

NEW HAMPSHIRE

# National Guard

MAGAZINE

Spring 2009



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**National Guard**  
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**On the Cover:** Airman 1st Class Joshua Heiseler waves to family upon arrival of the 157th Security Forces at Pease Air National Guard in Newington, Feb. 22. Heiseler, first off the plane, was one of 22 airmen who completed a six-month deployment in Afghanistan. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

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

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*Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, The Adjutant General of the N.H. Guard, encourages a crowd of family and friends during a welcome home ceremony last summer for soldiers of the 237th Military Police Company. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA*



## Teaching the elephant to dance

*Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, who retires this month after a 40-year career in the N.H. National Guard, speaks about his four years as the Adjutant General, leadership and how the N.H. National Guard has evolved “back” to its roots as a localized militia. Maj. Greg Heilshorn conducted the interview on Feb. 28 in Clark’s office at Joint Force Headquarters, Concord.*

*Lets set the record straight. Are you running for governor or any other political office when you leave here?*

No. And I’ll tell you why. Running for public office, you have to be either a Republican or Democrat, and I have spent a lifetime as an Independent. I don’t plan to change.

*Who did you vote for in the presidential election?*

*(Laughs)*

*You don’t have to answer that one.*

Oh no, I’m happy to answer that one. I was a believer in President Obama’s ideas early in the process. I felt strongly that his vision of the role of the U.S. on the international stage was what was needed. When he gave his first interview to Al Arabiya (an Arabic-language television news channel based in the United Arab Emirates), it confirmed my earlier feelings.

*When you became the Adjutant General, you made no secret about the fact that you would serve in the position for only four years. Typically, it’s a 10-year hitch. Did you ever consider staying longer? It would seem as if you were just getting your feet wet.*

I think I can pretty safely say there has never been any doubt. I’ve always felt as though balance was very important to me and my life. I had the opportunity to partially retire when I left being a wing commander at Pease as a civil service employee. I reverted back to my roots as a traditional Guardsman and did that for a three-year period from age 55 to 58.

It was, candidly, with some reticence that I decided that I was interested in competing for the Adjutant General position. If I was going to seek to become the Adjutant General, I needed to make a personal commitment to do it for long enough that hopefully I would have an opportunity to have some impact. I couldn't plan to show up for two years and then say thank you very much, I'm now 60 and I'm leaving. I kind of decided four years was the minimum amount of time that I thought was appropriate.

I wouldn't call my current status "getting my feet wet." I'd say that I have become quite comfortable in the job. I have had an opportunity to represent the N.H. National Guard at both the state and national level and have some influence. We are beyond transformation. We know what our mission set is. I feel as though reunion and reintegration and the whole concept of taking care of soldiers and families – the vision for that – is well set. I feel as though the Air Guard is also well positioned with the active associate announcement and that the unit is well positioned for any new tanker that gets bought.

*Gov. Lynch accepted your retirement with resignation. Did he ask you to stay on longer?*

I'm not sure if I know how to answer that question because he has consistently said when I talk to him, "Why are you



*Then U.S. Air Force Lt. Kenneth Clark at the beginning of his career as a pilot in the N.H. Air Guard.*

leaving? I don't want you to go." But it is, candidly, more of a comfort thing. "You said you would be here as long as I was here," Gov. Lynch has said. And I've said to him, "Well, Governor, you didn't tell me you were going to run for three terms." So we have had some fun jabs back and forth.

*Does it feel pretty special being the first Air National Guard officer to become TAG of New Hampshire?*

It only is when someone asks me that question or points it out. It's not something I think about. It was evolutionary. It is not as revolutionary as it sounds. There was no Air Guard until 1947, so it wasn't an issue; and with the tenure history of Adjutants General staying for 10 years – in my entire time in the Guard, 40 years – there have only been four other Adjutants General.

*During the change of command ceremony, when you assumed the duties of TAG from Maj. Gen. John Blair, you stressed in your remarks that we were one N.H. National Guard. That has been a priority of yours and others. It seems that we've made leaps in that area as far as looking at ourselves as Guardsmen first.*

We have, but I would be quick to tell you that I don't think it has been so much that I've been successful at crafting a new vision for the Guard. World events have driven us there, and I've been willing to ride that wave. The world was changing when I took this job. It changed even more clearly during Hurricane Katrina, and it got amplified by the number of times the Governor called upon the Guard for domestic operations. So we have had these natural evolutionary things that have caused this shift in focus. And while those were going on, we had all of the changes at the national level – the National Guard Empowerment Act, the elevation of the chief of the National Guard to a four-star general, the creation of a Department of Homeland Security and the creation of Northern Command. All of those things have fed into and significantly altered the role and vision of the National Guard. And I have, on many occasions, given General Blair credit for having set the foundation for that. I didn't have to go dig up ground and build a foundation. I showed up and there was a stack of two-by-fours sitting here with a foundation. The question was, "Is it time to build this house, or are we still going to sit here and look at the foundation?" I arrived at the right time. We started building the house.

*Would it be fair to say that if we didn't have all of these events on the local, national and world stages that we would not be as far down this road as we are now?*

It would be more than fair to say. It is clear to me. General Blair had pushed a difficult cultural shift. A guy named James Belasco wrote an interesting book called, "Teaching the Elephant to Dance," and his theory was that unless there is some significant motivation like smoke in the tent, it is hard to get the elephant to dance. I was blessed with smoke in the tent. That's Katrina and all of the other outside events. Suddenly, people couldn't stand around saying, "Gee, I wonder if we should be doing this. Is this some crazy notion that the TAG has got, and we are going to be alone and on our own here?"

*It will never be the way it was before 9-11.*

But it's back to the future. This isn't a new role for the Guard. We fell asleep as a country and kind of let our real heritage and our real foundation give way to a big federal force. Following



World War II, we entered the Cold War and behaved as though all we needed was this big federal military. Anyone who has been a student of history could look at this and say this whole country was based on the concept of a localized militia, an involvement at the state level and a sharing of power with the active duty military, with the full-time military being only as big as necessary. So all we are doing is going back where we belong and to where our founders envisioned us to be.

*What has surprised you the most during your four years as TAG? Was there anything you felt you were unprepared for?*

Yes. It's all oriented around the Army. I had spent some time during those three years between age 55 and 58 working here at the joint headquarters learning more about the Army and the joint mission and domestic operations, but I still didn't really understand much about the Army Guard mindset and how the Army Guard operates. I've grown to appreciate the distinct cultures of the way the Army thinks and the way the Air Guard thinks. And I've really grown to appreciate the absolute sense of service that I see in so many of our Army Guardsmen. Now as soon as I say that, I'll leave the impression that I don't think that some of our Air Guardsmen have that same sense of service. It's simply different. Soldiers see themselves as ground warriors, people who expect to be in harm's way; and they have developed some level of comfort and expectation that that is their role. I've never experienced that with Air Guard people and have grown to really appreciate the Army Warrior ethos.

*What are some of the other differences that you've become more aware of?*

Army people are far more inclined to automatically follow orders of those above them; whereas in the Air Guard, the officer/enlisted relationships are different. There is much more comfort for enlisted people communicating with officers and sharing ideas. They expect that in a conversation when an officer is sharing thoughts, the officer is looking to collect feedback, not issuing orders. Whereas soldiers often assume the officer is telling what he wants done. I've had a hard time around here with that because on occasion I want to talk to people and expect to get something back and have had to work very hard at it. It has been awkward for a lot of people around here.

*It would seem as if each side could benefit.*

And I think they have. I think the Air Guard, by being involved in joint operations and having people who have worked here within the joint staff, has learned some of the Army's very good organization and planning skills. They are much better at logistics and deploying forces than the Air Guard is on the ground because we don't have a lot of experience with that. But I think the Army Guard has, at the same time, found that the respect and relationship of "we are all in this together" – it isn't the officer corps giving the orders and the enlisted corps carrying them out – has been good for both sides.

*Can someone learn to be a good leader?*

No, you can't. There needs to be some natural instinct toward leadership. But if you do have some natural instinct toward it and want to improve on it, then you can work on honing leadership skills. But if you can't sing, no number of singing lessons are likely to turn you into a singer.



*Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, with his Army leadership, awaits the arrival of Cpl. Scott Dimond's remains during the N.H. Army Guard soldier's honorable transfer on the tarmac of the Army Aviation Support Facility in Concord last October. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA*

*Who have been your biggest influences?*

My mother. A very independent, strong woman. Four feet, 10 inches tall. She found a way to pretty much work full time and raise seven kids. If she understood the word empowerment, which wasn't in her vocabulary, she understood it better than all the people who have written books about it. She started out with the premise, "I can trust you, and you are going to do the right thing." That became the foundation for me. Let good people do good things. The vast majority of people on this planet want to do what's right. They want to treat other people with respect and do things well. But it can be so easy to get sucked in by negativity. She never did.

The other is my wife. We met before I joined the Guard, and she has been my most trusted adviser in every aspect of my career. She has kept me grounded in family values and the balance that I spoke of earlier. We are blessed to be heading into our next chapter together. ❖



The 114th PAD gathers for a team photo at Fort Dix, N.J., in March. The unit spent the month there conducting mobilization training before departing to Iraq in early April. Front row from left, Sgt. Kathleen Briere, Spc. Rick Frost, Pvt. 2 Courtney Selig. Back row from left, Capt. Robert Burnham, Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish, Spc. Amburr Reese, Staff Sgt. Attila Fazekas, Pvt. Karin Leach, and Master Sgt. Mike Daigle. Photo: Courtesy of 114th PAD

# ARMED WITH PEN & PAPER

## *114th Public Affairs Detachment leaves for Iraq day after president's announcement to withdraw troops*

By Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO

**CONCORD** – The day after President Obama announced that all combat troops would be withdrawn from Iraq by August 2010, a group of N.H. Army Guardsmen were on their way there.

The 114th Public Affairs Detachment will spend the next 12 months based in Baghdad, documenting the successes of U.S. and coalition forces as they begin to scale back operations in a war that started six years ago.

More than 200 family and friends honored the unit during a deployment

ceremony Feb. 28 at Joint Force Headquarters. Congressmen and senior military leaders wished them a successful mission; the 39th Army Band kept the mood upbeat; and a handful of reporters tried their darnedest to find one soldier out the nine departing who was miffed by the timing of the president's announcement and their deployment.

"I can understand, like, why you might think it's ironic, but we've known about [the deployment] for quite some time," said 18-year-old Karin Leach, the

youngest member of the unit, to Ron Maroney, a reporter for New England Cable News. "So we all are just really excited to go over there and tell the story all the people want to know."

Added Master Sgt. Mike Daigle, the unit's elder statesman at 51, "It's an exciting time to be there because we are transitioning power to the Iraqi people, and it's a new democracy."

What Maroney and other reporters failed to recognize while they were trying to manufacture a connection between the two events was the mind set of this particular unit. Trained as public affairs specialists, they were prepared for the question and had actually talked about it as a group the day before, according to the commander, Capt. Robert Burnham.

He echoed a well-worn talking point, which is true of most service members as they depart for combat.

"I just feel a sense of readiness," Burnham said to more than one reporter. "We've got the support. We've covered all our bases. Now it's time to go forward and execute our mission."



*"It's an exciting time to be there because we are transitioning power to the Iraqi people, and it's a new democracy."*

– Master Sgt. Mike Daigle

Each time he spoke, he delivered his words with patience and maturity, two traits that will be tested many times in theater. The 114th will produce a newspaper as well as video products and press releases. They'll spend a month before departure at Fort Dix, New Jersey, sharpening their combat skills.

It is an entirely new unit from the one that deployed to Kosovo in 2002, then a 20-man detachment split with Vermont. A mix of young and old, seasoned and untested, the current unit is barely a squad-size element, downsized by National Guard restructuring.

They are positioned to write their own unique chapter to the unit's book of travels. Over the past two decades, the 114th has been one of the most deployed assets of the N.H. Army Guard, supporting humanitarian missions in the Caribbean and Central America, including the Virgin Islands, Honduras, Panama, Belize and El Salvador. In 1995, the 114th deployed to Bosnia.

In recent years, 114th soldiers have partnered with the N.H. Air Guard's Public Affairs team to provide critical support to the state's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office during state activations for floods and the December 2008 ice storm. They also escorted state media during the N.H. Guard's deployment to New Orleans in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

At their farewell, Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, The Adjutant General of the N.H. Guard, highlighted the importance of having public affairs specialists on the battlefield.

"It cannot be overstated," he said.

During a visit to see N.H. Guardsmen in Iraq two years ago, Clark recalled sitting in on a briefing with Gen. David Petraeus, then commanding general of Multi-National Force - Iraq, and noting how often Petraeus consulted his public affairs staff.

Clark lauded the 114th for their role in telling the story of the N.H. Guard, helping the Army Guard for the first time fill 100 percent of its allotted positions last year. He also singled out Daigle for their long friendship and his steady advice.

A grateful Daigle beamed afterward – for the large turnout of family and friends and for the way his soldiers handled the reporters. ♦

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**UNITED CONCORDIA**

# Interactive video helps focus N.H. Guard suicide prevention program

By Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

**CONCORD** – Two months into his first deployment, our hero, Army Spc. Kyle Norton, is having a crappy day. His fiancée dumped him, his squad is under fire, and he hasn't been sleeping. The decisions he makes could save his life. Or kill him. And you get to decide.

Created like a "choose your own adventure" video, the Army's latest suicide prevention tool, "Beyond the Front," allows viewers to decide the path of 19-year-old Norton on his first tour overseas.

Participants see Norton struggle with the stress of daily combat missions, the emotional toll of a broken relationship, the stigma associated with mental health issues and the importance of friendship. The film's realism led one N.H. Guard soldier to say, on his way out the door, "It's the best training I've ever been to."

The New Hampshire Army National Guard is incorporating the video screenings as part of an Army-wide "Stand Down" in response to 2008 statistics, which showed the highest number of U.S. soldiers' deaths from suicide in recorded history.

In January 2009 alone, at least 24 soldiers committed suicide, the greatest monthly loss in 30 years – more than five times as many as in January 2008, according to U.S. Army officials.

## Warning signs of suicide

- Failed Relationships
- Legal/Financial/Occupational Problems
- Previous Suicide Attempts
- Suicide Threats
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Statements Revealing a Desire to Die
- Sudden Changes in Behavior
- Loss of Interest in Activity
- Prolonged Depression
- Making Final Arrangements
- Giving Away Prized Possessions
- Purchasing a Gun or Stockpiling Pills
- Feelings of Humiliation

"We are taking this very seriously," said Maj. Michael Moranti, outgoing suicide prevention program manager. "The long-term goal is to decrease the number of suicide victims, but we also want to reduce the stigma of getting help and increase the awareness of resources to get help. We want soldiers to be able to recognize the warning signs and risk factors."

For its part, the N.H. Air National Guard requires airmen to complete CBT (Computer Based Training) on an annual basis, which covers the topic of suicide awareness.

The latest statistics gathered by the Associated Press show that more than half of the veterans who have committed suicide were National Guard and Reserve troops who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unlike their active duty counterparts who may have resources and facilities available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on base, Guard soldiers come home and spread out across the state as they go back to their civilian lives.

The N.H. Army National Guard has sent nearly 1,500 soldiers off to war, and both the state and the National Guard have created new resources to help with their reintegration and mental health. Guard leaders stress, however, that all soldiers are at risk for suicide, not just those serving overseas. Of the total deaths from suicide, about half are for soldiers that have never deployed.

Last year, the state of New Hampshire established a Suicide Prevention Council, and the N.H. Guard appointed its first full-time suicide prevention manager, Sgt. 1st Class Dale Garrow. The N.H. Guard has also cultivated community partnerships with agencies such as NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and DBHRT, the state's Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team.

In the last five years, the N.H. Guard community has dealt with two suicides, but it's hard to tell how many other attempts may have been prevented. In the video, Norton has a choice to go visit the chaplain. In New Hampshire, both N.H. Army Guard Chaplain Steven Veinotte and the Air Guard chaplain's office are available to soldiers and airmen in need of help.

Since the training began, Veinotte has seen an increase in people requesting assistance.

"People's awareness is heightened. People are saying, 'You need to go talk to the chaplain,'" he said. "No one wants to be the buddy that doesn't help. The stress that our folks are experiencing is real – whether they have deployed or not."

The video's breaks allow for soldiers to talk about their own deployment experiences as they debate what Norton's next move should be.

In one scene, Norton, who hasn't been sleeping because of emotional turmoil and a combat casualty, gets chewed out by his unsympathetic squad leader for not having his "head in the game when you're outside the wire."

Moranti, who leads the training, asks, "Is this realistic?"

Someone says, "It depends on your MOS (military occupation specialty) and the company you came from."





## Where to get help

### *Crisis Numbers in the New Hampshire Area*

#### **Manchester VAMC**

(800) 892-8384, ext. 6096, 6085

#### **Bedford VAMC**

(781) 687-2347

#### **Boston VAMC**

(617) 232-9500

#### **White River Junction VAMC**

(866) 687-8387

#### **Suicide Prevention Coordinator at Manchester**

VA Medical Center

Sebrina Posey, LCSW

(603) 426-4366 ext 6463

#### **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – VA**

(800) 273-TALK (8255)

[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/veterans](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/veterans)

#### **Suicide Prevention, Army G-1**

<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hR/suicide/>

#### **Army Well-Being Liaison Office**

(800) 833-6622

[www.armyfamiliesonline.org](http://www.armyfamiliesonline.org)

#### **Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline**

(800) 984-8523

#### **National Suicide Hotline**

(800) SUICIDE (784-2433)

*“We are taking this very seriously. The long-term goal is to decrease the number of suicide victims, but we also want to reduce the stigma of getting help and increase the awareness of resources to get help. We want soldiers to be able to recognize the warning signs and risk factors.”*

– Maj. Michael Moranti

Someone else responds, “No, it’s an individual thing. It depends on your commander.”

Later Moranti asks a soldier, “You had a casualty. Did someone come to you?”

And then, “Do you think that stigma [about mental health and the perception of weakness] is still an issue?”

To which the group responded, “Yes.”

The discussion of attitudes and experiences through the training, said Veinotte, gets back to “who we are as human beings and how we take care of each other as a community.”

“We are seeing a suicide prevention video so we are thinking about suicide – but if it was a PTSD [Post Traumatic Stress Disorder] video, we’d be thinking PTSD – or if it were substance abuse, we’d be thinking substance abuse. But all of them fall under stress and our reaction to it. What we are being given are tools to deal with life,” Veinotte said. “What we need to be doing is encouraging each other and watching out for each other.”

The Army’s ACE suicide intervention program and a “shoulder to shoulder” campaign address the idea of taking care of our friends. ACE stands for Ask your buddy, Care for your buddy, Escort your buddy.

“We’re complicated entities,” said Veinotte. “But aside from our brokenness, we’re all incredible human beings with good things going on as well as the challenges we all experience. The emotional life is wrapped up in all of this. There are no easy answers. But we are pretty good at noticing if another human being is not right – and when you notice that, you need to do something about it.” ♦

# More than just a numbers game

## Hillard again named New England's top Army Guard recruiter

By Staff Sgt. Ginger Dempsey, NHNG-PA

**CONCORD** – The 40-year-old veteran recruiter stood unobtrusively near the window of the armory gym while a young soldier stretched in the background, explaining his belief that he'll never personally see the true measure of his success.

"No, I'll never see it," said Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Hillard, a Concord-area recruiter. "When I'm dead and gone, how I lived my life and how I made a difference in this world will show by the number of people who come to my funeral. That will be the measurement for me. What will they say? Was I unselfish? Did I help others? Did I make a difference in peoples' lives?"

With the NCO creed as his rallying cry, Hillard said he endeavors every day to live his life valiantly and respectably. As the top Recruiting and Retention NCO for the New Hampshire Army National Guard, he has spent his 13 years of recruiting duty engineering the technique that helped him achieve the grand slam.

And in 2008, it took 39 blueprints for success to yield the triumph.

By harvesting individualized plans for each person he brought into the NHARNG throughout the year, Hillard captured the Chief's 54 Recruiter for the Year for the regional area Recruiting Command, which covers New England and New York. Hillard earned that esteemed title in 2007 with 37 new soldiers, and both years competed at the national level for top honors.

The Army National Guard Chief's 54 Recruiting and Retention Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is awarded annually to the top production recruiter by the Director of the National Guard Bureau. To be eligible to compete, recruiters must have signed on at least 24 enlistments, all of whom shipped to initial entry training.

Normally, NHARNG recruiters are required to sign on 18 new soldiers per year.

It's no easy task successfully recruiting that many people, Hillard admitted, but he said that there is precious little time now to rest on his laurels. Still, when he pauses to articulate what it takes to thrive in the job, his words are tinged with resoluteness.

"Being a recruiter, you have to have genuine long-term concern for the soldiers," he said. "When you enlist, I'm still going to see you at drill weekends and out at the unit, when it's time for you to reenlist or look at a job change. And your siblings and family members are going to be out there in the same schools and community as my kids and my family. So I'm with you for the duration of your enlistment."

The father of seven daughters and a self-proclaimed king of multi-tasking, Hillard considers his victories in the job are by virtue of the teamwork and support he has from his home front.

"I have so much confidence in him, and I'm not just saying that because he's my husband," said his wife, Carrie. "He is so reliable and so loyal. I see the way he works and how patriotic he is, and he's not just doing this for a paycheck."

Carrie noted that he puts in incredibly long hours on the job, and admits that it's not easy on the family. "But we're such great partners; we work together and make it work. And he does give us time; and when it's time to be with us, he's really with us," she said. "We all believe in what he does – we know we need good people out there defending this country."



Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Hillard takes a break from PT at the Concord armory recently to talk about his approach to recruiting. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

In Hillard's storefront office at the Steeplegate Mall in Concord, he has hanging by his desk pictures of "his girls," all seven daughters ranging in age from 10 to 21. Beside that are his two plaques for Recruiter of the Year, and on the opposite wall hangs a large board with photos of his enlisting soldiers and copies of their individual certificates of achievement. All are modest commentaries on the crowning facets of his character.

He is proud of the new soldiers and of the qualities they possess that propel them to enlist to serve their country. Sometimes, he said, he feels like a parent when he talks to the young people before him. Other times, he professes he is the first role model some of these youth have had who cares about them, offering them guidance and mentorship, without wanting anything in return.

"Most importantly, I strive to establish a rapport with each person, to show them they can trust me, and I genuinely care about them and want to help them," he said. "I will put my wing around them and help them, and I'll do that as long as they don't give up on themselves."

Of course, the process of signing someone up to serve their country entails making sure it's the right fit for the military as well as the applicant.

"When I first sit down with someone, I ask some key questions," he said. "I listen carefully to what's called the language of needs. Usually the first interview lasts an hour and a half, because I really get to know them and what's important to them. The key to being a good recruiter is taking features we can offer and turning it into a benefit for them. It's about listening to people, recognizing their needs and knowing your product."

Not everyone is ready to sign on when they first meet with a recruiter.



The typical appraisals, Hillard said, include body fat, background check, urinalysis, practice aptitude test and medical screening. Out of about a dozen people he might talk to in any given week, on average, one will be eligible for military service. And for each one person who has the potential to enlist, Hillard said he devotes about 25-30 hours.

“As a general rule of thumb, most of our recruiters are out there working 50-plus hours a week,” said Recruiting Command Sgt. Maj. Conrad Watson. “People don’t really understand what they actually have to do, the amount of time, work and effort that goes into each enlistment. It’s much more than just making a phone call, talking with someone and bringing them in.”

Heather Muise demonstrated her mettle when she followed Hillard’s extensive game plan to lose some extra weight and raise her scores on the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery Test, which measures propensity in a multitude of areas. Her particular plan involved coming in to the gym three mornings a week to work out with Hillard, his team and other hopeful applicants. For months, Muise showed up five days a week rather than just three; and every day spent time poring over a study book to raise her score.

“I gave her a plan, which included going to the local bookstore and picking up the book *ASVAB for Dummies*,” Hillard said. “They might not like the title, but it’s part of that series, and it works. She got the book, started following my PT plan, and worked for it. When she went to MEPS, she had a 27 percent body fat and scored a 59 on the ASVAB.”

Pvt. Muise enlisted Feb. 12 as an automated logistics specialist.

“My father retired from the National Guard years ago, so in a sense I’m doing this partly to make him proud,” Muise said. “It has been a long road to get here, but a lot of people in my family let me know they’re proud of me and motivate me to keep going.”

Hillard earnestly believes military service can be a great foundation to meet lifelong goals. He also passes the credit back to the applicants who make it.

“There’s only so much we can do, and the rest is up to them,” he said. “It’s got to be inside them, they’ve got to want it, and

they’ve got to work for it. If the applicants follow my instructions and understand that it’s going to take some work, they’ll get there. And that’s the thing – they’re getting it for themselves.”

“The reality is a lot of people out there couldn’t do this job,” Watson said. “And at the core, our recruiters are a group of people who truly care about bringing in good quality soldiers, and it shows. Both in status and in ranking, our recruiting force is one of the best in the country.”

As the top enlisted soldier for the New Hampshire recruiting battalion, Watson considered the platitude of time-worn accusations that recruiters only care about the numbers.

“Like any organization, there are always going to be bad apples,” he said. “But we’ve worked hard with people to get rid of those old attitudes; and I think now those philosophies are starting to change. It is important for the full-time staff of the National Guard to really learn and understand what recruiters do on a day-to-day basis.

“We are more selective now, we scrutinize people more – we’re looking for better scores, better students. Here’s the bottom line though. If the regulations say a kid is eligible, and that kid wants to join, we process him,” he added. “By and large, we have a lot of good, bright young kids coming in.”

The Guard has evolved over the years and is far removed from the disrepute of the National Guard of the ’60s and ’70s, he said.

“Now the National Guard has a big role in what’s going on globally – we’re sitting at the table, too, and we’re very involved in what’s going on,” he said. “Look around you. Our future leadership has that real world experience – a lot of these young kids have two, three, more deployments under their belt. That means in five, ten years, we’ve got a great setup.”

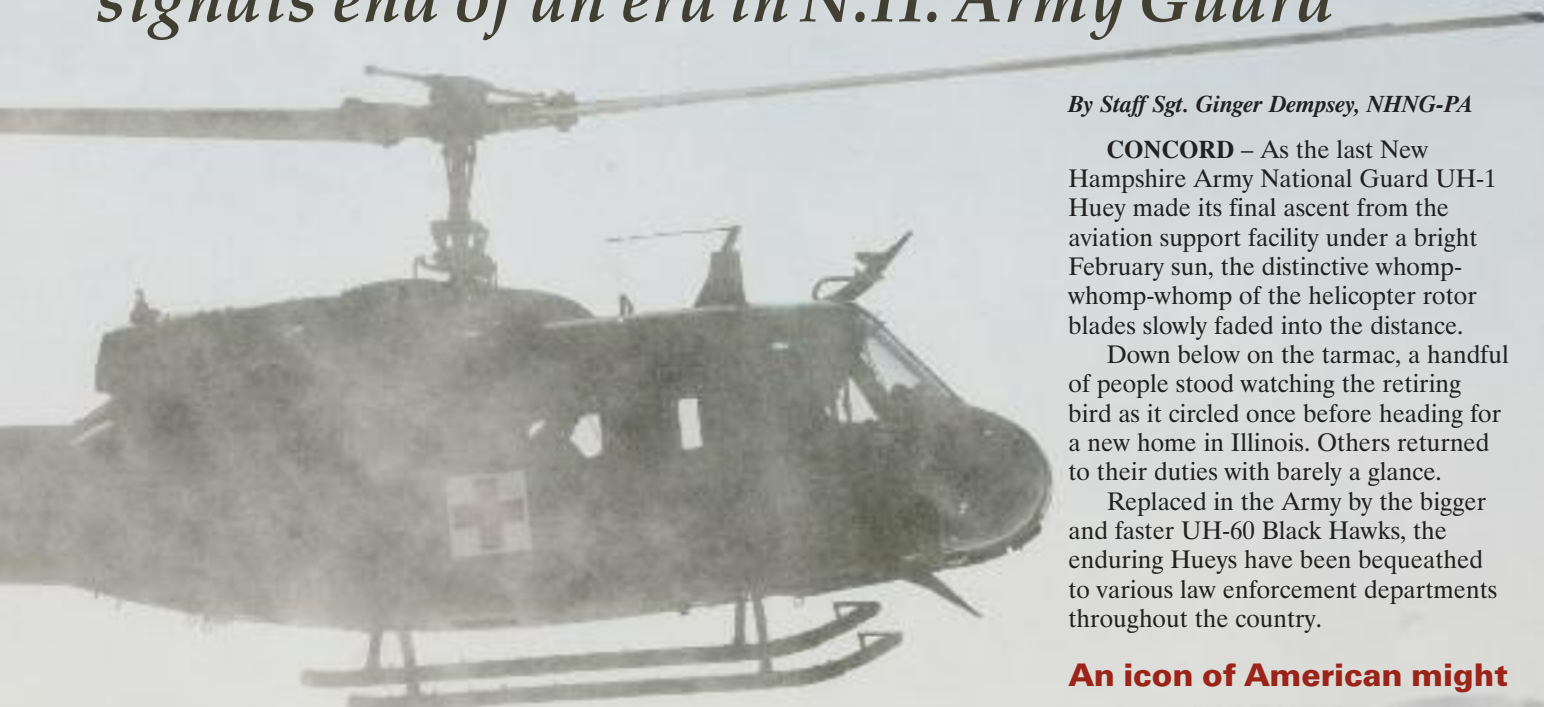
Currently, New Hampshire Army National Guard ranks seventh in the country, which in the overall picture is a culmination of recruit sustainment, accessions, officer strength, retention, attrition and enlisted strength. Just three years ago, according to Watson, NHARNG ranked 52nd in the nation. As of February 2009, the N.H. Army National Guard was at 103.4 percent strength. ❖



Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Hillard talks with potential applicant Brianna Bunch, left, and Pvt. Jamie Ewalt at the N.H. Army Guard’s recruiting station in the Steeple Gate Mall, Concord, in March. Photo: Staff Sgt. Ginger Dempsey, NHNG-PA

# HUEY'S FINAL ASCENT

*signals end of an era in N.H. Army Guard*



*By Staff Sgt. Ginger Dempsey, NHNG-PA*

**CONCORD** – As the last New Hampshire Army National Guard UH-1 Huey made its final ascent from the aviation support facility under a bright February sun, the distinctive whomp-whomp-whomp of the helicopter rotor blades slowly faded into the distance.

Down below on the tarmac, a handful of people stood watching the retiring bird as it circled once before heading for a new home in Illinois. Others returned to their duties with barely a glance.

Replaced in the Army by the bigger and faster UH-60 Black Hawks, the enduring Hueys have been bequeathed to various law enforcement departments throughout the country.

## **An icon of American might**

In its hey day, the Huey represented vitality and American might. It was a lifeline during the Vietnam War, ferrying troops, the injured, food, ammunition and other supplies. But with advances in technologies and demands of the battlefield, the Huey became outdated.

Retired Maj. Gen. John Blair, former Adjutant General of the N.H. Guard and a medevac pilot in Vietnam, knew the day would come when the Huey would be phased out. But now that it's finally happened, he took a few moments to ruminate on their loss.

"I was a little surprised to hear the Huey had left the inventory. They're old soldiers, and they were a big part of my life," Blair said. "They revolutionized the battlefield. Boy, I remember how excited we were when we got them in the late '60s. The Hueys just blossomed with our capability."

Blair flew 630 combat hours in Vietnam, 210 of those at night. To this day, he refers to himself as a medevac pilot when asked what he did in the military.

"It was always rewarding," he said. "There were many times I was shot at and missed, and there were many times I was shot at and hit — but no matter what, it was always rewarding. You were there to save lives, and you just did it."

Blair evacuated more than 1,400 patients during his tour in Vietnam.



*Then U.S. Army Lt. John Blair, sitting, and a crew member pose with their UH-1H Huey during a break from their missions in Vietnam. Blair, the former Adjutant General of the N.H. Guard and a retired major general, began his military career as a Huey pilot, flying 630 combat hours in Vietnam.*

*Photo: Courtesy of Maj. Gen. (R) John Blair*



“You know you helped somebody,” he said. “You know you contributed greatly. We were able to get troops to the center of the combat zone, fresh and ready to fight. We could also save lives and conserve the fighting strength.

“The Hueys were phenomenal machines; and were at that time the epitome of helicopter technology.”

That technology continued to evolve, and Army aviation modernization plans sought to improve operational readiness with a more maintainable fleet. When the call was first made to retire the Huey, the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service of Battle Creek, Mich., stepped in. DRMS has been tasked since the mid-1970s with helping to dispose of all types of military surplus. The office, a part of the Defense Logistics Agency, first looks to move inventory to other entities within the Department of Defense. If there are no takers, DRMS looks to other federal agencies, or donates to state and local governments and other qualified organizations, according to the agency’s Web site.

DRMS facilitated a program to transition the Hueys to various law enforcement entities.

### Finding a different niche

The Army first planned to convert its aviation fleet from the Hueys to the Sikorsky-manufactured Black Hawks in the 1980s and 1990s. The top priority was the active duty elements, so many National Guard units continued to fly the Hueys.

During that time, the work tempo for the Hueys did not slow. They became a workhorse for the N.H. Army Guard supporting state and local first responders with search and rescues, fighting wildfires, and other state emergencies.

When the 1159th Medical Company deployed to Iraq in 2005, the Hueys stayed behind to support state missions, while the unit’s fleet of Black Hawks went overseas.

In Iraq, the Black Hawks were stationed at five locations to provide adequate coverage throughout the country and timely life-saving transport to medical facilities. During the year tour, the unit conducted 2,385 missions and transported 3,895 patients. That’s a record the Hueys would have difficulty keeping up with, according to retired medevac pilot Thomas Clegg, who was deployed with the unit in Iraq.

“With the pace of the threat on the battlefield, which has only quickened, the Huey can’t compete,” Clegg said. “Technology has moved on. It doesn’t mean the Hueys are dead; it just means they need to find a different niche.”

### A battle-scarred warhorse

The Hueys leaving is a double-edged sword, Clegg said.

He recalled days in Vietnam flying the Hueys as a combat assault pilot.

“You have to remember, helicopters came onto the scene relatively late in World War II, and played a limited role,” he said. “Vietnam really kicked it in, and they were something new.

“We were coming in with what was for the time a state-of-the-art machine – in our minds it could do no wrong. The Huey is an extremely forgiving aircraft, easy to fly, easy to maintain. It could take a lot of hits and keep on flying. There were missions we would get back [from] and start counting the bullet holes in the machine – we would be amazed it had kept running.”

Clegg logged 800 combat flying hours in Vietnam, more than 200 of them at night. He said the Hueys allowed them a false sense of security, and “that allowed us to extend our safety margin.”

He regrets what he fears is a philosophy that if it’s old, it’s not good.

“That’s a fallacy,” he said. “The Hueys have been a workhorse for so long, and they are still dependable and still usable. But it is time to take them off the battlefield and put them to other uses. I think it’s an excellent idea to shift the Hueys from the Army inventory to law enforcement.”

In February, the N.H. Guard passed on its last two Hueys to law enforcement outfits. One, manufactured in 1973, went to Atlanta. The other, made in 1971, was requisitioned by the Law Enforcement Aviation Coalition out of Winthrop Harbor, Ill.

“Bit by bit, we’re making the conversion,” said Ken MacNevin, a spokesperson for DRMS. “But there are still units out there still flying the Hueys. For example, in Hohenfels, Germany, the Hueys are still flown by the observer-controller teams during training exercises.”

New Hampshire’s former choppers, now donning police markings rather than the familiar red cross, will be used primarily for law enforcement work including SWAT operations, but also search and rescue and firefighting support.

“This was an era change, and I knew it was going to happen,” Blair said. “The Hueys changed the face of the Guard. I’m sad to see them go, but at the same time, the Guard is where I had hoped it would be – a full partner in the operational force. Now, the National Guard is getting the recognition it’s long deserved.” ❖



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bruce Gokey, left, maintenance test flight evaluator, conducts pre-flight inspection of the last Huey on the NHARNG’s inventory with Chief Pilot Randal Olson of the Law Enforcement Aviation Coalition out of Winthrop Harbor, Ill., on Feb. 24 at the Army Aviation Support Facility.

# Security Forces complete Afghanistan mission



Members of the 157th Security Forces squadron arrive at Pease Air National Guard Base and into the waiting arms of family and friends, Feb 22. The 22 airmen completed a six-month tour in Afghanistan providing security for Bagram Air Base. Photos: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

By 1st Lt. Sherri Pierce, 157th ARW PAO

**NEWINGTON** – The clock struck 1 a.m. at Pease Air National Guard Base as the KC-135 landing lights became visible in the night sky. A few minutes later, the aircraft carrying 22 Security Forces Squadron (SFS) members on their last leg home from Afghanistan taxied to its parking spot. In what seemed like hours to the family and friends awaiting their return, the cargo door finally opened revealing smiling airmen anxious to be reunited with them.

The airmen could hear the cheers but only see the silhouettes of their friends and family who stood in front of a hangar about 100 yards away. The members were first greeted by 157th Wing Commander Col. Richard P. Martell on the deck of the aircraft as well as members of the senior leadership team as they descended down the stairs. From there, it was only moments before they made their way across the tarmac to where their families and friends stood waiting.

While he had been able to view his new son Ryan's birth using Skype, a computer video-link program, Master Sgt. Bill Charland saw him for the first time in person.

"He was more than I expected. Pictures and Skype didn't do him justice. He is always smiling, and he is a big flirt," Charland said.

While many onlookers were anxious to witness his reaction to seeing his younger son for the first time, Charland's biggest concern was with his older son Daniel.

"I was worried about not reintegrating with Daniel and that he wouldn't know me," he said. "Once we had our first wrestling session we were back on track."

Staff Sgt. Edward Dubaniewicz also came back to a new family addition – a five-and-a-half-month-old son, Landon. While Dubaniewicz held his 24-month-old daughter, Sierra, his wife, Alayna, noticed he had a free hand. She then passed Landon to him and said with a smile, "Start practicing."

Happiness to see their loved ones was the sentiment Sunday morning and certainly overshadowed the cold temperatures and early hour. Sgt. Nate Charmand's father attested to that.

"I'd be here no matter what time it was," he said.

Airman John Pepper stood among his teary-eyed friends and family and said, "Thank you all for coming," to which his mother responded, "I wouldn't miss it for the world."

A total of 23 airmen spent about six months at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan where they performed air base defense missions.

"We secured planes while they landed, and set up 360-degree perimeters while gear was unloaded," said Master Sgt. Peter Vatisas. "We also assisted in prisoner-of-war transfers."

"The fine group of senior NCOs, NCOs, and airmen who were deployed represented the unit and the State of New Hampshire admirably," said 157th SFS Commander Maj. Richard Hamilton. ❖



# N.H. Guard soldiers mistaken for Russians

By Capt. Tyler Chamberlain

**GHAB, Afghanistan, Dec. 8, 2008** – I flew into the Ghab, or what we affectionately call BMG, with Sgt. 1st Class Scott Roberts about a week or so ago via an Italian Chinook helicopter. The Ghab is so isolated that this is the only way in.

Whenever you see journalists in Afghanistan and they say, “What you see here is one of the most isolated places in Afghanistan, and possibly the world,” it’s not really true. The journalist was actually able to get there, so it couldn’t have been too isolated. Journalists don’t travel to BMG often because they know they are at risk of not getting a flight back for a week or so.

We are the first group of Americans that will stay at this forward operating base (FOB) through the winter. The last time the local villagers saw white people here was when the Russians were here in the 1980s, so they naturally thought we were Russians and that we were back to finish what they had started. This being said, there is much work to do here to make this place livable through the winter. We’ve been spending time insulating our sleeping quarters and getting them ready for the harsh winter. It was reported to be so cold in this area last winter that the diesel froze. The real cold winter weather starts here around late December and continues until sometime in late April.

The winter here is both a curse and a blessing: The curse is the cold weather and the mounds of snow winter brings; the blessing is that the dust is consumed by the snow. The dust is so fine here that we call it moon dust. Think of talcum powder, and then put piles of it everywhere you walk. Because of the moon dust, and how close the helo pad is to the FOB, it is impossible to stay clean. Everyone’s uniforms look like they’ve been put in a bag of dust, shaken around like you would make “Shake ‘n Bake,” and then put back on.

Keeping the dust off yourself and equipment is nearly impossible, and since we are in the desert, we need to be very conscious of how much water we use. This means that we take a shower only once every three days. Thankfully, when we do take a shower the water is hot, usually. There are no laundry facilities here, so laundry day consists of scrounging up a bucket, filling it with detergent and some water from the shower, and hand washing laundry. When the weather was not as cold, people would dry their laundry outside on string strung between bunkers, but soon it will be too cold to do that, so we’ll have to dry our clothing inside.

A few days ago, we went out on a patrol in the local village. The variety of responses that we received went from children waving and smiling at us, to unkind stares from village elders and teens. The women wear full burkas and they cover their faces, and the female teens are not to be seen in the streets at all. We visited local police checkpoints to see how things were going and chitchatted with the villagers that were willing to talk. Down almost every street shops were open for business, selling and bartering clothing, food and toys.

Everyone here has learned some new carpentry skills as well because the only way that we are going to make this place better is if we improve it ourselves. Unlike other parts of Afghanistan, we don’t have KBR (Kellogg, Brown and Root) here to conduct maintenance and provide food support. The other day I built a shelf to go above my bed, and today I built a box for the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) to transport some of their ammo and weapons. One thing that does take some of the workload off our shoulders are the Italians. They conduct most



A military airdrop is an efficient way to get supplies to hard-to-reach places. Images courtesy of Capt. Tyler Chamberlain

of the food operations here, and thankfully they brought their appreciation of food with them to the Ghab. They also brought their love for pasta with them. This means that they have pasta with every single one of their meals. We have had pasta, in one form or another, for both lunch and supper since we’ve been here. It’s a good thing most of us like pasta, and it seems like they have an infinite number of ways to cook it.

As far as what my Embedded Training Team (ETT) consists of here in BMG, it’s just me plus a senior sergeant and a medic. I mentor and work with the captain in charge of the ANA here, and the sergeant works with the senior ANA sergeant. We have an interpreter that works with us as well and lives on the FOB. Interpreters are very important to us. Not only do they interpret for us, but they also teach us about the customs and what we should do for different occasions, such as different holidays, visiting wounded soldiers, or a death in either the family or the ANA. Our interpreter has only been an interpreter for just under three weeks now, and I’ve only been working with him for the past week. We are getting to know each other and I’m figuring out how to word things so he will interpret correctly. Some are better than others, but interpreting in a combat zone means that exact interpretation is critical. Building a positive relationship with your interpreter is also very important, so we invite him to watch movies with us; we share our snack food with him, and help him out however we can.

Most Afghans do not travel around the country, unless they are Taliban, or their family makes enough money for them to make the Hajj journey. This is true for our interpreter as well. He grew up in the northeast part of Afghanistan, where Afghanistan juts between Tajikistan and Pakistan, and borders China. However, he spent his last few years in Kabul where he had an additional two years of English lessons before he came to work for us. He never would have imagined coming to BMG, so we share that in common. This is also his first time away from his parents, so he misses his mother very much, even though they are not that far away by American standards – Afghanistan is about the size of Texas. ❖

*Chamberlain is deployed to Afghanistan as part of a N.H. Army Guard Embedded Training Team.*

# Teaching acceptance

## *N.H. Guardsmen participate in youth diversity workshop*

By Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

**WATERVILLE VALLEY** – With middle school students circled around her, cultural diversity workshop facilitator Staff Sgt. Michelle Lowes shared her own childhood story of hate.

She talked about moving to a new home in a predominately white neighborhood and having her family egged by teenagers in a passing convertible who yelled, “Go home niggers. You don’t belong here.”

As she finished, students began to tell their own stories – of people making fun of the color of their skin and of threats of violence. They also talked about the idea of putting yourself in someone else’s shoes.

“I felt like if I opened up, they would too,” Lowes said.

Conversations about differences, acceptance and feelings were an integral part of the day-long program “Keeping the Dream Alive” hosted by the N.H. Cultural Diversity Awareness Council at the Waterville Valley Conference Center



NHARNG Staff Sgt. Shelly Lowes facilitates a class during a youth diversity workshop at the Waterville Valley Conference Center Jan. 28. Lowes was one of six N.H. National Guardsmen who acted as facilitators during the conference hosted by the N.H. Cultural Diversity Awareness Council. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

on Jan. 27. The day also included an afternoon of skiing and instruction.

“I loved the energy and the youth spirit that permeated the entire event,” said Master Sgt. Margie Arwine, one of six N.H. National Guard officers and noncommissioned officers who served as facilitators for the event. “I love the military, and being able to share that with the kids made me proud.”

The NHNG soldiers and airmen were part of a corps of trainers representing several area corporations, military, law enforcement and fire services. They led 190 students and 30 school administrators from around the state and Massachusetts.

“Supporting the symposium gives the N.H. National Guard another opportunity to serve the community,” said Capt. Suzanne Barricklow, State Equal Employment Manager. “The military employs a diverse workforce, and teaches its members to appreciate what people of different races, religions, genders and ethnicities bring to the organization.

“It’s a privilege for us to share what we’ve learned with some of the youth and educators of New Hampshire.”

The conference attendees came from Southside, Parkside, Hillside and McLaughlin Middle Schools in Manchester along with Waterville Valley School, Donald MacKay School and Gavin Middle School in Boston.

During the workshop, students learned to address issues such as prejudice relating to one’s economic status, language, religion and ethnic origin.

For one exercise, students chose potatoes from a pile and gave them names and defining characteristics.

“My potato has a smile.” “My potato is lumpy.” “My potato is Latina.”

Through activities such as these, organizers hoped to teach tolerance for differences, problem-solving strategies and positive ways to resolve conflicts, with the ultimate goal of returning to school to share their experiences with their peers.

“We hope the students left feeling that they have more in common with each other,” said Wayne Jennings, chairman of the event. “We also hope that they left with a better understanding and respect for country, our country’s flag, as well as the men and women who wear the uniform.” ♦



NHARNG Master Sgt. Margie Arwine facilitates a class during a youth diversity workshop at the Waterville Valley Conference Center Jan. 28. Arwine was one of six N.H. National Guardsmen who acted as facilitators during the conference hosted by the N.H. Cultural Diversity Awareness Council. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA



New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch, joined by state and military leaders, signs the New Hampshire Military Community Covenant during a ceremony March 4 in the State House Hall of Flags.



## Pledging their support

### State leaders sign military community covenant

By Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO

**CONCORD** – Gov. John Lynch, joined by state and military leaders, signed the New Hampshire Military Covenant in the State House Hall of Flags on March 4. The covenant is a formal declaration of support for New Hampshire’s more than 15,000 service men and women, their families and veterans.

“Many New Hampshire service members have fought for our freedoms in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they have done so with courage, dignity and honor,” Gov. Lynch said. “Our brave men and women are there for us at a moment’s notice. And the demands placed on our active duty and our citizen soldiers are greater now than ever.

“It is important that we in New Hampshire continue to show support for them, their families, and their sacrifice for our state and our nation.”

About 100 people attended the ceremony. They included service members, military veterans and a group of fourth graders from the Kimball School. The

event was also an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary support and generosity the citizens of New Hampshire have shown their uniformed men and women from all branches of the Armed Forces – Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard – since 9-11.

“You, the citizens of New Hampshire, continue to be there for them and their families,” said Senate President Sylvia Larsen. “The neighbor who offers to baby-sit, the local contractor who donates repairs for a home damaged in a flood, the elementary school children who send Christmas cards overseas, the pastor who includes them in our Sunday prayers, and the businesses and corporations who pay the difference in salary for their employees while they are deployed.”

Senator Larsen, along with House Speaker Terie Norelli and Executive Councilors Raymond Burton, John Shea, Beverly Hollingworth, Raymond Wiecezorek and Debora Pignatelli, co-signed the covenant. They were

From left, Lt. Commander Douglas Munz of the U.S. Navy Reserve, Maj. Jason Climer of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and Petty Officer Brian Karolian of the U.S. Coast Guard attended the N.H. Military Community Covenant ceremony on March 4 at the State House Hall of Flags.

Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

accompanied by Dr. Griffin Dalianis, the state’s civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, and senior leadership representing the New Hampshire National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Reserve, Navy Reserve and Coast Guard.

State leadership encouraged towns and cities across the state to sign their own military community covenant, pledging the continued support of their local communities. For more information about the covenant, contact Lisa Aldridge, N.H. National Guard, Human Resources, (603) 225-1309. ♦

# Army Promotions & Awards

## Private 2

Karen Melcher  
Michael Richard  
Karin Leach  
Gavin Cafarellistrabizky  
Coree Kinerson  
Brendan Hatch  
Justin Ruot  
Benjamin Courchesne  
Haodan Li  
Corey Lynch  
Zachary Maynard  
Zachary Gilding

## Private First Class

Joshua Shaw  
Ryan Witterschein

## Specialist

Michael Stowell  
Brett Chaloux  
Matthew Voisine  
Jeffrey Gagnon  
Kenneth Jones  
Aaron Deangelis  
Keith Page  
Mark Philibert  
Fabian Trudeau  
Paul Hamilton  
Andrew Watson  
Steven Heffernan

## Sergeant

Mandy Neveu  
Jon Gablinske

Richard Morse  
Dennis Galimberti  
Dale Williams  
Jonathan Fortin  
Mark Saucier  
Justin Henderson  
Justin Dupuis  
Abel Emanuelli  
Christopher Elliott  
Jordan Essman  
Thomas Rodger  
Wayne Elliott

## Staff Sergeant

Kevin Harvey  
Shawn Colburn  
Scott Leblanc

Ronald Spicer  
Andrew Grassie  
Patrick Kinsella  
Russel Evans  
Trevor Bates  
Frederick James  
John Bachelder  
Rich Capen  
Jason Soucy  
Marcus Weeks

## Sergeant

**First Class**  
Monica Bridges  
Donald Kilmer  
William Fish  
Bradford Connolly

David Graves  
Neal Mitchell  
Robert Ellingwood  
Edward Wiggin

## Sergeant Major

Daniel Flint  
Peter Place

## Master Sergeant

Lore Ford

## Chief Warrant

**Officer (3)**  
James Bledsoe  
Anthony Foote

## First Lieutenant

Cullen Debourgnect

## Captain

Peter Cartmell  
Matthew Paquin  
Daniel McCarroll  
John Peterson

## Major

David Mattimore  
Michael Moranti

## TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER



NHARNG Staff Sgt. Christopher Pasternak received the Combat Action Badge, a Purple Heart and was promoted during a ceremony held at the Hall of Flags in Building 1, Feb. 20.

After the presentations, he pinned his Purple Heart on his sister, Beth Rochford of Epping, saying, "She is the one who truly deserves to be wearing this."

While deployed with the 3643rd Service Company in

Iraq, Pasternak was injured on June 12, 2007, when a bullet grazed his skull. While being treated stateside at Fort Dix, Pasternak learned that his sister, who had helped raise him, was contending with her own serious health problems.

"It was touch and go for a while," Pasternak said.

Both Pasternak and his sister are still under medical care and on the mend.

"We're still here," he said. "She's a fighter, like me."



# Air Promotions & Awards

**Airman First Class**  
James Nasuti

David Yarnes, Jr.  
Paul Marcus  
Celestynne Bragg  
Michael Rondeau  
John McCabe

**Senior Airman**  
Sean Avery  
Amanda Woodard  
Ryan Lessard  
Kenneth Newell

**Master Sergeant**  
David Pinard  
Frank Perry

**Staff Sergeant**  
Allan Kierker  
Trevor Leone  
Eric Stephens  
Kari Peterson  
Bryan Emerson  
Melinda Fuller  
Brian Sanford  
Mark McCassin  
Jeffrey Nelson  
Brandon Dutra  
Adam Hanson  
Alan Rogers, II  
Owen Murray

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Michael Krall  
David Pais

**Chief Master Sergeant**  
John Symington

**First Lieutenant**  
Thomas Mueller

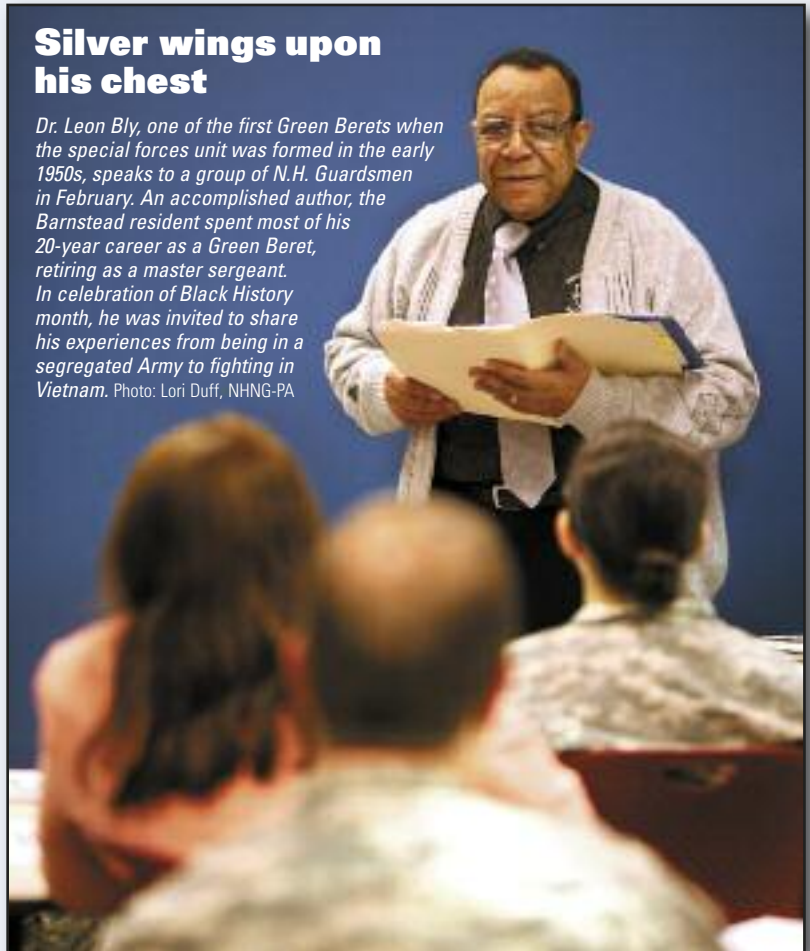
**Captain**  
Scott Treadwell

**Technical Sergeant**  
Benjamin Vickery  
Nicole Costigan  
Robert Dutton

**Lieutenant Colonel**  
Scott Hoyt  
Randall Dyer  
John Newhall

## Silver wings upon his chest

*Dr. Leon Bly, one of the first Green Berets when the special forces unit was formed in the early 1950s, speaks to a group of N.H. Guardsmen in February. An accomplished author, the Barnstead resident spent most of his 20-year career as a Green Beret, retiring as a master sergeant. In celebration of Black History month, he was invited to share his experiences from being in a segregated Army to fighting in Vietnam. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA*



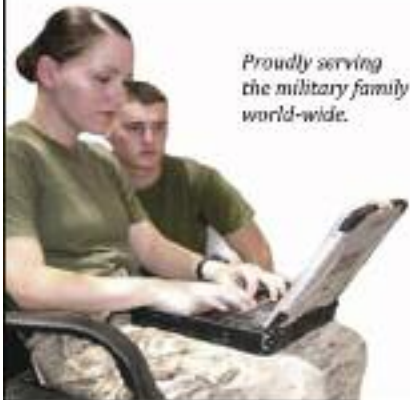
*Lt. Col. Laurie McAvoy renders a salute to 157th Air Refueling Wing Mission Support Group Commander, Col. Dutch Dunkelberger, before turning over command of the 157th Services Flight to Maj. Jennifer Haggard, right, Feb. 7 at Pease Air National Guard Base in Newington. Photo: Tech. Sgt. Mark Wyatt, 157 ARW-PA*



**Coming Home** – Sgt. Brad Cormier comforts Staff Sgt. Jose Pequeño at his home in Land O'Lakes, Florida, in January. Cormier, a Vermont Guardsman who served with Pequeño in Iraq, was part of a group of soldiers and senior N.H. Guard leaders who visited Pequeño and his family a month after his release from a Tampa veterans hospital. Pequeño suffered a severe brain injury when his observation post was ambushed on March 1, 2006. He was discharged into the care of his mother and sister after spending 33 months in four medical centers, undergoing 17 surgeries. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

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