

## State Veterans Affairs & Military Agencies

### Overview

Connecticut's coordination of veteran services and military affairs is primarily conducted by two departments: the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and the Connecticut Military Department (CTMD). DVA provides services that help veterans and their families obtain local, state, and federal benefits. CTMD provides, among other things, oversight of the state's organized militia and serves the federal mission of ensuring the Connecticut National Guard is prepared for activation.

### Department of Veterans Affairs

"Serving Those Who Served" | Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi



### Core Services

#### Advocacy & Assistance

With a veteran service officer (VSO) in each of the state's five Congressional Districts, the [Office of Advocacy Assistance](#) helps veterans and their eligible family members obtain local, state, and federal benefits. VSOs help veterans to prepare federal benefit claims and represent them before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, VSOs canvass nursing homes to determine if veterans are eligible for benefits. The officers also provide guidance regarding educational training and health, medical, rehabilitation, housing, and employment services.

#### Cemetery & Memorial

The DVA administers the [State Veterans Cemetery](#) in Middletown and coordinates the burial of eligible deceased veterans and their spouses.

#### Residential

The [Residential Program](#) provides veterans with temporary supportive housing, including rehabilitation services that aim to help residents return to independent living. Temporary housing is additionally provided in five single-family homes located at [Patriots Landing](#) in Rocky Hill.

#### Healthcare

The DVA provides medical care for veterans honorably discharged from the armed forces. The [Sgt. John L. Levitow Health Care Center](#) in Rocky Hill is a licensed skilled nursing facility and federally-certified State Veterans Home that provides short- and long-term care for chronic and disabling conditions. It also provides palliative and respite care. Outpatient substance use disorder services are also provided on the Rocky Hill campus, at the [Veterans Recovery Center](#). (Two federal VA hospital campuses are in Newington and West Haven.)

# Connecticut Military Department (CTMD)

Major General Francis J. Evon, Jr., The Adjutant General (TAG)



## CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD (CTNG)

*serves state and federal missions*

### ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (CTARNG)

Major Commands:

- 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance
- 143rd Regional Support
- 169th Leadership Regiment Regional Training Institute
- 85th Troop Command



### AIRFORCE NATIONAL GUARD (CTANG)

Units:

- 103rd Airlift Wing ("Flying Yankees")
- 103rd Air Control Squadron ("Yankee Watch")



### GOVERNOR'S GUARD

Serves primarily as ceremonial military units at civic events and as ordered by the Governor or TAG; composed of four companies:

- 1st & 2nd Company Foot Guard
- 1st & 2nd Company Horse Guard



### STATE GUARD & RESERVE

Assumes the CTNG's state mission (see below) if CTNG is mobilized; augments the CTNG and elements of the organized militia as necessary to meet state military requirements



The Connecticut Military Department is led by the Governor-appointed Adjutant General and serves state and federal missions. Its state mission includes overseeing community service programs and contributing to emergency response planning for local, state, and federal governments. In doing so, the department oversees the Governor's Guard, State Guard, administrative staff, and civilian staff that support the Connecticut National Guard (CTNG). Its federal mission includes ensuring CTNG is prepared for prompt "federalization" in the event of war, armed conflicts, or other emergencies. The Adjutant General additionally serves as the Commander of the CTNG.

Like the Military Department, CTNG has both a state and federal mission, and it may be activated by the Governor and the President. The following are the three primary ways CTNG and its members may be activated (the funding source, chain of command, and scope of their duties vary with each):

1. **On State Active Duty** – The Governor, as commander-in-chief, may activate CTNG pursuant to state law ([CGS §§ 27-2](#) et seq.). Missions are state-funded and generally for state-specific natural disasters. The Posse Comitatus Act, which restricts federal military involvement in civilian law enforcement, does not apply (i.e., CTNG is not prohibited from acting in a law enforcement capacity) ([18 U.S.C. §§ 1385](#) et seq.).
2. **Under US Code Title 32** – The Governor serves as commander-in-chief, but activities are federally-funded. Under this title, CTNG (1) primarily trains for its federal mission via drill weekends and annual two-week trainings, and (2) may be activated by the Governor, with the President or Secretary of Defense's approval, for emergency operations (e.g., large-scale natural disasters). Under an exception to the Posse Comitatus Act, CTNG is not prohibited from acting in a law enforcement capacity ([32 U.S.C. §§ 502](#) et seq. and [§§ 901](#) et seq.).
3. **Under US Code Title 10** – The President may activate CTNG in certain circumstances and serve as commander-in-chief. Missions, generally for national defense, are federally-funded and may be overseas. The Posse Comitatus Act generally applies and CTNG may not serve in a law enforcement capacity ([10 U.S.C. §§ 331](#) et seq., [§§ 12301](#) et seq. and [§ 12406](#))

**Connecticut Service Members (2020)** | Active Duty Military: 6,687 | National Guard: 4,835  
Military Reserve: 2,038 | Total: 13,560 *Source: [Defense Manpower Data Center](#)*

Learn  
More

Congressional Research Service "[Defense Primer: The Military Departments](#)"

"Benefits for Veterans' Surviving Spouses," OLR Report [2020-R-0244](#)

"Legislative History of the Department of Veterans Affairs," OLR Report [2020-R-0267](#)

"OLR Backgrounder: Veterans' Property Tax Exemptions," OLR Report [2020-R-0205](#)



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

Analyst: Jessica Schaeffer-Helmecki  
Connecticut General Assembly  
860-240-8400 | [www.cga.ct.gov/olr](http://www.cga.ct.gov/olr)