



Connecticut GUARDIAN

The Yankee Courier on page 13

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September 2020

CTNG Celebrates Women's Equality Day on the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Tim Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

HARTFORD, Conn. – Soldiers and Airmen of the Connecticut National Guard celebrated Women's Equality Day, and the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th amendment, with a presentation highlighting women's history in the military and the state at the Gov. William A. O'Neill Armory, here, Aug. 26, 2020.

The event was hosted by the CTNG's equal opportunity office in partnership with the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame and touched upon some important historical figures who were vital to the Women's Suffrage Movement and giving women the right to serve alongside men in the armed services.

"I think women have made great contributions to the military," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. John Noone, state equal opportunity employment manager and organizer of the event. "This was an opportunity to show others that, given the opportunity, women have shown what they're capable of doing and what they're willing to contribute [to the military]."

The event consisted of two presentations. The first was a pre-recorded lecture by Sarah Lubarsky, executive director for the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, showcasing prominent figures in with Women's Suffrage Movement from throughout Connecticut. The second was the showing of a documentary about the 'Hello Girls', a group of women who served as telephone operators in World War I and their struggle to achieve veteran status for decades after the war.

Women's Equality Day was founded on Aug. 26, 1972 when former President Richard Nixon issued Proclamation 4147 which designated that day to be celebrated annually in commemoration of the adoption of the 19th Amendment, which prohibits the states and federal government from denying the right to vote to any of its citizens on the basis of sex.

Due to force protection and social distancing restrictions, the Connecticut National



Soldiers and Airmen from the Connecticut National Guard watch a lecture by Sarah Lubarsky, executive director for the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, about the state's history in the Women's Suffrage Movement during a Women's Equality Day event at the Gov. William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford, Conn. Aug. 26, 2020. Women's Equality Day was founded on Aug. 26, 1972 when former President Richard Nixon issued Proclamation 4147 which designated that day to be celebrated annually in commemoration of the adoption of the 19th Amendment, which prohibits the states and federal government from denying the right to vote to any of its citizens on the basis of sex.

Guard's Equal Employment Opportunity office plans to schedule showings of this presentation at other armories around the state to help continue share the stories of these important women in our state's and military's history.

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Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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



U.S. Army Sgt. Lauren O'Neal, a student of the 169th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, Basic Military Police Course salutes U.S. Army Maj. Robert Caruolo, battalion commander for 3rd Battalion, 169th Regiment, during a graduation ceremony at Camp Nett, Niantic, Conn. Aug. 25, 2020. The 30-day course is designed to reclassify students who already hold a Military Occupational Specialty to become certified as Military Police officers.

169th RTI Graduates Military Police Class 20-002

Tim Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

NIANTIC, Conn. – In front of family, friends, and distinguished visitors, 24 Soldiers from the National Guard and Reserve graduated from the 169th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, Basic Military Police Course at Camp Nett, here, Aug. 25, 2020.

The 30-day course is designed to reclassify students who already hold a Military Occupational Specialty to become certified as Military Police officers.

“The first phase is primarily law enforcement,” said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Ryan Maynard, chief instructor for the Basic Military Police Course. “Then it goes into ... range time and response to active shooters, then into a lot of field work you’d expect of your combat support military police.”

On average, the 169th conducts two Basic Military Police Courses per year, under the auspices of the United States Army Military Police School out of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Because of the current COVID-19 pandemic and students arriving from around the country, the schoolhouse needed to adjust its safety measures to ensure the safety of the

students, cadre, and support staff.

“We really enforced disinfecting everything, wearing masks, and everyone carried hand sanitizer on them,” said Maynard. “We do safety briefs every single day along with risk assessments.”

Additionally, every student was tested for COVID-19 at the start of the course. Any student who tested positive, even if they were asymptomatic, was ordered to return home. However, as with most military training, a certain level of close contact was required to achieve training standards.

“We still maintained social distance, but unfortunately some of the law enforcement and military police aspect is physical in nature so it required them to go hands on,” said Maynard. “We did what we could to mitigate that risk as much as possible.”

As a result of these additional safety measures, no students or cadre contracted the virus and they were able to push through and complete the training.

The next iteration of the Basic Military Police Course is scheduled to begin Sept. 30, 2020.

Connecticut leadership tours storm damaged towns



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, Governor Ned Lamont, and a representative from the local power company examine damage caused by recent storms in Branford, Connecticut, Aug. 28, 2020. Strong winds and tornadoes wreaked havoc in the southern area of the state, just days after Hurricane Isaias pummeled the region. (Photo by Tim Koster, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont talks to members of the 103rd Civil Engineering Squadron as they clear fallen trees from roadways in North Haven, Connecticut, Aug. 28, 2020.



Maj. Gen Francis Evon approaches a resident of Branford, Connecticut to talk about his experiences with the recent storm that ravaged the area, Aug. 28, 2020.



Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont addresses media after a meeting with local officials and representatives from the power company in Branford, Connecticut, Aug. 28, 2020. Lamont, along with Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, and Senator Richard Blumenthal, local officials, and representatives from the local power company toured areas of the state that were highly impacted by strong winds and tornadoes the day prior. (Photo by Tim Koster, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



Connecticut National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, addresses media after a meeting with local officials and representatives from the power company in Branford, Connecticut, Aug. 28, 2020. Evon, along with Governor Ned Lamont, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Senator Richard Blumenthal, local officials, and representatives from the local power company toured areas of the state that were highly impacted by strong winds and tornadoes the day prior. (Photo by Tim Koster, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont examines damage caused by recent storms in Branford, Connecticut, Aug. 28, 2020. Strong winds and tornadoes wreaked havoc in the southern area of the state, just days after Hurricane Isaias pummeled the region.



An area of scorched earth where a fallen power line caused a fire lay parallel to a road in Branford, Connecticut, Aug. 28, 2020. Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard, and Governor Ned Lamont took a tour of storm damaged towns to assess how badly the recent strong winds and tornadoes wreaked havoc in the southern region of the state.

Abigail Hinman and the raid of New London

Brig. Gen. Robert Cody (Ret.)
Contributor

Although it had always been Washington's plan to attack New York with a joint American and French force, by late August he was persuaded to shift his plan and instead attack General Cornwallis in Virginia, where the French navy had succeeded in cutting off British support by way of the sea. By September 2, 1781 it was clear to the British that Virginia was the new target. General Clinton agreed to a small diversionary tactic: a punitive raid on New London, Connecticut to draw Continental Army forces away from their objective in the south.

The officer Clinton chose to lead this attack -- Norwich, Connecticut native, Benedict Arnold. After looting the town, Arnold ordered his British soldiers to set fire to every building, causing the equivalent of more than \$500,000 in damages. The burning of New London sealed his reputation as a public enemy and his name became a synonym for "traitor."

The Connecticut Gazette reported a month later, "Through the whole of Bank Street, where were some of the best mercantile stands and the most valuable dwelling houses in the town, the torch of vengeance made a clean sweep." More than 140 buildings-homes, shops, warehouses-were destroyed, as were ships at the wharves. The recently captured merchant ship, Hannah was set on fire; when the gunpowder in her hold exploded, it helped to spread the flames.

In the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, Connecticut there is a portrait of a young woman who tried to change the course of history. Abigail Hinman was home in New London while her husband, a sea captain, was away on a voyage. Suddenly, outside of her home, Abigail heard a commotion and witnessed the city of New London being destroyed by red-coated soldiers. Surprisingly, she saw Benedict Arnold, a family friend from the nearby town of Norwich, was one of the soldiers. Although he commanded the soldiers to spare her property, Abigail was not blind to his blatant act of treason.

As the story was told by Abigail's daughter at 93 years of age, her mother and Arnold came face to face during the New London raid: "Mrs. Hinman was well acquainted with Arnold, as he had often dined at her house, and had been a friend of her husband....She watched the entry of the British from the doorway of her house. As Arnold rode up he saluted her, and said that if she would point out her own property it should be spared. She pointed out the houses of several of her neighbors as her own, and thus saved them from destruction. Arnold remained on horseback near her house nearly all day noting the battle that was raging across the Thames River at Fort Griswold. Mrs. Hinman became so incensed against the traitor that she hurriedly descended from the roof, took a musket from a closet where it had been left the day before by an American soldier, and leveled it at Arnold as he sat on his horse in front of the house. Taking a long, steady aim, she pulled the trigger, but the piece misfired. Hearing the snap of the lock, Arnold turned and asked her what that noise was. With great presence of mind she had dropped the gun, so that he did not see it, and she answered that it was the breaking of a chair."



Daniel Huntington's historical portrait of Abigail Hinman on display at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, Connecticut.

One month later, as the 21 year old Major General Marquis de Lafayette led his troops at the decisive Battle of Yorktown, he challenged his men to "Remember New London!" General Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781, and by January many British officers were being sent back to England. Generals Cornwallis and Arnold re-

turned to England on the same ship.

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

Retiree Voice - Covid-19 Updates

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

COVID-19 seems to be here for foreseeable future. Testing information from TRICARE for Life, the latest information on the most effective masks, and tips for retirees are the subject of this month's article.

Retirees using TRICARE For Life and Medicare are covered for COVID-19 testing and treatment. Medicare Part B cover the lab tests for COVID-19, and there are no out-of-pocket costs. Medicare will also cover any necessary treatment deemed appropriate, reasonable and adequate for your condition. Costs covered include if you're diagnosed with COVID-19 and have to stay in the hospital under quarantine. For more detailed information, go to the TRICARE website's TRICARE Coronavirus FAQs page.

Connecticut requires the wearing of masks in public when six feet social distancing cannot be maintained. Many businesses require mask wearing at all times. The only exceptions are being under age two or having a health issue where wearing a mask is not possible. The key issue is what kind of mask will provide the best protection for the wearer and with those they interact.

Duke University reported in the publication, Scientific Advances, study results of comparing fourteen different types of face coverings, which included two and three ply (layers) fabric and surgical masks, several N95s, a neck gaiter and a bandana. The study measured the number of droplets that came through the covering when the wearer spoke. There was a wide variance in protection properties. The key findings were that the type of fabric and how tightly the mask fits determine how effective the mask or face covering will be.

The fitted N95 mask was best because of its thick layers and tight seal. It was followed by three layer surgical masks and the three layer home sewn cotton masks. Two coverings were at the bottom of the lists. Gaiters, because the stretchy nature of the fabric disperses large droplets into smaller ones causing more transmission of aerosols. Bandanas do not fit tightly enough, especially under the chin, where there is a gap. In line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, masks with exhalation vents, such as used in construction work, do not prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The wearer is just letting their air directly out into the world.

Travel may become necessary. Here are tips from the Center for Disease Control. First, do not travel if you are sick or with anyone who is sick. Consider the COVID-19 spread at your destination, and both home and destination quarantine requirements. The best protection for yourself and others is to wear a tight fitting mask over nose and mouth in all public settings. Maintain social distancing of six feet of anyone not a member of your household. Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Avoid contact with anyone whom you believe to be sick.

Coronavirus and this pandemic have disrupted many life routines. Retail shopping is one. Businesses have responded to the needs of those over sixty and individuals with underlying and compromised health issues by establishing special shopping hours. Ocean State Job Lot special shopping hours are Tuesday and Thursday for the first open hour. Big Y offers special hours from 7-8 am each day. Walmart's hours are every Tuesday 6-7 am. Stop and Shop customers can shop from 6 to 7:30 am each day. Target stores reserve the first open hour on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This is only a sample. Contact the store of your choice to find out if and when they offer special shopping hours.

BENEFITS

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

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

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Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Maj. Janae Grant
Contributor

During Hispanic Heritage Month, the U.S. Army commemorates the long-standing and remarkable contributions that Hispanics have made in building and defending the nation. Hispanics continue to be an integral part of America and the United States military. Here are the stories of just a few of the many Hispanic individuals that have had distinguished military careers. All of the information that follows was retrieved from <https://www.uso.org/stories/2469-hispanic-american-military-heroes>.

Marcelino Serna

Marcelino Serna was an undocumented Mexican immigrant who insisted on serving in the U.S. Army in World War I. He returned home as the most decorated Soldier from Texas. In search of work and a better life, Marcelino Serna emigrated from Mexico into the U.S. in 1916, when he was just 20 years old.

He settled in Texas where he worked illegally for several years until federal authorities detained him to verify his war draft status. Despite being a Mexican citizen, and to show his dedication to becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen, Serna begged the officials to allow him to enlist in the U.S. Army, rather than deport him. At the time, the horrific conditions of the trenches of World War I were common knowledge. Consequently, volunteers to enlist were not always easy to come by. Impressed by Serna's offer, the federal officials allowed him to join the Army.

After basic training, Serna was shipped off to Europe, but once he arrived Army officials realized Serna was Mexican, not American, and offered to discharge him. Serna refused and insisted on serving.

While engaged with the enemy in France, Serna noticed a wounded German sniper and followed him back to his trench, where Serna threw three grenades, killing 26 enemy soldiers and capturing 24 more. Later, Gen. John J. Pershing awarded him with the Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest U.S. military decoration. He was the first Hispanic American to receive the Distinguished Service Cross. Ferdinand Foch, Supreme Commander of the Allied Troops, also awarded Serna with the French Croix de Guerre for bravery.

Serna returned home to the U.S. as the most decorated soldier from Texas. In 1924, he became a U.S. citizen and settled in El Paso. He was never awarded the Medal of Honor, but there is currently an initiative to posthumously honor him with the award.

Carmen Contreras-Bozak

Carmen Contreras-Bozak was the first Hispanic American to serve in the Women's Army Corps. As the U.S. prepared to enter World War II, the government put out a call for women to take on new roles beyond the home. Today, we know these working women in World War II as Rosie the Riveters, WAVES, SPARs and others.

These new roles were a big change for women in American society, especially among the Hispanic American population. Back in the 1940s, Hispanic women were often discouraged within their own communities to take on roles

outside of domestic life. But for Carmen Contreras-Bozak, a Puerto Rican from New York City, the call to duty was more important than a traditional, domestic lifestyle.

Inspired by the War Department and her own sense of patriotism, Contreras-Bozak decided to enlist in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps; she was the first Hispanic American to serve in what would later be known as the Women's Army Corps.

During WWII, the Army specifically recruited bilingual Hispanic women to work in cryptology, communications and interpretation. Contreras-Bozak volunteered to go to North Africa with one of these companies despite the extreme risk (at the beginning of the U.S. involvement in the war, service women were not treated the same as servicemen and did not have the same protections under international law as male soldiers if captured).

Upon arrival in country, Contreras-Bozak was assigned to the Signal Corps, where she sent and received coded messages between Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters in Algiers and the battlefield in Tunisia. Their encampment came under German fire often, but Contreras-Bozak continued to work for the general until an infection sent her to a stateside hospital in 1945. She was discharged as a technician fourth grade, today's equivalent of a sergeant (E-4), and received the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, two Battle Stars, a World War II Victory Medal, an American Campaign Medal, a WAAC Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal throughout her time in the Army.

Angel Mendez

Angel Mendez was a Puerto Rican U.S. Marine who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his actions in the Vietnam War.

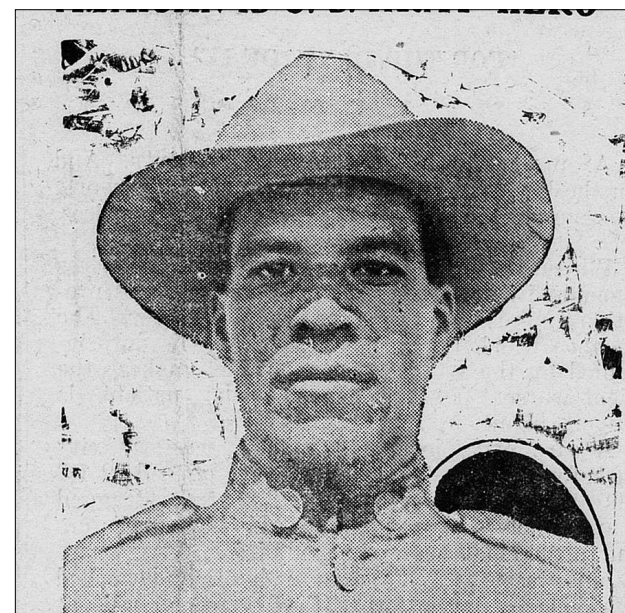
Originally from New York City, Mendez spent most of his childhood in an orphanage on Staten Island. He enlisted in the Marine Corps immediately after graduating from high school and was deployed to Vietnam after bootcamp.

While on a search and destroy mission, Mendez and his platoon were suddenly attacked by the Viet Cong. Mendez led a charge to assist Marines who were pinned down by enemy fire, exposing himself to attack. His platoon commander, Lt. Ronald D. Castille – who would go on to serve as Chief Justice on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania – was severely wounded and unable to move. Mendez shielded Castille with his own body while attempting to bandage the wound. Then, he picked up Castille and carried him behind friendly lines.

As he did so, Mendez was shot in the shoulder. Two more Marines rushed to help him, but Mendez refused to let go of Castille and continued to shield Castille with his body during the retreat until Mendez himself was mortally wounded.

Mendez was posthumously promoted to sergeant and awarded the prestigious Navy Cross. A post office on Staten Island, where he grew up, was named in his honor and there is now a campaign underway for him to be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Information retrieved from: <https://www.uso.org/stories/2469-hispanic-american-military-heroes>



Marcelino Serna



Carmen Contreras-Bozak



Angel Mendez

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Sexual Assault Response Coordinators

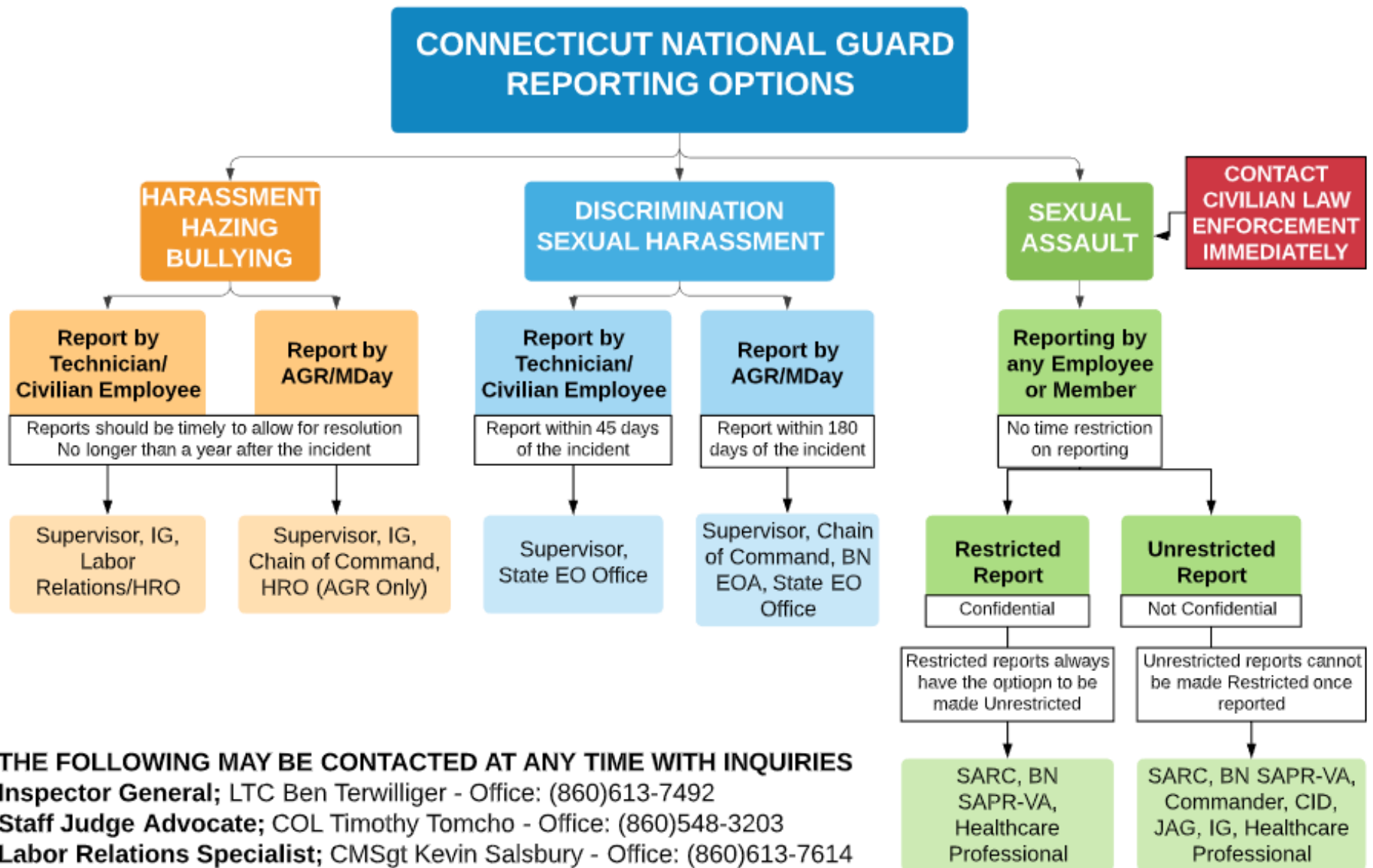
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State Equal Opportunity Office; Ms. Tasha Dow - Office: (860)613-7610
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator; Mrs. Katherine Maines - Office: (860)613-7611; Cell: (860)883-4798
State Chaplain; Lt Col Eric Wismar - Office: (860)548-3240; Cell: (860)883-5278

ESGR

Connecticut ESGR in FY 2020 by the Numbers

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

September marks the end of fiscal year (FY) 2020 for the Department of Defense and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), so it's a good time to look back at some of our activities and share some statistics.

The pandemic may have changed how we interact and cancelled or postponed some of our activities, but it didn't change ESGR's main focus, the goals of gaining and maintaining support from employers for National Guard and Reserve service, increasing the focus on the employer and military outreach missions and supporting the readiness of the Reserve Component all remain constant.

During FY 2020, how did Connecticut ESGR support those goals?

Employer Outreach

Our Employer Support volunteers are responsible for developing relationships with employers to promote advocacy for service in the National Guard and Reserve. During FY 2020, Connecticut ESGR (CTESGR) briefed 147 employers about the resources available from ESGR and on their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

The cornerstone of ESGR's effort to gain and maintain employer support is the Statement of Support. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the Reserve Component units and the Statement of Support enhances employer support by encouraging employers to advocate for employee participation in the military. A number of signing ceremonies were postponed due to COVID-19, but two Connecticut employers proudly signed Statements of Support during FY 2020 and there are more events planned when restrictions are lifted on in-person activities.

Awards also play an important role in fostering employer support during FY 2020, our committee volunteers distributed 80 Patriot Awards and one "Above and Beyond" award to Connecticut's patriotic employers for their outstanding support of their employees serving in uniform.

Military Outreach

The job of Military Outreach volunteers is to inform Reserve Component members regarding their employment rights and responsibilities under USERRA and to encourage them to value their employers' support by nominating them for ESGR awards. CTESGR reached more than 1,500 service members during this fiscal year.

I'm proud of our volunteers because they serve those who serve, putting in a total of 465 man-hours in Connecticut during FY 2020. There's an expression that "volunteerism



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

is the voice of the people put into action" and that's definitely true with the dedicated men and women of Connecticut ESGR.

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





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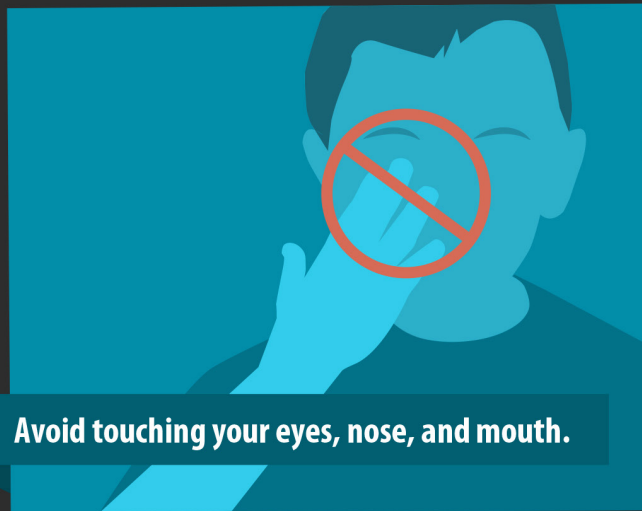
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



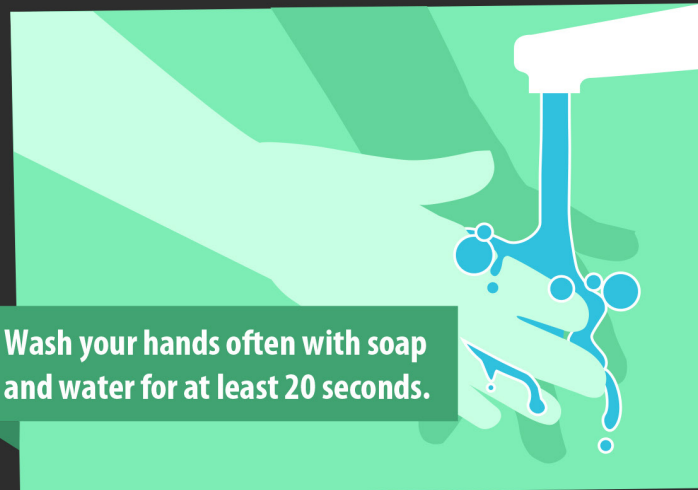
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

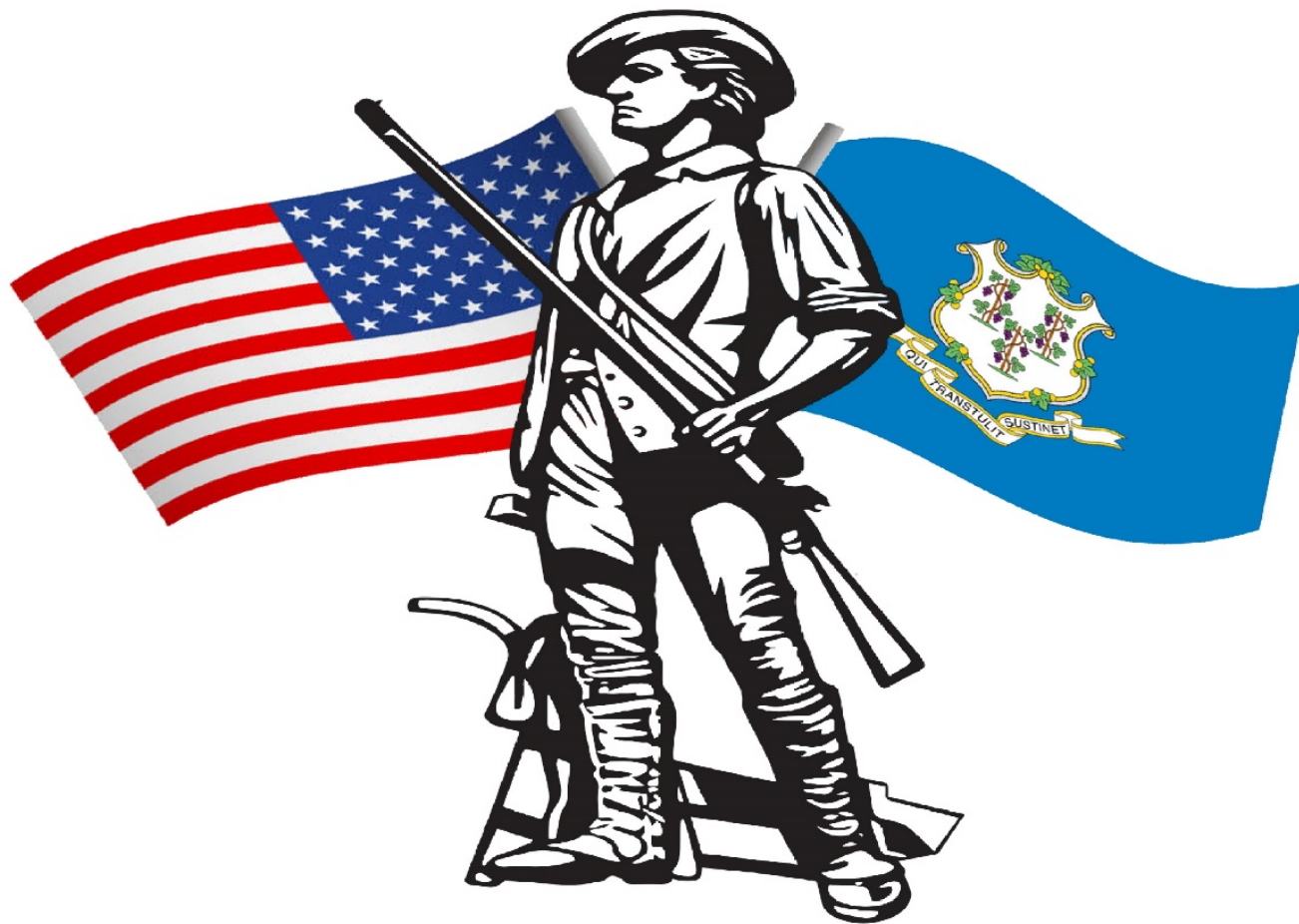


For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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The YANKEE COURIER



VOL. 21 NO. 8

EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

September 2020



Soldiers and Airmen from the Connecticut National Guard load cases of water onto trucks at Camp Hartell in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, Aug. 8, 2020. Connecticut Guardsmen delivered 21,000 cases of water from FEMA to towns throughout the state in response to Tropical Storm Isaias. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Tucker)

Emergency response continues for CT Guard

Tech Sgt. Tamara Dabney
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In the midst of Hurricane season and as the fight against COVID-19 rages on, emergency response duties continue for members of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard.

With the rate of new COVID-19 infections in Connecticut currently at a record low, the Connecticut Guard has been able to decrease the number Guardsmen deployed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Guard remains on high alert as members prepare for a potential second wave of COVID-19 cases. According to Army 1st Lieutenant James Grindley, member of the Connecticut National Guard Unified Command, small teams of Guardsmen have built more than 241,000 COVID-19 sample collection kits that will be transferred to secure storage facilities. Grindel added that large quantities of the kits will be made available for rapid application, if necessary.

Connecticut has relied on the Guard's ability to deliver and distribute emergency supplies throughout the pandem-

ic. Now, the state is depending on the Guard's logistical expertise once again during hurricane season. Most recently, Hurricane Isaias tore through Connecticut leaving more than 700,000 homes in the state without power and some residents without immediate access to clean water. The Guard collaborated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to deliver more than 21,000 cases of water and Meals-Ready-to-Eat to Connecticut residents in the first few days after the storm. The collaboration had a positive impact in the lives of Connecticut residents, said Chief Master Sgt. Donald Liddell of the 103rd Logistic Readiness Squadron.

"Throughout all of this, Guardsmen have had great attitudes and the work has been hugely impactful," said Liddell. "People are telling us that they couldn't have done it without us, so the work is appreciated throughout the state."

The Connecticut Governor often calls the Guard to augment the services of other agencies during state emergencies. During Hurricane Isaias, the Guard provided supplemental equipment and manpower to aid United Illumi-

nating (UI) in clearing storm debris from roadways.

"We help overwhelmed municipalities or utility companies get areas and routes cleared," said Senior Master Sgt. David Frates, emergency management superintendent for the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron. "What we give the governor is the capability to tap into the training and equipment that we have. We bring it into the neighborhoods and help get people back to where they were before an incident occurred."

UI officials are grateful for the support they receive from the Guard during mass power outages, said Mike Foley, Communications Specialist for UI.

"It's an all hands on deck situation," said Foley. "This effort is really appreciated, because these line crews can get in here quicker, energize the lines and people can turn their lights on sooner than later."

According to Liddell, the Guard will continue to work with various agencies as Connecticut remains at a heightened risk for emergencies.

"We'll be here as long as you need us and we'll work as long as you need our help," said Liddell.



Connecticut Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and U.S. Air Force Col. Stephen Gwinn, commander of the 103rd Airlift Wing, cut a ribbon at the new entry control point on Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, during a ceremony Aug. 20, 2020. The ceremony marked the opening of the base's new entry control point, a seven year project that helps improve security measures and support for the 103rd Airlift Wing's C-130H mission.

Bradley Air National Guard Base opens new gate with ribbon cutting ceremony

Tim Koster
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

EAST GRANBY, Conn. – The 103rd Airlift Wing celebrated the opening of a new entry control point on the Bradley Air National Guard Base, here, with a ribbon cutting ceremony Aug. 20, 2020.

In 2013, the 103rd's mission transitioned from utilizing the small, twin turboprop C-21 airframe to the larger, C-130H Hercules aircraft. The completion of the seven year, \$8.5 million gate project was the culmination of a complete base overhaul project to better support the 103rd's new mission.

"The new base entry complex will provide the Connecticut Air National Guard the ability to support its C-130 aircraft and our ever-expanding mission sets," said Army Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard. "Not only will the main gate project make the 103rd Airlift Wing more secure, but it will also become the highlight of the base and bring us on par with the Air Force vision."

The new gate provides additional levels of force protection and security measures which the original gate lacked, but also provides the base with a facelift that provides the public with more transparency into the identity of the Guardsmen serving in the community.

"No longer will our community wonder what those gray airplanes are at a distance," said Col. Stephen R. Gwinn, commander, 103rd Airlift Wing. "This front gate will serve to showcase to our community who we are, where we are, and what we do."

Completion of the project was due in large thanks to the vision of former Connecticut National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Air Force Brig. Gen. Francis Detorie, local civil and community leaders, and congressional delegations representing the state of Connecticut.

The new gate, located on Route 20 in East Granby, will open Aug. 21, 2020 and serve as the primary entry control point for the base moving forward.

103rd LRS distributes OCPs

Senior Airman Chanhda Ly
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The clothing and mobility section of 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron at Bradley Air National Guard Base is working hard to distribute personal protective equipment to all Airmen on base, but that is not their only mission; unit is also responsible for supplying all Airmen with Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear, weapons, equipment and uniforms.

This vital need to distribute clothing is critical as the Air Force transitions from the air battle uniforms (ABU) to the operational camouflage pattern uniform (OCP). The 103rd LRS is distributing four sets of OCPs to approximately 900 Airmen of the 103rd Airlift Wing.

“Initially, Airmen will receive two sets of OCPs until further funding can be allocated for the additional two sets,” said Master Sgt. Jeffrey Collins, supply manager of 103rd LRS.

Airmen from LRS have been working diligently to process uniform request. They are packing boxes with two full sets of OCPs, which includes a patrol cap, two coyote brown t-shirts, two blouses, two trousers, names tapes, patches, a belt, and a set of boots.

Airmen were authorized to begin wear of OCPs on Oct. 1, 2018 in accordance to AFI-36-2903, Air Force Dress and Personal Appearance for Air Force. All Air Force personnel are required to completely transition to the OCP uniform by April 1, 2021.



Airman 1st Class Jason Larose, materiel handler from the 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, supplies a box of operational camouflage pattern uniforms to an Airman, at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut Aug. 22, 2020.



Air Force Master Sgt. Jon Delaney, member of the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron, uses a chainsaw to cut a tree that fell into a roadway during Hurricane Isaias, August 7, 2020, Fairfield, Connecticut. Delaney and other members of the 103rd CES removed fallen trees and other debris from roadways as part of Connecticut's emergency response to Isaias. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Tamara R. Dabney)

Connecticut Guard assists storm response

Capt. Jennifer Pierce
103rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

NORTH HAVEN, Conn. – Airmen of the 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron responded to North Haven to work side-by-side with North Haven Public Works and United Illuminating to clear roads and power lines, Aug. 28, 2020.

After severe thunderstorms and tornadoes swept through the state in the late afternoon and evening of Aug.

27, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont deployed members of the Connecticut National Guard to assist with storm damage cleanup.

"This is what we train for, at home and overseas, Connecticut's National Guard stands ready to answer the call," said Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general for the Connecticut National Guard. "We haven't stopped since the early days of March with COVID-19 and are still on

the heels of responding to Tropical Storm Isaias. Protecting our neighbors is our fundamental duty and one we are proud to carry out."

The 103rd Civil Engineer Squadron was most recently deployed by the Governor to respond to cleanup for Hurricane Isaias damage earlier this month.

God knows how to take care of you

Catherine Galasso-Vigorito
Contributor

From the depths of a 100-foot well in India, people heard a whimpering sound. They followed the screeching cries and looked down a deep, dark well. They were brought to an abrupt halt as they saw a frightened brown dog that was trapped in the well. Their thoughts reeled. The dog was scared, looking upward and crying for help. Time and time again, the terrified dog frantically had tried to climb the well's walls to escape. However, each time the dog tried to break free, the well's structure crumbled. There was no way out. Helpless and hopeless, it was impossible for the hungry, stray dog to climb up and get away on its own.

From where would help come? Help came from above as a brave volunteer managed to strap himself to a crane. The crane operator slowly but deliberately dropped the volunteer down, as the volunteer descended into the 100-foot well.

The scared dog was hiding in the corner. Yet, somehow, after some coaxing, the volunteer was able to wrap his arms around the animal. Gently, the volunteer put the dog into a net. Then, the crane operator brought the dog and the volunteer back up to the surface safely. Immediately, the dog was taken to a rescue organization. Now, he is in good condition.

Do you feel that there is no way out of your present situation? Perhaps, you are worried about the future because you're trapped in an unfair circumstance. Or, you're struggling to move forward in life.

But this remarkable dog rescue reminded me that when it appears that there is no way out of your situation, your help, too, will come from above. Thus, look up and shift your eyes and your focus on God. Outside forces might be pulling you down. Nonetheless, do not fear. As the brave volunteer lifted up and rescued the dog, God will lift you up and carry you through the difficulties. God knows how to take care of you. So be on the lookout, for God works in mysterious ways. His specialty is doing the impossible. And help can come from unexpected places.

I know a woman who was leaving the hospital one afternoon after visiting her sick child. Tearful, as she walked to her car, she had been praying for some sign of hope. Just then, unexpectedly, a parking garage security guard saw the woman. He had noticed that she had been crying. Kindly, the security guard offered to her these comforting words: "Have hope, things will work out all right, you'll see." The guard smiled, and walked away, as the woman made her way to her car. "I thought he was an angel," the woman said. For those comforting words helped her so much that the woman vowed she would say one kind word or do one good deed for someone a day. Moreover, today, her child is completely healed.

God has heard your prayers as well. And a time of testing may be God's way of preparing you for the incredible things He has ahead. God sees your amazing capabilities. He knows what you have gone through, where you've been, and, moreover, He recognizes



what you can become tomorrow. So don't give up before the victory. Right now, God is interceding for you and is positively working situations out in your behalf. Often, I visit the craft store and buy art projects for my children that I think they would enjoy. Then, at home, I store the projects in the back of my closet, so I can give the gift to them when the time is right. Likewise, God has gifts stored up for you. For when the time is right, there'll be a great blessing in your life. This could be the week that you receive the breakthrough that you need. Hence, do your part and God will do His part. Plus, when the first blessing comes, there will be another blessing unfolding thereafter. For when God is involved, extraordinary things happen.

Today, persist with the assurance that God will come through for you. You've come too far. You have worked too hard and have sacrificed too much to give up on the desires of your heart now. I recall when my daughter, who is a highly-motivated A+ student, took a quiz in her social studies class and received a grade of 85. When she brought the quiz home, I noticed that there was an orange sticky note attached to the paper. My daughter wrote on the note: "Look at it. Learn. Then, discard it."

What at a wonderful lesson for life: When we face a mishap, don't quit. Rather, "Look at it. Learn. Then, discard it." Remember, the boxing match is not lost just because the boxer didn't win the first round. There are 11 more rounds in the ring to go. God loves and remembers you. You're a winner, a champion. You are fully adequate, competent, and worthy. Your life counts and even, "the very hairs of your head are numbered," (Matthew 10:30). You're "...fearfully and wonderfully made," (Psalm 139:14). See the worth in yourself that God sees in you and never on yourself.

Posted in my office, are the beautiful words of a song written by gifted song writer and musician Don Moen:

*"God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me
He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength
For each new day
He will make a way
He will make a way."*

God can make the impossible, to be possible. For if He made a way for the Israelites to walk on dry land in the middle of the Red Sea to safety, He can certainly overturn your problems. God wants to heal the hurts in your life and bring you out better than you were before. He works in ways that we sometimes cannot see or comprehend and delights in making your wrongs come out right, so trust in Him. There is not an area or detail that God will not be willing to help you with, regardless of how small or large. God has promised blessings and benefits to those who seek Him, honor Him, thank Him, listen to His voice and walk in His ways.

There is an amazing future in front of you. Thus, with joyful expectation, look up to and trust God. In the Old Testament, Isaiah 63:9 says, "...In His love and mercy He redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them through all the years." And as the dog and the rescue volunteer were hoisted up by the crane operator from a 100-foot well, God will take you up higher and higher. He will restore your peace and joy and lead you forward into a life of blessings.

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

NOT FEELING LIKE **YOURSELF?**

REACH OUT. STAY MISSION READY.

Military Life is Hard On Your Mind And Body

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

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

Military Crisis Line

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

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realwarriors.net

MHS

Military Health System

health.mil



Service Member and Family Support Center Staff Directory



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

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

Open Monday-Friday

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