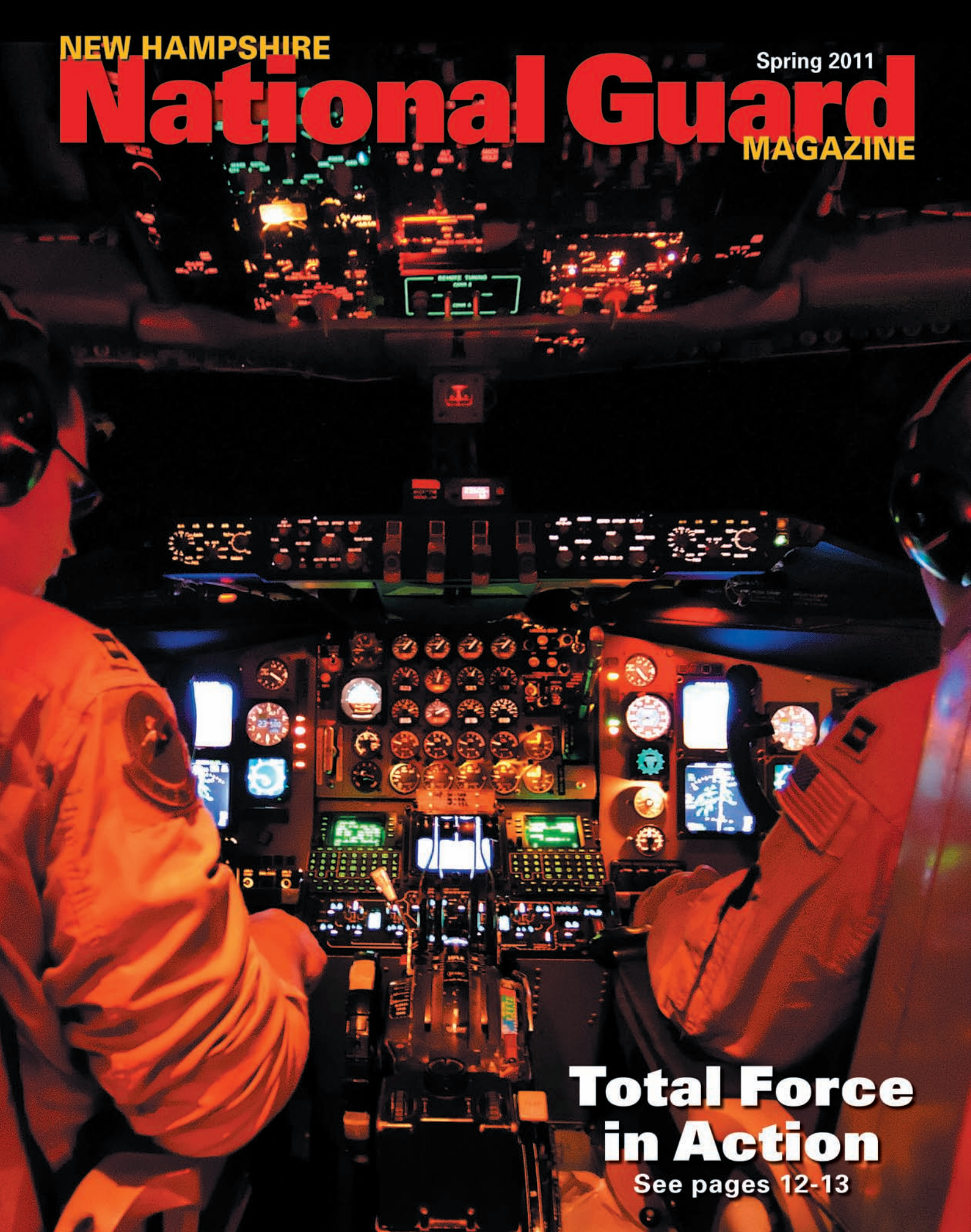


NEW HAMPSHIRE

Spring 2011

# National Guard

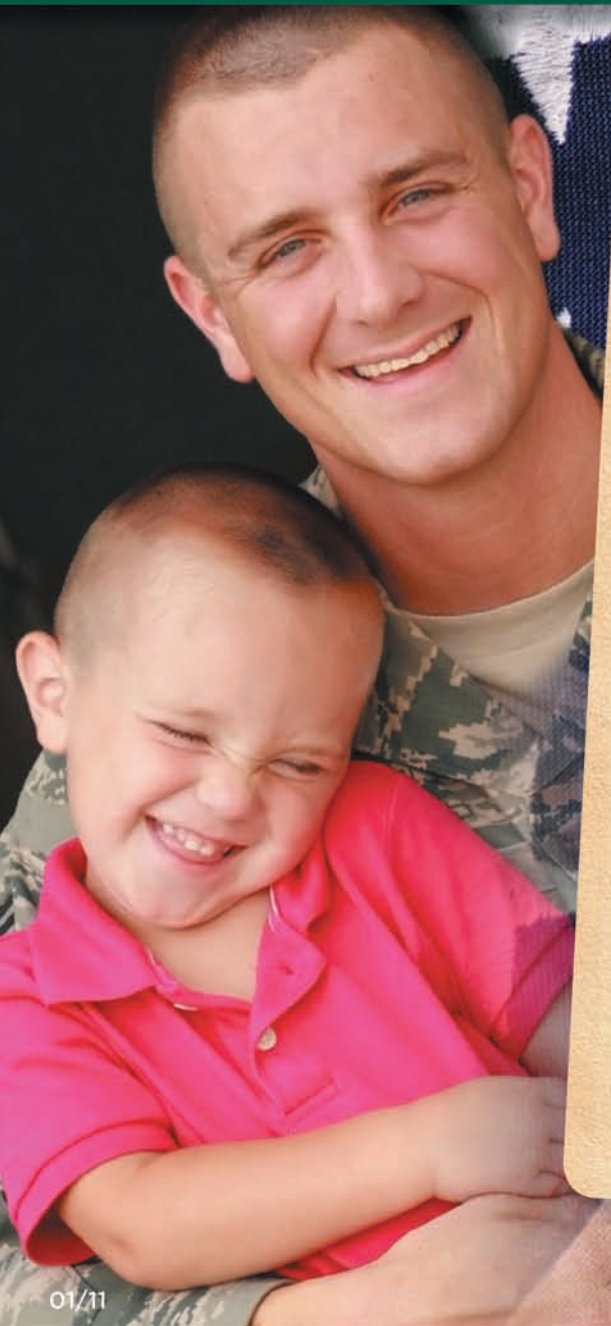
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See pages 12-13

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**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**National Guard**  
MAGAZINE

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**Cover:** U.S. Air Force Capt. Russell Miller (left), 64th Air Refueling Squadron, and Capt. Matthew Valentino (right), 157th Air Refueling Wing, assigned to the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron fly a KC-135 Stratotanker during an air refueling mission over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Jan. 14, 2011. Both Miller and Valentino deployed from Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., where the 64th Air Refueling Squadron is a part of the 22nd Operations Group, McConnell Air Force Base, but is operationally assigned to the 157th Air Refueling Wing. The partnership was formed as part of the Active Associate concept where Active Duty Airmen are assigned to an Air National Guard unit and work hand-in-hand with Guardsmen. Photo by Master Sgt. Adrian Cadiz

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

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

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State Public Affairs Office, N.H. National Guard  
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# New Hampshire MEDAL OF HONOR

The state of New Hampshire, with undying gratitude for their service and in deep admiration of their selfless devotion to duty and country, most humbly presents The New Hampshire Medal of Honor to deserving service men and women.

This commemorative medal personifies the dignity, integrity and valor of the brave servicemen and servicewomen who have proudly represented their home state and given “the last full measure of devotion” in defense of their country.

The medal itself is a 10-point star, drawing inspiration from the breathtaking strength and clarity of a North Country midnight sky with each star point representing one of the 10 counties that together, make up the state of New Hampshire.

Gold lettering heralds New Hampshire’s patriotic cry, “Live Free or Die” – the illuminating words are boldly announced on a separate bar providing support for the

10-point star. Reminiscent of Gen. Stark’s historic toast to his comrades in arms on liberty and freedom, New Hampshire’s state motto adorns this solemn medal revealing the purpose of life lived and lost by the recipient.

An oval serves as the heart of the star: representing the continuum of life – with hope, never ending, always beginning.

Presiding powerfully across the oval is the American eagle, the symbol of the United States of America. The eagle’s majestic profile is poised and reaching forward in flight, a visionary preparing to peacefully soar in the skies above with dignity. The eagle’s mouth is closed as it is not possible to adequately express words of sorrow and appreciation at such a solemn time.

Nine stars fill the lower part of the medal: representing our state’s special place in our nation’s history as the ninth



state to ratify the constitution of the United States.

The outline of the state of New Hampshire, polished and smooth, reflects and mirrors the emotions of the families and loved ones of the recipient. Its unique shape is unblemished.

One shining gold star rises above the eagle at the center of the medal: for it represents the Gold Star family to whom

this presentation is made – and to whom much is owed.

The colors of the pendant are deep green, purple, bronze, polished bronze and gold. It is suspended on a distinctively designed multi-colored cloth ribbon of pale blue, deep green, white, gray and purple.

The colors and their significance on the ribbon are as follows:

Four pale blue stripes: each pertaining to the waters of life in New Hampshire, the ocean, lakes, rivers and streams.

Two wider deep green stripes: the deep forest and agricultural lands that

are natural elements in New Hampshire.

Two white stripes: the snow-covered White Mountains.

Two gray stripes: representing granite, the bedrock of New Hampshire.

One dominant purple stripe: valor, reminiscent of the Purple Heart, also the state flower, the purple lilac.

All stripes are vertical, leaning upward, bringing our fallen hero home to God.

The shadow box enclosure is constructed by New Hampshire craftsmen from white birch, the New Hampshire state tree. ❖

*See the list of New Hampshire Medal of Honor recipients on page 5.*



*A sailor rings a bell to honor the fallen servicemembers for their heroic service and sacrifice. At the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, 54 service members were posthumously awarded the New Hampshire Medal of Honor on Dec. 12.*

## **Paying tribute to NH's fallen**

*By Capt. Sherri Pierce, JFHQ PAO*

Hundreds gathered during the first New Hampshire Medal of Honor Ceremony Dec. 11, at the Manchester Armory Exhibition Center to honor 54 New Hampshire servicemembers who gave their lives in defense of their state and country.

“I am very honored to be here today as we present, for the first time, the New Hampshire Medal of Honor,” said Gov. John Lynch, commander in chief of the New Hampshire National Guard. “This medal makes an important recognition of the brave New Hampshire men and women who have fought for our freedoms with dignity and courage and who paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us.”

The New Hampshire Medal of Honor was created in 2007 to honor any state citizen who has “given his or her life while in the line of duty to protect and preserve the rights and freedoms of the people of New Hampshire,” according to Senate Bill 223 which created the medal.

“There is no greater act of selflessness and no clearer example of what it means to be a citizen and an American hero than to give one’s own life,” said Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, the Adjutant General of the NHNG. “Our warriors are part of our heritage and our legacy, and we need to ensure that we never forget all of our warriors.”

After opening remarks, family members of those honored were escorted to the stage to receive their loved one’s medal from Gov. Lynch, Dr. Susan Lynch, the first lady, and Maj. Gen. Reddel. A bell was tolled twice in recognition of their sacrifice.

“We can never repay the debt that we owe to our fallen soldiers, our heroes or to their families,” said Gov. Lynch. “With each sacrifice there is a personal story, and the stories of the lives of our fallen heroes live on through their families today. They live on through their brothers- and sisters-in-arms who fought alongside them, and, hopefully, they will live on through the creation of this Medal of Honor so that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.” ❖

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# New Hampshire Medal of Honor recipients



- Cpl. Nicholas A. Arvanitis, U.S. Army
- Pfc. Marcianna Y. Bennington, U.S. Army
- Pfc. Matthew L. Bertolino, U.S. Marine Corps
- Lance Cpl. Adam Brooks, U.S. Marine Corps
- Spc. Alan J. Burgess, Army National Guard
- Cpl. Philip Chartre, U.S. Marine Corps
- Staff Sgt. Carl A. Clement, U.S. Army
- Spc. Jesse S. Conger, U.S. Army
- Pfc. Nicholas R. Cournoyer, U.S. Army
- Chief Warrant Officer 2 Peter A. Davis, U.S. Army Reserve
- Spc. Marc P. Decoteau, U.S. Army
- Capt. Douglas A. Dicenzo, U.S. Army
- Cpl. Scott G. Dimond, Army National Guard
- Sgt. Russell M. Durgin, U.S. Army
- Staff Sgt. Edmond L. Lo, U.S. Army
- Cpl. Timothy M. Gibson, U.S. Marine Corps
- Sgt. Daniel R. Gionet, U.S. Army
- Capt. Jonathan D. Grassbaugh, U.S. Army
- Tech. Sgt. David Guindon, Air National Guard
- Chief Petty Officer Nathan Hardy, U.S. Navy
- Sr. Chief Petty Officer Daniel R. Healy, U.S. Navy
- Spc. Wade E. Hector, Army National Guard
- Cadet 3rd Class Peter T. Heuchling, U.S. Army
- Sgt. Jeremiah J. Holmes, Army National Guard
- Lance Cpl. Sean Hughes, U.S. Marine Corps
- Spc. Ronald Litchkofski, U.S. Army
- Lance Cpl. Ryan T. McCaughn, U.S. Marine Corps
- Pfc. Justin R. McDaniel, U.S. Army
- Sgt. Randi J. Miller, U.S. Army
- Lance Cpl. Robert L. Moscillo, U.S. Marine Corps
- Staff Sgt. Steven Murphy, U.S. Marine Corps
- Sgt. Andrew C. Nicol, U.S. Army
- Cpl. Toby R. Olsen, U.S. Army
- Cpl. Michael Ouellette, U.S. Marine Corps
- Pfc. Eric Currier, U.S. Marine Corps
- Spc. Justin R. Pellerin, U.S. Army
- Warrant Officer 1 David G. Plasch, U.S. Army
- Spc. Jeremy F. Regnier, U.S. Army
- Pfc. Brian Y. Reilly, U.S. Army
- Pvt. 2 Todd C. Ritch, Army National Guard
- Pfc. George R. Roehl, Jr., U.S. Army
- Master Sgt. Richard L. Ferguson, U.S. Army
- Spc. Justin A. Rollins, U.S. Army
- Sgt. 1st Class Robert E. Rooney, Army National Guard
- Staff Sgt. Randy S. Rosenberg, U.S. Army
- Spc. Matthew E. Schneider, U.S. Army
- Chief Warrant Officer 4 Alberto Sica, U.S. Army
- Lance Cpl. Peter J. Sora, U.S. Marine Corps
- Cpl. Matthew J. Stanley, U.S. Army
- Sgt. David S. Stelmat, Jr., Army National Guard
- Pfc. Andrew D. Stevens, U.S. Army
- Sgt. William J. Tracy, U.S. Army
- Spc. Brian L. Ware, U.S. Army Reserve
- Staff Sgt. Kyle R. Warren, U.S. Army



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# NOT your typical politician

By Maj. Greg Heilshorn, 197th FIB PAO

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** – Less than a week after she was sworn in as one of the nation’s youngest senators, 42-year-old Kelly Ayotte was eating stir fry with New Hampshire National Guardsmen at a chow hall in the middle of the Kuwaiti desert.

It was just her. There were no security guards. No entourage and no pretenses. In other words, she was completely different from what our soldiers have come to expect from their politicians. She was the first distinguished visitor from the state since the 197th Fires Brigade mobilized last September with the largest group of soldiers since World War II.

The former N.H. attorney general, who defeated Paul Hodes for the seat vacated by Sen. Judd Gregg, even carried her own camera for the Jan. 14 visit, which wasn’t part of the original itinerary. She, with five other GOP senators, was traveling to



Staff Sgt. Rubin Cruz of the 2220th Transportation Company, Arizona Army Guard, describes the protective capabilities of the mine resistant ambush protected vehicle, or MRAP, to U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) during a visit with the 197th Fires Brigade, N.H. Army Guard, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 14. Ayotte’s visit, part of an overseas fact-finding trip, included dinner with N.H. soldiers and a briefing from the brigade staff. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Neal Mitchell

Afghanistan and Pakistan as part of a fact-finding trip. At her insistence, she was able to break away from the group during a stopover in Kuwait to visit our soldiers.



U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) meets with soldiers of the 197th Fires Brigade, New Hampshire Army National Guard, at a dining facility at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 14. Ayotte’s visit, part of an overseas fact-finding trip, included a briefing from the brigade staff and a tour of a mine resistant assault protection vehicle or MRAP. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Neal Mitchell

She stayed nearly an hour longer than planned, sharing a meal, touring the inside of an MRAP or mine resistance ambush protected Caiman, and receiving an operations brief from the 197th staff.

“I’m not big on politicians,” said Sgt. Katie Hannigan, a personnel specialist with the brigade who sat with Ayotte in the dining hall. “But she was down to earth. She was very nice and very approachable.”

At the Zone 6 dining facility, there were 20 soldiers seated at two rows of tables. Ayotte sat at the first row for about 15 minutes then excused herself to sit at the other row. At times, the conversation was so animated it was hard to tell who was more starstruck, the senator or the soldiers.

Ayotte was especially interested in how the soldiers’ families were doing, if they had everything they needed and if she could do anything for them. She passed around a sheet of paper for the soldiers to write down their family information.

“I’d like to contact them when I get back,” said Ayotte, a mother of two and whose husband serves in the Massachusetts National Guard. “I want to let them know how you are doing.”

A captain went so far as to write specific instructions for the senator.

“Please call my dad (George) and tell him I’m OK and that I promise to call him more often!” ♦

# On the road with the Night Riders

*“Our convoy escort teams have the toughest and most dangerous mission in the brigade.”*

— Col. Peter Corey, Commander, 197th Fires Brigade

By Maj. Greg Heilshorn, 197th FIB PAO

At 3 p.m. Christmas Eve, a convoy of 30 tractor-trailers and five gun trucks rolled into Iraq. The convoy was four miles long, moving like an enormous metallic centipede across the border without any warning, except for a deflated speed bump. The lonely stretch of highway pierced a desert so indistinct, some of the soldiers joked that they had found the edge of the earth.

Over the next six days, a detachment of Rhode Island National Guardsmen provided security for the fleet, which was hauling coalition supplies as far north as Balad. They traveled in darkness, between the hours of night and early morning, using high-powered spotlights to illuminate the roadside, overpasses, tops of buildings and the insides of cars.

The convoy covered 800 miles of some of the most dangerous road in the world, stopping at four different camps to off-load. There were no enemy attacks, no IEDs and no

major breakdowns. The odds practically guaranteed all three would happen. But instead, the convoy set an extraordinary pace, cutting several days off the previous run. The only delay was a flat tire, which took less than an hour to fix.

For the Ocean State troops – officially Convoy Escort Team 15 attached to Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery, N.H. Army Guard – it was their first long-haul mission on their own. Barring a few snafus entering and exiting camps, it went smoother than their last trip, which had mechanical issues and a junior officer from the unit Rhode Island replaced who insisted on halting the convoy so he could clear a building.

“At Fort McCoy [the unit’s mobilization station in Wisconsin], we tried splitting them up between the New Hampshire guys,” said 1st Lt. Elias Noguera, a truck commander for CET 15. “It didn’t really work out. The guys missed each other, and that’s fine. That’s all right. This unit has a personality. It has an identity.”

They were anxious to be out on the road. The down time between hauls can be anywhere from two to three weeks, said Noguera.

“We like it out here,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Martin, a driver for CET 15.



Soldiers with CET 15, 3/197th FA, gather for a photograph at K Crossing, Dec. 30, after completing a six-day long haul up into the heart of Iraq. From left kneeling, Spc. Alex Montanez, Sgt. Henry Joly, Sgt. Patrick Morgan, Spc. Mark Braden, Spc. Allen Burrell and Staff Sgt. Joseph Martin. From left standing, Spc. Elias Noguera, Spc. Shane Skinner, Spc. Hans Measley, Spc. William Reilly, Spc. Charles Enos, Spc. Steven Burns, Sgt. Adam Coyle, Staff Sgt. Luis Lubo, Sgt. Carlos Saez, Sgt. Juan Ocampo and Spc. Daniel Hinkley. Photo by Maj. Greg Heilshorn



A convoy escort team from 1/103rd FA, Rhode Island Army Guard, bows its head in prayer before the start of a long-haul mission on Christmas Eve. Photo by Maj. Greg Heilshorn

“We’d rather be out here. We’re comfortable out here. We get along and we know each other’s quirks.”

When the brigade commander, Col. Peter Corey, announced the three o’clock time hack into his headset, the soldiers realized they were passing through a place where they never could have imagined spending Christmas. There were no trees. No streetlights or dated billboards with that notorious mug smiling at them. There were no mountains in the distance. There was sand and scrub that looked as if it was made from old pipe cleaners.

“This is a different kind of Christmas, I’ll tell you that much,” said Spc. Alex Montanez, one of five gunners in the CET.

Before he deployed to Kuwait, Montanez worked at a Valvoline Express. This was his first Christmas away from his daughter. He missed her, and he missed the snow. The soldiers especially missed the snow, which for New Englanders is as much a part of the season as the smell of real pine. Looking out from their gun trucks, they saw nothing in the lunar-like landscape that reminded them of home.

A typical convoy consists of three elements.

The “Green Trucks” run the convoy. They are a separate group of Army truckers who act as a mobile AAA service. On this mission, 2nd Platoon, 1244th Transportation Company, Illinois Army Guard, was the lead, ensuring that the convoy stayed on schedule.

“Everything falls on us,” said Staff Sgt. Andres Hernandez, convoy commander during the Christmas Eve run. “We make sure the drivers are taken care of.”

The “White Trucks” are the tractor-trailers that haul the supplies. They are driven by third country nationals, or TCNs, mostly from India, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

The Convoy Escort Team, referred to as the “Gun Trucks,” act as the convoy’s body guard. If a convoy comes under attack, the CET takes charge.

Within the 197th Fires Brigade, two battalions are assigned CET missions: 1st Battalion/119th Field Artillery, Michigan Army Guard, and 3rd Battalion/197th Field Artillery, N.H. Army Guard. The 119th provides CETs for short hauls or sustainment runs into southern Iraq delivering basic supplies like food and water. Those are typically three-day missions. The 3rd Battalion supports long hauls, which involve moving bigger items further north into Iraq, as well as hauling equipment out of the country in support of the continuing retrograde direction of



*A soldier performs security from the turret of an MRAP during a long haul mission. Photo by Maj. Greg Heilshorn*

military operations. Those runs go from six to 12 days.

In two months, the 119th has escorted more than 270 short hauls, covering more than 230,000 miles; and 3rd Battalion has escorted 40 long hauls covering nearly 140,000 miles.

A CET consists of four MRAPs or mine resistant ambush protected vehicles. Called “Caimans,” they are named after a family of Amazon crocodile known for size and heavy armor. One Caiman costs nearly half a million dollars to build.

A Caiman weighs 20 tons and seats up to 10 troops. Its V-shaped hull is specifically designed to deflect IEDs, and it’s equipped with a vision system that allows the crew to see through darkness, smoke and fog.

It can travel up to 65 miles per hour and ford three feet of water. It is armed with an M2 .50-caliber machine gun or M240 machine gun. The Caiman crew includes the driver, gunner and TC or truck commander, the vehicle’s navigator. The crews of the CET and the Green Trucks communicate with each other through an internal radio system.

A fifth Caiman was added to the Christmas Eve convoy for Corey. It was done as a security precaution, without his knowledge. Commanders do not travel with CET’s on a regular basis. They can draw unnecessary attention and be a distraction. Regardless of rank, the sudden presence of an outsider is not readily embraced by a group of men who have lived and trained together for months for a mission that has life or death consequences.

At the Kuwait border, Corey told CET 15 that he was going as a passenger. He wasn’t planning to drive the Caiman or man the gun turret. “In a life or death mission, only a trained, qualified soldier should be doing the job,” said Corey as a way of introducing himself to CET 15 during a convoy brief. “Consider me invisible.”

Later, he told the soldiers, “Leaders should never ask their soldiers to do something that they themselves wouldn’t do.”

And by day three of the mission, the soldiers accepted the fact their colonel was along for the ride to gain a better appreciation of their job, not to play gun bunny or earn a combat action badge. That hasn’t always been the case with senior officers and enlisted, soldiers said.

About halfway through the long haul, CET 15’s most experienced soldier, Staff Sgt. Henry Joly, presented Corey with a combat patch from his last deployment with a Rhode Island artillery battalion to Iraq. He and Corey had developed a mutual admiration for each other, and the patch was an indication that the team had accepted Corey on his word. Corey and Joly were both 48 years old and both in their 30th year of military service. While Corey had risen through the ranks as a field artillery officer in the N.H. Guard, Joly had excelled in the other direction as an artilleryman with the R.I. Guard. He had been busted or passed over as many times as he had been promoted, a distinction Joly attributed to his all-or-nothing approach to taking care of lower enlisted.

“I’m old school,” Joly said, who has deployed four other times to Iraq including the first Gulf War. His last demotion came after he ordered his squad to do an about face to protest an award presentation for his company commander. “I’ll sacrifice my rank for them. I look at myself as a buffer between my soldiers and the officers. These are my kids.”

A former R.I. Guard commander now a two-star general, called Joly “the most loyal soldier you could meet.”

“He’d eat dirt for his soldiers,” said Maj. Gen. James Nuttall, deputy commanding general of First Army, to Corey in an e-mail exchange during the trip.

That would explain Joly’s staying power and why the soldiers of CET 15 gave his Caiman the call sign, “Camel Face.” ♦



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# 12th Civil Support Team trains air marshals to protect against weapons of mass destruction

By Spc. Courtney Selig, NHNG Public Affairs Office

Weapons of mass destruction can kill and bring significant harm to large groups of people, and cause great damage to natural resources and human-made structures. WMDs are considered to be one of the largest terror threats in the world. These weapons are distinguished by their use of technologies such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear capabilities.

In Concord, N.H., members of the 12th Civil Support Team train for threats involving WMDs and hazardous material.

Recently, they began training local law enforcement and service agencies on HazMat and WMD response.

“Local fire and police departments recognized early on that firefighters knew HazMat better than our police officers, and they asked us to bridge the gap,” said Capt. Mark Bianchi, Concord, N.H., 12th Civil Support Team. “They are the first on the scene, and if ever there were a situation with WMD or HazMat, they would need to respond quickly and efficiently.”

After some discussion with local law enforcement, members of the 12th CST picked up the phone and called other police and fire departments throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts to find out who needed help.

“Our hope is that they’ll understand that they, our law enforcement, are the eyes and ears of the community,” said Sgt. Matthew Maguire, Sanbornton, N.H., 12th Civil Support Team. “The purpose of the training is to prepare law enforcement for new equipment that is out of their scope and within ours. We need to show them how and what to use, along with limitations of equipment, for their everyday use.”

The Jan. 14 weapons of mass destruction training for the Federal Air Marshals Service was a course noncommissioned officers of the 12th CST put together for this specific agency. They formed it to meet the needs of the Federal Air Marshals Service, Boston Field Office.

“This is not the first course the CST has taught,” said Bianchi. “We have been preparing classes for almost a year and teaching to local law enforcement and service agencies for approximately six months.”

Maguire said that throughout the course, members of the FAMS are put in real life scenarios where they need to monitor for threats. The CST is continuing to work with local law enforcement to educate and train them on the existing threat of terror within the United States.

“We will make on-the-spot corrections during the practical exercises to help improve their tactics,” said Maguire. “Our entire course is one day, consisting of class instruction in the morning followed by training on weapons of mass destruction and hazardous material.”

There is no room for error when dealing with weapons of mass destruction. Even the slightest mistake could be catastrophic. ❖

*TOP: Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jordan of Manchester, N.H., and members of the Federal Air Marshal Service, Boston Field Office, conduct a search of a vehicle using radiation detection equipment. The goal was to locate and identify the source of the radiation. This exercise was part of the weapons of mass destruction course held in Concord, N.H., at the CST Ready building, Jan. 14.*

*BOTTOM: Sgt. Matthew Maguire of Sanbornton, N.H., 12th Civil Support Team, explains how to use a hand held Personal Digital Assistant to one of the air marshals from the Federal Air Marshal Service, Boston Field Office.*

Photos by Spc. Courtney Selig





## Wing reflects on past year of Total Force Integration

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

The 64th Air Refueling Squadron and the 157th Air Refueling Wing have accomplished a lot in the year since a historic flight line ceremony activated the

active associate flying squadron at Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., last year, according to base officials.

“The integration of the 64th Air Refueling Squadron here at Pease is now considered the premier model across

*A combined U.S. Air Force active duty and Guard KC-135 aircrew assigned to the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron conduct an aerial refueling mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Jan. 14. The combined aircrew deployed from Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., where the 64th Air Refueling Squadron is a part of the 22nd Operations Group, McConnell Air Force Base, but is operationally assigned to the 157th Air Refueling Wing. The partnership was formed as part of the Active Associate concept where active duty airmen are assigned to an Air National Guard unit and work hand-in-hand with Guardsmen.*

Photo by Master Sgt. Adrian Cadiz



An F/A-18C Hornet refuels from a KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft while two F/A-18E Super Hornets fly alongside during flight operations above Afghanistan. Photo by Cmdr. Erik Etz

Total Force Integration units,” said Col. Paul “Hutch” Hutchinson, commander, 157th ARW. “This is a testament to the spirit and professionalism of our Air National Guard and the active duty airmen who have joined us.”

This success has not been by accident, he said. It’s based on leadership acceptance from all levels within the 157th ARW and the 64th ARS, but also by their proven willingness to take a challenge and exceed all expectations.

“The leadership of the 157th has warmly embraced the concept of integrating an active duty unit here at Pease,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Leist, commander, 64th ARS. “We’re not going to fail, because the 157th Air Refueling Wing will not allow us to.”

Pointing to a single accomplishment among many is easy for Leist, who was charged with building the organization from scratch.

“Five weeks after the activation ceremony, we had a crew in the desert flying in the Area of Responsibility,” said Leist. “Our goal and our purpose is to support the combatant commander.”

Not only has our reputation for excellence increased, Hutchinson said, we have also been able to increase our support to the combatant commander by increasing our presence in the AOR.

Capt. Russell Miller and Master Sgt. Patrick Ingram from the 64th ARS and Capt. Matthew Valentino from the 157th ARW are deployed as part of the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron in the Middle East. They are flying combat air refueling operations in support of Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom, including close air support, convoy escort, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

This is the fourth joint aircrew to deploy since the 64th ARS was activated.

“Pease has been focused on making sure we obtain the highest level of mobility readiness with the greatest ability to support the war fighter since day one,” said Lt. Col. Ryan Samuelson, director of operations, 64th ARS.

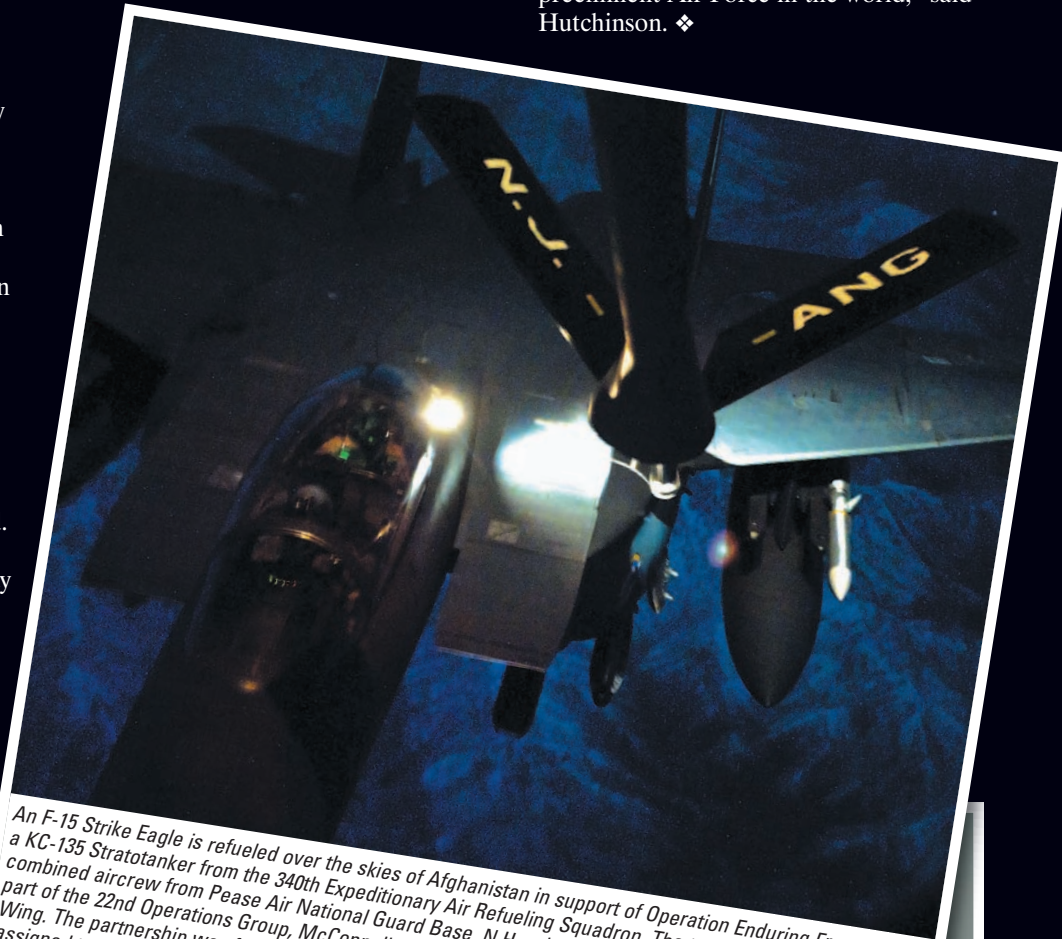
“We have seen an increase in aircraft utilization rates – while we fly more

time, our aircraft mission capable rates have remained among the highest in the ANG,” said Hutchinson. “The results we have seen over the past year are only achievable with solid teamwork.”

With an increased reliance on the reserve component, a result of a higher operation tempo as well as a reduced

budget demanding greater efficiency in today’s Air Force, integrated capabilities of the total force are vital to winning America’s fight.

“Taking the best the Air National Guard has to offer and integrating the strengths of the active duty will ensure the United States Air Force remains the preeminent Air Force in the world,” said Hutchinson. ♦



An F-15 Strike Eagle is refueled over the skies of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom by a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron. The tanker was flown by a combined aircrew from Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., where the 64th Air Refueling Squadron is a part of the 22nd Operations Group, McConnell AFB, but is operationally assigned to the 157th Air Refueling Wing. The partnership was formed as part of the Active Associate concept where active duty Airmen are assigned to an Air National Guard unit and work hand-in-hand with Guardsmen. Photo by Master Sgt. Adrian Cadiz



A U.S. Air Force aircrew from the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron prepares a KC-135 Stratotanker for a mission in support of Operation New Dawn in Southwest Asia. Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Harris





# Canadian Fusiliers practice the 'Rules of Force' with NH Guard

By Spc. Karin Leach, 114th PAD

Quickly maneuvering through the dimly lit halls, the soldiers approached the blue, paint-chipped double doors. Shots rang out from behind the doors as the soldiers swiftly engaged and detained the opposing force.

New Hampshire National Guard soldiers and the Princess Louise Fusiliers of the Canadian Forces participated Jan. 8 in Operation Spear Thrust, a joint training exercise at the vacated state correctional facility in Boscawen, N.H. The training provided soldiers with an opportunity to practice domestic rules of force. The training consisted of a localized, non-governmental organization that created a domestic disturbance and required armed forces to restore order.

Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, Adjutant General, New Hampshire, said the training was beneficial to both militaries and afforded the chance to build a relationship.

"It goes back to training – the way we fight and fighting the way we train," said Maj. Gen. Reddel. "Every war I can recall has been a joint effort. If we can't



New Hampshire Army National Guard flight medic, Spc. Ethan Major, escorts civilian medical personnel as they use a litter to carry a member of the Canadian Force's Princess Louise Fusiliers off a UH-60 A+ Black Hawk helicopter during Operation Spear Thrust at Concord Hospital, Jan. 8. Photo by Staff Sgt. Curtis Lenz

train beforehand, it takes much longer to be in sync with one another. This training enables us to build a stronger relationship and have a better knowledge of the jobs in other forces."

As the UH-60 A+ Black Hawk helicopter landed, loose snow took flight,

gliding through the air. The "injured" soldiers were quickly loaded into the Black Hawk to be transported to the Concord Hospital.

The New Hampshire National Guard has worked with the Canadian Forces for the past 10 years. The two have jointly trained in Virginia and Canada and are preparing to train together for two weeks in February.

Canadian soldier Cpl. Mike McCauley of Halifax, Nova Scotia, enjoyed the training and the opportunity to become familiar with the domestic rules of force.

"I always enjoy training with the National Guard," said McCauley. "It's like training with the same Army, just different rules. This gave us the chance to train integrated with each other and practice the domestic rules of force."

Streaming into the large, cluttered room, the squadron attacked the enemies' makeshift bunker and successfully detained the enemy. As the soldiers' training came to a close, the Canadian and American soldiers filed out together to discuss the training and how to further build their relationship for future training.

"The Guard's number one job is defensive security of the homeland," said Maj. Gen. Reddel. "While I pray we never have to use force here, we need to be ready when called upon." ❖

◀ During Operation Spear Thrust, a training exercise, soldiers clear hallways and shoot suppressive fire at the Edna C. McKenna Correctional Facility in Boscawen, Jan. 8. Photo by Spc. Karin Leach



Pfc. Brittany Battye, 237th Military Police, pulls perimeter security during Operation Spear Thrust, a joint training exercise, at the Edna C. McKenna Correctional Facility in Boscawen, Jan. 8. Photo by Spc. Karin Leach

# New medical mission comes to Pease

By Lt. Col. Stephanie Riley

The Quadrennial Defense Review Report of 2010 sets a long-term course for the Department of Defense as it assesses the threats and challenges the nation faces and re-balances Department of Defense's strategies, capabilities and forces to address today's conflicts and tomorrow's threats.

This year, N.H. was directly impacted by the findings of that review and consequently is standing up a new capability package known as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks and in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the United States has been working on the development of rapid-reaction forces that would be capable of responding to similar attacks or natural disasters. Initially there was the creation of a few large response forces that could arrive at the scene of a disaster within 96 hours. Defense Secretary Robert Gates was convinced by the most recent ODR report that those forces would move too slowly to save lives or control chaos.

"The danger of an attack on the United States is serious and increasing," he said. "There is a full range of potential natural disasters" to be dealt with.

With that in mind, funding was allocated to develop 10 Homeland Response



Tech. Sgt. Scott Ellis, 157th Medical Group, starts an intravenous injection on a patient retrieved from a collapsed building during an exercise with the Massachusetts National Guard Sept. 11-12, 2010. Photo by Capt. Kerry Clark

Forces that would be located within each of the Federal Emergency Management Agency regions nationwide.

The HRF is made up of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive-Enhanced Response Force Package medical component, a search and

extraction component, a decontamination team, a security team and command and control specialists. By putting an HRF in each region, it was hoped to reduce response time to six hours rather than 96 hours. ♦

*Editor's note: Recently Lt. Col. Paul Loiselle, commander of the 157th Medical Group at Pease Air National Guard Base in Newington, N.H., sat down with Lt. Col. Steph Riley, a nurse in charge of training at the 157th Medical Group, and answered questions about the CERFP mission.*

*What is the CERFP and how did it come about for N.H.?*

The CERFP has multiple components, which will be divided among three states – Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island – and will be composed of 197 personnel. The medical component, which will be located at Pease, is basically a package made up of 47 people that have a medical specialty. There are 24 medics, four doctors, four physician assistants, six nurses and then some slots for bio-environmental, public health, logistics and administrative personnel. The goal is to quickly respond to an incident and perform medical triage and initial treatment to stabilize victims for transport to a medical facility. Massachusetts has the HRF for the New England Region. New Hampshire

volunteered to take on the Medical, Fatality Search and Recovery Team and a majority of the decon components of this new multi-state CERFP.

We volunteered and were selected to be the third CERFP to stand up out of the 10 new HRF/CERFP teams.

*Will those positions be additional duties for 157th Medical Group personnel, or will it be a separate unit?*

The medical component of the CERFP has its own manning document and will function as a standalone squadron under the Medical Group. It has its own commander, Lt. Col. Nathan Jorgensen, and there has been a huge recruiting push to hire into these new positions. Currently 21 of the 47 positions have been filled, and there are about 18 people in the recruiting process. Members of the 157th Medical Group and the CERFP will be cross training to be able to cover positions in both medical units, which will serve to strengthen both units for Homeland Defense, CBRNE events, stay-at-home Wing support or for our wartime taskings.

*Will those positions be Active Guard Reserve, technician or traditional Guard?*

There are two full-time Active Guard Reserve positions that have already been filled that will be responsible for the daily operations of the CERFP mission. The rest of the positions are traditional Guard, with the possibility of Active Duty Operational Support positions opening up in the future.

*What is the timeline to have the team completed and "open for business?"*

The team is already beginning to train; there are a number of computer based training courses that need to be accomplished. We have also scheduled a HazMat course at the Fire Academy in Concord for March. On Oct. 24, 2011, we have our Exercise Evaluation which is a five-day evaluation to become a certified CERFP team, so we are gearing up for that.

*I understand there are other elements that make up the CERFP: Search and Extraction, Decontamination and Command and Control. Who will be responsible for these elements?*

Due to the close proximity of states in the New England FEMA region, we came up with a three-state solution, which is the only one in the nation organized this way. The Command and Control element is made up of 14 personnel from the Maine Army National Guard. The Search and Extraction element is composed of 50 personnel that will come from the Rhode Island Army National Guard. The 75-person decontamination team will be divided with 30 coming from the Rhode Island Air Guard and 45 coming from the New Hampshire Army National Guard. As mentioned before, the medical component of the CERFP team will be made up of 47 New Hampshire Air Guard medical personnel. There actually is another element that makes up the CERFP, a Fatality Search and Recovery Team which will be made up of 11 mortuary affairs specialists from the New Hampshire Air Guard Services Squadron.

*What is each element responsible for?*

The Command and Control team directs the overall activities of the elements and coordinates with the Joint Task Force-State and the Incident Commander. The Search and Extraction team will be trained and equipped to enter collapsed buildings and excavate rubble to rescue

survivors. The Decontamination units will be responsible for decontaminating victims using equipment that they will deploy with. The medical team will perform triage and initial treatment to stabilize victims for transport to a medical facility. The FSRT will help coordinate the mortuary affairs details of an incident.

*How much coordination/communication will exist between the organizations?*

It will require the three states to work together on levels incorporating the Army and Air elements but also with the state Civil Support Teams who often get called to respond in state emergencies. It will also require us to work closely with community agencies, the different state Adjutant Generals and governors, the state Homeland Security Departments, etc. In reality, if a large scale event were to happen in New England, a small region, we would be tasked to provide support in the different states. This will encourage us to begin fostering these relationships or building on existing ones so that when an emergency arises, it can be handled in as smooth a manner as possible.

*Any parting comments?*

This has to be the fastest moving train I've ever seen as far as new missions. In 1992 the Guard created 57 Civil Support

Teams, and then in 2004 the first CERFPs were created, with 12 to start. That expanded in 2007 to a total of 17 CERFP missions. Now the Department of Defense and Congress decided that there are still not enough capabilities for Homeland Defense and has funded the 10 HRFs, the 17 CERFPs and continues to fund the 57 CST. We have already begun to receive equipment for the CERFP, such as simulation mannequins, trailers, etc. And funding has been approved for a new facility at Pease to support this mission. Our next goal, after getting our CERFP certified, would be to create a center of excellence in military medical training for the Northeast as well as a training resource for the state and region. We will be hosting a Medical Service Corps training class in April or August that will get our competency tasks signed off for that group of personnel. In the Air Guard, we have Readiness Skills Verification checklists that we need to prove competency in, and we hope to develop a training site that can offer classes in different skill areas such as Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, etc. It is a very exciting time for us in the New Hampshire Air National Guard! ❖



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# Guard completes project in the Pine Barrens Habitat

By Kristen Melendez  
Environmental Compliance Specialist

The New Hampshire National Guard applied for and received funding from the Department of Defense Legacy Program in support of the 2010 National Public Lands Day. The NPLD Program is coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation. The annual event assists in building partnerships while conserving public lands, including Department of Defense resources. NPLD projects directly engage the community by requiring that all labor be completed by volunteers.

At the State Military Reservation in Concord, N.H., the Guard proposed constructing a path to the existing kiosk, and a trail loop with interpretive signage in the Pine Barrens habitat restoration area in front of the Joint Command Readiness Center. The excavation would be completed by hand, minimizing any disturbance to the habitat area. The Guard consulted with local agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the

Penobscot Nation Native American Tribe, to ensure proper project review. In mid-summer of 2010, the Guard was notified that the proposed project would be fully funded by Department of Defense Legacy.

Guard members and employees of the N.H. Adjutant General's Department were invited to volunteer for this project. Additionally, participation from members of the N.H. Audubon Society, N.H. Fish and Game Department, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was also requested.

The Guard executed its first NPLD project on Sept. 29-30, 2010. Volunteers assisted with removing soil from the sign path and trail loop, digging post holes, spreading materials in pathways, installing edging and weed fabric, operating a plate compactor and mounting signs. A total of 15 volunteers helped complete the project. All of the volunteers received an NPLD Volunteer Patch, courtesy of Department of Defense Legacy. Upon receipt of the Department of Defense Legacy NPLD Volunteer patch, a volunteer remarked, "That's great. I didn't know this was



Right: Kevin Womack and Kristen Melendez, New Hampshire Army National Guard Environmental Office, work on the Pine Barrens Trail at the New Hampshire National Guard military reservation in Concord last fall. Photo by 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle

part of the package, but I would have volunteered anyway."

The project created a landscaped area that identifies and describes the native plant and animal species in the locally significant Pine Barrens habitat. The kiosk and signs along the trail loop tell personnel and visitors why the contribution of the identified species is important to the habitat restoration at the State Military Reservation. ❖



Phil Mills and Zack Boyajian, New Hampshire Army National Guard Environmental Office, work on the Pine Barrens Trail at the New Hampshire National Guard military reservation in Concord last fall. Photo by 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle

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Members of Joint Force Headquarters perform physical training New Hampshire style in Concord, N.H., during February drill Feb. 5. From left to right, Col. Bryan Clements, chief of staff; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bruce Gokey, maintenance test pilot evaluator, and Col. Francine Swan, legal advisor to the Adjutant General. Photo by 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle

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*Spc. Karin Leach leads a group of distinguished OIF and OEF veterans from New Hampshire National Guard's 114th Public Affairs Detachment, C Company, 3/238th Aviation Regiment, and C Company, 3/172nd Infantry (Mountain), on the TD Bank Garden parquet during the Boston Celtics Salute to Soldiers Night, Jan. 14. Season ticket holders and players donated seats for regional servicemen and women from the U.S. Armed Services. A priority is given to those who recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan. Photo by Sgt. Jerry Saslav*

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*Col. Peter Corey and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Considine, leaders with the New Hampshire National Guard 197th Fires Brigade, unfurl the unit colors during the Transfer of Authority Ceremony with the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 15. The 53rd IBCT is going home after serving one year in the desert, and the 197th FB has now taken on the convoy security and camp operations missions in Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. Brian Gordon*

# Army Promotions & Awards

## Private 2

Cherrie Bean  
 Kaylee Solano  
 Arthur Weeks IV  
 Christopher Mowen  
 William Donovan IV  
 Christopher Provost  
 Travis Brown  
 Zachary Paquin  
 Britney Pelletier  
 Lydia Whitmore  
 Nicholas Daley  
 Bryan Peace  
 Nathan Huntley  
 Nathaniel Labelle  
 Nicholas Mason  
 Kevin Lanctot Jr.

Daniel Ladd  
 Jarret Faucher  
 Walter Hanson  
 Bianca Rohr  
 Christopher Connell  
 Edwin Kilcline IV  
 Caitlin Page  
 Chelsea Fitzgerald  
 Colin Mcgrail  
 Steve Lebeau  
 Rubence Lacombe  
 Katharina Schwartz  
 Bryan Doherty  
 Dana Dustin  
 Richard Tucker  
 Kevin Castelot  
 William Bostwick  
 Cody Reed

Chazz Freeman  
 Zachary Towle

## Private First Class

Nicholas Lavertu  
 Eric Mayo  
 Benjamin Watson  
 Jeremy Buckland  
 Lee Haines  
 John Skiff  
 Thomas Belanger  
 Shane Warchol  
 Nicholas Swan  
 Andre Mailhot  
 Patrick Combs  
 Morgana Delisle  
 Allison Mclynch

Donald Heincy  
 Alex Crowder  
 Jensine Barr  
 William Soucy  
 Jennifer Chandler  
 Jonathan Brouillard  
 Steven Kazakis  
 Allan Esty  
 Jason Heath  
 Gary Butler  
 Jacob Jewett  
 Kenneth Bell  
 Micah Coleman  
 Henry Ingerson  
 Michael Alger  
 Cesar Hincapie  
 Curtis Vanwinkle  
 Brian Burke  
 Colin Hammond  
 Benjamin Moreau  
 Joshua Giles  
 Jeremy Clark  
 Matthew Proulx  
 Matthew Rochon  
 Ryan Sandlin  
 Brandon Phinney  
 Tyler Bergeron  
 Derek McMahan  
 Trevor Herrick  
 Rebekah Cardenas  
 Ethan Rodgers  
 John Ayers  
 Darren Dowers  
 Byron Estavillo  
 Steven Sanantonio  
 Haley Schultz  
 Robert Plaisted

## Specialist

Brendon Corron  
 Ryan Toczko  
 Taylor Goodwin  
 Benjamin Willis  
 Jonathan Ryba  
 Mark Mclynch  
 Norman Frink  
 Christopher Surprenant  
 Eric Talbot  
 Darel Dean  
 Lance Alonardo  
 Jonathan Mexcur  
 Matthew Plantier  
 Ian Coughlin  
 Troy Minard  
 Nicholas French  
 Jeffrey Sweeney  
 Michael Labossiere

Shaun Labelle  
 Travis Guilmette  
 Trent Labonte  
 Rory Sullivan  
 Benjamin Day  
 Margaret Taylor  
 Trevor Seaton  
 Ory Felch  
 Patrick McMullen  
 Kenneth Penn  
 Zachary Carey  
 Erik Hanson  
 Joseph Klemarczyk  
 Janessa Doxstader  
 Jennifer Bellerose  
 Michael Marschhausen  
 Matthew Cox  
 Charles Bennett  
 Joshua Carrier  
 Jonathan Chaisson  
 Brandon Boutin  
 Peter Levasseur  
 Justin Smith  
 Colin Ladd  
 Eric Russell  
 Kevin Thompson  
 Garrett Lemke  
 Kayla White  
 Donald Combs  
 Marc Ducharme  
 Aaron Collette

## Sergeant

Jared Dineen  
 James Urso  
 Mark Philibert  
 William Castelot  
 Andrew Cormier  
 Anthony Rorick  
 Heather Wells  
 Steven Heffernan  
 Dawn Cookson  
 Sean Connolly  
 Richard Ghent Jr.  
 Ryan Nash  
 Daniel Morel  
 Peter Krauklin  
 Richard Colcord

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Christpher Duquette  
 Norman Ashburn III  
 Justin McNeff  
 Scott Richardson  
 Dennis Galimberti  
 David Day  
 Matthew Lovgren

Matthew Hawkins  
 Andrew Wagner  
 Jeffrey Jordan  
 Justin Dupuis

## Sergeant First Class

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 Timothy Burns  
 Stephen Dayton  
 Kenneth Boff  
 Shawn MacPherson

## Master Sergeant

Robert Blad  
 Robert Geoffroy  
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## Sergeant Major

David Beecher

## Chief Warrant Officer 2

Michael Dugan  
 Mark Gagnon  
 Thomas Quillin

## Chief Warrant Officer 3

Keith Jensen

## First Lieutenant

Zachary Keczy  
 Brandon Labelle  
 Andrew Schwab  
 Tricia Thompson

## Captain

Heath Huffman  
 Kent Wyman

## Major

Jeffrey Samon  
 Steven Veinotte  
 James Dennehy  
 Daniel Ouellet  
 Travis Jones  
 Steven Hall

## Lieutenant Colonel

John Leblanc



Capt. Jeffrey Pettee, HHC, 3643rd Brigade Support Battalion, drops the puck at the 2011 Battle for the Riverstone hockey game between the University of New Hampshire and Dartmouth played out on Jan. 15 at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester. The game ended with Dartmouth winning a 5-4 victory. Photo courtesy of Timothy Courtemanche



# Moranti receives Elaine Frank Award on Suicide Prevention

*Courtesy of Ken Norton, N.H. State branch of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill*

Maj. Michael Moranti, 197th Fires Brigade, received the 2010 Elaine Frank Award in November for outstanding work and commitment to suicide prevention at the New Hampshire National Guard.

Assigned to implement a suicide prevention program for the NHNG, Moranti partnered with the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team, NAMI NH, Department of Health and Human Services/Bureau of Behavioral Health, the Veterans Administration and other groups, and brought them together as a Health Promotion Council. Moranti used *Connect* Suicide Prevention training and its emphasis on community resources and intervention strategies to complement the standard issue Army training. He helped develop and advocate for a policy to ensure that Soldiers and Airmen who die by suicide receive full military honors. This policy was adopted by the Adjutant General in N.H., and



circulated around the country to other National Guards.

He also partnered with BBH and the medical examiner to develop a memorandum of understanding for real time sharing of information regarding suicide deaths. Moranti's efforts resulted in the NHNG being identified as a model program in testimony before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee. ❖

## Air Promotions & Awards

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# NH Guardsmen promote ancient Irish sport in the Middle East

Reprinted courtesy of the Boston Herald

[Editor's Note: The Pentagon Channel recently produced a story about The Barley House Wolves, a hurling team made up of members of the New Hampshire National Guard. You can watch the video at <http://www.pentagonchannel.mil/>, go to the lower left of the page and click on Recon and then click on the story, "Two fields, One team." Following release of the video, the team received extensive media coverage, especially in Ireland. Below is a story from Massachusetts about members of the team currently deployed in Kuwait.]

By Tenley Woodman

Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Clements, 1st Lt. David DeVoy and Capt. Adam Burritt made a pact.

The three members of the New Hampshire National Guard vowed to bring hurling, Ireland's national sport, with them on their deployment to the Middle East.

"They call it the fastest game on grass. For us, it is the fastest game on



Representing the team in Kuwait are, left to right, 1st Lt. David DeVoy, Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Clements and Capt. Adam Burritt.

sand," Clements, 31, told the Herald during a recent telephone interview from a base in Kuwait.

In hurling, players wield sticks and body check each other across a field pursuing a small ball called a sliotar. This ancient game once played by Celtic warriors might seem like an odd sport for American service men raised on baseball and football.

Six years ago, the New Hampshire National Guard's Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry, deployed to Iraq and passed through Shannon Airport on St. Patrick's Day.

"That was a lucky occurrence for us," said Lt. Col. Ray Valas, 37, a Canton native now living in Bow, N.H. "It was a long, pretty rough year. We had 14 guys get wounded, but everyone was alive from our company."

Charlie Company passed through Shannon again on their way home from Iraq.

During their layover, they saw their first hurling match. There, hurling is not just a pastime, but a part of the country's national heritage. Its roots go back thousands of years.

Coincidence, luck or a little of both, the men took it as a sign.

The Barley House Wolves, the New Hampshire National Guard's hurling team, was born.

"When you come back, it takes time to readjust and get back to whatever normal was before you spent a year in a combat zone. The paths that get you there are different for everyone. Some of

my soldiers turned to art, some turned to writing, some to the gym. There are good directions you can turn and not-so-good directions. The more options we can offer, the better we will be as a unit," Valas said.

The Gaelic Athletic Association in Boston embraced the group, and the Barley House Wolves compete in league games at Canton's Irish Cultural Center.

"What's amazing is the guys up here, they are actually good and developing all the time. There are six or seven guys who could get on a junior A team back in Ireland. That is saying something for guys who took it up four or five years ago," said team coach Ruairi O'Mahony, who has played the game since he was a child in Cork, Ireland. The Barley House Wolves have become more than just a rallying point for soldiers when they return home. As members of the team are called up and sent abroad, the men bring their dedication to the sport one step further.

"It's been important to the three of us that hurling remain a part of our lives even while deployed to Kuwait," Burritt, 31, said from Kuwait.

The men practice when time allows. They hope to recruit more soldiers to their cause, but need more equipment to play.

"It's a great thing for the soldiers to get together and be away from work to just practice and play," DeVoy, 25, said from Kuwait. "We are hoping we can play one game while we're here. It will be the first and only [hurling] game played on Kuwaiti soil." ♦

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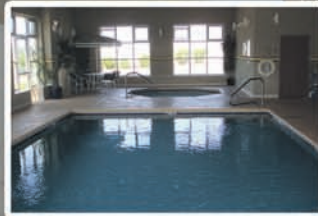
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