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On the Cover: Brig. Gen. Stephen Burritt, the commander of the N.H. Army National Guard, congratulates Spc. Liana Nguyen on becoming a U.S. citizen during a naturalization ceremony held last October in Concord. Photo: Maj. Greg Heilshorn, NHNG-PA

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Going to war: How N.H. Guard units are selected for overseas missions

A Q&A with our *Army* and *Air* leadership

Since 9/11, more than three-quarters of our citizen soldiers and airmen have deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. It has been the largest call up since World War II and Vietnam combined. Some units, like our 744th Transportation Company and 260th Air Traffic Controllers, supported the mission they were trained for – hauling supplies and operating a runway. But others, like our two field artillery battalions, deployed in support of missions they weren't qualified for; in this case military police operations, and had to undergo months of additional training. A team of airmen from the Logistics Readiness Squadron was assigned to an Army unit to provide convoy security and most recently, the 3643rd Maintenance Company ran a prison.

With the expectation of more deployments in the near future, there has been plenty of speculation about how our

N.H. Army and Air Guard units are selected for overseas missions, especially when they require a different military skill set.

First Sgt. Mike Daigle, state deputy public affairs officer, interviewed our Army and Air leadership in October about the selection process and found that much of it is based on the immediate needs of big Army and big Air Force. That said, the decision is a two-way conversation and our input is considered more often than you might think.

Joining us from the N.H. Army Guard were Cols. Richard Duncan, chief of staff, and Bryan Clements, deputy chief of staff and director of operations. From the N.H. Air Guard, we met with Brig. Gen. Mark Sears, commander of the N.H. Air Guard, and Col. Richard Martell, commander of the 157th Air Refueling Wing.

Army National Guard



Soldiers with the 237th Military Police Company share a warm moment as one of them is embraced during their deployment ceremony last summer. About 50 soldiers of the N.H. Army Guard unit are currently serving in eastern Baghdad with an MP company from the North Carolina Army Guard. They are part of a Police Transition Team. Photo: Courtesy of Lori Duff, Concord Monitor

Army National Guard (continued)

NHNG Magazine: How does a N.H. Army National Guard unit get selected for deployment?

Col. Clements: In general terms, the CENTCOM (Central Command) commander determines what he needs for the future. They pass that to forces command. Forces command then breaks it down to the different services. Ultimately, a slice of that goes to National Guard Bureau (NGB). And then the staff of the NGB refers to the Army force generation model (a deployment forecast for National Guard units) to see who is supposed to be ready.

They'll take a look at unit status report (USR) data, and some other data to see how robust the unit is with personnel. If the personnel are qualified, they will probably take a look at some logistical data.

The staff then makes a recommendation. That recommendation gets briefed to the chief of NGB. At that point, the folks in the deployment branch would then hold a sourcing conference with us, with the states. Normally, our mobilization folks or the G3 (operations) shop goes to that and represents the state.

Then, if we are asked to do a particular mission – because of the relationship NGB headquarters has with the states, they are in an asking mode, not in a telling mode – that request then comes through the state. The senior leadership takes a look at it, and in most cases they always talk to the unit commander

and ask, “Do you think you are ready to do this?”

From there a decision is made and we provide a response back to NGB. To clarify a bit, twice a year we go to a conference to see what Guard Bureau is going to ask us to do. In most cases they are looking at an 18- to 24-month window to fill. In a lot of cases they are looking to finalize the next rotation, and in some cases they are looking two rotations ahead.

NHNG Magazine: So, does the leadership in New Hampshire make a decision to go or not to go?

Col. Duncan: Yes

Col. Clements: Yes, and that goes all the way down to the unit leader who ends up having some input on that.

Col. Duncan: And this is the general description of how a unit gets picked. Now there are other types of deployments that are specialty ones, like the embedded training teams and rear area operations command missions, but the Secretary of Defense has given us guidance to primarily send units out as a (complete) unit.

NHNG Magazine: What criteria would you say N.H. Army National Guard leadership uses to decide whether or not a unit accepts a deployment?

Col. Duncan: Several criteria. First off, is the mission right for that unit, especially if it is a non-standard type mission? The status of the unit, for example. Have they just been put back together? Have they had different deployments? Where are they at with readiness, dwell time (time spent at home station), MOS (military occupation skill) qualifications? All of those different things we look at to ask: Is this the right mission for our organization?

Col. Clements: An example of that is the 237th Military Police Company. Originally the task was for us to just provide a platoon to help round out a company from North Carolina. And we went back to them – okay, more than just giving you a group of junior soldiers without any leadership, we want to provide a platoon sergeant and platoon leader and an administrative person. And for North Carolina, that was a pretty easy decision, and they said go ahead and do that. So our folks are supposed to be operating as a holistic platoon together, instead of taking three or four squads out of New Hampshire and breaking out into one in each of their platoons. That is some degree of unity and another issue and decision we can make here.

Col. Duncan: When these requirements come down, the G1 (director of personnel) looks at it to see, do we have the right people, the right MOS's, the right rank structure? The operations guys and the mobilization guys look at their portion of it. Does it meet these criteria? And they will give the leadership a recommendation as to something we should be participating in or not.

Col. Clements: Sometimes we don't necessarily know exactly where they want us to go or what we will be doing but we normally find out who we are following, so we go into the geeks box (global command communication system, a secure computer system) and look up (the gaining unit) and find out what mission they are doing and then we take a look at the





URF and that gives us a basic snapshot of the force structure and street address and what the mission is.

So we also gather that type of data and provide that to the senior leadership and the unit commander so it gives them a better picture than just saying, “Hey, are you ready to go somewhere overseas?” We will have a good idea what camp they are going to and when the latest arrival date is.

Col. Duncan: We get a request saying, “Since you have this kind of unit will you fill this mission?” Then we will look into it to see exactly what kind of mission it is, what the effect on the unit the mission will have, so we can make sure the mission meets our needs and not just the needs of the Army.

NHNG Magazine: *Do we actively seek deployments for our units?*

Col. Clements: No, not at all, it is all based on the ARFORGEN model.

Col. Duncan: We have enough come down to us that we don’t have to go out and seek missions at this point in time.

Col. Clements: If we know that a unit is coming up for a deployment, and I will use the Brigade as an example, if we know that a unit is coming up for their available window, what we do is start having conversations with the mobilization shop or the readiness division down at Guard Bureau to see if we can’t shape that.

For example, we say, “It would be really desirable if we could get a real field artillery mission,” and after having some conversations with them we find out there really are not that many real field artillery missions. So then that information comes back to the senior leadership and the brigade commander and then the conversation is, “What is the next best thing?”

Well, the next best thing, when you start taking a look at transformation and the organizational development, is developing that training readiness oversight (TRO) relationship between the Headquarters Brigade (HHB) and all of its subordinate units, to include all of its units in New Hampshire and all of its units from other states. So then we go back to the readiness division and tell them if you cannot provide us an artillery mission, what the commander would like is to be in a situation where we can work with as many subordinate elements to the brigade headquarters as possible.

The way to slice that is either you can take the entire brigade in New Hampshire, which would constitute about 800 people. That would be the Brigade, the Brigade Support Battalion, the 3rd of the 197th Field Artillery Battalion, or, if we could, also include the battalions from other states that also are part of the Brigade. So we have that type of dialogue prior to the sourcing conferences to try to shape the kind of mission we get, rather than just taking any kind of mission they give us.

Col. Duncan: Because we look far enough out in advance. If it is a short term mission, they are going to tell us what they really need and we will do that if that is what we have to do, but in the case of the Brigade, they are a couple of years out based on the ARFORGEN model. We can start to shape their destiny. Not 100 percent, but we can say, “This is what we

would like to see.”

NHNG Magazine: *Why do we get chosen for deployments as security forces?*

Col. Clements: Because that is what the need is. It is interesting, I was down to Guard Bureau yesterday and one of the things (Lt. Gen. Steven Blum) was talking about was there was a reason why Guard Bureau turned in 50 percent of their field artillery force structure during transformation.

There is just not that big of a need for it. And ironically, the Department of the Army hasn’t designed a SECFOR (security force) team or a force structure that does the peacekeeping and stabilization type of work, but yet doesn’t require all of the training that a military police company would as law enforcement.

Col. Duncan: Part of this is just forthcoming in our doctrine, going from a Cold War doctrine. It has changed our policies and how we do things. The combatants we are fighting now are insurgents within a city. It is very hard to use indirect fires or any kind of fire support where collateral damage is a huge issue. If we had a tremendous amount of military police they would be doing these missions of securing and patrolling.

NHNG Magazine: *So if we deploy as a brigade, although we won’t be doing a fires mission, we at least will be able to train and learn how to work together.*

Col. Clements: We may be in a non-standard mission, it most likely won’t be a field artillery mission, but each of the headquarters of each of the battalions and the major muscle movement units – the forward support company and the BSB – they will be tasked to do something that is non-standard from an FA standpoint, but the BSB will most likely continue to do what a BSB does and the forward support company will obviously be turning wrenches and providing a variety of support. But more importantly, they will be working under a command relationship where HHB Brigade will continue to be able to develop and nurture that training readiness oversight relationship. It would be very easy for the readiness center just to take a look at New Hampshire and say I want all of your people, but I am going to send them to eight different locations and they are not even going to talk to each other unless they see each other at the PX (post exchange). That would meet NGB’s goal, but it wouldn’t serve us well.

Col. Duncan: And when you get units, whether it is Charlie Company going with its higher headquarters, or the engineers or the MPAD (mobile public affairs detachment), we get those and look at what the requirements are. Do they fit our organization, our timeframe and then we make our recommendations.

Some missions NGB may think fit us don’t fit us for a specific reason. Some do. I think we have done well working with NGB, meeting requirements we can meet and also telling them no when we cannot meet some of their requirements.

The last thing we want to do is make people go on a mission they didn’t volunteer for. We have had to do that for some missions. First priority are volunteers that meet the criteria, the second is people that meet the criteria that haven’t deployed yet so that everyone shares in the deployments. ❖

Air National Guard



A contingent of airmen from the N.H. Air National Guard's 157th Security Forces stand in formation during a deployment ceremony in 2007. The unit, which is responsible for the security of Pease Air National Guard Base in Newington, continues to deploy teams in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle, NHNG-PA

NHNG Magazine: How does a N.H. Air National Guard unit get selected for deployment?

Col. Martell: In the Air National Guard, in the tanker world, all of the tanker wings get put into Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) "buckets." There are 10 of those in the Air Force. They are much like naval carrier battle groups; and for a 20-month period you are in the bucket and eligible for deployment. What we do across the Air National Guard is pick out our deployment weeks, months and years ahead to provide good stability for our folks to know when they are going. The case right now is we go to two locations, we either go to Turkey or we go to Guam.

NHNG Magazine: How did we get assigned to do rotations to Guam and Turkey?

Col. Martell: It is strictly rotational. One year you do Guam and the next year you do Turkey. The reason why it looks like it has been messed up a little bit is because the tanker world has been going

through a great transition. The whole base re-alignment and closure process has caused a bunch of units to stand down like Niagara, N.Y., is closing down. So right now we are in a state of transition.

NHNG Magazine: Does the N.H. Air National Guard leadership – do you two – get to make the decision, "Yes we can deploy or no we cannot deploy?"

Col. Martell: Technically, no. In the Air Force, it is expected when you are in the bucket your forces are available for deployment to fill their greater force overseas. The only thing that would get us out of deployment would be a major aircraft conversion or like we are going through this coming June, an operational readiness inspection.

Brig. Gen. Sears: Each unit is obligated to fill its AEF rotation, but occasionally there may be a shortfall in a particular career field, Air Force specialty code (AFSC), and a call will go out saying, we have an opening in this particular position, is there a unit out there or

somebody who would like to come in and help us with this rotation? So, as far as the unit completing its assigned rotation, there is really not much option. But as far as individual people going to make sure you have a full package that could be filled by other units.

NHNG Magazine: It doesn't sound like we have a say at all?

Col. Martell: Not really. To put us more in alignment with where the Army is, for the last two years Air Mobility Command has been looking at their deployments. For their active duty folks, they are deploying at a rate of two to one. For every 20 months deployed they have 40 months at home. They would like to get that rate down. I know those numbers pale in comparison to what the Army does for deployment, but there is continuing talk about a mobilization of tanker resources to continue the war effort in southwest Asia. And if that does happen, we probably won't have a whole lot of say about where we go there. We probably will be in the desert, a group of



tankers and maintenance folks. That mobilization will hopefully stay in the 120-day bucket.

Brig. Gen. Sears: We don't really have much option of when we are going to go. But where we do have some flexibility is we have X amount of time, and then you can split that time in a front half and a back half with a swap out in between. This really encourages volunteerism. People that would be a little reluctant to go for a long period of time, maybe because of a difficulty with an employer or whatever, but if we can split that and do a swap out halfway through, we can get a greater amount of volunteerism. It makes it less of a problem filling those AEF buckets. It is not like we are completely locked in and have no flexibility.

NHNG Magazine: *Could you explain how locations like Turkey and Guam get chosen for refueling units?*

Col. Martell: A KC-135 tanker is one of the few air frames in the Air Mobility Command that has no defensive systems and no threat warning systems. We were designed in the '50s and during our partnership with the

Strategic Air Command we were a standoff platform to refuel airplanes as they were going to the fight – B-52s, B-1s and now B-2s – as we did during Iraqi Freedom.

And so the locations we currently have over there are out of the fight. We need a long runway. We have no defensive systems, so that puts us in locations like Turkey and Guam refueling airplanes going into Afghanistan and Iraq. The Air Force does have tankers close to Iraq but not in Iraq. We might become part of those packages, big packages if we ever get mobilized.

NHNG Magazine: *Does the N.H. Air National Guard look for deployments?*

Col. Martell: Different parts, like the Civil Engineers, are always looking for training opportunities, but when you say deployments, I started to think about Katrina. We sat there and listened to General Blum when Katrina happened and we decided we wanted to be one of the biggest players. That was a good mission to be involved in – doing good for peoples lives. So we stepped up and we by far were the number one contributing tanker unit in the Katrina operation for sorties, what we moved and the number of people moved. We wanted to be part of that operation. In a wartime type of call, that is how we got to go to Moron, Spain, after 9/11. Yes, we do raise our hand and say, "We think we've got the leadership and the folks who can go do this mission."

NHNG Magazine: *Do you think individual deployments, people volunteering to deploy as part of another unit, are good for the N.H. Air National Guard?*

Col. Martell: I think it is a win-win. I think it's great. I do like them. It recognizes the fact that some folks at different points in their lives have different capabilities. You might be raising a young baby right now and this may not be a great time for you to go off into the war effort, but you really want to serve your country and when times are better you get to go off and do that. I have found folks who have gone and done that and when they come back they have a whole

broader vision about their role and the overall defense mission. They come back with new ideas and new experiences and they really feel like they have contributed. It makes us a better wing because they have gone off to do that.

Brig. Gen. Sears: I think it is a great opportunity for people to reach out and go on a deployment, to get into the theater. People just want to contribute somehow, and when folks go over and they come back we have had a number of folks want to go back again. They feel like they really contributed something. They come back and tell their stories and somebody else says, "Gee, I'd like to try that."

NHNG Magazine: *Is the N.H. Air Guard going to participate in any more Army-augmented missions, like when we sent Air Guard transportation people to Iraq to work with the Army?*

Col. Martell: We think of it more as an "in lieu of" mission, typically bought off at the Air staff level. Everybody knows that the Army and the Marines are doing the lion's share of the war overseas and the Air Force and the Navy are kind of on the sidelines. At the Air staff level, when the Army comes to the table and says, "Look, we're really hurting in these areas, our folks have deployed a lot," the Air Force at the Air staff level says we will pick up this transportation mission or security forces mission or whatever. Once that is bought by the Air Force then it trickles on down to us as, "Okay, Air National Guard, what can you do?" Then we will provide some folks to do that.

NHNG Magazine: *Do you see us participating in any more of those?*

Col. Martell: It all depends on how much longer this war goes on. I think there is a good chance. Already we have mobilized a number of our intelligence folks to go over there in the intel field, the security forces just got hit again to go over and provide security. So it just depends on where the need is. ❖

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Airman Column

Saluting a half century of service

Sal Zona closes Pease barber shop

Editor's note: In October, Sal Zona closed his barbershop at Pease Air National Guard Base in Newington after serving customers there for more than 50 years. The good news is that he's moving his clippers just a couple of blocks away to 14 Manchester Square on the Tradeport. But in a way it still feels like we are losing a member of our family. Sal isn't just a barber. He's a dear friend to several generations of veterans and current service members, who return time and time again for a good conversation as well as a haircut. One gentleman has been a regular customer of his since 1939. His shop at the Base Exchange was their shrine. The walls were adorned with signed photos, commendations and letters of appreciation spanning a half century from the time Pease Air Force Base opened to the time it was deactivated and became an Air Guard operation. To get your haircut there was like taking a ride down memory lane. If Sal wasn't asking you about your family, he was singing along to the local AM oldies station, harkening back to a time of crooners and big bands. Our Airman Column is an appropriate place to salute him. He is an original, and his daily presence on base will be missed.

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Stebbins, 157 ARW PA

"It was Jan. 7, 1956. That is the day I came here to Pease," recalled Sal Zona, from what would be one of his last days at the Base Exchange barber shop. "I remember that day like yesterday, it was snowing like hell and I had just come here from Fort Devens where I had been running the only bowling alley on the base and also had worked for my father running his barber concessionaire along with my brother.

"The Air Force had an opening for a barber concessionaire here at Pease and I figured it was time to start out on my own so I left my dad's concessionaire to my brother and I came here."

On that day, 51 years ago, Pease gained not just a barber, but a valued part of the Air Force community at Pease.

"He remains one of the sharpest minds about the history of Pease and the folks who have worked here," said Col. Richard Martell, commander of the 157th Refueling Wing and a regular customer.

For the last four years, Sal has also run a second barber shop, minutes away on the Tradeport. He's closing the base shop to devote more time to the new location.

"I have such mixed emotions about leaving the actual base, but it was something I had to do at this point in my life," Sal said. "I so loved the comradeship and the association with the military, growing older with everybody, going to the prayer breakfasts. Heck, I was here when General Cuddihee was here as the first brigadier general of the 157th and when General Simeone was just a young kid from Connecticut."

If you were a regular customer of Sal's, you'll recall the many photos, tributes and tokens of appreciation that hung from his shop walls. Combined, they told the story of Pease and the many service members who called it home. He has donated most of them to Pease.

"I just felt like they belonged here," he said. "They should stay with the base."



At 87 years old, Sal Zona is still in business. He stands outside the new location of his barber shop at Pease International Tradeport.

He pointed to one that was a signed picture from the early 1980s of John Philip Sousa III when he performed at Prescott Park in Portsmouth with the Air Force Band of New England. Another is of he and his wife, Marjorie, exiting Air Force One, when it was parked at Pease.

"It has been a beautiful ride," he said. "I am very fortunate to have so many friends from what I do. I still have a fella that comes here who I started cutting his hair in 1939 at Fort Devens and he is currently 93 years old."

Sal recalled cutting the hair of former President George H.W. Bush and Eddie Fisher in 1952.

"He asked me if I would leave his hair a little bit longer than normal as he was a popular singer in the day, now drafted into the Army, so I made a deal with him and agreed I would leave his hair a quarter inch longer if he would sing his number one hit song "Oh, My Pa-Pa" for me and the 150 patrons in my shop."

Sal thanked all of his customers, past and present, and extended an invitation to visit him at his new location at 14 Manchester Square, Pease International Tradeport. His new shop hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. until noon. ❖

Soldier Column

On becoming a soldier and a citizen

Spc. Liana Nguyen, a human resource specialist in Joint Force Headquarters, credits Guard for sense of belonging

Story and photos by Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO, N.H. National Guard

CONCORD – With the commander of the N.H. Army National Guard in attendance, Spc. Liana Nguyen became a U.S. citizen during a naturalization ceremony at the Warren Rudman U.S. Courthouse on Sept. 21.

Wearing her army combat uniform, Nguyen led a group of 86 immigrants representing 40 different countries in their first pledge of allegiance. Court officials chose Nguyen for the honor because of her service in the N.H. Guard.

“I was nervous, excited and happy,” said Nguyen, a native of Vietnam. Several days after the ceremony, she struggled to verbalize a profound mix of emotions – missing her homeland, gratitude for her father’s decision to seek a better way of life for his family, and appreciation for Brig. Gen. Stephen Burritt’s presence at the ceremony alongside her co-workers and mother, Huong.

Her father, Lau, a former soldier in the South Vietnamese army, died shortly after they relocated to the U.S. in 1996.

“He always made decisions based on what was best for our family,” Nguyen said. “That’s why he is my idol. If we stayed back in Vietnam, I probably would be doing some kind of farm work or something with my hands.”



Above: Spc. Liana Nguyen and her mother Huong proudly display Liana’s certificate of naturalization. She became a U.S. citizen during a ceremony on Sept. 21, 2007, in Concord.

Below: State and local community leaders congratulate Spc. Liana Nguyen for becoming a U.S. citizen during her naturalization ceremony.



Spc. Liana Nguyen (far left) recites a verbal oath along with 85 other people representing 40 different countries during a naturalization ceremony at the Warren Rudman U.S. District Courthouse in Concord on Sept. 21, 2007.



A full-time human resource specialist with Joint Force Headquarters, Nguyen joins 41 other N.H. Guardsmen who are naturalized citizens – 24 soldiers and 17 airmen – and a rich legacy of immigrants serving in the U.S. armed forces. More than 30,000 non-U.S. citizens currently serve, qualifying them for an expedited path to citizenship.

The N.H. Guard's legal office assisted Nguyen with her application.

"It makes me even prouder to be a part of the Guard," Nguyen said.

The naturalization ceremony was a momentous, if not slightly awkward proceeding, officiated by an affable judge who reminded everyone to clearly announce an oath of allegiance to the U.S. or risk disqualifying themselves. As part of the script, they had to renounce their former citizenship and political loyalties.

There was a sense of guarded relief when Nguyen and the others picked up their certificates of naturalization as if there was still some doubt about the permanency of their new status. Considering the wait period and lengthy application process, the lack of joyous outbursts was understandable.

In addition to her citizenship, Nguyen also changed her name, a common practice among new citizens who want to "Americanize" a part of their name that otherwise would be difficult to pronounce. It's a way to "fit in better," said one court official.

Thoai was Nguyen's given first name. "In Vietnamese, this can also mean telephone," she chuckled.

At first glance, Nguyen appears to be exactly how she describes herself – a girly girl whose slight frame barely fills out her fatigues. Her license plate reads MYLOV4U, a permanent salute to her family, completing the image of a 22-year-old who listens to hip hop and took modeling classes.

But her journey to America reveals a loyal, perseverant young woman shaped by a strict father who instilled in Nguyen a drive to succeed.

After the Vietnam War, Lau spent six years in a communist prison camp. He was one of thousands of South Vietnamese military and government officials imprisoned after the fall of Saigon in 1975. He was bitter after his release, Nguyen recalled. The new government lent him land to cultivate. He raised wheat and Nguyen's mother sewed, but Lau knew their circumstances would not improve. As much as he hated the idea of leaving his homeland, he eventually accepted his son's advice to apply under an international humanitarian initiative to move his family to the United States. They were among an estimated 100,000 former prisoners and family members the U.S. accepted under a 1990 agreement with the Hanoi Government.

The paperwork took a year and many bus trips to Saigon, a six-

hour ride each way from their home in southern Vietnam.

When it came time to leave for the United States, Lau's family did not know where they would live. They stopped in California for a night and then took a connecting flight to Manchester, N. H.

The culture shock was immediate.

"I didn't even know how to say hi," Nguyen said. "You feel like you're coming from outer space. We arrived at night. I remember sitting in a car and the street was huge and everything was clean."

Three months later, Nuygen's father died of lung cancer, leaving his wife, two daughters and a son to find their way in a completely new world.

Those first years were tumultuous at best for Nguyen. She stopped going to school in the ninth grade. The transition was hard and she missed her father. "I just gave up," she said. "I had always been number one in my class. I always had been the leader and suddenly, here, I wasn't the best."

Her friends thought otherwise and convinced her to keep trying. "They wouldn't leave me alone. They insisted I come back to school."

Nguyen graduated from Central High School in Manchester in 2004. She wanted to go to college, but had no way to pay for it. A call from an Army Reserves recruiter gave her one. She had no idea what she was signing up for. Being dropped for her first push-up in basic training was as much of a jolt as learning to say her first words in English.

"I was lucky enough to have a drill sergeant who cared for her soldiers," Nguyen said. "We called her 'Mama.'"

Half-way through basic, Nguyen developed a stress fracture in her pelvis. Rather than stay on medical hold, Nguyen insisted she was fine and begged her drill sergeant to let her come back into the company. "I had to pretend it didn't hurt," she said.

Nguyen's stint in the Reserves was short-lived. She was assigned as a petroleum supply specialist – military speak for gas pump attendant. Needless to say, handling diesel and carrying hoses that weighed almost as much as she did was not what Nguyen had in mind when she joined the Army. She transferred to the N.H. Guard a year ago.

"I like it (in the military personnel office)," she said. "We are family. Every time there's a birthday or holiday, we have a celebration. You are treated like an adult, not a kid."

Nguyen has returned to Vietnam to see her grandfather, aunts and uncles. She said she misses the peacefulness there and the sense of community where "everybody knows everybody."

But Nguyen isn't as sad. She is growing accustomed to the American way of things. She doesn't feel like so much of an outsider, and she is enrolled in night classes at the University of New Hampshire. Being a soldier doesn't hurt, either. ❖



Photo: Courtesy of Ramstein AB

Refuelers evacuate wounded troops from Bagram

Editor's note: Col. Robert Monahan, Maj. Dan Desautels, Maj. Jason Denton, Senior Master Sgt. John Craig, Master Sgt. Elaina D'Orto and Tech. Sgts. Randy Robertson and Dick Blais, and Staff Sgt. Mark Sweet, all airmen with the 133rd Air Refueling Squadron at Pease Air National Guard Base, deployed on a life-saving aero-medical evacuation mission in October to transport wounded service members from Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where they are stabilized and eventually transported home to the United States. This mission marked a welcome change from their daily charge of refueling aircraft. Craig kept a journal of the deployment, which follows. It was slightly edited for operations security.

Day 1: Trouble-shooting a navigational aid, passengers with first-hand knowledge of the mission

Our augmented aircrew arrived at the 157th Air Refueling Wing's operations building well prior to actual report time; we were all anxious to get this unique mission started, but at the same time individually focused on every detail. Our squadron had flown several aero-medical evacuation (AE) missions here in the continental United States and Pacific theater in the past, but our crew was about to embark on the first intra-theatre version specifically in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Loading our field gear such as flak vests, helmets and other required equipment days prior really paid off, as the crew had considerable luggage, food and professional gear to haul to the aircraft at bus time. D'Orto brought enough food to feed a small army, but it was comforting to know we wouldn't go hungry. (I think we needed to hire more Sherpas!)

After conducting mission-specific crew briefings, we headed out to our aircraft, a KC-135 Stratotanker. We were met by our crew chiefs, Tech. Sgt. Randy Robertson, Tech. Sgt. Dick Blais and Staff Sgt. Mark Sweet, who helped prep the aircraft and would accompany us on the entire journey. We sensed excitement on their part to get the mission started as well.

Unlike standard missions where we typically transport service members to and from areas using regular troop seats, this AE mission was set up much differently. As such, our tanker was configured with a three-pallet roller system, eight airline seats and 12 troop-seat positions to accommodate the AE medical crew and the wounded we would eventually transport.

After take-off and reaching cruise altitude, we realized a converter required to operate our portable flight planning system didn't function. Luckily we had Robertson aboard, a top-notch avionics specialist. He was able to trouble-shoot and resolve the converter problem in a jiffy.

We landed at Andrews Air Force Base to upload fuel and then

board passengers manifested to our destination overseas. In addition to a handful of space-available travelers, we had several active duty passengers headed back to Europe. The duty passengers included an AE team looking for a ride back to their duty station at Ramstein, as they had just arrived days prior on another AE mission aboard a C-17 transporting patients back to the U.S.

What a benefit it was to have this AE crew on board with us for our flight overseas, all but one member had previous Bagram-specific AE mission experience. We were able to obtain first-hand information on the mission profile to Afghanistan we were only a day or so away from executing.

Day 2: *Fixing a leak, driving on with mission*

After a nearly eight-hour flight, we landed at Ramstein Air Base.

During routine post-flight maintenance, our crew chiefs discovered a hydraulic leak at the bottom of the fuselage just aft of the main landing gear section. While the maintenance crew worked hard to locate the leak, the flight crew pressed on to receive mission information and an intelligence/tactics briefing tailored to our upcoming AE sortie to Bagram.

However, the hydraulic leak was on everyone's mind: "Were we no longer mission capable? Was all this planning for naught?" We were very concerned about the mission's future, but knew we had to proceed.

After our flight crew got a few hours rest, we headed back to the flight line to check on the status of our aircraft to find out that a hydraulic line had failed causing the extensive fluid leak. Blais worked through transit alert, a team who manages flight line maintenance actions and assists visiting crew chiefs with their maintenance problems. He also coordinated with a local sheet metal shop to have a new hydraulic line fabricated. The end result: Mission saved entirely thanks to our crew chiefs!

Day 3: *Landing in the dark, settling in wounded troops*

The crew was excited and extremely focused for our first Bagram run. After completing some mission preparation and paperwork, the booms shuttled off to the aircraft while the pilots continued mission planning.

We were met at the aircraft by our AE crew. The medical crew director, Lt. Col. Barbara Nist, from a Pittsburgh, Pa., Air Force Reserve C-130 unit, was in charge of her seven-person AE crew made up of fellow reservists from Pennsylvania, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

After our pilot team arrived, Nist advised us that the expected patient load was 2-3-1. Translated in AE terms: two litter (stretcher patients), three ambulatory (walking patients), and one attendant (someone who accompanies a patient). She immediately iterated, "That'll change."

It is a long flight to Bagram – approximately seven hours. Before landing, crews perform multiple checklists, which include donning flak vests and extinguishing all interior and exterior lighting in preparation for a steep descent and landing due to high terrain surrounding the airfield.

We made our approach in total darkness, only turning on the landing lights just prior to crossing the runway threshold. Monahan executed our first "operational" tactical approach and landed with no difficulty. After a few ground controlled taxi instructions, we deplaned our crew chiefs to assist clearing the taxi path from the runway to our parking spot due to the ramp being heavily congested with aircraft.

After engine shutdown, an AE representative boarded our jet and told us there were more wounded to transport back to Ramstein. We were now taking a patient load of 9-5-2; much more than the original

2-3-1 load we originally thought.

"Told you so," said Nist.

Blais and his crew quickly uploaded fuel followed immediately by an AE load team arriving with patient personal bags, food, water, medical equipment and supplies.

Shortly after, our patients and attendants were loaded onto a K-Loader, then raised to the cargo door entry and on-loaded to our aircraft.

The AE ground support personnel are very methodical with the patient loading sequence. Procedures seem to be as follows: Uninjured passengers are loaded first to the rear of the aircraft, and then ambulatory patients followed by their attendants. Litter patients are brought on last and kept closest to medical personnel. Four of our litter patients seemed to be in serious condition: two with gunshot wounds and two with breathing problems caused by fighting a fire on their Humvee.

Getting the litter patients properly settled takes considerable care and time. The AE nurses and medical technicians are very professional and thorough. We allow adequate time for the AE crew to stabilize their patients in preparation for engine start followed immediately by take-off.

During the loading operation, we were informed we needed to be airborne prior to an upcoming quiet hour. Why the quiet hour we ask?

"For a Fallen Soldier Movement Ceremony," explained an aircraft maintenance officer who came out to greet our crew. When a soldier's remains are transported to an awaiting aircraft for its journey back to the U.S., Bagram shuts down all flight line activity as the casket is transported along flight line road. To show respect, all available personnel stand "at ease" along flight line road, facing the ramp. Our aircrew and crew chiefs positioned themselves to the rear of our tanker facing flight line road, as did other transient aircrews. A small motorcade then approached with a humvee carrying a flag-draped casket on its bed. It was preceded and followed by escort vehicles. As the casket passed each aircraft, crews came to attention rendering a slow, ceremonial salute. Once the movement was complete, our crew quietly returned to preflight duties. This was a very somber and sobering moment for all – a supreme "reality check."

Day 4: *A deeply gratifying mission*

For departure, body armor vests were again put on and aircraft lighting extinguished. We got off quickly and invisibly. Once safely airborne at cruise altitude, exterior aircraft lighting, control cabin and cargo/passenger lighting were turned back on and the medical crew immediately began to care for their patients. It's terribly important to understand that these service men and women aboard our aircraft had sustained battle injuries as recently as hours just prior to our arrival at Bagram.

An hour prior to our landing at Ramstein, we radioed the AMCC with our arrival estimate and patient offload information. We were a full aircraft: two crews, litter and ambulatory patients, plus duty passengers. As is the case with all AE arrivals, a fleet of equipment and teams of support personnel were awaiting as we chocked into our parking spot.

So, after it was all said and done, approximately 22 hours after our initial show time a day prior, the crews returned to their billets for much needed rest; I'm certain we all quickly drifted off to sleep with a great sense of pride, having taken part in such an important, rewarding and humbling mission.

As scheduled, our Pease crew made a second trip safely in and out of Bagram later that same week. While the number of patients and their medical conditions airlifted during this second sortie were somewhat less demanding than the first, the professionalism displayed by all crewmembers remained top notch. ❖

Army Guard honors 3643rd, families, employers with Freedom Salute



Michelle May receives a lapel pin in recognition for her support of her husband, 1st Sgt. Victor May, 3643rd Security Forces, during his year-long deployment to Iraq. Photos: Spc. Rick Frost, 114th MPAD

By Sgt. Kathleen Briere, 114th MPAD

MANCHESTER – The N.H. Army National Guard recognized 150 soldiers of the 3643rd Maintenance Company and their supporters for their commitment to the United States during a Freedom Salute ceremony held at the Manchester armory on Nov. 3.

Created in December 2003, the Freedom Salute campaign is intended to acknowledge not only the soldiers that deployed in support of the nation's efforts, but also their families, friends and employers. The 3643rd served a year in Iraq as a security force, supporting a detainee operation at Camp Cropper. They returned to New Hampshire this past September.

Following tributes by Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, the adjutant general of the N.H. National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Stephen Burritt, the commander of the N.H. Army National Guard, the commander of the 3643rd earnestly addressed the audience of more than 300 to emphasize the strength, professionalism and dedication of his company.

"Your soldiers all admirably handled the tremendous amount of responsibility over the past year. It was not easy," said Capt. Tony Gagnon. "However, family members do not necessarily receive the praise and credit you deserve for your dedication."

Upon Gagnon's request, members of the 3643rd stood and applauded their family and friends. Shortly after, each soldier was honored by those on stage with the presentation of a variety of mementos.

"A special American Flag in a beautiful wooden display case," said Sgt. Maj. Douglas Rasp, master of ceremonies for the event. "The flag is presented to a true American hero in recognition for your service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom. Your service will never be forgotten."

"The coin," Rasp said as he held a case up to the crowd, "featured on the display case is also presented as a stand-alone commemorative coin, is given only to Guard members who have served in special capacities."

In addition, soldiers also received the "Defender of Freedom" certificate signed by Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, the director of the Army National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, the command sergeant major of the Army National Guard and Chief Warrant Officer Tommy O'Sullivan, the command chief warrant officer of the Army National Guard.

Family members were honored. The ceremony was especially memorable for them, as all the speakers recognized that their sacrifices were as great as those of the soldiers.

Six outstanding employers accompanied their soldiers to the stage where they were recognized with an Employer Coin Medallion and a lapel pin for going "the extra mile in support."

"They supported me the entire time with packages of baby wipes and updates through e-mail," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Miller, a maintenance supervisor for the 3643rd, when he spoke of recipient Patrick Clarke, the Cheshire chief of police.

West Ossipee Fire Chief Brad Eldridge sent three care packages totaling 883 pounds to the company and "every soldier got something, even if it was just a pack of gum," said Spc. Glen Tucker.

"When you're on a



Spc. Justin Henderson's daughter, Ashlyn, held an American flag while 3643rd soldiers, family members and employers were honored at the Freedom Salute ceremony in Manchester on Nov. 3.

catwalk 14 hours a day, anything that comes from home makes a difference. But they also took care of my family," said Tucker, speaking of a chimney that collapsed at his home while he was in Iraq. "Within one hour, they had 12 guys there taking care of it. They were there for me," he said. "They are my brothers." ♦



Spc. Abel Emanuelli, 3643rd Security Forces, is presented with a National Guard coin, encased flag and two lapel pins from 1st Sgt. Victor May during the Freedom Salute ceremony in Manchester on Nov. 3.

Army tournament promotes hand-to-hand combat skills

Mountain Co. soldiers hold own against best

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish, 114th MPAD

FORT BENNING, GA – Sgt. Andrew Fryburg and Staff Sgt. Carl Contrino, soldiers with C Company, 3rd of the 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain), represented the N.H. Army National Guard for the first time at the third annual All Army Combatives Tournament Oct. 12-15.

“Troop Command’s participation in the National Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) tournament was fantastic,” said Maj. Raymond Valas, training officer for 54th Troop Command.

Valas said that to be able to send N.H. Guardsmen to compete at the national level was a sign that the organization is moving in the right direction when it comes to soldier-essential skills.

“I was excited and scared to death being selected to go to the tournament,” Fryburg said. “Excited to learn from a lot of well-trained fighters and scared because with the little training I had I didn’t stand much of a chance.”

Fryburg, a Level 1 combatives instructor drew Special Operator 1st Class Dale Wooden, a sailor from the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg.

“You’ve got to be willing to take pain once in awhile and not be afraid of it,” said Wooden. “Combatives and the courage it takes to fight fits perfectly into the warrior ethos.”

Fryburg fought off Wooden for more than four minutes, the longest fight of the first round of bouts.

The fight went to the mat twice, but in the end the sailor gained position on top of Fryburg and submitted him with a collar choke.

“I think I got nervous because I looked at who I was about to roll with and recognized the guy wearing the Navy SEAL sweatshirt all morning,” Fryburg said. “He was a really nice guy, but quickly showed me that I still have a lot to learn.”

The preliminary round was fought by standard rules. Competitors began on their feet, allowing straight leg and foot locks, and were scored in a system based on the way takedowns are scored in collegiate wrestling and positional dominance in ground grappling from Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

Contrino, fighting at 225 pounds in the heavyweight category, attempted a guillotine choke from a standing position in his first fight.

“My (civilian) coaches failed to tell me that you can’t guillotine choke a rhinoceros, so he bulled right through my choke with his size and used his ability to crush me to the ground,” Contrino said.

Once on the ground, his opponent, from a reserve unit, wrenched Contrino’s shoulder into a kimora arm-bar and Contrino tapped out.

In attendance was Command Sgt. Major Gregory Crotto, state command sergeant major of the N.H. Army Guard. He was impressed by the physically demanding task and the necessity of it.

“I had no idea until I heard the testimony of the post commander that Fort Benning alone had over 600 documented cases of hand-to-hand combat,” Crotto said. “If there’s a chance one of our soldiers could find themselves in that situation then I am all about supporting our involvement in a combatives program.”

It’s not just for infantry. A group of N.H. Guardsmen including Pvt. 1st Class Mandy Neveu of 54th Troop Command, Officer Candidate Cynthia Thompson and Sgt. Kathleen Briere of 114th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment attend the combatives training held



Staff Sgt. Carl Contrino, C 3/172 INF (MTN), fights to obtain a dominant clinch position against a soldier from Ft. Benning during his second fight at the 3rd Annual All Army Combatives Tournament held at Ft. Benning in October.

once every two weeks at the Concord Armory.

“It makes me feel safe as a civilian and as a soldier, because today you never know when you are going to need these techniques,” Neveu said.

Despite the Guard’s presence at the national level and twice a month training sessions, Staff Sgt. Patrick Manzanares, a drill sergeant with the 1st of the 304th Infantry, 95th Division at Fort Devens, doesn’t think it’s enough.

The Level 3 instructor is helping the N.H. Army Guard establish a combatives program.

“Level 1 combatives are incorporated into the drill sergeant program, infantry basic noncommissioned officer course, officer’s basic course and the captain’s career course,” he said. “It’s where the Army has gone; and the New England National Guard’s and Reserve components are way behind.”

The MACP began in 1995 with the 2nd Ranger Battalion and was adopted by the 11th Infantry Regiment in 1999. After receiving positive feedback from soldiers, the program was incorporated into Army Field Manual 3-25.150, requiring that every soldier experience the physical and emotional demands of hand-to-hand fighting prior to engaging in conflict.

Manzanares said his counterparts in other states are further along with level 3 and 4 instructors running level 1 and 2 courses. Some states have combative teams and even host their own competitions.

“This is not a combat arms skill,” Valas said. “This is a soldier skill. Whether you are in personnel, infantry, the band, the MPs, we all need these skills to operate in current environments. Whether walking the streets of Baghdad, New Orleans or Keene, we are operating in situations that require less-than-lethal skills and the combatives program is the Army’s way of equipping ours soldiers to safely handle these situations.” ♦

Two N.H. companies among best at supporting citizen soldiers and airmen

N.H. State Police receive National Employer-Support Freedom Award

By John J. Kruzel American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The New Hampshire State Police received the Defense Department’s top employer-support award during a ceremony at the Ronald Reagan Building on Sept. 12 for the exceptional financial and emotional support it provides law enforcement officers who deploy as National Guard or reserve members.

New Hampshire State Police Capt. Stephen Barrett, a N.H. Army Guardsman who embedded with and trained elements of the Afghan national army from August 2004 to July 2005, nominated his employer because of the unwavering support the organization demonstrated during his deployment. The New Hampshire State Police is one of 15 companies or organizations, and one of two from New Hampshire to receive the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award.

While deployed, Barrett said the police force continued to cover his and his family’s medical and dental insurance, and financed various other benefits in his absence. Because Barrett’s military salary was lower than his police salary, New Hampshire State Police made up the difference, reimbursing all income lost.

As he supported Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, one of Barrett’s colleagues on the police force made sure Barrett’s wife and two young children were managing well. “In my case, there’s a neighbor who’s a (state) trooper, so he was checking on the house and was available if needed,” said Barrett, noting that such support alleviated some of the stress that stemmed from being away from home.

To keep him abreast of New Hampshire news Barrett said he exchanged e-mails frequently with his boss and fellow police officers.

And when he received care packages, birthday and Christmas gifts from coworkers back home Barrett said it reminded him that he wasn’t forgotten by his buddies on the force.

“In a way, it brought home there,” he said. “The (sense of) belongingness was still there.”

Barrett said knowing that he had a job with New Hampshire State Police when he returned from deployment gave him one less thing to worry about. When he and other Reservists and National Guard members came home after their tour, they were greeted with a hero’s welcome.

In keeping with New Hampshire State Police tradition, a half dozen troopers provided a special reception for the returning veterans, driving them in a police escort from the Massachusetts state line back home to New Hampshire.

“The state police has been here for us and for the other deploying members every step along the way,” Barrett said.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recognizes U.S. employers that rise above the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Defense Department agency, manages the award process. ESGR assists Guard and Reserve members and their employers in understanding employee eligibility and job entitlements, employer obligations, benefits and remedies under the act. ♦

Support of deployed workers earns Turbocam top honor

By Carol L. Bowers, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Turbocam International’s support of its deployed employees with technology to use in the field and a special supply fund has earned the company a place of honor alongside 14 other organizations recognized on Sept. 12 with Secretary of Defense Employer Freedom Awards.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, three Turbocam employees have been called to serve overseas: Brian Barber, a N.H. Air National Guard crew chief on KC-135 Stratotankers; Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Tom McGee, who served in 172nd Field Artillery in Iraq; and Army National Guard Cpl. Chris Wentworth, who served in 744th Transportation Company in Iraq. Army National Guard Sgt. James Martel of 3643rd Maintenance Company, the spouse of a Turbocam employee, also was deployed.

Because Turbocam’s chairman and founder, Marian Noronha, actively recruits National Guard and members reservists as workers and honors the importance of family, he moved quickly to fully support the deployed men.

“When our soldiers are facing new forces, tactics or technology, it is the whole American community that needs to be rallied to find solutions, not just the Pentagon,” Noronha told Fosters.com, an online newspaper serving New Hampshire.

Noronha arranged for Turbocam to provide one deployed employee

with software and hardware to set up an Internet cafe for his unit. He also arranged for the company to provide life-saving battlefield surveillance technology to another. In addition, Noronha had the company create a \$10,000 fund so the deployed men could draw on it to buy needed supplies that were not routinely available through normal channels.

At the New Hampshire-based plant where the company manufactures and engineers machinery for aerospace, automotive and industrial markets, wall displays, company publications and newsletters paid tribute to Turbocam’s military employees.

“Our biggest contribution probably was not the camera technology,” Noronha said in the newspaper interview. “It was the Internet cafe that enabled soldiers to stay in touch with their families. They need to know that they are supported back home.”

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recognizes U.S. employers that rise above the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Defense Department agency, manages the award process. ESGR assists Guard and Reserve members and their employers to understand employee eligibility and job entitlements, employer obligations, benefits and remedies under the act. ♦

34th RAOC commander joins school ceremony from Iraq

By Penny Williams, © 2007 by *The Eagle-Tribune*, reprinted with permission.

HAMPSTEAD – National Guard Col. Dan Saucer helped middle school students observe Veterans Day. He did so from northern Iraq.

The N.H. National Guard set up a direct satellite link for a video teleconference, allowing Saucer to hear and see the ceremony, and allowing students to speak with him.

Saucer and his National Guard unit, the 34th Rear Area Operations Command, are responsible for providing infrastructure for troops and security at two bases in northern Iraq.

“Thank you for sharing with me and for supporting us and being there for us,” Saucer told the students. “This is why we do this, so that you can enjoy the life you have.”

Students marked the day in style with patriotic songs from the select chorus, seventh- and eighth-grade chorus, and the seventh- and eighth-grade band; remarks by Principal Patricia Grassbaugh, Assistant



Settled in Mosul, the N.H. Army National Guard's 34th Rear Area Operations Command entered its third month of deployment in November.

Principal Owen Harrington and eighth-grade class President Michael Greenlaw; and a keynote speech from Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark of the N.H. National Guard.

Clark thanked the school community, particularly the Military Support Club. Members of the club read poems written specifically for the ceremony. ❖

237th MPs train Iraqi Police

About 50 soldiers with the N.H. Army Guard's 237th Military Police Company are in the thick of their year deployment in Iraq, working directly with Iraqi police. Stationed at a forward operating base in eastern Baghdad, the platoon has been working at several police stations, training local policemen on patrols, administrative tasks and running an arms room, said 1st Lt. Daniel McCarroll, the platoon leader.

“The ultimate goal is to build an Iraqi police force that can stand solely on its own and combat local insurgents, and also conduct community policing operations,” McCarroll said. “The mission is very challenging and demanding, but our military police bring a lot of experience to the table and also motivation to meet the needs of the mission and make it a success.”

McCarroll noted that a lot of his soldiers have been utilizing their skills as civilian police and corrections officers to help accomplish the mission. The soldiers were mobilized in June of last year and have been serving in Iraq since early fall as part of a military police company from the North Carolina Army Guard. ❖

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UNITED CONCORDIA

Traditional guardsman accepts command of 157th Operations Group, marking historic shift

By Tech. Sgt. Jim Dolph, N.H. Air National Guard Historian

With the backdrop of a KC-135R aircraft and an eight-foot American flag, N.H. Air National Guard history was made during the November 2007 drill.

On Sunday, Nov. 3, command of 157th

Air Refueling Wing Operations Group was transferred to Lt. Col. (Colonel select) Paul “Hutch” Hutchinson, a traditional Guardsman.

Hutchinson was promoted to a position

that has historically been filled by a full-time individual. The outgoing commander, Col. Robbie Monahan, who is scheduled to retire later this year, has held the position since May 2001. When asked what the significance of a having a traditional guardsman as operations group commander meant, Hutchinson said, “This is the changing face of the National Guard – traditionals doing more.”

During the ceremony Hutchinson said, “The pace of the National Guard is unprecedented. Since 9/11, we have evolved from a garrison-type Cold War organization to a full fledged Expeditionary Force. I do not know what the future will look like; when or where we will be called to serve, but I do know this: At no time in history has the Air National Guard been more relevant in our federal mission; and, at no time in history have we been more critical in the homeland defense role. We owe it to the people before us to make this the best organization we can. I believe it is a privilege to wear this uniform and serve. I believe together we can make this a better organization. I challenge each of you to do your best to make this the finest organization you can. We owe it to the people who have served before us, and we owe it to each other.”

Hutchinson was born in Maywood, Calif., and grew up in Medford, Mass. He was commissioned in the Air Force in May 1981. In 1986, he earned his wings and was recognized as the outstanding officer in his pilot training course. After commanding the first sortie of combat operations during Operation Desert Storm, he left active duty in 1992. In 1999, after a short period with the 173rd Air Refueling Squadron, Hutchinson joined the 157th. Since then, he has served in a variety of positions, most recently as the 133rd Squadron commander. Hutchinson lives on a 10-acre apple orchard in Topsfield, Mass., with his wife and six children.

In another ceremony, Lt. Col. Peter Sullivan, former chief of safety, assumed position of the 133rd Squadron commander from Hutchinson. During the Change of Command Ceremony, Sullivan said, “The talent level in operations is extraordinary. You continue to do amazing things and I know you will continue to do so in the future. I’m excited about our journey together.”

Sullivan served on active duty for 15 years and joined the 157th in June of 2000. He lives in Hampton with his wife and three children. ❖



Col. Robbie Monahan, outgoing commander of the 157th Operations Group, presents the unit guidon to incoming commander, Lt. Col. Paul “Hutch” Hutchinson during a change of commander ceremony Nov. 3, at Pease Air National Guard Base. Photo: Master Sgt. Timothy Psaledakis, 157 ARW PA

Army Promotions & Awards

Colonel
Jeffrey G Vorce

Captain
Eric Dustin Barricklow

Chief Warrant Officer 4
Diane Susan Fredette

Chief Warrant Officer 3
Peter Francis Williams

Chief Warrant Officer 2
John Bernard Hoey Jr
Glen Scott Hurlburt

Master Sergeant
Thomas Roger Pratte

Sergeant 1st Class
Ian Cameron Clark
Francis Mark Chmielecki
James Daniel Austin
Robert Bryant Radcliffe
Paul Michael Kiley
David Charles Schroth Sr

Staff Sergeant
Kyle Nelson Shackett
Luke James Koladish
Robert Harold McLaughlin
Mark James Mcguire
Larry Howard Wilson
Alexander Jon Thurston
Peter Bernadin Belanger

Sergeant
Cara Marie Richards

Ian Joseph Short
Adria Leigh Hadlock
Joseph Tannis Phinney
Kathleen Rene Briere
Christopher Robert Smith

Specialist
Linda Gayle Small
James Byron Newton
Daniel Edward Kenly
Kurt Randall Eldredge
Jason Thomas Burpee
Matthew Emory Willard
Daniel Christopher Howard
William Stuart Cleveland
Kevin Dana Kelleher Jr
Derek Joseph Reiss
Christopher Ronald Lemay
Jessica Ann Dodier
Myles Edwards Jadis
James Edmunds Lawn
Robert Dane
Hilgart Sampson
Farrah Rachel Fitton
Raul Pablo Zubicaray

Private 1st Class
Kiefer Donovan Digregorio
Jason Carl Stebbins
Brandon James Labelle
Daniel Gregory Nichols
Richard Neil Morse
Joshua David Hebert
Eric James Dancause
Daniel Jacob Arroyo
David Edward Musso
Seth David Haapanen
Patrick Michael Boyle

Justin Michael Nance
Kimberly Anne Reis
Cori Steven Fournier
Erin Howard
Mark Joseph O'Brien
Nathan Patrick Eastman
Chad Michael Martin

Private 2
Michael Shawn Flood
Chad Michael Conte
Felicia Marie Duclos
Kyle Shawn Currier
Meghan Louise Vatcher
Kristin Marie Martin
Scott Russell Burns
Eliezer Taconi
Fabian Richard Trudeau III
Justin Adam Sargent
James Stephen Berry
David Charles Helie
Gregory William Cullen
Nicholas Martin
Adam Cole Rich
Lindsey Tyler Thornton
Brian Allen Lenhart
Douglas Steven Pilcher
Darel Hadley Dean
Richard Vincent Santello
Stephen Kenneth Aubin
Len Allen Larrabee Jr
Nathan Joseph Curran
Valentin Paul Sechelar



The N.H. National Guard's Military Forces Honor Guard performs at a military funeral at the State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on May 5. From left, Sgt. 1st Class Cliff Singelais, Private 1st Class Robert Sampson, Sgt. Christopher McWilliams, Spec. Ruby Huffstater and Sgt. Lance Emond. Photo: Courtesy of retired Sgt. Maj. Richard Fredette

Air Promotions & Awards



The N.H. Air National Guard Ceremonial Team volunteers at the New Hampshire Special Olympics held at the University of New Hampshire last summer. From left, Staff Sgt. Robert L. Rojek, Col. Michael Horne, Col. Leroy "Dutch" Dunkelberger and Chief Master Sgt. Michael J. Bascom.

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

Lieutenant Colonel
Gary Walker
Todd Swass
Adam Shattuck
Don Starkweather
John Pogorek

Senior Master Sergeant
Lonnie Sansoucie

Master Sergeant
Craig Poirier
Joseph Madison

Technical Sergeant
Ian Harper
Louis Spilios
Jeremy Mercier
Anita Manupelli
Patrick Whelan
Harry Welch

Staff Sergeant
Justin Webb
Jeffery Seale
Rebekah Blanchard
Eric Galliher
Brian Roberge
Kevin Weller
Brian Whittemore

Airman 1st Class
Ashley Pruitt

A symbol of our past, present and future

The history behind our Joint Force Headquarters shoulder patch

By Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas E. Graham, State Historian, N.H. Army National Guard

Transformation is not new to the N.H. National Guard. Every century has beckoned her across some new threshold. And while stuffy old historians revel in the finer details of such, a more poignant reminder of New Hampshire's impressive history along with its military changes can be seen on the Joint Force Headquarters unit shoulder patch.

The shoulder patch, worn by every U.S. soldier, is a distinctive unit insignia that bears something of the history or accomplishments of a unit, and as such, helps contribute to unit pride and esprit de corps.

The Joint Force Headquarters shoulder patch of five bound arrows and nine stars against a blue field hold more significance than a glance might reveal.

The patch's shape hearkens back to antiquity, when the weapons of war were primarily a sword and a shield. From the ancient Greeks and Romans to the Vikings, to a family's coat of arms in the Middle Ages, the shield has always represented warfare, which is why many military units, including the Joint Force Headquarters of New Hampshire, have based their unit's shoulder patch on a shield.

The shield's blue background points back to a previous N.H. National Guard transition. The Army's service colors were chosen to represent its various branches. Red, for example, is the color for the artillery. Both cavalry and armor carry yellow, while blue represents the infantry. The Joint Force Headquarters blue shield represents New Hampshire's long history of service in the infantry from the Battle of Bunker Hill to the 17 infantry regiments raised for the Civil War, when in the early 20th century, the state's National Guard transitioned from infantry to artillery.

On this shield of blue, are seen five arrows wrapped together. These are borrowed from the original state seal and represent the five original New Hampshire counties. Without official significance, the arrows do bring to mind the conflicts with the original inhabitants of the land when New Hampshire was a fledgling colony and loyal subjects of the English sovereign.

The seal's motto, "Strength United is Stronger," explains the arrow cluster showing the five counties to be "bound together" for the common cause of the Revolutionary War.

The significance of this is clear when we remember that then, as now, Granite-Staters don't relish being told what to do. An early mistrust of any form of authoritarian governance predominated, from the congregational churches, which were based on congregation rule through majority vote, rather than by submission to a minister or

elder, to politics, even spanning the centuries to stand as resolute today as when it began.

The result of this mistrust is seen when the New Hampshire House of Representatives opens its doors. Seating 400, it holds representatives from New Hampshire's largest cities to its smallest townships making it the largest per-capita House of Representatives in the country.

Thus, for a people who championed "local control" so strongly to come together in a common commitment to the Revolutionary War stands significantly in our state's early history.

Tracing history forward from the war for independence, the next great event was to create a new government. When the Articles of Confederation were found to be ineffective, delegates met again and through the summer of 1787, they forged a new stronger Constitution with a greater role for the federal government. This Constitution was viewed with suspicion because of its stronger central government, yet it would go into effect when nine of the 13 colonies ratified it. Beginning with Delaware, it was quickly ratified by four additional states with three more signing on by the spring of 1788. It required only one more state to go into effect.

In New York, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay published a series of letters explaining and supporting this new Constitution. The book, *The Federalist Papers*, is a published collection of their letters, which have been called, "the clearest and ablest explanation of the Constitution that has ever been written."

While both Virginia and New York hotly debated its ratification, the New Hampshire legislature also met to discuss this second attempt at creating a federal government. Meeting in June of 1788, their discussions lasted only three days when, on the 21st of that month, they voted to approve it.

New Hampshire had claimed the distinction of being the ninth and deciding state, putting into effect the Constitution of the United States as we know it today. The circle of stars on the Joint Force Headquarters unit shoulder patch, therefore, represents the first eight states to ratify the Constitution, with the

larger star centered at the bottom, representing New Hampshire, which played such a principal role in the early history of the United States.

Worn from April 1959, the Joint Force Headquarters unit shoulder patch thus reminds us of New Hampshire's proud past as well as some of the transitions that have helped make its National Guard what it is today as it again crosses a new threshold of change. ❖



Shape

The patch's shape hearkens back to antiquity, when the weapons of war were primarily a sword and a shield.

Color

The Joint Force Headquarters blue shield represents New Hampshire's long history of service in the infantry.

Arrows

The arrows are borrowed from the original state seal and represent the five original New Hampshire counties. The seal's motto, "Strength United is Stronger," explains the arrow cluster showing the five counties to be "bound together" for the common cause of the Revolutionary War.

Stars

The circle of stars represents the first eight states to ratify the Constitution, with the larger star centered at the bottom, representing New Hampshire, which played such a principal role in the early history of the United States.



YOUR RIGHTS UNDER USERRA

THE UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT

USERRA protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- ✧ you ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- ✧ you have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- ✧ you return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- ✧ you have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION

If you:

- ✧ are a past or present member of the uniformed service;
- ✧ have applied for membership in the uniformed service; or
- ✧ are obligated to serve in the uniformed service;

then an employer may not deny you any of the following because of this status:

- ✧ initial employment;
- ✧ reemployment;
- ✧ retention in employment;
- ✧ promotion; or
- ✧ any benefit of employment.

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION

- ✧ If you leave your job to perform military service, you have the right to elect to continue your existing employer-based health plan coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in the military.
- ✧ Even if you don't elect to continue coverage during your military service, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are reemployed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g., pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

ENFORCEMENT

- ✧ The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations.
- ✧ For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact VETS at **1-866-4-USA-001** or visit its **website at <http://www.dol.gov/vets>**. An interactive online USERRA Advisor can be viewed at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm>.
- ✧ If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, depending on the employer, for representation.
- ✧ You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

The rights listed here may vary depending on the circumstances. This notice was prepared by VETS, and may be viewed on the internet at this address: <http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/poster.pdf>. Federal law requires employers to notify employees of their rights under USERRA, and employers may meet this requirement by displaying this notice where they customarily place notices for employees.



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