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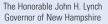


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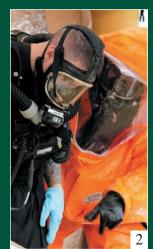
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Cover: A simulated victim is located by a New Hampshire National Guard Black Hawk helicopter during a search and rescue training event with local fire departments on the Merrimack River in Bedford, N.H., on May 3. The helicopter, flown by members of the 3/238th Medical Evacuation Company, assisted in the joint training with the Bedford Fire Department, who led the exercise.







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Just like any average American, Sgt. Matthew Maguire puts on his pants in the morning one leg at a time and heads to work. However, as a member of the New Hampshire National Guard's 12th Civil Support Team, Maguire's work suit is a level A suit that limits his peripheral vision, dexterity and communication.

This is just another day at the "office," which for the CST is a hazardous spill site where lives hang in the balance based on the team's ability to accomplish their mission. That is why, for team members like Maguire, failure is never an option.

The 12th CST was evaluated by Army North on April 6. Evaluations like these are conducted every 18 months to assess the team's ability to perform in hazardous environments while completing their mission objectives and maintaining positive control of potentially life-threatening situations.

The evaluation began with a call at 5 a.m. from the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester. Each team member was expected to report to Concord in one hour or less.

"The first hour of response is called the 'n hour,'" said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jordan, a survey team chief for the 12th CST. "You have 90 minutes to get to Concord, prepare your vehicles, pre-mission checklist, and receive or administer an initial med screening."

Upon arriving on scene at the Verizon, the team establishes their footprint, which is how they set up as a unit. Decontamination is closest to the scene, followed by medical, the survey team, the lab, communication suite and the tactical operations center. Once the plan is complete, the group is briefed by Capt. Marc Bianchi, a survey team leader with the 12th CST.

"From that point on, you're focused on the tentative game plan," said Sgt. Maguire, CST survey team member. "I know I have to do 'x, y, z' – so what do I do to get there? If things change, how am I going to adapt? This is a no-fail mission."

Maguire also said that when the team enters the building, they are looking for anything out of the ordinary. Attention to detail is not an option; it is an obligation.

"You enter the building, and you know you're looking for a puddle buildup, a device on the floor, something that is not supposed to be there," said Sgt. David Turner, a survey team member with the 12th CST. "Once we find the device, we get readings on it, take



Staff Sgt. Kevin Harvey, the decontamination noncommissioned officer in charge, 12th Civil Support Team, monitors Sgt. David Turner, a survey team member with the 12th CST, for any radiation on his Encapsulated Level A suit, during a proficiency evaluation conducted by Army North on April 6 in Manchester.

photos and call back to the TOC describing to them in as much detail as possible what we've found."

It took the 12th CST three entries into the Verizon, approximately three and a half hours in a building large enough to hold up to 11,770 people, to find the dispersal device, a mechanism for scattering chemicals, for this training exercise.

It is efficiency training like this that prepares the 12th CST, along with 56 other CSTs throughout the country, to save lives in real-world scenarios, like the one they responded to on Christmas Day in 2009.

When a woman in Durham, N.H., became ill with gastrointestinal anthrax, the building she was in was evacuated, and the 12th CST responded. They found anthrax in two drums and a light socket.

"In real-world cases, you're operating with multiple agencies – firefighters, police, etc., which means it can be very difficult," said Jordan. "Each CST member is a liaison with their local first responders and facilitates training events with them. This gives us the ability to smooth out the difficulties inherent in joint entries into a hot zone."

The 12th CST was established approximately six years ago. Since then, they have grown and developed into a cohesive unit and are capable of being sustained on their own for 24 hours.

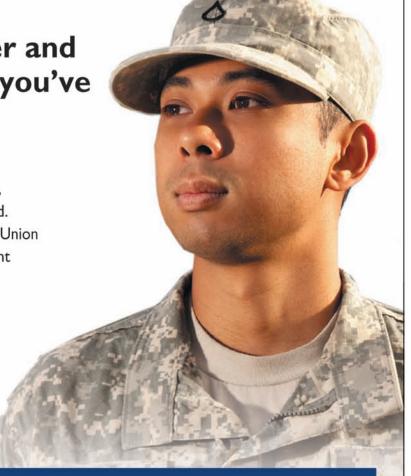
"I'm 100 percent confident that my teammates know what they are doing," said Maguire. "We're going to continue sending teams into a contaminated environment until we find an answer. There is no option to fail a mission."



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NHNG says goodbye to two icons — Col. Swan, Chief Page retire

By Capt. Sherri Pierce, JFHQ Public Affairs

The New Hampshire National Guard said goodbye to Col. Francine Swan and Chief Master Sgt. Jacqueline Page during a joint retirement ceremony held March 24 at the Joint Force Headquarters in Concord, N.H.

With more than 56 years of combined service, "You should be proud of what you have done," said Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, the Adjutant General of the NHNG.

Described as "a quiet professional," Page has served at the Joint Force Headquarters level throughout her career and most recently served as the military personnel management officer.

Prior to the reading of her retirement order, Page was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal. During the award time period, Page played a critical role as the liaison between the National Guard Bureau and the New Hampshire Air National Guard where she ensured that "projected manpower needs were met to complete the mission, thus enabling the New Hampshire Air National Guard to be manned at an unprecedented 100 percent for the past two years."

Throughout her career, Page also "painstakingly guided countless airmen through mentorship and coaching, thereby enhancing the professional development of both enlisted and commissioned leadership throughout the New Hampshire Air National Guard."

"She touched many people, and we will miss her," Maj. Gen. Reddel said.

Page retired with more than 33 years of distinguished military service.



Col. Francine Swan receives the Legion of Merit from the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, upon the occasion of her retirement at a ceremony at JFHQ in Concord, March 24. Photo by 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle



Chief Master Sgt. Jacqueline Page salutes the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, upon the occasion of her retirement at a ceremony at JFHQ in Concord, March 24. Photo by 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle

Col. Francine Swan's retirement followed. Swan joined the New Hampshire National Guard in 2001, where she has since served as the Staff Judge Advocate.

"She was my moral compass," said Maj. Gen. Reddel. "She made sure we did everything right every time."

"She has been an expert in giving legal advice," said Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett, commander of the New Hampshire Army National Guard. "She has mastered her trade."

Prior to the reading of her retirement order, Swan was presented with the Legion of Merit Medal.

"Col. Swan's legal knowledge and mediation skills directly contributed to the creation of the first-in-the-nation, microwave-based, broadband National Guard statewide area network," according to the citation. "Her ability to negotiate the complex interagency environment of policies, regulations, laws and personalities was critical to creating this sustainable, interoperable communications system."

In addition, Swan led the legal team in preparing members and families for one of the largest deployments in the New Hampshire National Guard's history, providing assistance "on serious legal issues dealing with dependency, foreclosures, debt and countless other legal matters."

"Thank you for the adventure," Swan said. "It has been an honor and privilege to serve with all the members of the New Hampshire National Guard."

Swan retired with more than 23 years of distinguished military service.

"It has been a wonderful ride," she said. �

Local teacher participates in exchange

program with Guard

By Derek DeAngelis, Bow High School

Most people have only heard of El Salvador or studied it in school. I have had the unique opportunity of traveling to this country twice, thanks to the New Hampshire National Guard State Partnership Program. The program is designed to foster a teacher exchange between New Hampshire and El Salvador. The primary goal of the exchange is to create a professional collaboration between teachers in the Bow School District with teachers in our sister school, the Dr. Salvador Mendieta School in San Jose' Villa Nueva. Teachers from both schools were given the opportunity to visit and experience the other culture and to openly discuss educational philosophies, techniques, teacher training, foreign language and college preparation. I had the privilege of traveling with Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett, the NHNG Army Commander for the state of New Hampshire, as well as with three other N.H. National Guard Officers - Lt. Col. Diane Smith, Lt. Col. Raymond Valas and Maj. Brian Fernandes.

Like my first trip to El Salvador, the return visit in May was very rewarding. I had the good fortune of attending several meetings at the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador. Col. Carlos Figuroa, Lt. Col. Rockey Burrell and Capt. Jose Rodriguez of United States Military Group made it a priority that I not be just an observer, introducing me at every meeting and including me in the discussions when appropriate. The overall experience was unforgettable. I am truly impressed with the time and effort that the USMILGP and the NHNG put into humanitarian, disaster response and counterdrug operations while working closely with the Salvadoran government. The meetings seemed to have fluid movement, switching from English to Spanish, while discussing topics from security to future military exercises.

At one point, I was introduced to the new U.S. ambassador. Ambassador Mrs. Mari Carmen Aponte and I briefly discussed the exchange program and the positive role it is playing in our schools. After explaining to her the history of the program and the future goals we have in place, she appeared deeply interested and asked several questions.

That afternoon our party left the embassy and traveled to an El Salvador Air Force base to meet Brig. Gen. Parada Gonzalez.

We received a warm welcome as Brig. Gen. Bennett and Brig. Gen. Gonzalez met for the first time and participated in



Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett, commander of the New Hampshire Army National Guard, conducts an in ranks inspection with Col. Chavarria of the Salvadoran Army. Photo by Maj. Brian Fernandes



Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett, commander of the New Hampshire Army National Guard, and Derek DeAngelis, Bow High School teacher, visit with children and staff at the Dr. Salvador Mendieta School in San Jose' Villa Nueva, El Salvador. Photo by Maj. Brian Fernandes

the customary exchange of gifts. They briefly discussed the strong support and loyalty that each military has for the other. The climate in the room was positive and generated much enthusiasm for future interactions.

The following day our military group visited our sister school, Dr. Salvador Mendieta School, to continue our ongoing exchange program hosted by NHNG.

As our group climbed out of the vehicles in front of the gates of the school, the excitement and energy in the air was evident. Large groups of people had gathered outside to partake in the experience. Although I could not immediately see the children, I could hear the chatter and laughter of hundreds of children as we approached the school. All at once, there was an explosion of applause and cheering as our group stepped through the gates – a true testimony to the success the exchange program has had in the community. I felt completely overwhelmed and humbled by the experience.

The school director, Miguel Angel Arriaga, whom I had not seen for two years, welcomed me and led me through the crowd to a table in the front where Brig. Gen. Bennett had already been seated. After many introductions, we began emptying the three huge duffle bags of school supplies that students at Bow High School collected for distribution to the students at SJV. It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

After a welcoming ceremony, the staff of SJV, led by Nelson Correia, the computer teacher, a military group and local political officials, including the mayor of the town and Epilogos Charities, sat down to discuss upcoming projects and goals set by SJV and the NHNG. Brig. Gen. Bennett spoke of the connections between El Salvador and the people of New Hampshire. One of the many problems that SJV faces is a reliable source of electric power as well as wiring that needs to be updated in the school. Brig. Gen. Bennett discussed possible solutions to these concerns. As Brig. Gen. Bennett spoke with the group, I observed that he stood in front of a very large state of New Hampshire flag. I recognized the flag as the one the Bow High School teachers presented to the SJV staff and students three years ago. I immediately swelled with pride. It was an honor to be part of something bigger than myself. I was part of a group that not only represented Bow High School and the exchange program, but also the state of New Hampshire.

As the visit came to an end and we said our goodbyes, I found it very difficult to leave. The staff and students were so welcoming and repeatedly told me that I was considered a part

of their staff and school community. I was welcomed back and felt the sincerity behind the words.

Although we would communicate in the near future via Skype and such, it saddened me to leave behind such wonderful friends and colleagues.

Our official party left SJV and traveled to the Artillery Brigade where we were greeted by the military band and an inspection of the troops at the base. Col. Jose Salvador Martin-Serrano, the base commander, welcomed us, and we all sat down to lunch. Lunch was followed by a ceremony to greet Brig. Gen. Bennett, and customary gifts were exchanged. After a tour of the base, which included a museum of historical artillery pieces, we left the base with the military band playing in the background. The day ended at the cavalry regiment where Col. Edwin Chavarria-Bola'nos, the commander of the base, happily greeted us.

After the exchange of gifts, we toured the base. And much to my surprise, we toured the horse stable as well. I assumed that we were going to see tanks and heavily armored vehicles, but we were told that the cavalry regiment still very much keeps the tradition of the old cavalry regiments alive. I was further surprised when Brig. Gen. Bennett and I were asked if we would like to ride horses; this is something I certainly did not anticipate. Our host was so gracious that we both took the opportunity and ultimately finished our official trip by riding horses, a memorable ending to a memorable day.

As I reflect back on the trip, it is hard to believe that we did so much in such a short time. I had no sooner shared my experience with my students at Bow High School than they immediately began planning for the next collection of supplies. To see our students take such an interest in others through this exchange program is evidence of its success. I am forever grateful to Lt. Col. Raymond Valas for including me in the beginning stages of the program and providing me with the opportunity to visit SJV three years ago. I also extend my gratitude to Brig. Gen. Bennett for inviting me to visit a second time. It was an unforgettable experience. •



Derek DeAngelis, Bow High School teacher, takes a ride with the Salvadoran Cavalry unit. Photo by Maj. Brian Fernandes





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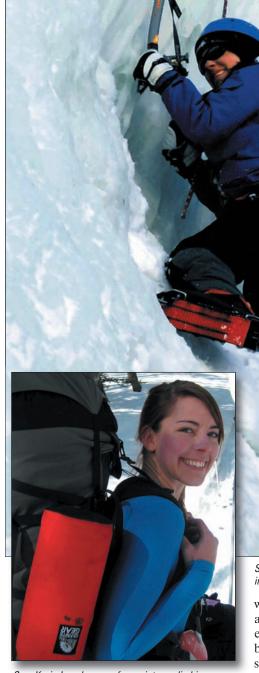
By Spc. Karin Leach

Cold, fresh air slapped my face as I carefully dug my crampon-clad feet into the frozen waterfall. After that failed, I yelled at the wall of ice hoping for compassion. After receiving none, I looked to my fellow veteran team members for support. After asking where to go next, I received the helpful response of "up." I took the advice, perused and then tackled the vertical ascent recommended, eventually reaching the top. This was only day two of meeting my seven fellow teammates, and we already had bonded ourselves into a surprising comfort level.

The Outward Bound course I attended in Colorado was just one of the 40 international sites serving 200,000 students a year. There are many courses available free to veterans including southwest rafting, sailing in Florida, backpacking and navigation in Delaware, and ice climbing and snowshoeing in Colorado.

The program I attended was absolutely free – the most I paid was for lunch during my layovers. All I had to do was make a phone call to the course I wanted, and the mysterious voice on the other end hooked me up with a free round-trip flight to Colorado and the free, weeklong course.

Outward Bound is a non-profit educational organization and expedition school that serves people of all ages and backgrounds through active learning expeditions that inspire character development, self-discovery and service, both in and out of the classroom. Outward Bound delivers programs using unfamiliar settings as a way for participants across the country to experience adventure and challenge in a way that helps students realize they can do more than they ever thought possible. Customized courses provide curricula developed for struggling teens, groups with specific health, social or educational needs, and business and professional organizations. Expeditionary Learning, a chartered entity of Outward Bound, offers a whole school reform model to more than 150 elementary and secondary schools throughout the country.



Spc. Karin Leach poses for a picture climbing up a trail in Leadville, Colo., March 3. Photo by Robert Kurtts

The organization has many appealing aspects to those with military backgrounds. The program emphasizes values highly respected by the military such as integrity and courage. Just as on the battlefield, on the mountain there is little room for error – one poor decision can be life threatening. The program strongly encourages team bonding and personal responsibility in order to make it through smoothly what could be tough conditions.

After surviving the daunting ice wall, sinking up to my waist in snow while in snowshoes and eating entirely too much delicious food made by the cook, Ruthy,

Spc. Karin Leach ice climbs up a frozen waterfall in Vail, Colo. Photo by Andrea Sutherland

we set off to climb the mountain. We dug a lavish snow kitchen at our 11,000-foot-elevation campsite furnished with snow benches, a table and a cooking nook. We spent two nights in our tents, and both nights began with the sound of laughter as darkness fell on the campsite.

In the beginning I couldn't figure out why, within hours, we had all quickly bonded, but it became more and more clear as time progressed – we all had the common thread of a military background running through our core. We all shared similar stories of MRE horrors and deployment pranks while we worked as a team to make our way through the course.

As one of my team members masterfully launched a snowball through the air at my face, I realized that I would never forget the friendships I made during the trip ... just before I proceeded to lay suppressive return snowball fire. *

Air Guard Family Program recognized by Department of Defense



By 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle NHNG Public Affairs Office

New Hampshire's Air National Guard Family Program was recognized by the Department of Defense as one of the country's top programs at a ceremony in February.

"Whether it is the basics of building military communities or taking care of military children or supporting military spouses – all of those things that you have demonstrated success at are important," Dennis M. McCarthy, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said at the Pentagon ceremony.

McCarthy addressed a standing-roomonly audience during the 2010 Reserve Family Readiness Awards program held in the Hall of Heroes.

"I am extremely proud that the Department of Defense has selected our family program as the winner of this year's family readiness program award," said Col. Paul "Hutch" Hutchinson, 157th Air Refueling Wing commander. "To be selected as the number one program from the 88 ANG wings is an honor and a tribute to the daily support they provide to our members."

Although the wing's family program has just now been recognized by the Department of Defense, it has been widely recognized among members of the wing since its inception.

The family program was cited for personally contacting every family with a deployed loved one at least once a month and for its post-deployment efforts that begin at the airport with a well-being check, followed by a wing reunion and reintegration program the next day. The unit also developed a resource guide with a list of community members ready to aid families with everything from plumbing and electrical needs to child and pet care.

According to family members and volunteers, the family programs were not always so proactive.

"We had no 'family program' during the Vietnam era," said retired Col. James Protzmann, family program volunteer. "We and our families were pretty much on our own to fend for ourselves. When we deployed, we had no processing to go through. If your flight physical and check ride were current, you were on your way."



Dennis M. McCarthy, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, left, recognizes the New Hampshire Air National Guard Family Program Feb. 18, in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon. Receiving the awards are, from left, Bonnie Rice, Airman and Family Readiness Program manager, Sue Ploof-Carvalho, Family Program volunteer, and The Adjutant General of the State of New Hampshire, Maj. Gen. William Reddel III. Photo by 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle

Protzmann explained that when an airman was deployed, if families asked the squadron's "rear echelon" operations officer for help with even the smallest task like hanging a picture in the living room, he would say, "Go hire someone to do it because your husband is making all that TDY money." He also pointed out that deployments for fliers could often be countless back-to-back six-month tours with one month home between tours.

Having families gathered together would have gone a long way in giving them comfort and support, but this did not happen.

"The family program we have today cares for the people who are so important to the success of the missions we undertake," Protzmann said. "I herald the family program in the 157th Air Refueling Wing which supports the spouses, parents and children on a day-to-day basis thereby helping to sustain resilient families able to return to their pre-deployment life. In my opinion, the elements so essential to making our airmen successful for the

157th ARW are the senior staff, the family program manager and the chaplain."

Others echoed his feelings.

"Bonnie [Rice, airman and Family Readiness Program manager] is a tireless advocate for the families of our deploying airmen, and while a lot of our troops are still in the Air Force mode about deployments (how good are the hotel rooms? ... do they have cable?), enough of our airmen have been through some tough experiences in combat areas to convince our wing leaders that we need to help families deal with separation and perhaps even worse," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Ron Nadeau, former command chief master sergeant of the N.H. Air National Guard and now a family program volunteer. "Bonnie (and Father Bob) has been the prime mover in that effort, and we are a better unit for it. At the very least, her efforts help to convince our unit members that the unit cares about them, and that alone is priceless."

"This prestigious award, in reality, is recognition of the melding together of

three distinct groups all sharing the one vision of caring for the military men and women of New Hampshire and their families," Rice commented. "The active support of the wing leadership coupled with the vision, care, coordination and outreach of the Airman and Family Readiness Program and chaplain's office allowed us to develop a program that serves the needs of the deployed members and their families."

The family program is enhanced and extended by volunteers who generously assist those who militarily serve the nation.

"Since 2002, our aim has been to provide 'mission and family readiness' involving not only bringing to bear the wing assets but reaching out beyond the wing to the Vet Center, the Veteran's Administration as well as a variety of seacoast community resources to broaden our spectrum of support for those in the deployment cycle," Rice explained. "The real reward is not the plaques but rather the accolades and validation of the program's content by those for whom it was designed to serve."

"I feel so proud and privileged to have had the opportunity to participate in the ceremony," said Gail Bukowski, family program volunteer. "My son's choices and commitment are what caused me to get involved. The counsel and care that he has received from the people around him at Pease only cemented my desire to stay involved."

Military family support has gained the nation's attention of late demonstrated by the government's new military family support initiative. In January, President Barack Obama unveiled a White House report titled, *Strengthening our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment*, which describes the sweeping interagency effort under way to better support military families.

Each unit representative was presented with a plaque as well as a cash award from the Military Officers Association of America intended to assist with enhancement of family support programs.

"Every member of the New Hampshire National Guard knows the Airman and Family Readiness Program is here to serve their families whether deployed or at home station, and our program leadership along with a great group of volunteers make all the difference in the world to our warriors," said Hutchinson. "My sincere thanks to everyone involved in taking care of our Guardsmen so they can serve our state and country!" •



Linda Veinotte talks with a few of the service members deployed to Kuwait she supports as a volunteer in the New Hampshire National Guard's Family Readiness Program, Nashua, April 10. Veinotte was so happy to see the service members on the VTC, that after the ceremony she rushed over to the computer to talk with them.

The VTC was conducted to recognize the members of the Family Readiness Program for their hard work and dedication to service members and their families. The program originated from Army families who banded together during times of need, such as deployments, to provide support and information for service members' families. The program now is an organization of family members, volunteers, soldiers and civilian employees working together to provide moral support and communication among the members, service members and community resources. Photo by Spc. Karin Leach

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Swift water, search and rescue

Story and photos by Spc. Courtney Selig New Hampshire National Guard PAO

Shortly after 7 a.m. on Friday, April 29, members of New Hampshire National Guard's 3/238th Medical Evacuation Company were hovering over the Kancamagus Highway near Lincoln, N.H., in response to a search

and rescue call. The MEDEVAC soldiers, along with a New Hampshire Fish and Game Officer, spotted five kayakers, who had been reported missing at midnight, and followed them until they connected with rescuers on the ground.

Although cruising above swift rivers and cutting through the White Mountain National Forest may seem like a daring, once-in-a-lifetime event for MEDEVAC soldiers, it's familiar – they train in similar conditions to be prepared for calls like this.

In fact, two days later, soldiers from the company were back in the air hovering over the Merrimack River to hone their swift-water emergency response capabilities with the Bedford Fire Department, the lead swift-water search and rescue organization.

The crew members aboard a New Hampshire National Guard Black Hawk helicopter act as eyes in the sky for fire rescue teams on the water during swift-water search and rescue training on the Merrimack River, in Bedford, N.H. The Bedford Fire Department led the joint exercise.

shire National Guard Magazine / Summer 2011

"This training allows our air crews to be better prepared to work with local authorities in the event that swift-water rescues require the help of NHNG aviation assets," said Capt. Peter Cartmell, Black Hawk instructor pilot with the 3/238th MEDEVAC. "We have conducted search and rescue missions with the New Hampshire Fish and Game and have had a great deal of success with that. Swiftwater rescue is similar, at least in respect to the search portion, but presents other challenges to aviation assets that we are working out through this training."

The training was conducted over a three-day period to prepare MEDEVAC flight crews, along with local civilian fire-fighters, for search and rescue missions on bodies of water. In addition, the training prepares the crews' ability to respond to both state and federal emergency relief efforts, Cartmell said.

They chose the Merrimack River in Bedford, N.H., because it is one of the most fished and traveled rivers in New England at 110 miles long with a watershed of approximately 4,700 square miles. In 2006, the river rose nearly eight feet due to rainfall, which caused massive flooding and treacherous waters, forcing evacuations and damaging property.

The MEDEVAC crews provided air support during training, which involved search and rescue by air, land and water. The exercise had several "victims" in the water and also six to seven victims lost in the woods along the river's bank.

"Bedford Fire is fantastic to work with," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dan Jacques, a Black Hawk instructor pilot for the 3/238th. "This exercise was planned and executed in accordance with the current National Incident Management System. Bedford Fire brought in numerous subject matter experts to cover all aspects of the training."

Jacques also said that the firefighters for Bedford, and throughout the state were extremely professional and motivating to work with.

The New Hampshire National Guard plans to maintain their partnership with the Bedford Fire Department as well as other state agencies to be prepared to assist with possible search and rescue missions in the future.

"The New Hampshire National Guard strives very hard to provide the governor and the people of New Hampshire ready and relevant air crews that can provide a wide variety of support when called upon," said Cartmell. "The swift-water rescue training now provides us with one more capability to help support the New Hampshire citizens." •



A New Hampshire National Guard Black Hawk helicopter flies just over the tree tops above a small fire search and rescue crew on the Merrimack River in Bedford, N.H., during a swift-water training exercise on May 3. The helicopter, flown by members of the 3/238th Medical Evacuation Company, assisted in the joint training with the Bedford Fire Department, who led the exercise.





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An excellent leadership gesture

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Neal Mitchell, 197th FIB PA

Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, the Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, and State Command Sgt. Maj. John Nanof arrived at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 2, to visit their soldiers and better understand their mission.

"The TAG's visit is an excellent leadership gesture, and it gives us a chance to better begin the redeployment process and get firsthand guidance," said Sgt. Maj. David Beecher, operations sergeant major for Task Force, 3rd Battalion, 197th Fires Brigade.

A few months ahead of the August meteor showers, the NHNG's senior officer and enlisted soldier arrived as part of a contingent including four other TAGs, three state command sergeants major and a senior chief warrant officer representing Michigan, Rhode Island, West Virginia and Kansas (which has an Army Guard unit deployed to Arifjan, but not as part of the 197th FIB). They spent three days meeting with their respective units, which were split among four locations. Soldiers dubbed the visit "Operation Constellation." "Coordinating five generals going to three or four different locations was a challenge," said Master Sgt. Jeffrey McCabe, the Headquarters NCOIC. "But we executed the visit well."

During his visit to the Zone 6 Camp Command Cell on Arifjan, Maj. Gen.

to the brigade and distributed the rest to other units," Lestage said.

The mayor's cell is in charge of billeting for more than 5,000 soldiers on Arifjan, and regardless of limited funding, it has been able to find ways to make ends meet. "We find all sorts of things in abandoned Conexes like brand new mattresses," said Lt. Col. Nicholas Adler, commander of the Zone 6 mayor's cell.

Through its boot and uniform collection program, the mayor's cell managed to recycle more than \$900,000 of discarded equipment. "Anything that we can get back to the soldier for their use saves them money," said Spc. Violet Desmarais, who works in supply.

The next day, Maj. Gen. Reddel and Nanof were transported north in a UH-60 Black Hawk to Khabari Crossing, a gateway for convoys going into Iraq. It is managed jointly by the Kuwaiti Border Patrol and 197th troops from Brigade Support Battalion-North.

American-built and Kuwaiti-run. K-Crossing symbolizes the cooperation between U.S. and Kuwaiti forces. "Both sides have to make the effort to understand and respect the other in order to accomplish the mission," said Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Houten of BSB-N.

Maj. Eric Hogancamp, commander of BSB-N, referred to the threat and interdiction of vehicle-borne explosive



Salem Airbase, New Hampshire Command Sqt. Maj. John Nanof looks out over the Kuwaiti desert from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, May 2. Nanof was on a three-day trip with Maj. Gen. William Reddel, the Adjutant General of the N.H. National Guard, to visit five separate bases in Kuwait where N.H. soldiers are deployed with the 197th Fires Brigade.

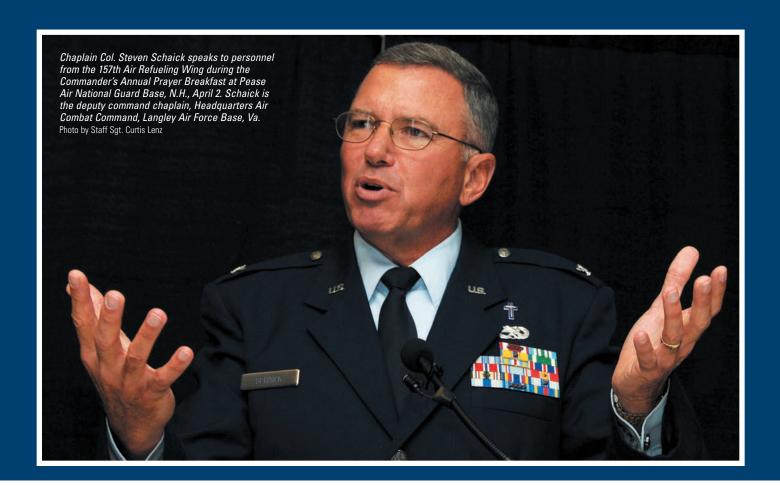
devices or VBIEDs coming across the border into Kuwait. "We are both interested in keeping the stuff up north from coming down south," he said.

From K-Crossing, an escort team from the 44th Chemical Company drove Maj. Gen. Reddel and Nanof south across the barren landscape to visit Task Force, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery, at Camp Buehring. After a chow hall lunch, Maj. Gen. Reddel attended a briefing given by Lt. Col. David Baker, commander of TF 3/197th.

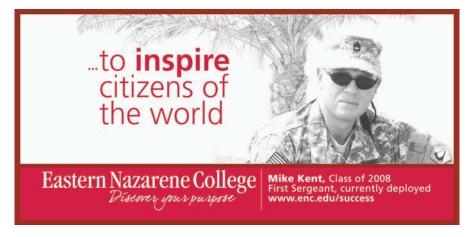
Baker explained that his soldiers are charged with conducting weeklong

(Continued on page 17)











An excellent leadership gesture (Continued from page 15)

missions into Iraq. Convoy Escort Teams consisting of four Caimans or Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles escort a combination of Army and civilian trucks hauling essential supplies north into Iraq. In most cases, the CET missions have been run by staff sergeants. "They have so much responsibility at such a low level," Baker said.

On day three, Maj. Gen. Reddel and Nanof visited the 197th FIB's U.S. Navy and Coast Guard assets, Task Group 56.5, at the Kuwait Naval Base.

"Our primary responsibility is to safeguard the waters and the harbors in our area," said Navy Commander Thomas Murphy. Here the VIPs were given a ride in a 34-foot SeaArk across the harbor and out into the Persian Gulf.

From there, they boarded the Black Hawk for an hour's ride north to the Life Support Area at Ali Al Salem Air Base. The base is the point of departure for soldiers waiting for transport either to go on leave or return to duty assignments. Lt. Col. James Challender, commander of the LSA, pointed out that his soldiers are always scrounging for materials to improve their area.

"Nothing we build here can be permanent," he said. "So we can't request funding for meaningful construction."

At each stop during the three-day visit, Maj. Gen. Reddel and Nanof worked in concert to answer soldiers' questions. Their main concerns were the loss of force structure, the reassignment of units to different armories at home, the reintegration of soldiers back into civilian life, and the estimated 18 percent unemployment among returning soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Reddel sought to reassure his audiences that it was his intention to try to grow the N.H. Army Guard from 1,800 soldiers to more than 2,500, adding formations that have a federal as well as a domestic mission.

"I want to attract a cyber unit to our force structure," Maj. Gen. Reddel said. "With all the high tech companies on Route 128, we should be able to attract qualified recruits."

Regarding armory reassignments, he said, "Once the plan hits my desk, I will review it."

Soldiers also voiced their concern that they would be spending a long time at the demobilization station unnecessarily keeping them from their families. "We are planning on rotating soldiers through as rapidly as possible," Nanof said. He added that the Yellow Ribbon program was recognized as a command-driven program meaning that the commanding officer will have more control over the process.

With the possibility of so many soldiers returning home to unemployment, the N.H. Guard and the state are planning a number of job initiatives.

"We are going to hold an employment workshop and a job fair," Maj. Gen. Reddel said. "We will be there with you until you get employment or until you give up." •



Petty Officer 1st Class Jose Chavarria describes the water route his jet-powered Navy SeaArk will take through the harbor at Kuwait Naval Base to Maj. Gen. William Reddel, the Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, and State Command Sqt. Maj. John Nanof.

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Tuckerman's Inferno — not too hot for Guardsmen

By Spc. Courtney Selig 114 Public Affairs Detachment

The screech of the air horn cracking through the crisp north country air marked the beginning of the 2011 Tuckerman's Inferno and started the runners at 7 a.m. in the first leg of the pentathlon, held in the Mount Washington Valley on Saturday, April 16.

Among the competing teams was a group representing the New Hampshire National Guard, which has had members participating in the race for the last five years.

"The Inferno is a great team-building experience," said Capt. Suzanne Lamb, equal employment opportunity officer for the NHNG. "It brings a group of diverse members of the Guard together to participate in five very difficult events as a team."

Difficult could be an understatement as the Inferno consists of five legs — an 8.3-mile run, a 6-mile kayak down the Saco River, an 18-mile bike race north through Pinkham Notch, a 3-mile hike up the Tuckerman Trail to Mount Washington's Tuckerman Ravine, and a ski down the giant slalom to the floor of the ravine.

The pentathlon is a relay-style race, and each of the Guardsmen was responsible for one leg. The run was completed by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Sorum, a legal advocate; Sgt. Rick Frost, a public affairs specialist, did the kayak leg; the



Members of the N.H. National Guard pose on April 16, before participating in the Tuckerman's Inferno, a pentathlon held in the Mount Washington Valley area. From left, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Sorum, runner; Staff Sgt. William Whitcher, biker; Lt. Col. Michael Bara, skier; Sgt. Rick Frost, kayaker; and in front, Capt. Suzanne Lamb, hiker. Photo by Spc. Courtney Selig

biker was Sgt. 1st Class Bill Whitcher, an infantryman; the hiker was Capt. Suzanne Lamb; and Lt. Col. Michael Bara, senior Army advisor to the NHNG, skied the slalom. The team's times were:

• Run: 1:23:08.41 • Kayak: 53:08.94 • Bike: 1:20:27.9 • Hike: 55:59.30 • Ski: 22:54:19 • Overall: 4:59:34.13

When asked how it felt to participate in such a difficult event, Sorum said he felt like he accomplished something that most people have not done.

"I was asked if I wanted to do the run portion of the Inferno, and I said yes," said Sorum with a smirk on his face. "I said it without logically thinking. It was really difficult, but I'm glad I did it."

The Tuckerman's Inferno first occurred during the Depression in the 1930s, when it was originally just a ski race. In 2000, when it was expanded to include the run, bike, kayak and hike, the Guard began assisting with the event, helping with traffic and other logistical tasks.

Starting about five years ago, National Guardsmen have consistently stepped up to participate in the grueling event, a tradition that Guardsmen like Lamb say they intend to keep. *



Lt. Col. Michael J. Bara competes in the downhill ski portion of the race. Photo by Jamie Gemmiti



On the right, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Sorum, the runner, tags off to Sgt. Rick Frost, the kayaker, for the second leg of the Tuckerman's Inferno, a relay-style pentathlon held in the Mount Washington Valley area on April 16. Sorum and Frost were among the five members of the N.H. National Guard's Inferno team. Photo by Spc. Courtney Selig



U.S.-Pakistan civil-military partnership prepares for future global emergencies

By Capt. Rob Burnham, NHNG Public Affairs Office

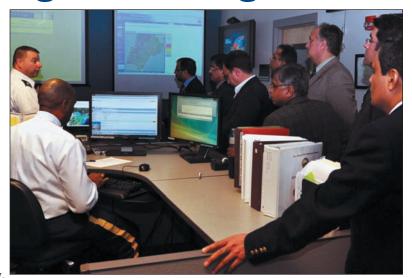
In June 2010, overwhelming monsoons coupled with heavy mountainous river flow created the perfect storm for a horrific natural disaster which devastated the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

As the Indus River basin, which runs northeast to southwest through the heart of the country, overflowed with raging water, nearly one-third of the nation was left underwater.

According to Ahmed Kamal, spokesman for the National Disaster Management System of the Republic of Pakistan, more than 20.6 million Pakistanis were affected by the widespread flooding.

With more people affected than those of the 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami, Pakistan's 2005 earthquake, Hurricane Katrina in the U.S., and 2010 Haiti earthquake combined, the United Nations rates the 2010 Pakistani floods as the greatest humanitarian crisis in recent history.

From Thursday to Sunday, March 3 to 13, Kamal led a delegation of nine civil and military leaders who joined with U.S. partners for a U.S. – Pakistan disaster preparedness conference conducted in Manchester, N.H.



Lt. Col. Ralph Huber, assistant joint operations officer, N.H. National Guard, explains the functions of different programs in the Joint Operations Center to a delegation of nine civil and military leaders from the Republic of Pakistan, at New Hampshire National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters, Concord, N.H., on March 9. The Pakistani leaders participated in a U.S.-Pakistan dialogue on emergency preparedness cooperation. Photo by Spc. Courtney Selig



Maj. Gen. Peter Bayer, director of strategy, plans and policy for the office of the deputy chief of staff of the Army, and Air Force Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, stand with a delegation of nine civil and military leaders from the Republic of Pakistan at New Hampshire National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters on March 9. The delegation was on hand to attend a joint disaster preparedness conference in the region. Photo by 1st Sgt. Michael Daigle

The initiative to provide improved civil-military cooperation in planning for natural and man-made disasters was made possible through a collaboration between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the U.S. Army's Global Civil-Military Emergency Preparedness program, the University of New Hampshire's Partners for Peace organization, the New Hampshire National Guard, and numerous state and local civil authorities throughout the region.

At a participants' welcoming dinner, Adjutant General of the State of New Hampshire, Maj. Gen. William N. Reddel III, addressed the Pakistani delegation that had traveled for more than 30 hours to share knowledge at the conference.

"I'd like to point to the national flag of Pakistan, with crescent and star, which



Maj. Oscar S. Friendly, preventive medicine science officer with the U.S. Army Directorate of Strategy, Plans and Policy, proposes a toast to the partnership between the United States and the Republic of Pakistan during a joint U.S.-Pakistan disaster preparedness workshop at the Radison Hotel in Manchester, N.H., March 9. Photo by Spc. Courtney Selig

together symbolize light and knowledge. We have talked about sharing knowledge and what we can do with it. It all comes down to what we are here to do – save lives," Maj. Gen. Reddel said.

Largely due to prior coordination and the prompt response of the Pakistani National Disaster Management System, thousands if not millions, of lives were saved in the wake of the 2010 flooding. Despite raging waters, deadly landslides and the potential for human disease, the NDMS reported less than two thousand deaths attributed to the disaster.

Khair Muhammad Kalwar, director general of the Sindh Province, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, noted education, training and access to technology as significant areas for improvement in Pakistan's emergency management system.

As the Pakistani delegation, made up of national, provincial and district emergency response coordinators, shared their lessons learned, they were introduced to new technology such as the geographic information system, which provides

open-source terrain and weather data to users in real time.

During a tour of the New Hampshire National Guard State Headquarters in Concord, N.H., Maj. Gen. Reddel demonstrated to his Pakistani partners the ability to observe flood extent and property damage using the digital system which the National Guard monitors closely with the New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Lt. Col. Michael Domingue, futureplans officer for New Hampshire National Guard joint operations said, "We believe this data sharing is a first in the nation and will greatly enhance civilian and Guard response actions, ultimately helping our citizens and possibly saving lives."

As the summit drew to a close, Maj. Oscar Friendly, preventive medicine science officer with the U.S. Army Directorate of Strategy, Plans, and Policy, said, "This meeting has not been about us helping Pakistan. It has truly been collaboration, with what we think will be a regional leader in global emergency preparedness." •



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Cadet Joshua Skersey, from Goffstown, wraps a keyboard and mouse, while Cadet Peter Daigle, from Durham, observes at the University of New Hampshire on April 26. The UNH Air Force cadets were assisting the New Hampshire National Guard in collecting computers donated by the Gladys Brooks Foundation Chemistry Computer Laboratories at UNH to send to the village of San José Villanueva, El Salvador, as part of the N.H. Guard State Partnership Program with El Salvador. Since 2001, N.H. Guardsmen have worked with their Salvadoran counterparts in three areas of development – military, government and business. They have involved senior leadership from Army and Air Guard units as well as representatives from the state legislature, state agencies, private business, Bow High School and the state university system.

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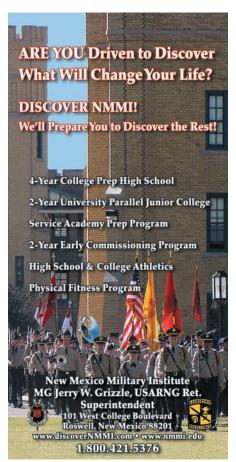


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Col. Richard Duncan, right, chief of staff, New Hampshire Army National Guard, receives a shadow box from Col. Bryan Clements upon the occasion of his retirement April 4 at Joint Force Headquarters in Concord. Duncan was also awarded the Legion of Merit from Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett, commander of the New Hampshire Army National Guard. "As a soldier, Col. Duncan dedicated himself to the most ancient and noble of professions," said Brig. Gen. Bennett. "In doing so, he succeeded in every turn." Duncan was quick to mention the tireless support of his family in his closing remarks. He advised the force to always serve the families of Guard members with care. "When families are taken care of, when they are happy, the soldier can do his job," Duncan said. Photo by Spc. Karin Leach





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