force officials, but to also learn more about Uruguay’s emergency management systems to help assist its residents in need was something that will certainly go a long way in developing and planning future engagements both here in state and in Uruguay.”

For 16 years, Uruguay and Connecticut have worked together on mutually-beneficial engagements as part of the State Partnership Program.

The CTNG also celebrated Armed Forces Day by



Members of Charlie Company, 1-102nd Infantry Regiment, charge down a path as they move between events during the 2016 Trumbull Cup at Stones Ranch Military Reservation, June 15. Each of the battalion’s six subordinate units fielded a 20-Soldier team for the round robin competition, consisting of seven events that focus on skills trained throughout the year. (Photo by Maj. Mike Petersen, State Public Affairs Office)

once again hosting the **Armed Forces Day Luncheon** at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, Conn. Recognized during the event were **Sgt. Michael Boscarino**, a Blackhawk Crew Chief assigned to Charlie Company, 3-126 Aviation, CTARNG, and **Staff Sgt. Kristel Solerti**, a personnelist with the 103rd Force Support Squadron, CTANG. The duo were among six awardees honored by Maj. Gen. Thad Martin and Commissioner Sean Connolly, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veteran Affairs, and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve.

JUNE

The summer months typically are jam-packed with training events, as many units muster for their Annual Training periods throughout the state and around the country.

This year was special for the 35-plus members of **Charlie Company, 572 Brigade Engineer Battalion**, as they marked the unit’s first AT during a formation at the New London Armory, June 4.

The unit officially stood up in September 2015 with only seven members present as many were still at MOS training. This AT, the unit focused on hands-on familiarity with their newly-assigned equipment.

“We’re learning how to properly configure (our equipment) and also focusing on the mobility of the unit,” said 1st Lt. Tyler Sams, Charlie Company Headquarters Platoon Leader. “So much of our usefulness is in our ability to maneuver.”

While the state’s newest unit was just getting underway, the state’s oldest battalion was conducting its annual **Trumbull Cup Competition** during their



Members of the 248th Engineer Company train on various pieces of heavy equipment at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, June 11. Soldiers conducted clearing and grubbing operations, preparing an area for a new artillery firing point. (Photo by Sgt. Victoria Tuttle, 248th Engineer Company, 192nd Engineer Battalion)

training period, June 15.

The 1-102nd Infantry Regiment, led by Lt. Col. David Pickel and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Vicinus, challenged each of its six subordinate companies to field a 20-Soldier team to compete in a round-robin competition focusing on skills trained throughout the year.

Bravo Company ended Alpha Company’s three-year reign, claiming victory in the event.

The **192nd Military Police Battalion** also conducted its AT in state, but were able to provide a little more reality by hosting portions of the training at **J.B. Gates Correctional Institution**, just down the road from Camp Niantic.



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Fred Pierce (second from left), a crew chief from the Missouri Air National Guard teaches Airmen from Connecticut, Kentucky, Montana, and Missouri about the operation of a C-130’s Auxiliary Power Unit during a class at the Air National Guard’s Air Dominance Center in Savannah, Georgia, June 15. The class was a part of Maintenance University, a week long course designed to provide intensive instruction in aircraft maintenance. (Photo by Lt. Dale Greer, 123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs, Kentucky Air National Guard)

Although the Niantic-based prison closed in 2011, the CTNG and Department of Correction have reached an agreement that allows CTNG units to utilize certain areas of the facility to better enhance the training of its members.

“The opportunity to provide training in a prison environment... and includes every Soldier in the unit performing the specific function they joined the National Guard to

perform is an NCO’s dream,” said unit First Sgt. Jimmie Smith. “When training is realistic and challenging, Soldiers are more enthusiastic.”

Some units, like the **143rd Regional Support Group** and its subordinate units, took their talents out of state.

The RSG, along with elements of the **192nd Engineer Battalion** and **1-169 GSAB**, trained extensively at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn. and Fort Drum, N.Y. Whether it was weapons qualification, time behind the wheel of heavy equipment, or knocking out those flight hours, the RSG was ready to go.

The Army wasn’t having all the fun, though. Members of the Connecticut Air National Guard’s 103rd Airlift Wing took part in **Maintenance University** for a weeklong proficiency course in Savannah, Ga.

“I’m learning a lot about things like propulsion systems or hydraulics,” said Staff Sgt. Preston Pemberton, a full-time electrician in the CTANG, who was pleased for the opportunity to train outside his specialty. “Being in those classes and having the chance to do things like get my hands on the engines is really outstanding.”

Stay tuned for the February issue of the Guardian for Part Two of this series, including highlights from July through December 2016!



See a Highlight You Missed in 2016? Read Full Stories Online!

<http://ct.ng.mil/Guardian/>

STARBASE Competes at State LEGO Competition

MELISSA VANEK
STARBASE CT DIRECTOR

As this was the second year collaboration between STARBASE Connecticut and Jumokey Honors Academy SMaRT in a program called STARBASE 2.0, it was decided to put together a team to compete in the FIRST LEGO League competition.

The team was assembled in September and began working on their three-part challenge for the competition: robotics programming, teamwork challenge and a project based on the engineering design process.

The project theme this year was Animal Allies and the team chose the population decline of the chimney swift as their problem to solve. The students talked with a representative from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Wildlife Division, Shannon Kearney, to determine why the swift population was declining and what they could do in their area to help.

They were inspired by the idea of chimney kits to replace the loss of roosting spaces for the birds as more and more chimneys are closed off or renovated. The students thought the kits that were available were too expensive for

many people to help, so they decided to improve on that design to make it more affordable.


In nine weeks with the help of their mentors; STARBASE staff, community engineers, Many Mentors from UConn, and their school teacher, the team competed at the regional competition at Wolcott High School and won Grand Champions! Their teamwork skills were amazing and they wowed the judges with their presentation, which included a non-verbal portion, a skit, along with a song and dance, all designed by the students for the marketing of their product "Swift Sanctuary."

After that, the team had only a week and half to prepare for the next level – the State Competition at Shelton High School. While they did not take home a trophy, the team, who named themselves the "C Birds" from their project theme of helping chimney swifts, had great success this year.

The STARBASE Connecticut Team was named Grand Champion at the Regional FIRST LEGO League Competition at Wolcott High School. (Photo Courtesy of Melissa Vanek, STARBASE Connecticut Director)



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NGACT Award Nominations Being Accepted

ULRICK BRICE
NGACT AWARDS CHAIRMAN

Greetings to all Connecticut Army and Air National Guard Members, Family and Friends.

2017 is here, and I encourage you to nominate a deserving member for one of the National Guard Association of Connecticut awards listed below. Each winner will be recognized at the 2017 NGACT Annual Conference, held at the Farmington Marriott on February 18th, 2017.

Nomination forms are due **January 12, 2017**. Some awards require chain of command endorsements, so please don't wait until the last minute. Nomination forms are available on the NGACT website: www.ngact.org. Questions or concerns can be forwarded to Ulrick Brice at ulrickbrice@gmail.com.

NGACT Awards & Eligibility
The Minuteman Award: The highest honor bestowed on a member of the Association. It recognizes exceptional achievement, a patriotic act, highly distinguished service and/or an outstanding contribution to a military organization, community, the State, the Nation of National Guard Association of Connecticut. Posthumous awards may be made to the next of kin.

Eligibility: Member or former member of the military and NGACT

The NGACT Leadership Award: Recognizes a company grade officer who epitomizes the loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and

personal courage exemplified in the Officer's Creed.

Eligibility: Company grade officer, member of the Connecticut National Guard, Member of NGACT and recommendation endorsed by the respective chain-of-command.

The Command Sergeant Major Anthony V. Savino Award: Recognizes a noncommissioned officer who epitomizes the loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage exemplified in the NCO Creed.

Eligibility: NCO and member of the Connecticut National Guard, member of NGACT and recommendation endorsed by the respective chain-of-command.

The Meritorious Service Award: Bestowed on an individual, firm or organization for outstanding service to the Connecticut National Guard and/or NGACT.

Eligibility: Any individual, firm or organization; military or civilian.

The President's Corporate Member Award: Recognizes a corporate member that distinguishes itself through noteworthy contributions in furtherance of the purpose, goals and objectives of NGACT.

Eligibility: Current corporate member of NGACT.

The President's Retiree Award: Recognizes a retiree member who distinguishes themselves through noteworthy contributions in furtherance of the purpose, goals and objectives of NGACT.

Eligibility: Current member of NGACT.

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SAVE THE DATE 2017 NGACT Conference and Military Ball

February 18, 2017
Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill, Connecticut
\$60 per person
Register on the website www.NGACT.org

Questions? Contact:
Kendra Ross, Kendra.Lross.mil@mail.mil or Shawn Pyer, shawn.m.pyer.mil@mail.mil

AROUND OUR GUARD

*A Glimpse at Connecticut
Guardsmen and Events*



CTNG Celebrates Guard's 380th Birthday Pvt. Brianni Richards (left), 17, and Sgt. Maj. Oscar Rosado, 60, cut and served the birthday cake in celebration of the 380th Birthday of the National Guard at the William A. O'Neill Armory, in Hartford, Connecticut, December 13. In keeping with tradition, the CTNG marked this special occasion by teaming up the youngest and oldest Soldiers present to perform a cake cutting ceremony. Richards, assigned to the 250th Engineer Company, recently returned from Advanced Individual Training, and Rosado, who shares his birthday with the National Guard, will retire on Dec. 31 after 40 years of dedicated service to his state and country. (Photo by Allison L. Joanis, State Public Affairs Office)



ATAG Promoted to Brigadier General

The newly-promoted Brig. Gen. Fran Evon (center), Assistant Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard – Army, receives his Army Brigadier General epaulets from Laura Evon, his wife (right) and Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, at a ceremony at the Officers' and Enlisted Club at the William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford, Connecticut, December 16. Evon then spoke to the packed room that included his three children, mother, grandmother and other distinguished guests such as the Honorable M. Jodi Rell. (Photo by Allison L. Joanis, State Public Affairs Office)

Guardsmen Honored at Manchester Road Race

(below) 1st Lt. Ben Sullivan (left) and Staff Sgt. Brian Koehler (far right) of the CTARNG spoke to Radio 104.1 WMRQ about the Manchester Road Race Shadow Run they spearheaded while deployed to Kosovo with the 1-169 General Support Aviation Battalion on Thanksgiving in 2015. Now back in Connecticut, Sullivan and Kohler were two of the many Guardsmen who ran the 4.75-mile course through Manchester on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2016. An honored Connecticut Thanksgiving tradition in its 80th year, the 2016 Manchester Road Race hosted more than 11,000 runners from around the state, nation and the world. (Photo by Maj. Mike Petersen, State Public Affairs Officer)



The View From the Top is the Reward for Members of the 1-102nd

Members of Bravo Company, 1-102nd Infantry Regiment posed for a group photo atop East Peak in Meriden, Connecticut, December 3. The photo came after the Soldiers participated in a road march traveling from Hubbard Park to the tower at Castle Craig. The steep incline along the way challenge many who walk or run the 4.3 mile trail, let alone those who traversed the steep gradient with a 35-pound pack. Views from the top span across Connecticut, including the Hartford skyline, New Haven, Long Island Sound and as far away as the Mount Tom, and the Berkshires in Massachusetts. (Photo courtesy of the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment)



Leadership Serves Up Lunch

Lt. Col. Matthew Wilkinson (left), Commander, Connecticut Training Center and Capt. Shawn Johnson, Operations Officer for the CTC, serve the traditional holiday lunch meal to the Soldiers of the Recruit Sustainment Program at the Regional Training Institute's dining facility at Camp Niantic, Connecticut, December 18. Brig. Gen. Fran Evon, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, and Col. John Wiltse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, for the CTNG, also served lunch and spent time with the newest Soldiers of the Connecticut National Guard. (Photo by State Command Sgt. Maj. John Carragher)

Scenic Sunrise at the 103rd AW

(below) The sun rises through a break in the clouds behind a C-130H Hercules parked on the flight line of the Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Connecticut, November, 11. Hours earlier, nearly 100 of the state's Airmen assigned to the 103rd Air Control Squadron deployed from the same ramp to support overseas contingency operations in the Middle East, with another 300 Airmen slated to deploy in 2017. The Connecticut Air National Guard operates a fleet of eight C-130H Hercules aircraft - a mission that began in 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Erin McNamara, 103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



Want to see your photo featured in the Around Our Guard section?
Please send your photos with a brief description to allison.l.joanis.civ@mail.mil.

Daugherty Assumes Command of CSSB

Sgt. 1st Class Jordan Werme
130th Public Affairs Detachment

In a ceremony held December 10 at the National Guard Armory in Enfield, Connecticut, Lt. Col. William J. Daugherty assumed command of the CSSB from outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Lesbia Nieves. During the ceremony, Col. Robert M. Nugent, commander, 143rd Regional Support Group, charged Daugherty with command of the CSSB as they prepare for an intense year of training, which includes a planned rotation at Joint Regional Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana. Daugherty is also expected to lead the unit on their deployment later in 2017.

Nugent praised Nieves for her dedication not only to the mission of the battalion, but to each of the Soldiers represented within it. The CSSB includes a headquarters company, the 1048th Medium Truck Company, the 102nd Army Band, and the 130th Public Affairs Detachment. “She is a dedicated and compassionate Soldier and leader,” Nugent said.

“My most valuable asset has always been my Soldiers,” said Nieves. “You took every mission I gave you and succeeded. I salute you and I thank you.”

In taking over as commander, Daugherty immediately recognized the unit’s professional Soldiers and outstanding record of achievement.

“It’s clear that your leadership has laid a solid foundation,” said Daugherty. “Any mission we receive we will be able to tackle head on. I am excited for the future and thank you for your effort.”

Daugherty is a native of Ellington, Connecticut, and currently resides in Stafford Spring, Connecticut, with his wife, Sandra, and three children, Christopher, Zachary, and Paige. His previous military assignments include Connecticut National Guard Surface Maintenance Manager, and Executive



Lt. Col. William J. Daugherty takes the 143rd CSSB Colors from Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Dentzau, Command Sergeant Major of the 143rd CSSB, at a change of command ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Enfield, Connecticut, December 10. (Photo by, Pfc. Kaitlyn Wallace, 130th Public Affairs Detachment, CTARNG)

Officer, 118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion. Daugherty has deployed with the Connecticut National Guard twice; with the 143rd Area Support Group to Iraq from 2004-2005, and to Kosovo in 2011, where he served on the NATO Headquarters staff. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

Nieves lives in Manchester, Connecticut, with her husband, Edward, and their three children. Nieves previous assignments include State Partnership Program Director (partner country, Uruguay), and National Guard Bureau International Affairs Division State Partnership Program, as a Southern Command desk officer. She has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and continues to serve her fellow veterans as an advisor to the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, and two Masters Degrees: one in Counseling, with a concentration in Marriage and Family Counseling, and a second in Public Administration, with a concentration on National Security Affairs.

The Path to Becoming a Maintenance Warrant Officer

Chief Warrant Offierr 2 Susan Curtiss
Warrant Officer Strength Manager

The maintenance community relies heavily on its subject matter experts, the maintenance Warrant Officers, in order to accomplish their mission.

There are many 91-series enlisted MOS’ that lead to Warrant Officer opportunities. Soldiers who excel in the allied trades, automotive, or engineer equipment maintenance field can further their careers by pursuing the path to become a Warrant Officer. If you are passionate about what you do and want to be put into a position to affect change and influence and motivate Soldiers then becoming a part of the Warrant Officer Cohort will put you in the position to do just that.

I spoke to several of the subject matter experts at the Combined Services Maintenance Shop about some of the reasons they pursued a career as a maintenance Warrant Officer.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matthew Cheatham, CSMS Shop Foreman, came up through the ranks with two Warrant Officers that he highly respected. He observed them at annual training and noted what respected and effective leaders they were.

These Warrant Officers were the subject matter experts that made things happen. Cheatham was impressed by their ability to affect change. Through hard work and dedication, Cheatham is now in a position to write policy, dictate procedure and make things happen at the unit level by refining maintenance policies.

Becoming a maintenance Warrant Officer provided Cheatham with a better way to utilize his experience. He can take his troubleshooting skills and apply them on a broad spectrum.

Additional career opportunities and upward mobility including professional education and management courses become readily available to Warrant Officers. Maintenance Warrant Officers have the opportunity to expand their skill set with a wide range of training opportunities, to include attend shop supervisor and OSHA courses.

Warrant Officers are now attending Intermediate Level Education, receiving expanded studies on staff knowledge, joint operations and cultural awareness. Mr. Cheatham attended and was exposed to staff operations, providing him a better knowledge base to interact more successfully with senior officers, an opportunity he didn’t always have.

One of the greatest benefits of being a Warrant Officer is the huge network of people you connect with, from all over the country. With technology these days, this wide network of knowledge can be just a phone call or email away.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Gene Daily, Supervisor of the Field Maintenance Shop in Middletown, Conn., has peers that he can call to network with and find solutions to problems.

Daily has had the same experience with Warrant Officers from all different branches. They are all willing to help and teach us about their area of expertise. Daily credits other logistics Warrant Officers with his tutelage, and in turn, he became a logistics subject matter expert. Warrant Officers from all branches look forward to the opportunity to help one another.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ken Jambor, Supervisory Equipment Specialist, completed WOCS 16 years ago. At the time, he did not have the mentorship of a senior Warrant Officer to help him grow. Since graduating, he has witnessed a significant rise in the mentorship within the Warrant Officer community.

When a new Warrant Officer 1 is slotted, they are expected to perform the job to standard. When commanders and staff officers look at a Warrant Officer, the expectation is very high. Warrant Officers are trusted to get the mission done and to be effective problem solvers. Having a close knit network of mentors to assist in problem solving is so important to success. Jambor describes his experience as being looked at as a subject matter expert in all things

Continued See WOCS on Page 18

Enlisted New Year Brings New Focus, New Goals, New Future



Chief Master Sgt. Robert Gallant

and achieve our goals. Stay focused and dedicated and you will be successful.

As I have stated in the past, the military you joined five years ago (either Army or Air) is not the same military today. There are continual process changes on how we do business. There will be another significant change as the new, “Blended Retirement,” systems will take effect for any member of the military who starts their career effective Jan. 1, 2018.

This will also effect current members who joined the service after Jan. 1, 2006. I feel this is an important topic that needs to be discussed within our enlisted force. When I discuss this new change with our junior enlisted Airmen, most inform me they have heard about it but have not really thought it.

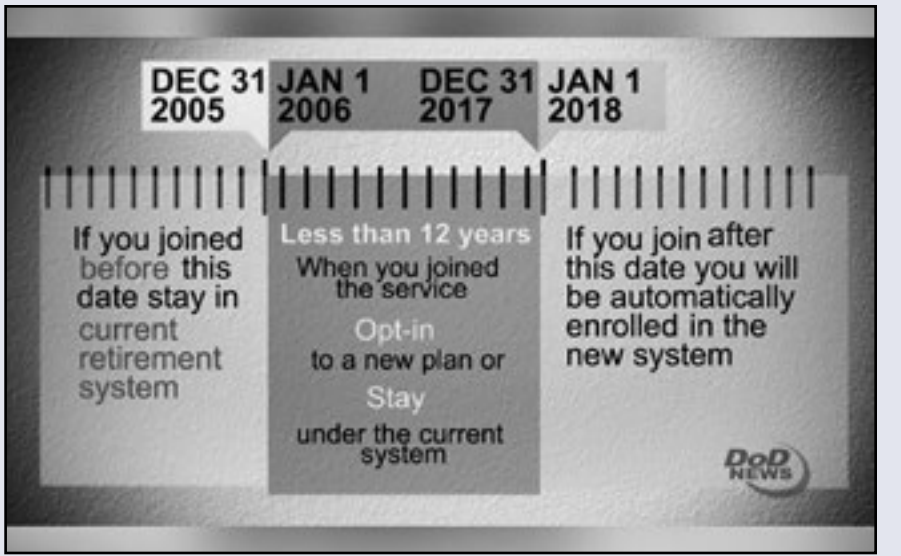
Almost 50 percent of our enlisted forces has 10 years of service or less, so we need to try to understand the impact this will have on our junior enlisted force. The newly enlisted will have no choice due to the automatic enrollment, but the second tier enlisted force (anyone who joined after January 2006) will

have some decisions about their financial situation moving forward. Even though we are about a year from these changes taking effect, now is the time to start your research to make an informed decision.

The new system has three components: a 401(k)-style (Thrift Savings Plan) element with Defense Department matching funds for entry level and other service members, a mid-career continuity bonus (Compensation Incentives), and a retirement annuity similar to the one now in place for service members that the twenty or more years of eligible service.

The aspect that makes the plan blended are the automatic and matching contributions into the Thrift Savings Plan, similar to a 401(k) and transferable on leaving the military service. The government will automatically contribute one percent of a members basic pay in the member’s TSP account even if the member contributes nothing. After 24 months of service, the government will match member’s contributions, dollar for dollar, up to the first three percent the member contributes and 50 cents per dollar for the next two percent the service member contributes.

TSP accounts are defined contribution plans that belong to the service member. This is important for the 83 percent of military service members who do not remain on active duty. Under the current retirement plan, those members leave the military without any DoD contributions to their overall savings. Under the new plan, an estimated 75 percent of service members would leave the military with some sort of DoD-funded retirement savings. Upon separating from the service,



members would have the option to leave their money to continue growing within the Thrift Savings Plan, roll the money into a different type of tax-advantaged retirement account, or withdraw their money (with a tax penalty.)

Defense Secretary Ash Carter promised reforms, saying, “that the blended retirement system is a key step to modernizing the department’s ability to recruit, retain and maintain the talent we require of our future force.” With that being said, we also need to understand how this new system will affect our recruiting and retention as well. Not just the short term but long term to maintaining that 20-year career service member. The Connecticut National Guard has a very talented, focused and strong enlisted force. We are going to continue to grow our force and maintain the high level of efficiency needed to be the best!

Inspiration of the Month:

The responsibility of leadership is not to come up with all the ideas. The responsibility of leadership is to create an environment in which great ideas can thrive. ~Simon Sinek

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1st Battalion (OCS), 169th Regiment (RTI)
Officer Candidate School

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Staff and Cadre will be on hand to answer questions and support administrative requirements.

WOCS from Page 18

military, not just maintenance.

“If we can teach folks what we know and how to get the answers they are looking for, how to do what they need to do, and be successful, that is part of our job,” Jambor said. “When I was going through (WOCS), I saw the Army transition from a large force to a smaller, more modular force. We want warrants in the leadership and management positions. There is enough opportunity for everyone to continue to grow the cohort and financially the benefits are significant. As an NCO you can meet the standard, as a warrant officer you are really given the opportunity to excel and stand out from the crowd.”

For more information and to see if you qualify for a \$20,000 officer accession bonus, contact Chief Warrant Officer 2 Susan Curtiss, Warrant Officer Strength Manager, at susan.w.curtiss.mil@mail.mil or at (860) 461-4337.

Connecticut National Guard Card League

Spades Tournament
January 5 - April 27, 2017
Thursday Evenings 5-8:00 p.m.

The Officers' and Enlisted Club
360 Broad Street
Hartford, Connecticut

Walk-ins welcome - No charge to play

For more information contact:
George Barrow - jgig123@comcast.net





WARRANT OFFICER

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CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD



TAKE THE CHALLENGE TODAY, CONTACT:
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203.410.0828
john.v.nerkowski.mil@mail.mil

Inside OCS

Attack the Hill

OFFICER CANDIDATE DRU SIN
OCS CLASS 62
U.S. ARMY RESERVE



Officer Candidates of OCS Class 62 from Connecticut and New York, met once again for Phase II training at Camp Niantic, Conn., Nov. 18-20.

Candidates received the operations order, outlining the weekend's training.

Class 62 covered the Modern Army Combatives

Program, Platoon Operations Order,

12-mile Road March, Operational Terms and Graphics, Staff and Army Organization, as well as an Operations exam. The exam tested the students' knowledge on the operations order, graphic overlays, and Staff and Army organizations.

We also received valuable training in the finer points of the operations order and sand table development, led by Senior Platoon Trainer Officer, Capt. Jordan Hyatt.

Hyatt provided instruction on how to extract pertinent information from an operations order and how to use a sand table while briefing an operations order – all

of which will be crucial to remember during our field training exercise in June 2017.

The 12-mile road march proved to be the most challenging event of the training period. It tested Class 62's physical and mental endurance.

Weather-wise, we could not have asked for a better day. The march started at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme and saw Candidates traverse over terrain of varying elevations, with the highest point at approximately 250 feet.

Mile after mile, Class 62 continued to push onward, following the Platoon Trainer Officers who acted as pacers. As we neared the nine-mile mark, Class 62 faced Artillery Hill, a key point along the route that appears unassuming at first glance, but is truly a test of what you're made of.

“Ruck marching is mental,” said one of our PTOs. “It’s just a matter of putting one foot in front of the other and not stopping.”

In the end, the majority of Class 62 completed the ruck march within the time standards. Those that did not will be afforded the opportunity to try again at a later date.

November's training proved to be another stepping stone for Class 62, as the remaining Candidates continued to build upon their knowledge base in pursuit of the ultimate goal – a commission into the United States Army.



Candidates of OCS Class 62 partake in a 9-mile road march during their September drill at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, Connecticut. (Photo by Maj. Alyssa Kelleher, 1-169 REGT RTI (OCS))

Become a UPAR: Tell Your Unit’s Story

MAJ. MIKE PETERSEN
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Each year, the Public Affairs Office hosts Unit Public Affairs training – a comprehensive, hands-on, two-day course at Camp Niantic.

The goal of the course is to qualify at least one Guardsman per company-sized element in the ways of public affairs, and the 2017 course will be held January 28-29 in the RTI Building on Camp Niantic.

So, why does this matter? Both the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard have full-time public affairs assets.

Even with those full-time assets, there are still an overwhelming number of requests from units to cover training events. There just isn’t enough time or resources to cover everything the way we want to.

But a Unit Public Affairs Representative could step in and provide that coverage. A UPAR is a Soldier, Airman or member of the Governor’s Horse and Foot Guard that can take real-time photos and provide background information for the Public Affairs team to use in The Connecticut Guardian, or on our social media platforms.

An example: Last March, winter continued to hang on and blanketed the state of Connecticut with a biting cold that saw temperatures dip well below freezing. The 1-102nd Infantry Regiment – one of the many units drilling that particular weekend – took advantage of the cold weather to continue honing their skills as men and women capable of performing their jobs under any conditions. Two UPARs – Staff Sgt. Riaan Roberts of Bravo Company, and Sgt. Jordan Tharp of Fox Company (now Hotel Company), were able to capture their units in action, working with equipment that was still new to many of the Soldiers.

That sort of flexibility and quick thinking only enhances us as a National Guard – by telling our audience what we are capable of in a very timely manner.

The UPAR program can make a great addition to any resume, as well. Not many people, let alone Soldiers, can say they’ve had a byline in a monthly newspaper with a circulation over 7,500 with very minimal interruptions to training.

The bottom line is this: You are the ones on the ground and participating in the training that people want to see. Take advantage of the opportunity and learn how to best promote what it is your unit does by becoming a UPAR. Even if you don’t think you have the talent to write articles, a picture is worth a thousand words, and the full-time staff in Hartford is happy to work with you to help you grow as a writer or photographer with honest critiques.

As the course approaches, watch for more information.

If becoming a UPAR sounds interesting to you, contact the State Public Affairs Officer through your chain of command for more information.



Sgt. Sabrina Summit, an Electronic Maintenance NCO with the 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, works on repairing a generator at the Storck Barracks in Germany on April 12, 2016. This photo was captured by the TASMG’s UPAR, where it was featured in a previous edition of the Connecticut Guardian (Photo by Sgt. Jeanne Bujalski, 1109th TASMG UPAR)

NATIONAL GUARD TECHNICIAN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COURSE

WHEN: January 24-26, 2017, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: HRO Training Room (Rm 111V)
MAFRC - 375 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457

WHO: Supervisors of Technician Personnel
New Supervisors will be given first priority

CONTACT: Lisa Chipman
lisa.a.chipman.mil@mail.mil
(860) 613-7609



TOPICS COVERED: Labor Relations, Worker’s Compensation, Conduct Management, Performance Management, Employee Assistance Program, Supervisor’s Work Folder, Leave and Other Absences, Employee Benefits

Training Circulars for TY17 Are Now Available

Contact Your Chain of Command for More Information

Highlighted Courses:

UPDATE: The following courses have received limited funding for M-Day Soldiers to attend. See your unit training NCO for current availability:

- CH 001 to TC 350-17-21 (Bus Driver Training Course)
- CH 001 to TC 350-17-24 (Company Level Pre-Command and 1SG Course)
- CH 001 to TC 350-17-27 (VCOT)
- CH 001 to TC 350-17-33 (Individual Gunnery Trainer/Unstabilized Gunnery Trainer (IGT/UGT))
- CH 002 to TC 350-17-17 (Food Operations Management Course)
- CH 002 to TC 350-17-22 (EST/LMTS Operator)

EST/LMTS Operator: This training opportunity provides training for soldiers to set-up, operate, reconfigure, troubleshoot and perform minor PMCS on the EST-2000, and the LMTS. This course is open to all members of the CTNG between the ranks of E5 and E6 who need or desire to learn to operate the EST-2000 firearms training system, and the LMTS. The selected Soldier must have the ability to instruct a class. Soldiers will be required to run the EST2000. 28-29 January 2017. 12 Seat Max. See your unit training NCO for current availability.

Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer (VCOT): This training opportunity provides training for Soldiers to set-up, operate, reconfigure, troubleshoot and perform minor PMCS on the VCOT. These individuals may have ADOS opportunities available to operate the systems for different units and organizations with DOD affiliation, as well as operating and taking responsibility of the system to provide training their own units. 11-15 March 2017. 14 Soldiers Max. See your unit training NCO for current availability.

Bus Driver Training Course: The Operator’s Training Course is a “Train the Trainer” (T3) course, primarily targeted to personnel with the skills necessary to train individuals on the safe operation of a GSA Bus. This course will provide training on Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS), Operations, Operational Policies and Safety. 25-29 March 2107; 20-24 May 2017. 14 Soldiers Max. See your unit training NCO for current availability.

Course	Course #	Action Officer	Start Date	End Date
Final Formation	350-17-13	Sgt. 1st Class Tarazona Quintero	7-Jan-17	7-Jan-17
Army Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) AGR	350-17-04.a	Ms. Robin Tanguay	11-Jan-17	11-Jan-17
HeartSaver AED Certification	350-17-18	Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Stanley	11-Jan-17	11-Jan-17
Unit Finance Course	350-17-34	Sgt. 1st Class Fabian Bennett	17-Jan-17	19-Jan-17
Food Operations Management Course	350-17-17	Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Torres	21-Jan-17	24-Jan-17
68W Sustainment Course	350-17-06	Staff Sgt. Megan Authier	22-Jan-17	31-Jan-17
Unit Public Affairs Rep Training (UPAR)	350-17-09	Maj. Mike Petersen	28-Jan-17	29-Jan-17
Unit Marksmanship Training Course UMTG (Phase I)	350-17-19	Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Cuebas-Marrero	28-Jan-17	29-Jan-17
EST LMTS Operator	360-17-22	1st Sgt. Corey Lewis	28-Jan-17	29-Jan-17
IDS Training Class 01	350-17-35	Mr. Thomas Colangelo	7-Feb-17	7-Feb-17
IDS Training Class 05	350-17-35	Mr. Thomas Colangelo	8-Feb-17	8-Feb-17
IDS Training Class 09	350-17-35	Mr. Thomas Colangelo	9-Feb-17	9-Feb-17
Retention Recognition Program	350-17-36	Sgt. Maj. Michael Collins	11-Feb-17	11-Feb-17
Unit Movement Workshop	350-17-11	Master Sgt. Thomas Ahearn	11-Feb-17	12-Feb-17
IDS Training Class 02	350-17-35	Mr. Thomas Colangelo	14-Feb-17	14-Feb-17
IDS Training Class 06	350-17-35	Mr. Thomas Colangelo	15-Feb-17	15-Feb-17
IDS Training Class 10	350-17-35	Mr. Thomas Colangelo	16-Feb-17	16-Feb-17
Unit Movement Workshop	350-17-11	Master Sgt. Thomas Ahearn	25-Feb-17	26-Feb-17
Unit Marksmanship Training Course UMTG (Phase II)	350-17-19	Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Cuebas-Marrero	25-Feb-17	26-Feb-17
CPR Refresher Basic Life Support Level for 68W Personnel	350-17-10	Staff Sgt. Megan Authier	26-Feb-17	26-Feb-17
Environmental Officer Training	350-17-23	Mr. Robert Dollak	4-Mar-17	4-Mar-17
Army Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) AGR	350-17-04.a	Ms. Robin Tanguay	8-Mar-17	8-Mar-17
Liaison Officer Training (LNO) Course	350-17-20	Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Corbin	8-Mar-17	9-Mar-17
VCOT Operator’s Course	360-17-27	1st Sgt. Corey Lewis	11-Mar-17	16-Mar-17
Resilience Training Assistant (RTA)	350-17-16	Command Sgt. Maj. James Sypher	14-Mar-17	17-Mar-17
UPL Course	350-17-12	Staff Sgt. Joshua Prochnicki-Fitzgerald	18-Mar-17	19-Mar-17
Best Warrior Competition	350-17-14	Sgt. Maj. Michael Collins	23-Mar-17	26-Mar-17
Bus Driver Training Course	360-17-21	Master Sgt. Thomas Ahearn	26-Mar-17	29-Mar-17
ACE-SI	350-17-29	Ms. Meagan Macgregor	27-Mar-17	27-Mar-17
ASIST	350-17-08	Ms. Meagan Macgregor	28-Mar-17	29-Mar-17

Off the Bookshelf

with Staff Sgt. Simon

Hidden History of Connecticut

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN SIMON
JFHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lebanon, Conn. artist, John Trumbull, son of Connecticut's first post-American Revolution governor, Jonathan Trumbull, famously painted the "Surrender of Lord Cornwallis," re-capturing the 1781 surrender of British forces in Yorktown, Va.

Cornwallis, however, was not present at the surrender. British General Charles O'Hara was tasked with relinquishing Cornwallis' sword to American and French forces. O'Hara presented Cornwallis' sword to French General, Comte de Rochambeau. This is where this story gets fuzzy and is sometimes aggrandized.

The precise details from this important day in American history are lost with the exception of personal accounts that have trickled through old journals, letters and legends. Author, Wilson H. Faude has collected hundreds of similar anecdotes and narratives during his long career as a historian, writer and resident of West Hartford. In, "The Hidden History of Connecticut," he shares some of the Constitution State's long forgotten memories and clears up a good deal of historical fuzziness.

For instance, following the 1783 treaty of Paris, which officially ended the American Revolutionary War, the Connecticut General Assembly ordered that the state seal be officially altered to reflect Connecticut's new status as a state rather than a colony. According to Faude, despite the General Assembly's order, incorrect state seals are still in use in the Connecticut State Supreme Court, State Library and Legislative Office Building. Incorrect state seals can be identified by a forward-facing, "S," in the bottom third grape vine, rather than the correct,

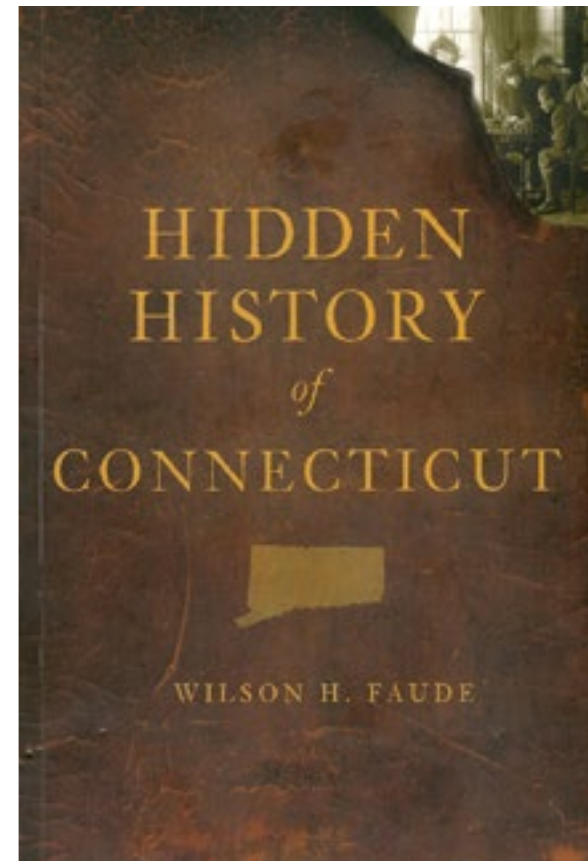
backward, "S."

During the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Windsor, Conn. resident and convention delegate, Oliver Ellsworth, appeased fellow delegates and averted the convention's premature adjournment by proposing the Connecticut Compromise. Not only did Ellsworth save the Constitution with his proposition, according to Faude, he also edited its eventual preamble to read, "We the people of the United States," rather than, We the people of... followed by a list of the 13 states, in essence, giving America a new name. Connecticut was the fifth state to ratify the American Constitution. Faude reminds readers that Rhode Island was the last of the 13 states to do so.

Eight years after the surrender of British forces in Yorktown, George Washington was sworn in as the President of the United States. Faude writes that Washington was dressed in a brown wool suit produced by Wadsworth's Hartford Woolen Manufactory. There's nothing fuzzy about this anecdote.

However, there is an unsubstantiated legend that Rhode Island artist Gilbert Stuart left his famous, "Athenaeum," portrait of Washington unfinished (it's on the U.S. one dollar bill) as an act of revenge against Washington for his not taking Cornwallis' sword at Yorktown. Or perhaps Stuart harbored residual resentment stemming from the Constitution Convention.

Faude was a former curator of the Mark Twain House and Museum, and former executive director of Connecticut's Old State House. His collections of forgotten Connecticut histories and fascinating stories can be found in stores and libraries throughout the state.



Do you know of a Military or Connecticut related book that you would like reviewed? We are always looking for suggestions! Email the editor allison.l.joanis.civ@mail.mil



**CONNECTICUT
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IS YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA SAFE?

- Check your Privacy Settings
- Be selective who you connect with
- Turn off Geotagging on your devices
- Don't post Personal Identifying Info
- Watch for OPSEC violations
- Post with common sense!

Be sure to check and adjust your settings!

Military History

Semper Paratus – Always Ready

BRIG. GEN. (CT-RET.) ROBERT CODY
HISTORICAL COLUMNIST

The roots of today's Coast Guard were established in 1790 by the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton.

Hamilton proposed the formation of the Revenue Marine, a seagoing military service that would enforce customs and navigation laws, collect tariffs, hail in-bound ships, make inspections and certify manifests. The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798 it served as the nation's only armed force afloat. In times of peace it operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, the Coast Guard serves as part of the Navy Department.

The Coast Guard is the principal federal agency responsible for maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship in U.S. ports and waterways. In this capacity, the Coast Guard protects and defends more than 100,000 miles of U.S. coastline and inland waterways. The more than 56,000 members of the Coast Guard operate a multi-mission, interoperable fleet of 243 Cutters, 201 fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, and over 1,600 boats. Operational control of surface and air

assets is vested in two Coast Guard geographical areas (Pacific and Atlantic), nine Coast Guard Districts, and 35 sectors located at strategic ports throughout the country.

The United States Coast Guard Academy is the only federal service academy in Connecticut. The first Coast Guard Academy (then called the Revenue Cutter School of Instruction) was held aboard the two-masted topsail schooner Dobbins in Baltimore, Maryland in 1876 for a two-year training mission. The Coast Guard Academy was a shipboard operation until 1890 when the first land-based campus was established in Curtis Bay, Maryland.

In 1910, the Academy moved to the Revolutionary War fort and Army post at Fort Trumbull in New London, Connecticut. The modern Academy was born in 1915 with the merger of the Life Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service. In 1932, the citizens of New London donated the present site to the Academy. A 295-foot barque-rigged cutter, Eagle, is a seagoing classroom for future leaders of the Coast Guard. The ship was one of four training vessels operated by the German Navy during World War II. It was taken as a war prize and sailed back to New London by a Coast Guard and German Naval crew. Known as America's Tall Ship, Eagle continues the Academy's 125-year sail training tradition.

The Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission,



maritime force offering a unique blend of military, law enforcement, humanitarian, regulatory, and diplomatic capabilities. Its motto is Semper Paratus – Always Ready.

Brig. Gen. Cody retired from the CTARNG in 2014 and currently teaches 7th grade Humanities in Stamford, Connecticut. Email him at rmcody@snet.net.


CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD SAFETY FIRST

Consider Safety in all Seasons

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HERE IT COMES



**READY
...OR NOT?**

Readiness — our word is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their "readiness" for what lies ahead—the known as well as the unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are you **READY** ready ... or not?

R3SP - Resilience, Risk Reduction & Suicide Prevention

Resilience:
"Skill of the Month"

CSM James A. Sypher
R3SP Program Manager
james.a.sypher.mil@mail.mil

FIGHT BACK!

How does "RTR" help me fight back against counterproductive thoughts?

What is the skill?
Real-time Resilience (RTR) is an internal skill used to shut down counterproductive thinking, build motivation, and focus on the task at hand.

KEY PRINCIPLES

- Accuracy over speed; does your statement pass the "gut test?"
- RTR takes practice
- Pitfalls are common
- Optimism is a primary target of Real-time Resilience

The Situation
SITUATION: You are about to take your annual Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). You must *fight back* against any counterproductive thoughts that you might have:

"I should have prepared more for this test."
Putting the Situation in Perspective
"The most likely implication is that I could have trained harder, but I can push myself to perform my best."

"These graders are way too strict."
Optimism
"A more optimistic way of seeing this is at least we have NCOs in our unit who uphold Army standards."

"It is way too hot out here to be taking an APFT."
Evidence
"That's not completely true because I took an APFT while deployed overseas and it was hotter than this."

LEARN ABOUT HELPING YOUR UNIT

#BETHERE

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) | giveanhour.org | guardyourhealth.com |

Resilience Resources:

Outward Bound
www.outwardbound.org/veterans

Service Member and Family Support Center
1-800-858-2677

Connecticut Veteran Affairs
Newington: 860-666-6951
West Haven: 203-932-5711

Military One Source
www.militaryonesource.mil

CTNG CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD
ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE

HELD TO A HIGHER STANDARD
BUT NOT THAT KIND OF HIGH

Marijuana use is NOT LEGAL for Service Members

Need help? Contact the ASAP Office
Shaneka Ashman, Prevention Coordinator
Accenture Federal Services
C : 860-549-2838 O : 860-548-3291
shaneka.ashman@accenturefederal.com

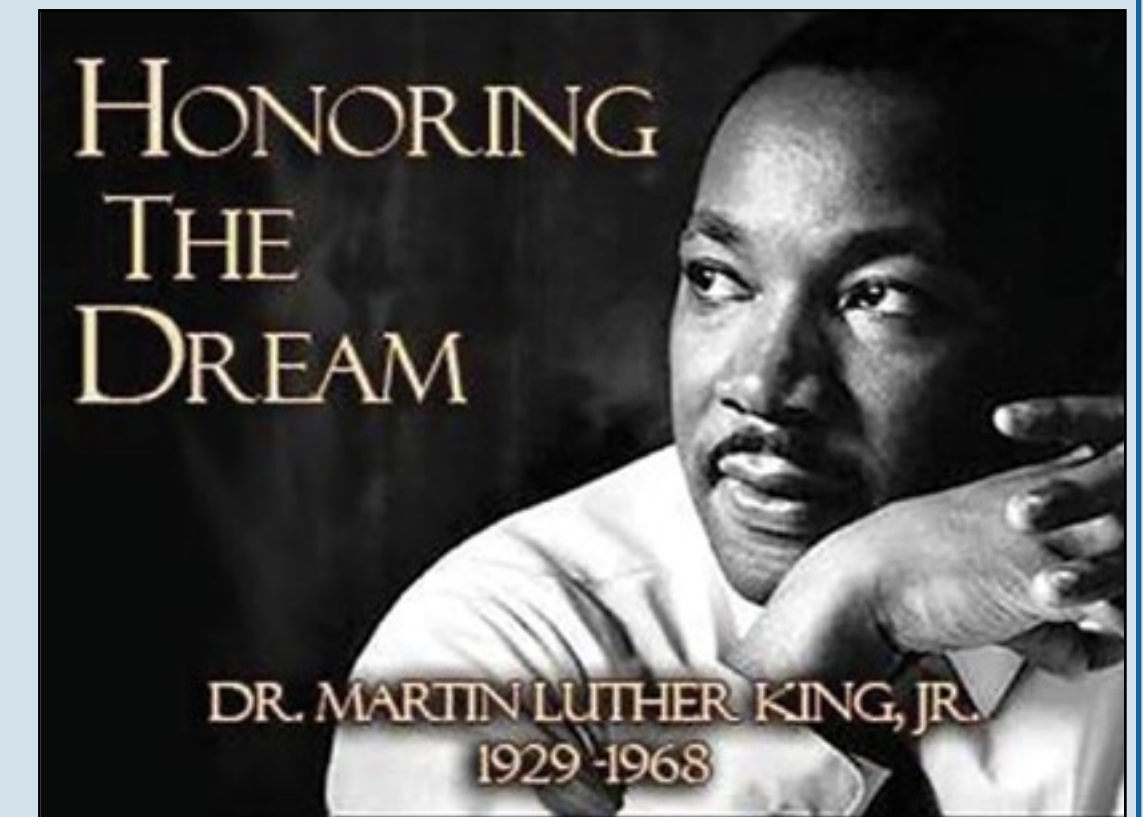
AR 600-85, 4-2 and USMJ Article 112a, specifically prohibit the use of marijuana, hemp and synthetic cannabis

Equal Opportunity - Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force."

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
August 28, 1963
Washington D.C.

Celebrating the life of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Martin Luther King Day - January 16, 2017



The Connecticut Guardian
ONLINE
<http://ct.ng.mil/guardian>

connecticut GUARDIAN

VOL. 47 NO. 11 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT NOVEMBER 2016

Director of Air National Guard Visits with Airmen, Tours Facilities

COURAGE
VETERANS DAY

Thank You Veterans!

In This Issue:

- CTANG Activities 900th Airlift Wing Page 6
- CTANG Hosts Pilot For A Day Page 14
- 500th Anniversary 100th Airborne Page 25

Now in full color!

THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD
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Retiree Voice 2017 Social Security Changes

SGT. 1ST CLASS (RET.) STEPHANIE CYR
RETIREE AFFAIRS COLUMNIST

Major changes are being made to Social Security in 2017 that will affect current retirees collecting Social Security Benefits.

In January 1940, the first monthly Social Security benefits were paid by the Federal government. It is estimated that three in five seniors receive at least half of their retirement income from Social Security. This article reviews the seven major changes to Social Security beginning in 2017.

The Cost-of-Living Adjustment will be 0.3 percent in 2017. COLA is based on the Consumer Price Index from the third quarter of 2014 through the third quarter of 2016. If there is a rise, then there is an increase in benefits. It is meant to keep step with inflation. The .3 percent increase translates to approximately \$5 monthly. The average monthly payment for individuals is approximately \$1360, and couples will receive an average of \$2260 monthly. There was no COLA in 2016.

The SSA payroll tax will go up. Individuals pay 12.4 percent of each dollar earned up to the income cap. Maximum taxable earnings will rise from \$118,500 to \$127,200. The payroll tax is split between employee and employer, so those earning over the previous cap will now pay on earnings up to the new level. Those who are

self-employed will pay the entire 12.4%. Employees will see up to a \$539 increase and self-employed \$1079.

Social Security maximum monthly benefit will increase by \$48 per month. This means that if you receive the current maximum benefit your yearly SSA benefit will be about \$32,200 a year. However, combined income of \$25,000 individuals and \$32,200 for couple will result in some percentage of your benefits being subject to federal income tax.

For those National Guard retirees still working and not yet collecting Social Security, the amount you need to earn for a quarter will rise. Currently you needed to earn \$1,260 per credit, and so \$5,040 would have maxed your work-credit limit. In 2017, you will need to earn \$40 more or \$1,300 for one credit or \$5,200 to get four work credits for the year.

The full retirement age has increased for new SSA benefit applicants. Seniors born from 1943-1954 reach full retirement 66 years of age. Beginning in 2017, seniors born in 1955 or later, full retirement age will be 66 years and 2 months. This will increase with each year to 67 years full retirement for anyone born in 1960 or later. Those applying for early benefits at age 62, could see a decrease monthly benefit of more than 25%. Top-end benefits, will now max out at a point between 124 percent and the current maximum 132 percent.

The earned income thresholds which allow those with disabilities to qualify for SSA benefits are increasing. In 2017, non-blind disabled persons can earn an extra \$40 per month and the blind can earn an extra \$130 per month.

There will be no more double claiming. Currently, dual-earner married couples who are 66 or older can use the option to get spousal payments worth half the higher earner's benefit amount, then later switch to payments based on their own earnings, which will be higher due to delayed claiming. People who turn 62 on Jan. 2, 2016 or later will no longer have this option. Married retirees will automatically receive the higher of the two benefit options and not be able to claim both types of payments.

Finally, dependents can't receive benefits if the primary beneficiary suspends their payments between ages 66 and 70 in order to get delayed credits for a higher monthly payment when benefits are resumed. There are some exceptions to this which should be reviewed in the SSA website or at your local SSA office.

The information in this article was summarized from numerous different sources. Be sure to do your own research, as only you can be responsible for your own benefits!

Retiree and Military Department Picnic Coming in August 2017



SAVE THE DATE
August 24, 2017

Reconnect with old friends and coworkers!

The Connecticut National Guard and State Military Department will host a combined picnic for Active, and Retired members of the CTNG, full-time Army and Air Technicians and State Military Department Employees in the summer of 2017.

Location: The Point, Camp Niantic
More information coming soon!



CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

ARMY

To Private 2

Smith, Corey D.
Moreno, Bryanna N.
Nembhard, Cadeem C.
Dube, Marc A. Jr.
Alamosalva, Luis C.
Goslin, Paul M.
Williams, Navardo O.
McLendon, Toni K.
Goncalves, Dallas J.
Ortiz, Victor J.
Fogg, Christian J.
Ansaldo, Daniel J.

To Private First Class

Morowski, James A.
Pucutay, Christel L.
Laureanoortiz, Diego A.
Szymaniak, Andrew C.
Baughman, Alex M.
Franco, Roberto A.

Nichols, Jason L.
Molina, Jordan L.
Neville, Joshua L.
Fedoryszak, Andrzej P.
Johnson, Erik M.
Contreras, Lauren R.
Britoespinosa, Elizabeth
Wish, Amanda J.

To Specialist

Papadopoulos, Shantea T.
Holman Chavon L.
Correa, Damian
Sweikert, Samuel T.
Torri, Anthony M.
Fairclough, Chad E.
Casiano, Jesus Jr.
Mejiacano, Claudio F.
Renfro, Tyler J.
Dwyer, Leetroy O.
Murphy, Kyle B.

Sewell, Omar J.
Hobart, Jeremy S.
Lundin, Hunter D.
Cortes, Kenneth A.
Montenegro, Joseph P.

To Sergeant

Anglis, John D.
Callahan, Stephen P.

To Staff Sergeant

Hutman, Jaclyn C.
Davis, Neal A.

To Sergeant First Class

Niewiarowski, Joseph W.

To Master Sergeant

Archambeault, Patricia L.
Rivera, Ramon M.

To Captain

Roy, James P.
Dumond, Derik J.
Moll, Kevin D.
Oreilly, Daniel P.
Boehm, Dennis M.

To Major

Osowiecki, Brian J.

To Lt. Colonel

Chiverton, Donald J.

AIR

To Senior Airman

Thompson, Adaniel E.
Williams, Alexis T.
Motovilov, Eugene A.
Haggerty, Justin M.
Bean, Nicholas C.
Heide, Nicholas H.
Taggart, Nicholas J.
Pesce, Ryan S.
Carlson, Tyler A.

To Staff Sergeant

Gore, Adam W.
Cunningham, Andre C.
Cirulli, Anthony
Zwick, Christopher M.
Worrall, Heidi J.
Thomas, Jazmine S.
Cass, Kathleen K.
Day, Lindsey M.
Lao, Phillip C.

To Technical Sergeant

Disilvestro, Andrew S. Jr.
Davies, Brian A. Jr.
Gillis, Dylan C.
Lovett, Jason M.
Saucier, Michelle M.

Congratulations to All!



Promotions as of December 1, 2016

Coming Events & Holidays

January

January 1

New Year's Day

January 10

February Guardian Deadline

January 16

Martin Luther King Day

January 20

Inauguration Day

January 28-29

UPAR Training Course

February

February 2

Groundhog Day

February 8

March Guardian Deadline

February 12

President Lincoln's Birthday

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 20

President's Day

February 28

Mardi Gras - Shrove Tuesday

March

March 1

Ash Wednesday

March 7

April Guardian Deadline

March 8

International Women's Day

March 12

Purim

March 17

St. Patrick's Day

March 20

Spring Begins

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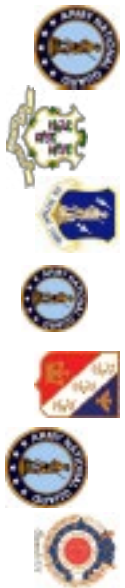
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Connecticut Family GUARDIAN

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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

JANUARY 2017

Operation E.L.F. Party Grounded Due to Weather, Mission Still Successful

Ms. ALLISON L. JOANIS
CTNG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

On the eve of the annual Operation E.L.F. holiday party, the William A. O'Neill Armory was transformed and ready to transport the children of Connecticut's military families to Christmas Morning Around the World via E.L.F. Airlines.

However heavy snowfall and dangerous driving conditions grounded the travel plans for more than 65 children of deployed military members and the party was canceled, Dec. 17.

Sad news, but the safe choice for the staff and over 40 volunteers of the Connecticut National Guard and the Service Member and Family Support Center who worked tirelessly to decorate, wrap and organize the hundreds of gifts that were donated by local businesses and residents around the state.

"The holiday party is an event we look forward to hosting every year," Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, said in a

press release. "The decision [to cancel] did not come easily, but we have to prioritize the safety of our members and their families above all."

Operation E.L.F., in its 15th year, is a program hosted by Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and administered by the CTNG. Its goal is to ease the financial stresses military families face resulting from the call to active duty.



Hundreds of donated stuffed animals awaited adoption by military children at the Operation E.L.F. Holiday Party scheduled at the William A. O'Neill Armory, December 17. Sadly, due to weather, the party was canceled, but thanks to the staff and volunteers of the CTNG Service Member and Family Support Center, these stuffed animals found their way to the homes of more than 65 children in time for the holidays. (Photo courtesy of Harold Bernstein, CTNG SMFSC Volunteer)



The Connecticut Air National Guard's miniature replica of a plane loaded with gifts for military children at the Operation E.L.F. Holiday Party scheduled at the William A. O'Neill Armory, December 17. Sadly, due to weather, the party was canceled, but thanks to the staff and volunteers of the CTNG Service Member and Family Support Center, all gifts made their way to the homes of more than 65 children by the holidays. (Photo courtesy of Harold Bernstein, CTNG SMFSC Volunteer)

For a six-week stretch from early November to mid-December, donors dropped off gift cards and new unwrapped gifts along with donations of heating fuel and home maintenance services that will help support military families throughout the year.

"This is a great opportunity for anyone who's ever wanted to 'do something' to support Connecticut's troops," Wyman said in a press release. "Our military men and women have so bravely answered the call to duty; we're grateful for their service and want to make deployment as easy as possible for their loved ones."

Despite the cancellation of the party, participating families did not miss out. Through further coordination of the CTNG Service Member and Family Support Center, donations were distributed to families in time to open on Christmas morning.

While most visible during the holiday season, Operation E.L.F. is a program that aims to support military families all year.

"Our need exists year round," Kim Hoffman, Director of the CTNG Service Member and Family Support Center, told WDRC radio. "People face unexpected hardships, some that are related to deployment and some that are not related to deployment. We have seen unfortunate events ranging from house fires to those income disparities that are often present when a family member's call to active duty arises."

In addition to donations, Connecticut residents and

See *OP E.L.F.* on Page S4



CATHERINE GALASSO-VIGORITO

Behold! Victory Starts in Your Thought-Life

American portrait painter, John Singer Sargent, a gifted landscape painter and watercolorist of his generation once created a small painting of a panel of roses. His critics, who criticized his works for making his subjects seem more beautiful than they thought they were, praised this smaller work of art.

Sargent was offered great sums of money for the panel of roses piece. Yet, he refused to sell it. When asked, “Why won’t you part with this noteworthy piece?” purportedly, Sargent said that whenever he was discouraged or doubtful of his worth or his talents and capabilities, he would look closely at this particular painting. Next, he thought to himself: “I painted this...”

The picture reminded him that he had accomplished something great. Then, as Sargent reflected on productive, beneficial, positive thoughts, his confidence would return.

I’ve heard it said, “As a person thinks, so is that person.” Similar to a mirror, your thought-life can reflect back to you what you think into it.

Thought is one of the greatest powers you possess, for your life can become what you think. And will make the world what you want it to be.

So today, take inventory of your thoughts. What do you find yourself focusing on the most?

One idea to get your thoughts going in a positive direction is to set aside ten minutes, and recall some of the great things you have done in the past.

Think of achievements in all areas of your life. Mediate on these successes.

While forward action and progress are important, it’s just as significant to ponder upon what you’ve already achieved. Next, get a sheet of paper and a pen and make a list of accomplishments for which you are proud.

And keep the list on hand to look at throughout the year.

Whatever may come, victory starts in your thoughts. You are a child of God, His masterpiece, created in His likeness and image. You’re valuable and special with tremendous abilities and inborn strengths. You are a bright light and have so much yet to give to the world.

Thus, put aside any self-defeating judgments about yourself. God has a remarkable future in store for you. Miracles are waiting to happen. Your breakthrough is near. And your hopes and dreams are within reach. So don’t stop the new things God wants to do in your life because you’re dwelling on negative thoughts.

Each day, go forth in faith and peace. And in your thought-life:

- Think as though you’re blessed.
- With the words you speak, talk as though you are blessed.
- As you walk, carry yourself as though you’re blessed.
- See the best in every situation.
- And expect God to do something great.

A while ago, I heard a legend about a wise king who supplied the people of his village with everything that they needed. There were storehouses of vast supplies in the village that could be given to the people at their very request. All the villagers had to do was ask, and their petition would be granted.

However, the king had one stipulation. The villagers had to be on the look-out. They needed to be watchful, expectantly waiting and ready to receive what they requested. In the same way the villagers needed to be prepared, we too, need to be watchful, expectantly waiting and ready to receive God-given opportunities and joys that await.

In your mind’s eye, visualize yourself surrounded by exactly the things you desire. In every direction, picture the blessings that you seek coming to you. And ask God for them. Ask with faith, believing you will receive them.

Last Christmas, my daughter wanted wooden Russian Nesting dolls for a gift.

The brightly painted dolls are made in such a way that they can be taken apart to reveal smaller dolls fitting within one another compactly. Every nesting doll is smaller than the previous one. Therefore, you’re surprised as you find additional dolls. Likewise, God is going to surprise you. He hasn’t taken you this far to abandon you now. And each surprise will be better than the last.

And so, this week, be on the lookout. For, soon, you are going to see God’s favor come to pass.

- You could be discouraged because of an unfair situation. God is guiding and protecting you. Keep doing what’s right in the Lord’s sight, as God has handfuls of blessings for your future. For, “God

holds success in store for the upright; He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless.”

- (Proverbs 2:7).
- A door may have closed. Pray and look to God for what can be, as He has something better on the way. There is a new beginning in front of you.
- As, “God will bestow on you a crown of beauty, instead of ashes.” (Isaiah 61:3).
- Circumstances might be giving you cause to worry. However, God is with you always. He watches over you and holds you in His hands. So thank God that He is directing your steps, thus, “there is no need to be anxious about anything.” (Philippians 4:6).
- Perhaps, you’re feeling weak. Stay hopeful; stay positive. God is renewing your strength like the eagle. For, “Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31).
- Or maybe someone has upset you. Leave the hurts behind and move onward. Don’t let anything get you off course, knowing that, “You are more than a conqueror through Him that loves you.” (Romans 8:37).

I like a quote that a reader sent to me that read, “Faith does not believe that God can, it knows that God will.”

With an optimistic state of mind, open your eyes to the amazing possibilities around you. God has a great plan for you. Hence, make room for all the good things you want to transpire in your life, first in your own thinking.

Give your best to the world, for you have so much to offer and the best will come back to you. Because when you change your thoughts, you transform your world.

It will be a blessed 2017!

Catherine Galasso-Vigorito is a nationally-syndicated columnist and author from Connecticut who donates a monthly inspirational column to demonstrate her appreciation of U.S. Service Members and their families. The content is her own and does not express the official views of the Connecticut National Guard, the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. You may write to Ms. Galasso-Vigorito in care of the Connecticut Guardian, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106-3795 or e-mail her directly at cgv@anewyouworldwide.com. Visit her website at www.anewyouworldwide.com. © Catherine Galasso, 2017

Military OneSource

Get Ready to File Your Tax Return

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTOPHER ROULEAU
MILITARY OneSource



April may seem a long way off, but it will be here before you know it. Are you ready for tax filing? Rather than putting this task off until the last minute, reduce your stress and take steps to be prepared. Before starting on your tax return, gather all necessary

tax documents and additional information such as:

- Social Security numbers and dates of birth for you, your spouse and dependents
- Child care, education and adoption costs
- W-2 forms for all employers for you and your spouse
- Investment income forms
- Alimony information
- Social Security benefits
- Miscellaneous income
- Form 1098-E for student loan interest
- Form 1098 for home mortgage interest

- Charitable donations
- Medical and dental expenses
- Real estate taxes
- Rental property incomes and expenses

If you have kept careful records, the above items will be easy to find. Keeping records organized not only helps at tax time but can also make other things easier, like filing insurance claims or getting a loan. Good records will help you:

Identify sources of income. You may receive money or property from a variety of sources. Your records can identify the sources of your income. You need this information to separate business from nonbusiness income and taxable from nontaxable income.

Keep track of expenses. You may forget an expense unless you record it when it occurs. You can use your records to identify deductible expenses for your tax return.

Keep track of the basis of property. You need to keep records that show the basis of your property. The Internal Revenue Service defines basis as “the amount of your investment in property for tax purposes.”

Support items reported on tax returns. You must keep records in case the Internal Revenue Service has a question about an item on your return. Good records will help you explain any item and arrive at the correct tax with a minimum of effort. If you do not have records, you may have to spend time getting statements and receipts from various sources. If you cannot produce the correct documents, you may have to pay additional tax and be subject to penalties.

If you have questions about filing your tax return, call 800-342-9647 and ask to speak with a Military OneSource tax consultant. Trained tax consultants are available (free for those who are eligible) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST/EDT year-round and with extended hours during tax season: 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., EST/EDT. Free tax preparation software is also available through Military OneSource and at select Volunteer Income Tax Assistance locations where you can also find tax consultants who can sit down with you one-on-one and provide tax counseling and prepare your tax returns.

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD HELPLINE

If you or someone you know is struggling with the stressors of life, please contact us at
1-855-800-0120.

In an effort to support the needs of our service members and their families, the Connecticut National Guard has a
24-hour HELPLINE.

Your call will be answered by a behavioral health professional. You will receive information and referrals to community resources to support you and your family.

HELPLINE - 1-855-800-0120

William A. O'Neill Armory
360 Broad St. RM 112
Hartford, CT 06105
Service Member and Family Support Center
(800) 858-2677
Fax: (860) 493-2795
Child and Youth Program
(860) 548-3254
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
(860) 493-2796
Military OneSource
(800) 342-9647
(860) 502-5416
Survivor Outreach Services
(860) 548-3258
Open Mon.-Fri.
Windsor Locks Readiness Center
85-300 Light Ln.
Windsor Locks, CT 06096
(860)292-4602
Open Mon.-Fri.
Veterans' Memorial Armed Forces Reserve Center
90 Wooster Heights Rd.
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 205-5050
Open Mon.-Fri.

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD

Family Assistance Center Locations

Family Assistance Centers are an information and referral hub for all Branches of Service

Our Programs Include:

Budget Counseling	Community Support Options	Financial Assistance and Relief
Family Communication	Counseling Referrals	Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR)
Legal and Pay Information	Outreach	Family Readiness Groups (FRG)
TRICARE Assistance	Volunteer Opportunities	DEERS & ID Card Assistance

Support is available 24/7 by calling (800) 858-2677

*Centers are open part-time on a regular, weekly schedule. Please call ahead to confirm times or to make an appointment.

New London Armory
249 Bayonet St.
New London, CT 06320
(860) 772-1422
Open Mon.-Fri.
103rd Airlift Wing
100 Nicholson Rd.
East Granby, CT 06026
(800) 858-2677
Open Tues.-Fri.
103rd Air Control Squadron
206 Boston Post Rd.
Orange, CT 06447
(800) 858-2677
By Appointment
Niantic Readiness Center
38 Smith St.
Niantic, CT 06357
(800) 858-2677
By Appointment
Norwich Armory
38 Stott Ave.
Norwich, CT 06360
(800) 858-2677
Wednesday or By Appointment
Waterbury Armory
64 Field St.
Waterbury, CT 06702
(800) 858-2677
By Appointment

OP E.L.F. from Page S4

businesses may also choose to support a specific family in need through the Adopt-A-Family program. Adopt-A-Family is a completely anonymous program that assists military families suffering extreme financial hardship and allows donors to purchase items on the family’s wish list. This program has helped over 125 military families since its inception.

In 2015, Operation E.L.F. distributed more than \$10,000 in gift cards to military families in need and hundreds of toys were distributed to children of Soldiers and Airmen.

“We have been so fortunate for 15 years of Operation E.L.F. to be the recipients of the generosity of the people of Connecticut,” said Hoffman. “Our residents have demonstrated that they have true respect for the sacrifices that our men and women in uniform and their families make.”

Though the holidays have come and gone, contributions for year-round help are still being accepted. Operation E.L.F. will still accept donations of gift cards for grocery and department/home goods

stores, pharmacies, and gas stations as well as donations of fuel oil and home maintenance services. To coordinate donations, or for more information, call 1-800-858-2677.

Financial donations can be made through the National Guard Foundation. Please mail those contributions to The Connecticut National Guard Foundation at 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06105.

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization that provides emergency financial assistance for Connecticut National Guard members and their families. Donations are tax-deductible. Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number so an acknowledgement of your contribution can be sent.

Currently, 300 Connecticut Airmen are preparing for deployment to Southwest Asia, 100 recently deployed to the Middle East, and 60 National Guard Soldiers just celebrated their return from deployment to Afghanistan.



Operation E.L.F. Hotline - 1-800-858-2677
For More Information, visit <http://ct.ng.mil/ELF/Pages/default.aspx> or www.facebook.com/ConnecticutOperationELF
Donations mailed to 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06105
Gift Cards attn. to The CTNG Service Member & Support Center
Financial donations made out to and sent attn. to The CT National Guard Foundation

Share Your Experience

The Connecticut Military Department (CTMD) is seeking members who experienced employment/reemployment problems due to their military status

(e.g., employer would not rehire the member after returning from a deployment or other military duty (training) or employer fired member because of scheduling conflicts with military duties).

CTMD is particularly interested in members who had to avail the law (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, “USERRA”) in order to compel their employer to hire/rehire because the employer discriminated against them for performing military duty/ training. USERRA is the federal law intended to ensure that persons who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, Reserve, National Guard, or other uniformed Services are not disadvantaged in their civilian careers because of their service – to ensure service members are not discriminated against in employment based on past, present, or future military service.

We want to discuss your employment/reemployment experiences with you. This is important.

Please contact the State Legal NCO, SSG Christopher F. Clark at 860-493-2770 or christopher.f.clark.mil@mail.mil.

Service Member & Family Support Center Staff Directory			
William A. O'Neill Armory: 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 - Fax: (860) 693-2795 -Open Monday-Friday			
Director, Service Member and Family Support Center	Kimberly Hoffman	kimberly.j.hoffman.ch@mail.mil	(800) 858-2677
Deputy Director	SSG Melody Baber	melody.cheyenne.baber.mil@mail.mil	(860) 548-3276 (desk)/(800) 883-2515 (cell)
Family Assistance Center Coordinator	Anne Reed	anne.azreed.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4938 (desk)/(800) 883-6934 (cell)
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Rita O'Donnell	rita.m.odonnell.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 493-2797 (desk)/(800) 883-6949 (cell)
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Jessica Koehler	jessica.v.koehler.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4969 (desk)/(800) 883-6940 (cell)
Family Readiness Support Assistant	Linda Rolinson	linda.b.rolinson.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4963 (desk)/(800) 686-2209 (cell)
Family Readiness Support Assistant	Wendy Hagen	wendy.m.hagen.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4920 (desk)/(800) 883-6677 (cell)
ARRNG Yellow Ribbon Program Coordinator	SSG John Cummings	john.cummings.mil@mail.mil	(860) 493-2796 (desk)/(800) 538-5639 (cell)
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator	Michelle McCarty	michelle.m.mccarty4.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 548-3254 (desk)/(800) 883-6953 (cell)
Survivor Outreach Specialist	Megan O'Shaughnessy	megan.l.shaughnessy.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 548-3258 (desk)/(800) 394-8748 (cell)
Military OneSource Consultant	Chris Roden	christopher.a.rodan@militaryonesource.com	(860) 502-5416 (cell)/(800) 493-2722 (desk)
State Support Chaplain	CH. (ChA) David Nutt	david.c.nutt.mil@mail.mil	(860) 548-3240 (desk)/(800) 883-7748 (cell)
Transition Assistance Advisor	Jay Braca	jonathan.j.braca.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4908 (desk)/(800) 748-0037 (cell)
Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve	Sean Britell	sean.s.britell.ctr@mail.mil	(800) 548-3295 (desk)
Connecticut Military Relief Fund	Russell Bonaccorso	russell.bonaccorso@ct.gov	(860) 524-4948 (desk)
Windsor Locks Readiness Center: 25-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 -Open Monday-Friday			
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Joshua Hamre	joshua.j.hamre.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 292-4602 (desk)/(800) 221-5836 (cell)
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Jennifer Remillard	jennifer.m.remillard.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 292-4601 (desk)/(800) 883-2704 (cell)
Veterans' Memorial Armed Forces Reserve Center: 90 Wooster Heights Road, Danbury, CT 06819 -Open Monday-Friday			
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Nancy Cummings	nancy.a.cummings.ctr@mail.mil	(203) 205-5950 (desk)/(800) 883-2746 (cell)
New London Armory: 249 Bayonet Street, New London, CT 06320 -Open Monday-Friday			
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Vanessa Foster	vanessa.a.foster.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 772-1422 (desk)/(800) 883-2720 (cell)
103rd Airlift Wing: 100 Nicholson Road, East Granby, CT 06026 - Open Tuesday-Friday			
Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager	Currently Vacant		
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Joshua Hamre	joshua.j.hamre.ctr@mail.mil	(800) 292-2730 (desk)/(800) 221-5836 (Cell)
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Jennifer Remillard	jennifer.m.remillard.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 292-2730 (desk)/(800) 922-2746 (cell)
Norfolk Readiness Center: 31 Smith Street, Norfolk, CT 06357 - (800) 858-2677 - Open By Appointment			
Family Assistance Center Specialist	Timothy Henney	timothy.j.henney.ctr@mail.mil	(800) 221-5540 (cell)
103rd Air Control Squadron: 204 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477 - (800) 858-2677 - Open By Appointment			
Waterbury Armory: 64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702 - (800) 858-2677 - Open By Appointment Norwich Armory: 31 East Avenue, Norwich, CT 06460 - (800) 858-2677 - Open Wednesday And By Appointment			