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# National Guard

MAGAZINE

Summer 2010



The Offensive **HEATS UP**  
for Mountain Company in Afghanistan



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**Cover: PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan** – Soldiers from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, New Hampshire National Guard, and the 203rd Afghan National Army Corps watch as the CH-47 Chinook helicopter that brought them to the village of Mengal Kheyl, Zormat district of Afghanistan's Paktya Province, lands at the completion of an air assault mission April 22. The mission, which resulted in the capture of the district's largest weapons cache in three years, was the first combat air assault mission in the history of the New Hampshire National Guard.

Photo: Courtesy of the U.S. Army



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# Mountain Company uncovers huge weapons cache

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jimmy Norris, Task Force Rakkasan Public Affairs

**PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan** – A shocked group of insurgents looked up from the grounds of their supposed “safe house” in Mangal Kheyl village, Zormat district in Afghanistan’s Paktya province, to see a pair of twin-rotor CH-47 Chinook helicopters bearing down on them April 22.

Working as part of the first combat air assault mission in the history of the New Hampshire National Guard, soldiers from C Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, alongside their Afghan partners, watched from on board the descending helicopters as the enemy dropped their weapons and fled.

“The enemy were completely surprised by our air assault,” said C Company spokesman 2nd Lt. Mark Fazio, Merrimack. “As the aircraft landed, we could see them drop their weapons and run away as fast as they could.”

The “cordon and search” mission was conducted in response to soldiers from the 3/172nd Infantry and the Afghan National Army collecting intelligence centering on an insurgents’ safe house and logistical staging point, Fazio said.

During the mission, soldiers captured the largest weapons cache in the district in three years, Fazio said. The company was also the first unit in the battalion to capture a foreign fighter.

“This was a great opportunity for our company to be part of history and to showcase our abilities and versatility in combat,” said Capt. Daniel Newman, Merrimack, Company C commander.

Participants in the historic mission called it a success and look forward to repeating the experience.



*Soldiers from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, N.H. National Guard, and the 203rd Afghan National Army Corps look over some of the weapons captured April 22 from the largest weapons cache uncovered in the district in three years. It was also the first combat air assault mission in the history of the New Hampshire National Guard. Photo: Courtesy of the U.S. Army*

“This was by far the most gratifying mission we have conducted, with an outcome that left us wanting more,” said Sgt. Billy Witcher, Concord, a team leader with C Company.

Fazio said the mission sent a message to the enemies of Afghanistan.

“The success of the mission showed the value of using air assaults in this area to gain surprise and catch the enemy when they aren’t expecting us to be able to reach them,” Fazio said. ❖



*Soldiers from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, New Hampshire National Guard, and the 203rd Afghan National Army Corps watch as the CH-47 Chinook helicopter that brought them to the village of Mengal Kheyl, Zormat district of Afghanistan’s Paktya Province, lands at the completion of an air assault mission April 22. The mission, which resulted in the capture of the district’s largest weapons cache in three years, was the first combat air assault mission in the history of the New Hampshire National Guard. Photo: Courtesy of the U.S. Army*





*A horse-drawn hearse carries the remains of 2nd Lt. Elihu H. Legro, followed by the New Hampshire National Guard Honor Guard, during a funeral procession May 8 in Rochester. Legro was a member of the 6th N.H. Volunteer Infantry Division. His remains were discovered in a cemetery next to Spaulding Turnpike and were removed because of road construction. Legro's remains were re-interred in Rochester Cemetery after receiving proper military honors.*  
 Photo: Sgt. Amburr J. Reese, JFHQ PA



## Honor Guard inters Civil War veteran

*By Sgt. Amburr Reese, JFHQ Public Affairs*

Old traditions met new when the New Hampshire Army National Guard Honor Guard had the opportunity to take part in a re-interment ceremony for Civil War veteran Elihu Hayes Legro, a member of New Hampshire's 6th Volunteer Infantry Division.

With more than 1,400 funeral services rendered since the New Hampshire Army National Guard Honor Guard was established in 2006, the ceremony May 8 in Rochester was extraordinary.

"To participate in an event like this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Spc. Nicholas Burke, B Company, 3/197th Field Artillery, and member of the Honor Guard. "It was a much more relaxed setting than we are used to. It was really cool to be able to do this."

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*The New Hampshire National Guard Honor Guard removes Civil War veteran 2nd Lt. Elihu H. Legro's remains from a horse-drawn carriage May 8 at the Rochester cemetery. Legro's remains were discovered in a cemetery next to Spaulding Turnpike and were removed due to road construction.*

Photo: Sgt. Amburr J. Reese, JFHQ PA



The Honor Guard provided pallbearers, folded and presented the flag and called Taps.

“What we provided were modified full honors. The only thing that was different from a regular service was that we escorted Mr. Legro to the gravesite,” said Richard Fredette, Honors program director for the N.H. Army Guard.

The remains of Legro were found in the Legro/Leighton family cemetery in the middle of the state’s Spaulding Turnpike project. They were exhumed and then confirmed by an archeologist working on a state-funded project in the fall of 2009 after conducting forensic tests on the remains.

The ceremony began when the Honor Guard, the Governor’s Horse Guard and a group of re-enactors from across New England gathered on the Rochester Common. The re-enactors were dressed as members of the 6th N.H. Volunteer Infantry and the 6th Infantry Band.

Judy Keller of Milford joined the group wearing an ankle-length black dress and a black-veiled bonnet.

“People think we just like to play dress up, but we do this because we like to honor our past,” said Keller.



*Judy Keller of Milford walks in a procession May 8 in Rochester dressed in Civil War era mourning attire. Keller is part of a group of re-enactors who participated in a re-interment ceremony for Civil War veteran Elihu Legro. Legro’s remains were discovered in a family cemetery during the state’s Spaulding Turnpike project.*

Photo: Sgt. Amburr Reese, JFHQ PA



At 11 a.m. the Honor Guard, along with the re-enactors, began the funeral march down South Main Street toward the city cemetery. The steady beat of the rope-tension drums provided a somber backdrop to the procession while Legro’s remains were slowly carried by a horse-drawn hearse for a quarter of a mile.

“The last time an event of this historic value took place (here) was in 1937,” said Dan Meehan, organizer of the event and N.H. Civil War researcher. It was the last time a Civil War soldier was laid to rest in town.

During the ceremony, Todd Bryda, a history professor from Connecticut, addressed the crowd saying that this was not a moment to bid Legro farewell, but a moment to welcome him into our “21st century hearts and minds.” He then asked the rain-soaked crowd of more than 100 to render a moment of silence to honor the Civil War veteran.

Legro, a Rochester native, was born in 1827. He was one of nine children growing up on the Legro Homestead about a mile from Rochester on Farmington Road.

He was serving as a Methodist minister in South Tamworth when the Civil War broke out in April 1861.

In spite of his career as a preacher, Legro decided to return to his hometown of Rochester and enlist as a private in Company D of the 6th N.H. Regiment at the age of 33.

During his service, the governor of New Hampshire, Nathaniel Springer Berry, had signed paperwork commissioning Legro as a second lieutenant, according to letters written by Larkin Mason, one of Legro’s parishioners.

“Our minister, Brother Legro, got the war fever into him so badly that he pulled up stakes and took with him all the fighting men in his parish and went away to war,” Mason wrote to Berry. “Tamworth has sent near 100 men, and not a corporal has been selected among them, although some of them were capable of commanding a regiment.”

“Last summer I called your attention to the matter (commissioning Legro) and you kindly, and as I think very properly, commissioned him lieutenant,” continued Mason, “but you sent him no commission.”

After extensive research by Meehan, a document proving Legro’s commission was discovered. On Sept. 20, 1862, Legro was assigned to the 15th regiment, N.H. Volunteers, as a second lieutenant; however, he never saw the paperwork.

“Based on what information we have, I believe Legro got sick around the time of his commission,” said Peter Fortier, N.H. state military archivist.

Fortier believes Legro had become ill before he was actually awarded the commission. He speculated that because Legro was sick, he was unable to fulfill his duty with the 15th, and in turn never officially received his commission.

Legro served as a medic in the Union Army and went through all of the hardships and battles of the Roanoke Island campaign. He died Jan. 1, 1863, of dysentery at the Patent Office Hospital in Washington, D.C.

During the four years of the Civil War, more than 600,000 Union and Confederate soldiers lost their lives – two-thirds of them from disease.

Legro’s remains were brought back to Rochester from Washington, D.C., and were buried in the family cemetery.

The remains of 10 of Legro’s family members were also found in the cemetery and moved to the Franklin Street Cemetery prior to Legro’s removal.

“This is the least we can do for those who gave so much,” Meehan said. ❖



# Carter promoted to Brigadier General



Brig. Gen. Deborah Carter, chief of staff for the N.H. Air National Guard, is the first female brigadier general in the N.H. National Guard.



Senior Master Sgt. William Bates unfurls the general officer flag during the May 28 promotion ceremony of Brig. Gen. Deborah Carter. She is chief of staff for the N.H. Air National Guard and the first female general in the N.H. National Guard. Photo: 1st Lt. Sherri Pierce, 157th ARW-PA

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# 197th FiB trains on digital battlefield

By Sgt. 1st Class Attila Fazekas  
197th Fires Brigade Public Affairs

**CAMP GRAYLING, Mich.** – Soldiers of the 197th Fires Brigade and subordinate units spent this year’s annual training in May learning the Army’s Standard Integrated Command Post System.

The SICPS is an integrated system of computers designed to give the battlefield commander situational awareness. It allows everyone in an area of operation to share information in real time.

“We’re finding our way around the system,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony P. Damata, Merrimack, an 18-year New Hampshire Army National Guard veteran and fire control noncommissioned officer with HHB, 197th Fires Brigade.

“It might be a new system, but we know our jobs. It allows for instantaneous situational awareness and improves communication, as well as accelerating the decision-making process of key leaders,” he added.

The 197th Fires Brigade, due to deploy to Kuwait later this year in one of New Hampshire National Guard’s largest deployments in history, is spending its training time honing its skills.

“This isn’t training,” said Lt. Col. Daniel T. Wilson, executive officer, HHB, 197th Fires Brigade. “This is using tools that we will use over there to perform our mission in theater. We’re not the first unit to do this training, but we are the first to do it in a secured Internet protocol, SIPR, mode.”

According to members of the 197th, the unit is again setting standards high for other units to follow.

“We are days ahead of where we would be in this training due to leadership involvement – the key section leaders, the noncommissioned officers, the E-6s and E-7s,” Wilson said.

“This is the best unit we’ve had so far, and we’ve had 22 units in six months go through this training,” said Danny Comacho, a civilian contractor working on the SICPS training project at Grayling, and a former artilleryman.

He said the unit was well into the process and ahead of the program. “We have phases of instruction and training, and when they got close to completing one block of training, the brigade was already into the next,” Comacho explained.

“So far, they are the best I’ve seen,” agreed Will Deem, a civilian contractor also working on the project. “They got proactive in the beginning.”

The training challenged the brigade’s soldiers.

“I’ve never seen a system this sophisticated,” said Pfc. Michael B. Chapman, Merrimack, HHB, 197th Fires Brigade, communications specialist. “It was difficult, but it was fun. We laid up all of the wiring, connecting the different systems together. The most challenging thing was seeing if the wires were good or bad.”

“It’s really interesting,” said Spc. Alan Provance, Nashua, an advanced field artillery tactical data system operator with the 197th Fires Brigade. “I run a computer that is all about artillery, but when you break it down, we all need to communicate. Being able to think outside the box – that’s what we are really good at.”

The SIPCS system will show the artillery solders a new way of communicating and threat management.

“The mission has changed – it’s a whole different ball game,” said Damata. “We now coordinate other assets to tailor to the fight.”

“I build geometries, a system of fire and no-fire map overlays that are loaded



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dodge, Allentown, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bright, Manchester, both of HHB, 197th Fires Brigade, work with the Army’s Standard Integrated Command Post System, SICPS, during exercises at Camp Grayling, Mich., at the annual training in May. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Attila Fazekas

into the Command Post of the Future, CPOF, computer” said Pfc. Peter E Levassenr, Litchfield, and an AFATDAS operator with the 197th.

“This is really good training. It gives you keyboard time, a chance to refresh your skills,” he added.

“This is the first time the brigade has been able to go out and communicate with all six of our fires battalions and our brigade service battalion,” said Sgt. Maj. Robert R. Gosselin, Pembroke, 197th Fires Brigade Operations.

“We’ve been able to put it all together, and make it function the way it’s supposed to,” he said. “This is the culminating event of all of our training.” ❖



Lt. Col. Daniel Wilson, executive officer, HHB, 197th Fires Brigade, New Hampshire Army National Guard, explains the training objectives and experiences to Col. James Moody, Col. Richard Duncan and other New Hampshire Army National Guard leaders during this year’s annual training in May in Grayling, Mich.

Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Attila Fazekas



# Sears gets second star, new assignment

By Sgt. Amburr Reese, JFHQ-PA

Brig. Gen. Mark Sears stood at attention while his sons Ian and Adam pinned the rank of major general on his uniform during a May 1 promotion ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base.

In front of family and friends, Sears, a former commander of the New Hampshire Air National Guard and Dover native, was promoted and awarded the Legion of Merit for his service.

Sears was recently assigned as deputy commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, United States Southern Command in Miami, Fla.

In his new position, Sears serves as the principal advisor to the combatant commander on Reserve affairs and mobilization. He represents the commander in operations, professional military-to-military and interagency efforts, partner-nation engagements, and military-to-civilian outreach programs. He also serves as U.S. SOUTHCOM liaison to Reserve component service chiefs and senior leaders in theater.

A distinguished guest at the ceremony was N.H. Adjutant General Maj. Gen. William Reddel.

"This is the first time a Guard member has been in this position to represent the National Guard and the Reserves," said Reddel, referring to Sears' assignment with U.S. SOUTHCOM. "It's a big deal and he should be proud."

Sears joined the Air Force in 1972 as an enlisted airman and was commissioned in 1976 through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. After serving 12 years in the active duty Air Force, Sears came to Pease as a traditional Guardsman in 1988.

Holding several leadership positions within the NHANG through the years, Sears has progressed from being a KC-135R instructor pilot, a flight commander, operations support flight commander and state headquarters director of operations, as well as serving as assistant adjutant general and commander of the NHANG.



Senior Master Sgt. William Bates and Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Rivera unfurl the general's flag during the May 1, 2010, promotion ceremony for Maj. Gen. Mark Sears, center, at Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H. Sears, former commander of the New Hampshire Air National Guard, is currently assigned as deputy commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, United States Southern Command in Miami, Fla. Maj. Gen. William N. Reddel, N.H. National Guard Adjutant General, is at left. U.S. Air Force photo: Staff Sgt. Curtis J. Lenz



Ian Sears, left, and Adam Sears, right, pin stars on their father, Maj. Gen. Mark Sears, during the general's May 1, 2010, promotion ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H. Maj. Gen. Sears, former commander of the New Hampshire Air National Guard, is currently deputy commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, United States Southern Command, in Miami, Fla.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Curtis J. Lenz, 157th ARW-PA

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***"This is the first time a Guard member has been in this position to represent the National Guard and the Reserves. It's a big deal and he should be proud."***

– Maj. Gen. William Reddel, N.H. Adjutant General

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During Sears' tenure as commander and assistant adjutant general, he led the NHARNG through four major state activations. He also headed the efforts of Air Force Week New England in August 2007, increasing public awareness and understanding of the Air Force mission.

Sears also implemented a junior officer program to supplement unit training by educating company grade officers in subjects necessary to be future leaders.

Sears applied for the position at U.S. SOUTHCOM more than a year ago and admitted that when he received the phone call from Reddel informing him about the appointment, he had completely forgotten about applying because it had been so long ago.

"I had no idea I was going to get the position," said Sears. "I had to listen to the message twice."

"This is another chapter in Mark's life where he gets to do a lot of good for the National Guard and the Reserves, this time down at U.S. SOUTHCOM," said Reddel.

After Reddel's speech, he presented Sears with a two-star flag to fly at his new position.

"Thank you so much for everything that you have done. This has been a wonderful organization, and continues to be a wonderful organization," said Sears "In my mind it will always be a wonderful organization which allows all of us the opportunity to grow and develop. Just be ready when that door opens. You just never know when it's going to happen." ❖





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# 157th near perfect in compliance inspection



By 1st Lt. Sherri Pierce  
157th Air Refueling Wing

**NEWINGTON** – Inspectors from Air Mobility Command Inspector General, the Air Force Inspection Agency and the Air National Guard simultaneously completed a Unit Compliance Inspection, a Logistics Compliance Assessment and a Health Services Inspection on June 2-9 at Pease Air National Guard Base.

The Wing received an overall rating of “Excellent” on the UCI with no non-compliant areas and not a single significant or critical deficiency identified.

“The Unit Compliance Inspection is the toughest inspection we face as a Wing. It validates to the Air Force that we are able to complete our mission,” said Col. Paul Hutchinson, Wing Commander. “The inspectors meticulously evaluate the Wing’s compliance with public law, Department of Defense, Air Force and Air Mobility Command instructions. Across the base approximately 6,000 areas were graded and not a single area was identified as non-compliant. This truly was a team effort, and I am proud of the men and women of the 157th Air Refueling Wing.”

A 44-member inspection team evaluated every functional area of the Wing from fitness, contracting and financial management to civil engineering, security forces and intelligence. Inspectors sat down with Wing members and reviewed the checklists to ensure that they understood the inner workings of their jobs. Eleven individuals and 10 teams were recognized as outstanding performers by the Inspector General during the out-brief.

The 157th Maintenance Group earned the highest rating of “Outstanding” during the Logistics Compliance Assessment. The Logistics Compliance Assessment Program evaluates employee proficiency and training, tool accountability, and facilities and equipment maintenance with over 4,700 evaluated items. Members are not just inspected using checklists but are also evaluated performing their

jobs to make sure they are complying with technical orders. During the inspection, not a single safety or technical order violation was identified.

“The men and women of the Maintenance Group worked very hard over a sustained period of time in preparation for this inspection,” said Col. Pete Sullivan, Maintenance Group commander. “Without question, the results validated the fact that we have a tremendous group of true professionals driven to excel. The challenge for us now becomes one of sustainment – channeling our efforts to keep this positive momentum going in the right direction, which I have no doubt we will do.”

The 157th Medical Group also underwent a Health Services Inspection. Over the course of five days, a group of five inspectors evaluated the ability of the Medical Group to fulfill their peacetime and wartime missions, which included the evaluation of medical care and the support of the overall Wing’s mission. The Medical Group earned a compliant rating. HSIs are conducted every four to five years.

“Thank you. We tackled these inspections as a team, and we were successful working together. We are at our best when we support our mission and each other,” said Hutchinson in remarks to the Wing. ❖

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# Wired in:

## NHNG engineers help refurbish Salvadoran clinic

By Spc. Karin Leach, 114th PAD

### SAN VICENTE, El Salvador –

The 160th Engineer Company and civil engineers from the 157th Air Refueling Wing traveled to El Salvador in May to help refurbish a medical clinic for a community devastated by landslides last fall.

The Tecoluca General Medicine Clinic in San Vicente, which serves 14,000 residents, was functioning with reduced electrical infrastructure and severe water damage. It had running water one hour a day. Hundreds of the people who are treated at the facility have been staying in resettlement camps since the landslides destroyed their homes more than six months ago.

“Our mission was to accomplish three projects,” said 1st Lt. Emily Riordan, commander of the 160th. “To restore the building by replacing the wiring and all of the plumbing fixtures, reframe the wooden walls and troubleshoot the water supply problems.”

The N.H. Guardsmen, 26 soldiers and airmen, worked alongside five engineers from the Salvadoran military. The three-week annual training exercise was coordinated through the N.H. Guard-El Salvador State Partnership program.

Despite supply problems and tropical storm Agatha, which dumped 20 inches of rain in one night, the Guardsmen were able to accomplish most of their mission. Just after Agatha, they were put on alert for the possibility of providing immediate humanitarian assistance.

“Many of our soldiers had never been out of the United States,” Riordan said. “After we returned home, many said that doing things like this is exactly why they joined the Guard – to help people and provide assistance when needed.”

It was a learning experience for both the Americans and their Salvadoran counterparts, who were able to work well together despite the language barrier.

“I learned more English and electrician techniques, and they learned more Spanish,” said Juan Arevalo, an electrician with the Salvadoran Army.

*“Our mission was to accomplish three projects. To restore the building by replacing the wiring and all of the plumbing fixtures, reframe the wooden walls and troubleshoot the water supply problems.”*

– 1st Lt. Emily Riordan, commander of the 160th

“It is important that the U.S. helps because we don’t have a lot of resources to do the same things ourselves. I’m so grateful for everything done.”

Spc. Dan Howard, of the 160th, found he had a lot in common with the Salvadorans.

“It’s interesting to just look at the families around here, and it seems just like home,” he said. “It just shows we are all the same. They’ve taught me a lot of things I can bring home with me; plus we have a secret handshake.”

The smallest country in Central America, the Republic of El Salvador is a five-hour flight from Boston and is tucked between the southern borders of Guatemala and Honduras. A fault line

running down the center of the country connects five prominent volcanoes. It is home to nearly seven million people. More than one million reside in the country’s capital of San Salvador, which was originally nicknamed “El Valle de las Hamacas,” or “The Valley of the Hammocks,” by Spanish explorers because of the frequent seismic activity.

1st Sgt. Dan Ward, of the 157th Civil Engineer Squadron, said the trip was a privilege.

“My hope is that I will have a better appreciation of our neighbors, be a better noncommissioned officer and person,” he said. “I am truly honored to have been given the opportunity to come to this country.” ♦



Pfc. Megan Cullen, Penacook, and Pvt. 2 James Lafond, Raymond, of the 160th Engineer Company of Concord, tighten a pipe together as the water pump is tested outside the Tecoluca General Medicine Clinic in San Vicente, El Salvador, on May 23. Photo: Spc. Karin Leach





*Malissa Kraft (wearing orange), a neuropsychologist with the Veterans Administration Medical Center of Manchester, helps hoist a casualty into a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a medical evacuation exercise. As a citizen with no prior military experience, Kraft said the orientation provided further perspective of the experiences patients she treats may have undergone.*



*Spc. Ethan Major, a flight medic with Detachment 2, 249th Medical Company, 1st Cavalry Division, helps hoist a casualty into a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a medical evacuation exercise. The exercise allowed civilian practitioners to gain further perspective of the experiences patients they treat in the community.*



# Battle drills from the ground up

By Capt. Robert Burnham, State PAO

More than two dozen community-based healthcare providers participated in military orientation training May 14 at the New Hampshire National Guard Training Site in Center Strafford. Training included personal stories from veterans about their combat and reintegration experiences, actual ground and aerial medical evacuation battle drills, and simulated weapons firing, along with convoy and vehicle rollover training.

This was the first time for this type of event for the Guard. The concept came from the partnered vision of retired Lt. Col. Kevin Major, NHARNG, and Dr. James Whitlock, chief medical officer, Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital, Salem. They wanted to increase the awareness and understanding of combat situations for civilian medical professionals who may treat N.H. veterans in the community.

“About two years ago, Jim began telling me about his work with returning veterans suffering from mild traumatic brain injuries,” said Major. “Jim expressed his frustration with being unfamiliar with military terminology and equipment. He felt that he could better treat veterans if he had a better appreciation for their environment.”

Millie LaFontaine, a neurologist with Concord Hospital, said the experience helped her to realize what troops have to wear and carry every day. She also said about understanding the combat mindset, “Not knowing when the next attack will happen was something I never thought about.”

Active and retired Guardsmen from the NHNG’s 12th Civil Support Team, Detachment 2, 249th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), 197th Fires Brigade; C Company, 3/172nd Infantry (Mountain), NHARNG Medical Command and the NHNG Reintegration Program supported the event, which offered civilian practitioners first-person accounts of battlefield scenarios.

After role-playing an improvised explosive device attack casualty and being airlifted from the battlefield in a helicopter, Mary Aboozia, a nurse practitioner with the Veterans Administration Medical Center of Manchester, said, “I felt the sensation I was getting fed into the rotors.” ❖



Medical Company (Air Ambulance), assists a litter with the transport of a patient during a simulated battle drill. Participants experience situations similar to those of



Sgt. Jefferey Jordan, 12th Civil Support Team, orients local civilian healthcare professionals to the HUMVEE Egress Assistance Trainer. The HEAT allows Guardsmen to safely experience and evacuate from a simulated vehicle rollover.



# 3643<sup>RD</sup> TRAINS FOR WAR

*National Guard soldiers conduct premobilization training at Center Strafford on April 5.*



*National Guard soldiers conduct premobilization training at Center Strafford on April 6.*

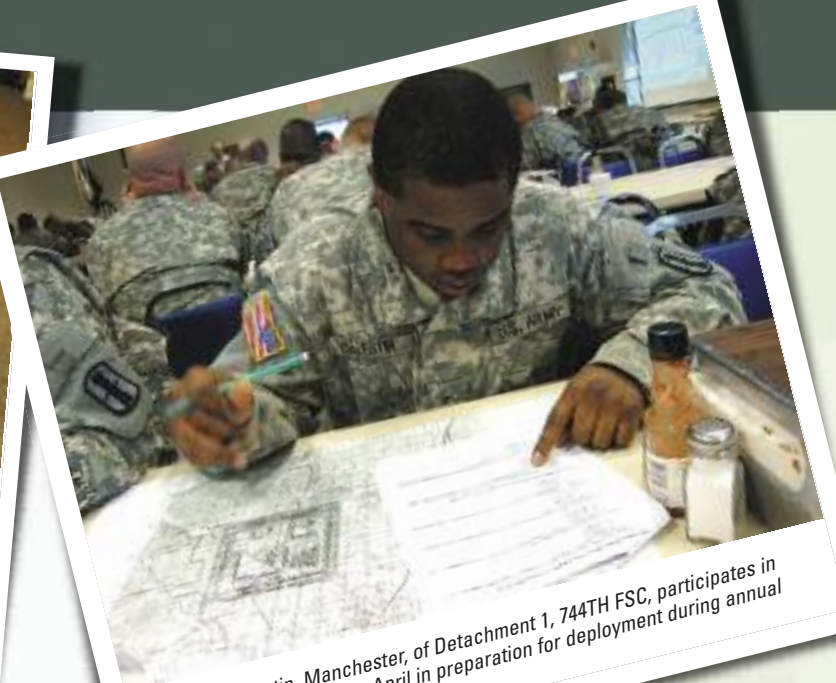


*National Guard soldiers conduct premobilization training at Center Strafford on April 5.*





*Sgt. 1st Class Edward Clements (Fast Eddie), Manchester, 744th Forward Support Company, 3643rd BSB, and Sgt. Brian Duchesne, Salisbury, HHB, 197th Fires Brigade, conduct first aid training in preparation for mobilization at Center Strafford on April 6.*



*Pfc. Jean Celestin, Manchester, of Detachment 1, 744TH FSC, participates in map reading instruction in April in preparation for deployment during annual training at Center Strafford.*

*National Guard soldiers conduct premobilization training at Center Strafford on April 6.*





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# Pembroke students celebrate Earth Day with Guard members

By Kristen Melendez and Arin Mills  
NHNG-Facilities and Environmental Office

The New Hampshire National Guard and the Strong Foundations Charter School of Pembroke celebrated Earth Day on April 22 at the State Military Reservation in Concord.

Lt. Col. David Mikolaities, professional engineer for the construction and facilities management office, spoke about the future construction of the Guard's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified Regional Training Institute in Pembroke. About 50 students and staff heard him speak about the new facility, then interacted with the Guard environmental staff at the exhibit stations.

"We had such a wonderful time and learned so much," said Beth McClure, principal of Strong Foundations Charter School. "I am deeply appreciative of the effort [that] the personnel at the base put into it."

Mikolaities, project manager of the new training facility and barracks, explained the Department of Defense requirement that all new construction must meet the LEED Silver standard. LEED Silver Certification requires the design and operation to demonstrate environmental excellence in the following impact categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality,



Lt. Col. David Mikolaities talks to Strong Foundations Charter School students April 22, 2010, about Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and the N.H. Regional Training Institute scheduled to be built adjacent to the school.

innovation in design and regional priority. The Guard exhibits focused on implementation of environmental merit that will be achieved.

Exhibits highlighted several innovative designs, such as solar hot water heating, rain water collection, porous concrete, full cut-off lighting, and low-emitting paints and flooring.

The exhibits featured items on loan from vendors and agencies in the local community, including solar collector panels from the GES Solar Store, full cut-off lighting from Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Inc., rain barrels from Real Green Goods, low-emitting paint and flooring from Your Home Your World and porous concrete from the N.H. Department of Environmental Services. The Guard's environmental staff was on hand to provide in-depth information to the attendees.

The event also emphasized natural and cultural resources found on the

Guard's 214-acre parcel. Guard members demonstrated a method of tracking the eastern hognose snake with a radio transmitter. Attendees also learned about other threatened and endangered species and natural communities in the area, such as the smooth green snake, Karner blue butterfly, frosted elfin and rare moth species. Maps on display depicted the pine barrens community and cultural/archaeological sensitive areas.

According to Zachary Boyajian, environmental program manager, the 2010 Earth Day event was a great success for the Guard, establishing a positive relationship with the neighboring Strong Foundations Charter School. Guard members and civilians also had the opportunity to learn more about the new Regional Training Institute. The Guard environmental staff plans to host an Earth Day event next year and will continue to foster environmental stewardship within the community. ♦

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# BOSTON MARATHON – IN IRAQ



Sgt. Steve Couture, C Company, 3/238th Aviation Regiment (Air Ambulance), runs in the Boston Marathon Shadow Run on April 18 on Contingency Operating Base Echo, Iraq.



Spc. Diane Cammarata, right, C Company, 3/238th Aviation Regiment (Air Ambulance), runs toward the 12-mile mark during the Boston Marathon Shadow Run on April 18 at Contingency Operating Base Echo, Iraq. The HMMWVs in the background are lining up to leave on a patrol.



A wreath signifies the Spc. Alan Burgess Memorial Bridge overlooking Salmon Hole in Lisbon. Burgess, a NHARNG member assigned to the 2/197th FA was killed in action in Mosul, Iraq, on Oct. 15, 2004, following an improvised explosive device attack on his patrol vehicle. The Route 302 bridge was dedicated to honor the memory of Spc. Burgess at a ceremony held on Memorial Day weekend on May 30, 2010, Burgess' 30th birthday.



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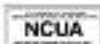
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# Deputy state surgeon honored for aiding airline passenger

By Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO

**CONCORD** – The day after Maj. Rich Oberman arrived at his brigade surgeon’s course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, he told his classmates about the in-flight emergency he responded to during his plane ride from New Hampshire.

Oberman, who is preparing to deploy to the Middle East this fall with the 197th Fires Brigade, treated a large, elderly man who was complaining of severe chest pains. In a span of 20 minutes – from the time he pressed the flight attendant call button to offer his help until the plane landed in Greensboro, N.C. – Oberman was able to stabilize the man using the aircraft’s limited medical supply.

His efforts likely prevented the passenger, who had a history of heart problems, from going into cardiac arrest.

“You’re a better man than I am,” said one of the surgeons in his class. “I wouldn’t have rung that bell. I would have let someone else do it.”

A handful of fellow classmates voiced the same reluctance. Their reasons for ignoring the stewardess’ call for help ranged from “I’m on vacation” to “I deal with this all the time in my job.”

It was a sobering moment for Oberman, who when not in uniform is the chief of his town’s volunteer rescue squad in Penacook. He figured anyone in his line of work would have done the same thing. “I’m a medical professional,” he later explained. “I was just doing my job.”

For his actions on the March 28 flight from Manchester, Oberman was awarded the New Hampshire Commendation Medal. With his family and the brigade staff looking on, Oberman was called a hero by his deputy commander during a June 6 ceremony at the Manchester Armory. The citation credited Oberman with saving the man’s life, something Oberman couldn’t say for sure.

“I noticed the guy when we were boarding the plane,” he said. “He didn’t look good at all. He was a big dude, probably in his 60s.”

About an hour into the flight, the man started having trouble breathing.

He was on his way to Florida. He told Oberman he was flying because he felt too sick to drive. A doctor on board the flight, a surgeon from Massachusetts, initially responded as well, but ended up taking her cues from Oberman.



*Lt. Col. Daniel Wilson, executive officer for the 197th FiB, pins the New Hampshire Commendation Medal on Maj. Rich Oberman during a June 6 ceremony at the Manchester Armory. Courtesy photo*

“I don’t think that she was comfortable in the situation,” Oberman said. “She couldn’t take his vitals.”

It was Oberman’s first experience with an in-flight emergency. He explained that there is a big difference between treating someone on a plane and someone in his normal line of duty as a volunteer EMT.

“When I get called out on an emergency, I have my equipment, my drugs, and I am in contact with a physician,” Oberman said. “With a cardiac monitor, I can take an EKG and tell right away if the patient is having a heart attack.”

On a mid-air flight, “You do the best you can with what you have until the plane can land,” Oberman said. He tapped the plane’s medical kit, using aspirin, oxygen and an IV. The only piece of equipment on board was a defibrillator.

“I don’t know if I saved his life,” Oberman said. “If we didn’t act promptly, get him to a health care facility, and try to ride it out (the plane was diverted from Atlanta), his condition would have gotten worse. The passenger was talking to me the whole time. He did say he felt better after we gave him the IV and oxygen.”

For his efforts, Oberman received a thank you letter from Delta Airlines along with a voucher for a free ticket, which Oberman said he would return. As a matter of policy, service members are not allowed to accept gifts.

Even if an exception were made, it would be safe to say Oberman would be as uncomfortable accepting the reward as he would be with accepting the response of his fellow medical professionals after he told them about the flight. ♦





Staff Sgt. Michelle Lowes, Wolfeboro Falls, Joint Force Headquarters, sings the national anthem during New Hampshire Day at Fenway Park in Boston on Memorial Day, May 30. Courtesy photo

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# SAUDI DEPLOYMENT

## *a family affair*

By Tech. Sgt. Angela Stebbins, 157th ARW/PA

About 30 members of the 157th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadron left Pease Air National Guard Base in April for a six-month tour in Saudi Arabia.

Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Neault, from Springvale, Maine, has been with the Air National Guard for two years in security forces, after serving in the Navy.

"I served six and half years in the Navy. I was corpsman with the Marine Corps when I was overseas and saw how the Air Force lived and how they treated their people and their living conditions," said Neault, "so I said if I ever get out and get back in, it is going to be with the Air Force, and true to word, it has been good!"

Staff Sgt. Paul Dovich Jr. of Dover was also one of the many airmen preparing to deploy. He was joined by his wife, Renee, his son, Aiden, 4, and his daughter, Avery, 2, as well as his mother and father, plus his brother, Steven, who serves in the N.H. Army National Guard, and Steven's wife, Michelle, who works for the State Family Program as a family assistance center specialist.

Staff Sgt. Jason Christiansen from Concord and his wife, Misty, also prepared for the deployment, spending time with their newborn son, Garrett, 9 weeks, Christiansen's mother, Denise Christiansen, and grandmother, Sharon Previe, both from Barnstead; Misty's father, retired Tech. Sgt. Richard Garland from New Durham, and Garland's fiancé, Arty.

Misty said, "I feel like we have a good support network here at Pease, between the lieutenant, Bonnie Rice and father Bob, I know there is always somebody around that I can talk to. I'm lucky as I also have a great family support system with my in-laws and my family." ♦



1st Lt. Thomas Mueller spends a few moments with his wife, Alison, and their baby, Heath, during a send-off ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base, New Hampshire, on April 8, 2010. Mueller will deploy along with 29 other members of the 157th Security Forces Squadron to Saudi Arabia to perform law enforcement duties. Photo: Master Sgt. Timothy W. Psale



N.H. Airman 1st Class Nicholas Harpin spends a few moments holding hands with his girlfriend, Alysha Michaud, during a send-off ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base, New Hampshire, on April 8, 2010. Harpin will deploy along with 29 other members of the 157th Security Forces Squadron to Saudi Arabia to perform law enforcement duties. Photo: Master Sgt. Timothy W. Psaledakis



Staff Sgt. Jeffery Greenlaw and his wife, Amanda, share a moment with their daughter, Haydon, during a send-off ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base, New Hampshire, on April 8, 2010. Greenlaw will deploy along with 29 other members of the 157th Security Forces Squadron to Saudi Arabia to perform law enforcement duties. Photo: Master Sgt. Timothy W. Psale



Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Neault spends a few moments with his pregnant wife, Kimberly, during a send-off ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base, New Hampshire, on April 8, 2010. Neault will deploy along with 29 other members of the 157th Security Forces Squadron to Saudi Arabia to perform law enforcement duties. Their baby is expected June 25, 2010. Photo: Master Sgt. Timothy W. Psale



# Army Promotions & Awards

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Colin Beswick  
Jacob Talon  
Angelique Sidman  
Kyle Adams  
William Pusey IV  
Elijah Fazzina  
Kayla West  
Jordan Westgate  
Matthew Brooks  
Sean Lawler  
Isaac Colby  
Steven Nile  
Derek Champagne  
Ryan Sandlin  
Benjamin Willis  
Joshua Caprarello  
Robert Plaisted  
Robert Sullivan  
Christopher Lassiter  
Caitlin Borey

James Christie  
Thomas Johnson  
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Daniel Dobson  
Steven Hogan  
Colby Johnson  
Kevin Thompson  
Sarah Chick  
James Brown II  
Jensine Barr  
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Christopher Gaw  
Christopher Gaw  
Jaclyn Mader  
Dale Weeks Jr  
Jeffrey Audy  
Sharon Berry  
Andre Mailhot  
Chase Artzerounian  
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Joel Pinckney  
Jeremy Clark

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Megan Torres  
Derek Lavalley  
Sean Yamamoto  
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Steven Beattie  
Daniel Howe  
Talayna Duval  
Ryan Keane  
Bradley Estabrook  
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Andrew Fraser  
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Brandon Beliveau  
Benjamin Hanley  
Andre Petion Jr  
Jeffrey Klemarczyk  
Kyle Desroche  
Ryan Toczko  
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Taylor Goodwin  
Coree Kinerson  
Jonathan Ryba  
Danielle Veilleux  
Scott Christie Jr  
Jordan Bailey

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Nicholas Eudenbach  
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Kristie Matott  
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# 249th rescues injured skier

By Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish, 114th PAD

Members of Detachment 2, 249th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) had just returned from lunch April 14 when Chief Warrant Officer Anthony C. Foote received a text message from the state aviation officer notifying him of a possible rescue mission.

“For the last eight months, it’s been really quiet,” said the detachment commander. “Normally, the aviation staff handles the rescue missions. This was not only the first hoist mission for Wayne [co-pilot] and I, but I think for the 249th.”

The initial brief was that a skier suffered leg injuries and was located 400 feet from the base of the Ammonoosuc Ravine.

“Guys on site said that his bindings were new and too tight, and when he fell, he just started tumbling down the mountain one way, his leg ragdolling the other way,” said Staff Sgt. Craig Courser, 249th flight medic.

Foote said the normal protocol for Fish and Game is to expend all their resources before requesting assistance from the NHARNG. When dealing with the mountains, they tend to consult with the state aviation officer to determine if there is available aircraft.

“We got the heads up, we started doing preflight checks. We got the aircraft outside and Foote briefed us outside the bird,” said Chief Warrant Officer Wayne Silva. Once veteran Fish and Game officer Lt. John Wimsatt arrived, the 1982 H-60 was fired up, and Silva headed out on a course for Cog Railway.

The crew said the weather in Concord was fair that day, but that’s never an indication of what the conditions are in the White Mountains region.

“The winds in the mountains are completely different than anywhere else, and it was blowing pretty good,” Foote said. “You can feel the wind by the tail’s reaction. We came into the valley on a slow approach until we figured out where the wind was coming in from and set the nose into the wind. It was about 30 knots coming out of the northwest, and it would hit the slopes of the ravine and travel up.”

As the co-pilot on his first mission, Silva handed over control of the aircraft to Foote for the hoist. Silva continued to monitor gauges and man the radio with the Fish and Game officers on the ground.

“We got word that two wilderness EMTs were on site with the skier and were treating his injuries,” Silva said. “When we got there, it was a really steep slope. We were trying to maintain a hover at 120 feet for at least 10 minutes to get Craig down on the hoist.”

“The hoist itself is like a fish hook, three levers fold out after it has penetrated the canopy of trees, the casualty straddles a deployed arm while secured to the hoist. Then we reel them in,” said Foote.

He went on to add that getting the medics on the ground to recover the casualties is the hardest part of his mission. “Our medics are the key to a successful mission; our job is to get them to the patient.”

Once the crew approached the side of the ravine, Staff Sgt. Greg M. Gerbig opened the side door of the Black Hawk to get a visual on the downed skier.

“They stood out on the snow, making them fairly easy to spot,” the hoist operator said.

“Slide left three,” he recalled directing the pilot. “Three, two, one.”



Staff Sgt. Craig Courser, Detachment 2, 249th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), looks for the hoist being lowered to extract injured skier Dalton Harben from the Ammonoosuc Ravine, on April 14.

Photo: Lt. John Wimsatt, New Hampshire Fish and Game

The aircraft came to a hover approximately a hundred feet above Dalton Harben, a cross-country skier originally from Pennsylvania. Gerbig lowered Courser onto the treacherous slope.

“When you’re looking down at the snow from that steep of an angle, it’s hard to tell if it’s hard packed, soft or icy,” said Gerbig.

The crew said when Courser hit the ground he immediately began to slide down the mountain. Gerbig, conducting his third hoist rescue, worked to keep the line slack.

“I started spooling out cable and telling the pilot to slide with him so he didn’t pendulum off the mountain.”

Courser gained his footing and freed himself from the hoist to trudge through the snow at 4,000 feet above sea level and make his way back up to Harben. EMTs had already braced the leg.

Courser asked Harben if he wanted to ride up in the stokes litter or the jungle penetrator. After being on the mountain, exposed for a few hours, he opted to straddle the penetrator.

“I worked to get him up as fast as I could,” recalled Gerbig. “At one point, I could hear him scream because of the weight on his leg.”

Once Harben was just outside the door of the helicopter, Gerbig said he got one hand on him and used the other hand to work the boom.

“I just laid him up against some blankets in the helicopter and put my helmet bag under the leg for support.”

With Harben safe on board, the crew decided to go back for Courser and Wimsatt once the patient was safely off-loaded at Littleton Hospital.

Gerbig never got the name of the man he pulled off the mountain. He said the crew didn’t celebrate or throw back beers afterward; they just went back to work because it’s part of the job for them.

“It was nice to get out and do a real mission, though,” he added. ❖



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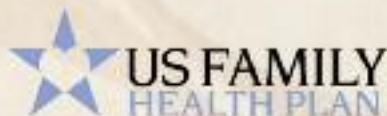
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