



Connecticut GUARDIAN

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Perkins representing state in supply excellence

Maj. Mike Petersen
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. – Staff Sgt. Carrie Perkins, Supply NCO assigned to Charlie Company, 3/142nd Aviation, accepted the Supply Excellence Award for Region I during the Connecticut Army National Guard's Quarterly Supply Meeting, Nov. 22.

Perkins and her unit, headquartered in Windsor Locks, Conn., were nominated by state supply leaders in April. Upon learning that her unit was named a national semifinalist for a Chief of Staff of the Army Supply Excellence Award, she attributed it all to team work.

"Anytime you receive recognition in the supply community, it is a testament to not just the recipient, but a whole host of people driven to make the unit successful," Perkins said. "I'm honored to have been selected, and consider myself very fortunate to be part of such a hard working team."

Connecticut's aviation community are no strangers to national awards. Echo Company, 1-169 Aviation earned the Phillip Connolly Award as the nation's top National Guard mess section in fiscal year 2017.

According to the official announcement, the Supply Excellence Awards Program is, "designed to reward excellence in supply support operations." These awards pave the way for an, "opportunity to go on and compete for the Department of Defense Award for Supply Chain Excellence."

Supply Excellence Awards are broken down into over 20 different categories. Perkins and her Charlie Company team members will be considered in the category of, "Army National Guard Level I MTOE Unit Supply." MTOE, or Military Table of Organization and Equipment, units are considered separately from TDA (Table of Distribution and Allowances).

Other semifinalists in Charlie Company's category include the 188th Engineer Company (Vertical), headquartered in Wahepton, North Dakota, and Delta Company, 1-133rd Infantry out of Dubuque, Iowa.

"All three units that made it to national consideration should hold their heads high, because getting to this point is so difficult," said Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Sicard,



Staff Sgt. Carrie Perkins, right, Supply NCO assigned to Charlie Company, 3/142 Aviation, accepts a Region I Supply Excellence Award on behalf of her unit from Col. Tom Dennis, CTARNG G-4, at the Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center, Nov. 22. Perkins and her unit will be considered for the Chief of Staff of the Army Supply Excellence Award, competing as a semifinalist against units from Iowa and North Dakota (Photo provided by Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Sicard, CTARNG G-4 Sergeant Major).

CTARNG G-4 Sergeant Major. "We are immensely proud of Staff Sgt. Perkins and the supply excellence exhibited by Charlie Company."

Announcements of the winners are expected in the First Quarter of 2020.

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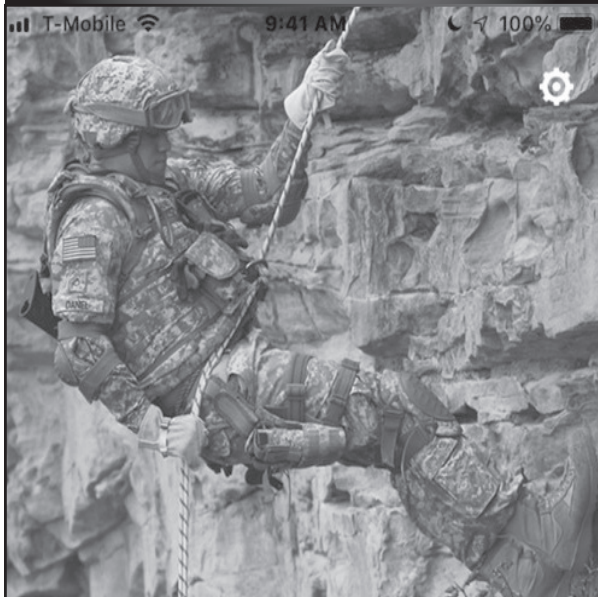


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103rd Airlift Wing

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First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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A Message from the Adjutant General

To the Soldiers, Airmen, Families, and Retirees of the Connecticut National Guard:

As we prepare to turn our calendars to 2020, I wish you and your loved ones a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

Your dedication to our mission is always evident. None of our successes were possible without your hard work, commitment, and support to Americans in need. Whether that need called for us to support right here within our nation's borders or half a world away, Connecticut's Home Team has stepped up and continued to demonstrate your technical and tactical proficiency. We remain Always Ready and Always There.

This year has not been without its challenges and tragic losses. I ask that while you celebrate the holidays, take a moment to not only remember those Connecticut Guardsmen deployed around the globe, but to also check in with your fellow Battle Buddies and Wingmen. We are nothing without you – the Guardsmen and Families that make our organization what it is – and we must support each other physically, mentally and spiritually when in need.

I also want to thank your families and employers who are equally critical to our mission. Their willingness to sacrifice while we focus on the mission at hand is critical. We are forever in their debt for what they do while we selflessly serve.

May your holiday season be filled with joy and peace.

Sincerely,

Francis J. Evon, Jr.
Major General
The Adjutant General



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

www.NATIONALGUARD.com/CT
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Digging Into History: Conn. Students Celebrate State's Military History with Once-in-a-lifetime Educational Opportunity

Mr. Timothy R. Koster
CTARNG JFHQ Public Affairs

World War I started after the assassination of Austria-Hungary's Archduke Ferdinand and was the result of complicated interlocking alliances between the Balkan States and much of Europe. At the breakout of the war, President Woodrow Wilson declared that the United States would remain a neutral party – a policy that most Americans stood behind.

However, after a German U-boat sank the *Lusitania*, a British ocean liner, which resulted in the death of more than 100 Americans, the public opinion quickly began to shift. That opinion continued to rapidly change after it was discovered that Germany attempted to form an Alliance with Mexico – forcing President Wilson to ask Congress to declare war against the German empire.

The U.S. would officially enter the war in 1917. Nearly one year later, the first German offensive against American troops would take place in the small French village of Seicheprey. Many of the Americans on the other end of this attack belonged to Connecticut's 102nd Infantry Regiment. It was a battle that resulted in heavy casualties on both sides but also formed a bond between a small French village and an entire U.S. state.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the battle, fifteen Connecticut high school students traveled to Seicheprey to help restore a section of the trenches occupied by Connecticut Soldiers. Working alongside fifteen French students, their goal was to create a historic attraction to help spur tourism in the area.

On November 15, 2019, the students and chaperones from the trip shared their stories and experiences during a presentation at the William A. O'Neill State Armory in Hartford, Connecticut. Each student was honored for their service as a student ambassador on behalf of the state and country by State Senator Paul Formica, Lt. Col. Frank Tantillo, commander of the 102nd Infantry Regiment, and representatives for other state and local



Connecticut students share their experiences participating in the Digging Through History program, a three-week summer student ambassadorship to Seicheprey, France, at the William A. O'Neill State Armory in Hartford, Conn. Nov. 19, 2019. The students worked alongside French students to help restore WWI trenches used by Connecticut's 102nd Infantry Regiment during the war. (Photo by Timothy R. Koster, Connecticut National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)

officials.

"I want to thank you for being a part of our Regimental history that goes back to 1636 ... I'm really proud that we have students who took the time out of their summer to go and literally dig into a piece of our history," said Tantillo. "I wish I could've been there with you; what an experience."

During the three-week program, the students re-dug trenches using pick axes, rebuilt the trench walls and bunkers with trees they harvested locally, and uncovered artifacts such as barbed wire, ammunition casings – including fragments from German hand grenades – and uniform buttons.

While the program was designed to teach the students about American and Connecticut military history, it also helped foster growth and create lifelong memories and friendships.

"While most experiences abroad expand one's own mindset and worldview, our trip to France brought about not only personal growth, but state and national growth as well," said Aaron Cohen, a Ridgefield High School student. "In a project which, on day one, I thought unlikely or impossible, our group restored a trench from World War I: a crucial piece of history, and the missing link between different places across the world from one another. All in all, the trip taught me that reaching back and reconnecting is

imperative - after all, you might find friends you didn't even know existed."

Prior to traveling overseas, the group of students held three meetings to get to know one another. One of the meetings also paired each student with a family of descendants of a 102nd Soldier to learn more about those who fought in the area they were visiting.

"This trip was something that textbooks can never teach you," said Lillith Davies-Smith, one of the students who participated in the program. "I was able to learn about the life of a fallen hero and make sure he's never forgotten."

In addition to giving new life to the legacy of the Soldiers who fought in this war, the project also aimed to continue and strengthen the friendship between the town of Seicheprey and the state of Connecticut, which has deeper roots than just sharing a common battlefield. After German forces shelled the town in their assault on the 102nd, the citizens of Connecticut raised \$5,000 to help restore the water supply during reconstruction efforts. The state also gifted a fountain to the town which still stands today.

Although they're not sure exactly how much trench they restored, the organizers of the program know they're not done – rebuilding and educating – and hope to send a second group of students in the summer of 2021.

The Digging Into History program was created by the Connecticut Heritage Foundation on behalf of the Connecticut State Library. To learn more about the program, visit their website: <https://ctinworldwar1.org/trenchproject/>.



Erik Johnson, a teacher from Park City Magnet School and chaperone during Digging Into History, holds a button the group found during their three-week summer program to Seicheprey, France, at the William A. O'Neill State Armory in Hartford, Conn. Nov. 19, 2019. The button was made in Waterbury, Conn. and was likely worn by a member of the state's 102nd Infantry Regiment in World War I. (Photo by Timothy R. Koster, Connecticut National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)

ESGR



“Boss Lift” Gives Connecticut Employers a Hands-on Look

Ben Beaudry
Connecticut ESGR

The Connecticut Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee, a Department of Defense program, announces the selection of retired Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, who had previously served as the state’s adjutant general, as the new ESGR state chair.

The state ESGR chair is an official Department of Defense volunteer position with a three-year term of service, renewable for an additional term. Maj. Gen. Martin will serve under ESGR National Chair Ronald E. Bogle and take his oath of office at the ESGR National Leadership Meeting in November.

In his new role, Maj. Gen. Martin provides the leadership and vision for a team of dedicated volunteers throughout Connecticut to carry out the ESGR mission.

“Employers standing behind their employees in the National Guard and Reserve contribute directly to our military strength and readiness,” Maj. Gen. Martin said. “As a military leader, I understood the critical role employer support has on the long-term success of the Reserve Component. Now, as Connecticut ESGR chair, it’s my mission to make ESGR the go-to resource for employers and service members for information about their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.”

Maj. Gen. Martin served as Connecticut’s adjutant general from May 2005 to July 2018 and was the first Air National Guard officer to command the Connecticut National Guard. In that role, he was responsible both to the governor and to the Chief, National Guard Bureau, for providing operationally trained, equipped and mission-ready forces to support federal mobilization requirements and state emergency operations.

As the adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Martin oversaw an annual budget of more than \$300 million, more than \$2 billion in facilities and equipment and an organization of more than 5,000 military, civilian and contract employees.

With almost half of the United States’ military force serving in the National Guard or Reserve, Maj. Gen. Martin and the Connecticut team have a direct impact on these

men and women and their civilian employers. He joins 53 other chairs who oversee the ESGR mission in the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia.

ESGR is a Department of Defense program that develops and promotes supportive work environments for service members in the Reserve Components through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities that increase awareness of applicable laws. ESGR also provides assistance in resolving conflicts between the service members and their employers.

More information about ESGR employer outreach programs and volunteer opportunities is available at www.esgr.mil or by calling Connecticut ESGR Volunteer Support Technician Ben Beaudry at (860) 524-4970.



Health & Fitness

Kill the chill: Understanding cold-weather injuries

Scott Sturkol
Fort McCoy Public Affairs

Each year, many people experience cold-weather-related injuries.

Exposure to the cold can lead to a variety of problems.

While the cold makes tasks more difficult, it does not make them impossible. The key to overcoming the cold and successfully completing the mission lies within an understanding of cold-weather injuries and how to prevent them.

Officials at the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center offer the following descriptions of the most common cold-weather injuries and information on how to prevent them.

- **Chilblains** — Chilblains are a nonfreezing cold injury resulting from repeated, prolonged skin exposure to cold and wet (high humidity) temperatures above freezing. Exposed skin becomes red, tender, and hot to the touch and is usually itchy. These symptoms can worsen to an aching, prickly (pins and needles) sensation and then numbness.

Chilblains can develop in exposed skin in only a few hours. The most commonly affected areas are the ears, nose, fingers, and toes.

- **Immersion foot/trench foot** — Immersion foot/trench foot is a nonfreezing injury that results from prolonged exposure to wet conditions between 32 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit (F) or inactivity with damp socks and boots.

Immersing feet in cold water, not changing socks frequently, not maintaining proper hygiene, and allowing sweat to accumulate inside boots or gloves will soften the skin, causing tissue loss and often infection. Symptoms in affected areas include cold, swollen, discolored, and waxy flesh accompanied by tingling sensations, numbness and pain. In extreme cases, the flesh dies, and amputation may be necessary.

- **Frostnip** — Frostnip is the freezing of the top layers of skin tissue and is considered the first degree of frostbite. Frostnip usually results from short-duration exposure to cold air or contact with a cold object such as metal. Exposed skin such as the cheeks, ears, fingers, and wrists are more likely to develop frostnip.

The top layer of frozen skin becomes white and waxy and feels hard and rubbery while the deeper tissue is still soft. Affected areas feel numb and may become swollen but do not blister. Frozen skin thaws quickly, becoming red and painful with eventual peeling. Complete healing usually occurs within 10 days, and frostnip is normally reversible.

- **Frostbite** — Frostbite is the actual freezing of skin tissue. It can extend through all layers of the skin and freeze muscle and bone. Frozen skin may turn red and then gray-blue with blisters. In the worst cases, the skin dies and turns blue-black. At this stage, amputation is often required. Deep frozen skin feels wooden to the touch with zero mobility of the affected body part. Instantaneous frostbite can occur when skin comes in contact

with super-cooled liquids, including petroleum, oils and lubricants, fuel, antifreeze, and alcohol — all of which remain liquid at temperatures as low as minus 40 F.

- **Hypothermia** — Hypothermia is a potentially life-threatening condition. It is defined as a general cooling of the body's core temperature below 95 F (normal body temperature is 98.6 F). Hypothermia sets in when body heat loss exceeds the body's heat production due to prolonged cold exposure.

Although hypothermia is usually associated with cold climates, it can occur at temperatures well above freezing, especially when a person is exposed to wet conditions over an extended period of time.

Signs and symptoms of hypothermia change as body temperature falls. Mental functions typically decline first, marked with impaired decision-making ability, slurred speech, disorientation, incoherence, irrationality and possible unconsciousness.

Muscle functions deteriorate with shivering and loss of fine motor ability (i.e., unable to complete tasks with hands), progressing to stumbling, clumsiness, and falling. In severe cases, shivering ceases and the victim exhibits stiffness and an inability to move.

Pulse and respiration rates can decrease, progressing to unconsciousness, irregular heartbeat and death.

Unfortunately, early signs and symptoms of hypothermia can be difficult to recognize and may go undetected. Victims may deny they are in trouble, so believe the symptoms, not the victim.

- **Dehydration** — Dehydration is a lack of water in the body. Most people associate dehydration with hot

weather, but it is very easy to become dehydrated in cold weather. Soldiers can fall victim to dehydration when they fail to drink enough liquid and underestimate fluid loss from sweating.

Proper hydration is especially important in cold-weather because dehydration adversely affects the body's resistance to cold injury, increasing the chance of cold weather injuries. Remember that proper hydration is essential to supplying the fuel and energy necessary for heat production.

Understanding the factors contributing to cold weather injuries provides a better understanding of the best methods to combat the cold. Environmental factors that can contribute to cold weather injuries include temperature, wind, rain, immersion and altitude; workload; duration of cold/wet exposure; and individual risk factors such as physical fitness, fatigue, health, prior history of cold injury, use of medications, alcohol, nicotine, and poor nutrition.

Cold-weather injuries are preventable, so people should be prepared to kill the chill. Remember, battling the cold is like battling any other enemy — mission success happens only through proper planning and training. Don't get left out in the cold this winter.

More information on cold-weather safety and many other winter-safety topics is available on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's autumn/winter seasonal safety campaign website at

<https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/SeasonalSafetyCampaigns/AutumnWinter2016-17.aspx>.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

If you have a cold or flu:

Avoid close contact when possible

- Germs are transmitted by sneezing, coughing, and even while speaking

Cover your cough or sneeze

- Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing
- Throw used tissue in the trash



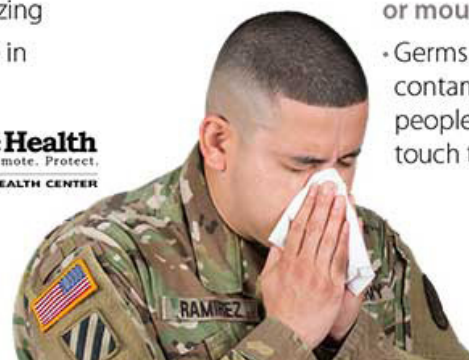
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Wash your hands often

- Always wash your hands before eating and after using the latrine
- Wash and scrub hands for at least 20 seconds with warm, soapy water or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth

- Germs are spread when people touch something contaminated with germs (for example, other people's hands or smooth surfaces) and then touch their own eyes, nose, or mouth



For more information, contact your installation's
Department of Public Health.

Retiree Voice

Winter preparedness: tips to stay safe and healthy

Stephanie Cyr
Sgt. 1st Class (retired)

On cue, TRICARE, AAA, and AARP emails and notices have arrived to warn about being prepared. Winter is a hazardous season with its frigid cold and storms. Thanks to these organizations, here are some tips to stay healthy and safe this winter.

A health emergency kit is good thing to have all the time, but especially in winter when weather conditions can complicate a health issue. Health emergency kits should contain the following for you and family members living with you. A kit should contain a full list of all prescription medications and over-the-counter medications taken on a regular basis complete with instructions. You should keep an extra supply of drugs and supplies in the kit. It should also include TRICARE information, primary care provider, and in the case of TRICARE for Life, all medical provider information.

Prepare your car for winter and winter travel. AAA (Automobile Association of America) and TRICARE recommends taking the following actions to winterize your vehicles. Make sure your tires are in good condition. If necessary, replace current tires with all-weather or snow tires. Check vehicles windshield wiper fluid tanks often. Keep them full and use wintertime fluid that will not freeze. Always keep vehicle gas tanks full to prevent ice from forming and fouling the tanks and lines. A winter emergency kit to keep in your car is an insurance policy to keep you and passengers safe in case of a road emergency. Car emergency kits should contain a first aid kit, blankets, a flashlight with extra batteries, water, snacks, emergency flares and a portable cell phone charger. Remember all necessary identification when traveling.

Winterizing your home and having necessary emergency supplies will protect you

and your family from potential damage or danger that winter storms and cold temperatures may cause. Have your heating system serviced each year. Clean out chimneys and fireplaces and check for damage. Pick a time each year to change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure they are working properly. Keep steps and walks clear of snow and ice to minimize the chance of injuries.

Losing power in winter can have serious complications. If you have a generator, make sure it is serviced and you are familiar with how to use it. Have a home emergency kit that includes food and water for three days for each family member, warm clothing if you must leave, and toys and games for both children and adults to help time pass. Other safety items to have in one place in case needed are first-aid kit, flashlights, extra batteries, extra medicines, and any items needed by a family member.

Finally, keep safe when doing winter outdoor activities. Help prevent serious injuries like frostbite and hypothermia by taking the following precautions. Dress appropriate for the cold weather by wearing layers of warm clothing, a wind and moisture resistant coat, hat, scarf, gloves and waterproof shoes. When working outside, for example shoveling snow, work slowly. Take breaks and warm up if needed. Always have a charged cell phone with you when doing outdoor activities. A good idea is to have a friend with you when participating in outdoor activities and sports.

Winter is a fun season if you like all the winter activities that come with it. Winter can be dangerous if one is not prepared. Taking steps to ensure winter safety and staying healthy, putting together emergency kits may seem like a lot of unnecessary work. Being prepared just in case, will be worth it.

The best way to
protect
against
the flu
is to get vaccinated
each year.



While some of the flu viruses spreading each season are different from what is in the vaccine, vaccination can still provide protection and may lessen the severity of your illness if you do get the flu.



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For more information, contact your installation's
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Get your flu vaccine now.

You can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different illnesses.

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Stay home when you are sick.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
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Immigrant Contributions to America

Master Sgt. John Noone
Equal Opportunity Advisor, 169th Regional Training Institute

The United States as we know it was founded by English Immigrants over two-hundred-fifty years ago. Many people still strive to come to the United States in search of political freedom and opportunity. America has always been and continues to be a land of dreams. Foreigners from all over the world have come to live in the U.S. and contribute to the cultural diversity that has made America great. That diversity has become one of our country's greatest strengths.

According to the Current Population Survey (CPS) in 2018 immigrants, both documented and undocumented, and their U.S-born children number approximately 89.4 million people, or 28 percent of the overall U.S. population. The population of the United States and the world has grown significantly in the last few decades. As a whole the immigration population growth has mostly mirrored the general population growth. To support that population growth here and throughout the world, certain service and support mechanisms must be in place. Immigrants have traditionally contributed greatly to this cause. A look at immigrants' influence on the U.S. economy and their contributions to the U.S. military deserves considerable attention.

Below are some facts contrary to popular belief that immigration might be interfering with U.S. economic progress.

1. According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, immigrants pay more than \$90 billion in taxes annually, and receive only \$5 billion in welfare. This includes approximately \$11.6 billion in taxes paid every year by undocumented immigrants who don't receive public assistance due to ineligibility.
2. Immigrants make up approximately 17 percent of the U.S. labor force. Also, entrepreneurial immigrants create new jobs by forming new businesses. These business owning immigrants contribute to the American economy by virtue of supporting their businesses with American made goods. All income producing immigrants also spend parts of their incomes on American goods and services. Hence, this raises the productivity of U.S. businesses overall, and contributes to a robust economy.

3. More immigrants with lower education levels tend to be part of the work force than those with the same level of education who were born in the United States. According to University of California economics professor Giovanni Peri, less than 50% of all U.S.-born Americans without a high school diploma are working in the labor market. Comparatively, about 70 percent of immigrants with the same education level are part of the labor force. This speaks to the notion that immigrants often do, or are willing to do the jobs that many American citizens tend not to take.
4. Studies by the National Research Council have shown that immigrants do not have a negative effect on the earnings and employment opportunities of native-born Americans. Rather, they take on the jobs that typically don't get filled by others in the work force. These tend to be low wage jobs that need to be done so that the economy and society can function successfully. These jobs include factory workers, farm workers, construction labor, and psychiatric and elderly care aides.

The number of veterans who were immigrants born outside the United States stands at approximately 530,000. This represents 3 percent of all 18.6 million veterans nationwide. Approximately 35,000 non-citizens are serving in the active duty military and until recently about 8,000 more were joining each year. Demographic trends and incentives such as language programs and expedited citizenship attract the non-citizen Soldier. Non-citizen Service members typically had greater diversity in language and culture, which was particularly valuable in the Global War on Terrorism. Non-citizen Soldiers are encouraged to legalize their status in order to take advantage of future benefits within the military. Also, according to a military research project, non-citizens, once in the military, were more likely to complete their enlistment obligations than were their U.S.-born counterparts.

Overall, immigrants have long supported the growth and stabilization of the U.S. economy and the U.S. military. Immigrants and refugees who have arrived on our shores, have become entrepreneurs, job creators, taxpayers, Soldiers and consumers. They add trillions of dollars to the U.S. gross domestic product, and they've made important contributions to the US militaries.

A Tale of Two Capitols

Robert Cody
Brigadier General (CT-Ret)

The Connecticut Colony (Hartford) and the New Haven Colony were two separate entities until 1662, when a charter from King Charles II united them. The original charter is on display at the Museum of Connecticut History on Capitol Avenue in Hartford. From 1701 to 1874, there were actually two capitals in Connecticut - New Haven and Hartford. The origins of this unusual arrangement date back to 1701, when the General Court agreed to a proposed plan of having co-capitals. Each city had the responsibility for different parts of the government.

The General Assembly met in Hartford for the May sessions and in New Haven for the October sessions until 1818, when an annual rotation was in effect until 1874. Though some references state that the General Assembly always met in Hartford. The 'single capital contest' began in 1866, when the General Assembly appointed commissioners to investigate the state houses in New Haven and in Hartford. Officials put the issue to a public vote in the form of a referendum to decide which city deserved to be Connecticut's capital. New Haven supporters lobbied that, given the city's booming industry and larger population, it made for a better choice. Conversely, Hartford attempted to gather votes by offering the state a plot of land, previously occupied by Trinity College, and a sum of \$500,000 toward the construction of a new capitol building on the site. In the fall of 1873, Hartford emerged victorious, becoming Connecticut's sole capital city, effective in 1875.

Owing to the boisterousness of 18th century politics, military companies frequently escorted candidates and elected officials. Many of the local "trainbands" of militia lacked the discipline to carry out these duties. On October 2nd, 1771 the General Assembly granted a petition to create a "Governor's Guard." Initially led by Samuel Wyllys, the organization that now bears the name First Company Governor's Foot Guard is the oldest military organization in continuous existence in the United States. In 1775 a second company was established to provide escort in New Haven. The Second Company Governor's Foot Guard counts Ethan Allen, Aaron Burr and Benedict Arnold as members. On July 5th, 1779, the Second Company came to the defense of New Haven when the British attacked as part of their Punitive Raids of the colony.



State House, Hartford, Conn. Library of Congress Control Number: 2016805886

For more information:

- Museum of Connecticut History website - <https://museumofcthistory.org/>
- First Company Governor's Foot Guard website - <http://www.governorsfootguard.com/history/index.html>
- Second Company Governor's Foot Guard website - <http://www.footguard.org/>

Brig Gen Cody retired from the CTARNG in 2014 and currently teaches 7th Grade US History in Stamford. He is an honorary member of the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard. He may be reached at rmcody81@gmail.com for comments or article recommendations.

Walt Whitman: An Unlikely Army Nurse

Col. Richard Young, Retired

The Wound Dresser

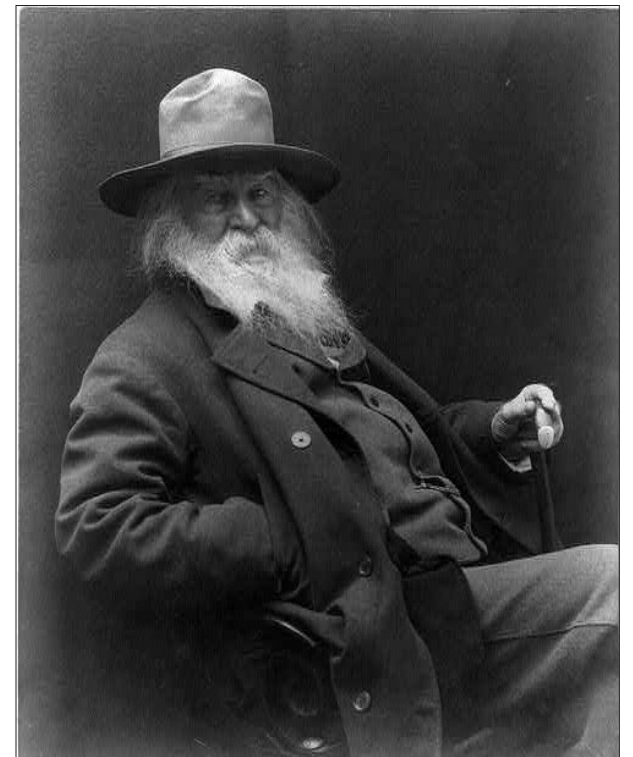
At the outset of the Civil War, there was no organized Army Nurse Corps. Volunteer "nurses" changed dressings of wounded soldiers, provided water and food, and comforted the dying. In 1862, Walt Whitman, a poet celebrated for his "Leaves of Grass", volunteered to serve as an Army nurse.

Whitman discovered his brother's name, George, published in a newspaper identifying soldiers wounded at the Battle of Fredricksburg, Virginia. He journeyed to the battle site and found that his brother had only a minor wound, but thousands of other Soldiers were in desperate need of care. By January 1863, Whitman was "head nurse" of a trainload of casualties transported to Washington DC hospitals. Once in the nation's capitol, Whitman witnessed thousands of other wounded Union Soldiers. For the next three years, Whitman toiled in Army hospitals.

Some of the Soldiers were amputees; Whitman assisted them with meals. He sat by their bedsides and wrote letters to their families. From his own funds, Whitman purchased gifts of fruit, candy, books, pencils and paper for the hospitalized soldiers. Often, he changed the dressings of the injured:

*Bearing the bandages, water and sponge,
Straight and swift to my wounded I go,
Where they lie on the ground after the battle brought in,
Where their priceless blood reddens the grass, the ground,
Or to the rows of the hospital tent, or under the roof'd hospital,
To the long rows of cots up and down each side I return,
To each and all one after another I draw near, not one do I miss,
From the stump of the arm, the amputated hand,
I undo the clotted lint, remove the slough, wash off the matter
and blood,
Back on his pillow the soldier bends with curv'd neck and side
falling head,
His eyes are closed, his face is pale, he dares not look on the
bloody stump,
And has not yet look'd on it.
I dress a wound in the side, deep, deep,
But a day or two more, for see the frame all wasted and sinking,
And the yellow-blue countenance see.
I dress the perforated shoulder, the foot with the bullet-wound,
Cleanse the one with a gnawing and putrid gangrene, so
sickening, so offensive,
While the attendant stands behind aside me holding the tray
and pail.
I am faithful, I do not give out.*

Whitman wrote that his work as a nurse was "the greatest privilege and satisfaction... and, of course, the most profound lesson of my life."



Walt Whitman, 1819-1892; Library of Congress Control Number: 2004677282

Inside OCS



Officer Candidates with 1-169 conduct a road march as part of their monthly drill training. (Photo courtesy of 1-169th Regiment)

Becoming Stronger, Faster and Resilient

Officer Candidate Alexey Prokharchyk
OCS Class 65 "Roughnecks", 1-169 REGT (RTI)

Phase II October drill weekend of Officer Candidate School was building upon previous knowledge of prior drills and added new challenges.

Officer Candidates started arriving 3 hours earlier to ensure the success and prepare the necessary equipment and quarters for the duration of the drill. They are in charge of their training and learn to work under minimum supervision and show initiative.

Right after first formation, the Platoon Leader Candidate leading the rest of the class conducted OPORD. The OPORD or operations order is the means to communicate instructions and necessary information by the unit commander to subordinates or staff regarding the mission and what is expected. Candidates prepare OPORD for each drill, and that way, build their confidence and expertise.

The focus of the October drill was a 9-mile ruck march, medical readiness, and class studies. Saturday morning, Officer Candidates, cadre and some members

of the 1-169 regiment did a group ruck march. They started at camp Nett and moved to Stones Ranch. Along with the movement, all had to maintain a steady pace and a proper formation. No one fell out, and all made it on time as a team.

This ruck march is a pass-fail event and a stepping stone for the November drill's 12-mile ruck.

After completion of the Ruck, Candidates returned to the camp Niantic and moved to the classroom. A class on the Special Forces explained the history and importance of the special operations. It also taught the structure of Special Operations Command (SOCOM) and how it operates.

A course on civil-military operations taught the importance of the military working with civilians and that it is hard or even impossible to complete the mission if one does not work with another. As one instructor mentioned, "If your only tool is a hammer then every problem looks like a nail." That means the military can't solve all the issues by themselves and require assistance from politicians and experts outside of the military.

Our Mission Comand class taught Candidates that

new doctrine empowers every soldier down to the lowest rank to make a decision and continuously seek comparative advantage against the enemy.

The course on Recommend Administrative and Personal Action taught Officer Candidates about enlisted promotions, identify awards and decorations, examine the evaluation reporting system, leave and pass requests, administer suspension of favorable personnel actions.

Sunday morning, Candidates conducted PRT (Physical Readiness Training) to maintain fitness excellence. In the future Candidates will lead soldiers and are expected not only to meet the standards but to excel.

Officer candidates concluded the drill by turning in the gear previously requested through supply and cleaning the barracks up to the standard. Outgoing and incoming leadership were counseled by cadre and all expectations for next month were set.

November drill will consist of a 12-mile ruck, classes on supply, preparation for the dining out and creation of the Class 65 guidon.

Creating New Holiday Traditions When Your Service Member Is Away

Military OneSource

Holidays can feel very different when your service member is away. There are traditions that you'd like to share with them or wish they could participate in. But there are things you can do to help yourself – and your service member – make the holidays special, whether they are stationed far from home or deployed. Sharing old traditions and creating new ones can keep the holidays fun and meaningful, and help you stay connected.

You are an important influence in your service member's life. Sharing traditions or creating new ones during this time of year shows that you are thinking about and supporting your service member. This is meaningful, as they – and you – may be feeling a lot of emotions, whether they express it or not.

Creating new traditions

Here are some ideas other service families have used to bridge the distance gap. See if they work for you, and share them with others in your loved one's network of support.

Watch your favorite holiday movie at the same time. If possible, watch while using video chat or social media to comment on the best parts in real time. If holiday movies are not your thing, you could choose a television series to stream and talk about.

Design family T-shirts or hats for family members to wear one day around the holidays. Put something meaningful or fun on them and then video chat or text fun pictures. Send your service member one of the T-shirts or hats ahead of time so they can wear.

Send a care package or even an experience. Sending a care package is a great way to brighten your service member's holiday season, especially if they are deployed. Even consider sending an experience they may remember over time. If they are otherwise unable to make it home, think about giving them your airline points so they can enjoy a trip, a round of golf or even a dinner out.

Create a photobook. Include images of you and your service member, together and apart, from throughout the year. Make a copy for you and send a copy to them as a

holiday gift to share and look through together.

Encourage your service member to get together with friends. Missing home may put a damper on wanting to celebrate, but suggesting that your loved one get together with buddies and new-found friends can help your service member. Remind them to embrace the local culture whether they are in North Dakota, the Pacific region or somewhere else.

Invite others without local family to your holiday table and activities. Be the family and support that your friends need. Include them in your activities and involve their favorite traditions too. This is really where the military community is at its best, when we look out for one another. Encourage your service member to include people without local family in your activities.

Schedule a holiday visit with video chat. Open presents together or, if your service member has children, read a holiday story.

Adopt a foreign holiday tradition. If your service member is stationed abroad, research the country's holiday traditions and incorporate one or a few into your own.

Volunteer or send a donation on behalf of your service member to a favorite charity. Your service member is serving our nation, take their lead and volunteer over the holiday season in your local community. Or donate to an organization on behalf of your service member, something that is close to his or her heart.

Send several holiday cards in the same package. Write a different note of appreciation and love in each one. Your service member can open one card a day leading up to the holiday. See these guidelines from the Postal Service to make sure your cards get there on time.

Send a homemade ornament with pictures of you, children or cherished pets on it.

Whatever your holiday plans, make sure you and your service member set realistic expectations ahead of time. Are you expecting to talk on Christmas Day? Do you want to send presents? Discuss what you want, and make sure it's doable based on your loved one's location and operational situation.

Department of Defense Expanding Access to Commissaries, Military Exchanges and Recreation Facilities

Department of Defense Release

The Department of Defense is expanding commissary, military exchange, and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) retail privileges on U.S. military installations as specified in the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018, included in the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, access will expand to include all veterans with service-connected disabilities, veterans who are Purple Heart recipients, veterans who are former prisoners of war, and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. While this expansion will extend eligibility to over 4.1 million new patrons, the Department expects little to no impact on current patrons in most locations. There may be some impact in areas with a high cost of living, but the Department is preparing to accommodate all new patrons.

"These new privileges recognize the service and sacrifice of these veterans and those that care for them," A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy, said. "If you or someone you know might be eligible for these privileges, share the message," Johnston said. "Please help us ensure these veterans and caregivers receive the privileges they've been granted."

New patrons eligible solely under this authority should be aware that the law requires the Defense Department charge them a small user fee to offset the increased expense incurred by the Department of the Treasury for processing commercial credit or debit cards used for purchases at commissary stores.

The Department of Defense is finalizing the details for these new privileges with the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security and the Treasury. Information



Photo courtesy of the Army & Air Force Exchange Services HQ.

will be announced soon regarding installation access and the authentication process for these privileges.

To learn more about the commissary, military exchange and MWR expansion, visit <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Factsheets/expanding-access-fact-sheet.pdf>.



2019 Service Member and Child Dinner Dance

Michelle McCarty
CTNG Child & Youth Program

This past November in Honors of Military Family Appreciation month the CTNG Child and Youth Program hosted their 4th Annual Service Member and Child Dinner Dance.

With over 120 attendees this year's event was a huge success. Families joined us for a delicious pasta dinner, dancing, family craft, door prizes and more.

This event is made possible by the support of the Southington Community Service's department, this is just one of the many ways they like to give thanks to our Service Members and their families.

Also a big thank you to the Southington American Legion Post 72 for cooking, the 102nd Army band, Depaulo Middle School students to helping decorate and making center pieces and our loyal volunteers!

Photos by Harold Bernstein, Family Readiness Group volunteer





Why NBA referee Matt Boland credits the military for straightening out his life

Arash Markazi
Los Angeles Times

Taped on the wall next to a white board in the Clippers' locker room are three pieces of paper containing a short biography about each of the officials working Monday night's game against the Toronto Raptors. On Veterans Day, the center sheet was about Matt Boland, a veteran of 17 NBA seasons.

Toward the end of the profile, after fun facts such as his favorite TV show ("Seinfeld"), app (Dark Sky) and bucket list item (golf at Augusta National) came this:

"Boland served in the Connecticut National Guard from 1987-95. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in 1990 before being promoted to 1st Lieutenant in 1991."

Yes, Boland is, indeed, a veteran NBA official.

NBA officials Marc Davis, Rodney Mott and Leroy Richardson also are veterans. As Boland sat down to prepare for the game, he couldn't help but think back to his military service on a day when his fellow veterans were being honored at Staples Center and around the country.

"On a day like this I'll always reach out to Marc, Rodney and Leroy and we'll thank each other for your service," Boland said. "We have a common bond. We all went through a unique situation and appreciate each other."

Boland, 53, grew up in a military family in Manchester, Conn. His father Dave, 82, and brother, Tom, also served in the Connecticut National Guard.

"My dad was a general and my brother was a full colonel so it's in our blood and it means a lot to work on a day like this," Boland said. "It's nice to be recognized. That's not why we joined, but it is nice when people recognize what you sacrificed for the country."

Boland not only followed in his father's footsteps in the military but also as a high school basketball official, refereeing Connecticut state finals title games in 1997 and 1998 before working at the collegiate level for four years. He then spent 14 years officiating in professional leagues including the Continental Basketball Assn. and WNBA before being hired by the NBA in 2003.

"I would watch my dad and he was a high school basketball referee so I would go follow him around when I was a kid and I liked it a lot," Boland said. "There was no pressure to do what he did and there was there was no pressure to join the military. I was in a point in my life where I was in college and not focused and not doing well and joined the National Guard in 1987. I came back a different person. I came back more focused, more aware and more appreciative of things. It had a big impact on me. It really opened my eyes to a lot of things I was capable of."

Dave Boland traveled to Los Angeles to watch his son work the Clippers-Toronto Raptors game Monday and the Lakers-Warriors game Wednesday. Dave laughed when asked about Matt's NBA career, which spanned 934 regular-season games coming into this season.

"I got him at 1,174 because I keep track of every one, but I'm counting preseason and exhibition games," Dave said. "This is like a gift from heaven to have 17 years at this profession. We tape every game. I called my wife to make sure she taped last night's game at Portland. I just want to see it. It's the passion of a nerd who likes basketball, but I'm focusing on Matt."

As Dave watched his son take the floor at Staples Center, he thought back to Matt's time with the National Guard serving as the turning point in his life as he struggled as a student at Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, Conn., and later at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson, Conn.

"We never encouraged him to join the military, but Matt was a college student who didn't understand the most important part of that was to be a student," Dave said. "I think this settled his life down. It's not for everybody, but it helped him get his life in order."

Before Monday's game, as he does before every game, Matt Boland stood at attention for the playing of the national anthem. His heels were together, his toes slightly apart, his chin up, chest out, shoulders back and his stomach is in as he stared forward.

"I notice [San Antonio Spurs] Coach [Gregg] Popovich, who is a former military officer as well, will do the same thing," Matt Boland said. "My dad always did that too, and I always noticed that. No one else really notices that, but as former military people we notice that."

Boland's two-game, three-day stint in Los Angeles was a welcome respite from his nonstop travel during the season. He was able to spend some time with his father and work on his golf skills — he is a PGA professional and has competed in several PGA of America events — but working on Veterans Day allowed him to reflect on the moments that shaped his life.

"It's hard to believe some nights when I look back on it that I actually got here," Boland said. "I'm from a small town in Eastern Connecticut and there's not a lot of people from the NBA from there, but being in the military helped me get to this point. I knew I needed a kick in the butt at that time in my life and that was the kick in the butt I needed."

The preceding article was originally published November 13, 2019 in the Los Angeles Times and reprinted with permission.

Building relationships and making connections

Marion Lynott
2nd Connecticut Governor's Foot Guard

MAJ Marrinan and 1SG Farina of the Second Company Governors Horse Guard met with the commanding officer of the NYPD Mounted Unit Deputy Inspector Barry Gelbman recently in Manhattan, NYC.

They toured their headquarters and discussed many topics around Mounted Units Operations and Training.

Investigator Mary Elena Moran of the New York State Police Mounted Unit (also pictured below) were very accommodating and welcomed the opportunity to get to know the Second Company Governors Horse Guard better. An invitation was extended to come visit their training facility "Re-mount Section" in Pelham Bay, the Bronx.

(Right) MAJ Marrinan and 1SG Farina with Deputy Inspector Barry Gelbman commanding officer of the NYPD Mounted Unit and Investigator Mary Elena Moran of the New York State Police Mounted Unit



CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Dec. 1
Civil Air Patrol Birthday

Dec. 7
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Dec. 13
National Guard Birthday

Dec. 14
Wreaths Across America Day

Dec. 25
Christmas

Dec. 31
New Years Eve

JANUARY

Jan. 1
New Years Day

Jan. 20
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2
Groundhog Day

Feb 4.
USO Day

Feb. 14
Valentine's Day

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- Track down personal history with genealogy research tools

通信

- Learn a new language - there are 70+ to choose from

Jam

- Take online lessons and learn to play 18 different instruments

Watch

- Stream movies, classic TV shows and web series
- View films from major festivals like Sundance and Cannes

Listen

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- Get advice from 450+ small business reference books
- Use financial literacy and investment tracking tools
- Reference consumer reports to inform smart purchases
- Leverage templates for state-specific legal forms (wills, contracts, real estate, etc)

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CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD HELPLINE



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



Airmen from the 103rd Airlift Wing join other service members and veterans from the local community for Granby Memorial High School's Veterans Day and Service Men and Women Recognition event Wednesday, Nov. 6 in Granby, Conn. The annual event features a reception for participants and pairs them with student groups for question and answer panels about their experiences in military service. (U.S. Air National Guard photo)

103rd Airmen visit students for Veterans Day observance

Staff Sgt. Steven Tucker
103rd Airlift Wing

GRANBY, Conn. – Airmen from the 103rd Airlift Wing joined other service members and veterans in the local community for Granby Memorial High School's Veterans Day and Service Men and Women Recognition Wednesday, Nov. 6.

Student government members and faculty welcomed participants with a reception in the high school commons followed by breakout question and answer panels that allowed participants to answer questions from students.

"We want students to understand that Veterans Day is not just a day off to play games or shop for sales - that it actually means something," said Kimberly Calcasola, Granby High School assistant principal. "We want to recognize the work that all of our service members and veterans have done to protect our way of life."

Firsthand conversations give students a much different perspective in this appreciation, said Calcasola.

"Our students get so much from hearing different experiences: why people got into the service in the first place, what they ended up finding by joining and how that shaped their lives even after they left the service," said Calcasola.

Speaking to this age group is especially important in educating the community about military service, said Senior Master Sgt. Christina Glasper, 103rd Inspector General inspections superintendent.

"I think it's important for them to know more details about the relationships we build in our service as opposed to just seeing things on television," said Glasper. "High school students are the next generation of team members coming in, so if they decide to join as well, this gives them a better perspective of what we do."

Hearing perspectives of service members in Granby's backyard helps bring the world into their community, Calcasola said.

"You cast a large net inviting people to see what will happen, and the support we've received from The Adjutant General and the services in the area has been amazing," Calcasola said. "I can't thank everyone enough."

The combined support of veterans and current service members gave students a well-rounded view of those who have served, said Glasper.

"I think they mostly took away the perspective of people that have served one year all the way to 36 years," said Glasper. "They even got to see veterans from previous generations in their VFW gear."

Glasper, who also serves as quartermaster for Post 574-Plainville VFW, Plainville, Conn., said it's important for people to see that for many, the military becomes a brotherhood they never lose.

"Some of our members are in their nineties and have been involved since they were in the service as teenagers," said Glasper. "It doesn't just go away; once you're in, your heart is in it forever."

Happy Holidays from the 103rd Airwing Commander

Happy Holidays 103 AW! Thank you for everything you have accomplished this past year. We have been in full-sprint mode since we started our conversion to C-130H's in 2013. Thanks to you, 2019 was another banner year in the distinguished history of the Flying Yankees. Our aviation package wrapped up our second operational deployment in the CENTCOM AOR with a significant number of airmen and aircraft once again deployed to the combat theater. Multiple ACS Airmen have deployed in support of combat operations as well by selflessly volunteering to back-fill other ANG organizations. We continued to train in Mobility and Domestic Operations throughout the year with multiple DFT's and supporting Exercise Patriot North. We represented the ANG by competing successfully across the total force with the 103 MDG EMT RODEO and the 103 SFS SWAT challenge. The Flying Yankee Fire Department showed their true dedication and professionalism when responding to the tragic B-17 Crash at Bradley IAP, saving lives and supporting the community. The 103 AW held an important Warrior Within function during a resiliency stand-down, building the bond between Flying Yankees even stronger as we start one of our busiest years in 2020. We are a family, and family look after each other. This coming year is a culmination of all the hard work of transforming the 103 AW into a rapid mobility unit by testing our mission capabilities in our first C-130 era On-site Visit and CAPSTONE. 2020 is a challenging year,

but I am confident the results will only prove once again our dedication and performance is worthy of recognition.

We also continue the long process of building an installation you are proud to call home. We completed our top-notch \$6.3 million Small Air Terminal project this year while also completing the majority of our new front gate project to be opened this summer, extending the Flying Yankee identity out to Rt. 20. Bldg 18 has broken ground and is well under construction as a state-of-the-art Security Forces facility. A new gym complex should be started this year with a dedicated ¼ mile track and workout facility on the north side of the base behind the current AGE facility. Replacing the old AGE facility is a new \$15M vehicle MXS/AGE complex, with a design firm contracted this past September with a solid construction start in FY 22. Finally, we have a full parking lot next to Bldg 24 completed this past November. No more parking in the grass! Bradley ANGB continues to develop a professional campus that promotes installation identity and morale, enabling future generations of Flying Yankees to serve proudly for many years to come!

I'm happy to see the majority of our Wing is home for the holidays, this is the time to reset and take time with your family. We have another busy year ahead of us and we absolutely can't succeed without you. Look out for each other and ensure everyone returns safely following the holiday season. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

ARMY

To Private 2

Michael Ahern | Brittany Anderson
Judline Antenor | Shane Berubealba
Elijah Brilus | Vega Cantres
Timothy Collins | Jeremy Cortes
Ian Heath | Joshua Hudak
Errol Hyman | Jordan Lewis
Eddien Mathewsvelez | Ethan McCabe
Yoel Morelquevedo | Cliff Parisse
Kayla Peirola | Tyler Reyes
Jacob Robles | Gregory Robles
Deshawn Robles | Sequan Small
Willard Stevane | Edy Torres
Luis Torres | Webster Williams

To Private 1st Class

Genesis Adamssuarez | Owen Calverley
Michael Denomme | Dylan Espinoza
Vincenzo Graziano | Ramses Jeudy
Valentin Latorre | Barry Lawson
Chloe Orr | Jacob Tyler

To Specialist

Macario Agustin | Clara Behnen
Colleen Carroll | Brianna Davis
Erick Denova | Corey Freeman
Nicholas Gazy | Cameron Graham
Kendrick Jacobs | Marina Khan
Robert Lloyd | Kasandra Mangual
Matthew Page | Luis Rodriguezveras
Kenneth Swanson | Django Vaz
Natalia Wiese

To Sergeant

Kyla Anderson | Shawn Bresmon
Birmaniam Siguenza

Staff Sergeant

Joshua Griep | Dylan Markowycz
Kendra Valentinflores

To Sergeant 1st Class

Neal Davis | Ian O'Reilly
Philip Richards

To Major

Christopher Emmens

AIR FORCE

To Lieutenant Colonel

William Deme

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

103rd Airwing returns home from overseas deployment



Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, The Adjutant General, Connecticut National Guard, greets an Air National Guardsman upon his return to Bradley Air National Guard Base from a deployment to Kuwait, November 5, 2019, in East Granby, Conn. Members of the 103rd Airlift Wing deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation and Operation Spartan Shield. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)



Airmen assigned to the 103rd Airwing reunite with their families at Bradley Air National Guard Base, Nov. 7, 2019. The 103rd Air Wing returned from a four month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. (Photo by Timothy R. Koster, Connecticut National Guard Public Affairs)



An airmen from the 103rd Air Wing holds an American flag out of the hatch C-130 Hercules aircraft after it landed at Bradley International Airport, Nov. 7, 2019. The 103rd Air Wing returned from a four month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. (Photo by Timothy R. Koster, Connecticut National Guard Public Affairs)



A family awaits the return of Connecticut Air National Guardsmen to Bradley Air National Guard Base from a deployment to Kuwait, November 5, 2019, in East Granby, Conn. Members of the 103rd Airlift Wing deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation and Operation Spartan Shield. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)



The tail of a C-130H Hercules that returned to Bradley Air National Guard Base from a deployment to Kuwait, November 5, 2019, in East Granby, Conn. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)



Master Sgt. Daniel Lalancette, a member of the 103rd Maintenance Squadron, Connecticut Air National Guard, is greeted with a hug from his son upon his return to Bradley Air National Guard Base from a deployment to Kuwait, November 5, 2019, in East Granby, Conn. He deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation and Operation Spartan Shield. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)



Children await the return of Connecticut Air National Guardsmen to Bradley Air National Guard Base from a deployment to Kuwait, November 5, 2019, in East Granby, Conn. Members of the 103rd Airlift Wing deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation and Operation Spartan Shield. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)

Connecticut air transportation specialists essential to tactical airlift mission

Airman 1st Class Chanhda Ly & Staff Sgt. Steven Tucker
103rd Airlift Wing

EAST GRANBY, Conn. — The Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron provides a wide range of services that benefit every organization at Bradley Air National Guard Base. At the Small Air Terminal, air transportation specialists, also known as "Port Dawgs," play a crucial role in getting the 103rd Airlift Wing's mission off the ground.

"Day-to-day, our main focus is unilateral aircrew training, which is everything the aircrews as a whole need to stay qualified on the C-130 as far as tactical missions go," said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Fanelli, 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron air terminal operations chief. "That includes airdrops, loading planes while all four engines are running, and combat offloads on the ramp."

Port Dawgs assemble a variety of cargo pallets, including low cost low altitude (LCLA), container delivery system (CDS), and heavy pallets. The smallest of these, LCLA, consists of a 300-pound box of sand attached to a personnel parachute, and simulates a small resupply load delivered to a forward operating base.

"The LCLA was designed so that we can drop directly onto the base as opposed to personnel on the ground having to go outside the fence to recover a larger CDS bundle," said Master Sgt. Joseph Amato, 103rd Operations Group evaluator loadmaster. "It motivated the air-drop world to drop something with minimum time and high accuracy."

Bradley's air transportation specialists will put together loads as heavy as 3,800 pounds to simulate higher altitude drops with heavier equipment such as a Humvee.

In combat offload situations, aircraft will land in either austere environments or locations that are so remote, there is no offload equipment available. Usually these missions involve essential cargo that cannot be airdropped. In the process known as Method A, the aircrew will land and leave the engines running, open the back door, unhook the cargo, then rapidly take off, causing the cargo to drop out of the aircraft.

Alternatively, in Method B, a pallet containing fragile cargo is directly transferred from the aircraft onto offload equipment by the aircraft slowly moving forward.

Local flights happen frequently both day and night, so drill-status Guardsmen with the aerial port get several additional opportunities beyond drill weekends to sharpen their crucial training.

"Overseas, our aircrews will often be selected for some type of mission, and we get feedback from them that they couldn't have made that mission happen without the training we helped provide,"

Tech Sgt. Kevin Leist



Tech. Sgt. Ryan Lester, 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron air transportation craftsman, repacks a parachute after an airdrop at Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, Mass. Nov. 2, 2019. The parachute used for the air drop is part of a low-cost, low-altitude pallet and can be thrown away after use. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Chanhda Ly)

"You're looking at a full-time crew of seven including our temporary technicians, so we rely very heavily on our Guardsmen for everything we do," said Fanelli. "In any given year they pull about a combined 500 extra days in addition to their regular 30 individual annual training days to support day-to-day operations."

Attention to detail is paramount for these Airmen in supporting the flying mission at Bradley.

"We have to take our mission very seriously," said Master Sgt. Joshua Mead, 103rd LRS Non-commissioned Officer of Information Control. "We have to be efficient, we have to get in there and do our job, and we have to do it the right way every time we practice it."

The aerial port's role in mission success has helped build a positive working relationship between them and the aircrews from the 103rd Operations Group, said Fanelli.

"It opens up a clear line of communication between our Airmen and the loadmasters where there's no fear of asking a question," said Fanelli. "Each person understands the importance of the small details in the other's role."

Aerial port members moved into Bradley's new Small Air Terminal in May, allowing for improved training and focus on mission-readiness to further expand their capabilities to fit the needs of the Air Force.

"We'll soon be hosting two Air Mobility Command-affiliated courses for the first time," said Tech. Sgt. Dan Meskell, 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron air transportation craftsman. "We won't need to send so many people elsewhere to train and we can have AMC instruc-

tors and other units come here. Hopefully we can make it an annual event where we're showcasing the 103rd."

Senior Airman Sean Manierre, 103rd LRS air transportation specialist, is a drill-status guardsmen who works as a software engineer outside of the Air National Guard. He says the many training opportunities have prepared him to serve in an operational role.

"If we were deployed right now, I would feel fully comfortable to jump right in," said Manierre. "Although we are in the Guard, when we show up we can do the job just like anyone else."

In a deployed setting, 103rd aircrews frequently deliver or receive personnel and supplies while engines are running—a process called ERO. Support from the Port Dawgs is critical in training this capability.

"Our people just got back from Kuwait, and on a normal day they would ERO seven or eight times," Amato said. "It saves a lot of time to leave the engines running which can be critical in a deployed environment."

With the aerial port and loadmasters frequently working hand-in-hand at home station, there is always appreciation for everyone's role when the Flying Yankees are tasked with these real world missions.

"Overseas, our aircrews will often be selected for some type of mission, and we get feedback from them that they couldn't have made that mission happen without the training we helped provide," said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Leist, 103rd LRS air transportation craftsman. "It's great to see that what we do makes a difference in the bigger picture."

Air Force officers prepare cadets for leadership

Tech Sgt. Tamara Dabney
103rd Airlift Wing

On a crisp fall morning in New Haven, Conn., ROTC cadets prepared to take a group picture outside of Yale University's Linsly-Chittenden Hall. Standing next to them were decorated Air Force officers, whose footsteps many of them plan to follow.

The cadets, assigned to Air Force ROTC Detachment 009 at Yale University, participated in a panel discussion that morning led by 15 seasoned Air Force officers. Panelists discussed the technical aspects of various fields, such as engineering, combat control, flight operations, and public affairs. They also spoke in-depth about the importance of delegating tasks, assigning responsibility and mentoring Airmen. The discussion gave cadets a rare opportunity to personally interact with active officers (other than their ROTC instructors) and gain unique insight into what it takes to be an effective leader in various Air Force career fields.

"Cadets read the news, they see the websites, but they don't always have enough time to actually meet someone and hear their personal story, which could inspire them," said Capt. Estelle Baik, Detachment 009 Operations Flight Commander. "I think everybody's personal stories give the cadets good insight and good preparation for active duty on how to be a good leader."

Cadets who complete the ROTC program at Yale will enter the Air Force as Company Grade Officers at the rank of second lieutenant. The cadets can benefit from the mentorship they receive from the CGOs on the panel, because CGOs can testify as to what it feels like to be a junior officer in today's Air Force, Baik said.

"The benefit is that they are able to relate more," said Baik. "They [the cadets] are going to be young, second lieutenants. I've heard lessons [from panelists] 'this is what I did as a second lieutenant' and 'this is what I shouldn't have been doing.'"

Maj. William Deme and Capt. Jennifer Pierce, both assigned to the 103rd Airlift Wing, Connecticut Air Na-



Maj. William Deme (right), Commander of the 103rd Security Forces Squadron, speaks to cadets assigned to Air Force ROTC Detachment 009 at Yale University, during a panel discussion, November 14, 2019. The discussion was held to meet ROTC training objectives, which require cadets to gain exposure to the operational Air Force environment by interacting with active Air Force members. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)

tional Guard, volunteered to lead the panel with hopes of having a positive and lasting impact in the lives of future Air Force officers.

"I thought it was fantastic being able to interact with the cadets and other officers as they gave their perspectives," said Deme. "It was good to see that they got breadth and depth of experiences."

While cadets can benefit from being able to relate to CGOs, Field Grade Officers like Deme, who has served

in the Air Force for over 25 years, offer sage wisdom. Deme expressed why it is important for him to prepare the next generation of officers to lead as he approaches the end of his career. He said the panel discussion facilitates mentorship, which is essential to the future success of the cadets and the Air Force mission.

"Some of the officers who I was interacting with were kind of in the second half or twilight of their career," said Deme. "It's really important that we get out there and make sure tomorrow's leaders are getting the coaching and mentoring today to ensure that they are successful in their careers. These men and women are the future."

Pierce agreed that mentorship for future officers is important for the future of the Air Force.

"Being able to provide even just a tiny dose of positive impact to those who are coming in after you is a great opportunity," said Pierce. "When you think about the Air Force as a whole, you want to leave it a better organization than it was when you came in."

Although 99 percent of cadets who complete the Yale ROTC program intend to serve in the Active component of the Air Force, the Air National Guard can be a viable option for cadets who want to settle in one location rather than relocate every few years while serving on active duty. Regardless of what component the cadets enter, they can benefit from the guidance of experienced officers. Deme, who transferred to the Air National Guard from active duty, expressed that he and other officers are obligated to help to develop quality leaders for the Air Force and the nation.

"We've got to make sure we're stepping up and mentoring," said Deme. "It's a big deal."



Air Force ROTC cadets assigned to Detachment 009 at Yale University, pose for a group photo with active Air Force Officers outside of Yale's Linsly-Chittenden Hall November 14, 2019. A panel discussion, led by the officers, was held to meet ROTC training objectives, which require cadets to gain exposure to the operational Air Force environment by interacting with active Air Force members. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)



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Celebrate the season by giving the gift of yourself

Catherine Galasso-Vigoritto
Contributor



Catherine Galasso-Vigoritto

“What are your three favorite holidays, Mom?” asked my then five-year-old daughter, as we were bundled up in a quilt, nestled together by a warm fire that was blazing in our fireplace. The snow was gently falling outside, the sun had just about set in the velvet sky, and the clock was ticking toward dinnertime.

Before I could answer, with a dazzling smile my curly-haired child offered, “My favorite holiday is Christmas!”

There was a hush for a few moments as my daughter held my gaze, looking at me in wonder. And with mist in my eyes, I reflected on how thankful I was for this delightful, inquisitive child. “The years have flown by,” I suddenly thought to myself, as my attention turned to the bright flames in the fireplace. “And although we may want to, we can’t stop the years’

swift flight.”

I hugged my precious girl and I kissed her forehead, whispering in her ear, “One of my favorite holidays is the day you were born.”

My sweet little one adjusted the patchwork quilt around her pajama-clad shoulder, crinkled up her tiny nose, and with her voice light and clear, she stated, “Well, Mom, my birthday is not a holiday.”

With a reassuring chuckle, I said, “Sure it is, honey.” A little puzzled, she questioned, “Mom, what do you mean?”

I nodded my head and confirmed, “The day you were born we were given a gift from God. I love you and your birth is a reason for us to be happy, thankful and... to celebrate!” At that, my daughter’s eyes grew wide with awe, “Wow!” she exclaimed, “The day I was born is one of my favorite holidays then, too!”

You, too, are someone special. You’re worthy, one-of-a-kind, and a gift from God... and like my daughter, someone to be celebrated!

Live with love, joy and positive expectation. Walk tall and carry yourself with dignity and strength. Life may have pressed you down, people might have hurt you, but don’t allow what happened in the past to hinder your dreams for the future. Make a commitment to respect and to take care of yourself. Get enough rest, eat healthful foods, exercise regularly, and partake in creative outlets. You have many unique capa-

bilities and talents. Thus, believe in and accept yourself as the masterpiece that God created you to be. For who you are is perfectly good enough to make a difference in the world.

“But,” you might say, “How can I make a difference. I am just one person.”

You may be only one person. Yet one voice, one listening ear, one helping hand, one act of kindness, can completely change the course of events in someone’s life for the better. I like the story of the young boy who was walking along the seashore one afternoon at low tide. The boy saw hundreds of starfish that the water had carried in, yet left scattered behind on the coastline. So the young boy bent down and picked up a golden brown starfish from the sandy beach, and one after the other, he threw them back into the ocean.

A man came jogging along, saw the boy, and asked, “What are you doing?” But the young boy kept throwing starfish, one by one, back into the sky-blue waters. After some time, the man jogged by again and said to him mockingly, “Youngster, there are hundreds of starfish here at the beach... you can’t possibly make a difference.”

Undaunted, the boy continued on. He picked up another little tan starfish, gently tossed it into the water, and replied, “Sir, I made a difference for that one.”

You can make a difference. So, where should we begin? Let’s start in our own home. I read somewhere when Mother Teresa received her Nobel Prize, she was asked, “What can we do to promote world peace?” Mother Teresa replied, “Go home and love your family.” Embrace your loved ones. Always look for the good. Speak kindly, lovingly. Bring out the best in them with positive reinforcement. Never underestimate the power of your actions. Show by example the values of perseverance, love, kindness and faith.

Celebrate the season by giving the gift of yourself. You possess everything you need to be a blessing to others. You can volunteer, mentor a child, or help a friend or neighbor in need. Offer a listening ear. Write notes of appreciation.

God puts us in each other’s lives to impact one another in some way. Just pick up the phone and offer a word of encouragement. Tell someone, ‘I’ll pray for you,’ ‘I believe in you,’ or ‘Your life matters.’ Say a silent, “I love you” to those you meet along the way. The force of love can work miracles and can change the pattern of a precious life. Whisper prayers for others; they are the instruments to bring miraculous things to pass.

On Christmas, we celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus. When that precious baby was born in Bethlehem, inexhaustible streams of blessings were unleashed. For this one life, one listening ear, and one helping hand brought to us the unparalleled gifts of everlasting hope, unconditional love and eternal life to all who believe.

Warmed by the glow of the fire, I tell my daughter, “Jesus loves you...” “There’s only one of you,” and “There is a great purpose for you to fulfill.”

Our greatest gift is to love one another, to create peace wherever we go, and to do it with grace for the love of God our Father. He wants you to have a long, fruitful and joyful life.

No matter what turns your life has taken, today and every day, God’s arms are opened wide to receive you. He is with you and His love endures forever.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in His divine presence. You are loved. God has a great plan for you. From my family to yours, have a blessed Christmas.

Catherine Galasso-Vigoritto is a nationally-syndicated columnist and author from Connecticut who donates a monthly inspirational column to demonstrate her appreciation of U.S. Service Members and their families. The content is her own and does not express the official views of the Connecticut National Guard, the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. You may write to Ms. Galasso-Vigoritto in care of the Connecticut Guardian, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106-3795 or e-mail her directly at cgv@anewyouworldwide.com. Visit her website at www.anewyouworldwide.com. © Catherine Galasso, 2017



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Continued from Page 21

cialized documents in many legal subject areas including: bankruptcy, bill of sale, contracts, divorce, employment, incorporate, LLC, landlord/tenant, living wills, name change, power of attorney, real estate, taxes and last will.

- Gale Small Business Builder is a step-by-step online planning tool for starting, managing and optimizing a business or nonprofit. The program's intuitive dashboard walks users through five areas of exploration to develop a business plan focused on long-term success.
- GreenFILE contains well-researched information covering all aspects of human impact on the environment. It is provided by the General Library Program, FMWRC.
- Library, Information, Science & Technology Abstracts contains references on librarianship, bibliometrics, online information retrieval, information management and more.
- Mango Languages is a digital language learning program for learners of all levels, with courses in more than 70 different foreign languages, 21 English language courses and 44 specialty courses. Mango's language-learning methodology is designed to simulate the way people learn a foreign language when actually immersed in everyday conversation.
- Military & Government Collection provides full text for nearly 300 journals and periodicals, offering current news on the military and government.
- Morningstar Investment Research Center gives you information on stocks and mutual funds. You can visit the Investment Classroom to hone your investing skills, explore dozens of articles and

videos about the stock market.

- NoveList Plus is a trusted source of expert reading recommendations for both fiction and nonfiction, and for all ages.
- ProQuest PressReader provides interactive, digital access to nearly 7,000 of the world's best newspapers and magazines. Just like reading a print edition, viewers can browse articles and other key elements, including pictures, advertisements, classifieds and notices.
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- RBDigital IndieFlix brings engaging stories and robust content to movie lovers around the world, including over 7,000 high-quality shorts, features, documentaries, classic TV shows and web series from 85 countries.
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- Safari Books presents thousands of technology, design and business reference books, videos and tutorials.
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- Teacher Reference Center has indexing and abstracts for more than 270 of the most popular teacher and administrator journals and magazines.
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- Weiss Ratings & Greyhouse Publishing's Financial Ratings Series is a single source for financial strength ratings and financial planning tools covering insurance, banks, mutual funds, stocks, medicare supplement insurance and financial literacy tools.

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New DPH Spotlight

Lindsey Rohner
Director of Psychological Health

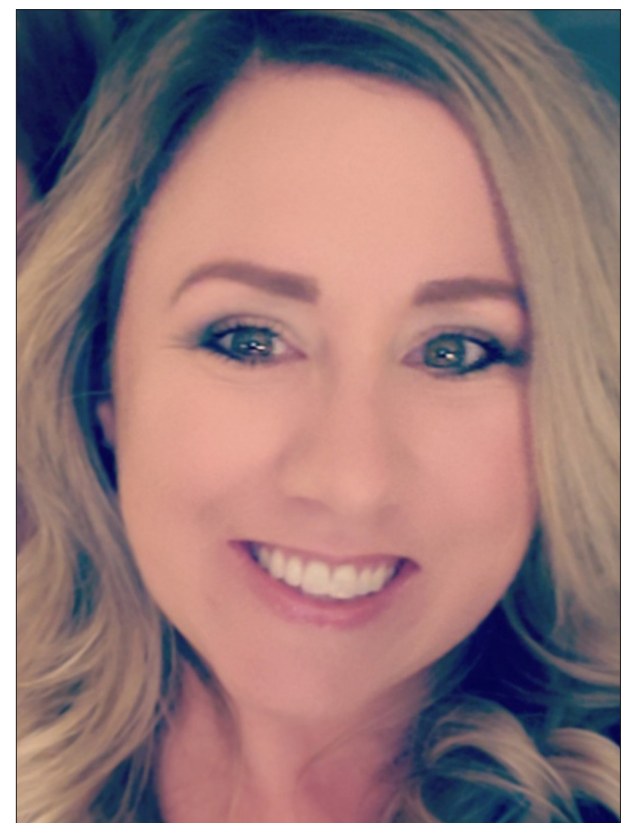
Meet your new DPH (wait, I know her...)

Hello Flying Yankees! I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I'm Lindsey Rohner, your new Director of Psychological Health (DPH). You may recognize me because I have served right here at Bradley for (cough, cough) a long time. I may not be in uniform here on drill weekends anymore, but I am still here to serve. I am excited to embrace my new role as your DPH! It sounds fancy, but what this means is I am here to help with you with all of your mental health needs and to promote wellness and resilience amongst our Airmen. This is where people usually tend to shy away and note they are "fine." Talking about mental health can feel "weird," "uncomfortable," or "too personal," and you know what, I get it. I have been right there in your shoes. I have also spent numerous years in the community working with civilians, military members, veterans and their families, helping them navigate these very personal, often difficult to discuss topics, because it is TOO important to ignore.

I'm also here just to talk! It could be anything from a general question; maybe you aren't sure how to manage a particular situation or someone in your family is struggling and you'd like some information on resources. If you don't know who to ask about something going on in your life or someone close you, I can help. The reality is everyone is going 100 miles an hour; whether it be family, school, work, and on top of that, we are asking you to come here and serve your country for 2 days a month and meet all these requirements. Part of my job is to help you reset or re-center yourself, and get you information and assistance you need.

So, if you need me, find me! I am located in building 78, right with the Chaplains. Please stop by anytime! My contact number is 292-2561. You will most definitely see me around the wing and in your shops. When you see me, please say hi! I am looking forward to working with you all in this new role!

Lindsey Rohner



Military OneSource

MWR Digital Library: a free, online resource for families

Scott McLaughlin
Connecticut Military OneSource

Morale, Welfare and Recreation Digital Library Military OneSource provides free, online resources to service members and their families via the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Digital Library. You'll find eBooks and audiobooks on virtually every topic, as well as databases and reference books that can help you learn a new skill, keep kids engaged and serve as a homework source, or prepare you to land your next job.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Digital Library is an incredible free resource for service members and their families. Just log into your Military OneSource account or create a username and password to get started and enjoy browsing.

For Children

The digital library offers online resources to help young children learn to read or keep their grades up, research paper topics or just find a great story for a long afternoon:

- BookFlix pairs classic video storybooks with related nonfiction titles to reinforce early reading skills and develop real-world knowledge.
- Explora Primary Search features a database of colorful and fun resources that help children in grades K – 5 learn about animals, music, health, history, people and places, science, math and sports.
- Explora Middle School Plus is an online library of magazine and newspaper articles, videos, images and reference information about arts, music, geography, health, math and more for children grades 6 – 12.
- NoveList K-8 Plus offers recommendations specifically for younger readers, helping kids find books that are appropriate for their reading level and interests. Parents, teachers, and librarians can also find tools to teach with books and engage young readers.
- Tutor.com for military children gives kids access to online tutoring and homework help from live, expert tutors in more than 16 subjects. Tutors can help with tonight's homework or catch your child up on missed concepts and lessons, all for free.

For Teens

Teenagers can take advantage of the library's resources too, including:

- CultureGrams allows you to experience the world and its people through detailed cultural information on more than 200 countries.
- EBSCO Learning Express provides eLearning tutorials, practice tests, e-books, flashcards and articles that help users build their skills in a wide array of core subjects for success in the classroom,

on the job, and in life, including preparation for CLEP, DSST, ACT, GRE and more.

- Gale Interactive: Science provides a comprehensive view of the most-studied science subjects, including biology, chemistry and earth and space science. Featuring authoritative, high-quality digital content paired with interactive 3D models to empower a complete learning solution. Users can explore 3D models by zooming in, rotating, or pulling them apart.
- Scholastic FreedomFlix provides a wealth of social studies learning opportunities with more than 50 units spanning ten core curricula areas. Each unit includes an introductory video, a dynamic ebook, related articles, primary sources and vetted weblinks that expose students to a range of text types and media on the same subject.
- ScienceFlix offers more than 50 complete units of study with over 6,500 science-related assets in a variety of media, providing students with a better understanding of science concepts and ideas through hands-on projects, videos, multiple text types, interactive features and more. This is also a great resource for young children.
- TrueFlix offers dozens of units to supplement social studies and science core curricula learning, helping students improve literacy skills, build content-area knowledge and cultivate the critical skills necessary for academic success and college and career readiness. This is also a great resource for young children.

For Adults

For adults looking to advance their education or career, there are even more resources available at the Digital Library.

- Academic Search Ultimate offers students an unprecedented collection of full-text academic journals, magazines, periodicals, reports, books and videos meets the needs of scholars in virtually every discipline ranging from astronomy, anthropology, biomedicine, engineering, health, law and literacy to mathematics, pharmacology, women's studies, zoology and more.
- Ancestry® Library Edition is powered by the world's most popular consumer online genealogy resource, Ancestry.com, and delivers billions of records in census data, vital records, directories, photos and other resources from North America, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia and more.
- ArtistWorks Music Lessons offers hundreds of video lessons in guitar, piano, drums, ukulele, bluegrass, classical, jazz, hip-hop scratch and more. Submit practice videos and get direct feedback from your video instructor.
- BrainHQ can help improve your brain health with clinically proven brain training exercises.

- Britannica Academic allows fast and easy access to high-quality, comprehensive information. The rich combination of Encyclopedia Britannica plus Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, magazines, periodicals and many other research tools provides a variety of reliable sources.
- Britannica Annals of American History offers a rich and varied history of the United States, providing a year-by-year documentary of American thought and action. Read the original words of more than 1,500 authors who made and analyzed American history through their speeches, writings, memoirs, poems and interviews.
- Britannica Library provides three sites in one—Children, Young Adults and the Reference Center—where you can conduct research, complete school assignments, work on special projects, or explore your unique interests. You can even store your research in your personal My Britannica account.
- Career Transitions will help you map your military experience to civilian jobs, write a resume and cover letter, participate in an interview simulation, find job announcements and more.
- Chilton Automotive Maintenance Library gives you the information you need to tackle vehicle maintenance and repairs.
- Consumer Reports help you find the best deals, ratings, and reviews on thousands of popular consumer items from one of the most respected sources.
- EBSCO Audiobooks offer more than 2,000 audiobooks in different subjects and categories available for download. Log in with your EBSCOhost account (software download required).
- EBSCO Learning Express provides eLearning tutorials, practice tests, e-books, flashcards and articles that help users build their skills in a wide array of core subjects for success in the classroom, on the job, and in life, including preparation for CLEP, DSST, ASVAB, GRE and more.
- Fold3 Library Edition is a premier collection of historical U.S. military records and unique military content, bringing to life the details of America's military veterans with stories, photos and personal documents, from the Revolutionary War through today.
- Gale Health & Wellness Resource Center offers 24/7 access to full-text medical journals, magazines, reference works, multimedia and much more, covering a full range of health-related issues, from current disease and disorder information to in-depth coverage of alternative medical practices.
- Gale LegalForms offers officially approved, state-specific legal forms actually used at a typical law firm. Users can professionally draft spe-

Answering the call: Bradley Air National Guard Base firefighters' mutual aid response to B-17 crash

Cpt. Jennifer Pierce
Public Affairs Officer, 103rd Airwing

The morning of Oct. 2, 2019 will forever remain a significant day for the firefighters of Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Conn. At approximately 9:56 a.m., a B-17 Flying Fortress participating in the "Wings of Freedom Tour" crashed into a de-icing facility at Bradley International Airport. Bradley Air National Guard Base firefighters, working as mutual aid responders for Bradley International Airport's Fire Department, answered the call.

"I was on duty when a radio call came in from airfield ops telling us to standby for a box," said Louis Manfredi, Bradley Air National Guard Base firefighter.

He thought this was unusual because tones typically sound off first for a box alarm, indicating an aircraft emergency. Airfield operations, however, had been watching the B-17 as it took off and observed the plane flying too low as it began returning to the airport for landing.

"We started walking to get ready, then we hear 'pull the box, pull the box' on the radio and then the tones go off," said Manfredi. "We get out to the bay and the doors are up, and all you see is the cloud of smoke from the fire. At that point we are all in the bay getting into our gear, and that was one of those moments where we are all just looking around at each other thinking this is the real one, this is the big one. We are all telling each other to calm down, let's do this right, then we took off."

By the time the firefighters left the bay in Engine 54, the airport had been shut down to air traffic; commercial flights were delayed and cancelled over the next several hours. Being proximally located to the flight line, the firefighters at Bradley Air National Guard Base were able to quickly cross the flight line at Bradley International Airport, and they were first to arrive on scene. Immediately, the four-man team went to work with Captain Anthony Authier, officer in charge on Engine 54, calling in a scene size-up via radio.

"The scene size-up paints the initial picture for the incoming units," said Authier. "On our arrival, I was confirming that it was an aircraft into a building with heavy fire. This let the incoming chief from Bradley International know that it's not an assumption, it's emergency personnel saying, 'yes, this is an aircraft into a building.'"

Providing this vital information allowed time-critical processes to begin taking place.

"Now he [Chief John Duffy, Bradley International Airport's Fire Chief] starts the second alarm assignments, and gets the additional resources on the air started that much sooner as opposed to waiting the extra minute or two for everyone else to get there," said Authier.

While Authier was providing the size-up, the rest of the crew on Engine 54 were already in action. The driver of the engine was getting the pump in gear so the water could start pumping whether water was required on its own or to be mixed with the foam that helps blanket and extinguish fuel fires. The other two firefighters on the engine began pulling hand lines off the crash trucks that had arrived.

During this process, however, Authier had noticed people walking around the crash site that appeared wounded. He told the crew of Engine 54 to drop the hand lines and follow him. The three of them were able to guide three of the walking wounded away from the crash site, then grab a fourth person lying on the ground and physically drag them to the casualty collection point Authier had established.

"After we dragged [the victim] out, we went back a second time to look for other survivors," said Manfredi. "After we determined there were no other victims in our sector, we transitioned from rescue to fighting the fire. We went back to get the hand lines stretched and were fighting the fire."

Victims of the crash were transported to area hospitals as firefighters continued to put out the blaze. Several Bradley Air National Guard firefighters who were off duty during the incident also began responding to the scene.



(From left to right) Chief Master Sgt. Robert Cross, Tech. Sgt. Craig Bein, Senior Airman Jason Conway, Firefighter Howard Corp, Firefighter Lisa Deakins, Tech. Sgt. Ronald Avery, and Senior Airman Gabriel Pagan pose in front of the Bradley Air National Guard Base Fire Station Nov. 3, 2019 East Granby, Conn. These firefighters all responded to the B-17 Flying Fortress crash at Bradley International Airport Oct. 2, 2019. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Chanhda Ly)

It was really a joint effort, said Manfredi. There were several different pieces to consider, putting the fire out on the aircraft, rescuing the survivors and getting them medical aid, and then searching the de-icing facility for victims.

Bradley Air National Guard firefighters worked hand-in-hand with Bradley International Airport firefighters during this incident.

"The main body of fire was knocked down by the crash trucks from Bradley [International Airport Fire Department] putting foam down from their roof turrets putting the main body of the fire out," said Manfredi.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Cross, Bradley Air National Guard Base Installation Fire Chief, who also responded to the crash site in a rescue truck with an off-duty firefighter, attributes Bradley Air National Guard Base firefighter's and Bradley International Airport firefighter's quick response to their training.

"We train with CAA on a regular basis," said Cross, who acted as the Connecticut Air National Guard's liaison officer during the incident. "We interface with them four to five times a week."

CAA is the Connecticut Airport Authority under which the Bradley International Airport firefighters fall.

"Over the years of working together we've discussed after training and after action reports, to not only identify issues, but we fix them," said Cross.

Sharing common radio frequencies, compatibility of equipment, and trust are some of the things the two fire departments have built over the years.

"It was comforting knowing we were all together," said Cross. "Working and training with these guys, it was easy. How well we worked together made a difference on how we stabilized the incident. This event was a really a validation of training up to this point."

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont thanked the Bradley Air National Guard firefighters for their efforts when visiting the fire department Oct. 30, 2019.

"We owe you folks a debt of gratitude," Lamont said to the Bradley Air National Guard firefighters. "These are folks who saved lives that day...thank you for all you did."



Support Our Annual Veteran's Holiday Drive

Help us help Our Hero's, as we continue our support of local Veteran organizations:
The Soldier On group from the VA Hospital in Leeds, MA and
The Veterans Home in Rocky Hill, CT.

As in years past, we are looking for general items to donate to these men and women to include:

Winter clothes, outerwear and boots
Bed linens and comforter sets (twin)
Robes and slippers
Underwear, socks, shirts and pants

Basic toiletries
Digital radios and alarm clocks
Local pro/college team gear
Books (reading or puzzle/activity) & movies

Collection Dates are from October 24th thru December 13th

NEW ITEMS ONLY FOR DONATIONS

(No food items)

Thank you,

Daniel J DeFranco, Co-Founder New England Friends of Veterans

Phone: 413-459-6973, Email: dan.defranco@nefov.org

Thomas E Estabrook Jr, Co-Founder New England Friends of Veterans

Phone: 413-627-3728, Email: tom.estabrook@nefov.org

POC DROP OFF LOCATIONS

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860-292-2740 or 860-331-1220
103 AW Building 2 (CF)
100 Nicholson Road
East Granby, CT

TSgt Daniel Meskell
860-292-2722
103 AW Building 35 (Air Terminal)
100 Nicholson Road
East Granby, CT





Service Member and Family Support Center Staff Directory



William A. O'Neill Armory: 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 **Open Monday-Friday**

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Citizen Soldier For Life Career Readiness Counselor - Middletown	Donna Calvi	dcalvi.csfl@gmail.com	(860) 613-7568 (desk)

Windsor Locks Readiness Center: 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 **Open Monday-Friday**

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Veterans' Memorial Armed Forces Reserve Center: 90 Wooster Heights Road, Danbury, CT 06810 **Open Monday-Friday**

Family Assistance Center Specialist	Nancy Cummings	nancy.a.cummings.ctr@mail.mil	(203) 205-5050 (desk) (860) 883-2746 (cell)
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103rd Airlift Wing: 100 Nicholson Road, East Granby, CT 06026 **Open Monday-Friday**

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