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Bush signs Authorization Act, gives review of War on Terror

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 2002 — President Bush used the occasion of signing the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act to chart the course of the war on terror and to tell a Pentagon crowd that Iraq's responses to date "are not encouraging."

Bush thanked military and civilian personnel at the Pentagon for their service. He said the U.S. military is performing its missions with skill and speed.

Bush said the legislation gives military members higher pay, improved facilities and better housing. The act authorizes purchase of state-of-the-art weapons and equipment while ensuring funds for operations and maintenance.

"The legislation that I sign this afternoon was passed by Congress in a remarkable spirit of unity," Bush said. "It sets priorities in our Defense Department in a critical, critical period for our country."

He said military and civilian members of the department have two difficult tasks: fighting and winning a war and transforming the U.S. military to win the "new kind of war." He said the United States is facing unprecedented challenges and the military is responding with "unmatched technology, careful planning and the finest traditions of valor."

He stated that the war on terror has



President George W. Bush signs the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act at the Pentagon Monday, Dec 2. "The legislation I sign this afternoon was passed by Congress in a remarkable spirit of unity. It sets priorities of our Defense Department in a critical, critical period for our country," said President Bush. "We're rewarding the service and sacrifice of our military families with higher pay, improved facilities and better housing." (White House photo by Paul Morse)

illustrated the future face of warfare. U.S. forces are now, and must become, more agile, mobile and lethal. U.S. weapons are "smarter" and tactics are more inventive. He said these priorities are reflected in this year's budget.

"You will see them reflected in every military budget I submit and sign as your president," Bush said. "Now and in the future, we will maintain a military that is

second to none."

He said U.S. troops in Afghanistan remain engaged in a difficult mission. "We're hunting down trained killers — and that's all they are, nothing but a bunch of cold-blooded killers," Bush said. "Thanks to the United States military, the terrorist camps are closed, many terrorists have met their fates

See DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION Page 4

Hartford travel office to close doors

2ND LT. CELINE MARINI
ASSISTANT STATE PIO

Carlson Wagonlit Travel has announced the closure of its commercial travel office located in the Hartford Armory, effective Dec. 12, 2002.

The Connecticut National Guard office is one of 84 offices that are closing in the DTR-4 region (DTR-4 region includes: Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, DC, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.)

Carlson Wagonlit Travel will continue to provide official travel to members of the Connecticut Army National Guard. Carlson Wagonlit Travel was recently awarded a five-year contract to provide official travel services to all DoD and federal employees in the Defense Travel Region (DTR) 4, of which Connecticut is part.

"It was not the Connecticut Guard's decision to close this office, it was Carlson Wagonlit's decision," said 1ST Sgt. Orlando A. Anderson who is the United States Property Fiscal Office Transportation Manager. "Through efforts of USPFO we have made, and will continue to make every attempt to save this office" said Anderson.

"We want the best service for our members — this transition will be a challenge because the Connecticut Army National Guard has had a travel agent on site at the Hartford Armory since the mid 1980's. It will be a challenging transition but Carlson Wagonlit guarantees the same level of service and the Connecticut Guard really has no choice. If Carlson Wagonlit can keep that promise, then the transition will go smoothly."

The Transportation office is currently working issues to ensure this transition adjustment period goes as efficiently as possible.

Anderson wants to stress that in no way, shape or form will this effect unit deployments or the deployment process. It is handled completely differently. It will only affect the day-to-day business and official TDY's.

See CARLSON Page 21

Field Artillery begins transformation to chemical company



While it may be a grim reminder of NBC warfare, the protective mask may someday save Staff Sgt. Jimmie D. Smith's life. (Photo by Spec. Jesse Stanley, 65th PCH)

SGT. GREG HARRISON
65TH PCH

Whenever soldiers encounter the term NBC (Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical), it conjures up images that have traditionally been somewhat unsettling and better described as "Nobody Cares."

But with the recent events of the past year, including the terrorist attacks of September 11th and the anthrax attacks unleashed through the postal system, soldiers have come to the difficult realization that NBC is becoming as vital to basic military knowledge as firing an M-16 accurately or navigating across terrain using a map and a compass.

With nations such as Iraq developing more advanced chemical and biological weapons since the Gulf War in full defiance of United Nations agreements and recent intelligence reports indicating that Al-Qaeda is making strong efforts to acquire and possibly use NBC weapons against the United States, it becomes

See CHEMICAL Page 28

Up Front with the Adjutant General



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Perspectives

What one event of the past year has had the greatest impact on you, either personally or professionally? How?



SGT. 1ST CLASS ROBERTO ECHEVARRIA
103RD CHEMICAL CO.

I had a baby, my third daughter. It made me appreciate life more and put things in perspective.



STAFF SGT. JIMMIE D. SMITH
103RD CHEMICAL CO.

I was a team leader in the Quick Reactionary Force. I got to learn military police tactics and use different equipment like Black Hawks and Hueys. It was interesting because this is outside my regular MOS.

SENIOR AIRMAN FRANCISCO L. BORRERO
103RD FIGHTER WING

"Back to school time, after Labor Day. You get back to working hard and studying to be successful in your life."



CPL. DAN LAVIN
103RD CHEMICAL CO.

Bootcamp has had the greatest impact on me. It instilled work ethic.

SPEC. MARY BONACCORSO
103RD CHEMICAL CO.

"I provided security at the Olympics. I would have never gotten to go if I was not in the Guard."



TECH. SGT. ANA V. ORTIZ
103RD MISSION SUPPORT FLIGHT

"The day that we all remembered—the one-year anniversary (of 9/11.) It really hit home, especially for me, because I lost both my parents in the last year. My mother on Oct. 17 and my father on June 3. When I think of that act, and (when people say) "where were you on Sept. 11?" and "did you hug your parents?" that's what I think about."

SPEC. MIKE HALLE
103RD CHEMICAL CO.

I was at the Olympics last year doing security.



Honoring veterans during parade in Hartford

STAFF SGT. CAROLYN A. ASELTON
103rd FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members, old and new of the 103rd Fighter Wing marched through the streets of downtown Hartford Saturday, Nov. 9, participating in the Hartford Veteran's Day Parade.

About 60 current members of the flying unit made small talk with each other under the early morning sun while standing in front of the Bushnell as they waited to form up.

Around the corner, retired Master Sgt. Tony Mele, a 23-year guardsman and present American Legion member, stood in his Air Force blues and munched on a doughnut while waiting to take his place with the procession.

"I absolutely love it," said the former flightline mechanic of wearing his uniform and representing the Air Force. "That's why I joined the American Legion, to stay connected to the military I've always loved."

The parade route took the Flying Yankees past the state capital, by Bushnell Park, under the Soldier's and Sailors Memorial Arch, by the Hartford Civic Center, and finished with a pass and review in front of the Wadsworth Atheneum on Main Street.

The streets were lined with spectators young and old, many waving small American flags, some dressed in red, white, and blue, others wearing an old field jacket or camouflaged hat. One woman held a

homemade sign that read "God Bless Our Troops."

Four of the unit's A-10s performed a flyover after a moment of silence in memory of those soldiers who never made it home.

Al Terzi, a news anchorman at WFSB in Hartford and former member of the Air Force, wore a flight jacket belonging to the 103rd, complete with its unit patches, as he marched.

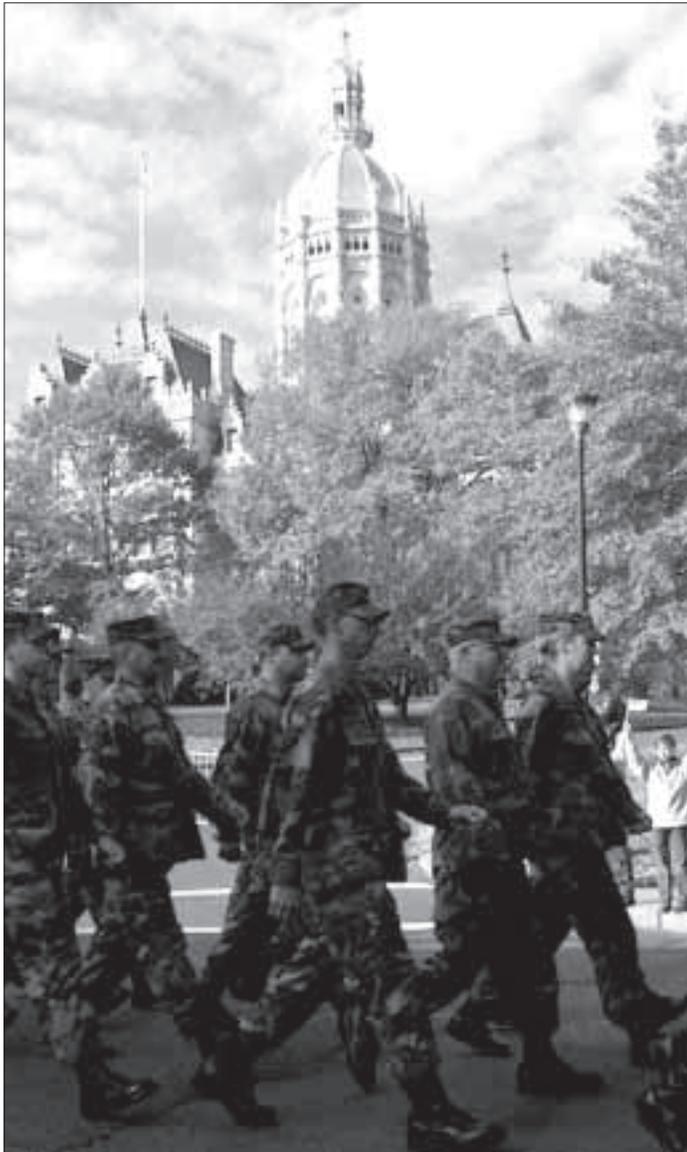
"I enjoyed marching in the parade because it gave me a chance to show how proud I was of being in the military," said Terzi. "It took me back to a time when I was growing up and figuring out who I was. It (serving in the Air Force from 1961-1968) made me more disciplined and focused. I am so glad we the Guard working both their regular jobs and family commitments...it (reserve service) is the highest form of service and we need to respect everyone who does that."

Staff Sgt. Aaron Hann, a munitions systems specialist on base, came out on his own time to watch the parade from the sidelines.

"It's the least I can do for the people who maintain our freedom and our way of life. This year I wanted to show my support especially for the Vietnam Veterans because I feel they got ripped off on their homecoming," he said. "It's important because I think some people overlook it and some folks don't realize those people should be credited."



Channel 3 anchorman Al Terzi waves after completing his march in the Veteran's Day Parade. Terzi wore a Flying Yankee flight jacket as he served eight years in the Air Force. "I enjoyed marching in the parade because it gave me a chance to show how proud I was of being in the military," said Terzi. "It took me back to a time when I was growing up and figuring out who I was... I am so glad we the Guard working both their regular jobs and family commitments...it (reserve service) is the highest form of service and we need to respect everyone who does that." (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aseltton, 103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



The Flying Yankees march past the state capital in Hartford during the Veteran's Day Parade. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aseltton, 103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



The 103rd Fighter Wing is reviewed as it marches down Hartford's Main Street. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aseltton, 103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Master Sgt. Robin L. Hinson, first sergeant, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, calls commands to the 103rd Fighter Wing as it prepares to march in the Connecticut Veteran's Day Parade in Hartford Nov. 9. The unit is forming up in front of the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aseltton, 103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Homeland Security Bill now law

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25, 2002 – When President Bush signed the Homeland Security Bill into law today, he established a new cabinet-level department to ensure the safety of the American people.

Before Bush signed the bill in a White House ceremony, he announced he will nominate former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to be the first secretary of Homeland Security. He also said he will nominate Navy Secretary Gordon England to be deputy at the 170,000-worker agency.

The new department will analyze threats, guard borders, coordinate national responses and focus the “full resources of the American government on the safety of its people,” Bush said.

The measure passed Congress with bipartisan support. It had been held up because of concerns about a provision that would allow the president to shift workers to areas where they were needed.

Critics said the new rules would erode federal civil-service protections. Administration officials said managers needed more flexibility to protect America.

Bush thanked union leaders present at the signing ceremony.

“We look forward to working with you to make sure that your people are treated fairly in this new department,” he said.

The bill is a response to the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington. The idea was to place all federal agencies involved with homeland security under one umbrella. The few exceptions are the military, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Bush said the government is doing everything it can to enhance security at airports, power plants and border crossings.

“We’ve deployed detection equipment to



President George W. Bush addresses the media during the signing of the Homeland Security Act in the East Room of the White House. (White House photo by Paul Morse)

look for weapons of mass destruction,” he said. “We’ve given law enforcement better tools to detect and disrupt terrorist cells which might be hiding in our own own country.”

He said the Homeland Security Act is the “next logical step” in defending America. The act amalgamates 22 agencies into one department.

“To succeed in their mission, leaders of the new department must change the culture of many diverse agencies, directing all of them toward the principal objective of protecting the American people.”

Bush said. “The effort will take time and focus and steady resolve.”

He said adjustments in the department will be needed as this is the largest reorganization of the U.S. government since the 1947 act that established the Defense Department.

He said the new department would analyze information collected by U.S. intelligence

agencies and match that against American vulnerabilities. The new agency will work with other agencies, the private sector, and state and local governments to harden America’s defenses against terror, Bush stated.

The agency will focus on safeguarding the U.S. computer network, and defend against the growing threat of chemical, biological or nuclear assaults.

The Department of Homeland Security will be one point of contact for state and local officials and place security for all U.S. transportation systems under one roof.

Bush noted the Department of Homeland Security will end duplication and overlapping responsibilities.

“Our objective is to spend less on administrators and offices and more on working agents in the field; less on overhead and more on protecting our neighborhoods and borders and waters and skies from terrorists,” he said.

Military looks at ‘Rebalancing’ Reserve Component, Active Force

KATHLEEN T. RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19, 2002 — Certain military job specialties, including military police and civil affairs, are being overburdened in the reserve components and may need stronger representation in the active duty force, the Defense Department’s senior adviser on reserve affairs said today.

Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, told a group of reporters today that repeated call-ups of certain specialties might eventually hurt recruiting and retention in the reserve forces.

Hall related his experiences last week in a St. Louis meeting with state representatives for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program. He said employers generally support reserve duty by their workers, but at times it can become a burden, particularly for small businesses and private practices.

“When their reservist ... is mobilized for the first time, it’s probably OK,” Hall said the state employer representatives told him.

“When they’re mobilized for the second time, it might be OK. But when they’re mobilized the third time in three years running, this causes a particular problem for ... the reservist, their family and the employers.”

Still, he cautioned, service members shouldn’t look for a mass exodus of specialties being moved from the reserve components to the active force. He called it more of a “rebalancing.”

Hall was sworn in Oct. 9, but he was already familiar with issues facing reserve forces. He previously commanded the Naval Reserve for four years after a 34-year active duty career as a naval aviator.

He said the greatest challenge facing him in his job isn’t necessarily about the numbers. Ensuring reserve forces are effective when called is much more important than how many there are, he remarked.

“The guiding principle for all of us should be that we have the right reservist with the right equipment (and) the right training at the right place at the right time to help make a difference in any conflict,” he said.

Hall spoke of the heavy burden placed on the reserve components by the war on terrorism. Thousands were called to duty on or immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorists struck in New York and at the Pentagon.

Today, roughly 51,000 Guard and Reserve members are on active duty across the United States and around the world. At the peak of the call-up, nearly 100,000 reserve component members were activated. In all, roughly 130,000 reserve troops have served in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Defense Authorization Bill signed into law

From page 1

in the caves and mountains of Afghanistan and others are now in custody.”

Yet many terrorists remain at large and are plotting in more than 60 countries around the world, the president said. The United States will continue to track these people and hunt them down. “They think they can run. They can’t run far enough from the long arm of justice of the United States,” the president said.

He said the same thinking leads the United States to oppose Iraq, “a uniquely dangerous regime that possesses the weapons of mass murder, has used those weapons and could supply those weapons to terrorists.”

He said U.N. inspectors are not in Iraq “to play hide-and- seek with Saddam Hussein.” He noted that inspectors do not have the manpower or the duty to uncover weapons hidden somewhere in a vast country.

“The responsibility of inspectors is simply to confirm the evidence of voluntary and total disarmament,” Bush said.

The president stressed that any act of delay, deception or defiance will prove Hussein is not complying with United Nations resolutions. The United States, he said, will make one judgment on the inspection process: has Saddam Hussein changed his behavior of the last 11 years, and decided to cooperate willingly or not.

“So far the signs are not encouraging,” Bush said. “A regime that fires upon American and British pilots is not taking the path of compliance. A regime that sends

letters filled with protests and falsehoods is not taking the path of compliance.”

He stated that Iraq must declare its weapons of mass destruction and missile program on or before Dec. 8. He said the Iraqi dictator’s declaration “must be accurate and complete or he will demonstrate that he has chosen not to change behavior.”

He said the United States seeks peace and that war is the last option for confronting threats.

“Yet the temporary peace of denial and looking away from danger would only be a prelude to broader war and greater horror,” he said. “America will confront gathering dangers early, before our options become limited and desperate. By showing our resolve today, we’re building a future of peace.”

Classmates, town pay tribute to fallen combat controller

TECH. SGT. GINGER SCHREITMUELLER
AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. (Night Flyer News Service) – The 1983 Windsor Locks High School yearbook shows a young John Chapman amongst its graduating students.

The star athlete in soccer and swim chose a simple quote to accompany his image. The quote, his classmates said, reflected the integrity and dedication of the team player: “Give of yourself before taking of someone else.”

In March 2002, Tech. Sgt. John Chapman — an Air Force Combat Controller — was fatally wounded during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Chapman was killed when he and several fellow Special Operators attempted to rescue a Navy SEAL who had fallen from a helicopter during Operation Anaconda. Holding to the Special Operations tenet of “Leave No Man Behind,” Chapman and his team returned to the area where the SEAL was believed to be — in the midst of intense enemy fire — without hesitation.

His childhood friends made a promise to each other to honor their friend and remind all of his selfless team focus shown throughout childhood and his military service.

That promise was fulfilled Oct. 19, when his friends, family and hundreds of people from this small Connecticut town gathered to pay tribute to Chapman. The tribute to a man they all knew as “Chappy,” included the re-naming of a street to the sergeant and dedicating a granite memorial near his alma mater.

“John was more than a national hero; he was ‘Chappy,’ a fellow classmate and student, a teammate and friend,” said Brian Topor, who led the efforts to remember the fallen Combat Controller. “He was a godfather, an uncle and a brother. He was a loving son, and a devoted

husband and father.”

Topor was among 10 classmates of Chapman who made a pact to pay tribute to the first Connecticut native to die in the nation’s global war on terrorism. The classmates helped raise funds and organize two main events to remember “Chappy.”

The first event began with a street dedication near the town’s Veteran’s Memorial Park. The roadway leads to a small memorial dedicated to all the town’s veterans, and is surrounded by soccer fields.

“This is a small but important place on this planet to remember John,” said Rev. Francis McDonnell, during the invocation at the street dedication ceremony. “He will forever be in our minds and our hearts. (With the renaming of this street as Tech. Sergeant John A. Chapman Way), John will also be in our eyes and his memory will be always.”

Chapman’s sister said the new street is a perfect location to remind others of her brother’s accomplishments.

“Right behind this field is the old elementary school we went to,” said Lori McQueeney. “Johnny spent countless hours playing soccer on the field right here. This will serve to remind us of my brother, and all those who are still doing what Johnny did in defense of our nation.”

Chappy’s friends then gathered the town at the high school for a dedication of a memorial plaque. Nestled near the school’s varsity athlete fields, the plaque sits at the base of the flagpole facing the field where Sergeant Chapman earned varsity honors in soccer.

Honored guests attending the ceremony included the Governor of Connecticut

John Rowland; Maj. Gen. Daniel Leaf, Air Force director of operational requirements, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations, representing the Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld; Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembrzuski, assistant adjutant general-Army, Connecticut National Guard; and, Col. Craig Rith, 720th Special Tactics Group commander.

Topor reminded those gathered for the ceremony that Chappy’s death was a reflection of a “team-first” philosophy he exhibited growing up in Windsor Locks.

“I hope those who have never met John come to know him and be inspired by his zest for life, commitment to teamwork and his understanding and acceptance of those who were less fortunate,” said Topor. “Despite his elite position within the military, John never lost sight of these qualities and values.”

Addressing the crowd gathered for the ceremony, including several local high school soccer teams, Topor battled rain and tears to pay tribute to his friend.

“It is easy to reflect on the days that John played soccer on this very field, swam and dove in the pool and walked through the halls of the school that stand behind us. It is a fitting place to remember John Allan Chapman as his formative years were spent here in Windsor Locks,” said Topor. “It is here he was raised with the values and ambitions that he continued to live by as an adult.”

Connecticut’s Air National Guard provided a rifle salute and Taps for the ceremony, as well as an A-10 flyover from 103rd Fighter Wing. Maj. Patrick Whelan, from the Connecticut State Police Pipes and Drums Unit, performed “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipe to close the event.

Messages from Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary Rumsfeld were presented to Chapman’s family after the service.

The Windsor Locks High School Soccer team hosted a match after the ceremony in tribute of Chapman.



The roadway leading to the Windsor Lock Veteran’s Memorial Park was re-named “TSgt. John A. Chapman Way” in honor of the Air Force Combat Controller who was killed in Afghanistan, while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller)



A homemade America Flag rests along the memorial plaque dedicated to Tech. Sgt. John A. Chapman, an Air Force Combat Controller killed in March 2002. The memorial is located near the high school athletic fields where Chapman played varsity soccer. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller)



Col. Craig Rith, 720th Special Tactics Group commander, tells the family, friends and neighbors about the dedication of Tech. Sgt. John Chapman during the street re-naming ceremony in Windsor Locks, Conn. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller)

Company C: next best thing to being there

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65th PCH

If you want to reach out and touch somebody at anytime in any part of the world then becoming a member of the Signal Corp is for you.

Company C, 280th Signal Battalion provided cross-training to its members during the drill weekend of Nov. 16-17.

Soldiers with specialize skills in one area of operations brief and trained each other so the entire unit would understand the overall mission of the Signal Corps.

"We are showing soldiers how to survive in the battlefield and the classes provided today will give soldiers the total mission concept. Everyone will understand the other person's job," said Staff Sgt. Virgilio S. Correia, Company C, 280th Signal Battalion, switching supervisor.

According to Spec. David D. Wu, operator/maintainer, the unit operates much like if Southern New England Telephone (SNET) was put on a pair of wheels to set up communications anywhere at anytime in the world. The Area Network Tactical Telephone Center (ANTTC) also known as the 39 Delta is a switching point.

Correia added, the ANTTC is a hub station.

According to 2nd Lt. Kevin S. McCarthy, platoon leader, the unit is a telephone company on wheels. Without the use of satellites, the unit's equipment can provide for a soldier to talk to the president in the White House from a foxhole in another country.

"But only with proper clearance!" said Wu with a smile.

"Think of the 39 Delta as a large computer chip," said Wu. "The 39 Delta is the main switching point that can have phone lines place in or out of it. Also, satellites can also be hooked into the network if it had to or equipment added to bounce signals off the atmosphere."

According to Wu, a soldier could use a phone line that is connected to one of the many communications lines of the 39 Delta, and have their call routed to a "Send" radio to help boost the phone signal to the receive line and reach its destination.

Redundancy in the equipment is critical and provides soldiers with a backup plan if any lines are cut, destroyed or compromised



Members of Company C, 280th Signal Battalion set-up some of their communications equipment. (65th PCH photo)

by enemy forces. The mission for this weekend drill is to set up an area for the 39 Deltas, Send radios, cables and antennas and get everyone familiar with every other soldier's job.

According to Correia, the 280th Signal Battalion has a working relationship with the Air National Guard and Company C is the lead Signal Company in Connecticut.

"The 280th Signal Corp Battalion Headquarters are in Delaware with additional units Alpha and Bravo training in Delaware and other states to practice sending information to Company C in Connecticut, said Correia.

When Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) units are performing Advance Training, (AT) Company C provides the means for real-time communications support, according to McCarthy.

"It was discovered during DESERT STORM that some National Guard units were using old analog equipment but now with the new equipment we are scheduled to receive, Company C will have the capability to send wireless, commercial, email and combat radio just to name a few," according to Staff Sgt. John T. O'Briant, switching supervisor. "The Signal Corp will be able to send information from the frontline battle troops through routers to talk to commanders at Central Operations."

During a recent (AT) mission soldiers of Company C work for four hours in high heat in full Nuclear Biological Chemical gear and learned the nuances of operating equipment

with small dials and switches.

The gear made the training difficult but soldiers adapted, according to Correia.

Their AT mission was evaluated by soldiers from the active component and Company C passed all areas of the inspection, according to McCarthy.

"The 280th is the best unit in the National Guard," said 1st Sgt. William A. Kittle. "There is a good group here with good diversity and everyone works together. There is equal opportunity for everyone here."

Earlier in the day Kittle appointed Spec. Seth J. Matton, multi-channel signal operator/maintainer as a shadow first sergeant.

"I want to put junior enlisted into leadership positions so they can get experience," said Kittle. The cross-training Matton received in leadership gave him a whole new perspective and respect for the senior Noncommissioned Officers.

"Soldiers can have so many ideas of what to change in the unit. As shadow first sergeant, I understand the total picture of the job and feel the pressure of making the right decisions for the unit," said Matton.

Soldiers that gave support to the cross-training mission realize their involvement is critical to the success of the weekend drill.

"We get the proper equipment to the soldier so they can complete their mission. We make it go," said Spec. Andrew N. Borysewicz, supply specialist.



Members of Company C, 280th Signal Battalion have to know how to set-up all kinds of equipment in order to keep the lines of communication flowing amongst units in the field, even if they are several states away from each other. (65th PCH photo)



A new beginning for Aviation Command

SPEC. ELVIS BRAGA
65th PCH

Col. Albert A. Rubino said goodbye to his troops during a Change of Command Ceremony in Groton at the 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD). The AVCRAD consists of aviation, aviation repair, and aviation assets of the Connecticut National Guard.

Rubino, a Vietnam veteran, was in charge of Connecticut's largest Army National Guard Command for the past three years. During his departure speech the former commander said a final word to his troops.

"If you perform for Col. Erickson as you did for me, you can only do better and bigger things".

Col. Ernest Tage Erickson has held several major leadership positions during his 33 years of military service. Erickson was chosen by Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno to lead the 1109th AVCRAD.

"I'll give you a hundred percent of my effort and you'll get everything I have," Erickson told the troops. Most of that effort is going to emphasize force protection and assuring that his troops are well prepared in case of deployment.



The traditional passing of the colors takes place during a change of command ceremony at the AVCRAD. Col. Albert Rubino relinquished command to Col. Tage Erickson during ceremonies held last month. (65th PCH photo)

Editor's Note: See pages for story and photos on AVCRAD and what they do.

Engine Shop fills the holes

STAFF SGT. CAROLYN A. ASELTON
103rd FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In maintenance lingo a "hole" is an aircraft without an engine.

Holes can keep a flying unit from meeting its sorties.

But the 103rd Fighter Wing has not had a hole in over seven years.

And even if it did, Master Sgt. John P. Saccante, propulsion element chief, and his team of 26 jet engine mechanics have seven spare engines on the ready-line to fill it.

"Right now I would say that our 17 jets have the best engines on them," he said recently.

Only seven years ago, the unit needed 18 aircraft for a deployed ORI. At the time, Saccante had 20 engines in the shop with 11 holes. The commanders asked Saccante if they would be able to get through the inspection. With additional funding he said they could. And they did. But today, as the unit embraces real-world operations, that is a thing of the past.

"If our airplanes had to deploy anywhere for anything we've given them the best engines we've got," Saccante said.

So why the change?
"We do maintenance a lot smarter," Saccante said. He credits the "extensive maintenance being done here, and planning being done by the shop chief."

That planning is done by Master Sgt. Geraldo Apruzzese, who explained why the engine shop is so successful.

"We're doing things better," he said.

Apruzzese said his people work on improving every aspect of the job. A large part of that is reducing unscheduled maintenance removals, or sudden or unexpected engine work requiring the engine to be removed from the aircraft,

which frees his personnel to tend to scheduled maintenance.

Scheduled maintenance is maintenance that is performed periodically, typically after a certain amount of flying hours.

The number of unscheduled maintenance removals the year of the deployed ORI climbed well above the yearly average of eight to 18 "which would have people running around with their heads cut off. They would not have the time to work on quality. They were just doing what they had to do," Apruzzese said.

Today at Bradley, however, the engine shop personnel goes above and beyond what is required, to include looking over the entire engine thoroughly and then conducting preventative maintenance, according to Apruzzese. He said an example of that is to replace engine parts that show wear and tear prior to their replacement dates, which would otherwise continue to fly and cause damage.

Apruzzese said his troops also scrutinize engine parts coming from depot to ensure they are getting good parts.

But the mechanics do not stop there. Apruzzese said his crews take the job one step further in challenging maintenance technical orders. They question and critique the data. Further, in order to improve their work and save man hours, they call for modifications to publications.

"This shop has put numerous changes into tech data and suggestions to save the Air Force, not only the Guard, but the Air Force and the Reserves, funding and man hours," Saccante said.

The mechanics have not had to "drop an engine," or remove an engine from its aircraft, for scheduled maintenance in over 20 months.

"We will trouble-shoot on the wing before we drop an engine," Saccante said. "We will



Members of the 103rd Fighter Wing aerospace propulsion element stand ready with their A-10 engines. (Photo by 103rd communications flight)

do everything possible to repair the engine while it's on the wing without having to remove it."

"These trends of conscious decisions for scheduled maintenance have given us more time to work on the quality of engine so it lasts longer," Apruzzese said.

According to Apruzzese his engines are now lasting four to six years compared to just a couple.

Having a hush house available in which to work contributes to the engine shop's success, according to Master Sgt. Paul Michaud, test cell supervisor. He said the hush house, built in 1993, makes his job "go a lot smoother."

He added that the enclosed space is a lot safer than working on the flightline.

"Hazards are kept to a minimum," he said. Connecticut is one of only three A10 units that have a hush house.

Streamlining its maintenance has created a positive momentum throughout the section.

"We have guys with a can-do attitude because they feel they're not doing maintenance that doesn't make sense,"

Saccante said. The airmen are "real eager and motivated to work hard." He added that they feel "lots of satisfaction from getting six years" service life from a single engine.

According to Apruzzese there are a lot of inexperienced mechanics in the shop.

"It can only get better for us as these guys gain experience. They will only put out a better product," he said.

One of those mechanics is Airman 1st Class Gabe Muniz, who completed tech school in February. He said there are mechanics in the shop who know everything about the engine.

"You can blindfold them and they know the part number," he said.

The component repair flight chief, Pat Wheeler, is impressed with every rank working in the engine shop.

"It's not just a few guys; the whole shop contributes," he said.

Major Jerry McDonald, component repair flight OIC, said he sees high moral in the shop. Its personnel "feel they are contributing to a larger part of the mission," he said.



Tech. Sgt. David W. Brown instructs Senior Airmen Kevin E. Omeara and Ryan D. Ragan on how to properly remove engine fan blades from an engine while working in the hush house at the end of the Bradley ANG base flightline. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aseltton, 103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Airman Ryan D. Ragan looks on as Senior Airman Kevin E. Omeara starts a maintenance job on an A-10 engine while the aircraft is parked in the hush house. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aseltton, 103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Airman 1st Class Gabe Muniz and Airman 1st Class Christopher Pagoni, aerospace propulsion apprentices, conduct maintenance on an A-10 engine. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aseltton, 103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

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Always ready on the firing line

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65th PCH

During a cool and cloudy November morning, weapons training was conducted in the city of Waterford, Connecticut to provide soldiers with the techniques of how to properly use the standard 9mm pistol.

The training was used by the 85th Troop Command Headquarters to conduct annual weapons training at the Waterford Police Firing Range. Soldiers fired their weapons at static targets from a distance of 25 meters.

The day began with a safety briefing on the rules and regulations on how soldiers should conduct themselves on the firing range. The briefing also included a short review on how to hold and fire a 9mm pistol and the issuing of hearing protection to all soldiers involved.

More than 10 soldiers were involved in the training and all who participated scored enough hits on their targets to be considered proficient in the use of the Army standard 9mm pistol.

"I am confident that soldiers of the 85th Troop Command are fully trained for a deployment," said Sgt. Maj. Toby P. Cormier, 85th Troop Command Headquarters, operations sergeant major.

Cormier is an active member of Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) and has 23 years of service in the CTARNG, having spent the past two years with the 85th Troop Command Headquarters.

1st Sgt. Richard Miller, 85th Troop Command Headquarters, readiness NCO, teamed with Cormier to make sure supplies of ammunition, weapons, targets, scoring sheets and all other safety items were in place to conduct a successful training mission.

"My participation today was to make sure

everyone qualified and to provide a time to retrain those soldiers who may need additional training," said Cormier.

This was the first time that the CTARNG has cooperated with the Waterford Police Department in the use of the pistol range, according to Cormier.

The annual weapons training is just part of a larger plan to train many members of the entire 85th Troop Command. Future training will include use of the M16A2 rifle and other basic combat skills that will be used with the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to protect soldiers and American citizens against terrorism, according to Cormier.

While at the pistol range, soldiers took time out from their training to reflect on weekend's mission.

"It's pretty good training," said Sgt. Ivette Valadez, 85th Troop Command, administrative specialist. "I've gone through the class earlier and observed today's instructions on weapons safety which included loading and unloading a weapon."

Capt. Stefan Sanchez, 85th Troop Command Headquarters commander gave another perspective on the day's events.

"The training was necessary because you never know when you have to use it on a battlefield. My work as a five-year New Milford Police Officer has shown me the way you train is the way you will perform when confronted in a fight for your life," said Sanchez. "The training I received from the Connecticut Army National Guard has helped me to become a better police officer."

Moreover, Sanchez expressed the importance of the weekend drill.

"The training should be taken seriously because if you train the way you fight, your skills can save your life."



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tammy Sousa aims downrange during weapons qualifications at the Waterford Police Department Firing Range. Cooperation and sharing of facilities among military and civilian organizations has increased since 9/11. (Photo by Pvt. Jordan Werme, 65th PCH)

Diversity Partnership agreement between CTNG and NAACP signed

SGT. 1st CLASS SCOTT J. FARRELL
STATE DIVERSITY INITIATIVES COORDINATOR (SDIC)

On Oct. 25, he Connecticut National Guard (CTNG) and the Connecticut National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (CTNAACP) signed a memorandum of understanding concerning a partnership for diversity at the 27th Annual Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches.

The signers of this memorandum were Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General CTNG and James Griffin, President CTNAACP. This event was held at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport, Conn. and was attended by more than 400 people.

The purpose of this partnership for diversity is to create a collaborative effort between the CTNG and the CTNAACP in all aspects of diversity. The partnership would also be a vehicle to provide for the development and implementation of an open dialogue.

The goal of this program is to ensure that the CTNG reflects the demographic make-up of Connecticut's minority

population. The CTNG will establish goals to diversify the ranks of the CTNG with qualified male and female people of color serving as soldiers and airmen. The CTNAACP will assist in identifying and establishing those goals.

The CTNG and CTNAACP will also provide each other with an opportunity to speak at organizational and community functions on issues of diversity. The CTNG and CTNAACP will promote diversity opportunities in all aspects of community and military life.

The CTNG will continue to work to enhance equal opportunity to all qualified people of color serving as soldiers and airmen in educational and job opportunities, awards, promotions and recognition.

The CTNG and CTNAACP will meet at least semi-annually to follow-up on established goals.

If you have any suggestion or idea on how we can expand and/or improve this effort, contact Sgt. 1st Class Scott J. Farrell at (860) 878-6718.

PERSCOM replaces all e-mail addresses with AKO

CAPT. JOHN L. BARRETT

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service, Nov. 13, 2002) — In terms of personnel business, Army Knowledge Online became the official e-mail for all soldiers this month.

U.S. Army Personnel Command replaced all soldier e-mail addresses currently in its database with AKO addresses. Officer record briefs, for example, now contain the us.army.mil address in the top left-hand corner, not what was previously listed. Enlisted soldiers' AKO addresses are also required on efficiency reports to shorten contact time when an NCO-ER requires a correction.

Previously, various unit and personal e-mail addresses were saved in the Army's personnel database. Some remained current while others were not updated after soldiers moved away from an installation.

"We want every officer and soldier to be accessible," said Lt. Col. Georgia

Bouie, whose office headed the e-mail transfer. The only way to ensure that is to use a common e-mail address that the soldier will have for his entire life."

AKO e-mail is currently used for a variety of official purposes, such as correspondence from career managers and the electronic mailing of travel voucher settlements from DFAS.

The change was implemented at PERSCOM, with no action required on the part of soldiers. Soldiers without AKO

addresses will not have a contact e-mail in their database. Soldiers who do not currently have an AKO address should sign up for an account from the Army Knowledge Online web site at www.us.army.mil, officials said.

AKO e-mail is just one of the various features of the larger AKO initiative. It includes functions such as AKO chat — which allows soldiers to communicate electronically in real time — and the AKO White Pages, where soldiers can search for other soldiers. AKO provides troops access to functions normally included in the electronic communities of the private sector, officials said.

AKO was designed as a central place for soldiers to receive information.

Personalized information can be sent directly to them via their AKO e-mail account. The Army can use this similar to how businesses use e-mail to provide information to their customers, PERSCOM officials said. They said information about assignments, professional development opportunities, and re-enlistment can be sent to the field quickly — saving both time and money.

AKO e-mail can be read through the AKO Web site or can be forwarded to other e-mail accounts owned by the soldier for convenience. Mail forwarding can be implemented by choosing the "personalize" tab once inside the AKO portal.

Officer Dining In 2002



Maj. Gen. Robert St. Onge, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, was the keynote speaker for this year's Officer Dining In at the Aqua Turf in Southington. Looking on is Maj. Gen William A. Cugno, Adjutant General. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Second Lt. Elizabeth Cordon talks with Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno and Maj. Gen. Robert St. Onge as she goes through the receiving line at the Officer Dining In. Cordon served as Madam Vice for the evening. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Signal Corps officers shared laughs and memories at the Officer Dining In held at the Aqua Turf in Southington. The evening provides an opportunity for officers to gather and see old friends. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Chief Master Sgt. Tony Palladino and Lt. Col. Thomas Heath of the 103rd Fighter Wing were among from the Air National Guard to turn out for the Officer Dining In. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Brig. Gen. (Ret.) George Demers spent time visiting with members of the state militia. Demers was Assistant Adjutant General - Air until his retirement a year ago. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Second Lt. Robert Dollack and an NCO look on during one of the more serious moments of the evening. There were many somber as well as lighthearted moments throughout the evening. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, Sr. PA NCO)

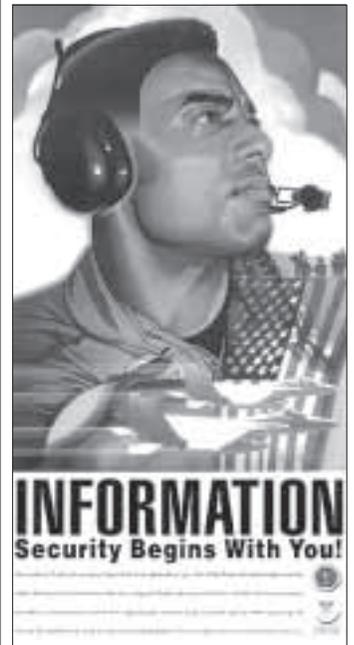
Promotion points for Distance Learning approved by PERSCOM

PERSCOM has approved the addition of e-Learning courses, such as SmartForce, SkillSoft and CBT Systems for promotion point use.

According to Sgt. Maj. Frank Yoakum, Personnel Policy Sergeant Major at NGB, the changes will be reflected in the rewritten NGR 600-200 that is due to be published in December.

"The rewrite of NGR 600-200 includes any e-Learning courses, such as SmartForce, for promotion point credit in the same way that correspondence courses are now given credit," he said. "Basically, if it can be posted to an RPAS, promotion points may be granted."

(Editor's note: Further information on this new regulation will appear in the January issue of the Guardian.)



Army calls RC officers to volunteer for active duty

Army News Service reports that the Army is calling specific Reserve and National Guard commissioned and warrant officers to volunteer for active duty. The Limited Call to Active Duty Program is currently requesting the following: captains in the Signal Corps; majors in all basic branches, except for Chaplain, Judge Advocate General and Medical corps; and aviation warrant officers, except for air traffic controllers and aviation maintenance technicians.

The call is also for technical warrant officers: Special Forces (180A); data processing technicians (251A); Criminal Investigation Command or CID special agents (311A); counter-intelligence technicians (351B) and human intelligence collector technicians (351E-Korea). Officers seeking additional information can call U.S. Army Personnel Command Accessions Branch at (703) 325-9970.



Shattered Dreams :

Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton
State Senior PA NCO

As a young boy he dreamed of being a firefighter, or an astronaut, or a baseball player or something equally heroic.

When he became a teenager, he discovered computers and knew what he would spend the rest of his life doing.

But a drunk driver shattered his dreams, and those of his parents.

That was 30 years ago, and he does use a computer every day, but to communicate, to move around in his wheelchair, to survive.

Tommy (not his real name) was out with his friends one evening, celebrating his baseball team's league championship earlier that day. Most of the guys had recently turned 16 and hadn't had their driver's licenses very long. As they were leaving the pizza parlor to head home, one of Tommy's friends joked about watching out for drunk drivers because the bars were closing.

It turned out to be a very prophetic joke.

Just five minutes from turning into his driveway, the car Tommy was riding in was hit broadside by a drunk driver who ran a stop sign doing 65 miles an hour.

The car full of happy teens was hit so hard it rolled over three times before slamming into a tree and disintegrating into several pieces.

The driver of the other car walked away from the crash without a broken bone or any serious injury. He fled the scene on foot, leaving three teenagers lying in and by the road. Fortunately, someone in a nearby house heard the crash and called for help.

But for the boys it was too late. The driver of the car Tommy was in died instantly. His best friend since kindergarten who was riding in the back seat died an hour after getting to the hospital. Tommy lay in a coma for nearly two months. Doctors weren't sure he'd ever wake up.

Tommy's parents kept a bedside watch on their only child. A child they had had hopes and dreams for. Hopes and dreams that now would never be realized.

Their own plans for grandchildren were gone. Their plans for the cruises and other vacations they would take when Tommy was grown and had a family of his own were gone.

Their lives would now be his. If he ever woke up.

Seven weeks after having been hit, Tommy woke up.

It took a while for him to get his strength back, but he eventually was told he had lost his best friends and that he would probably never walk again. His parents aren't sure if Tommy understood any of that right away...he was diagnosed with brain damage, most of which came from massive head trauma suffered in the crash, some from a lack of oxygen when he stopped breathing

after first arriving at the hospital.

In time, reality sunk in for everyone.

Tommy would never walk again. He would never speak clearly again. He would never be able to dress or wash himself again. It was doubtful what kind of quality of life he would have.

His mother quit her job to stay home and take care of Tommy.

"There was no way I was putting my son in any home or hospital for the rest of his life," she said. "I lost him once, I wasn't about to lose him again."

Over the last 30 years, Tommy has learned many skills that have enabled him to lead a productive life.

His love for computers has helped him there. He uses computers to talk, and uses a

computer-aided wheelchair to get around. He did sue the driver of the other car and got a nice settlement that has helped his parents care for him. He was able to purchase a custom van with a wheelchair lift that his parents drive him around in. He has remained as active as possible in life, and designs flyers, brochures and other graphic items with his computer...using only one finger to do it.

Yes, this is a very powerful and emotional story about three people and what affect a single drunk driver had on the rest of their lives. But it goes far beyond that. If it doesn't touch you emotionally, then think about the financial aspects of your life it does touch.

In Tommy's case, he was in the hospital for more than three months. He has had to go to physical therapy five days a week for nearly 30 years. This costs money. Yes, he did get a nice settlement, and insurance and Medicaid cover all his expenses.

But think about it. The settlement money came from the other driver's insurance policy. Insurance premiums pay for medical expenses and specialized equipment. The more money paid out, the higher the insurance premiums go.

Bar owners are getting sued for allowing drunks to leave their bars and drive home. They have to purchase insurance for that. Premiums go up. The cost of a drink and a sandwich in the bar go up.

And what about the emotional cost to the emergency personnel who respond to the scene and find three young teens, just heading towards a bright future, lying in the road? Especially in a small town like the one Tommy's from where everyone knows everyone.

It's starting to add up.

The driver Martucci talked about was arrested, as are many people for driving while intoxicated. They get their day in court, (now let's add in the cost of court fees, the prosecutor's salary, the court reporter and judge's salaries, and maybe even the cost of a public defender.)

Mandatory drunk driving sentences are now in place in Connecticut. They include 48 hours incarceration for the first offense, at least 120 days for the second offense and a year or more for third and subsequent offenses.

According to Ken Mathewson, an addiction services correctional counselor at Bergin Correctional Institute in Mansfield, Conn., there are 110 inmates at the institute serving 120 days, 65-70 serving a year or more and 60 serving less than 120 days.

"There are probably 10 guys in the system right now serving sentences for manslaughter or assault with a motor vehicle due to alcohol or drug related crashes," said Mathewson. He said there are currently 242 males at Bergin for driving while under the influence, and about 450 statewide.

The average cost to keep one inmate for one day at Bergin is \$52.93 according to Brian Garnett, Connecticut Department of Corrections Public Affairs Officer. Multiply that by the 242 offenders currently incarcerated in Bergin, and it adds up. Your tax dollars hard at work.

But, it doesn't end there. At Bergin, the offenders receive various levels of counseling to include, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, a 14-day DUI program for offenders serving 90 days or more, and a marriage and family therapist.

And who are these people? "They are the exact opposite of the general population," said Mathewson. "The general population is 70 to 80 percent minority. In the DUI section, it's 80 to 90 percent white. Most had jobs, a lot of them have families, a lot of them lead pretty normal lives. There's a doctor, a lawyer and an engineer. It is much more of a cross section of white society than in general population."

He said they are also generally much older than the general population, most of them in the 40 to 50-year-old range, although there are younger men there also.

Now, if any of these people should lose their jobs because of their drunk driving, let's add in the cost of unemployment compensation. Any who get out and continue in rehabilitation programs also cost the insurance companies money. So once again, costs to you go up.

But there's also the human costs. The families that get torn apart because a loved one has been killed. The families that fall apart because someone has been injured so badly, it puts a tremendous amount of strain on the caregivers. And the families that fall



Drunk driving can shatter families, lives and dreams. (Computer enhanced photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

The real cost of Drunk Driving

apart because someone in the family is the drunk or drugged driver.

One Connecticut Army National Guard officer knows the last scenario only too well. He told his story on the condition that his identity be kept hidden in order to protect his child. But he felt the story he had to tell was important for others to hear.

In his case, it wasn't a drunk driver that tore his family apart. It was a prescription drug abuser...his wife, and his child's mother.

"She didn't plan to become addicted," he said. "She was taking a prescription anxiety medication. I did not see the early signs of her problems right away. She was not taking her medication according to the doctor's directions, she was running out too early, she became over-reliant on them and there were changes in her behavior."

Another sign he warned people to be on the lookout for was the loved one going to multiple doctors for multiple reasons and getting more drugs.

"It took a couple of years from the initial use to the abuse," he said. "It was happening so slowly. You have to watch. Every couple of months do a check, an assessment of the medication situation. Ask yourself if the person is using more, showing any of the warning signs, acting any differently.

"Watch the doctors they go to. The medical individual she went to threw her on medication right away. Get a second opinion."

With a child involved, it becomes even harder.

"Her ability to function normally as a parent was affected," he said. "Driving a car became a personal safety issue for myself and my child. The liability issues..."

He said the stress and strain on the family was tremendous.

"How long do you let something go on like this that endangers your family?" he asked. "It might not be the easy thing to do, but it's the right thing to do."

He went on to get a divorce before there were any car crashes that killed a family member or other person.

She lost custody of her child. She cleaned up for a month and was given visitation, but went back to her old ways.

"Don't trust the state to do the right thing, you have to fight for your children," he said. "People can clean up when they need to, to get something they want, but then they fall right back into the same old patterns."

For the next six years, his ex-wife was in and out of detox, bouncing from place to place and dealing with homelessness.

"She has no relationship with her child," he said. And the child doesn't want a relationship with the mother. "You have to

protect your child.

"She (his ex-wife) lost so much," he said. "She will never get that relationship with her child back. She missed the golden age of her child's life."

While the child may miss having a healthy parent-child relationship with mother, the child does not miss seeing the mother convulsing on the floor, or overdosing.

"It had finally reached a level of destructiveness that to stay in that relationship would have been a loose-loose situation.

"You need to think before it happens to someone you love. Watch the pain medications, the mood altering drugs, the drinking too much."

All of which can lead to car crashes like Tommy's. Which lead to arrests. And what are the cost of being arrested?

According to Maj. L.J. Fusaro, a Connecticut Army National Guard member and a State Police Officer, the costs can be as simple as embarrassment, having to sit in

a jail cell, being tested for drugs and alcohol, going to court, having your car towed, posting a bond and hiring an attorney.

"Often times it is not the drunk driver that gets hurt or dies," said Fusaro. "It is the person he hits. He drives his car over the center line and hurts or kills someone. Then the other family, as well as his, has to wonder why and why not. Why me? Why my family? Why not him?"

Fusaro said the police are aware of drunk drivers on the road and will, as always, be stepping up their drunk driving campaigns with the holidays coming.

"It's upsetting, it's frustrating," said Fusaro of having to deal with drunk drivers and telling the victims' families about what has happened.

But some of the alcohol related stops Fusaro has made have been more frustrating than others.

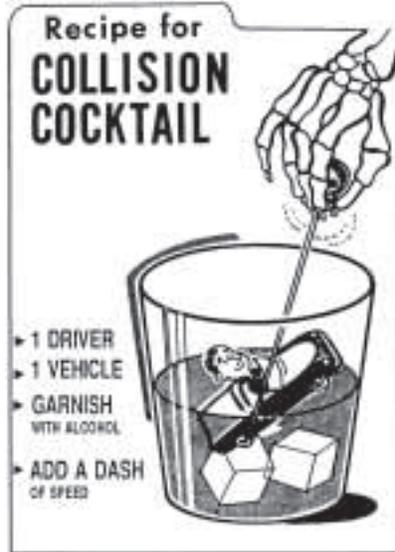
"A couple of weeks ago we stopped a drunk driver with kids in the car. It was late at night and the kids were under four-years-old."

He said it's also very frustrating to stop intoxicated drivers and then find out they are on their way home from a family function.

"Stop them from driving," he said. So, what is the real cost of drunk driving? We may never know what dollar amount to put on it. We will certainly never know what human amount to put on it.

But no matter what the dollar amount is, the human amount will always be too much.

It's the shattered careers, the shattered families, the shattered lives and the shattered dreams.



Blood Alcohol Percentage Charts

Men										
Drinks	Approximate Blood Alcohol Percentage									
	Body Weight in Pounds									
	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240		
0	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	Only Safe Driving Limit
1	.04	.03	.03	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	Impairment Begins
2	.08	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04	.03	.03	.03	Driving Skills Significantly Affected
3	.11	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	.05	.05	.05	Possible Criminal Penalties
4	.15	.12	.11	.09	.08	.08	.07	.06	.06	
5	.19	.16	.13	.12	.11	.09	.09	.08	.08	Legally Intoxicated
6	.23	.19	.16	.14	.13	.11	.10	.09	.09	
7	.26	.22	.19	.16	.15	.13	.12	.11	.11	Criminal Penalties
8	.30	.25	.21	.19	.17	.15	.14	.13	.13	
9	.34	.28	.24	.21	.19	.17	.15	.14	.14	
10	.38	.31	.27	.23	.21	.19	.17	.16	.16	

Subtract .01% for each 40 minutes of drinking.
One drink is 1.25 oz. of 80 proof liquor, 12 oz. of beer, or 5 oz. of table wine.

Women										
Drinks	Approximate Blood Alcohol Percentage									
	Body Weight in Pounds									
	90	100	120	140	160	180	200	220		240
0	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	Only Safe Driving Limit
1	.05	.05	.04	.03	.03	.03	.02	.02	.02	Impairment Begins
2	.10	.09	.08	.07	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04	Driving Skills Significantly Affected
3	.15	.14	.11	.10	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	Possible Criminal Penalties
4	.20	.18	.15	.13	.11	.10	.09	.08	.08	
5	.25	.23	.19	.18	.14	.13	.11	.10	.09	Legally Intoxicated
6	.30	.27	.23	.20	.17	.15	.14	.12	.11	
7	.35	.32	.27	.25	.20	.18	.16	.14	.13	Criminal Penalties
8	.40	.36	.30	.28	.23	.20	.18	.17	.15	
9	.45	.41	.34	.32	.26	.23	.20	.18	.17	
10	.51	.45	.38	.35	.28	.25	.23	.21	.19	

Subtract .01% for each 40 minutes of drinking.
One drink is 1.25 oz. of 80 proof liquor, 12 oz. of beer, or 5 oz. of table wine.

On call for Thanksgiving, or whenever we need them

SPEC. JOSEPH WALLER
65th PCH

If you had observed the training that occurred on Sunday, Nov. 17 at Camp Rowland, you may have initially guessed that it was a regular drill day for

the soldiers there. But upon closer inspection, you might have noticed that their training was a little more focused and specific and although the weather was horrible there were no complaints; morale was high, and their concentration was perfect. Every command was followed immediately and to the letter, quickly and efficiently.

"The training has been very productive, everyone seems to be motivated and focused on our mission," said Pvt. Arben Dabull, a combat engineer for the 242nd.

No, an outside observer would have to concede that this was no regular drill for some members of B Company, of the 242nd Engineer Battalion.

Sunday was their last of three days of training that they went through to become members of an invaluable resource to our Connecticut communities. These soldiers, thirty in all, now make up Connecticut's third Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

The day itself was rough on the soldiers, with cold rain showers throughout the day. Chief Logistics NCO for 85th Troop Command MSG Dennis Kaiser felt that it was not affecting the troops' morale, saying, "We've been fortunate. All of the soldiers seem to take a positive attitude even despite of obstacles like the weather."

With the additional training that they have received, they can be called upon to respond to assist local, state, or federal authorities in support of a natural disaster, a terrorist attack, or any other emergency operation at any time, in any place, on any given day.

With the ability to deploy either by air or

ground transportation, the QRF becomes a must have to ensure that the homeland is stable and that our emergency workers receive the support they may need to call upon.

For this company, the training was a little different than it has been in the past. What was originally a six-day training process to ready a QRF has been cut down to three.

Pfc. George N. Leon said, "I think it is excellent, though the training seems to be condensed. It is very demanding, you start with one class, and before it is over it seems like you are already on to the next one."

"It is an honor to be here, it is a lot more involved than basic training, we learn more than just skills, but we learn why we should know them and how important those skills are right now."

In addition to this change, instead of having soldiers volunteer for the training they are now selected along with their fellow soldiers in order to keep their chain of command intact and to maintain unit cohesion.

Capt. David Pickel of the 1st of the 102nd Infantry Division, and cadre member for the QRF, assisted in the training program.

"He spoke to some of the expectations the cadre holds for their trainees: "We expect units to come to us prepared to train hard, with a strong sense of duty and moral, and to maintain their motivation throughout the training process."

"We started out originally with a six-day training process and then decided to move to a three-day training schedule. These soldiers are trained to be ready to deploy upon receiving word in twenty-four hours, twelve hours, or one hour."

Capt. Tommy Dering, one of the many trainers on sight said, "I assist the soldiers in understanding what the incident command system is: a management system that civilians use as a first response in



Soldiers of the 242nd Engineer Battalion had to qualify with their weapons at the Groton Naval Base firing range during QRF training last month. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



NBC training and the proper donning of the protective mask were skills the soldiers needed to master during their QRF training. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



Master Sgt. Dennis Kaiser bores the barrel of an M16 as a soldier leaves the firing line. Safety on the firing line and elsewhere was stressed. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

emergencies. It is pretty much a national standard, so the soldiers should know how they would function within it.

"I think it is a very good thing for the soldiers and their units to be apart of homeland security support. For most of them, a lot of this is new. We see our role as being trainers and mentors. We are here to help,

assist, and guide them." Armed with their new training and supported by the experiences of the QRF cadre, these soldiers say they are ready to support Connecticut on Thanksgiving, or any other day that they are called upon to serve.



Happy Holidays
from the Management and Staff of
The Officers Club of Connecticut

We will close for the holidays beginning **Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2002**
 and will reopen **Thursday, Jan. 2, 2003**

Connecticut Military Department News

George M. Harmon: Lucky in war & commerce

PF. HOWARD MILLER
TROOP HISTORIAN
FIRST COMPANY GOVERNOR'S HORSE GUARD

(Tenth in a series of profiles of the Adjutants-General of Connecticut)

George M. Harmon was born in Brookfield, Massachusetts in 1837. At the age of sixteen, his father died and he found employment as a store clerk in Worcester. Later he taught school in Pennsylvania. His mother remarried and was living in New Haven, to which George relocated in 1857. He was employed in the Winchester & Davies shirt factory when the Civil War began.

On May 23, 1861, Harmon enlisted in Company F, 4th Connecticut volunteer Infantry. This regiment was soon reorganized into the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment, commanded by Col. Robert O. Tyler. Harmon was mustered into service as a second lieutenant of Company F, promoted to first lieutenant, October 26, 1861, and made captain of Company G on May 3, 1862. He participated in engagements at Yorktown, Hanover Court House, Gaines Mills, Chickahominy, Golden Hill, and Malvern Hill. On Dec. 1, 1863, he resigned his commission and returned to New Haven. At the request of Governor Buckingham,



Gen. George M. Harmon, from: *Evening Post Annual, Hartford, Connecticut. 1882*

Captain Harmon assisted Benjamin Pardee in raising an African-American regiment of Connecticut soldiers. Remarkably, during his military service Harmon was never injured or touched by illness.

Following his departure from the army, Harmon resumed his employment with Winchester & Davies and later became interested in the manufacture of corsets. In 1869 he became partners with Charles A. Baldwin with a controlling interest in the L.H. Foy Corset Company of Worcester. The firm

moved to Boston and then New Haven. When Baldwin retired in 1873, the company became Foy & Harmon. The factory was located at the corner of George and Church streets and employed some two hundred persons. From 1880 to 1885 the firm was Foy, Harmon & Co. Harmon later established a Boston-based company for marketing material for corset-making.

A staunch republican, Harmon was a member of New Haven's Board of Police Commissioners and served as an alderman. For several years he was chairman of the state central committee.

On Jan. 5, 1881, Harmon was appointed Adjutant General with the rank of brigadier general, on the staff of Governor Hobart B. Bigelow. During his two-year tenure as adjutant general, Harmon succeeded in securing funding from the legislature for the construction of armories in New Haven and other cities where two or more companies of the National Guard existed.

In addition, the Soldiers' Home in Noroton was established through the generosity of Benjamin Fitch.

Harmon was married and had four children. He died at his Whalley Avenue home in New Haven on November 21, 1910. Among the honorary bearers at his funeral were U.S. Senator Morgan G. Bulkeley, Congressman N.D. Sperry and Gen. Alexander Harbison. He is buried in Evergreen cemetery and left an estate valued at over \$200,000.

Foot Guard holds collection for Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program

STAFF SGT. MICHAEL CONDON
FIRST COMPANY, GOVERNOR'S FOOT GUARD

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard will hold its 3rd Annual Governor's Own donates to the President's Own Toys for Tots drive from Nov. 18 through Dec. 16.

On Dec. 16, during the monthly battalion parade, Maj. Commandant John O'Connell will present the toys collected to Capt. Danielsen, 1st Sgt. Lawson and Staff Sgt. Murphy from the Marine Reserve Barracks, Plainville, Connecticut. A reception will follow with the Marine guests and other invited guest.

Last year, the Foot Guard collected and donated more than 750 toys that were distributed to the children from the State of Connecticut. For further details or to make a donation, please contact either Staff Sgt. Michael Condon-(860) 687-5073 or Color Sgt. Roger Conley-(860) 649-3735.

Foot Guard participates in Pleasant Valley Veteran's ceremony

STAFF SGT. MICHAEL CONDON
FIRST Co. Gov. FOOT GUARD

On Monday, November 11, 2002, the First Company Governor's Foot Guard Color Guard opened the Veteran's Day ceremonies held at the Pleasant Valley School in South Windsor, with the presentation of the Colors.

The Color Guard, wearing the traditional Grenadier Red uniforms, was commanded by Col. Rocco Laraia and Color Sgt. Roger Conley and included musicians along with the tradition rifles and flags. Once the Colors were presented, the students recited the Pledge of Allegiance with the playing of the National Anthem following.

The ceremony also included readings from various students, a question and answer session with Commander Del Conroy from the South Windsor post of the VFW, and Taps being played to close the ceremony.

Pleasant Valley School was in session and a reading of a proclamation from President Bush recognized schools open on Veteran's day. Principal Daniel Hansen requested that students invite family and friends who are veterans to participate in this ceremony.

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard, under command of Maj. John O'Connell, the oldest military organization in continuous existence in the United States, was honored to participate with the Pleasant Valley School in honoring the Veteran's of the United States.



Members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard perform Color Guard duty at the Pleasant Valley School in South Windsor on Veterans Day. The school is one of many in Connecticut that remains open on Nov. 11 to teach the students about the contributions and sacrifices made by thousands of American veterans. (Photo courtesy of the First Company, Governor's Foot Guard)



Sgt. Michael Chiaro and Staff Sgt. John Flanagan talk with students about Veteran's Day. (Photo courtesy of the First Company, Governor's Foot Guard)

Governor's Care and Share program kicks off for the holiday season

This year's Governor's Care and Share program will run from November 18 through December 13, 2002.

Donations will help over 300,000 Connecticut residents who are hungry or at risk of hunger during this holiday season.

Suggested items: Canned goods (e.g., tuna fish, soup, canned fruit or vegetables), Instant potatoes, Sugar free/low-sodium products, Dried beans, Personal hygiene items, Pasta and Rice.

If you are interested in donating, please leave non-perishable food items at any of the three locations listed below.

In addition, cash is accepted. If you would like to donate cash, please see the people listed.

Hartford Armory - Katie Leavitt (860) 548-3257

AVCRAD - Lt. Col. Bill Shea (860) 441-2909

Bradley ANG - Donna Wilson (860) 292-2484

AVCRAD travels the world to pro



Aircraft is shrink-wrapped and ready for delivery by soldiers of the 1109th AVCRAD. Connecticut's AVCRAD has travelled around the world to shrink wrap aircraft for shipment to other locations. The shrink wrap helps keep things such as salt air away from the aircraft's surfaces, thus decreasing the chances for corrosion. AVCRAD's daily mission is to provide limited depot level maintenance and back-up aviation intermediate maintenance. It covers aviation facilities in 14 northeastern states including the District of Columbia, 23 Army Aviation Support Facilities (AASF), 92 units and approximately 450 aircraft. (Photo courtesy of the 1109th AVCRAD)



Aerial shot of the 1109th AVCRAD in Groton. (Photo courtesy of the 1109th AVCRAD)



Military Aircraft is shrink-wrapped to protect the metal from corrosion during delivery. (Photo courtesy of the 1109th AVCRAD)

SPEC. MARIAN ROSADO
65th PCH

Did you know that if you were to take care of your vehicle the way an aircraft is taken care of at the 1109th AVCRAD, you would only need one vehicle in your lifetime?

If the AVCRAD were an auto body shop, there would be a separate maintenance area for the tires, windshield wipers, engine, electronics, transmission and exhaust. The AVCRAD has such extensive facilities because aircraft do not have the luxury of roadside assistance.

The 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVRAD) is one of only four facilities of its type in the United States Army and the Army National Guard. Its daily mission is to provide limited depot level maintenance and back-up aviation intermediate maintenance. It covers aviation facilities in 14 northeastern states including the District of Columbia, 23 Army Aviation Support Facilities (AASF), 92 units and approximately 450 aircraft.

Within the unit there are about seven divisions that work together to complete the mission at hand. These divisions have missions ranging from the repair and return of an aircraft or its components, to determining or isolating any discrepancies in those components. Inspections are performed before, during and after maintenance to ensure safety.

"This is a group effort. We can take an aircraft in and work on one specific thing or do a complete overhaul. We take safety very seriously and we have manuals for everything you can think of. We need to make sure the job is done no less than one hundred percent," said Sgt. 1st Class David B. Irons, Manager of the Material Management Division.

In addition to safety manuals and instruction guides, to get the job done the unit takes a proactive approach to any training needed. There are several classrooms throughout the facility that are used to provide training for unit members.

"We do the best we can to get the training we need because we are

provide support to aviation units



Photo. (Photo courtesy of the 1109th AVCRAD)



Members of the 1109th AVCRAD perform maintenance on a military aircraft blade. It takes many people and many hours to keep aircraft in the air. The Connecticut AVCRAD is one of only four facilities of its kind in the United States and employs 375 military and civilian personnel between full-time staff and traditional soldiers who travel around the world performing maintenance, shrink wrapping aircraft and delivering aircraft. (Photo courtesy of the 1109th AVCRAD)

expected to be the problem solvers," said Sgt. 1st. Class Brian Weikel of the Avionics Shop.

The 1109th AVCRAD's mobilization mission is to provide aviation support to deploying or deployed forces; provide expansion capability to CONUS-based depots; and to classify and inspect aviation stocks and components in stock yards and depots around the world. This year alone the unit has gone to Bayonne, NJ, Germany, Thailand, Honduras, Egypt, Iceland, and Afghanistan. Other deployments include Canada, Bolivia, Somalia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

For Operation DESERT STORM in 1991, 376 soldiers were mobilized and 100 were deployed to Saudi Arabia. While in Southwest Asia, the 1109th AVCRAD shrink wrapped 1,726 helicopters with polyethylene plastic in preparation for shipment back to the United States. Shrink-wrapping is used to cover the aircraft in order to minimize corrosion when the vessel is transported from one place to another. The unit also loaded 1,651 helicopters on commercial vessels and completed 923 required agricultural inspections.

The AVCRAD's lineage dates back to 1775 when it was organized as the Norwich Light Infantry. The predecessor units of the 1109th AVCRAD served in and earned battle streamers in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The 1109th AVCRAD is authorized 15 battle streamers on its colors and the unit has received the Presidential Unit Citation, the Meritorious Citation and the Philippines Presidential Unit Citation.

In 1962 it became the 162nd Transportation Aviation Repair Shop (TARS) as well as the 162d Transportation Battalion (AVIM) with a complement of 40 full-time employees. The 162nd Transportation Battalion was reorganized into the 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) in 1979 with a complement of 78 full-time employees. Today, the 1109th AVCRAD has more than 175 full-time employees and an additional 200 plus part-time employees who are traditional National Guard soldiers.



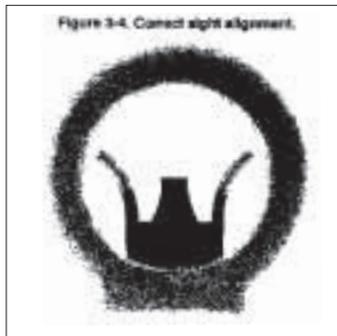
Aircraft blades can be dangerous and heavy. It takes many technicians to make sure the blades are properly maintained. (Photo courtesy of the 1109th AVCRAD)

How well do you know Battlesight Zero?

Sgt. MAJ. TOBY CORMIER
85TH TROOP COMMAND

What is Battlesight Zero? Take the quick test below and test your knowledge:

1. **Battlesight zero is assigned to?**
 - a. Every Soldier
 - b. The Rear Site Post of the M16A2
 - c. The Unit Arms Room
 - d. Each M16A1/A2 in the arms room
2. **Battlesight Zero is the...?**
 - a. Centering of the Front and Rear Sites of the M16A1/A2
 - b. The very center of a battle
 - c. Alignment of the (Fire Control System) front and rear site posts of the M16A1/A2 weapon with the rifle barrel allowing a round to strike the point of aim of a target at 250 meters (M16A1) 300 meters M16A2.
 - d. Set of numbers assigned to each soldier to be used when aligning the sites on his or her M16A1/A2 weapon, when a zero range is not available, enabling the soldier to accurately engage targets at 250 meter (M16A1) 300 meters (M16A2)
3. **Each Soldier should know his or her Battlesight Zero in the event they have to use another soldiers weapon on the battlefield.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. **Another soldier can fire an M16A1/A2 that has been zeroed by one soldier accurately without adjusting the sites.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. **What is the purpose for recording Battlesight Zero?**
 - a. Just another task that really has no purpose
 - b. It helps soldiers to remember their own Battlesight Zero
 - c. It enables any soldier to fire any other soldier's M16A1/A2 accurately during Battle
 - d. It helps soldiers determine one weapon from another.



Now that you have taken the time to answer a few simple questions let's get down and dirty with Battlesight Zero.

I have had many conversations over the years on the subject of battlesight zero. most of the soldiers I have spoken with disagree with the fact that a rifle zeroed for one soldier is close to being zeroed for another.

As a matter of fact, even after I take the time to introduce the doctrine on battlesight zero to them, they still insist that two soldiers cannot accurately fire the same zeroed weapon.

FM 23-9 (M16A1 and M16A2 Rifle Marksmanship) Chapter 3 page 3-21 CONCEPT OF ZEROING explains: "When standard zeroing procedures are followed, a rifle that is properly zeroed for one soldier is close to the zero for another soldier" This field manual goes on to explain "Most firers can fire with the same zeroed rifle if they are properly applying marksmanship fundamentals.

If a soldier is having difficulty zeroing and the problem cannot be diagnosed,

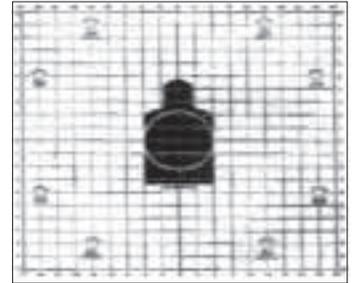
fired, each round would strike at approximately the same location. The rounds would strike where they strike regardless of the settings of the fire control system or who was looking down them.

A straight line drawn from the strike of the round across the top of the front site post and thru the center of the rear site aperture represents the alignment of the fire control system with the strike of the round. It makes little difference who is looking down the line.

To battlesight zero an M16A1/A2 the first thing that needs to happen is the weapon must be Mechanically Zeroed. This means that the front and rear sites must be placed in the center of their adjustment range i.e.: The rear site of the M16A2, if aligned as far left as possible, would require 34 clicks to move the site to the extreme right. The mechanical center for this site is 17 clicks from the far left setting.

To mechanically zero the front site, rotate the post up or down until the top of the notched disk is level with the front site post well. Now rotate the post clockwise 11 clicks.

Now that our weapon is mechanically



shot group.

If the shot group is not within the 4-centimeter circle at the center of the target, then repeat the process over again until the shot group is within the circle. The table below will help you in your computation of Battlesight Zero.

After calculating the battlesight zero for a weapon the information must be recorded on or in the weapon. Then be sure to return the rear site to the normal firing position by flipping it rearward concealing the L indicator.

A proper site picture is critical to the proper sighting of the M16A1/A2 weapon. All soldiers are trained on Marksmanship fundamentals, which include rifle sight alignment per FM 23-9 Pg 3-5 through 3-11.

The task of battlesight zeroing the M16A1/M16A2 is a common task all soldiers should know. How did you do with the test?

If you are a leader and did poorly, ask yourself why? Have you been trained wrong? Are you just overlooking the standards? Have you bothered to identify the standards through the doctrine provided?

What would be the result of your soldiers improperly adjusting the sites of a newly acquired weapon on the battlefield? When you say "cover me" would you be accurately covered?

If you are not in a leadership position and did poorly on the quiz above, ask yourself, Who trained you? Did they use the proper doctrine? Did they just show you how they remember being trained? Was your training hands-on?

All soldiers deserve to be trained to the standards published in current doctrine. There is no substitute for hands-on training conducted to standard.

With all that is happening in the world today I shudder to think about the countless other standards that may be overlooked or ignored by soldiers at all levels and what the results of that may be on the battlefield.

(The answers to the quick test above are 1. d 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. c.)

COMPUTATION		EXAMPLES	
		FRONT	REAR
BEGIN WITH MECHANICAL ZERO		U11	R17
COMPUTE FIRST ADJUST	Add clicks to right or up	-(D)2	+(R)5
	Subtract clicks to left or down		
COMPUTE SECOND ADJUST (Include additional correction if necessary)		+(U)5	-(L)1
CALCULATE BATTLESIGHT ZERO (Total)		U14	R21

having a good firer zero the rifle could find the problem.

When a soldier must fire another soldier's rifle without the opportunity to verify the zero by firing-for example, picking up another soldier's rifle on the battlefield-it is closer to actual zero if the rifle sights are left unchanged.

All rifles in the arms room, even those not assigned, should have their sights aligned (zeroed) for battlesight zero."

Battlesight Zero for the M16A1/A2 weapon is the alignment of the fire control system (sites) with the barrel.

When this is accomplished correctly, the fire control system and point of aim are the point of impact at 250 meters (M16A1) and 300 meters (M16A2).

If an M16A1/A2 is locked into a vise allowing absolutely no movement and then

zeroed it is time to record Battlesight Zero.

First, flip the rear site forward revealing the L or long indicator. While at zero range and firing at a zero target from 25 meters lock and load a three round magazine and assume a good prone supported firing position, fire three rounds, clear your weapon, move down range and triangulate the center of mass for the shot group with a pencil.

Now adjust the front and rear sites so as to move this point to the center of the target. Each click right or left or up and down on the front and rear site posts moves the point of impact of the round 0.7cm or approximately 1/4in. After adjusting both sites, record the direction and number of clicks for each site on a piece of paper. Assume a good prone supported position and fire three more rounds, clear your weapon, move down range and triangulate the center of mass for this

SMEs Wanted

If you have expertise in a basic soldiering skill that you would like to share with others, (such as map reading, compass use, etc.) please contact us at the Guardian. Articles will be edited, so you don't have to write like Pulitzer...we'll fix it for you! Soldiers and airmen alike are invited to send in their submissions.

'Operation Enduring Gratitude' letter writing campaign comes to an end

MAJ. JOHN WHITFORD
STATE PAO

Students from the seventh grade class at the Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Middletown presented letters of appreciation to Connecticut National Guardsmen at a ceremony held at the Hartford Armory.

Seventh-grade teacher Ms. Margaret Jenkins and her students participated in the statewide letter writing campaign "Operation Enduring Gratitude." In their letters, students expressed their gratitude to the members of the U.S. Armed Services



Soldiers and airmen thanked students for their letters and support. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

for the sacrifices the military men and women have made to protect our freedom.

The statewide initiative began on Sept. 11, 2002, one year after the terrorist attacks and ended Nov. 11, 2002, Veterans Day.

The Connecticut National Guard and the state congressional offices coordinated with the state Association of Public School Superintendents to conduct Operation Enduring Gratitude.

"Operation Enduring Gratitude was an effective means for Connecticut's students to thank members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Connecticut for their efforts in protecting our freedom," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard.

More than 5,000 letters and e-mails were received by the Connecticut National Guard and were distributed to soldiers and airmen, ensuring that every member of the Guard received a letter or e-mail of support from a



Cong. John Larson and Kelly Ramsey accept a check from Jeremy Mahoney of Boy Scout Troop 23. The money will be used to purchase phone cards. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sheila Tate)



Students listen as letters are read during ceremonies in Hartford. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

state resident. Additionally, more than \$5,000 was raised to purchase phone calling cards for members of the armed services.

Boy Scout Troop 23 of Burlington, Conn., raised \$1,000 to purchase phone cards.

Troop 23 presented the check to Cong. John Larson (D-CT-01) in a close out ceremony held at the Hartford Armory.

"I am thrilled with the number of letters and e-mails that were written by Connecticut residents for our brave service men and women as part of Operation Enduring Gratitude," said

Larson. "This initiative to encourage citizens to write service members began this year, and we here in Connecticut have set the standard for other states and districts that will participate. Many members of our armed forces are serving away from home and do not receive communications from family or friends, and this initiative is a great way to make sure they know that Americans are extraordinarily grateful for their continued service and sacrifice."

"Operation Enduring Gratitude" is based on the name of the U.S. operation in Afghanistan, "Operation Enduring Freedom."



Paige Morello reads her letter to soldiers and airmen in the Officers Club of Connecticut. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

Dear Soldier,

My name is Paige Morello. I am from Middletown, Connecticut and I am 12 years old. My birthday is September 15. I go to Woodrow Wilson Middle. I am so proud and thankful of you. It was a tragic event on September 11. This year I also had a family tragedy. My cousin, aunt, and uncle were on their way to Middletown to pick up my cousin Jessica. A car past them and hit them head on. My 7 year old cousin and uncle were rescued by Life Star. My aunt died right at the scene. My little cousin ended up being paralyzed from the waist down for life. My uncle had a very bad leg injury. That was one of the hardest times in my life. Then one day I got home from school. Turned on the TV and saw the airplanes crashing into the World Trade Center towers. I just burst into tears. I never thought anything could get worse than the other tragedy I had to face. It did. I was so scared inside and felt terrible and then when it was all over I saw you, the soldiers, fighting for America. I couldn't thank you so much. You guys are doing the best job as possible; you are standing for the United States. I now feel better about the whole situation and safer because I know in my heart that you'll protect us from terrorism.

I, myself, know someone who lost her husband in 911. I felt terribly sorry so I started a penny drive at my school. It was really successful. I made over 100 dollars for her and her family. I brought it to her after school and she was so thankful for it and really proud of me. I was proud of myself because I know I did something good for her and me. I really have been trying to think of ideas to help our nation out. I have been watching TV and see you helping and I wish I could be a hero and help people, not just to be famous, but to help people and their loved ones. My mom and I have been sitting down and we thought that on Christmas we are going to donate money and food for people who lost loved ones, and sent it to New York. Also, I have a lot of pride for the people and New York, they have had some bad times. I give them credit and you credit for trying the best to live your life. People who lost family are starting over a new life.

You need to protect us, because of you we have more freedom than any other country. They are so scared in Afghanistan just to go outside. They can't leave without permission. We have so much freedom that if you wanted to leave the United States, the United States lets you, it's your decision. America has a lot of pride. We always succeed in life. People here all the time fulfill their dreams. America is the most popular country ever. People all come here to live because they feel safe and protected and don't have to be frightened or scared. I myself have the best life in America. I am the kind of person that is a worry wart. I haven't been lately because I feel very comfortable. All I want to say is God bless you all, and thank you, and I say that with pride. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Paige Morello

Military Matters



myPay improves services to America's Armed Forces

ARLINGTON VA (Oct. 11) - Military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants of America's Armed Forces will soon enjoy improved services from myPay to manage their pay account information more easily and more securely than ever before.

"myPay is the key to taking control of your pay information," said Tom Bloom, director of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. "By providing innovative and reliable tools to the men and women who serve our country, we help them focus on their mission by eliminating worry and hassle associated with their pay and benefits."

Formerly known as E/MSS, myPay allows active, Reserve, and Guard members; civilian employees; and military retirees and annuitants to take charge of their pay accounts online. The new improved service launched Oct. 15. With myPay, customers can perform the following activities by simply using their existing E/MSS Personal Identification Number (PIN).

- View, print and save leave and earnings statements
- View and print tax statements (military members will have this available in Jan. 2003)
- Change federal and state tax withholdings
- Update bank account and electronic

funds transfer information

- Manage allotments
- Edit address information
- Purchase U.S. Savings Bonds
- Control Thrift Savings Plan enrollment (military only)
- View and print travel vouchers
(Features vary by Armed Service and status.)

myPay is easier than ever

myPay's new design helps customers find the information they want and complete any transaction in just three clicks. Available nearly 24/7, myPay means no waiting in lines or on the phone. myPay also improves customer confidence by providing clear confirmation messages.

myPay is secure

myPay combines strong encryption and secure sockets layer technology with the user's social security number and PIN to safeguard information from unauthorized access.

myPay saves money

By using myPay members and civilian employees can save the Armed Services and the American taxpayer millions of dollars in printing, postage and customer service costs. myPay provides leave and earning statements online, so customers can turn off the print version of their statements and save Uncle Sam money. If all civilian employees received their leave and earning statements electronically, the Department of Defense

could save more than \$6 million annually.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service also estimates an additional 17 percent of costs associated with traditional customer service activities can be eliminated by satisfying common questions and account updates online.

"One of our goals is to allow customers to do online anything that they previously had to stand in line to accomplish," Bloom said.

Begin using myPay now

Members of the Armed Forces, Defense Department civilian employees, retirees and annuitants can continue to use their E/MSS log on information at mypay.dfas.mil

Customers who need new Personal Information Numbers should follow these easy steps:

- Civilian employees, active Air Force and Marine Corps, all Reservists, and military retirees and annuitants receive PINs by mail. If you need a new PIN, just click "need new PIN." Log on once you receive your PIN in the mail.
- Active Army and Navy may request PINs by faxing name, social security number, phone number, signature, and copy of a government ID to DFAS at 216/522-5800. Then, log on following the instructions provided.

Customers with questions about myPay can all customer support at 1-900/390-2348, Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Education Essentials:

1ST LT. PAUL DRAPER
EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

Happy Holidays, Connecticut!
Great news... the contract for the new Education Support Center (ESC), formerly known as the Army National Guard Institute (ARNGI), has been awarded.

The ESC will provide the following for the Army National Guard: educational counseling services, academic evaluation, information services for tuition assistance concerning financial aid, and course enrollment procedures.

The ESC opened its doors on Nov. 15, 2002 at Lexington Hall in Camp Robinson, Arkansas. The new address is NGPEC, P. O. Box 797 North Little Rock, AR 72511-0797 Attn: ESC. Telephone: (501) 212-4930.

On Nov. 20, 2002 I personally visited ESC and talked with the staff. They are excited and ready to provide us with a great array of educational services.

The counseling staff is diligently going through all of the soldier requests that were sent to the ARNGI.

If you or someone you know sent the ARNGI information, give ESC a call as soon as possible and they will place you on the priority list.

ESC is another great education program that is available to us the Army National Guard Soldier.

Have an outstanding Holiday Season and Stay Guard!

Closing the Back Door: *Air National Guard Incentive Program for FY 03*

MASTER SGT A. LISA HANKS
RETENTION OFFICE MANAGER

The Air National Guard is offering incentives for individuals enlisting or reenlisting during fiscal year 2003.

The AFSC's listed below identify the career fields eligible for incentives. Non-prior and prior service enlistments will automatically be eligible for the \$350 GI Bill Kicker and then have the choice of either selecting a \$5,000 cash bonus or the Student Loan Repayment Program, which can pay a member up to \$20,000 in their career.

Current Air Guard members reenlisting in one of these AFSCs will automatically receive a \$5,000 bonus and then have the choice of either selecting the \$350 Montgomery GI Bill Kicker or participating in the Student Loan Program.

These Incentive eligible AFSC's are:

Aerospace Control and Warning Systems, Intel Applications, Avionics Sensors Maint, Avionics Guidance & Control Systems, Comm & Nav Systems, F-16 Avionics Systems, Tactical Aircraft Maint, Aerospace Maint, Aerospace Propulsion, Aerospace Ground Equipment, Aircrew Egress Systems, Aircraft Fuel Systems, Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems, Ground Radar Systems, Satellite, Wideband & Telemetry Sys, Ground Radio Comm, Comm, Network, Switching & Crypto Systems, Fuels, Munitions Systems, Aircraft Armament Systems, Radio Comm Systems, Pavements & Const Equip, Structural, Utilities Systems, Environmental Controls, Readiness, Security Forces, and Cardiopulmonary Lab.

The requirements identified below are meant to provide a list of the minimum qualifications needed to be eligible:

Non-prior service incentive:

- Be a secondary school graduate or GED recipient
- Enlist for a period of six years
- Be assigned to an AFSC that is identified as incentive eligible and that does not exceed the authorized assignment percentage maximum
- Be classified as test score category Armed Forces Qualification Test Category I, II or III

Prior service incentive:

- Enlist in the ANG for six years
- Be assigned to an AFSC that is identified as incentive eligible and that does not exceed the authorized assignment percentage maximum
- Be full qualified, or agree to become qualified with at least a three level in the incentive eligible AFSC

·Have completed their Military Service obligation (MSO)

- Not previously been paid a bonus for enlisting, reenlisting, or extending in a reserve component
- Have less than 14 years of service from their pay date
- Have received an honorable discharge at the conclusion of active military service

- Be a traditional guard member
- Not be a palace chase applicant
- Not be enlisting to qualify for a full-time position where federal law requires membership in the ANG as a condition of employment
- Not be enlisting for continuous active duty service
- Not be enlisting directly from another ANG unit or within one year of separating or transferring.



Sgt. MAJ. RAYMOND P. ZASTURY

Enlisted Update

The Chain of Command is one of the most important aspects of the Army. As the State Command Sergeant Major, I communicate with the three

on the battlefield. PT should be one of the most important things you do all day. NCOs have to lead by example.

Wearing our uniform correctly says a lot about who we are as an Army. We interact with our local community, the media and our fellow soldiers daily. When we work together with our local community I expect leaders to thoroughly inspect their soldiers to ensure they meet the Army standard.

MACOM command sergeants major on a daily basis. These three individuals, Comand Sgt. Maj. Duane Haverstock (Aviation Command), Command Sgt. Maj. James Mullen (143rd ASG) and Command Sgt. Maj. William Skowronski (85th Troop Command) are the key figures in taking care of soldier issues.

Even though they are traditional soldiers (M-DAY), they cannot properly deal with soldier issues if they are not aware that a situation exists. If a soldier has a problem, he/she must use the Chain of Command in order to solve their problem. The First Line Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant and the Battalion Command Sergeant Major must earn their pay and take care of soldier issues. Effective communication between leaders and their subordinates can eliminate problems before they develop. This is not possible if the Chain of Command is not being utilized. **Use the Chain of Command.**

As "a leader of soldiers," one of the most important responsibilities is to help soldiers make their maximum contribution to the unit. This is what **mentoring** is all about. It's difficult to overestimate the value and importance of successful mentoring to the soldiers being mentored, the unit—and to you.

Mentoring helps soldiers do more than they imagined they could. Mentoring helps units increase their readiness and boost morale. Mentoring helps the mentor stay technically sharp, tactically proficient, and professionally engaged. And mentoring helps the Guard by ensuring a continuing supply of outstanding leaders who have been mentored by the leaders who went before them.

Soldiers are our most important resource. NCOs owe it to soldiers to inspect them every day - head to toe.

As a minimum, leaders should ensure their soldiers meet height and weight standards and are physically fit. We are at war. You can't make up physical fitness

Every soldier deserves that much attention. Let's make that first impression a good one. Inspect soldiers daily. I cannot emphasize that enough. Don't pass by mistakes. If you see a soldier at the PX with a cock-eyed beret - fix it. That is our basic responsibility. Inspections lead right into safety. We continue to see an increase in accidental deaths. U.S. Army Safety Center analysis shows that '02 accidents can be directly attributed to breakdowns in discipline, leadership, training, and standards. Stopping accidents starts before people get into their cars or begin a training exercise.

Risk assessments and management tools have to be incorporated into every thing we do. Leaders who don't take this seriously are endangering the lives of soldiers we have a sacred responsibility to safeguard. It starts with the basics.

We must conduct hard, realistic training that weaves risk management every step of the way. Accept nothing less. Safety must be embedded in the planning, execution and after-action reviews of any mission. I'd also ask senior NCOs to spot-check their soldiers to ensure they take their annual physicals. We need our soldiers healthy.

On behalf of Command Master Chief Wanda Wawruck and myself, I want to wish all Connecticut National Guard Members, Army and Air, and your families a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

The Holiday Season is a time for families to join in celebration and reunions. Families have long provided strength and values to our Soldiers and Airmen, our Guard and our Nation.

We know we do not soldier alone. For just as we as Soldiers and Airmen sacrifice and dedicate themselves to honorable service, our families also sacrifice and make invaluable contributions to the Well-Being of our Guard and our Nation. We must give our family our thanks, and a grateful nation thanks them as well.

Guard Voices

2002 Holiday Message

During the holidays, families gather to share in the celebrations of the season. Our Army family is unique – among us, we share a special bond, a common understanding of the inherent sacrifices and hardships of being an Army family. So we are additionally blessed to be able to celebrate our special heritage – the legacy of hope that our Soldiers represent to the Nation.

On a bitter-cold Christmas night in 1776, General George Washington and his Continental Army crossed the Delaware River to execute a bold plan against the British forces. Driving sleet and snow made the freezing temperatures all the more unbearable. Despite those harsh conditions, the Soldiers did not complain – some of them had no shoes; some wrapped rags around their feet to help keep them warm; still others remained barefoot. As one of General Washington's staff officers recorded, the Soldiers were "ready to suffer any hardship and die rather than give up their liberty." In the most difficult conditions, against the greatest odds, the Soldiers performed magnificently, and their victory in the Battle of Trenton the day after Christmas renewed the hopes of freedom in the American Revolution.

And undiminished still today is that same spirit of determination, perseverance, selfless

service and courage that moved the Soldiers of the Continental Army on Christmas night in 1176. We share in the enduring legacy of those who first fought and died to win our freedom – we stand on the shoulders of the brave men and women who have preceded us.

We know that we do not soldier alone. With each of our Soldiers on point in more than 120 countries around the globe is the spirit of a tremendous family – a family whose courage, sacrifice, and steadfastness are inspiring to us all. And all of our efforts, all of our successes, all of our magnificent moments as an Army will continue to be delivered by our people – Soldiers, civilians, veterans, retirees, and all of their families. We are grateful for their commitment, their loyalty, and their devotion.

We could not be more proud of all of you and the magnificent work you do each and every day to preserve the gifts of hope and freedom that we cherish. May you have a safe, fulfilling, and joyful Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year. God bless each of you and your families, God bless The Army, and God bless this great Nation.

ERIC K. SHINSEKI
GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY
CHIEF OF STAFF

THOMAS E. WHITE
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Visit the
Connecticut Guardian

on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil



Call
1-800-716-3530



"The History of the Tuskegee Airmen"

Provided by the History Department, U.S. Military Academy, West Point

For more information contact SFC Scott J. Fennell (800) 678-0774 or scott.fennell@tugb.army.mil

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: *Red Ribbon Fly-Ins*

SGT. CHRISTINE JELTEMA
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM

Imagine sitting in a classroom learning about history or math and all of a sudden you hear a helicopter flying overhead.

You go outside and the helicopter is landing in your school's yard.

No, the helicopter did not break down. The helicopter is there for you.

What a dream it would be to look inside and talk to the pilot.

For 20 schools all over the State of Connecticut, it was not a dream. During Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, a Connecticut National Guard soldier, a Massachusetts National Guard pilot and a DEA agent flew in that helicopter to those 20 schools to teach students about the meaning of the Red Ribbon.

When the helicopter landed and the soldiers and DEA Agent exited the aircraft, 4,000 students total of the 20 schools ran closer to them eager to hear what they were going to be told.

First, the students were told what leads to success.

The Connecticut National Guard soldier told them that, "HARDWORK plus EDUCATION minus DRUGS equals SUCCESS."

Second, after a few of the students told their peers what that equation meant to them, the DEA Agent taught them the meaning of Red Ribbon Week.

The students learned about Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was killed in Mexico



School children listen as National Guardsmen and DEA agents talk about their helicopter, Red Ribbon Week and staying drug-free. "Hardwork plus education, minus drugs, equals success," was the message the visitors brought to more than 4,000 students in 20 schools during their week-long campaign. (Photo courtesy Drug Demand Reduction Program)

during a drug raid. Because of Kiki's misfortune a campaign started in 1988 teaching students about the consequences of drug use.

The students then got to wear the DEA's bulletproof vest and Kevlar helmet. The DEA Agent told the students that they have to wear the vest and helmet because people who sell drugs are not nice people.

The students then got to look in the helicopter, only after the pilot spoke to them about his "office."

He told the students what the OH-58 Kiowa

helicopter was used for and the maneuvering capabilities it had. The pilot also tried to make the students understand that in order to have a cool job, they have to make the right decisions.

"The Army does not want someone who abuses drugs to fly their million dollar aircraft," he told the students.

If you are interested in learning more about Red Ribbon Week or about the Drug Demand Reduction Program please call Capt. Anne-Marie Garcia at 860-493-2724.

CHAPLAIN'S
CORNER
†

Stop and smell the roses...

CHAP. (COL.) DAVID FEYRER

The Holiday season is upon us and one of the hallmarks of the season, no matter what your religious commitment is, is an emphasis on giving, sharing, caring. Thinking about others.

In the military environment, especially in an environment when the optempo is high and there is a great deal of uncertainty about the challenges which may be before us, it is important that we hold onto and practice these values of thinking about others, principally our families. It is often said that we need to "stop and smell the roses."

This of course, speaks to this need to think of people and things other than our jobs, no matter how critical our jobs seem. We serve in the military with the support of our families and without this support we will be lesser soldiers, we will be lesser people.

Please take the time during this holiday season to "stop and smell the roses," to give to others, share with other and care for others.

As persons of faith, this is a demand of our religious life.

May we all get a sense of a spirit of selflessness, of community, of a world not in conflict but in peace.

Soldier-Airman Support Center
143rd Area Support Group
118th Medical Battalion

"Open House" Tour,
Breakfast With The Boss
National Guard 366th Birthday Celebration

Friday, 13 December 2002

Location:
Newington VA Hospital
3rd Floor, Building 2E
Red, White & Blue Room

0730 Coffee & Pastry
0830 Remarks from MG Cugno
0930 Cake Cutting Ceremony
1000 Tour of National Guard Facility

PEARL HARBOR

REMEMBRANCE DAY
2002

AAFES Implements Debit Card Program

SUZANNE DOWNS
AAFES

Dallas – The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) is implementing a Debit Card Program that will provide soldiers and airmen a faster and more convenient alternative to writing checks.

Worldwide rollout will begin on October 28 at approximately half of AAFES' exchange locations. Implementation began at remaining facilities on Nov. 4.

With the exception of remote locations, debit card capabilities should be in place in all AAFES facilities by Thanksgiving.

Customers making purchases with their debit card will also be able to receive cash back — up to \$100 cash back in Main Stores and up to \$50 cash back in other retail facilities, depending on availability of funds.

All U.S. issued debit cards will be accepted. Currently, debit cards used in AAFES facilities are processed as credit card transactions that carry higher processing fees as compared to fees for on-line debit card transactions.

The Debit Card Program will result in lower processing fees for AAFES, which will translate to higher dividend payments to the Services.

Carlson Wagonlit to close Hartford office

From page 1

Anderson feels this new way of doing business will impact the Army National Guard units in the field most, he doesn't want this to be a burden on readiness or our soldiers. "You would be surprised how many people will be effected by this transition: federal employees, CID agents, Department of Defense Personnel, ROTC, Reservists, and MEPS just to name a few." Anderson promised to give notification and information needed to support the individual soldiers. They should expect an official notification memo the first week of December 2002.

The memo will describe how the new service will be provided - all travel will go through the USPFO Transportation Office, Attn: 1st SGT. Anderson, who will review them and in turn forward them to the new Carlson Wagonlit Travel Office responsible for supporting the Connecticut Army

National Guard, the office located at the U.S. Army Soldier & Biological Chemical Command in Natick, Mass.

All the processing will happen at the directorate-level first - there are built-in perimeters too, for example you won't be able to fly first class or stay at the Plaza Hotel but you will be able to get the most economical ticket available. And yes, all travelers will need to provide official travel orders to USPFO and Carlson Wagonlit. This process is not going away explained Anderson. In the future, travelers will be able to contact the Natick office directly, or make their reservation online, but presently, all must go through the USPFO Transportation Office. The USPFO Transportation Office will continue its current operation and is available to answer any questions or concerns. POC is Anderson at (860) 524-4860 or email at Orlando.Anderson@ct.ngb.army.mil

Happy Holidays
to our valued
customers

We appreciate all you do to
keep our freedoms alive

The staff of the
Camp Rowland Exchange

Don't forget to pick up a college education on your next trip to the commissary!

The Scholarships for Military Children program can help with a \$1,500 scholarship!



For information about applying, contact your local commissary store director, guidance counselor or visit our scholarship page online at www.commissaries.com under "What's New."

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.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

COAST GUARD ACADEMY

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

CAMP ROWLAND POST EXCHANGE

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

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

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

SUB BASE, NEW LONDON

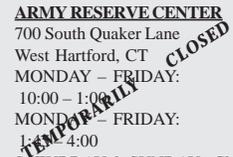
Exchange Hours:
MON., TUES., WED.,
FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 – 7:00
SATURDAY & SUNDAY:
9:00 – 5:00
HOLIDAYS: 9:00 – 4:00
Phone: (860) 694-3811
Commissary Hours:
MONDAY: Closed
TUE., WED. & FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
SATURDAY: 8:00 – 5:00
SUNDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
Phone: (860)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

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

ARMY RESERVE CENTER

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



Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: Unit Fund-raising

CAPT. TIMOTHY TOMCHO
JAG OFFICE

Many of our National Guard units want to conduct activities to support their Unit Association Fund, as authorized by National Guard Regulation 230-65 and State Regulation 230-66.

The fund must be used to improve the general welfare and morale of the organization, which includes the funding of organizational activities, such as a family picnic, embellishment of a unit holiday meal or the purchase of recreational items.

Fund custodians and unit Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) committees often devise numerous methods of amassing unit funds. Commanders should carefully scrutinize proposed fund-raising activities.

However benign the intended use of the raised funds, fund-raising activities may violate state and federal laws and regulations.

Under the provisions of Army Regulation 600-29, "Fund-raising Within the Department of the Army," the only Army authorized on-the-job solicitation for monetary contributions or a pledge of a monetary contribution is under the auspices of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) or Army Emergency Relief (AER) campaign.

Four types of fund-raising activities by military personnel are authorized: (1) fund-raising for the CFC, (2) fund-raising in support of the uniformed services (AER), (3) local fund raising and (4) religious fund-raising.

CFC fundraisers are well known to the military community and generally do not raise legal issues. AER and religious fund-raising rarely create legal issues and are governed specifically by regulation, AR 930-4, "Army Emergency Relief" for the AER and AR 165-1, "Chaplain Activities in the United States Army," for the religious fund-raising.

Traditional unit fund-raising activities fall under the third category, "local fund-raising," which permits an occasional fund-raising in support of "on-post" private organizations, conducted in accordance with 600-29. Regulatory "on-post/off-post" designations are analogous to "on armory property/off armory property."

Unit associations and Family Support Groups (FSGs, see DA Pam 608-47) are the National Guard equivalent to "on post" private organizations. These organizations may conduct fundraisers, so long as they abide by fund-raising regulations and laws. Commanders should always request a legal review of proposed fund-raising activities.

The following fundamental rules should be kept in mind when conducting authorized fund-raising activities:

(1) No on-the-job solicitations, unless sanctioned activity of the CFC, AER campaign or religious fund-raising.

(2) Fund-raising events must not be conducted during the CFC and AER fund-raising periods. Nor will fund-raising substantially interfere with the authorized CFC or AER fund drives.

(3) No official endorsement of "off-post" fund-raising activities.

(4) No gambling events such as raffles or lotteries. Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulations prohibits gambling on Government property or while on official duty. Moreover, in Connecticut, raffles require a municipal permit.

(5) All contributions must be truly voluntary. Actions that do not allow free choice or create the appearance that employees do not have the free choice to give or not give is contrary to Army policy.

(6) Coercion in fund-raising, including solicitation of subordinates by commanders, supervisors or any individual in the chain of command, is prohibited.



Know your rights and how to use them

COL. (RET.) WILLIAM T. COFFEY
MISSION 1 - ESGR

By now nearly every member of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard knows what is and who are the Connecticut Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard And Reserves or ESGR.

A long series of articles have appeared in your monthly edition of the Connecticut Guardian; each unit has hit's annual briefing on the mission of the ESGR Committee and the appropriate Federal law by a Committee member; many handouts are made available at briefings; fact sheets are found on unit bulleting boards; public service announcements (PSA) are seen on TV, heard on radio programs; billboards abound around the State - hopefully The Word Is Out.

The main thrust of all the efforts of the committee as it pertains to it's interface with the Army and Air units is to ensure every member knows about the primary Federal Law which addresses the rights and obligations of employers and the benefits provided to employees who are active members of the Guard or Reserves. That Federal Law is entitled "The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act" popularly know by its acronym of "USERRA".

There are many features and aspects of the Law covering your service in the Guard. You should be aware of these and be able to know if you are unfairly treated by your employer because of your Guard service. This is extremely critical if you enter an active duty status either voluntarily or involuntarily. There are many protections afforded you while you are on active status but more importantly when you return to the work place.

Herein lies the issue which we want to address this month "What should you do if you feel you are being discriminated against or not being provided the protection and benefits outlined in the Law."

First: Contact your unit and work within the command channels to address the issue or

Secondly: Contact your ESGR unit representative. Every unit has an ESGR member assigned to each unit within the State. Your unit's full time personnel know who he or she is and how to contact them. There is a large poster on your unit Bulletin

NGACT: NGACT supports proposed legislation

SGT. MAJ. (RET.) JOSEPH AMATRUDA
NGACT PRESIDENT

The National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT), through it's affiliation with the Military Coalition has been lobbying, on your behalf, for passage of legislation to benefit the National Guard, families, and retirees.

Below are some of the bills that we have been supporting.

Your comments are invited to joseph.amatruda@snet.net:

HR51 - This bill would require a written statement explaining retirement benefits to people entering the armed forces and require that those benefits are given to the retiree.

HR179 - Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. To restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services.

HR394 - Would give tax credits for employers of Guard and Reserve members and self-employed Guard and Reserve members and restore the tax deductibility of non-reimbursable expenses for Guard And Reserve members.

HR1466 - Would exclude any enlistment, accession, reenlistment, or retention bonus paid to a member of the Armed Forces from income taxation.

HR1958 - Permits transferability of MGIB benefits to family members of those with critical military skills. It will also extend the time period for Guard and Reserve members to use their MGIB benefits to five years after separation.

HR2125 - Would allow retired Guard members to pay health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis and allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

HR3436 - Would amend the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) to include protection for National Guard members called up under Title 32 at the request of the President.

NGACT is also in the forefront in urging the Military Coalition to sponsor some of the following legislation:

* Implementation of an additional pay step at 28 years of service.

* Making permanent the Selected Reserve Incentive Programs

* Establishment of an immediate annuity

retirement system for Guard and Reserve members upon retirement with 20 years of service

* TRICARE coverage availability for all reserve component members

* Modernization of National Guard aviation

* Establishment of a Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) in every state and territory

* Making the VA Home Loan a permanent entitlement

* Authorization and funding for child care centers in the National Guard

NGACT is dedicated to representing your interests in both the state and federal legislatures.

We intend to initiate and/or support legislation, both state and federal, for the betterment of the National Guard of the state and nation.

We will work to obtain benefits for Guard members that are similar to those enjoyed by their counterparts in the active federal service.

If you believe as we do, we urge you to join and get involved in one of our committees.

Call our office at 860-247-5000 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible.



Inside OCS

My way of becoming a leader

OC MARIUSZ WODOWIAK
OCS CLASS 48

From childhood until I entered OCS, I have perceived Army officers as military personnel who received great respect because of the authority and power given to them.

Now I realize that this is not true.

I have learned, throughout my still short military career, that officers earn their respect through distinct qualities and their drive to achieve excellence. Therefore becoming an officer requires discipline and a strong will to succeed.

In Phase I of OCS, our TAC staff informed us how much we will change between the beginning and completion of the training; and that it will happen gradually without us

noticing it. But I see some positive changes in myself and in my fellow classmates already. For example: confidence, relying on each other, greater ability to make decisions (not always the right one) just to mention a few.

As a future Platoon Leader, I place great importance upon knowing my soldiers. I want them to feel comfortable coming to me for guidance or help. Whenever expected, I will take charge and responsibility, teach them what I know and learn from them what I do not know, present a good example and never disappoint them.

Truly I believe that OCS will help me to achieve my goals through quality training. It will teach me leadership skills, confidence, Army rules and regulations, and how to react under highly stressful conditions.

Young Leaders Program

YLP brings together high school leaders from around the state



High School juniors from around the state work on one of the many projects designed to teach about leadership during YLP at Camp Rowland. Some of the individual coats of arms the students made earlier are on display on the wall in the background. (Photo courtesy of the Recruiting and Retention Force)

SGT. 1st CLASS TIMOTHY DALEY
RECRUITING & RETENTION FORCE

The Young Leaders Program (YLP) was conducted at Camp Rowland in Niantic, Nov. 8-10.

Twenty-two high school juniors from Fitch High School, Wethersfield High School and Canton High School participated in the leadership weekend.

The students, hand-picked by the faculty and staff of their schools, and identified as having leadership ability or potential, arrived at Camp Rowland on Friday evening and began enhanced leadership training that was conducted by qualified instructors from the Full Time Recruiting & Retention Force.

Some of the courses included Vision 2020, a course showing how great leaders has a vision and how we today realize their vision of yesterday, and how our vision as leaders now will be realized by the people of tomorrow; Shield, in which students design their own Coat of Arms based on who they are as people and then presents it to the rest of the class; Rats & Truths, which discusses people's perceptions of others and how their behavior is believable; Outcomes Methods

& Resources, a course designed to teach the students how to develop a plan to accomplish their goals; Strength Deployment Inventory and Communications.

On Saturday the students were broken down into five groups and performed five different timed tasks at the Leadership Reaction Course at Stones Ranch in Niantic.

While the National Guard was instilling the importance of leadership, the students had the chance to relate to working with team members who weren't familiar to them.

By the end of the day they started working together as a tight unit.

On Sunday the students all took part in the final team initiative by reconfiguring the students into three leadership reactionary teams and constructing three military GP medium tents within 20 minutes.

Upon conclusion of the exercise, the groups conducted after action reviews and prepared for graduation and departure home.

The Young Leaders Program was developed in 1989 and is conducted at Camp Rowland twice a year.

Company A, 1/169 Regt (OCS)
OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

<i>Open House Dates:</i>	Phase 0 dates— 26-27 April 2003	
23 November 2002	17-18 May 2003	
14 December 2002	28-29 June 2003	
25 January 2003	Phase 1 date — 12-26 July 2003	
22 February 2003		
15 March 2003		
26 April 2003		

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

Officer Candidate School - Training Tomorrow's Leaders

Location:
Camp Rowland
Niantic, Connecticut

Phone: 800-691-6228
Fax: 800-691-6213
Travel: 800-691-6228, 800-691-6213

ESGR: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

From page 22

Board announcing who that person is, their home address, their phone number and email address.

It is at this level where hopefully your issue can be looked into and a resolution arrived at.

This contact, which is primarily by phone, will entail a give and take discussion about your perceptions of discrimination.

Many times solutions can be reached when the unit Rep sends you a copy of a

portion of the Law which covers your particular situation.

When you discuss the issue with your employer, with the working from the USERRA Law, in a large percent of cases the issue is resolved.

If after this initial effort there appears that no solution can be reached, the case is, with your approval, moved to another function within the ESGR committee.

That function is that of an OMDUBSMAN. The Ombudsman will review your case,

most of the times by phone and on occasion by meeting with you.

If again the Ombudsman determines that there may be a violation of the Law by your employer, then he or she, with your permission, may call or visit with your employer to discuss the relationship with you as pertains to your legal protections.

Historically this process resolves better than 90 percent of the cases to the mutual satisfaction of all parties.

In those cases where resolutions can not

be agreed upon, then again, with our approval the case will be referred to the U.S. Dept. of Labor for their involvement.

What happens next is a lengthy process and will not be covered at this time.

Points to remember - know at least in general terms the provisions of USERRA as it may effect you and if you believe you are unfairly treated or discriminated against because of your Guard service use the steps we have outlined.

Health & Fitness

Your Health Matters: *Obsessive Compulsive Disorder*

MAJ. JOAN TREADOW
STARC Med. Det. 5

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder is one of the anxiety disorders like GAD (Generalized Anxiety Disorder). It is different in that people with this disorder become trapped by repetitive thoughts and repetitions that are senseless to the rest of us, fill hours of precious time, and sometimes keep the patient confined to their home.

Obsessions are unwanted ideas or impulses that intrude into the mind persistently. They are anxiety producing in and of themselves as they often revolve around harm coming to a loved one or to oneself. The lack of control over these intrusive thoughts is also anxiety producing. Sometimes the thoughts are even of a violent or sexual nature.

Compulsions are the repetitive behaviors that these people complete in an attempt to deal with the obsessions and the anxiety

produced by them. The most common compulsions are washing (ie the hands innumerable times per day to the extent of making them raw and chapped), checking (the locks, many, many times before leaving the house or going to bed), hoarding (way more than your average pack rat), and keeping things in precise alignment (remember the nefarious guy in "Sleeping With the Enemy" who lined up the towels and the soup cans?).

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder is more common than you might think. It affects more than 2 percent of the general population and is an equal gender disorder in that it affects men and women at the same rate of incidence.

People with OCD may also suffer from depression, eating disorders, substance abuse disorders, personality disorder, or attention deficit disorder. These co-existing disorders may make the OCD more difficult to diagnose and treat. The average time to diagnosis is a galvanizing 17 years! Other

neurological disorders may also be present; Tourette's syndrome, tic disorders, trichotillomania (repeated urge to pull out hair), body dysmorphic disorder, and hypochondriasis.

There is treatment for OCD. Behavior therapy works well for some people and others find some relief from Luvox or one of the serotonin reuptake inhibitors like Paxil or Prozac. The really important thing is to help get these people diagnosed and treated. The impact that this disorder can have on their lives (and family members lives) is astounding. If you've ever known someone afflicted with this disorder you likely understand the magnitude of disruption and anxiety that this disorder can have all too well.

Of note is that the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation is located in North Branford, Conn. The web site is www.ocfoundation.org

Exercise does lower blood pressure!

COL. PAUL V. EDELEN
STATE SURGEON

High blood pressure, also called hypertension is often misunderstood.

It is not caused by being tense or nervous. It is caused by an imbalance in the control system that regulates the pressure of blood in your arteries.

Since the arteries are elastic and not rigid pipes, your body can change the pressure inside them by controlling fluid balance and certain hormones like adrenaline.

Most people with high blood pressure have inherited a tendency for an imbalance in this regulation system. This is often made worse by being overweight and inactive.

In the long run, high blood pressure causes damage within the arteries. These damaged areas collect deposits of cholesterol that can lead to heart attack, stroke, aortic aneurysms, and loss of blood circulation to the legs and important organs in the body like the kidneys and the reproductive system. Smoking and high cholesterol makes this happen more and at an earlier age. You can help by reducing factors that you control.

The U.S. Army Physical Fitness Research Institute has published data that shows that regular exercise can reduce blood pressure by 6-10 points on the average. This is very significant and can bring elevated blood pressure into the normal range. Sometimes, medication may be needed to further reduce blood pressure, but exercise, smoking cessation, and diet improvements are the cornerstone to living with high blood pressure. Many Army soldiers take blood pressure medications to control their blood pressure.

Many blood pressure medications are safe and effective and do not effect performance of military duties including aviation duties. The Army website: www.hooah4health.com is an excellent resource for advise about how your lifestyle choices affect your personal health. Check it out.

Fit for Life: *Air Force fitness program may change*

STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

WASHINGTON — Air Force health officials are proposing a change to the service's fitness program to help airmen place a greater emphasis on their overall health and well-being.

Many airmen incorrectly think that the Air Force fitness program is cycle ergometry, according to Maj. Lisa Schmidt, chief of health promotion operations in the Air Force surgeon general's office at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

"The Air Force fitness program isn't about the bike test," Schmidt said. "The fitness program is about eating healthy and exercising three to five times each week. The bike is just a tool we use to measure the effect of a personal fitness program."

According to Schmidt, the goal of the program is to encourage a mindset change in all airmen toward adopting a more proactive and preventive approach to health and fitness, thereby increasing the focus on personal readiness and not just passing a test.

Health officials are examining how they can align the Weight Management

Program and the cycle ergometry evaluation together to make it a more comprehensive assessment of someone's health. This assessment will use a composite score to get an overall picture of an airman's



health risk.

This change has been incorporated into "WarFit," a test program started at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., in February and at Los Angeles AFB, Calif., in May.

The program will start Air Force Space Command-wide in January.

"The fitness program is about eating healthy and exercising three to five times each week. The bike is just a tool we use to measure the effect of a personal fitness program."

Health experts from the Air Force surgeon general's office, the clinical operations division of AFSPC's surgeon general office, and the health and wellness center at F.E. Warren AFB, along with physiology and human performance experts from Brooks City-Base in San Antonio helped outline the prevention-based program.

"We chose to base fitness-program evaluations on health risk assessments," said Col. Jon R. Pearce, 90th Medical Group commander at F.E. Warren AFB.

According to Pearce, aerobic fitness, body fat and muscular strength all play a part in a person's overall health and are what "WarFit" attempts to measure.

A person's score on the bike test and the number of push-ups and sit-ups he or she does will be combined with his or her body fat percentage to come up with the composite score. This score will be used to place the person in one of three health-risk categories: low risk, moderate risk or high risk.

Schmidt said that the proposed program puts a greater emphasis on prevention

through earlier education and unit physical training programs. Airmen who are identified as being a moderate risk will attend a general Healthy Living Workshop that focuses on behavior change and general information for fitness and nutrition. High-risk members will receive more individualized and targeted intervention.

At F.E. Warren AFB, airmen categorized as high-risk are placed into a five-day-a-week, mandatory exercise program. Those classified as being a moderate risk will be put into a similar, three-day-a-week program. Those who were identified as being in the low-risk category are still encouraged to exercise three times a week but their activity is not monitored.

"The goal isn't to make this monitored-exercise regimen a punishment for those with a moderate- to high-health risk," Pearce explained. "The goal is to help these people successfully adopt a healthier lifestyle."

Airmen are provided with fitness and nutritional counseling, he said. They also can get help in setting up a structured exercise program targeted at improving their overall health and fitness.

After six months in the program, more than 90 percent of the participants identified as high risk were able to improve their fitness and scored in the low-risk category.

"I was astounded that so many improved so quickly," Pearce said.



Army/Navy Game

Saturday

dec. 7, 2002

12 Noon

Sports

Falcons beat Army, win Commander-in-Chief's Trophy

JOHN VAN WINKLE
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AFPN) — The most important goal of the Falcons' season was achieved Nov. 9 with a 49-30 win over service academy rival Army.

By virtue of an earlier win over Navy, Air Force sealed winning the Commander-in-Chief's trophy. The trophy goes to the service academy which bests its academy rivals in college football and is presented to the winning team's seniors by the president every May at the White House.

"It's a huge win, as winning the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy is the No. 1 goal of our program," said Falcons quarterback Chance Harridge. "But then at the same time, we've been kind of down the last couple of weeks — three losses in a row to a couple of very good football teams."

The win snapped a three-game losing streak, after losses to No. 9 Notre

Dame, No. 21 Colorado State University and an upset by the University of Wyoming.

With this victory, Air Force wins its sixth consecutive Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. The title is the Air Force Academy's 16th overall and the Falcons' overall record versus Army improves to 24-12-1.

The Army's chance of notching its first win of the season took its first hit on Army's first play of the game. Army quarterback Reggie Nevels attempted to hook up with wideout Aaron Alexander for a long gain down the sideline, but Falcon cornerback Wes Crawley leapt in front of Alexander to make the interception.

With the interception, the Falcons offense had a chance to show a new and as-yet unseen offensive look.

"We felt they had worked so hard in defending the option that we were going to be a little more hodge-podge and try to get them to make a mistake," said Falcons head coach Fisher DeBerry. The Falcons came



Falcons Darnell Stephens (15), Jordan Wilkie (19) and Grant Mallory (37) wrap up Army wide receiver William White on a kickoff return. White is one of Army's potent weapons, accounting for 1,453 all-purpose yards this season, including 154 yards on seven returns and 33 yards receiving during Army's 30-49 loss to Air Force on Nov. 9. (Photo by John Van Winkle)

out in a more traditional I-formation, and hardly ran an option play the entire first quarter.

"That paid off for us," DeBerry said. "We got them out of position a few times and showed them some new formations they hadn't seen. We can run our option and our base offense in the I anyway, but lining up in the I gives us the opportunity to run some plays that are better suited for our style of back."

The change in offensive alignments was only one of several wildcards the Air Force coaching braintrust played against Army. Four plays into their first possession, Harridge handed off to senior halfback Leotis Palmer, who threw a 43-yard touchdown strike to Joe Schieffer for the game's first score and Palmer's third touchdown pass of the year.

"The Army team had a good plan," DeBerry said. "At times they made it very difficult for us. But I thought our use of motions and different formations and some plays that they had not seen certainly helped us a great deal."

Army showed its talent on the next possession by responding with a sustained drive for a touchdown. But Murphy's Law came into play on their next possession, as quarterback Reggie Nevels was tripped by one of his linemen, fell down untouched in his end zone. The safety gave the Air Force two "free" points and a 9-7 lead.

It was a lead Air Force would never relinquish, but would increase with a strong running game and an occasional trick play.

Up 26-17 with 42 seconds left in the first half, Air Force offensive coordinator Chuck Peterson came down from the press box with



Falcon defensive back Paul Mayo (1) sends Army running back La'Berrick Williams (25) horizontal during an open-field tackle before fellow defensive back Joel Buelow (21) can deliver a hit. The Falcons held Williams to 4 yards rushing, and limited Army's ground game to 149 yards as Air Force notched its sixth consecutive win over Army, 49-30. (Photo by John Van Winkle)

a plan.

"I just thought it was a brilliant idea on his part," said DeBerry. "The idea was to let Chance [Harridge] take a knee, to make them think we were going to run out the clock."

Harridge took a knee on first down.

According to Harridge, Peterson's instructions to were to "jump back in the huddle, get back up to the line of scrimmage and just take a shot at getting it down the field." Then, Harridge took the snap, stepped back and completed a 41-yard pass to wideout

Anthony Park, which moved the chains to the 21-yard line. After a quick timeout, kicker Joey Ashcroft kicked his second of four field goals

on the day, to put the Falcons up 29-17.

"It probably stopped or slowed the momentum that Army had gained from their touchdown, because we ended up with points," said Harridge. "Then, going into halftime, we knew we were getting the ball and in position to make a 10-point swing possible."

It didn't turn out into a 10-point swing, though, as Army limited the Falcons' first drive of the second half to a field goal. Still, Army's offense was unable to close the gap, as Air Force gave Army its ninth loss of the season, 49-30.

Air Force ended the game with 531 yards of offense. On the ground, the

Falcons gained 380 yards — 79 by Harridge, 84 by halfback Anthony Butler, 76 by halfback Darnell Stephens, and 66 by Palmer.

Palmer ended the day with 135 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns, between his passing, rushing and kick returns. The passing game also showed improvement, with Harridge connecting five of nine times for 108 yards and one 43-yard touchdown to tight end Anthony Strecker.

But the win does not mean the Falcons' offense is firing on all cylinders.

"The thing that concerned me as much as anything was that we seemed to be content to settle for field goals rather than touchdowns, when we had opportunities to make touchdowns," said DeBerry. "We've got to look at that very, very closely."



Falcons halfback Leotis Palmer turns the corner with Army defensive end Odene Brathwaite hot on his heels. The Air Force won its sixth consecutive Commander-in-Chief's Trophy with a 49-30 win over service academy rival Army. (Photo by John Van Winkle)

Retirees' Voice

New columnist to take over in January 2003

Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton
State Senior PANCO

It has been a pleasure for the past 18 months to write this column for all the Connecticut National Guard retirees.

I hope I have been able to pass on some useful information to all of you. Not being a retiree myself, it has, at times, been difficult to know what issues affect you, and what topics you are interested in.

Fortunately for you and me, one of your own has stepped forward and graciously offered to write this column.

John Bednarz will be taking over authorship of the Retirees' Voice beginning in January of 2003. We at the *Guardian* look forward to working with John.

John spent a long and successful career in the Connecticut Army National Guard, and upon his retirement, went on to serve

his state further in the 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard.

He has also remained active in the National Guard Family Program, and, along with his equally enthusiastic wife, Ginny, can be seen every year at the National Guard Youth Summer Camp and the annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

John has kept in touch with many of his fellow retirees and knows what issues impact on your lives, and what's important to you.

If you have ideas for him to write about, you can contact the *Guardian* and we will pass the messages on to him.

Rest assured, I will not forget all the wonderful retirees I have had the pleasure to work with. I will see you all at the next retirees' picnic at Camp Rowland!

Thank you all for your patience with me over these past 18 months.

E-mail list being compiled

Maj. (ret.) Frank Perry and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Tony Savino are currently in the process of compiling a retirees' master e-mail list.

This list is intended to distribute information to retirees about events that may concern them such as reunions, deaths, retirement parties and so forth.

To get your name and e-mail address added to this list, contact Perry at francis.perry@ct.ngb.army.mil (Please note that this is a corrected e-mail address from last month's issue of the *Guardian*.)

All addresses will be kept confidential, and are intended only for the reasons mentioned here.

Do you know these guys?



In 1980, at Fort Drum, NY, members of the 1st Battalion, 169th Infantry went on a battalion fun run. Among those leading the way were Lt. Col. Richard Heroux (with glasses) and Capt. Bruce Byrne (carrying the HQ guidon). Let us know if you remember any of the other soldiers pictured. (Photo courtesy of Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James Throwe)

If you have a picture of historical nature to share with our readers, email if possible to debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil or mail to Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, Public Affairs Office, National Guard Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795. All photos will be returned.

Help Wanted

Warrant Officer Vacancies

The Connecticut Army National Guard currently has a number of Technical Warrant Officer vacancies.

The following is list of some of the specialties available: Information Systems Technician, Allied Trade Technician, Unit Maintenance Technician, Support Maintenance Technician, Electronic Systems Maintenance Technician, Engineer Equipment Repair Technician, Property Accounting Technician, Supply Systems Technician and Food Services Technician.

We are looking for top-notch, technically proficient noncommissioned officers to fill these positions.

Each warrant officer position has specific prerequisites, feeder MOSs and minimum grade requirements. In extraordinary cases, some of these prerequisites may be waived. Two prerequisites required for all warrant positions are a GT score of 110 or better (this is not waivable) and passing an Appointment Physical (IAW Chapter 2 AR 40-501).

If interested, contact your personnel section for assistance. If further assistance is required, contact either Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Marini at 860-493-2769 or Sgt. Maj. Laura Danao at 860-524-4817.

There are also a number of aviation warrant officer positions available. These positions offer the potential for initial flight training. Some of the additional prerequisites for aviation include being younger than 27 1/2 years old, passing the Army Flight Aptitude Selection test and passing a Class I flight physical. If interested, contact Lt. Col. Thomas Sousa at 860-386-4071, EXT 149 for more information.

Family Readiness & Support Services

The Connecticut Air National Guard is soliciting for a Family Readiness and Support Services Contract to help the ANG (103rd Fighter Wing, East Granby, and the 103rd Air Control Squadron, Orange) better aid military families when members are away from home during deployments and other temporary duty. This new ANG family initiative will increase and enhance support to the unit family readiness and support program in maintaining a sense of community at our unit and by achieving standards to promote personal readiness, economic viability and overall satisfaction with life in the Air National Guard by members and their families.

Direct any questions to the Contracting Office at 860-524-4870. The complete solicitation for DAHA06-03-R-0005 Family Readiness and Support Services Contract can be found at www.ct.ngb.army.mil/ebs/advertisedsolicitations.asp

Employment Opportunity

Warrant Officer (Aviation) Positions Available

Need time to go to school?

Friday Evening	3:30pm - 6:00pm
Saturday	7:00am - 8:30am
Sunday	7:00am - 4:00pm

Looking for a responsible person (at least 20 years of age) to go to school independently. Must be an applicant for schooling (degree, diploma, training, etc.).



Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the Technician vacancy Announcement, see your technician/military supervisor or call Master Sgt. Kevin Salsbury at (860) 878-6739

Note: Outdated Closing dates indicate that applications are currently under consideration. Individuals interested in applying for the position are encouraged to do so and may receive an interview, if qualified, and no one else has been previously selected. Several additional job postings are available on the Connecticut National Guard Website.

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer	OMS 7	WG-09	Dec. 4, 2002
Supply Technician	AASF	GS-06	Dec. 6, 2002
Maintenance Test Pilot	AVCRAD	GS-12	Dec. 12, 2002
Airplane Flight Instructor	AVCRAD	GS-13/12	Dec. 12, 2002

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing date
Fabric Worker	103d FW, LOG	WG-09/07/05	Dec. 5, 2002
Aircraft Mechanic (Indef.)	103d FW, LOG	WG-12/09/07	Dec. 9, 2002
Vice Air Commander	103d FW, CMD	GS-14	Dec. 11, 2002
Computer Specialist (Indef.)	103d FW, SUPPORT	GS-09/07	Dec. 16, 2002

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, see your supervisor or call Sgt. 1st Class Jacqueline Thomas at (860) 878-6729.

Note: Several additional job postings are available on the Connecticut National Guard Website.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Administrative/Log Officer	Det 2, TSSD	O1-O3	Statewide
Operations & Training Specialist	Det 2, TSSD	O1-O3	Statewide
Readiness NCO/Fire Control NCO	HHS, 2d Bn, 192d FA	SFC/E-7	On Board AGR Only

Air National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Aircraft Mechanic	103d FW, LOG	MSGT	Open
Electronic Instrument Systems Mech.	103d FW, LOG	TSGT	On Board AGR Only
Computer Specialist	103d FW, SUPPORT	MSGT	On Board AGR Only
Vice Air Commander	103d FW, COMMAND	COL	Open Air, Nationwide

The complete listing of both Technician and AGR vacancies and job descriptions can also be accessed by going to the Connecticut National Guard website at www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Coming Events

December

December 7

Pearl Harbor Day

December 7

Army/Navy Football Game

December 13

Breakfast with the Boss
Newington

December 19

103rd FW Children's Holiday Party

December 25

Christmas

December 26

Kwanzaa Begins

January

January 1

New Year's Day

January 8

Governor's Inauguration

January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

February 7

Black History Month Celebration

In the Next CG

Military Pay Chart 2003

Year in Review

Protecting yourself from identity theft

Deployments: From the family's point of view

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month previous to publication.

WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

**CALL
1-800-716-3530**

Connecticut's Army National Guard

Chemical Company begins training for transformation



Staff Sgt. Jimmie D. Smith of the 103rd Chemical Company stands guard while wearing his protective mask. (Photo by Spec. Jesse Stanley, 65th PCH)

From page 1

even more important that soldiers become more than proficient in NBC skills.

With these threats comes an understanding that heavy emphasis must be placed on combating NBC. The new 103rd Chemical Company is the Connecticut Army National Guard's answer to these threats.

The company has been in the planning stages for approximately six years and has inherited and absorbed the personnel formerly known as 192nd Field Artillery, which will soon be deactivated after many years of proud service.

The current unit, based out of Naugatuck, will be assigned a unit identification code by Oct. 1, 2003 and will be fully manned and equipment ready by Oct. 1, 2004.

The mission of the Chemical Company is to provide Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical support through an AOP (area of operations) to locate, identify, and report NBC contamination, and identify bypass routes around contaminated areas.

To effectively carry out this mission, soldiers must become proficient with equipment and procedures designed to detect lethal gases such as sarin, which was used in the subways of Tokyo in 1995 by the cult group Aum Shinrikyo, and mustard gas, Tabun, and VX which were particular favorites of the Iraqis during the war with Iran, and against the Kurdish people in Northern Iraq. Biological weapons such as anthrax, botulinum toxin and aflatoxin are also known to be components of Iraq's NBC arsenal.

Recently North Korea finally admitted to having the genesis of a nuclear weapons program that makes the existence of a chemical company even more justified.

Among the equipment utilized by chemical operations specialists are the NBC suit, which is standard gear for every soldier in the Army, the M8 chemical alarm, the M256 detection kit, and the M57-A1 smoke generator which is a specially configured Humvee used for battlefield concealment. The 103rd Chemical Company has seven of these vehicles in its repertoire, which according to Staff Sgt. Peter G. Conklin, Operations Sergeant, is a result of more Federal money being earmarked for chemical company equipment, "rolling stock" being the term used to referred to this type of funding.

Conklin is a chemical operations specialist with prior active duty service in the 82nd Airborne, which gives him the experience and technical know-how to be of invaluable service to the training efforts of the 103rd Chemical Company.

The company is in a state of transition from artillery to chemical which provides "many challenges but none that are insurmountable" says 1st Lt. Wayne E. Travers, Commanding Officer of Battery C, 103rd Chemical Company.

"People are resistant to change, but the key for most soldiers is to understand where we fit in the scheme in modern warfare."

Most of the burden of training former artillery soldiers to become chemical operations specialists lies with the NCOs. 1st Sgt. Roberto Echevarria recalls his two-week NBC NCO course as being "the toughest military school I have ever attended. It was no joke. You had to know formulas for nuclear fallout direction-finding and you had to learn to use all your gear very quickly." Echevarria notes that the current primary mission of the company is to get all soldiers MOS qualified in 54 Bravo.



From the staff of the
Connecticut Guardian
May you have a safe, healthy
and happy New Year

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