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Connecticut Army National Guard Receives its First Black Hawk

BY MAJ. JOHN R. WHITFORD, STATE PAO

January 23, 2001 will be a date that will go down in history in the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG). At 3:30 p.m., the first UH-60 Black Hawk arrived at the Aviation, Classification, Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) from Virginia. The hard work of Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General and Governor John G. Rowland made this dream become a reality.

The plan is to replace all 10 UH-1 Huey helicopters in the CTARNG with 10 UH-60 Black Hawks. These Black Hawks will eventually be housed at AVCRAD and AASF (Army Aviation Support Facility).



The UH-60 Black Hawk is the utility airframe of the Army. It is agile, fast, powerful and most of all modern. It is worldwide deployable and capable of supporting a variety of missions to

include state domestic missions. The Army, to include the Army National Guard, currently has just over 1,400 Black Hawks worldwide. The Army National Guard presently is short over

330 Black Hawks to replace the aging "legacy" Huey fleet.

Rowland has taken the lead among the nation's governors on the issue of increased funding and procurement of Black Hawks for the Army National Guard. He has spoken to every member of Connecticut's congressional delegation, has written to the governor of every state and territory, along with Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

"This is a great day," said Lt. Col. William Shea, the AVCRAD supervisor. "We can do more things and provide additional support to our state and nation."

Connecticut Army National Guard Unit Wins Food Service Competition 712TH Maintenance Company Receives The 2001 Philip A. Connelly Award

BY MAJ. JOHN WHITFORD, STATE PAO

The Department of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and the Chairman of the Board of International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA) have awarded the 2001 Department of the Army Philip A. Connelly Award to the 712th Maintenance Company.

The 712th Maintenance Company won the U.S. Army National Guard category competing with Army National Guard units throughout the country beating out the 245th Aviation (AVIM) of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The unit had to simulate a tactical food service operation that consisted of eight stations and a prepared meal. The evaluation team reviewed each station, food

preparation, area of service and other standards that included proper procedures, cooking techniques, service, environmental set-up and guidelines and safety.

The purpose of this competition is to recognize excellence in Army food service and to increase awareness of food service.

The Department of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics stated that the 712th Maintenance Company deserves special recognition for the unit's contribution toward improving the Army's food service program, the unit's superior efforts in enhancing the quality of food service provided to our soldiers and displayed high standards of excellence.

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UP FRONT WITH THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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



Diversity is a word that you will be hearing more often as we progress through the fiscal year, which has been designated as the "Year of Diversity." The Connecticut National Guard is a leader in providing diversity training and growth opportunities for our minority members. The accomplishments we have made toward our goal of reflecting the Connecticut community we serve are commendable. The Connecticut National Guard is also actively involved in special emphasis programs that support our goal of exceeding the national average for minority membership.

However, with the demographic changes our state and nation is undergoing, there will continue to be challenges to maintaining our national leadership position. In fact "Workforce 2000," published in the '80s, concluded that by 2000 we would see a very different population from which we would recruit our members. The demographic realities of today are proving the insights of "Workforce 2000" to be accurate.

These shifts in demographics have moved the Connecticut National Guard and the Department of Defense into new areas of diversity management. This shift also challenges us to be engaged in the new world order, but we should not be shocked or concerned about our ability to navigate these swiftly changing currents. Our military and our governmental institutions have always provided structure and support of its military men and women. That structure is the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, which have sustained us throughout our history. These instruments, crafted over 200 years ago, continue to prove themselves to be as fresh and applicable today as when they were signed at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Structure and leading a diverse organization has always been an important part of the Connecticut National Guard. Today, this importance is magnified as our transformation from a predominantly

monocultural guard to a guard that is predominantly multicultural. It is projected that 40 percent of all net additions to the labor force in the United States are non-white, with being of Asian and Latin descent. The Asian American population is currently growing at a rate 10 times faster than the overall population. The Connecticut National Guard is not exempt from these changes and must develop additional skills that bring together teams of very diverse groups.

Our continual success as the Connecticut Guard and as a state depends on all of us contributing our best. It also depends on us leading these diverse groups in a manner that clearly demonstrates our appreciation for and valuing their uniquenesses. Dr. Betances, a consultant with the Air National Guard, has often said, "It's not about counting heads but rather about making heads count."



By STATE COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR
STEPHEN L. PRIMETT

ENLISTED UPDATE Good Order and Discipline

I just returned from a Command Sergeants Major Conference at

Fort Bliss, Texas. This event was hosted by the Sergeant Major of the Army, Jack Tilley. Some of the presenters included Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera, Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Eric Shinseki, Chief of Staff of Personnel, Lt. Gen. Tim Maude and Lt. Gen. Larry Ellis, Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations.

For five days the topics included but weren't limited to the following mentoring, counseling, drill and ceremonies, enforcing standards, the NCO support channel, NCOER's, and the Army Birthday on June 14, 2001, which marks the debut of the new black berets for all soldiers.

Some of the recurring concerns of those in attendance included the fact that NCOERs are still being done without proof of counseling having been done for good or bad comments. Mentoring soldiers who will be tomorrow's leaders is not being accomplished to the level it should be. Second lieutenants assigned to your sections/units should be among those

senior NCOs are mentoring. Ask any soldier if they can remember the name of their basic training sergeant and to a person they remember. Why? Because he or she was the first soldier who went to great lengths to teach them how to be a soldier. They set the example for how to mold a group of individuals into a team. These are all basic concepts of leadership.

We have got to get back to the basics. Good order and discipline promotes pride in self and our organization. Responsibility, leading, caring and maintaining your soldiers should be as natural as breathing. Some units do a great job of this, some don't.

First formation is a good example - do they follow Fm 22-5? Do the soldiers rise to their feet and call attention when a colonel or general enter a room? Do the soldiers come to the position of attention and then to parade rest when they are being addressed by an officer or senior NCO?

These are just a few examples to use in gauging your unit's pride. On-the-spot corrections are a MUST! Every soldier is taught these courtesies prior to graduating from basic training.

Appearance and conformance to the hair cut standards will become even more important as June 14 draws closer. On the Army birthday, the Army will adopt new headgear for wear in the garrison - the Army black beret will be the Army flash. The beret will be issued with the flash sewn on. Each soldier will be issued two berets - one in April and another by October. The flash will be centered on the left eye and one inch above the eyebrows, level on the head and draped over the right ear. Officers will wear their rank on the flash and enlisted soldiers will wear their unit crest on the flash. The Army has not changed the hair cut regulations, but soldiers will see that they have to conform to the standard in order to wear the beret correctly. Every soldier should strive to wear it proudly.

The NCOPS boards for E-8 to E-9 have been published, and the E-7 to Master Sergeant/First Sergeant boards are complete. The results are posted in the units and are also available on the Connecticut National Guard Web site.

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

*If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.
Maya Angelou*

Hedenberg Completes Naval Postgraduate School

By CAPTAIN LOU MARTINEZ, 65th PCH

For most people, the chance to work towards a graduate degree for free and get paid while doing it, is an opportunity of a lifetime. Maj. Ralph Hedenberg, the 143rd Forward Support Battalion (FSB) support operation officer took advantage of such an opportunity. The 33-year-old former environmental officer just completed his Master of Art's degree in International Security and Civil-Military Relations at the prestigious Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

"I wanted my Masters. I was working at night taking courses and all my active duty friends were getting their schooling paid by the government. I figure I could get my M.A. and do it as my job," said Hedenberg.

Hedenberg was one of only six National Guardsmen selected to attend the Naval Postgraduate School under the National Guard International Civil-Military Relations training program. He's the first Connecticut National Guardsman to ever attend.



Hedenberg, an infantry officer, spent more than a year at NPS. (From December 1999 to January 2001.) He was the number one National Guard candidate in the country.

"It was an outstanding opportunity, I can't express how much I learned in a year in term of knowledge and about myself," said Hedenberg.

Nearly 1,500 students attend the Naval Postgraduate School each year. The school is about 120 miles from San Francisco on the Pacific Ocean. Admission to this fully funded graduate program is extremely competitive. Applicants must show outstanding professional performance as an officer, promotion potential and a strong academic background. The student body consists of officers from the five U.S. uniformed services, including the National Guard, and officers from over 30 countries.

Hedenberg says having classmates from the different branches of service and from other countries made every course very interesting. "Exposure to different services and how they do things, their points of view, especially with the international students, enhances the educational experience."

Hedenberg's focus was on military operations other than war in the Balkans.

"My thesis was about the transition from peace-keeping to peace-building. I looked

strictly at Bosnia," said Hedenberg.

To research his thesis, Hedenberg spent more than a week in Tuzla, Bosnia interviewing members of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 49th Armor Division, the 29th Infantry Division and the SFOR (Stabilization Forces)

Headquarters in Butmir about their mission and different ways to successfully complete the mission in Bosnia. In his thesis, Hedenberg argues that changes need to be made to the current peace operations training and education process.

"I examined the missions the military may be asked to perform, and the kinds of training and education necessary to prepare the military for these missions," said Hedenberg.

The major will get an opportunity to put all his schooling to good use. In September, he'll deploy to Bosnia with the 143rd FSB for a six-month SFOR rotation.

Hedenberg is looking for volunteers as he has 49 slots to fill. "This is an opportunity of a lifetime. Any soldier who wants to volunteer just has to call the unit."

Hedenberg hopes his experience at the Naval Postgraduate School will spark an interest



in other Connecticut National Guardsmen to apply to the prestigious school. No one from Connecticut is attending this academic year. NPS will only accept 10 Guardsmen into the school next year. Captains and majors are eligible to participate. All Title 10/32 AGR, M-day officers and technicians may be considered. Nomination packets are sent through the state adjutant general who may nominate three Army and three Air Guard officers. Find more information about the Naval Postgraduate School and the application process at www.ang.af.mil, and www.nps.navy.mil

You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.
Naguib, Mahfouz

Bush Sends Message to Service Members, Civilians

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE



WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 2001 — President George W. Bush sent a message to the armed forces and the civilians who support the defense department via the nation's incoming 21st defense secretary.

Donald H. Rumsfeld read a message from the president during a Full Honors Welcome Ceremony Jan. 26 at the Pentagon.

Here is the text of that message:

"To the armed forces of the United States and to the men and women who support them.

"Your service in the cause of freedom is both noble and extraordinary. Because of you, America is strong and the flame of freedom burns brighter than at any time in history.

"Your country can never repay you for the sacrifices and hardships you endure, but we are grateful for the liberties we enjoy every day because of your service.

"As your Commander-in-Chief I will always support you and your families so that this great nation continues to have the greatest armed forces in the history of the world.
"Thank you."

MEMBERS OF CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD UNIT RECEIVE MOBILIZATION ORDERS

New Britain Medics to Support "Operation JOINT FORGE"

Members of Detachment 1, 141st Medical Company, Connecticut Army National Guard have received mobilization orders that will place them on active duty in support of "Operation JOINT FORGE" in the Balkans. As part of the Presidential Select Reserve Call-up (PSRC), under Title 10 United States Code 12304, the unit will be on active duty for up to 270 days.

"Although the time period is for 270 days, active duty could be less based on operational requirements," said Maj. John Whitford, Public Affairs Officer of the Connecticut National Guard.

"The 141st Medical Company is an extremely well trained unit with a high level of competency and experience," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's adjutant general and commander of the Connecticut National Guard. "This year we will have over 1,000 Connecticut guardsmen and airmen deployed overseas participating alongside our active duty counterparts."

This year will mark the largest deployment of Connecticut Army National guardsmen since the Korean War.

Other Connecticut Army National

Guard units have increased training operational tempo in preparation for future deployments to the Balkans.

The 141st is currently conducting their annual training and receiving briefings and training needed for their deployment. (See the March 2001 issue of the Connecticut Guardian for more stories and photos on the 141st.)

NEVER LET YOUR WORK DRIVE YOU. MASTER IT AND KEEP IT IN COMPLETE CONTROL.

Booker T. Washington

143rd FSB Increases OpTempo in

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. FIRST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON,
STATE SENIOR PANCO

The soldiers reported for duty as usual and then received their operations order. They were to move to Camp Comanche and set up security operations. Before they could do this, however, they had to perform preventative maintenance on their vehicles, do a map recon of their route to the site and determine what factors might lead to unsafe conditions for the soldiers and vehicles.

After having completed all of the above, the soldiers of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion (FSB) took to the snow covered roads enroute to Camp Comanche, otherwise known to Connecticut residents as a state forest. Following international road signs, the convoy wound its way through the streets of Southington, Middletown and Portland before pulling off onto state forest property and locating the Camp Comanche Main Gate sign.

Once there, the soldiers dismantled the vehicles and began setting up a security perimeter with concertina wire, a vehicle inspection area and a personnel inspection tent. In the middle of setting this up, a civilian vehicle pulled up with reporters on board. The vehicle was stopped immediately at the concertina wire barrier, and, with weapons aimed at them, the reporters were asked to leave the vehicle and provide identification. It was determined the reporters were not expected on the site and were delayed at the gate until the soldiers on duty could get orders from their higher ups on what to do with the reporters.

In the meantime, one reporter started filming the activity with a video camera and the other reporter started firing questions at the soldiers.

"How many personnel do you have here? What are you doing? What's your mission? What kind of weapons are you carrying? How much ammo do they hold? What's their range?"

All questions were met with no answers as the soldiers told the reporters they would have to wait for the public affairs or protocol officer to arrive. And the reporter with camera? He was told to stop filming until further notice.

In the meantime, a second vehicle with three civilians in it arrived at the gate. Again, the passengers were asked to leave the vehicle, and the driver was instructed to move the vehicle to the vehicle inspection area.

This whole scenario was set up by the leadership of the FSB in order to make training as realistic as possible for an upcoming trip to Fort Dix, N.J. where the soldiers will further train for a possible deployment to Bosnia.

The reporters were actually members of the
See FSB on page 16



Anticipation of Bosnian Deployment



Personnel Needed by the FSB for Deployment

- E3 Radio Operator/Maintainer
- E3 Cook
- E4 Cook
- E3 Vehicle Driver
- E3 Petroleum Light Vehicle Operator
- E3 Petroleum Supply Specialist
- E3 Ammunition Specialist
- E4 Ammunition Specialist
- E5 Ammunition Sergeant
- E4 Power Generator Repairer
- E4 Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- E4 Equipment/Parts Specialist
- E3 Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- E4 Equipment/Parts Specialist
- O2 Platoon Leader
- E4 Small Arms Artillery Repairer
- E6 Arms Maintenance Supervisor
- E3 Small Arms Artillery Repairer
- E6 Auto Repair Sergeant
- E5 Power Generator Equipment
- E4 Wheeled Vehicle Repairer
- E4 Power Generator Repairer
- E5 MATCON NCO
- E4 Radio Operator/Maintainer
- E6 TMT Squad Leader
- E3 Medical Specialist
- E4 Medical Lab Specialist
- E4 Radiology Specialist
- O4 Field Surgeon
- E6 TMT Team Sergeant
- E3 Medical Specialist
- O2 Platoon Leader
- E5 Aide/Evacuation NCO

If interested, contact the 143rd FSB in Waterbury for further information. Requests for transfer will have to go through your chain of command.

Family Tradition of Service to the Guard Earns Local Girl Scholarship

By SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG

103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Specialist

Twenty-one-year-old Emily Sledge is one of 13 Air National Guard family members nationwide to receive a "Year of the Family" Scholarship in the year 2000. Emily, a senior at the University of New Haven, majoring in interior design, is the daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Sledge, mission systems section supervisor, avionics, 103rd Maintenance Squadron.

The "Year of the Family" Scholarships were provided by the Air National Guard Family Enrichment Team. Proceeds from the Year of the Family coin drive totaled \$18,000 in scholarship funds. Twenty-six family members, from Army and Air National Guard units throughout the nation, received scholarships. Emily was the only winner from Connecticut.

Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver, director, Air National Guard, contacted Senior Master Sgt. Sledge personally to inform him that his daughter was going to be awarded the \$500 scholarship. "I was thrilled, but not just about the scholarship money," said Emily Sledge. "It is really an honor to be recognized for how much work you put into school."

The scholarship was awarded based on merit and an essay written on the topic of the importance of having a family member in the Guard.

Her winning essay follows:

"What does it mean to me to be part of the National Guard Family?"

By: Emily Sledge

The National Guard is a large part of my family legacy. My grandfather, Francis J. Ferretti, was a member of the Connecticut Flying Yankees 118th fighter squadron during World War II. He was activated in 1941, before the start of the war, and served with the 118th in China and India under the command of General Chennault. After the war, he continued to serve in the Connecticut Air National Guard for an additional six years.

My father, Gerald Sledge, enlisted in the Connecticut Air National Guard at the age of 20 during the Vietnam War era and has recently completed 30 years of service. He was hired as a full time

employee in March of 1979, the month I was born. That was also the year of the tornado in Windsor Locks. You could say that the National Guard has had a huge impact on my life.

I remember when my dad was on active duty assignments. It was difficult for my mother to run a household with two young children, yet we all pulled together and made it through. It was also hard for my dad who sometimes had to endure difficult locations, bad weather, long flights, and weeks away from a young family. When I look back on all those years, I realize that no one in my family questioned or complained about his involvement in the Air National Guard. We all supported the commitment he made as he fulfilled his active duty assignments.

Sometimes it was hard to explain to my friends exactly what my dad did for a living since no other father seemed to be part of a military unit. My fondest memory was when my dad came to my sixth grade class in his uniform and explained exactly what role the Guard played in protecting the people in Connecticut and the United States. When he showed them samples of the ammunition that the airplanes used for air-to-ground fighting, my teacher and friends were very impressed.

The times I felt most proud of my dad were when we attended Family Day each September. This is where I came to realize the importance of maintaining a military presence in Connecticut. The sight of the awesome A-10 Thunderbolt was always a favorite reason for visiting the base. However, the best part of Family Day was to see all the men and women in their uniforms. They all seemed so proud to be showing their families and friends how they spent their weekends with the National Guard. I could not help but feel consumed with respect for the sacrifices made by these people and their families for the service to the Guard.

Recently my dad has donated his time and effort to help establish an historical account of the Connecticut Air National Guard. He has donated many of my grandfather's personal belongings from World War II, along with many pictures from that era. Some of these items are currently on display in the Connecticut State Armory. He has also volunteered as



a leader with the Charles K. Hamilton Civil Air Patrol Squadron where he and my younger brother have participated in many search and rescue missions.

The Air National Guard means more than just a local military unit. It has made me aware of how important the Guard is not only to our state but to the defense of the entire country. My dad has provided an insight into events that has happened during the Vietnam War, the Iranian Crisis, Operation Desert Storm, the Bosnian conflict, and our presence in Kuwait that I could not have received from any history book. He taught me that we are not just a family of four but part of a larger family called the Connecticut Air National Guard, an organization that supports its members through good times and bad.

During my school years, I always worked very hard to achieve good grades and to strive to be the best I could. It was always my wish to make my parents proud of my accomplishments and to show my appreciation for teaching me excellent values. I also feel that the Air National Guard has played a large part in the principles and standards that I received. More important, they instilled a respect and love of our country and military that many people my age treat as an unpopular concept.

I would be honored to be awarded a scholarship from an organization of which I have the utmost respect and admiration. An organization that has been part of my family all my life. And may continue into another generation as my younger brother considers the Air National Guard in his future.

The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.

B.B. King



BLACK HISTORY

By Col. Anthony Vallombroso

We will follow last month's tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with our celebration of black history on 8 February 2001. Dr. King's significance to civil rights is a modern cornerstone of African American history, heritage, and a culture that dates back to the beginning of history itself. This rich history was practically unknown to many people in my generation except for the famous events like President Lincoln abolishing slavery and infamous ones like the deplorable acts of the Ku Klux Klan.

I grew up in New Haven, Connecticut without a full comprehension of the impact of the Amistad revolt and trials until our own Black History event in 1999 brought us together at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford to observe a well illustrated diorama of this part of our American history.

I encourage you to make an honest effort to learn something about African American history this month and be sure to mark February 8th on your calendar to attend our Black History Celebration at the First Cathedral in Bloomfield. Our committee has been very busy since early December with a full program based on the 2001 Black History theme of "Creating and Defining the African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics, and Culture." The event will start promptly at 6 P.M. and will run until 8 P.M. I hope to see you there.

Training Opportunities Available

The Army National Guard is looking for two staff sergeants/sergeants first class to be Observer Controllers at the National Training Center this summer.

Successful applicants will have to go to a 22-day Observer Controller (OC) Academy followed by an 18-day deployment at the National Training Center.

Dates for the OC Academy are: Feb. 12 - Mar. 6; Apr. 23 - May 15 and May 28 - June 19.

The National Training Center rotation is scheduled for July 9 - July 26.

Those interested should contact the Connecticut National Guard Public Affairs Office at (860) 524-4857.

Hallowed Ground to Honor Guard and Reserve Soldiers at Camp Rowland

BY SGT. FIRST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON,
STATE SENIOR PANCO

The Hallowed Ground is a designated area at the Noncommissioned Officer's School, Camp Rowland, to honor the backbone of the Army — the noncommissioned officer (NCO) who makes the Army run smoothly day to day and who guarantees that soldiers are trained and ready to defend our country. The idea for the Hallowed Ground was born out a visit to the US Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, where a similar project is located.

"This is a way to commemorate and honor NCOs past, present and future," said Sgt. Maj. George Brown, deputy commandant of the Noncommissioned Officers Education System, 169th Leadership Regiment, (NCOES).

The area is currently located between Buildings 18 and 19 at Camp Rowland, and will be relocated after the planned renovations and upgrades to the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) training site are complete. Hallowed Ground is a large area paved with 18"x18" bricks that will have an NCO Honor Board erected soon. Names of all charter members will be listed on the honor board, said Brown.

The construction of this area signifies the beginning of a tradition meant to enhance and celebrate the significance of the noncommissioned officer corps. The purpose of this area is to provide a restricted area where NCOs can gather for camaraderie and the sharing of common experiences. It is also an area where NCOs can go for meditation and reflection.

Some of the rules governing Hallowed Ground include no head coverings of any type will be worn, no saluting, no smoking or use of any tobacco products, no eating or drinking, no foul language and only NCOs will walk on Hallowed Ground.

The Hallowed Ground Project is meant to belong to all NCOs in the Connecticut Guard and Reserve. NCOs still have the opportunity to become a charter member of the Hallowed Ground Creation. Charter members will be recognized on an NCO Honor Board. Cost of membership/bricks is \$5 and may be donated in someone's honor, in your own name or to commemorate a career milestone. NCOs should send their donations to Sgt. Maj. George Brown, 169th Leadership Regiment, Camp Rowland, Smith Road, Niantic, CT along with full name and

rank (as it is to appear on the Honor Board) of the purchaser or the person you wish to honor.

"The Hallowed Ground Project is meant to belong to all the NCOs in the Connecticut Guard and Army Reserve," said Brown. "The purpose of this endeavor is to give a restricted area for NCOs for meditation, reflection or just to be alone. Our hope is that this will become a reverent and honorable area for recognition of the importance of NCOs, who we are as leaders, and our importance in the chain of command."

Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up.
Jesse Jackson

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT



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

Eagle Base, Bosnia and Herzegovina — In a carefully marked field, a Canadian UN official politely warned the American cavalry officer to watch where he was stepping.

When Capt. Jeffrey C. Blair of Thunder Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) looked down, he noticed he was unintentionally standing on the remains of two human femurs carefully wrapped in plastic.

This mass grave exhumation site in Glogova was just one stop on what proved to be an eye-opening tour for 11 civic leaders from Colorado Springs by elements of the 3rd ACR headquartered at Fort Carson and now deployed here as part of Stabilization Force 7 (SFOR7) to enforce compliance with the Dayton Accords.

In addition to the civic leaders were seven military attendees from Carson, including Maj. Gen. Edward Soriano, commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division.

Their day began routinely enough with briefings on mine awareness and safety, followed by a comprehensive breakdown of the war here, the status of returning refugees and the volatile political situation resulting from ethnic cleansing by Col. Anthony Harriman, commander, 3rd ACR.

Harriman concluded that ethnic cleansing was intended to recreate a hatred that would insure that Serb and Muslim could never live here together again.

During the brief, the cooperative roles of the 3rd ACR and the 49th Armored Division — a Texas National Guard unit — were

presented as proof of the success of the "one Army concept" which integrates both active duty and reserve units.

"It's one hell of an Army," said Soriano.

After the session, the group was bussed to three waiting UH-60 Blackhawks that ferried them to Srebrenica where Blair gave a walking tour of the city.

At all times during the tour, 3rd ACR troopers on the ground and Kiowa Scout and Apache gunship helicopters in the air provided protection for the entourage.

At Glogova, the group was introduced to a UN exhumation team composed of anthropologists, archeologists, surveyors and forensic experts who were literally trying to piece together the puzzle of human remains discovered at the site.

A UN archeologist working on the project estimated that Bosnians were buried here after being executed nearby in June 1995 and then robbed or reburied three months later to help conceal the crime.

However, he could not estimate the number of dead at the site.

"It's an impossible question to answer," he said.

But at nearby Kravica, the civic leaders were shown a warehouse where thousands of Bosnian men were murdered with rifles and rocket propelled grenades and then removed by a mechanical bucket whose teeth marks were still visible on the floor.

"It's not rocket science, it's just savagery," said Blair.

The group was also given a tour of Camps Dobil and McGovern where the mayor of Colorado Springs exchanged pleasantries with the mayor of Brcko.

Mayor Mary Lou Makepeace said that though the mines and mass graves here seemed to present irresolvable problems, the young men and women of the 3rd ACR were positive and were making progress towards a solution. Tuzla isn't Tombstone and the Drina River doesn't separate Texas from Mexico.

That's the essence of the lessons learned from the Nordic Polish Battle Group (NPBG) by its liaison officer to Multinational Division North (MND-N), Capt. Jet M. Hays, HHC, 49th Armored Division (49th AD).

Hays — an insurance broker from Ballinger, Texas who holds a masters degree in anthropology — is a peacekeeper, not a cowboy with a Colt Peace Maker.

He said when he first participated in presence patrols with the NPBG, the reception he received from the locals wasn't as enthusiastic as the respect given to the Danes, Poles and Estonians.

It wasn't until Hays began to learn to pay attention to detail on how the NPBG operates did his situation with local Bosnians and Bosnian Serbs improve as he began to receive handshakes instead of hard stares and hand gestures.

All Hays did is what the NPBG soldiers do; keep your Kevlar helmet in your rucksack and carry your weapon inconspicuously.

For Hays, this simply meant stowing his gear and trading-in his shoulder holster for a hip holster; it made all the difference in this part of the world.

"We have to look at the person we project. Having someone at your door with a rifle slung barrel forward or a conspicuous shoulder holster was a bad sign for many years in this country," said Hays whose 9-mm is just visible under his BDU blouse.

Hays said the NPBG has a community active approach; during their presence patrols the NPBG takes notes of who is returning and rebuilding. They then send a CIMIC team to help the DPRES with the paperwork necessary to obtain grants and funds from the international community to help rebuild their lives.

Perhaps that's why Brig. Gen. Michael H. Taylor, assistant commander 49th AD, recently said the NPBG has earned the respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(Editor's Note: This is the last installment of Dispatches from the Front to be written by Sgt. Joseph DeCaro. DeCaro recently returned from Bosnia in time to spend Christmas with his family after having to remain behind for medical treatment when the rest of the 65th PCH returned in November. We hope to continue this feature with a member of the soon-to-deploy 141st Medical Company taking over the writing responsibilities.)

Retention: "Tipping the Scale"

BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. BRIAN J. BAGLEY

Connecticut Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention Superintendent

The National Guard has been very busy over the past year in an effort to tip the scale in favor of maintaining quality members. Many of the efforts go on without a clear recognition of the intent and purpose of these programs. In fact, many of the programs have dual purposes. The Family Program in the Air National Guard is one such program. Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver replaced Gen. Donald Sheppard as the Director of the Air National Guard in 1998. At that time he put into place a course of action to highlight and promote different aspects of the Air National Guard. These five programs began in 1998 with the "Year of Transition," followed by "Year of the Enlisted" for 1999; "Year of the Family" in 2000; "Year of the Employer" in 2001 and "Year of Diversity" for 2002. Each and every one of these initiatives was designed to tip the scale in favor of retention.

Each of us can very well understand the demands that are placed on us day in and day out serving in the armed forces. With the increased role the Guard has in major contingencies, we need to do everything we can to tip the scale. The philosophy is very simple. Each and every one of us joins the Guard with a level of enthusiasm and dedication. To use an analogy, let me call this the deposits in your personal checking account. When we do something in favor of you through recognition, promotion, or just your satisfaction in excellent performance, these make deposits in your account. The more deposits in your account the

better you feel about maintaining membership in the Guard. That's the easy part. The difficulty is that with the good, we also have the bad. We understand there are several hardships that come into play as members of today's National Guard. Many of these difficulties make withdrawals in your personal account and act as a de-motivator. The more withdrawals we make, the fewer reasons you have to desire to maintain membership. Pure and simple, we must take care of our members in every way possible.

The initiatives that Weaver adopted were large-scale programs designed to make significant deposits into your personal accounts. We understand the role of the enlisted corps, where everything is performed with great skill and professionalism. We also realize that with our increased role we are placing a huge burden, not only on you the member, but on your families and employers as well. If it weren't for the families and the spouses stepping up to the plate and supporting the Guard program, we could not function. We cannot describe the gratitude we owe to all of the loved ones and family members that endure year after year with our drill weekends, annual training, additional duties, deployments, and activations. These are only a few of the issues and concerns that make significant withdrawals from our personal account. We take so much away from families and loved ones and sometimes give so little back. It was for this reason that the year 2000 was the "Year of the Family." The year was an effort to promote the families of the Guard, give something

back and most importantly to say THANK YOU.

The Air National Guard had a banner year with the family program and gained recognition nationwide for their ceaseless efforts to promote and support the Air National Guard members. Many of the programs and initiatives were "Purple" programs cosponsored with the Army and Air National Guard. Here is just a short list of activities and events the Connecticut Air National Guard hosted or participated in throughout last year:

Drill weekend coffee and bagel sales.

Town Hall Meetings to promote awareness of the Family Program

Haunted Hayride

Cookie Jar Sales

Entertainment Book Sales

Bradley Air Park Brick Sales

Family Day

Governor's Day

Participation in National Training programs

Easter Egg Hunt

Valentines Day Dance and Party for all family members

Provided deployment information packets to families of deploying members

Hosted a send off reception to deploying members, providing breakfast and lunches.

Hosted the Family Program volunteer recognition awards (Air Guard)

Provide holiday turkey baskets for unit members in conjunction with the USO

It is apparent that there were an enormous number of activities throughout the year. As a result of their hard work and dedication, all of the volunteers and members working with the Family Program deserve a very gracious thank you from each and every one of us. It is also great to see some of our own recognized for their contributions.

During 2000, "Year of the Family," Master Sgt. Julie James, retention office manager and family program coordinator for the Air National Guard, was recognized as the NCO who made the most significant contribution to the Connecticut Air National Guard. She received the "Commanders Award" for all of her hard work and dedication.

Mrs. Deaneise Shewokis (the spouse of Master Sgt. James Shewokis, crew chief, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron,) was recognized nationally as the Joan Orr Spouse of the Year Award recipient, for the entire Air National Guard.

In looking at the contributions and hard work of Family Program members, it is no wonder they received those awards. The

We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right.

Nelson Mandela

Safe GUARDing Connecticut's Future

BY MAJOR CHUCK STRONG,
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

How is our nation doing on the war on drugs?

Some would say we are losing. Others would say our efforts in law enforcement and prevention aren't working so let's legalize them or at least some of them, like marijuana. Still others think legalization and taxing the sale of illicit drugs would be of benefit to our nation thus reducing the criminal elements inherent to drug use.

Let us not kid ourselves, take a look at some recent statistics from the Office of National Drug Control Policy in regards to the relationship between drugs and crime:

— In Chicago 84% of males arrested for assault tested positive.

— Young adult male arrestees 64% tested positive nation wide.

— Among females, 94% of prostitute arrestees test positive in Philadelphia.

Experts agree the simple (yet devastating) move of drug legalization would have little if any affect on reducing these types of crimes.

Even with this disheartening news the over all war on drugs has been effective, in fact while drug use was at an all time high in 1979 by 1998 use dropped by 46%. For example in 1979 there were a reported 25.4 million people using illicit drugs. Today 13.6 reported illicit drug use within

the last month. Although drug use is down substantially, it is still at unacceptable levels say White House Drug Czar General Barry McCaffrey. Especially with the rave/club drug Ecstasy.

Recent studies also tell a different picture on the war on drugs.

White House Drug Czar McCaffrey says "Monitoring the Future" results show cocaine and heroin use down among key youth age groups, but huge upsurge in ecstasy. Downward trend in overall youth drug use continues.

(Washington, D.C.)—Barry R. McCaffrey, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, announced along with HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, the findings of the Monitoring the Future Study. The MTF Study is widely recognized as a strong index of youth drug use patterns and attitudes across the nation. The Study surveyed 45,000 8th, 10th, and 12th graders.

"We are greatly encouraged by the results of the MTF Study," said Director McCaffrey. "The National Drug Control Strategy is working. In combination with the Household and Pride Surveys released earlier this year, we have seen a continued downward trend in overall drug use among youth."

Among the Study's findings were:

— Heroin use is down among 8th graders.

— Cocaine use among 12th graders is down.

— LSD use is down among 10th and 12th graders.

— Hallucinogen use among all three grades is down.

— Increased steroid use among 10th graders.

— There is a significant increase in Ecstasy usage among all three grades, the largest percentage increase among 12th graders for any drug in the 26-year history of the MTF Study.

"We are pleased that cocaine use among 12th graders has followed the recent reduction of cocaine abuse in younger age groups," said McCaffrey. "The decrease in heroin use among 8th graders is a good sign for the future toward reversing the heroin upsurge of recent years. However the continuing increase of steroids among 10th graders is troubling. The MTF Study also showed a huge increase in the use of MDMA (Ecstasy)-expanding beyond prior use solely at all-night rave clubs-among all three grades."

"Kids think Ecstasy is safe, but they are actually harming themselves in a major way," said Director McCaffrey. "They are destroying their memories, their hearts, their kidneys, and their nervous

system, while risking immediate strokes and heart attacks. Risking permanent brain damage is not worth dancing the night away." McCaffrey added, "The huge increase in Ecstasy use is a concern that needs to be addressed, and the National Youth Media Campaign's radio and TV ads include targeting this new threat."

More information on drug use can be found at these websites:

Adults: www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov and www.nida.nih.gov.

Youth: www.freevibe.com

Also check out what your Guard is doing at <http://cdweb.ngb.army.mil> or call us at 860.493.2724.

Look for the Drug Demand Reduction future weblink at www.ct.ngb.army.mil.



A GOOD HEAD AND A GOOD HEART ARE ALWAYS A FORMIDABLE COMBINATION.
NELSON MANDELA

Air Guard Hosts Annual Holiday Party

STORY BY CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL III, 103rd FW
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
PHOTOS BY DEBRA A. WELTON

The Non-Commissioned Officers Academy Graduates Association sponsored the 103rd Fighter Wing Children's Christmas Party, December 17 at the Bradley Air National Guard Base dining hall.

As the wind howled outside, the dining hall was warmly filled to capacity with 142 Wing children, family and friends for the day's festivities.

"I think it was a huge success," said Col. Daniel R. Scace, commander, 103rd Fighter Wing. "Thanks to everybody who supported the event."

"It was great, and we have been here every year since 1992," said Tech. Sgt. Robert A. Foberg, weapons flight, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron. "We brought our first-born son Jason when he was only six months. This year we had all three children David, 4; Jason, 8 and Brian, 7."

"It was great as usual," said Master Sgt. Gary A. Paquette, AGE supervisor, 103rd Maintenance Squadron. "It is the eighth year I've been here. My boys and the unity of the Guard family bring me back every-year. I always know my kids will have a great time here. "My son Gregory, 8 was almost one when he first came and Matthew, 6 has attended every year since his first birthday."

"It was outstanding. Ray [Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Welton] and his volunteers put on an outstanding program," said Senior Master Sgt. Mark T. Bissonnette, personnel superintendent, 103rd Mission

Support Flight. "My kids loved Santa Claus arriving in a fire truck, as well as seeing Rudolf and Mrs. Claus."

"The kids were pressed up against the door...it was neat," said Tech. Sgt. Carl J. Oltsch, firefighter, 103rd Civil Engineering Squadron, calling himself a reindeer for driving the truck that delivered Santa Claus. "It showed the excitement inside as we brought him up how much they were looking forward to Christmas. We have been driving him every year for some time."

Parents joked that their children received all the basic food groups; cotton candy, popcorn, ice cream and cake. Parents registered their children and paid a small \$5 registration fee to help defray the costs for the two-hour event. The children could then visit with Santa, pose for pictures with the Jolly one, and eat snacks, drinks, candy, ice cream. Donations were received from the unit Morale Welfare and Recreation fund, Entenmanns Bakery and Guidas Dairy.

"Every year they come through for us," said NCOGA Flying Yankee Chapter President, Welton, safety superintendent, 103rd Fighter Wing. "We could not do any of this without the donations and the volunteers like Master Sgt. James Shewokis, Staff Sgt. Alicia McGrath and her husband, Master Sgt. Foberg and his wife, Master Sgt. Blessing, Tech. Sgt. Dan Walsh, Master Sgt. Kevin Salsbury, Senior Airman Michael Dow and "Uncle Vinny."

"My daughters, Hannah, 4 and Hayley, 2 went home with smiles as well as cotton



Master Sgt. Gary A. Paquette, AGE supervisor, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, and Brandon Hinson, 4, son of Technical Sgt. Robin L. Hinson, administrative assistant, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron enjoy a quiet moment looking at photographs of a past Christmas party."



Senior Airman Michael T. Dow, medical equipment repair specialist, 103rd Medical Squadron kept the cotton candy spinning all afternoon.

candy and chocolate cake on their faces," said Bissonnette.

The party is open to 103rd Fighter Wing members and retirees children and grandchildren. Children are welcome from newborns to 12-years-old.

"Chief (Master Sgt. Jon) Moulthrop had originated the event with the NCOGA, and I took over in 1996 with the presidency," said Welton. "Me and my wife, Deb, have taken a personal interest in this since we like kids and enjoy sponsoring this for the fighter wing. Many hours go in to preparing, hats off to my wife, for her endless efforts in helping to pull it off. We have two kids of our own Dylan, 5 and Kody, 7. They are involved now putting in as many hours as we do to set up and decorate."

NCOGA is always looking for more volunteers for this event and for new members year round. NCOGA is open to graduates from in-residence professional military education schools, and people who accomplish PME through correspondence may join as associate members. Those interested in membership may contact Welton at 860-292-2777, or any other NCOGA officer, or the soon to be complete intranet site.

A SOLDIER'S (AIRMAN'S) REQUEST

Treat me with respect, Sergeant.
For no heart in all the world is more loyal than the heart of an American soldier (airman).

Do not break my spirit with your words, Sergeant.
For the I will do what you demand, your guidance, patience, and understanding will more quickly teach me to "Be, Know, and Do."

Speak with me often, Sergeant. For the praise and counseling you give is expected.
I am an American Soldier (Airman), expecting to be trained. Discipline must be a part of my life.

Train me for the elements, Sergeant.
For I must learn to fight and win in the heat, the cold, the wet, and the desert.
Those who would be our enemies will use these elements. I must be prepared.

I ask no greater glory, Sergeant, than to defend our country and our way of life, against all enemies, both foreign and domestic. Allow me that privilege, Sergeant...train me.

Provide me the necessities of food and drink, Sergeant.
Train me to be self sufficient, that I may lead the way, and stand ready, and able to protect you, with my life if necessary, should your life be in danger.

Train me, Sergeant, that one day I too can be called Sergeant, trainer of soldiers (airmen), the backbone of the Army (Air Force). Train me to accept those responsibilities that are yours.
Train me to train my soldiers (airmen) to be the greatest defenders of freedom in the world.

Sergeant, train me to be a Sergeant.
I shall leave this Army (Air Force) knowing, with my last step and my last breath, that my fate was always safest in your hands.

Sergeant, train me.
That I too can earn the title "Sergeant."



A Gentleman Until the



STORY BY CAPT. GEORGE WORRALL III, 103RD
FW PA OFFICER

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jennie Daigneau,
103rd FW Multimedia Branch

Brig. Gen. George A. Demers received a
send off befitting of his 46 years in the
Air National Guard Friday, January 26,
2001 at the Aqua Turf Club in the
Plantsville section of Southington.

The night saw a packed house of 534
friends, co-workers and dignitaries,
many of whom credited him with a
significant impact on their lives and
careers. Many elected officials also came
to pay tribute to a man who reached the
pinnacle of his 46-year career.

"On April 8, 1963 George was my
wingman on a bad one [flight]," said
then 2nd Lt. Bill "Rangoon Buddha"
Krawski. "I put an F-100 into the
trashcan."

"I checked him out in three different
airplanes," said Col. (Ret.) Nicholas
Rapetski. "I knew him since he was in
the service ... over 45 years."

"We were calling him General George
right from the time he was a second
lieutenant," said Ruben Hubbard,
accompanied by Ken and Shirley Griffin,
all self-described "party friends" from
Suffield. "We always called him General
George."

"I worked with him on all the complaints
about the noise over the years and when
the F-16's were coming," said Rep. Ruth
C. Fahrback, (R.) 61st Dist. "He is a great
guy and we are all going to miss him.
Annie has big plans for them to travel.
We wish him well."

"General Demers is an icon in the Air
National Guard and we will look forward
to continuing to talk with him on a
number of issues," said Col. Mary Ann
Epps, who is to succeed Demers as the
Assistant Adjutant General-Air. "I think
he has earned every minute of his
retirement."

"It is thanks to him I am on the Governor's
Military Staff," said Cmdr. Richard Crane.
"We were talking about why there was
not much Navy participation in the
inaugural ... and about two weeks and a
letter later ... I was on the staff."

"We had him take care of our horses for
us," said Maj. Rocco D'Eugenio, 2nd Co.
Governor's Horse Guard. "One day at
Camp Rowland he (Demers) was out
jogging, and came over to say good
morning. So we asked him to hold this
horse for us ..."

"He would restore normalcy to the state
of Connecticut after any emergency," said
Lt. Gov. M. Jodi Rell. "Working with
General Demers we know we can count
on the military department."

"Over the 17 years I've known him, he
has been real courteous to the AFA [Air
Force Association]," said Joseph Zaranka
AFA National Director, Northeast Region.
"He started the AFA's committee for
improving the relations between the Air
Guard and the Air Force."

Much of the guest list read like the "who's
who" of Connecticut's military past and
present, featuring the present leadership,
past adjutants general and senior officer
and enlisted leaders.

The general was also surprised as over
500 people sang Happy Birthday in honor
of his 64th birthday and presented him a
cake.

"You are and always will be part of the
Connecticut National Guard ... one of the
most loyal guys I have ever met," said
Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant
General, as he presented Demers with the
Army Sabre, a symbol of command.

And what did the guest of honor have to
say? A gentleman till the end he thanked
the attendees for making him who he was.
"I have learned from each and every one
of you, how to approach life in general,
how to approach military objectives, and
how respect people. For that I thank each
and every one of you."



Gentleman Until the End



Celebrating Black History Month: The Tuskegee Airmen

By Spc. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH

Reflecting back to America's earliest history, African-Americans have been involved in all declared and undeclared wars. They were labeled as second class-citizens and were segregated to all-Black units. In most cases they were not given full credit or recognition for choosing to fight and die for their country, but that did not stop many in welcoming the opportunity to prove their ability and commitment during World War II. The government agreed to establish a program in which all African-American applicants would be trained in all aspects of military aviation but there was no exception in the outlook of racial segregation.

Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama was the primary training center for all Black fighter pilots during the war. In March of 1942 five men, one from Connecticut, completed the course and received their silver wings and by the end of the war, almost 1,000 African-Americans had earned their wings.

It was not until a year after being trained that these pilots, also known as the Tuskegee Airmen, were allowed to go



into battle as the 99th Squadron. They endured unequal facilities and were attended by Black mechanics, doctors and air traffic controllers. The entire unit was self-sufficient and segregated from all White-units.

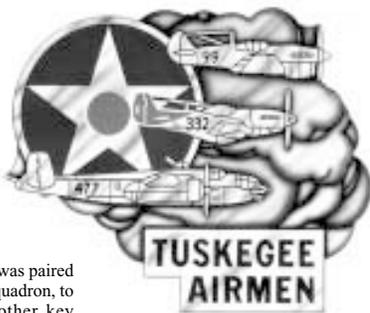
The men of the 99th had set high standards for themselves because they realized that every move was being scrutinized and that their success or

failure would directly impact the future of Blacks in the military. However, the triumphs of these men did not win over those who refused to accept their presence in the war.

In October of 1943, the 99th was paired with the 79th, an all White Squadron, to bomb bridges, roads and other key strongholds to restrict German mobility. Their role quickly expanded from escorting bombers to being involved in dive and fighter-bombers as well as strafing missions.

Between 1943 and 1945 the Tuskegee Airmen accounted for 15,533 flight attacks, destroyed 409 enemy aircraft, numerous fuel and ammunition dumps and sank a destroyer using their machine guns. They also escorted over 200 bomber missions without ever losing a bomber to enemy fighters, which earned them the nickname "Redtail Angels" from American bombing crews.

Although 66 of the Tuskegee aviators died in combat and 33 became prisoners of war they earned more than 850 medals, including 150 Distinguished Flying



Crosses, eight Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, 744 Air Medals and clusters, and three distinguished unit citations.

These accomplishments are all that much more incredible for being carried out by a group of men who were told they would not make it as pilots. Ironically these men fought two wars, at home they were faced with discrimination, segregation and human oppression while they were dealing with Hitler's doings overseas.

When the war ended, the federal government and War Department were forced to reassess the military policy for segregation and President Truman effectively set the course for integration of the Air Force.

Celebrating Black History Month: The "Buffalo Soldier"

Spc. Karyn Reynolds, 65th PCH

What comes to mind when you read or hear the term Buffalo Soldier? Bob Marley? Reggae music and Pina Colodas? A steel drum band? Native American soldiers? The answer is none of the above. The "Buffalo Soldiers" were the highly recognized and accomplished African American Cavalrymen of the 9th and 10th Cavalries.

As early as 1815, African American soldiers served in the United States Army. They fought in Washington's Army during the War of Independence and served with Andrew Jackson at New Orleans. As an alternative to slavery, enlistment of African Americans in the U.S. Army continued to increase over the years until the first black regiment in the United States was formed in 1861 under the command of Col. T.W. Higginson. Their formal name was the "First Regiment of South Carolina Volunteers." Over 180,000 African Americans served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Of these, more than 33,000 died.

After the war, there were a number of debates over whether African Americans could or

should serve in the US Army during peacetime operations. Congress finally enacted legislation in July 1866 to enable and establish the first peacetime African American units. This legislation provided for two cavalry regiments, the 9th and 10th Cavalries. Of the total cavalry forces on the frontier, the regiments made up roughly 20 percent. The majority of these regiments were made up of the men who served in Black units during the Civil War and new recruits looking to escape slavery. Enlistment was for five years, with a monthly stipend of a mere thirteen dollars plus room, board and clothing.

The work-week was seven days and consisted of some of the least desirable jobs the army had to offer at the time, such as subduing hostile Native Americans and outlaws, mapping vast areas of the southwest and stringing hundred of miles of telegraph lines. They also built and repaired frontier outposts and guarded servicemen, settlers, farmers and travelers.

These tasks were not easy in the face of racial prejudice from both citizens and law

officers, but these troopers received, when available, schooling to overcome illiteracy, which was mandated by slavery. The schooling, combined with shelter, stipend and esteem made enlistment irresistible to most.

In 1868, the desertion rate for peacetime enlisted personnel was 25 percent. Harsh living conditions paired with an increase in infectious diseases and hostile Native American confrontations made enlistment undesirable. The number of White regiment deserters was three times that of the Black units. The Black regiments also had lower rates of alcoholism. Often, Black troopers would extend their patrols up to six months at a time and thousand of miles.

It was the Plain Indians who began to call the black cavalrymen "Buffalo Soldiers." They were coined the name because the Indians thought their hair was similar to that of buffalo fur. The troopers accepted the title with pride because to be associated with the fighting spirit of the Indians' sacred buffalo meant respect.

For more than 20 years, the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments served across the plains and southwest. They fought valiantly against Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Comanche, and Apache warriors, among others. Despite prejudice, tasks of maintaining order among western settlers, their hardships and difficult missions, the 9th and 10th Cavalries established themselves as two of the most effective fighting forces in the Army. They compiled an extensive record of accomplishments and victories. In addition to accomplishment, their ranks included sixteen Medal of Honor recipients, enviable for their short history.

By 1941, the two cavalries merged to form the 4th Cavalry Brigade. In 1944, the cavalry regiments were disbanded, together with their long proud history. Annual reunions are still held for members of the 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association. Membership is available and extended to any person with outstanding service to the association or United States Armed Forces. For more information, contact The 9th and 10th Cavalry Association, PO Box 475, Junction City, Kansas, 66441.

Continued from previous page

OCS CLASS NOW FORMING: CONNECTICUT LOOKING FOR SOLDIERS READY FOR A CHALLENGE

STORY AND FILE PHOTOS BY SGT. FIRST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON, STATE SENIOR PANCO

The Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) Officer Program is a dynamic and demanding program. The mission is to train and evaluate candidates in the fundamentals of leadership and advanced military skills. The Officer Candidate Program provides advanced training in leadership, training management, communications, land navigation, combat survival, logistics and combat service support.

"Successful completion of OCS (Officer Candidate School) leads to becoming a commissioned officer which gives the soldier the maximum ability to affect change in our organization," said Lt. Col. Gary Thorstenson, commander, 1st Battalion (OCS), 169th Leadership Regiment. "It gives you the opportunity as an officer to help implement and develop policy rather than just carry it out." Thorstenson is in the middle of his first year as the OCS battalion



The OCS program consists of four phases. Phase 0 is three months of drills at Camp Rowland to acclimate soldiers to the OCS environment and ensure all prerequisites have been accomplished.

Phase I is an eight-state consolidated annual training period running 15 days which is coordinated and conducted by the OCS battalion at Camp Rowland and Stones Ranch Military Reservation. It is a power packed program of instruction consisting of

academic instruction, a field leadership exercise and day and night land navigation.

Phase II is twelve months of drills at Camp Rowland involving common core training requirements designed for squad and platoon level leadership.

Finally, Phase III is an eight-state consolidated annual training period of 15 days conducted at Fort Benning, Ga. which focuses on platoon level tactics, extensive road marching, combat water survival, a leadership reaction course and combat obstacle course. Phase III is overseen by the federal OCS program and is conducted by a regional Army National Guard staff.

Interested soldiers should begin now to pull their application packet together and to make sure they have met, or will meet, all requirements by the start of the course in mid-April.

Requirements include a minimum of 60 college credit hours from an accredited college or university depicted on an official college transcript. To receive a commission, 90 credit hours must be completed.

For current members of the military, a DD 214 indicating successful completion of basic training and Advanced Individual Training is required. A minimum GT score of 110 on the ASVAB is also required, but



soldiers may retest in order to improve this score, and a minimum SAT score of 850 or ACT score of 19 is also required. Test results for the SAT or ACT must be no older than six years at the time of application to OCS.

Other requirements include: a successfully passed Army Physical Fitness Test given by the regiment prior to admission to Phase I, height

OCS Open House Dates

February 24

March 17

April 21

All open house sessions will be held in Building 402, Leadership Hall, at Camp Rowland from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Uniform is BDUs if on duty, or civilian attire for all others. Bring a friend, parent or spouse.

and weight requirements must be met and the candidate must be at least 18 years of age at the time of commissioning and no older than 30 years of age, although soldiers may apply for a waiver to age 32, and the candidate must be a US citizen by birth or naturalization.

Remaining requirements include a social security card, birth certificate, local police records check, secret security clearance, letter of recommendation from the company commander, and an autobiography.

"This is a great opportunity for our soldiers," said Thorstenson. "OCS has been totally revamped with the emphasis now not so much on tactics as on professional development. As an officer, it is my responsibility to make sure my organization works well. There is no greater satisfaction than watching something work, and knowing it's mine."

If a soldier feels this description fits him or her, they should apply for the OCS program using their unit chain of command.



commander and is preparing for his first OCS class, but is no stranger to the Connecticut program. He attended OCS at Camp Rowland himself, and later joined the staff as a TAC (Teach, Advise, Counsel) officer.

In order to fill this upcoming class, the Leadership Regiment is holding several open houses where prospective officer candidates can visit the facility and talk to staff members before making a final decision on whether to apply or not. (See sidebar for dates and times.)



T.G.I.F.

The Guard Is Family



Snow Sports Update

By SGT. MAJ. BARBARA MONTGOMERY

If you read last month's snow sports piece, have tried New England slopes and are ready for a change, here's a suggestion. To ski anywhere on the West Coast, Presidio of Monterey (CA) has one of the largest Army Outdoor Recreation Centers in the world. They can make all your arrangements. One call can take care of air, hotel, lift tickets and ground transportation.

Presidio of Monterey Outdoor Recreation manages chalets, cabins, condominiums and subcontract motel rooms located at Lake Tahoe. Minimum stay is two nights. Rates vary depending on day of week, length of stay and holidays. Prices range from motel lodgings at \$50 to \$70 daily (double occupancy) to condos sleeping from two to eight persons for \$750 to \$1,020 weekly. Reservations are required and checks, Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

They are online at www.pom-odr.com

Commercial phone is 831-242-5506/6133

Office hours are 1030-1400 and 1500-1800, Mon-Fri. (Pacific Time)

Outdoor Recreation Equipment Center

Bldg. 228, 242 Ft. Mervine Place,

Suite #1 Lewis Hall

Presidio of Monterey, CA 93944-5000

By LT. COL. BILL SHEA
PRESIDENT@NGACT.ORG

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

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard (EANGUS) was created in 1970 by a group of senior NCOs. It was formally incorporated in 1972. It was created to give a voice on Capital Hill specifically for enlisted National Guard issues. Their primary focus is the support of the men and women of the National Guard.

The EANGUS headquarters is located in Alexandria, VA. A number of similar organizations are located in the same area such as the Retired Officers Association (TROA) and many others. The EANGUS Executive Director serves as a co-chair of the Military Coalition. The Military Coalition is made up of 31 military, veterans and uniformed services organizations (including NGAUS) that have come together to pursue mutual goals. These 31 organizations represent over 5.5 million members. EANGUS is also a member of the Council of Military Organizations, Veterans Against Drugs, the Military AD-HOC and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

EANGUS UPDATE



EANGUS, as part of the Military Coalition supports the following legislative priorities:

1. Extension of the 10-year limitation for the Montgomery G.I. Bill.
2. Tax relief for Reservists and Employers.
3. Medical Readiness and Protection.
4. Veterans Home Loan Program.
5. Aviation Continuation Incentive Pay Iniquity and many others.

EANGUS publishes a great member's benefit brochure. Some of the benefits offered to its membership include the following:

1. MBNA MasterCard and Visa Credit Cards.
2. Free accidental death and dismemberment insurance.
3. Discounted subscription to the Army Times and the Air Force Times.
4. Life and medical insurance plans.
5. Rental car discounts.
6. Scholarships.
7. Hotel discounts.
8. EANGUS travel services.
9. Custom designed checks and many other benefits.

EANGUS has a great web site. The web site address is <http://www.eangus.org/>. It

provides some excellent information about the activities, events and hot topics of the National Guard and our enlisted soldiers & airmen. Among the numerous topics found on their web site include:

EANGUS Communications: announcements; EANGUS calendar; member forum; and the EANGUS publication "The New Patriot."

EANGUS Organization: accomplishments; member benefits; EANGUS Staff officers; and the EANGUS National Conference (schedule for 19 - 22 Aug 01 in Mobile, AL).

Legislative Action: hot topics; Answer the Call; legislative goals; Legislative point papers; and legislative updates.

To find out more about EANGUS check out their web site at <http://www.eangus.org/> or you can contact the NGACT Executive Director, SGM (Ret) Joe Amatruda at (860) 247-5000. He can provide you with additional information regarding EANGUS as well as NGACT. There is an answering machine in the office. If no one is in the office please leave a message. You will receive a return call. The NGACT Web Site is <http://www.ngact.org/>. You can contact us through the web page. We want to hear from you.

ESGR

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



With the increased Op Tempo of National Guard and Reserve activity, training and actual deployment, there is the potential for a related increase in employer interest and concern over the possible circumstances of hiring and employing members of the Guard and Reserves. While they may ponder, a law passed in 1994 makes it very clear that dealing with those possible circumstances is legally their contribution to our Nation's defense.

Do you sense any reluctance on the part of your employer in terms of hiring, promoting, retaining or other forms of discrimination because of your participation in the Guard? If so, the Connecticut Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, provides

both education and mediation services through its Ombudsman Office (Captain Thomas Langlais, USCG-Ret., (860) 283-4222).

The Uniform Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) was enacted in 1994 to correct the misfortunes of Reservists returning from Desert Storm who found their employment denied or jeopardized because of their activation and participation. Basically, USERRA outlines the employment rights and responsibilities of both employees and employers in relationship to service in the Reserve Forces. Specifically it states that:

- Employment will not be denied because of

service in the Guard or Reserve.

- Employee job and career opportunities will not be limited or reduced because of service in the Guard or Reserve.

- Employees will be granted leaves of absence for military training (drills, AT, deployment) without sacrifice of vacation.

- Employment will be reinstated immediately upon request from Reservists returning from extended active duty.

- Employees will be reinstated into their careers at the status (pay, job rank, benefits, etc.) they would have attained had they not been on military leave.

A call to the Ombudsman service can help

relieve any concerns or problems you may have. It solves 98 percent of its cases to the satisfaction of all concerned. Many problems are solved through information and the education of both you and your employer as to the rights and responsibilities of both. In other cases, a call to your employer by the

Ombudsman or your Commander can do the trick. Whatever the solution, it is under your control since no action will be taken without your approval. The Ombudsman service is impartial and seeks the fairest remedy. It has found both employers and the military to be reasonable and flexible in resolving these problems so important to both. If you have any employment concerns or problems, isn't it worth the call?

How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

George Washington Carver

TRICARE ANNOUNCES NEW DENTAL PLAN AND CHANGES FOR FY 01

BY MAJ. JOHN R. WHITFORD
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The New TRICARE Dental Plan went into effect on February 1, 2001. With less out of pocket expense, the benefits increase to extend the age of eligibility for family member orthodontic care to age 21 or to age 23, for spouses or for children attending college full-time. Other incentives in the Dental Plan will include increasing the lifetime limit for orthodontic care to \$1,500 and allow for general anesthesia intravenous sedation where appropriate.

Other changes to the TRICARE program included in the FY 01 National Defense Authorization (NDAA) will allow to eliminate co-payments (excluding pharmacy) for active duty family members in TRICARE Prime who must

use civilian care, which will take effect April 28, 2001. The TRICARE Prime Remote program will also expand without co-pays to active duty family members beginning October 2001.

School physicals for children 5 to 12 years old are now a TRICARE benefit that is also an added change.

For older retirees who are Medicare eligible will become TRICARE beneficiaries that will take effect on October 1, 2001. Where possible, you will have access to care at Military Treatment facilities in the same manner as other retirees.

A pharmacy benefit will begin on April 1, 2001 for retirees 65 years and older

and family member allows access to the military pharmacy with no co-pay, a modest co-pay to the TRICARE pharmacy network and National Mail Order pharmacy and to non-network pharmacies, after a \$150 deductible with co-pays of nine dollars or twenty percent of total (whichever is greater).

The NDAA also decreases the annual medical catastrophic cap from \$7,500 per family to \$3,000 for retirees who are TRICARE Standard beneficiaries.

For FY 01, TRICARE is improving the health care of the soldiers and their families.

Aviation Command to hold Inaugural Military Ball



A military ball hosted by the 1109th AVCRAD (Aviation, Classification, Repair Activity Depot), will be held Friday, May 11, 2001 at the Marriott in Rocky Hill, Conn. The event begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 12:30 a.m. It is open to all military personnel, their spouses or guests and military retirees. Highlights of the evening include recognition of some retirees and the command enlisted personnel. Come join us for a night of camaraderie and friendship as we dance the night away to the music of Tony Bilotta. Look for details in the next issue of the Connecticut Guardian or call Maj. Scott Panagrosso at (860) 441-2955.

New Provision to Make Enacting Wills Easier

BY JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 2001 — A little uniform provision of the 2001 Defense Authorization Act will make it easier for the last wishes of service members to be carried out.

"This new federal law recognizes a special, uniform way to prove an individual's testamentary intent," said Col. George Hancock, chief of the Army's legal assistance division.

At the heart of the change to military testamentary instruments - or wills - is a standard "self-proving affidavit" at the end of the will. The affidavit contains the service member's acknowledgment of the will and affidavits of the witnesses to the will. The affidavit indicates that the will was signed in accordance with the required formalities, Hancock said.

Before this legislation, there was no uniform Federal self-proving affidavit. Instead, legal assistance attorneys searched for appropriate state provisions for the client.

"Today's reality is that military legal assistance attorneys are frequently expected to rapidly prepare wills for many deploying service members," Hancock said. "Adequate time to research State procedural law, then add that to the will, and execute the will according to the varying procedural requirements of each state or territory is seldom available. This new law will establish a single self-proving affidavit for legal assistance clients' wills. It is a special alternative to different State requirements

and should better assure the client that a probate court will accept his will. Also, this should reduce the likelihood that the surviving family member would experience difficulties probating the will. This is one less problem to deal with while grieving."

Under the new law, a military testamentary instrument should be admitted to probate in state court proceedings without additional witnesses or affidavits. This is important since, by our very nature, military members are mobile, and it may be difficult to find the witnesses when the testator dies. The self-proving affidavit ensures the will is probated without such hassles.

This does not mean a will cannot be challenged" It is still subject to contest on grounds such as undue influence, lack of testamentary capacity or prior revocation," Hancock said.

Military legal assistance offices may begin using the new provision later this year after DoD issues a directive that is now circulating among the services.

Existing wills are not affected by this change - a will already valid remains valid.

Hancock stresses that it is important for service members to not wait until they are deploying to make decisions on their estate plan. Soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen should discuss their estates with their families and visit installation legal assistance officers for help.

COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

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

CAMP ROWLAND POST EXCHANGE

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

ARMY RESERVE CENTER

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

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE

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

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

COAST GUARD STATION

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

SUB BASE, NEW LONDON

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

COAST GUARD ACADEMY

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

WEST POINT, NEW YORK

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



TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM

FSB from page 4

State Public Affairs Office and the 65th Press Camp, both out of Hartford, and the other civilians were portrayed by Guard volunteers.

"We need to make this training as realistic as possible," said Capt. Luke Boutot of headquarters Support Company, 143rd FSB. "The more we can do this, the more it becomes second nature to our soldiers."

Once vehicles were stopped and moved to the vehicle inspection lane, soldiers split into their teams and conducted three types of security operations - vehicle searches, personnel searches and perimeter guard duty.

Passengers from the vehicles were moved to a tent where they were searched for weapons and other contraband. The volunteer COBs (Civilians on the Battlefield) were told they did not speak English, so the FSB soldiers had to come up with other ways of communication. In one case, the COB was placed in the center of the tent with the soldier conducting the search behind her, while a second soldier used charades to instruct the civilian in what to do. After finding a knife on the civilian, her luggage was searched and a hand grenade was found.

Meanwhile, the vehicle she had arrived in was being search by a second team of soldiers. An equally uncooperative COB who also spoke no English, was giving the soldiers as much difficulty as he could. Here again, a potentially dangerous situation was in play. Hidden in various locations in the vehicle were pistols and simulated dynamite. The soldiers' job was to find the dangerous items. They did not succeed. The dynamite was not found, and the COB was able to retrieve the pistol and take out one soldier and injure another.

"But that's what this training is all about," said Master Sgt. Robert Franco of STARC, the volunteer playing the COB. "It's better for soldiers to make mistakes now, than in theater. This training is designed to make them better soldiers, and make their jobs second nature to them."

In early February, the FSB will travel to Fort Dix for four days of SASO (Stabilization and Support Operations) lanes training, where more scenarios of this type will be run. This will be an opportunity for the soldiers to put into practice all they have been learning over the past few months with evaluators looking on. SASO is one more step the unit is taking in receiving its accreditation for deployment. Many of the soldiers previously attended TSIRT (Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training) at Fort Benning, and the remainder will attend TSIRT in the spring.

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

Martin Luther King, Jr

BY STAFF SGT. CHARLES ROWLAND, HEALTH SERVICES CLERK, CTARNG

On 30 October 2000 President Clinton signed into law Public Law 106-398, the National Defense Authorization Act. Included in this legislation was the combination of the TRICARE Family Dental Plan (TFMDP) and the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program (TSRDP) into one program called the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP). Under the TRICARE Dental Program, members of the Selected Reserves and their dependent family members are now eligible to receive Dental Benefits for a monthly fee effective 1 February 2001. The TDP also increased the Annual Maximum Benefit to \$1200, increased the Lifetime Orthodontic Benefit to \$1500, and reduced the Mandatory Enrollment from 24 months to 12 months.

You, as a member of the National Guard, have access to all the information on the

TRICARE Dental Program. All you need to do is log on to United Concordia's website: www.ucci.com From United Concordia's Home Page, there is a link to the TRICARE Dental Program. There you will find general information about TDP and buttons for further information and enrollment. "Enroll Online" explains how to enroll in TDP using online forms or by mail. "More About the TDP" gives a brief overview of the program and it's benefits. "Par Dentist Search" allows you to find a participating dentist in your area. Under the "Reference Materials" button you will find a Benefit Book with details on what is covered under TDP. Also many forms such as Enrollment Forms and Claim Forms can be found here. Brochures such as "Reservist Fast Facts" which address specific TRICARE Dental Program topics can be read and printed from this link as well. The "Dentist Corner" is for

dental providers such as your own dentist. He can get more information on how to become a TRICARE Participating Dentist or how to become part of the TDP Network of Providers. "Contact Information" gives whom to call, write or e-mail for beneficiaries in CONUS or OCONUS. Contacts are also given for United Concordia (UCCI) and the TRICARE Management Activity. Finally, the "UCCI" button returns you to the United Concordia Web Site.

If your civilian employer does not provide dental coverage or if you are a student without dental care, this program is an excellent way to get that coverage. I encourage every member of the National Guard, Army and Air, to visit this web site and discover for themselves what a wonderful benefit TRICARE Dental Program really is.

State's Hispanic Population is Growing

Submitted by: Chief Master Sgt. Tony Palladino, HQ CTANG

State Human Resource Advisor

An influx of Latin American immigrants is contributing to a rapid growth in the state's Hispanic population, which soon may be Connecticut's largest minority group.

Hispanics had been projected to eclipse non-Hispanic blacks as Connecticut's largest minority group before 2015. But that demographic milestone appears to be coming much more rapidly than projected.

Population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau suggest that Hispanics now outnumber non-Hispanic blacks in five of the state's eight counties. Those

counties are Hartford, Tolland, Windham, Litchfield and Fairfield.

Hartford County's total population shrank between 1990 and 1999, but the county's Hispanic population grew by 27 percent, according to Census Bureau estimates.

The exact counts will be contained in the 2000 Census data on Hispanic ethnicity, which is scheduled for release in 2002.

There is growing evidence that foreign immigration is a major engine for the newest surge of Latino growth in Connecticut.

The influx of Latinos from Mexico, South American nations such as Peru, and Caribbean nations such as the Dominican Republic, means that Connecticut's

Hispanic population is not only growing, but its character is changing.

As recently as the 1990 Census, four of five Hispanics in Hartford County were Puerto Rican. But many people familiar with Hartford areas Latino population predict the 2000 Census will show that Peruvians, Mexicans, Cubans, Colombians, Dominicans and people from other Latin American nations now make up more than a third of the Hartford area's Hispanic population.

In some parts of the state, traditionally Puerto Rican neighborhoods are starting to change. In the Fair Haven neighborhood of New Haven, an upwardly mobile Puerto Rican population is moving to the suburbs and waves of immigrants are taking their place, community leaders say.



The Lamp

BY 1ST SGT. JOHN BUTLER, 169TH LEADERSHIP REGIMENT

"An Army of One," the Army's new recruiting slogan, was born from a two-week tour of wooded trails, company formations and classroom leadership training at Army posts around the country.

Ten teams of creative account transfers from the Leo Burnett Agency fanned out across the country to discover what soldiers liked about the Army. "The Army is not just equipment, it's people," says Amy Palmer, an account executive.

The civilians ran, took part in physical training (PT), ate MRE's and fired weapons systems.

Gen. Dennis Cavin stated, "An Army of One' connects with our prospective soldiers challenging them to stretch their limits and be part of something bigger than themselves."

We, as soldiers and leaders, must embrace these new concepts, to include the black beret. Our Army is evolving, and we must do the things that attract new soldiers and help to maintain a high level of morale.

Benefits of Serving in Bosnia**Career:**

- Operational Experience to include deployment experience and MOS proficiency
- Awards after 30 days in country include NATO Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device

Employment Protection

- Deployment is being conducted as part of a Presidential Selective Reserve Call-up (PSRC)
- Re-employment rights are protected and family benefits guaranteed legal protection under the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act.

Finance

- Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) starts on the day of deployment
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)
- Foreign Duty Pay for enlisted members starts upon arrival in country (\$8 to \$22.50 per month)
- Imminent Danger Pay starts upon arrival in country, \$150 per month.
- Per Diem of \$105 per month starts on date of deployment
- Family Separation Allowance II (FSA II) of \$100 per month upon deployment.
- Combat Zone Tax Exemption (CZTE) starts upon arrival in CTZE area
- Savings Deposit Program (SDP) eligibility starts upon arrival in theater

Other

- Fitness Center includes upgraded facilities, free weight kits, modern aerobic equipment, hammer strength equipment and running tracks
- Education opportunities includes NCOES and civilian education programs through several US colleges

Connecticut Marathoners Needed for Marathon Recruiting Workshop

The Nebraska Army National Guard is hosting a Recruiting Workshop for Marathoners, May 4 - 7, 2001 in Lincoln, Neb. This is an extraordinary opportunity for successful marathon runners to stress the role physical fitness plays in the National Guard.

Each state is authorized five participants with a maximum of four males, at Nebraska's expense.

The purpose is to train National Guard marathon runners to assist recruiters as Centers of Influence (COI) and to familiarize them with the Total Army Involvement in Recruiting (TAIR) program in high school presentations, running events/clinics and provide a positive National Guard public image.

Applications and further information is available by contacting 2nd Lt. Bellizzi at the Force Training Branch at (860) 524-4835. Applications must be submitted to Bellizzi no later than Feb. 15 and must include



documentation of fastest marathon finish time within the past 18 months. Finish times must be equal to or greater than the following: Open (Men under age 40) - four hours or the equivalent of a 9:09 per mile pace; Masters (Men age 40+) - four hours, 15 minutes or the equivalent of a 9:43 per mile pace; and Women (All ages) - four hours, 30 minutes or the equivalent of a 10:31 per mile pace.

All runners age 40 and over must complete their over 40 physical screening process prior to running in the National Guard Bureau-sponsored marathon. Applicants who have not been screened will request assistance for scheduling from their unit of assignment. The intent is to ensure that participants are the best qualified to project a strong image as COIs.

Each of the five participants chosen will be furnished a Connecticut Army National Guard marathon Team uniform, complete with sweats and gym bags.



Take a Shot this Winter

BY MASTER SGT. BRIAN E. ROY, MARKSMANSHIP TEAM CAPTAIN

Connecticut Air National Guard file photo

Shooting is a perishable combat skill so staying proficient takes practice. Shooting with the Bradley Air National Guard Base marksmanship team is an ideal way to maintain your shooting skills and may qualify you to compete in a tournament.

The 2001 Chief of the National Guard Bureau Tournaments, sponsored by the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center, will be conducted this winter in two phases.

Phase one is a postal match in which competitors shoot locally and scores are sent to the Marksmanship Training Center.

Phase two, National Championship is fired shoulder to shoulder in North Little Rock, Arkansas March 23-25, 2001. Only the top five teams from phase one are invited to compete in phase two. Last year the 103rd Fighter Wing team placed third at the National Championship.

There are six disciplines where competitors can compete. These include both rifle and pistol competition firing a variety of weapons from .177 Cal. pellets to 9mm and 5.56mm ammunition. This is an excellent opportunity to brush up those weapon qualification skills and possibly earn

points toward a US Air Force distinguished shooting badge, which is a unique uniform item few Air Force personnel are authorized to wear. If you're interested in learning marksmanship or are experienced in competing please contact Tech. Sgt. Scott Ashley at 860-292-2410 or Master Sgt. Brian Roy at 860-292-2395.

The Spirit of the American Soldier

I am a whisper on the wind, of times past, of places long forgotten, Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Bataan, Pearl Harbor, Normandy, Seoul, Laos, Saigon, Cambodia, Kuwait. I am the heart of countless numbers of scarred and maimed veterans, and the soul of the buried unknown. I am an integral part of each white cross in Flanders Field and am sealed within each name on The Wall. I am a part of each and every headstone of every American Soldier in every cemetery in the world. I am deeply enmeshed in each tiny undiscovered bone fragment of American Soldiers, left behind on foreign soil. I am the unseen shadows, the unheard voices of those many empty cells, that once held my brothers in unspeakable torture. I am the unbearable pain in the hearts of every mother, father, wife, sister, brother, and

child, of missing American soldiers from all wars. I am within each and every tear shed for them. I am the essence of each and every drop of blood shed in the past or in the future, by an American soldier in the name of freedom. I am the lifeblood of the colors of the American flag, the blue for my loyalty and unwavering dedication, the white for my steadfastness, and the red for my pride and love of my country. I am the spirit of those names on the Black Granite Wall, all of those unaccounted for in each and every war, of those who went away to war as gallant young men and came back, older than time...OR NOT AT ALL.

I AM THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER!
Author - Beverly Hare - 1998



Guard Runs Military Funeral Honor Guard Training Program

Story and Photos by Sgt. First Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO

They braved a strong ice and snowstorm to take a course at Camp Rowland because of their strong belief that all former service members deserve proper military honors at their funerals and they want to be accurate in their delivery of those honors.

Ten current and retired Connecticut Army National Guard soldiers traveled to Camp Rowland, Niantic in January to take part in the first Military Funeral Honor Guard instruction course to be held in Connecticut. Because of all the recent changes in legislation surrounding the use and payment of military squads, it was felt this course was needed.

Participants used FM 22-5 as the basis for instruction. There were two tasks the students received training in – Perform a Military Funeral Firing Party and Fold a United States Flag for Funeral Honors Presentation.

During the Perform a Military Funeral Firing Party class, students learned how to give the proper commands and to insure that correct facing movements and manual of arms are performed properly. In order to accomplish these standards, members of the squad must know how to form up the detail and ensure that rifles are locked and loaded with magazines or clips, proper distance from the gravesite must be maintained and all commands must be given in the proper order. Individual soldiers also learned the proper facing movements for the actual firing of the weapons, the commands to bring them into position and how to fire.

During the flag-folding portion of the training, the students practiced the proper way of folding the American flag and presenting it to the families. They also practiced several, acceptable comments that could be made to the families during the presentation of the flags.

The 169th Leadership Regiment at Camp Rowland developed and implemented this new course in order to get all military funeral squads the Guard provides trained in the proper procedures of Military Honors. This course will be repeated in the future and if any soldier is interested in attending, they should make the arrangements through their chain of command.



"Ready, Aim, Fire" Soldiers practice giving and taking commands for a firing squad during recent training at Camp Rowland.



Soldiers and retirees receive instruction in the finer points of conducting a Military Funeral Honor Guard.

An inexhaustible good nature is one of the most precious gifts of heaven, spreading itself like oil over the troubled sea of thought, and keeping the mind smooth and equable in the roughest weather.

Washington Irving



Soldiers and retirees practice the proper way of folding the American flag during a Military Funeral Honor Guard Instruction program held recently at Camp Rowland.

CONNELLY cont'd from page 1

"I am very proud of the 712th Maintenance Company and their food service personnel for their outstanding efforts and performance in winning this prestigious award," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's Adjutant General and commander of the Connecticut National Guard. "Their professionalism and attention to detail is just another example of the quality of men and women in the Connecticut National Guard."

The 712th Maintenance Company along with other winners will be recognized in a joint service program during the International



Food Service Executives Conference March 2 through March 5, 2001 in Anaheim, California.



More Photos and Story of the Horse Guards' participation in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in the next issue



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