



Connecticut Guardian

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Wild Mustangs Latest Recruits for Horse Guard

RICHARD P. TERBRUSCH
2ND COMPANY GHG

Four wild mustangs have joined the Second Company's complement of horses. The wild mustangs, obtained through a special adoption program run by the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), were delivered to the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard in Newtown, Connecticut earlier this month.

"I think it is great that we were able to participate in the BLM program," said Maj. William Harris, the Second Company's Commandant. "It is a positive for both the troop and the mustangs."

All of the Second Company's horses are donated. Private horse owners and farms in Connecticut make such donations. This is the first time the Horse Guard has adopted wild mustangs.

Severe over population of wild mustangs in the western United States forced the Federal Bureau of Land Management to develop a wild mustang adoption program a number of years ago. The program successfully places some ten thousand wild mustangs each year with both public and private owners. Under the terms of the adoption program, the Bureau of Land Management gives the mustangs to their new owners for an initial probationary period that lasts a year and a day. If all goes well during that time, the mustangs are then placed permanently with the new owner.

The new mustangs will be well cared for in the Horse Guard's recently constructed equine training facility. Each of the four mustangs has their own pen and a larger round pen has been installed so that the mustangs can be trained in safety.



One of four wild mustangs settles into his new home at the Newtown facility. (Photo courtesy of Second Company GHG.)

"The plan is to train the mustangs over the next four months or so that they may be safely assimilated into the rest of our herd," said Harris.

The mustangs, which are all geldings, come from the area near Rock Springs, Wyoming. Three of the four are three year olds and the fourth is a five year old.

Buck Wheeler, a Native American mustang trainer, will train the mustangs by developing a training method that causes no pain to the horse.

"Buck has been to every Army installation that still has horse detachments to include Fort Hood in Texas, Fort Riley in Kansas, Fort Huachuca in Arizona and Fort Myer in Virginia to train and gentle their mounts."

The new training facility in Newtown, dubbed Fort Mustang, is part of the last phase of a renovation approved by the General Assembly several years ago. The Army Corps of Engineers along with the Second Company volunteers built the new facility to specifications required by the Bureau of Land Management.

"This truly is the beginning of a new era for us as the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard enters their third century of service to the State and rededicate ourselves to preserving the traditions of the U.S. Cavalry," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard.

Martinez Honored with National Image Award

MAJ. JOHN WHITFORD
STATE PAO

Sgt. Greanabelle Martinez of the 143d Forward Support Battalion (FSB) of Waterbury, has been selected by the Department of Defense (DoD) as the Connecticut Army National Guard recipient of the 2001 National Image Meritorious Service Award for her outstanding equal opportunity and civil rights accomplishments.

Martinez will receive this award at the annual National Image Convention at the Bally's Hotel on May 24, 2001 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, "Salute to Hispanics in the Military," awards banquet.

Martinez was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico in 1978. Her family moved to New Jersey, and then to Waterbury Connecticut. She graduated from Wilby High School in 1996 and joined the Connecticut Army National Guard that same year.

Martinez has worked for the City of Waterbury for the last five years as a Family Support Specialist. Her main-focus in this position is ensuring that Hispanic mothers and mothers-to-be receive access to adequate health insurance, domestic and substance abuse counseling services, and the Head Start program.

See MARTINEZ p. 13



Martinez with Maj. Gen. Cugno at the Image Awards ceremony in Atlantic City, New Jersey. (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Anthony Uva.)



Epps Receives Star

Connecticut Air National Guard Commander Mary Ann Epps receives her brigadier general star during ceremonies held at the 103rd Fighter Wing facility recently. Pinning her new rank on is her husband, Richard (left) and Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's adjutant general. Epps recently became the first woman and the first African American to command the Fighter Wing. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau, 103rd Communications Flight.)

UP FRONT WITH THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Briarwood College Commencement Speech

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



Today marks a day that shows you have completed another rung on the ladder of success. You've graduated. Freedom at last! Now reality – off to work, to your new career, to your new responsibility. As you go from here today, you will no doubt be taking on more responsibilities, encountering new challenges and assuming new obligations. Your life will be filled with many opportunities.... socially, culturally, politically and economically. How you navigate through those opportunities may make the difference between success and failure.

Today, as the first Briarwood College graduating class of the new millennium, the peace and prosperity which all Americans so yearned for a few decades ago, is reality. Today, there are for Americans, vastly improved economic and other societal opportunities that were once denied to over half this country's population.

Yes, at this moment in the sweep of history, you – graduates, do not face the prospect of being sent to foreign wars, for a relative

peace has broken out around the world, and America stands, as never before, as the undisputed leader of the entire political world. America also has economic preeminence in the world today. As you graduate, our country has the highest standard of living for its people of any country in the world. We are indeed, in prosperous times.

On the social front, America increasingly has a major point of distinction. We provide better opportunities for women and minorities than any country in the world. Our nation must continue to move in this direction and every American must do their share to contribute to this necessity.

You are, by definition, leaders - for you are Americans and you are educated. Thus, the future will be your creation.

Now – I've already told you how well things are going – so the first bit of advice is this: Don't louse it up.

Allow me to offer some suggestions that I believe will make your journey far more rewarding.

Let's establish some parameters – Today is the start point. The beginning of your career. You're fresh, educated and ready. The finish is guaranteed. Yes – I absolutely guarantee it! It is common among mankind! We all experience it! None of us can change it. The finish is death!

Now, everything in the middle, between start and finish, we shall refer to as the Journey.

Throughout this journey, there are choices that you will be required to make. The correct choices result in celebration and rewards and the wrong choices result in something less fun. There is however, a basic requirement that you will find fundamental to the requirements of success.

This one piece of advice I believe will contribute more to making you a better leader, better worker, better American, and will provide you with greater happiness and self-esteem while at the same time, advance your career more than any other advice which I can provide to you today. It doesn't call for a special personality, and it doesn't call for any certain chemistry.

See TAG p. 17

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First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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By STATE COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR
STEPHEN L. PRIMETT

ENLISTED UPDATE

AT Safety and Responsibility

With June comes the traditional start of the Annual Training cycle for the Connecticut National Guard. But safety and responsibility are year-round concerns that receive special attention now.

Many soldiers and airmen are conducting intensive training in areas they may not spend much time during the rest of the year. That is why it is so important for us, as enlisted soldiers and NCOs to keep a sharp watch on safety and responsibility. Heat, ticks and operation of heavy equipment are just some of the things that come into play this time of year. Our troops may be traveling great distances to reach a training site, they may be operating equipment they don't normally use in the course of their civilian employment and they are very often in environments that produce safety concerns such as ticks, heat, heavy rains, rocky terrains and so forth.

We all know the usual things to look out for: dehydration, lack of sleep from long hours, ensuring we have ground guides when backing up vehicles, having

assistant drivers and using and maintaining the proper safety equipment such as helmets, protective masks, tires, eye protection and harnesses for the rappelling towers.

But the most important aspect of safety is the one most commonly overlooked. Knowing your soldiers and airmen. If a soldier has a sick child or parent at home, is having financial difficulties, is going through a divorce or is out of work, his mind will not be on the mission at hand. If a soldier or airman has a drug or alcohol problem, everyone is in harms way. We have to know our people to know what to look for.

We don't have to pry or interrogate our people to get the information we need. We just have to keep our eyes and ears open. And we have to be where they are. We can't sit back in the office or the TOC or the cantonment area and know what's going on with our soldiers and airmen. We have to be there with them. We have to listen to them. We have to watch them. We have to hear what they talk about and see how they behave. If they are distracted because of something going on at home or work, they are not the only ones in danger. Their fellow guardsmen are in danger, as are their families.

Sgt. Snuffy has not been getting enough sleep because of the intensity of the mission. Add to that the fact that his child back home needs glasses that he can't afford because he just lost his job due to cutbacks and now he is behind the wheel of a humvee in a rocky area that has seen little rain. He is distracted by everything going on in his life and is driving a bit faster than he should as he rounds a corner and loses control, rolling his own vehicle and forcing the vehicle coming in the opposite direction off the road. Not only does he lose his life, but his family has lost its husband and father, and one of the soldiers in the other vehicle has lost an arm.

Could this disaster have been prevented? Absolutely! But you have to know what to look for. Keep your eyes and ears open. Know what's going on with your people. Know when to step in and take someone out of a dangerous situation. Make sure everyone is getting enough rest. And don't wait until it's too late.

AT safety and responsibility for your soldiers and airmen is everyone's job. Do it and do it well, and we will all come home safely.

Military Department Fills New Position

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PA NCO

Merrily Moynihan has joined the Connecticut Military Department in the position of Agency Outreach and Resource Development Manager. Her job will be to take a look at the way the current system works and reorganize the state side of the military department.

"It's not that it doesn't work well now," said Moynihan. "I don't want to give that impression at all. It's just that, like everything, there's always ways to make things better, faster, bigger, more efficiently. That's what I'm here to do. Take a look at the way we do business and how we can improve."

After that, the next step for Moynihan will be to conduct a process review in order to streamline the efficiency of the department. For example, some employees currently work on a different floor or in a different wing of the Hartford Armory than their supervisors, explained Moynihan. "That's something we'll be taking a look at – the logistics of where people are located."

Another aspect of this new position will be to contact other agencies to enlist their help in moving the state military department forward and to get the agency known.

"There are a zillion ways to make our agency



Merrily Moynihan

known," said Moynihan. "We need to continue to develop community relationships and partnerships in order to continue our growth. We have wonderful Horse Guard facilities that give us the opportunity for community outreach through Services for the Blind or the Department of Mental Retardation. The East Haven Rifle Range is another good example of a facility that has potential for shared opportunities. These are the types of things we'll be looking at."

Moynihan came to the State Military Department from the Board of Education, Services for the Blind where she served in much the same capacity as she will here. She has also worked for the Department of Administrative Services, Strategic Leadership.

She attended St. Joseph's College, but left there to become a teacher at the American School for the Deaf. She later owned the Avon Old Farms Inn and has worked for the State of Connecticut for a number of years.

"We need to continue to develop community relationships and partnerships in order to continue our growth".

Merrily Moynihan

Moynihan has three children and three grandchildren who keep her busy in her hometown of West Hartford. When she's not busy with her family, she enjoys gardening and cooking, which she calls her "passion."

103rd Fighter Wing Gets First Female Command Chief

CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Connecticut's first female Command Chief Master Sergeant was appointed in a ceremony at the 103d Fighter Wing's base in East Granby, on Saturday May 5, 2001.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Wanda P. Wawruck will serve as the senior enlisted member of the 103rd Fighter Wing in East Granby replacing Chief Master Sgt. Larry B. Dunn who is scheduled to retire in June.

The Assistant Adjutant General for Air and Commander of the Connecticut Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps presided over the afternoon ceremony.

"This is a glorious day for the 103rd with another first," said Brig. Gen. Epps alluding to her recent appointment as the Commander of the Connecticut Air National Guard. "A first in terms of having a very accomplished female for a command chief at the wing."

Wawruck was quick to define her direction in the new position.

"I intend to focus on communication and understanding during my tenure," she said.

The Enfield native began her career in the Connecticut Air National Guard in 1978 working in personnel at the 103rd Fighter

Wing. She held various support positions in maintenance and personnel before taking a position in Washington D.C. at the National Guard Bureau in 1995, leaving behind 17 years as a full time technician.

Near her home in O'Fallon Ill. her skills are called upon to assist with staff work for the

commander of Headquarters Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"Set your goals, strive for your best and try to have some fun doing it," said Wawruck, offering her career advice for young airmen who may want to follow in her footsteps.



Command Chief Wawruck (center) receives the unit colors from Col. Daniel R. Scace, commander, 103rd Fighter Wing (left) while outgoing Command Chief Dunn (right) looks on. (Photo by Senior Airman Jeremiah E. Macht, 103rd Communications Flight.)

Thrift Savings Plan Update

DEREK DAY
NGB-HR

The Thrift Savings Plan is already a valuable retirement tool for all military technicians, especially so for FERS technicians because of the government matching feature. As of Oct. 30, 2000, the overall National Guard participation rate for FERS technicians was at 88.7 percent which exceeds the government average of 86.7 percent.

The individual Air National Guard and Army National Guard rates exceed the rates for the Air Force and Army, respectively.

The Virgin Islands and North Dakota have the best participation at 98.5 percent and 97.3 percent respectively.

The Thrift Savings Plan will become available for all military members on Jan. 1, 2002.

Diplomacy is the art of letting someone have your way.
Daniele Vare

The ceremony for a change to the enlisted force leadership was a first for the Connecticut Air Guard according to the outgoing Dunn. After some brief remarks, Dunn passed the unit colors to Col. Dan Scace who handed them to Wawruck, completing the change of authority in the same fashion as a change of command ceremony.

"My Command Chief can go anywhere in this organization and talk to anyone to take care of people," said Scace, 103rd Fighter Wing commander, referring to the authority vested in the command chief position.

Wawruck attributed her success to the support she gets from her family, a family that includes Flying Yankee brother-in-law Master Sgt. (ret.) Steve Wawruck, her husband and Master Sgt. Gary Paquette. "Without my family I could not do it."

In addition to her family, old friends and co-workers came to see her take the new position.

"When Wanda was a master sergeant I said she was a chief in waiting . . . and I am sure she is going to be an outstanding command chief for the 103rd," said Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Ronald Palmer who served as the Connecticut Air National Guard Command Chief before his retirement.

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders Today: Recruiting Command Sponsors Young Leaders Program

STORY BY 2nd LT. ALAN GILMAN
R&R OFFICE MANAGER

More than a motto, "Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders Today," has become the foundation and guiding principle behind the Young Leaders Program (YLP). Designed for young student leaders, the YLP is a three-day personal development and motivational skills seminar sponsored by the Connecticut Army National Guard twice a year at Camp Rowland in Niantic.

Recently, 24 high school juniors from Waterford, Bulkeley and RHAM High Schools were selected to participate in the YLP from April 27-29 to learn fundamental leadership and team building skills in an interactive environment. Faculty members from each school also attended the no-cost program and had the unique opportunity to evaluate the individual abilities and progress of their students during the course of the weekend. Fully resourced and staffed by the Recruiting and Retention Command, students and faculty attend the program free of charge. Food, beverages, lodging and instructional materials are all included.

"This program is a great opportunity for the National Guard to have an impact on the leadership development of our high school students and make a positive contribution to our local communities," said Maj. Michael A. Vasile, Recruiting and Retention Commander.

This rewarding self-development opportunity involves several phases of instruction and exercises in both a classroom and outdoor setting. Instruction in cooperative team building, decision making, problem solving, effective communication and self-assessment are taught by National Guard recruiters. The students also navigate through the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) located at Stone's Ranch Military Reservation. During this phase of training each student is allowed the opportunity to assume a group leadership role and apply

their newly acquired skills in a sequence of disaster scenarios designed to test their ability to analyze, react and lead through a variety of obstacles.

"The goal of the program is to make it both physically and mentally challenging for the students so they graduate with a sense of accomplishment," said Master Sgt. Tom Donlon, NCOIC of the YLP. "And by only selecting high school juniors to participate, we are encouraging them to continue to grow and become better leaders of their peers and in their schools."

Utilizing the same billeting, dining and classroom facilities that both the Officer Candidate and Noncommissioned Officer Schools use, Camp Rowland offers the students a taste of what being in a military environment is really like. From Friday evening until Sunday afternoon, the students enjoy all the comforts of training on a military post to include open bay barracks, latrines, meals in a dining facility, extensive daily schedules and wakeup at 0515.

For the final team exercise on Sunday morning the students must use the classroom and LRC knowledge they have gained to successfully erect a General Purpose Medium tent under a set time limit then complete a formal After Action Review of the results. After a long weekend overcoming fears, learning about leadership and learning about themselves, each student graduates the program with a sense of pride.

"It was a great experience. I not only gained more confidence to be a better leader, but I now know how to approach and handle different situations to be the leader others want to follow," said Daisy Vega, a junior at Bulkeley High School in Hartford.

"This program is a great opportunity for the National Guard to have an impact on the leadership development of our high school students and make a positive contribution to our local communities," said Maj. Michael A. Vasile, Recruiting and Retention Commander.

over 1000 students from 78 schools across the state have graduated from this hallmark



Students use team work and problem solving skills to successfully complete a series of disaster scenarios on the Leadership Reaction Course. (Photo by Spc Jessica McKenna, R & R Staff)



Nora Sullivan, a junior at Waterford High School crosses the Amazon River obstacle, one six disaster scenarios used on the LRC for the Young Leaders Program. (Photo by Spc Jessica McKenna, R & R Staff.)

A Look Back In Time...

The Governor's Horse Guards in the Great War of World War I



"Horses in Arizona, Fords in France," headlines a paper as the Governor's Horse Guards prepared for World War I.

Founded in the 18th century, the First Company Governor's Horse Guards provided ceremonial escort to the Governors of the state and prominent visitors to Hartford. By 1911, the cavalryman had the military proficiency to apply for admission to the Connecticut National Guard.

Upon entry into World War I, the cavalrymen of Troop B were retrained as machine gunners, forming part of

the 101st Machine Gun Battalion. Accompanying the U.S. 26th Yankee Division to France, they participated in most of the major battles and campaigns on the Western Front.

Contribution: Mr. Howard Miller, Troop Historian, First Company Governor's Horse Guard.

(Connecticut National Guard unit Troop B, led by Capt. Morgan G. Bulkeley Jr., rides from Hartford to Niantic. Photo courtesy of the Connecticut State Archives, Hartford.)

143rd and 1/102nd Review Basic Skills at TSIRT

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65TH PCH

The American military has always had a tradition of the citizen-soldier volunteering their support for missions of peace.

Soldiers of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion and Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry reviewed basic soldiering skills for their scheduled mission to join the Stabilization Force in the Balkan theater of operations.

The training was conducted at the Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training (TSIRT) May 10 thru May 12 at Fort Benning, GA.

Soldiers were divided into squads and each squad rotated through the many skilled classes such as personnel search, force protection lane, driving hazards and convoy operations.

Soldiers learned how to conduct personnel



Members of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion, Bravo Team, conduct a road march through a simulated Bosnian town during TSIRT exercises at Fort Benning. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

and vehicle search with the assistance of the Fort Benning area's residents acting as civilians on the battlefield. (COBs)

The COBs presented soldiers with different problems to solve. Some COBs acted as if they had a weapon on their body during the personnel search class and in the vehicle search COBs acted as they hid a bomb and weapons in their vehicle which soldiers had to find while using proper tactics of respect and order to ensure the safety of the COBs and the other soldiers around them.

According to personnel search instructor Master Sgt. Vanessa S. Mitchell, 347th Infantry, training support, the purpose of the personnel and vehicle search training is to do a search among civilians entering and exiting for the safety of the post.

During the many skills learned at TSIRT soldiers took time out to reflect on why they volunteered for the upcoming deployment to the Balkans.

"I want the opportunity to wear the flag", said Sgt. Ligia I. Rodriguez, 143rd FSB, wire systems installer. "I was once on active duty

in Germany with a unit that was always rotating in and out of Bosnia. I always wanted to go on the deployment but I never got the chance to go. I want to be part of a peacekeeping force that can help restore the peace to the former Yugoslavia. That is why I chose to serve in the National Guard. I want to help my state in times of emergencies and serve in deployments."

Other soldiers expressed their desire to see different parts of the world.

"I want to see different cultures and their way of life. I want to be part of a historical peacekeeping mission", said Pvt.2 Geoffrey F. Gilardez, 102 Infantry B Company, motorman.

According to 1st Sgt. Gregory A. Powell, 143rd FSB, the purpose of the TSIRT was to have the soldiers that recently joined the deployment receive their mandatory training.

"It's been a long road and the scheduled deployment reminds me of being a Drill Sergeant once again. It is great to see so many soldiers have a positive attitude and be ready to go on the mission."



Pvt. Ann I. Zaldivar, food services section, 143rd FSB, acts as a casualty in a minefield and is assisted by Spc. Eddie T. Lumpkin, a utilities mechanic with the 143rd FSB. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

Home Loan Guarantee Improvements Extended

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICES

Congress has extended two 1992 improvements to the Department of Veterans Affairs Home Loan Guarantee Program that were due to expire in 2001. One extension affects loan guarantees for reserve component soldiers, while the other extension affects funding fees for active duty members.

Congress passed legislation earlier this fiscal year that will allow National Guard and Reserve members to apply for the VA Home Loan Guarantee Program through December 2007. The 1992 legislation established the benefit but made it good only through 2001, said Keith Pedigo, director of the VA's Loan Guarantee Service.

"Because of the success of the program, Congress decided it would be appropriate to extend the eligibility of the Guard and Reserve," he said.

To be eligible, Guard members and Reservists must have at least six years' service in the Guard or Reserve, Pedigo said, but they need not be consecutive years.

Active duty veterans buying their first homes have paid a funding fee of two percent of the loan amount since 1992, when Congress raised it from 1.25 percent. Pedigo said the increase was to expire in 2001, but a recent change extended it three years.

Active duty veterans buying subsequent homes are unaffected—they pay a funding fee of 1.25 percent of the loan amount. Guard members and Reservists pay a 2.5 percent funding fee.

An improvement to the home loan guarantee program affects surviving spouses of service members who die of a service-connected disability. Pedigo said long-standing provisions give these surviving spouses eligibility for the program, but takes it away permanently if the surviving spouse remarries.

He said surviving spouses didn't regain eligibility even if the subsequent marriage ended in divorce or the subsequent spouse died. The recent change provides for the surviving spouse to regain eligibility for the program if the subsequent marriage ends.

"They just need to be unmarried at the time the loan is made," Pedigo said.

For more information, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs homepage at: www.va.gov



Teen children of Connecticut National Guard members recently took on Guard members in a spirited afternoon of Whirlyball. The teens are all children of Guard members and have volunteered their time as youth summer camp counselors and with the National Guard Family Program for activities such as the annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

According to Kim Hoffman, Family Program manager, it was time to do something fun with the kids who always work so hard in support of the family program.

"Barbara Luhn (Air Guard major) knew about this new game of Whirlyball and we arranged the afternoon as a way of saying thank you to the kids," said Hoffman.

Whirlyball is played by driving bumper cars around an indoor court, using a plastic wiffle ball scoop to pick up and throw the ball into a modified basketball hoop. Each goal is worth three points and points are deducted for violation of the rules during the eight-minute games.

Hoffman says this event was so successful, she is planning other activities for the Guard teens.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, PA NCO)

Air Guard Holds Mobility Readiness Fair

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG AND
CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 103rd Fighter Wing of the Connecticut Air National Guard completed its second two-day mobility readiness fair April 8 at Bradley Air National Guard base.

A mobility readiness fair is a customer-focused way to allow members to fulfil their mobility processing requirements.

"Rather than a scheduled time being dictated to individuals or organizations, supervisors and individuals can determine the opportune time during the drill weekend that they can accomplish specific mobilization requirements," said Lt. Col. Frederick R. Miclon, deployment project officer and commander, 103rd Logistics Group.

The concept was based on feedback received following wing preparations for the Southwest Asia deployment in 1999. It was determined the mass briefings and mobility lines, although effective, were costly in terms of lost training time.

"The sole purpose for the mobility readiness fair is to ensure that everybody who is going to deploy identifies and addresses their requirements well in advance so they are not trying to rush within the last month or so to get everything done," said Lt. Denise James, administrative officer, 103rd Military Personnel Flight.

Unit members could visit any of the eleven stations during duty hours both Saturday and Sunday of the two drill weekends. The stations were could handle deployment needs from new boots to vaccinations.

"It worked out good," said Master Sgt. Michelle Blancato, NCOIC customer assistance, 103rd Mission Support Flight. "It was steady the whole time and allowed us to take care of things well before people actually process for deployment."

Some of the stations were informative beyond filling requirements. The Connecticut Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve provided information on guard member's legal rights

when deployed. A new device for checking the fit of chemical warfare masks provided a glimpse at their effectiveness.

"Having the mask fit test as a station in the mobility readiness fair was effective because it gave people the confidence that their mask works," said Senior Airman Todd Dumas, base readiness apprentice, 103rd Civil Engineering Squadron. They can visibly see that the mask filters particles from the air. This is definitely an important process for members being deployed."



(Left Photo) Senior Airman Todd Dumas (left), base readiness apprentice, 103rd Civil Engineering Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Scott McIntosh (right), bio-environmental engineering technician, 103rd Civil Engineering Squadron. (Top Photo) Tech. Sgt. Sam Abbe, electronic warfare systems craftsman, Electronic Counter Measures, 103rd Maintenance Squadron. (Photos by Senior Airman Julie Bragg, 103rd Fighter Wing)

AirBudsmen Graduate From Sub Base Course

CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The Connecticut Air National Guard graduated its first four Ombudsmen April 6 from the Northeast Region Ombudsman Assembly at Submarine Base New London.

The Connecticut Air National Guard's own Senior Master Sgt. Karen Havens and Tech. Sgt. James S. Shewokis, joined unit spouses Deanise L. Shewokis and Tami Scace on stage with 26 other new ombudsmen for the graduation honors from the week-long training program.

"I have a large appreciation of what these (Navy) volunteers do," said Havens, base-contracting officer, 103rd Logistics Squadron. "They are the main source between commander of a boat and families."

Although the Navy has a 30-year tradition with the ombudsman, it is a new concept for the Air Guard. An ombudsman serves as a link between the commander of a boat and the families of its crew.

"You live and die as a commander by your ombudsman," said Rear Adm. Michael C. Tracy, commander, Submarine Group Two and Navy Region Northeast, in his address to the graduates. "It takes a special person who can make others feel comfortable and bring issues up the chain."

The graduate's role in the wing will be to aid members and families in finding the resources they need for a variety of assistance.

"We are available now with enough training to know how to get you help," said Tami Scace, spouse of Col. Daniel R. Scace, commander, 103rd Fighter Wing. "We can tap into resources to get help, and it [the issue] stays with the ombudsman you talk to."

One of the first issues on their agenda is to define, with the commander, how the Ombudsman will function in the wing.

"I think we can take the way they [Navy ombudsmen] does things and customize them to fit our needs," said Deanise L. Shewokis, spouse of fellow graduate Tech. Sgt. Shewokis, crew chief, 103rd Aircraft

Generation Squadron. "I think we can do a lot with what we have, but the training gave us a lot of great new resources."

"We were already on the right track but it gave us a lot that we can tailor to fit our 169 communities," said Tech. Sgt. Shewokis.

In the course they used role playing to enhance the classroom training and practice the skills taught.

"The suicide awareness and prevention taught about signals and how we can guide them to get assistance," said Tech. Sgt. Shewokis.



The Air National Guard's new ombudsmen (left to right) Tech. Sgt. James S. Shewokis, Deanise L. Shewokis, Tami Scace and Senior Master Sgt. Karen Havens pose with their graduation cake. (Photo by Capt. George H. Worrall III 103rd Fighter Wing PAO.)

"We learned how to identify what the real problem is and where to get assistance over the phone," said Havens. "If somebody has no water for example ... the problem may be with paying a bill. We practiced scenarios to be active listeners."

All the new ombudsmen mentioned that what a member discusses with an ombudsman is confidential. Each ombudsman must follow a code of ethics to ensure family members receive professional treatment.

"Within the code of ethics is strict confidentiality, said Deanise Shewokis. "No two ombudsmen can share [personal] information even with each other."

The ombudsmen in the guard are all volunteers.

"People are doing this because they want to," said Havens. "We were not appointed or doing part of a job...we volunteered to take care of our Air Guard families, a family I have been in for 25 years."

Our Apologies...

In the May 2001 issue of the *Connecticut Guardian*, we mistakenly referred to Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Brian Phipps as Col. Phipps in an article about his induction into the OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, GA. We sincerely apologize for this error.

Foot Guard Celebrates Christmas in April

COL. BOB NEARINE
1ST COMPANY, GFG

Spring is a strange time to hold a Christmas party. Especially when the party is held in the First Company Governors Foot Guard Hartford Armory. It wasn't that the Foot Guard was sick of winter; rather the April drill presented an opportunity for the nation's oldest continually operating military organization to assist a unique charitable organization, the Marine Corps Reserves (USMCR) Toys for Tots program.

For more than fifty years, Toys for Tots has been an American holiday tradition. In 1947, just two years after the end of World War II, a Los Angeles USMC reservist, Maj. Bill Hendricks, with the support of the members of his USMCR unit, collected and distributed 5,000 toys to area needy children. The program was so successful that it was officially adopted as the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program the following year and expanded to nationwide status. In the fifty-two years that followed, Marines have collected and distributed more than 257 million toys. Of these, 84 thousand toys were collected and distributed in Connecticut during the 2000 campaign alone.

In order to collect money for the Toys for Tots program, the Enlisted Members Association (EMA) along with the Officers

Association set out to sponsor an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner. Capt. Jack Opinsky, a local dentist and gourmet chef, agreed to recruit a kitchen crew and prepare the evening's offerings, while Band Director Capt. Laura Lovich would prepare a special libation she had discovered on vacation in the Dominican Republic. This turned out to be banana mamas, although the recipe itself was not confirmed. Meatballs, sausage, garlic bread, tossed salad and Italian cookies completed the menu.

The armory was decorated to reflect the

Christmas theme. A Christmas sleigh, two potted, albeit fake, poinsettias (the real plants were out of season) and Santa Claus suits and hats worn by members of the band added to the festive occasion.

The evening began with several presentations. Special guests from Company C, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, USMCR Plainville were introduced by the adjutant, 1st Lt. Larry Parmlee; Capt. Thomas Danielson, Gunnery Sgt. Gerald Lancour and Hospitalman 1st Class Lloyd Franklin. The guests were then presented with Foot Guard

golf shirts by EMA president, Staff Sgt. Mike Condon, Officers Association president, 1st Lt. Chris Cain and Color Sgt. Roger Conley. A Vietnam veteran, Conley also represented the many former Marines who now serve in the command.

Next came a formal battalion review conducted by Maj. Commandant John. L. O'Connell. The band trooped the line playing several Christmas carols in march tempo, while the Marine and Navy guests took the salute as the troops passed in review. Following retirement of the colors and dismissal, the assemblage formed for chow in the Justin A. Denino dining area where a good time and a full stomach were had by all.

Following dinner, Executive Officer Capt. Dennis Conroy presented the Marine Toys for Tots with a check for \$500. The check was further supplemented when the winner of the traditional raffle, Parmlee, donated his winnings to the Marines.

While Toys for Tots is most visible during the holiday season, planning is a yearlong operation. Donations of money or toys are always accepted and can be made at Charlie Company's headquarters, the USN&MC Reserve Center, 1 Linsley Drive, Plainville. For more information about this community effort, call Gunnery Sgt. Lancour at (860) 747-4199, EXT 102.



The 1st Company Governor's Foot Guard Band marches to Christmas carols. (Photo courtesy of 1st Co. GHG)

Dispatches from the Front

SGT. PHILIP N. GORMAN
141ST MED. CO. (GA)

The month of May here at Eagle Base brought many developments. The troops are settled into their own respective routines. People have started taking leave and passes to Budapest. Generally getting used to life here.

May brought the Dynamic Response exercise, a 10-day Mass Casualty event, supposedly the last MASCAL event of the rotation. Patients came in, generally 7 at a time, by all methods; ground evacuation from other camps, air evacuations, and hospital based ground evacuations, and all hours of the day and night.

Most of the units in MND-North participated in some way, shape, or form. It was definitely a very busy time for our soldiers here at the base hospital. It was not all fun and games here in the month of May.

All of the soldiers here at Eagle Base were affected recently by events out of our control. In response to certain events in the area we experienced an upgrade in the Force Protection level.

Daily life became all about perimeter checks, ID checks, and bag searches. It was a very

sobering experience for a lot of us here. It reminded us that everything here is not as peaceful, calm, and serene as some would like us to think.

On a lighter note, soldiers from Task Force Med Eagle, specifically our own Sgt. Sean Caffyn and Spc. Kingsley Kellier got to participate in the Memorial Day 10K run. Although neither placed in the top ten finishers, both completed the race in respectable times and had a good time doing it.

Other TFME soldiers have been participating in a 30K Dancon march held by the Danish Army. Participants had eight hours to complete the ruck march carrying a 10 kg (22 lb) pack over hilly terrain.

Each participant that completed the march in the allotted time received a certificate and if they opted, a medal from the Danish Army.

In other news, our very own Chief Ward Master of the hospital, Sgt. 1st Class Loran Wade is competing in the "SFORS Strongest Man" Competition at the Danish base camp,

Camp Dannervirke. We'll let you how he did next month.

Finally, I had the pleasure and the honor of attending a reception dinner for Command Sgt. Maj. Lever, the command sergeant major for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. Lever, who assumed the position on Jan 8, 2001, was glad to have the opportunity to visit Guard troops in the theater. The dinner was attended by representatives from all six National Guard units on Eagle Base.

Lever stated how proud he was to be here representing such fine soldiers. "This deployment is still in the news and is becoming more and more a National Guard

mission. The Army called on all of you and you responded. We all respect the sacrifices you've made. The world is watching and they are watching the best trained soldiers in the Army, and it shows."

It was very evident by his remarks that Lever was genuinely proud of the soldiers he represents. After dinner and his remarks, Lever proceeded to hand out command sergeant major coins to select individuals from each Guard unit. All in all, it was memorable experience.

In addition, Lever held a sort of open session at the MWR facility on base and extended an open invitation to any Guard member to come down, have a cup of coffee with him, and discuss anything that is on their minds. The command sergeant major was very willing to listen to anything and everything that soldiers perceived as issues pertinent to National Guard soldiers, ranging from on post representatives to job security at home and ways to improve service for National Guard members.

That is about all the news that's fit to print from Eagle Base. I look forward to writing again next month and updating everyone back in Connecticut on what's going on here in Bosnia. Until next time....

Getting Better by Training as a Team

**SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65TH PCH**

The 143rd Military Police Company (MPs) practiced a mock rescue of a hostage against multiple suspects in an abandoned building at Camp Hartell located near Bradley International Airport during recent Military Operations Under Terrorism (MOU) training.

According to Capt. John R. Dickey, 143rd Military Police, commander, the unit was divided into several Special Reaction Teams (SRTs). SRTs are comprised of 10

MPs that will enter a building to rescue a hostage. The day's training included SRTs clearing a building of suspects while using the tactics of cover and concealment.

Before the start of the training 1st Sgt. John S. Carragher, 143rd Military Police, gave a

safety briefing to all the MPs that acted as the suspects as well as the SRTs. Everyone then donned their safety gear and took their positions inside and outside of the building.

As this reporter was also safety briefed, I donned safety gear and was able to observe one rescue operation while in the rear of the SRT.

As we entered a semi-dark, two-story building, the SRT worked slowly through the building looking for a hostage.

The process of finding a hostage was slow at first due to the necessity of having to clear several rooms to find the suspects.

All the while, members of the SRT seems to reach a higher state of awareness. Once the SRT reached the hostage and suspects, the suspects began a mock gun battle with the

SRTs. Once the building was secured, the hostage was rescued and the suspects apprehended.

According to Dickey, the training is made as real as possible by using paint pellets.

"A standard 9mm barrel is replaced with a modified barrel for the paint pellets. When fired, the pellets travel approximately 400 feet per second, half the speed of a regular bullet when fired from a 9mm. On impact the pellet will leave a pink spot on an individual to show that a causality is present. This is the most realistic training I have seen", said Dickey.

An After Action Review (AAR) session was given after the mission. MPs took time to reflect on their accomplishments.

"To hear paint pellets flying around, and

people shouting while trying to save the hostage made the training seem very real," said Spec. Zachary S. Freeto..

"The training was very good by providing a real world scenario in any military combat or civilian training. The training also brought back many lessons that were learned in both basic and advance individual training", said Spec. Vidal Velasquez Jr.

Spec. Antonio Negron was the six MP in a line of ten. His duty was to provide rear security for the team. "The training gives a person a rush of intensity to do his/her best."

The objective of the training was summarized by Carragher. "The training is as real as we can make it. We can only get better by performing as a team."

Counter-clockwise from below:

M.O.U.T. Training at Camp Hartell. 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, 143rd MP Co, prepares to enter building to sweep and clear it.

Spc. Vidal Velasquez, 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, 143rd MP Co, takes point as squad members help clear a room during M.O.U.T. training at Camp Hartell.

Members of the 143rd MP Co. clear a building during M.O.U.T. training at Camp Hartell.

(Photos by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)



Navy, Marine Corps Reserves Host Armed Forces Day

MAJ. JOHN R. WHITFORD
STATE PAO

The 51st Armed Forces Day luncheon was held on Friday, May 18, 2001 at the Aqua Turf in Southington.

The Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center of Plainville, Conn. hosted the event. The guest speaker was Rear Admiral Paul F. Sullivan who serves on the Staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director, Submarine Warfare Division (N77). Lt. Gov. M. Jodi Rell attended the luncheon.

"In a little over a week from now we will decorate graves with flowers and wreaths, and our military personnel will participate in parades, speeches and playing taps," said Rell. "Let us not forget the sacrifice our soldiers, sailors, marines coastguardsmen and airmen gave to our state and nation."

Rell along with Rear Adm. Sullivan presented each service with awards during the luncheon.

The late Sgt. 1st Class Brian Comerford of Company B, 1st Battalion, 102d Infantry (Light) was the 2001 Connecticut Army National Guard Honor Person of the Year recipient. Accepting the award in his behalf was his wife Dana. Comerford leaves behind a tradition of honor, integrity and esprit de corp. Dana Comerford was also presented with the Connecticut Medal of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal in honor of

the exemplary service by her late husband.

Master Sgt. James Boucher of the 103d Fighter Wing (FW) was the 2001 Connecticut Air National Guard Honor Person of the Year recipient. His dedication, military bearing and professionalism are why the Connecticut Air National Guard recognized him.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department – the Department of Defense (DoD).

The theme of the first Armed Forces Day was "Teamed for Defense." It was chosen as a means of expressing the unification of all military forces under a single department of the government. Although this was the theme for the day, there were several other purposes for holding Armed Forces Day. It was a type of "educational program for civilians," one in which there would be an increased awareness of the Armed Forces. It was designed to expand public understanding of what type of job is performed and the role of the military in civilian life. It was a day for the military to show "state-of-the-art" equipment to the civilian population they were protecting.



Rear Adm. Paul Sullivan, Lt. Gov. M. Jodi Rell and Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski present Dana Comerford the 2001 Connecticut Army National Guard Honor Person of the Year Award for her late husband, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Comerford, Company B, 102nd Infantry (Light.) (Photo by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)



Rear Adm. Paul Sullivan and Lt. Gov. M. Jodi Rell present Master Sgt. James Boucher of the 103rd Fighter Wing with 2001 Connecticut Air National Guard Honor Person of the Year Award. (Photo by Capt. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)

Aviation Ball

Soldiers and their spouses having a good time at the Aviation Ball. (top photo)



Sgt. Sarah Lorenzini (left) of the HHC 2-126th Avn is presented with a plaque by Col. Albert Rubino (r) in recognition of being selected as the NCO of the year from the 2-126th Avn. All soldiers and NCO's of the year were recognized from AVCRAD, HHC 2-126th Avn and HHC 1-169th Avn at the Aviation Ball. (bottom photo)



Warning Order!

20th Annual

Senior Noncommissioned Officer

Formal Dining-In

4 October 2001

Aqua Turf, Southington

Noncommissioned Officers and Chief Petty Officer, E-7 and above. All eligible ARNG and ANG NCOs are expected to attend. CPOs are invited to attend. Retirees are most welcome.

Guest Speaker: Command Sgt. Maj. Theodore (Ted) Perry, U.S. Army Special Forces, Retired.

Watch the *Connecticut Guardian* for more information.

Army & Air National Guard Celebrate

By KAREN MAMCZYNSKI

This was the ninth year of what was formerly called Take Your Daughters to Work Day and 24 children of Connecticut National Guard members attended the event. This was the first year the program was called Take Your Children to Work Day.

All the kids showed up to work with their parents or older brothers and sisters to find out what they do during the day. At about 10 o'clock we all met in the main lobby of the Hartford Armory for a walk to the Bushnell Auditorium. A bus came down from the Air National Guard Base in Granby with kids who joined us.

At the Bushnell we got a tour around the backstage scenes where most of the actors and actresses would spend their time. The tour guide showed everyone a room where stars would sign their names on the wall, rooms where the stars would stay, the names of the seat areas, and other interesting facts about the Bushnell.

It was very enjoyable and the Bushnell is a great place to see a play.

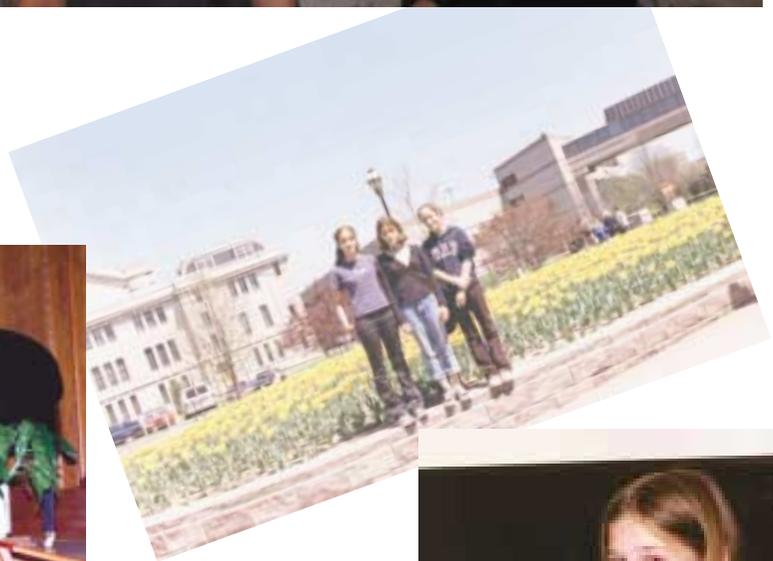
After the short walk back to the armory, we had lunch with our families and went back to work with them. The Air Guard kids went back to the base and got to meet a pilot.

This was my sixth year attending the program.

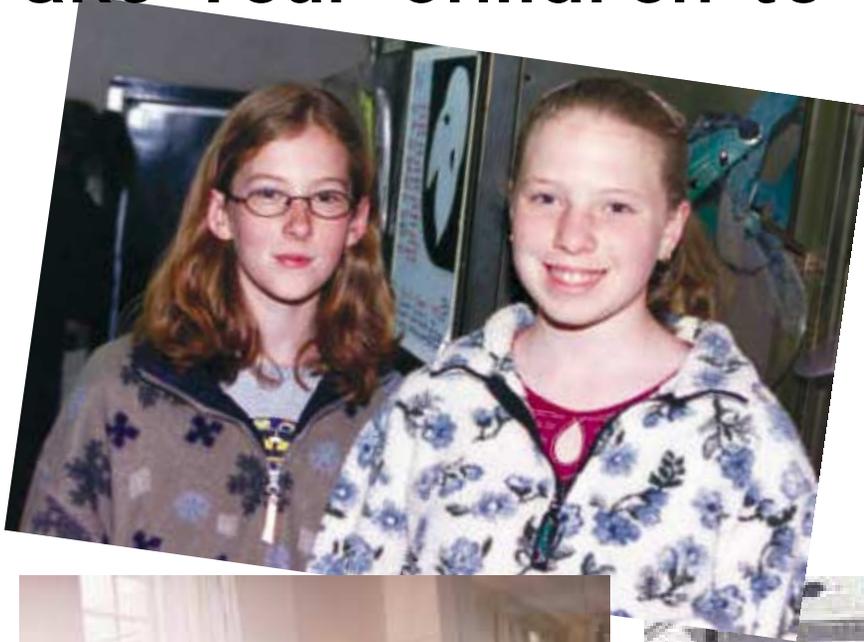
Photographers:

Melissa Mosley, Amanda Zarzycka, Matthew Zarzycka, Ashley Guerrero, Ryan Brown, Kyle Wheeler, Kaitlin Wheeler, Tyler Simons, Amber Smith, Zachary Daniels, William Campbell, Alisa Kraushaar, Alye Kraushaar and Ashley Kraushaar.

(Editor's Note: The children were all very excited to be part of this day and the author of this article (Karen Mamczynski) was one of the participants. The photos were all taken by the children, also.)



Take Your Children to Work Day



Soldier Airmen Support Center

General Tips When Applying for Military Technician Positions

MASTER SGT. KEVIN G. SALSBUARY
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

All Technician Vacancy Announcements require an OF-612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment) and a OF-306 (Declaration for Federal Employment). A resume may always be included to further accent your skills and experience.

The HRO does require an **original signature** on the OF-612 and the OF-306. Type or print clearly in dark ink and keep a copy of the application. If you are submitting a copy, ensure that all pages are clear and easily readable and that the copy does have the required original signature. Your original signature is the guarantee that the information you provide is accurate and truthful. Fabrications on any application paperwork can be grounds for dismissal or disqualification from consideration.

Read the vacancy announcement carefully before starting to write. Note the required Area of Consideration, Military Rank, Specialized Experience, Major Job Requirements and Knowledge, Skill and Ability areas. Ensure your application references all this information.

Submit an OF-612 that is targeted to the announced position. You may have to complete several unique versions of your OF-612 because different positions have different requirements.

It may help to write a draft OF-612 before transcribing in final form. Use action words to begin sentences that describe your accomplishments. Use language appropriate to your field, but write so that anyone can understand what you do.

Do not copy official job descriptions word for word. Use your own words to explain your job experience.

Use short, concise sentences to describe your work experience. Always check for spelling errors.

Don't use acronyms without explaining what they are first. An acronym that is standard for you may mean something totally different to someone else (i.e., PME could mean Professional Military Education or Personnel Management Evaluation).

Be sure to include all National Guard and Active Duty military service. List all military experience in your application separate from your civilian experience (even if you work in the same section). This will ensure that you are given credit for all periods of qualifying work experience.

List all your secondary education accomplishments. College credits and formal military schools can be used as qualifying experience in many cases. If the announcement requires completion of a degree or a number of semester hours in a certain discipline, please include a transcript from the awarding institution.

If you require more space than is provided on the forms, continue on a single sheet of white bond paper. Be sure to type your name, Social Security number, and announcement

title and number at the top of the page.

Don't put your application package in binders or folders. Staple all papers together so nothing can get accidentally separated from your package.

Once you have completed your application, go over every question again and make sure you have answered each as accurately as possible. Double-check the work experience dates for overlapping time frames. Write "NA" (not applicable) in any item that does not pertain to you. This indicates that you did not simply overlook the item.

Always keep a copy of your application to refer back to during the interview or as a benchmark for later applications.

Preparing and submitting your OF 612 is your personal business. If you are a Federal Government employee you should not use work time to accomplish this. When mailing your OF-612, use your own postage. You cannot use postage-paid federal agency envelopes to file job applications.

Above all don't get discouraged with the application or selection process. Assembling an effective application package can be a time-consuming and frustrating effort but you owe it to yourself to the best possible job.

What Happens Next?

When your application package is received in the HRO it is reviewed for the required signatures and appropriate forms. We may review your form to ensure that you have included your military information and MOS/AFSC but it is your responsibility to ensure all information has been included and the application package is complete. An incomplete package is not required to be considered for rating.

After the closing date, the HRO Staffing Section initiates the qualification process by reviewing each application package to ensure the basic qualifications set in the announcement have been met (called rating the package). Once this process is completed the qualified applications are forwarded to the selecting supervisor. The selecting supervisor then reviews the applications and begins the interview process. The selecting supervisor is required to interview all qualified applicants.

The HRO and the selecting supervisor do not review the applications for the same qualifications. The HRO reviews for the basic qualifications established by the National Guard Bureau and the Office of Personnel Management. These include a specified amount of experience needed to qualify for each occupational series by grade level. The experience contained in your application package is the primary factor used to refer your package to the selecting supervisor and the grade you will receive at the time of hire.

If you have any questions on the application process, feel free to call the HRO Staffing Office at 860-524-4917 or toll-free in Connecticut at 888-548-SASC. Good luck.

In Defense of Connecticut's Children

BY MAJOR CHUCK STRONG, DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

When adults suspect a young person is using drugs they are often not sure how to proceed. It's a difficult topic to bring up and youth often do their best to avoid talking about it. They may feel that the adult is lecturing or accusing them and they use their energy protecting themselves or their friends. As a result they may not listen or respond appropriately.

The following six-step process allows adults to communicate their concerns about Ecstasy and can also be used to talk with youth about other drugs and alcohol.

I Care: Let the young person know that he/she is important to you and to others.

"Hi there _____ I just want to say that I really enjoy the time we spend together."

I See: Focus on specific behaviors or issues. What did you see or hear that caused you concern? Focus on behavior rather than the person.

"I've noticed an emerging trend with the use of Ecstasy in Connecticut."

I Feel: Give the person the benefit of knowing how you feel about your concern. Feelings are expressed in one word only e.g., I feel angry, I feel worried.

"I feel worried because you may be in a situation where you will have to make a decision about saying 'no' to Ecstasy."

Pause: Be prepared for silence, denials, anger, a sad or tragic story, or an emotional outpouring.

Listen: Just listen without responding at this point.

I Want: Once you've heard the youth's perspective, let him/her know what you'd like to have happen.

"I want you to know that Ecstasy is a very

harmful drug. It can be very dangerous to use even the first time and can impair the functioning of your brain. I want you to know how important it is to say 'no' if anyone ever offers this drug to you. I want you to also know the long-range effects the drug can have on your body. I want you to also know the advantages of staying drug-free."

I Will: Then let the young person know what you are prepared to do to support her/him.

"I am always willing to talk with you about anything. I am also willing to give you information about Ecstasy. But I want you to know that if I suspect that you are using drugs, I will take action. I will monitor where you are going and where you have been. There will be consequences for breaking my rules."

Helpful Hints

1. Consider the time and place. It is best to talk away from others.
2. Rehearse. This kind of dialogue is often uncomfortable for both parties. Practicing will help you stay focused.
3. Leave the door open. This may be your time to talk, but let the person know you are available to talk another time.
4. Remember: You're responsible for the process not the outcome.
5. Know your limits. Be prepared with resources to help explain how using Ecstasy can affect users.

You have intervened. In a very few minutes, this youth – regardless of what they show you in the way of response – has received a strong, direct message: you care, you are concerned and you are willing to help.

This is message is brought to you from the Governor's Prevention Partnership and the Drug Demand Reduction Program of the Connecticut National Guard.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In All Things Give Thanks

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) KEVIN P. CAVANAUGH
242ND ENGINEER BATTALION

Corrie Boom and her sister Betsie were put behind barbed wire during World War II for helping Dutch Jews. One day they were moved to a shelter completely infested with fleas. Corrie became depressed, but Betsie recalled a passage from Saint Paul: "Be thankful in all circumstances." So they knelt down and thanked God for their new shelter fleas and all. In the weeks ahead they enjoyed a remarkable lack of supervision from the guards. They were able to talk freely, even read and discuss the Bible with other prisoners. One day Corrie learned why. Someone called the guards to settle a dispute. They refused saying; "You settle it. We're not entering that flea bag." Now Corrie understood why they enjoyed so much freedom. In her mind she went back to

the day when she and Betsie had knelt down and gave thanks for their shelter fleas and all.

It is common for us to approach God when we are in need. We often petition Him and implore His generosity when we find ourselves in trouble or in want. We frequently ask God for a specific solution to our problem. Sometimes we even bargain with God promising to reward His kindness with a specific personal response.

When we examine the scriptures we see Jesus taking a different approach. As Jesus prays in the garden of Getsemonie before his arrest and Crucifixion he asks "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Similarly, Jesus' disciples asked how they should pray, he instructed them to say "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, **your will be done...** (Matthew 6: 9-10).

Seldom, however do we think to thank God for the blessings that we have received.

UCONN ROTC Commissions 19 New Army and Air Force Officers

**SGT. 1st CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PA NCO**

The end of a college career brings many new beginnings to those who graduate, including a new career. For those that also choose to make the Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) part of their education, it means a second career is about to begin – one of service to the state and country.

During ceremonies held in May, 19 University of Connecticut students received their commissions as second lieutenants in the Army or Air Force. Of those, 12 have chosen the Army, with three students becoming members of the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG), and the remaining seven choosing to serve in the Air Force.

The three entering the CTARNG are Bryan Haas, branching Military Police; Matthew Halko, branching Aviation; and Daniel Morrison, branching Military Intelligence.

Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski, Commanding General, CTARNG was the guest speaker for the commissioning ceremony held at the Dodd Center, UCONN. Using humor to help deliver his message, Zembrzuski spoke to graduates and 200 family members and friends gathered for the special occasion.

He said it was a special privilege to have been chosen to be the guest speaker so that he could express the respect and admiration of everyone gathered for the men and women receiving their commissions.

“Our respect and admiration goes to these fine men and women, for they have chosen



Sgt. 1st Class Jason Tinelle (left) and Sgt. 1st Class John Nerkowski, both members of the Connecticut Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command, congratulate 2nd Lt. Rebecca Zimmerman after her commissioning ceremony from UCONN ROTC. (Photo courtesy UCONN ROTC)

to have an impact on the future of our Army and Air Force,” said Zembrzuski. “They have chosen to make a significant contribution to the DNA of our Armed Forces.”

Speaking directly to the new officers, Zembrzuski talked about how this ceremony was the culmination of many years of hard work during which they had mastered new skills and new ideas and met new challenges.

He told them they have an opportunity to contribute and to lead during the period of transition the Armed Forces are currently undergoing.

“This is a vital responsibility,” he said. “And because of its importance, you must continue to learn and to grow. You must be prepared to put your new skills to work, to set an example in all that you do and to shoulder increasingly heavier responsibilities.”

Zembrzuski went on to acknowledge and pay tribute to the family members and friends in attendance whose encouragement was so important in getting the young lieutenants where they are today, as well as the “enormous” contribution of the staff and faculty of the University of Connecticut Military Science Department.

He then shared some words of wisdom from Gen. John Shalikashvili, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and an ROTC graduate.

“Leadership is what makes the U.S. Armed Forces the best in the World, and he gave three attributes all great leaders possess: competence, care and character,” Zembrzuski quoted the general. “The chairman said competence is the cornerstone of leadership. The president can commission you an officer, but you must develop the competence that will make you a leader.”

Zembrzuski cautioned the young officers that when their soldiers have a problem, they have a problem. He reminded them that the soldiers’ families are part of their families and they need to be aware of what is happening with them.

“If you care for your subordinates, you will first and foremost make sure they are ready mentally, physically and spiritually for the rigors of modern combat,” he said.

Integrity is the remaining aspect of leadership, continued Zembrzuski.

“Knowing what is right and acting on it is integrity,” he said. “Doing the right thing when no one is watching is integrity.”

Split Option Training Company Graduates

**MAJ. JOHN R. WHITFORD
STATE PAO**

On Sunday May 6, 2001, the second graduation of the new Split Option Training Company was held at the Pavilion at Camp Rowland. Thirty-five soldiers graduated from the new program conducted by the Recruiting and Retention Command.

Mandated by the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, the Split Option Training Company (SOTC) began in October 1999. The purpose of this program is to prepare soldiers both mentally and physically for the challenges of Advanced Individual Training (AIT).

During the last eight months, SOTC soldiers received three phases of training designed to maintain the skills and knowledge they received in Basic Training.

The first phase is the orientation phase, an introduction to the history and traditions of the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG), and provides an in-depth knowledge of the benefits available to each Guard member. These benefits include pay and entitlements, commissary/Post Exchange (PX) privileges, space available

air travel, re-enlistment and educational benefits.

The second phase is the sustainment phase. This phase is both a review and an expansion of the soldier’s current individual knowledge.

The third phase is the AIT preparation phase, designed to test the soldier’s knowledge to include communication, land navigation, survival, weapons, nuclear biological chemical (NBC) skills, the Army Physical Fitness Test and command inspection by the commander of the Split Option Training Company.

Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembrzuski, the Assistant Adjutant General – Army and Commander of the Connecticut Army National Guard was the keynote speaker. Zembrzuski stated to the graduates, “This is an important step on a long career ladder. Your families should be proud of your performance and the excellence that you demonstrated throughout this program.”

Pfc. Kelsey J. Vance of Company C, 280th Signal Battalion was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for demonstrating outstanding leadership ability and

maintaining the highest military standards throughout the course of the program.

Pvt. Joseph W. Niewiarowski Jr., of the 248th Engineer Company received a trophy for the highest Physical Training (PT) score during the program.



Pfc. Kelsey Vance (right) of Company C, 280th Signal Battalion, receives the Adjutant General’s coin from Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembrzuski and received the Army Achievement Medal for demonstrating outstanding leadership ability and maintaining the highest military standards throughout the program. (Photo by Maj. John Whitford, State PAO)

MARTINEZ from p. 1

In August of 2000, Sgt. Martinez was selected to serve the 143d FSB on a full – time basis, in preparation for deployment to Bosnia. Since that time she has received two Army Achievement Medals for outstanding performance. In December of 2000, she was selected as the 143d FSB’s Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the year. Martinez is also the Equal Opportunity NCO for her unit and supports the unit’s Family Support Group by ensuring that the families of Spanish-speaking soldiers understand deployment-related issues and concerns.

“Sgt. Martinez is a Non-Commissioned Officer of the highest standard. Her overall contributions as a Hispanic citizen-soldier are commendable and truly represent the ideals set forth by the National Image Award Committee and the Connecticut National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard.

Martinez is attending Naugatuck Valley Community College pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education.

NGACT: National conventions

LT. COL. BILL SHEA
WILLIAM.SHEA@CT.NGB.ARMY.MIL OR
PRESIDENT@NGACT.ORG

Your association, the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT), is a conduit for two national level associations: The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). These organizations have similar missions and purpose. Both were created for the purpose of providing National Guard representation before Congress. Both have the goal of obtaining better equipment, standardized training and a more combat-ready force by petitioning Congress for resources.

In the coming months, both of these organizations will be having their annual national conferences. Below you will find some information regarding these conferences. They are both great opportunities to learn more about the role that these organizations play in making the Army & Air National Guard better organizations. If you have never attended a national conference, it is a worthwhile experience and I ask that you consider attending this year.

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS).

The NGAUS Conference will be held 25 – 27 August 2001 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Conference registration is \$125.00 per person. The Connecticut delegation will be staying in the Marriott Downtown Indianapolis. More information regarding the conference can be obtained from the NGAUS 2001 Indianapolis Convention web

site at <http://www.ngaus2001.org> or from the NGAUS web site at <http://www.ngaus.org>.

NGACT will have between 13 to 16 delegates to this year's NGAUS conference. The number of delegates will depend on the final NGAUS membership from Connecticut as of 1 July 2001. We are not limited as to the number of attendees to the conference, but this will be our number of voting delegates. The Connecticut delegation has thirty rooms reserved. If you are interested in attending, please contact Maj. Bob Pernell for more information and registration. Please contact him prior to 15 July 2001 to make arrangements for registration. He can be reached at (860) 493-2758 or via e-mail at robert.pernell@ct.ngb.army.mil.

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS).

The EANGUS Annual National Conference will be held 19 – 22 August 2001 in Mobile, Alabama at the Mobile Convention Center. Conference registration is \$70.00 per person. The host hotel is the Adams Mark on South Water Street. All enlisted members and their families are welcome to attend. More information regarding the conference can be obtained from the EANGUS web site at <http://www.eangus.org>.

NGACT has fourteen official delegates to this year's EANGUS conference. This is based on the significant increase in EANGUS membership from Connecticut this year. We are not limited to fourteen attendees to the conference, but that is our number of voting delegates. The Connecticut delegation has twenty rooms reserved. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Joe Amatruda,

Executive Director, for more information and registration. Please contact him prior to 15 July 2001 to make arrangements for registration. He can be reached at (860) 247-5000 or via e-mail at joesph.amatruda@snet.net.

NGACT Scholarship Program Update

The NGACT is sponsoring its Third Annual Scholarship Program for 2001. The deadline for submitting applications is 15 August 2001. Applications must be postmarked NLT 15 August 2001. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, trade school or business school. NGACT members, their spouses and unmarried sons and daughters are eligible to apply. Applications may be obtained by e-mail request at debby.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil or by contacting the NGACT Office at (860) 247-5000 or from the NGACT Web Page at <http://www.ngact.org>.

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 Website is <http://www.ngact.org>.

Do not go where the path
may lead, go instead
where there is no path
and leave a trail.

–Ralph Waldo Emerson

102nd Army Band Announces Summer Concert Series

The 102nd Army Band will be performing a number of concerts throughout Connecticut this summer. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Date	Location	Concert Time
15 July 2001	Town Green, Colchester	6-8:00 PM
16 July 2001	Riverfront, Hartford	11:30 AM-1:30 PM
17 July 2001	Town Green, Naugatuck	7-8:30 PM
18 July 2001	Hubbard Green, Glastonbury	7-8:45 PM
19 July 2001	Quinebaug C.C., Danielson	7-8:30 PM
23 July 2001	McCook Point, Niantic	6:30-8 PM
24 July 2001	Town Hall Green, Trumbull	7-9 PM
25 July 2001	Town Green, Litchfield	7-8:30 PM
26 July 2001	Veterans Hospital, West Haven	12:15-1:15 PM

ESGR: "We're Getting The Word Out! Are You?"

LT. COL. (RET.) HARRY RITSON
ESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With our National Defense and Foreign Policy becoming more and more dependent upon the members of the National Guard and the other Reserve Components, they deserve the support of every segment of our society. In order to continue to serve our nation, it is vital that there be increased public understanding of their essential role in preserving national security. Not as easy a task when you consider that only six percent of all Americans under sixty-five have ever served in any military organization or have knowledge of the military or its operation. But it is obvious that Guard and Reserve members not only need the support of their families, but they must also have the encouragement and support of American employers for their participation in Guard and Reserve programs and activities.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) has over 4200 volunteers nationwide

whose mission is to obtain employer and community support to ensure the availability and readiness of our Reserve forces. It is a Department of Defense organization with a committee in every state and territory. Here in Connecticut we have forty-five volunteers working with employers and National Guard and Reserve members to prevent unlawful discrimination against the members. Our active programs include:

Advertising: Along with periodic radio and television public service announcements, there are thirteen Billboards across the State emphasizing the importance of the Guard and Reserve components.

Bosslifts: Several times each year we take employers, civic leaders and legislators to military installations around the country to acquaint them with the growing need for the Guard and Reserve, and to show them members undergoing training or performing assigned, full-time missions.

Briefings With The Boss: Quarterly, this program brings together employers, National Guard and Reserve commanders and ESGR Committee members to discuss issues relevant to National Guard and Reserve service.

Employer Awards: This program recognizes exceptional employer or community support for National Guard and Reserve duty. Several different levels of awards are available, and the governor traditionally presents the senior level awards during Armed Forces Week in May.

Ombudsman: Provides information, education and informal mediation of employment problems between employers and their Reservist-employees. If you have questions, contact Captain Thomas Langlais, USCG-Ret., (860) 283-4222.

Speakers Bureau: During the past year, the

Connecticut Committee has provided speakers to Rotary, Civitan, Kiwanis Clubs and Chambers throughout the state along with other type organizations and audiences. Each speaker focused on the growing reliance on the Guard and Reserve, and the rights and responsibilities of both employers and participating employees in regard to military training and service in the Reserve forces.

If you have any ideas about other avenues for "spreading the message", or if you are a member of a civic or social organization that you feel would benefit from having an ESGR speaker, please call Harry Ritson, (860) 659-1737 to make arrangements. We stand ready to support any informational or educational effort in these areas, and encourage members of the National Guard and Reserve to take part in the programs above when their unit is approached by ESGR representatives.

Connecticut National Guard and ESGR Salute Patriotic Employers

MAJ. JOHN R. WHITFORD
STATE PAO

Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps, Assistant Adjutant General –Air and Commander of the Air National Guard, honored and presented awards to seventeen Connecticut employers who demonstrated outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard or the Reserve Forces on May 15 at the Connecticut Air National Guard Base in East Granby.

During the ceremony, Epps presented an official statement proclaiming May 13-19, 2001 as “Connecticut Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve Employer Appreciation Week” signed by Gov. John G. Rowland and presented the coveted “Pro-Patria Award” to Peter Peterson, Executive Vice President of The Watson Group in Wethersfield, CT.

The Pro Patria award is presented to the employer who demonstrates exceptional support for our national defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve.

Peterson not only provided outstanding support to his employees but also the families by sending care packages of food, candy and books with company donated phone cards enabling family members to call overseas.

The Precision Computer Services, Inc. of Shelton received the prestigious Freedom Award 2001.

The Freedom Award 2001 recognizes unique support to the National Guard and Reserve. The nation’s most supportive employer receives the award at a Pentagon ceremony and is presented by the Secretary of Defense.

The Seven Seals Award was awarded to Mr. Steven K. Wilson, President of Vertex Inc. of Wethersfield. This award is designed to recognize those employers who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements for granting leave for military duty.



Mr. Michael Fitzsimons (center left), Vice President of Precision Computer Services Inc., of Shelton receives the Connecticut 2001 Freedom Award for promotion of outstanding policies toward its Guard and Reserve personnel.

Other businesses that were honored received the “State Chairman Awards.” Those businesses awarded were: Coca Cola Enterprises of East Hartford, Lucent Technologies of Avon, Ciarciz Construction of New Britain, Fisher Technology of Windsor, O&G Industries of Windsor Locks, New Castle Hotel Corp. of Shelton, New London Police Department, Genarro’s Restaurant of New Haven, The Ground Round Inc. of Manchester, East Hartford Fire Department, Navy Exchange of Groton, Pratt & Whitney of East Hartford, Mohegan Sun Casino of Uncasville, City of Waterbury and Portland High School.

These honored employers were chosen from among hundreds nominated by their employee/soldiers for their support and their understanding of the growing need and dependence of the Reserve Component to the National Defense and peacekeeping missions.

The awards are sponsored by the Department of Defense’s National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and coordinated



Mayor Philip Giordano, R-Waterbury (center) receives an award for his support to the National Guard and Reserve. by its local ESGR committee.

Following the presentations, the awardees were flown on a KC-135 aerial tanker and observed an air-to-air refueling exercise by A-10 Fighter Aircraft from the Connecticut Air National Guard’s 103rd Fighter Wing based at Bradley Field.

“Employer support for the Guard and Reserve is vital to the nation’s defense,” said Brig. Gen. Epps. “It is the support of the Employer and their families that makes our Guard successful.”

Freedom Is Not Free

I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it, and then
He stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square and eyes alert.
He’d stand out in any crowd.
I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mother’s tears?
How many pilots’ planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers’ graves?
No, freedom is not free.
I heard the sound of taps one night,
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant “Amen,”
When a flag draped coffin
Of a brother or a friend.
I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, Freedom is not free.

Written by: Cadet Major Kelly Strong
Air Force Junior ROTC
Homestead Senior High School
Homestead, Florida



JROTC Visits Hartford Armory
Students from Bloomfield High School’s Junior Reserve Officer Training Course visit the Hartford Armory to learn more about the options available to them in the military. After meeting with senior leaders of the Connecticut Army National Guard, they toured the state headquarters facility, meeting several other people and having the chance to talk to soldiers about their jobs. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, PA NCO)



T.G.I.F. – The Guard Is Family Calling All Teens

SGT. MAJ. BARBARA MONTIGNY
CONNECTICUT FAMILY PROGRAM

This year has been designated the Year of the Military Child and the United Nations International Year of Volunteers. The Connecticut National Guard Family Program is combining the celebrations by helping develop volunteer activities for teenage Guard family members.

There have been a number of things happening with Guard teens already. The annual Youth Camp has "grown" a core group of teens that have worked as counselors. The 143rd Forward Support Battalion Family Support Group has a group of teens that stuffed all the Easter Eggs for the hunt at Camp Rowland and assembled the gift baskets presented to children at the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Additionally those teens were invited to participate in a focus group to discuss and plan youth activities for the year. One of our teen volunteers, Rob Casey of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion assembled all the commemorative Volunteer Appreciation Night key tags. A recent session to play Whirlyball in Windsor was offered to all these teens for a fun get acquainted time. (See related story in this issue of the *Guardian*.)

The Lamp Help and Candidates Wanted

1ST SGT. JOHN BUTLER
169TH LEADERSHIP REGIMENT

The 169th Leadership Regiment is now gearing up for annual training. This year we expect to train between 170 and 200 candidates from all Region A states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Maine, and New Hampshire).

If one wonders what it is like to be around 200 highly motivated, dedicated soldiers it is a great feeling. It surely recharges your military battery. Understanding that all of these young soldiers are working together toward the same goals, enduring heat, hard work and challenges is truly inspiring. Their enthusiasm and their instructor's and TAC

Teens who have worked the Youth Camp have received letters attesting to the experience they gained. This has enabled them to complete community service requirements at school, enhanced college and scholarship applications as well as resumes for entering the workforce.

There are many Family Program projects that have service opportunities for teens. Call the Family Program Office (800 858-2677) leave your name, address and phone number or email address to offer your time or to be put on a list for notification of future activities.

The *Connecticut Guardian* newspaper provides a vehicle for announcements of young "Guardians" individual achievements at school or in the community. For those with a talent for writing, articles may be submitted for possible publication. All announcements and articles (stories, poems, artwork, etc.) should be submitted to the Family Program Office. They can be emailed to: kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil. The Subject line should state "Youth column submission" U.S. mail should be sent to the Soldier Airman Support Center, Attention Family Program Office (Youth), 251 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT 06114.

officers energy level is infectious. The truly admirable fact is these soldiers choose to be challenged. They have elected to accept more responsibility for themselves and the future of the Connecticut Army National Guard.

The class will receive instruction in Troop Leading Procedures, Training Management, Operations and Land Navigation. They are tested on both day and night land navigation. Annual training dates are 14 – 28 July.

If you wish to be a part of Officer Candidate School either as a student or staff please call Sgt. 1st Class Colleen Smith at (860) 691-4214.

Education Essentials

2ND LT. PAUL DRAPER
EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

Changes to Montgomery G.I. Bill Programs: Veterans' benefits and health care improvement act of 2000, Public Law 106-419, Effective 1 November 2000

Chapter 30 of Title 38 United States Code – (Active Duty Only)

1. **Rate Increase.** The new, monthly, basic rates for the MGIB Program have been increased as follows:

a. Full-Time	\$650.00
b. Three-Quarter	\$487.50
c. One-Half	\$325.00

2. **Additional Contribution.** Servicemembers who are currently enrolled in the MGIB (Chapter 30) or who are eligible for the MGIB (Chapter 30) may contribute an additional amount (over the required \$1,200 contribution) up to a maximum of \$600. Servicemembers may contribute any amount up to \$600 and may use either a payroll deduction (minimum of \$20 per month) or a cash collection voucher for lump sum payments. Servicemembers who contribute the full \$600 will receive an additional \$150 a month in MGIB benefits for up to 36 months for full-time enrollment. This program is not available to Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) participants converting to the MGIB Program.

3. **VEAP Conversion.** This law provides an additional opportunity for certain VEAP participants to enroll in the MGIB Program. Servicemembers who served continuously on active duty between 9 Oct 96 through 1 Apr 00, and had a VEAP account (zero balance or otherwise), may now convert to the MGIB Program at a cost of \$2,700. The member may use either a cash collection voucher for lump sum payment or request a monthly pay reduction (not to exceed 18 months).

4. **High School Diploma Requirement.** The requirement for a servicemember to have a high school diploma or equivalency before leaving the service in order to qualify for the MGIB Program is changed. Now, the member may obtain a high school diploma or equivalency certificate at any time 'prior to applying' to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for MGIB benefits.

5. **Period of Initial Active Duty.** The requirement to establish MGIB eligibility during the servicemember's first term of service is repealed. This new provision of the law allows

the servicemember to use a subsequent period of active duty to establish eligibility for MGIB benefits if they did not establish eligibility during their initial term of service or did not complete the requirements of their initial active duty obligation.

6. **Licensing and Certification.** The law now allows servicemembers to use their MGIB benefits to pay for licensing and certification tests. The tests must be needed to enter, maintain, or advance into employment in a civilian vocation or profession and must be approved by the DVA. The servicemember receives payment of the fee charged for the test, or \$2,000, whichever is less. To apply for this benefit, servicemembers must send a copy of the completed test results and a note requesting reimbursement to their nearest servicing DVA Office. Servicemembers who have never submitted a claim for educational benefits to the VA must also complete a VA Form 22-1990.

7. **Break Pay.** This portion of the law extends the length of time for school breaks that the DVA will continue to pay benefits for from one month to up to eight weeks (56 days). The terms before and after the break must be at least as long as the break to qualify.

Chapter 1606 of Title 10 USC

1. **Rate Increase.** The new, monthly, basic rates for the MGIB SR Program have been increased as follows:

a. Full-Time	\$263.00
b. Three-Quarter	\$197.00
c. One-Half	\$131.00

2. **High School Diploma Requirement.** The requirement for a servicemember to have a high school diploma or equivalency before completing Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) in order to qualify for the MGIB Program is changed. Now, the member may obtain a high school diploma or equivalency certificate at any time prior to applying to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for MGIB benefits.

3. **Break Pay.** This portion of the law extends the length of time for school breaks that the DVA will continue to pay benefits for from one month to up to eight weeks (56 days). The terms before and after the break must be at least as long as the break to qualify.

For more information and/or clarification please contact 2LT Paul Draper the CTARNG Education Services Officer at (860) 524-4816 or e-mail him at Paul.Draper@ct.ngb.army.mil

Closing the Back Door Recruiting begins the traditional slow season

SENIOR MASTER SGT. BRIAN J. BAGLEY
R&R SUPERINTENDENT, HQ CTANG

With the close of the school year fast approaching, this is traditionally the slowest part of the year for recruiting. This is a significant issue since we are in the middle of a very difficult recruiting market. We have had to work much harder to reach the level of qualified enlistments thus far and with the onset of the slower period,

we are faced with a very difficult recruiting period. With this in mind, we need all of you to continue to talk about the Guard with all of your friends, relatives and acquaintances. We realize that the best new members we bring into the military are leads generated from the members. In essence, you all are the best recruiting tool we have. You are all a virtual walking talking billboard. You can discuss the many benefits of membership

with everyone you come in contact with and even share some of your experiences.

Another aspect we would like you all to consider is the fact that now is when we need to begin planning our school program for the next year. In this program we need members that reside in many of the towns within the state to assist us in our recruiting program. If you are interested in

representing the Air Guard in your community and adopting a local school, please contact Master Sgt. Tony DeAngelis at (860) 292-2509 and he will provide you with some information.

This is a great opportunity to share some of your experiences with others so they can take advantage of the benefits and entitlements we offer.

Students Learn by Achieving Goals

Pfc. SHIRROD RICHARDSON
65th PCH

Teaching the values of leadership, discipline, cooperation and teamwork is the goal of the Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) program.

Staff Sgt. Garrett P. Anderson, a recruiter out of Waterbury, has worked closely with the program for over three years he said.

When the opportunity arose to work with the students in Stone's Ranch, Anderson jumped at the chance to take the students of Pomperaug Regional High School who were members of the JAG program.

Anderson contacted JAG instructor Lois M. DeGregory who took about 15 students to Stone's Ranch on May 5.

"The students thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of rappelling and going through the confidence course at the ranch," said DeGregory.

Stratford recruiter, Staff Sgt. Peter G Conklin, taught the basics of rappelling. He did his best to teach the student the fundamentals of rappelling. Doing it safely, but having confidence in your abilities are some of the points Conklin tried to stress.

Through the help of Conklin, her friends and wanting to overcome her fear of heights, Melissa A. Nowell was able to rappel off the tower.

"On a scale of one to ten, I would give it an 11," said Nowell. "I'm glad I did, but I'm in no hurry to do it again."

"That's what this is all about," said Anderson. "The goal of this whole day is that the students walk away with a greater understanding of how teamwork, effort and discipline can help them in what ever they do."

JAG student Gretchen E. Preiman looks forward to more days like this, she said.

"The Army National Guard personnel are great people," she said. "They're understanding, fun and great instructors."

Preiman had a great time with the whole experience. "I can't wait to tell all my friends back at school. The people who missed the chance to come don't know what they missed."

"The opportunities presented to us by the Army National Guard are valuable tools to teach the students of the future, the challenges of today," said DeGregory.

According to DeGregory, the students in the program know that the things taught to them can help them achieve their goals, whether it be rappelling down a tower, or making a path in life.



(Above) Students of the "Try One" program get instruction on how to tie a Swiss seat from rappelling masters at the Stones Ranch Rappelling Tower. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)

(Below) "Try One" participants look upward as a fellow classmate takes the first step off the rappell tower at Stones Ranch. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew)



(Above) Staff Sgt. Peter Conklin, Recruiting and Retention Command, looks on as a student of the "Try One" program takes her first step off the rappelling tower at Stones Ranch. (Photo by Capt. Robert Bartholomew, 65th PCH)

TAG from p. 2

Any one of you can do it. Regardless of your designated field, regardless of your technical abilities. Yes, any one of you can do it. And that advice is simply, that you must care. You really have to care. You have to care so much that it hurts when things are wrong.

Typically, you'll find that at this school, and many other schools that you might attend, you spend about 80 percent of your time on technical and professional development subjects, planning and writing and you spend about 20 percent of your time on people matters.

It's an interesting phenomenon, and a paradox, that after school we tackle the job world and spend about 80 percent of our time on people matters, and about 20 percent of our time on the technical aspects of our chosen field. Everything you do has to do with people, and you must care about them, whether they work with you, for you, or you work for them. Every individual on this planet wants to be treated with respect and dignity. Respect and dignity, which fosters - unity, freedom and personal pride. You must care about equality, care about feelings, care about people in general - that includes those less fortunate - physically, emotionally, and academically.

When you have achieved this, when you have mastered this skill, you really have contributed to your success. You'll stand

more erect, you'll have no problems looking at the mirror in the morning, you'll sleep sounder, feel and look better and be at peace with yourself to levels that others can only dream of.

You must care about your competence. Throughout this Journey, continue your professional development to become the best you can be. Try to become the resident expert in your field. Be serious about your profession, it's what you trained for. If you do not like it, change it. You are entitled to enjoy what you do. If you do not enjoy it, you're not only kidding yourself, you're cheating your boss. Simply surviving is unacceptable and seldom provides true contributions to our society.

You must care about your character. Your character will follow you throughout your journey. It develops and accumulates. Develop your integrity.

It has been called the anchor in the stormy sea of temptation, of manipulation and moral challenges. Knowing what is right and acting on it is called integrity. Doing the right thing when no one is watching is integrity. It starts with truth about what we believe about ourselves - it is revealed through our commitments to others.

Yes, your character and integrity are values that must become your most cherished assets.

It is often said that our Nation needs real

heroes, role models for us to admire and emulate.

The men who have received our Nation's highest award for heroism certainly meet the criteria. Men like Capt. James Burt. I find it admirable that this College has taken the initiative to recognize and share this hero with the graduating class this evening. His sheer presence this evening provides mentoring and value to the youth of this organization, which I am certain will have lasting results. I congratulate you for your actions.

In an age that worships sports heroes, movie stars, and the rich and famous, - Medal of Honor recipients stand out. Their claim to the title "hero" comes not from athletic ability, fan clubs or financial success. These men attained their title for caring enough about their Nation and their comrades to risk and often sacrifice their life, - so that others might live.

It's that type of caring that wins wars, preserves peace and maintains the greatness of this Nation.

To the graduating class of 2001:

Your parents, the faculty, your closest friends and I too, will ask one thing of you this evening; that you consider this: Care enough to leave a footprint that your children will be proud of.

Everyone can make a contribution. We need your talents, your energy and your creativity

to tackle those challenges that we will face.

You can help us meet those challenges - whatever career you choose to pursue, you can make a difference.

As the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, I have countless examples of caring commitments from soldiers, airmen and women who make a difference by either serving in the face of State Emergencies, as peacekeepers in Bosnia, manning the No-Fly zone in Iraq, or providing humanitarian assistance someplace in the world. These are the men and women who lead, mentor, teach - who provide values and discipline to all missions of the Connecticut National Guard. I am proud to be part of that team.

It's now time to continue that Journey beyond Briarwood College. New challenges and problems await you. Challenges and problems that require caring professionals. Take on those challenges. Provide that caring leadership that will make a difference in the lives of others, and in our world.

Thanks for the privilege of sharing this day.

Congratulations and enjoy the Journey!

(Editor's Note: Maj. Gen. Cugno recently delivered this speech at Briarwood College, and as many of the members of the Connecticut National Guard and their families are graduating from high school and college this year, we wanted to share his message with our readership.)

Guard Honors Unlikely Heroes: Volunteers

CAPT. LOU MARTINEZ, 65TH PCH

The Connecticut National Guard has a group of men and women who don't get extra pay or extra credit for the work they do. These folks are members of The National Guard Family Program. Volunteers who spend hundreds of hours in helping guard families and members of the community. These volunteers provide instruction to other spouses about benefits and entitlements. These special folks, mostly spouses of guardsmen, were recognized during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, which ran April 20-27.

A group of about 25 volunteers and supporters, including The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William Cugno, attended a brief ceremony at the Branford Armory. Sgt. Major Barbara Montigny, a 26-year veteran of the guard, assigned to the Guard Family Program at HQ, STARC was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for her volunteer work with the Literacy Volunteers of America. Montigny has been with the program since 1993. She serves as a trainer of new volunteer tutors.

"Very few of these medals are awarded in the Connecticut Guard," said Kim Hoffman, Family Program Coordinator. The last Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal awarded was in 1999.

Montigny is modest about her award saying, "I think what I do as a volunteer is ordinary. Something I like to do. I don't expect recognition for it. But it is sort of amazing and very surprising."

Joan Trafford, a 16-year participant of the

Guard Family Program, was recognized for her outstanding contribution to the Guard's Family Program. Trafford, the wife of retired Connecticut National Guard Warrant Officer, Ron Trafford, has been nominated for the Patriot Award by the National Military Family Association.

The adjutant general gave his most sincere thanks to all the volunteers.

"At time when the Connecticut Guard is deploying more than 300 soldiers overseas for peacekeeping duty, I could not do what we do, without you." Cugno told the group. "I am most appreciative as senior leader in the state."



Maj. Gen. William Cugno, retired Warrant Officer Ron Trafford, Joan Trafford and Kim Hoffman, Director of Guard Family Program. Joan Trafford was given a clock for her outstanding contribution to the Guard Family Program.



Maj. Gen. William Cugno pins the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal on Sgt. Maj. Barbara Montigny for her work as a volunteer in and outside the Guard.

102nd Infantry Regiment Association to Hold Reunion

Any present or past member of the 102nd Infantry is invited to attend a reunion, August 4, 2001 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The reunion will be held at Hopbrook Dam State Park, junction of routes 63 and 188 in Middlebury, Conn. Tickets are \$15. For more information, contact Bill Hutt at (203) 753-2483 or Joe Amatruda at (203) 45701239. Checks should be made payable to "102d Inf. Regt. Assn." and sent to them at 290 Goffe Street, New Haven, CT 06511.



Maj. Ed Amoros, Maj. Ted Murphy, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sal Ukperaj and Sgt. 1st Class Ron Summa receive the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara award, recognizing individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of

integrity and moral character; displayed professional competence; served the United States Army or Marine Corps Field Artillery with selflessness; and contributed to the promotion of the Field Artillery in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates and peers alike.

Maj. Ted Murphy places the Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher around the neck of his wife, Barbara, recognizing her significant contributions to the improvement of the Field Artillery Community.



Diversity Dialogue

Air National Guard Works Toward Unity Through Diversity

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

The United States military promotes overcoming individual prejudices in order to work toward common goals, ideals that thrive in a closed environment like the active duty military, since service members are duty-bound to obey policy and follow the examples set by their senior leaders.

But in the 'part-time' military - where citizens leave predominantly civilian lives to serve in reserve units during the weekend or for a few weeks in the summer - there exists serious challenges to military ideals. For in the civilian world, service members may be exposed to beliefs and ideas that are incompatible with the military philosophy of strength through unity and respect.

To address this, several units of the Air National Guard (ANG) have adopted diversity initiatives and programs similar to those used in Corporate America. Across the country, Guard members are engaging in diversity training, forming support networks

for minorities, and even establishing diversity intranets.

"This is a mission-driven decision," says Sgt. Steven Baxter of the Arkansas Air National Guard. "The talent pool of workers requires organizations like ours to embrace diversity if we want to succeed." Baxter was one of the first non-commissioned officers trained as a facilitator under an Air National Guard teambuilding program. The training made him eligible for additional instruction when a diversity program was later initiated. Following a five-day course, he joined senior members from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Guam as an ANG diversity facilitator.

The ANG then hired the diversity consulting firm of Souder, Betances, Inc. to create a training curriculum its facilitators could implement at their individual units. The curriculum includes videotaped presentations and group or individual exercises, Baxter says. The training examines issues such as prejudice in the workplace,

the glass ceiling, and changing demographics that make recognizing diversity so important.

"We stress that this course is not about white male bashing, nor is it about counting heads," Baxter says. "It's about making heads count."

In addition to undergoing diversity training, ANG members are forming cultural support groups. Master Sgt. George Rivera is a jet-engine technician, but he is also the Hispanic Program Manager for the New York Air National Guard.

The Hispanic Program is part of a "Special Emphasis Program" governed by the state's Equal Employment Manager (EEM). Rivera meets with the EEM and the state's other program managers on a quarterly basis to report on the status of Hispanics in the ANG, suggest policy changes, and so on. Rivera also helps organize and promote Hispanic celebrations throughout the year. His day-to day duties include distributing,

via computer, job vacancy notices, policy updates, and news that may be of interest to Hispanic Guardsmen.

Rivera isn't the only Guardsman who uses technology to promote diversity. Miles away, Senior Master Sgt. Hank Branch of the Kansas Air National Guard has created a diversity intranet for the entire ANG. Branch's intranet provides useful tips and techniques from human resource professionals, offers a multicultural holiday calendar and includes articles and information from www.DiversityInc.com. He is promoting the site as a resource for ANG diversity facilitators, human resource advisors, and other Guard members involved in diversity initiatives throughout the country. You can reach Branch's intranet site at www.ksfoe.ang.af.mil and click on the Diversity link.

(The article, quotes, and topics were provided by Jordan T. Pine @ 2000 Hemisphere, Inc.)

Hillhouse JROTC cadets go the field with the CTARNG

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65TH PCH

As an early May heat wave roasted the pavement of New Haven's inner city, eight Hillhouse High School students enjoyed a stark contrast, in the cooler woods of southeastern Connecticut. The students, all cadets with the Hillhouse Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, were spending their first weekend in the woods, developing teamwork and leadership skills.

And, as the students gave each other helping hands to overcome team-oriented tasks and individual obstacles, the Connecticut Army National Guard gave the budding JROTC program a boost. It was the first time Hillhouse cadets went to the field, and it helped them prepare for their first annual training period, which will be at Camp Edwards, Mass., June 23 - 30. Twelve students will attend AT.

The first-year program at this New Haven public high school currently has 120 students actively participating. The budding program provides new opportunities that might not otherwise be available for the urban teenagers, according to Col. Donald Leazott (ret.), senior Army instructor.

"A lot of these students come from single-parent homes, and this seems to give them more stability and structure," said Leazott, who taught ROTC in Chester, New York for four years before starting the Hillhouse program.



Cadet Corporal Terry Hunt scales the Inclining Wall of the Stones Ranch Confidence Course during a weekend training exercise conducted by The Connecticut Army National Guard for the Hillhouse High School JROTC program. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



Members of the Hillhouse High School Junior ROTC program work to solve a mission problem during a training exercise on the Leadership Reaction Course at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

"I find that many of them do not have a lot to do on weekends. This provides camaraderie, and it's a good alternative to gangs."

Leazott believes the cadets benefit from abiding by the JROTC mission statement, which encourages students to be better citizens.

Originally, there was some opposition to the program, which had been proposed for Hillhouse five years ago. But, after a national freeze on new JROTC programs was lifted, the school had no problem surpassing the minimum recruitment, which is 10 percent of the student population. In fact, Leazott is confident that he'll start next year with 160 cadets.

The Connecticut Army National Guard has had a hand in the early success of the program, according to Leazott, who said the recruiters from the Goffe Street Armory are always willing to offer support, with no pressure for the cadets to join the Guard. The first weekend in the field was arranged by the Guardsmen, who ran the Leadership Reaction Course and brought the young cadets through the Confidence Course at Stone's Ranch. Students from the more established JROTC programs at Bloomfield and New Britain High Schools also took part in the activities. After spending the night at Camp Rowland, the students performed the Army Physical Fitness Test, and enjoyed an awards ceremony, hosted by the Guardsmen.

"They've all been very supportive of our program," Leazott said, adding that although there is no obligation for cadets to join the Guard, it is an option worth exploring for the teenagers, many of whom might otherwise not be able to afford to go to college. "It's a good opportunity to explore, if they want to college, especially at a state school, where they can go tuition free."

In fact, two cadets will begin their Army basic training in late June, shortly after school gets out.

Cadet Tyrece Thompson, 18, and Cadet Andrew Hawkins, 17, leave for basic training in June, shortly after school gets out for the summer.

"I've wanted to go into the military, and this gives me a good opportunity to go to college and to be in the military at the same time," said Andrew Hawkins, a junior at Hillhouse. He joined the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry as a combat medic, but he could be expanding his horizons in the near future. "I figured that would be good for me, because I have a good background in math and science. But, I think I'll probably be going into law."

His ROTC experience, highlighted by his first weekend in the field gives him an idea what to expect in basic training. "It gets me used to dealing with problems; and if I can't get something right the first time, then I have to keep trying until I get it right."

Andrew's brother Cadet Antwon, 15, a

sophomore, said he might join the Guard when he's older. For now, his experience in the field was valuable and enjoyable. "I had fun. I learned to depend on teammates. I learned a lot of good leadership skills, but also a lot of good following skills. You have to be a good follower before you can become a good leader."

Cadet Leshaundra Walker, 15, also a sophomore, had similar assessments. "It was very challenging... extremely challenging. It took a lot of teamwork, and everyone tried really hard."

After failing on the first two of three LRC initiatives, the group broke for lunch. While enjoying their first MREs, they discussed working more as a team to accomplish the task.

"We did complete it, because we worked as a team. After talking about it, we knew what we had to do, and it worked well."

Despite being the close to the end of the school year, the students were wearing their camouflage battle dress uniforms for the first time. Twice a week, the students wear their Class B uniforms to school, which is standard practice for JROTC. For most of the year, their training has been indoors, focusing on drill and ceremonies. In fact, the program sent 29 students to the JROTC National Drill Competition in Daytona Beach, Florida, which is unusual for a first-year program, according to Leazott.



Cadet Sgt. Faycal Ezzine throws himself upward to successfully complete the obstacle known as "The Dirty Name" during a confidence course training exercise. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



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