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On the Cover: Members of the 157th Air Refueling Wing assist Jordan Bell and her mother, Bev, into a National Guard vehicle for evacuation from Northwood School on April 16.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Sherri Pierce

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

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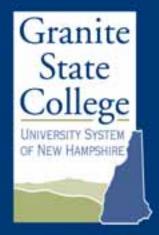
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The write stuff: A magazine for the NH National Guard

By Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State Public Affairs Officer, NH National Guard

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to the premiere edition of the *New Hampshire National Guard Magazine*, a quarterly joint publication produced for you, our soldiers and airmen, your families and our retiree community.

If this is going to be a magazine that you are going to care about and actually read, we need to be honest with each other from the start: the majority of us don't read magazines anymore, at least not the traditional way of holding one in our hands and turning the pages.

Most of us get our fix of news from the Internet, television, radio and as a recent survey showed, our friends. That poll, conducted for us by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center in October of 2005, revealed that not one person between the ages of 18 and 24 (our gold standard) read a newspaper.

The actual number who responded was 50. Not exactly a fair sampling of New Hampshire's next generation, but it's an indicator of a larger, national trend in readership habits.

This year, more Air Force Pacific Commands decided to stop publishing their base newspapers. They will produce just an online version. In addition to adapting to their readers, the Air Force is saving tens of thousands of dollars in publishing and postage costs.

The NH National Guard Magazine will have both and save money.

This is the result of a deal we struck with AQP Publishing. The Alaska company agreed to design and produce our magazine at no cost in exchange for selling advertising. We are one of five National Guards that have partnered with the veteran-owned business. We get a quality product at no expense and AQP covers its costs, and hopefully profits, through advertisements. It works out to roughly 40 percent of the total space. Not a bad deal.

AQP will make the online version available on its Web site as well as ours.

The hard copies will be shipped to each armory and Pease Air National Guard Base. (AQP agreed to mail the magazines in bulk, but not to individual homes. At the moment, we don't have the money available to cover that expense, about \$3,000 per issue).

So how do we get you to pick up a copy of the magazine, take it home and share it with your family? The magazine will have to be distributed during drill. Unit leadership will need to make this a priority at morning formation and encourage their soldiers and airmen to bring a copy home.

In return, we owe you a publication worth reading.

Our goal is to be your best source of

information for what's going on in the NH Army and Air Guards. We want this to be *YOUR* magazine. We want to hail your successes, but we also want to provide a forum to raise issues and share ideas. Ideally, we all gain a better appreciation of our two cultures.

(Continued on page 17)



Brig. Gen. Mark Sears

Growing up blue

Brig. Gen. Mark Sears, Commander of the NH Air National Guard, reflects on 60 years of Air Force legacy

On May 18, I was honored to be the guest speaker during the University of New Hampshire Air Force ROTC commissioning ceremony. As I watched six young college graduates take the Oath of Office and become brand new second lieutenants, I couldn't help but reflect on my 35 years of

service with the Air Force and the NH Air National Guard, and what that has meant to me.

My first memory of the Air Force happened in 1956. I was four years old. My home was, and still is, in Dover located about five miles north of Newington. Day after day and at all hours I could hear the constant roar of aircraft overhead.

I had no idea what was going on at the time, but I remember my dad telling me later in life that I had been listening to the "sounds of freedom" made by B-47 bombers and KC-97 Refuelers, aircraft recently assigned to the newly built Pease Air Force Base.

My next real revelation occurred in 1976 during my senior year at the University of New Hampshire.

As a ROTC student, I had taken the opportunity to travel to Pease with my classmates to take a ride on a KC-135 Refueler. It happened to be a NH Air Guard tanker; which didn't have a lot of meaning for

me at the time, mainly because I had very little knowledge of the Air Guard. It wasn't until years later that I learned about the NH Air Guard's exciting and colorful history including the move from Manchester to Pease and the conversion to KC-135s in 1975.

Since my days in the Air Force, and especially during my 19 years with the NH Air National Guard, I've taken the time to research and study our rich heritage. There are many significant events and very prominent people in our past. But whether serving for 35 years or 35 days, each one of us will create our own legacy as well.

This year the U.S. Air Force is celebrating its 60th Anniversary. We have the honor of hosting an Air Show on Aug. 17 & 18 at Pease as one of the capstone events for what will be a New England-wide commemoration of our Air Force history.

As a military service, 60 is very young – the Army at 232, Navy at 231, Marines at 231 and Coast Guard at 216 all have much longer and storied histories; yet even the Air Force, despite its "youth," has a rich history and a vitally important future.

I have every confidence that the Air Force of the 21st Century will be in good hands with our new officers and enlisted members, but I urge everyone to learn as much as you can about our culture and heritage, take pride in your service and seize every opportunity to reach out and "tell our story." For if we don't do it, who will? �

Belonging to a cause

1st Lt. Emily Cole, an intelligence analyst for the 133rd Refueling Squadron, praises core value of serving

(Editor's Note: Each issue of the NH National Guard Magazine will feature a column from an airman.)

When someone asks you where you work, what's your answer? Most of us say, "I'm in the National Guard," instead of stating the actual job we perform. What is it about the Guard that makes us answer like we belong to a cause?

I think it's because our mission is people. Whether we're in the Middle East, South America or here in New Hampshire, we put people first. In the Air Force we call it "service before self."

The ideal of working to help others succeed instead of striving for personal gain initially drew me to the National Guard. I decided to stay in because I saw it in action.

Several of my Air National Guard co-workers have voluntarily deployed to the Middle East, some more than once. What made them raise their hands to deploy when it meant leaving behind families and civilian jobs?

In Afghanistan, one of our Air National Guard part-timers created a computer program that helped fit the puzzle pieces together on adversary locations, making it possible for pilots to avoid flying over known danger areas. In Iraq, two of our part-time intelligence analysts diligently provided accurate and timely reporting of insurgent threats, knowing their information could save the lives of soldiers on convoys. In Qatar, my shop provided a current threat picture so our aircrews could avoid getting shot down. In all three cases, the primary mission was protecting our fellow airmen and soldiers.

That "others first" attitude, a distinguishing mark of military personnel, shows up in more places than just the Middle East.

For three times in two years, NH Air National Guardsmen have



1st Lt. Emily Cole hands out Girl Scout cookies to residents of the Manta City Dump during a deployment to Manta, Ecuador in February.

Photo: Courtesy of the 478th Expeditionary Operations Squadron Public Affairs

left the warmth of their living rooms to work in flooding rain. With enthusiasm, we have guarded washed out roads, filled sandbags to protect houses in the flood zone and calmed worried citizens. This February, we turned a deployment to Ecuador into an opportunity to bring school supplies and clothes to the town of Manta's poorest residents. Even in the face of such extreme poverty, we were able to do a little good.

Over the six years that I've been in the Air National Guard, I have benefited greatly from fellow military members who possess a "service before self" attitude. As a new intelligence analyst, I progressed in my job skills thanks to my shop superintendent patiently critiquing my briefings and encouraging me to do better.

I have a fuller understanding of the military because of people who took the time to explain their jobs and give me career advice. Their examples make me want to adopt a selfless attitude too.

My brother enlists with the Air National Guard next week. I'm helping him navigate through the process because I remember how confusing it was to encounter military lingo for the first time. Plus, I want the newest airman Cole to understand the National Guard is more than free college and great TDYs. It is serving people in need and serving each other.

Welcome to the cause of people, Billy. �

Brig. Gen. Stephen Burritt

Headed in the right direction

Brig. Gen. Stephen Burritt, Commander of the NH Army National Guard, highlights Transformation Ceremony, upcoming deployments

Where do we go from here? That is a question asked by a lot of soldiers in light of all the changes in the last few years.

Let's take a look at the two major events happening in the NH Army National Guard. First, Transformation is well on its way. By now all personnel assignments

have been made and everyone knows where they are going and what MOS they will have.

The process of interviews, questionnaires filled out and compiled, two job fairs and finally "Jimpers" (the list of who goes where) was very successful. Thanks to all that participated to make it a model for others to follow.

The next big event in this process is going to be exactly that, "A BIG EVENT." This fall we will host the official Transformation Ceremony of the NH Army National Guard. We are still working on the logistics as of this writing.

This will mark the next evolution in our force structure and serve as an open signal of the change. I encourage you to bring your families so they can be a part of this historic day. They are as much a part of the Guard as you, the men and women who wear the uniform.

The second major event is the deployment of more of our forces. We continue to support the Global War on Terrorism with deployments. The 3643rd Security Force is nearing the completion of its tour in Iraq and I ask you and your families to join their families and friends to welcome them home, scheduled for sometime in early fall.

Please keep in your mind and hearts the soldiers and the families of our third Embed Training Team, the 237th Military Police Company, our second Rear Area Operation Center team and Detachment 18 OSA as they begin deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait this summer.

If you know soldiers in these units please take a moment to contact their families and check on them and ask them how they are doing and if they need any help. •

Character is not an 'issued' item

Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Benjamin Flanders makes a case for becoming an Army officer

(Editor's Note: Each issue of the NH National Guard Magazine will feature a column from a soldier.)

Like every officer receiving a commission, I recited the "Oath of Office" back in May that says in part, "that I enter this obligation freely, without any mental reservation." I was proud to say it then, but that doesn't mean I was always comfortable with the idea of becoming an officer. For me, the decision took a number of years of enlisted service to figure out what in fact is asked of all future officers.

To me, the calling to become an officer originates from my epiphany that I possess a quality that the Army is desperately in need of, that is a strong moral character. A strong moral character cannot be "issued" or trained into an individual's value system. But for those who possess it, it is a guiding principle that leads to compassion for soldiers, confidence in your decisions and humility in the authority that you've been given. It does seem a little strange to identify myself as one who has it, but again, as I look back I can see sergeants and officers I served under prodding me to consider joining the officer corps. I hope and believe they saw in me the fundamental

character upon which a fledgling leadership could be based.

As an enlisted soldier, it was easy for me to identify the exceptional (or exceptionally good) officers. I learned through observation that an effective leader is always looking for ways he or she can influence those around them in a positive manner. Whether it's enforcing the standards or expecting more from their soldiers, the



Then a cadet, Benjamin Flanders races fellow officer in training Amanda Ponn during their unit's annual physical fitness test last year. Flanders served with Ponn in the 114th MPAD before his commissioning this May. Photo by 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle, NHNG-PA

officers I admired were able to motivate soldiers to perform their personal best. I knew that as an officer I would be in a greater position of influence and would be expected to make a difference. I realized that it is not obvious what sort of difference I could make, if any, to the Army or to my soldiers and their training. But I recognized the willingness in myself to give it a try.

I don't regret waiting as long as I did. But if I could stress any one thing, it would be that if you see in yourself a moral character and willingness to learn, please know that you have exactly the fundamentals needed to become an effective Army leader. The development and maturity through your college career could also happen in conjunction with ROTC training. Yes, there is a financial benefit, but the Army doesn't need people who can accept free money. It needs to attract quality candidates.

If you're an enlisted soldier and going to college, and are looking for a challenge in your military career, please consider a future as an officer in the New Hampshire Army National Guard.

Postscript: On May 20, Flanders received his commission from the Boston

College Army ROTC program. He also earned a master's degree in mathematics. Prior to becoming an officer, Flanders served as an infantryman with the NH Army National Guard's C Company, 3rd, of the 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain) in Iraq, and also as a sergeant and cadet with the 114th MPAD.

Two missions – two worlds apart

Last year, the Medical Command deployed to El Salvador for its annual training with a group of NH Air Guard medics. The unit provided basic medical care to thousands of men, women and children in the Morazan provence. LaClaire compares the missions.

The mission at Hoopa Valley was very different than that of El Salvador. Hoopa Valley took us to a very modern American clinic where providers could use the tools they normally have at their own clinics, although in a different healthcare setting. It was good training in that it allowed our unit to operate with a different culture, in a different setting, where you basically hit the ground running and had to pick up what to do very quickly. They were also able to offer patients a higher quality of care than in El Salvador simply because of the resources at their disposal.

In El Salvador, makeshift clinics were improvised in schools, churches and other buildings, and a basic level of care was offered to patients. Although there was good quality of care, there was not much in the way of follow-up care. In other words, a provider could not hope to see how his or her plan of action had worked with the patient since they probably would not have the opportunity to see them again.

Opinion on which was the better mission is divided. I found the El Salvador mission, where I worked in the pharmacy, to be a more personally satisfying experience. There was a great deal of patient interaction there. I got a chance to use my limited Spanish. Living in a tent and eating MREs made me enjoy my Army experience in a completely different way

Most providers found the Hoopa Valley mission more satisfying since they knew that their patients would receive adequate follow-up care should they choose a plan of action for a patient. They felt that the El Salvador mission, although some good came out of prescribing antibiotics and pain relievers, was more like slapping a bandage on a bigger problem. They could relieve suffering, but the effect would be temporary.

What I find excellent is that we are being offered opportunities at AT to work in completely different environments and settings. Some will be more modern, some will be rustic. But the point is that we all get the chance to work as a team, no matter what the setting or environment. It's the confidence that comes from working with people you trust that builds the best, most effective units. •

Where the trails lead back

By Sgt. Jennifer LaClaire

LaClaire, a patient administrator with the NH Army National Guard's Medical Command, kept a journal of her unit's annual training at the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation in northern California from April 16-28. The unit helped run a clinic on the reservation. The experience left a lasting impression on LaClaire and her fellow soldiers.



Tuesday, April 17: Over The River and Though The Woods

There is a single highway leading into Hoopa. Once you're in the valley, everywhere you look you're surrounded by mountains covered with trees. The mountains appeared striped as lines of pine and deciduous trees took turns dominating a piece of the landscape. Hoopa itself is a community, with a small downtown area consisting of a hotel (where we were staying), a store, a casino, a post office, a museum, and a few services and schools. The territory of the Hoopa Valley expands much larger, and is part of a much larger community including several other Native American tribes along the Trinity River. I'm going to try to do more research into this region.

Wednesday, April 18: Record Keepers

We started our first day at the clinic. Since it's been such a long, busy day, I will give more details about the facility, and our introduction, in a future post. I worked in the medical records room with the other Patient Administration folks, and our work will certainly be cut out for us this AT! This clinic is about to be inspected by hospital administrators, as all clinics and hospitals are, in order to remain accredited. Our job is to go through patient files for compliance, and archive those records where patients haven't visited the clinic for some time.

Thursday, April 19: Strong Stomachs, Soft Hearts

The last two days have kept us all hopping. The staff is wonderful, and made us some coffee to keep our energy up! Sadly, I have had very little contact with the patients themselves as I have been feverishly working in the records room. Our group works very well as a team, and we have this down to a system now. The job of the 68G, Patient Administration, is not a glamorous one, but it's very satisfying and extremely necessary to keep any clinic functioning. I don't think it's unfair to say that in a way, they're the heart of any clinic, ensuring that information keeps flowing so that a provider can easily research the history of their patients via paper or computer records. The records flow back to administration, are updated, and are again put into the provider's hands as necessary. Today I'm literally wedged back in the furthest row of shelves against the wall, where only a small metal cart keeps me from being smashed flat by the rolling archives. At least once I make a Star Wars joke in reference to when the heroes are about to become squashed in a trash compactor, I get a few chuckles, but mostly I simply show both my age and my sci-fi geekiness. I miss my husband. He would have laughed.

As I sifted through files, I heard a small child softly crying while a mom and one of our medical team tried to soothe her with soft words. As always, I'm impressed with the way that members of my unit can be as tough as any soldier in some settings and amazingly tender when the situation calls for it. It re-enforces why I love the medical field, where you'll find people with the strongest stomachs and the softest hearts in the military. It doesn't take long for the child to start giggling. For kids, fear is fleeting.

Friday, April 20: The Sound of Silence

I love Hoopa. This morning I went for a run at the "airport". Across from the clinic there is a single landing strip surrounded by natural beauty. At the head of the runway lies the Trinity River, at the other end lies pasture land. It is meant for occasions when someone may need to be flown out or in case of a medical emergency. No one I've spoken to remembers the last time a plane landed on it, but it remains a sensible precaution should an emergency arise. In the meantime it is a perfect place to exercise and take in the natural beauty. As I ran along the strip, a light rain began and the clouds appeared to bunch lower into the valley. A horse grazed contentedly in a nearby field. And it's so quiet. The background city noise is non-existent, which is alien to a New Englander, and only the sound of the breeze going through the grass could be heard. Even the Trinity River is silent. I love it here.

The clinic was busy as usual. So much to do in such a short period of time! Although the folks who work here have done a good job at keeping things up-to-date, even the most dedicated admin personnel can get overwhelmed when you're dealing with so much daily traffic. The K'ima:w staff can continue their busy day and we can assist on the sidelines. I'm

just grateful that we're getting the chance to help out, even in a small way.

Saturday, April 21: Universal Themes

It's Saturday, and the clinic is closed. This morning there is a Women's Health Fair at the local youth center, and I'm going to check it out. Several members of the unit are also going to participate.

The fair was rather bitter-sweet. It was set up in the Youth Center: a small building with video games, a good-sized dance floor, and a full kitchen perfect for hosting social events. As I walked in, several stations were set up to appeal to one's creative talents. There was a long table with baskets of cloth scraps for making quilt squares, along with several tables of beads for making jewelry of all sorts. Along the walls, quilts were hung in decoration. As I went to inspect one of them, I got goose bumps. The quilt had a theme. Each quilt square was designed by a child, and the squares alternated with the titles "Safe Square" and "Scared Square." The safe square represented something a child found soothing: mother's hands, a sibling, a song, etc. The "Scared Square" represented something the child found frightening. The "scared squares" told tales of children feeling threatened by teasing, neglect or abuse. It was clear from this quilt that many horrors that children face are universal, and not limited by geography or ethnicity. It's a sad reality found throughout humanity. The purpose of the quilt hanging in the Youth Center was clear: to show young people that they have choices in the kind of parents, or simply people, that they can grow to become. After all, if people were raised with abuse and find it normal behavior, there is no incentive to change. If it's singled out as a choice, it can be identified and corrected. Other quilts demonstrated other themes, from religion to art to other emotions. I learned here that the valley itself is spelled "Hoopa," but the people themselves are "Hupa."

Monday, April 23: A Much Needed Lift

Today was a sad day in Hoopa Valley. A young man in his 20s had died of cancer recently and his funeral was today. He was a man from the neighboring Yurok tribe who had friends and relatives in Hoopa. A party of soldiers in our unit went to assist with transporting some of the local townspeople up one of the mountains to the funeral site. I stayed behind to work at the clinic along with the providers. I asked SFC Doreen Sears, who is in our section, about her experience. She said that many of the people who attended needed assistance in getting up to the service. She and a few others filled vans with children, senior citizens, and people with physical disabilities that made travel difficult. The drivers had to very carefully pick their way up the fairly treacherous paths to the burial site. Hoopa Valley is filled with natural, unspoiled beauty. It is also filled with unpaved, unguarded pathways where one has to take great care to navigate safely. They shuttled back and forth until those who wished to attend were finally transported safely.

The service was very private, and it was a privilege to be allowed to attend such a personal Native American ceremony. SFC Sears stated that the atmosphere was not tearful, but rather served as a farewell for someone whose spirit had transformed. Since the deceased was a man, only men spoke on behalf of the deceased, as was the custom. She stated that everything about the ceremony was beautiful, including the final resting place overlooking the Valley. Afterward, food was provided for the guests. One of the traditional dishes served was smoked eel. "It was good! It tasted a bit like smoked oysters, and had the consistency of tuna steak."

Early that evening NH Guardsmen assisted in shuttling people back down again. It was very memorable for those who attended.

Tuesday, April 24: A Sense Of Accomplishment

Wiped out. Long day. Watched some British comedy on TV before going to sleep. We had a very productive day at the clinic, and it's uplifting as I think that we'll be able to finish our project in the records office before we leave.

Wednesday, April 25: History Lesson at the Laundromat

The clinic's name is K'ima:w, which I just discovered in my Hupa/English dictionary means "medicine." I haven't discovered what our hotel's name, Tsewenaldin, means since the book only translates from English to Hupa. I have discovered that "tse" means "rock," so I strongly suspect it has something to do with that.

After a long day of filing records some of us headed to the local laundromat. The building was a tiny structure set back far from the main road. When we got there, there was only a woman and her child using the facility. As we waited for our clothes, we talked to the young woman. Her name was Tina, and she was wonderful giving us information about her culture.

Unlike many Native American tribes, the Hupa were not subject to the mass relocation forced upon them by European settlers. The Hupa people have been residents of this valley for thousands of years. The fact that they were able to withstand the onslaught of outsiders through the years, even during the height of the California gold rush, is truly a blessing and a sign of their strong attachment to their culture.

Here's another twist on the culture I was unfamiliar with. "Hupa" is not actually the term the people gave themselves. It is the term for the tribe that Yurok used, and it stuck with white settlers in the area. The Hupa call themselves "na:tinixwe" (those from Hoopa Valley), and their Valley is called "na:tini-xw" (where the trails lead back).

Tina stated that because their culture was not displaced from elsewhere, their traditions have remained very much the same, and dances performed in the same locations, for centuries. This time of the year is very quiet in terms of traditional ceremonies, but in the summer there are a host of observances for both Hupa and Yurok people. They are often private, and more commonly observed for local people observing their heritage. She briefly discussed a few of the dances, and I was thrilled to see that some of them were mentioned in my Hoopa book from the museum. The "White Deerskin Dance," where whole white deerskins are held propped by poles, is a dance of purity to eliminate evil. She also talked of a dance where people wore hats covered in woodpecker feathers. This turned out to be the "Jump Dance," which is done to maintain community health and promote healing to those in need. The dances sound beautiful, and it's a pity we'll have to miss being in the area during these festivals. She herself participates in these dances, and she travels to other parts of the country to compare other Native American ceremonies to her own. She says she greatly enjoys seeing others faithfully maintaining their traditions.

Friday, April 27: A Grateful Goodbye

The final day in the clinic ended quietly. At noon there was a small ceremony in front of the clinic. The NH Army Guard presented a plaque to the clinic, thanking them for allowing us to train at their facility for two weeks. One of the members of the Hoopa Tribal Council was there and said a prayer for us in Hupa. A woman sang a song on her guitar. I recognized her as one of the ladies who sang at the Women's Health Fair. She had sung "Amazing Grace" then, she was singing "I Believe in Jesus" today.

After the formalities, there was a wonderful pot-luck lunch were some of the employees of the clinic brought in dishes to pass. There was everything from spaghetti to Indian fried bread to salads to various fruits. We sat outside and did more socializing than many of us were able to do over the last two weeks! There were some veterans there as well. A 90-year-old WWII veteran had served in the Naval Air force and talked animatedly about meeting Charles Lindbergh. He was a pleasure to talk to and an honor to meet him.

That evening we went back to Cinnabar Sam's for a final supper. Outside they had an area out back decorated like a Hawaiian luau, complete with candles, flower leis and tiki torches. We enjoyed a marvelous cook-out and had a great time going over memories of AT.

Afterward we headed back to pack. It's been a long day and we have to head back to Sacramento tomorrow morning. �

Region's largest hurricane drill since Katrina gives NH opportunity to command federal forces

By Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO, NHNG

CONCORD – New England's largest hurricane drill since thousands of National Guardsmen were activated in support of hurricanes Katrina and Rita gave New Hampshire the opportunity to exercise a newly amended section of the National Defense Authorization Act, which allows a National Guard officer to command active duty forces.

In a reversal of roles, the FY04 amendment – Title 32, United States Code, Section 325 – makes it possible through an agreement between the governor of a state and the president of the United States for the National Guard to appoint an officer to be the Joint Task Force Commander and provide command and control of both federal and state forces during a state emergency.

The use of a dual-status commander allows for an economy of effort while increasing the flexibility for mission tasking. The commander receives orders from a federal chain of command and a state chain of command. He or she would act as an intermediate link in two distinct command chains.

The first time this dual-hat status was enacted was for the Group of Eight Economic Summit hosted at Sea Island, Ga. It has since been used to support several national events such as the Democrat and Republican National Conventions in Massachusetts and New York, and Operation Winter Freeze in Vermont.

When Guardsmen deploy overseas, they are federally activated with the governor's consent and fall under an active duty chain of command. In the last three years, more than 1,500 NH citizensoldiers, or 70 percent of the NH National Guard, have served under federal status in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo and other locations around the world.

A governor would request federal forces if the emergency overwhelmed the capacity of the state's available personnel and resources. This week, NH Gov. John Lynch submitted a request within the simulated response to "Hurricane Yvette." All New England states, as well as New York and New Jersey, participated in the weeklong tabletop exercise. It was meant to evaluate the readiness in a region susceptible to hurricane damage.

Within the exercise, several thousand National Guard soldiers and airmen from the Northeast states were available in their communities to assist first-responders with rescue, recovery, security, engineering, debris removal, medical support and evacuee return.

Wading into another storm

Rescue of school children highlights NH Guard's response to April nor'easter

By 2nd Lt. Sherri Pierce, 157 ARW PAO

CONCORD – The rescue of 18 children in Nottingham, whose school was surrounded by flood waters, highlighted the NH National Guard's efforts throughout the state to assist first responders during an April nor'easter.

It was the third time in 18 months that at least 400 NH Guardsmen were activated for storm-related emergencies in the state.

From placing sandbags to providing traffic control, NH citizen-soldiers and airmen deployed to more than 16 communities to help local police and fire departments – and brought an added level of reassurance to residents

They worked in shifts for the better part of a week.

Using a large, five-ton military truck, a dozen airmen from the 157th Air Refueling Wing forded high water at the Nottingham elementary school and transported the children safely nearby to their waiting parents.

They arrived shortly after 5 p.m. to find the children eating chicken patties and watching television in the school's cafeteria.

Principal Michelle Carvalho said they hadn't evacuated earlier because there was power, heat and shelter at the school and they weren't sure if that was the case in other parts of Nottingham. Parents coordinated with school administration to meet their children at one of two predetermined locations. Groups of students were then loaded onto the trucks and brought safely to waiting parents.



Private 1st Class Joe Paradis, a tactical data systems specialist with 1st Battalion, 172nd FA out of Nashua, helps fill sandbags in condominium community along Rt. 3 in Merrimack. Paradis was one of about 400 NH National Guardsman activated to assist first-responders during the April floods. Paradis assisted residents in Greenville building walls to divert water. "It's terrible that this is happening, but I'm happy to be helping, and it's nice to see people working together," he said.

"I was very confident that there weren't going to be any problems because the National Guard was bringing the children out," said Noreen Duffy-Granbery, whose son Enan was one of the students evacuated. "It was a great thing for the kids to see that the people helping them were somebody's mom and somebody's dad and they just happened to have a uniform on."



Capt. Nelson Perron, Lt. Col. Jim Ryan, and Tech. Sgt. Jamie Watson of the 157th Air Refueling Wing plan an evacuation route with Michelle Carvalho, principal of Northwood School, Bev Bell, secretary, and daughter Jordan for over a dozen students and faculty during storms April 16.

The state activation punctuated a busy month for the NH Guard. Its Medical Command deployed to the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation in northern California for its two-week annual training to support a local clinic. A crew from the NH Guard's 744th Transportation Company hauled a home built by students from the Somersworth Technical School to a family in Louisiana who lost their home during Hurricane Katrina. And the Joint Force Headquarters hosted a group of Salvadoran police and Army soldiers, who are visiting as part of the NH Guard's State Partnership Program with the Central American Republic of

El Salvador. �

Transformation resets force for new era

Submitted by NHARNG Transformation Team



A high mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS) fires during a demonstration last year. Photo by Spc Kathleen Briere, 114th MPAD

CONCORD – This fall, the NH Army National Guard will begin a new era with a ceremony that will showcase the states new force structure. The ceremony will include all of the current units within the NHARNG and will pay tribute to those that are being inactivated or reorganized, while also welcoming new units. This will be one of the few times within the NHARNG history that all soldiers will come together in a mass formation.

As with the transformation of the active component, the NHARNG is resetting its force to become more modular and adaptable to the current operating environment. On the artillery side the NHARNG was selected to have one of only six fires brigades in the National Guard, we are going to stand down our two M198 howitzer battalions and stand up a high mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS)

battalion and a brigade support battalion.

Within the 54th Troop Command the militray police platoon has grown to a company, the engineer detachment is transforming to a vertical engineer unit and the air ambulance company is dividing into a company and a separate detachment with the same mission of providing aeromedical evacuation. The 54th TC is also adding a new contingency contracting team.

Although the ceremony will mark the beginning of a new era, work on transformation will be far from complete as we continue to conduct a myriad of logistical, training and facility tasks that are needed to ensure that our units will be prepared to deploy in support of any state or federal mission. �



AIR SHOW

flying into Pease Air National Guard Base

By 2nd Lt. Sherri Pierce, 157 ARW PAO

NEWINGTON – The Pease/Wings of Hope Air Show, a joint civilian-military air show, is taking place at Pease Air National Guard Base Aug. 18 and 19. The air show, the first since 2000, is sponsored by the NH Wings of Hope Foundation, a charity organization led by the NH Brain Injury Association, in partnership with the NH Air National Guard.

"This partnership is so important because we have so much in common," said Lt. Col. Rick Greenwood, military director of the air show. "The most significant injury our soldiers suffer during the Global War on Terror is severe brain trauma and the goal of the Brain Injury Association is the prevention and treatment of these injuries."

The goal of the air show is to provide the general public a first-rate demonstration of Air Force airpower through aerial flights, ground displays and senior leader presentations. In addition, the NH Air Guard will have an opportunity to showcase its distinctive heritage, the 157th Air Refueling Wing's GWOT contributions since 9/11 and unique community linkage.

"It will be exciting," said Greenwood.
"We will have a lot of heritage airplanes like the B-17 Memphis Belle and the F-86 Heritage Flight plus some of the current Air Force inventory like the Viper F-16 Demonstration Team and the F-18 Navy Demonstration Team and a full-range in between."

The show will also highlight the Pease location as a key military asset, critical to the air bridge mission so important in the continuing Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle efforts.

"We continue to support GWOT with our air bridge missions – refueling aircraft as they depart for and return from over-



There was plenty of food available for hungry volunteers, participants, and attendees at the 1997 Pease Air Show. Photo: Courtesy of NHNG

seas," said Col. Richard Martell, Wing commander. "We have been operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week since 9/11 and will continue to do so."

Civilian aviation flight demonstrations and ground displays will round out the air show schedule. The two-day event at Pease will be an outstanding introduction to the continuing events of Air Force Week New England.

The Pease/Wings of Hope Air Show is part of Air Force Week. Air Force Week is a chance for the American public to get a better understanding of the roles and missions of the U.S. Air Force, according to Lt. Col. Nicole Bixler, the NH project officer for Air Force Week New England. This year, six locations throughout the U.S.





Air show attendees get a closer look at a B-1 Bomber during the 1997 Pease Air Show. Photo: Courtesy of NHNG

Static displays for the 1997 Air show are lined up on the runway at Pease Air National Guard Base. Photo: Courtesy of NHNG



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will host an AF Week: Phoenix, Sacramento, St. Louis, Honolulu and Atlanta. New England is the sixth location and is the only regional venue hosted solely by the Air National Guard.

"We wanted the opportunity to host AF Week New England to directly tell our outstanding performance story across the nation," Martell added.

Monday, Aug. 20, is Education Day and will emphasize local outreach activities. Tuesday, Science Day, will showcase Total Force air and space capabilities during presentations at the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium and the Boston Museum of Science. Wednesday, Youth Day, has specific, youth-oriented activities planned emphasizing real-world applications of math and science. Astronauts are scheduled to attend these activities. Thursday is Community Day and the highlight will be an Air Force Association Defense Industry Symposium, including high-level senior Air Force leaders, both military and civilian, who will provide keynote addresses.

Air Force Week New England will culminate with the Cape Cod Air Show hosted by the Massachusetts Air National Guard at Otis ANG Base. Another world-class event, featuring the Thunderbirds, the Air Force's premier aerial demonstration team, is in store for those who attend.

The Air Force Week New England 2007 schedule of events provides a perfect opportunity for the citizens of all the New England states to learn more about the rich heritage of United States air power and the Total Force Integration transformation of the Active Duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve designed specifically to meet the national security needs of the 21st century, Bixler said.

"We want people to know where we've come from and where we're going," she said. "We have a very colorful heritage." ❖

Flying through time A history of Pease Air Shows

By Tech. Sgt. James Dolph, 157th ARW Public Affairs

People have always been fascinated by airplanes. Whether at organized demonstrations, or to simply watch routine flying activities, people have always gathered around airfields.

Here at the Pease International Tradeport, aviation began sometime shortly after World War I when ex-Army pilots purchased surplus war planes and sold rides to the local citizens. The airfield was a portion of what was then known as the Portsmouth Fairgrounds. In the 1930s, a small civilian airport was constructed. During World War II, the airport was used largely by the Navy to support operations at the nearby Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. After the war civilian flying resumed and in the 1950s the land was acquired by the government to establish an air force base.

On June 30, 1956, the Portsmouth Air Force Base was formally opened with a prestigious assembly of guest speakers. Among them was the Secretary of the Air Force Donald A. Quarles, New Hampshire Gov. Lane Dwinnel, Sen. Styles Bridges and numerous local dignitaries. One official account of the event states that as many as 120,000 people were in attendance. To entertain the guests, numerous airplanes were on display. Flyovers of the new base were made by an F-84, B-47 and a B-36. One of the major highlights of the ceremony was an aerial demonstration by the Air Force Thunderbirds.

The following May in 1957, the base hosted an open house in support of Armed Forces Day. Numerous buildings were open to the public and several aircraft were on static display. On Sept. 7 that same year the base was renamed to Pease Air Force Base, in honor of Capt. Harl Pease Jr., a

World War II hero.

For the next ten years an air show was associated with a Pease Open House celebrating Armed Forces Day. In 1967 the Pease Open House date began to change depending on the schedule of the Thunderbirds and other related activities. Scheduled to close as a result of Base Realignment and Closure, Pease AFB held its last air show in May 1990.

With the closure of the active base, the New Hampshire Air National Guard component was renamed to Pease Air National Guard Base. The overall installation became the Pease International Tradeport and redevelopment began. There were no official military air shows for the next several years. Then in 1997, in commemoration of the 50th birthday of the NH Air National Guard, an air show was held on Sept. 20. Over forty aircraft were on static display and numerous other activities were held including demonstrations by the US Air Force Academy Cadet Rifle and Sabre Drill Teams. It is estimated that over 50,000 people attended the day's events.

Three years later in the year 2000, with the gracious help of numerous sponsors, the NH Air National Guard was able to sponsor another air show. •

Spectators look to the skies at an aerial demonstration during the 1997 Pease Air Show. Photo: Courtesy of NHNG



Through the eyes of a Refueler

157th grants boy's wish to be airman for a day

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Sherri Pierce, 157 ARW PAO

PEASE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, NEWINGTON – Rain didn't dampen Nick Salafia's spirits when he toured the 157th Air Refueling Wing as part of his visit April 27, organized by Pease Kids Corps and Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Hampshire.

Salafia, a 15-year-old from Concord, arrived at Pease ANGB to find a fire engine with lights flashing and sirens blaring ready to escort him. Salafia was accompanied by his parents, Catherine Keane and Paul Salafia; his grandmother, Shirley Salafia; and Donna Parker, director of development for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of N.H.

Salafia's day was filled with many activities.

He toured the flight line, survival shop and fire department, as well as helped perform maintenance on a KC-135 engine. He "flew" in the tanker simulator and slid down the fireman's pole.



Nick Salafia helps perform maintenance on a KC-135 engine as part of his Pease Kids Corps and Make-A-Wish Foundation of NH visit to the 157th Air Refueling Wing on April 27.



Nick Salafia tries on a flight helmet with eyewear that protects against a nuclear flash during his visit to the life support section of the 157th Air Refueling Wing.

"This makes science seem real to him," Keane said during a tour of the survival shop. Salafia helped inflate a 20-person life raft and was briefed on how escape slides operate.

Salafia was given a flight helmet signed by pilots and other member's of the Wing's Operations Group and an official Pease Kids Corps flight jacket to commemorate the day.

"This (experience) really gives you an appreciation for the National Guard," Keane said. "The best part is that, in the end, these people are our neighbors."

Salafia also visited the life support section where he learned how to survive in less than desirable conditions. He tried on pilot gear, including a helmet that protects the eyes from a nuclear flash, as well as experienced what it feels like to be suspended by a harness and parachute.

"It gives you a mega-wedgie," Salafia said.

Salafia's visit to Pease ANGB was his second wish granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. He attended the NFL Pro Bowl in Hawaii, where he met several professional football players. Although his favorite player, Tom Brady of the New England Patriots, wasn't playing in the game, Salafia unexpectedly met him in the Manchester airport on his way home.

"It was sweet," Salafia recalled.

Three and a half years ago, Salafia was diagnosed with Wegeners Granulomatosis, a vascular disease that causes inflammation of the blood vessels, arteries, veins or capillaries. It is an autoimmune disease where the body mistakes its own cells for foreign cells and attacks them. The illness is treated with medication but there is no known cure.

The partnership between the 157ARW's Pease Kids Corps and the Make-A-Wish Foundation of N.H. hosts an average of three children a year, said Lt. Col. T.C. Blake, a flight instructor who oversees the Pease Kids Corps Program. This type of community initiative is "very rewarding," he said. "It gives you a deep sense of satisfaction to give something back." ❖

A model of jointness

12th Civil Support Team celebrates federal certification

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Sherri Pierce, 157 ARW PAO

CONCORD – Surrounded by friends, family and first responders, the 12th Civil Support Team celebrated its federal certification during a ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Concord, April 7.

The 12th CST is comprised of 22 full-time NH National Guard soldiers and airmen who work with state and federal first responders when a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive incident occurs.

The team has gone through nearly two years and thousands of hours of specialized training. It is able to identify CBRNE agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures and assist with appropriate requests for federal support.

"They have worked really hard for this and spent a lot of hours away from home," said Annette Marinkov, spouse of Master Sgt. David Marinkov, communications chief of the 12th CST. "It is worth it to keep us safe."

"I am very proud of him," said Johanna White, spouse of Staff Sgt. William White, CST member. Being away from home was a "small price to pay" for the assistance he provides to the community.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, Adjutant General of New Hampshire, recognized the "huge demand" the training can have on a family.

"I want to personally thank the families who have supported them through their challenging training," Clark said. "Family support is a key component to any team's success. They are now a highly-skilled part of the state's emergency response structure. They are the first military responders on the ground and provide a unique expertise and capability to assist the state governor in preparing for and responding to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents."

CSTs were conceived in May 1998, when President Clinton vowed to do more as a nation to protect against biological and chemical terrorism. A Presidential Directive established guidelines for the creation of CSTs through the Department of Defense for all states and territories.



Staff Sgt. Lyndsey Hooper stands with Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, the Adjutant General of NH, and Lt. Col. Kevin Major, commander of the 12th CST, during a federal recognition ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Concord, April 7.



Staff Sgt. Mark Dupuis, survey team member, presents Lindsey Newell with flowers as a thank you for her support during the 24-month federal certification training of the 12th CST.

In November 2004, the DOD announced the fifth phase of CST approvals in which 11 more CSTs would be stood-up, bringing the total number to 55. New Hampshire, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, District of Columbia, Montana, Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming were among those selected for new CSTs.

The 12th CST was the first of those 11 teams to complete its required staffing, training, equipping and evaluation with near-perfect scores on its after action reports, according to Lt. Col. Kevin Major, 12th CST commander. This was due to the people and the teamwork of the CST, Major said.

"The soldiers and airmen on this team are by far some of the finest in the CST program nationwide," said Major. They are "a cohesive unit that is not only able to perform its mission but able to do it with tenacity and technical precision."

The team was officially certified on Feb. 1. �



Blank receives from Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark - "Master Sgt. David Marinkov, 12th CST communications chief, shakes the hand of Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, the Adjutant General of NH, after he is presented with the NHNG Commendation Medal.



Brothers in arms

Salvadoran MPs, cops schooled by New Hampshire counterparts

Story and photo by 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle, Deputy State PAO, NH National Guard

CONCORD – Being handcuffed on the gritty carpet of an abandoned house is not how the New Hampshire National Guard welcomes it guests, but that's how it was for Cpl. Mauricio Murcia, a military police officer with the Salvadoran Army, during a visit with his NH counterparts in April.

A group of soldiers and police officers from El Salvador were here for an exchange with the 237th Military Police Company and local and state police as part of the NH National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Central American republic.

Murcia was "volunteered" by his sergeant to play the role of a criminal, not knowing the training would require him to be dropped to the floor with his hands tied behind his back.

"The goal of this visit was to get law enforcement more involved in the partnership," said Capt. Brian Fernandes, international affairs officer for the New Hampshire National Guard. "It is another great match for our partnership. We have a lot of law enforcement people in the New Hampshire National Guard and El Salvador has a big crime problem."

Fernandes said the five-day visit would give the Salvadoran police a glimpse into the kind of technology NH law enforcement uses as well as the variety of educational programs it aims at youth.

"This was good training for us," said 1st Sgt. Hector Grijalva, an MP with the Salvadoran Army. "This training will help our people. In El Salvador, Military Police work very closely with civilian police."

(In the United States, such cooperation is prohibited except in narrowly defined exceptions.)

"We can use what we see here to make recommendations to our unit back home," he added. "It is also possible we could be sent to Iraq and we want to take some of this training to our people in case they are sent overseas."

El Salvador is the only Latin American country that is sending

soldiers to Iraq in support of the U.S. and Coalition Forces.

In return, the Salvadorans bring a wealth of urban law enforcement experience, particularly when it comes to dealing with gangs.

"At first, the organizations here in New Hampshire were a little hesitant but after they saw the interaction between the groups and how much experience the Salvadorans bring to the table, it became clear this could be a productive process," Fernandes said.

The Manchester and Nashua Police departments participated in the exchange along with the State Police, Hillsboro County Jail, Federal Courthouse and the Hillsboro County Courthouse.

Fernandes' only complaint was that there was not enough time to accomplish everything on the agenda. It was the first of what he hoped to be many exchanges between the two law enforcement communities. A reciprocal visit to El Salvador involving many of the same participants is in the planning stage, Fernandes said.

The NH National Guard's State Partnership with El Salvador focuses on three areas of development: military, government and business. To date, NH has averaged five SPP exchanges a year. The exchanges have involved senior leadership, Army and Air Guard units, and representatives of the State Legislature, state agencies, private businesses and the state university system.

The partnership is part of a national initiative managed by the National Guard Bureau's International Affairs division. Today, 43 U.S. states, two territories and the District of Columbia are partnered with 50 countries in Eastern Europe, Central America and South America.

The program was established in 1993 in the aftermath of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. The program's goals reflect a growing international affairs mission for the National Guard using the unique civil-military nature of the Guard to interact with both active and reserve forces of foreign countries. �

Going the extra mile

744th Transportation Co. returns to the bayou with second house

By Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO, NH National Guard

SOMERSWORTH – The 744th Transportation Company is a lot like the postman. They can deliver just about anything, anywhere, under any condition.

In both Gulf Wars, the 744th hauled supplies through enemy fire, roadside bombs, intense heat and thick mud. They brought trailers full of bottled water and food to Louisiana in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Here at home they deployed to communities overwhelmed by severe flooding; delivering generators, food and a sense of security.

So when a local church was looking for a way to deliver a newly built house to Louisiana, it didn't seem like a stretch to consider the NH Army National Guard's premiere group of long-haulers. The route down was familiar and the unit had trailers large enough to fit the modular home.

In fact, Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, the Adjutant General of the NH National Guard, suggested the idea after he heard a story about the effort on the radio. Grace Community Church in Rochester had formed a nonprofit group called, "There's No Place Like Home" (TNPLH) after its pastor had returned from the Gulf Coast wanting to do more for the affected people.

A member of the church, Brian Patterson, offered his services as an instructor at the Somersworth Vocational Education Center. He proposed that the students in his building and trades class donate the next home they construct.

The only catch was they didn't have a way to transport it down there. TNPLH reached out through the media and Congressman Jeb Bradley, whose office assisted with permitting requirements. Enter the soldiers of the 744th – known as the Black Sheep – they delivered the home right to the family's doorstep.

That was a year ago.

This April, the 744th returned to the Bayou with a second house for another family left homeless by the 2005 hurricanes. The 1,500-mile haul could become an annual mission for the unit, as long as there is a need.

"It's a terrific partnership of students, the Guard and community leaders coming together in typical New Hampshire fashion and figuring out a way to do it," said Bradley, during a send-off ceremony at Somersworth High School on April 12. He remains committed to the project despite losing his congressional seat.

Bradley headed a delegation of 22 soldiers from the 744th, 16 of Patterson's students and members of TNPLH, to deliver the second home to Rose Collins in Cut Off, La., located just south of New



A 744th soldier drives a new home onto its future property in Cut Off, La. The 744th traveled 1,500 miles to deliver the home to a family that lost theirs in the 2005 hurricanes. Photo: Courtesy of Paula Young, TNPLH

Orleans. Her family had been living in a FEMA trailer for the past two years.

"She was trying to hug every soldier even before she saw the house," said Staff Sgt. Edward Wiggins, the unit's readiness NCO.

Added Spc. Rick Pincence, "I would do this even if I was a civilian. It's good for the Guard. It makes the Guard look good."

It was especially meaningful to the students, who spent their entire school year building the home.

"You get more out of building a house for a cause and not just for the money," said Tony Moschetti, a senior in the building program.

Typically, the class builds one home a year and uses the proceeds from the sale to buy supplies for the next one, Patterson said. Thirty students are in the class, which is part of the regional vocational program based at Somersworth High School.

"It is an awesome experience for the kids," Patterson said. "It really opens their eyes. They get it – the part about giving back to the community." •

744th soldiers join students and instructors from the Somerworth Vocational School and members of "There's No Place Like Home" for a keepsake photo before they put the finishing touches on the roof of a new home in Cut Off, Louisiana in April. The 744th hauled the home, built by the students, 1,500 miles to a family that lost theirs in the 2005 hurricane. Photo: Courtesy of Paula Young, TNPLH



Mount Washington race provides fertile ground for essential training, community support

54th Troop Command expands innovative partnership for Tuckerman Pentathlon

By Sgt. Luke Koladish, 114th MPAD

MOUNT WASHINGTON VALLEY -

The New Hampshire Army National Guard and the Friends of Tuckerman's Ravine teamed up here in April for the seventh annual Tuckerman's Inferno Pentathlon.

C Company, 3rd, of the 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain), sent multiple nineman squads into the White Mountains to set up radio relay stations to track the progress of the contestants throughout the course. The 237th Military Police coordinated traffic control points with the local police. The 1159th Medical Company was on standby to assist with medical evacuations.

"We have a strong community of volunteers, but to run something this massive we needed more manpower than we had," said Al Risch, executive director of Friends of Tuckerman's Ravine, which organizes the race. This is the third time 54th Troop Command has filled that need.

The origin of the pentathlon was a ski

race down the bowl of Tuckerman's Ravine called the Inferno. Seven years ago it was expanded to include a run, bike, kayak and hike up into the bowl, said Risch.

Risch recognized a need for a more reliable source of getting times and race information to the base of the mountain efficiently. That's where the Guard stepped in.

Maj. Raymond Valas, 54th Troop Command operations officer, realized the framework of the race could offer mutual benefits for the pentathlon and the NH Guardsmen

In 2003, Mountain Company assisted in the communication of race results. The following year the unit deployed to Iraq and was unable to support the pentathlon again until the spring of last year.

"They were an integral part in conducting the race. We sorely missed their participation," said Risch.

This year, 54th Troop Command expanded the mission to incorporate the MP Company and the 1159th Medical Company.

"The race helps with community relations and visibility, and supports the NH Guard's training on mission essential tasks," said Lt. Col. John Cuddy, commander of 54th Troop Command.

The race allowed NH Guardsmen to work with local and state police, private businesses, the forest service and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

"The coordination of local law enforcement and NH Guard assets in the context of the race allowed the agencies to interact in a similar way they would respond to a crisis, a proficient and competent manner," Valas said.

In addition to the expansion of battalion involvement, Troop Command was encouraged by Hirsch to enter a team in the Inferno race. Valas, Maj. Roy Hunter, retired Maj. Tim Ainsworth, Spc. Kathleen Briere and Sgt. 1st Class Sage Ladieux represented the NH Guard. They finished 12th in the race. ❖

Maj. Tim Ainsworth (Ret.) tags-off to Spc. Kathleen Briere, 114th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, at the finish of his 18-mile bike event and the start of the 3.4 mile hike up Tuckerman's Ravine during the Inferno Pentathlon held on Mount Washington in April. The NH National Guard team finished 12th in the race. Photo by Staff Sqt. Atilla Fazekas

114th soldier finds footing in the race of her life

By Spc. Kathleen Briere, 114th MPAD

from out of view. "It's biker number four," she said.

Moments later, from around the corner, biker number four came into view. Surrounded by seasoned athletes, I had already positioned myself underneath a staged canopy. There I waited; eyes wide open for biker number four to tag me off, giving me the okay to start my run. I really have no memory of the tag off. In fact, if not for the confirming photograph of a reassuring clench from biker number four, I would probably never be sure I was tagged as memory can sometimes succumb to nerves when my nerves are overwhelmed. Hitting the play button of the mp3 player that was strapped to my left arm, I took off. The first few minutes up the trail were tough. The deep slushy snow was wet enough to make even the best hikers stumble enough to look more like circus entertainers than professional athletes. Strongly and inelegantly, I moved up the steep trail I- only three-and-a-half more miles to go.

week I was at the gym, either running the hill program at level 20 on the treadmill or insanely pumping my legs up a detestable Stairmaster an hour at a time, while I fantasized of being a top runner of the race to come. There was a problem, I only had three weeks notice and I was in it to win it. The solution — train harder.

team participating in the Inferno, an annual pentathlon held at Mount. Washington. Being a National Guard soldier myself, I supported the race in the spring of 2006. That's when I became somewhat familiar with the grueling events: an 8.1 mile uphill run, a 6 mile kayak down the Saco River, an 18 mile road bike - again all uphill, a 3.4 mile mountain hike and lastly a treacherous ski down a dangerous ravine.

Did I mention the 3.4-mile mountain hike? I would argue with whoever said that the road to hell was a subsurface descent because running up this mountain sure felt like what I'd imagine "it" to be.

The loose snow didn't tighten up at all, which meant my footwork innocently hacking it up. Many came to see the competition, while others just came to enjoy the mountain and its natural sporty appeal on a perfectly sunny spring day - at their own pace of course.

I could barely hear their voices over Eminem's "Lose Yourself" blaring in through my headphones, but I could see the spectators cheering me on as I passed clusters of them up the trail. Although

Not sure how long it'd been, I approached a hut, which indicated to me that there were only two-thirds of a mile left, albeit those twothirds were the toughest vet.

Sucking in much less oxygen than my body demanded, I Mount Washington is not exactly prime real estate for tree growth. "One step at a time," I convinced myself as I dizzily pawed through the final steps. Within minutes, my skier came into view. "This is it," I thought. "It's almost over." And the closer to him I

got, the more motivated I was to finish. But doing well in this race was so important to me that participating in it was painful. After making those last painstaking strides, I tagged my death-defying skier and off he ran with his skis strapped to his back

I shut off my hard-beat music and lay down in the snow. Shutting my eyes and opening my ears I listened to the people around me. They were relaxed and laughing, really enjoying the experience. It was then that I realized that this could have been fun. This should have been fun. Our team placed 12th out of 32 teams, which looking back now, I think is pretty good. For now, it's all over. But for my future it's only the beginning, the first of many competitive events I hope to participate in. .

The write stuff: A magazine for the NH National Guard (continued from page 3)

In this issue, we hear from 1st Lt. Emily Cole and 2nd Lt. Benjamin Flanders. Cole, an intelligence specialist with the 133rd Refueling Squadron, talks about why she joined the Air Guard. She answers the question, "What is it about the Guard that makes us feel like we belong to a cause?"

Flanders, an infantryman who served with the Mountain Company in Iraq, makes a pitch for becoming an Army officer.

"A strong moral character cannot be 'issued,' or trained into an individual's values system," he writes.

We are also proud to feature Sgt. Jennifer LaClaire's journal of the Medical Command's annual training this past April at the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation in northern California.

"As always, I'm impressed with the way that members of my unit can be as tough as any soldier in some settings and amazingly tender when the situation calls for it," LaClaire observes in a clinic.

Military publications can be top heavy with command messages. We'd like to strike a balance and even tip the scales a bit. If you have something to say or want to sound off on a particular issue, write a letter to the editor. We'll print it in the next issue. Our address is on Page 1 at the bottom of the right-hand column.

That's not to say you won't be hearing from your leadership on a regular basis.

Our Air and Army commanders in this issue encourage us to be proud of our accomplishments as we gear up for an Air Show at Pease on Aug. 17 and 18, and put the finishing touches on a Transformation Ceremony this fall. The NH Army Guard will conduct a mass formation, the first in recorded history, as part of the official festivities.

They also remind us that we are still at war. The 3643rd Security Force, led by Capt. Tony Gagnon, is nearing the end of a year deployment in Iraq. As of this writing, our third embed training team is on the ground in Afghanistan. A second RAOC team or Rear Area Operation Command, a platoon-size element of the 237th Military Police and a fixed-wing crew from Detachment 18 are mobilizing for duty in the Middle East as well.

In addition to its ongoing air bridge missions in direct support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the 157th Refueling Wing continues to deploy groups of airmen to Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the world in support of a variety of missions, including security, communications, air traffic control and personnel.

We are also doing our part on the Southwest border. By the time you read this, the 210th Engineers and the Civil Engineer Squadron will have completed annual trainings in support of Operation

With one exception, the magazine is not meant to replace existing publications. The Refueler and unit newsletters serve a specific and necessary function. The Granite Guardian, the Army's traditional publication, will not be published as a separate magazine. It will essentially be incorporated as part of the new magazine.

We understand that not everyone in the organization will be receptive to the idea of mixing Army and Air news. For those of you who plan to count the number of Army and Air stories, you'll miss the point. The magazine is not about us and them. Hence the title.

We hope you will give it a read. �

Recruiting & Retention

Closing the Pipeline

The Recruit Sustainment Program started as a springboard to reduce training pipeline losses by introducing a newly enlisted non-prior service soldier to the military environment, and to ease their adjustment to Basic Combat and Advanced Individual Training.

"We want to ensure our new soldiers are the best prepared for basic training," said Lt. Col. Ralph Huber, Recruiting and Retention commander. "To get there we have added cadre from Brigade and Troop Command units to the RTC staff. This rounds out our cadre capabilities and creates a partnership between the units and recruiting force to provide the best possible preparation for our soldiers to ensure that success."

The preparation includes beefing up these "warriors," as they're called, for the physical and mental rigors of initial entry training. Army values are instilled, and motivational levels amplified as the individuals' ship dates approach. Another important component of the program is to verify the administrative requirements are complete and accurate; and to monitor each individual to ensure shipping requirements are met.

The RSP incorporates instruction in academic, physical readiness and common task training, progressing through different phases of soldier empowerment and readiness. The Red Phase kicks off the trainee's first drill weekend. Because they are completely new to the Guard at this point, Red Phase weekends are mostly spent in the classroom, covering basic subjects new recruits need to know right away.

White Phase varies in length, but covers the period between Red Phase and the drill weekend prior to shipping. Warriors encompass the hands-on training and more advanced training during these weekends. Blue Phase, the weekend prior to shipping, covers what the shipper should expect at RCT and basic training. Soldiers splitting their training over two summers typically attend Green Phase, where they are groomed as junior cadre and given additional physical readiness training and leadership training while they wait to ship to AIT.

Notably, the NH RSP program has been lauded as one of the top in the nation, and sets the standards for how to conduct business, according to Huber.

The recruiting Web site can be found at https://www.nh.ngb.army.mil/Recruiting. The NHARNG is also featured on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/. Search NH National Guard to find a number of videos on our organization. https://www.youtube.com/.



Privates dueling during page stick training. Photo: Courtesy of NHNG

ARMY RECRUITERS

beating the odds

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Ginger Dempsey NHARNG R&R

Pfc. Gregory Wilson teaches his team the compass.
Photo: Courtesy of NHNG



Armed with gritty resolve and a modus operandi of adapting and overcoming, the New Hampshire Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command surpassed its mission goals for recruiting for this fiscal year going from 1,608 soldiers to 1,681 as of June 20.

By 2008, the NHARNG is vying for an end-strength of 1,850. The accomplishment is no small feat, considering the command had to shift strategies and forge a new path in light of new challenges rooted in world events.

The secret to their success? Teamwork, says Lt. Col. Ralph Huber, commander of NH Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention.

"Teamwork is the key element of any military operation," Huber said. "No soldier is ever alone – they are part of a coordinated action that gains strength from each soldier and unit working together to accomplish the mission.

"Recruiting Command is no different," he added. "Our current success cannot be attributed to a few. Rather, it is the result of the cumulative effort of the Recruiting force and units working together to accomplish our strength management mission."

This cumulative effort includes thinking outside the box and supplementing efforts with some Army-style innovative thinking, Huber said.

"One of the highlights has been team-building programs which have been put in place in high schools throughout the state," said Sgt. Maj. Conrad Watson, NHARNG R&R Command Sergeant Major "This includes an inflatable obstacle course and sumo wrestling competitions. Another, the Guard Recruiter Assistant program (GRAP), offers traditional Guardsmen \$2,000 for each referral which results in an enlistment. The state's GRAP recruiters have played a significant role in meeting our mission goal by bringing in more than 100 enlistments so far."

The current transformation totes great opportunities for its future leaders, as well. Recently, eight new lieutenants were commissioned in Army ROTC and the Officer Candidate School has more than 20 officer candidates training to fill new unit slots.

The Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) has been reinvigorated over the past year to further bolster the success of new soldiers joining the National Guard, Watson added. To date, there are more than 190 new soldiers preparing for Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training.

"The cadre are highly trained soldiers from units throughout the state and within the recruiting force," said Watson. "The overall recruit sustainment rate, which means the soldiers who stay and successfully complete their initial training, has jumped to 98.73 percent – which is one of the top in the nation."

See Recruit Sustainment sidebar.

"We are continuing to move forward and working to meet our end strength," said Huber. "There are many people in our communities with the patriotic conviction to join the National Guard and serve their country, which makes this job particularly gratifying and worthwhile.

Promotions & Awards

Army National Guard

as of January 2007

Jones Jeanne Bronize	Lt. Col.
Boucher Matthew Peter	Maior
Neville William Robert Jr	Maior
Pappaioanou James Louis	Cantain
Teague Robert Edward	Cantain
Hill Matthew Robert Chief	Marrant Officer 2
Graham Thomas Edward Chief	Marrant Officer 2
Laplante Claude Denis Chief	Warrant Onicer 3
Watson Conrad Allen	Sgt. iviajor
Stevens David Ray	Sgt. Iviajor
Houten Stephen	1st Sergeant
Canavan Scott Anthony	
Manning Dennis Keith	Master Sergeant
Fournier Dennis Robert	Sgt. 1st Class
Poulin Donald Henry	Sgt. 1st Class
Richards Janet Oday	Sgt. 1st Class
Goode Kenneth Ray Jr	Staff Sgt.
Dugan Michael William	Staff Sgt.
Inman Benjamin Robert	Staff Sgt.
Mcevoy Andrew Covin	Staff Sqt.
Cambra Michael Richard	Staff Sqt.
Rowe Gary Joseph	Staff Sqt.
Peterson Edwin Anthony Jr	Staff Sqt
Taylor William James	Sergeant
Turner David Scott	Sergeant
Breault Joshua Michael	Sorgoant
Lasher Andrew Maclean	Sorgoant
Clifford Andrew Mark	Sorgeant
Fonseca Paulo Jorge	
Czekalski Adam Michael	
Turner Tosha Maria	Sorgeant
Morger Dashiel John	
Shutt Jon Peter	Seryeant
Miner Peter James Jr	Seryeant
Seitz Nicole Marie	Sergeant
Charp Maria Gwan	Sergeant
Sharp Maria Gwen Lytle Gary Edward	Sergeant
Mandy Jana Congo	Sergeant
Moody Jason George	Sergeant
Raiche Robert Edward Jr	Sergeant
Bach elder John True	Sergeant
Griffiths Glenn Ellis	Sergeant
Jones Scott Lee	Sergeant
Trident Patrick William	Specialist
Greenhalgh Alan Edward Iv	Specialist
King Randy Edward Jr	Specialist
Barbecue Nicholas Adam	Specialist
Campbell Paul Michael	Specialist
Colcord Richard Jesse	Specialist
Chapman Greggory Christophe	
Ewalt Joshua Curtis	
Smith Steven Joel	
Styles Mark David II	
Hadley Tedd Earl II	
Cormier Andrew Steven	
Griffin Mark Francis	
Garcia Joseph Lee	
Dimond Scott Gene	
Mcguire Robert John	
Snyder James Lygon	
Marsella Jason Taylor	
Schafer Paul Jay	
Burns Sara Elizabeth	
Pica Frankie	
Bjorlie Matthew M J	
Davis Jonathan Richard	Private 1st Class

Tilton Nathan Douglas	. Private 1st Class
Mcginnis Patrick Robert	. Private 1st Class
Bixby Matthew Jed	. Private 1st Class
Demers Jonathan Raymond	. Private 1st Class
Levick Andrew Edward	. Private 1st Class
Whitman Isaiah Barnabas	. Private 1st Class
Ash Daniel Patrick	. Private 1st Class
Shaughnessy David Charles	. Private 1st Class
Payne William Hanley III	. Private 1st Class
Mangan Michael Frances	. Private 1st Class
Noyes Charles Moulton IV	
Eudenbach Nicholas Kenneth	. Private 1st Class
Fournier Cori Steven	. Private 1st Class
Newell Christopher Joseph	
Mcgonigle Greg Michael	. Private 1st Class
Sewell Jimmy Wayne Jr	. Private 1st Class
Theroux Michael Robert	. Private 1st Class
Belluche Wayne Patrick	. Private 1st Class
Robak Rachel Lynne	
Chavis Amber Jeen	. Private 1st Class
Clark Douglas Manning	. Private 1st Class
Dineen Jared Kyle	. Private 1st Class
Dooling Paul David Jr	. Private 1st Class
Murphy Matthew Thomas	. Private 1st Class
Schettino Anthony George	
Lavoie Ashley Megan Rea	
Poulin Gerard Kenneth	
Chenard Joseph Albert Jr	
Mann Thomas Joseph	
Eastman Nathan Patrick	
Hagan Michael Steven	. Private 1st Class
Cooper Joseph Peter	. Private 1st Class
Brunet Joshua David	
Early Matthew Justin	
Killgren Kyle Michael	. Private 1st Class
Oconnor Matthew William	Private 2
Rumrill Gary Oscar	Private 2
Weatherford Timothy Charles	Private 2
Dalton Daniel Aaron	
Klode Kim Michael	Private 2

Pike Allen Mark III	Private 2
Brinley Jill Kaitlin	Private 2
Cornell Matthew Ryan	Private 2
Richardson Andrew Joseph	Private 2
Patrick Stephen John	Private 2
Plante Christopher Wallace	Private 2
Duggan William Fredrick III	Private 2
Currier Justin Michael	Private 2
Nance Justin Michael	Private 2
Arroyo Daniel Jacob	Private 2
Bixby Tyler Clifton	
Neveu Mandy Lee	Private 2
Bishop Leon Arnold III	Private 2
Vanderbeck John Willard	
Hanson Erik Richard	
Morse Richard Neil	
Hebert Joshua David	Private 2
Chute Andrew Douglas	Private 2
Mitchell Edwin Wayne	
Warner Brian Kevin	
Macintosh Gregory Vern	Private 2
Rorick Anthony John	Private 2
Blodgett Steve Jay	Private 2
Mosher Beth Ellen	Private 2
Lambert Justin Thomas	Private 2
Downing Joseph Dwaine Jr	Private 2
Slavin Kevin Michael Jr	
Blancato Cory Louis Benjami	
Champagne Brian Joseph	
Stansfield Michael Keith	
Daughraty Felicia Jean	Private 2
Tolman Benjamin William	
Linteau Heather Marie	
Rogers Chipper Toivo	
Mosher Brittany Susanna	
Lowry James Walter Jr	
Tilton Jonathan Allen	
Musso Daniel Edwin	
Whitmire Amber Lyn	Private 2
Fleury William Paul	Private 2



Soldier of the year

SPC Paul A. Hyson of Alexandria, a soldier with B Battery, 197th Field Artillery, was recently selected as the New Hampshire Army National Guard Soldier of the year. Hyson works for the NH Department of Corrections in Laconia.

In June, Hyson was awarded an Army Commendation Medal for his accomplishments during the soldier of the year competition.

Photo by Spc. Kathleen Briere, 114th MPAD

Promotions & Awards

Air National Guard

as of January 2007

Lieutenant Colonel Brian Elbert

Major Matthew Holloway Thaddeus Day

Captain Eric Elliot Philip Plourde

First Lieutenant Jeffrey Morgenthau **Emily Cole** Jeffrey Kipp Autumn Ricker James Wallace, Jr.

2nd Lieutenant Thomas Mueller Crystal Lawes

Chief Master Sergeant Timothy Pellowe Anthony Lebel

Senior Master Sergeant John Craig William Keene Michael Juranty

Christopher Zackowski Fred Balas

Master Sergeant

Tim Psaledakis Richard Booker Gregory Carr Terence Daly Erik White Jeffrey Massey Eddie Acres Scott Lindauist Brian Barber **Brian Massey** William Charland Daniel Jancsy Mark Foster Barry Graham Dawna Noel James Conrad

Technical Sergeant

Cori Jordan Daric Buttrick Scott Anstev Leight Nichols Derek Smith David Gilland Scot Yeanish Scott Dodge Martha Gladu Tvra Ott Thomas Johnson Mark Porter

Ron Pelletier Jason Coleman

Staff Sergeant Darcy Cote Aaron Burne Scott Flms Randy Smith Joseph Nachez Christopher McGraw Jessica Bell Jonathan Day Daniel Jones Thomas Patterson **Daniel Peterson** Peter Allen Emilio Garcia David Thomas Eric Krans

Senior Airman Anne Scheuerle Henry Burch

Curtis Lenz

Airman First Class Randy Nadeau

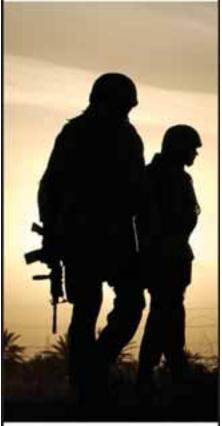


Airman of the year

Senior Airman Christina L. Hall of Manchester, an airman with the 157th Maintenance Squadron, was selected as the NH Air National Guard Airman of the Year 2006. Hall works for Angel Flight of New England. She also is a pilot and first officer for Alpha Flying Inc. of Manchester and Emerson Aviation of Laconia. Hall is also a violinist who has been offered a seat with the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra.

Photo by Tech Sgt. Aaron Vezeau,157 ARW Communications Squadron

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