

NEW HAMPSHIRE

# National Guard

MAGAZINE

Fall 2010

**197th**  
**begins journey**

Story on page 14

Photo: Spc. Karin Leach



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*Cover: Soldiers deploying with the 197th Fires Brigade to Kuwait stand to be recognized at their deployment ceremony at the Verizon Wireless Center, Manchester, N.H., on Sept. 11. Photo: Spc. Karin Leach*

<https://www.nh.ngb.army.mil>

**Submissions:** We encourage story and photo submissions. Please send articles and photos with cutlines to:

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# Carter earns her star

By Capt. Sherri Pierce, 157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Twenty four years ago as a second lieutenant, Deborah Carter recalls thinking she could make major before retiring. Today, she is a brigadier general and the first female general officer in the New Hampshire National Guard.

"It is very humbling," Brig. Gen. Carter said. "It has clearly exceeded my dreams."

Brig. Gen. Carter joined the military in 1979 for the educational benefits and never expected to make it a career. After four years of active duty service and prior to joining the NHNG, Brig. Gen. Carter had an eight-month break in service which made her rethink the idea. She missed the camaraderie. "The military felt like home to me," she said.

As the first female general officer in the NHNG, Brig. Gen. Carter has certainly inspired other female officers. "I had two junior officers in separate conversations tell me they want to be a general someday and now they know it is possible," she said. "I am glad to see junior officers, male or female, have big dreams for their future."

Being a general is definitely a new experience, Brig. Gen. Carter said. Since her promotion, "people's initial reaction is usually tense then when I was a colonel." In one encounter a service member asked, "Is someone in trouble?"

"I tried to reassure him that no one was in trouble and that generals do not always come around when someone is in trouble," she explained.

On the upside, being a general gives Brig. Gen. Carter an opportunity to access decision makers on strategic issues like future missions and needed resources for current missions. "A lot of my time will be working at the national level to keep the NHNG ready, reliable and relevant in the future," she said.

Mentoring young officers is also key for the future, according to Brig. Gen. Carter. "I believe that mentorship is a core responsibility of leadership," she says. "I listen a lot and share my experience. I am not afraid to share where I went wrong and what I learned from it," she said. "It doesn't mean I am always right, but it gives younger officers a broader look."

"Those I mentor know I don't do it for free. Each one has to guarantee me they will mentor at least one person or more in their career," she added.

During her 31 years of service, Brig. Gen. Carter has had a lot of opportunities to serve in many different capacities. A big



Brig. Gen. Deborah Carter's father, Gene Gelinas, and his wife, Helen, replace colonel epaulets with brigadier general epaulets during her promotion ceremony May 28.

part of her career has been working on reunion and reentry. Brig. Gen. Carter recalled one deployment in 2004 when the Army National Guard sent 850 soldiers overseas to combat.

"It was a big eye opener," she said. "Soldiers and families in 'boots on the ground' combat missions willingly sacrificed on many fronts. I was proud of their professionalism and willingness to serve, with many tours lasting 15-18 months in very dangerous situations."

One of her favorite trips was a deployment to Panama in the early 1990's as part of Joint Task Force Rushmore where she was the services commander. About her first experience in the joint environment, Brig. Gen. Carter said, "We did a lot of great humanitarian efforts with local villages and built some well-needed roads. It was a great deployment."

Most recently, she returned from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan, where she worked with U.S. and NATO forces and the U.S. Embassy on civil-military efforts at the strategic level.

Brig. Gen. Carter was promoted in a ceremony May 28. Her daughter and son-in-law, Tiffany and Dana Lafarier, assisted in pinning on her stars. Her son, Senior Airman Phillip Carter, rendered her first salute as a general officer. Brig. Gen. Carter acknowledged many people who supported her during her career and without whom she could never have been as successful.

Brig. Gen. Carter genuinely believes that 92 percent of a good life is picking the right mate. Her husband, Kevin, is her "biggest supporter, biggest critic and best friend." Also in attendance at the ceremony to celebrate the special day were Carter's sisters, Rosey Gelinas and Maria Cardenas, and brother, Bob Gelinas. ❖



Brig. Gen. Carter's son, Phillip, son-in-law, Dana Lafarier, and daughter, Tiffany Lafarier, wait for her promotion ceremony to begin May 28.



From left: Senior Airman Phillip Carter, Senior Master Sgt. Carlos Cardenas, Brig. Gen. Deborah Carter, Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Carter, Chief Warrant Officer Dave Tibbetts, and Capt. Dana Lafarier.

# 238th returns from yearlong deployment

By Kathryn Marchock, Courtesy of the New Hampshire Union Leader

**CONCORD** – Sixty National Guard soldiers, who spent most of their 12-month deployment in Iraq, returned to a grateful state, a salute from their commanders for a job well done, and tears and tenderness from loved ones on Aug. 18.

“Welcome back, 238,” New Hampshire Army National Guard commander Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett told the men and women of C Company, 3/238th Medevac regiment.

Bennett said the medical evacuation regiment’s return from a 10-month deployment in Iraq is the best a commander could ask for.

“Every soldier [is] home safely with an incredible performance record in the field. Job well done, folks,” he said.

Gov. John Lynch also thanked the Guardsmen “for your service, for your bravery and your courage.”

But it was after the troops were dismissed in the noisy swirl of embraces, tears and children leaping into their parents’ arms, that the depth of their sacrifice became evident.

“It’s overwhelming ... now we will be a whole family again,” Concord mother of five Unity Dienes said of her husband, 1st Lt. Klee Dienes, a Black Hawk helicopter pilot.

Little Nate Dienes, 4, locked his hands around his smiling father’s neck and wouldn’t let go while his 1-year-old sister, Irene, stayed close by.

“She doesn’t even know him. Daddy is just a name to her,” her mother said.

Mothers and wives reacted to their civilian soldiers’ return with sighs of relief as if they had been waiting to exhale for 12 months.

“It’s wonderful. I can’t wait to get my arms around him,” Cathy Rouleau of West Milan said of her son, 1st Lt. Matthew Rouleau, a Black Hawk helicopter pilot.

“He had a great year. It’s wonderful to know that things are a lot calmer out there (Iraq) since when my husband went.

They’re making a difference,” she added.

The homecomings are familiar occurrences for Cathy Rouleau, whose two daughters, Christie and Jenna, have completed multiple deployments as full-time Air National Guardsmen, and whose husband, Jerry, is preparing for his second deployment with the Army National Guard on Sept. 11.

And she is grateful for every one of them.

Jerry Rouleau, a command sergeant major, offered a simple reason for his family’s service. “God, family and country. In that order,” he said.

Denise Lugg wore a red dress and carried a bouquet of red roses as she weaved her way through the crush of families, soldiers and media until she found her soldier husband and wrapped her arms around him. The two held each other close as if they were the only ones in the room.

“It’s emotional,” Denise Lugg of Barrington said of her husband Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Lugg’s safe return.

And the roses?

“It’s kind of our thing,” the pretty blonde explained.

“When we were dating, he lived in New Jersey, and every Friday night, he would come up and bring me roses. So I thought this was appropriate,” said Lugg, who has been married nearly 16 years.

Bennett said it’s unfortunate not everyone in the nation has the same level of appreciation for the men and women who “go about our business fighting our nation’s wars.”

“The sacrifices that you make, although not acknowledged by perhaps all Americans, are acknowledged by us in this room. We couldn’t thank you enough,” Bennett said.

For Dienes, the honor was all his.

“It’s been a wonderful experience. I signed up because I wanted to help people, and I had the opportunity to help, not only injured people, but to look after our team in Iraq,” said Dienes, 37, an engineer in civilian life. ♦



Families welcome home members of the 238th. Photo: Warrant Officer Candidate Luke Koladish

# Local teacher visits El Salvador to promote partnership

By Heather Rosenbleeth, Bow High School

This past August, I was granted the tremendous honor and privilege of being invited to travel with Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, the Adjutant General, State of New Hampshire, and five other New Hampshire Guardsmen during a visit to El Salvador. My role was to be a representative of the partnership that the Centro Escolar Dr. Salvador Mendieta School in San Jose Villa Nueva and Bow High School in Bow, N.H., established through the New Hampshire National Guard. This proved to be one of the most extraordinary experiences of my lifetime. I was given the unique opportunity of seeing behind-the-scenes diplomacy of friendship building between the United States and our allies in El Salvador.

On our first day, this adventure took me to the U.S. Embassy where I witnessed the Change of Command Ceremony between Col. Arie D. Bogaard and Col. Carlos A. Figueroa. During the ceremony, Bogaard was presented with the New Hampshire National Guard Distinguished Service Medal by the New Hampshire Guard. Having visited New Hampshire as a child made this particularly meaningful to him. I found one of the most striking parts of the ceremony to be the seamless inclusion of both English and Spanish in the presentation. This was in large part due to the strong presence and support shown by the Salvadoran military for both of our men being honored. This alone spoke volumes for the friendship that has formed between the United States and El Salvador, and I was proud that our country made it such a warm welcoming event for everyone to celebrate.

Over the course of the next day and a half, I accompanied the New Hampshire military group to a luncheon with El Salvador's minister of defense and chief of defense, various meetings at the U.S. Embassy, and a visit to the 1st and 2nd Air Brigade. We received a tour of their hangars and fleet of aircraft, a military briefing outlining their goals and the challenges they face, and the customary exchange of gifts. Having had limited knowledge of military interactions such as these, I found them to be fascinating.

However, without a doubt one of the highlights of the journey was the time we spent at the school in San Jose Villa Nueva. The enthusiastic excitement that



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. John Nanof, left rear, and Col. Paul Hutchinson, pose with children from the Centro Escolar Dr. Salvador Mendieta School in San Jose Villa Nueva during a visit to El Salvador in August. Heather Rosenbleeth is kneeling in the front row. Photo: Maj. Brian Fernandes

greeted us made us feel like rock stars arriving to the cheers of enamored fans. Within moments of stepping out of our vehicle, I saw a familiar face – Carlos Leonel Navidad, a teacher with whom I had worked on many projects between the two schools over the past year. We navigated the crowd at the gate toward one another – his outstretched arms a symbol of all that we had accomplished in a year.

As he hugged me, his eyes were filled with tears. With great emotion he told me that he felt as if I were one of his sisters who lived in the United States returning for a visit, then he said, “Welcome home.”

As our entire group, including Robert Blau, acting ambassador, Maj. Gen. Reddel, the rest of our military group and a handful of press entered the gate,

*(Continued on page 28)*



Heather Rosenbleeth, a teacher from Bow High School, conducts her pre-flight in a Salvadoran military aircraft during her visit in August. Photo: Maj. Brian Fernandes

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# 157th ARW hosts international training event

By Capt. Sherri Pierce  
157th Air Refueling Wing

Members from Tajikistan's Ministry of Defense and the Committee on Emergency Situations spent four days in July observing training at the 157th Air Refueling Wing at Pease Air National Guard Base.

The purpose of the visit was to assist Tajikistan in developing emergency response procedures and enhance training to strengthen their disaster response capabilities.

The event focused specifically on how the 157th Air Refueling Wing handles emergency situations, including aircraft emergencies, command and control issues, doctrine, and training. It was also an opportunity for the Tajiks to see how the New Hampshire National Guard works in conjunction with state agencies in responding to domestic emergencies and disasters.

This event is one of many held by Air Force Central Command. "But it is the first to try to encompass all agencies that respond to emergencies on an airfield," said Major Devin Pietrzak, AFCENT representative from Shaw Air Force Base.

"We are happy to learn from you since you have responded to natural calamities and rendered assistance," said Col.



Abdusator Khushuakhtor, head of the Committee on Emergency Situations in Tajikistan, closes off a waterline that is used to refill the tank on a crash vehicle during his visit to Pease Air National Guard Base in June. Photo: Capt. Sherri Pierce



Tech. Sgt. Saul Davidson, assistant installation emergency manager, demonstrates how to use a Multi-Rae which detects a variety of toxic and combustible gases and oxygen levels before entering a potentially hazardous environment. Photo: Tech. Sgt. Aaron Vezeau

Abdusator Khushuakhtor, who heads the Committee of Emergency Situations in Tajikistan. "This is one of the missions we want to fulfill."

The group started the week with a tour of the Pease Fire Department and a demonstration of its equipment. According to Khushuakhtor, Tajikistan's emergency response vehicles are equipped with only a single type of fire suppressant such as chemicals, foam or water but are not as robust as a Pease crash truck which houses all three. In addition, the Pease crash truck contains a nose turret which the Tajiks saw for the first time.

During their visit, they also met with the 157th ARW's Emergency Management shop members, who demonstrated the variety of equipment the base has to

combat chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents.

"Citizens of New Hampshire can rest assured that people will be protected because this unit is performing its (emergency response) function," said Col. Nuriddin Safarov of the Ministry of Defense, after viewing the capabilities of the EM shop.

The week included visits and briefings from other shops involved with disaster response and mitigation such as the Wing's Risk Management Office and Security Forces Squadron. The Tajiks also visited the air traffic control tower which manages both civilian and military air traffic at Pease and were shown how to fly a KC-135 Stratotanker using the flight simulator. ❖

An advertisement for Eastern Nazarene College. It features a photograph of a man in a military uniform and sunglasses, identified as Milke Kent. The text reads: "...to inspire citizens of the world". Below the photo, it says "Eastern Nazarene College" and "Discover your purpose". At the bottom right, it says "Milke Kent, Class of 2008 First Sergeant, currently deployed www.enc.edu/success".

# New Hampshire marksmen compete

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Wyatt, 157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Some of New Hampshire's most accomplished shooters squared off Aug. 21-22 during the New Hampshire National Guard Combat Marksmanship Competition at U.S. Army Base Fort Devens in Devens, Mass.

Competing against one another, N.H. soldiers and airmen vied for coveted slots on the N.H. Combat Squad to compete at the New England Warrior Challenge/The National Guard Marksmanship Advisory Council Region 1 Regional Competition in September.

Although participants were competitive, the real goal of the shootout was to provide valuable training that could mean the difference between life and death while deployed.

"This training could ultimately save some soldier's life," said Iraqi war veteran Sgt. 1st Class Jon Worrall, medically retired from the N.H. National Guard after being struck by an individual explosive device during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. He now volunteers to help train Guard members.

"Marksmanship skills are vital to survival on the battlefield. Even though marksmanship is a basic soldiering skill, it's one of the most perishable soldier skills we train," said Maj. Roy Hunter, chief of the Sustainment Training Branch. "We specialize in developing, mastering and maintaining these skills in soldiers and airmen in the National Guard."



New Hampshire team members participate in the 2010 Combat Marksmanship Competition at U.S. Army Base Fort Devens in Devens, Mass., August 21-22. Team members fire from a 200-yard rapid fire kneeling position once targets appear.

Photo: TSgt. Mark Wyatt

In the foreground, a "Governor's Twenty" patch identifies the state's top shooters in the competition. In the background, Staff Sgt. Jacob Poole, New Hampshire's second "Double Distinguished" shooter, instructs participants during the 2010 Combat Marksmanship competition at U.S. Army Base Fort Devens in Devens, Mass., August 21-22.

Photo: TSgt. Mark Wyatt



“The yearlong training involved with this program is the culmination of hard work and dedication among the competitors,” said Hunter. “We ask that each individual attend most, if not all, training events. To really become distinguished, it takes much more practice – all the ‘good’ shooters practice on their own.”

A perfect example of the hard work and dedication necessary to achieve success is Staff Sgt. Jacob Poole, New Hampshire’s second soldier to achieve a “double distinguished” designation since the competition’s inception in 1884. This distinction is earned for superior marksmanship. It is nationally recognized and a U.S. Army distinguished designation.

Poole earned his impressive distinction in both rifle and pistol, and now serves as a training instructor and mentor to other N.H. Guard personnel.

“What we do here competitively adds stress. Other than being fired at with live rounds, it’s the best way to simulate stress in an actual combat environment,” he said. “This training will prove incredibly valuable while deployed.”

The weekend’s top performers for combat rifle, combat pistol and overall top gun scores are as follows:

High scores for Top Combat Rifle, with a possible score of 430: Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Blair, with a score of 290, Army Staff Sgt. Robert Pinard, 269, and Tech. Sgt. Michael Bane, 262.



Staff Sgt. Robert Pinard sets the sights on his rifle as he prepares to fire from a 200-yard position during the 2010 Combat Marksmanship Competition, August 21-22, U.S. Army Base Fort Devens, Devens, Mass. Photo: TSgt. Mark Wyatt



Capt. Joshua Pierce fires the M-16 rifle during competition at the 2010 Combat Marksmanship competition at U.S. Army Base Fort Devens in Devens, Mass., August 21-22. Team members fire from a 200-yard standing position once targets appear. Photo: TSgt. Mark Wyatt

High scores for Top Combat Pistol with a total possible score of 500: Bane, with a score of 451, Blair, 402, and Spc. Steven Dahms, 398.

Achieving the overall Top Gun distinction for the weekend’s competition were Bane, with a score of 713, Blair, 692, and Army Capt. Maurice Sampson, 627. ❖

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# New Hampshire National Guard enriched by its history

## *Heritage Tour visits three Revolutionary War battle sites*

By Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas E. Graham II  
NHNG Historian

The dispatch was brief: examine every person coming into the fort and be vigilant against all force and stratagem.

Capt. John Cochrane, the British commander of the small New Hampshire fort pondered the message and weighed his options. Munitions he had – cannon and muskets – but no manpower to use them.

The tense night rolled into another cold, gray December day.

Cochrane was unexpectedly visited by several locals, and throughout the day, a small crowd grew outside the fort. By afternoon, it had become a mob of 400 men and boys, and the purpose of the governor's dispatch became clear: they had come for the powder.

The armed conflict soon began, yet the deadly force miraculously failed to take anyone on either side. The mob quickly overcame Cochrane and his five defenders, but before they liberated 99 barrels of powder, they hauled down the giant flag representing British sovereignty over the fort and the colony. The American Revolution was under way.

Members of the New Hampshire Army and Air National Guard recently visited their roots with a tour of Fort Constitution – the location of this formative event. After being welcomed by the New Hampshire Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, they listened to Tom Kehr describe the events of

Dec. 14, 1774, as they unfolded; and they contemplated the treason committed by the crowd of civilians and militiamen.

Continuing on to Bunker Hill in Massachusetts, the Guard members learned of New Hampshire Col. John Stark's raw courage and coolness under fire and of his tactical foresight in employing his N.H. troops to the left flank, preventing the British from completely surrounding the earthen fort atop Breed's Hill – the site of the battle. They learned that it was Stark, (not Col. Prescott), who came closest to uttering the phrase, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes." Stark had, in fact, placed a stake at 30 paces and commanded his men not to fire until the British passed that mark.

As the Guard members stood on the hill top, it took imagination to envision the battlefield through the many tenements surrounding the grassy park. However, they left with a sense of pride at the heroism of their ancestors, who took on the first wave of British attackers that day, and under John Stark's leadership, were the last off the field, providing covering fire for the rest of the Continental Army's retreat from the over-run fort.

The final stop of the day was a visit to the skirmish sites of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. There the group saw the original statue of the Minute Man – now the symbol of the National Guard. As with Bunker Hill, the battle scene at Concord had changed, but due more to Mother Nature. Two hundred years ago, vacant of trees, Militia Maj. Buttrick could see the town from his vantage point above the North Bridge. Mistakenly



New Hampshire National Guard soldiers and airmen gather around a diorama of Bunker Hill, Mass., as U.S. Park Ranger Bob Hall describes the events that happened on June 17, 1775, during the Siege of Boston during the American Revolution. The service members took part in a history tour of battlefields in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Attila Fazekas

thinking the town was being torched, he ordered the march to the bridge where he commanded his British colonists to fire on their fellow British subjects. The ensuing “shot heard around the world” was fired as the militia pushed the British troops back to the town.

The Guard participants were asked to contemplate the outcome of this historic battle based on the absence of organization, communication, command structure, etc. One of the highlights for many of the modern day militia was a firing demonstration. Like a ghost from the past, a reenactor clad in homespun and armed with a musket followed the commands of the manual of arms:

- *Shoulder your firelock*
- *Prepare to prime and load*
- *Make ready*
- *Present*
- *Fire!*

The idea for the Heritage Tour is loosely based on an Army Staff Ride, in which participants must learn the main characters of a historic battle, the weapons used, and the sequence of the action, gaining an understanding of how the terrain impacted the battle by standing on the actual spot of the fighting.

A Staff Ride also provides an opportunity to examine the tactics of both sides, using the principles of war – massing of troops, clear objective, unity of command, etc. – to see whether the battle outcome might have been different if specific principles of war had been better employed.

Military leadership can win or lose a battle, and it is taught throughout the branches of service starting at basic training. The Staff Ride’s final purpose is to examine leadership styles demonstrated on both sides of the battle. This unique experiential teaching method helps develop good leadership skills in today’s



*A presenter describes to N.H. National Guard troops the significance of Fort Constitution, N.H., and the events that unfolded there prior to the start of the American Revolution during a visit to the site. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Attila Fazekas*

military leaders, making them better decision makers on a modern battlefield.

Though not a Staff Ride, the Heritage Tour provided similar benefits to its National Guard participants. As Gen. Patton said, “To be a successful soldier, you must know history.” During the tour, approximately 50 of New Hampshire’s Army and Air Guard members were brought together and presented with their history, a common heritage to be proud of – while also instilling in them leadership skills which will turn them into better citizens, soldiers, and airmen, as they write the history they are making today. ❖

# They've been there

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# Deployment Cycle Support / Yellow Ribbon Program aims to re-integrate soldiers

By Spc. Richard Frost, 114th PAD

Soldiers of the New Hampshire National Guard stepped off the aircraft onto U.S. soil for the first time in several months. They had been deployed to Iraq for a one-year tour, separated from their family and friends. Then their re-integration began.

Citizen soldiers have been leaving their homes to fight since the birth of our nation, and the NHNG has placed a great deal of focus on caring for these individuals during the entire deployment cycle.

The NHNG Deployment Cycle Support/Yellow Ribbon Program was created for the purpose of effectively preparing service members for their deployments and re-introducing them into their old lives as they return home. The program affords a variety of services to military members, ranging from counseling individuals as they reconnect with loved ones to re-establishing contact with debtors.

But New Hampshire has been on the cutting edge, employing a unique, comprehensive and personal support structure that has placed it in the national spotlight as a model for other states to support their military members.

“No one else that we know of has the one-on-one system that we currently have in place,” said Col. Rick Greenwood, Stratham, director of manpower and personnel at NHNG Joint Force Headquarters.

Service members can call an 800 number, any time of day or night, and they are connected to a DCSP staff person who will then personally walk that individual through any concern they may have. If it is warranted, the staff person can also recommend a care coordinator, who will contact the service member directly and provide even further assistance. Currently, there are over 90 care coordinators on staff available to assist military members and their loved ones.

“One of the care coordinator’s main goals is to get to know you, because in getting to know you and listening, they can offer the best assistance,” Greenwood said.

“It’s not about you,” are the words Greenwood says to every one of his DCSP personnel while they are being trained to assist service members and their families.

This program is not limited to current, active duty military members and their families. It offers assistance to retired personnel, regardless of branch, and anyone a New Hampshire military member feels has a significant impact on their lives, Greenwood said.

“My fiancée and I took a lot out of the training and counseling we received, and it really helped us understand how we each felt about this deployment,” said Pfc. Justin Smith, Derry, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 3/197th Field Artillery. “Meeting the family care coordinator in person was also very helpful,” Smith said.

And since his fiancée is expecting a child soon, knowing she will have contact with someone in the program while he is deployed is a great relief, he added.

Preparing service members for their deployment has made a huge impact on the lives of many other military members and their families as well, according to Maj. Mary Hennessey, program manager of the NHNG Deployment Cycle Support/Yellow Ribbon Program.

“We’ve gone much further than just checking the box,” Hennessey said. “The NHNG looked at where the greatest strengths were in the current mental health system in our state, and employed these subject matter experts to provide the best possible care for service members and their families.”

This care is combined with education and follow-through in an effort to cure the root of the issue, not just put a Band-Aid on the symptom, Hennessey said.

“The effort it takes to do this could not occur without the collaborative way New Hampshire looks at, approaches and works to address the needs of service members and their loved ones,” Hennessey said

If you are a service member in need of any assistance, an information line is available 24 hours a day at 1-800-472-0328. This phone number will connect to a DCSP staff member who can provide further information and guidance, as well as connect an individual to their own care coordinator. ❖



Pfc. Justin Smith, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 3/197th Field Artillery, sits closely with his fiancée, Jaime Bilek, both of Derry. Smith is in his pre-deployment phase and participated in Yellow Ribbon Program activities on May 22 at the Red Jacket Mountain View Resort in North Conway. The Deployment Cycle Support/Yellow Ribbon Re-integration Program of the New Hampshire National Guard hosted the seminars and activities to provide information about resources available to deployed service members and their families. Photo: Spc. Rick Frost

*Service members in need of any assistance,  
can contact the 24-hour information line at  
**1-800-472-0328.***

# New Hampshire sends 197th to Kuwait

By Spc. Courtney Selig, 114th PAD

On Sept. 11, New Hampshire temporarily said goodbye to members of the 197th Fires Brigade as they headed toward deployment in Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn.

More than 8,000 friends and family members gathered at the Verizon Wireless

Arena in Manchester, N.H., for the departure ceremony of the largest single-unit deployment since World War II.

“When you talk to our warriors, they will tell you that their ultimate hope is that their fight will be the last,” said Maj. Gen. William Reddell III, the Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, during the ceremony. “That they

*Soldiers deploying with the 197th Fires Brigade to Kuwait stand to be recognized at their deployment ceremony at the Verizon Wireless Center, Manchester, N.H., on Sept. 11. Photo: Spc. Karin Leach*



*Col. Peter Corey, commander of the 197th, speaks to soldiers, families and members of the public at the 197th Departure Ceremony on Sept. 11. In the background is the Commander in Chief of the N.H. National Guard, Gov. John Lynch; the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William Reddell III; and to the right, the Commander of the N.H. Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Craig E. Bennett. Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle*





have taken up the cause so that their children and grandchildren don't have to. We aspire toward lasting peace, although history shows us that victory has been a temporary condition."

The families and troops stood and applauded the commander of the 197th as he took the stage.

"I know that many tears will be shed as loved ones and soldiers say their final goodbyes," said Col. Peter Corey, commander of the 197th Fires Brigade. "But I ask that you cry only half of those tears, and save the rest for tears of joy when we return."

The brigade's mission is diverse. They are responsible for managing the

base sustainment for all, or portions of, the five U.S. camps in Kuwait. Their support includes, but is not limited to, power generation, food services, water, housing and engineering. Soldiers will be stationed across these camps in Kuwait.

In addition to these services, the 197th's role is also to ensure the free, safe and secure movement of U.S. supplies and personnel throughout Kuwait and, to a small degree, Iraq. Specifically, they will provide convoy security, personnel movement security, quick reaction forces, area security, border crossing security, limited training with Kuwaiti forces, and effective command and control of all brigade and assigned units.

"It's been a long time coming," said Lt. Col. Nicholas Adler, Portland, Maine, HHB, 197th Fires Brigade. "Our goal is to complete the mission and bring everyone home safe. We're citizen-soldiers, doing what our founding fathers were trying to do."

Kuwait is the strategic gateway for all service members and equipment entering and exiting Iraq as well as many of those entering and exiting Afghanistan. This vital mission clearly contributes to U.S. goals in the region.

Spc. Greg Tufts of Raymond, N.H., 744th Forward Support Company, is supporting this mission as a medic.

"While I'm in Kuwait, I'll be able to increase my knowledge and become a more proficient medic for my fellow soldiers around me," said Tufts "Someday, I even hope to be a better paramedic than my mother. I'm eager to leave to put the skills I've learned to the test. I feel honored to be deploying with fellow soldiers from our state to support our country and the New Hampshire state motto, 'Live Free or Die.'" ♦



*Spc. Erin Howard, Concord, N.H., 372nd Signal Company, catches her giggling daughter, Skylar, in the air shortly after participating in the 197th Fires Brigade deployment ceremony at the Verizon Wireless Center, Manchester, N.H., on Sept. 11.*  
Photo: Spc. Karin Leach



*Families supporting loved ones place their hands over their hearts as the National Anthem rings throughout the Verizon Wireless Arena on Sept. 11. The event was attended by thousands of family and friends and more than 700 soldiers from New Hampshire's 197th Fires Brigade.* Photo: Sgt. Rick Frost



*Soldiers deploying with the 197th Fires Brigade to Kuwait stand to be recognized at their deployment ceremony at the Verizon Wireless Center, Manchester, N.H. on Sept. 11.* Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle



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# Hometown HEROES Saluted

By Tech. Sgt. Angela Stebbins, JFHQ PA

The 157th Air Refueling Wing held their first N.H. National Guard Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony Aug. 27 at Pease Air National Guard Base. The ceremony recognized approximately 300 airmen who have deployed since Sept. 11, 2001, and also acknowledged those family and community members who have supported the airmen during deployment.

“A Guardsman and wingman sit on a four-legged stool of support: the legs are the family, the community, the employer and the Guard,” said Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, the Adjutant General of the N.H. National Guard. “While the member is sitting on that stool, they are balancing three balls: their family, their job and the Guard. It is kind of tricky ... sometimes you have to juggle some really close, and sometimes you have to throw a ball way up in the sky, and the hope is you are going to catch that ball before it gets down to the ground,” he said.

During the ceremony, each airman received a rosewood-encased, framed, personalized letter of appreciation from Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard. The commemorative Hometown Heroes Salute coin was also enclosed in the frame.

“It is good to recognize everybody that has gone overseas and served,” said award recipient Master Sgt. James O’Brien.

In addition, airmen with a spouse, significant other and/or children received recognition awards to present to them. A spouse or significant other received a Hometown Heroes Salute-engraved rosewood pen and pencil set, and the children received unique sets of personalized Hometown Heroes Salute dog tags.

“Never did we who served ever forget the reason we could go and do our job with a total focus on the mission. We were



Retired Master Sgt. Nancy A. Young, center, receives her Hometown Hero award from Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, The Adjutant General, left, as Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, looks on Aug. 27 at Pease Air National Guard Base. Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle

always able to do what we did in large part because of those who kept the home fires burning,” said William Cray, a disabled Vietnam veteran and a representative for the Somersworth, N.H., Employment Security Office. “To celebrate the sacrifices that every person who supports or serves our nation is an incredible idea long overdue, and to recognize the whole support system ... is to be applauded.”

“I applaud the extra effort to openly recognize the spouses and children for their extensive family separations,” said retired Master Sgt. Charles “Chuck” Handren. “I definitely felt the need to respond and acknowledge this very positive program.” ❖

*“To celebrate the sacrifices that every person who supports or serves our nation is an incredible idea long overdue, and to recognize the whole support system ... is to be applauded.”*

– William Cray, Vietnam Veteran

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# The long road ahead

By Terri Ouellet for New Hampshire ToDo Magazine, August, 2010  
(www.nhtodo.com.)

Three years ago, I brought you my own story of deployment as my husband was mobilized to Afghanistan. Now, two years after his return, I am about to say goodbye again: in September, he will depart to Kuwait on a one-year mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (editor's note: now known as Operation New Dawn). I am in the ranks of about 700 families this time, the largest single-unit mobilization in New Hampshire's history, and I found three other family members willing to share their experiences and their plans for weathering the storm through a year of separation from their soldiers.

Here are their stories.



*Cheyanne, Chris and young Ethan Thompson face Chris' upcoming deployment to Kuwait. Chris will deploy as a commanding officer for Alpha Battery.*



*Ethan Thompson.*

"The one thing that makes our relationship strong enough for a long-term separation is trust and honesty," she said. "Writing love letters and phone calls also help. I have been with Chris through basic training, officer basic course, and the one deployment to Iraq. Our strong commitment and open communication to each other keeps us strong."

During the last deployment, Chris was able to use video chat to keep in touch. The family is hoping for the same ability while he is in Kuwait. Chris will deploy as a commanding officer for Alpha Battery, a unit based in Berlin.

Newly married Rachel Whitaker will experience life during deployment for the first time as her husband, Scott, a first lieutenant for Alpha Battery, serves as a platoon leader overseas. Rachel said the two have been through short-term separations before, and Scott's ability to communicate has been a great asset to staying close, especially during a six-month stint in Oklahoma

for Basic Officer Leaders Course training.

"His training in Fort Sill was tough for me to start off with, but Scott is a really good communicator (although it took a little bit of time for us both to adjust to communicating mostly via phone), and that is a big help," she said. "When he first left in February (2009), I had to put him on a plane in Burlington, Vt. – in his ACUs. There were many people watching us, I was teary, and it was difficult. What was most difficult was that I had no idea what Fort Sill was like. I didn't know where he was sleeping, the space that he was living in, or the people he was spending all his time with."

Scott returned home 10 weeks into his training, and Rachel was then able to drive back to Fort Sill with him and put to rest her questions about the logistics of his life away.

"That was great! I felt much better to know the place that he had to be in and the people that he was spending time with," she said.

Knowing that travel to Kuwait is not an option this time around, Rachel is prepared to face the difficulty of just not knowing.

"I think that this deployment will be different in a lot of ways," she said. "Perhaps the biggest way is that I have absolutely no option of going to see where he will be living, sleeping, the climate – anything. That was really tough for me through the Oklahoma separation, and I imagine it will be tough this time around too. We both are strong individuals, and time apart is tough, but we do better with it than some, I think."

That being said, Rachel and Scott have discussed at length how important communication is going to be, and Rachel said she is prepared to accept whatever information Scott can or cannot give her.

"He knows that I want to know everything he can tell me, even if it entails some details that might be scary," she said. "Scott will be going through some experiences that could change who he is as a person, and I want to be aware of them as they occur. At first, he thought it would be best for any extra scary details to be left out, but I am not okay with that. Like I said, I want to know as much as I can. I know that there will be things he absolutely cannot tell me for security reasons. That will be hard, but it is something that I am personally mentally preparing for."

Rachel said she will find comfort just in being in the home the two have created together, surrounded by Scott's things and the memories there and, of course, their dog Piper.

"I am thankful that I will be living in a space that we have already established as ours," she said. "I know that he will be missing from his side of the bed, and that his not being around will create some emptiness; however, we also have great memories and have created great energy in the home that I will be in next year. When Scott gets deployed we will be married for almost exactly three months, but we've been together for four years."



*Rachel and Scott Whitaker, a first lieutenant for Alpha Battery, who will serve as a platoon leader overseas, promises open communication and honesty – even with the tough "front-line" stuff, while he is in Kuwait.*

Terry Beliveau is no stranger to deployment. This will be her fourth deployment, the first coming with her husband Dan's mobilization to Desert Storm while she was still pregnant with their fifth child. Now a seasoned deployment veteran herself, she said this particular deployment will be especially difficult because not only does she have to say goodbye to her husband, Dan, a staff sergeant with Bravo Battery in Nashua, but also to both of her grandson's parents, one of whom is her own son Brandon. She will also have to part with Brandon's girlfriend, who will deploy as well.

As part of Brandon's family care plan for his son, Kaden, 7, Terry will share joint custody with Kaden's other set of grandparents while the boy's own parents are away.

When Terry's children were younger, Terry worked very hard to make sure the family still felt close to Dan, despite the distance.

"The kids and I kept busy by making and sending 'love packages,'" she said. "It wasn't always something that their dad wanted or needed, but it was what we needed to do to get through the days, weeks, and months until his return. We also filled a jar with candy like M&Ms or Skittles, and the kids ate one every day until his return. Of course, I had to keep an eye on it to make sure it came out just right, like adding a few here and there as dates changed."

Terry also challenged herself to send Dan cards on a daily basis, and took up writing as an outlet for the stress.

"I sent him a card every day – in the beginning, but somehow you get behind and then the cards get further apart. That helped me. This time, I will again start sending one every day and hopefully I will make it to the end this time. I also keep a journal every time he deploys. I write in it every night. Sometimes it would make me cry, but it helped to put everything on paper. For me things didn't seem so bad after I wrote it down."

Terry knows this process well enough to understand that while communicating with your soldier, or, in her case, soldiers, is key in weathering the storm, there's an irony in picking up the phone and hearing that beloved voice on the line.

"The hardest challenge for me is not having a lot of communication when a



*Terry and Dan Beliveau, a staff sergeant with Bravo Battery in Nashua, are facing their fourth deployment. Terry says this one is particularly challenging, as her son and his girlfriend – both soldiers and the parents of her grandson – are also being deployed.*

problem arises," she said, "like when [on a previous deployment] the furnace went crazy and the house filled with smoke. I thought the house was on fire, so I called 911. Five ladder trucks filled my neighborhood, and all it was, was that the furnace needed to be cleaned. Did I feel like an idiot? You bet I did later, but at the moment I was so scared, and all I wanted was to talk to my husband. And then, when you do get a phone call from him, you don't want to use your time talking about those things. You just want to hear their voice and to know how they are doing."

Terry said she has a great support system, including her local Family Support Group to help her through the hardest times, and with them, she knows she has people to turn to when the going gets tough. She also said that caring for Kaden and managing his emotions will help keep her busy.

"The hardest times for me are the holidays. I don't have my family here except for my kids, but we try to keep things normal just like when Dan is here. It's not easy putting all those Christmas lights up, and they don't look as good as when he does it, but at least we did it! My older kids know how hard it is, and they are a big source of support for me."

The strength of the military family has always humbled me and I am again humbled by these three family members and hundreds like them. And now, I am proud to stand among them, because while we don't wear the uniform, this is how we are able to serve alongside our heroes. ❖

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*N.H. Army National Guard Maj. William P. Lemaire tees off during the 46th Annual N.H. National Guard Golf Classic 2010 tournament held at The Oaks Golf Links, Somersworth, July 26.*

*Photo: Tech. Sgt. Aaron Vezeau*

*Retired N.H. Air National Guard Col. Thomas Bunting lines up to putt during the 46th Annual N.H. National Guard Golf Classic 2010 tournament held at The Oaks Golf Links, Somersworth, July 26.*

*Photo: Tech. Sgt. Aaron Vezeau*

# N.H. Air and Army National Guard tee off at 46th Annual Golf Tournament

*By Tech. Sgt. Aaron Vezeau  
157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs*

Winner of The Adjutant General's Trophy in the 46th Annual New Hampshire National Guard Golf Classic 2010, held July 26 at The Oaks Golf Links, Somersworth, N.H., was the New Hampshire Air National Guard. The Adjutant General's Trophy is awarded for the lowest 16-person gross scores by the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard.

According to events coordinator Col. Richard Greenwood, "The tournament is an annual event that was started 46 years ago by a small group of NHNG golf enthusiasts in an effort to have a spirited and friendly competition between the N.H. Army and Air National Guard. The tournament is open to any N.H. National Guard member, and is done on the individual's personal time." ♦

## INDIVIDUAL AWARD WINNERS

Low Gross – Gil Fradillada (Air)

Patriots Division – Earl Andrews

## OTHER WINNERS

1st Flight – Gil Fradillada (Air)

2nd Flight – Rick Greenwood (Air)

3rd Flight – Mark Trudelle (Army)

Closest to Pin on #5 – Gregg Fournier (Air)  
Prize: Ping Anser Putter

Closest to Pin on #13 – Jay Amrol (Army)  
Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate to The Oaks

Long Drive on #17 – Jim Roberts –  
Prize: Cobra Hybrid #3

# Guardsmen seek out warrior roots in hurling play

*By Warrant Officer Candidate Luke Koladish  
114th Public Affairs Detachment*

Members of the Barley House Wolves, New Hampshire's first hurling club, arrived at Shannon Airport on May 27, 2010, to begin a much anticipated hurling tour of Ireland. The team was founded by N.H. Army Guardsmen inspired by their passage through Ireland on their way home from Iraq in 2005.

"One of the draws was the warrior roots of the sport. That was kind of the hook for a lot of guys," said team captain Lt. Col. Ray Valas.

After a personal welcome from Shannon Airport's operations manager, Joe Buckley, the team stopped to visit a local hurley maker, Paddy O'Dea, to see firsthand the process of hurley-making. After gaining a new appreciation for the crafting of the ash, the Wolves were given a tour of the pitches in Athenry, as well as the new clubhouse of St. Mary's Gaelic Athletic Association club.

"This is truly a humbling experience, and I only wish our hurling skills warranted such exceptional treatment," Valas said to members of the St. Mary's Club, including chairman Leo Coffey and assistant treasurer Tom Carr.

Also present for the official meet and greet were former president of the Gaelic Athletic Association and current overseas committee chairman Joe McDonagh and Galway County hurling chairman Gerry Larkin.



*Warrant Officer Candidate Luke Koladish and 1st Lt. David Devoy battle for the ball in the air with the Irish Army hurlers. It was an exceptionally physical match, ending in a draw. Photo: Sean T. Noonan*



*Paddy O'Dea of Ardrahan demonstrates the art of handcrafting hurleys in his shop as Capt. Adam Burritt, 1st Sgt. Lore Ford, Sgt. Mikhael Gregoire and Warrant Officer Candidate Luke Koladish look on. The ash sticks are produced locally throughout Ireland by experienced hurley makers, with the techniques passed down through generations. The hurleys are cut from selected planks of ash wood and crafted one at a time. Photo: Sean T. Noonan*



“Without Leo’s commitment and Tom’s dedication this trip, realistically, would not have happened,” Valas said. The club officers presented Valas and Wolves halfback Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Clements with a bronze statue of two hurlers battling for the sliotar to commemorate the Wolves’ visit.

Following the exchanges, the team suited up and took to the field to face the club’s junior C team.

“We had a training session with instruction from the Athenry coaches beforehand, so I think we got most of the jitters out,” Clements said.

The hurlers from Athenry were showing some restraint and the game was lacking physical contact until Wolves forward Capt. James Pappaioanou laid a solid shoulder on his opponent. The hit put the St. Mary’s cornerback on the grass and brought the Athenry crowd to their feet in a cheer. Formalities aside, the game took on a more intense pace, with the Wolves getting a strong lesson in hurling’s tempo and skill.

“We were treated with the most gracious and kind hospitality, until we got onto the pitch,” joked Wolves forward 1st Sgt. Lore Ford.

With help from their Irish substitutes and a very generous host, the Wolves kept up the pace and finished the match in a respectable fashion.

The teams retired to a local bar for some good natured ribbing and traditional Irish music. Late in the evening, the Yanks brought a western flavor to the session with Ben Hyman on the bodhran, Sgt. Mikhael Gregoire picking up the accordion and Valas playing guitar and singing a couple of songs. A highlight of the evening was provided by McDonagh when the entire establishment quieted as he sang “The West’s Awake,” reminiscent of his performance following the 1980 McCarthy Cup.

The next morning, Galway hurling selector and manager Jarlath Cloonan joined the team for a tour of Croke Park, providing his personal insights and experience of competition in the historical venue.

“The sheer size and history of both the stadium and the sport was overwhelming. You could really feel the energy,” Wolves fullback 1st Lt. David DeVoy III said.

The team gathered around the new Club Crest Wall at the entrance to the GAA Museum at Croke Park.

“It speaks to the inclusiveness of the GAA that they would have the crest of a newly formed hurling club from New Hampshire displayed in the same location as clubs over a century old. It’s inspiring as a new team,” Valas remarked.

Saturday, May 29, the team squared off against Ireland’s Lt. Brian Connolly and the soldiers from the Irish Army’s 1st Infantry Battalion of the 4th Brigade. The players competed on a pitch overlooking Galway Bay at Renmore Barracks.

Whether having adjusted to playing in Ireland or the nature of playing fellow soldiers, it was evident the Wolves and the men of Renmore Barracks were out to play a more physical game.

“We look at a hurling game as a battle. So that bond we had in battle over there, we carry onto the pitch,” said Clements.

Despite being down at the half and initially out-played, the Wolves came back and took the lead in the final 15 minutes of the match.

“I think we settled in and played far better in the second half of that match,” Clements recalled. “After we got the initial ‘oh my God we’re playing against Irish guys – we’re going to get killed’ feeling out of our systems, we settled in and played our game, and we played fairly well.”

A last-second goal by the Irish Army brought the game to a draw. The men from 4th Brigade lined the entry way to the locker room to clap in their American opponents.



*Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Clements clears the ball out from the halfback line as an Athenry hurler, M. Fahy, moves in for a dangerous block. The Wolves played a match with St. Mary’s GAA Club in Athenry’s Kenny Memorial Park.*

Photo: Sean T. Noonan

“The Irish Army game was great because those guys were giving us tips and advice as we were playing, which helped us to focus on our basic fundamentals, so we could ultimately play a more competitive match,” Clements said.

“We will forever be fans of St. Mary’s GAA Club, Athenry, Galway and the 1st Infantry Battalion team,” said Ford. “This experience has made us a better club all around.”

On Sunday, May 30, the team attended a match between Cork and Tipperary during the first round of the Senior Munster Championship at a packed Páirc Uí Chaoimh, rounding out the whirlwind tour with the excitement and intensity of inter-county play.

“It was the experience of a lifetime for a young American hurling team,” Pappaioanou said.

Approximately 12 hurlers were scheduled to deploy with the 197th Fires Brigade in September to Kuwait where they plan to continue practicing and scrimmaging during their off time. ❖

## WHAT IS HURLING?

Hurling, a national Irish pastime of ancient Celtic origins, is an outdoor ball-and-stick game with elements of play related to lacrosse, hockey, soccer and rugby football.

**Object of the game:** Using a hurley – a flat wooden club also called an ash because of the wood it’s made from – a team of 13 players try to hit a sliotar, a soft, leather-covered ball, over (1 point) or under (3-point goal) the crossbar of an opposing team’s goal posts. Each goal is defended by a goalkeeper with a slightly larger hurley.

**Time:** A game is played for 70 minutes – 35 minutes per half. Time-outs, fouls, penalties, points gained, replays, extended plays, etc., are determined by a referee and umpires.

**Field:** The pitch, a playing field akin to a soccer field, is about 450 to 475 feet long by 260 to 295 feet wide.

**Related games:** Women play camogie, with similar rules; and shinty, also with similar rules, is played in Scotland.

# Retirees are a vital part of N.H. military community

By 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle  
Joint Force Headquarters

The summer of 2010 saw three significant events for military retirees in New Hampshire, on June 30, July 21, and July 31, highlighting the importance of retirees to the New Hampshire military community.

On June 30, nearly 100 retired Air Guardsmen and women met with about 200 current members at Pease Air National Guard Base.

“Retiree Day is about where you came from and where you are going,” said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Bartlett, 157th Maintenance Group. “It is an opportunity for the people who work here now to meet the people who came before them, and it is important for the people who used to work here so they can see how we are doing and where the organization is going.”

157th Air Refueling Wing Commander Col. Paul “Hutch” Hutchinson spoke to the group about where the unit has been

in the last year and where they are going in the future. Recent retirees were also recognized at the event.

“If family is important, and we all say it is, then we have to act like it is important by supporting events like this,” Bartlett added.

On July 21, almost 100 retired members of the Army Guard met at the new Joint Force Headquarters building in Concord. The commander in chief of the New Hampshire National Guard, Gov. John Lynch, and the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, spoke to the veterans.

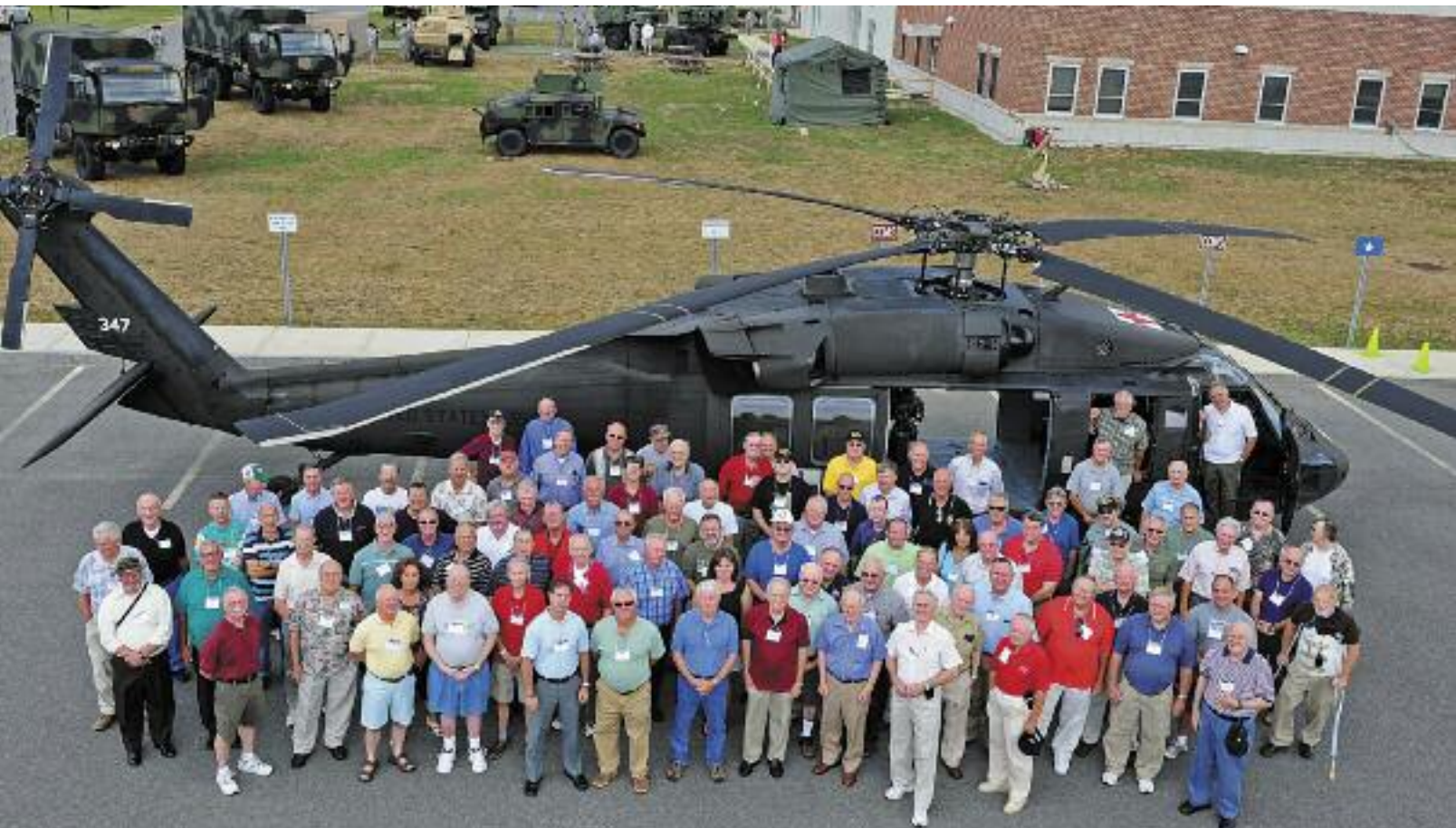
Both Lynch and Reddel thanked them for their service, and Reddel added, “Thank you for what you have done in the past. Thank you for your help in raising these youngsters. But please help us when they return from deployment.”

On July 31, military retirees from throughout New England attended the Thirteenth Annual Northern New England



Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, speaks to retired service members during the Thirteenth Annual Northern New England Military Retiree Activity Day at the National Guard Aviation Facility in Concord, July 31. Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle

Below: Retired members of the New Hampshire Army National Guard pose with a Black Hawk helicopter during the 2nd Annual Retiree Day in Concord, July 21. Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle





Retired members of the New Hampshire Air National Guard gather near a KC-135R Stratotanker and pose for a group photo during the 15th Annual Retiree Day held at Pease Air National Guard Base June 30, 2010. Photo: Tech. Sgt. Aaron Vezeau

Military Retiree Activity Day at the New Hampshire Army National Guard Aviation Facility in Concord, N.H.

Military retirees from all branches of the service and retirees from the National Guard and Reserve were updated on military retirement benefits, the opportunity to receive legal assistance, health care information, pay information, survivor benefits and DEERS/ID card renewals.

They also could meet with representatives of veterans organizations and companies providing services to veterans.

Reddel also spoke to this group, reiterating the importance of veterans by quoting President Washington, “The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of

earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

The 2010 Regional Retiree Activity Day was sponsored by the New Hampshire National Guard in cooperation with Hanscom Air Force Base, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Brunswick Naval Air Station, Fort Drum, and the National Guard and retiree councils from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. ❖



Retired service members listen to Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, during the Thirteenth Annual Northern New England Military Retiree Activity Day at the National Guard Aviation Facility in Concord, July 31. Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle

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# Army Promotions

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Travis Hamilton  
Steven Hogan  
Joshua Caprarello  
Daniel Dobson  
Caitlin Borey  
Joel Pinckney  
Brian Jones  
Christopher Gaw  
Byron Estavillo  
Travis Brown  
Bethany Morgan  
Jordan Forrest  
Dean Vantassel  
Michael Miller  
Nicholas Favata  
Nicholaus Palermo  
Joseph Green  
Megan Brett  
Anthony Coy

## Private

### First Class

James Malveira  
Kyle Ham  
Joshua Rohelia  
Christalin Lachance  
Lindsey Venglass  
Nicholas Lavertu

Jeffrey Audy  
Colin Ladd  
James German  
Kevin Thompson  
Kyle Adams  
Anthony Montefusco  
Joshua Lawton  
Elijah Fazzino  
Kayla West  
Jordan Westgate  
Adam Cheney  
Paul Charnley  
Charles Hedges  
Jacob Harzbecker  
Marshall Gleason  
Mason Favereau  
Matthew Brooks  
Matthew Ryan  
John Mason  
Ryan Garland  
Darel Dean  
Cameron Tetreault  
Alex Peck  
Russell Davidson  
Timothy Miller  
Allan Esty  
Hillary Oliver  
Robert Sullivan  
Alexis Mothershed

Sara Kabes  
Philip Mexcur  
Michael Murray  
Ryan O'Neal  
Josiah Smith  
Timothy Lanciani  
Salvatore Amato

## Specialist

Joshua Adams  
Cory Blancato  
Samantha Ward  
Daniel Howe  
Ryan Martel  
Zachary Maynard  
Benjamin Courchesne  
Allyson Crowley  
Brendan Hatch  
Robin Rojek  
Gregory Brouck  
Nicholas Collishaw  
Chad Konts  
Alexander O'Connor  
Gregory Tufts  
Corey Paradis  
Jesus Salamanca  
Haodan Li  
Michael Richard  
Benjamin Saylor  
Joshua Mclean

Steven Chick  
Danay Steadman  
Christopher Ross  
Tyler Mailhot  
Jonathan Eastman  
Jaime Landry  
Jordan Bailey  
Cody Leonard  
Louis Marotta  
Stephen Martel  
Rayanna Robak  
Steven Beattie  
Kendall Wright  
Margaret Taylor  
Jennifer Bellerose

## Sergeant

Raymond Robak III  
Melissa Dempsey  
Robert Cone  
Matthew Kreis  
Benjamin Duval  
Daniel Kenly  
Peter Lebell  
Gordon Farrar  
Pieter Laubscher  
Matthew Maguire  
Richard Duclos  
Robert Garand  
Brandon Westgate

## Staff Sergeant

Antwon Scott  
Bin Huang  
William Whitcher  
Jamie Fox  
Heath Coburn  
Michelle Warren  
Randy Blasik  
Jeremy Saunders  
Justin Connor  
Braden Hunter  
Scott Marshall  
Andrew Rodriguez  
Brandon Foskett  
Chad Blanchette  
Corey Dix  
Gerard Lamson  
Daniel Bourgeois  
William Savage  
Thomas Newcomb Jr  
Tom Hoang  
Andrew Smith  
Shea Ahern  
Patrick McGuinness  
Sean Brown

## Sergeant

**First Class**  
Hoon Nowack

## Master Sergeant

Galen Garretson  
Paul Amey  
Michael Thibodeau

## Chief Warrant Officer 2

Michael Stan  
Erik Emond  
Dana Moore

## Chief Warrant Officer 4

Ralph Wegner

## First Lieutenant

Logan Kenney  
Craig Sanderson

## Major

Brian Fernandes  
James Kelly  
Christine Tebbetts

## Lieutenant Colonel

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Craig Bennett



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A U.S. Navy Blue Angels Demonstration Team pilot receives fuel from a New Hampshire Air National Guard KC-135R tanker on Aug. 25, 2010. Photo: Staff Sgt. Curtis Lenz

## Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for civilians

By Capt. Sherri Pierce  
157th Air Refueling Wing

At 26,000 feet with blue skies, smiles were abundant on the civilian passengers who sat on board the 157th Air Refueling Wing's KC-135R tanker to witness the refueling of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels on their way to the Boston-Portsmouth Air Show.

Somewhere over North Carolina, the KC-135R met up with five of the seven Blue Angels' F/A-18 Hornets for the first of two refuelings needed for them to make it to Portsmouth International Tradeport for the August 28-29 air show.

This refueling mission was not only an opportunity for civilians to see the Blue Angels in flight, but also a chance for the

Air Guard to showcase its mission. "This flight gives you an appreciation for what the Guard does," said Greg Osborn, Boy Scouts of America Public Relations Executive.

"Thank you for giving us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Mike Kaufman, Scout executive and CEO of the Daniel Webster Council of the Boy Scouts of America. ❖

### Air Promotions

**Airman 1st Class**

Brandi Barrett, MXG  
Seth Willis, STUFLT  
Rex Rubin, STUFLT

**Senior Airman**

Cara Bellerose, AMXS  
Channarong Prompradit, SFS  
Nicholas Harpin, SFS  
Corey Sheckler, SFS  
Caitlyn Chateauneuf, MDG

Leslie Wood, MDG  
Kyle Starkweather, MDG  
Jonathan Yelle, AMXS  
Matthew Jensen, CMF  
Michael Wadsworth, FSS  
Ryan Kellerman, SFS  
James Lavimoniere, LRS  
Benjamin Bauman, CMF  
Ryan Weeks, LRS  
Kurt Trudelle, LRS  
Nathan Le Clair, LRS

**Staff Sergeant**

Samantha Yeanish, ARS

**Technical Sergeant**

Jeremy Hutchinson, ARS  
Dannie Beddie, LRS  
Mark Bohac, MXS  
Hope Townes, MXS  
Maria Settle, LRS  
Chung Chiu, ARW  
John Correia, LRS

**Master Sergeant**

Ronald Connary, FSS  
Robert Wolfgram, CES  
Brian Cummings, ARW

**Captain**

Sherri Pierce, WS  
Felix Wong, ARS

## Local teacher visits El Salvador to promote partnership

(Continued from page 5)

the crowd of students, grades K-9, started cheering at the top of their lungs, frantically waving homemade pompoms of blue and white streamers. The school band played, and all eyes were on the armloads of soccer balls carried in by Maj. Brian Fernandes as we walked to take our seats in the middle of the formation of students under the awnings specially erected for the purpose. Many of the students I had met the previous year approached me. Before I knew it, I was once again surrounded by all of my little friends – with only an enthusiasm third grade Salvadorans have – almost knocking me over to crowd around and have their photo taken with the American teacher. We were undoubtedly treated as rock stars but with a more meaningful purpose.

Just before we left the school, the teachers in San Jose Villa Nueva invited us to a classroom for refreshments and a slide show of their visit to Bow this past fall. One of the slides was a photo taken of Lt. Col. Ray Valas, who has been an indispensable driving force for the school partnership. The photo was taken with his son in a class. Immediately, both members of our military group and Salvadorans stopped chatting and excitedly paused in recognition of them both.

As I sat in this small, overcrowded classroom surrounded by students, teachers, school administrators, parents, Robert Blau, acting ambassador, Maj. Gen. Reddel and the entire military group I had traveled with, I marveled at how our world had just shrunk. At that particular moment, everyone from our vastly diverse backgrounds celebrated the photo of a father and son as though we were all in our living room at a family reunion.

As I reflect back on the trip, I am struck by so many things – of course the military police motorcade with lights, sirens, machine guns and armored vehicles will forever be embedded in my memory; the VIP status that we received, the formal evening reception at the acting ambassador's house and the elite positions most of the people with whom I shared time, were in themselves extraordinary experiences.

However, since I have returned home, I have been asked many times whether I was uncomfortable spending four days with an all-male military group, most of whom I did not know very well, if at all prior to the trip, attending mostly all-male functions, speaking with important people not only in English but also in Spanish. My answer is that at the end of the day, people are people.

Whether I was planning the projects for the coming year with teachers in San Jose Villa Nueva or talking to Col. Salinas about the cavalry and our mutual passion for horses, I felt a genuine desire among everyone to work together, help each other out, and strengthen the ties that unite us regardless of the title next to the name. I was fortunate enough to have been granted the opportunity to spend four marvelous days with some of the most gracious, kind, caring human beings who are truly working toward and achieving a more peaceful world.

Maj. Gen. Reddel told me often on the trip that I was surrounded by my brothers and after only four days together all of my new brothers inspired me, gave me a new sense of pride in my country and took care of me like a sister. They will always have my admiration and a piece of my heart. My thanks to Maj. Gen. Reddel, Lt. Col. Valas, Col. Paul Hutchinson, Command Sgt. Maj. John Nanof, Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Speltz, Maj. Fernandes and all of my friends both new and old in the embassy. ❖

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