



Eric Trinidad joined the U.S. Army in 2002, motivated by the death of a cousin in the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City. The former West Haven man was deployed to Iraq for 18 months.

‘Swept up in a sense of patriotism’

State residents answered the call after 9/11

By Steven Goode and Jesse Leavenworth
STAFF WRITERS

The Sept. 11 attacks shocked the nation and the world, but they also spurred some Connecticut residents to want to do more to protect their country.

A number of people left already established careers to enlist, or decided to pursue a path in the military from an earlier age. Many did it for a friend or relative. Some even rejoined the military after serving for several years and spending time in civilian life.

“Men and women across Connecticut watched what happened and made a decision to serve,” the Connecticut National Guard said in a statement. “For some, joining the military was their answer to 9/11. They raised their right hand knowing our nation was at war and knowing they could be asked to go.”

The National Guard was about 20% of the joint force, according to the statement.

Some of those men and women are still serving in some form.

“Their stories are person-



Connecticut National Guard Sgt. Major George Mandell Jr. with his son, Private George Mandell III, at the younger man's graduation from Infantry School, the ceremony that soldiers call “Turning Blue.” The younger Mandell is the fifth generation in his family to serve in the U.S. Army.

al, but they share a willingness to put something larger than themselves first,” the

Connecticut National Guard said. “That is the true meaning of selfless service.”

Deciding to go back

When he left the Connecticut National Guard after 14 years of service in 1997, Sgt. Major George Mandell Jr. said he thought his time in the military was done.

He found a job as a terminal manager for a trucking company in Connecticut, but the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, moved Mandell to reconsider his future.

“I decided to get back in before I got too old,” the Bridgeport native, age 35 at the time, said in a recent interview. “I did it pretty quick, took the oath at the end of October.”

Now atop the enlisted ranks at age 60, Mandell said he will retire this year from the Connecticut National Guard after welcoming his son into the ranks of U.S. soldiers. Specialist George Mandell III graduated from U.S. Army Infantry School two years ago and is the fifth generation of his family to serve the nation under arms.

George Mandell Jr., who now lives in Seymour, entered service as a combat engineer, then re-branched into the infantry in 2005, not



Connecticut issued cease-and-desist orders to nine future market companies, including Polymarket, claiming the companies are the equivalent of sports books.

A betting crackdown

State issues cease-and-desist orders to nine prediction market companies

By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — State officials are taking action against prediction market companies, accusing them Thursday of allowing people to gamble on sports and other events illegally.

The state Department of Consumer Protection issued cease-and-desist orders to nine companies, claiming they are “illegally operating prediction markets in the state.” Prediction markets have exploded in popularity over the last year, allowing users to buy and sell contracts that predict the outcome of an event. That event can range from the outcome of a sporting event to the result of an election.

Prediction continues on A4

Police: Man linked to shootings in 3 cities

By Bill Cummings
STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN — A recovered stolen car, shell casings and weapons helped police link a Meriden man to multiple shootings in Meriden, Waterbury and Middletown, according to the arrest warrant.

Justice Roman, 23, was charged Aug. 19 with criminal attempt at first-degree assault, possession of an assault weapon, criminal possession of a firearm, reckless endangerment, criminal mischief and illegal discharge of a firearm. He was held in lieu of a \$500,000 bond and is scheduled to appear at Superior Court in Meriden Sept. 9 to enter a plea, court records show.

Roman also had several outstanding warrants for failure to appear in court for an armed robbery in Meriden.

According to the warrant, Roman was taken into custody June 24 by Waterbury police, who discovered an AR-15 rifle and a 9mm Glock in his possession. Police also found two cellphones, which were later examined after a search warrant was obtained. Waterbury police then turned Roman over to Middletown officers.

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SCSU student-athlete detained by ICE challenges arrest

Deng Dhieu Kuach Deng was detained at Tweed New Haven Airport Sept. 4

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster and Joshua Eaton
STAFF WRITERS

A Southern Connecticut State University student-athlete was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents while preparing to board a flight Sept. 4 at Tweed New Haven Airport, according to court records.

Deng Dhieu Kuach Deng, 19, is overstaying his visa according to federal immigration officials. Overstaying a visa is generally a civil immigration violation, although it is not a criminal offense under federal law. Deng has pending asylum and Temporary Protected Status applications, and recently received federal work authorization, according to newly filed court docu-

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Bradley, Tweed airports have little power to restrict ICE. **A3**

ments challenging his detention.

ICE officers arrested Deng as he prepared to board a domestic flight from Tweed to North Carolina, where he planned to visit his girlfriend, according to a habeas corpus petition filed in U.S. District Court in Connecticut. Deng’s attorneys contend the arrest of the

basketball player was unlawful and are seeking his release.

The Department of Homeland Security said Deng, a native of South Sudan and an SCSU student, legally entered the United States but remained after his authorized stay expired.

“On Sept. 4, at the Tweed New Haven Airport, ICE arrested Deng Deng, an illegal alien from South Sudan,” a DHS spokesperson said in a statement. “He legally en-

ICE continues on A4



The departures building at Tweed New Haven Airport.