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Brig. Gen. Demers Retires: A Final Interview

By CAPT. GEORGE WORRALL III,
103RD FIGHTER WING PAO

Brig. Gen. George A. Demers, who retires this month, enjoyed a career spanning 46 years. Enlisting in 1955, he entered the Connecticut Air National Guard when the Air Guard was in its first decade. He can now, more than 45 years later, look back and see where his career, the unit and even the Air Guard has gone in that time.

So why did he join the guard? In 1955 he heeded his father's advice, which is still true today: "My father said join the Guard and they will educate and train you," said Demers. At 18, the young George Demers wanted to be an architect but there were no openings in civil engineering. "I enlisted as a leather and fabric worker for the parachute shop."

Basic training then was at Hartford's Brainard Field where for six months he



attended training every Monday night. The 103rd Fighter Wing then was still in the process of moving to Bradley field.

"We had a lot of fun," said Chief Master

Sgt. (Ret) Robert Begley who was the base training NCO at the time. "He was one my trainees, him and Brig. Gen. Don Joy. He [Brig. Gen. Demers] was one of the good ones."

When did he move from parachutes to pilot? At his first summer-camp at Otis Air Force Base, Mass. he was passing out parachutes over a counter. Across the counter, pilots and radar observers would pick up their chutes. The then Airman 3rd Class Demers asked, "I want to be receiving the equipment instead of passing it out. How do I get to the other side of this counter?"

He found out and by the next summer entered the Aviation Cadet Program. By the end of 1957 he completed navigator and radar observer training and was getting a flight in

an F-94. "I think I only had one flight in the F-94 before they were replaced. Suddenly I was a second lieutenant radar observer with no airplanes that had radar observers in them." Since he previously qualified for pilot training, the commander sent him away for pilot training.

"I worked for Pratt & Whitney after pilot training for two years in production engineering," said Brig. Gen. Demers. P&W had a policy then of not allowing a member a promotion unless their supervisor released them. When his supervisor did not, "I became a Guard bum, now I think it is called a totally-available-person, but we made no bones about it then." He would rotate with six or seven others on air defense alert through 1967 before he received a technician job.

See DEMERS on page 16

New Buildings at Camp Rowland Dedicated

STORY BY MAJ. JOHN WHITFORD, STATE PAO
PHOTOS BY KATHERINE LEAVITT

Connecticut's premier National Guard training facility had four new buildings dedicated by Gov. John G. Rowland in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 11 at Camp Rowland in Niantic following a \$3.85 million in total construction cost.

The \$3.85 million project included a 13,500 square foot new dormitory consisting of 52 rooms with two beds per room. The dormitory is designed to serve personnel attending Camp Rowland for training and advanced tactical and technical programs.

The new Fire Arms Training Simulator is a high-tech firearms simulation training facility where realistic weapons firing instruction can be conducted in a wide variety of scenarios without the expense and logistical problems of live ammunition fire. This training has proven to significantly improve proficiency when

military members go to qualify with live ammunition as well as proficiency for law enforcement agencies.

The new Community Learning and Information Network (CLIN) building will serve as a community linked learning and information delivery system that will provide education, training, and information to enable cost-effective military readiness and serve as a crucial link between public and private sectors.

The new Pavilion building is an additional resource for military training and for recreational use by military family members and retirees.

"The Department of Public Works is proud to have played a key role in this much-needed modernization program at Camp Rowland. Due to the excellent teamwork with the Connecticut Army National Guard, the private sector and Public Works, these projects were

completed on budget and four months ahead of schedule." said T.R. Anson, Commissioner of the state Department of Public Works.

"My goal is to bring the Camp Rowland Training Site into the twenty-first century, to make this a state of the art campus to provide education, training and quality of life for our guardsmen, airmen and their families as well as providing a resource to the public and private sector especially our communities," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's Adjutant General and senior guard officer. "With the support we have

received from Public Works this is truly a step in the right direction."

Gov. Rowland and other distinguished guests cut the ceremonial ribbon and toured the post, getting a chance to try out the Fire Arms Training Simulator, using both military and civilian programs.



UP FRONT WITH THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Legislative Priorities for the Year 2001

By MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO,
ADJUTANT GENERAL

We are in the final draft of our Legislative Action Plan (LAP) to be put before the 107th Congress that begins in January. Last year our Legislative Action Plan was quite successful. Though we didn't get all that we requested (one rarely does) we had success in many areas. Most of our success was intangible—building up our “capital-speak” and strengthening our credibility among state legislators, commissioners and congressional offices. Our biggest success from last year was the bonding we received from the governor. The governor, and the State Public Safety Committee, led by Sen. Alvin Penn of Bridgeport, is fully supportive of the need to modernize both Camp Rowland and our facilities throughout the state. In that spirit, substantial bonding was provided to the military department last year allowing much needed improvements to begin. The new barracks, pavilion and shoreline armory renovations are the end results of this support.

We are forging ahead to get the necessary bonding to renovate the remainder of our armories. Though we just received some bonding authorizations in the beginning of December, it is far short of what is needed to renovate all of our armories, so we will have to adjust our priorities. I am still very strongly committed to not closing any more armories. So to all of you who are waiting patiently for your armory to receive improvements, hang in there, continue to be patient, the key leaders in our state recognize our need and are committed to helping us as they prioritize the needs for the entire state of Connecticut.

As you can see, this will be another busy year and I'm very optimistic about our results. We are fortunate to have congressional representatives and state legislators who listen to us and are sincere in their efforts to modernize our facilities and equipment.

I also wish to thank our National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) for its very active role in our successes. I'll keep you updated as we progress during the legislative year.



The following are the Federal Legislative Action Plan Priorities for the 107th Congress:

Army Priority #1 - \$21 million for the Regional Training Facility at Camp Rowland
 Air Priority #1 - \$12 million for a new Air Control Squadron (ACS) Complex in Orange
 Army Priority #2 - \$13.8 million for a new Armory in New Haven
 Air Priority #2 - \$9.6 million for new Aviation Readiness Center/ Armory in Windsor Locks
 Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST) for Connecticut
 Replacement of UH-1H Huey Helicopters with the UH60 Black Hawk helicopter
 New Engines for the A/AO-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft
 Further increases in Full-Time Manning for the National Guard

The following are the State Legislative Action Plan Priorities for the next legislative session:

\$3 million to support the Regional Training Facility at Camp Rowland
 \$5 million for the next wing of the new barracks building/building 32
 \$3 million for a new Training and Conference Center at Camp Rowland
 \$4.6 million to augment the federal dollars we are seeking for a new Armory in New Haven
 \$3.2 million to augment the \$9.6 million dollars we are seeking for a new ANG Armory/readiness Center in Windsor Locks
 \$6 million dollars for emergency repairs to our ARNG Armories
 Authority to retain revenues from rentals of the Armories
 Enforcement of Selective Service registration

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Captain-General
Gov. John G. Rowland

The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembrzuski

State Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen L. Primett

State Command Chief Master Sergeant
Command Chief Master Sgt. Joseph King

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Deadline for submissions is the first Friday of the month prior to the month of publication.



By STATE COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR
STEPHEN L. PRIMETT

ENLISTED UPDATE

We've had a busy, exciting and successful 2000, and now it's time to look forward an even

busier 2001.

Everyone throughout the state pulled together to assist the 65th Press Camp in getting ready for their deployment to Bosnia last spring, and was there to welcome them home in November. Many people worked very hard to ensure that one of our soldiers who had to remain behind due to health issues was taken care of and not forgotten by those back home. For that, I thank everyone involved.

But now we have to look forward to the three Army Guard units and one Air Guard

unit getting ready to deploy this year to Bosnia and the Persian Gulf region. The 141st Medical Company has received its mobilization orders for Bosnia and things will begin to move very quickly for them. I am counting on all of you to show the same level of professionalism and concern that you gave the PCH.

The 143rd Forward Support Battalion and Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry are currently in a train up phase in anticipation of receiving mob orders for Bosnia, and a large element of the 103rd Fighter Wing is preparing for deployment to the Persian Gulf.

Many people will be called upon to assist these units, from medical support to personnel records checks, from supply to

public affairs. I know you will all give your very best to support our soldiers and airmen.

We are also looking forward to additional upgrades and modernizations of several of our facilities. Those that have been complete have made life much easier for everyone who uses the facilities. The mess, noise and inconvenience created during the construction has turned out to be well worth it. We ask everyone who will be experiencing these inevitable side effects of construction to please be patient. You will be happy with the results.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Remember, my door is always open.

The minute you start talking about what you're going to do if you lose, you have lost.
George P. Shultz

CCAF GRADUATES THIRTEEN

STORY BY SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG, 103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST
PHOTOS BY THE 103RD COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT MULTI-MEDIA BRANCH

Thirteen members of the Connecticut Air National Guard graduated with Associate in Applied Science degrees from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) on December 9. The commencement address was given by Billy J. Parrish, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, CCAF, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

Parrish served in the United States Air Force for 26 years as an air traffic control radar maintenance technician and superintendent and a technical training and professional military education instructor at various locations in Europe and in the United States. His academic achievements include Aerospace Defense Command NCO Academy, Air Force Senior NCO Academy and Academic Instructor School. Parrish holds a Bachelor of Science degree in aviation management, a Master of Science degree in personnel management, and an education specialist degree in higher education administration.

As Parrish addressed the graduates, he spoke about the benefits of an education and how their education has not only improved their quality of life, but also supports the Air Force mission. "The bottom line is that by completing their job-related degree programs, these graduates have enhanced their ability to perform their jobs more effectively and have increased their value to the Air National Guard and the Air Force, which equates to enhanced readiness," said Parrish.

Brig. Gen. George A. Demers, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, said, "We as an organization now have the benefit of your increased knowledge, and you are going to become the future leaders of the Air National Guard."

Two graduates were recognized for earning their second degree from the CCAF, Master Sgt. John E. Bryson and Staff Sgt. Willis F. Potter. The Eagle Grant, a scholarship based on academic excellence, awarded by the Aerospace Education Foundation, Air Force Association, was awarded to Potter.

According to Major Teresa Montouri, Base Education Officer, CTANG, the Connecticut Air National Guard is among the top ten Air Force Installations in graduate percentages. During the past five years, a total of 82 CTANG members have graduated from the CCAF.

Only those who risk going too far can possibly know how far they can really go.
T.S. Eliot

Graduates Include:

Tech. Sgt. Ivan D. Anglero, Aircraft Systems Maintenance Technology

Master Sgt. John E. Bryson, Electronic Systems Technology

Tech. Sgt. Kristin A. Dunn, Information Management

Staff Sgt. Tara Hood, Allied Health Sciences

Master Sgt. Sabrina K. Gilfurt, Education and Training Management

Tech. Sgt. Brian J. Kelly, Information Systems Technology

Staff Sgt. Michael T. Milewski, Aircraft Systems Maintenance Technology

Staff Sgt. Willis F. Potter, Avionic Systems Technology

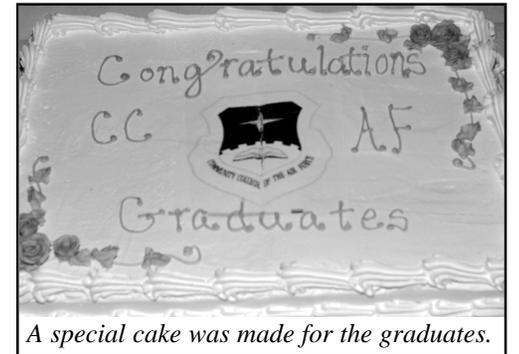
Staff Sgt. Matthew P. Scheidel, Munitions Systems Technology

Senior Airman David A. Taft, Electronic Systems Technology

Master Sgt. Jody E. Thompson, Mechanical and Electrical Technology

Master Sgt. David M. Walker, Health Care Management

Staff Sgt. Walter S. Zygmunt, Mechanical and Electrical Technology



A special cake was made for the graduates.



Staff Sgt. Michael T. Milewski poses with his CCAF Associates Degree in Aircraft Systems Maintenance Technology with Brig. Gen. George A. Demers (left) and Billy J. Parrish (right).

***DON'T FIGHT THE PROBLEM.
DECIDE IT.***

GEORGE C. MARSHALL



Community College of the Air Force graduates pose for a class photo.

WEB SIGHTINGS

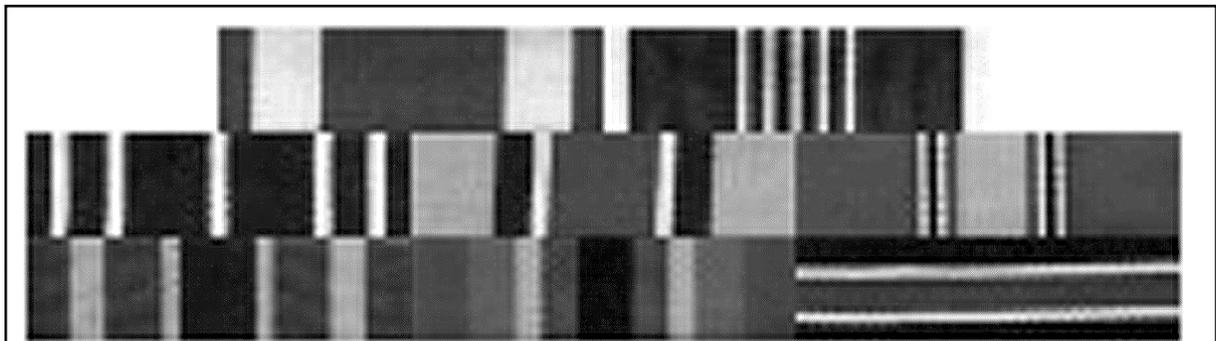
STORY BY STAFF SERGEANT DAN DAMON
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Do you ever have difficulty remembering the order of precedence for the ribbons on your Class A uniform? As a leader, do your soldiers ever ask you to help them set up their ribbon rack for a board or inspection? Unless you are an awards and decorations expert or always carry a copy of AR 670-1 with you, it can be a challenge. Now you can go on-line and get some help.

Armyawards.com is a non-commercial site set up and maintained by Staff Sgt. Mark Sinclair. Since 1988 Sinclair has spent time on active duty and in the Army Reserves and maintains this site in his spare time. Currently he is in Monterey, California learning Chinese-Mandarin at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language

Center (DLIFLC).

To build your rack, go to <http://armyawards.com> and click on *rackbuilder* in the upper left corner. This will bring you to a page with pictures of all current ribbons. Scroll through and check the boxes for the awards you want to select. In addition to ribbons, the site also includes presidential citations for the right side of your uniform. Once you have selected all of the awards you wish to place on your rack, scroll to the bottom and click the build



This is a sample ribbon rack built on *armyawards.com* with some common awards. The awards chosen are: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, and the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon.

my rack button. The next page to come up will have a ribbon rack with all of the awards you selected placed in the correct order.

Currently the site does not include badges, devices, and appurtenances but Sinclair intends to include them in the future. He

also urges you to check the completed rack against the regulations to make sure there are no errors in his work. So while it won't totally eliminate the need for AR 670-1, *armyawards.com* is an excellent resource to begin putting your awards together.

Diversity Dialogue

Ex-Marine Helps the Military Recognize the Presence of Racists on its Bases

SUBMITTED BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. TONY PALLADINO,
HQ CTANG, STATE HUMAN RESOURCE ADVISOR

BY DOUG JOHNSON, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. – T.J. Leyden, a hulky man with a closely shaved head and tattoos covering half his body, struts back and forth in front of an auditorium packed wall to wall with soldiers. The crowd shifts uncomfortably, but Leyden doesn't seem to notice. Instead, he tells them how he once was a leading skinhead recruiter and organizer for 15 years and how he did some of his most successful recruiting on the nation's military bases.

"I looked for the young, scared white kids who just wanted a group to fit in with," he says. "We warned them of a New World Order and offered them a chance to get aboard."

Now, instead of spreading a message of hate, Leyden uses his unique brand of bluntness to spread a different kind of warning to the military he once targeted. "The U.S. military is the best trained group of people in the world. And that's why the racist groups send their people here – to get trained," he tells the soldiers at Fort Leonard Wood, and Army base in central Missouri. "If you don't think it's happening here, you need to wake up."

His stories are staggering. "When I joined the Marines, I brought my racism and bigotry with me. I had a swastika tattoo two inches high on my back and hung Nazi flags on my barracks walls. There was no way the Marines could have denied I was a racist," he says. "Yet as long as my commanding officers thought I was a passive Nazi, it was OK with them."

The U.S. military is aware of the presence of racism on its bases. A report from the House Armed Services found in 1994 that overt cases of racism and subtle forms of discrimination existed at some military facilities.

Four years ago, the Secretary of the Army created a Task Force on Extremist Activities after the slaying of a black couple in what prosecutors said was a skinhead initiation rite in Fayetteville, N.C. Three white soldiers from Fort Bragg were charged in the case. Follow-up investigations led to the discharge of 19 other soldiers who allegedly followed some type of skinhead ideology.

The Army has taken several steps since then to flush out extremists. The task force has been dissolved, but its recommendations are still in place today, says Maj. Ryan Yantis of Army Public Affairs in Washington. "The

task force is gone, but its legacy continues," Yantis said. "The findings have helped bring heightened awareness at all levels as to what kind of conduct constitutes extremist behavior."

Still, groups do slip in through the cracks. Nine Marines were released from a base in San Diego last year because of racist activity, Leyden says. And the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles – which tracks hate groups – has noticed at least one supremacist Web site geared toward active duty military personnel.

Lately, Leyden says, he has seen white power groups backing off full-time active military duty. Instead, the groups are pushing their younger recruits to join National Guard units. "It's just one weekend a month, and it's a lot easier to hide their racist sentiments that way," he says. Leyden used his own Marine training to educate fellow supremacists back home in skills such as camouflage concealment, small arms and close combat training. Many skinhead groups are well versed in military lingo and weaponry, he says.

Today, the 34-year-old Leyden is a full-time consultant to the Wiesenthal Center where he wages a personal war against the 457



active hate groups in the United States – from the old-fashioned Ku Klux Klan to the growing presence of a group in the nation's prisons.

"I am always shocked by the number of people I talk to that don't know about these groups. There are people who still think racism doesn't exist," he says. "I have been given the chance to enlighten these people...Racism is everywhere and it's everyone's problem."

**YOU CAN'T CATCH
A FISH UNLESS
YOU PUT A LINE
IN THE WATER. YOU
CAN'T REACH YOUR
GOALS UNLESS YOU
ACTUALLY DO
SOMETHING.
~UNKNOWN~**



Middletown Emergency Management Director Honored

By PALUEL FLAGG, AREA II COORDINATOR,
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dial 860-346-7676 and you have reached a civilian residence on Berkeley Road, Middletown, Connecticut. This may sound rather mundane until the voice at the Berkeley Street home answers, "Emergency Management." The voice is that of Mr. Karl Hervey, Emergency Management Director for the City of Middletown.

Hervey will be the first to tell you that the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) is open 24 hours a day. To illustrate, he provides a tour of his home which is fully equipped with fax machine, communication equipment and all the planning tools required for emergency operations. In addition, Hervey's "Crown Vic" has more radios, lights and antennas than a comparably equipped state police cruiser.

A former executive with the Electro-Flex Heat Company, Hervey was appointed to his initial position in emergency management by former Mayor Sbona following the devastating 1975 ice storm. At the time, Middletown did not have a fully functioning Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Hervey immediately organized his emergency management team and through his direction and guidance, a first class EOC was established at the Cross Street Fire House.

Available for both natural and man-made disasters, the EOC was invaluable during the floods of 1984. Open for five days, the Cross Street EOC was the central hub for all emergency relief efforts in the city.

The EOC also provided initial coordination during the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) directed nuclear exercises for the Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. Events involved simulating the alert of Middletown's citizens, monitoring radiation levels and evacuation



of "special needs" people. Currently, Hervey serves on the Connecticut Yankee CDAC (Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee) which is overseeing the deactivation of the nuclear plant and return of the property to private and public use.

Hervey, who was born in El Paso, Texas, spent most of his youth in Europe while living with his parents in Romania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. He left his parents at seventeen to receive an engineering degree from Charlottenburg University in Germany and continued his advanced education at Lvov Polytechnic Institute in Poland.

With the beginning of the Second World War, Hervey served in the Polish, French and English Air-Force doing his part to thwart the German war machine. At the end of WWII, Hervey worked as an advanced instructor of electronics in Kinross, Scotland and eventually returned stateside in 1948, settling in Middletown.

During a recent luncheon, Hervey was honored for his over twenty-five years of outstanding leadership and service to the emergency management community. John Wiltse, Director of Emergency Management, State of Connecticut, made the presentation and remarked on the many accomplishments Hervey had made to the citizenry of Middletown and Connecticut.



AUSA – Connecticut Earns National Recognition

The Connecticut Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) was recently recognized in Washington, D.C. with six awards. These awards were presented to the Connecticut Chapter by the National AUSA organization for its achievements in programs and activities in support of the Army community.

Most significant, according to Ron Dale, President of the Connecticut AUSA Chapter was the Best Chapter in Support of Reserve Components. The Reserve Components include the Connecticut Army National Guard and Army Reserve units in Connecticut. Also noteworthy was an award for the Chapter's activities that recognize outstanding advocacy for AUSA objectives and its involvement with public officials and other military organizations.

AUSA is a worldwide organization with 137 chapters, which is devoted to supporting all aspects of national security. It was formed in 1950 and is a non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army – Active, National Guard, civilians, retirees and family members.

In Connecticut, the AUSA chapter is achieving its objectives through a series of ongoing programs. These programs support the chapter's membership, military organizations and all the constituents it represents.

For additional information about AUSA, visit the weir website at www.ausa.org or contact the Connecticut Chapter Office at (203) 797-5869.

CTARNG Receives 2001 End Strength Mission

By MAJ. MIKE VASILE,
RECRUITING AND RETENTION COMMANDER

The Connecticut Army National Guard, in a letter recently addressed to the Adjutant General, has received an End Strength mission of 3,951 for FY 2001. That mission is based upon the Army National Guard maintaining the end strength at 350,000 this year. Our mission for FY-01 reflects an increase of 150 over last year's mission and is based upon several reasons.

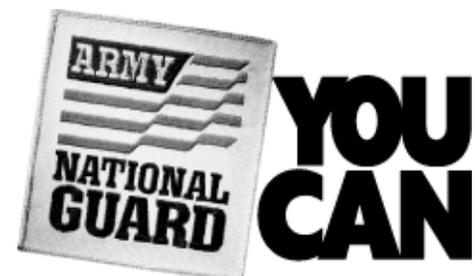
For the past three years, our state has continued to exceed its end strength mission and for the first time this year that was accomplished with maintaining non-drilling soldier statistics to below 3.5 percent. What that means to the National Guard Bureau is that our state is successful in maintaining actively drilling membership.

Secondly, over the next several years our guard will continue to grow in force structure beginning with the activation of the 1048 Medium Truck Company this year.

Finally, our organization has continued to successfully recruit highly qualified non-prior service members into our ranks.

This year poses a unique challenge to our

state to grow membership while reducing unit losses and retaining our quality members who might otherwise decide not to extend membership beyond ETS. To be successful this year, leaders at all levels must continue to implement strength maintenance throughout the command. Active lead generation and lead generating activities by all our members will assist in recruiting new members into our guard. We must "Combat Attrition" at unit level and not allow first



www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com

term soldiers not to show up to drill, and if they become AWOL, we must be tenacious in our efforts to

bring them back to drill.

Finally, the National Guard Bureau has established a retention rate goal of 75 percent this year. To that end, every unit must strive to achieve this goal and encourage our members to extend beyond ETS by reinforcing the important role they play to the readiness of our organization. Well planned and executed unit training involving all our soldiers has been, and will remain, the best first step to achieving our end strength mission this year.

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

NGACT: National Guard Association of Connecticut



By Lt. Col. Bill Shea,
President, NGACT
PRESIDENT@NGACT.ORG

The Constitution of the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) specifies that the NGACT serve as the link to the national associations for both the officers and enlisted soldiers & airmen. In this article, I will spend some time discussing the officer organization that we are affiliated with, better known as NGAUS, and their legislative action process.

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) was created in 1878 for the purpose of providing united National Guard representation before Congress. Then, as today, NGAUS has the goal of obtaining better equipment, standardized training, and a more combat-ready force by petitioning Congress for resources. This goal has been successfully achieved through the coordinated efforts of 54 states and territories, the NGAUS staff, the National Guard Bureau, industry partners and other interested organizations.

NGAUS is highly active in their execution of legislative affairs. The NGAUS currently has 26 full-time staffers that work at the NGAUS national headquarters in Washington, DC. Their primary role is to coordinate and forward NGAUS' legislative priorities through Congress. The NGAUS legislative advocacy efforts are developed from a "ground-up" resolutions process. The result of the resolutions process serves as the blueprint for the NGAUS Legislative Staff to work with on Capitol Hill.

The basic legislative process is simple. Resolutions originate at the state level, based on member input. The resolutions are staffed at the state level and adopted by state associations. NGAUS takes all resolutions that come from the states and the NGAUS Resolutions Committee reviews and votes on them at the General Conference (the year in Indianapolis, IN in August 2000). The adopted resolutions are drafted into a Legislative Priorities publication for the association. This publication is distributed to all members of Congress and their staff, Governors, the Executive Branch, the Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau, Industry and other like-minded organizations (such as the Enlisted Association of the National Guard - EANGUS).

The basic time line of this process looks as follows:

1. January - June: State associations pass resolutions packages at their state conferences and are forwarded to NGAUS.
2. June - July: Resolutions are reviewed by the National Guard Bureau, NGAUS Task Forces and the NGAUS Executive Council.

3. August: Resolutions are considered at the NGAUS General Conference for adoption.

4. October - December: The NGAUS Staff prepares and publishes the Legislative Priorities of the NGAUS.

5. Then the process starts all over again.

The NGAUS Fiscal Year 2002 Legislative Priorities was just recently published. I spoke with the NGAUS Legislative Director, Col. (Ret.) Bill Goss, and requested approximately 35 - 40 copies of the FY - 02 Legislative Priorities to circulate to the units within the Connecticut Army & Air National Guard. You can also review it at the NGAUS web site at <http://www.ngaus.org/>. You will find more information on the NGAUS web site below.

NGAUS has a great web site. It provides some excellent information about the activities, events and hot topics of the National Guard. Among the numerous topics found on their web site include: What is NGAUS; The National Guard Magazine; legislative efforts; newsroom; the National Guard Education Foundation; the Adjutant General's Association; and a members only site.

The member's only site has some additional information available only to members of NGAUS. It has an unusual log on (you will need your NGAUS member number). The log on process is explained at the beginning of the member's only site. Make sure that you read it carefully. Under the member's only site you will find the following:

1. Hill Action - information related to what is currently happening and going on in congress. Current legislation affecting the National Guard is covered in detail. It also provides valuable information on writing to your congressman or senator.
2. Customer Services - information specifically for the membership (customers). This includes a link to change your address or rank. The latest report from the NGAUS President and the NGAUS Treasurer is also available. Minutes of the NGAUS Executive Council meetings can be viewed.
3. NGAUS Talk - is a link that provides members the opportunity to exchange ideas, thought and to express your view to other members of the association.

You can reach the NGACT at our office (860) 247-5000. There is an answering machine in the office. If no one is in the office please leave a message. You will receive a return call. The NGACT Web Site is <http://www.ngact.org/>. You can contact us through the web page. We want to hear from you.

Safe GUARDing Connecticut's Future

National Household Survey Gives Connecticut Residents a Clear Picture of Illicit Drug Use in the Nutmeg State



By MAJ. CHUCK STRONG,
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse - The National Household Survey provides annual estimates of the prevalence of illicit drug, alcohol and tobacco use in the U.S. and monitors the trends in use over time. It is based on a representative sample of the U.S. population age 12 and older. It includes national estimates of trends in the initiation of substance use, as well as the extent of both drug dependence and drug treatment in the country.

This report is the first release of information from the 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), a project of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Since 1971, the NHSDA has been the primary source of information on the prevalence and incidence of illicit drug, alcohol and tobacco use in the civilian population age 12 years and older.

National Estimates

Illicit Drug Use

— An estimated 14.8 million Americans were current users of illicit drugs in 1999, meaning they used an illicit drug at least once during the 30 days prior to the interview. By comparison, the number of current illicit drug users was at its highest level in 1979 when the estimate was 25 million.

— 10.9 percent of youths age 12 - 17 reported current use of illicit drugs in 1999. marijuana is the major illicit drug used by this group; 7.7 percent of youths were current users of marijuana in 1999.

Among youths age 12 - 17, the percent using illicit drugs in the 30 days prior to the interview was slightly higher for boys (11.3 percent) than for girls (10.5 percent). Although in the age group 12 - 17 years, boys had a slightly higher rate of marijuana use than girls (8.4 percent vs. 7.1 percent), girls were somewhat more likely to use psychotherapeutics non-medically than boys (3.2 percent vs. 2.6 percent).

— The rates of current illicit drug use for major racial/ethnic groups were 6.6 percent for whites, 6.8 percent for Hispanics and 7.7 percent for blacks. The rate was highest among the American Indian/Alaska Native population (10.6 percent) and among persons reporting multiple race (11.2 percent). Asians had the lowest rate (3.2 percent).

— The rate of illicit drug use in metropolitan areas was higher than the rate in non-metropolitan areas. Rates were 7.1 percent in large metropolitan areas, 7.0 percent in small metropolitan areas and 5.2 percent in non-metropolitan areas. Rural non-metropolitan counties had a lower rate of illicit drug use (4.2 percent) than other counties.

State Estimates

Estimates of substance abuse for all 50 states and the District of Columbia were developed using a small area estimation model that combines sample data from each state with a national regression model that includes local indicators related to substance use.

Of the 10 states with the highest rates of current illicit drug use in the population age 12 and older, six were in the West region. Eight of the 10 states with the lowest rates were in the South region. However, within the regions, there was considerable variation. For example, Utah, a Western state, had a relatively low past month prevalence rate of 6.2 percent. Delaware, a Southern state, had one of the higher rates in the country (8.5 percent). Prevalence estimates ranged from a low of 4.7 percent (Virginia) to a high of 10.7 percent (Alaska).

Six of the 10 states that were in the highest ranking category for past month use of any illicit drug for persons age 12 and older were also in the highest group for youth ages 12 to 17. The rate for youth was lowest for the state of Utah (8.0 percent). The highest estimate for youth was in Delaware (18.3 percent).

Connecticut Estimates

In Connecticut, we ranked fifth behind Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Montana and Delaware. About 9.3 percent of Connecticut youth ages 12 to 17 and 18.1 of adults 18 to 25 reported use of marijuana during the previous month. In addition, 13.4 percent of Connecticut youth ages 12 to 17 and 19.0 percent of adults 18 to 25 reported past month use of any illicit drug.

To view more data from the National Household Survey, visit the internet at www.samhsa.gov/household99.htm.

Tact is golden, not silence.
Samuel Butler

Holiday Blood Drive at State Armory



STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAPT. LOU MARTINEZ, 65TH PCH

Soldiers at State Headquarters braved the prick of needle and squeezed a small rubber ball to give the gift of life, blood.

The State Armory's Office of Emergency Management was converted into a six-bed, blood collection point. The American Red Cross spent half the drill day collecting more than 25 pints of blood from willing participants.

"It's painless when you know it's going to help someone," said Col. Dan McHale, DCSFOR. "It's important this time of year

"It's painless when you know it's going to help someone."

*Col. Dan McHale
DCSFOR.*

with people traveling there's a need for it."

Nationally, the Red Cross is experiencing a blood shortage. Sandy St. Peters, head nurse for the blood drive says, Connecticut's

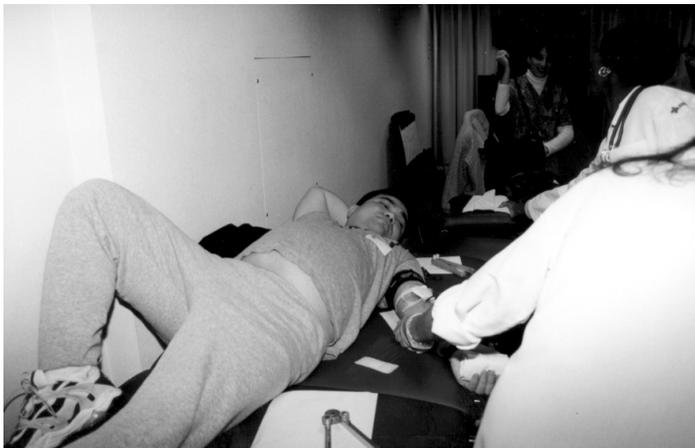
supply is in good shape. "Blood donation is very important, people need it for surgery, especially victims of serious accidents."

According to the Red Cross, blood donated in Connecticut usually stays in Connecticut, and that makes many soldiers feel good.

"I just want to help. I might need it sometime," said Spc. Jonathan Castellar, State Headquarters, finance. Maj. Robert Pernell, of STARC's Command & Logistic office says, he enjoys giving blood. Needle pricks don't bother him. While most people donate blood once or twice a year, Pernell donates blood six times a year. "I have already donated 70 pints of blood, my goal is to reach 100 pints."

Just as iron rusts from disuse, so does inaction spoil the intellect.

Leonardo DaVinci



DISPATCHES

FROM THE FRONT

BY SGT. JOSEPH C. DECARO,
65TH PRESS CAMP HEADQUARTERS

FORT BENNING, Georgia (Dec. 13)— Things have certainly changed for the better since the 65th Press Camp, bound for Bosnia, processed through the Conus Replacement Center here back in April of this year.

The food at the CRC has since improved to the extent that I have gained five pounds in one week. Of course, after a month of hospital cuisine while recuperating from surgery in Germany, almost anything culinary would be an improvement.

In addition to the food, the dining facility staff now addresses me as sir, and the CRC has obtained all new gym equipment to include weights, state-of-the-art stationary bicycles, etc. They are also repairing the sidewalks inside the compound.

The CRC even arranged a tour of the Fort Benning Infantry Museum. For me, the highlight of the museum was a display featuring a unique World War II waste paper basket created by an enterprising American lieutenant who turned a captured metal casting of Hitler's head upside down (hollow side up) and then bolted it to a square

baseplate.

Yet despite all this hospitality, there is no place like Connecticut for Christmas.

But for me, the road back home this year has indeed been a long one; after spending six months in Bosnia, I then spent more than a month in Germany while today makes two additional weeks spent at the CRC in Georgia, where every missing signature is another day's delay, and each delay is like another drop of water in a kind of drawn-out Chinese water torture.

Now, as a CRC medical holdover awaiting the necessary orders to finally send me home, I noticed that some of my fellow "casualties" — holdovers who have been here much longer than I and who are usually on some physical restrictions due to illness or injury — have gotten as fat as Thanksgiving turkeys who managed to escape last month's slaughter by a note from their doctor.

And I'm afraid that if I don't get out of here and soon, I'll turn into a Butterball myself.

CT AVCRAD Hosts Annual Support Area Workshop 2000

BY MAJ. JOHN R. WHITFORD,
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The Connecticut Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (CT AVCRAD) hosted its annual support area workshop this past December at the Hilton Hotel in Mystic.

The workshop afforded the opportunity to discuss policy, procedures and problems related to logistical and maintenance support of the Army National Guard Aviation Fleet supported by the CT AVCRAD.

During the two-day seminar, several workshops were conducted in maintenance, production control, avionics/armament, quality control, supply, facility commanders and state aviation officers.

"The primary focus of this workshop is our customers," said Lt. Col. William



Shea, the CT AVCRAD Supervisor. "Our workshop is structured to provide everyone the opportunity to interface with the CT AVCRAD staff, National Guard Bureau staff and other key support personnel."

"This is an opportunity to share and gain information that will enhance aircraft readiness," said Col. Albert Rubino, the State Aviation Officer. "Our goal is to gain information that will help us provide everyone with the best support for their fleet."

With participation, interest and interfacing, the workshop proved to be an overall success as we look at Army aviation in the 21st century.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIE ANNE BISI,
PLANNING ANALYST, CONNECTICUT OEM

In the spirit of the holiday season, Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno volunteered his time and invited Connecticut National Guard/State Military Department staff to assist in hosting the "We are the Children" Charity Party, in cooperation with WTIC-FM 96.5 radio station and Connecticut's First Lady Patricia Rowland, Honorary Chairperson. Radio personality Gary Craig began this annual event and founded this 100 percent volunteer organization in 1985. It has grown to serve so many children that it moved, this year, to a larger venue – the State Armory. The armory served as an excellent place for this event with holiday decorations and Christmas trees lining the drill shed, dozens of gingerbread homes displayed and balloons galore outlining the stage, decorating the columns and flying high above the tables.

Over 1,000 disadvantaged children from across the state were brought to the armory on Christmas morning. A wonderful meal was served and the kids enjoyed music and entertainment from bands, WTIC and even Michael Jackson (at least a close second). Many fun characters such as Frosty the Snow Man, Winnie the Pooh, the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz, Aladdin, Scooby Doo and many other bigger-than-life favorites were dancing around, charming the babies, tikes and teens. The children were all given gifts from Santa and Mrs. Claus and the kids' smiles brightened the armory throughout Christmas day.

The event was a beautiful example of the giving spirit shared by people across the state, from the Governor and Mrs. Rowland, and WTIC-FM radio station to individuals, families, corporations, schools and community organizations throughout Connecticut volunteering their time and gifts. The Governor's Military Staff volunteered time to help make this event a tremendous success. Maj. John T. Wiltse, OEM Director worked with Joseph Duberek and Kimberly Hoffman to coordinate the support and participation of the Military Department during the past few months.

There was excellent volunteer participation by the Governor's Military Staff in preparation in the weeks before and on Christmas day, working as part of a team of over 500 volunteers. Governor John G. Rowland and First Lady Patricia Rowland, welcomed the children and wished everyone a very happy holiday. Cugno, his wife Carolyn and daughters Krista and Kara, Brig. Gen. I.J. and Helen Zembrzuski, Col. Thomas P. and Lydia Thomas, Col. Ronald and Audrey Renski, Wiltse, Duberek and other staff were all present to help make the children's Christmas holiday a special day.

On December 13, a Charity Celebration Party was also held at the Governor's Foot Guard Armory. This event provided donations to the cause. Next Year's "We are the Children" holiday event will be held in the armory. According to Gary Craig, this year's event was the most successful ever. It was truly a wonderful occasion to share in the spirit of children's joy.

The Gift of Sharing



—We are the Children



T.G.I.F.

The Guard Is Family

By SGT. MAJ. BARBARA MONTIGNY

Here's a seasonal suggestion for taking advantage of one of your military benefits. Did you know that over 300 ski resorts and Bases have deals for folks with a military/government ID?

First let's talk about equipment. If you already have your own, you're all set. But maybe you're just starting out, or want to introduce a friend or child to the sport. Military Base Recreational Outfitters have all kinds of sporting equipment for rent.

For instance...Submarine Base, Groton (860 694-3380) has skis, boots and poles package available for \$15.50 day or \$68 per week. Maybe that's not convenient, try Westover AF Base, MA. The Four Season Shop (413 557-2974) folks can provide the package with boots, poles and straight skis for \$11 a day or \$17 for a weekend. If you want shaped skis instead the rental is \$15 per day and \$20 for the weekend. Compare those prices with any rental shop at a ski resort! Great savings!

Soldier Airman Support Center

Racial Equality

By COL. ANTHONY VALLOMBROSO

He would have been 71-years-old on the 15th of this month. Not old by today's standards, but his life, cut short at 39 years, remains as a legacy of racial equality for us to admire.

A smart man, strongly influenced by a family heritage of leadership in the African-American church and community, he would later cultivate his dynamic process of securing civil rights for all Americans. He was born on Jan. 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia as Michael. Only three generations from enslaved great-grandparents, his impact on the consciousness of all Americans would go on to establish a movement of social change unparalleled in our modern history.

If you were fortunate to be born early enough to remember his inspiring and now famous "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. in 1963, or simply remember him as an icon of nonviolent social change, you know that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the greatest figures of the twentieth-century and one of the greatest orators in American history.

In 1983, Congress designated the third Monday in January a national holiday in honor of the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year and every year as we renew and affirm Dr. King's legacy and celebrate the anniversary of his birth, let us give thanks and never forget the price he paid for freedom, and reflect the words inscribed at his final resting place in South View Cemetery: "FREE AT LAST, FREE AT LAST; THANK GOD ALMIGHTY, I'M FREE AT LAST."

OK, you have equipment, now on to the slopes. You have a couple of ways to go. Check out Morale, Welfare, Recreation (MWR) at Westover (413 557-3958) or Information, Tickets, and Tours (ITT) at Groton (860 694-3238), both offices offer discount lift tickets for various ski areas.

Your other choice is to hop online www.OpSki.com. This is the only web site of 65 million sites that is dedicated to Military Snow Sports! You will need to research the particular resort you are interested in. Sometimes the discounts offered on base are better than OpSki; sometimes OpSki is a better deal. The Military Sports and Recreation Network (MSRN) is supported by sponsorships not the military or government funding.

New OpSki Direct ticketing offers military discounts and of the over 300 ski resorts and bases participating there are a number of them located in New England. After you have logged on to OpSki make sure you print



ESGR

By Lt. Col. (Ret) Harry Ritson
ESGR Public Affairs

There is no question that a supportive employer is essential to a successful second career in the National Guard or other Reserve Components. Prolonged Active Duty periods for either deployment or training can be burdensome on employers and particularly so on small ones. It takes an employer who understands the growing importance of the Guard and Reserve's contribution to our Nation's defense to be supportive of your service and to make the required changes to facilitate your participation.

If your employer has made extra efforts on your behalf, or even if your employer has made it a practice not to put barriers in your way, you might want to send a "salute" their way by nominating them for an award. The National Committee for employer Support of the Guard and Reserve conducts an awards program designed to recognize those employers who support a strong National Guard and Reserve Force. Only those employers whose practice personnel policies support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve qualify for this recognition.

Here in Connecticut, we have been privileged the past several years to have the senior awards presented to the honored employers by Governor John Rowland at an appropriate ceremony attended by nominators, family members and distinguished members of the military and civilian communities.

There are three levels of Awards:

MILITARY SNOW SPORTS



a copy of your "GoSki&Board" coupon. To receive an offer that is part of OpSki, the coupon MUST be presented along with a government ID at the resort window. One coupon is required per person/per visit and there is no limit to number of coupons you can download or use!

Here are a couple of samples of the kind of offers on-line.

Okemo Mountain Resort, Ludlow, VT ... Use your coupon and get 50% Off Mon-Fri (except holidays) and 10% Off Weekends and holidays.

Stratton MT Resort, VT Ski and Stay, a 2-5 day lift and lodging package Sun through Thurs nights for \$59.

There is still another choice when it comes to lodging! Check out www.afvclub.com <http://www.afvclub.com/>. That is the address for the Armed Forces Vacation Club. The armed forces in conjunction with Resort Condominiums International (a timeshare

organization) offers condos on a Space Available basis. As a military member you can stay at a resort getaway for 7 nights for only \$209. Go to the home page and click on "Search for Availability". For example I tried out VT and found they have facilities at Smugglers Notch, near Stowe and also Wilmington VT. There were studio and one-bedroom units with occupancy for 4 to 6 persons. Photos, amenities and distance to attractions are given as well as time periods available.

This gives you plenty of information to get started on a winter getaway, and saving some bucks besides! Take that military ID card and Enjoy!

"THE ROAD TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE IS NEVER LONG."
DANISH PROVERB

Is It Time To Salute Your Employer?

"MY BOSS IS A PATRIOT"(MBIAP) Certificate of Appreciation, This Certificate, withits Patriot lapel pin, is awarded by the National Committee on behalf of the Department of Defense and is signed by the Secretary of Defense. This award is a prerequisite to the higher awards, and all members of the National Guard and Reserve forces are eligible to nominate their employers for the "My Boss is a Patriot" certificate.

The State Chair's Award is a plaque-mounted certificate. The award is given in limited numbers and presented annually by each state committee. The award is designed to recognize those employers who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements for employer support.

The Pro Patria Award is presented to those employers who demonstrate support of the nation's defense by adopting personnel policies which make it easier for employees to participate in the National guard and Reserve. Taken from the Latin phrase meaning "for the Nation", the award is highly selective; each state my only give one PRO PATRIA annually.

"My Boss is a Patriot" nomination forms are available through your unit or your Recruiting and Retention NCO. Every nominated employer will receive the MBIAP Award. When completing the nomination form, take a few moments to explain why your employer deserves to be recognized.

Your explanation will be reviewed when consideration is given for the senior awards by members the Connecticut ESGR Committee.

It usually takes 30-60 days to process these MBIAP award requests. Once completed they are sent back to the Connecticut ESGR Committee for presentation to the employer. RECOGNITION is the key to the awards program. It takes you to start the process. If you feel your employer has been supportive or more than supportive of your participation in the Guard or Reserves (or has even just not complicated your participation), what a wonderful way to salute them and let them you appreciate their support.

More and more, our National Defense depends on you and your fellow Guard Personnel - and, more and more, your continued participation depends on your employer's continuing support. Now is the time to consider saluting them. The Senior Awards will be presented in May during Armed Forces Week and we need time to appropriately select the honorees. Do it Today!

*Just as iron rusts from disuse,
so does inaction spoil the
intellect.*

Leonardo DaVinci

December Training for Infantry Brings Mobilization Exercise to Camp Rowland

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. KARYN REYNOLDS AND SPC. MARION ROSADO, 65TH PCH

While others are getting ready for the holidays and the coming year, Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry of Manchester is preparing for deployment to Bosnia. An essential component to readiness training is remobilization. Servicemembers from State Area Command in Hartford hosted the "remob" at Camp Rowland, Niantic in December.

Remobilization ensures administrative and medical records are current and qualify a soldier for deployment. During remobilization soldiers have the opportunity to update all of their medical, educational and service records. Entitlements are verified, support services for the family are presented and physical examinations are offered to qualify the soldier for deployment.

Bravo Company will be supporting the 29th active component in Bosnia. Their mission is not MOS specific but more a peacekeeping effort. Their emphasis will primarily be on establishing security measures while showing and maintaining a presence of force in the region. First Sgt. Robert F. Roy said, "B Company will be serving as an Ambassador of the United States" in their peace keeping efforts, while contributing information, maintaining security and professionalism. Roy says that one of the keys to contributing information is capitalizing on the intelligence of military personnel. The most important information is the information that is conveyed such as



changes in systematic processes, behavior, transport methods and general oddities noticed in day to day occurrences. Training soldiers to watch for these signs can be almost as important as theater specific training, also known as TSIRT Training.

Company B is scheduled for Theater Specific Training (TSIRT) in February 2001 at Fort Benning, GA. TSIRT training is individual readiness training for company operations that prepares a soldier to go in country. This past AT was held at Fort Dix, NJ. During AT, the soldiers received "SASO" training, which is Stabilization and Support Operations training, a virtual assimilation exercise. Operations to be performed in

Bosnia were replicated. A firebase was established with perimeter security training, convoy escort, checkpoint security, weapons qualification and muzzle discipline. This and other dynamic training was key to preparing soldiers for company operations that are not necessarily emphasized during annual training. Capt. Robert T. Brafford, company commander of B 1/102 pointed out that this progressive training, though not complete, is methodical in preparing soldiers for full readiness for deployment.

When the soldiers were asked how effective their training has been to date, Spc. Rafael Martinez said "the training is effective, especially the SASO

assimilation training received at AT. I feel the training will be tested, but ultimately, the environment will dictate how the training is applied." Martinez is a student at the University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus. When asked how he felt about deployment he said "I'm just continuing my studies and taking care of priorities. I am excited to be traveling to a new place and supporting the active component."

Additional readiness training is scheduled for the soldiers over the next six months including assault training, base and gravesite security, Common Task Training (CTT),

TSIRT Training in Ft. Benning, SASO training at platoon and squad levels, and a two week Annual Training at Ft. Polk, LA.

Lt. Col. Thomas Stefanko revealed the current strength was 129 with the projection of 135 for deployment. Of the current strength, 78 are from the Manchester unit, with the remainder from armored and other divisions all over the state that are qualified volunteers. This light infantry company will join forces with a Massachusetts' light infantry company, two mechanized infantry companies and one armored company from Mississippi to form a full task force deployment under the command of Maj. Gen. Steven H. Blum. And while the unit is scheduled for deployment in October 2001, they have yet to receive any orders for that potential deployment.





By BRIG. GEN. GEORGE A. DEMERS,
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL - AIR

As I write what will be my last Commanders Message, I would like to share with you some of the experiences that have occurred during my 46 years of service.

The Air National Guard has gone through several major changes in both capability and acceptance by the Air Force, as well as acceptance within our local communities.

In the fifties we were a glorified flying club. We were flying F-94's then F-100A's. We were part of the Air Defense Command, tasked to provide Armed Aircraft on a five-minute scramble status. We provided armed aircraft and trained aircrews, available 24 hours a day during the 15-plus years that we were assigned to the Air Defense Mission. During this entire time period, the Connecticut Air National Guard was activated only once to intercept an unknown aircraft entering our identification zone from the Atlantic Ocean. Two armed F100A Aircraft were directed (scrambled) to intercept this unknown aircraft. I was in the lead aircraft and Don Joy was my wingman. We intercepted a single B-47 aircraft under direct orders from the Commander of Strategic Air Command attempting to penetrate the defense of North America. We did our job and gave the NORAD controller the tail number of the B-47 aircraft. This occurred some 250 miles out to sea in two single engine aircraft. However we were still considered a "Flying Club" when we were not conducting the Air Defense Mission. When we converted to the F-102 A Radar interceptor our capabilities and acceptance began to improve as we continued to demonstrate that the "Flying Yankee's" were truly a highly trained and qualified military force.

However the CTANG did not receive full recognition of our professional capabilities until we converted to our present A-10A Aircraft. In June 1979 we received brand new aircraft from the factory...not hand-me-downs from the Air Force, which was the norm at that time. This was a first for the Air Guard, to receive new aircraft. Our maintenance personnel and aircrews performed exceptionally well. In record time,

we complete the conversion. Immediately following the conversion the CTANG was made part of the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF). The RDF consisted of three Fighter Wings of three squadrons each with tankers and support units as required. Sound familiar? Today's AEF concept is an outgrowth of the RDF mission. Today's generals were captains and majors during that time period. We were often tasked to deploy on short notice into the Pacific area of responsibility. We were the only Air Guard unit in the RDF and in 1982 deployed to the Pacific area to demonstrate our capabilities. The CTANG was regularly tasked to deploy alongside our gaining active duty A-10 Wing, to demonstrate our ability and capabilities to deploy alongside our active duty units. Time and time again while we were alongside our sister active A-10 unit, our aircrews and maintenance teams outperformed our Air Force counterparts. I attributed this to our stable and mature work force. That was true then and is still true today.

However I have noted a trend on the part of our traditional Air Guard men and women who now retire at an earlier age. This may be attributed in part to family and work demands, but I believe it's due primarily to the changing complexity of being a traditional Guard member. We no longer can say that you drill once a month and deploy for two weeks a year. Now the average Aircrew puts in sixty to ninety days of duty in addition to UTA's. Our enlisted force also puts in more duty time. Our Air Guard men and women average thirty five to sixty days of duty in addition to UTA's. This is due to the rapidly changing world events. The Air Force cannot meet its Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) and peacekeeping commitments without the Guard and Reserves to assist them. Everything now revolves around our nation's worldwide commitments. We are truly partners with the Air Force. It's the new way of conducting business. That is a quick overview of my first thirty-three years of service at Bradley ANGB, which, for most individuals would have been the end of a great career.

In 1988 I came to the Hartford Armory and entered into a new arena. I now assumed

responsibility for the Air Control Squadron and was introduced to my Army Guard counterparts. Both were a totally new and diverse group of men and women.

The Air Control Squadron is a tightly knit, dedicated group of men and women that became part of my expanded circle of involvement who provide needed communication and the ability to unscramble the Air Battle picture using radar and satellite capabilities. The ACS is required to operate from a remote location to support the theater CINC's. They also welcomed Ann and I as newly assigned members and their friendship has been overwhelming.

The Army Guard members, were concerned mostly with "Land" issues and an aircraft was how you traveled to out-of-state meetings. This was totally opposite of the majority of my military training and experiences regarding the employment of our assigned tactical aircraft. However, the one common thread we shared is that the Guard, Army and Air, must support the Adjutant General and the Governor through our combined efforts. This has resulted in

Ann and I meeting new friends and expanding our social life.

In early 1992 I was called into the office of Maj. Gen. David Gay, the Adjutant General. He informed me that he had selected me to be the next Chief of Staff for the CTANG, and that he was recommending me for promotion to Brigadier General. I think that when I informed Ann that night we both were thrilled that our unspoken dream was about to become reality. Little did she realize how our lives would become increasingly complex. It comes with the turf as the saying goes.

When I was assigned to my current position as Assistant Adjutant General-Air and Commander of the Connecticut Air National Guard, I learned that I also was the liaison between the Adjutant General and our four Organized State Militia units. I did not realize how dedicated and devoted to our state are the men and woman of the Foot and Horse Guards.

The Governor's Foot and Horse Guards have provided the Governor and the State

of Connecticut with unique and primarily elaborate ceremonial functions since 1771. The Governors Foot Guard and Horse Guards were originally intended to protect the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and members of the State Legislature. Remember, back then, there was no Federal Fighting Force. However, they now serve, and for the most part, volunteer their own precious time to represent, and proudly I may add, the State of Connecticut at various civic events. Ann and I have also enjoyed their friendship during these past six years. They have opened my eyes, and have shown us from a different and wonderful view what it means to serve our state. I want to take this opportunity to "thank you all" for readily accepting us not only as a representative of the Adjutant General's Office but also as friends. I have thoroughly enjoyed these past six years.

The last flight for an Air Force pilot is normally a very significant event. My last flight as a pilot was in our C-26 aircraft during 1993. The National Guard Bureau determined that General Officers who were not in a Wing Commanders position would no longer be authorized to fly. The flight prior to receiving my "no fly notification" became my last flight without any fan fare. However, this past August on the Friday before Governor's / Family Day the CTANG's mini aircraft scheduled to be on display during the family days activities, was delivered to Camp Rowland. I questioned the wisdom of leaving this mini aircraft on the parade field overnight unattended. I was assured, however, that it was disabled and not movable.

That evening, during the award ceremony conducted by the four Militia Units, I was presented the State of Connecticut 45-year medal by Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno. Later

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

that evening, during dinner with the 1st Company Governors Horse Guard, I presented Ann the 45-year medal, for putting up with me during all that time.

After dinner, Ann went with some of the Militia folks to "visit the Indians". I went to sleep, but was awakened by music & much commotion outside our quarters. The commotion was caused in part by the consolidated "band" playing their version of the Air Force Hymn. I dressed and went out and was greeted by some one hundred "party goers". They parted and beckoned me forward. I was informed that my "Aircraft" awaited it's pilot. (Don't ask how it got there, I was advised). I then was given my final flight, which utilized people power as the method of movement. "Thank you" for a special last flight.

Now, I would like to pass on some observations to our current Air Guard members. This is intended to give each of you a better understanding of the others obligations. From time to time I receive complaints that the Pilots are "prima donnas". They may appear that way to non-aircrews but they have been highly trained, highly motivated and encouraged to be aggressive fighter pilots. You would not want anyone to enter into combat with a meek or mild mannered attitude. They must believe that they are the best fighter pilots in the world and capable of taking on any adversary at a moments notice. Oh by the way, our pilots are the ones who go off and "Fight the War" while the rest of us remain behind. I want them to be confident and yes even "cocky" when it comes to engaging our adversaries. They must be disciplined and trained to support and defend the ideals contained in the Air Force Doctrine, which supports the policies of the United States of America.

On the other side of the coin, I say to our aircrews. Respect and treat your support personnel, as they are also special. They

have been well trained, disciplined and are motivated to support you in accomplishing your mission. They deserve to be treated with respect through your actions. They also are dedicated professionals in their own right. Together, you and your support personnel make an unbeatable team. The "Flying Yankee's" have always exceeded in every task that we have received. I am confident that you will continue to uphold this tradition.

The past forty-six years have been an experience that Ann and I, after I settle into my retirement, will fondly look back on, as the best years of our lives. As with all things it was not always easy. The missed birthdays, graduations, family emergencies, anniversaries and other missed events cannot be over looked. Ann and I knew that when I raised my right hand and committed to defend our country and to obey the orders of the Officers appointed over me, it would require that I freely give of myself. However, I, as most of us in the Guard did not fully appreciate the true meaning of that commitment. It has been my privilege to be associated with some of the finest men and women through out my career. They have given new meaning to friendship and mutual respect for our commitment to serve our nation and state.

I wish each of you continued success as you begin to support the AEF rotations. The nature of defending our nation is changing and you must adapt to these changing times. The twenty-first century will provide each of you with new and challenging opportunities to support the needs of our nation.

I am confident that the 103 Fighter Wing, the 103 Air Control Squadron and our Four Militia Unit's are in extremely capable hands, and under the leadership of Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps you will continue the tradition of "Excellence in all you do". God bless each of you. I will miss you all.

Retirement Celebration in Honor Of Brigadier General George A. Demers



*State of Connecticut, Assistant Adjutant General for Air
Celebrating 46 years of Service*

Friday, January 26, 2001

Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT

*Military- Service Dress Uniform; Civilian- Semi-Formal
Cocktails: 6:30, Dinner 7:30*

*Dinner Choices: Prime Rib
Baked Stuffed Shrimp
Chicken Francaise*

Cost Per Person \$45.00

*POC: MSgt Kris Toro, (860) 548-3221; DSN-636-7955
Mrs. Donna Mullen, (860) 524-4957*

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Connecticut Army National Guard Salutes *Read Aloud!*

BY MAJ. JOHN R. WHITFORD,
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Members of the Connecticut Army National Guard took part in the Mass Mutual/Hartford Public School's "Read Aloud" program on December 20 by reading to Hartford third graders.

The Connecticut Army National Guard, U. S. Marine Corps, U. S. Navy, the Coast Guard, the Marine and Naval Reserves all took part in this event.

"This is an excellent opportunity for us to get into the schools and focus on the young children to encourage reading," said Maj. Chuck Strong the Drug Demand Reduction Administrator for the Connecticut National Guard. "I'm honored to be one of the readers by reading to the third graders, telling them how important reading is and the long term impact reading has on our lives."

The "Read Aloud" program celebrated its fifth year. The program is designed to encourage children to read for pleasure, which helps improve literacy.

"This is a great opportunity to tell the

children that reading is not only important in school, but how important reading will be to them as they get older and go through life," said Maj. Mike Vasile, Recruiting and Retention Manager for the Connecticut Army National Guard.

"This was very exciting," said Spec. Jessica McKenna, from the Recruiting and Retention office. "I enjoyed doing this and the kids really enjoyed it. It was nice to do something for them."

Members of the University of Connecticut Huskies Men's Basketball team spoke to the third-graders. They wanted the kids to read and read and read and when they finish reading, to read some more. The UCONN players made a hefty bet with the children. If they read more than what the Men's Basketball team scores in a week, the kids would get a huge reward for their accomplishment. This bet is for the entire Hartford Public School system. By the reaction from the students, they are up to the challenge. I think that the UCONN players are in for a good fight.

Go third graders and good luck!



**Connecticut
National Guard
Soldier-Airman
Support Center**

**Supporting Guard Members
And Their Families**

Soldier-Airman Support Center Announces Expanded Hours

Effective January 2, 2001, the Soldier-Airman Support Center (AGR Tour Branch) will be open during the evenings on the first and second Tuesday of each month. The office will be open continuously on those days through 8 p.m. The reason for the extended hours is to provide access for our soldiers and their

families to enroll in DEERS and obtain ID Cards. Tour Branch staff will be available to discuss other administrative issues as well. Point of Contact is Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jim Lozinski at 860-524-4854 or Sgt. 1st Class Terry Atkins at 860-524-4918. Toll-free calls may also be made by dialing 888-548-SASC during the hours of 0800-1630.

Party and Deployment Briefing Marks Holiday for Family

By CAPT. SCOTT WILSON,
ASSISTANT PAO

On December 3, 2000, Company B of the 1-102nd Infantry gathered its soldiers and soldiers' families to celebrate the coming holiday season and hold an information session to discuss the unit's deployment to Bosnia in October 2001 as part of SFOR 10. Capt. Robert T. Brafford, Company B's Commander, led the event, which was widely attended by the units' soldiers, their fiancées, wives, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and children.

The event began with an overall information session explaining what life will be like for the company's soldiers once they deploy to Bosnia. It included information on what methods will be utilized to communicate with "back home," details on the MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) facilities and events, and the R&R/Pass Program. Brafford then opened the floor for family members to ask questions, which included topics ranging from how long he thought the U.S. would continue to have armed forces in Bosnia to what constitutes a family emergency grave enough to send a soldier



home. Perhaps the biggest questions, when the unit will leave and return, remained unanswered at this point.

1st Lt. David Pickel, the Co. B Executive Officer, then outlined some specifics of the unit's eventual temporary home – Camp Dobol, about 14 miles southeast of Tuzla. He presented a slide show of pictures from in and around the camp, and used the opportunity to give a "picture" to the words used to describe the life of a soldier stationed in Bosnia.

Following the briefing, soldiers and families adjourned to the company's dining facility for the holiday meal. It was expansive, including holiday favorites such as turkey and stuffing, shrimp cocktail, and apple and pumpkin pie. Many families took the opportunity to discuss the details they were

given about the deployment.

At the heart of the discussions lie the families impressions of this deployment, the first for many of the unit's family members. Ms. Mariana Shek, the fiancée of Corporal Michael A. Vaughan, noted that while she "fears hostility" and what it could mean for Vaughan, she knows it is good for him and for our country. Vaughan and Shek moved up the marriage so that it could occur before the deployment.

Ms. Jessica Kinnebrew, the girlfriend of Spc. Steven D. Kingsley, agreed. She also noted that while uncertainty and waiting will make the year pass slowly for her, "I would want someone to help our country if there was ever a similar situation here, so it helps knowing the mission is important and that it will bring about a change for the better in Bosnia."

Ms. Allyson Ruggiero, the fiancée of Sgt. Lucas Cussen, noted that she and Cussen also moved up their wedding to accommodate the deployment. She observed, "One of the things that attracts me to Lucas is his loyalty to the things that are important in his life. While I can't prioritize those loyalties for him, I know this is important to him. His loyalty to his fellow soldiers, and to this cause, makes me proud of him. Yes, this is a sacrifice for all of us...but I can't



think of one more worthwhile, and it makes me proud that he is going to go and do this mission."

On the military side, Brafford noted that his unit is "motivated and filled with pride for the opportunity. Yes, six months away is a big change for a lot of us, and there is quite a bit of uncertainty that goes along with it. But we are prepared. My biggest priority now is to keep the families informed, and pass along information as I receive it."

In pursuit of that goal, after the holiday meal, the attendees joined again for a final briefing, which covered more technical information aspects. Included in the discussion was information on what rights soldiers have when they leave and return from their civilian employment, and how to handle the transition to active status and then back to civilian work status.

In the months ahead, it won't just be the unit preparing for the deployment – family members have much to prepare for as well. The 1-102nd is demonstrating its awareness of that fact through events like this one.



141st Medical Company Celebrates the Holidays with Family



Four-year-old Veronica Rivera and five-year-old Samantha Golanda play in an ambulance.



Spc. Melanie Cummings puts a temporary tattoo on nephew Christopher Williams.



Sgt. Jose Estrada of the 141st Medical Company puts a gift under the Christmas tree.

PHOTOS BY CAPT. LOU MARTINEZ, 65TH PCH

Healthcare Benefits Grow for Retirees Age 65 and Over

By STAFF SGT. KATHLEEN T. RHEM, USA
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

(This is the first of a two-part article. See next month's issue for part two.)

Military retirees and their spouses who are age 65 and over will get two substantial benefits from the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act signed Oct. 30 by President Clinton.

Dr. H. James Sears, executive director of the TRICARE management Activity, said that after Oct. 1, 2001, TRICARE becomes the "second payer" to Medicare for retirees and their spouses age 65 and over. As second payer, TRICARE will cover many of the costs not covered by Medicare.

Officials urged over-65 beneficiaries to consider their healthcare coverage needs carefully before canceling private supplemental insurance.

The second benefit is a new prescription drug beginning April 1, 2001.

Dr. J. Jarrett Clinton, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said the plan to make TRICARE second payer to the nation's 1.4 million Medicare-eligible military retirees would likely cost about \$3 billion the first year and \$2 billion a year thereafter. He stressed the estimates could vary considerably by the time the program is implemented.

The new rules may increase the number of Medicare-eligible retirees who may be seen in military medical treatment facilities. Health affairs and TRICARE officials are working to figure out how many people this might be, Clinton said.

The true costs of the program will depend on how many people use military facilities and how many choose to use civilian physicians with TRICARE as the second payer, he added. Beneficiaries will have a choice, but there will likely be limits on the number of Medicare-eligible retirees who can use military facilities for their primary care.

"We don't want to displace active duty and their families, and we are concerned that nothing be done to suddenly displace...retirees who are not yet 65," Clinton said.

The readiness benefits of providing care to some older retirees include "a greater range of medical and surgical issues for our providers," he said.

"Readiness is the reason we have a military medical program. We are now identifying the capacity of our military medical facilities to take on additional patients, particularly in specialties such as orthopedics, surgery and anesthesia. We don't know today how many patients will actually choose to use the military facilities; that, too, we are working to find out," Clinton said.

To take advantage of the new rules starting Oct. 1, eligible retirees must be enrolled in Medicare Part B and must have their Medicare status recorded in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System.

The new law provides the older retirees with the same pharmacy benefits of retirees under age 65, said retired Air Force Col. Pat Hobbs, a contractor in TRICARE's Programs Operations Division. The benefit includes continued cost-free access to military medical treatment facility pharmacies and, with co-payments, access to the National Mail Order Pharmacy Program and retail networks managed by TRICARE regional support contractors.

The program also includes access to non-network retail pharmacies, but co-payments are higher and an annual deductible of \$150 per person or \$300 for family members applies, Hobbs said.

A person who turns 65 before April 1, 2001, may participate in the pharmacy program without having Medicare Part B, but a person who turns 65 after April 1 must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to participate, said Hobbs.

COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

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

CAMP ROWLAND POST EXCHANGE

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

ARMY RESERVE CENTER

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

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE

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

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

COAST GUARD STATION

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

SUB BASE, NEW LONDON

Exchange Hours:
MON., TUES., WED., FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 – 7:00
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 9:00 – 5:00
HOLIDAYS: 9:00 – 4:00
Phone: (860) 694-3811
Commissary Hours:
MONDAY: Closed
TUE., WED. & FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
SATURDAY: 8:00 – 5:00
SUNDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
Phone: (860) 694-2244

COAST GUARD ACADEMY

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

WEST POINT, NEW YORK

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

Black History Celebration set for February

The annual Black History Month Celebration will be held On Feb. 8, 2001 at the First Cathedral Church in Bloomfield. The program will begin at 6 p.m. and run through 8 p.m. The guest speaker has yet to be determined, but the theme for this year's celebration is "Creating and Defining the African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics and Culture."

Security Measures Take Affect

The Hartford Armory will transition into total security of the building on Jan. 2, 2001. On that day all personnel in the building will have to display a Hartford Armory access badge or a visitor's badge. It will be everyone's responsibility to visually check all personnel to ensure they display one of these badges.

Lanyards are available through every major section supervisor for those employees who wish to use one for their badges.

Additionally, it is everyone's responsibility to insure all outside doors remain closed and only authorized personnel utilize the proximity cards to gain entrance from the side doors. Delivery personnel must be escorted and all visitors must sign in at the front security desk.

Everyone's cooperation is required to insure only authorized personnel are in the building.

Korean War Stories Wanted

The Connecticut Guardian is planning a special section for an upcoming issue commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

We are looking for people who have stories to tell and photographs to share. You can write your own article or we can interview you.

If you choose to write your own story, please keep it to no more than two typed, double-spaced pages, preferably in Word and emailed to debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil If you do not have access to a computer, you may type your story and send it via U.S. Postal Service to SFC Debbi Newton, Editor, National Guard Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795. Photographs may be dropped off or sent to the same address. All photographs will be returned.

Stories from veterans, spouses, and children are all welcome. If you worked for a civilian military contractor or the Red Cross, we are interested in any story you may be willing to share.

Please contact us with your stories by February 28, 2001.

DEMERS continued from page 1

Did he ever make a big mistake that he thought might end his career? "Those kinds of things always happen that you have to overcome. The biggest for me I did not even know about at the time. An Air Commander was a stickler for protocol and I learned he thought I snubbed him at a New Year's Day reception. I do not remember it, but I was social and talked to the other aircrews for 15 minutes before I wished him a happy New Year. It seemed to me I was being passed over for promotions and tried to find out why. Once I found out why, four years later, I greeted him every morning when he came in for a month to get back in his good graces.

"The social obligations in the unit then were very important. The officers club was very active then and we had a monthly function. You and your wife were expected at every function, missing one resulted in a fine. This all changed in the 80's, but until then if you did not attend a social function you were assessed a \$8-\$10 fine. The money was the least of it, you would become the last one to get a lot of things, including an airplane to fly."

What advice would he give to someone now who might be reading this story for his or her career? "Not advice, but in way of encouragement. I encourage people to attempt to attain whatever their inner goal or drive is. There is nothing you cannot attain if you put your whole heart and mind toward making it happen. If you work hard enough, you can work around whatever is slowing you down to attain your goal."

Did he ever think he would be where he is now? "I thought I would retire as the world's senior lieutenant colonel. I had fifteen years as a lieutenant colonel since there was only one full-colonel position outside of the medical squadron. I did not make colonel until I came to headquarters in Hartford.

"I used to think privately that I might be a general. My nickname among my friends was the general, because I was in the military and always involved. When I did become a general they said what will we call you now? So I told them to just continue with general."

Did he have any mentors along the way? "Brig.Gen.(ret.) Jack Hoar who sat in this seat as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air. He was my mentor when he was the Operations Group commander. He was the one who encouraged me constantly to strive to do better. Everyone always has someone who runs interference for them.

"When I was a lieutenant, I guess he just saw an eager young kid who wanted to get ahead, and kind of helped get me the right assignments that got my career in the right track going forward to where I am now. People need someone, a coworker or friend, they can talk to in a positive way to help each other along and bolster each other in friendly competition," said Demers.

"We started in Guard together in the parachute shop," said Lt.Col. (Ret) Merwyn

L. Spauldin. "I went to pilot training when he went to navigator school and then we flew together full-time on alert."

"Merwyn and I were like brothers," said Demers. "We hung around each other and had that friendly competition. We still vacation and travel together."

What would he consider his biggest professional accomplishment? "Back in 1964 after Gary Powers was shot down, we were flying F-100 A's routinely at 45,000 feet as targets for F-89's. At the time the service ceiling was 50,000 feet for the F-



100. Well, no self respecting fighter pilot wants to be a sitting duck, so we would inch the airplane up higher and higher so the F-89 would struggle and not be able to intercept.

"Word got out that the guys from Connecticut were flying above 50,000 feet so we were asked to do some testing. I volunteered to go to Florida and we got up to 65,000 feet and were quickly grounded for not wearing a pressure suit. So we were fitted for pressure suits, and the aircraft were modified and fitted with cameras. During the month of testing, we proved we could do intercepts in the high 60,000's.

"So on one of the last days, the targets were made to maneuver. I went up to intercept and the F-100 did not respond well to the maneuvering but I got the intercept. After, they told me they were not going to give me credit although I protested that I was on target. The aircraft had made a 120-degree of heading change with only 10 degrees on the ground so was basically flying backwards. They thought the missile

would not launch backwards at 73,000 feet. I think that aircraft is at the New England Air Museum #580," said Demers.

Does he remember any memorable deployments? "In 1981 just after we were converted to the A-10, we went to Hawaii for five weeks. We were the first Guard unit assigned to the rapid deployment force. The plan was we would respond to any short notice contingency or hot spot in the world. This should start to sound similar to the Air Expeditionary Force concept that was started a year ago. That change I think is when the guard changed from being a kind

of the air. It was then measurable what each and every aircrews' capabilities were," said Demers.

What does he say about the Guard being more or less of a family than in the past? "The way we recruited in the past was by friends and family. Up until nearly the 80's it was not uncommon to have seven or eight family members in the unit at a time. Prior to the nepotism regulation, we could have brothers in the same section supervising one or the other. The Guard was always family orientated because family members were prevalent in the guard," said Demers.

What would he consider his legacy? "Fairness, equality and taking care of the enlisted troops. Making them part of the process, so their needs are considered in all the rules and regulations to not cause any hardship," said Demers.

What would he say was the most meaningful award he has received? "Recognition from the Air Force Association for improving the relationship between the Guard and Air Force as a whole in 1991," said Demers.

When did women start to enter the Guard? "We had very few women prior to the Vietnam War. The only females were civilians and in the medical squadron. After Vietnam, many women came off active duty and joined us in the Guard. It was not that they were prohibited before, but now they are really encouraged," said Demers.

Did he see race segregation in the Guard? "I did not recognize it as such. We were by default, though. We did not have a cross section of the local populace, so by omission we were segregated. It was not intentional. As folks came off active duty following Vietnam, the question came up why aren't we [the Guard] recruiting everyone. Now we go to recruit all those who have a desire to serve as part of the force," said Demers.

Does he have any words for the troops at large? "It is amazing how dedicated our people are; not just the guard but the active forces and the militia too. All are truly dedicated in their own right, and they all have one thing in common: to serve our state and nation. Our people are not driven by some financial motivation, but are true professionals and patriots.

"For the newer people, when they first get in the Guard, they never know where the road is going to go. Like me, they have a job to do and they just do it, and I was just fortunate that things worked out so I could be where I am now," said Demers.

What's next? "I am going to do some traveling and go back to a lot of the places I visited. I was usually so busy, I did not get to look around too much. I want to go back to spend some time and see what each place has to offer."

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**"Every exit is an entry
somewhere."**

-Tom Stoppard