



Connecticut GUARDIAN

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143rd RSG departs for Overseas Deployment

Tim Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. – Nearly 100 Soldiers assigned to the Connecticut National Guard’s 143rd Regional Support Group departed from the Army Aviation Support Facility, here, Oct. 4, 2020 to begin mobilization training for an overseas deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

The unit’s mission will be to provide base management and oversight as part of Task Force Spartan – the U.S. military’s effort in Southwest Asia to strengthen the country’s defense in the region and build partner force capabilities.

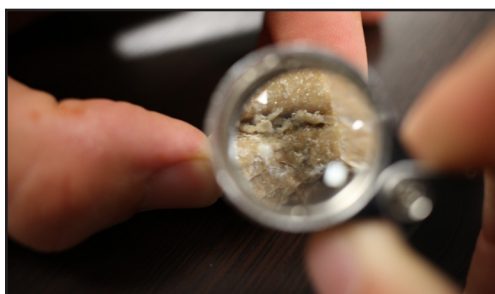
“I have every confidence that the 143rd RSG will perform at the highest levels sup-

porting units and partners in the region,” said Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard. “Connecticut’s Home Team will once again prove its readiness and capability working alongside our active duty and reserve counterparts overseas as much as we have domestically here at home through this challenging year.”

Over the next ten months, approximately 1,000 Connecticut National Guardsmen are expected to deploy in support of various contingency operations overseas, signaling the largest overseas presence of Connecticut guardsmen in nearly eighty years.

The 143rd RSG’s lineage dates back to the famed 43rd Infantry Division, nicknamed “Winged Victory Division”, with notable service in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

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Twitter - @CTNGTAG

State Command Sgt. Maj. John Carragher

Facebook - @CTCommand SgtMaj

CTARNG Recruiting Battalion

Facebook - @CTArmyGuard

Instagram - @CTArmyGuard

CTANG Recruiting Team

Facebook - @CTAirGuard

103rd Airlift Wing

Facebook - @103AW

102nd Army Band

Facebook - @102dArmyband

Facebook (Rock Band) - @RipChord102D

Instagram - @102d_army_band

Twitter - @102dArmyband

HHC, 169th Aviation Battalion

Facebook - @HHC169AVN

1-169th Regiment (RTI)

Facebook - @169REG

1109th TASMG

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Facebook - @ConnecticutGuardRSP

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Facebook - @CTNGFamilies

CT Employee Support of Guard and Reserve

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ericka.g.thurman.mil@mail.mil or
860-524-4813.

Guardsmen and Militia Members: Contact
your chain of command or unit admin.

*Any further questions or concerns about the
Connecticut Guardian, contact the editor
directly.*

Connecticut Guardian

360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795

Phone: (860) 524-4858, DSN: 636-7857

E-Mail: timothy.r.koster.civ@mail.mil

Captain-General

Gov. Ned Lamont

The Adjutant General

Commanding General, CTNG

Maj. Gen. Francis J. Evon

Assistant Adjutant General - Air

Brig. Gen. Gerald McDonald

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Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Carragher

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Chief Master Sgt. John M. Gasiorek

State Public Affairs Officer

Connecticut Guardian Managing Editor

Capt. David Pytlik

Connecticut Guardian Editor

Timothy Koster

Contributors

103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

130th Public Affairs Det., CTARNG

First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

The *Connecticut Guardian* is an authorized publication for and in the interest of, the personnel of the Connecticut National Guard, State Military Department, State Militia and their families. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the CTNG Hartford Public Affairs Office and is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Army or the Department of the Air Force. *Connecticut Guardian* is published monthly in accordance with AR 360-1 and is printed through the Government Printing Office. **Deadline for the November issue is October 20th.**



Senior Airman Kevin Novoa and Tech Sgt. Chris Smith, both members of the 103rd Airlift Wing, and the Connecticut National Guard's Joint Cyber Response Team helped assist the city of Hartford's information technology team with recovery efforts following a ransomware attack against the city that delayed the first day of school Sept. 8, 2020. The Connecticut Military Department's Joint Cyber Response Team consists of Air and Army National Guard members that serve in a state active duty status to provide defensive cyber capabilities to the state of Connecticut and its municipalities.

Connecticut Guard members respond to Hartford cyberattack

Capt. David Pytlík
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut Military Department's Joint Cyber Response Team responded to a ransomware attack on the city of Hartford and quickly restored critical systems necessary for the start of the school year.

The attack delayed the city schools' scheduled opening Sept. 8, but the Connecticut National Guard responded less than 12 hours after the request for support and children returned to their classrooms, virtual or in person, the following day.

"This was a severe attack that affected approximately 300 servers, 3,500 computers and 40 schools, but thankfully, the team's rapid response and assessment in cooper-

ation with the city ensured a swift restoration of services," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Gerald McDonald, deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Military Department. "Our Joint Cyber Response Team is comprised of Soldiers and Airmen with military and corporate experience in several cybersecurity and information technology domains.

"We have the ability to call upon our Guard members and rapidly respond in a state active duty status to cyberattacks with as many as 100 highly skilled cyberwarriors if needed. As always, we stand ready to assist Connecticut and its municipalities as we do with all types of emergencies."

The first day, the team restored services to the fire and police departments along with schools and their transportation services while also assisting the city's IT department with immediate triage, incident response, crisis manage-

ment and mission command.

The second day, the team reviewed system logs to determine the threat actor's most likely path to intrusion, analyze the threats and vulnerabilities in the city's existing infrastructure and make prioritized recommendations to prevent subsequent attacks.

The ongoing response and analysis is being coordinated with USCYBERCOMMAND, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

The Connecticut Military Department's Joint Cyber Response Team consists of Air and Army National Guard members who serve in a state active duty status to provide defensive cyber capabilities to Connecticut and its municipalities.

CT National Guard - Special Victims' Counsel Program

Capt. Alan Merriman
Special Victims' Counsel

What is the Program?

The National Guard's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program is a key component of efforts to make our force ready and resilient. It is an integrated, proactive effort to end sexual harassment and sexual assault within our ranks. The National Guard encourages Soldiers/Airmen to come forward to report incidents of sexual assault without fear of reprisal, as their command will respond with care and support through Connecticut's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) team and providing legal counsel to the reporting victim through the Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) Program. The SVC program assists the National Guard in providing assurance to all sexual assault victims that their interests will be protected and that offenders are going to be held appropriately accountable.

What is a Special Victims' Counsel?

A Special Victims' Counsel is a judge advocate (military officer & attorney) with specialized training to provide legal representation to Air and Army National Guard sexual assault victims who are eligible for SVC assistance. Special Victims' Counsel will provide zealous representation to clients. Constrained only by ethical limits, SVCs represent the interests of their clients even when their client's interests do not align with those of the National Guard.

The SVC has 3 main roles – (1) Advocate: to provide victims zealous advocacy by protecting their rights; (2) Advise: to provide legal advice and by developing victims' understanding of the often complex investigatory process, criminal justice, and administrative processes; and (3) Empower: by acting as the victim's voice and removing barriers to their full participation throughout the response process.

SVCs attend interviews, hearings and proceedings with the victim and communicate with investigators, prosecutors, defense counsel, commanders and other military personnel on behalf of the victim. SVCs can also assist victims with filing expedited transfer requests, military protective orders, or civilian protective orders (and more). Although legal representation by an SVC in a civilian court is not authorized under this program, SVCs may assist the victim with these matters as permitted by state law.

Who do we represent?

An SVC's sole responsibility is to his or her client, the victim. Eligibility for SVC representation is initially determined by statute (10 U.S.C. 1044e). The statute authorizes

services for active duty, dependents, Guard, Reserve, and certain other individuals. If the victim is a service member on active duty or in a training status, then they are eligible for representation. If the victim is not on active duty and/or not in a training status, then there must be a nexus to the National Guard for eligibility. There are limited exceptions to policy that enable otherwise ineligible individuals (for example, no longer in the military) to be represented by an SVC.

The Connecticut National Guard SVC Program

National Guard Bureau (NGB) operates a regional Title 10 Special Victims' Counsel Program. The NGB SVCs are located throughout the country and are typically not licensed to practice law in the state that they are representing a client-victim. In addition to the NGB regional program, Connecticut offers a state SVC Program. The CTNG SVC is a Connecticut-licensed attorney and is based in Connecticut. Connecticut service members have utilized both the NGB program and our state program. Historically, victims have utilized the regional SVC program when the victim's allegation of assault involves a service member from another state (in a training environment), the incident occurred out of state on T-10 orders, or a conflict of interest exists. Reporting victims always have the option of utilizing the NGB program or the CTNG program for SVC representation.

The CTNG SVC program is locally based. Being located in Connecticut facilitates greater efficiency in meeting with clients, command representatives (including advising judge advocates, SAPR personnel, etc.), investigators, prosecutors, and other key stakeholders who are part of the reporting response process.

The CTNG SVC program has cultivated strong relationships with local and state law enforcement, including with the State's Attorneys Offices located throughout Connecticut's 13 Judicial Districts. Since allegations of sexual assault in the National Guard are almost exclusively investigated and prosecuted under state law (not UCMJ) having a Connecticut-licensed attorney represent our victims has proven effective in achieving better outcomes for our reporting service members.

Additionally, the CTNG SVC program has a continuing outreach program to ensure that our victims have access to the best resources provided by our state and by private entity partners located throughout the state - including the CT Office of the Victim Advocate, CT Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services, and the Victim Rights Center of Connecticut. These entities assist victims with many services ranging from victim restitution (funds) to direct legal representation in civilian court (i.e. civil protective orders).

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about SVC representation, please call 860-937-8599 or email alan.l.merriman.mil@mail.mil. All communications are strictly confidential.

BENEFITS

Connecticut National Guard Soldiers receive full-time benefits for their part-time service, these include:

- Free tuition to Connecticut State Colleges
- Monthly paycheck
- Student loan repayment (up to \$50K)
- Affordable insurance - health, dental, life
- Montgomery G.I. Bill
- Federal Tuition Assistance
- Enlistment bonuses available if qualified
- Retirement benefits and Thrift Savings Plan
- Paid training and job experience



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The Revolutionary War Office building in Lebanon was built in 1727 for Joseph Trumbull. Originally a store and office building, Governor Jonathan Trumbull converted it to his war office where he planned the state's defense during the American Revolution alongside the Council of Safety. Trumbull conferred with several high-profile figures in this office, some of which include: George Washington, Henry Knox, Israel Putnam, Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, and Marquis de Lafayette. Today, the building is a museum. (photo courtesy of the Hartford Courant)

Connecticut in the American Revolution

Brig. Gen. Robert Cody (Ret.)
Contributor

While the actions in and around Connecticut may seem minor compared to some of the larger engagements during the War for Independence, they are a proud part of the early history of this state. Connecticut owes its success during this conflict to two important institutions, the government and the militia. The colony was able to earn its laurels as the “Provisions State” primarily because of the stability of her government. The colony became an independent American state with a minimum of constitutional alteration. Other states had to fight the war and draw up a constitution. With the exception of Fairfield County, Connecticut did not have to deal with a significant Loyalist population. Other colonies had to contend with much larger and more active Tory elements. The colony's two ranking officials, Governor Jonathan Trumbull and Deputy

Governor Matthew Griswold, remained in office throughout the conflict. Matthew Griswold of Lyme succeeded Jonathan Trumbull as Governor in 1784.

In May 1775, the General Assembly established a “Council of Safety.” This ad hoc committee was formed to meet the military responsibilities of the colony when the General Assembly was not in session. It was also intended to maintain the General Assembly's authority. The Council of Safety was not a permanent committee but one that was reestablished or re-appointed at the beginning of each session. Between 1775 and 1783, the Council of Safety met over 900 times. Most of these meetings occurred in Jonathan Trumbull's store in Lebanon, which had been converted into his War Office. The Council of Safety was very successful in administering Connecticut's war effort. Troops were raised and outfitted, forts were built along the colony's vulnerable coast, and most importantly,

Connecticut established itself as the premier supplier of many of the articles required to sustain the conflict. The colony excelled in this area despite attacks and threatened attacks that kept many citizens away from their homes for weeks at a time. A great deal of credit must also be given to the women of Connecticut for maintaining the “home front” during this time. They not only maintained their households during the soldier's absences but also harvested crops, tended livestock and assisted in the production of the many goods required to support the war effort.

Brig Gen Cody retired from the CTARNG in 2014 and currently teaches 7th Grade US History in Stamford. He may be reached at rmcody81@gmail.com for comments or article recommendations.

Jordan Rocks

Sgt. Maj. John Lane and Capt. Ernest Wang
242nd Engineer Detachment

Jordan - The landscape of Jordan, where the 242nd Engineer Detachment Construction Management Team (CMT) is currently mobilized, has been shaped by eons of geologic history. In the northern parts of Jordan, light-colored limestone and thin beds of brown shales are visible in road cuts and denuded hillslopes. To the east, large swaths of the arid landscape are paved by dark volcanic deposits. In the south, near the Red Sea, much older granite deposits can be seen from ancient King's Highway, jutting high above deserts of tan and ocher dunes.

The beauty of Jordan is undeniable and a wonder for all Soldiers fortunate to be here. Thousands of miles away from friends and family, however, overseas mobilizations are still tests of personal endurance. Outside of daily missions, each Soldier must find his or her own way to decompress and recharge. For one Connecticut Guardsman serving in Jordan, it has been as simple as collecting rocks.

Spc. Samuel Pimentel of Salem, Connecticut, a 12T Technical Engineer serving with the 242nd CMT, has gathered samples from every location the unit has worked. Over a hundred rocks pepper his desk. Collecting interesting geological specimens is not a new hobby, but something he has been doing since childhood.

"I just love rocks," said Pimentel. "I have hundreds of rocks, if not a thousand at home."

Since enlisting in 2018, rocks have accompanied him throughout his Army career.

"I brought about forty rocks home from basic training and AIT [advanced individual training]," he said. "I had them in my carry-on bag on the flight from Fort Leonard Wood."

Besides helping to pass time, they have served as personal mementos.



Spc. Samuel Pimentel of the 242nd Engineer Detachment Construction Management (CMT) holds an possible artifact found in Jordan, demonstrating its potential use as a scraper. The 242nd CMT is mobilized to Jordan to provide construction management support to U.S. forces partnering with the Jordan Armed Forces, a valued U.S. ally.

"They just help me remember places I've been and the experiences I've had," he said.

Being a 12T, Pimentel has spent countless days in the field conducting topographical surveys with his fellow 12T, Sgt. Reinaldo Reyes of Hartford, Connecticut.

"Pimentel's hobby is not for me, said Reyes, "I tease him about it all the time, but it is interesting and unique."

On Pimentel's desk, calcite crystals, pieces of flint, and various fossils are on display. Some of the crystals are very tiny and hard to see without a hand-lens. For an experienced collector, calcite crystals are not particularly special, but finding fossils has been a novel experience.

"I found my first one here in Jordan," said Pimentel, who held up several prehistoric shells. Some were tinted with gradients of red, which he explained is due to embedded iron.

Unlike previous specimens Pimentel has collected, all these samples will stay in Jordan, he said. They have personal value, but the fossils belong here to serve as learning tools for future enthusiasts. It is with the same spirit of generosity that he shares his knowledge and excitement with all who stop by his desk.

An undergraduate at Three Rivers Community College, Pimentel studies environmental engineering and hopes to find an engineering-related job after graduation.

"I like the job diversity of the field engineer," he said. "I like the ability to collect data in the field, and conduct data analysis and project design in the office."

Since mobilizing with the 242nd CMT in February this year, Pimentel has been accruing college credits to make this career goal a reality. His service in Jordan has been an incredible broadening experience that has helped guide his future career interests.

He especially hopes for an environmentally-focused career, possibly with the U.S. Geological Survey, or another agency where he could pursue additional overseas opportunities in the future. Until he graduates, Spc. Pimentel is uncertain where his career search will take him. But one thing is certain. Spc. Pimentel will continue collecting rocks wherever he goes. Lots of them.



Embedded calcite crystals viewed through a hand-lens. Spc. Samuel Pimentel of 242nd Engineer Detachment Construction Management has collected hundreds of rocks during his mobilization to Jordan.



Rocks samples displayed on the desk of Spc. Samuel Pimentel of the 242nd Engineer Detachment Construction Management.



Two fossil shells collected by Spc. Samuel Pimentel of the 242nd Engineer Detachment Construction Management. These mussel-shaped bivalves have tints of red, reflecting iron deposits.



Specimens of chert (left and front center), calcite crystals (right), and granite (rear) collected by Spc. Samuel Pimentel of the 242nd Engineer Detachment Construction Management.

Retiree Voice

Beware of COVID-19 Scams

Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Godburn (Ret.)
Contributor

The idea or concept of financial scams is not a new one, and unfortunately, seniors tend to be particularly prone to them. Seniors are viewed as easy targets because of their financial stability, honesty and trustworthiness. With this global pandemic fully underway, seniors are already fighting to avoid this potentially deadly virus. Now add to that an onslaught of scams designed to swindle them of their money and safety.

May I first begin by saying that I hope everyone reading this is healthy and well. In an attempt to warn, yet educate everyone, I have put together a list of some of the more common financial scams that have surfaced during this global pandemic, along with some rules or precautions to help protect yourself.

Fraudulent COVID-19 Tests to Medicare or Medicaid Beneficiaries: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued an alert, warning about scammers offering COVID-19 tests to Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries in exchange for personal details, including Medicare information. These services are unapproved and illegitimate.

These scammers are using the coronavirus pandemic to benefit themselves, and beneficiaries could face potential harms. The personal information collected can be used to fraudulently bill the Federal health care programs and commit medical identity theft. If a scammer were to submit a fraudulent claim using your personal information, and Medicare or Medicaid denied the claim for an unapproved test, you, the beneficiary could be responsible for the cost.

As a general rule, Medicare will not call beneficiaries and randomly ask them to verify their benefits or personal information. If you do receive such a call, and someone asks for your Medicare ID number, do not give up that information.

Vaccinations and Cures: While much has been published about drug manufacturers racing to develop a coronavirus vaccine, there currently is no cure, vaccination or remedy against COVID-19. Because the coronavirus is known to affect adults over the age of 66 with more debilitating and deadly consequences, many seniors may be looking for any advantage they can find to protect themselves from this virus. Scammers are trying to use this to their advantage. Be wary of anyone using terminology such as “just announced”, “FDA approved”, or “pre-market”, as these are terms or words used to swindle unsuspecting victims.

Donations to Charities: Local humanitarian projects are always in need of volunteer efforts and financial donations. This is even more evident during this pandemic, and this is how scammers use people’s goodwill to their advantage. Corrupt outfits will present themselves as hon-



est efforts, trying to raise funds to support those in need, needing medical supplies, food, shelter, etc. It’s very easy for anyone to set up an account on social media or crowdsourcing platforms to request help from the public, but don’t fall prey to their tricks.

If you would like to contribute to a charity or effort to support those affected by the coronavirus, be sure to research the charity first. The best policy is to reach out to a charity that you have researched first, had contact with, or know someone who is personally involved with the charity. You can also check with the Better Business Bureau, do a search of the IRS list of recognized charities, or check with the State of Connecticut, Department of Consumer Protection, to learn if a charity you want to support is legitimate or not.

Investment Opportunities: As odd as this may sound, there are always remarkable investment opportunities during times of conflict and despair. Scammers know this. They also understand how to use hope and fear against their victims. Hope that if you buy into what they are selling you will get a windfall when markets go up, and fear that not to take action will result in gains lost.

Tactics can range from persuading victims to buy into fictitious medical companies, technologies, or to selling junk stocks that are supposedly immune to market fluctuations. Imagine investing in the company that discovers the vaccine or cure for the coronavirus? Such an important discovery would surely send the value of such a stock to unbelievable heights. The bottom line – if it sounds too good to be true, it probable is.

Imposter Calls and Online Phishing Scams: Phony callers or phishing scams pretending to represent a government agency is one of the top-reported scams. As Social Security offices are temporarily closed and the IRS offered leniency on tax filing, scammers are taking advantage of this to call or email older adults and convince them

to release personal information or face the discontinuation of benefits.

Your Social Security number is a powerful means of identification; do not give it out to strangers on the phone and definitely do not respond to an email asking for it. Once a criminal has your number, they can do any number of terrible things with it, like open a credit card in your name, empty out bank accounts, or even file a tax return in your name and steal your refund.

Get a call like this – hang up. Government agencies rarely contact people by phone or email, unless you already have ongoing business with them, and they never make threats about arrest or legal action.

Protect Yourself:

- Be cautious of unsolicited requests for your Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security numbers
- Be suspicious of any unexpected calls or visitors offering COVID-19 tests or supplies
- Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 testing or treatments
- Do not open or respond to hyperlinks in text messages about COVID-19 from people you do not know
- Do not give your personal or financial information to anyone claiming to offer Dept of Health and Human Services (HHS) grants related to COVID-19
- If you suspect COVID-19 health care fraud, report it immediately online or call 800-HHS-TIPS (800-447-8477)
- Fraud or suspected fraud can also be reported to local police, Medicare, Social Security Administration, IRS, or the U.S. Department of Justice.

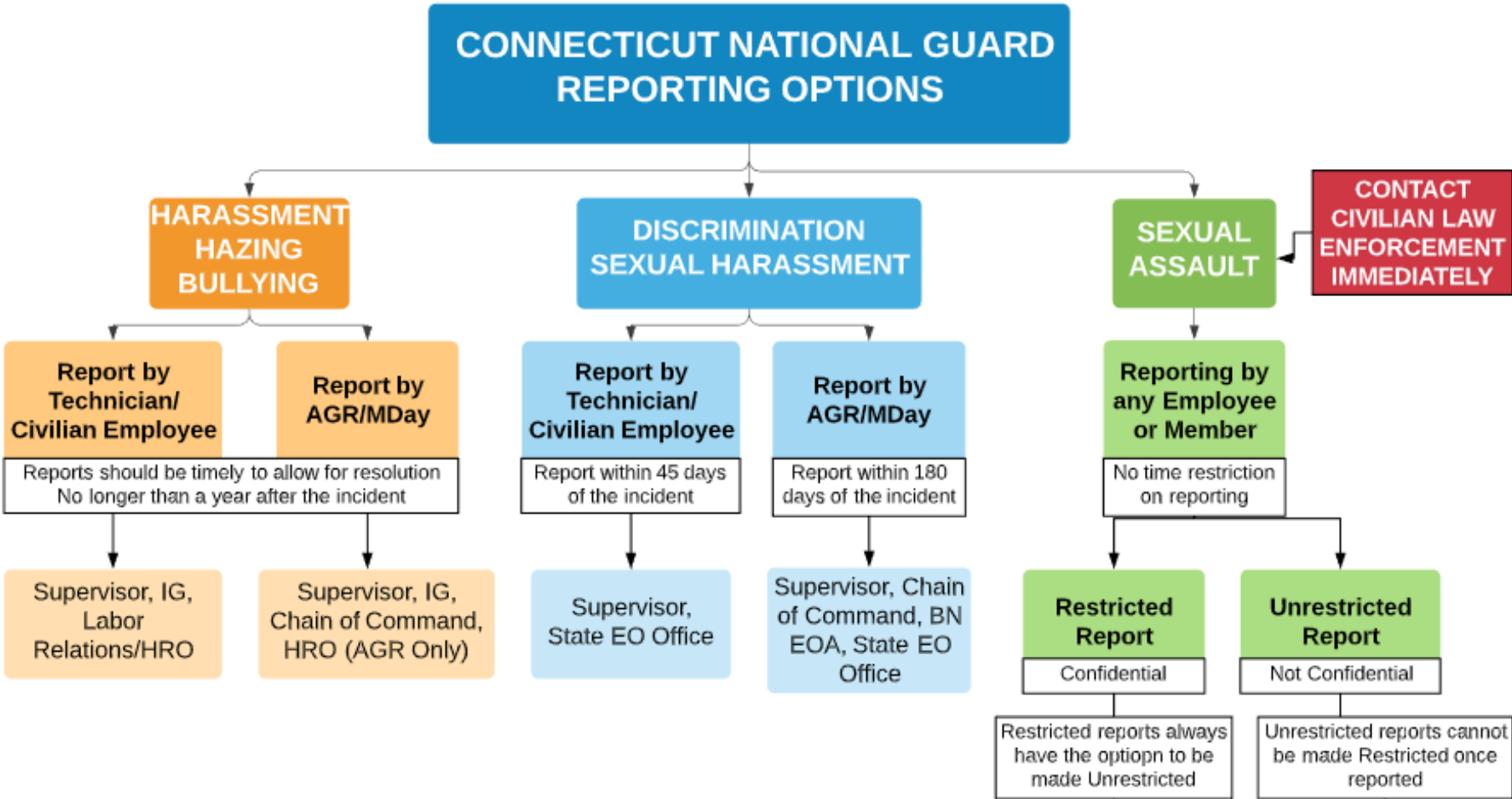
Information for this article came from multiple sources, to include, but not limited to: U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services; Social Security Administration; U.S. Dept of Justice; IRS; Federal Trade Commission and AARP.

SEXUAL ASSAULT.
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Sexual Assault Response Coordinators
CTARNG SARC 860.883.4798
103rd AW SARC (24hr) 860.895.3526

Chaplain and Legal
CT Chaplain 860.548.3240
CT Special Victim’s Council 703.607.2263

Medical
Military Treatment Facility (Westover) 413.557.2623
Navy Health Clinic New London 860.694.4123



THE FOLLOWING MAY BE CONTACTED AT ANY TIME WITH INQUIRIES

Inspector General; LTC Ben Terwilliger - Office: (860)613-7492

Staff Judge Advocate; COL Timothy Tomcho - Office: (860)548-3203

Labor Relations Specialist; CMSgt Kevin Salsbury - Office: (860)613-7614

State Equal Opportunity Office; Ms. Tasha Dow - Office: (860)613-7610

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator; Mrs. Katherine Maines - Office: (860)613-7611; Cell: (860)883-4798

State Chaplain; Lt Col Eric Wismar - Office: (860)548-3240; Cell: (860)883-5278

ESGR

ESGR Ombudsmen are First Responders for Employment Conflicts

Thad Martin
Chair, Connecticut Committee for the ESGR

Last month, we looked back on FY 2020 and the activities of Connecticut ESGR's Employer Outreach and Military Outreach subcommittees. For this month's column, I'd like to focus on our Ombudsman subcommittee, examining some key statistics but also discussing the important work ESGR ombudsmen undertake.

The ESGR Ombudsman Services Program provides information, counseling and mediation of workplace issues relating to compliance with the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). ESGR ombudsmen are neutral parties in resolving disputes between civilian employers and their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. Their ultimate goal is to resolve employment issues, in accordance with the USERRA law, to the satisfaction of both parties.

Each state and territory has trained ombudsmen assigned to their respective state ESGR office. They're available to promptly respond to inquiries presented by either service members or their civilian employers.

Looking at the Numbers

Across all of ESGR for FY 2020, Ombudsman Services, ESGR's Customer Service Center and state committee ombudsmen handled more than 9,000 cases and over 1,200 ombudsman cases.

During that period in Connecticut, ESGR ombudsmen

handled a total of 12 cases or inquiries, closing 10 within 14 days (83%). For resolved and administrative closure cases, Connecticut ESGR posted a 67% rate and took an average of 6.5 days to close a case.

Aiming for Education and Resolution

In a way, our ombudsmen act as "first responders" when problems and conflicts occur. These often result from a lack of familiarity with the rights and responsibilities of each as defined under USERRA and most requests for assistance are resolved quickly.

It's important to remember ESGR is not an enforcement agency and does not offer legal counsel or advice, but Connecticut ESGR ombudsmen still need to be "subject matter experts" in USERRA.

When an ESGR ombudsman is unable to facilitate a resolution, the parties are notified of the option to seek assistance through the Department of Labor/Veterans' Employment and Training Service for formal investigation. Additionally, both parties are offered the choice to seek private legal counsel.

While Connecticut ESGR will always strive to ensure a conflict-free environment between service members and their employers through our Military and Employer Outreach programs, sometimes issues do arise. When they do, you can be certain our ESGR ombudsmen are qualified to help, sympathetic to the needs of both employers and employees and committed to remaining impartial in their mediation.



Thad Martin, Chair, Connecticut Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

For more information, contact Connecticut ESGR Volunteer Support Technician Ben Beaudry at (860) 524-4970 or Benjamin.A.Beaudry.ctr@mail.mil. To speak with an ESGR Customer Service Center representative, call (800) 336-4590 and select Option "1." Follow Connecticut ESGR on Twitter (@CT_ESGR) or Facebook (Connecticut Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve).

Citizens donate handmade masks, other PPE to CTNG Foundation

John Godburn
Connecticut National Guard Foundation

On Tuesday, September 29, 2020, three patriotic and caring citizens of Killingworth, Connecticut, presented handmade face masks, hand sanitizer and disposable gloves to members of the Connecticut National Guard Foundation, CTNG Servicemember and Family Support Center, and units of the Connecticut National Guard.

Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic hit our State in March, Annette Cook and Kathy Roelofsen wanted to somehow help those people in need because of the pandemic. Having the materials, sewing machines and sewing skills, they began making face masks for anyone in their community that needed them. When all was said-and-done, they ended up making and distributing well over 4,000 masks.

Not long after that project ended, the women learned of several CTNG units preparing to deploy, and the need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Working with Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Joseph Sevigny of the Association United States Army CT-Chapter, Annette and Kathy wanted to do something to help the families of our service members who were about to deploy. They decided to make face masks for families of those about to deploy.

Using social media, Annette announced her new project and asked for donations of materials to make the masks. Donations starting coming in almost immediately, and Annette and Kathy got to work. Nicole Kowalewski then enters the picture. She wanted to help support this project and made it her mission to secure hand sanitizers and disposable gloves for our Guard families.

As a result of their hard work and efforts, Annette and Kathy made 1,600 patriotic



From left-to-right: John Godburn, Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Command Sgt. Maj. Orlando Anderson, 143rd Regional Support Group, Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general, Kathy Roelofsen, Annette Cook, Command Sgt. Maj. (ret) Joseph Sevigny, Melody Baber, CT Servicemember and Family Support Program, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Morgan, 102nd Infantry.

themed masks for the families of our deploying units. Nicole's efforts resulted in collecting 1,000 bottles of hand sanitizers and 1,600 disposable gloves for our families. These items were given to the CT National Guard Foundation and the CT Servicemember and Family Support Program. All items will be distributed through the Family Support Program.



STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

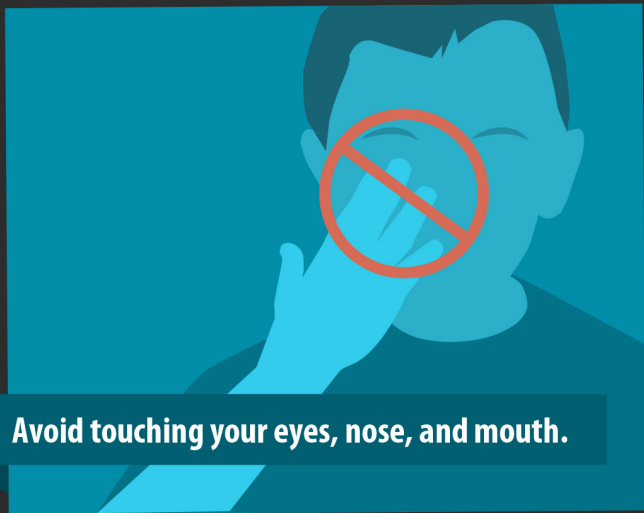
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



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Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



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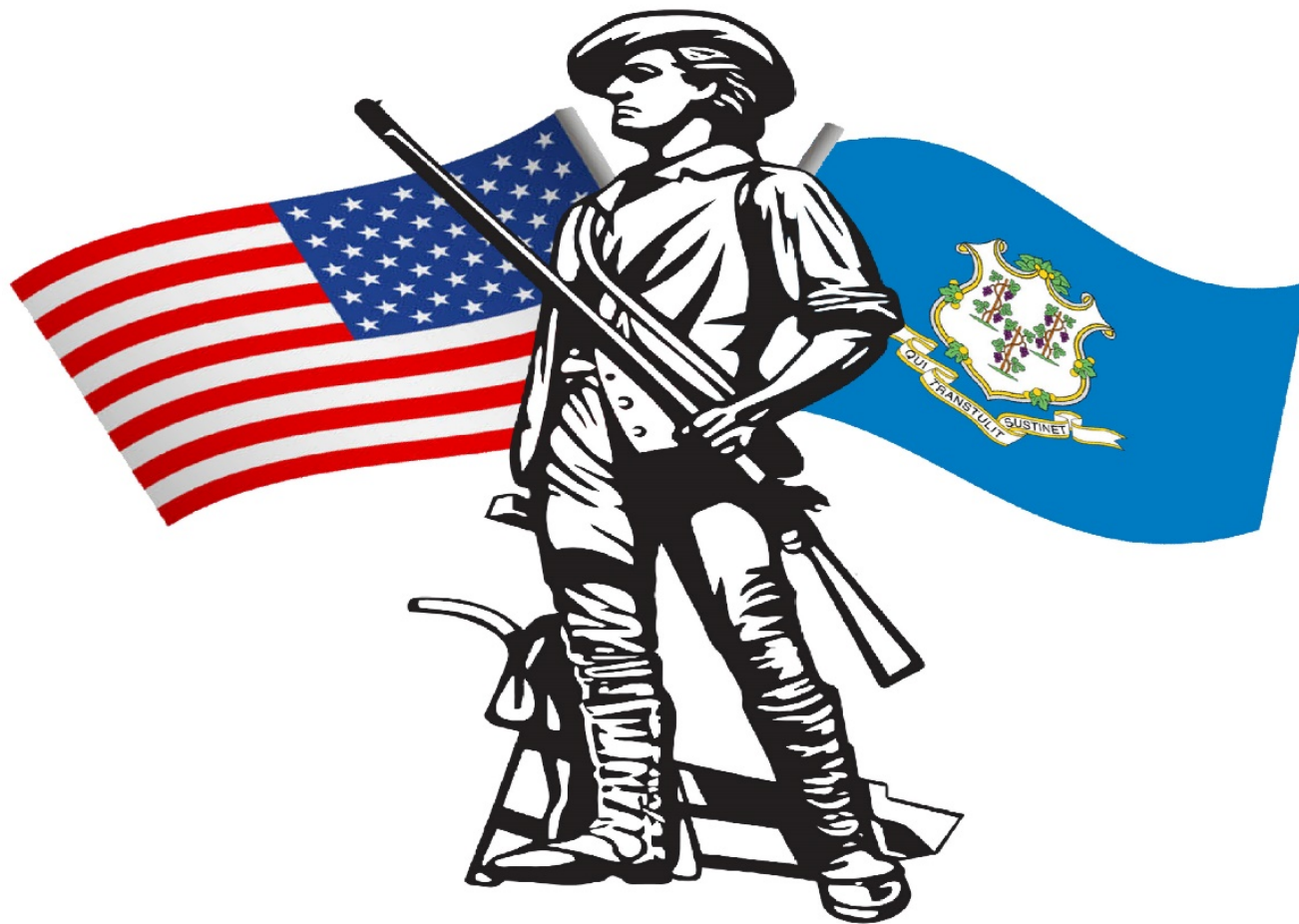


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VOL. 21 NO. 9

EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

October 2020

Conn. Air Guard squadrons collaborate to safely train readiness

Staff Sgt. Steven Tucker
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

EAST LYME, Conn. – The COVID-19 pandemic has presented new challenges to training large groups at a single time. The week of Sept. 10, members of the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron, 103rd Security Forces Squadron, 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, and 103rd Medical Group combined their expertise to conduct key readiness training while protecting the health of participants.

The course, held at Stones Ranch Military Reservation, trained the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron in expeditionary operations to maintain their deployment readiness.

“The four key things are convoy operations, individual movement techniques, integrated base defense, and entry control point operations,” said Tech. Sgt. James Diederich, 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron HVAC shop supervisor. “We have the subject matter experts here to teach us how to do it.”

Instructors from the 103rd Security Forces Squadron worked in tandem with a civil engineer squadron planning committee to design the course, allowing them to teach their expertise and meet the civil engineers’ training requirements. This provided a mutually beneficial training experience for members of both squadrons.

“The Guard is great for that because you have people with different backgrounds,” said Tech. Sgt. Dedrick Baublitz, 103rd Security Forces Squadron training planner and instructor. “We have people that are police officers and medics on the civilian side within CE, so some of the things we train are things they can elaborate on to help the other trainees if they’re having trouble. They learn from us, we learn from them, so it’s a win all around.”

Having local experts and a training area close by made a difference in being able to carry out the training, said Diederich.

“Especially now during the pandemic, we’ve lost a lot of opportunities to send people to training, so the fact that we have these guys right here and this facility in the state has allowed us to meet our objectives without too many obstacles,” said Diederich.

Members of the 103rd Medical Group’s public health team helped ensure proper health protection measures while the 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron provided vital transportation to participants.

“We coordinated prior to their training to make sure they had all the proper risk mitigations in place and made



Airmen from the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron protect a convoy during expeditionary operations training at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, Connecticut, Sept. 10, 2020. Members of the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron, 103rd Security Forces Squadron, 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, and 103rd Medical Group combined their expertise to conduct this key readiness training while protecting the health of participants. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Tucker)

sure lodging, transportation, and PPE were all set up before they got there,” said Tech. Sgt. Sara Beaudry, 103rd Medical Group public health noncommissioned officer in charge. “We went down and briefed proper PPE measures and trained people to conduct patient screening to make sure nobody became ill, and that if anyone did, we could break the chain of infection.”

The public health team had help on the ground from 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters, who helped conduct health screenings and served as subject matter experts while participating in the training course.

“It helps that they are firefighters and EMT-trained, so they have seen COVID cases and know what to look for,”

said Beaudry. “They are also very supportive of us going there and were extremely receptive of all the information we gave them.”

Public health is helping to make sure the 103rd gets the mission accomplished while keeping the health of the force the top priority, said Beaudry.

“Preventative health is the best way we can mitigate risk to any population,” said Beaudry. “Simple things like hand washing and wearing masks are in place to protect each other and to make sure we can get the mission done and stay healthy.”

CT Guard firefighters train, honor 9/11 firefighters

Tech Sgt. Tamara Dabney
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Firefighters assigned to the Connecticut National Guard recently conducted their two-week annual training. This year, the training took on a special meaning as one of the training dates happened to fall on the 19th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

On the morning of September 11, 2020, Connecticut Guard firefighters gathered at Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks to conduct structural live fire training. Before the training began, the Guardsmen participated in a ceremony at the Connecticut Firefighter's Memorial led by Fire academy staff in remembrance of the September 11 attacks. A steel beam taken from the World Trade Center wreckage towered above the Guardsmen as they stood before the monument and rendered a salute in honor of the firefighters who risked their lives on that day.

Minutes after the conclusion of the ceremony, the Guardsmen were in full firefighting gear, extinguishing a fire in the basement of a two-story building as part of a training exercise. The ceremony and training brought about somber feelings for Army Specialist Scott Whalen, a firefighter assigned to the 256th Engineer Battalion, but he also felt inspired.

"The ceremony out in front of the fire academy kind of just makes it a special day," said Whalen. "It just makes the day even better that we get to train hard, train with each other and remember all of our fallen heroes."

As the sun shined above him, Whalen recalled that the weather in Newington, Connecticut was also sunny and "beautiful" on the morning of September 11, 2001. Whalen

was a young child in 2001, but he remembers how his life changed after learning about the September 11 attacks and watching firefighters on television respond to the crisis. The courage of those first responders inspired Whalen to become a firefighter, upholding a tradition in his family that goes back five generations.

"I remember how beautiful it was outside and then I just remember going home to my family and my parents sat me down and broke the news," said Whalen. "Watching those brave souls walk into the World Trade Center that day, I feel like it can make an impact on anybody's life. Between that and being a fifth-generation firefighter, it definitely had an influence on me."

Like Whalen, Air Force Master Sgt. Zachary Daniel, assistant chief of training for the 103rd Civil Engineer Fire Department, hails from a family of first responders. The training and ceremony also brought back fond memories for him.

"It's a surreal feeling," said Daniel. "It brings you back to where you were that day and it sparks emotions with the events surrounding it."

The training included multiple scenarios in which firefighters were tasked with rescuing burn victims and responding to alarms, which prepares Guard firefighters to save lives should they be faced with a real catastrophic event. According to Daniel, scheduling the structural live fire training on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks was unintentional, but he is grateful for the opportunity to train on a day that was set aside to honor the sacrifices of his fellow firefighters.

"We don't typically train like this on 9/11," said Daniel. "It's just a heck of a coincidence that we are able to train and honor fallen firefighters on the same day."

Conn. Guard helps distribute masks to schools

Staff Sgt. Steven Tucker
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — Airmen and Soldiers from the Connecticut National Guard are helping both the Connecticut State Department of Education and Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security distribute masks to school districts throughout the state as many transition back to in-person or hybrid learning.

Connecticut Guardsmen helped distribute approximately 100,000 masks to local school districts at the West Hartford Department of Public Works garage, which has served as a PPE distribution site for the state throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 600,000 adult-sized masks for grades 7-12 are being distributed between the five DEMHS regions from Sept. 28 through Oct. 2. This is the first of two major mask shipments the state is receiving from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the second shipment will contain child-sized masks.

Connecticut Guardsmen expressed gratitude in supporting this mission.

"I have three kids that are in school now," said Senior Airman Corey Brennan, 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron air transportation specialist. "Knowing that they'll be able to learn in a safe environment is important for me as a parent, and helping the state provide that safe environment for students and teachers is very rewarding to me and all the members helping this operation."

Many of the Guardsmen supporting the distribution have been constantly engaged in domestic operations re-



Airman 1st Class Mariel Beebe, 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron air transportation specialist, loads a box of face masks into a vehicle at West Hartford Public Works, West Hartford, Connecticut, Sept. 30, 2020. The Connecticut National Guard is helping the state Department of Education and Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security distribute 600,000 masks to school districts throughout the state. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Tucker)

sponses for over six months. They have helped distribute PPE to nursing homes and played a key role in delivering bottled water to towns without power following Tropical Storm Isaias.

"Going around the state and meeting people from differ-

ent areas and different departments like Public Health and Emergency Management has been really fulfilling," said Brennan. "There's a sense of teamwork between us and the community; everyone is trying to come together to do the best we can in whatever we're tasked with."



U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training trainee, Chris-Ann Wilmoth, 37th Training Wing Detachment 5, Flight 564, participates in a physical training session at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., July 1, 2020. To continue minimizing close contact among personnel during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and ensure units and personnel are fully ready to resume, physical fitness testing has been delayed from October to January 2021. Testing in January will proceed without obtaining waist, height and weight measurements. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue)

Department of the Air Force pushes fitness testing to Jan. 1

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs
Contributor

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- Official physical fitness assessments across the Department of the Air Force will resume Jan. 1, 2021, officials announced Sept. 16.

To continue minimizing close contact among personnel during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and ensure units and personnel are fully ready to resume, testing has been delayed from October to January, and testing in January will move forward without obtaining waist, height and weight measurements.

"We know people are staying fit regardless, but we want to give our Airmen enough time to prepare," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.

Beginning Jan. 1, uniformed members are expected to test on the 1.5 mile run, 1 minute of push-ups and 1 minute of sit-ups. The body composition component (abdominal circumference), height and weight measurements are postponed until further notice. All members, including those with abdominal circumference exemptions, will receive maximum points for the AC component as part of their official score.

"This is an unprecedented situation and we've put a lot of work into assessing how and when we could safely resume fitness testing across the force," said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "People have been juggling work, child-care issues, homeschooling, family separations, isolation, etc.,

and we know it's been more challenging to maintain fitness. This delay gives our folks extra time to prepare for January, while also ensuring units have more time to implement additional COVID precautions."

"We're also aware our resumption occurs right after the annual holiday season that can be challenging for people's fitness," Kelly said. "Hopefully this change removes some of the stress caused by the waist measurement, and gives us all a chance to start our New Year's readiness and fitness resolutions on the right foot."

Fitness assessment due dates in 2021 will primarily depend on the date and score of the last official test. Airmen and Space Professionals may determine their next fitness assessment due date by visiting the Official Physical Assessment Due Date Matrix on myPers.

"This transition requires a careful and systematic approach," Kelly said. "Our goal is to begin testing where it makes sense, but also give commanders the needed tools and flexibility to make decisions that make sense for their locations and their people."

Fitness assessment cells, fitness center staff, physical training leaders and members performing fitness assessments will adhere to physical distancing protocols and other local precautions as determined by installation commanders. Commanders may delay official fitness assessments beyond Jan. 1, 2021, based on the recommendation of local public health officials, the continuation of closed fitness centers and extended state-wide restriction of movement and gatherings.



Keesler Airmen catch their breath after running a 5K run around the flightline April 25, 2016, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. The run was the kickoff event for a week full of activities supporting Wingman Week. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue)

"We're also taking advantage of this additional time to look at the long-term plan for the abdominal circumference component," Kelly said. "We're in discussion with our medical counterparts to determine the right place for the waist measurement, whether it be part of an annual health assessment or elsewhere. This is a great opportunity to make lasting changes that will improve our fitness culture."

For more information, Airmen and Space Professionals should contact their fitness assessment cells and visit the COVID-19 Fitness Guidance page on myPers.

Airmen find solution to KC135 and C130 battery testing failure, reducing cost and maintenance delays

Corrie Poland
Air Force Operational Energy

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Airmen from Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio, and Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, helped revise outdated procedures for testing the condition of aircraft batteries on the KC-135 Stratotanker and C-130 Hercules, preventing the premature disposal and replacement of batteries and avoiding unnecessary equipment costs and maintenance hours.

The batteries serve as the aircraft's backup to power essential equipment should engine generators fail. To date, the Air Force C-130 and KC-135 fleets, more than 600 aircraft globally, operate with the batteries.

The Airmen determined that by updating the technical guidance and adjusting the required voltage and charging settings for specific processes, the legacy charging equipment can now sync with the modern battery and provide accurate test results. Currently, a draft Technical Order is authorized for testing by select field and depot maintenance units, and the Air Force Research Laboratory expects to release a formal TO later this year. The team anticipates the update will decrease the rate of condemned batteries enterprise-wide, avoiding an estimated \$463,000 in battery-replacement costs annually, while saving approximately 5,280 maintenance hours across the Air Force.

In mid-2017, depot personnel at Tinker AFB first discovered that the sealed lead-acid aircraft batteries, manufactured by Teledyne Technologies, Inc., were failing periodic maintenance tests at a rate three times faster than expected. As a result, Airmen were required to reject and replace them before the end of their service life.

The depot notified the 422nd Supply Chain Management Squadron and the AFRL Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, ultimately finding that the 121st Maintenance Squadron was having similar issues with the newly procured batteries.

According to Defense Logistics Agency data, procurement of battery replacements increased by 50% since the installation of the Teledyne battery.

"We noticed that we had condemned more batteries in six months, than we had in the previous year," said Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Frey, 121st Maintenance Squadron electrical and environmental specialist. "The battery is coded as an expendability item, so if they fail maintenance tests, they are thrown away – which requires us to complete additional paperwork and go through the discard and replacement process."

According to Frey, if the battery fails the first test, it will be tested two more times before going through the condemnation process. While technicians can complete a testing cycle in approximately one day, the additional testing extended the process to nearly four days of maintenance.

While the batteries were not passing maintenance tests, their research found no evidence to support the notion that there was widespread malfunction during operations.

"None of the batteries were failing during flight or showing any physical defects. There was only an issue during maintenance," Frey explained.

The team worked with subject matter experts from AFRL, Teledyne, and the 422nd Supply Chain Management Squadron and Depot Battery Backshop at Tinker AFB to identify the root cause and determine a way forward. They also brought on DLA, the University of Dayton Research Institute (UDRI), and the C-130 and KC-135 System



A C-130H Hercules assigned to the 103rd Airlift Wing prepares for departure at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, Sept. 3, 2020. The 103rd frequently flies local training missions throughout New England to maintain readiness and proficiencies critical to the tactical airlift mission.

Program Offices for further support.

Through ground testing and data capture, the team discovered that the maintenance procedures were incompatible with the legacy model of charging equipment (Christie RF80-K), causing inaccurate test results. Working with Teledyne and subject matter experts, the team updated the technical interim instructions to sync with the existing equipment and successfully charge and maintain the batteries. The update required no physical modifications to the battery itself.

"Our goal was to help all depot and field maintainers reduce maintenance man-hours while decreasing the number of battery condemnations," said Kelly Ward, Tinker AFB 422nd SCMS electronics engineer.

For the 121st MS, charging time decreased by approximately two hours and reduced the number of maintenance procedures.

"These batteries go through periodic maintenance and charging every year, and with proper use, they'll last about five years," said Ed Clark, AFRL's Advanced Power Technology Office aviation program lead. "So when we discovered that the turnover had increased so rapidly, we wanted to know why. With the team's help, we were able to find a solution."

With the draft TO in place, depot backshops at Tinker AFB, Rickenbacker ANGB, and Robins AFB, Georgia, have approval to update the settings across all Christie chargers. Once the formal TO is issued, all bases will be able to implement the change, resulting in reduced maintenance hours and significantly decreasing the number of rejected batteries. Airmen find solution to KC135 and C130 battery testing failure, reducing cost and maintenance delays

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Director, Service Member and Family Support Center	Kimberly Hoffman	kimberly.j.hoffman.civ@mail.mil	(800) 858-2677
Military and Family Readiness Coordinator	Melody Baber	melodycheyenne.c.baber.civ@mail.mil	(860) 548-3276 (desk) (860) 883-2515 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Kelly Strba	kelly.a.strba.civ@mail.mil	(860) 548-3283 (desk) (860) 500-3813 (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)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Jason Perry	jason.t.perry.civ@mail.mil	(860) 524-4897 (desk) (860) 655-9288 (cell)
Military and Family Readiness Specialist	Denton Gladden	denton.r.gladden.civ@mail.mil	(800) 524-4920
ARNG Yellow Ribbon Program	SGT Jeovanny Ulloa	jeovanny.j.ulloa.mil@mail.mil	(860) 493-2796 (desk)
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator	Michelle McCarty	michelle.m.mccarty4.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 548-3254 (desk) (860) 883-6953 (cell)
Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator	Reisha Moffat	reisha.a.moffat.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4894
Military OneSource Consultant	Scott McLaughlin	scott.mclaughlin@militaryonesource.com	(860) 493-2722 (desk) (860) 502-5416 (cell)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Volunteer Support Technician	Ben Beaudry	benjamin.a.beaudry.ctr@mail.mil	(860) 524-4970 (desk)
Personal Financial Counselor	Brian Deal	pfc.ct.ng@zeiders.com	(203) 233-8790 (cell)
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)
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)
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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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