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The New Hampshire National Guard Magazine is a quarterly, joint publication for the soldiers and airmen serving in the N.H. National Guard, as well as their families and retirees. It is posted to the World Wide Web at <https://www.nh.ngb.army.mil>.

The New Hampshire National Guard Magazine is a commercial enterprise publication produced in partnership with the State Public Affairs Office, New Hampshire National Guard, 1 Minuteman Way, Concord, NH 03301; and AQP Publishing Inc., 8537 Corbin Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507.

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How to reach us: We welcome letters to the editor. They must include the writer's full name and mailing address.

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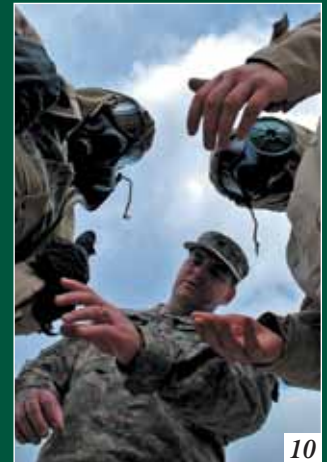
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On the cover: Soldiers from the 3643rd Brigade Support Battalion, NHARNG, conduct sling-load training with an Iowa Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk, Oct. 24, at Camp Dodge, Iowa. The culminating event allowed soldiers to use skills they learned while completing annual training at the National Maintenance Training Center. Photo: 1st Lt. Andrew Schwab, 197 FIB PAO



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*A New Day
for the Great Service*

Zubicaray awarded Soldier's Medal

By Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO

On his 45th birthday, Sgt. Raul Zubicaray of B Company, 3643rd Brigade Support Battalion, received one of the nation's highest military awards for heroism.

During a ceremony Sept. 9, 2012, at the Manchester armory, Brig. Gen. Peter Corey, director of the joint staff, presented Zubicaray with the Soldier's Medal for responding to the scene of a head-on collision in Iraq involving 16 people.

"I was hoping to get this in the mail," said a humbled Zubicaray of North Andover, Mass., standing before family, friends and fellow soldiers. "But it didn't work out that way."

On Nov. 11, 2011, while serving as a driver for a convoy logistics patrol, Zubicaray saw two vans collide on main supply route Tampa, a major north-south highway in Iraq. One van carried nine passengers. The other had seven.

"By the time I got to the scene, it was very quiet," he recalled during a separate, emotional interview. "The vans hit so hard that the drivers were no longer there. A fire had started."

Zubicaray managed to free five victims from one of the vehicles after breaking a side window, according to the commendation. He performed triage on several others and continued to assist medics until the scene was cleared. For one of the injured, a child, he created a makeshift body splint out of a damaged car fender.

Corey praised Zubicaray for his life-saving actions and the compassion he showed at the scene. "In my 31 years of service, I have never seen this medal awarded," he said.

The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. It was established by Congress in 1926. The same degree of heroism is required for the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the act must involve personal hazard 14 or danger, and voluntary risk of life.

At the time, Zubicaray was attached to a unit from the Minnesota Army National Guard. His platoon sergeant originally recommended him for an Army Commendation Medal. It was later upgraded by his brigade commander

because Zubicaray's actions "saved lives" and a vehicle fire and leaking gasoline put Zubicaray at "personal risk."

After the victims of the accident were transported to a nearby hospital, Zubicaray remained on scene to distribute bottled water from his convoy to civilians who had aided in the rescue effort.

"He has some amazing abilities," said Zubicaray's squad leader Staff Sgt. Thomas Newcomb. "He's got a lot of skills and talents, everything from flying planes and helicopters to fixing computers and working well with other people."

"We always joke with him about being 'The Most Interesting Man' from the Dos Equis (commercials)," Newcomb added. "The bulls in Spain go running with him."

Zubicaray joined the N.H. Guard 2007, deploying with the 3643rd in 2010 in support of Operation New Dawn. He extended his tour in 2011 with Minnesota's 1/34th Brigade Combat Team. He immigrated to the United States from Spain in 2000. ❖

Sgt. 1st Class Attila Fazekas, 197 FiB PA, contributed to this story.



Sgt. Raul Zubicaray, center, prepares to receive the Soldier's Medal during a ceremony Sept. 9, 2012, at the Manchester armory. Looking on are his wife and daughter. Zubicaray was honored for his life-saving actions after a tragic auto accident in Iraq. Photo: Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO



We stand with you

By Ray Duckler, courtesy of the Concord Monitor



Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Gerbig, right, is promoted by the commander in chief of the New Hampshire National Guard, Gov. John Lynch, assisted by The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William Reddel, during the departure ceremony for the 169th. Photos: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle, Deputy State PAO

It rained that day, a cold, raw afternoon. Sort of like the feel inside the Army Aviation Support Facility, a cavernous hangar displaying three Black Hawk helicopters.

There, on Sept. 28, 2012, 19 members of the New Hampshire Guard left for Fort Hood, Texas, before moving on to Afghanistan. Family members did their best to let the sunshine in.

Some did better than others.

They spoke about pride and selflessness and courage, and about the family support that's so vital when the realities of war hit home.

They talked about striving to achieve normalcy as the departure date approached, goals replayed again and again, for more than 10 years now.

This time we had Detachment 2, F Company, 1/169th Aviation Regiment, a medevac unit responsible for retrieving wounded soldiers, providing fast medical attention and flying them to a place where they could receive a higher level of care.

This time we had Tyler Fish of Gilmanton, who monitored her two young sons while monitoring her own emotions.

"I'm in complete denial," Fish said. "I'm going to deny this thing until the second he comes home."

Her husband, Bill, is deploying for the second time. During his first go-round, to Iraq nearly 10 years ago, life was simpler for him, with no wife, no kids, no house.

"Now it's more like, 'Okay, can my wife handle all the problems, the simple stuff, the toilet breaks, plowing the snow on the driveway?'" said Bill, 32. "Yeah, I'm going on deployment, but I don't really care about that. It's more about, are my wife and kids going to be okay while I'm gone?"

His sons, Coen, 1, and 5-year-old Major, wore "I Love Dad" T-shirts. Dad had to explain to Major about the near future.

"I tell him that I fly a helicopter ambulance, and I help people," Bill said. "He knows what a helicopter is, and he can identify

a Black Hawk. But I don't think he fully grasps how long it's going to be."

That would be nine months, following two months of training at Fort Hood.

Amber Barnes knew this day was coming, the day when her 33-year-old husband, Derrick, would leave on his first deployment.

The Deerfield couple, who met in middle school 18 years ago and married three years ago, have done their best to enjoy life in the days and weeks leading up to leave day, Oct. 21.

"I think everyone in the back of their minds in the family, on some level, was hoping deployment wouldn't happen, but it's part of the Army," said Amber, a veterinarian technician.

"For the most part we were able to wipe it away and live. You can't let it consume you. It helps to stay busy at work and have family support, so it really hadn't started to become real until the month of September came."

Derrick's mother, Audrey Barnes, said, "I tried not to think about it a lot. I was hoping this day wouldn't come."

The sendoff, which was noble, sad and glorious at the same time, had all the usual ingredients.

We had old veterans leaning hard on canes, young children sitting on parents' shoulders, babies fidgeting, kids playing,

and parents and spouses crying.

We had people like Madeline Dreusicke, of Pelham, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, who awoke at 6 the previous morning to bake cakes for the farewell gathering.

We had our delegation from Washington, D.C., Sens. Kelly Ayotte and Jeanne Shaheen and Reps. Charlie Bass and Frank Guinta giving speeches about sacrifice and bravery.

They also mentioned the courage of those who stay behind, holding down the fort on this side of the world.

Ayotte's husband flew combat missions in Iraq.

"You are our heroes, too," Ayotte said. "I know how difficult it is to have someone deployed, missing the holidays and just day-to-day activities. You don't have your loved ones there to help you. Please know we stand with you."

We also had 7-year-old Kyra Whitehead of Milford, whose poise and power while singing "Proud to be an American" made you want to salute the giant flag hanging behind the lectern.

And we had fresh-faced Guardsmen, serving with the more experienced soldiers who've already tasted war.

One was Chris Wareing, a 22-year-old paramedic who looked as though he began shaving just a week before.

He said he's ready.

"This is what we're trained to do, what we're trained every day to do," Wareing said. "You're always planning for this day, to get ready for this very day."

He'll serve in a mountainous region, a country with lots of dust and high winds, a place that N.H. Guard pilot instructor Peter Cartmell of Concord called "The most demanding helicopter environment in the world."

Wareing had a big entourage at his farewell: his mother and father, plus aunts, cousins and grandparents.

He said his behavior recently, caring yet disciplined, has set the tone for the rest of his family.

"Everyone has the same emotion; it's just how they express it," Wareing said. "I have the same emotions they have, but I do a good job of not expressing it, and I think that would make their job harder if we didn't keep it together in the days leading up to this."

His mother, Lynn, a nurse from Salem, said she's "been crying a lot" and had "a lot of sleepless nights."

His father, Glenn, a plumber, spoke softly, barely above a whisper. His eyes were red, making him look like he needed some sleep, too.

"I'm proud of him," Glenn said. "That's all I can say. Just very proud of him." ❖



Soldiers of Detachment 2, F Company, 1/169th Aviation Regiment (Medevac), New Hampshire Army National Guard, stand in formation during their departure ceremony Sept. 28 at the Aviation Facility in Concord. The detachment will deploy to Afghanistan for nine months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They will conduct medical evacuation missions for U.S. and coalition forces as well as civilians. The unit reported to Fort Hood, Texas, for pre-mobilization training and was scheduled to depart for Afghanistan at the end of November.



*A Black Hawk helicopter flies over Concord recently. In Concord there are nine UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters that are used by two medical evacuation units: Charlie Company, 3-238th, and Detachment 2, F Company, 1169th forward support medical team.
Photo: Stinky Duff*

What's up with those Black Hawks?

*By Mike Alberici,
Courtesy of the Concord Monitor*

On a windless day last summer, my family and I kayaked across Turkey Pond. The water was smooth as glass, the scene peaceful and contemplative. Then we heard a familiar sound in the distance: the deep, resonant fwop-fwop-fwop of a Black Hawk helicopter. It appeared suddenly, moving fast and low, just clearing the tall pines on the shore, and swooped right over our heads. We instinctively began waving wildly to the crew.

The aircraft suddenly flipped into a hard turn, circled back and made another pass over us, then quickly disappeared.

Black Hawk helicopters are a way of life around Concord. We hear and see them flying over the city regularly, but we're so used to the drone of their rotors that we pay little attention. But my close encounter made me begin to focus on them.

What are those copters up to?
I decided to find out.

Over the past three months, I've been learning all I can about those Black Hawks. With the help of public affairs officer Maj. Greg Heilshorn, I've been given access to the Army Aviation Support Facility on Regional Drive to watch the men and women who fly the Black Hawks up close. I've observed the pilots and crew members training endlessly. I've spoken to officers, administrators and trainers. I've met the repair personnel who keep the aging helicopters fueled and in peak operating condition. I've met their families and spouses who make personal sacrifices while their loved ones are overseas. I've even taken a seat aboard a Black Hawk for an unforgettable flight. What are those Black Hawks up to? That's simple: They're saving lives.

The Army Aviation Support Facility is the enormous facility right past Concord Airport. An older Huey helicopter is

mounted on a pedestal out front, and crew members jokingly refer to it as the "helicopter on a stick." Heilshorn meets me at the security gate, leads me into the administrative area and introduces me to Maj. David Mattimore, who explains the multiple roles of the New Hampshire Army National Guard.

In Concord there are nine UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters that are used by two medical evacuation units: Charlie Company, 3-238th and Detachment 2, F Company, 1169th forward support medical team.

At the federal level, Mattimore explains, their mission is to move wounded and ill persons throughout the battlefield.

Most of the work done in New Hampshire is in training for medical evacuation scenarios in Afghanistan and recently Iraq. When soldiers are wounded in battle and cannot be moved by ground,

a Black Hawk is called in to locate and evacuate them to an area where they can be treated.

"Afghanistan is the most demanding flying environment in the world," says Mattimore, whose pilots must contend with mountains, brutal heat, swirling sand, deafening noise, heavy winds, enemy fire and constantly changing weather.

Locally, the Black Hawks provide search and rescue and medical evacuation services across the state, primarily in the White Mountains. They don't compete with private agencies but are often called in when more powerful aircraft and specialized equipment are necessary.

When a rescue call comes in, it's Mattimore who usually picks up the phone. Depending on who's available, the weather and time of day, a Black Hawk can be quickly scrambled and actively searching for a lost or injured hiker in less than two hours.

The Army Aviation Support Facility is a busy place with constant training and maintaining of the aircraft. On another visit, Sgt. 1st Class Brian McKay, a fuel technician, gives me a tour. He leads me into the hangar where the helicopters are kept. The room is gigantic and spotless. Four Black Hawks are lined up in front of me. Massive garage doors open out to the concrete tarmac, where two copters are being prepped for an evening training flight. On the back wall hangs a huge American flag.

"This is the second largest building in Concord," quips McKay.

"Okay, I'll bite," I say. "What's the first?"
"Walmart."

No guns, armor

The UH-60 is a four-bladed, medium-lift utility helicopter that entered service in the U.S. military in the late 1970s to replace the Vietnam-era Huey. It comes in many variants and can be modified to suit the mission at hand. It was a highly modified stealth version of the UH-60 that crashed in the raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

The medevac Black Hawks in Concord carry no weapons or guns and have no armor. They are used for air ambulance purposes only and are clearly marked with large red crosses on all sides – but that doesn't stop them from taking fire while moving the wounded. Each Black Hawk carries a pilot, co-pilot, crew chief and medic and can carry up to 11 troops if necessary. The ones in Concord can be equipped with a "Bambi bucket," a large fabric container that hangs beneath the

copter and can be dunked into lakes and filled with 600 gallons of water for firefighting.

The new price of a base model Black Hawk straight from the factory is about \$20 million, but the ones in Concord are all older models, some more than 30 years old, which cost significantly less. They require constant maintenance, and several in the hangar were being worked on at the time of my tour.

Most of those flights seen over Concord revolve around the medevac training cycle. National Guard personnel travel from all over New England to Concord on nights and weekends to clock their flight time and receive related training.

With a Black Hawk there is always something new to learn, some new flight scenario to experience.

Members of Detachment 2, F Company, 1-169th, who are now being deployed to Afghanistan, have prepared extensively for what they will likely see on the battlefield. I've observed them training for "instruments only" situations, when the pilot must fly the aircraft with zero visibility and navigate

only with the instruments on the panel. They've also trained to fly with night vision goggles, and logged flight time in a high tech Black Hawk flight simulator, which recreates the actual terrain features in Afghanistan.

For some real mountain fly time, many flights from Concord head north. The White Mountains give pilots the experience of flying in terrain and weather similar to what they might see in Afghanistan. Often other Black Hawk squadrons from flatlands will travel to Concord for training in our mountains.

Although the Whites may just be the perfect spot for Black Hawk mountain training, one thing is missing: the swirling sand, which damages rotors, decreases visibility and clogs engine intakes. To give pilots experience flying in sand, the Black Hawks practice taking off and landing in the pits of local sand and gravel companies.

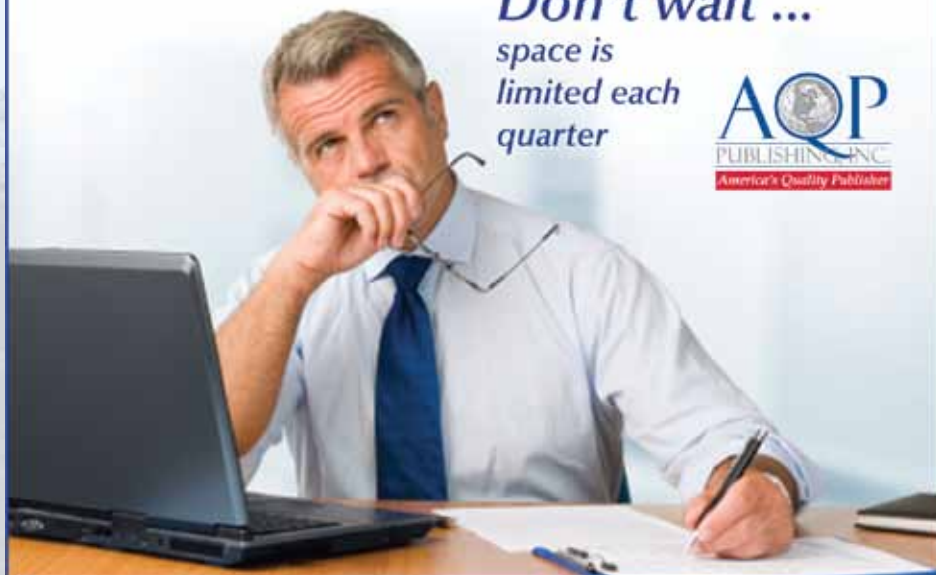
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training, too. In a rescue situation, the medic and crew chief leave the helicopter to retrieve wounded personnel. In August, the crews at the Army Aviation Support Facility cooperated in a weekend training exercise with the Concord Hospital Simulation Lab, which provided a pair of high-tech mannequins, which could simulate the battle injuries that units might find in the field.

During the drills, remotely controlled mannequins were rigged with simulated injuries and laid out on the hangar floor. ER physician Chris Fore prepared the mannequins with multiple gunshot wounds, blast injuries and facial and chest burns. Dressed in fatigues and combat gear, the mannequins were battered and bloodied, with bullet holes, broken limbs and tourniquets.

A typical drill began as a Black Hawk pulled up to the hangar doors. The rear door slid open and 22-year old medic Christopher Wearing of Salem stepped out and approached the scene. In an actual rescue, medics sometimes have little information about the injuries that wounded soldiers might have. During these exercises, they were operating blind.

Once on the scene, Wearing and hospital staff had a quick shouted discussion about a mannequin's medical status, loaded him onto a stretcher and wheeled him out and into the waiting Black Hawk. The pilot then began a simulated flight to the hospital.

Once medic and mannequin were in transit aboard the Black Hawk, Fore began remotely controlling the mannequin's medical condition from a computer back in the hangar. Wearing's patient had a seizure in flight, (which he treated), lost oxygen and had a ventilator failure. Wearing had to react to all of these things immediately.

"Things like that happen nearly every flight," he said.

Flags on the 48

A few weeks later, I'm strapped down in the rear seat of a helicopter in a four-point harness. I've got some serious ear protection for the flight: dual-density foam earplugs squished inside my ears with heavy-duty, shooting-style protectors on the outside. Pilot Bruce Gokey has a printed map of our flight plan, but he doesn't need it. He tucks it into his pocket and climbs into the cockpit. As an avid hiker, he's climbed most of the 4,000-footers in New Hampshire.

As the longest continuously operating helicopter pilot in the state, he knows the

area like his own backyard. Gokey and co-pilot Dave Breton are in the cockpit running through a preflight checklist.

Crew chief Aaron DeAngelis is outside on the tarmac making last-minute preparations. All aboard can communicate via the intercom system, but that's the only luxury we have. There's nothing comfortable inside a Black Hawk. It's hot, crowded and reeks of jet fuel and exhaust.

The twin turbo-shaft engines, just inches above my head, begin to cycle up. The main rotor begins to turn in large, lazy circles. DeAngelis hops inside and buckles into his seat next to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kathryn Reney. In a few minutes, the rotor roaring at full tilt, the helicopter glides off the earth. We rise gently, turn westward and then head north.

Our mission today is ceremonial: We're taking part in the annual "Flags on the 48" event in which hikers raise American flags

on the summits of the 4,000-footers to honor those who died on Sept. 11. Our job is to perform ceremonial flybys on as many summits as we can.

The weather is looking sketchy, with dense fog and winds gusting up to 45 knots. For the crew this is a perfect opportunity to get some heavy-weather fly time.

The ride to the mountains is smooth. With a strong northward tailwind, we're over Winnepesaukee in only 10 minutes.

We roar up through a valley and circle toward the first summit. The jukebox in my mind begins playing Ride of the Valkyries. Gokey banks the copter through the fog into a hard rising, left-hand turn.

The tailwind catches the tail rotor, pushing the aircraft in a sideways circle around the summit of Mt. Bond. The winds kick in as we reach the summit, and the aircraft is rocked hard by turbulence. I grit my teeth and hang on.

The first American flag suddenly comes into view right outside my window. It's a powerful image that catches me off guard.

Suddenly the fog breaks to a view of the summit covered with hard-core hikers. We're so close we can see the expressions on their faces: patriotism and gratitude.

For hikers, the Black Hawk can represent the last safety net in the Whites, the last hope for survival when you get yourself into some serious trouble.

The hikers down there recognize this. They know what the men and women up here are up to, and their appreciation is obvious.

They're all on their feet, waving hands overhead at the crew in the Black Hawk helicopter. ❖

Mike Alberici of Concord is a professional musician and educator.

Hamlin dedicates race to deploying 169th



Pfc. Jeremy Lestock, a radio repairer with Detachment 2, F Company, 1/169th Aviation Regiment, New Hampshire Army Guard, shakes hands with NASCAR driver Denny Hamlin at the Army Aviation Flight Facility in Concord on Sept. 11. Hamlin, who was racing at Loudon the following week, paid a special visit to Detachment 2 soldiers and their families who were preparing for deployment to Afghanistan. Photo: Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes, 114th PAD

What they signed up for

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Andrew Schwab, 197 FiB PAO

When soldiers from the 3643rd Brigade Support Battalion, 197th Fires Brigade, deployed to Kuwait in 2010, few worked within their military occupational specialty. Tackling responsibilities ranging from convoy escort to camp command cell duties, BSB soldiers learned valuable new skills, but spent more than a year away from the specialties they enlisted for.



Staff Sgt. Sean Morrison teaches decontamination techniques to soldiers from A Company, 3643rd BSB, during annual training at the National Maintenance Training Center in Camp Dodge, Iowa, Oct. 24.



Staff Sgt. Carey Morris from A Company, 3634rd BSB, extinguishes a fire during training at the National Maintenance Training Center at Camp Dodge in Iowa, Oct. 22.

Since returning, BSB soldiers have worked to renew their expertise, culminating in two weeks of annual training at the National Maintenance Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

Soldiers completed tasks including equipment repair, water purification and tactical convoys. Instruction focused heavily on teamwork and section operations, building on soldiers' individual skills while refining their ability to operate as a unit. Pairs of soldiers conducted sling-load operations with Black Hawk helicopters fueled by A Company's petroleum specialists. Mechanics from B Company

worked together to replace major components on military vehicles, and truck crews from Distribution Platoon convoyed to Fort Riley, Kan., as part of a real-world supply delivery mission.

NMTC also provided leadership training with the same focus on teamwork and the sustainment mission. Instructors worked the BSB staff through a Sustainment Simulation Exercise in which staff members collaborated to develop and execute a logistics mission. The exercise enabled staff to refine standard operating procedures while building a deeper understanding of how the BSB operates. ❖



Command Sgt. Maj. John Nanof, state command sergeant major, explains the responsibilities of a noncommissioned officer to soldiers from the 3643rd Brigade Support Battalion. Nanof was the guest speaker for the BSB's NCO Induction Ceremony, where the unit recognized 17 recently promoted sergeants at Camp Dodge, Iowa, Oct. 22. The unit was in Iowa for their two weeks of annual training.

We didn't just train

By Sgt. Dennis Fitton, A Company,
3643rd Brigade Support Battalion

During our annual training at Camp Dodge in October, we didn't just train – we completed a successful real-world mission. The purpose? To move a variety of equipment from Camp Dodge, Iowa, to Fort Riley, Kan., for turn-in and redistribution to other soldiers and units in need.

We completed our mission in three days, traveling over 640 miles and crossing three states. With a single day to prepare for this mission, we encountered multiple obstacles before we could depart, including truck dispatch issues and mechanical problems. Despite these obstacles, we still managed to make our set start time. On the morning of our departure, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Flint and the 3643rd BSB commander, Lt. Col. Robert Stuart, came to see us off and wish us well. With their encouraging words, our convoy set off.

Our load included \$661,000 worth of equipment weighing in at around 42,000 pounds. Our team consisted of motor transport (88M), petroleum distribution (92F), and automated supply technician (92A) soldiers from A Company, 3643rd BSB, as well as our instructors from the National Maintenance Training Center at Camp Dodge. The 88-Mikes drove the trucks carrying the supplies with the aid of the 92-Alphas; the 92-Foxes provided support by conducting “refuel on the move” operations.

While on the road to Fort Riley, we faced mechanical failures on two trucks. We were able to perform self-recovery both times – a huge success in and of itself – and the mission continued. We also conducted fueling and rest stops along the way, and after 320 miles, we arrived.

After we made our delivery, we began our journey back, but not before a couple more snags challenged us. A semitrailer blew a wheel seal and could not be repaired or towed back to Camp Dodge. It was Murphy's Law at its finest: What can go wrong will go wrong. Without skipping a beat, we derived an immediate solution: load the inoperable trailer onto the other semi flatbed, chain it down and carry it back. We quickly performed this additional task and were back on the road.

We made it safely back to Camp Dodge without accident or injury, mainly due to the professionalism and care taken by all



Soldiers from Alpha Company, 3643rd Brigade Support Battalion, conduct refueling operations during annual training at the National Maintenance Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa, Oct. 16.

soldiers involved. We passed through Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, traveled over 640 miles and dispensed 1,016 gallons of fuel. Alpha Company and the fine instructors of the National Maintenance Training Center had successfully completed a real-world mission.

Every day in the U.S. Army is an adventure. There is always something new

to learn or a mission that needs to be accomplished, and the fine men and women with whom I serve prove to me every day what it means “To be an American soldier.” We may not work in our military occupational specialty every day, but when we can do what needs to be done, there is no greater reward than knowing that we have what it takes. ❖

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Like father, like daughter



Col. Leroy "Dutch" Dunkelberger receives his retirement pin from his daughter, Molly Dunkelberger, a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy, during his retirement ceremony in the Bapp Auditorium Nov. 3. Dunkelberger retired after 33 years of service. Photo: Tech. Sgt. Mark Wyatt, 157 ARW PA

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Battlefield medicine



Wayne Leclair, third from left, an emergency room physician in Peterborough, photographs the arrival of a N.H. Army National Guard Black Hawk during a 9-line medical evacuation exercise at the Regional Training Institute in Center Stafford on Sept. 14.

Photos: Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO

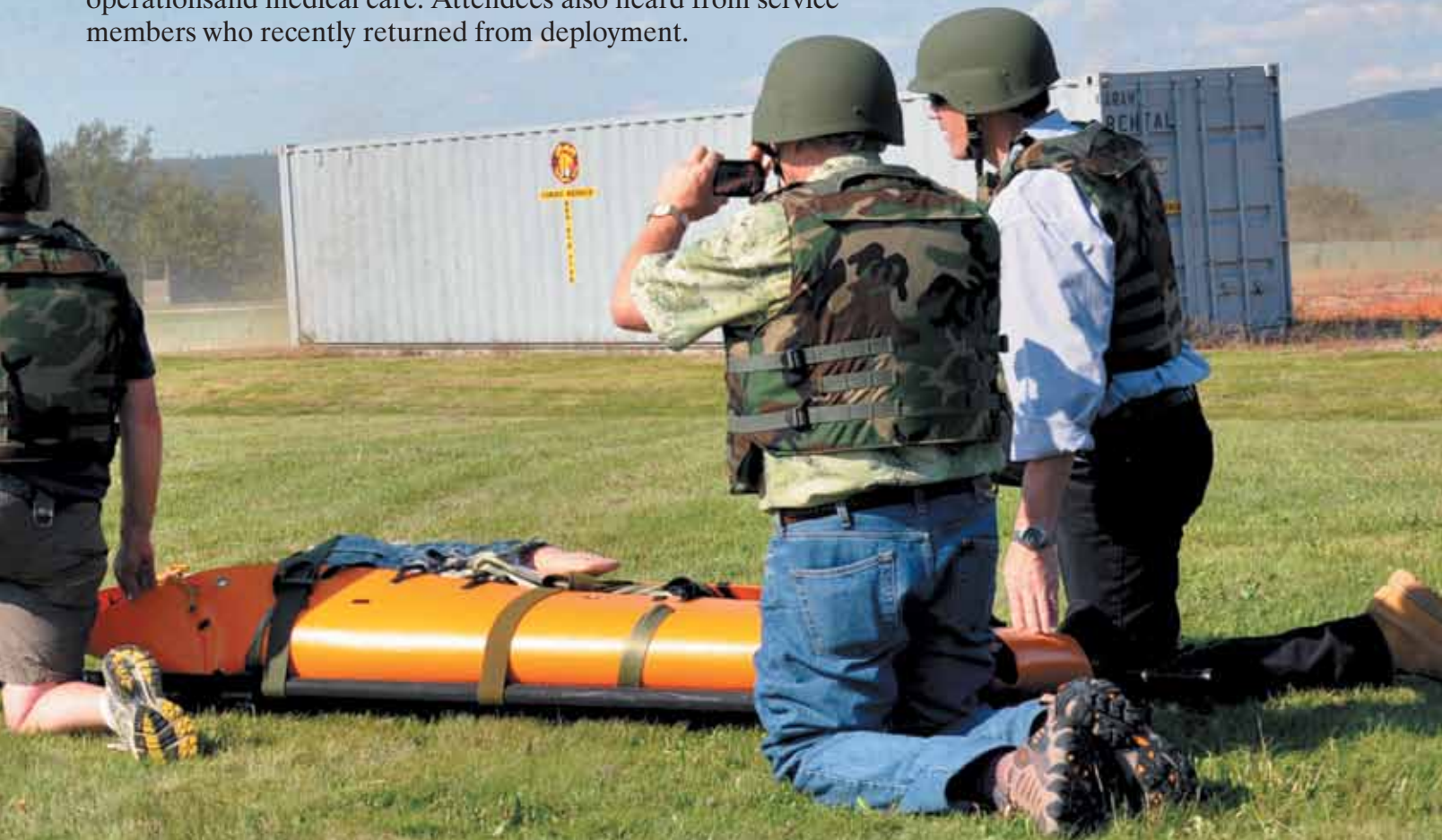


A tourniquet is fastened to the arm of Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jordan of the N.H. Army Guard during a medical evacuation exercise Sept. 14 at the Regional Training Institute in Center Stafford.



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jordan of the N.H. Army Guard discusses battlefield first aid during a medical evacuation exercise Sept. 14 at the Regional Training Institute in Center Stafford. More than 50 health care providers from across the state participated in a two-day military orientation hosted by the New Hampshire National Guard.

More than 50 community health care providers from around the state participated in a two-day military orientation hosted by the New Hampshire National Guard at the Regional Training Institute in Center Strafford on Sept. 14-15. The workshop included classes and demonstrations on all facets of combat operations and medical care. Attendees also heard from service members who recently returned from deployment.



1st Sgt. Kevin Shangraw provides instruction on a weapons trainer at the Regional Training Institute in Center Strafford on Sept. 14.

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Intern sees Guard in new light

By Amanda Mattoon

I began working as an intern in the Human Resources Office for the New Hampshire National Guard in early June. I arrived fresh out of Keene State College, where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in May. Five other interns and I were hired through the Workforce Recruitment Program, which provides federal employment opportunities for students with disabilities.

Together with John Wholey, a fellow HRO intern, I was assigned the time-consuming but important task of preparing personnel records for the transition to electronic personnel folders. This project included countless hours of sorting and organizing individual files and posing questions to our patient project leader, Chief Master Sgt. John Symington, aka "Chief," and other HRO staff.

The friendly and welcoming atmosphere at the NHNG is truly unique. Whether I was eating lunch outside and talking with our "TAG," Maj. Gen. William Reddel, or working out in the gym and chatting with Sgt. 1st Class Peter Messineo and Brig. Gen. Peter Corey, I enjoyed connecting with staff members on a regular basis. I also met with Sue Brown to learn about her work with Guard members. Sue introduced me to Chaplain Maj. Steve Veniotte, who offered kind words of encouragement about my job search and suggested employment opportunities that might interest me.

I loved laughing with employees each day: particularly during the HRO teambuilding event, when fierce and often funny competition rivaled "team" spirit; riding to the air refueling mission with Master Sgt. Kevin McElroy and fellow intern Justine in a Jeep; at Wellness Day, where the Wii station brought out the dancing alter egos of many who shall remain unnamed; and at the recent Hawaiian Luau, when Master Sgt. Kristine Poplar, Lt. Col. Charles Smith and I posed for a picture with a palm tree and tiki torch. Needless to say, there has been an abundance of fun to supplement the sometimes tedious eOPF project.

Thanks to the planning efforts of Capt. Daniel McCarroll and the support of the leadership, WRP interns had the opportunity to participate in many memorable events this summer, including a welcoming ceremony in the Hall of Flags, Family Day at the Pease air show, firearms training simulation at the Regional Training Institute, an air refueling mission and a farewell ceremony at Mission's End at Pease Air Base. These experiences allowed interns to connect with many National Guard members and to learn about the structure, function and mission of NHNG. While all of these experiences were wonderful, the air-refueling mission was absolutely breathtaking. The farewell ceremony on the same day was thoughtfully executed and included a supervisor speaking on behalf of each intern, as well as a presentation of a special Adjutant General coin and a T-shirt by Lt. Col. Rodney Freeman. It was a wonderful way to give closure to our experience this summer.

I also recently attended the military orientation training for brain injury professionals held at the RTI. During this event, we were divided into squads of eight people and given an IBA and helmet to wear for the day. The activities included presentations on traumatic brain injury, improvised explosive devices, weapons and the structure and history of the Guard. Other activities we experienced were using the virtual convoy trainer and the F.A.T.S. system, completing a medical practical using a SimMan® patient simulator, and staging a medevac flight. All summer I



Amanda Mattoon

dreamed of flying in a helicopter as I watched them go in and out of the Army Aviation Support Facility from my office window. I thus was more than excited to learn we would actually fly during this training. Just before our flight, while feeling the blast of air and vibration from spinning rotors and imagining what it might feel like in a real-life combat situation, I felt connected to the unique experiences of our soldiers and a tremendous amount of gratitude.

I thank Capt. McCarroll, Lt. Col. Freeman and others who brought the Workforce Recruitment Program to the NHNG for making this experience possible. The warm introduction, fun events and sweet farewell that my fellow WRP interns and I received this summer truly left an impression on me that will not be forgotten. To all soldiers and airmen who work here: thank you for your commitment to serving the state of New Hampshire and the United States of America. ❖


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A natural emissary



Col. Warren Perry, inspector general for the New Hampshire National Guard, engages children from the Christa McAuliffe School after speaking at a wreath-laying ceremony for President Franklin Pierce at the Old North Cemetery in Concord, Nov. 20. The wreath is sent annually from the White House and honors the president's date of birth and contributions serving in the country's highest office. Pierce was president from 1853 to 1857. He is New Hampshire's only president.

Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle, Deputy State PAO



Professor Saul Ortiz, right, Puerto Rico National Guard Language Center teacher, explains a verb to Staff Sgt. Derek Downey, center, as Tech. Sgt. Shawn Theberge, left, and 1st Lt. Craig Wike, all of the New Hampshire National Guard, listen, at Fort Allen in Puerto Rico in September. Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle

Learning to roll their R's

By 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle, Deputy State PAO

A small group of soldiers and airmen from the New Hampshire National Guard recently attended Spanish language training at Fort Allen, Puerto Rico, in preparation for an upcoming humanitarian mission to New Hampshire's state partnership country of El Salvador.

The Puerto Rican National Guard Language Center hosted an intensive, 12-day course, which was geared toward giving the New Englanders a basic proficiency of reading, writing and speaking Spanish.

In spite of a natural tendency for the Guardsmen to drop their R's rather than roll them, as is the proper technique with Spanish pronunciation, all seven managed to pass the course.

"The entire staff at the school was wonderful," Maj. Christine Tebbetts of Joint Force Headquarters said. "I knew absolutely no Spanish when I showed up for the course, and now I feel like I have some ability to communicate. I have a basic understanding of the language that will allow me to learn more."

"For our instructor to be able to teach us so much in such a short amount of time is kind of incredible," she added.

The language center was initially established to provide intensive, resident English language training for non-prior service soldiers to prepare them for basic training. One of the teachers, Saul Ortiz, explained that students who attend the school must be self-motivated. "Education is something that a student has to accept. It cannot be imposed," he said.

Puerto Rico's official languages are Spanish and English, with Spanish being the primary

language, according to Ortiz. The relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States dates back to the Spanish American War, in which Spain, under the terms of the Paris Treaty of 1898, ceded the island to the United States after more than 400 years of rule.

Ortiz has taught language from the junior high to college level, as well as teaching at the language center for 22 years.

"When I have a frustrated student, I will go by him in class as I am asking the students questions," he said. "I will go back to him later. It is easy for a teacher to see when the light comes on for the student."

The course standards are measured on a scale of zero to five on both listening and speaking. Level 1/1 is used as a minimal working proficiency and a 3/3 would allow a person to work professionally in a Spanish-speaking country. The school offers three phases of instruction with the ultimate goal of soldiers and airmen being able to speak Spanish as people actually speak it.

New Hampshire Guardsmen are being sent to the language school because the New Hampshire Guard has been tasked to command the partnership of America's collaboration and coordination element, or PACCE, for next year's Beyond The Horizon humanitarian exercise in El Salvador.

The joint foreign military mission sponsored by U.S. Army South runs four months and incorporates construction and engineering projects as well as medical and dental screenings for local civilians. The projects are planned and coordinated closely with multiple agencies and the host nation government. About 35 NHNG soldiers and airmen will constitute the PACCE. ❖

New Hampshire Guardsmen are being sent to language school because the New Hampshire Guard has been tasked to command the partnership of America's collaboration and coordination element for next year's Beyond The Horizon humanitarian exercise in El Salvador.



Senior Airman Chris Wood renders honors during the 2012 Veterans Day ceremony at the State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on Nov. 11.

Honoring the 1 percent

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Wyatt, 157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

About 300 people gathered at the State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on Nov. 11 to show their gratitude toward the small percentage of fellow Americans who have volunteered to serve in the military.

“The American veteran has done more than any other person or any other group in the world for the cause of freedom,” said U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte. “We thank that 1 percent for making the 99 percent of us safe.”

Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, the Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, reminded everyone that there are N.H. guardsmen deployed or preparing to deploy around the world.

“There are 27 citizen-soldiers that are currently deployed,” said Reddel. “Right now the 169th Medevac unit is down at Fort Hood preparing to deploy to Afghanistan, which they will do in about two weeks. There are also 120 citizen-soldiers that are ready to deploy to Afghanistan in February with the 237th Military Police Company.”

He also recognized the 125,000 veterans who live in New Hampshire.

“It’s why I’m wearing this uniform today,” said Reddel who was dressed in his airman battle uniform. “Because this is the uniform they go to war in. War has become background noise, but not to our veterans, not to those who serve. We wear this uniform for you.”

Also speaking at the event was retired U.S. Marine Corps 1st Sgt. Al Baldasaro, who is an Operation Desert Storm veteran and has a son serving in the military today.

“We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude that we can never pay,” said Baldasaro. “We do this by keeping the memory alive of those who have fallen and by taking care of veterans in their time of need.”

He went on to advocate for New Hampshire companies to hire veterans and help them after service to their nation.

“Veterans don’t ask for much,” said Baldasaro. “We must remember that our heroes who wear the uniform were sent on a mission to protect freedom.”

Also attending the ceremony were Gov. John Lynch, U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, and U.S. Reps. Frank Guinta and Charlie Bass.

“Thank you for allowing us to live in freedom,” said Lynch. “We can never repay the debt we owe you.” ❖



About 300 people gathered at the State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on Nov. 11 for the 2012 Veterans Day ceremony attended by state and military leadership.



Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, the Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, addresses about 300 people gathered at the State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on Nov. 11 for the 2012 Veterans Day ceremony.

Morale booster



President Barack Obama greets airmen of the 157th Air Refueling Wing, Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., Sept. 7. Photo: Tech. Sgt. Aaron Vezeau, 157 ARW PA

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N.H. Army National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj. John Nanof honors Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Considine for his years of dedicated and inspired leadership during Considine's retirement ceremony Oct. 14 at the Manchester armory. Considine relinquished responsibility of the 197th Fires Brigade, retiring after 31 years as an artilleryman in the New Hampshire National Guard. Photo: Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO

Army Promotions & Awards

Private 2

Maynard D. Aiken
Bryan J. Catalano
Corey T. Collins
Francis X. Dolan V
Marc A. Dunkerley
Dominic J. Fiaschetti II
Alex A. Fournier
Katelynne M. Greenwood
Benjamin M. Karasinski
Dylan J. Larocca
Lindsay M. Merrill
Spencer J. Noyes
Matthew P. Paradis
Jeremy W. Robb
Joseph A. Rocheleau
Danica A. Villeroz

Private First Class

Chad O. Brouillet
Donald H. Brown III

Joel C. Campbell
Christopher S. Cashman
Jamieson K. Dickinson
Shane M. Farmer
Jordan F. Horine
Colby M. Johnson
Crystal J. Kimball
Mark O'Brien
Ryan A. Peterson
Marc R. Preston
Christopher A. Sanders
Shawn M. Stephenson II
Michael D. Tibbetts

Specialist

Kristopher L. Adams
Justin D. Anzalone
Nicholas J. Bailey
Jennifer E. Boisvert
Ema E. Donlagic
Natasha L. Farrell

Joseph R. Green
Jacob C. Jewett
Brian P. Jones
Brittany J. Lamontagne
Ashley J. Maxner
Ryan T. McLaughlin
Hillary L. Oliver
Matthew R. Page
Bianca M. Rohr
Kyle A. Wright

Sergeant

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Brett J. Chaloux
Michael B. Chapman
Christopher C. Chouramanis
Donald M. Combs
Geoffrey M. Johnson
Jeffrey N. Key
Len A. Larrabee, Jr.
Chad M. Martin

Scott C. Penn
Jeremy W. Poole
Caleb J. Pride
Andrew J. Richardson
Arthur G. Weeks IV
Jordan A. Westgate

Staff Sergeant

Peter E. Davis
Rachel L. Robak

Sergeant First Class

Douglas W. Cheney
Gregory M. Gerbig
Michael D. Imondi
Andrew O. Perry
Ian J. Short

Master Sergeant

Kory L. McCauley

Sergeant Major

Galen G. Garretson

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Andrew M. Filiault
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Air Promotions & Awards

Airman

Nikki-Anne Healey 157 Student Flight
Francisco Esparza 157 Student Flight

Airman 1st Class

Cheyenne Liston 157 OSF

Senior Airman

Matthew Jackson 157 ARW
Gregory Lewis 157 CES
Joseph Riley 157 CES
Nicholas McPhee 157 CES
Nicholas Richard 157 CES
Kyle Charrette 157 CMF
Aaron Loring 157 CPTF
Thomas Moore 157 CPTF
James George 157 CPTF
Kimberly Brown 157 FSS
Stephanie Metivier 157 MXG
Devin Godfrey 157 SFS
Jason Bryant 157 SFS
Neil Brown 157 SFS

Staff Sergeant

Thomas Demers 157 CES
Mark Quinn 157 CES
Alexa Schimmel 157 MDG
Patrick Petersen 157 MXS
Autumn-Rose Clark 157 SFS
Christopher Drake 157 SFS
Cory Sheckler 157 SFS
Paul Lawrence 157 SFS
John Pepper 157 SFS
Timothy Hackett 157 SFS

Technical Sergeant

Kenneth Hoyt 157 CES
James Moore 157 CES
Gabriel Howard 157 CMF
Amy Waterhouse 157 FSS
Kent Bushaw 157 FSS
Brian Roberge 157 FSS
Joseph Berube 157 LRS
Martin Simon 157 LRS
Michael Zayac 157 LRS
Daniel Demers 157 LRS
Jeremy Cox 157 MXG
Melanie Richter 260 ATC
William McCollum 260 ATC
Ryan Phillips 260 ATC

Master Sergeant

Jeffrey Delorey 157 MDG
Andrew Torgerson, II 157 MXG
Robert Worcester 260 ATC
William Hoover 260 ATC

Senior Master Sergeant

Mark Foster 157 CES
Todd Buttrick 157 CES
Frederick Balas 157 CMF
Tammy Lakemper 157 FSS
Joseph Madore 157 MDG
Jason Laferte 157 MXG
Eugene Clark 157 MXG
Michael Plowman, Jr. 260 ATC



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