



Connecticut GUARDIAN

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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

January 2022

14th CST assists Hartford Police in fentanyl case

Tim Koster
Connecticut National Guard State Public Affairs Office

HARTFORD, Conn. -- The Connecticut National Guard's 14th Civil Support Team was called into action at the request of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to provide on-site sample analysis when nearly 40 bags of fentanyl were found stashed in various locations at the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy in Hartford, Jan. 13, 2022.

One seventh grade student who ingested the fentanyl tragically passed away three days later. Two other students were exposed to the drug and brought to the hospital but released later that night.

According to drugabuse.gov, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid painkiller similar to morphine but typically 50 to 100 times more potent. Although it legal to obtain via a prescription, it is also commonly produced and sold illegally, often cut with other drugs such as heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines, and MDMA.

Hartford Police Spokesperson Lt. Aaron Boisvert said the fentanyl in the bags was in its powder form and no other drugs were discovered.

The 14th CST used its mobile laboratory to analyze samples of the drugs found in the school with the hope of identifying its molecular make up to help local law enforcement find the source of where the narcotics came from.

The school was closed for several days to conduct a thorough decontamination.

Synthetic opioids are the most common drug involved



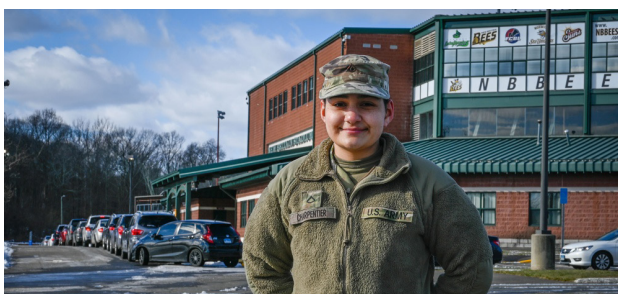
U.S. Army Capt. Joyce Avedisian, 14th Civil Support Team nuclear medical science officer, prepares equipment inside an Analytical Laboratory System vehicle for sample analysis outside the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy in Hartford, Conn., Jan. 13, 2022. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection requested support from the Connecticut National Guard's 14th Civil Support Team after several bags of suspected fentanyl were found in multiple locations inside the school. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Steven Tucker)

in drug-related overdose deaths in America. Fentanyl, like other opioids, work by binding to the body's opioid receptors in the brain, which control a person's pain and emotions. Continued use of the drug can lead to the brain adapting to it, making a higher dosage necessary to achieve

the same results. A higher dosage can lead to overdose, causing a person's breathing to stop or slow to the point where not enough oxygen can get to the brain which can lead to coma, permanent brain damage, and even death.

Local police are still investigating the situation.

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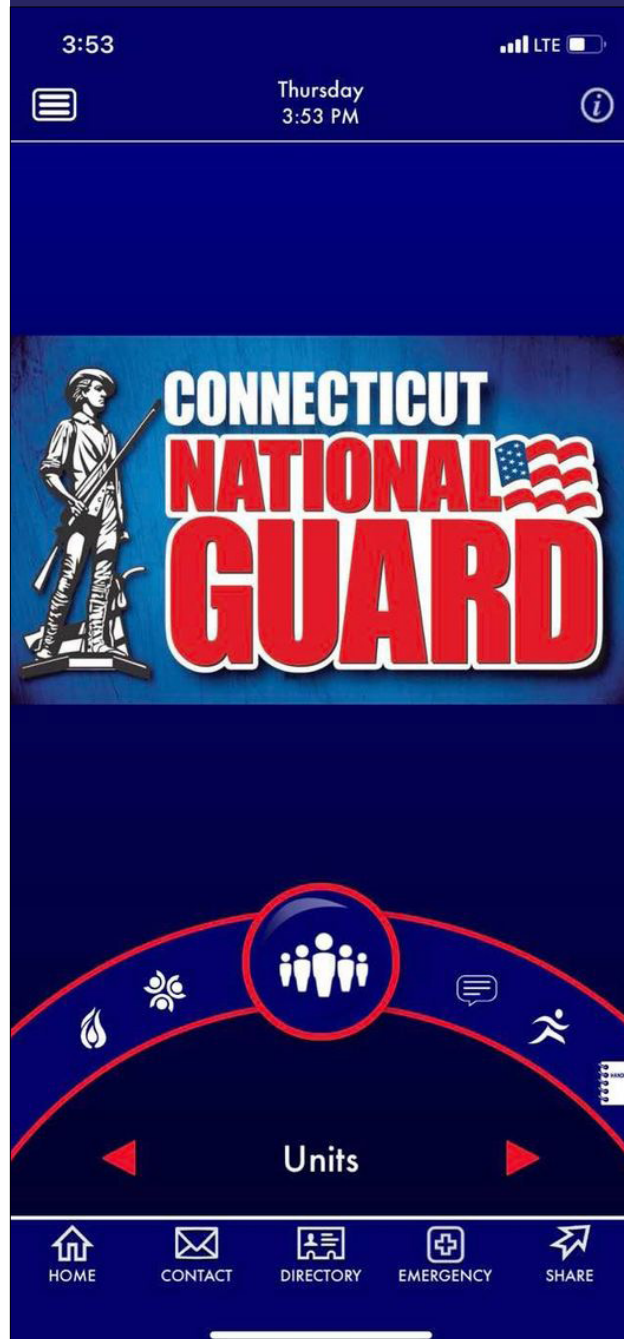


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Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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U.S. Army Pfc. Stefanie Charpentier, 141st Medical Company combat medic, assists operations at a state-supported COVID-19 testing site in New Britain, Connecticut, Jan. 10, 2022. Charpentier studies biochemistry at nearby Central Connecticut State University and has volunteered twice to support the state's COVID-19 pandemic response.

CT Guardsman supports COVID-19 response close to home

2nd Lt. Steven Tucker
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — On a cold January day, a team of four Connecticut National Guard soldiers make their way down a line of vehicles, helping local residents register for their COVID-19 tests.

New Britain Stadium, home of a collegiate summer league baseball team and former minor league home of baseball stars like David Ortiz and Joe Mauer, has seen its parking lot converted into a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site in response to the increase in cases associated with the Omicron variant.

Among the soldiers supporting the civilian-led site is Pfc. Stefanie Charpentier, a combat medic assigned to the 141st Medical Company.

"I joined the Guard because I always wanted to be in the military, and with the Guard I could serve close to home while going to college," said Charpentier.

In addition to supporting the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Charpentier studies biochemistry at Central Connecticut State University—also located in New Britain.

"I wanted to be a medic in the Guard and be involved in the medical field on the civil-

ian side as well," said Charpentier. "I volunteered for this mission so I could help provide access to medical services that are so critical right now."

Charpentier was also activated in 2021 to help administer the COVID-19 vaccine as part of the Guard's efforts at vaccination sites across the state.

As Connecticut grapples with the Omicron variant, so far approximately 250 Guardsmen have volunteered to assist 24 testing sites and distribute test kits and masks at five regional points of distribution throughout the state. In addition, Connecticut Guardsmen support logistics operations at the state's commodities warehouse in New Britain—the hub for testing supplies and PPE distributed statewide.

"We train to be ready at a moment's notice, and throughout this response, we've used our skills to help the people of Connecticut," said Charpentier. "It means a lot that I'm able to help people in my state, including right here in New Britain, during this time of need."

Charpentier said she hopes the Guard's efforts will help the state get tests to everybody who needs one, and that she is appreciative of the support shown by residents at these testing sites.

"The Guard is ready to help, and we'll continue to do everything we can to support our neighbors here in Connecticut," said Charpentier.



A U.S. Army food service specialist cuts meat for the Connelly Cup competition at Camp Nett in Niantic, CT on January 8, 2022. The Phillip A. Connelly Program, run by the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence, reviews all areas of food service and supporting functions.

192nd, 143rd Military Police Compete for Connelly Cup

Maj. David Pytlík
Connecticut National Guard State Public Affairs Office

HARTFORD, Conn. — Army Culinary Specialists (92G) from the 143rd Military Police Company and 192nd Military Police Battalion competed in the 2022 Connelly Cup at Camp Nett, Niantic, Connecticut, Jan. 8, 2022.

According to the Army Quartermaster's website the Connelly Program is the "personification of food service excellence executed by culinary specialists resulting in the presentation of extremely gratifying dining experiences across all Army food service platforms in garrison and field environments."

Judges from National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Army Quartermaster School descended on snowy Niantic to assess the team's proficiency in food service and everything else that goes into supporting field feeding operations.

"The Connelly itself is one of the logistics awards programs we have to recognize, distinguish, and show respect towards our 92Gs that work hard every day, but unless you don't get any food, you don't notice it," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Dawn Broe, food service advisor for National Guard Bureau. "It's a program to honor the 92Gs and their mission."

Units are graded according to a stringent checklist of criteria that look at every aspect of food preparation, serving, field sanitation and supporting functions.

According to Broe, there are 11 sections the units are graded on which include everything from the convoy of the food, completeness of paperwork and licensure, delivery of a proper safety brief, and the overall training of the unit and its Soldiers.

For soldiers who have spent time in the field in austere weather conditions, they know the importance of a good hot meal.

"Me personally, I feel like field feeding can make or break a drill weekend or a training event. If you're out in (cold or wet) weather nothing gets better than a hot meal," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nicholas Berube, state food advisor. "If you're having a bad day at training, a good meal can change your whole mentality."

A good, hot meal is just one part of what it takes to keep a soldier effective and in the fight. Food service personnel are also the meal planners for their units. This all fits into the bigger picture of the Army's Holistic Health and Fitness operating concept.

"Food service is very, very important to the military because of the (Holistic Health and Fitness program, which

includes the ACFT.) It has to do with sleep, eating healthy, recognizing nutritional values. It's a whole picture of a Soldier and how they can improve themselves," said Broe. "It's very important for a Soldier to eat healthy and eat well, get their sleep and exercise in order to perform their best."

The Connelly Cup competition is takes place over a lengthy period where units are identified at local or state levels to compete at the regional, component level before reaching the Department of the Army level.

"At the NGB level we send out teams to evaluate them and the top four of them will move on to the DA level," said Broe. "Today we are doing the DA level, so Connecticut has made it all the way, the 143rd MPs made it all the way up to the DA level."

As for the stakes, there's more on the line than plaques and bragging rights.

"It's DA-level now, we are the best of the best, top of the Guard. If we nail this, we won \$10,000 for winning the regional, to purchase new kitchen equipment," said Berube. "If we win this, we win another \$40,000 and send some of the Golfs to the Culinary Institute of America in Napa Valley for a week."



U.S. Army Spc. Francisco Cordero Acevedo, 250th Engineer Company bridge builder crew member, assists operations at a state-supported COVID-19 testing site in Bristol, Connecticut, Jan. 12, 2022. A Connecticut native, Cordero Acevedo previously served for nine years in the U.S. Marine Corps before returning to Connecticut and joining the Guard, and has a full-time civilian career cleaning and restoring homes damaged by flooding or fire.

Service a way of life for Guardsman supporting COVID-19 response

2nd Lt. Steven Tucker
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

BRISTOL, Conn. — Bright orange cones mark traffic lanes for local residents arriving at a parking lot across the street from Bristol City Hall. Like many others across Connecticut, this lot has turned into a COVID-19 testing site to help meet increased demand associated with the spread of the Omicron variant.

A pair of Connecticut National Guard soldiers are on site to assist civilian lab workers with daily operations. So far approximately 250 Guardsmen are activated to assist 24 state-supported testing sites and PPE distribution at the state's commodities warehouse and five regional points of distribution.

For U.S. Army Spc. Francisco Cordero Acevedo, a bridge builder crew member assigned to the 250th Engineer Company, volunteering to assist the state's COVID-19 response didn't require a second thought.

"When my leadership presented the opportunity, I took it because it was a chance to continue helping in many ways," said Cordero Acevedo.

Cordero Acevedo served for nine years in the U.S. Marine Corps before returning to his home state and joining the National Guard. In his full-time civilian career, he helps

clean and restore homes damaged by fire or flooding.

"I always seek ways to better myself and help the community," said Cordero Acevedo.

At the Bristol testing site, Cordero Acevedo does everything in his power to make sure everyone gets the help they need.

"We try to alleviate some of the stress on the lab workers by helping hand out registration paperwork, helping patients fill it out, and explaining to patients how to conduct the self-swab tests that this site uses," said Cordero Acevedo. "I always tell the patients to wave us down if they need any clarification so we can help them through the process."

Attentiveness to each individual who comes through the site contributes to successful testing operations, said Cordero Acevedo.

"I think it helps the patients understand that we're here to ensure everyone is safe and conducts the test correctly, which then helps provide them with accurate results," said Cordero Acevedo.

Through supporting these operations, Cordero Acevedo hopes to help his fellow Connecticut residents stay safe during this recent surge in COVID-19 cases.

"We want to make sure everyone who comes through these sites is tested accurately to help mitigate the spread of the virus as much as possible," said Cordero Acevedo. "We're here to help and we care."

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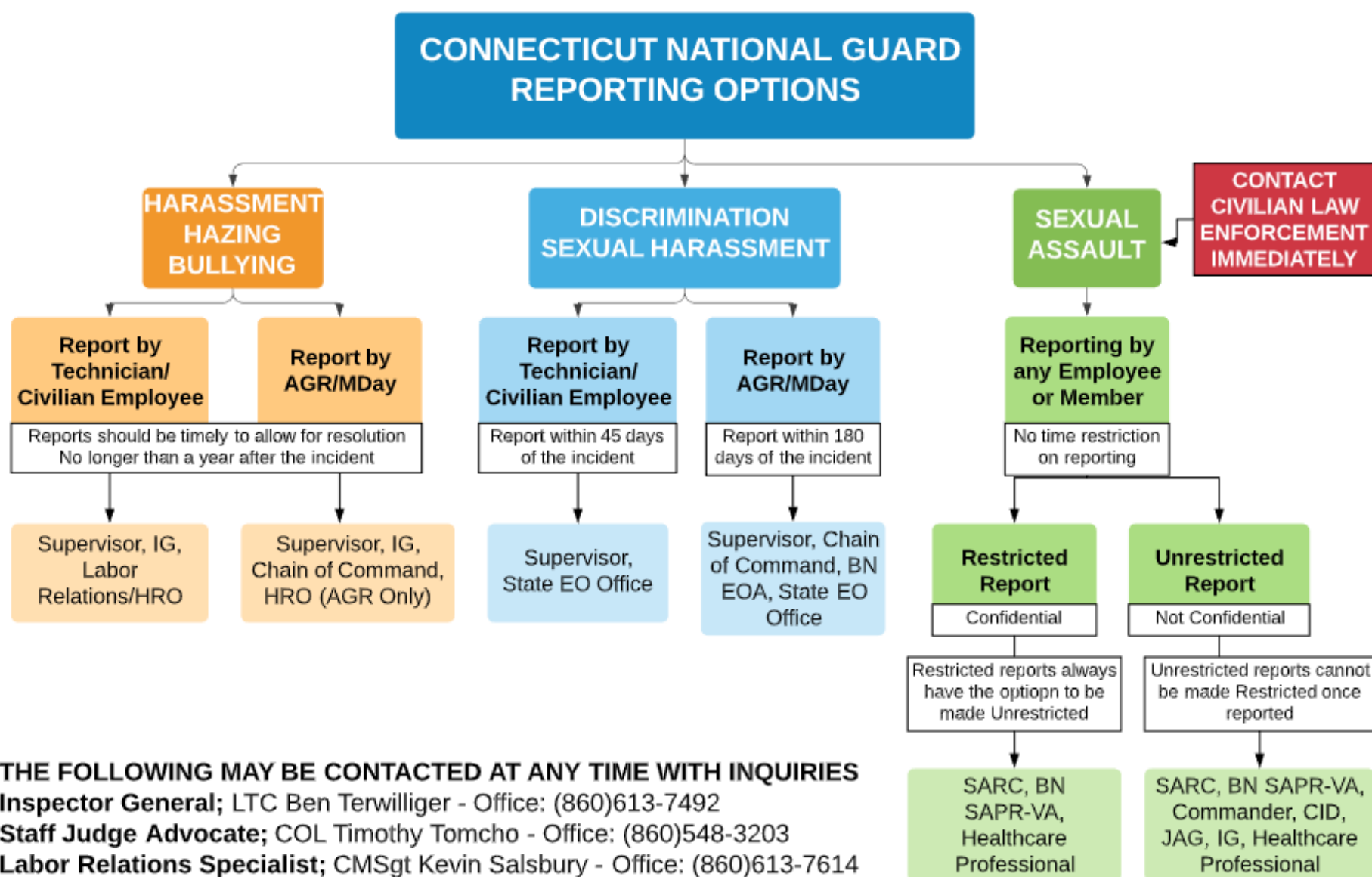
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No Admission Fee
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Connecticut National Guard Hotline



In an effort to support the needs of our service members and their families, the Connecticut National Guard has a 24-hour HELPLINE.

Your call will be answered by a behavioral health professional. You will receive information and referrals to community resources to support you and your family.

1-855-800-0120

LEADS TO ENLISTMENTS

FY-22 ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AWARDS PROGRAM

1ST LEAD TO ENLISTMENT

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Soldiers will submit leads through the "Connecticut National Guard" app which can be downloaded from the google play store or the app store. You will earn the above items when the lead enlists.

**Contact MSG Craig Townsend for questions and more information.
craig.r.townsend.mil@army.mil**

The ESGR Statement of Support Underscores Employer Commitment to Recruiting and Retaining Reserve Component Service Members

Thad Martin
Chair CT Committee for ESGR

Recently I had the honor of attending an ESGR Statement of Support signing ceremony for Greenwich-based XPO Logistics. An international company with 60,000 employees worldwide, it is a leading supply chain partner to blue-chip companies across every major industry, with a sole focus on freight transportation.

It was great to finally attend an in-person event and the signing ceremony was hosted by Senior Vice President Dennis McCaffrey, a Marine Corps veteran and executive sponsor of the company’s Veterans and Military Employee Resource Group.

Having an employer sign a Statement of Support represents the end state we at ESGR work toward - an environment where employers support and value recruiting and retaining Reserve Component service members. Watching XPO Logistics Chairman/CEO Brad Jacobs sign the statement in front of the entire US workforce was a powerful moment, but what came next was even more incredible.

In his remarks, which were live-streamed to all US XPO Logistics locations, Jacobs talked about his patriotism and his admiration for members of the military and veterans, specifically those who worked for the company. He said veterans and current Reserve and National Guard service members set the standard for the rest of the organization and, as he wrapped up his speech, he challenged every XPO Logistics colleague to recruit not one, but three veterans or Reserve Component service members to the workforce.

Making Good Business Sense

Jacobs’ challenge isn’t surprising because military employees are excellent leaders and outstanding followers. Through their service and training they prove to be loyal, dedicated, and highly motivated employees. Members of the National Guard and Reserve bring responsibility, and professionalism in everything they do. They understand the mission of their civilian jobs and make it a priority to get results, all while displaying a strong work ethic.

Service members often possess advanced skills, certifications, education, and are more valuable employees.

They also recognize their employment is an essential element in sustaining the All-Volunteer Force for the future.

Our nation benefits from the contributions of those willing to depart the comforts of home to answer the call of duty. Our service members carry out missions compatible with training, mobilization readiness, humanitarian affairs, and contingency operations here in the United States, as well as in many countries all over the world.

Support at home, such as from employers who publicly pledge their commitment to their military employees, helps them focus on those missions.

For more information on arranging a Statement of Support signing event for your employer, contact Connecticut ESGR Volunteer Support Technician Ben Beaudry at (860) 524-4970 or Benjamin.A.Beaudry.ctr@mail.mil. Follow Connecticut ESGR on Twitter (@CT_ESGR) or Facebook (Connecticut Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve).



What’s Your Story?

Do you have an interesting hobby, skill, civilian occupation, or recent life event?

We want to help you tell the world!

Contact the Connecticut National Guard Public Affairs Office:

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Welcome Home Task Force Iron Gray



A Soldier assigned to the Connecticut National Guard's 1-102nd Infantry Regiment prepares to hug his son after returning home from a nearly year long deployment at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Connecticut Jan. 22, 2022. The 1-102nd was deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Mr. Tim Koster, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



Families of the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain) greet the return of their Soldiers at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Connecticut on Jan. 13, 2022. Over 1,000 National Guardsmen from Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts and Colorado were deployed as Task Force Iron Gray in support of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. (Photo by Maj. David Pytlík, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



Six new fathers from the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain) met their newborn children for the first time at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Connecticut after returning home from a nearly year long deployment Jan. 13, 2022. Over 1,000 National Guardsmen from five different states were deployed as Task Force Iron Gray in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (Photo by Maj. David Pytlík, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



The son of a Soldier assigned to the Connecticut National Guard's 1-102nd Infantry Regiment cheers as his loved one's plane pulls into the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Connecticut Jan. 22, 2022. The 1-102nd spent nearly a year deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Tim Koster, Joint Force Headquarters)



Family members of Soldiers assigned to the Connecticut National Guard's 1-102nd Infantry Regiment cheer as their loved one's plane pulls into the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Connecticut Jan. 22, 2022. The 1-102nd spent nearly a year deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Tim Koster, Joint Force Headquarters)



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, welcomes home Soldiers assigned to the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain) at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Connecticut Jan. 13, 2022.

Greetings to all Soldiers, Airmen, Family & Friends ... I encourage you to nominate a deserving member for one of the NGACT awards listed below. Each winner will be recognized at the 2022 NGACT Annual conference. Nomination forms are due Monday 21 FEB 2022. All awardees will be informed if they are selected NLT Friday 4 MAR 2022.

NGACT Awards & Eligibility

The Minuteman Award: The highest honor bestowed on a member of the Association. It recognizes exceptional achievement, a patriotic act, highly distinguished service, and/or an outstanding contribution to a military organization, community, the State, the Nation or National Guard Association of Connecticut. Posthumous awards may be made to the next of kin.

Eligibility: Member or former member of the military and NGACT

The NGACT Leadership Award: Recognizes a company-grade officer who epitomizes the loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage exemplified in the Officer's Creed.

Eligibility: Company grade officer, member of the Connecticut National Guard, Member of NGACT, and recommendation endorsed by the respective chain of command.

The Commander Sergeant Major Anthony V. Savino Award: Recognizes a noncommissioned officer who epitomizes the loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage exemplified in the NCO Creed.

Eligibility: NCO and member of the Connecticut National Guard, member of NGACT and recommendation endorsed by the respective chain of command.

The Meritorious Service Award: Bestowed on an individual, firm, or organization for outstanding service to the Connecticut National Guard and/or NGACT.

Eligibility: Any individual, firm or organization; military or civilian.

The President's Corporate Member Award: Recognizes a corporate member that distinguishes itself through noteworthy contributions in furtherance of the purpose, goals, and objectives of NGACT.

Eligibility: Current corporate member of NGACT.

The President's Retiree Award: Recognizes a retiree member who distinguishes themselves through noteworthy contributions in furtherance of the purpose, goals and objectives of NGACT.

Eligibility: Current member of NGACT.

National Guard Association of Connecticut

2022 Awards Program Nomination Form

The National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) recognizes outstanding achievement or service in keeping with the purpose, goals, objectives and policies of the Association through its annual Awards Program. We will recognize recipients at the NGACT Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon on **Saturday, 26 MAR 2022**.

The NGACT Awards Committee is now accepting nominations through **21 FEB 2022**. All nomination forms must be postmarked **NO LATER THAN 21 FEB 2022** to be considered.

Please complete the form and forward it with any supporting documentation to: NGACT Awards Committee, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795 or email to ulrickbrice@gmail.com

Name of Person being Nominated: _____

Is the Person a current member of the Connecticut National Guard? Yes__ No__

Is the Person a retired member of the Connecticut National Guard? Yes__ No__

Is this a posthumous award? Yes____ No____

Nominee's Unit: _____ Nominee's Rank: _____

Nominee's Phone Number: _____ Nominee's Email: _____

Award being Nominated For: _____

Please provide as detailed a description as possible of why this Nominee is deserving of the Award: (Use a separate sheet if necessary)

Name of person making the nomination: _____ Rank: _____

Unit of person making the nomination: _____

Your Phone Number: _____ Your E-mail: _____

Relationship to nominee: _____

Awards

The Minuteman Award

The NGACT Leadership Award

The Command Sergeant Major's Award

The Meritorious Service Award

The President's Corporate Member Award

The President's Retiree Award



Air Guardsman helps neighbors escape fire

Master Sgt. Tamara Dabney
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

On March 29, 2021, a fire destroyed two multi-family homes in the Rockville section of Vernon, Connecticut. At the time, U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Nathan Pisani, a member of the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, was inside one of the buildings where he lived with his partner and daughter. During the blaze, Pisani did what he felt any person would do, helping to rescue more than a dozen people.

On the day of the fire, Pisani was inside his apartment with his partner, daughter and pet cat when he went outside to re-park his truck. As Pisani opened his front door to leave, the scent of smoke rushed into his apartment.

"I was just stepping out of my front door to go move my truck because my partner had some places to go and the truck was blocking her car," said Pisani. "I was actually about to start an exam for my online courses that I was taking, and yeah, those plans went out the window. I smelled smoke and that's when I looked around and saw the flames coming up."

The multi-family buildings, which according to local officials were built in the 1800s, were completely engulfed in flames. As the wind blew burning embers from one building to the other, he ran door-to-door to alert his neighbors.

"I called 9-1-1 and started banging on doors, telling people to get out, there was a fire," said Pisani. "There were large physical flames. I couldn't stand and do nothing."

Most people were able to escape the buildings. However, when Pisani went back to one of the buildings to check for remaining occupants, he saw that two people were trapped on the third floor. Pisani ran back to his truck and parked it close to the burning building, beneath the window where the people were trapped. He had initially hoped the truck would provide a higher base for landing, in case the trapped occupants were forced to jump out of the window to safety. Then, Pisani's neighbor Brett Rinehart, a retired firefighter, was able to obtain a ladder so the people who were trapped could climb down from the third floor.

Just as Pisani, Rinehart, and other residents were preparing to assist their neighbors with their escape, firefighters arrived at the scene. Pisani and his neighbors aided the rescue by securing the base of a ladder as fire fighters climbed to the third floor to evacuate the individuals who were trapped.

Shortly after the incident, Pisani resumed his duties as part of the Connecticut National Guard's COVID-19 response. He had been one of the hundreds Guardsmen tasked with distributing PPE to first responders and healthcare facilities throughout the state. Pisani was later tasked with COVID-19 testing and vaccination operations, as well as emergency food distribution.

For months, most of his colleagues were unaware of his efforts to rescue neighbors from a fire because he had not discussed the incident with them. Pisani, who has served in the military for more than 20 years, does not view his response on the night of the fire as something extraordinary or worthy of storytelling. In fact, he believes that his actions during the emergency would come naturally to anyone.

"Do the right thing," said Pisani. "It's just a general principle that's ingrained, I think, in each and every one of us. I can't see a situation and not do anything- at least not until I know someone better-trained and better-equipped is there."

There were no serious injuries reported from the incident, though some residents went to the hospital as a precaution after inhaling smoke. 29 residents, including Pisani, were displaced as a result of the fire. Pisani was recognized by local authorities for potentially



Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Pisani, assigned to the 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, prepares to speak about how he helped his neighbors escape from a fire, August 30, 2021 in Vernon, Connecticut. Pisani potentially saved the lives of more than a dozen people during the blaze.

saving the lives of more than a dozen people.

"When you want to help other people, you can find the motivation to go in and help," said Pisani. "Even when it is a hazardous situation, all you really need to do is to want to help people."



Air Force Col. Christopher Pack, 103rd Maintenance Group Commander, speaks with Dan Godin, Suffield Fire Department fire fighter, as an aerial ladder device from Suffield Fire Department is raised above an aircraft hangar during a training exercise hosted by the Connecticut Air National Guard Fire Department, December 10, 2021 at Bradley Air National Base, Conn. The CTANG Fire Department collaborated with its mutual aid partners to incorporate resources from various fire departments into its incident command system. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)

Connecticut Air Guard fire department trains with partners

Master Sgt. Tamara Dabney
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

EAST GRANBY, Conn. – The Connecticut Air National Guard Fire Department is collaborating with mutual aid partners to conduct familiarization training exercises at Bradley Air National Guard Base.

The goal is to incorporate resources from various fire departments into the Connecticut Air Guard's incident command system, speeding response times and improving collaboration between area fire departments in light of staff shortages.

The training focuses on using aerial ladder devices, which maximize vertical reach during rapid response, ventilation, extinguishment and rescue operations. In some cases, the devices have elevated waterways used to apply water to high areas.

"This [training] familiarizes our mutual aid partners with the base layout and gives their [fire truck] drivers a chance to survey the areas so that, if they do come out to the base for an incident, they'd be better prepared to set up the aerial devices," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Cross, Connecticut Air National Guard installation fire chief. "For the past year, we've been working with mutual aid partners to determine what mutual aid resources are ac-

tually coming in to assist, should an incident occur here."

If an emergency were to occur at Bradley, dispatch centers would alert fire departments using run cards, which are listings that prioritize the closest and most practical fire department resources. The computer-automated dispatch [CAD] system has streamlined the dispatch process and enhanced mutual aid capabilities for the CTANG Fire Department.

"Once we switched dispatch centers in July 2021, we were able to switch to a newer CAD-based run card system," said Cross. "If a 911 caller calls into a dispatch center and says it's smoking in the facility, [the CAD system] starts that run card for the resources that are required for that type of incident. They automatically would be dispatching these units without us having to call four or five different departments in order to meet the levels of service that's required by the Department of Defense and the Air Force."

Steve Bianchi, assistant chief of the Windsor Volunteer Fire Department, said region-wide training and cooperation between departments is necessary for effective mutual aid operations.

"This is the beginning of a regionalization of the fire departments," said Bianchi. "For me, it's all about work-

ing with our neighbors and getting to know our neighbors, so when we have mutual aid, everybody is familiar with the operation. We're breaking down the barriers. It's the common sense approach to getting the water on the fire and saving lives."

With regionalization, proximity to an emergency incident and available resources will take precedence over jurisdiction when determining which fire departments to dispatch.

"The old philosophy was, it's our jurisdiction, we'll take care of it," said Jim Griskewicz, deputy chief of the Windsor Fire Department. "Nowadays, we're so short on staffing, we can't do it by ourselves anymore. Why wouldn't we call [another fire department] if they're closer, or have them on the run card?"

Bianchi agreed.

"The volunteerism throughout the country is at an all-time low," said Bianchi. "So for us, it's all about getting the regionalization up and running. It doesn't matter which fire department from which town goes into someone else's town. The end goal is that they all work fluidly. It's for people's safety and for the good of the departments. I'm excited to be here and be a part of this."

Retiree Voice: Tricare, Tax, and Scam Email Updates

Sgt. 1st Class (ret.) Stephanie Cyr
Contributor

This month's article will focus on three areas. Using Urgent Care with TRICARE, the newest scam emails trying to get your personal information for fraud, and tax information to remember.

Urgent care is medical care you need for a non-emergency injury or illness. Typical urgent care doesn't threaten life, limb, or eyesight, but needs to be addressed before it becomes a serious health risk. Urgent care is care you need within twenty-four hours and is not more than thirty minutes driving away. Examples of non-life-threatening illnesses where urgent care could be utilized include common illnesses such as sinus and ear infection, the flu, a high fever, strep throat, or pink eye. Injuries that can be cared for at urgent care are small cuts, sprained ankle, or embedded ticks.

All retirees who have a TRICARE plan, except US Family Health Plan, can get urgent care from any TRICARE-authorized urgent care center or network provider. You can find this information on the TRICARE website under the heading, Find A Doctor.

TRICARE members also have access to the Nurse Advice Line. TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line is available 24/7 by calling 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273). Option 1 allows you to talk to a registered nurse who can provide you with health care advice, answer your urgent care ques-

tions, help you find a doctor, and schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics. It is available to all TRICARE beneficiaries in the U.S. except those enrolled in the US Family Health Plan.

New email scams are currently circulating. These include notice of delivery, confirm payment notices, survey in exchange for gift cards, and the ever present "confirm your winnings".

Examples of notice of delivery include Amazon or USPS delivery notice asking for confirmation of payment to deliver and ask for personal information such as credit card numbers. The author of this article has received several confirmations of renewal notices from Norton Security, which give a false renewal date, ask for confirmation of payment method, and are not from a legitimate email. The newest is "Big Casino Winnings" scam. All one needs to do is click on the link and enter the code. DON'T!

When one receives a suspicious email that doesn't make sense, do not click on any links within the email. You can right click on the address, and it will show from whom the email really comes. The best thing to do is delete it immediately.

Tax time has started. The fastest, easiest, and most secure way to obtain a copy of your IRS 1099-R is through myPay. Retirees and annuitants can log in to myPay and print the 1099-R from home. This can be done 24/7 at myPay.dfas.mil.



Not using myPay? Now is a great time to start. It is now simpler, more user and mobile friendly. You can use your computer, tablet, or smartphone to access it.

If you choose to not use myPay, you can get your 1099-R by calling 1-800-321-1080 and use the telephone self-service option. To use this option, selection option "1" for self-service and follow the prompts. The 1099-R will be mailed in 7-10 days to the address of record, so it is important that the address is correct. If a 1099-R reissue is needed, and is requested through the telephone self-service, it cannot be mailed before February 10, 2022.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW **SHARP** SHOOTERS!

SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION

Are you a natural born **leader**?
Do you have situational **awareness**?
Do you exceed **standards**?
Do you strive for **excellence**?
Are you **committed** to everything you do?
Do you like to **support** your **peers**?

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SHARP) is looking for leaders like you who are aware and committed to support their peers in their time of need. For more information, please contact Ms. Altia Lawrence-Bynum if your are a SHARP shooter! altia.l.Lawrence-bynum.civ@mail.mil or 860-613-7626



NOT FEELING LIKE YOURSELF?

REACH OUT. STAY MISSION READY.

Military Life is Hard On Your Mind And Body

Even pain or trouble sleeping can hurt mission readiness. Talk to your health care provider if you feel unusually:

- Tired
- Stressed
- Angry
- Sad
- Forgetful
- Worried
- Pained
- Hopeless

Psychological Health Resource Center

Call/Chat with a health resource consultant 24/7 at 866-966-1020 or realwarriors.net/livechat

Military Crisis Line

Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, text 838255 or visit militarycrisisline.net/chat

REAL WARRIORS ★ REAL BATTLES
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MHS

Military Health System
health.mil



CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION, 169TH AVIATION REGIMENT
WINDSOR LOCKS READINESS CENTER
85-300 LIGHT LANE
WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06096-0455

NGCT-AVN-HQ

11 January 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Non-Rated Crewmember (NRCM) Board Letter of Instruction for January 2022

1. The Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) will conduct a CH-47 NRCM Selection Board on 30 January 2022 at 1030 in conference room 2A at the Windsor Locks Readiness Center. Uniform for the board is the Army OCP.
2. The purpose of the board is to identify the candidates most highly qualified for potential selection as a NRCM in the CH-47 helicopter. Prior flight experience is not required. IAW Army Regulation (AR) 95-1, (Flight Regulations), selection for vacant positions is at the unit commander's discretion. A qualified/unqualified list will be formed and distributed. Should a position become open within DET-1, B CO, 2-104 AVN, it will be filled off of the NRCM board results that is scheduled for 30 January 2022. Board results will supersede the previous board that was conducted in June 2021.
3. The basic requirements for the board include the following.
 - a. The ability to pass an Army Class 3 Flight Physical. If at all possible, the physical should be scheduled and/or completed prior to the board.
 - b. Meet the height and weight standards of AR 600-9, (The Army Body Composition Program).
 - c. An outstanding physical fitness posture verified by submitting your three most recent record Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) or Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) on a certified Department of the Army (DA) form 705, (Army Physical Fitness Test Scorecard). A current, passing APFT and height/weight is required.
 - d. Must be able to obtain or currently possess the 15U MOS as a primary or secondary MOS.
 - e. E6 or below, however, available positions may require administrative reduction.
 - g. Must currently possess or be able to obtain a SECRET clearance.

NGCT-AVN-HQ

SUBJECT: Non-Rated Crewmember (NRCM) Board Letter of Instruction for January 2022

4. The following documents are required.

a. Last three DA 705's

b. Enlisted Record Brief certified within the past 12 months.

c. Class 3 flight physical (highly recommend to have prior but must be submitted NLT 28 February 2022 due to Flight Surgeon availability).

d. Letter of endorsement from your commander.

5. The following documents are highly recommended but not required:


a. Last 3 NCOER's or letters of recommendation

b. Awards or any other supporting documents that will speak to your performance or character.

6. All correspondence will be digital. If you are interested in appearing before the board, submit your packet through your chain of command via a zipped file. All packets are due to CPT Matthew Barringer NLT 25 January 2022. Applicants who fail to submit required documents listed in paragraph 4 will not be considered for selection.

7. Arrangements to complete the class 3 Flight Physical may be made through the State Aviation Medical Office at 860-292-4685. Recommendation by your chain of command, either written or verbal is required in order to schedule a flight physical.

8. The point of contact for questions or additional information regarding this matter is the undersigned at matthew.m.barringer.mil@mail.mil or 860-292-4646.

 Digitally signed by
BARRINGER.MATTHE
W.MARK.1463369549

MATTHEW M BARRINGER
CPT, MS, CTARNG
Training Officer

PHOTOS FROM THE FORCE



Logistics Specialist Jevon Edwards, left, and Engineman 2nd Class Keiana Martin reel in a fuel hose after fueling an MH 60R Seahawk helicopter of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 72, on the flight deck of Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS San Jacinto (CG 56) in the Adriatic Sea, Jan. 19, 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Conner Foy/Released)



Twenty-seven students who are participating in the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) class 22-02 practice building an Arctic 10-percent tent Jan. 5, 2022, during course training at Fort McCoy, Wis. The training took place on a snowy, cold day which may have been idyllic for the training. (U.S. Army Photo by Scott T. Sturkol, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office)



U.S. Air Force Maj. Kristin "BEO" Wolfe flies during a demonstration rehearsal at Hill Air Force Utah, Jan. 20, 2021. The F-35A Lightning II Demonstration Team is part of the 388th Fighter Wing, and routinely flies over the Hill Air Force Base to practice and prepare for upcoming air shows around the world. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Barley)

PHOTOS FROM THE FORCE



A U.S. Marine sniper with Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1/5, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), observes stalking lanes at the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Okinawa, Japan Jan. 8, 2022. Scout snipers play an integral part in the Stand in Force Concept operating as the eyes and ears of the ground force commander, allowing for a more efficient decision making process. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Christopher W. England)



U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Tyelor Mattos, a hull maintenance technician with amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), welds metal together to make a bracket, Jan. 20, 2022. Mattos, a native of Kissimmee Florida, enjoys going to the gym in his free time. He learned the craft of welding through his Navy A-School, and has since been able to gain experience by completing projects for the ship. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Yvonna Guyette)



U.S. Army paratroopers with 54th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade conduct urban breach training during exercise Full Tang 22 at the 7th Army Training Command's Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, Jan. 25, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Gertrud Zach)



B-52 Stratofortress tail number 61-0009, nicknamed "Damage Inc. II," completed its nearly 1,500 mile month-long trip from Arizona to Oklahoma Jan. 22, 2022, when it arrived at the Boeing facility near Tinker Air Force Base. (Air Force photo by April McDonald)



Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc announces its 2022 scholarship program. This year the Foundation will award a total of eight scholarships.

1. **Three \$4,000.00 scholarships honoring SGT Felix Del Greco Jr. will be awarded to a son or daughter of a member of the Connecticut ARMY National Guard. * Please note that a special application and deadline is required for the Del Greco scholarship which may be obtained from: <http://www.conncf.org>. No other application will be accepted.**
2. **Five \$2,500.00 scholarships will be awarded to Connecticut National Guard and Organized Militia members or their sons, daughters, or spouses and children of Connecticut National Guard Retirees. Application forms may be found at the Foundations website at <http://www.ctngfi.org>.**

Additional Information:

1. Complete application packets for the CTNGFI scholarships must be postmarked no later than 15 April 2022
2. The selection committee will choose students based on achievement and citizenship
3. You must be enrolled in, or planning to enroll in a regionally or nationally accredited degree or technical program
4. Mail application form (CTNGFI Scholarship Only) and completed package to:

CTNG Foundation Inc.
Attn: Scholarship Committee
360 Broad Street, Hartford Armory
Hartford, CT 06105

5. Please contact the foundation at (860) 241-1550 or e-mail ctngfi@sbcglobal.net for further details.



Service Member and Family Support Center Staff Directory



**At this time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, remote offices are being staffed on a part-time basis.
We apologize for any inconvenience.**

William A. O'Neill Armory: 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105

Open Monday-Friday

Director, Service Member and Family Support Center	Kimberly Hoffman	kimberly.j.hoffman.civ@mail.mil	(800) 858-2677
Lead Military and Family Readiness	Melody Baber	melodycheyenne.c.baber.civ@mail.mil	(860) 548-3276 (desk) (860) 883-2515 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Linda Rolstone	linda.b.rolstone.civ@mail.mil	(860) 524-4963 (desk) (860) 680-2209 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Rich Timberlake	richard.k.timberlake.civ@mail.mil	(860) 493-2797 (desk) (860) 500-3189 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Jason Perry	jason.t.perry.civ@mail.mil	(860) 524-4897 (desk) (860) 655-9288 (cell)
Family Programs Specialist	Denton Gladden	denton.r.gladden.civ@mail.mil	(860) 524-4920 (desk) (860) 394-8748 (cell)
Military & Family Readiness Specialist	Kara Pletcher	kara.c.pletcher.civ@mail.mil	(860) 524-4894 (desk) (860) 883-2704 (cell)
ARNG Yellow Ribbon Program	CPL Camryn Rawlings	camryn.r.rawlings.mil@mail.mil	(860) 493-2796 (desk) (860) 883-6934 (cell)
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator	Michelle McCarty	michelle.m.mccarty4.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 548-3254 (desk) (860) 883-6953 (cell)
Military OneSource Consultant	Scott McLaughlin	scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com	(860) 493-2722 (desk) (860) 502-5416 (cell)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	Sean Brittell	sean.r.brittell.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 548-3295 (desk) (860) 729-2566 (cell)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Volunteer Support Technician	Ben Beaudry	benjamin.a.beaudry.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4970 (desk)
State Support Chaplain	Lt Col Eric Wismar	eric.a.wismar.mil@mail.mil	(860) 548-3240 (desk) (860) 883-5278 (cell)
Transition Assistance Advisor	Fausto Parra	fausto.g.parra.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4908 (desk) (860) 221-5540 (cell)
Connecticut Military Relief Fund	Russell Bonaccorso	russell.bonaccorso@ct.gov	(860) 524-4968 (desk)

Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center: 375 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Jason Perry	jason.t.perry.civ@mail.mil	(860) 524-4897 (desk) (860) 655-9288 (cell)
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Windsor Locks Readiness Center: 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096

Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Rich Timberlake	richard.k.timberlake.civ@mail.mil	(860) 292-4601 (desk) (860) 500-3189 (cell)
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103rd Airlift Wing: 100 Nicholson Road, East Granby, CT 06026

Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager	Kasey Timberlake	kasey.timberlake@us.af.mil	(860) 292-2730 (desk) (860) 462-0379 (cell)
Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist	Laura Cohen	laura.cohen.2.ctr@us.af.mil	(860) 292-2772 (desk) (860) 819-4636 (cell)

Niantic Readiness Center: 38 Smith Street, Niantic, CT 06357

Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Linda Rolstone	linda.b.rolstone.civ@mail.mil	(860) 739-1637 (desk) (860) 680-2209 (cell)
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Waterbury Armory: 64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702

Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator	Reisha Moffat	reisha.a.moffat.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 548-3258 (desk) (860) 883-6949 (cell)
Military OneSource Consultant	Scott McLaughlin	scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com	(860) 502-5416 (cell)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

