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"We seek peace. We strive for peace. And sometimes peace must be defended. A future lived at the mercy of terrible threats is no peace at all. If war is forced upon us, we will fight in a just cause and by just means -- sparing, in every way we can, the innocent. And if war is forced upon us, we will fight with the full force and might of the United States military -- and we will prevail."

*President George W. Bush
State of the Union Address
January 28, 2003*



Seth Cummings, 8, renders a salute during a sendoff ceremony for Connecticut Army and Air National Guardsmen who have been notified of possible deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle. Seth's father, Staff Sgt. Gerard Cummings, is a member of the 250th Engineer Company based in Putnam. The medium girder bridge unit left Connecticut for Fort Eustis, VA on Sunday, Jan. 26. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

Up Front with the Adjutant General

Black History Month: Leading the way to a more diverse Guard!



MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO
ADJUTANT GENERAL

During these extraordinary times, America looks forward to new challenges and opportunities with an invigorated sense of unity and common purpose. We are a vibrant state and nation, thanks to creativity, fortitude and resilience of people of every background. During Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural and political development.

To perform in today's extremely demanding environment, the National Guard has relied on dedicated soldiers and airmen from throughout the country. Guardsmen and women reflect our communities in America. The military today must reflect our society. We are a force of people. Our soldiers, airmen and women are citizens first and military members second. This is a fundamental part of our founding fathers' vision.

We in the National Guard know the importance of having a diverse force. Martin Luther King once said, "there is nothing more dangerous than to build a society, with

a large segment of people in that society, who feel that they have no stake in it."

The Connecticut National Guard realizes that a key aspect of a society's togetherness, and "esprit de corps," is inclusiveness. The National Guard is an organization that is rooted at the community level, and we're leading the way in inclusiveness and diversity. We realize what should be obvious: that skill and talents are found among every race and ethnicity.

The Connecticut Guard is comprised of talented soldiers and airmen from every walk of life. The portrait of the Guard is the portrait of America. . . as it is with our country's citizens, the diversity is astounding.

It is precisely this diversity that makes us better, tougher, stronger. We know that it is important for our leadership to understand the strength of our diverse force. Workforce diversity is an organizational behavior that acknowledges and values differences and similarities among people and how differences can improve the organization. It also means understanding the organizational environments with a greater appreciation for gender, culture and ethnic lifestyles.

It's a team of all components, not just the

majority or the plurality, the entire diverse military team that make us the strong force that we are.

Diversity truly makes our Guard strong and makes America the great country that it is. America is still the land of opportunity and all any American asks for is an opportunity, an equal chance to excel. It is imperative that we as leaders give ALL of our soldiers and airmen and women a fair shot at success. We owe it to them!

There is always room for improvement. As the Adjutant General, I continue to push for a well-balanced, diverse organization and ask the leadership to continue to work with me toward this goal.

We are pleased to have the Tuskegee Airmen - four members of whom we will honor - at this year's Black History Celebration. They will share their experiences and memories of a unique period of time when hard work and determination overcame expectations of those who felt the Tuskegee Experiment would fail. Patriotism, determination and bravery became the Tuskegee legacy that outlasted years of limited civil liberties.

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Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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Perspectives

Would you support reinstating the draft? Why or why not?

SPEC. JOSEPH A. YOUNG
1048th TRUCK COMPANY

"I would support it but it depends on how many brother and sisters a person has. As long as they are not an only child"



SENIOR AIRMAN DENNIS GOGGIN
103 MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

"No, I don't support it. I don't think you can have a draft the way the world is today. It won't go through because people in this country don't want it. It won't be effective."



MASTER SGT. ARIADNA BEAUCHAMP
HHD STARC

"We need people, every citizen should have some military knowledge and experience" (Photo not available)



SGT. KIM ROBERTSON
HHD STARC

"I would support the draft. I believe in the military" (Photo not available)



SENIOR AIRMAN MORGAN L. MCKINNON
103 LOGISTICS SQUADRON

"No, probably not, because I wouldn't want people who don't want to be there to go (in). We'd probably be worse off."

SPEC. GREGORY A. GRAVEL
1109th AVCRAD

"I would support the draft. They (civilians) are in the United States and enjoy being here."

Bradley firefighters activated post 9-11 return home

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

High on the wall in the chief's office at the Connecticut Air National Guard Fire Department hangs an enlarged, framed photograph of 12 men in desert battle dress uniforms, some wearing sunglasses, with sand-colored fire trucks as their backdrop.

It is a photograph of 12 men who answered when the nation called in the wake of 9-11.

The men are Connecticut Air National Guard firefighters who were activated in October 2001 and sent to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada and Southwest Asia for Operation Enduring Freedom.

One of those men, Senior Airman Nicholas N. Calsetta, was new to the Guard at the time.

"I didn't know what to make of it," he said of learning he was being activated for an indefinite tour.

Another of the 12, Master Sgt. Eric B. Munsell, assistant chief of operations and readiness, 103rd Civil Engineering Squadron, was working in Hartford at the state's emergency operation center in the days following the 9-11 attacks. He said as first responders he knew it was very likely he, or members of his unit, would be called.

The activation took place only weeks after five of the men returned from three weeks of annual training in the United Arab Emirates as an Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployment.

"It didn't give me a lot of time to breathe," said Munsell, a retired career firefighter who now volunteers at his local fire department in Waterford.

According to Munsell, 12 firefighters from the Nellis Air Force Base Fire Department were deployed overseas, so the guardsmen were sent there to backfill. There they worked 24-hour shifts. As it is in civilian firefighting, they spent three percent of their time answering calls. The rest of it was spent preparing for calls by training, getting certifications, and attending schools.

Munsell liked the variety of aircraft the base had on which to train.

"In that respect it was a hell of an experience."

On the flipside, Munsell said the biggest problem while at Nellis was the unknown.

"Nobody could give us any answers as far as a time frame," he said. There were rumors that they would be there for two years. That, and "we had just come home (from the U.A.E.)"

Munsell found when they arrived at Nellis that nobody besides the gaining fire chief seemed to know that the people from the Connecticut Air National Guard unit were coming. For the first month they were quartered in a hotel. From there they were moved into two-man rooms in off-base housing.

When Thanksgiving arrived, the guardsmen had dinner at the Fire Department alongside their permanent party coworkers and their coworkers' families. Seeing his counterparts enjoy the holidays with their loved ones hit home for Munsell.

"That was tough, that was a wake-up call," he said.

While activated, the Flying Yankees accrued leave, which some used to come home for a visit. Others had their families go out to Nevada. A Nellis reservist opened his home to the deployed firefighters on Christmas Day.

Munsell found he missed his morning stop at Dunkin Donuts back home. In Connecticut

Munsell served as the fire chief. He said Connecticut Air National Guardsmen filled all of the top positions because of their extensive training and certifications. All of them work outside the Guard as firefighters, either career or volunteer.

As they did at Nellis Air Force Base, they continued to conduct a lot of training in the desert, too. Munsell said that there were many three and five -level students deployed at the base, so he utilized the time getting the students their driver's licenses.

At the same time, they manned the firehouses on the flight line and at tent city, where they lived eight men to a tent.

The tents were equipped with air

1,000 of them. It was tradition. Whoever was off-duty lit the grills around 2:00 p.m. and did not stop serving until the entire base personnel had been fed, around 6:00 p.m.

In October the guardsmen learned they would be going home, but could not tell their loved ones until they landed stateside. They were released from active duty Oct. 23.

Calsetta said the best part of his activation was, "being part of the mission," and the worst was, "the heat, sandstorms, the weather."

He said through it he has learned he "took everything for granted." He missed the holidays with his family. And after living in a hotel and then a tent, "to come home and sleep in my bed with all the amenities was outstanding."

Calsetta added that he is still adjusting to being home.

"I'm still not who I was when I left, that's for sure. I work a lot harder. I seem a lot more focused on my goals."

Though happy to return to his family and life in Connecticut, leaving the desert left Munsell with an empty feeling.

"I'd like to be a part of it. If something goes down I want to be there," he said. Looking back on being activated he said, "I don't think we've ever been really prepared for this to happen."

He recommends that unit members prepare for activation.

"I would hope you have all your ducks in order," he said.

Since returning home, two of the 12 deployers retired and one separated from the unit. Even so, command staff welcomed home every one of them in a short ceremony during the December training assembly.

"You have all done a great job in some adverse conditions. It's not an easy task to be snatched from your warm and comfortable life," said Col. Daniel R. Scace, commander, 103rd Fighter Wing. "I definitely appreciate what you've done."

Despite the hardships, which included missing the University of Connecticut's Women's Basketball season and his youngest son's fifth-grade school year, when asked if he would go again, Munsell said, "in a heartbeat."

The 12 firefighters who were activated and deployed are: Master Sgts. Joseph W. Comarella, Eric B. Munsell, and Richard P. Sawtelle, Tech. Sgts. Stephen W. Bilow and Daniel A. McKinstry, Staff Sgts. Matthew W. Atwood Jr., Sean M. Barry, Chad E. Mason, Thomas E. Sterling, and William H. Towers Jr., and Senior Airmen Nicholas N. Calsetta and Jeremy P. Robotham.



The 103rd firefighters grilling steaks one Friday night while deployed to Southwest Asia. From left to right Senior Airman Nicholas N. Calsetta (touching his face), Staff Sgt. Matthew Atwood Jr., and Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Sterling (wearing the camel-pak.) (Photo courtesy Master Sgt. Eric B. Munsell, 103 CES/CEF)

he took out the garbage on Monday. He filled the dishwasher at night and emptied it in the morning. And on Christmas he would sit down with the kids, munch on some pepperoni and cheese and watch "Miracle on 34th Street," or "It's a Wonderful Life."

"That wasn't there," he said.

The firefighters spent seven months deployed at Nellis Air Force Base.

"Out there we didn't feel like we were serving a purpose. It was starting to take a toll on personnel," Munsell said. So, when the Nellis Air Force Base Fire Department was tasked with an overseas assignment, "our 12 guys offered up, 'If you need us, we'll go,'" he said.

"I felt pretty confident. We did a lot of training at Nellis. I felt I was ready for any task that I'd be asked to do. I looked forward to it," said Calsetta, of the overseas deployment.

The 12 men from Connecticut spent almost four months at a base in the Southwest Asian desert.

While there, the members of the 103rd worked 48 hours on and 24 hours off.

conditioning. According to Munsell, the dry days and humid nights would cause some airmen to wake up soaked from the condensation on the ceiling.

"It was like it was raining," he said.

The base had a barbershop, a Baskin-Robbins, a gym, and an indoor and outdoor theater. United Services Organizations Inc., or USO, shows came every couple of weeks.

The personnel had access to email, regular mail, and morale phone calls with which Munsell stayed in contact with his wife, daughter, and two sons. But for security reasons, he could not say where he was or what the mission was.

In their off-days the firefighters volunteered to help civil engineering build bunkers. They drove dump trucks and other large equipment. They filled sandbags in 140-degree heat.

One of the hardships for the group was that it was not getting any news, Munsell said. For security reasons the base did not publish a paper.

"We didn't get any news. We got more information from back home. That was weird," he said.

One night a week the firemen cooked steaks—

Getting ready: Military Police prepare for

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65TH PCH

Members of one of the Connecticut National Guard's busiest units continue to prepare for another mission, not yet knowing where or when, or even if, they might be going.

While going through the steps of a mobilization exercise, 100 members of the 143rd Military Police Company tried to focus on their mission, although they have not been notified what, when or where that mission will be.

Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the 143rd MPs have been very active performing Homeland Security duties within Connecticut, guarding airports, armories and other sensitive facilities. Other, less recent assignments have allowed many of the MPs to gain experience in preparing for mobilization and in performing extended missions on active duty, in other parts of the world.



Sgt. Joseph A. Sailor, 143rd MP, whose prior deployments include Operation Desert Storm and Bosnia, has his teeth checked in preparation for his unit's possible upcoming deployment. (Photo by Pvt. Jordan Werme, 65th PCH)

Several veterans of the 143rd's deployment to the Persian Gulf War are still in the unit. Other members of the Hartford-based MP company served during that war in other units. Despite the very active operations tempo in recent years, some unit members are preparing for their first deployments. Those less experienced troops have been able to look toward those who have been there, wherever there was, for guidance in preparation of the unit's next assignment.

"In the early stages, I'm just trying to tell them how to set up financial accounts, to get their homes ready, and what they should tell their families," said Sgt. Sam DeFelice, a Bristol police officer who has been in the Guard for six years, and has been on two extended deployment. He stresses to his troops that the time to write a will and to assign power of attorney is in the early stages of mobilization, not after deployment. With the administrative matters taken care

of, the soldiers can more easily adjust to the active duty life once they deploy, DeFelice said.

DeFelice said that when citizen-soldiers go on active duty, they often gain a better understanding of why they need to train so hard as Guard members.

"Sometimes you get put in hazardous situations, and you rely on all the training you've done, and you see why it's so important.

Staff Sgt. John Thompson, an experienced MP who is a state police officer full time, agrees with DeFelice. Thompson said that the members of the 143rd MP Co. have a great deal of training experience, and that will help them perform their missions on active duty – no matter where they go, or what they will do.

Thompson, a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, said that the fundamentals of military police missions have not changed over the past 14 years. In his discussions with his soldiers, he stresses the importance of family matters – especially during the pre-mobilization stage.

"I tell them: 'Listen, you've been training for these missions for years. You all know how to perform the job properly and to meet the standards. Your primary responsibility now should be getting your family squared away, preparing them for the upcoming deployment, preparing them for your extended absence, and taking care of your personal affairs. I'm confident that you'll be able to perform your MP duties competently.' Everything will fall into place," said Thompson, who is a resident of Lebanon.

Another experienced noncommissioned officer with the MP unit is encouraging his troops simply to "Be flexible!"

"Basically, they should expect anything. Even once you get an assignment, nothing is set in stone," said Sgt. Michael Hevey, a Gulf War veteran who also deployed on several other MP assignments while on active duty.

"MP means Multi-Purpose!" Hevey said, using humor to illustrate his point while also helping troops relax when thinking about a potential mission that has offered little specific information. He adds that not knowing where or when they might be going "puts a damper on morale," because the troops would rather get the word so they can mobilize, rather than just remain on standby alert status.

"Everyone wants to focus on the mission. We'd like to know if it's Homeland Security, or if we are going overseas," Hevey said. Hevey's wife is Spc. Erina Hevey, also a member of the 143rd. (For more on the Heveys, see accompanying story.)



One of the troops getting ready for his first deployment is Pfc. William Zampaglione, who serves as the driver for the company commander. He said he's been given some simple, practical advice from fellow unit members.

"I was told not to worry, and that I should believe in all of the training that we've gotten," Zampaglione said, adding that an Army ranger friend of his gave him some other practical advice: "Breathe!"

"That means – when you're out there, just remember to breathe. Relax yourself, and remember what you're doing," Zampaglione said.

Sgt. George Magrey, a corrections officer from Norwich, served on active duty for three months providing airport security. The mission allowed Guard members to protect their home state, and to commute from home. The next mobilization will likely be much different. With his unit preparing for an unknown mission, Magrey is hoping to find out where and when his unit may be going, so that he can get his family properly prepared.

"It's better to get a definite idea as to when you're leaving," said Sgt. George Magrey, a corrections officer who served on airport security with the 143rd last year. "Without knowing for sure, it's really tough on the family. It's very stressful this time." Magrey and some of his fellow unit members said that the uncertainty of where and when the unit may be going, makes long-range, and short-range, planning difficult.

Sgt. David Konkol has been in the Connecticut Guard for almost 14 years, but he is preparing for his first activation. He joined the 143rd nearly a year ago, to become the motor sergeant, and feels that his main challenge is getting ready for a deployment for which he has no specific information.

"I keep my wife informed as much as I can. She knows as much as I do," Konkol said, adding that administrative matters for mobilization are all properly prepared. "The paperwork is all set – the will and power of attorney. It's the standing in line that's tough. We're in the slot to go, but

possible deployment

don't know when, or even, if we are going."

Another challenge presented by the standby status is notifying employers.

"I gave them a 'heads up' that, at any time, I could be getting the word," said Sgt. David Konkol, who added that Bayer Pharmaceuticals has been supportive of him. "They said they hope I don't have to go, but, if I do, they'll deal with it then.

Zampaglione, a Torrington resident who assembles industrial robots at Whitman Robotics, said his boss has been very supportive. But, if he is activated, they will have to find someone to replace him, until he returns.

He also had to tell his fiancée about the impending deployment.

"I told her that we'd be going out, and that we'd be coming back at some point. She's worried, but she knew what I was doing when I signed up," said Zampaglione, who joined the Guard in August 2001. He and Jillian have been engaged since the summer of 2002.

Pfc. Merihu DeCarli, a cook in the 143rd MP Co. for the past three years, is also preparing for her first deployment. She received word of the impending deployment about three weeks after she and her husband, an Army Reservist, were married. That was December 31, 2002. He left for basic training shortly afterward. She speaks with him every Sunday, and told him on January 19th, that it was likely that her unit would be deployed by the time he finished basic training.

"We pretty much knew that we were going,

because we're a combat-ready support unit," she said.

If the 143rd MPs find themselves deployed in another part of the world, it will likely be easier for the troops to stay in touch with their families than it was in 1990 and 1991, according to at least one of the unit's Gulf War veterans.

Advances in technology, including cellular phones and the Internet, have brought many advantages that will allow deploying Guard members to call home and to take care of necessities such as paying bills. Thompson said this makes deployments easier.

"When I was (in the Gulf War), telephones were not available, and mail service was slow. It seems the world is a smaller place, now," he said.

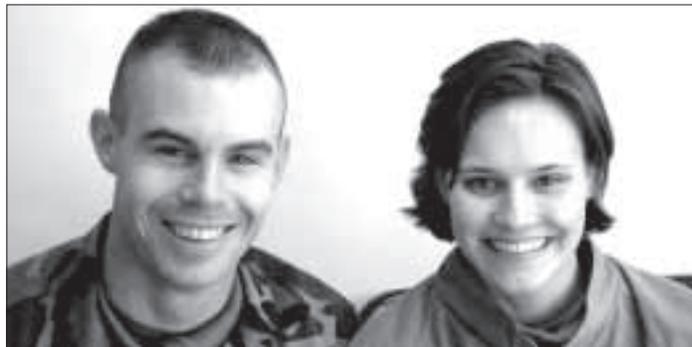
Although some other members of the unit have never been mobilized, the experienced soldiers of the 143rd MP Co. are there to help prepare those who are less experienced, and to help them perform their duties once they do deploy.

Some of the most helpful advice may be some of the simplest. Simpler even than "Be flexible!" That advice has been offered by DeFelice, whose deployment experience includes Bosnia, on a special security assignment with military intelligence personnel.

"Basically, I tell them they should prepare for the worst, and hope for the best," DeFelice said.



First Lt. Jason T. Strickland prepares to draw blood from the arm of Staff Sgt. John T. Thompson, a soldier with 143rd Military Police. Thompson was undergoing a MODRE with the rest of his unit in preparation for a future potential deployment. If deployed, this would be the next in a long line of deployments for Thompson, whose prior experience includes Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, the Dominican Republic, U.S. Virgin Islands and Italy. The MODRE took place at Camp Rowland in Niantic and had the soldiers updating medical and personnel records, receiving shots and doing paperwork for wills and powers of attorney. (Photo by Pvt. Jordan Werme, 65th PCH)



Sgt. Michael Hevey and Spec. Erina Hevey

Loving, training, and just possibly, deploying together

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65th PCH

When National Guard members prepare to deploy for active duty assignments, a spouse is often left behind to handle important tasks alone. That won't be the case with Spec. Erina Hevey and Sgt. Michael Hevey, who are preparing for a possible deployment with the 143rd Military Police Company.

The two were married Nov. 15, 2002, and are preparing for an active duty mission that could take them far from the home they bought that same month in northern Connecticut.

The two natives of southeastern Massachusetts have been in the 143rd for less than a year. Michael, 30, transferred to the Hartford-based unit shortly after becoming a Connecticut state police officer in June 2001. Erina, 21, currently is a store detective for Filene's, but hopes to become a Connecticut trooper, as well.

In his 10 years as an MP, half of which was in the active Army, Michael has gained extensive deployment experience. He's a Gulf War veteran, and has served extended MP tours in Cuba (twice) and in Honduras. He has used knowledge gained in those deployments to help prepare those in the unit who have not deployed, including Erina. Although she has been an MP for four years, Spc. Hevey is preparing for her first deployment.

"The whole experience is new," Erina said. "I've asked what it's going to be like. What will the situation be? Will we be in barracks or tents? And as an MP unit, what kinds of missions will we be doing?"

As the 143rd MP Company has been preparing for possible mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, there are no specific details to answer those questions, yet. But, Michael is still able to provide accurate answers.

"Basically, (as MPs) we need to expect everything," Sgt. Hevey said. "Nothing is set in stone. You never know what to expect. MP means 'Multi-Purpose.' Whatever the Army needs us to do, we do it. You have to be ready to adapt."

He also said that he has not given his wife any secret information that he hasn't also shared with other soldiers who have not yet experienced a deployment.

"She's a soldier! I tell her the same thing

that I tell the other troops," he said.

For the record, the two are in different platoons.

Michael also stresses the need to be optimistic throughout a deployment, and to make the best of any situation.

"When you're on a deployment, even if it seems like the worst of times, when you look back at it, you can have good memories of it," he said, adding that it doesn't necessarily take a long time to look back fondly. "For example, you can be in a nasty sandstorm, and your tent could be blown over. You just set it back up and laugh about it. You learn to value your friends, and other people lot, while you're on a deployment."

Michael doesn't need to go away to know how much he values his family. Current events have made sure of that. Deploying with his wife, a scenario that is possible but not guaranteed, would likely be very important for him to get through a hardship that will be unavoidable. His father is terminally ill, and is not expected to live through the month of February. Prior to deploying, Michael and Erina will spend as much time as possible with their family members, but if the Army calls, they are ready to serve as expected.

"It's a really tough time," Michael said. "But, fortunately, I have brothers and sisters, and I know that they will stay with him, and take care of things." He and his wife said that not knowing when or where the unit might go has made these trying times more difficult. But, they are prepared to go wherever they are needed, whenever they are needed.

"As an NCO in the Guard, I also have a responsibility for my soldiers," Sgt. Hevey said. "If they're going to go, I want to go with them. It's our job. It's something that we have to do"

And as they prepare for mobilization, the two are also relying on family members to take care of some tasks that a stateside spouse would normally handle.

"My sister has power of attorney," Michael said. She lives in Massachusetts, too, but she'll be coming down to Connecticut to take care of the house, and to take care of things that need to be done, such as paying bills."

Identity theft

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PANCO

Angela Bennet is a freelance software analyst who gets drawn into a dangerous situation when a client asks her to debug a CD-ROM game.

After she discovers that something is seriously wrong with the program and notifies her client, the client winds up dead and her own identity is switched with that of a convicted criminal. Others around her wind up dead, and her own life is in danger.

She finds herself waking up in a Mexican hospital after having her purse stolen, with no passport, no credit cards and no other form of identity. At the consulate, her fingerprints and photo show her as someone else, someone the police are after.

Her life as she knows it is gone.

But, this was a 1994 movie starring Sandra Bullock as the title character. The premise of the movie, "The Net" seemed improbable to many.

However, over the past several years, many have found themselves victims of identity theft, although not to the degree this movie depicted.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Thompson, a Connecticut Army National Guard member, knows the feeling of identity theft only too well.

"I felt like my privacy had been invaded," said Thompson. "I felt financially vulnerable, more skeptical of using the internet for on-line purchases."

Thompson, who works full-time in the Personnel Service Center for HHD STARC, while a victim of identity theft, was relatively lucky. He was only taken for \$150, not much by today's standards, but enough to make him worry about what else could have happened.

At first, Thompson didn't realize what was happening. A single man who lives alone, he said he didn't fully balance his checkbook every month. He didn't see the need to as he was the only one who used it. But he did start to notice he had to adjust his account by about \$10 each month.

"It became annoying to have to do that, so in October I compared my checkbook more closely against the bank statements," he said.

What he found was that he was being charged \$9.95 a month for internet services he did not have. In fact, up until a couple of weeks ago, he did not even have a home computer. He discovered that he had been receiving these charges on his bank credit card since February of 2002.

"There were 1-800 numbers on the bank statements for each of the internet providers, so I called them," said Thompson. They told him they could not give him any information,

because although he had given them the correct credit card number, the name he gave them, his own, was not the name on the account they had opened.

"Even though they agreed it was my credit card number, the internet account was in someone else's name, and they wouldn't tell me who it was, or reimburse me the money that had been spent without my knowledge." They did, however, cancel the accounts and give him the email address which he used to try and contact the thief. Unfortunately, the internet providers had worked quickly in shutting down the accounts, and he was unable to contact anyone that way.

After trying to deal with the situation on his own, he went to the fraud department at his bank for assistance. The bank immediately credited the money to his account, contingent on their investigation showing he had indeed been a victim of stolen identity.

He recently received a letter from the bank informing him they were taking the money back out of his account because the internet providers had proven he had made the purchases.

"Somebody took my money," Thompson said. "I would rather they are caught and charged for the crime rather than being made to repay the money. It's not the money at this point, it's that somebody is getting away with it."

Based on his experiences, Thompson has made some changes and will be making more. He says he is now very reluctant to purchase anything through the internet, although he had only purchased a couple of CDs and some military uniforms from reputable companies on-line.

"I'm going to be more careful," he said. "I'm going to be more aware."

He carefully checks every bank statement against his checkbook. He says he will be switching banks and using an ATM/debit card in the future.

But credit cards are not the only way thieves get information about people and use that information for illegal purposes.

According to the Identity Theft Resource Center, thieves go through your trashcan looking for straight cut or unshredded papers, they steal your mail or your wallet, they listen in on conversations you have in public, they trick you into giving them information over the

telephone or by email and they buy the information either on the internet or from someone who might have stolen it.

They also steal information from a loan or credit application form you

filled out or from files at a hospital, bank, school or business you deal with, sometimes by going through the dumpsters outside of those businesses.

They are also able to get your information from your computer, especially if it does not firewalls, or they may be a friend or relative or someone who works for you who has access to your information.

The Identity Theft Resource Center recommends you take the following steps to decrease your risk of becoming a victim:

- * Check your credit reports once a year from all three of the credit reporting agencies (see sidebar).

- * Guard your Social Security number. When possible, don't carry your Social Security card. Don't put your SSN or drivers license number on your checks.

- * Guard your personal information. You should never give your Social Security number to anyone unless they have a good reason for needing it. Watch for people who may try to eavesdrop and overhear information you give out orally.

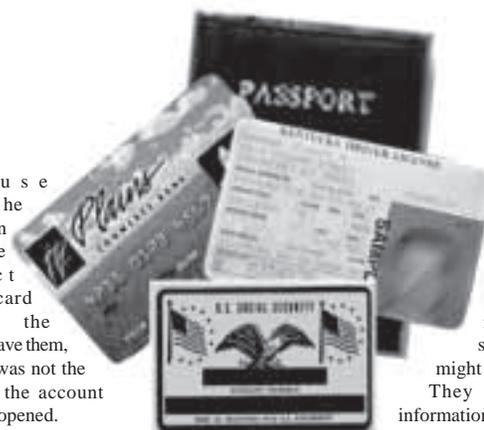
- * Carefully destroy papers you throw out, especially those with sensitive or identifying information. A *crosscut* paper shredder works best.

- * Be suspicious of telephone solicitors. Never provide information unless you have initiated the call.

- * Use a locked mailbox to send and receive all mail.

- * Reduce the number of preapproved credit card offers you receive. Call 1-888-5OPT OUT (they will ask for your social security number).

In December 2002, The TRICARE Management Activity announced that computer equipment and files had been stolen from its TRICARE Central Region health contractor, TriWest Healthcare



Are
you
really
who
you
say
you
are...
or is
someone
else
really
you?

Identification graphic by Kiley Newton

Alliance Corp. in Phoenix, Ariz. TriWest contracts with the Military Health System to provide health services to service members, their families and retirees. The equipment and files were used to help deliver health care services to its clients in the central and midwest sections of the country.

The consequences of this theft could be far-reaching, and the Department of Defense is working with TriWest to ensure uninterrupted care for its members, and the case is being investigated by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies.

Federal agents in November 2002, cracked the largest identity fraud case ever in the United States. Three men were charged with running a high-tech scheme to steal credit card information from more than 30,000 victims across the United States. Authorities at the time had confirmed \$2.7 million in thefts, but expected the total to actually reach many, many millions more before they were through counting.

An office manager for a nationally-known, major tax-help company in New York was arrested on charges that he used customers' names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth to steal their refund checks, withdraw cash from their bank accounts and spend thousands of dollars with fake credit cards over a two-year period.

In December 2002, a New Milford, Conn. woman was arrested and charged with using her brother's ex-girlfriend's name to obtain credit cards and go on a \$6,000 shopping spree. She was charged with third degree larceny, credit card crime and seven counts of third degree forgery, illegal credit card use and criminal impersonation. She also faces charges of identity theft, five counts of criminal impersonation and illegal credit card use, third degree forgery, sixth degree larceny and making a false statement.

The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection announced on Feb. 3 that the number of identity theft crimes reported in the state had doubled in the past year. Legislation has been introduced in the state Senate to strengthen the identity theft laws currently on the books.

Currently in Connecticut, victims of identity theft can bring a civil action for damages against the person who committed the violation. A 1999 state law makes it easier to prosecute the crime. It is a felony to obtain personal information on an individual and use that information for unlawful purposes.

So, what should you do if you find yourself a victim of identity theft?

First, call the three credit reporting agencies. Place a fraud alert on your Social Security number and have them send you copies of your reports. Look them over carefully for any fraudulent activity or inaccuracies.

Next, call the police where you live. They must take a report and give you a copy. You'll need it later.

Third, call or write all the creditors who have opened fraudulent accounts. Tell them this is a case of identity theft. They must provide upon request, copies of all application and transaction information on the account.

Go to www.ftc.gov, the Federal Trade Commission's website, and download a copy of their publication, "When Bad Things Happen To Your Good Name." Even if you are not a victim, it is a good idea to read this publication anyway.

It is full of information on minimizing your risk, what to do if you are a victim, resolving credit problems, (which can follow you for years, even though they aren't really your credit problems,) what to report and to whom, and sample forms to fill out, including the ID Theft Affidavit.

Bottom line: be vigilant, be careful who you share information with, keep close watch on your account activity, check your credit reports regularly, and don't be a victim of one of the fastest growing crimes in the country, identity theft.

Credit Bureaus

Equifax: www.equifax.com
To order your report, call 1-800-685-1111
To report fraud, call: 1-800-525-6285
TDD call: 1-800-255-0056

And write:
P.O. Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian: www.experian.com
To order your report, call: 1-888-EXPERIAN
To report fraud, call: 1-888-EXPERIAN
TDD call: 1-800-972-0322

And write:
P.O. Box 9532
Allen, TX 75013

TransUnion: www.transunion.com
To order your report, call: 1-800-888-4213
To report fraud, call: 1-800-680-7289
TDD call: 1-877-553-7803

FAX: 1-714-447-6034
email: fvad@transunion.com
And write:
Fraud Victim Assistance Department
P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

Useful Websites

Government Accounting Office
www.gao.gov

Identity Theft Resource Center
www.idtheftcenter.org

Federal Trade Commission
www.ftc.gov

Consumer Protection
www.consumer.gov

Are you at risk for Identity Theft? Test your 'Identity Quotient'

Each of these questions represents a possible avenue for an ID theft.

I receive several offers of pre-approved credit every week. (5 points) Add 5 more points if you do not shred them before putting them in the trash.

I carry my Social Security card in my wallet. (10 points)

I do not have a P.O. Box or a locked, secure mailbox. (5 points)

I use an unlocked, open box at work or at my home to drop off my outgoing mail. (10 points)

I carry my military ID in my wallet at all times. (10 points)

I do not shred or tear banking and credit information when I throw it in the trash. (10 points)

I provide my Social Security number (SSN) whenever asked, without asking questions as to how that information will be safeguarded. (10 points) Add 5 points if you provide it orally without checking to see who might be listening.

I am required to use my SSN at work as an employee or student ID number. (5 points)

I have my SSN printed on my employee badge that I wear at work or in public. (10 points)

I have my SSN or driver's license number printed on my personal checks. (20 points)

I am listed in a "Who's Who" guide. (5 points)

I carry my insurance card in my wallet and either my SSN or that of my spouse is the ID number. (20 points)

I have not ordered a copy of my credit reports for at least two years. (10 points)

I do not believe that people would root around in my trash looking for credit or financial information. (10 points)

100+ points: More than 500,000 people will become victims of ID theft this year. You are at high risk. We recommend you purchase a paper shredder, become more security aware in document handling and start to question why people need your personal data.

50 - 100 points: Your odds of being victimized are about average. Higher if you have good credit.

0-50 points: Congratulations! You have a high "IQ." Keep up the good work and don't let your guard down now.

(ID Theft test provided by Utility Consumers Action Network (UCAN) and Privacy Rights Clearinghouse)

Where to report identity theft

1. Each of the three national consumer reporting agencies: Equifax Credit Information Services, Inc., Experian Information Solutions, Inc., and TransUnion (See sidebar for numbers and addresses)

2. The fraud department at each creditor, bank or utility/service that provided the identity thief with unauthorized credit, goods or services.

3. Your local police department.

4. The Federal Trade Commission, which maintains the Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse

Marriage, military, and love: Dual

SPEC. MARIAN ROSADO
65" PCH

"It was harder than what we thought it would be. We were only married for a month; still dealing with the newlywed stage and the cold feet," said Spc. Geanabelle Bermudez of the Company B, 143rd Forward Support Battalion. For the Bermudez's, deploying to Bosnia was not only a soldier's duty; it was also the beginning of life as newlyweds.

The military family of today faces a lifestyle that takes on frequent deployments and consequently, increased family separations. These partings create stressful challenges that can impact readiness for both soldiers and family members.

For dual-military couples, extra planning takes place with childcare arrangements, school arrangements and most importantly, taking care of emotional issues these military children may face when both parents are deployed.

With all the challenges, marriage, military and love has worked for several Guard couples. Here are some stories of couples that have struggled through tough times, whose military bond brought them to marriage, and due to the success of their long lasting relationship have agreed to share some helpful tips they have used when times get tough.

The Olmsteads



Capt. Cristine Olmstead and 2nd Lt. Cory Olmstead both of Company B, 143rd FSB met in 1997 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and married in July 2002. The Olmsteads enjoy the benefits that come in a dual military marriage. They both understand each other's responsibility to their unit as well their personal reasons for wanting to serve in the military.

"Cristine comes from a military family. She understands the commitment and

obligations that come when serving in the military and that makes it so much easier," said Cory.

"I know that when they tell you 'I'll be home in a month' it could mean five days or 35 days because it's happened to me in the past. I just accept it and wait until he comes home," said Cristine.

"We have established ourselves in our military career and learn from each other. I don't think serving in the military is seen as an obstacle in our relationship; it's what brought us together. We both know the sacrifices that come when being deployed or just simply serving our units," said Cristine.

She advises dual-military couples to remember why they originally joined the military.

"You serve your country for the reasons you joined. I joined to serve my country, to do my job and to be an effective person in my unit. He supports me and I support him and that's the way it should be," said Cristine.

The Bermudez's

"I met my wife in my first annual training with the National Guard," said Sgt. David Bermudez, Company A, 143rd FSB. "We got married in June 2001 and deployed that August. We both understood work was first, but it was not easy spending our first year in Bosnia," said David.

"We were extra stressed out, we couldn't live together and we really didn't get to see much of each other. The few times we did, we were so stressed from everything that was going on that we took it out on each other," said his wife, Geanabelle. "Though I have to admit it was comforting to know that he was near, even if we couldn't see each other or live together."

"We made it through the deployment convincing ourselves that it was just a temporary thing. We just kept telling each other that 'we'll be home soon'," said Geanabelle. "It also helped to know that our family was taking care of our house and other things we left behind."

"I can say that going overseas made me grow as a soldier and a husband. It made me realize that I had to stop thinking of myself. There was another half of me I also had to please and look after," said David.

"I think we would both have to sit down and question if we were going to deploy together again. We learned a lot from each other but it is tough on a marriage when you don't have a place to go with your problems during and after deployment," said Geanabelle.

"We are glad we were able to experience deployment. It had its tough times but there is no better way to learn how to work as a team," said David.

The Bermudez's have since celebrated

their first anniversary together.

"Our relationship is doing really good. We made it through the deployment and that was the hardest part," said Geanabelle.

The Cyrs



Maj. Kim Cyr from the 143rd Area Support Group in Newington, and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cyr from the STARC have been married since February of 2000. They are the parents of Chris Swanson (9), Abby Swanson (6) and Amanda Cyr (2). They have not been deployed since their marriage but they have endured long-term in-state duties, particularly after Sept. 11, 2001.

"We are fortunate enough to have family and friends call up and volunteer to take care of our children," said Jason. "It's key to have a support group and getting to the point in which they are willing and available without having to pick up the phone and call."

"There's always a possibility of deployment and that is why you should have certain things in effect if that (deployment) were to happen; particularly a family care program," said Jason.

"A family care program in my eyes and my wife's is that if one or both of us were deployed, we have what we consider a family member, for example mom, dad, brother, sister or someone who is willing and able to take over as care takers of our children. For example, being able to bring the kids to day care, school or the doctor's if need be. It makes a big difference having support and having it set up before hand," said Jason.

"This also involves taking care of the little things like the health insurance, letting the kids' doctor know what's going on, keeping in contact with the schools and day care programs and letting them know who will be picking up your kid. Taking care of the little things that you don't think about on top of the routine activities is important because those are the showstoppers. Do anything

you can ahead of time, that way if deployment were to take place in the future the kids are not affected as much."

"It's easier to be married to someone in the military because we understand our obligations. It is also a stress because you know exactly what your soul mate is going through. I love my wife and I love our relationship," said Jason.

The Robertsons

"We were married nine days after we met each other and it's been twenty-two years since," said Staff Sgt. Dave Robertson from the Department of Information Management (DOIM) in Hartford.

"It was love at first sight," affirms Sgt. Kim Robertson from Headquarters/Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command, who says she normally doesn't make such drastic decisions in a short time.

The Robertsons have been married since May of 1981 and share two children, Matt (20) and Perry (8). They both agree in saying "daycare" was one of the hardships in their dual military marriage.

"We are both in the same unit and we needed to find daycare when it was time to go to drill," said Dave. "We pretty much relied on family support."

"My mom and my sister have been helping us and they have been doing so for twenty years," said Kim. "It gets tough sometimes; Dave is a guy who gives a two hundred percent with everything he does. The added stress is sometimes the long hours," said Kim.



The Robertsons agree that a dual military relationship is much easier because of support. "Prior to other relationships the support is different. Dave is very supportive and understanding when I have to go away," said Kim.

See ROBERTSONS Page 9

military couples make it work

FY 1996 Active Component Enlisted Personnel Who Were Married, and in Dual-Service Marriages, by Gender and Service

Married Who Were In Dual-Service Marriages

Gender	End-Strength Number	Percent Number*	Percent**
ARMY			
Male	347,057	200,335 (57.7)	12,197 (6.1)
Female	58,084	26,498 (45.6)	10,392 (39.2)
Total	405,141	226,833 (56.0)	22,589 (10.0)
AIR FORCE			
Male	256,479	173,365 (67.6)	15,415 (8.9)
Female	52,129	27,773 (53.3)	15,610 (56.2)
Total	308,608	201,138 (65.2)	31,025 (15.4)
DoD			
Male	1,063,602	617,409 (58.0)	40,296 (6.5)
Female	161,276	75,471 (46.8)	36,111 (47.8)
Total	1,224,878	692,880 (56.6)	76,407 (11.0)

* There are some differences between the number of males and females reporting dual-service marriages.

** These percentages reflect the proportion of married enlisted members who are married to a Servicemember. For example, 12,197 male Army enlisted personnel are in dual-service marriages. That is, 6.1 percent of married male Army enlisted members (200,335) are in dual-service marriages.

During and after the Gulf War, questions were raised regarding the deployment of both parents in a dual-service marriage (i.e., a marriage wherein both husband and wife are military members).

Larger proportions of men than women are married, but significantly greater proportions of women are members of dual-service marriages (48 percent versus 7 percent). The Marine Corps has the greatest variance, with 4 percent of married men but 62 percent of married women in dual-service marriages. Proportionally, more Air Force personnel are members of dual-service marriages (15 percent). Across the Services, 11 percent of enlisted members are in dual-service marriages.

Department of Defense, *Population Representation in the Military Services: Fiscal Year 1989* (Washington, DC: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense [Force Management and Personnel], July 1990).

Making adjustments necessary when both partners are in the military

CAPT. GEORGE WORRALL
103rd FIGHTER WING PAO

Although the challenges of being married to another military member are significant in the current deployment prone climate, there are advantages.

"It can be a plus, too, if you both deploy to the same place," said Tech. Sgt. Bryon Turner, NCOIC graphics, 103rd Communications Flight, who spent the first six months of his 2002 marriage deployed solo to Qatar. "Your imagination can be much worse than what is happening, but if you are both together (deployed) you will know exactly what is happening."

"His pride for serving his country in 2002 has really motivated me more," said Bryon's wife, Senior Airman Shannon L. Turner, financial management technician, 103rd Fighter Wing. "It made me volunteer to deploy this year. I think the hardest thing overall was going through the emotional roller coaster, but when I got angry about (the Air Force) sending him away I felt like a hypocrite."

The preparation for a military couple also presents some unique challenges.

"We made powers of attorney for my brother to take over for the both of us," said Bryon. "Our biggest problem is with two dogs, but we are lucky we found someone with three dogs who will take on our two."

A big part of preparation is coordinating support from family members.

"It is trying, we have to definitely make sure there is a good family plan in place," said Tech. Sgt. Scott J. Caroon, aircraft electrician, 103rd Maintenance Squadron. "It can be a big strain on a family with kids. We don't have family close by (none in New England) so it is a big pill to swallow that you might have to send your kids away to relatives they don't often see."

"It boils down to a juggling act where we try as hard as we can to make sure one of us is here," said Master Sgt. Holly L. Caroon, NCOIC logistics command staff office, 103 Logistics Group. "We have prepared our family as best we can. We have a job to do and still a mission to accomplish which their support is the key to making go smoothly. We both have a lot of years so the thought of getting out (goes away) and the compromises become a part of your life."

The Robertsons

From page 1

"Besides we don't have a clothing issue," said Dave jokingly. "We're both on the same wave length. The stresses and demand of being in the military are understood by both of our children and us. It makes a difference because we both have obligations and we understand that. Even when you're deployed you need to keep your mind on what you're doing and stay focused," said Dave.

"We advocate the military to our children," said Dave.

"You can't go wrong serving in the Guard; it has a one hundred percent tuition waiver," said Kim.

"Whether you are in the military or not, there is a threat you are going to be affected one way or the other. You live in this country, you enjoy the good and you cannot ignore the bad," said Dave.

The Robertsons key to success is working on their relationship constantly.

"A relationship is hard work. You work on it every day and you learn how to compromise," said David.

"We love each other and we believe that marriage is forever and when we got married we knew it was going to be forever," Kim confirmed.

"We go out and we have our dates. We try to get away from the kids and just focus on each other," said Dave.

"Every three months we try to take a small vacation or do something special," added Kim.

"The military plays a big part in our relationship, but we make sure to keep a good balance," said Dave. "We love each other and if there is no bad, then the good wouldn't be very special."



Tech. Sgt. Bryon Turner (right), NCOIC graphics, 103rd Communications Flight and Senior Airman Shannon L. Turner, 103rd Fighter Wing, embrace for a goodbye kiss January 21 before boarding a bus at Bradley ANG Base that will take Senior Airman Turner to her flight and months in Southwest Asia. (Photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103 FW/PA)

250th Engineers first CTARNG unit to head off to support Operation Enduring Freedom



Spec. Nicole Parris and Spec. Julie Churtier carry equipment to one of the waiting vehicles in Putnam. The two are members of the 250th Engineer Company and were departing by convoy for Fort Eustis, VA. for further training before moving to their theater of operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Spec. Joseph Waller, 65th PCH)

CAPT. JOHN NOVAK
COMMANDER OF THE 250th MGB (MEDIUM GIRDER BRIDGE) COMPANY

"We have 112 soldiers, broken into the HQ platoon, 2 line platoons, and the support section. The line platoons consist of our '12C', or 'bridge builders', and the support section has all our maintenance and heavy equipment assets."

"I've been in command for 3 1/2 years. While we haven't had any recent deployments, I'm confident we'll accomplish our mission, as our morale is very high."

STAFF SGT. STEVEN POTTER
MAINTENANCE SECTION, 250th

"I've been on a mobilization before with the 131st out of Vermont during Desert Storm – but it is still tough not knowing how long or where we are going. But, we haven't had any dropouts and the spirits are all high, so I'd say we're ready for this."

SPEC ADAM KING
CAME FROM THE 242D

"I got called on Thursday for this, so it is fast moving, I've been a member of the 242d for the last 3 years.

"It's time to do this. My morale is high, and the unit's seems high, too. I said that I would do this, serve my country this way, and now it is time to fulfill my obligation."

Pvt. JAMES LOCKE
MAINTENANCE SECTION, 250th

"Well, I was going to go back to Univ. of Conn. this semester for my sophomore year, and was considering enrolling in the ROTC program, but this puts those plans on hold. It is tough to have a long break in my education, having taken the majority of this past year off."

"I found out about the mobilization, or the possibility of one, in late December...but I didn't definitively hear anything until yesterday morning, so this is all still pretty new to me. But, I see it as my duty, so I'll go do it well."



Vehicles of the 250th are lined up in perfect order for a convoy. (Photo by Sgt. Greg Harrison, 65th PCH)



Warrant Officer Kenneth Jambor spends a few moments of quality time with his wife, Tracy, and their children, Alex and Evan before leaving with the 250th Engineer Company. (Photo by Sgt. Greg Harrison, 65th PCH)

The many stages of pride, love and farewell

Kelly Alvs (in black vest) and Rachel Blair (in white coat) wave as the 250th Engineer Company convoy rolls out of Putnam. Rachel's daughter and Kelly's best friend is Spec. Amanda Blair, a member of the 250th. The engineers, all members of a medium girder bridge company, were headed to Fort Eustis, VA for further training before heading to their theater of operation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photos by Spec. Joseph Waller, 65th PCH)



The 103rd Fighter Wing hosts the 30th annual Christmas Party for Connecticut Children's Place

CAPT. GEORGE WORRALL
103 FW PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

(Editors note: The Connecticut Children's Place requested that the children's faces and identifying information be omitted, which is why this article is not accompanied by pictures of the many smiling children.)

Thirty-three of the home's abused and neglected children came to the evening event prepared by 103rd Fighter Wing volunteers that included music, dinner, a chance to sit in an A-10, talk with unit members and of course, receive bags of gifts.

"I have been at Connecticut Children's place for 26 years attending many parties here... it is a tremendous commitment to kids what you [103rd Fighter Wing] do here," said Joyce H. Welch, superintendent, Connecticut Children's Place.

Even Connecticut's top officer, accustomed to what Connecticut Guard members can do, was impressed.

"I think it is outstanding," said Maj. Gen. William Cugno, the Adjutant General. "It is a great program put on by the unit. I think it is amazing that this has been going on for 30 years ... where the organization has adopted the cause of these kids."

Although the tradition remained unchanged, 2002 saw some new additions to the program and the assistance.

"We had a lot more volunteers this year," said Master Sgt. Sheryl Laporte, services technician, 103rd Services Flight, who organized the last 10 events and helped for the 10 years prior. "Having the boy scouts help and the wonderful choir both added something new."

So what brought the scouts out?

"They (scouts) came for the chance to do some community service," said Pete Uricchio, scoutmaster, Boy Scout Troop 108 Hazardville, who brought 13 scouts and five parents and adult scout leaders to help. "I am very happy to have so many scouts show up."



Senior Airman Robert Mawhinnui (in uniform), munitions storage specialist, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, who is a high school music director, brought Middletown's Marcy High Choir to sing. (Photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103 FW Public Affairs Officer)



Hands reach for the last food cooked in the 103rd Air Control Squadron's soon-to-be-demolished dining hall, which just happened to number 103. (Photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103 FW Public Affairs Officer)

103rd Air Control Squadron members contributed too by making goodie bags for each child, donating turkeys and baking. Notably, the Air Control members also closed a chapter in the base's history through their baked goods gesture.

"This was the last time our chow hall was put to good use - it will be coming down soon," said Master Sgt. Kimberly Long, NCOIC material control section, 103rd Air Control Squadron. "There were 10 of us who baked and frosted cookies. . . we had a lot of fun. Maj. Lilya (base civil engineer) let us have the extra day and what a wonderful way for our chow hall to go out - baking treats for the children's holiday party."

Most of the evening followed the tradition with many members reprising their roles of the past few years.

"We started DJ'ing this event right after we got married six years ago," said 2nd Lt. Tom Cordier, medical administration officer, 103rd Medical Squadron. "We tried karaoke this year because they (kids) wanted to sing, I think we will keep doing it."

With an event that is a hit very year, the logical thing to do is add more children. "We brought 33 kids this year," said Welch. "We will have more next year after we open another cottage that was closed for construction. For the past six years our capacity has been 42 ... soon we will back to the 54 that we originally had when the updated cottage opens."

The whole evening is about the kids of course.

"It's amazing. They do a wonderful

"The children and the staff of the Department of Children and families, Connecticut Children's Place, would like to thank all the past and present members of the Connecticut Air National Guard, 103rd Fighter Wing, for 30 years of holiday parties which have brought the joys of the holiday season to thousands of children."

The event was clearly a success thanks to the efforts of the volunteers and generosity of the members of the 103rd Fighter Wing. This event would not be possible without all the effort put in by those who baked, bought and wrapped presents, donated turkeys, cooked, and volunteered their time and energy to be with the children. The adjutant general took a moment to thank the organizer who has made the event such a success.

"Sheryl you have done special things for 20 years," said Cugno as he gave her an adjutant general's coin. "To the Fighter Wing and its members, well done, this is home grown here at the fighter wing under great leadership."

As anyone who has attended the event knows, the evening is not over until Sheryl cries while thanking everyone for their hard work and sharing the evening. She attempted to trick fate by reading a humorous poem to end the night, but even 'How the A-10 Saved Christmas' could not stem the flow, and the night ended as it usually does.

The Connecticut Children's Place, which began as an orphanage in the 1880's, is the only facility of its kind in Connecticut. As a facility of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, the Connecticut Children's Place provides diagnostics, brief treatment, residential care and educational instruction for abused and neglected children between the ages of 10 and 18 from all over the state.



Santa (Senior Master Sgt. John Hancock, training manager, 103rd Mission Support Flight) and elf (Tech. Sgt. ret. Joanne Rhodes) gave children the gifts Air National Guard Members bought for specifically for each child. (Photo by Capt. George Worrall, 103 FW Public Affairs Officer)

When the Buffalo Soldiers came to Connecticut

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

The Connecticut War Maneuvers of August 1912 were intended to test the capabilities of U.S. forces to repel an imaginary invasion by a foreign power.

The exercise consisted of battles between the invading red and defending blue armies. Some 15,000 National Guardsmen from seven states and 5,000 Regular Army units participated.

The object of the red army was the capture of New York. Most of the actions were staged in an area covering 450 square miles of southwestern Connecticut, with the headquarters of the "umpire," Maj. Gen. Tasker Bliss, located in Stratford. Among the regulars was the famous 10th U.S. Cavalry then based at Fort Ethan Allen in Vermont.

Organized in 1866, the all-black 10th Cavalry had made its name in the Indian Wars of the West, Cuba and the Philippines. Along with the 9th Cavalry, and the 24th and 25th Infantry, these African-American regiments earned the nickname "Buffalo Soldiers" and were among the most famous units in the Regular Army. The 10th had been assigned to Fort Ethan Allen since 1909.

On Aug. 5, 1912, following a twelve-day march from Fort Ethan Allen, The 10th Cavalry camped on the Murphy farm on the Tariffville Road in Windsor. They numbered some 700 cavalrymen, with 900 horses and mules and including 27 supply wagons, two hospital corps wagons, and a machine gun detachment. In command of the regiment was Lt. Col. Charles H. Grierson, an 1879 graduate of West Point and the son of the regiment's first commander, Col. Benjamin Grierson. All the officers of the 10th were white.

Local newspapers noted that the march from Ft. Ethan Allen had been a difficult one. Since leaving Vermont, the troopers had averaged 20 miles per day. There had been no sickness among the men, but fifteen horses either died or had to be killed, many of them veteran mounts who had seen service in Cuba and the Philippines. About thirty new horses were purchased on the march and were being driven rider-less to the maneuvers and would be broken in the various camps.

Many citizens of Hartford traveled to Windsor to view the famous cavalrymen. "The camp ground was a hard place to reach as it is removed from the trolley tracks by about a mile. Several enterprising men made considerable money conveying visitors to the camp in automobiles. A majority however, walked to and from the trolley."

At 6:00 a.m. on Aug. 5, the 10th broke camp at Windsor. Preceded by the wagon train under the command of Lt. J.C. King, the troopers rode down Albany Avenue into Hartford. The column was led by Grierson, followed by the regimental colors and sixteen buglers.

When the horsemen reached watering troughs set up in Keney Park, they were ordered to form fours and dismount. A large crowd, estimated at 3,500 persons, gathered to see the famous regiment. Connecticut Adjutant General George Cole, his staff, and some Civil War veterans were also on hand to greet the officers. After conversing with Gen. Cole, Grierson stepped into a local shop to buy some cigars. Upon exiting, he was approached by local news reporters, whom he rebuffed, saying: "You're newspaper men, I haven't got time to bother with such as newspaper reporters." Orders were then given, the men mounted and, with field music playing, the regiment continued its march.

From one of the junior officers, who, "unlike his superior was quite courteous to such as newspaper reporters, it was learned that many of the men in the regiment had been on active service in Cuba and in the Philippines. He stated that all of the regiment except one troop left at Fort Ethan Allen was on the march. The colored men, he said are especially fond of the service."

The troopers were described as well built, on the average of 5 foot 10 inches tall. One of the oldest members of the command was Quarter-master Sgt. Silas Johnson of Troop D, who had been with the regiment for twenty-six years. During those years he had been present in Arizona when the famous Apache chief Geronimo was captured. He also served two tours in Cuba and in the Philippines.

As they passed down Main Street, crowds of spectators lined the route. Each troop had horses of a particular color. The initial of the horses' names coincided with the troop designation. Thus the horses of Troop K were named Katrina, Katydid, Kalamazoo, etc. The regiment consisted of twelve troops of sixty men, divided into four squadrons.

The Hartford Times noted that the Regiment held several records for the U.S. Army, such as tent-pitching and fancy riding.

"A squad of the Tenth once pitched a Sibley tent, which is a conical affair of the largest size carried on the march, in the record time of one minute and fifteen seconds."

According to the Hartford Evening Post, Hartford took on a holiday appearance as the 10th marched down Main Street.

"It was said to be the first time since the Civil War that a regiment of regulars in heavy marching order paraded in Hartford. The march is partly a publicity campaign as the government believes it will encourage recruiting and arouse a livelier interest in the army."

From Hartford, The 10th made its way towards Meriden, where it was greeted by the tolling of the town fire bell ten times in welcome. An estimated 10,000 persons watched them ride by. Property owners along the route of march were encouraged to display the American flag and Grierson later remarked "that at no city along the entire route had the troops been more cordially received and that the display of flags and bunting all along the line of march exceeded that of any other town through which his men had passed since they left Vermont."

Camp was established in South Meriden opposite Joseph M. Cassidy's Lawn Hotel. Visitors to "Camp Cassidy" witnessed the setting up of the camp, trooping of the colors, and messing of the regiment.

"The khaki clad colored men, each armed with a sauce pan, knife, fork, spoon and tin cup, formed in single file and passed before the cook tent, where the cooks served each with rice, meat, bread, butter and coffee as they filed by."

The horses of the regiment were picketed in groups of fifty and a hundred. "They were a remarkably fine looking lot of beasts, well fed and well groomed. The march is telling on some of them however, and there is a necessity for relays in many troops." Water was provided for them, as well as five tons of oats and six tons of hay for their brief stopover.

As reported by the Meriden Record: "Large crowds gathered around the different troops as they were lined up for weapons inspection and the sharp military accuracy with which each man

presented his carbine and revolver for inspection was impressive."

Notwithstanding their long march, some of the troopers changed into baseball uniforms and played nine innings against a local team, the Dublins, at Hanover Park.

"Trooper Thompson held down the slab for the cavalry nine and it was like facing the cannon's mouth to go to the plate against him," reported a Meriden newspaper. Thompson struck out eleven batters and the Buffalo Soldiers prevailed 6-4. Umpires were Schliffer of Meriden and Sergeant Thomas of the 10th.

On the following day, the 10th broke camp and marched through New Haven, with orders to make camp at Race Brook near Orange. Due to a misunderstanding the regiment did not reach its final destination, Clark's Farm, until late in the evening. In spite of the long day, the regimental band gave a concert to visitors and the officers were entertained in New Haven by the Union League Club.

The New Haven Register reported that one "forlorn looking trooper trudged into the camp ground afoot, leading his horse. On each side of him rode a fellow cavalryman. The spectacle of a cavalryman leading his horse under a guard of two mounted companions had aroused much curiosity on the part of camp visitors who had passed the procession along the Derby turnpike during the late afternoon.

It was learned that the walking cavalryman was being disciplined. He had a fight with a trooper before leaving Meriden and the officers decided that the best punishment would be to force him to hike from Meriden to the camp in Orange leading his horse. Two mounted men were sent along to see that he didn't steal a ride now and then."

On Aug. 7, the 10th moved to Paradise Green near Stratford. The Regiment was divided into three parts - one assigned to each of the opposing armies and the third to act as couriers and orderlies for headquarters. The Ansonia Sentinel of Aug. 8, 1912, reported: "This morning the passage of several troops of cavalry through the streets of the city drew the attention of people who happened to be on the streets. In a few moments there were people watching from windows, as the word had been telephoned along the streets through which the soldiers were headed that they were coming. The men were members of the 10th Cavalry U.S.A. who were moving from the camp in Orange which they have been occupying for a couple of days to other points with the Red or the Blue army with which they are to work during the war. One troop went to Brookfield Junction and Hawleyville, passing through this city and up the River road past Zoar Bridge to Bennett's Bridge and over that. Another troop



See **BUFFALO SOLDIERS** Page 17

Connecticut Military Department News

'A most worthy and encouraging example'

**PFC. HOWARD L. MILLER
TROOP HISTORIAN
FIRST COMPANY GOVERNOR'S HORSE GUARD**

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

Samuel E. Merwin Jr. was born in Brookfield, Conn. on Aug. 31, 1831. His father was a prosperous New Haven businessman. After an early education in the local district school and two years of grammar school in Newtown and New Haven, the 16-year-old became a clerk in his father's meat packing business. In 1851, he became a partner and the firm's name was changed to S.E. Merwin and Son.

In 1853, the younger Merwin enlisted in the New Haven Grays, an independent New Haven military company. A year later, he was appointed Fourth Sergeant of the Grays. In February 1863, the New Haven Grays successfully petitioned to become part of the state militia and were assigned to the Second regiment. Merwin was elected and commissioned Captain. In the early summer of 1863, the New Haven Grays volunteered to go to Gettysburg while the battle was raging near that Pennsylvania town. By the time transportation was arranged, the Union victory was no longer in doubt and the Grays service was not needed. Ironically, Merwin's brother, Col. Henry C. Merwin, commanding of the 27th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry was mortally wounded at the battle.

The New Haven Grays were called to readiness by Governor William Buckingham during the violent draft riots in New York City. For thirty days, Capt. Merwin kept his men under arms at their armory, ready to be sent to New York or to stem any local disturbance in New Haven. After the danger had passed, the Grays



Gen. Samuel E. Merwin Jr.

provided escort for regiments returning from the civil war battlefields. In August 1865, Samuel Merwin was appointed and commissioned Lt. Col. of the Second Regiment of the State Militia, and he soon became colonel.

On May 5, 1869, Merwin was appointed and commissioned brigadier general and adjutant general by Governor Marshall Jewell. Merwin served in this post until May 5, 1870 when a new governor, James English, appointed Gen. Colin M. Ingersoll. In May 1871, Jewell was again elected Governor and Merwin again was appointed adjutant general. He retained the position until May 7, 1873. Significant changes were made in the military organization of the State during this period.

The Legislature of 1870 appointed a commission to revise the State Militia laws. The change resulted in a reduction of the number of regiments and brigades. The National Guard was reorganized into one brigade, consisting of four infantry regiments

and two sections of light artillery. The new law allowed only one regiment to each congressional district. In addition, new uniforms were made standard and old muzzle loading arms were replaced by more modern Peabody breechloaders.

In addition to his business and military activities, Merwin was active in community affairs and political life. He served for two years as a New Haven Police Commissioner and for nine years was on the Board of Education. He was chairman of the committee to build the Soldiers Monument on East Rock.

In 1872, Merwin was elected to the State Senate. In 1889 he was elected lieutenant governor, serving with Governor Morgan O. Bulkeley. In 1892 Merwin was the Republican candidate for governor, but was defeated by Luzon B. Morris.

Merwin was well-known in his home city for his business acumen and community spirit. He was a trustee of the New Haven Orphans Society, and President of the Connecticut General Hospital Society. He was a director of the New Haven Water Company, New Haven Gas light Company, and Southern New England Telephone Company. Additionally, he was president of the Yale National Bank, New Haven savings Bank and a director of the New Haven and Derby Railroad.

Merwin died at his home, 412 Orange Street on March 5, 1907 after a long illness. He was survived by his wife, Lucy Beers Merwin, and a niece who lived with them. Among the many tributes following his death was an editorial in the *New Haven Morning Journal and Courier* that said, "Countless good deeds testify to his good will and good action. He will have many sincere mourners in those he has cheered and helped. And the general testimony will be that in his death New Haven loses a man whose clean, upright, calm, kind and useful life makes a most worthy and encouraging example."

Foot Guard opens exhibit at Hartford's Old State House

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

First Company Governor's Foot Guard Maj. Commandant John O'Connell announced that the Foot Guard has opened an exhibit, "The First Company Governor's Foot Guard - An Honor to the State" at the Old State House that will run through March 31, 2003.

The exhibit, designed by Foot Guard Museum Curator Maj. Loren Schave includes pictures and artifacts detailing the history of the Foot Guard, the oldest military organization in continuous existence in the United States with more than 230 years of service to the residents of the State of Connecticut.

Since 1637, the Old State House has stood witness to more than 360 years of events and the people that have shaped the civic history of the State, the Nation and the World. The collaboration between the Old State House and The First Company Governor's Foot Guard is the beginning of a relationship that will include informational and educational programs designed to showcase the history of Connecticut.

For more information, please contact www.governorsfootguard.com or www.ctosh.org.



Second Company Governor's Horse Guard announces promotions

The Second Company Governor's Horse Guard announces recent promotions within its ranks.

Heather Heyburn has been promoted to second lieutenant and will serve as the troop's operations training officer. Paul Castellano has been promoted to the rank of sergeant and will serve as a squad leader. (Both are pictured in the top photo)

Robert Cornell has been promoted to sergeant and will serve as the troop's supply sergeant. (He is pictured in the bottom photo with 1st Lt. Tony Gregoras and Maj. Commandant Janis Arena)

The Second Company Governor's Horse Guard is an all volunteer State Militia unit under the direction of the Connecticut State Military Department. Members are dedicated to the preservation of the cavalry in Connecticut.

The troop was originally chartered in 1808 by an act of the Connecticut State Legislature. Along with its duties to the state, members devote numerous additional hours in service to the community.



The First Company Governor's Foot Guard Color Guard presents the Colors during Family Day activities for the activation of Company C, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines. The activities took place at Plainville High School. The Foot Guard band played the National Anthem, the Marine Hymn and various other pieces to entertain the audience. (Photo by Cpl. Kevin Cormack, First Company Governor's Foot Guard)



Connecticut Air National Guardsmen of the 103rd Fighter Wing bow their heads for the invocation during send off ceremonies for units being called to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle and the Aerospace Expeditionary Forces. (Photo by Maj. Scott Wilson, State PIO)



Spec. Nicole Parris hugs her mother following a send off ceremony at the State Armory in Hartford, honoring 400 Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen who have been notified of possible mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle and the Aerospace Expeditionary Forces. Her father smiles as he looks on. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

Send

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

Four thousand family members, friends, fellow soldiers drilled floor to pay tribute to the soldiers and airmen of the for possible mobilization, and those who had received the

The units being honored were the 250th Medium Girder Company B, 242nd Engineer Battalion and the 143rd Military Guard and the 103rd Fighter Wing of the Connecticut Air National Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle and

“Responding to our nation’s call is not new for our soldiers. Adjutant General, during the ceremony. “Prior part of the SFOR10 rotation in Bosnia and Herzegovina for support Operation Southern Watch and Operation Enduring Freedom. Additionally, we have deployed troops to Germany, Italy, Uruguay, Peru, Honduras and your performance has been and airmen and their families have endured proudly.”

Also on hand was the lieutenant who told the soldiers and airmen how

“This mission calls upon your honor and commitment. Your sense that takes you across the globe,

“You wear your honor when you a part of something extraordinary - an others.

“And your commitment to be the best is evident in the fact that your leaders ensure that you have the best planning.

“It’s been said that ‘the good can prevail against the bad’ is a better example of the good than the men and women of the

During the ceremony, the commanders of each unit were over their headquarters, wherever they may be.

Before and after the ceremony, refreshments were provided by the Connecticut Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention

Since the ceremony, the 250th Engineer Company, and the 103rd Fighter Wing have left for their mobilization stations.



Benjamin Hall, 6-months, clutches his mother, Jenna’s unit contact card as he waits for his father, Staff Sgt. Eric Hall, 103rd Services Flight, to depart for Southwest Asia. Hall and members of his unit left for their deployment prior to the send off ceremony held at the Hartford Armory. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau, 103rd Communications Flight)



Spec. Ed Rowe of the 250th Medium Girder Bridge (MGB) and other unit members at the send off ceremony held for his unit and others being mobilized for their deployment to the world. (Photo by Maj. Scott Wilson, State PIO)

d Off

ow soldiers and airmen came together on the Hartford Armory
irmen of the Connecticut National Guard who had received alerts
ceived their mobilization orders.

ium Girder Bridge (MGB) Engineer Company, a detachment of
43rd Military Police Company of the Connecticut Army National
ticut Air National Guard. They have or will mobilize in support of
Eagle and the Aerospace Expeditionary Forces.

for our soldiers and airmen," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno,
to the war on terrorism, 250 soldiers deployed as
Operation Joint Forge, and nearly 400 airmen
monitoring the no-fly zone in southern Iraq.
Egypt, South Korea, Kosovo, England,
and many other locations. You have excelled
outstanding, but not without cost. Our soldiers
many hardships but have continued to serve

governor of Connecticut, the Honorable M. Jodi Rell,
proud the citizens of Connecticut are of them.
proud traditions," she said. "Traditions like duty,
of duty is reflected in this deployment, a mission
away from home soil for 12 months.

put on that uniform because you have chosen to be
organization dedicated to protecting and serving

nt in the fact that you've chosen military service in the first place.
that you have the best training, the best equipment and the best

inst the bad - IF the good are well-organized.' I can think of no
omen of the Connecticut National Guard."

n unit were presented with State of Connecticut flags to be flown

ere provide by the Connecticut National Guard Family Program,
ting and Retention Command and the USO.

pany, and elements of Company B, 242nd Engineer Battalion and
ization stations.



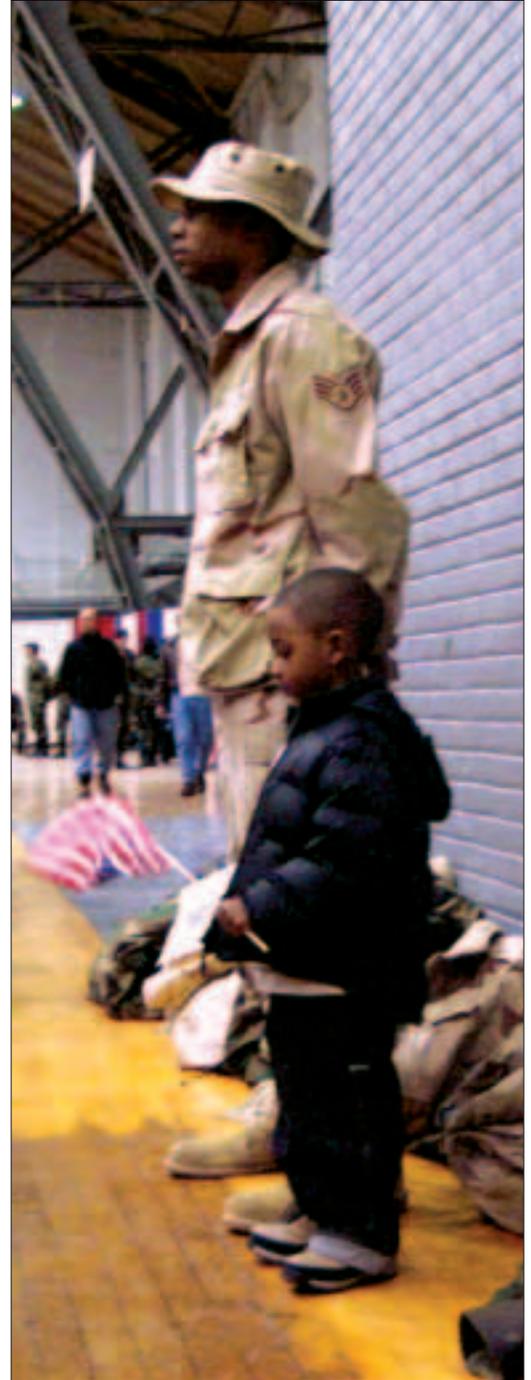
idge (MGB) Engineer Company poses for a family photo after
ers being deployed in support of contingencies around the



First Sgt. Chaun Jones of the 143rd Military Police
Company holds onto his five-month-old daughter,
Samantha, during a send off ceremony for four
Connecticut National Guard units. (Photo by Staff Sgt.
Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



Sgt. Amy-Jean Cassidy of the 250th Engineer Company
spends a moment with her niece, Hannah, after the send
off ceremony. (Photo by Maj. Scott Wilson, State PIO)



Staff Sgt. Rome S. Baldwin, avionics specialist, 103rd
Maintenance Squadron, stands with his son Jelani, 4, as the
send off ceremony began Jan 22 at the Hartford Armory.
Members of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard were
being honored for their upcoming deployments. (Photo by Staff
Sgt. Carolyn A. Aselton, 103 FW/PA)



In the ceremonial passing of the unit colors, Col. (Dr.) Paul Casinelli (back to camera) assumes command of Detachment 5, Medical, and becomes the State Surgeon for the Connecticut Army National Guard. Casinelli accepted command from outgoing commander and state surgeon, Col. (Dr.) Paul V. Edelen (facing camera). Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembrzuski, Assistant Adjutant General and Commanding General - Army, (right) also took part in the ceremony. (Photo by Pvt. Jordan Werme, 65th PCH)

Officers Club of Connecticut announces February events

Feb. 11: Ladies OClub Luncheon - noon

Feb. 12: Lincoln's Birthday, State Holiday - Club open for lunch, Bar open at noon

Feb. 14: St. Valentine's Day - Bring Your Sweetheart (or friend) to lunch - Special Menu

Feb 14: Sweetheart Dinner Dance - Dance to the music of The Moonliters - Social hour begins at 6 p.m., Dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations are required by calling (860) 249-3634

Feb. 17: President's Day, State and Federal Holiday - Club closed

Feb. 20: MOAA (TROA) Luncheon - noon

Savings bond holding period increases

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Department of Treasury officials have announced that the minimum holding period for Series EE and I bonds increases from six to 12 months beginning Feb. 1.

This means people who purchase EE or I bonds on or after Feb. 1 must wait one year before they may redeem those bonds.

People who purchase bonds will receive a notification of this new policy with their bonds until the current preprinted bond stock reflects the change.

More information is available at www.savingsbonds.gov.

New TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy to Open March 1

More than 400,000 military pharmacy mail order customers will be switched March 1 to a new TRICARE mail order pharmacy program, according to Army Col. William D. Davies of the TRICARE Management Activity. Services will continue under the National Mail Order Pharmacy contract until Feb. 28, he said.

The next day, March 1, Express Scripts Inc. will provide the services. Davies said beneficiaries who have refills remaining on prescriptions on March 1 will be transferred to Express Scripts so they can continue ordering medications on time, with a few exceptions.

TRICARE beneficiaries living and working overseas can use the mail order pharmacy if they have an APO, FPO or a U.S. embassy address. But the prescription must be written by a provider licensed to practice in the United States.

For more information, including a complete section on the co-pay structure, visit the TRICARE Website at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>. Reservists can check the site for details of their benefits under the program.

National Guard Association of Connecticut

9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 22, 2003
Foxwoods Resort Casino

I will attend the 9th Annual NGA CT Conference. Enclosed is my check for \$10.00.

Name _____ Rank _____

Membership Status: Life _____ Annual _____ New _____
Reminder: You may join or renew day of the Conference

Unit _____

Home Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Registration Fee: \$10.00

Please make checks payable to "NGACT" and return this form prior to March 14, 2003 to:

NGACT
National Guard Army
350 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105-3793

REMINDER: All arrangements for the Military Ball must be made in accordance with the ball flyer.

When the Buffalo Soldiers came to Connecticut

From page 12

went to the Hill farm just outside of Shelton, while three other troops passed through Seymour Avenue to Seymour and Oxford where they go to the big camp in that section. These troops all had baggage wagons with them which were loaded with their equipment."

Among the other units camped at Oxford were the 1st and 2nd Connecticut Infantry Regiments. The 10th Cavalry were not the only African-American unit participating in the maneuvers. New Haven's First Separate Company, commanded by Capt. Richard E. Plato and Lt. Arthur C. Seco were part of the Second Connecticut Infantry.

Troops A and M of the 10th Cavalry were camped on the Church farm near Seymour.

"During the evening many boys and young men visited the camp. This interest in the camp by civilians appeared to be reciprocated by the troopers by interest in the town, and a considerable number of them visited it. The citizens headed in one direction, the soldiers in the opposite. The orderliness of the men was a subject of comment, and so far as their conduct on the streets is concerned it was in every respect commendable. They attended strictly to their own affairs and yet manifested a friendly courteousness to those who desired to ask them questions or converse with them, even to the curious small boys."

A less cordial reception was given to a 10th Cavalry trooper named Ward when he and two white friends attempted to enter an Ansonia pool hall on Aug. 9. Barred from entering, the trooper was threatened by a group of young men. Retreating to a local drug store the trooper and his friends were besieged by a growing crowd.

Trooper Ward reportedly took the blanks from his revolver and replaced them with live ammunition, but local police arrived and bloodshed was averted.

The War Games began in earnest on Aug.



10 at 6:00 p.m. Throughout much of southern and western Connecticut skirmishes involving infantry, cavalry and artillery took place. For seven days the opposing Red and Blue armies attempted to outmaneuver their foe. Along with the local population, foreign military observers watched the campaign with professional interest. Representatives of Russia, Great Britain and Mexico were present.

In stark contrast with the horse drawn artillery and cavalry of previous centuries, the Connecticut War Maneuvers were notable for the introduction of new technologies including wireless communications and the use of airplanes for scouting and photographic reconnaissance. Several Curtiss and Burgess-Wright biplanes were flown by a handful of young pilots led by Lt. Benjamin D. Foulois and including Lt. Henry H. Arnold. Both men would later become general officers and pioneers of American military aviation.

The old and new technologies met in an unexpected fashion on Aug. 13 near Stratford. As reported in the Bridgeport Post, "Private Beckwith Havens, piloting a Curtiss biplane

at 1,000 feet, developed engine trouble and was forced to make an emergency landing on a field crowded with spectators.

"A troop of the cavalry seeing the danger drove the crowd back just in time to avert any deaths and Havens righting his machine coasted down the field and crashed into Lt. Benjamin Foulois' Burgess-Wright bi-plane, breaking off the tail. Haven's Curtiss machine suffered a broken left wing."

The intensity of the war maneuvers increased as the two armies sought to gain the strategic advantage on their foe. The 10th Cavalry, divided between the two forces were used for scouting and guarding headquarters, and seizing important positions. The decisive battle of the campaign was fought on Overlook Hill, south of Newtown on Aug. 17. One skirmish centered on the small community of Sandy Hook.

As reported in The New York Times: "The battle of Sandy Hook was fought by the troopers of the Tenth United States Cavalry, representing the Red army, and the First and Second Regiments of New York Cavalry for the blue forces. All morning long the battle

lasted and there was never a let-up. The enthusiasm of the contending forces was at a high tension, and not a soldier found out that he was in the least fatigued until Newtown had been captured by the Blues and then evacuated and the engagement was over." During the engagement Grierson leading a Blue cavalry detachment was caught in a lane by some of his own troopers fighting with the Reds, and led off a much chagrined captive.

With the end of the Connecticut War Maneuvers, most of the National Guard units traveled back to their home states by train. The Tenth Cavalry marched on horseback back to Fort Ethan Allen. They would garrison that post until November 1913 when the regiment was re-assigned to Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

They would later become part of the Punitive Expedition led by General John J. Pershing, a former officer in the 10th, which entered Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa in 1916. The Buffalo Soldiers remained in the Southwest until 1931. Their brief presence in Connecticut has become part of our state's history and is well-remembered in many of the cities and towns through which they marched.



"During World War II, black fighter pilots, aviators, bombers and ground crew fought Germany almost and more in the north. Big on some fronts... and my father generation understood the way it was..."

The Connecticut National Guard & United States Postal Service
Proudly Present The
2003 Black History Month Celebration
February 7th
At The Wells Auditorium, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut

Honoring The
TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN

Four distinguished Tuskegee Airmen will share their experiences and memories of a unique period of time when hard work and determination overcame the expectations of those who felt the Tuskegee Experiment would fail. Narration, demonstration and history lessons for Tuskegee flying that collected years of flight and stories.

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EDWARD T. HALL, 1LT, USAF
GERRIE KAPFER, JR., FLIGHT OFFICER
SPAWN WATSON, LTC, USAF, (RET)

Distinguished Guests:
State Senator Toni N. Harp, 10th Senatorial District, CT
Dr. David G. Carter, President, Eastern Connecticut State University

Keynote Speaker Major Henry L. Davenport, USA, Instructor, History, United States Military Academy, West Point

RSVP: TSCC Open House at (860) 879-6712 by Jan 31, 2003

The power to come to the Tuskegee Airmen... A true story of history and pride... A true story of history and pride... A true story of history and pride...

Military Matters



OPM Deputy Director Blair Testifies Before Congress on OPM Strategy to Maintain FEHB Quality - Contain Costs

Washington, D.C. - Dan G. Blair, Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) testified before a U.S. House of Representatives Committee about the strategy implemented by OPM Director Kay Coles James to maintain quality through competition while simultaneously constraining costs in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program.

Blair outlined the four point strategy which resulted in premium increases well below nationwide trends, "Director James...warned [carriers] that OPM was going to be a demanding partner and challenged them to bring us their best, most innovative proposals.

Second, for the first time in OPM history, she met with and directed OPM staff to negotiate hard for quality coverage at the best possible rate.

Third, she initiated a comprehensive outside audit to review mandates affecting participating plans over the past decade so we can inform the Congress and the FEHB population about the costs of mandated health care services.

Fourth...she has maintained a close and ongoing relationship with the OPM

Inspector General and has aggressively supported his efforts to detect and control fraud and cultivate a culture of accountability within the FEHB program at all levels."

For FY2003, average FEHB premiums increased 11.1 percent - four percent below nationwide trends estimated to be around 15 percent.

Blair pointed out that every 1 percent increase in premiums costs the taxpayer and participants \$240 million. The 4 percent difference from nationwide premium trends translated into an estimated savings of almost a billion dollars.

In addition, Blair observed that many public health plans experienced much steeper increases. CalPers, the second largest employer-purchaser in the country, announced rate increases of up to 25 percent for 2003.

In the Washington area, Montgomery County, Maryland raised its premiums by 26 percent.

Blair reaffirmed OPM's commitment to keep premium increases for FY2004 to a minimum. "While an 11.1 percent average premium increase is small compared to industry trends, it is nevertheless significant

and means employees and retirees, as well as the Government, will pay more for health insurance in 2003. Because we understand that we must continue to strengthen our efforts, Director James has added a fifth pillar to her results-oriented strategy for the coming year: consumer education."

This year's program reflects cutting-edge industry products that can deliver health insurance protections at an affordable and reasonable cost.

Fully informed FEHB consumers will be in a much better position to wisely select the health insurance plan that best fits their individual and family needs."

The Government Reform Subcommittee on Civil Service, Census and Agency Organization is chaired by Rep. Dave Weldon (R-Fla.) who commended OPM for limiting health care mandates innovative options such as Flexible Savings Accounts.

OPM oversees the federal work force and provides the American public with up-to-date employment information. OPM also supports U.S. agencies with personnel services and policy leadership including staffing tools, guidance on labor-management relations and programs to improve work force performance.

Education Essentials: Websites for Soldier/Students

1st Lt. PAUL DRAPER
EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

In today's Army there are many opportunities for us to further our civilian and military goals on the internet. The following web sites are great locations for all of us to use.

ACE Military Guide

www.militaryguides.acenet.edu/

For more than a half century the *Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services* has been the standard reference work for recognizing learning acquired in military life. Since 1942, the American Council on Education has worked cooperatively with the US Department of Defense, the armed services and the US Coast Guard in helping hundreds of individuals earn academic credit for learning achieved while serving their country.

AARTS Transcripts Online:

aartstranscript.leavenworth.army.mil/

This site provides active, veteran and retired Army, National Guard and Reserve members the capability to view a personal copy of their AARTS transcript. Users may also view a list of previous transcripts that AARTS has produced. Note that the transcript presented is for personal use, and not intended for use by colleges and other educational institutions. The transcript contents include ONLY those courses and MOSs that AARTS has been officially informed of by primary DA sources. If item(s) are missing, links are provided to AARTS web pages that may help to correct discrepancies or omissions.

DANTES:

www.dantes.doded.mil

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) mission is to support the off-duty, voluntary education programs of the Department of Defense and to conduct special projects and development activities in support of education-related functions of the Department.

Veterans Administration Education Benefits:

www.gibill.va.gov/

Important information for all students who are receiving either the Montgomery GI BILL Active duty or Selected Reserve benefits.

Army Training Support Center:

www.atsc.army.mil/accp/aidnew.asp

Great location for information and applications for the Army Correspondence Course Program, Distance Learning Coursesware, and more.

Closing the Back Door: The Guard prepares high school graduates and its members for a career

SENIOR MASTER SGT. BRIAN J. BAGLEY
RECRUITING AND RETENTIONS SUPERVISOR
HEADQUARTERS CTANG

Now is the time for all graduating seniors pursuing further education to decide how and where they will prepare for a career.

The same question "How to prepare" faces those looking at reenlistment, a possible career change, and those looking to continue their education. With this monumental decision, it is only right that everyone is armed with the correct information to make a good, well-informed decision.

Often times the National Guard (Air and Army) are overlooked as sources of education and skills training. The reality is we bring a great deal to the table for those individuals looking for assistance with college and technical training. In looking at this, the real question is: "What are the educational benefits and training opportunities available in today's Guard?"

FORMALEUCATION

First, everyone who joins the guard gets

technical training. In many cases this training becomes the basis for a civilian career. We offer training in over 75 career fields providing in-depth training in many

Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)				
30 MONTH BENEFIT PERIOD (30-MONTH BENEFIT PERIOD)				
TYPE OF SERVICE	BENEFIT	AMOUNT	DURATION	NOTES
Active Duty	MGIB-SR	\$300-\$500	30 Months	Must be on active duty for at least 90 days
Selected Reserve	MGIB-SR	\$300-\$500	30 Months	Must be on active duty for at least 90 days
Retired	MGIB-SR	\$300-\$500	30 Months	Must be on active duty for at least 90 days
Formerly Active Duty	MGIB-SR	\$300-\$500	30 Months	Must be on active duty for at least 90 days

technical areas and trades. Some of these areas include Computer Maintenance, Satellite and Wideband Communications, Computer Operators, Aircraft Mechanic, Vehicle Mechanic, Electrician, Plumbing, Heating-Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), Security Police and Autobody Repair. The best part of the training we offer is that while you are attending classes you are being paid, housed and fed. You also

earn college credits that can be utilized if you desire to further your education.

Next, let's look at the educational benefits available. All Guard members are entitled to take advantage of the Tuition Assistance program that waives the tuition to Connecticut State Colleges, Universities, and Adult Education programs. The tuition waiver covers all courses funded out of the general fund of the State. It covers full-time students in the major four-year degree programs at State colleges and universities. It also covers most of the courses offered by the state technical colleges and associate degree program colleges under the state's Higher Education Department. One point to mention is to check with the registrar since some of the major colleges and universities accept the tuition waiver for some of their part-time programs.

In addition to the tuition waiver, we offer the Montgomery GI Bill, which offers money for members in the Guard attending college. Because Drill Pay and the GI Bill

See RECRUITING Page 19



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
RAYMOND P. ZASTAURY

Enlisted Update

When I was selected for the position as the State Command Sergeant Major, I established a goal for myself to try and visit each unit at least twice a

year during their drill weekends.

This does not include the Annual Training visits I will make this year.

Here are a few of my observations during the past three months as I visited units during drill.

I visited the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) from Co B 242nd Engineers at Camp Rowland. The soldiers did an outstanding job during all of their training provided by the leadership of 85th Troop Command.

First Sgt. Kittle of Co C 280th Signal Bn. has a program that allows a junior enlisted soldier to shadow him at drill all weekend to learn all the things a first sergeant deals with during drill. In my opinion, this is an outstanding vehicle to mentor our soldiers.

I had a wonderful opportunity to attend an NCO Induction Ceremony at Co A 242nd Eng. during their December drill in front of family and friends.

I observed three to four Anthrax Briefs given to soldiers at Camp Rowland in November and December. There is a lot of good information provided during the Anthrax Brief. And for those soldiers that still have concerns about anthrax, it is up to us as leaders to educate them and ensure these soldiers, it is in their best interest to get immunized.

I had the privilege to attend the departure ceremony for the AVCRAD soldiers that deployed in December. The AVCRAD leadership, the Family Support Program (Mrs. Kim Hoffman) and the deploying soldiers' families and friends did a great job in supporting the ceremony. We wish all the Connecticut National Guard Soldiers and Airmen a safe deployment and look forward to their return.

In the middle of January I spent a lot of time at Camp Rowland talking with soldiers from the 250th Eng. Company and the 242nd Eng. Battalion that were preparing to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle for the Force Protection on the CTANG Air Bases. The Officers and the Enlisted Soldiers were highly motivated and focused on their mobilization.

Two FMs were published recently. FM 7-0, Training the Force dated 22 October 02 and FM 7-22.7, The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide dated December 2002 are tremendous tools for leaders to use to train soldiers.

FM 7-0, Training the Force provides

Training Management Cycle and the necessary guidelines on how to plan, execute and assess training and leader development. All leaders are trainers! FM 7-0 is a manual designed for leaders at every level and in every type of organization in the Army.

FM 7-22.7, The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide This manual provides NCOs a guide for leading, supervising and caring for soldiers. The Army NCO Guide describes NCO duties, responsibilities and authority and how they relate to those of warrant and commissioned officers. It also discusses NCO leadership, counseling and mentorship and the NCO role in training.

I attended the Command Sergeant Major Nominative Conference at Ft. Bliss, Texas in January hosted by The Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) Jack L. Tilley. The SMA could not over emphasize the importance of soldiers being Physically Fit and proficient in Individual Weapons Qualification, Combat Lifesaver Skills and Individual Soldier Skills. The SMA reported that 206 soldiers were killed last year in car accidents. These soldiers were not wearing seatbelts. We as leaders must ensure that every one of our soldiers and their passengers put on seatbelt every time they get in a vehicle.

Also at the conference, the Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Erik K. Shinseki stated, "The conduct and weapons of warfare may change, but victory will always result from a soldier imposing his will on the enemy." This statement made a big impact on me and the rest of the CSMs attending the conference.

Colin Powell's Lessons on Leadership—Lesson 12

"Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier." The ripple effect of a leader's enthusiasm and optimism is awesome. So is the impact of cynicism and pessimism. Leaders who whine and blame engender those same behaviors among their colleagues. I am not talking about stoically accepting organizational stupidity and performance incompetence with a "what, me worry?" smile. I am talking about a gung ho attitude that says "we can change things here, we can achieve awesome goals, we can be the best." Spare me the grim litany of the "realist"; give me the unrealistic aspirations of the optimist any day.

In closing, the Connecticut National faces very busy times in the near future with our units deploying. All leaders need to ensure our soldiers and airmen are prepared to "Go to War".

They must be physically fit and tactically proficient. Our thoughts and our prayers are with our soldiers and airmen and their families that they all return safely from deployment.

Recruiting

From page 18

often eliminate the need to earn extra money while attending school, the GI Bill benefit allows students to better concentrate on their education. The amount a person will receive depends on how many classes they are taking per semester. Those enlisting into a "Critical Skilled" area receive the GI Kicker, which adds an additional \$350 to the full-time students GI Bill benefits. The kicker is prorated for those students not attending full-time the same way the GI Bill is prorated in the chart below.

As the chart reflects, the GI Bill covers other forms of education like apprenticeship training and flight training. To be eligible for the GI Bill a person has to join the Guard for 6 years and complete their initial active duty, which is normally Basic Training and Technical School.

LOAN REPAYMENT

In addition to the Montgomery GI Bill, we also offer the Student Loan Repayment Program. The SLRP can pay a member up to \$20,000 in their career for qualified government student loans. To be eligible members must enlist or reenlist in a qualified incentive eligible career field for a six-year period and have less than 14 years of service for pay.

The types of loans that qualify for the SLRP are government guaranteed student loans, either (Stafford, Ford, or Perkins). Private loans do not qualify for repayment under this program. If you currently have loans and are considering consolidating, ensure that the consolidation loan remains a Stafford, Ford or Perkins Loan. Depending on the balances of the loans, consolidation may not be in the member's best interest; you may lose money.

*The current program policy is that the ANG will pay \$500 or 15% per loan, whichever is greater, not to exceed a total annual payment of \$2500. The ANG pays one annual payment after completion of each good year the member serves. Therefore, if you have three \$1000 loans, you will get a payment of

\$1500, with \$500 applied to each separate loan. If you have one \$3000 loan, you will only get \$500.

BONUSES

One additional benefit is the bonus program. When a member enlists or reenlists in one of 45 "critical Career fields, the Air National Guard offers incentives. These critical career fields are the same as those that are covered under the Montgomery GI Bill Kicker program. Those joining the military for the first time and those prior service joining the Air National Guard for the first time are automatically eligible for the \$350 GI Bill Kicker and then have the choice of either selecting the \$5,000 cash bonus or the Student Loan Repayment Program. Members re-enlisting in one of these career fields will automatically receive a \$5,000 bonus and then have the choice of either selecting the \$350 MGIB Kicker or participating in the Student Loan Program.

All-in-all, the educational benefits being offered in the Guard today provide some outstanding opportunities for many young men and women. Benefits that apply to you if you are graduating from High School and jump starting your career, changing careers, or re-enlisting.

Free tuition, money to spend while attending college, a bonus or student loan repayment and the monthly paycheck you receive for attending the unit training assembly or drill weekend. All of these benefits add up to an unbeatable program. All of the benefits outlined in this article are currently being offered in the Air National Guard. The benefits and entitlements being offered in the Army National Guard may differ slightly so be sure to ask about the specific programs you are interested in. If you would like additional information please contact the recruiting office at either 1-800-992-4793 in the Hartford Area or 1-800-582-5509 in the New Haven area.

**WANT TO JOIN OUR
TEAM?**

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

**Connecticut's
Army National Guard**

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: *Leadership-Respect-Citizenship*

CAPT. ANNE-MARIE GARCIA
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

It was eight degrees, but felt like four below. It did not stop the seventy-nine members of the Bridgeport Junior Police on the Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend, January 17-19, 2003 from achieving their goals of completing the Leadership-Respect-Citizenship (LRC) Adventure Weekend planned by the Connecticut National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program. The Bridgeport Junior Police Program is a pilot program in the State of Connecticut and is receiving state and federal grant money that covers the operating expenses of the program. Bridgeport Police Officers, teachers, mentors, parents and Staff Sgt. Jason Houle from the Connecticut National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program run the program from Central High School in Bridgeport, Conn. All of these dedicated individuals volunteer their time to teach leadership, community involvement and public service to the 79 students between the ages of 14 and 18 that have been selected for the program. Seventy-five percent of the students are female. The students have uniforms and have to buy their first issue

with their own money; this displays an investment and commitment to staying in the program. The State of Connecticut has



chosen Bridgeport to take the lead in creating this program, if successful it will be used as the basis for other police municipalities in creating their own Junior Police Program. Bridgeport will be the model in creating and designing programs that have proven success. Bridgeport Police Officer Dwayne Harrison is spearheading the program. He is creating a program of instruction that consists of input from the Bridgeport Police, Fairfield Police, Connecticut State Police, Active Duty Recruiters, the Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Departments and The Connecticut National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program. He is trying to bring all of the elements of public service together to teach these kids, all aspects of leadership, respect and citizenship. The youth have been doing physical fitness

training three times a week and attending bi-monthly after school meetings. The leadership weekend with the National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program incorporated all of the students training and came together on Friday evening when the students arrived, classes were given on chain of command, leadership, conflict resolution, drug awareness and health and nutrition. On Saturday the students went through the Leader's Reaction Course and then road marched to the Confidence Course at Stone's Ranch Military Reservation. On Sunday they took a modified Army Physical Fitness Test consisting of two minutes of push-ups and sit-ups and a one-mile run, the Army standards were used in scoring the physical fitness test. All of the students left the weekend having gained a new respect for leadership, community involvement and staying drug free in order to become public servants, whether it is in the military, the police, emergency medical services or fire department. If you have any questions about other Drug Free events or Educational & Leadership Programs please call the Connecticut National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program @860-493-2724 and ask for Capt. Anne-Marie Garcia.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Share your story

CHAP. (COL.) DAVID FEYRER

Recently, I was called to make a presentation to a local club about my experiences in Desert Storm. I went in uniform and received a very warm welcome and response to my talk.

I share this with you to encourage each of our members on an ongoing basis to share, as you are able, something about your involvement in the Guard.

We are citizen soldiers wearing dual hats and playing dual roles as citizens and it is important that our fellow citizens have a true idea of the role we play.

Many people are not aware of the sacrifices and hard work that is done on a regular basis by guard persons. It is important that these activities be shared with and known by our friends and neighbors so that they can be supportive of our service.

In the Vietnam era, the reserves were not mobilized and this was later deemed to be an important disconnect in that conflict. Today, reserves are called up on a regular basis but our numbers are significantly smaller than they once were. This means that fewer and fewer of our citizenry are really aware of the nature of our service.

Please "let your light shine", let others know of your service, give our neighbors a chance to knowledgeable support your service. I for one know and appreciate it!

TGIF: Banner, Breakfast & References

KIM HOFFMAN
FAMILY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Show Your Pride With A Blue Star Service Banner

Since 1917, it has been an American tradition for those who have family members serving in the U.S. Armed Forces to display a Blue Star Service Banner in the window of their home.

The banner displays a family's pride in their loved one serving in the military.

If you would like a Blue Star Service Banner, please contact the Family Program Office at 1-800-858-2677.

To learn more about the Blue Star Service Banner, please go to the American Legion website - www.legion.org and click on *Blue Star Banner*.

Warning Order - Breakfast With the Easter Bunny

This Year's Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will be held on April 19th at Camp Rowland in Niantic. Please watch

for information about times and sign-ups.

Useful References

With all that is going on, many service members and their families have a lot of questions. We've put together a list of useful resources that may help you through these trying times. Please take a moment to check out these great sources of information.

Operation Uplink

Thanks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary, military personnel will be able to call home to hear the voices of their loved ones.

This program, called Operation Uplink, uses donations to purchase phone cards and then distributes them to those who are serving away from home.

Please learn more about this fantastic program by visiting their website - www.operationuplink.com. There is also a link if you wish to make a donation.

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

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

Open House will be in Building 408, Leadership Hall, 1000-1000 hours

Uniforms in BDU on duty. Continue all others

Officer Candidate School - Training Tomorrow's Leaders

Location: Camp Rowland, Niantic, Connecticut
Phone: 860-891-1328
Fax: 860-891-4111
E-mail: feayrer@nsgd.usa.mil

Understanding Deployments

Useful Websites... More Next Month

- <http://public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm>
- www.aafes.com
- www.afvc.com
- www.armedforcesnews.com
- www.army.mil
- www.armyfamilyteambuilding.com
- www.armymwr.com
- www.ct.legion.org
- www.ct.ngb.army.mil
- www.defenselink.mil
- www.defenselink.mil/ra.family/toolkit/toc.htm
- www.dfas.mil
- www.dtic.mil/perdiem/
- www.esgr.org
- www.famnet.com
- www.goacs.org
- www.military.com
- www.militaryliving.com
- www.miluniform.com

- Space A Travel
- Shop the Army and Air Force Exchange Online!
- Go anywhere, only \$249 a week!
- News and Information
- Army Information
- News and Information
- Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation
- Connecticut American Legion
- CT National Guard Web Page
- News and Information
- Family Readiness Toolkit Online
- Defense Financial and Accounting Service
- Per Diem Rates
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
- Find Links to Military Family Information
- Army Community Service
- News and Information
- News and Information
- Uniform Accessories

Deployed Reservist entitled to 6 percent interest cap

CAPT. JEFFREY KNICKERBOCKER
DEPUTY STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE, 103 FW

The Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) offers deployed reservists a 6 percent cap on interest rates for most debts.

The cap only applies to pre-service obligations when there is a material effect on the service member's ability to pay. Once activated, any new debt is not subject to the 6 percent cap.

Unfortunately, the 6 percent rate does not apply to student loans. The rate cap also does not apply to family members' debts. The base legal office has sample letters that you can use as a guide when writing to a creditor.

Typically, a creditor will give one of three responses. The first response, and the one most creditors take, is to grant the request.

A second response is to deny the request on the basis that the service member's activation does not have a material effect on the service member's ability to pay.

In this situation, the service member would be required to further explain to the creditor its responsibility under the SSCRA.

If the creditor still did not honor its obligations under the SSCRA, then the service member may sue the creditor. Some service members around the country have been successful in such suits.

A third response, that is equally illegal, is for the creditor to charge the six percent, but accrue the remaining percentage as an arrearage that has to be paid once the member leaves active duty.

A variation of this is for the creditor to "refinance" the debt so that the service member pays the same monthly payment, but 6 percent is applied to interest and the remaining amount is applied to the principle.

This goes against the spirit of the SSCRA, which was intended to lower monthly payments, not keep them the same so creditors could get their money faster.

For the most part, creditors are willing to support their country by fulfilling their obligation under the SSCRA.

The best approach to take if you think that an activation qualifies you for this benefit is to contact the creditor right away.

Once your activation ends, you should contact the creditor again to resume payments at the usual level.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MY PARENT?

Ask the parent or guardian you live with to help you mark where you live. Then draw a line to the place your deployed parent has gone. How many continents can you name? Color them in as you name them.



Kids' Coloring Corner

A MONTHLY FEATURE OF FUN AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO HELP MILITARY CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT DEPLOYMENTS

For deployment-related questions, call 1-800-858-2677

Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: *Protecting yourself from identity theft*

CAPT. TIMOTHY TOMCHO
JAG OFFICE

Although often considered a command responsibility, the security of property, equipment, facilities, and personnel is the responsibility of each military and civilian employee of Department of Defense (DoD).

Personnel security demands individual awareness and action. Individually, personnel security is "personal security," threats to which come in many forms. Identity theft is one such security threat of which all DOD personnel should be aware and avoid.

In Connecticut, identity theft (section 53a-129a, Conn. Gen. Stat.) is the intentional use of another's personally identifying information without authorization for any unlawful purpose, including obtaining or attempting to obtain credit, goods or services.

Essentially, identify theft occurs when someone obtains your personally identifying information without your knowledge for the purpose of committing fraud or theft.

By definition personally identifying information is a motor vehicle operator's license number, Social Security number,

employee identification number, mother's maiden name, demand deposit number, savings account number or credit card.

Persons convicted of identity theft, a class D felony, may be sentenced from one to five years' imprisonment and may be fined up to \$5,000.

Legal action is available to those who have been violated by an identity thief. Anyone personally victimized by an identity thief may sue the thief for damages.

The court may award to a prevailing victim (plaintiff) the greater of \$1,000 or triple damages, plus costs and reasonable attorney fees.

To further protect against identity theft, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 02-137 earlier this year.

This law requires public agencies to keep military discharge documents apart from other records and confidential for at least 75 years after the date they are filed.

In Connecticut, veterans are entitled to property tax exemption, which requires the filing of discharge documents, most notably the Department of Defense Form 214.

Public Act 02-137 protects the personally



identifying information contained within the form public access, thereby reducing its likelihood of use by an identity thief.

Keep in mind that identity theft has the potential to negatively affect your military status and readiness.

Victims of identity theft may encounter problems with obtaining security clearances.

Although these problems are not fatal to military careers, especially when determined to be a result of identity theft, they do tend to create undue personal hardships, especially in regards to correcting the record.

Additionally, negative credit histories and/or reports arising as a result of being victimized by an identity thief may reduce the ability of such victims to obtain credit.

Your credit is something that should be securely guarded.

It is well worth the nominal investment in taking measures, such as shredding papers with personally identifying information before discarding.

Be aware of identity theft and take charge of protecting this aspect your personal security. It is much easier to avoid being a victim of identity theft than to recover from being victimized!



SGT. MAJ. (RET.) JOSEPH AMATRUDA
PRESIDENT, NGA CT

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Executive Board and general membership of NGA CT, to cordially invite you to join us in celebrating our Ninth Annual Conference to be held at Foxwoods Resort Casino on March 22, 2003.

This year's conference will be unique in many ways. The superb location at Foxwoods will also support a statewide military ball in their Grand Ballroom that evening. A separate flyer is enclosed describing the ball.

The following is a proposed agenda and is open to your suggestions:

- 0800 Continental Breakfast and Registration
- 0900 Opening Ceremonies
- 0910 President's Report
- 0930 TAG Address
- 1015 By-Laws Amendment
- 1030 Insurance Program Update
- 1045 Scholarship Program Update
- 1100 NGAUS and EANGUS Update
- 1130 Election of Executive Board *
- 1145 Introduction of Executive Board
- 1200 Adjournment

*Positions to be elected this year are:
One Army and one Air Officer Member
One Army and one Air Enlisted Member
One Army and one Air Junior Enlisted Member
One Retiree Member

Nominations will be accepted from the floor or directly from members interested in running for any of these offices. If you are interested in running or presenting a nomination, please notify a member of the Executive Board so the appropriate name can be placed on the ballot.

Recommended changes to the by-laws will include the addition of a new corporate membership program, revised awards and recognition program, and the addition of two junior enlisted members.

Registration form must be submitted before March 14, 2003 to ensure the success of this distinctive event. I look forward to joining you at the conference and ball.

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



CAPT. THOMAS V. LANGLAIS, (USCGR)
CONNECTICUT ESGR STATE OMBUDSMAN

Will I be guaranteed to have my civilian job back when I return from military duty?

Can my employer lay me off (furlough) while I am called up?

Can I avoid the layoff by volunteering for a callup?

These are a few typical questions service members ask relating to employment and reemployment issues.

Let's begin with the rights you have to your civilian job.

The first answer is "yes" you have rights to your civilian job or one equal to that you left providing you meet the eligibility criteria under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) which is found in Title 38, United States Code, Sections 4301-4333. Under this legislation in order to have re-employment rights, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. You must leave a civilian job for the purpose of military service.
2. You must provide your employer with

prior notice.

3. Your cumulative period of military service, with this employer must not exceed five years. (Some categories of service are exempt from this five-year limit).

4. You must be released from military service under honorable conditions.

5. You must make timely notification for re-employment after your release from service.

Can I be furloughed while on call-up?
Yes.

Can I avoid layoffs by volunteering for a call up?

NO. USERRA provides you with certain rights and job protection.

It does not give you greater rights than you would have, had you not been on military service.

However, the protection given is that your employer must follow a procedure that affords you the same benefits had you not left the job for military service.

If the answer is yes, your re-employment rights may fall into a layoff or furlough category. Your protection comes when you return from duty.

Your Job Rights-Frequently Asked Questions

We need to look at what would have happened had your not participated in military service. (escalator principal).

A review of the procedures used by the employer in executing this furlough is needed.

Was the procedure by seniority, by job classification, by department etc.?

Another method would be to look at the work record of a peer who started to work for the company on the same date as you did.

Were they furloughed or transferred to another job within the company that you were qualified for?

Under USERRA the employer has the responsibility to show, had you not been performing military service, the outcome would have been the same.

If you find yourself in any situation similar to those above, you should call the ESGR ombudsman who is assigned to your unit.

For your information, the CT ESGR program has eight trained ombudsmen, several of whom are also lawyers.

Additional information on this topic can be found at www.esgr.org.

Inside OCS

On my way to becoming a leader

OC MARCIN BARAN
OCS CLASS 48

Before I entered the OCS program, my perception of officers was based on my experience from my home unit (141st Medical Company), where I have served since 1998.

From my observations, I knew that their job is not an easy one. I could see that the decisions and orders that they were making and receiving were not born in their minds in the few seconds before they actually issued them. I knew that behind everything there was a tremendous amount of planning, organizing and controlling that went on. I also knew that they based their decisions with great pressure and responsibility because they were taking care of their soldiers.

From listening to my peers at the 141st, I knew that the OCS program is very hard, demanding, and only a certain number of soldiers are able to complete the course every year. Also, I knew that in order to join the OCS program a soldier has to exhibit leadership quality, meet educational and physical requirements and be recommended by their commander.

During the first phase of my training, I was able to work with a great TAC staff and Instructors. The TAC staff taught me the importance of being able to pay attention to the smallest details. At the beginning, I wasn't sure why this would be so important to me, but after the many reports that I had to submit to them, I learned that being able to catch small mistakes and errors will reduce a risk of failing future missions and assignments. Also, the Instructors gave me a good knowledge of basic troop leading procedures, which enable me to accomplish almost anything when I utilize them properly.

I know that when I become a platoon leader, I won't forget how it was when I was a private and I couldn't understand some of the orders that my company was receiving. Because of this, I will do my best to ensure that the soldiers that I lead will understand why they have to follow my orders, and also I will do my best to ensure that each member of my platoon is treated with respect and honor.

OCS teaches me how to implement troop leading procedures, basic leadership skills and most importantly how to take care of soldiers.

Outdoor Monuments: Preserving memory for all Americans

Outdoor sculpture exhibit

Jan. 13 to Feb. 26

Memorial Hall

Museum of Connecticut History

Connecticut State Library

231 Capitol Ave., Hartford

Finding Your Man: Connecticut's Civil War Soldiers

A Workshop

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Feb. 22

Memorial Hall

Museum of Connecticut History

Connecticut State Library

231 Capitol Ave., Hartford

Why Diversity?

Diversity of Thought !!!

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

Diversity of thought is a level you reach when you no longer identify people by the obvious (race, gender, rank, etc.). You begin to tap into who the person really is, but most importantly, who you really are. Isn't it strange how we identify people by their tangible traits yet desire that others identify us by our intangible traits?

Diversity of thought is closely linked to cultural diversity. It is no secret that differences in rituals, location, history, and even language give rise to unique bodies of thought. These are the same elements that compose cultures, and segregation has kept cultures apart. Creating cultural diversity is crucial to creating diversity of thought.

A spirit of inclusiveness and collaboration generates the best ideas, where the different perspectives and talents of a group of people are brought together to leverage the organization's ability to accomplish its mission. Diverse groups and inclusive processes lead to increased creativity, innovation and high quality problem solving. We have proven time and time again that creativity and innovation lead to a better, more competitive performance.

Perhaps our greatest opportunity – and

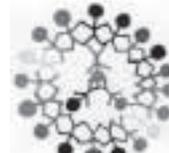
our greatest challenge – is to consistently practice this spirit of inclusiveness. To achieve the best results, it is incumbent on us not to overlook, or summarily dismiss, but rather to actively seek, the views of coworkers who are different from ourselves: older, younger; of a different cultural, racial, national or religious background; male, female; or of a higher or lower rank than those in the military hierarchy.

Simply, thought diversity springs from people diversity – wherever and however we define it. Diversity must be effectively managed and practiced throughout the organization, touching every function, level and process. If we don't maximize differences and address diversity issues in the workplace, we're reducing our own ability to leverage talents within the organization and to achieve the missions we have been assigned.

The first endeavor to reaching the level of Diversity of Thought is to understand that just as personalities and behaviors are different, so are individual strengths and weaknesses. We must accept the fact that everyone will not approach tasks, assignments, and challenges the same way. The question used to be, "what's wrong with them?"

Thinking it was our responsibility to assist them in approaching life the way we do, we then proceeded to change them. That's when

we need to realize there is nothing wrong with them; they simply have a different approach, and way of thinking.



The next time you are responsible for planning training, a conference or a family day, check for Diversity of Thought. If you surround yourself with people that think exactly like you, respond, and behave like you, you are guaranteed to get less than optimal results. A cohesive group does not mean everyone looks and thinks alike, it means their end results are United. Every state, with its differing terrain, provides us with various types of agriculture, but we are still the United States of America. Let us use our diversity of thought to UNITE the contributions that all our guard members have to offer.

If you have an interest in being part of the Diversity Initiatives team please contact me at (860) 878-6718 or E-Mail at scott.farrell@ct.ngb.army.mil

Thought of the Month

"We learn the most from those who are different from us. What makes us different, makes us stronger"



Fuel Your Future

Air National Guard

Contact a Recruiter by email at recruiter@ctbrad.ang.af.mil

Health & Fitness

Your Health Matters: *February is Heart Month*

CAPT. KATHLEEN L. KING, APRN
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSE

Cardiovascular disease is the greatest cause of death in this country, and a significant proportion of heart disease is preventable. Arteriosclerosis (commonly known as "hardening of the arteries") is the most common type of heart disease in the country.

If someone has Arteriosclerosis they have blood vessels, which over they years have been damaged and have become scarred on the inside. There are several risk factors for Arteriosclerosis including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and smoking. High blood pressure damages the vessels because blood needs to be pumped through with more force.

This damage causes scars to form, which narrow the vessels, and causes them to be less flexible. Cholesterol collects in these narrow areas, further narrowing the arteries, and sometimes causing clogs or blockages. All of this makes it harder for the red blood cells to bring oxygen to areas of our body when needed. Lack of oxygen to vital organs, such as the brain or heart, can result in what are known as strokes or heart attacks.

ALL NEW: Although there are some risk factors for heart disease that cannot be changed, such as: being 55 years old or older; being a post-menopausal woman; being of African-American ethnicity; or having a family member (sibling, parent, grandparent) who had a heart attack before the age of 55.

Many of the risk factors for heart disease

are under the control of the individual, and can be changed or eliminated. The major controllable risk factors are; high blood pressure, which can often be easily treated with medications, or diet and exercise; nicotine consumption, which can be eliminated if one stops using other tobacco products; weight, which can be controlled with diet and exercise; elevated blood cholesterol, which can be controlled by diet, exercise, or medications; and excessive stress, how to control?

Once someone is diagnosed with arteriosclerosis, the goal of treatment is to keep it from progressing. Sometimes, medication is needed. Most often, changing your lifestyle is all that is needed. Keeping to a low cholesterol - low salt diet will help reduce fatty deposits, as will eating several daily serving of foods high in soluble fiber such as oats or bran.

Daily dietary supplements have been shown in many studies to reduce the risk of heart attacks in people who have already suffered from one. The supplements should include Vitamins C, E, and Folic Acid. Garlic (which contains the mineral selenium), olive oil, tomatoes, and fish (such as salmon, mackerel, and fresh tuna) are widely thought to promote cardiovascular health (and they taste good too!)

What is the best advice?

#1 STOP USING NICOTINE (This causes an increase in scarring, as well as constriction, of the blood vessels)

#2 EXERCISE (This keeps your heart in shape. Moderate aerobic activity, such as

speed walking or swimming, 30 minutes 3-4 times a week will maintain fitness of the blood vessels and heart, as well as help to lower weight, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels

#3 LOWER SATURATED FATS IN DIET (Diets high in saturated fats may increase blood cholesterol.)

#4 MONITOR BLOOD PRESSURE (There are no symptoms of high blood pressure, sometimes called the "silent killer". If blood pressure readings are over 140/90 three times in a row, seek the advice of your primary care provider.)

ALL NEW: #5 DRINK A GLASS OF WINE? (Recent epidemiological studies seem to indicate that drinking one glass of red wine daily may be protective from heart disease. Red or purple grade juice may have the same effect, as may other types of alcohol. The rule is a little every day, binge and excessive drinking is harmful)

Signs of a heart attack are different from person to person. Most often, it is a pain in the left side of the chest, frequently radiating to the left arm or jaw. Sometimes, it is similar to heart burn or indigestion. Other times, the only symptom is severe shortness of breath and fainting.

Many diabetics don't even know they are having a heart attack! Also many persons, because of denial or embarrassment, don't want to admit they are having heart-related symptoms until they are severe and incapacitating.

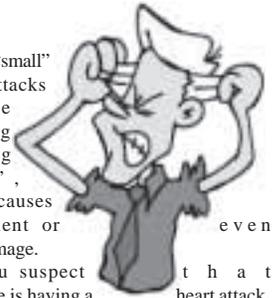
In the Emergency Room, it is not uncommon to treat someone who has had

several "small" heart attacks before having "the big one", which causes permanent or fatal damage.

If you suspect someone is having a heart attack, you must act quickly. The first step is to have the person sit quietly, and then activate the Emergency Medical Service by dialing 911. Minutes Count!! If an Automated External Defibrillator is available, have that nearby. Keep the victim calm.

When the heart stops, the brain is deprived of oxygen rich blood. After 4 minutes brain damage occurs, and after 10 minutes, brain death is almost certain. If someone properly trained in CPR and the use of an AED, they increase the chances of survival for a heart attack victim. Classes are offered by the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association on both Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of an AED in many communities. If you are interested in a class, contact your local chapters.

February is Heart Month. Be good to yourself and your loved ones. Make an appointment with your Primary Care Provider for a complete physical. Starting an exercise regimen that's right for you. Eliminate tobacco from your life! Watch your diet! Sign up for a CPR class at your local Red Cross Chapter!



Fit for Life: *The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)*

COL. STEVEN D. ANDERSON
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, PERSONNEL

Don't let your career go up in smoke

One of the components of the Army National Guard Health Promotion Program is Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention. The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) is set forth in AR 600-85 which was revised effective Oct. 1, 2001.

The mission of the program is to strengthen the overall fitness and effectiveness of the Army's total workforce and enhance the combat readiness of its soldiers. As stated in subparagraph 1-31a of AR 600-85, "Abuse of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs by both military and civilian personnel is inconsistent with Army Values and the standards of performance, discipline, and readiness necessary to accomplish the Army's Mission.

The adjutant general staunchly

supports the Army Substance Abuse Policy (ASAP) as implementation of a vigorous drug-testing program. The State Alcohol and Drug Control Officer (ADCO) conducts command directed drug testing of units of the Connecticut National Guard. Approximately 42 percent of Connecticut Army National Guard units are randomly tested on an annual basis.

The regulation and the adjutant general's policy mandate that soldiers who are identified as illegal drug users will be processed for administrative separation. Enlisted soldiers E-4 and below may be recommended for retention under limited circumstances. Soldiers above the rank of E-4 who have more than three years of service will appear before an Administrative Separation Board (ASB). Clearly the price to be paid is a very steep price indeed, especially for the soldier who may have invested many years in his or her career only to see it go up in smoke upon being identified as a drug user.

The obvious solution is for all soldiers to

refrain from using illegal drugs and for commanders and leaders at all levels to educate and counsel soldiers in their charge so as to enable them to fully comprehend the consequences of drug use. The consequences of drug use extend beyond the effect on a soldier's military career and include potential harm to the user's health, family relationships, economic status, community status and criminal record. Capt. Richard Saxton is the State Alcohol and Drug Control Officer. He is available to assist commanders and leaders by providing them with information concerning applicable policies and regulations. More importantly, he can provide educational materials, to include a drug prevention briefing available on CD-ROM, which will assist officers and NCO's at all levels in deterring their soldiers from making decisions that could haunt them for years to come. Education and training are vital components of a risk reduction program and prevention plan.

The cost-benefit analysis is really quite simple: Is the fleeting gratification gained from the usage of drugs worth the irreversible harm and negative consequences that inevitably follow? The obvious answer is no. If you don't use illegal drugs, don't start.

If you do and are genuinely committed to eliminating drug usage, there is only one option. Where an individual seeks assistance and rehabilitation *before* being identified as a drug user, the regulation is designed to facilitate treatment and rehabilitation of those who demonstrate the potential for rehabilitation and retention. If you have a problem and you wait until Saxton arrives at your unit to conduct an unannounced urinalysis screening, it is too late. You have waited too long and your military career is about to go up in smoke.

Sports



Tech. Sgt. Chris Cypher gets Runnin' Rabid airborne at a rally. Cypher is assigned to the 90th Services Squadron at F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. (Courtesy photo)

2003 Lincoln Marathon and Recruiting Workshop

MAJ. JOSEPH DANAQ

The Connecticut National Guard Marathon Team is looking for up to five team members to represent Connecticut at the 2003 Lincoln Marathon 2-4 May 2003.

Last year Connecticut competitor Master Sgt. Linda Rocco ran to a victorious first place finish in her age group during her first Lincoln Marathon. Congratulations to Linda!

The Lincoln Marathon has two purposes. It is the National Guard Bureau's marathon trials. The running team for the Guard is selected from the best finishers. The Guard Team competes against the other services at events to include the Marine Corp Marathon and Army Ten-Miler. Team members are placed on Temporary Duty (TDY) to run these events.

The other purpose of the marathon is to offer a recruiting workshop to train members as Center Of Influences (COI) in the running community. Other classes are given for two days that focus on improving running quality and overall fitness. Each year a guest to the workshop attends who maintains worldwide recognition as an "elite runner." Past visitors to Lincoln are Alberto Salazar and Bill Rogers who both gave classes on fitness and proper running technique.

There are prerequisites to becoming a team member and participating in the 2003 Recruiting Workshop. Each member must meet a minimum full marathon time in the last 18 months. Men under age 40 must have run a marathon in under four hours. Men over 40 must have run in under four hours and 15 minutes. Women must have run in under four hours and 30 minutes. Also, any runner over age 40 must have a current over 40 physical. The top three or four runners will be considered for the team. An additional fifth slot is available based on funding.

More will follow about the 2003 Lincoln Marathon and 2003 Recruiting Workshop in the next edition of *The Guardian*.

If you would like more information about this great opportunity, an application and would like to train with current and past team members please call Maj. Joe Danao at 860-883-5973.

Bluesuiters by day, racing stars by night

TECH. SGT. MELISSA PHILLIPS
90TH SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

F. E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. (AFP) — For most Air Force members, it is not common to have fans surround them and request autographs. But it is for Tech. Sgt. Chris Cypher and Staff Sgt. Casey Baxter who are assigned to the 90th Services Squadron here.

At work, the two men are dedicated to helping base people enjoy traditional sports at base gym facilities. However, during their off-duty time this team transforms into a prorena tuff truck racing brotherhood called Devil's Dream Racing.

Tuff truck races normally precede monster truck rallies as an opener. The racers bulldoze their way over muddy tracks laden with hairpin turns, bumps, obstacles and ramps. They are lighter and smaller than monster trucks because the opponent with the quickest time wins. There are normally two rounds to every event — the top five from the first round compete against each other in the second round for prizes.

Together Cypher and Baxter build and race trucks for crowds as large as

4,000. Cypher drives a 1988 Toyota called Runnin' Rabid, and Baxter drives a 1998 Chevy called Devil's Dream.

"When people ask you for (an) autograph, that's a (great) feeling, especially when you're in the pits signing autographs next to famous monster truck drivers," said Baxter, how has been racing tuff trucks since 1999.

Baxter was rated second at the Rocky Mountain National Speedway, Colo., during the 2002 tuff truck six-race series, and Cypher was rated third.

"There is nothing like having your truck 6 feet off the ground and jumping 30 feet," said Cypher, who has been racing tuff trucks since 2001.

The jumps sometimes end up in rollovers, which Baxter twice experienced firsthand.

"The first time I jumped five cars my vehicle had to be wheeled off, but it was such an adrenalin rush," he said.

When the duo started race tuff trucks, they quickly realized they were also getting a crash course in crowd management.

"The crowd loves to see something break or crash," said Baxter. "They like knowing you're pushing it to the edge. They'll boo you, if you get out there and don't get air. I got booed once. I didn't like it."

Baxter said it is especially painful when it is a 7-year-old catcalling you.

"It's a show for the little kids," said Baxter, who considers tuff trucks a family-style sport. "They love seeing the big trucks go."

Most evenings you can find the two airmen buried in their engines covered in grease, and that is just how they like it. One round on the track can last anywhere from 15 to 60 seconds. But the majority of the time dedicated to the sport is spent in preparing for events.

"Working on trucks and getting out there performing is something we enjoy doing," said Baxter. "You put all this work into a

truck, and then you get to see it actually working. If you look at the trucks, you're amazed that they go together (because) most parts are (made) from scratch."

The money a tuff truck enthusiast spends "all depends on how dedicated you are, how much time you can dedicate and how much money your wives will let you put into it," Baxter said with a laugh.

Luckily for their wives, both men are fiscally creative when it comes to fixing up their trucks. The costs are manageable compared to some hobbies.

"More people can relate to (tuff trucks) versus monster trucks because it's really easy to get into," said Baxter. "You don't have the expense of \$50,000 for just the motor alone. It's not uncommon to pay \$150,000 for a monster truck."

Cypher has invested about \$4,000 in Runnin' Rabid and its accompanying trailer. Baxter is a bit more extravagant with about \$12,000 invested in the truck and \$2,000 in a trailer.

Winners in tuff trucks rallies can earn \$50 to \$400.

"It really doesn't make a dent into what you invested," Cypher said.

For both men, it was a natural progression for two mechanically inclined individuals to turn a pastime tinkering with vehicles into a professional sport.

"I'm not a traditional sports person," said Baxter. "People look at us and say, 'How can you do that?' I wonder how a guy can lie on a mat and wrestle with another guy."

Retirees' Voice

National Defense Authorization Act

Sgt. 1st CLASS (RET.) JOHN BEDNARZ

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of fiscal year 2003 was signed into law on December 2, 2002, which was late, about three months into the fiscal year. Some of its provisions are certain to have an impact on retirees.

The bill included provisions for the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration to enter into agreements to coordinate and share health care resources at all levels. This could mean that some time in the future we may see an improved health care system that meets our needs by sharing facilities and outpatient medication information.

Another provision of the NDAA for fiscal 2003 was to authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish a daily stipend (probably \$50.00) for military retirees, and others, who participate in funeral details. It seems that when the Active services became required to provide military honors, only the active services and the active National Guard and Reserve were included in the program. (The State of Connecticut funeral detail program always included retirees.) To date retirees have been doing military honors under the State program and it remains to be seen how, and if, this will affect our participation in the future.

For those of us who served in Korea after the July 28, 1954 cutoff date for the Korean 'Conflict' the NDAA authorizes a Korean service medal to be issued to military personnel who served in this area between that date and an undetermined date in the future.

One of the areas that the NDAA did not fully provide for was 'concurrent receipt' of military retirement and disability compensation. If a soldier, sailor, or airman was eligible for a disability from the service and left the service to pursue a civilian career, he continued to receive his disability

payment even after he retired from his civilian occupation, with no reduction in his retired pay. But if he decided to make the service his career, upon retirement his retired pay was reduced by the amount of his disability payment.

This is clearly unfair. The NDAA had House and Senate versions of concurrent receipt language that would have cleared up much of this inequity. In order to prevent a veto of the entire NDAA, or removal of all concurrent receipt language, the language was changed and 'Special Compensation' was enacted.

This is a complicated program that will allow some retirees with combat related disabilities, with certain levels of disability, and under certain conditions, to receive various amounts. The key words seem to be combat related, war, and percent of disability. The retiree will probably have to prove his case for eligibility for any of the benefits of this program. The Department of Defense is the agency that will develop, fund and implement the program, which should start about June of 2003.

Those who think they might be eligible should wait and see what the procedures and requirements will be. It's good that some of the retired veterans, the most needy, will receive some compensation for their loss but there are so many who are still being treated unfairly. I understand that 'concurrent receipt' legislation will be submitted to the 108th Congress so that for others military retired pay and disability compensation can be received without an offset to either.

Although these issues do not apply to all of us, we do need to pull together and care, so that no retiree gets the short end of the stick. Keep aware of the issues and write your Congressman or Congresswoman to let him/her know how you feel about them.

Connecticut Army Medical Department Annual Conference

The Fourth Annual Connecticut AMEDD Conference will be held March 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Leamy Hall, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London.

A Dining Out will follow at 6 p.m.

Speakers for this year's conference include Col. Randy Scholze on Preparing for Deployments; Maj. Gerald Curran on Medicine in Afghanistan; Dr. Ray Carre, Flight Surgeon on Psychiatric Profiles and Fitness; and Master Sgt. David Fees on 91W Transition.

The conference is open to all Army and Air Guard health professionals to include dentists, MDs, PAs, RNs and medics.

For more information, contact Capt. Paul Thompson, AMEDD Recruiter, Hartford, or Maj. Kevin McMahon, 118th AS Medical Battalion, Newington.

Border Legion to hold reunion

The Border Legion 2003 Reunion will be held in Germany from May 28 to June 1.

The reunion will center on Fulda, with separate events taking place in Bad Hersfeld and Bad Kissingen.

The reunion is open to all past and present Troopers who served with the 11th and 14th Armored Cavalry Regiments and supporting units, along the East-West German border.

Contact Glenn Snodgrass at (703) 676-2672 or by email at JGS525@aol.com, or Don Snedeker at (703) 676-4019 or by email at donald.c.snedeker@saic.com



Connecticut National Guard Military Ball

WHAT: A purely social event, seating will not be assigned

WHEN: March 22, 2003 6p.m., Foxwoods Resort Casino (Pay by March 1, 2003)

WHO: All grades of Connecticut Air and Army National Guard, Militia Units and Military Department Civilians, both active, retired or otherwise assigned, are invited to attend with their guests

DRESS: Mess Dress, Dress Blues or Class A with black tie and white shirt (IAW AF36-2903 or AR670-1). Retirees may wear appropriate uniform or semi-formal civilian attire, all civilians wear semi-formal attire.

- Cash Bar opens at 6pm
- Dinner buffet served at 7pm
- Dance until 11pm to the
- ANG Band of the Northeast

COST: \$45 per person

DIRECTIONS: Follow signs from Route 95 or 395 to Foxwoods Resort Casino, then follow the signs to the Grand Pequot Hotel, after parking (no charge for valet) proceed in the Grand Pequot Hotel and upstairs to the main Ballroom.

ROOMS: A limited number of Foxwoods Resort rooms are available for \$79 and \$99, first come first served, reserve by February 28; standard priced rooms start at \$120. Call 1-800-FOXWOODS and say you are with the CTNG-Ball for the discounted group rate.

BUFFET MENU: Sole Francaise with Lemon Verbena Sauce, Roasted Chicken with Garlic and Natural Sauce, Seared Pork Medallions with a Jack Daniels Barbecue Glaze, Tenderloin Tips with a Mushroom Madeira Sauce, plus salads, bread, vegetables, assorted desert, and coffee.

FLAGS/GUIDONS: Each unit should bring their flag or Guidon with a stand to display



Must be paid by March 1, 2003

MAIL TO: Make checks for \$45 per person payable to the National Guard Association of Connecticut and send to Commander, 103rd Fighter Wing, 100 Nicholson Road, East Granby, CT 06026-9309

Name _____ Rank or Grade _____
 Organization _____
 Guest(s) Attending _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Connecticut National Guard Retirees of Florida to hold annual reunion

The Connecticut National Guard Retirees of Florida will hold their annual reunion from March 7 to March 9 at the LaQuinta Hotel in Orlando, Florida (same location as last year). Hotel reservations should be made no later than Feb. 21.

Besides the annual business meeting on Saturday morning, highlights of the planned events include dinner at the Boston Lobster Feast Restaurant and a dinner and show at the Mark II Theater.

Details have been mailed to all Connecticut National Guard retirees living in Florida who the organization has addresses for. For more information, or to find out if you are on the list, contact Art Finnegan at 727-725-1206 or Aksel Hansen at 352-686-1628.

Coming Events

February

February 7

Black History Month Celebration

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 17

President's Day

March

March 3

The "Star Spangled Banner" became the National Anthem in 1931

March 21

Women's History Month Celebration

March 22

NGACT Annual Meeting and Elections

March 22

Connecticut Military Ball
Foxwoods

April

April 26

OCS Phase 0 begins

April 27

ANCOC & BNCOC Graduation Ceremonies

In the Next CG

Memories of GI Joe

Meet the new IG & Senior Army Advisor

Joe Foss Remembered

Tuskegee Airmen tell their story

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

Ridge sworn in as Homeland Security Secretary

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, 2003 - Vice President Dick Cheney swore in Tom Ridge as the nation's first secretary of Homeland Security at a White House ceremony today.

President Bush said during remarks after the ceremony that Ridge, a decorated

Vietnam veteran, is "a superb leader who has my confidence."

With his swearing in, the Department of Homeland Security "goes live" as the 15th executive department. Bush called the legislation establishing the department the greatest shake-up of the executive branch since the Defense

Department was established in 1947.

The new agency has a budget of around \$36 billion for fiscal 2003 and will have just over 170,000 employees. The department will now take 22 separate agencies and amalgamate them into one entity. The agencies affected will transfer to the new agency starting March 1.

Bush said the new department would take every measure to protect the American people from the serious and on-going terrorist threat. "The Department of

Homeland Security will lead a comprehensive and unified effort to defend this nation," he said. "The department will analyze threats, guard our borders and airports, safeguard critical infrastructure,



President George W. Bush watches, Vice President Dick Cheney swears in Tom Ridge as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security in the Cross Hall Jan. 24, 2003. Secretary Ridge's wife, Michele, and children, Tom and Lesley, hold the Bible during the administering of the oath. "In October of 2001, when I established the office — the White House Office of Homeland Security — I knew immediately that Tom was the right man for the assignment. He's a decisive, clear-thinking executive who knows how to solve problems. He's a person of integrity and a person of good judgment," said the President in his remarks. (White House photo by Paul Morse)

and coordinate the response of our nation to future emergencies."

During a press conference later in the day, Ridge said the transition staff has worked around the clock to refocus and reorganize the department's workforce "to accomplish

the unified mission of protecting America."

He said the staff has developed the necessary information-technology systems, human-resources processes and general management practices to ease the transition of 22 separate agencies into one

overarching department. The headquarters will commence operations "immediately" at the Navy's Nebraska Avenue Center in Washington.

Ridge said that effective today he has resigned as the special assistant to the president. He said he thanked the president for the opportunity to work with the homeland security team. "I also reiterated to the president my commitment to do everything I can to harness the energy and the creativity and will of 170,000-plus people to do everything they can every single day to accomplish the mission of homeland security," he said.

The president had plenty of praise for his newest secretary. "In October 2001, when I established the White House office of Homeland Security, I knew immediately that Tom was the right man for the assignment," Bush said. "He's a decisive clear-thinking executive who knows how to solve problems. He's a person of integrity and good judgment. At the White House he has done an outstanding job, and he has earned the gratitude of the American people."

Ridge will continue to meet daily with Bush, Cheney and others. Bush has nominated former Navy Secretary Gordon England to be the deputy secretary of the new department. A Senate panel held his confirmation hearings today.

The department's web site is up and running at www.dhs.gov.



Send Off!

It's been an emotional time for many families of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard as they have waited to hear if loved ones would be called to active duty, and then watching as they trained for that possibility.

Reality has hit home for many as members of both Army and Air Guard units have been called to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, AEF missions, and Homeland Security missions.

See related stories and photos inside this issue of the Connecticut Guardian.

Beginning this month, the Connecticut Guardian will be running a new page called "Understanding Deployments" in which there will be a monthly Kid's Coloring Corner, articles on various deployment issues, and a Q&A section. We invite ANY family member or loved one with a question about benefits or deployment issues to contact us via email at kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil or julian.muller@ct.ngb.army.mil and they will get your questions to the experts in the field and provide the answers for the Connecticut Guardian. You can also call 1-800-858-2677 for the State Family Program Office or 1-888-548-7272, the Soldier Airman Support Center for immediate answers.

Conner Wojick, 4, of Vernon, waves a flag at the Armory ceremony January 22. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau 103 CF)

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Iraq: Walk with me through history

MAJ. SCOTT WILSON
STATE PIO

2002 AD – My name is Utbah. I used to live in a small village outside the city of Nasiryah, and I was a citizen of what is potentially one of the richest countries in the world - Iraq.

Had my family and I lived during the Ottoman rule of Sultan Murad IV, we would have been known as *raya*, or subjects to the rule of the *askeri*, the Ottoman conquerors. We have always been farmers, not part of the ruling elite. It is said that from our land civilization grew, first as Mesopotamia, or “the land between the two rivers.”

Of course I am referring to the Tigris and Euphrates, which make much of Iraq arable, and used to provide me my living as a farmer of date palms.

I left Iraq in 1998, after the dismissal of United Nations weapons inspectors precipitated renewed bombing by the United States and its allies.

I had to leave – I lost hope.

I wish to take this time together to tell you the story of my country – I may no longer live there, but it is still my country. Please, sit down with me – there is much to know.

I understand that the ancients used the rivers to protect themselves and to irrigate the land. Remnants of their walled settlements and canals still remain as archeological treasures. The river valleys and plains of our land are open to attack from the rivers, the surrounding hills, and the desert. Our land’s richness attracted other nations, as it does today, and thus its history is rife with infiltration, invasion, and war.

The ancient Sumerians, some of the first peoples known in Mesopotamia, were constantly warring between their factions. Despite this, they were technologically advanced and developed a writing system and bronze. They built the great city of Babylon, which eventually fell to the Assyrians, who destroyed the Babylonians,

their city, and its hanging gardens. It is said the gardens were amazing, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, so that was a terrible waste. After that, the Persians conquered our land, but Alexander the Great, who ushered in more than two centuries of Greek rule, subsequently conquered them.

But, not even the Greek could hold our land, and the Persians re-conquered Mesopotamia around 64 BC.

Of course, as is our history, the Persians did not maintain control for t h a t long...relatively speaking, of course. Arab Muslims, the armies of Muhammad, who brought our Arabic language and the Islamic religion to Mesopotamia, conquered them around

637 AD. Surprisingly, many of our ancestors were forcibly converted to Islam during this time. Also, our land’s new name, Iraq, was established shortly thereafter. Civil wars erupted under the Arab Empire, and the two main sects of Islam, Sunnis and Shiites, were born. I am a Shiite Muslim.

Also born was Baghdad, which became the capital and center of the Muslim world. It contained more than one million people back then, and was a center of trade and culture. The ensuing years were the ‘golden age of Islam’, but of course, the Arab Empire

did not last, and was conquered by the invading Mongol hordes. Peace was coming, though, as the Ottoman Empire took over Iraq and unified the Middle East in the early 1500’s. The Ottoman’s rule lasted until relatively recent history, when the United Kingdom took an interest in our country.

T h e i r interest began as protection of their trade routes to India and the development of overland routes to it, but quickly shifted to oil as they became rivals with Germany in the development of the Mesopotamian area.

In case you did not know, we have oil – lots of it.

The British recognized this, and in the early 1900’s developed the Anglo-Persian Oil Company to develop the industry there. But the Ottoman Empire sided with Germany during World War I, so Britain’s oil stakes became endangered. They landed troops, fought the Ottomans all the way to the north of Iraq, and by the end of the war exercised control over nearly the whole country. In 1920, the League of Nations gave the United Kingdom a mandate to rule over all of Mesopotamia.

Our people did not like this. Upon hearing of the mandate, Iraqi Arabs rose up against the British and created such a headache for

them that they decided to draw up a plan for a provisional government.

Iraq was made a kingdom, with a government run by a council of Arab ministers under the supervision of a British high commander. However, both Sunni and Shia Arabs continued to embrace the idea of a movement to join all Arab lands into one powerful state. Their means, though, were different – while some advocated achieving their goals through diplomacy with the British, others developed a revolutionary and radical anti-British stance.

We finally gained status as an independent, sovereign nation in 1932. In 1933, King Faisal I died, and was succeeded by his son, a radical pan-Arab and anti-British ruler named Ghazi. But Ghazi was weak. He could not quell the tribal and ethnic rebellions that broke out in our land, and in 1936 we experienced our first coup by anti-British groups in our military.

They left Ghazi as king, but he was their puppet until his death in a car accident. His three-year-old son, Faisal II, then became king, but his Uncle, Prince Abdul Illah, ruled for him.

When World War II began, our country sided with Germany, Italy and Japan in an attempt to rid ourselves of the British influence in our country. But the British quickly defeated us, installed their own government, and turned Iraq into a major supply center for the Allied Powers operating in the Middle East. We actually ‘declared war’ on Germany in 1943, and were the first ‘independent’ Islamic state to do so. Because we did this, our country was allowed to take a stronger stand on behalf of a federation of Arab states, and the Arab League was formed at the end of the war.

My country, however, seems unable to stay out of conflict. When the state of Israel was formed, we declared war on her, opposing what we saw as the partitioning of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. We have always opposed this, as have many of our Arab nation brothers. But, we were



Iraq: at a glimpse

AN IRAQ PRIMER

Military forces now positioned in the Gulf region

The U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf continues with Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine contingents taking positions in military installations scattered across the region. By November, more than 50,000 American and British troops, hundreds of aircraft and scores of ships will be in ready to strike Iraq.

1 TURKEY

- Several thousand U.S. troops and personnel at Incirlik air base
- 50 F-15 and F-16 fighters
- A-10 tankbusters
- Patriot anti-missile batteries

British forces: 200 troops, 4 Jaguar ground attack aircraft, VC10 airborne tankers

2 MEDITERRANEAN SEA

British forces: Aircraft carrier Ark Royal heading to the Mediterranean Sea for exercises. Carrier and support ships could provide extra firepower or a staging point for troops on the way to Iraq.

3 EGYPT

- Cairo West air base has often served as refueling and airlift base. Ports could serve as staging positions.

Egypt is reluctant to get involved in a possible U.S. attack on Iraq.

4 JORDAN

- Dozens of U.S. aircraft in two air bases — Ruwaisid and Wadi al-Murbah

5 SAUDI ARABIA

- U.S. region center, based in Dhahran, conducts surveillance and intercept flights over Iraq and conducts surveillance a
- Up to 5,000 personnel
- Up to 80 F-15 fighters
- Enough equipment for 1 army brigade

6 KUWAIT

- 10,000 U.S. Army and 3,000 U.S. Air Force troops based here
- 3rd Infantry Division at Camp Doha
- Up to 80 fighter planes
- M-1A12 battle tanks, M-212 Bradley fighting vehicles, M-109A6 Paladin artillery and helicopter assault craft
- Special Forces unit known to be on the site.

British forces: 8 Tornado GR4s and 430 troops

7 BAHRAIN

- Headquarters of the 5th Fleet
- 4,200 troops based in Manama
- 2,200 U.S. Marines
- USS George Washington carrier battle group, with attack submarines, cruisers and destroyers
- Up to 70 fighter planes
- Air Force bombers, tactical fighters, refueling tankers at Shaikh Isa air base

British forces: Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft and VC10 tankers

8 QATAR

- 600 troops of the U.S. Armed Forces Central Command will be in Qatar for exercises in November.
- Al Udeid air base has the Gulf region's longest runway and hangars for aircraft
- Home to the 319th Air Expeditionary Group, which includes fighter bombers, reconnaissance planes and tankers
- Enough equipment on site for 1 army brigade and support units

9 PERSIAN GULF

- 2 cruisers
- 4 destroyers

10 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- 2 important deep-water ports
- 1 air base
- Logistical depots

11 OMAN

- U.S. currently financing the construction of a new air base at Masnaah that can be used for airlift hubs.
- U.A.E. is believed to be home to U.S. B-1 bombers and air refueling planes.

British forces: Special Forces currently training in the area

12 ARABIAN PENINSULA

- An unmet battle group, aircraft carrier, 4 destroyers and 1 submarine
- 1,500 Marine Expeditionary Force for 30 days
- Helicopters

H3 AIR BASE

- Used by Iraq to store chemical weapons during the 1991 Gulf War
- The U.S. plans to deploy special operations forces in the western Iraqi desert at the start of any war to destroy H3 and other facilities that could be used by Iraq to launch an attack on Israel

Legend:

U.S. and British forces: Army (troop icon), Air Force (jet icon), Navy (ship icon)

Iraqi forces: Army (troop icon), Air Force (jet icon), Republican Guard (troop icon)

Iraq Quick Facts

Iraq : Geographic coordinates	33 00 N, 44 00 E
Iraq : Population growth rate	2.84%
Iraq : Birth rate	34.64 births/1,000 population
Iraq : Death rate	6.21 deaths/1,000 population
Iraq : Independence	3 October 1932
Iraq : National holiday	Revolution Day, 17 July
Iraq : Constitution	22 September 1968
Iraq : GDP - purchasing power parity	\$57 billion
Iraq : GDP - per capita - purchasing power parity	\$2,500
Iraq : Electricity - consumption	27.361 billion kWh
Iraq : Exports	\$21.8 billion crude oil
Iraq : Imports	\$13.8 billion food, medicine, manufactures
Iraq : Telephones	675,000
Iraq : Radio broadcast stations	AM 19 , FM 51, shortwave 4
Iraq : Radios	4.85 million
Iraq : Television broadcast stations	13
Iraq : Televisions	1.75 million
Iraq : Internet country code	.iq
Iraq : Internet Service Providers (ISPs)	1
Iraq : Railways	2,339 km
Iraq : Highways	45,550 km
Iraq : Waterways	1,015 km
Iraq : Pipelines	crude oil 4,350 km; petroleum products 725 km; natural gas 1,360 km
Iraq : Ports and harbors	Umm Qasr, Khawr az Zubayr, and Al Basrah
Iraq : Merchant marine	30 ships
Iraq : Airports	110
Iraq : Heliports	4
Iraq : Military branches	Army, Republican Guard, Navy, Air Force, Air Defense Force, Border Guard Force, Fedayeen Saddam
Iraq : Military expenditures	N/A

Rumsfeld: Time running out for Iraq; Reserve support needed

KATHLEEN T. RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Time is running out for Saddam Hussein to disarm, and any military solution is likely to draw heavily from the Guard and Reserve according to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

"No one wants war, but as the president has said, Iraq will be disarmed and the decision between war and peace will be made not in Washington, D.C., and not in the United Nations in New York, but rather in Bagdad," said Rumsfeld while addressing the Reserve Officers Association on Jan. 20.

The Defense Department relies heavily on reserve components because so many critical skills are found primarily in the National Guard and Reserve. Rumsfeld said he'd like to see this changed and noted that personnel experts in the Pentagon are working on the problem.

"At this time of call-ups, alerts, mobilizations, deployments and uncertainty, please know that the American people are counting on you and have full confidence in you," he said. "We can all live our lives as free people in this dangerous and still untidy world and in this new century because brave men and women like you voluntarily put your lives at risk to defend our freedom."

among U.S.-friendly

SAUDI ARABIA

regional Air Command based in Riyadh, coordinates over Iraq and Afghanistan ducts intelligence and reconnaissance. 5,000 Air Force and Army el 80 fighter jets patrol Iraq's n no-fly zone, gh equipment on site for y brigade and support units

British forces: 300 Royal Air Force personnel, 6 Tornado F3s



ARABIAN SEA

unnamed U.S. carrier group, which includes an 1 carrier, 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers, 1 submarine 00 Marines of the U.S. Expeditionary Unit, ready days of combat coolers and supplies

The history of a nation in constant turmoil

Not quite detached from its violent ancient past, Iraq's modern history is pockmarked with wars, political feuds and bloody uprisings.

World War I, 1917: Long ruled by the Ottoman Turks and wanting to be free, Iraq - known as Mesopotamia at the time - helps Britain in its war against Germany in exchange for recognition of Arab independence after the war.

1917: British forces invade Iraq, toppling the Ottoman Empire.

1920: The League of Nations puts Iraq under British administration.

1920: Oil fields discovered near Kirkuk.

1932: Iraq achieves independence.

Oct. 29, 1933: The government of the day is overthrown by Gen. Bakr Sidqi in Iraq's first military coup.

1941: Pro-British ruler Nuri al-Said is toppled by Rashid Ali Al-Gaylani, a pro-Nazi Germany ultranationalist. The new regime stokes anti-Jewish sentiments.

May 30, 1941: Britain invades Iraq. A deposed Rashid flees, and a new pro-British government is installed.

March 1945: Iraq becomes a founding member of the League of Arab States. In the same year, it joins the United Nations.

1946: Aligning itself with Jordan, Iraq goes to war against Israel, squaring the road to Israel's prosperous Jewish community.

1948: King Faisal II is killed in a coup led by Brig. Abdul Karim Qasbi and Col. Abdul Salam Arif.

1958: A Saddam Hussein-led assassination attempt at Qasbi, led by a young Saddam Hussein.

1961: Kuwait gains independence from Britain, but Iraq claims sovereignty over it.

October 1963: Not prepared to fight another war with Britain over

its claim on Kuwait, Iraq backs down.

Through the '60s and '70s: A period of instability, with one coup after another taking place.

1967: During the Arab-Israeli war, Iraq supplies aid to Syria.

Late '70s: The oil boom gives Iraq's economy a dramatic surge.

July 1978: Hussein rises to power. He immediately purges rivals to consolidate his power.

Sept. 22, 1980: Iraq embarks on an eight-year war with Iran, which claims 1 million lives on both sides and cripples both economies.

Aug. 20, 1990: A U.N.-initiated ceasefire between the two warring countries takes effect.

July 17, 1990: Iraq accuses Kuwait of producing oil from a disputed supply.

Aug. 2, 1990: Iraq invades Kuwait.

Jan. 17, 1991: The Gulf War commences. The U.S., backed by allied troops from 26 countries, launches air raids on Iraq. About 100,000 Iraqi soldiers and thousands of civilians are killed in the six-week war.

1991: After the Iraq surrender, Iraqi aircraft are prevented from flying over areas north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32nd parallel to prevent the genocide of Kurds and Marsh Arabs.

June 27, 1993: During the Clinton administration, U.S. warships in the Red Sea fire 25 Tomahawk cruise missiles at Baghdad in a retaliation for an alleged plot to assassinate former President Bush.

October 1994: Frustrated by U.N. sanctions, Hussein moves troops toward Kuwait, once again provoking a large-scale U.S. troop deployment. Hussein stays up.

May 1994: About 300 people die in a clash of two feuding Kurdistan political parties.

May 1995: Hussein fires two of his key ministers to consolidate power among himself and his two sons. His minister of the military flees to Jordan.

1995 through 2002: Hussein continues to violate the terms of the U.N. weapons inspection program, bringing him to the brink of another confrontation with the U.S. and its allies.

Information and graphics compiled from the CIA World Fact Book and other sources [see page S4] by Maj. Scott Wilson, State Public Information Officer

Walk with me through history

From page S1

defeated in our endeavors.

Shortly thereafter, though, we signed agreements with foreign oil companies that gave us 50 percent of all profits on oil drilled from our country, and this assisted in making us a relatively rich nation. Our nation became increasingly pro-western and pan-Arab, and in 1953, when Faisal II turned 18, he assumed the throne and took control of our government.

I want to turn from government and warring at this point, and tell you of other things in my country that you may not know. There, our education is free, but many of our children do not attend school because they must work to help feed their families. As such, only 74 percent of our children are literate.

Our health standards are low, and we have a high infant mortality rate, nearly 58 per 1000 births.

Despite these things, though, Iraq is considered a cultural powerhouse of the Arab world, and claims many of the best Arab writers, poets, sculptors, singers and painters.

Our modern economy is largely based on oil, but has been severely repressed due to a series of events: the Iran-Iraq war, then ensuing world oil surplus, followed by UN Sanctions, and finally the Persian Gulf War and continuing sanctions.

It may surprise you to learn, though, that outside of oil, we do have a very agricultural country, with almost 12 percent of our land used for farming. Most farmers operate in the 'Mesopotamian' area between the Tigris and Euphrates, as I did. They produce dates, many other fruits, olives, and livestock. Iraq is a nation rich in other natural resources as well, including natural gas, sulphur, iron, gold, copper, and other minerals. On paper, we are positioned to be a very wealthy nation. But in reality, we have not allowed ourselves to become one.

You know of the man, Saddam Hussein. Everyone does. 'The Anointed One', 'Glorious Leader', 'Direct Descendant of the Prophet', 'President of Iraq, and Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). I will introduce him now because it will be interesting for you to hear the role he has played in the recent history of our country – the last fifty years or so.

Saddam was born in Tikrit on the 28th of April, 1937. His humble, rural, tribal beginnings are reflected even today through his view of himself as the patriarch of Iraq. I mention this because it is foundational for your understanding of Saddam. You see, in the tribal mentality, the only loyalty is to family and village, and the ultimate goal is to gain and retain power. Saddam the tyrant is the embodiment of this belief system. Unfortunately, it has made him delusional, and the Iraqi people know it. What they do not know, however, is whether what comes

after him is any better.

After his birth, Saddam was sent to live with an uncle who was an Iraqi army officer and proponent of Arab unity. As a result, he gravitated to politics as a teenager, moving to Baghdad in 1955, and joining the ruling Baath Socialist Party when he turned nineteen. To make his mark, Saddam attempted to assassinate the Prime Minister of Iraq. He failed, was wounded by a gunshot to the leg, and was imprisoned for six months. Upon his conviction of this crime, he was sentenced to death, but he escaped and sought shelter first in Syria and then in Egypt. Both countries were proponents of Arab unity, which was what Saddam was a proponent of, so they sheltered him. While in Egypt, he studied law, but never completed his studies. He also became an admirer of Stalin, and to this day has a library filled with books about the man who is his hero.

After the Ramadan Revolution of 1963, Saddam returned and was elected into the Baath party leadership. He was basically a mafia-type hit man, intimidator, interrogator, and all-around thug. After being jailed for rebelling against the regime, he was elected the Deputy Secretary General of the Baath Party.

He escaped from prison, and was later instrumental in the coup that overthrew Iraq's regime. The Baath Party seized power under Gen. Ahmed Hassan Bakr, and importantly, they seized power over the military.

You see, Saddam does not like his military. He does not trust them. He uses security forces to protect himself, and trusts only his own family; again, all very Stalinistic traits, as we discussed before.

For the next eleven years, Saddam ruled behind the scenes. And because he was so industrious and tireless, Bakr let him. It was the easy thing to do. He became head of the 'security system,' and built an elaborate network of secret police, spies, and informants. He installed relations into key military positions to shield his political power from the one organization that could potentially take it away.

He was elected the Vice-Chairman of the RCC, which is really the ruling body of Iraq. Again, while Bakr was the Chairman, he was

largely a figurehead. Saddam nationalized all of the oil companies in Iraq, and was also elected the Assistant Secretary General of the National Pan-Arab leadership of the Baath Party. Eventually, he deposed Bakr, and was elected the President of Iraq and Chairman of the RCC in 1979. He subsequently ordered the execution of more than 400 political rivals to seal his supremacy. Saddam's ascendancy to the ruling post of Iraq really opened the door to many of the troubles facing my country today.

In 1980, Saddam invaded Iran. This could be seen by many as a war of principle – Khomeini, in Iran, believed that religion reigned supreme, and was calling for the overthrow of Saddam. He had toppled the Shah of

Iran in a religious revolution, and the momentum from his actions was stirring up the Kurds in northern Iraq. The Kurds, having enjoyed the rule of the Sunni Baath Party, and



having earlier dismissed an offer of autonomy by Saddam, chose war, with Iran's backing. Saddam, who believed the nation-state, not religion, reigned supreme, had to do something. So he invaded...but I don't want to make all this sound so idealistic.

Really, this also had to do with oil, and with who would own and control the Shatt-al-Arab or 'big river' (where the Euphrates and Tigris join and pour into the Persian Gulf). Iran and Iraq had earlier reached an agreement that essentially divided the river right down the middle. But Saddam believed it belonged to him, and besides, he knew he had U.S. backing. The U.S. had chosen him as the lesser of two evils. So how could he fail?

The war was atrocious. More than 1.5 million people died. It lasted eight long years. And in the end, no one won.

Saddam used chemical attacks on the Iranis, on the Kurds, and on his own troops. It is now estimated that 180,000 Kurds disappeared and that 4,000 villages were destroyed. In one town alone, Halabaja, 5,000 people were gassed and killed, and 10,000 were injured. The UN condemned him, and Iraq, for the use of chemical weapons. But none of it mattered to Saddam – all that mattered was victory and the

extension of his power.

Really, from there, you probably know our history. The next major event in Saddam's reign was the invasion and seizure of Kuwait on the 2nd of August, 1991. To which the United States and its allies responded, and soundly defeated Saddam...and Iraq. The sanctions levied are tough on my country, and made tougher by a tyrannical dictator who manipulates what leeway he does have for the gain of himself and his family.

My people starve, and he builds palaces. The 'Oil for Food' program is a joke – Saddam detours any of the gains for his own benefit. It is a sad state for my people – a proud people, sitting on a rich land, who cannot change their situation for fear of the repercussions any option presents. Saddam reigns supreme in his disillusionment – he still believes, and tells 'his' people, that they were victorious in the Gulf War!

You only have to listen to him speak to hear his tired madness. Did you hear him, just last year? This is what he told my people on the 17th of January of 2002:

"Today is a day in the Grand Battle, the immortal Mother of All Battles. It is a glorious and splendid day on the part of the self-respecting people of Iraq and their history, and it is the beginning of the great shame for those who ignited its fire on the other part. It is the first day on which the vast military phase of that battle started. Or rather, it is the first day of that battle, since Allah decreed that the Mother of All Battles continue till this day."

Thus is the state of my country. Saddam trusts no one, and his circle is growing smaller. We can only hope that the beast of his own making, his own people's hatred of him, will extinguish him and his tyranny. Thank you for listening, and pray for us all.

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