



Connecticut Guardian

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Medal of Honor Recipient Talks Leadership with Connecticut Officers

STAFF SGT. STEVEN MARKOWSKI
65TH PCH

While leading Company E, 305th Infantry, 77th Infantry Division on an important attack against a Japanese stronghold, Lt. Robert Nett was seriously injured. Facing heavy machinegun and other automatic weapons fire, Nett led the charge. As his Medal of Honor citation states: "During the fierce hand-to-hand encounter which ensued, he killed seven deeply entrenched Japanese with his rifle and bayonet and, although seriously wounded, gallantly continued to lead his men forward, refusing to relinquish command...."

He was injured again, yet continued to spearhead the assault. Injured a third time, he made arrangements to calmly transfer command, and inspired the men to continue what became a successful, and critical, capture of the enemy stronghold near Cognon, Leyte, Philippine Islands, December 14, 1944.

The military record of Col. (Ret.) Robert Nett speaks for itself. So, with the exception of a few anecdotes to illustrate points and principles of leadership, Nett spoke more about leadership than himself, while speaking to the annual gathering of Connecticut Army National Guard officers.

Judging from his remarks, the only living



Col. (Ret.) Robert Nett, a Medal of Honor recipient and former member of the Connecticut Army National Guard, addresses attendees at the Officers Dining-In (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Markowski, 65th PCH)

veteran of the Connecticut National Guard who wears the Medal of Honor seems to feel there are many heroes in the military, as there always have been.

And those who train soldiers to stay alive, and to persevere on the battlefield, don't always get the recognition they deserve.

See NETT p. 3

Connecticut's Homeland Defense

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65TH PCH

The National Guard has done many things throughout its history, which goes back to the earliest times of life in the English colonies. That history, which covers more than three-and-a-half centuries, has seen Guard members deploy on missions of domestic and international importance, complementing active duty forces.

Yet, with all of its well-trained, professional, educated citizen-soldiers, and the modern, technically intricate equipment, Americans are seeing them perform a mission as basic as the one assigned to those early militia units.

Homeland Defense is a term that seems to have been used more often within the past few months than in quite a few years, but the concept itself originated in the colonies, and was officially designed in the first article of the Constitution.

In other words, the average Connecticut National Guard member needs only to focus on the basic fundamentals of serving in the role of citizen-soldier.

"MOS Qualifications are still a priority, soldier skills remain critical," said Adjutant General Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Chairman of Governor Rowland's Weapons of Mass Destruction Steering Committee. "Guard members should maintain their records, and exercise any available educational opportunities for themselves. And they should be aware and practice SAEDA. There's basically no change in business."

Approximately 100 Connecticut Army National Guard members are on state active duty, providing security at federally gated airports, as well as nuclear power plants, and armories around the state.

"We're assisting the nuclear power plants for their transition phase, as they increase their own security forces," Cugno said.

The Connecticut Air National Guard has called up air traffic control personnel to provide air coverage radar service between Boston and New York.

See HOMELAND p. 20

60 Years Since the 'Day of Infamy'

2ND LT. CELINE MARINI
ASSISTANT STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Regardless of your age, or your interest in World War II, a visit to Pearl Harbor is an extremely emotional experience. There are many war memorials across America, but there's something truly different there.

At 7:55 on the sunny morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941, 183 Japanese warplanes swooped out of a cloudless sky and demolished the US Pacific fleet docked at Pearl Harbor. It was this single catastrophic event - not the invasion of Poland...or the Battle of Britain...or the persecution of the Jews - that finally dragged the United States into World War II.

But you already knew that. What you don't know, and won't until you set foot on this beautiful island, is that Pearl Harbor has a way of pulling you back in time and wrapping its suntanned fingers around your heart like no other place in the world. The Hawaiian Islands are truly America's paradise and you are seduced by the perfumed scent of tropical flowers and soft kiss of Pacific trade winds the moment you arrive in Honolulu. Here, stress has a magical way of evaporating from your body. And the last thing you can imagine, as you close your eyes and stretch out on a balmy Oahu beach, is the thought of hundreds of killing machines suddenly screaming down upon you. This horrible paradox will forever haunt

Pearl Harbor and leave its indelible mark upon your soul.

The Japanese dive-bombers are long gone, but the wondrous allure of this tropical island remains. And so do the bodies of over 1,000 American sailors - still entombed in the hull of the U.S.S. *Arizona*.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was the culmination of a decade of deteriorating relations between Japan and the United States over the status of China and the security of Southeast Asia. This breakdown began in 1931 when Japanese army extremists, in defiance of the

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Dear Members and Families of the Connecticut Military Department:

The holiday season is a special time for sharing, good will and appreciating the many blessings we enjoy.

As we continue to recover from the September 11th tragedy, your role as members of the Armed Forces is even more vital and appreciated. Your service, performance and devotion to duty reflect the highest standards of patriotism, courage and honor.

I wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Happy Holidays and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. ROWLAND
Governor



December 2001

To the Members and Families of the Connecticut Military Department:

During this holiday season, I want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to you, the men and women of the Connecticut Military Department, for your continued professionalism, contributions and sacrifices throughout the year.

The September 11th attack gave a fresh appreciation for our members of the Armed Forces. The sacrifices made by so many during and after that tragic event lead us to appreciate and hold even more dearly the benefits of living and working in a free society.

Throughout this special season of joy, sharing and family festivities, I ask that you consider safety in all your activities. Please take the time to do it carefully, to drive safely and to buckle up.

Happy Holidays to you and your families and all the best in the New Year.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM A. CUGNO
Major General
The Adjutant General



Col. Nett Comes Home to Connecticut Guard

From p. 1

That type of viewpoint is what prompted him to ask that his Medal of Honor be presented to him at the Goffe Street Armory in New Haven, in front of family and friends, rather than on the White House lawn, by President Harry S. Truman. Nett's career started at that armory in the spring of 1940, when he enlisted into Company C, 102nd Infantry. Among those who witnessed the ceremony in New Haven were the senior leaders who Nett credits for giving him the tools to lead on the battlefield. He credits them for keeping him alive in World War II. But, Nett, a native of New Haven, did more than just stay alive in battle. He served honorably and inspiringly for 33 years, and although he's been retired since 1973, he is a living legend at Fort Benning, Georgia, in the Connecticut Army National Guard, and for that matter, in the U.S. military. And, he continues to lead, inspire and teach the young leaders of the future.

He did just that November 8, as the keynote speaker for the Connecticut Army National Guard's 2001 Officer's Regimental Dining-In, at the Aqua-Turf Country Club in Southington. Appropriately, the host unit for this year's event was the 169th Leadership Regiment.

With 33 years of experience as an officer, including serving at the company command level in two wars, and as a military advisor in a third war, Nett offered some advice to the leaders of the CTARNG.

"First and foremost, you must maintain your physical fitness at all times. Lead by example with everything you do; and that starts with having a strong body," he said. "Second, you should have a thirst for knowledge and the drive to achieve mastery of all leadership and your subordinate skills. You should never stop learning."

He also urged the officers to embody the Army's value of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. "Soldiers pick up Army values more by watching and evaluating effective leaders than they do by sitting in a classroom listening to long-winded lectures," he said.

With all of his military experience, Nett thrives on new experiences, especially meeting the young people who serve today. He spoke of a recent trip to Europe, made at the request of the Army Chief of Staff. He spoke to troops who have been serving in Italy, Bosnia, Hungary and other European countries.

"I found to my amazement, 80 percent of the combat support of the United States Army Europe were reserve and National Guard personnel on an eight-month tour of active duty," he said.

In Frankfurt, he personally greeted more than 850 troops who were out-processing from Bosnia.

"I talked to each one, shook hands and thanked them for their great contribution to our national effort. I had no knowledge who was Reserve, National Guard or active duty," he said.

During his speech to the Connecticut Guard members, he spoke of his fondness for his home state, and the Connecticut Guard.

"I look back now, and I have to tell you how important the Guard training was to me. I have to thank my first platoon sergeant Frank Peterson. I learned more basic skills from him than from all of the other service schools I attended put together," Nett said. He also thanked Capt. Frances P. Carberry and other unit leaders, who recommended him for a commission. "...I am certainly indebted to the Connecticut National Guard, and those two particular individuals, because they were ones who got me standing straight, to shut up as a teenager and listen."

With his busy schedule of traveling, speaking and giving first-hand advice to



Col. (Ret.) Robert Nett receives the Adjutant General's coin from Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's Adjutant General. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Markowski, 65th PCH)

service members around the globe, Nett is the Army's youngest 82-year old. And although he's technically retired, he doesn't show signs of slowing down. He and his wife Francis live in Columbus, Georgia, near Fort Benning.



Col. (Ret.) Robert Nett addresses the Mess during the 2001 Officer's Dining In. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Markowski, 65th PCH)

Public Affairs Guidance: Response to Media Rules of Engagement

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 have drawn a great deal of media attention. Since then, a lot of media focus has been on the military as a whole to include alerts, mobilizations and airport security. In accordance with the law and Constitution, media personnel are free to conduct their business more or less, as they deem necessary and appropriate. Soldiers and Airmen, however, should adhere to the following rules when dealing with news media:

1. Notify your NCOIC/OIC right away. Notify the State Public Affairs Office at (860) 524-4857 or (860) 883-5336. Do not

make any statement until directed by the State Public Affairs Officer.

2. Treat media with the utmost courtesy and respect.
3. The only authorized spokespersons for the Connecticut National Guard are the State PAO and the 103d FW PAO.
4. When approved, you may respond to media questions. You may decline to answer questions you are uncomfortable with or do not know the answer to.
5. Refer questions about National Guard operations to your chain of command for forwarding to Maj. John Whitford, State Public Affairs Officer.





White House photo by Carol T. Powers

The White House

Mrs. Bush's Holiday Greeting for Reservists and National Guard

(Editor's Note: This letter came in after the November issue had been published, but we thought it important to share with our readers.)

I am delighted to wish you a happy Thanksgiving. This year the holiday season holds special meaning for Americans, and we are particularly grateful for members of our National Guard and for members of our Armed Forces Reserves.

As we continue to heal from the tragedies that began on September 11, your role becomes more important - and more appreciated - than ever. Our nation depends on the premiere, community-based force of the National Guard and Reserves. You are America at its best.

For many of you, this will be a season of separation from friends and loved ones. The President and I appreciate your sacrifices and commend your willingness to serve and defend our country, from ensuring that our airports and ports of travel are safe, to protecting our nation's borders. Your presence across our homeland and abroad is a source of pride and reassurance for all Americans.

This holiday season, Americans are reflecting on what is most important to us: our faith, our family and friends, and our freedom, which you defend with honor and dignity. Thank you again, and may God bless you and your families as you continue your service to America.

Laura Bush



CHIEF MASTER SGT.
JOSEPH L. KING
STATE COMMAND CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT

By the time you read this, it will be the beginning of the Advent Season. Although we all have a lot that we should be thankful for, Thanksgiving doesn't seem to receive the recognition that it did when I was growing up.

This year, things are a lot different than they were in past years. On 9/11/01 we experienced an attack on our nation in a way that was unprecedented in the history of the world. This evil act has put us on a wartime footing and our 103d Air Control and Security Forces Squadrons have been activated in support of the war effort. Additionally, our HQ personnel have been activated in the EOC in support of Homeland Defense. Bottom line, our country may

never return, in our lifetime, to the levels of openness and freedom that we all have come to know and treasure.

The bright side of this dark picture has been the manner in which our people have responded to the activation call of our Commander-in-Chief. Some of the airmen and soldiers have volunteered for a one or two-year commitment and others have volunteered just to get involved and provide support wherever it is needed. To see the pro-active-can do attitude, commitment and response of our people has made me very proud to be a member of the Connecticut Air National Guard. You are truly a very special group of people.

In the beginning of this column I noted that

this is now the beginning of the Christian Advent Season. Christmas will follow within four weeks. As we Christians prepare for the celebration of the birthday of Christ, let us all remember our members who are off supporting this war effort. Let us all say a special prayer for them and their families. If possible, let's send them a card or gift to let them know that they are in our hearts and prayers this holiday season and that we deeply appreciated what they are doing in support of their country.

To that end, Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Primett and I wish each and every one of you and your families and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ENLISTED UPDATE

Holiday Thoughts

The Link Between September 11 and December 7

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

In the days immediately after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, Americans groped to find ways to describe the event.

Time and again, commentators, politicians and just plain folks called the attacks "another Pearl Harbor."

Dec. 7, 2001, marks 60 years since the Japanese attack on the main bastion of American strength in the Pacific. The attack precipitated America's entry into World War II. On Dec. 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. He called Dec. 7 "a date that will live in infamy."

Sept. 11 and Dec. 7 are now linked in the public consciousness, though the attacks on those days aren't that similar, save their furtiveness. On Dec. 7, 1941, the nation of Japan attacked military bases on the then-remote

U.S. territory of Hawaii, killing more than 2,500 people, mostly military members, and wounding thousands more. On Sept. 11, 2001, Al Qaeda — an amorphous, stateless terrorist network — hijacked four U.S. commercial airliners and used them to attack targets in two mainland cities, killing some 4,000 people, mostly civilians.

What the two events have in common, however, is the galvanizing response of the American people.

After Pearl Harbor, Americans swamped recruiting stations seeking to enlist. Others calmly waited for draft notices. Still others went back to their jobs and began the work that would make the United States "the Arsenal of Democracy."

The country was unified. Before Dec. 7, Roosevelt couldn't have gotten a declaration of war through Congress on a bet. After Dec. 7, only one representative voted against the declaration. When Germany and Italy, Japan's allies, declared war on the United States days later, the conflict escalated into the first truly global war in the history of mankind.

The American generation that struggled through the Depression stepped forward to save the world. Americans hadn't started the war, but they knew how to end it, knew exactly where to go and who to thrash.

After the attacks of Sept. 11, Americans felt unity. They displayed that solidarity by flying the flag, donating more than a billion dollars to help victims' survivors and aid groups, and showing support for the nation in many other ways.

They felt as did President Bush, who, visiting the Pentagon shortly after a hijacked airliner had hit the building, told

photographers, "I'm sad, but I'm angry, too."

But there was also frustration: The enemy is stateless yet state-supported and is nontraditional and unconventional. America's typical responses were not options.

In his Sept. 20 speech to Congress, Bush said, "We are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done."

Polls show the American people support the actions of the government to date. Support for military action in Afghanistan to destroy Al Qaeda terrorists and their sympathetic Taliban government hosts is also high. These same polls show Americans are willing to be patient in going after terror groups.

Dec. 7 and Sept. 11 may have another thing in common: They are dates when the world changed.

"Dec. 7 was a turning point for the world and Sept. 11 should be no less so," Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Nov. 14 in a speech. "On 9-11, our generation received one of history's greatest wake-up calls. Like the 'Greatest Generation,' we must answer that call. As we do, we have the chance to make sure that the world that emerges will be better for our efforts."

STOC Soldiers Learn Not to Travel in Circles in a Square World

Pfc. SHIRROD RICHARDSON
65th PCH

The Split Training Option Company (STOC) is in full effect making sure soldiers who have completed basic training but will wait nearly a year before attending Advanced Individual Training (AIT) not only do a better job and maintain skills already learned, but represent the true excellence of the Connecticut Army National Guard while at the same time getting a leg up on their advanced skills.

This is STOC's third year in existence and the things it has accomplished are phenomenal according to Sgt. Maj. Raymond Zastaury, state retention sergeant major and STOC sergeant major.

"The National Guard needed a way to improve the success rate of split option soldiers in AIT. Not only that, but we also wanted to help these soldiers stand out above the rest, and that's how STOC was created," said Zastaury. "We also look to guide these soldiers. In STOC, we try to keep the soldiers motivated between their basic and advanced training time. We keep their soldiering skills sharp through rigorous classes and field training."

A recent weekend saw the soldiers in the field at Stone's Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme learning how not to travel in circles in a square world. In other words, learning map reading, compass skills and land navigation, or how to travel the earth using grid squares,



Split Training Option Company Class of 2002. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

Instructors that teach the soldiers are recruiters from the Recruiting and Retention Command. Each of the instructors is a highly trained and specialized soldier and provides exceptional training for the STOC soldiers, according to Zastaury.

"One of the most important parts of the program is the soldiers really seem to enjoy the program and the training," said Zastaury. "Motivation is a very important element of being successful in the military."

"You learn so much, it really makes me want to make a career out of the military," said Pvt. Arwid G. Gibinski who is training to become an infantryman with the 102nd Infantry. "It's a great chance to review the things I learned in basic training. Not only that, but it's a chance to improve upon those skills, too."

The STOC program really immerses the soldiers in military training, and they seem to enjoy the program so much, many of them want to make a career of the military,

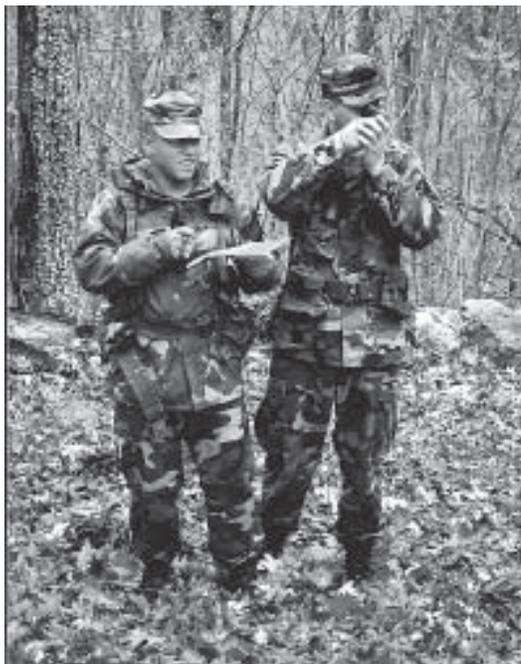
according to Zastaury.

"I think it's great. I love it so much I want my friends from high school to join also. They seem really interested in the things I do in the Guard," said Pvt. Brandon M. Hilton, a future Hemmitt driver for the 250th Engineer Company. "I can't wait for the day when I become an NCO or officer."

"This is more fun than Basic, and I also learn more," said Pvt. Fei Wang who will study to become a carpenter with the 248th Engineer Company when he attends AIT. "I was able to go through swamps and woods in my land navigation training. The National Guard provides a lot better learning than I could ever have hoped for."

STOC teaches and reinforces skills in communications, land navigation, survival and weaponry. The soldiers also learn through briefings about the history of the Connecticut Army National Guard, Space Available travel, educational benefits, retirement benefits, pay and entitlements, commissary and post exchange privileges and re-enlistment incentives.

STOC continues the momentum of basic training and prepares soldiers for AIT. With well-documented successes, STOC looks to continue for years to come making young soldiers in training excel to levels they never dreamed possible.



Students in the STOC program take careful aim with a compass during a land navigation exercise at Stone's Ranch Military Reservation. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Working as a team is very important during land navigation as these STOC soldiers are learning. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



During a light-hearted moment in training, two of the CTARNG's newest members point to a location in the sky during recent land navigation training at Stone's Ranch Military Reservation while on a weekend drill. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



STOC soldiers study their grid coordinates and shoot an azimuth as they prepare to take off on one leg of their land navigation course. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

Diversity Conference Draws Military and Civilians

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

Members of Connecticut Air and Army National Guard, militia units and invited guests from other guard units and the community gathered for the Northeast Regional Diversity Workshop at the Coast Guard Academy, November 17.

"We had about 22 walk-ins, so with the few no-shows we had 380 people," said Capt. Ann Marie Garcia, commander, 141st Ambulance Company who served as the chairperson for the Army National Guard on the Diversity Workshop Committee that planned the event. "We had people from Army, Air, civilians, people from Sikorsky, Waterbury Schools and Hospital, people from the state militia and the Coast Guard."

The event began with the familiar presentation of the colors and welcome remarks by Maj. Gen. William Cugno, the adjutant general and Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps, commander, Connecticut Air National Guard.

In his remarks, Cugno told those

gathered that "diversity in the Connecticut National Guard is a priority."

A popular question prior to the workshop was 'why do we need this training, why is it a priority?' Dr. Samuel Betances, workshop facilitator, answered the question head-on.

"It is a matter at looking at how demographic shifts are impacting us and why we must have diversity training as a matter of mission and readiness rather than just good human relations," said Betances of Souder, Betances and Associates, Inc., who is considered one of America's leading

"...we must have diversity training as a matter of mission and readiness rather than just good human relations."

Dr. Samuel Betances

motivational speakers.

The first sign that this training event would go deeper, was an inspirational video. The video, made by the 103rd Communications Flight, received a standing ovation and brought some attendees to tears with images from September 11 and the ongoing military response.

From there, the workshop moved in a new direction through the electrifying evangelical-style speaking of Betances. At every turn workshop goers were asked to challenge their preconceived notions about how they relate to those different from themselves. Often the topics would lead to some seat squirming as topics seldom discussed were.

"We would not have the people...and we would not have this great experiment in democracy in our republic had it not been for white males," said Betances. "Now there are some things that white males have got to give up and there is some stuff that black people have to give up. It is as if sometimes we (non-white males) think this country was built on our backs."

The doctor made the point - we all need to work together to succeed - many times with examples from every angle including current events.

"We have got to stand at home united,

because there are people outside in the world who really hate us," said Betances.

To keep people focused and learning during frequent pauses attendees were told to circulate and talk to someone they had not met so they may learn a different perspective. He frequently told the crowd to take notes ordering "write this down," while encouraging those seated together to enforce the note taking with a brisk swipe of their program.

As he would make a point or cite an example, he followed it with the call "Do I hear a witness?" which carried acceptable responses of aham or bam. The most resounding response followed an example for inclusion in decision making.

"Do not make decisions with a committee of full-time guard members that effect the part-time guard members without having them on the committee;



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Anthony Uva, State Area Command, checks in Gregory Tyler, 103rd Student Flight who is attending the Diversity Workshop prior to attending Air Force basic training. (Photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103rd FW PAO)



Dr. Lynda Blackmon Smith, president, Chemical Addiction Recovery Enterprises, Inc. and a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Military Service, gives the keynote speech at the Northeast Regional Diversity Workshop at the Coast Guard Academy, November 17. (Photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103rd FW PAO)

From Around the NE Region Together for a Day

do I hear a witness?" The auditorium exploded with shouts of ahem and bam. He kept the language and message simple with examples that were specific and on topic.

"If you are going to have change you have to have a process ... an event is not a process," the doctor explained. He cited how a marriage is change, where the wedding is an event but the process of change begins when you get home.

The enthusiasm in the auditorium carried over on the breaks as attendees talked freely about what they had learned.

"This gentleman has opened up my mind, opened up my heart and connected both," said Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski, commanding general, Connecticut Army National Guard. "His observations are right on target ... we have a lot of work to do."

"It (the workshop) gets people motivated toward working together," said Master

Sgt. Gregory Hock, logistics plans NCOIC, 103rd Fighter Wing. "I like it."

"You can learn about how to interact with others and other's beliefs," said Senior Airman Khasis Harrell, services specialist, 103rd Services Flight.

"I internalized a lot today to bring back to the squadron," said Capt. Michelle Bruno, nurse, 103rd Medical Squadron. "I learned there is a lot of good leadership here listening."

Everyone had good things to say about how easy, and at times entertaining, listening to Betances was for eight hours of training.

"A real attention getter," Senior Airman Aaron Gow, computer communications, 103rd Air Control Squadron. "He (Betances) is really great at what he does." "I learned a lot of things," said Senior Airman Lindsey Rohner, supply apprentice, 103rd Logistics Squadron. "He brings up a lot of issues that are

pertinent and does it in an entertaining way."

At times the training could have passed for a standup routine, but that did not make the points any less effective. Talking to complex and sensitive issues, like illegal aliens in the United States, the doctor made his point but keep the mood positive.

"America was established by illegal aliens because the Puritans did not show passports to the Indians," said Betances.

"We are looking for the folks in the Air Guard to realize we need to mirror our communities in all our units," said Lt. Col. Richard Erdmann, commander, 103rd Air Control Squadron.

How did the workshop come about?

"It (the workshop) was a year-long process that began in November of last year," said Chief Master Sgt. Tony Palladino, state human resource advisor, Headquarters, Connecticut Air National Guard, who served as the chairperson

for the Air National Guard on the Diversity Workshop. "Col. Scace asked Capt. Garcia and myself to put together an Army/Air Guard committee and host this conference."

So what is next for the diversity program in Connecticut?

"The state diversity action plan is being formulated as we speak," said Palladino.

"This training today creates the awareness and creates the educational piece (for diversity)," said Betances. "Next is the action plan to recruit, retain and qualify to promote, which requires planning and brainstorming by the leadership."

"This gentleman has opened up my mind, opened up my heart and connected both."

Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski

Dr. Lynda Blackmon Smith, president, Chemical Addiction Recovery

Enterprises, Inc. and a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Military Service, gave the keynote speech during lunch. She reviewed the history of women in the military.



Dr. Samuel Betances (left) talks with (from left to right) Senior Master Sgt. Howard Shaw, Headquarters CTANG, Tech. Sgt. Debra Weeks and Master Sgt. Cynthia Outhouse both 103rd Air Control Squadron, before the beginning his presentation November 17. (Photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103rd FW PAO)



Tech. Sgt. Michelle Wink, 103rd Mission Support Flight, CTANG, First Sgt. Richard Miller and 1st Lt. Stephen Sanchez, both 85th Troop Command, CTARNG, and Maj. Peter Wasilewski, 2nd Co. Governor's Foot Guard (from left to right) at the Northeast Regional Diversity Workshop. (Photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103rd FW PAO)

Dispatches From the Front

CAPT. MICHAEL SPOSATO
Co. B, 143rd FSB

(Editor's Note: Copies of this letter was sent to friends and family of Capt. Sposato, who passed it on to the Connecticut Guardian. After reading it, we obtained permission from the author to publish it here. We have deleted the names of the original recipients to protect their privacy.)

I appreciate the letters you both sent on behalf of yourselves and the 4th graders you are supporting. I am a Physician Assistant or "Army Doc" with a Forward Support Battalion here at Camp Comanche, Bosnia. Our unit is headquartered in Waterbury while at home and we have male and female medics, doctors, nurses and staff. Our unit is part of the 29th Infantry Division that has a legendary history when it went ashore at Omaha beach on D-day in WWII. It is an honor to wear the divisional patch on my uniform. We all have a debt to those men and women that saved this world for us that we enjoy today and I am here in part to earn that privilege.

Here at Comanche Base near the city of Tuzla, we have support assets that include aviation, medical, military intelligence and fuel and ammunition handling. Our mission here is to support our division in its effort to keep the peace between the Bosnian Serbs and Muslims. The overall goal is to allow the free flow of commerce, rebuilding of the infrastructure and encourage a free and safe society through democracy. The Muslims we are protecting here are far different from the ones we are fighting in Afghanistan today. They are very much like ourselves in temperament and dress, but their religion is different to us. However, they are not as intensely religious as other Muslim countries. During the war in the 1990's both Christian Serbians and Muslims were guilty of horrible acts of inhumanity toward each other. However, the Serbs were more organized and better at it and received a lot of the blame. There is a level of corruption in

the local police and government here on both sides that will take a generation to overcome. Most of the hope is in the children.

Children go to school here, but they do not enjoy all the luxuries you enjoy and may take for granted. They want pencils and pens desperately for school. If you collected and sent me a box I would hand them out. I would be mobbed doing it, but I will risk it if I get the chance. I gave out Gold US Dollar coins, Kennedy half dollars and Connecticut Quarters to many children at the end of our visit and I was crushed against the Humvee for a time. And yes, I gave away my one pen I had from a drug company that said "Celebrex". Those small acts by soldiers do more for world peace and understanding than any government program. The children play soccer mostly for fun as they don't have equipment for other sports. They are lucky to have a bicycle in many cases.

Some homes here have significant damage and are unlivable. Many homes have been repaired and some are new. It has turned cold here now and it has snowed once. We are near the mountains and they are nearly as high as those in Vermont. They burn everything here and the air quality is poor because of it. It is not unusual to be driving on patrol and be stuck behind cows or a horse pulled cart on the road.

Everywhere our infantry goes on patrol the Muslim children wave hello or want to stop and try to talk in broken English as they speak Bosnian. The schools are now teaching English or German as a second language. As this was a former Warsaw Pact country, they used to only teach Russian as another language. We have international police that also help in protecting people and property. It is commonly known that with the right amount of money the local police can excuse any crime. They International Police are trying to put an end to the corruption, but it is so ingrained in



Capt. Sposato and Capt. Myslenski with some of the refugee children in Visca. (Photo courtesy of Capt. Sposato)

their police work that it will take years to overcome. Unfortunately, when we are in a Serbian area of Bosnia or near the Serbian dominated Croatian border many of the people, including Serbian children, make it clear by gestures that they do not like our presence. It is clear, that if the world leaves this place anytime soon, there will be more loss of life.

Most of Bosnia is a farming society and they work the fields constantly and without machinery for the most part. It is hard labor. Nearly one million mines have been planted in Bosnia and in many cases animals and children have been the victims of these despicable devices. Everyone needs to be careful where we walk when off base. Even then at Eagle base, our Division Headquarters, there are areas on the base labeled as mined. So in many ways this country is sad.

I have met many soldiers from different nations including Russia, Poland, Finland, Holland, Turkey and Slovenia. We all get along well and enjoy trading with each other.

The Russians in particular are avid traders. They love our new boots (the army gave us two extra pair) and they will trade almost anything for them. They have to buy their boots we found out. They also will do any deal for a US Army Gortex jacket. I will not part with my jacket, but I will let one pair of boots slip for a Russian Army winter coat or two of those winter furry hats we all have seen for my two boys.

I have been here two months now with four months to go and I do miss my family terribly. I appreciate your support from home and it is for them and you that I am here. I am taking care of these soldiers' medical problems and it is my honor to serve them. They do so much for our country out of your sight and do not receive enough credit. This is not an easy life. Someday, when you see a veteran, you might want to say "thank you". Thomas Jefferson once said, "The price for liberty is a never ending defense". At this time when our soldiers are in the field fighting for our way of life, we should all remember to live a life worth dying for.



Soldiers deployed in Bosnia as part of Stabilization Force 10 (SFOR 10) participate in a Mass Casualty (MassCal) exercise held recently. In the training scenario, a multi-vehicle accident presented many emergency situations for soldiers to deal with, from burning cars to life-threatening injuries that kept firefighters and medical personnel busy throughout the exercise. This training was in preparation for a second, much larger scale, MassCal exercise to be held later on during the deployment. (Photos courtesy of Lt. Col. Michael Casey, Battalion Commander, 143rd Forward Support Battalion)



A Message to the 'Home Team' from Camp Comanche

LT. COL. MIKE CASEY
COMMANDER 143rd LOGISTICS TASK FORCE
"TASK FORCE SWORD"
CAMP COMANCHE, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays from Camp Comanche, Bosnia-Herzegovina. First of all, I'd like to wish everyone back home a safe and healthy holiday season. This past year we have all experienced many good reasons to pause for a few moments of grateful appreciation for the blessings we share.

We at Task Force Sword, the 143rd Logistics Task Force, have been working hard at the mission in Bosnia now for more than two months. We have experienced a great deal of growth and progress, especially in the areas of technical experience and Force Protection. Our soldiers have really stepped up to the challenges presented by the 11 September terrorist attacks, and their rock-steady professionalism sends a clear message of deterrence to anyone who wishes us harm.

Camp Comanche is nestled in the Spreca River or Tuzla Valley, 100 kilometers northeast of Sarajevo, in the northeast corner of Bosnia. Eagle Base is a ten-minute

drive from Comanche. We have other US base camps to our north and southeast, each about a one-and-a-half to two-hour drive away. Local Bosnian cities are Tuzla and Zivinice, each 10 to 20 minutes away.

Task Force Sword is the logistics task force for Task Force Eagle, the command and control headquarters for Multi-National Division (North). MND (N) is one of three multi-national divisions, which comprise the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR). MND (N) has US forces, along with Russian, Turkish and Nordic-Polish Battle Groups. TF Sword provides direct support maintenance, supply, medical and intermediate aviation maintenance support to MND (N).

Now you know a little about what we do. Here is a little on who we are; we have two father and son teams, one brother and sister team, one and one-half husband and wife team, (wife with us, husband with Infantry unit) and several grandparents. So far, while we have deployed, seven babies have been born to deployed fathers. Our oldest soldier is 57 and our youngest soldier is 18. TF Sword has National Guard soldiers from Connecticut, Mississippi, Maryland, Virginia

and Massachusetts, along with several Active Duty soldiers, and one US Army Reservist.

As I write this on 19 November 2001, it is snowing on Camp Comanche. The weather was unusually warm, dry and mild over the first 90 days, but we are starting to pay the price with cold and wet. We haven't had any real accumulation to speak of, but that can change overnight.

We work hard for long hours, but we have excellent accommodations, meals and have experienced some first-class entertainment. Two major USO shows have visited, one with Clint Black and the New England Patriots Cheerleaders, and this latest holiday tour with Wayne Newton, Jessica Simpson, Neal McCoy, and the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders. These major shows perform at Eagle Base, since it has a much larger seating capacity. Comanche has hosted a husband and wife magician act, an all-girl rock band named "Lo-Ball", a Native American dance group named "Morning Star" and have another rock band, "Corday," performing this evening. Soldiers seem to enjoy the Comanche performances, since the performers meet and greet before the shows,

and remain available for autographs and pictures after.

We have a big day planned for the Thanksgiving holiday. We start out with a four-mile "fun-run" in honor of the Manchester Road Race. (The Comanche perimeter road is almost exactly four miles.) There is a parade scheduled in the morning, complete with soldier-built theme floats. The noted historian and author of Band of Brothers, Dr. Stephen Ambrose, will sign books on Thanksgiving, along with a visit from several 29th ID veterans of the Omaha Beach D-Day invasion. The Thanksgiving Feast will be a noteworthy event and Comanche Base typically earns the "best mess" award for the Dining Facility preparations. We all hope to see some visitors from Connecticut sometime near Christmas...

Take care all, God Bless our families and friends, and God Bless America.

Best Regards,

LTC Mike Casey
Commander 143rd Logistics Task Force
"Task Force Sword"
Camp Comanche, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Entertaining Time in the Balkans

1st Lt. LYNDA K. HEDENBERG
HSC PLATOON LEADER

CAMP COMANCHE, Bosnia and Herzegovina- While our loved ones at home begin to countdown the days till Christmas, the soldiers of SFOR 10, deployed here in the Balkans will begin to count the days until they can return home. When not performing their everyday jobs or pulling guard duty there is plenty available to keep the soldiers entertained.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation program offers a lot to keep the soldiers busy. The fitness facility has state of the art equipment but with the cold weather here, it gets very crowded. There are several different team sports being offered to include flag-football, basketball, volleyball and five different styles of martial arts. There is an education center for the few brave souls who are trying to take a course or two while working full time. The PX provides

everything a soldier could need but once you've seen it, that's all there is to see. MWR offers a video sign-out and the PX has video rentals for new releases. Videos are very popular as most soldiers have televisions, VCRs and DVD players in their rooms. With all this and more, it is hard to believe some soldiers find themselves bored with nothing to do. It may seem like they are spoiled, but fencing, gates and wire, all within a four-mile radius confine them. Everyday it is the same routine, the same office and the same people. That's where the MWR program comes in.

In October, MWR sponsored a 10K race. On Thanksgiving we had our own version of the Manchester Road Race with a 4K Turkey Trot. Following that we had our own parade here Macy's style. MWR also brings shows to keep us entertained and offers a little something for everyone, including Salsa nights, country bands, magic acts, girl bands and comedians.

One of the highlights was when Billy Blanks visited. He brought his Heart, Mind and Soul tour to Comanche Base for a demonstration and motivational speaking. His creation, Tae Bo, mixes martial arts moves and aerobics into a kick boxing workout. Billy Blanks gave the participants a workout that they felt for days.

More than a thousand people packed the Eagle Base Complex, for two nights, when the United Services Organization Holiday Tour 2001 kicked off in Bosnia. We have had professional cheerleaders from two different

teams visit us here at Comanche. The highlight was when the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders visited with the USO. Eight of cheerleaders came to dance and sign autographs. Their appearance marked the forty-fourth time the Cowboys Cheerleaders were participating in the USO Tour.

The newly appointed chairman of the USO is Wayne Newton, who has some very big shoes to fill. It is a tough job following Bob Hope. Many soldiers were skeptical when they heard that Wayne Newton was heading the tour. After seeing the show Sgt. Veni Echevarria of HSC 143D LTF, had this to say, "I was surprised at how talented he was. He played a lot of instruments and he really motivated the crowd."

The show was an amazing three-hour blast of entertainment. The tour included Shaggy, Neil McCoy, Ruth Pointer and Jessica Simpson. Also appearing was Rob Schneider, Miss USA Kandace Kruger, Bo Derek and Peter MacNichol. The USO Holiday Tour had something for everyone and was a great success with the soldiers. The celebrities all volunteered for the tour. They all expressed great appreciation to the troops throughout the evening.

During this holiday season it means a lot to the soldiers of SFOR 10 to see a little appreciation for what they do and the sacrifices they make. More importantly these performers reached out and brought us, just for a second, a little taste of home, a few seconds of escape, brief moments to feel normal again. It was the best gift the soldiers could get this holiday season.



USO Chairman Wayne Newton entertains troops deployed in Bosnia. (Photo courtesy of 1st Lt. Lynda K. Hedenberg, HSC Platoon Leader)

Employers Gain Knowledge, Understanding of Guard Mission

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

Employers came to the 103rd Air Control Squadron at Orange Air National Guard Base November 8 to learn about the National Guard, the unit's mission and their employees' contributions toward that mission. Given the recent activation of the unit in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, interest was keen.

"We are very pleased with the response," said Maj. John W. Trapp, deputy chief of maintenance, 103rd Air Control Squadron, who briefed the employers on the unit's mission. According to Trapp, about 30 representatives from 20 different companies attended the event.

During their four hour visit, the employers received a mission briefing, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) briefing, a tour of the facility and equipment and lunch. The employers, ranging from supervisors to company owners and chief executive officers, came with questions and an open mind.

"I am interested in seeing what Mike is doing here on a daily basis when he is not at work," said Eric Blauvelt, general manager, Interplex Electronics, whose guardsmen employee has been activated for 12 months. "I am trying to get a better understanding of what the long-term implications are as far as the mission here and how things are going to effect our operation."

"I came looking for an overview of what they do here and to see the facility," said John Belfonte, president of Environmental Engineering, a company with less than 30 employees including two Guard members. "I want to represent our employees."

Many company representatives talked proudly about what they and their companies are doing to support the guard members.

"A big concern that we had is that the pay structure stays the same so they don't lose money, vacation time or benefits," said Roger Gantenbein, director of network operations, Advanced Solutions Incorporated. Advanced Solutions is part of SBC/SNET companies that employ 15 Air Control Squadron members. "We want to make sure we support not just the needs of the units and company, but also the employee." Gantenbein explained that changes were made in personnel policies so Guard members would not lose earned vacation or sick time.

"I was impressed with the turnout of other people like ourselves who have committed to do whatever we can to support the National Guard," said Richard Patterson, chief executive officer, Durham Manufacturing.

Others took the time to talk about what benefits they get by hiring Guard members.

"I feel we as employers are at the advantage," said Connie DeRosa, co-owner, Corporate Supply. "The employer gets top notch employees from the National Guard based on their work ethics, the way they think about things and how they solve problems."

Seeing the actual equipment operating while guardsmen explained its role and mission was the hands-down highlight of the day according to many of the guests.

"The satellite communications van is just incredible," said Sandy King, supervisor of finance, Pitney Bowes. "I just think it is amazing - 10 million wires and you can communicate all over."

"It is impressive, there's a lot of stuff here I did not realize was here," said Ken Byrne, operations manager for Connecticut at Voice Stream Wireless. "It is neat to see they can put this stuff all together and move so quick."

So what will the employers take away from their visit to the base in Orange?

"It is amazing how organized everything is," Dr. Bruce E. Storm, superintendent, Branford Board of Education. "It makes you feel safer."

"I think from my perspective I gained an understanding of the rights a guardsmen has for being employed and deployed and the protection of employment when he gets back," said George Sipprell, project manager RH66 Comanche aircraft, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. "It helps us to realize the benefit we get from these people going to train or do their duty."

"The information is great stuff," said Byrne. "I am going to take it back to our corporate office and let them know."

"I found the briefings very interesting," said Cathy Miller, an information technology organization manager at Cigna. "I am glad I came."

"It makes us committed to what she's doing," said Donna Branch, clerical supervisor of the cardiac step-down unit at Griffin Hospital. "I found it very informative and it makes us just a little more aware of her commitment."

"I am even more interested now," said King. "I learned a lot."

"I will leave with an appreciation of how 'high-tech' the whole operation is and how well-trained the people are," said Richard Patterson, chief executive officer, Durham Manufacturing.

Staff Sgt. Jayme M. Pace, takes his turn briefing the employers about the generator system used to power the equipment in the field, while Master St Frank H. Albert and Capt. Joseph C. Sorrentino, all three of the 103rd Air Control Squadron, stand ready for questions. (Photo by Capt. George H. Worrall III, 103rd FW PAO)

Senior Master Joseph E. Delgrande (left), 103rd Air Control Squadron explains the radar equipment to his managers Roger Gantenbein (center) and Robert Malachiodi, Advanced Solutions Incorporated, SBC/SNET. (Photo by Capt. George H. Worrall III, 103rd FW PAO)



The senior management team from Durham Manufacturing with a guard member from their company. From left: Richard Patterson, CEO, Senior Master Sgt. Robert B. Hall, Frank Korn, vice president of manufacturing, John Negrich, vice president of engineering and materials management. (Photo by Capt. George H. Worrall III, 103rd FW PAO)



Ken Byrne (left) operations manager for VoiceStream Wireless, laughs with his employee Senior Airman Christopher Palsy (center), and Mike Fulton (right), technical director, VoiceStream Wireless in a satellite communications terminal. (Photo by Capt. George H. Worrall III, 103rd FW PAO)



Connecticut Military Department News

Employees Dig a Foundation for Thanks

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

A group of State and Federal employees at Bradley Air National Guard base took turns operating an excavator on 5 and 7 November.

"It was a blast ... it was fun," said Karen Duff, state environmental analyst, 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron. "Lt. Col. Lilya took a bunch of us over (to dig)."

The excavator was rented to accomplish some work, after it was completed the Base Civil Engineer saw an opportunity dig up some good will.

"This is Support group's (103rd Support Group) version of an incentive ride," said Lt. Col. Michael F. Lilya, base civil engineer, 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron. "The idea is to get some of the people from Finance, contracting, and other areas who helped me get the equipment on base, to come out and have a little fun. I am calling it the big dig."

Before the digging began, all the participants received a safety briefing.

"We had a briefing at the beginning," said Jeanette Boudry, secretary, 103rd Fighter Wing. "We had a lot of fun digging the hole."



Karen Duff, state environmental analyst, 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron, takes her turn in the excavator November 5. (Photo by Donna Wilson, 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron)

Asked if she was ready to use her new skills for an actual project, one of the base contracting officers is ready

"Just a little more OJT and there is no problem," said Master Sgt. Jane Laborde, contracting officer, 103rd Logistics Group. "It was fun ... I can do it."

The excavator was rented to move some jersey barriers and dig a foundation according to Lilya.

"We saved about \$25,000 by digging the foundation ourselves," said Lilya. "We combined getting the work done on the drill weekend with training on the excavator."

Our Finest Hour: OEM Acts and Reacts to Attack

ANTHONY DEMBEK
SURVIVABLE CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLANNER
CT OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The smell of coffee brewing drifts through the office. It's almost time for a second cup. Same old stuff on my desk. Have to answer that phone message from late yesterday. Any good e-mail? The phone's ringing again.

"Hello? A plane just crashed into the World Trade Center? What? No, I heard you." I just don't comprehend it yet. "O.K. Talk to you later." Bolt into the Emergency Operations Center and turn on the TV. "Hey, everyone. Take a look at this." Wide-eyed faces file in to see. Awed silence. Hushed wonder. "What happened? Accident? Like the plane into the Empire State Building during World War 2?"

Smoke billowing. The fire department will have their hands full with this one. A shadow flies onto the screen. The world explodes in a ball of flame that changes our world. Numbing cold. "What just happened? We're under attack? In America?" Job to do. "We are now activated. Start a log. Call the TAG. Call in the State Police." Got to do the job. Copy that paper. Get copies to the agencies. Keep moving.

September 11, 2001. The very date inspires a chill up your spine and anxiety descending like a wet towel over your head. This must be what December 7, 1941 meant to my

parents. This is what war feels like. When the flames of September consumed thousands of lives in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management turned on the lights and kept going for about three weeks. We didn't know when it was going to end. We just knew we had to be here.

Our job has always been to coordinate the actions of federal, state and local agencies with utilities and any other organization we need to attack a problem and fix it. While the average citizen stood in mute rage to the loss of innocent lives, our job became our duty. Our responsibilities became closely entwined with those of the governor, state and federal law enforcement, and a new Homeland Defense agency.

We watched the exploding and collapsing images over and over as we monitored every event and report, ready to spring on the next hardship. Even the smallest incident was magnified under the heightened tensions. A computer virus on the internet and an electrical fire at the Hartford Civic Center became cause for nationwide suspicion and investigation. The EOC was activated again. Our airports were locked down and guarded by the National Guard. A "no-fly" zone was established around our nuclear power plants. The word "Anthrax" has twisted from an

obscure disease affecting farm animals to a threat to our feeling of safety and security in our own homes.

There seems little cause for celebration this holiday season. It looks as if everything is bleak and our world has turned upside-down. For what do we have to be thankful? We are still here. We are a strong and free nation. We are bloodied but unbowed. Our country has declared its resolve to bring to justice those responsible. Our military is pressing the battle in Afghanistan. Our local, state and federal police agencies are alert and vigilant. There is light on the horizon. As our country proceeds towards its destiny, we reflect on the words of Winston Churchill in a speech to the House of Commons on June 18, 1940, and echo their call to duty:

"If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, 'This was their finest hour.'"

Front Lot Parking Gates Being Installed

KATHERINE LEAVITT
DATA PROCESSING, CONNECTICUT MILITARY DEPARTMENT

Work has begun on the parking gates at the Hartford Armory. Access to and from the front parking lot will be from the driveway on the west-end of the lot, and can only be accessed by driving around the building.

Once the work is complete at the east-end of the front lot, the east entrance will be opened and the west-end will be closed for work at that location. It is anticipated that the work will take about ten days to complete.

The scope will include the installation of an island in the driveway at the east-end (O-Club end) of the front lot. There will be two traffic control arms on the island, along with a card reader. The entrance control arm will be located at the west-end of the island. The card reader will be located approximately 10 feet before the control arm. Persons who have assigned parking spaces will be able to access the front lot by using their assigned proximity cards. There will be an intercom station mounted adjacent to the card reader that can communicate with the main security desk. This intercom is to be used by visitors who need to park in the front of the building. The control arm can be operated from the security desk.

There will be another control arm on the east-end of the island for exiting the parking lot. This arm will be controlled by a traffic loop located in the pavement. The arm will automatically rise as a vehicle passes over the loop and will close by itself.

A third control arm will be located on the west-end of the front lot and will be controlled by a traffic loop located on the south side (lot side) of the barrier. This will permit exit only of the lot along the driveway on the west side and rear of the building.

Thank you for being patient while these improvements are being made.

Visit the
Connecticut Guardian
on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

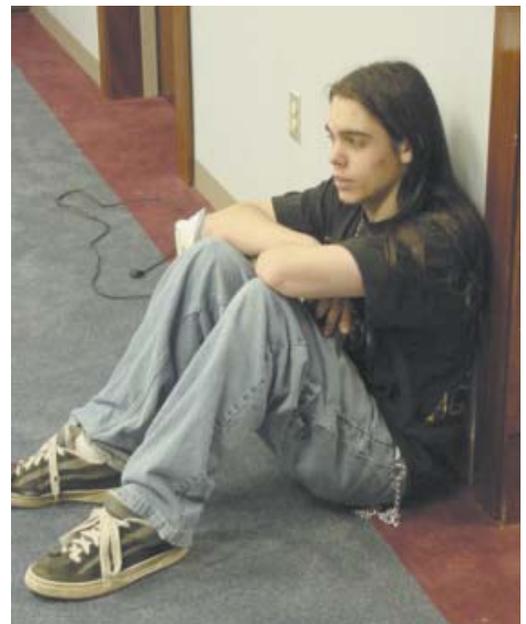
FSB Families Spread Love Around the World

Family members of soldiers from the 143rd Forward Support Battalion who are creating a banner filled with their handprints and messages of love, pride and encouragement. The banner started its travels at the Southington armory where several families spread their touches. Even with 20 to 25 people crowded into the small room in Waterbury, the banner then continued its travels and arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina just in time for all to enjoy it on Thanksgiving. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class [Name])



Send Hands the World

...ion who are currently deployed in Bosnia, got together recently to make a
encouragement to send to their loved ones in time for Thanksgiving. The
families spent an afternoon creating their portions of the masterpiece. The
on a Friday evening, dozens more family members came in and out to add
in Waterbury, there wasn't much noise as people put their hearts and love
d in Bosnia safe, where it was put up on one wall of the dining facility at Camp
Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Reserve Affairs Offers Help for Those Called to Active Duty

RUDI WILLIAMS
AMERICANS FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The military can't build a bridge, fly a tanker or air defense sortie or do much of anything without help from the National Guard and Reserve. That's because the reserve components make up nearly 50 percent of the total armed forces, according to Craig W. Duehring, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

So far, more than 40,000 guardsmen and reservists have been called up to reinforce active duty units participating in Operation Enduring Freedom. Some are freeing up active duty service members for overseas duty while others are being deployed overseas.

The citizen-soldiers from all the services, including the Coast Guard, are doing everything from law enforcement; medical and intelligence to combat air patrol, air-refueling operations and port security operations. Nearly 50,000 more guardsmen and reservists may be needed before anti-terrorist operations are over, said Duehring, a retired Air Force colonel.

Duehring, a Silver Star medal recipient who flew more than 800 combat missions during the Vietnam War, serves as the senior deputy to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs in policy development and overall supervision of Reserve forces.

When Enduring Freedom started, reserve affairs officials composed a set of rules and guidelines giving units ideas and directives about the mobility process and their time on active duty. The information is also available on the reserve affairs Web site at www.defenselink.mil.

"We get a lot of questions from service members and their families who are going through this very disruptive process," Duehring said. "To help them, we've created a family tool kit. This is also available on our Web site, where you'll find answers for virtually every issue that could

possibly come up. There are answers for everything from pay questions to the duration of the mobilization, to whom do I contact if I have an emergency while the military member is gone. There's also information about handling problems before the service members is called up."

"How long?" is probably the first question reserve component personnel and families have been asking, he said. "Not exceeding 12 months," Duehring noted. "That doesn't mean they're actually going to stay on active duty that long, but this was our best guess as to what we thought was reasonable for publishing the orders. It also allows service members to take advantage of some of the medical programs that have 'tripwires' to cross before they can activate them."

However, he said there would be exceptions to the 12-month rule on a case-by-case basis.

The call ups for Enduring Freedom have been an "unsettling time" for guardsmen and reservists and their employers, Duehring said, pointing out that the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has been busy seven days a week. "Committee members across the country talk to employers and reservists in an effort to resolve specific problems," he said.

Service members and employers seeking information can call 1-800-336-4590, or tap into the employer support Web site at www.esgr.org. People with questions that are not answered on the Web site are welcome to call the reserve affairs public inquiries line at (703) 693-8617.

"The employers, who are critical components of the Reserve family, have been absolutely wonderful," Duehring said. "These are the people who sign the paychecks so that our people can eat, so that our families can buy clothing, can go to school, can live.

"So we've asked employers to sign a statement of support for their employees who

are members of the Reserve components," he noted.

Reserve affairs is encouraging employers to try to find ways to show their support for guardsmen and reservists who work for them. Some companies, for instance, make up the difference in military and civilian pay so their employees don't lose any money while on active duty, Duehring said.

"There are other ways, too, they can help our people out — perhaps working with the families or in different areas that might be unique to the individuals and their personal situations," he noted.

Help is also available for reserve component personnel and their families at several places around the country, Duehring said. "Every military organization has a family support center to help families cope with the absence of service members," he noted. "Family members can go to the closest military facility — and don't worry if it's a Navy facility, an Air Force or an Army facility, they'll be the same. You can get your questions answered there if you'd prefer to talk to somebody face to face."

Service members and employers have rights and obligations under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act, or USERRA. The act guarantees that service members must be allowed to go when mobilized and return to his or her job or a job of like pay and status in the same organization, Duehring said.

Mobilization pay and allowances are handled exactly the same way as for active duty members. For example, guardsmen and reservists called up can take up to 30 days' advance pay to cover unexpected bills that might crop up before they have to leave. But, primarily, pay and allowance issues should be the same as those of active duty members.

Duehring said members can pay back the 30-day advance in installments.

"Once members come on active duty, they're covered by TRICARE," he said. "If they come on active duty for more than 30 days, their families are also eligible for TRICARE Extra or TRICARE Standard. We have some special provisions in effect for Enduring Freedom. For example, we'll cover the deductible cost that's associated with TRICARE Standard. The families of individuals on active duty for

179 days or more are also eligible for TRICARE Prime, which has very low co-payments and no deductibles."

Service members have another option for medical care: They can elect to keep their own healthcare benefits, which they may have privately or through their employers. "In this case, we will pay up to 115 percent of the TRICARE costs associated with a particular treatment," Duehring said. "If this gets a little bit confusing, just contact your local TRICARE provider to answer the questions.

"After members' active duty time is over, they can keep TRICARE in effect for up to 30 days or until such time as another healthcare insurance policy comes into effect," he said.

Duehring said college students who are called up should contact the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, or SOC, for help in solving any problems they may encounter.

"We've been absolutely flooded with telephone calls, e-mails and letters from people who wish to volunteer their services in defense of their country," he said. "But we don't have an organized program for volunteers at this time."

He suggested that those who want to volunteer discuss the possibility with their service's reserve personnel centers. "Or, they might seek to volunteer in another capacity at a local level to help our country through this very trying period," Duehring noted.

Uniform Changes Announced, Newly Revised Regulation on the Way

HQDA Uniform Policy: The following information is provided to inform soldiers of uniform policy changes that will be included in the revised AR 670-1. AR 670-1 was turned in to publications on 12 Oct 01 should be available soon.

Here are some of the changes:

Hair: no dreadlocks; prohibited hair dyes include purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright fire-engine red, and neon colors; females are authorized to wear braids and cornrows; baldness is authorized for males, either natural or shaved.

Nails: Males: no nail polish; nails must be trimmed no longer than the tip of the finger. Females: nails trimmed no longer than 1/4 inch, as measured from the fingertip; no two-tone or multi-tone manicures; no nail designs; prohibited nail polish includes

bright fire-engine red; khaki or camouflage; purple, gold, blue, black, white, and neon colors.

Contacts: tinted or colored contacts, and contacts that change the shape of the iris are prohibited, as they are not medically required. The only contacts authorized are opaque lenses (when prescribed for eye injuries) and clear corrective vision lenses.

Cell Phones and Pagers: one electronic device is authorized for wear on the uniform, for official duties; may be either a cell phone or pager - not both; must be black in color and may not exceed 4x2x1 inches; other devices that do not comply must be carried, not worn.

Boots: soldiers will not blouse boots any lower than the third eyelet from the top of the boot.

Headgear: males are exempt from wearing headgear to evening social events;

Black Beret: the Army flash is the only flash authorized, unless authorization for distinctive flashes was granted (i.e., OPFOR) before 14 June 2001.

Hydration Systems: commanders can authorize use of a camouflage hydration system (i.e., "camelback") for field duty or work details; soldiers will not use them in garrison, unless directed by the commander.

Desert BDU Insignia: sew-on insignia now authorized; colors are khaki and spice brown combinations; soldiers may wear the same insignia and awards as are worn on regular BDU.

IPFU/PFU Wear and Pregnancy: pregnant soldiers wear PT uniform until it becomes too small uncomfortable; can then wear

civilian equivalent workout attire; leaders will not require soldiers to buy larger PT uniforms.

RDI: wear on the AG 415 class B shirt is optional.

EOD Badge: category changed from group 5 to group 3.

Black mess: wearout date of 30 Sep 03 established.

ID bracelets: restricted to medical alert or POW/MIA bracelets.

Civilian bag carrying policy clarified: no see-through (plastic or mesh) bags; no carrying bags with the strap draped across the body; bag and the shoulder strap must be on the same side of the body; commander governs use and/or wear of bags or rucksacks issued by the unit.

Army Sinks Navy During 102nd Gridiron Classic

Commander-in-Chief Conducts Coin Toss to Start Game

**SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PANCO**

PHILADELPHIA - Despite a rivalry that has lasted 102 years, Dec. 1 was a day that brought two military academies together in a celebration of patriotism and football.

When the gridiron classic was over, Army had sunk Navy 26-17 before a sellout crowd of 69,708 fans, including President George W. Bush, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge and Gen. (Ret.) H. Norman Schwarzkopf. They had come to Philadelphia to watch one of the greatest rivalries in football history played in Veterans Stadium for the last time.

Even before kickoff, fans knew they were in for something special this year. Security was tight and fans had to go through metal detectors to enter the stadium. Despite long lines, everyone was in good spirits, greeting old friends and making new ones.

Inside the stadium, the military pomp and circumstance took over as the Navy Midshipmen marched out onto the field in perfect formation and saluted the crowd. When they left, it was the Black Knights' turn. As they saluted, Navy burst into cheers to show their appreciation for their fellow military members.

"It gets better every year," said Naval Academy sophomore J.D. Nelson. "This year the rivalry is a little different. It's more of a unifying thing. It's about being out there on the field together."

Almost as if on cue, the elite parachutists from both branches of service began to drop onto the field to appreciative cheers from the crowd. Members of the Navy Seals Leap Frogs and the Army's Golden Knights parachuted onto midfield carrying POW and American flags with them.



President George W. Bush stands at midfield and watches as the team captains from Army and Navy shake hands before he conducts the coin toss to determine opening possession of the ball. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Army (black jerseys) scrambles to keep possession as Navy tries to force a fumble during the 102nd meeting between the two teams. The Game was played at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Sr. PA NCO)

As the teams took the field for the coin toss to determine opening possession, cheers went up from the crowd as President Bush made his way onto the field to toss the coin and shake hands with the team captains.

Navy won the toss and elected to receive, but promptly went three and out. Army gained possession of the ball. On his second carry, freshman Ardell Daniels ran 60 yards for his first touchdown of the season, giving

the Black Knights a 6-0 lead.

"It was the greatest feeling of my life," said Daniels who entered the game with only 25 carries for the season, and who went on to run for a total of 131 yards by the end of the game. He was also named the game's MVP.

Army quarterback Chad Jenkins completed a 42-yard pass to Brian Bruenton on the Black Knight's next possession to make it a 13-0 game. Jenkins passed for 119 yards in



Midshipmen of Navy (in white jerseys) go after one of Army's Black Knights in an unsuccessful bid to steal the football. Army went on to win the 102nd Gridiron Classic, 26-17 before a sold-out crowd at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia. This was the final meeting between the two teams in this stadium, which is slated to be replaced by 2004. They will meet next year at the Meadowlands in New Jersey, where Army will attempt to defend its winning record over Navy. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

his first game since injuring his knee against Buffalo in November, but was intercepted four times.

A 44-yard field goal by Midshipman David Hills cut Army's lead to 13-3 in the second quarter, but Army answered with a 39-yard field goal by kicker Derek Jacobs as time ran out in the half sending Army into the locker room with a 16-3 lead.

Omari Thompson put the game out of reach for the Middies as he scored a touchdown on a 96-yard kickoff return to start the second half. Thompson faked a reverse, broke a tackle by Navy and scored the first kick return touchdown of his career.

Hills cut the lead to 23-6 in the third with a career-best 47-yard field goal, before adding a 20-yarder later to cut the lead by three.

Army scored once more on a field goal. With only two seconds left in the game, Navy answered with their only touchdown of the game on a four-yard pass from Craig Candeto to Steve Mercer. They connected again on a two-point conversion to end the game at 23-17, Army.

The sold-out crowd watched the last game to be played by these two teams in Veterans Stadium with appreciation.

"With everything that has been going on, people are reaching out to touch something with the Army and Navy," said Army center Dustin Plumadore. "I know people are concerned about what's going on overseas. They're not getting the opportunity to reach out and touch those soldiers. Us playing this game was a way to reach out, to look in the crowd and see future and current soldiers."

Next year's game will be played at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J.



Cadets from the U.S. Army Military Academy, West Point, form up on the field at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia in ceremonies held before the start of the Army/Navy football game. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

TGIF – The Guard Is Family: *Deployment Woes*

DORIS ROSADO

(Editor's Note: Doris is the wife of Master Sgt. Oscar Rosado of Headquarters Supply Company, 143rd Forward Support Battalion, who is currently deployed in Bosnia as part of Stabilization Force 10. She shared this story with members of the FSB and agreed to share it with our readers, also.)

What has gone wrong!! The first weekend that Oscar was gone was very adventurous for the family. A weekend I'll never forget!

Saturday morning we finished having breakfast and I noticed that there was a bat flying in my living room. You should have seen me. I was running around like a mad woman not knowing what to do!! My first reaction was to run outside to my deck in my PJs, screaming to the girls to shut all the doors to the room so that the bat wouldn't go in there.

Next I had to figure out how to get back inside the house to change out of my PJs so

that I could run next door for help. Well, I made it next door but by the time I came back we couldn't find the bat. My next door neighbor must have thought that I was nuts! We couldn't find the bat.

We thought the bat was in the ceiling fan, so we turned it on, and all of a sudden the screws start flying out of the fan, and one of the arms was just hanging. We couldn't worry about that just then - I had to find the BAT! After awhile I gave up, thinking maybe I was just seeing things!

I decided to wash some clothes and email Oscar to tell him about the bat and fan. As the washing machine was filling up I heard this noise and ran to the laundry room where there was about two inches of water all over the place!! The water hose to the toilet had burst. I shut off the water and begin to wipe up the mess.

Now what do I do?!

There's a bat in the house (that means if

night time no sleep), the fan is falling apart (I hope it doesn't fall and hit anyone on the head) and the downstairs toilet is out of commission (thank God for two bathrooms)! And here I am thinking why couldn't this happen when Oscar was home.

It's nighttime, around 8 p.m., and with a lot of excitement, a lot of ducking, and the help of my brother in-law and neighbor, we finally got the bat out.

I think I needed Calgon to take me away!

Well now it's Sunday and we're going to mass when my 'check engine' light goes on in my car.

Now what do I do! The fan is still falling apart and the downstairs toilet is still out of commission.

I take the car to the Ford dealer, where they tell me that I need a new transmission at \$2,000! What! My car is only four years old. I called my brother in-law and told him what happened. No way!! I make an appointment

at a transmission shop, they test drive my car and tell me that my car is fine.

I do not need a new transmission. He said that being a woman and that it is a slow time of the year for the dealership, they needed the money - they were just trying to rip me off!!

Where is Oscar when I really needed him!!

Well, the bat is still out of my house, the fan is fixed, we can now use the toilet and my car is running perfectly fine (knock on wood)!!

What a weekend!! You know, I could have just sat there and cried, but I said to myself "If you are not going to help yourself, who's going to help you?" I couldn't feel sorry for myself. I needed to handle one thing at a time, be positive and stay strong!

Wait a minute I think I hear a clunking noise in my dryer! Just kidding!

It's funny how strong we can really be with out even realizing it.

NGACT: Connecticut Delegation Attends EANGUS National Conference

TONY PALLADINO, PRESIDENT-ELECT, NGACT

The 30th annual national Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) conference was held 19-22 August 2001, at the Mobile Convention Center, in Mobile, Alabama. Famous southern hospitality and hard work combined to make the conference a great experience for those attending.

The purpose of the conference was to conduct business that supports the interest of the enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard and allow each state to represent it's interest in the direction of the association. EANGUS also elects its officers and board of directors for the current year.

Distinguished guests such as Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver, Director, Air National Guard; Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Lever, NGB Senior Enlisted Advisor, ARNG and Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Benton, CCM, Air National Guard spoke on various topics regarding the vision of EANGUS during the business sessions which were held Sunday through Wednesday of the conference. Some of the topics discussed were plans for a test Day Care Center for Guard parents and United States Automobile Association's (USAA) offer to pay for a one-year membership for newly promoted E5's and E6's and other efforts to promote EANGUS. By the close of the conference, 34 new

resolutions were passed by the membership on issues ranging from TRICARE to Counterdrug, Weapons of Mass Destruction to funding pay and bonus issues.

The state of Connecticut was well represented and recognized at the conference. A delegation composed of nine Army and Air Guardsmen attended the conference, including Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps, Assistant Adjutant General and Commander, CTANG; Chief Master Sgt. Joe King, CCM, CTANG and Staff gt.G Dave Schappa, CTARNG NCO of the Year. Four members of the delegation traveled by military airlift from Scotia Air National Guard Base in Scotia, NY. This helped to defray the costs and allowed NGACT to sponsor Schappa's first trip to a national convention. It was also the first national conference for Chief Master Sgt. Wanda Wawruck of the 103d Fighter Wing. The conference had an overall attendance of more than 1,600 registered guests.

Schappa was chosen by President-Elect Tony Palladino to carry the state flag during the opening ceremonies at the All States Banquet. The highlight of the banquet was guest speaker NASCAR legend Bobby Allison who was also presented a pin in memory of Dale Earnhardt.

Next year's conference will be held in Niagara Falls, NY. August 18 to 22, 2002.

Services on Line for Federal Retirees



MAJ. BARBARA LUHN
LABOR RELATIONS, HRO/SASC

The Office of Personnel Management had just announced that the Civil Service Annuity Monthly Payment Statement is available online. The web site is: www.servicesonline.opm.gov/mainris.htm

If you are receiving benefits under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) you are entitled to use this service online.

To use it, you need your "CSA" or "CSF" claim number and your Personal Identification Number (PIN). Your PIN is the random number issued to you by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). It is the same number you use for OPM's automated self-service telephone system. If you do not have a PIN, you will need to call OPM and request to have one sent to you.

You can use this web site to:

- Establish, change or stop an allotment to an organization
- Change your mailing address
- Start direct deposit of your payment or change the account or financial institution to which your payment is sent
- Establish, change or stop a checking or savings allotment
- View a statement describing your annuity payment
- **To stay current with all of your benefits - check out Federal Retirement Programs - www.opm.gov/RETIRE/INDEX.HTM.** This site has the 2002 Cost of Living Adjustments for civil service retirees and survivor annuitants.
- Start, change or stop federal and state income tax withholdings
- Buy, change or stop savings bonds
- Request a duplicate tax filing statement (1099R)
- Change your Personal Identification Number (PIN) for accessing OPM's automated systems

Visit the
*Connecticut
Guardian*
on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

OCS: A View From the Inside

Two Important A's When it Comes to Leadership and The OCS Program

OC DAVID ROY
OCS CLASS 47

When I first heard of the opportunity to join the Connecticut Army National Guard and attend the OCS program, I jumped at the opportunity. I thought what a great experience it would be to test my abilities as a leader. During my first two weeks in the OCS program, Phase 1, "Attention to Detail" and "Accountability" were two key phrases that our instructors (TACs) continuously enforced. Now in phase 2, these terms have become increasingly important. I will explain how both "Attention to Detail" and "Accountability" have been a real benefit for both my military as well as my civilian job.

First, I will look at "attention to detail" and how it applies to my military career. In the military everyone is responsible for his or her actions. With this in mind, soldiers are given tasks to do with a certain degree of accuracy and precision. For example, disassembling, cleaning and reassembling an M16 requires a degree of expertise. It is the soldier's responsibility to ensure he or she is proficient at maintaining his or her weapon. If a task as important as maintaining a M16 is not given the desired attention needed, then how is a soldier to perform in a wartime scenario with a weapon that was not maintained properly?

Wall lockers are one of the many areas in

which candidates in the OCS program are evaluated. Candidates are evaluated on how well they keep their wall lockers to the SOP. Now, you might think that folding your towel a certain way is a little trivial. However, if you cannot ensure your towel is folded to the SOP, how can you be expected to clear a stovepipe (ammo jam) in an M-60 machine gun?

With this said, I am continuously inspecting and evaluating tasks to ensure that I have not missed the smallest of details.

Next, I will explain the importance of "accountability." In regards to the military, accountability is essential in order to accurately disseminate personnel mobilization. When the situation arises, for example, September 11th, having accountability of all the soldiers provided for a mission ready assessment. In addition, it is also the soldier's responsibility to have accountability of all essential mission-oriented equipment, thus, allowing the soldier quick response to the immediate situation.

In OCS, accountability is tested day in and day out. Platoon leaders, platoon sergeants as well as squad leaders have an overall responsibility for their candidates. At any given time a TAC member can call out for a certain number of people and look towards the leadership to provide the accountability.

With this in mind leadership needs to coordinate with each other as well as with the chain of command, in order to keep 100 percent accountability.

I have found the in the civilian sector that attention to detail and accountability have played an important part in my success. For example, as a security guard it is essential to know the whereabouts of fellow employees in case an emergency arises. When a situation presents itself I am able to accurately deploy the appropriate staff to the essential areas. In terms of attention to detail, it is important to devote 100 percent attentiveness while executing routine duties, thereby insuring that all doors are secured as well as all safety hazards are being addressed.

In conclusion, since the start of my Army career I have learned and accomplished a great deal. However, I still have a great deal more to learn and conquer. As my drill weekends continue to roll by, my ability to apply the concepts of accountability and attention to detail will only grow and make me a stronger, a more rounded leader. Each time a new challenge presents itself, thanks to the instruction provided by the OCS program, I will be more aware of what is going on around me and how I personally can take charge and create a safer, more organized training environment for my fellow candidates.

OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Open House Dates:

15 Dec 01

26 Jan 02

23 Feb 02

23 Mar 02

20 Apr 02

1st OCS BN
169TH LEADERSHIP
REGIMENT

Location:
Camp Rowland
Niantic, Connecticut
Phone: 860-691-4214/4212
Fax: 860-691-4211

Email: colleen.smith@ct.ngb.army.mil

Bring a friend, Spouse or Significant other
Open House will be in Building 402.
Leadership Hall. 1000-1200 hours
Uniform is BDU on duty. Civilian all others.

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

COAST GUARD ACADEMY

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

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

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

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

SUBBASE, 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

Classified Ads Being Accepted

The Connecticut Guardian is now accepting classified ads for publication.

The ads will run one time only and be free of charge for any Connecticut Army or Air National Guard member, retirees, members of the State Militia, employees of the State Military Department or Office of Emergency Management of their families.

The ads being accepted are for For Sale items and looking to find items only. For example, if someone has a car to sell or is looking to buy a boat, ads may be placed once in the Connecticut Guardian at no charge.

To place an ad, contact Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, Editor, via email at debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil, through distribution or via postal service at Public Affairs Office, National Guard Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105. Ads will not be accepted by phone.

All ads must be received no later than the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's paper.

The Connecticut National Guard, the Public Affairs Office and its staff can take no responsibility for information contained in the ads.

In Defense of Connecticut's Children *The Warning Signs of Teenage Marijuana Use*

CAPT. ANNE-MARIE GARCIA
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

For the past three years there have been many debates on whether marijuana should be legalized or not. For parents this is a more sensitive issue. No one wants to see their child get involved with alcohol or drugs. This article is intended to provide some informative tips on the early warning signs of marijuana use.

Short Term Effects: impairment of short-term memory and logical thinking confusion, restlessness and excitement, anxiety or panic, impaired coordination, impaired motor ability, increased appetite, altered perception, impaired driving ability, impaired ability to concentrate and learn.

Long Term Effects: slow, confused thinking, memory impairment, risk of chronic bronchitis, lack of motivation, cancer problems in the respiratory system, problems in the immune system and problems in the reproductive system.

Legal reasons not to use marijuana; if your teen were caught with a joint, what penalty would they face by law? **The penalties in Connecticut are a minimum sentence of; 0-1 year; fine: \$1,000.** Check out your state's law: *(Note: This is for possession with intent on personal consumption of one joint, first offense.)*

Warning Signs of Teenage Drug Abuse

Please note that even though some of these warning signs of drug abuse may be present in your teen, it does not mean that they are definitely using drugs. There are other causes for some of these behaviors. Adolescence itself is a valid reason for many of them to exist. On the flip side of that, do not ignore the warning signs of teenage drug use. If six of these signs, (not all in the same category), are present for a period of time, you should talk to your teen and seek some professional help, even if these signs are not from drug use, they may be indicators of other problems.

Signs in the Home

Loss of interest in family activities, disrespect for family rules, withdrawal from responsibilities, being verbally or physically abusive, sudden increase or decrease in appetite, disappearance of valuable items or money, not coming home on time, not telling you where they are going, constant excuses for behavior, spending a lot of time in their rooms, lies about activities, finding the following: cigarette rolling papers, pipes, roach clips, small glass vials, plastic baggies, remnants of drugs (seeds, etc.)

Signs at School

Sudden drop in grades, loss of interest in learning, sleeping in class, poor work performance, not doing homework, defiance of authority, poor attitude towards sports or other extracurricular activities, reduced memory and attention span, not informing you of teacher meetings, open houses, etc.

Physical and Emotional Signs

Change of friends, smell of alcohol or marijuana on breath or body, unexplainable mood swings and behavior, negative, argumentative, paranoid or confused, destructive, anxious over-reactions to criticism, acts rebellious, sharing few if any of their personal problems, does not seem as happy as they used to be, overly tired or hyperactive, drastic weight loss or gain, unhappy and depressed, cheats, steals always needs money, or has excessive amounts of money and sloppiness in appearance.

Many resources to assist parents are available through the Connecticut National Guard Counterdrug Program. Contact the Connecticut National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Office at 860-493-2724 if you have any questions or are interested in any of our programs.

ESGR: Employers Have Their Say!

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

Earlier this year, Thomas Donohue, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, delivered the keynote address before the Reserve Officers Association's Mid Winter Conference. He made three essential points that are paraphrased here:

First, there is a vital link between a strong national defense and economic growth, and American business is eager to play a major role in maintaining a strong national defense.

A strong U.S. military is necessary to ensure the free flow of goods and services throughout the world. It helps establish political stability and allows American companies to compete worldwide and creates business opportunities in countries never thought possible. In short, our economic security is intertwined with our national security, and the Chamber is increasing its efforts to help build a military capable of achieving all its missions.

Second, the government must recognize that the expectations it places on employers today are vastly different than what employers were asked to do just a decade ago. Back then, we had a true reserve force – a back up for emergency situations, not one called on to fulfill ongoing missions. Back then, we rushed to cut back the size of

our fighting force not realizing that our responsibilities in the world would actually increase. Back then, our National Guard and Reserve Forces served an average of a million days per year on active duty. Today, they contribute thirteen million duty days – the equivalent of adding 35,000 personnel to active duty – and their strength has been reduced 22 percent.

This is placing an increasing burden on business. Employers are losing more highly skilled "citizen soldiers" for longer periods of time. This hurts business because many Guard and Reserve employees provide the leadership and management skills that are the foundation of success for many companies.

Third, it's time for government to do its part to support the roughly 10 percent of employers who are most affected by Reserve and Guard call-ups. The Department of Defense should pledge its support by:

- Requiring members of the Guard and Reserve to inform their employers of their service commitment;
- Pledging to inform employers of future missions as soon as it is aware that Guard or Reserve service will be necessary;
- Guaranteeing, whenever possible, when employees will return from military service

at the time stipulated in their orders;

- Tightening the loopholes that allow a small number of employees to volunteer for every military tour available; and
- Working closely with Congress to enact legislation that would compensate the small number of employers whose employees are in highest demand by the military. (Note: Tax incentive legislation is pending in Congress).

"Business is extremely proud of the men and women in the National Guard and Reserves," said Donohue. "They endure many sacrifices and juggle many responsibilities – responsibility to their country, their employer, their community and their families.

"Business has an obligation to them. We understand that their well being is more than just the government's responsibility. It's a big part of corporate responsibility. That's why the Chamber will continue to strengthen its partnership with the military and work to improve the world's finest fighting force.

"But we expect the government to hold up its end of the bargain. All we ask for is a little consideration and appreciation for the contributions business makes to society."

Education Essentials *Fiscal Year 2002 Educational Changes*

2nd LT. ELIZABETH CORDON
EDUCATION SERVICES COORDINATOR

With the start of Fiscal Year 02, there have been some changes to Montgomery GI Bill rates, and the Tuition Assistance policy. These are as follows:

1. Montgomery GI Bill Pays up to:

- \$272.00/mo. for full-time students
- \$204.00/mo. for ¾-time students
- \$135.00/mo. for ½-time students
- \$68.00/mo. for ¼-time students

2. Tuition Assistance: The cap has changed from \$1500 per fiscal year to \$3500. However, if a soldier receives other assistance, that rate changes to:

- \$1500 if the soldier receives MGIB and Kicker
- \$2500 if the soldier receives MGIB only.

I will no longer be in the Education Office. I will only be in to do occasional testing. The new POC is Staff Sgt. Linda Patnoad at 860-524-4820. Specific Montgomery GI Bill questions, as well as Incentive questions, should be directed to Sgt. 1st Class Debbie Wilson at 860-524-4809.

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Email: colleen.smith@ct.ngb.army.mil

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Open House will be in Building 402
Leadership Hall. 1000-1200 hours
Uniform is BDU on duty. Civilian all others.

Aviation Units Conduct MODRE at Camp Rowland

Mobilization preparedness is always important in the military as the events of Sept. 11 reminded everyone. When New York, The Pentagon and

Pennsylvania became victims of a terrorist attack, United States military personnel around the world went into high alert, and fast action.

To be sure of their readiness, aviation units from throughout the Connecticut Army National Guard spent a recent drill weekend at Camp Rowland in Niantic

going over records, family care plans and wills and spent a great deal of time getting dental, vision, hearing and medical screenings.



Say Ahhhhhh. Lt. Ruth H. Pinon, Detachment 5, Health unit, examines the teeth of Spc. John J. Gorman III, Company G, 104th Aviation. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



The paperwork never ends! Pfc. Eric L. Cherry, Det. 1, Company G, 104th Aviation asks questions of Kim Hoffman, state family support coordinator. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Setting the record straight. (Left photo) Staff Sgt. Ken E. Gillissie, Det. 1, Company G, 104th Aviation, reviews his personnel records with Pfc. Amanda L. Farmer, 208th Personnel Support Detachment. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



This won't hurt a bit. Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Watkins, Det 5 Medical Team C, NCOIC gives a shot to Sgt. 1st Class Wayne J. Ritchie, Headquarters, 169th Aviation Personnel Support NCO during the recent MODRE. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Look straight ahead. Staff Sgt. Jennifer L. Willich, Det. 5, administers a pupil distance test administered to Spc. Michael J. Collins, Company G, 104th Aviation, a helicopter mechanic. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

**CHAPLAIN'S
C
O
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N
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R**
After 911

 CH. (COL.) DAVID FEYRER
STATE CHAPLAIN

The events over the last several months have caused many to say that life will never be the same. In a sense that is always true but the essence of the events of "911" (9/11/01) is that it is from now on, a time reckoning point. Where were you on "911"? What did you do on "911"? Did you know someone who was personally affected by the events of "911"? We will from henceforth look at time as "Before 911" and "After 911".

"Before 911" has certainly been a time in which our culture has been characterized as self seeking and self-absorbed. Will that continue "After 911"?

One of the most famous stories in the Judeo Christian scriptures is the story of Noah and the flood. As the flood receded, Noah, over a period of weeks and months, began to reestablish a normal life. Eventually, he had a celebration that recognized the fact that life had indeed gone on and we should celebrate that life.

This Holiday season is a time for families, a time for taking a look at the values that are truly important in life. The values of caring and self-giving have been shining forth over the self-serving and self-absorbed attitudes that seemed so prevalent.

This is a good sign of our "after 911" culture. May this Holiday season with its focus on giving and concern for others, reinforce these renewed ideals. May we ask our God to renew our lives and our commitment to peace in the world.

May all the families of our Connecticut National Guard have a blessed, joyous and safe holiday season.

'Any Servicemember' Web Sites Announced

The Department of Defense announced today an alternative to the "Any Servicemember" and "Operation Dear Abby" programs, which were suspended indefinitely in the wake of anthrax mail attacks.

The Navy has developed a Web-based alternative to benefit members of all Services. The program can be reached at the Navy LIFELines Services Network at www.LIFELines2000.org or

AnyServiceMember.Navy.mil

Those who want to send a message of support or holiday greeting to military servicemembers will find a simple process for delivering messages at these sites. The "Any Servicemember" program allows participants to select from one or all branches of the military.

To receive a message of support, servicemembers will log onto the Web site and choose messages for their branch of Service and home state. Those sending a message who wish to receive a response may include a return e-mail address. Since all messages are viewed on the Web, the military's regular e-mail service is not affected.

"Operation Dear Abby" was founded by the newspaper advice columnist and has delivered mail to servicemembers overseas during the holiday season for more than 17 years. The "Any Servicemember" mail program began during Operation Desert Storm in 1990, and continued to grow during operations in Bosnia, starting in

SGLI 'Grace Period' Extended

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER—The 'grace period' in which military members can either decline or reduce coverage for their spouses under the new family member SGLI program and receive a refund for premiums paid has been extended to Dec. 31.

"Every effort is being made to accommodate military members," said Maj. Jerry Couvillion, chief of the casualty services branch here. "This extension should allow members sufficient time to make a decision as important as this."

Beginning Nov. 1, spouses of participating military members were automatically enrolled for up to \$100,000 of low cost life insurance coverage; and members began receiving \$10,000 of free insurance coverage for their dependent children.

"This is a great deal for people—especially the free insurance for children," said Couvillion. "It's intent is to provide extra financial security, and that's exactly what it does—with minimum cost to the member."

Homeland

From p. 1

The airport security role is probably the highest profile mission currently being conducted by Guard members in Connecticut, as well as in other states. Just under 20,000 Guard members are providing airport security across the country, according to the National Guard Bureau.

TSP Open Enrollment Ends 31 Jan. 2002

The Technician Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season is the chance to start or change the amount of your contributions to your TSP account.

To start or change your TSP election, use the TSP Form 1. You can obtain a copy from the HRO or you can download a copy from the Forms and Publications section of the TSP website, www.tsp.gov. Submit the completed Form TSP-1 to HRO before 31 January, the end of Open Season. Your contributions will be made automatically from your pay each pay period, as explained on the back of Form TSP-1.

CSRS participants may now contribute up to seven percent of their pay, while FERS participants may contribute up to 12 percent.

For further information, contact Kathie Riccio at (860) 878-6735 or Spc. Kristy Ryer at (860) 878-6736 in the HRO Office.

Visit the new
*Connecticut National
Guard*
website at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Closing The Back Door: *The Impact of September 11 on Recruiting*

SENIOR MASTER SGT. BRIAN J. BAGLEY
RECRUITING AND RETENTION SUPERINTENDENT,
HEADQUARTERS CTANG

An amazing turn of events has followed the tragedy of September 11. This country has transformed itself back into a patriotic state where people are truly proud to be Americans and actually show they care for one another. For the first time in more than 24 years, while I was driving home, in uniform, a young man in another vehicle drove along side of me and gave me a thumbs up. What a refreshing moment.

I have been in recruiting for more than 18 years and have not seen this amount of patriotism, ever. Unfortunately, this patriotism has its strengths and weaknesses. Immediately after the events of September 11, we were inundated with phone calls from individuals wanting to do their part. You can

imagine that some of the individuals were not eligible for a variety of reasons. For the most part, those really interested where prior service members looking to re-join. At the same time we also experienced the other side of the spectrum. We had several scheduled enlistments placed on hold until they could sort things out. You see, the young men and women today, the commitment is not real until something like this happens. And when it does, they think long and hard about the commitment they are about to make. In fact, some decide not to join and risk placing themselves in harms way. Some do not understand that we in the Guard and Reserve are as much a part of the defense of this country as our active duty counterparts. Some do not understand the need to defend the rights and freedoms we have, or even

realize how significant these freedoms are. They see that they will be going to war, and they do not understand that during peace or war enlisting means volunteering to fight.

Another aspect is that influences recruiting is the parents. Many parents choose not to have their children go into harms way either. They have that right, a right that we have stood for and defended time and time again. After all, we all have a right to choose what we will or will not do; this is a basic inalienable right we have in this country. The unfortunate thing is that while the younger generation is riding the wave of patriotism, they may not fully understand what it is, or what it means. As a result, what would appear to be the greatest wave in Recruiting is not that at all. Yes, we have increased the numbers of leads, but not

those qualified enough to join. We are still in need of qualified young men and women interested in joining the Guard to defend this great country.

The events that ensued that nightmarish day, September 11, have had an impact on all of us. But we in recruiting are still working just as hard as ever to meet the needs of your units and state. Please remember this when talking to those young men and women out there. We still need you to pump up the Guard. We still need you, our best spokespersons for the Guard, to get the message out. We still need to you not give up now, since the need is greater than ever to attract quality young men and women. You have done a great job for us in the past and I know you will continue to promote the Guard and assist us in recruiting.

Pearl Harbor: A Day That Still Lives in Infamy

From p. 1

government policy, invaded and overran the northern-most Chinese province of Manchuria. Japan ignored American protests, and in the summer of 1937 launched a full-scale attack on the rest of China. Although alarmed by this action, neither the United States nor any other nation with interests in the Far East was willing to use military force to halt Japanese expansion.

During the next three years, war broke out in Europe and Japan joined Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy in the Axis Alliance. The United States applied both diplomatic and economic pressures to try to resolve the Sino-Japanese conflict. The Japanese government viewed these measures, especially an embargo on oil, as threats to their national security. By the summer of 1941, both countries had taken positions from which they could not retreat without serious loss of national prestige.

Although both governments continued to negotiate their differences, Japan had already decided on war. The attack on Pearl Harbor was part of a grand strategy of conquest in the western Pacific. The objective was to immobilize the Pacific Fleet so that the United States could not interfere with invasion plans. The principal architect of the attack was Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet. Though personally opposed to war with America, Yamamoto knew that Japan's only hope of success in such a war was to achieve quick and decisive victory. If there were a prolonged conflict, America's superior economic and industrial power would likely tip the scales in her favor.

On November 26, the Japanese arsenal, consisting of 33 warships set sail from northern Japan on route to the Hawaiian Islands. It followed a route that took it far to the north of the normal shipping lanes. By early morning, December 7, 1941, the ships had reached their launch position, 230 miles north of Oahu. At 6 a.m., the first wave of fighters, bombers and torpedo planes took off. The night before, some 10 miles outside the entrance to Pearl Harbor, five midget submarines carrying two crewmen and two torpedoes each were launched from larger "mother" subs. Their mission: enter Pearl Harbor before the air

strike, remain submerged until the attack got underway, then cause as much damage as possible.

Meanwhile at Pearl Harbor, the 130 vessels of the U.S. Pacific Fleet lay calm and serene. On the southeast shore of Ford Island seven of the fleet's nine battleships were tied up along "Battleship Row." Naval aircraft were lined up at Ford Island and Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Stations, and Marine aircraft at Ewa Marine Corps Air Station. At Hickam, Wheeler and Bellows airfields, aircraft of the U.S. Army Air Corps were parked in groups as a front line defense against possible saboteurs.

At 6:40 a.m., the crew of the destroyer USS *Ward* spotted the conning tower of one of the midget subs headed for the entrance to

The USS *California* and USS *West Virginia* sank at their moorings, while the USS *Utah*, converted to a training ship, capsized with more than 50 of her crew. The USS *Maryland*, USS *Pennsylvania* and USS *Tennessee* all suffered significant damage. The USS *Nevada* attempted to run out to sea but took several hits and had to be run aground to avoid sinking and blocking the harbor entrance.

While the attack on Pearl Harbor intensified, other military installations on Oahu were hit. Hickam, Wheeler and Bellows airfields, Ewas Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station and Schofield Barracks were all attacked. Hundreds of men and woman were killed or wounded, while mass amounts of planes were destroyed.

After about five minutes, American anti-aircraft fire began to register hits. After a lull, at 8:40 a.m. the second wave of attacking planes focused on continuing the destruction inside the harbor, destroying the USS *Shaw*. Army Air Corps pilots managed to take off in a few fighters and may have shot down 12 enemy planes. At 10 a.m., the second wave of attacking planes withdrew to the north and the assault was over.

The attack was a great, but not a total, Japanese success. Although the U. S Pacific Fleet was shattered, its aircraft carriers (not in port at the time of attack) were still aloft and Pearl Harbor was surprisingly intact. The shipyards, fuel storage areas and submarine base suffered no more than slight damage. More importantly, the American people, previously divided over the issue of U.S involvement in World War II, rallied together with a total commitment to victory over Japan and her Axis partners.

The US achieved this triumph on the deck of the USS *Missouri* on September 2, 1945. This is where General Douglas MacArthur accepted Japan's unconditional surrender, thereby ending World War II.

This information was compiled from James P. Delgado, "USS Arizona Wreck" (Honolulu County, Hawaii) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1988

Additional Sources: Department of Defense. 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Committee. Pearl Harbor: 50th Anniversary Commemorative Chronicle, "A Grateful National Remembers" 1941-1991. Washington: The Committee.

Pearl Harbor. The *Ward* sank the sub with depth charges and gunfire, and then radioed the information to headquarters. Before 7 a.m., the radar station at Opana Point picked up a signal indicating a large flight of planes approaching from the north. These were thought to be either aircraft flying in from the carrier *Enterprise* or an anticipated flight of B-17s from the mainland, so no action was taken.

Shortly before 7:55 a.m., the first wave of Japanese aircrafts arrived over their planned target areas. Their leader, Commander Mitsuo Fuchida, sent the coded messages "To, To, To" and "Tora, Tora, Tora," signaling the fleet that the attack had begun and that surprise had been achieved.

At approximately 8:10 a.m., a 1,760-pound armor-piercing shell slammed through the deck of the USS *Arizona* igniting her forward ammunition magazine. In less than nine minutes, she sank with 1,177 of her crew. The USS *Oklahoma*, hit by several torpedoes, rolled over, trapping more than 400 men inside.

December 7, 1941 Losses

Personnel Killed	United States	Japan
Navy	1998	64
MarineCorps	109	
Army	233	
Civilian	48	
Personnel Wounded		
Navy	710	Unknown
Marine Corps	69	
Army	364	
Civilian	35	
Ships		
Sunk or beached *	12	5
Damaged	9	
Aircraft		
Destroyed	164	29
Damaged	159	74

*All U.S. ships, except the USS *Arizona*, the USS *Utah*, and the USS *Oklahoma*, were salvaged and later saw action.
 *Figures are subject to change according to new evidence.
 Information for Chart comes from the USS *Arizona* Memorial, National Park Service.

Old Glory

I am the flag of the United States of America.

My name is Old Glory.
 I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.
 I stand watch in America's halls of justice.

I fly majestically over institutions of learning.
 I stand guard with power in the world.
 Look up and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.
 I stand for freedom.
 I am confident. I am arrogant.
 I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners,
 My head is a little higher,
 My colors a little truer.

I bow to no one!
 I am recognized all over the world.
 I am worshipped – I am saluted.
 I am loved – I am revered.
 I am respected – and I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years.
 I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox.

I was there at San Juan Hill, in the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy.
 Guam, Okinawa, Korea and KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam know me.
 I was there.

I led my troops.
 I was dirty, battle worn and tired,
 But my soldiers cheered me
 And I was proud.
 I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free.
 It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my country.
 And when it is by those whom I've served in battle – it hurts.
 But I shall overcome – for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.

I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours.
 But my finest hours are yet to come.
 When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield,
 When I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldiers,
 Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter,
 I am proud.

My name is Old Glory.
 Long May I Wave!
 Dear God, Long May I Wave!

Retirees' Voice *ODCSPER Directorate Of Retirement Services Frequently Asked Questions*

The answer to your question may be listed below. Please read through them before contacting these addresses. For general information, it's always best to contact your contact your Retirement Services Office (RSO).

While on active duty, I successfully held a pay grade higher than the pay grade than that which I was retired. I understand that after a combination of 30 years of active duty and years on the retired rolls, I can be promoted to the highest grade held satisfactorily on active duty.

Yes, under certain circumstances this is possible under the provisions of Section 3964 and Section 3992, Title 10, United States Code. The following is information on making application:

Grade Determination Cases:

Active Federal Service Retirements (30-Year cases) go to the Army Grade Determination Review Board (Arlington, Virginia)

At retirement, if the soldier was: an enlisted member or a warrant officer

And retired: from the Regular Army or while serving on active duty (for Reserve members) or while serving on full-time National Guard duty (for National Guard members)

And: the total of the time spent on active duty plus the time on the retired list equals 30 years or more

Special Notes:

The higher grade held must have been held while the soldier was on active duty, and for:

Warrant Officer - at least 30 days; 2nd Lt. to Maj. - at least 6 months; Lt. Col. and above - at least 3 years

Non-Regular Retirements: (USAR/NG Age 60 cases) go to the Retired Activities Directorate, AR-PERSCOM (St. Louis, Missouri)

At retirement, if the soldier was: an enlisted member or a warrant officer or a commissioned officer

And retired: from the Reserve Component in a Non-Regular Retirement Status [usually defined as not being on Active Federal Service (AFS), Active Guard/Reserve status (AGR), or Full-Time Manning status (FTM) - and will not receive retirement pay until age 60].

Special Notes:

Send the case to the Army Grade Determination Review Board if: (1) Revision to a lower grade was expressly for prejudice or cause, due to misconduct, or punishment pursuant to Article 15, UCMJ, or court-martial, or (2) there is information in the

soldier's service record to indicate clearly that the highest grade was not served satisfactorily.

(The Army Grade Determination Review Board also reviews some retirements on active duty officers and reviews some physical disability retirements cases, but those come directly from PERSCOM and the Physical Disability Board - the ARBA Screening Team is not likely to receive any questions about these two issues.)

When in doubt, please call Sherwin Fulton at (703) 607-1838 or DSN 327-1838.

How Do I Change My Mailing Address for Army Echoes?

If you are a retiree in receipt of or entitled to retired pay, your address is maintained by DFAS-CL, POB 99191, Cleveland OH 44199-1126. Telephone: 1-800-321-1080

If you are a retired Reservist not yet age 60, your address is maintained by AR-PERSCOM, ATTN: ARPC-MOP-M, 1 Reserve Way, St Louis, MO 63132-5100. Telephone: 1-800-318-5298.

If you are a surviving spouse in receipt of SBP, your address is maintained by DFAS-DE/FRB, 6760 E. Irvington Pl, Denver CO 80279-6000. Telephone: 1-800-435-3396.

How Do I Change Federal or State Income Tax Withholding From My Retired Pay?

To change the federal tax withholding, you must submit a Form W4 to DFAS-CL, POB 99191, Cleveland OH 44199-1126. To change your state tax withholding, you must send DFAS-CL a letter indicating the state and the dollar amount you want withheld. Amounts of retired pay to be deducted for state income tax must be in multiples of \$10.00.

How Do I Change Federal or State Income Tax Withholding From My Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Annuity?

To change the federal tax withholding, you must submit a W4P to DFAS-DE/FRB, 6760 E. Irvington Pl, Denver CO 80279-6000. State income tax cannot be withheld from SBP.

Whenever I Have A Question Or A Situation Which I Need Resolved, Who Should I Contact First?

An Army retiree or survivor should always contact the Army Retirement Services Officer (RSO) responsible for the area in which the retiree or survivor resides. A list of RSOs, by state, and their phone numbers appear on page 9 of every Army Echoes and are also listed on the Retiree HomePage.

Why Is Military Retired Pay Reduced When I Start To Receive Social Security?

Military retired pay is NOT reduced because of the receipt of Social Security.

Company A, 143rd FSB Families Celebrate Holidays Together in Southington



Family members of soldiers from Company A, 143rd Forward Support Battalion who are deployed in Bosnia, and soldiers who did not deploy share a holiday meal at the Southington Armory. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett W. Wilson, Company A, 143rd FSB)



Two of the FSB spouses who are very active with the Company A Family Support Group are Amy Beale on the left and Cassandra Cheatham on the right. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett W. Wilson, Company A, 143rd FSB)



Santa Claus, AKA Chief Warrant Officer 3 (Ret.) Ronald Trafford and his elves. Seated on Santa's lap is Nathan Couture, 3, son of Melissa and Spc. Christopher Couture. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett W. Wilson, Company A, 143rd FSB)

Federal Employment Opportunities

The following positions are available at the Veterans Hospital. The contact for further information or to submit applications is Pauline McKee at (203) 932-5711. Send Application Packages to: Delegated Examining Unit 05, Announcement #2-012 WHVAMC 200 Springs Road, Bedford, MA 01730

*** NURSING ASSISTANT:** GS-621-5-Must have one year of specialized experience.

*** PHARMACY TECHNICIANS:** GS-661-4/5

GS-4-Must have 6 months of general experience and 6 months specialized experience.

GS-5-Must have 1 full year of specialized experience.

*** MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST:** (Microbiology) GS-644-9-Must have a full 4 year course of study in medical technology, chemistry or biology and one year specialized experience.

*** DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST:** GS-647-5/6-Must be certified as diagnostic radiologic technologist by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and a one year specialized experience in the operation of diagnostic radiology equipment.

*** RESPIRATORY THERAPIST:** GS-601-7/8-Must be a certified Respiratory Therapy Technician (CRRP). Certificate as a CRRP from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). English Language Proficiency Required. One year of successful experience related to respiratory therapy.

The following jobs are available with various agencies of the federal government. Visit WWW.USAJOBS.OPM.GOV for further information.

*** INVESTIGATOR, GENERAL:** Open until 01-31-2002

Series/Grade: GS-1810-05/07

Salary: \$21,947 to \$35,339

Annual promotion potential: GS-12

Announcement number: WA-01-JLM-121044

Hiring agency: Defense Security Service

Duty location: Groton, CT and New Haven, CT

Contact: USA JOBS, Washington Service Center, 1900 E. Street NW, Room 2469, Washington, DC 20415

*** POLICE OFFICER:** Open until 02-09-2002

Series/Grade: GS-0083-05

Salary: \$25,607 to 32,195 annual

Announcement number: DE-GRO-01-0154-NR

Hiring agency: Naval Field Offices

Duty location: Groton, CT

Contact: Gene Dambro (215) 408-5442, Department of the Navy, HRSC-Northeast, Code 52/GD, 111 S. Independence Mall, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2798

*** AUDITOR:** Open until: Indefinite

Series/Grade: GS-0511-07/07

Salary: \$29,273.00 to \$33,981.00 Annual

Announcement Number: PH-DP-01-102018A

Hiring Agency: Defense Contract Audit Agency

Duty Location: Northeastern States

Contact: USA JOBS By Phone, (478) 744-2299, Internet Address: Philadelphia@Opm.Gov, Philadelphia Service Center, 600 Arch Street, Room 3400, Philadelphia, PA 19106

*** CREDIT UNION EXAMINER:** Open Until: Indefinite

Series/Grade: GS-0580-05/09

Salary: \$22,599.00 to \$57,339.00 Annual

Announcement Number: FS-112022

Hiring Agency: National Credit Union Administration

Duty Location: Throughout Connecticut

Contact: USA JOBS (478) 757-3000, San Francisco Service Center, US Office of Personnel Management, 120 Howard Street, Room 735, San Francisco, CA 94105

*** SECRETARY:** Open Until: 12/30/2001

Series/Grade: GS0318-05/06 Annual

Announcement Number: CNSL 01-727

Hiring Agency: Treasury, Internal Revenue Service

Duty Location: Hartford, CT

Contact: Tracey Reimer (510) 637-2854, Internal Revenue Service, Employment Section TR, 1301 Clay Street Suite 600S, Oakland, Ca 94612-5210

*** NURSING ASSISTANT:** Open Until: 12/31/2001

Series/Grade: GS-0621-05

Salary: \$24,936 Annual

Announcement Number: 2-012-WH

Hiring Agency: VA, Veterans Health Administration

Duty Location: West Haven, CT

Contact: Pauline McKee (203) 932-5711 EXT 3804, Application Packages to: Delegated Examining Unit 05, Announcement #2-012-WH, VAMC 200 Spring Road, Bedford, MA 01730

*** CORRECTIONS OFFICER:** Open Until: 09/28/2002

Series/Grade: GS-0007-05/07

Salary: \$25,607 to 33,981

Announcement Number: 01DAN21

Hiring Agency: Justice, Bureau of Prisons/Federal Prison System

Duty Location: Danbury, CT

Contact: Karen Johnson (203) 743-6471 EXT 615, Federal Corrections Inst., Route 37, Human Resources, Danbury, CT 06811

Coming Events

December

December 7

60th Anniversary of the Bombing of Pearl Harbor

December 9

Hanukkah

December 11 - 14

Trip to Bosnia

December 13

Connecticut Children's Place Holiday Home Party
Bradley Air National Guard Base

December 25

Christmas

December 31

New Year's Eve

January

January 1

New Year's Day

January 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

To Be Determined

Black History Month Celebration

February 12

Lincoln's Birthday

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 18

Presidents' Day

February 22

Washington's Birthday

March

To Be Determined

Women's History Month Celebration

In the Next CG

2001: The Year in Review

2002 Pay Chart

Mother/Daughter Guard Enlistments

Family Gets Called to Duty

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



Infantry Families Prepare Care Packages for Their Soldiers

Pfc. SHIRROD RICHARDSON
65th PCH

The holiday season is a time when people would do almost anything for their loved ones. For the spouses of the members of the deployed 102nd Infantry that is not an option. That's why they are doing all they can to let their family members overseas know that they're not forgotten.

Tahl Roy, lead volunteer for the family support group, and wife of deployed soldier, 1st Sgt. Robert Roy, has taken an active roll in making the time apart for both families and soldiers a little bit easier.

"As a surprise, the families of soldier are sending care packets to their deployed family members," said Roy.

"We got the idea from family members that were sending care packets to deployed members of the 143rd Forward Support Battalion. Most of the items in the care packets were donated like candy, coffee, paper and phone cards just to name a few."

The families and friends have been a great help when it comes to getting items, and putting together the packets said Deanna Rhodes, one of Roy's lead volunteers and wife of Staff Sgt. Michael Rhodes.

Family members have donated their time and effort in many ways. Some made Christmas stockings, others babysat the children of people that had no one to leave their children with so they can go Christmas shopping, said Rhodes.

Family members also have other great plans like a cookie swap, where family members and friends bake cookies and exchange them for all different kinds to send over to their deployed family members.

"I'm excited about how well things worked out," said Roy. "A lot of time was put into this. I think it does wonders for both the soldier and the friends and family members helping out. It's a way that they can feel connected to their deployed family members and a way for the soldier to see that they're not forgotten."

The family support tries to do things like this throughout

the year, said Nichole Sypher; one of Roy's other lead volunteers and wife of staff. Sgt. James Sypher.

The family support group tries to get together monthly to go over ways to not only keep up with their soldiers overseas, but also to have a good time and be there for one another during such an uncertain time.

"One of the other holidays that we hope we can do something good for is Valentine's Day," said Roy.

"It seems like the more things like this we do, the more supports we get," said Rhodes.

"We have great hope that the things we do for our soldiers deployed overseas makes the time away from their friends and family a little bit easier. It's not easy to be a way from loved ones for such a long period of time, but our soldiers overseas are dedicated to their duty and their country. It's the least we can do to show them the way we feel about them and to let them know they will always have their family's support."



Lisa Goodwin, sister-in-law of Staff Sgt. Jim Sypher of Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry, holds her nephew Jeffrey Sypher. Jeffrey's dad is deployed in Bosnia. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Cindy Eastman works on a stocking to send to Connecticut soldiers deployed in Bosnia. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Emmett Heagney, cousin of Spc. Trevor Brittell of Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry, works on filling a gift bag for Bosnia. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Family members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry soldiers deployed in Bosnia work on making holiday stockings to send overseas. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



A family member of the Infantry looks over all the cookies brought in by other family members as part of a cookie exchange to be sent to soldiers deployed in Bosnia. (Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



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