

GRANITE GUARDIAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

WINTER 2006



RUNNING TOWARDS OUR FUTURE:
369 years of the National Guard and counting

Granite Guardian



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Busy year for NH Guard

We'll forever remember 2005

Editor's Note: Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, Adjutant General of the NHNG, was interviewed by Laura Knoy on NH Public Radio's "The Exchange" on Dec. 5, 2005. The following are excerpts from the interview.

LK: From New Hampshire Public Radio, I'm Laura Knoy and this is The Exchange. Almost every time you open a newspaper lately, there is a story about the New Hampshire National Guard whether it's a headline from Iraq, Afghanistan, Louisiana, or here in the Granite State. Some guard soldiers returned from overseas just a few months ago, only to be sent down to the Gulf Coast days later to help with hurricane relief. Then back home, they were called upon again to head to southwestern New Hampshire after severe floods in that region. The National Guard has always had this unique, dual role responding to state and national needs and reporting to both the Governor and the President, but the Guard's mission has increased since the September 11th terrorist attack. These citizen soldiers today have to face new duties, new expectations, and new challenges. All that has resulted in a nationwide transformation of how guard members are trained, developed and deployed. The goal: to better prepare them for an expanded mission, and perhaps to increase recruitment, which Guard officials say hasn't been as strong as they'd like. I read a quote from you saying that you couldn't remember a time when as many of the states National Guard soldiers had been deployed. You said you'd have to go back to World War II to find a time when you'd been just as active, as busy as you are now.

MG C: The year 2005 will be one we'll forever remember as the most tasked that we have been in my career and that goes back 37 years now here in New Hampshire.

LK: Why? Why so busy? Give us

a sense of that.

MG C: We've always had this full spectrum mission of federal and state response, but rarely do you get tapped for them both at the same time, and during 2005 we had the most numbers of our soldiers mobilized for the Global War on Terrorism and deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. And then found ourselves being called upon to support two Emergency Management Assistance Compacts with other states, in this situation going off to Louisiana, followed quickly by southwest New Hampshire. So we've had all three of our taskings, our federal tasking, our support to other states and our support in our state, all tapped in 2005.

LK: And how many of those people in the National Guard right now are not here in New Hampshire? Are they in Afghanistan, are they still down in the Gulf Coast?

MG C: The good news is that we've got most of our people home. We still have a group of about 25 deployed in Iraq in support of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. That's a multi-state team headquartered out of Pennsylvania. We also have about six soldiers still on the ground in Afghanistan, and essentially our Louisiana and southwestern New Hampshire people are home.

LK: How much has the mission of your average National Guard soldier changed since WWII 60 years ago?

MG C: We thought for a long, long time after WWII that the Guard would be nothing more than a strategic reserve, that if we ever had a WWII, we would call out the Guard. That held late into the Vietnam War, when a very, very



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Cover Photo by 114th MPAD

RAOC, 1159th arrive home for the holidays



Sgt. Larry Wilson of the 1159th Medical Co. is hugged during a Welcome Home Ceremony on New Years Eve for the Air Ambulance unit, which completed a year tour of duty in Iraq. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Daigle)

RAOC

Family and friends welcomed home a group of 28 NH Army Guardsmen, who completed a yearlong tour of duty in Iraq, on Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. at the Manchester Armory.

The soldiers formed the 1st of the 172nd Field Artillery, CORPS Rear Area Operations Center, commanded by Col. David Mercieri of Barrington. They were based at Camp Adder in southern Iraq, and arrived in Iraq in December 2004.

Their primary mission had been Garrison Command Support for the installation. The unit managed the installation base master plan, developed joint force protection and anti-

terrorism programs, managed all base infrastructure (existing and new construction), Department of Public Works, terrain management, provided basic garrison support to include billeting, morale and welfare programs and provided law and order for the base.

1159th

The public joined family and friends for a Homecoming Ceremony for the 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) on Saturday, Dec. 31 at the NH National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility.

The 1159th was mobilized in December 2004, and deployed to the Middle East with a sister detachment from the Maryland Army National

Guard.

It performed medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) missions in the Multi National Division - North Central (MND-NC) and Multi National Division North West (MND-NW) areas of Iraq. The unit completed more than 1,760 missions, evacuated over 2,789 patients, and flew more than 3,522 flight hours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

The 1159th is an air ambulance unit based in Concord and equipped with UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Its primary mission is to transport personnel in need of medical attention and to transport medical supplies.

Gov. Lynch unveils plan for modernization of National Guard

Gov. John Lynch unveiled plans recently for a comprehensive modernization of the New Hampshire Army National Guard during a press conference on Nov. 4. at the State House.

Joined by Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, Adjutant General of the NH National Guard, and other NH Army Guard commanders, Lynch said that over the next two years, the force structure of the NH Army National Guard will undergo a major reorganization and realignment to make it more relevant to the evolving needs of the state and nation.

“New Hampshire’s National Guard is a key member of our state and nation’s defense and emergency response efforts,” Gov. Lynch said. “We’ve seen that in Iraq, Afghanistan, after Hurricane Katrina, and just a few weeks ago during the floods in Western New Hampshire. The National Guard possesses a crucial set of skills and expertise that can be deployed anywhere in the state with short notice: trained personnel, equipment, communications and transportation.”

Called “Transformation,” the nationwide initiative is a change in the way the Army fights, thinks, develops leaders and approaches its missions. The NH Army National Guard will get new units with capabilities more suited to both state and federal missions, and exchange traditional howitzers for more modern rocket artillery. Units will be repositioned and three under-used armories will be closed, putting the Guard in a better position to respond to state and federal needs.

“The goal of this transformation is to create units better capable of responding, no matter whether the need is state or federal,” Lynch said.

The NH Army Guard’s two field artillery battalions will trade their howitzers for rockets, combining to form a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System or HIMARS Battalion. The field artillery brigade will become a fires brigade and include a new Signal Company and Support Battal-

ion.

“Converting to a fires brigade enables us to deploy to any location as a single package with all the necessary capabilities,” said Clark. “We will have a broader set of skills and equipment which are very aligned to the mission of what the state or nation might ask us to do: move, supply, and communicate. That’s key to being relevant.”

In addition, the NH Army National Guard’s Military Police detachment will expand to a company size element, from a 30-man unit to a 170-man unit split between four armories. Under the conversion, armories in Woodsville, Claremont and Peterborough will close and the Keene armory will reopen to house a military police platoon.

In the last three years, the NH National Guard has supported combat and peacekeeping operations overseas as well as humanitarian missions in Louisiana and southwestern New Hampshire in the wake of hurricanes and flooding.

“There never has been a more compelling time to begin our transformation,” Clark said.



A HIMARS system similar to what the NH Army National Guard will man demonstrates its fire power. (US Army Photo)

Gen. Clark interview continued from page 2

small slice of the National Guard was called. After the Vietnam War, the national leaders took a look of some of the failings of the Vietnam War and realized that if you want to bring the nation to war, if you don't tap its citizen soldiers, its communities, its families, its employers, the man next door, then you don't engage the entire nation. We proceeded to build a structure of an all-volunteer military and a National Guard. Over the years, and it really came to pass in the first Gulf War, we came to see that the Guard and Reserve had to be called upon almost immediately and certainly after 9/11. The lessons learned are that the Guard will be an operational reserve and not just a strategic reserve.

LK: Could you elaborate on that a little bit? I think I'm getting a sense of what you mean, but what exactly does that mean, more operational and less strategic?

MG C: Embedded into the plans for day-to-day operations, the National Guard has a higher percentage of the active mission, and in some cases is the force to provide that. I'll give you an example using our KC135 fleet that do in flight refueling missions. Fifty percent of the nation's in-flight refueling capacity is in the National Guard and Reserve and we cannot do hardly any international activity without calling on the Guard and Reserve. In fact, while we were talking about people being deployed over the Christmas holiday, we will have about 120 of our Air Guard people in Guam supporting the Pacific Refueling Mission, so we are all over the world all the time.

LK: And yet, even though you are part of the immediate operation as you are saying, National Guard soldiers are part-time people with jobs in offices, and factories, and farms and whatever.

MG C: The vast majority of them are. It usually surprises people to find that almost 700 of our total compliment of 2,700 people work full-time for the National Guard. We can't all do this one weekend a month. The ongoing training, resourcing and managing of that force requires about 700 full-timers split pretty much equally between the Army and the Air National Guard at Pease and the armories around the state. But those part-timers give us a lot of time and we are having to change the way that system works to provide what the active duty likes to call more friendly on roads and

off roads into and out of active service.

LK: Right, because it gets tricky. You're a part-time soldier and then all the sudden you're in Iraq for a year. That's not very part-time, is it?

MG C: Well it isn't, but that's not the way we would like to see our future at all. That's how the Army found itself when we suddenly ended up with a lot of soldiers there. We are structuring for the future that ongoing Army Guard deployments will not be for over six months at any given time. We realize, everybody in the Department of Defense realizes, that year-long deployments are not the right answer, and we think we have a plan for the future that will allow the deployment schedule to be not more than six months. In fact, for the Army National Guard we're trying to build a plan that says not more than six months in every six years.

LK: Because that's not what you expect when you sign up for the National Guard.

MG C: No it was not. We feel quite frankly as though we've broken some contracts.

LK: You said you had been involved in the National Guard for 37 years. When did you sign up and how come?

MG C: In the fall of 1967, I was a student at UNH. I had someone ask me what I was going to do when I graduated, and I said I'm really not sure and they asked me had I ever talked to the Air National Guard about going to flight school. I was in shock. I had no idea that such a possibility existed. I made my way from Durham to Newington over to Pease Air Force Base. Talked to the personnel people and after about a year long program of talking, testing and interviewing I found myself off to Air Force pilot training as a National Guardsman. I spent a year on active duty at flight school and then came home and have been flying out of Pease most of my career.

LK: Now were you a full-time National Guard soldier from the outset?

MG C: No. For the first five years I was a traditional Guardsman trying to juggle a real estate and construction business down in the Nashua/Hudson area, and it wasn't until 1975 that a opportunity opened up. Someone asked me would I be interested in coming in and working in the Guard and I was there for a long time.

LK: So you have first-hand experience with those National Guard soldiers who are trying to run businesses, run families and trying to be supportive members of the Guard.

MG C: Yes I do, and I try never to forget it.

LK: I guess my question is, are National Guard forces actually the guys or gals picking up guns and going and fighting the enemy? Or are they sort of providing the food, the fuel, the transport, and all that? Critical missions, but not out there battling hand to hand so to speak?

MG C: The Army National Guard is broken into three forms of service: Combat Arms, Combat Support, and Combat Service Support. Our field artillery units are considered Combat Arms units as is our Infantry Company. We also have some Combat Support units, as well as Service Support. When we deployed people on the ground in Iraq, we had people who were doing military police missions out engaging with the population on a regular basis. So, we are as frontline as anybody.

LK: And that's probably why you hear that I think 40 percent of the casualties in Iraq have been National Guard? Is that roughly right?

MG C: That's about a correct figure. That's not out of proportion with the forces for the calendar year 05. The National Guard and Reserve component had over 45 percent of the force on the ground.

LK: And yet, that's surprising to me because my thought was that the National Guard was more the back-up and support, and you don't think of those people as the ones getting killed.

MG C: That's strategic reserve, that's not operational reserve embedded side by side.

(For the complete transcript of the interview, which includes callers' questions, go to www.nhpr.org)

Guard employee offers way to help the wounded

By Judey Clemons
Human Resource Office

Here is an opportunity to share a project that spouses, guard members and friends can take part in to support our wounded troops that have served in Iraqi Freedom.

Last year, there was a small notice in the Concord Monitor looking for quilters to make quilts for wounded soldiers. At the web site - www.quiltsforsoldiers.com, there was all sorts of information about the quilts and how this program helps our wounded troops.

Anyone can make a lap size quilt and have it machine quilted. Once the quilt is finished, there is a link on this website for further instructions to make a pillowcase for the quilt and to enclose 2 self-addressed postcards. I chose a

patriotic theme for my quilt. It was a really enjoyable project. A lap quilt is traditionally 50 x 60. Individuals can use their "stash" to make colorful quilts to send.

I started this project last winter and in May I sent my quilt to a Chaplain at Ft. Drum, NY who is getting ready to deploy to Iraq. He will take my quilt and deliver it to a wounded soldier in a hospital overseas.

I am very happy to pass this information on to support this project. As a quilter, I think this is a small gift I can contribute to the war on terrorism. Unfortunately, there are many more wounded soldiers than quilts being produced.

I am hopeful this information will be spread to all quilters to encourage more quilts to be made to support this worthwhile cause.



Judey Clemons holds the quilt she made for a wounded soldier.

369 years and counting:

From left, Command Sgt. Major Michael Beleski, Sgt. Mark Dupuis and Gov. John Lynch celebrate the National Guard's 369th Birthday on Dec. 13 at the State House in Concord.

About 30 NH Guardsmen joined Lynch in Council Chambers.

"The NH National Guard has served as a vital part of our state and national defense," Lynch said. "We have a rich and proud legacy of patriots whose selfless convictions have given us the freedoms we enjoy today. As Commander-In-Chief of the NH National Guard, I could not be prouder of 2,700 men and women who serve us. They and their families have earned our deep respect and admiration."



Blair inducted into UNH ROTC Hall of Fame

By **Sgt. Luke Koladish**
Print Team Leader, 114th
MPAD

On Nov. 10, the flag vigil commemorating Veteran's Day started at 7 a.m. While the students and faculty hurried to the warmth of the buildings, one Air Force cadet and one Army cadet stood watch until retreat.

Cadet Ethan Miller manned his post while the Induction Ceremony kicked off in the Granite room to the beat of a snare drum and the shout of "Present Arms!"

University of New Hampshire cadets annually host the Air Force and Army ROTC Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Every Veteran's Day former alumni of UNH's ROTC program are honored by admittance into the Hall of Fame by Co-Coordinator Army Brig. Gen. (Ret.) John Dailey.



The ceremony opened with the national anthem played by the 39th Army Band. After the posting of the colors, Air Force Cadet Daniel Banakos gave the invocation to a group of 200 cadets, veterans, guardsmen, and alumni.

Five former UNH students, graduating from as far back as 1935, were inducted, one of whom was killed in action during Vietnam. The Alumni Associate started the Hall of Fame in 1997.

The first inductee was Maj. Gen. (Ret.) John E. Blair. Blair graduated from UNH in 1966 and served in Vietnam as an evacuation pilot, executive officer, and flight operations officer. He received the Purple Heart, Air Medal (with 19 devices) and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with four Bronze Stars.

The former Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard held back tears as he thanked three people that impacted his life greatly.

"My father, Capt. Blair, who pinned my lieutenant bars 39 years ago here, Col. Boyd, my professor of military science, who taught me that bluster and force are not always necessary to lead, and Sgt.

Maj. Hughes who gave me my first salute...He taught me that respect is something to be earned...Mission first, people always."

Following Blair was Capt. Frederick W. Carr, who graduated in 1947 after serving three years in WWII. As a pilot on his 18th mission he was shot down. He joined the French underground resistance and was finally captured. After four months in a concentration camp he marched 500 miles to General Patton and freedom.

Brig. Gen. Stanley Harding, class of 1935, served in England, France, Germany and Belgium during the war. Following his success in the European theatre he completed a long list of successful commands culminating in his role as Commanding General of the 7th Region of the United States Army Air Defense Command.

His daughter accepted on his behalf.

The final inductees were 1st Lt. Howard Walker Kaiser, Class of 1963 who was killed while flying missions in Vietnam, and Col. Donald W. Swain, class of 1956.

Following the inductions, eight cadets, four from each branch, were presented with a scholarship each by the alumni association. According to Maj. Scott Silfies, assistant professor of military science, they were awarded "to the top cadet in each class in each service, the cadre from each service determines who those cadets are."

After the closing by Lt. Col. Curtis Winstead, USAF ROTC Detachment Commander, the retreat ceremony was held outside Thompson Hall and the vigil that had started at 7 a.m. was put to rest as the two cadets were relieved.



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Stephen Lawton puts the Adjutant General's clock together after he performed an extensive restoration on the more than 100 year-old clock earlier this year. The Seth Thomas clock was originally hung in the State House outside of the Adjutant General's office which used to be located in the State House. Lawton had the clock for four months and spent about 60 hours working on the bits and pieces. The face was sent out to someone else for restoration. The original price was \$112.50 in the 1880's. It is currently hanging outside of the Adjutant General's Office in Building C.



Chap. (1st. Lt.) Steven Veinotte blesses a monument dedicated to the memory of Spc. Alan Burgess, Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Woodsville Armory. Spc. Burgess, a soldier with 2nd BN, 197th FA, was killed in action last Oct. 15th in Mosul, Iraq.



PFC Frank Crabtree, of Battery A, Detachment 1, 2nd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery in Berlin, became the first NH guardsman to profit from the new Recruiting Assistant Program or G-RAP. The program offers a monetary incentive of up to \$2,000 to traditional guardsmen for referring a new recruit. For the enlistment of Raymond Eames, a 20-year-old Berlin resident, Crabtree was recognized by Capt. Sean Bennett, the battalion training officer, and Sgt. Michael Imondi, a North Country recruiter. "I signed up for the G-RAP program so that I could benefit the New Hampshire Army National Guard and the nation," said Crabtree, an 18-year-old senior at Berlin High School. "I also want to help out my recruiter, Sgt. Imondi, because he has helped me out significantly". Eames was a good choice. "I joined the Army National Guard to serve my country and better secure my own future," he said. "The benefits to me and my future are great and will help me in so many ways." Currently, 112 NH Guardsmen have taken the G-RAP online tutorial to qualify as a recruiting assistant. Another 28 are in training. Since the program began in December, a total of 22 referrals have been generated. For more information about the program go to: www.guardrecruitingassistant.com