

Soldier Systems Center

SPOTLIGHT

Issue 21

AUGUST 2025



An Initial Word



Team Natick,

I would like to start my first installment in the USAG-Natick Spotlight by thanking everyone for the warm welcome my family and I have felt since joining the Natick team. Your kindness and support mean the world to my family and me. We are excited to spend the next two years living, playing, and working along your side.

Without recounting my biography, I have spent the last 20 plus years at the tip of the spear as an Infantryman and Special Forces Operator. On behalf of my brothers and sisters in arms I want to thank everyone here for all the work you all have done to make the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Guardians, and Coast Guardsmen more lethal and safer in everything the country asks of us.

I am excited to be here and support the teams that do the work that enables our warfighters to be more lethal and safer. My promise to all of you is that all of the work I do over the next two years will be in support of the service members, families, tenant units, and the community of USAG-Natick. I will strive for excellence in everything I do to sustain the success of our tenant organizations and mission partners. I will work to streamline services and support systems that are user friendly, easily accessible, and simple to request. Additionally, I challenge all of you to do the same.

I have always been inspired by the recounting of an interview conducted at NASA in the late 1960s, when a janitor was asked what he does at NASA his response was "I'm helping put a man on the moon!" This is the mentality we should strive for here at USAG-Natick. I hope that everyone here believes in their heart that "you are helping make our warfighters more lethal and safer!" I know in my heart that to be true! And I hope you do also.

LTC Gregory Kozlowski



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Army Community Service Newsletter

August 2025

National Night Out

 5 August 2025 |  1600–2000

 Memorial Field, Natick, MA

Join the Natick Police for a FREE, family-friendly event packed with fun, food, and community connection.

Open to all.

Ready for School!

 9 August 2025 |  1700–1900

 USS Constitution Museum, Boston, MA

The USO and Freedom Mortgage are partnering for the 13th Annual Rucksacks to Backpacks Program, providing backpacks and school supplies to military families.

Includes: School Supplies, Fun Activities, Snacks, and Museum Tours.

Reach out to ACS for registration!

EFMP Butterfly Place Event

 19 August 2025 |  1000–1200

 The Butterfly Place, Westford, MA

Hanscom EFMP is hosting a **FREE** event for all EFMP families at The Butterfly Place, an indoor living environment designed for the propagation and development of butterflies.

24/7 Homework Support – Tutor.com

Need help during homework time? Tutor.com provides FREE, 24/7 access to:

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- ✓ College Preparation

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MWR Resources



At Natick Family and MWR, we strive to continuously improve the quality and ease of access to MWR services and information. When planning your next event, please visit our website where you can easily request rental equipment, request dates for facility use, or send a message to one of our representatives.

Water Sports: The dock is in, and the boats are ready. If you want to take a canoe or kayak out on the lake during lunch or after work, swing by MWR in Building 38 to rent a boat and pick up a life preserver and paddle.

Thirty Minutes to Win It is BACK!!!

Beginning April 7, TMtWI Class will offer TWO CLASSES per day and be running FIVE DAYS a week!

Choose between 11:40 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. start times and, for the first time ever, you can choose between two payment options:

- **\$50/month** for TWO CLASSES per week (ONLY \$6.25 per class!) OR
- **\$75/month** for UNLIMITED CLASSES (if you co REDIT CARD in Building 38.

Please direct all inquiries to darin.p.stgeorge.naf@army.mil or (508) 206-4098

Equipment Rental

Visit www.natick.armymwr.com and click on the 'Equipment Checkout Center' banner.



Open to all authorized patrons. Prices subject to change.



MWR Offers Hall Building for Smaller Gatherings

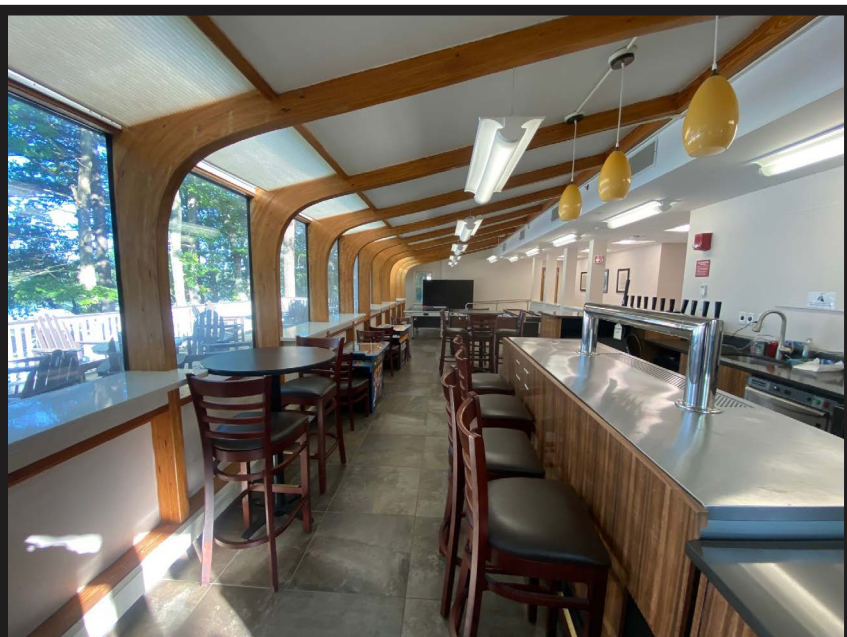
It's Summer and we here at MWR Natick realize that many departments and organizations are looking for a space to hold their functions. Unfortunately, due to an extensive renovation project, the Lord Community Center will not be back online until November. With this in mind, we have opened the Hall Building, Building 38, for smaller gatherings of up to 35 people. The occupancy code is the driver behind the cap on the number of people we can accommodate, but we would like to remind you that we have a beautiful deck area with 5 tables and 22 chairs right out back!



The cost to rent the space is \$25 per hour.

We cannot remove the gaming tables or other items in the room so you may have to get creative with your planning. The large charcoal grills can be rented for \$30 for those of you who would like a barbecue-style event!

If we can make the space work for your event, we would be happy to have you. Please contact Hyun Byun, MWR Recreation and Special Events, at hyun.s.byun.naf@mail.mil or (508) 206-4104 for more information.



30 MINUTES TO WIN IT!

TWO CLASSES A DAY - FIVE DAYS A WEEK AND YOUR FIRST CLASS IS FREE!

Choose between 11:40 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. start times and, for the first time ever, you can choose between two payment options:

- \$50/month for TWO CLASSES per week (ONLY \$6.25 per class!)
- \$75/month for UNLIMITED CLASSES (if you come 3x a week, still only \$6.25 a class!)

Classes are to be utilized during the month that they are purchased and are not transferrable or carried forward.

Classes can be purchased with CASH or CREDIT CARD in Building 38.

Please direct all inquiries to darin.p.stgeorge.naf@army.mil or (508) 206-4098



**JOIN DARIN P. ST. GEORGE,
FITNESS PROGRAM SPECIALIST,
FOR CLASS TODAY!**

Hero WOD

Severin

August 2025

Dedicated to U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Severin W. Summers III, 43, of Bentonia, MS, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), headquartered at Jackson, MS, died August 2, 2009 in Qole Gerdar, Afghanistan, after his vehicle was struck by a command wire improvised explosive device. Summers is survived by his wife Tammy Fraser and his daughters Jessica, Shelby, and Sarah.

For Time
50 Strict Pull-Ups
100 Hand-Release Push-Ups
5k Run
Wear a weight vest (20/14 lb)

A Hero WOD, also known as a Hero Workout, is a challenging and intense CrossFit workout that is named after a fallen hero. These workouts are created to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country or community.

Do you and your team participate in the monthly Hero WODs? Send us your photos completing the workouts and we'll share them here in the Spotlight!



DEVCOM Soldier Center transitions new individual field ration for DoD-wide availability

Story and Photos by DEVCOM Soldier Center Public Affairs

A new, lightweight, energy packed, nutrient-dense, individual field ration, called the Close Combat Assault Ration, CCAR, is now available to all U.S. military service branches for procurement through the Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support.

Under development by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center's Department of Defense Combat Feeding Division, CFD, since 2019, the CCAR utilizes emerging food processing technologies to significantly reduce weight and volume, while retaining vital nutrients.

Early development of the CCAR was supported by the Close Combat Lethality Task Force, which resulted in an accelerated fielding schedule. The goal was to develop a ration to support small units during operations in austere environments where they need to be self-sustained for 7-10 days with limited or no re-supply. The existing individual rations at the time, including the Meal, Ready to Eat and the First Strike Ration, were too large and bulky to meet this operational requirement.

To approach this challenge, the entire division worked together to address the multiple requirements needed to develop a tailored solution. Factors considered included: meeting nutrition needs, supporting performance, warfighter acceptability, processing and packaging to ensure shelf-stability and nutrient retention, and other unique operational challenges.

The first step was to identify and define user requirements. It was initially thought that weight and volume reductions could be gained by simply

putting together nutrient-dense bars. However, after utilizing the Product Attribute Elicitation Method, or PEM, a highly scientific process for gathering user requirements, researchers discovered this was not the case.

The PEM sessions asked warfighters for descriptive feedback for a given scenario. This process obtained opinions, scoring, and quantitative data that allowed for statistical analysis. PEM includes ratings that can be scored along with qualitative data that allows for a deeper understanding of user needs.

In 2019, CFD, supported by Tufts University Sensory Science Center, executed PEM sessions with the 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Carson, Colorado; the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, New York; and with the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Collecting these user-generated requirements early in the process proved instrumental to the successful development of this new ration.

CFD, in collaboration with industry and other government agencies, then created prototypes for the initial operation test and evaluation, or OT&E, held in 2020. The prototypes included test items developed with both novel and traditional processing methods. Several vacuum microwave dried items were tested along with sonically agglomerated items, which use sound waves to compress the food. Both technologies were found to successfully increase the nutrient and energy density of the food items.





Developed by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center's (DEVCOM SC) Department of Defense (DoD) Combat Feeding Division (CFD), the Close Combat Assault Ration, or CCAR, is a new, lightweight, energy-packed, nutrient-dense, individual field ration that significantly reduces the volume and weight of rations warfighters have to carry. The CCAR features three menu choices and is now available to all U.S. military service branches for procurement through the Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support (DLA-TS).

Vacuum microwave drying uniformly removes water with both vacuum and microwave techniques, resulting in smaller compressed items that remain moist. With funding support from the Army, CFD initiated a manufacturing technology effort, which supports the maturation of VMD technology with ration manufacturers and suppliers. SA uses vibration, which combined with compression, instantly welds food molecules together without filler or binders, reducing the item sizes by 30-50 percent while retaining the same ingredients and nutrition.

These and other novel technologies were evaluated during the CCAR's development and CFD will continue to work with industry partners to identify new technologies and evolve existing ones.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic created a delay in the scheduled 2020 IOT&E with warfighters. In 2021, CFD executed an IOT&E with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Polk, Louisiana and the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion at Fort Pickett, Virginia. The evaluation tested Warfighter consumption of CCAR prototype field rations for five days with no resupply. There were four prototype menus consisting of novel technology, commercial items and existing MRE menu components.

While the weight and volume reductions drove the need for the new ration platform, user acceptability and nutrition are also critical factors.

“We have a long standing saying in the food world that it’s not nutrition if it’s not eaten,” said Erin Gaffney-Stomberg, PhD, the Combat Feeding Division chief. “It’s critical that optimal nutrition is supplied to warfighters when and where they need it, and in a form that looks, smells and tastes good and is safe. In addition, we need to have science demonstrating how these rations impact warfighter performance. To understand this, we reached out to our partners at the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine’s Military Nutrition Division.”

According to James McClung, PhD, Military Nutrition Division chief, “negative energy balance, or the inability to consume enough calories to meet metabolic demands, is a threat to warfighter performance.”

Results from the recent studies indicate that Soldiers eating the CCAR consumed more calories and experienced smaller energy deficits compared to those consuming the FSR in an operationally relevant field training. This advantage is attributed to the CCAR's increased energy density, which may lead to higher caloric intake, while reducing the

DEVCOM Soldier Center transitions new individual field ration for DoD-wide availability - Cont.

weight and volume of the ration.

“Importantly, studies demonstrated that the CCAR did not adversely affect physical performance”, said McClung. “As the Army and DOD continue to seek ways to optimize warfighter performance and lethality, evidence indicates that the CCAR is a promising option for short-term missions where it is crucial to minimize the logistical burden while maximizing energy intake and maintaining Warfighter performance.”



The CCAR IOT&E results and recommendations were provided to the Joint Services Operational Ration Forum (Milestone C Decision Authority for Operational Rations) in early 2022. The recommendations were approved and CFD transitioned procurement documents to DLA-Troop Support for the 1st Generation CCAR in the fall of 2023.

The very first production of the CCAR occurred in May 2025 and the ration is now available for units to order through DLA-Troop Support. There are three menus that include 20 new components which leverage the MRE industrial base. Each pallet contains 48 cases with 10 menus per case (480 total meals).

The 1st Generation CCAR has decreased individual warfighter combat load, allowing space for more ammunition, water, and medical supplies. According to Gaffney-Stomberg, “this ration will replace the FSR and the 39% reduction in volume and 17% reduction in weight as compared to

the FSR translates to warfighters being able to now carry five days’ worth of nutrition in a 3-day footprint.”

“This is a significant improvement in capability for contested operational environments,” she said. The CCAR will sustain semi-independent small units for five days without resupply and can be consumed for up to ten days as the sole source of nutrition per joint regulation. CFD will continue researching novel processing and ingredients, and work with industry to expand menu varieties and reduce weight and size of the ration.



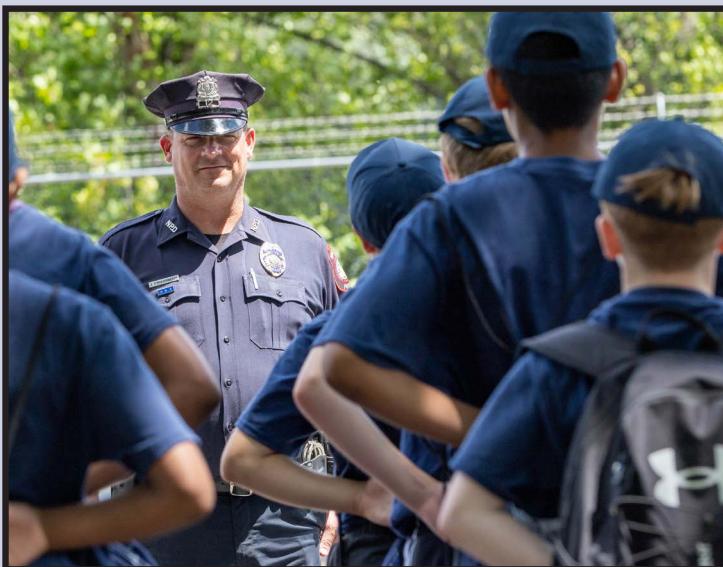
NSSC Hosts Natick Police Youth Academy

The DEVCOM Soldier Center welcomed students from the Natick Police Youth Academy on July 17 as part of its annual STEM engagement initiative. The visit gave local youth a firsthand look at the research, technology, and innovation behind Soldier readiness and support.

As part of their visit, students stepped inside the Doriot Climatic Chambers to experience the extreme conditions used to test uniforms, gear, and equipment—highlighting the real-world science behind protecting Soldiers in harsh environments.

Additional stops included the Combat Feeding Lab and Cognitive Performance research areas, where DEVCOM scientists and engineers explained how their work improves nutrition, focus, and overall performance in the field.

This annual partnership aims to spark curiosity in science, technology, engineering, and math while building stronger ties between the Soldier Center and the surrounding community.



National Airborne Day

Did you know

That this year marks the 85th anniversary of the U.S. Army Airborne?

That DEVCOM Soldier Center and ILSC both have military Parachute Riggers on jump status?

That the DEVCOM Soldier Center Parachute Rigger Team won the 2009 International Military Parachute Competition known as Leapfest?

National Airborne Day is a day designated by the United States Congress to honor the nation's airborne forces of the Armed Forces. It was created in 2001 by George W. Bush.

August 16, 1940 marked the first official Army parachute jump, validating the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by parachute.

On August 14, 2002 President George W. Bush issued the proclamation on the next page:



National Airborne Day

A Proclamation

The history of Airborne forces began after World War I, when Brigadier General William Mitchell first conceived the idea of parachuting troops into combat. Eventually, under the leadership of Major William Lee at Fort Benning, Georgia, members of the Parachute Test Platoon pioneered methods of combat jumping in 1940. In November 1942, members of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, conducted America's first combat jump, leaping from C-47 aircraft behind enemy lines in North Africa. This strategy revolutionized combat and established Airborne forces as a key component of our military.

During World War II, Airborne tactics were critical to the success of important missions, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Southern France, and many others. In Korea and Vietnam, Airborne soldiers played a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, Airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition against terrorism.

The elite Airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 82nd Airborne Division, "America's Guard of Honor," and the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Airborne forces have also been represented in the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions and numerous other Airborne, glider and air assault units and regiments. Paratroopers in the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky soldiers. Often called into action with little notice, these forces have earned an enduring reputation for dedication, excellence, and honor. As we face the challenges of a new era, I encourage all people to recognize the contributions of these courageous soldiers to our Nation and the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 16, 2002, as National Airborne Day. As we commemorate the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the thousands of soldiers, past and present, who have served in an Airborne capacity. I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

Signed,

GEORGE W. BUSH



Safety Corner: *Water Safety*

Whether you're wading through shallow waters or braving powerful currents, recognizing the risks and preparing yourself and your loved ones could be the line between survival and tragedy.

Drowning remains one of the leading causes of accidental death year after year – yet many of these tragedies can be prevented through education and smart precautions. As Soldiers, Civilians, and Contractors, we each have a role to play in championing water safety this Summer. Protecting yourself and those around you doesn't have to be difficult. Rally your group, stay informed, and take action to ensure a safe and enjoyable season for everyone.

Staggering Recreational Water Tragedies In 2024:

During calendar year 2024, the United States Coast Guard reported 556 fatalities from recreational boating incidents – a rate of 4.8 deaths per 100,000 registered vessels, making a 2% decrease from 2023. While the total incidents rose by 1.1% and injuries increased by 2.1% compared to 2023, the number of deaths dropped by 1.4%. Drowning remained the leading cause, accounting for 76% of boating-related deaths. Notably, alcohol use was identified as the top contributing factor, involved in 20% of fatalities.

Each year, roughly 4,000 lives are lost to unintentional drowning in the United States – including fatalities linked to swimming. Alarming, the number has been climbing, with a sharp increase reported between 2023 and 2024. The trend highlights a growing concern in water safety and the urgent need for awareness, education, and preventative action.

Over 1,000 children 14 years and under drown in pools and spas, and thousands more are hospitalized due to water-related hazards. Prepare today to protect your family members.

Enjoy the water this summer. Keep yourself and your loved ones safe by learning about the dangers and preparing ahead of time.

Take Note, Stay Afloat!

How to prevent accidents:

Take swimming lessons to build proficiency

- There's no time like now to learn to swim – and your local community likely has adult learn-to-swim programs, even for those who fear the water.

Work on water survival

- Lifesaving swim movements may be different when you're fully clothed with footwear.
- Never dive or jump into an unfamiliar body of water.
- Recognize that traditional swimming lessons don't automatically equip individuals for survival in unpredictable open water – where currents and marine life pose real challenges.
- Plan for an accident. Can the person you're with rescue you from the water and perform lifesaving care? If not, make a plan.

Use water floatation devices

- Get a handle on the appropriate floatation devices designed to prevent drowning.
- Choose the right type.
- Fit, adjust, and wear them correctly.
- Maintain and regularly inspect them.
- Supervise children and understand their limitations.



Motorcycle Safety Ride



The NSSC Motorcycle Safety Team will be hosting a mentorship / safety ride and historical site visit to the American Heritage Museum in Hudson, Massachusetts on Thursday, 21 August 2025. The American Heritage Museum at the Collings Foundation featuring the Jacques M. Littlefield Collection explores major conflicts ranging from the Revolutionary War until today. Visitors discover and interact with our American heritage through the history, the changing technology, and the Human Impact of America's fight to preserve the freedom we all hold dear.

This mentorship motorcycle safety ride will help encourage team comradery, provide instruction on safe motorcycle riding techniques, group riding / leadership training, traffic blocking, riding hand signals, personal protective equipment training, and will be instrumental in reducing the number of accidents, injuries, and fatalities to Service Members and Government Civilian employees.

The Motorcycle Safety Team will meet up at the Carney Hall / Building 1 Flagpole area at 0715. We will be given a briefing from the USAG Natick Command Team and a safety briefing from motorcycle team leaders. All riders will have their motorcycles inspected using the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) guidelines by each member of the team and we will depart NSSC at 0800 for the safety ride and American Heritage Museum. All Active Duty, Government Civilians, and Contractors are highly encouraged to attend.

Who: All Active-Duty, Government Civilians, and Contractors

What: August 2025 Motorcycle Safety Ride

When: Thursday, 21 August 2025 @ 0715

Where: The American Heritage Museum, Hudson, Massachusetts, and the surrounding area

Why: To kick off the June motorcycle safety riding season, this mentorship safety ride will help encourage safe motorcycle riding techniques, encourage group riding / leadership training, help reduce the number of accidents, injuries and death to Service Members and Government employees, provide proper motorcycle personal protective equipment (PPE) instruction, and motorcycle inspection using Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) guidelines. To pay homage to our military past, the group meet up at the American Heritage Museum for a tour.





NSSC WALKING HOUSING TOWNHALL

THURSDAY, 7 AUGUST 2025
1600

**BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION-MEET
OUR NEW GARRISON COMMANDER !**

Join us for this special Town Hall as we welcome LTC Kozlowski to the community. This is your chance to hear his vision, share your feedback, and ask questions directly. Your voice matters, and this meeting is an important opportunity to help shape the future of our housing community.

**HAVE HOUSING QUESTIONS?
GET YOUR ANSWERS WHILE
ENJOYING LIGHT REFRESHMENTS!
YOUR PARTICIPATION IS
ENCOURAGED!**

Location: Heritage Lane Playground



Honoring the Guardians of USAG Natick

Story by Keith Jackson, Deputy to the Garrison Commander USAG - Natick



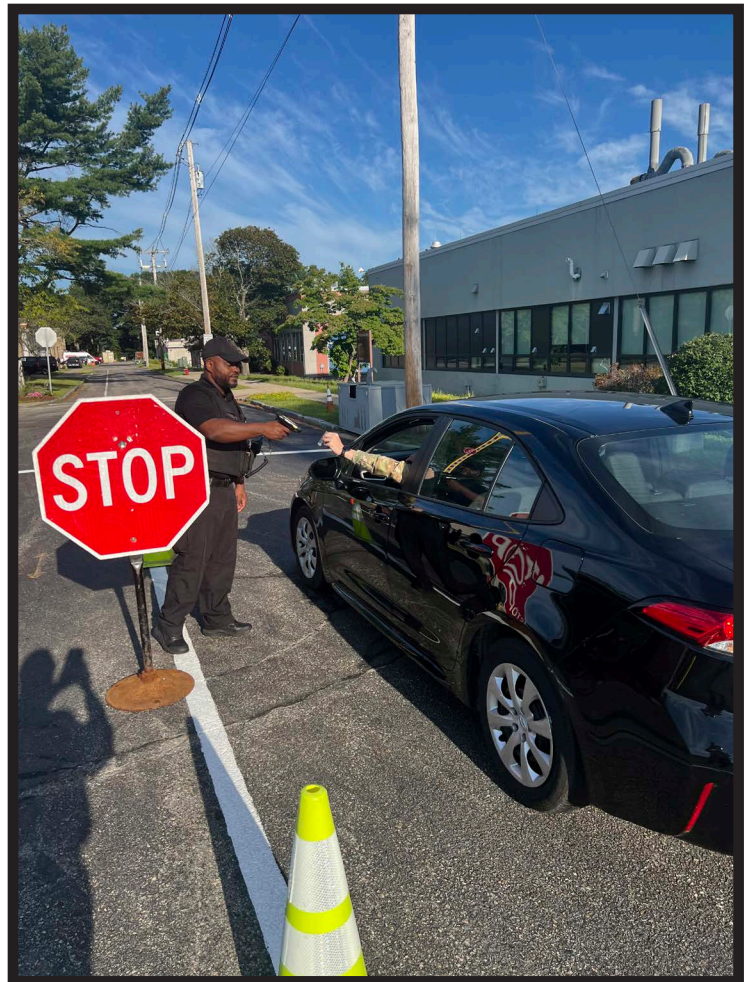
resilience underscores their understanding of the critical mission at hand: safeguarding a facility where technologies are developed to enhance the safety and effectiveness of service members.

As you pass through the gates of USAG Natick, take a moment to acknowledge the guards. A simple “thank you” serves as recognition of their dedication and the vital role they play in ensuring that innovation flourishes and missions are accomplished. The DASG are not merely gatekeepers; they are steadfast defenders of purpose, deserving of our respect and gratitude.

Every day at the entrance of U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Natick, a dedicated team stands watch: the Department of the Army Security Guards (DASG). These guards represent the first point of contact, embodying a blend of professionalism and approachability as they oversee one of America’s vital research and development centers for soldier systems. Their presence is marked by an ID card check, firm handshake and a commitment to duty, ensuring that all who enter are met with respect and authority.

The guards at USAG Natick exemplify a unique combination of military discipline and a welcoming attitude, greeting soldiers, civilian employees, and visitors alike with equal respect. Their crisp uniforms and steadfast posture reflect their pride in a role that extends beyond mere access control; they are entrusted with the protection of innovation, personnel, and the trust of the community.

Their unwavering commitment is evident as they brave the elements during the rain, snow, or heat and standing vigilant for hours without shelter. This



Antiterrorism Awareness Month

*Story by Robert Burns,
USAG-Natick Antiterrorism Officer*

As the summer heat rolls into August, it's not just the weather that's heating up – it's also time for us to sharpen our focus on security. Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) has officially designated August as **Antiterrorism Awareness Month**, and here at Natick Soldier Systems Center (NSSC), this is more than just a calendar event. It's a call to action to protect our people, our facilities, and the critical work we do every day.

Why It Matters

The world is constantly evolving, and so are the threats we face. From traditional terrorism to insider risks and even drone misuse, the global security landscape is dynamic and unpredictable. But here's the good news: you are our strongest line of defense. Security isn't just the job of a few – it's a shared responsibility that starts with each of us.

Know the Threats

When we think of terrorism, we often picture large-scale attacks. But threats can take many forms, and awareness is key. Here are three areas to keep in mind:

- **Traditional Terrorism:** External threats remain a priority, and vigilance is essential.
- **Insider Threats:** Sometimes, the danger comes from within. Be alert to unusual behavior, requests for access, or extremist views from colleagues. A small observation could prevent a big problem.
- **Drone Security:** Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) are becoming more common – and more concerning. If you see unauthorized drone activity near NSSC, report it immediately.

“See Something, Say Something” – It’s More Than a Slogan

Your eyes and ears are critical to keeping NSSC safe. If something feels off, trust your instincts and report it. Here's how:

- **iSALUTE:** This is your go-to tool for reporting security concerns. It's easy, anonymous, and accessible at iSALUTE.
- **Direct Reporting:** For urgent matters, call the NSSC Police desk at 508-206-4005.

Stay Sharp with Training

Knowledge is power, and training is your best weapon. Make sure you and your team have completed the DA mandatory Antiterrorism Level 1 training. You can find it online at AT Level 1 Training. It's quick, straightforward, and could make all the difference.

Together, We're Stronger

This August, let's reaffirm our commitment to keeping NSSC safe. Whether it's reporting suspicious activity, completing your training, or simply staying aware, every action counts. Your vigilance and dedication don't just protect our mission – they protect each other.

Let's make Antiterrorism Awareness Month a time to strengthen our security posture and show that at NSSC, safety is always a priority. Thank you for being an essential part of our defense!



Your Installation and the Medal of Honor: The DeFranzo Service Gate (Building 6)

ARTHUR FREDERICK DEFRANZO

RANK: STAFF SERGEANT

CONFLICT/ERA: WORLD WAR II

UNIT/COMMAND: 18TH INFANTRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

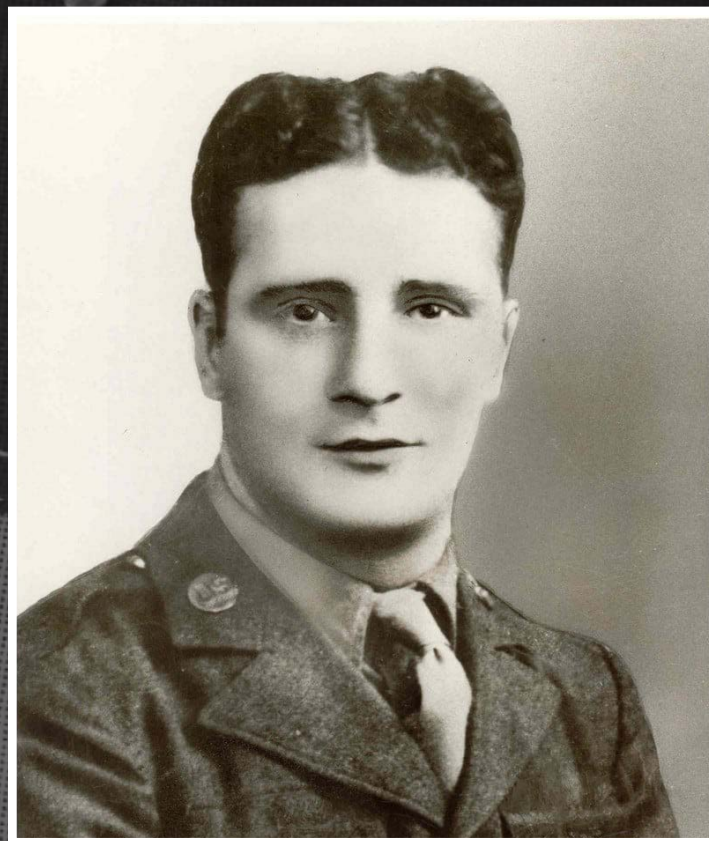
SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. ARMY

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: JUNE 10, 1944

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: NEAR VAUBADON,
FRANCE



CITATION : For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on June 10, 1944, near Vaubadon, France. As scouts were advancing across an open field, the enemy suddenly opened fire with several machine guns and hit one of the men. SSgt. DeFranzo courageously moved out in the open to the aid of the wounded scout and was himself wounded but brought the man to safety. Refusing aid, SSgt. DeFranzo reentered the open field and led the advance upon the enemy. There were always at least two machine-guns bringing unrelenting fire upon him, but SSgt. DeFranzo kept going forward, firing into the enemy and one by one the enemy emplacements became silent. While advancing he was again wounded, but continued on until he was within 100 yards of the enemy position and even as he fell, he kept firing his rifle and waving his men forward. When his company came up behind him, SSgt. DeFranzo, despite his many severe wounds, suddenly raised himself and once more moved forward in the lead of his men until he was again hit by enemy fire. In a final gesture of indomitable courage, he threw several grenades at the enemy machine-gun position and completely destroyed the gun. In this action SSgt. DeFranzo lost his life, but by bearing the brunt of the enemy fire in leading the attack, he prevented a delay in the assault which would have been of considerable benefit to the foe, and he made possible his company's advance with a minimum of casualties. The extraordinary heroism and magnificent devotion to duty displayed by SSgt. DeFranzo was a great inspiration to all about him and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.



10:00

Yoon Gate Open - August 8

Yoon Gate has resumed normal operations. Click link for more details.

Good Evening

Quality

50 AQI

74°F

Clear

2 mph Wind

87% Rain

92% Humidity

Emergency numbers

Explore Newsroom Book

