

# ASSOCIATE POST

*Winter '09/'10*

## Troop News

It was another busy year for 1GHG. Our May parade season began with the Shad Derby parade in Windsor and a Stamford parade honoring police officers. It continued through Memorial Day weekend with parades in Tolland, Portland, Avon and Berlin.

The troop also escorted Gov. Rell at the Connecticut Day parade at the Big E -- and, most importantly, honored our state's veterans at the Hartford Veterans' Day Parade. We also honored our own troop veterans at an annual Memorial Service.

1GHG provided several mounted and dismounted color guards throughout the year, including for the Special Olympics in Simsbury, the Veteran's Wartime Service Medal presentation in Fairfield, the CHJA Horse Show Finals in Westport, and at the UCONN Horse Symposium.

Events with fellow militia units included the Battalion Review at 2GHG, Combined Drill with 1GFG, a pistol match (in which 1GHG took second place) and "June Day" in Boston sponsored by Ancient and Honorable Artillery Corps.

The troop fundraisers, the June Horse show and the August Golf Tournament were both successful, overcoming hard economic times.

Due to state budget constraints, Annual Training was held at our property in Avon this year. Despite the limitations of an 'at home' camp, our officers did their best to keep it interesting. Most camp traditions were preserved and turnout was significant.

1GHG maintained its community outreach with Scout training, a 'Say Nay to Drugs' program at Canton Intermediate School, the Ride for the Cure in Pomfret and a Labor Day visit to the River Ridge assisted living facility. In October, the Troop hosted a Fall Festival for children and families of National Guard soldiers.

Three of our troopers -- 2LT Tara Stapleton, SGT Ed Fisher and CPL Frank Berrian -- completed the six-month Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) through the Connecticut National Guard at Camp Rell. Unfortunately, this was the final BNCOC, which will be replaced by an online course.

And once again, several members of the troop traveled to Fort Robinson, Nebraska, to attend the U.S. Cavalry Association's annual bivouac and competition.

Going forward, on Dec. 5, 1GHG will collect new toys for children of deployed soldiers as part of Operation Tribute ([www.operationtribute.com](http://www.operationtribute.com)). **Please stop by the toy collection at Baker's Dozen Bagels in Nod Brooke Plaza on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date is Sunday, Dec 6).** Toys may also be dropped off at the 1GHG EM building. Stay tuned for more details about our 2010 Golf Tournament.

For photos of the troop's recent activities, visit the web site and go to "Recent Events" ([www.govhorseguards.org](http://www.govhorseguards.org)) or become a fan on Facebook. Also, Stand to Horse is being published quarterly, produced and edited by PFC Sleeman, and will be posted on the website.

## The Herd and Budget

Further budget cuts have resulted in an order that our unit reduce the herd to 20 horses. Nippers, Patrick and Paddington have been reunited with their original owners. A-1 was retired early in the year to an appropriate home. Unfortunately, Deacon passed away this summer. The herd currently stands at 22 horses. On drill nights, two of three squads ride while the third conducts alternative training.

## Retirements and Promotions

There have been some significant retirements and promotions this year. Former 1SG Jon Kores retired after 14 years of service and MSG Steven Meltzer is resigning after 20 years of service. Their wisdom and experience will be sorely missed, though both will continue to serve the troop on the Major's Staff. Bree Berner has been appointed to serve as First Sergeant. There have been some changes among the officers as well: Major Michael Downes was re-elected for a full term;

Gary Boucher was elected to Captain; Leon Losapio and Cheryl Proctor were as elected First Lieutenants; and Tara Downes and Edward Henfey were both elected to Second Lieutenant.

### Recruiting

Recruiting season is upon us for the Class of 2010, and referrals from active and former troopers are an excellent resource. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining, please direct them to the troop's web site, or encourage them to visit or call 2LT Tara Downes, Adjutant.

### Finally

Everyone at the troop enjoys visiting with old friends. Please stop by to see us on a drill night or at holidays or major events such as family day in May!

### Photo Gallery



#### 2010 Dues are Due!

Per Company Bylaws, they are still just \$15 a year. Please send in your dues and let us know if your contact information has changed. If you provide an email address, we will endeavor to send you occasional news via email.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address, if changed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check for \$15 out to 1GHG  
and mail to:  
1GHG Attn: Treasurer  
P.O Box 978  
Avon, CT 06001