



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
THE WILLIAM A. O'NEILL ARMORY
360 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105-3795

March 1, 2011

Honorable Andrew M. Maynard
Honorable John "Jack" F. Hennessy
Co-Chairpersons
Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Room 509A, Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: S.B. No. 995 (Raised) AAC State Military Accounts
S.B. No. 996 (Raised) AAC the State Military Support Team
H.B. No. 6419 (Raised) AAC the Composition of the Military Department and the qualifications of the Adjutant General
S.B. No. 1071 (Raised) AAC Annual Briefings Regarding Group Life Insurance Policies Offered to Members of the National Guard

I write to express the Connecticut Military Department's (CTMD's) support for three bills (SB 995, SB 996 and HR 6419) and opposition to one bill (SB 1071).

With the nation still confronted by the need to support the war in Afghanistan and military operations in Iraq along with peacekeeping and support operations throughout the world, the CTMD remains fully engaged in the training, equipping, mobilizing and demobilizing large numbers of Connecticut's soldiers and airmen. With just under 100 soldiers and airmen currently deployed, we continue to reconstitute a force that at last year's peak impacted nearly 1,300 of our soldiers, airmen and their families. We are pleased that the majority of these members back drilling with us again here at home.

Continuing engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan present a seemingly never ending list of challenges for CTMD. With our continuing operational tempo, CTMD is challenged to foster service and esprit de corps within our state's armed forces. To that end, CTMD strives to ensure the availability of programs that enhance the quality of life for our members and their families. We also seek to maintain adequate facilities and robust training opportunities for our forces and to provide emergency response assets to the state and nation.

SB 995 provides the CTMD with three revolving accounts necessary to facilitate the missions of the armed forces of the state, which includes the National Guard and state militia. The bill provides for a "billeting account," which facilitates the operation of our transient quarters at Camp Niantic. The quarters at Camp Niantic (see 2011 Armory Construction Purchase Report, enclosed) serve to house military forces when training at the Camp and nearby Stones Ranch Military Reservation. It is also available to members and their families on a space available basis. The quarters fund is currently operated by a military committee. This bill will allow the account to be operated by the state military department's fiscal office.

The bill also provides for the "Morale, Welfare and Recreation" revolving account, which is also currently run by military committee. This account is used to support programs designed to enhance the quality of life for our members of the armed forces and their families. For example, under the program recreational equipment is made available, so that when members visit Camp Niantic or other military facilities, such equipment is available.

The bill also provides for a revolving account for the New England Disaster Training Center (NEDTC). The NEDTC (see attachment and visit the website) is a premier training facility for civilian and military disaster response personnel. The NEDTC offers unique and exciting hands-on training focused on preparing civilian and military disaster responders for real-world disaster situations. As the operations at NEDTC are funded through various sources, including grants, the revolving account will facilitate military and emergency response training at the facility.

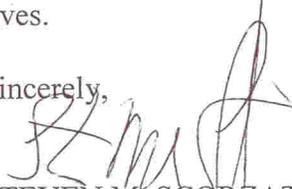
SB 996 provides authority for the CTMD to equip Connecticut Civil Support Team (see fact sheet) with flashing lights. As the Civil Support Team (CST) is charged to respond anywhere within the state in a timely fashion, flashing lights will enhance the response times and safety. Our CST members are highly training, dedicated military professionals, who are on call 24/7. Permitting them authority for flashing vehicle lights is well founded.

HR 6419 updates section 27-19 of Connecticut General Statutes, which provides for the qualifications of the Adjutant General. The qualifications do not currently specify a minimum federally recognized military rank that must be held by the Adjutant General. As the position is both a state commissioner and general officer, it only makes sense to ensure minimal qualifications for those selected to fill the position. Additionally, the bill provides for the composition of the Military Department, defining the parameters of Adjutant General's command. The bill will facilitate military service in the state by ensuring the qualifications of the Adjutant General.

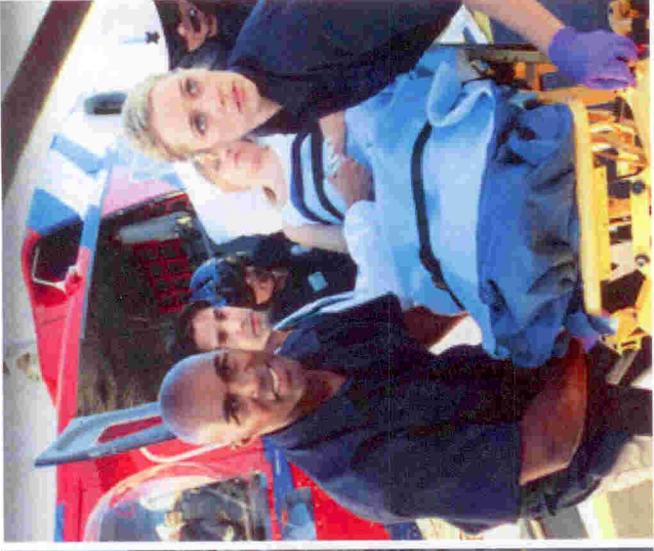
Finally, CTMD opposes SB 1071. This bill mandates that the Adjutant General provide a venue and time for insurance sales to members of the state armed forces. Currently, state-sponsored insurance is offered in passive methods to our members. To require the Adjutant General to carve time out of training and operational schedules to provide a venue for insurance sales sets a precedent for other similar venues to be required. Moreover, training is funded by the federal government. In order to mandate this sort of venue to be set aside, it should be conducted in a state status. Currently, CTMD is not funded for State-funded training for our members.

CTMD continues to look upon the current environment as one filled with opportunity to better serve the needs of soldiers, airmen and our citizens. CTMD remains resolute in our commitment to provide the best for our state's armed forces so that we can continue to effectively respond to both state and federally tasked missions. The CTMD is thankful for the Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs support of our legislative initiatives.

Sincerely,


STEVEN M. SCORZATO
Brigadier General (Connecticut)
Deputy Adjutant General

Enclosures
As



The New England Disaster Training Center (NEDTC) is one of the most unique training facilities in the world.

The NEDTC is a premier training facility for civilian and military disaster response personnel. The NEDTC offers unique and exciting hands-on training focused on preparing civilian and military disaster responders for

Elements

- Identify Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures and assist with requests for additional support
- Mandated by law
- Receive more than 600 hours of high-tech training by agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, Dept. of Energy, Dept. of Justice, and the Environmental Protection Agency
- 55 CSTs are located in each state and U.S. territory and Washington D.C.; two in CA
- Alert and on standby 24/7
- Deployable within 90 minutes (advance team); regular team deployable within three hours
- Operates specialized equipment including a specialized communications vehicle (Unified Command Suite), and an analytical laboratory system with a full suite of chemical, biological, and radiological analysis equipment

Example of CST Operations:

- Hurricane Katrina recovery, 2001 World Trade Center attacks, Space Shuttle Columbia recovery, Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, and various Political Party Conventions

Funding:

- Federally resourced, trained, equipped, and sustained, yet state controlled

WMD CST



Broad range capabilities at a moment's notice

Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST) Mission: Assesses hazards, advises civil authorities, and facilitates military support during emergencies and incidents of suspected weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the CST advises civilian responders on appropriate actions through on-site testing and expert consultation, and assists and facilitates in the arrival of follow-on state and federal military forces.

Overview: The Adjutant General either employs the WMD CST to support the state response under the direction of the governor or to support another state's response under a supported governor.

The WMD CST is comprised of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard personnel divided into six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical, and survey. Each unit encompasses 14 Army Military Occupational Skills and 57 Air Force Specialty Codes.

Units are assigned vehicles including a command vehicle, operations trailer, a communications vehicle called the Unified Command Suite (which provides a broad range of communications capabilities including satellite communications), an Analytical Laboratory System vehicle (containing a full suite of analysis equipment to support the determination of the hazard) and other general purpose vehicles. The WMD CST normally deploys using its assigned vehicles, but can be airlifted if required.



“Homeland Defense is mission one for the National Guard. Governors count on the National Guard to be the first military responder and call on Guard assets at their disposal within the first hours of an event.”

~LTG H Steven Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau

Learn More: <http://www.ngb.army.mil/features/HomelandDefense/cst/factsheet.html>

For more information contact NGB Public Affairs (Media Desk) 703-607-2584