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Winter 2010

National Guard

MAGAZINE



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State Public Affairs Officer, N.H. National Guard

First Sergeant Michael Daigle

Deputy State Public Affairs Officer,
N.H. National Guard

Captain Sherri Pierce

Public Affairs Officer, 157th Air Refueling Wing,
N.H. Air National Guard

STAFF

N.H. Army National Guard Public Affairs

Airmen of the 157th Air Refueling Wing Public
Affairs Office, N.H. Air National Guard



Bob Ulin
Publisher

Marie Lundstrom
Editor

Gloria Schein
Graphic Artist

Chris Kersbergen
Darrell George
Advertising Sales

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Cover: Concord Firefighters Drew Patterson and Dan Fisher, Central Fire Station, Ladder 1, remove Sgt. Mark Saucier, C Company 3/238th MEDEVAC, New Hampshire Army National Guard, from a Black Hawk helicopter in a simulated exercise at the New Hampshire Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility in Concord on Nov. 10. The New Hampshire Army National Guard and Concord Fire Department held this annual training to simulate a pre-accident and chemical spill.

Photo: Spc. Courtney Selig

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

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A GENERAL VISITS

The 197th Fires Brigade prepares for deployment to Kuwait

By Sgt. 1st Class Neal Mitchell, 197th FIB-PA

When was the last time you saw a general climb into a gunner's turret and squeeze off a burst from a .50-caliber machine gun?

For a group of soldiers with Task Force 3/197th Field Artillery, N.H. Army Guard, probably never.

"Is that really the general?" asked one soldier as Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett, the newly promoted commander of the N.H. Army Guard, approached their firing line during a base defense exercise Oct. 18 at Fort McCoy, Wis.

TF 3/197th FA is one of five battalions training at McCoy as part of the 197th

Fires Brigade for a stability and security mission in Kuwait. About 2,400 soldiers – 740 from New Hampshire and 1,700 from Rhode Island, Michigan, and West Virginia – are a month into their 60-day mobilization.

A JAG by trade, Brig. Gen. Bennett's one-day visit with brigade soldiers was more hands-on and less formal than the typical general officer stopover.

"It's different and a bit intimidating, but it's good to be able to talk to higher leadership," said Pvt. Angelique Sidman, a 19-year-old philosophy major at the University of New Hampshire.

Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett visits with N.H. Army Guard soldiers at Fort McCoy, Wis., Oct. 18. The 197th Fires Brigade is preparing for a deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Neal Mitchell



Brig. Gen. Craig E. Bennett was promoted on Aug. 6, 2010. As commander of the N.H. Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Bennett serves as the principal assistant to the adjutant general in all matters pertaining to the Army National Guard and is commander of all troops and units assigned. He is responsible for all training, personnel, and equipment related to readiness. He is also responsible for resource planning, programming, budgeting and execution in support of operational requirements and readiness goals. He serves the adjutant general as a principal advisor for joint policies, procedures and planning. In addition, Brig. Gen. Bennett is currently a vice president and associate general counsel at Recycled Energy Development, LLC, and one of eight executive committee members responsible for managing the strategic direction of the company.





Sgt. Sean Morrison from Epping, N.H., a truck commander for the TF 3/197th FA, coaches Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett, the commander of the N.H. Army Guard, during a .50 caliber live fire at Fort McCoy, Wis., Oct. 18. Bennett was visiting N.H. troops preparing for a deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Neal Mitchell

Escorted by a four-truck security team from B Battery, 1/119th FA, Michigan Army Guard, he visited several groups of Granite State soldiers training throughout the fort to include Task Force Arifjan and Logistics Supply Area 3643rd. At each stop, Brig. Gen. Bennett sought out small groups of enlisted men and women. He stressed the importance of mastering seemingly minor tasks.

“A small task can change in an instant to become the most important thing you have ever done in your life,” he said.

During these discussions, Brig. Gen. Bennett solicited honest feedback, encouraging soldiers to e-mail him with suggestions. Outside a classroom for GPS training, he told one group that “putting on the uniform might be the best decision you have ever made in your life.”

In response, Pvt. Olivia Brecheen, a UNH student from Auburn, remarked, “I really enjoy being a soldier. I just never really expected that.”

Sgt. 1st Class Caleb Smith, a readiness NCO from C Battery, 3/197th FA, asked Brig. Gen. Bennett how recent reductions in the National Guard force structure would affect the N.H. Army Guard, which had to trim 180 soldiers from its ranks.

“We have to find ways to grow ourselves organically to expand our present formations,” said Brig. Gen. Bennett, as he emphasized that New Hampshire is a small state and gaining new units or commands would be a challenge.

After Brig. Gen. Bennett settled into the turret of a Humvee at the firing range, he mentioned that it had been 23 years since he had fired a .50-caliber. With some on-the-spot coaching by Sgt. Sean Morrison of Epping, the general began firing at and hitting targets.

Concussion and cordite filled the air, brass and links cascaded down the outside of the Humvee and Brig. Gen. Bennett was smiling. ❖

Soldiers capture insurgent responsible for IEDs

By Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes, 86th IBCT PAO

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Soldiers from C Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, captured an insurgent on Oct. 7 near Yazeen Village in the Zormat District of Paktya Province.

According to Staff Sgt. Robert Brown of Henniker, N.H., and C Company, the suspect, who is known to have emplaced several improvised explosive devices in the vicinity of Combat Outpost Zormat, was captured during a village search.

“Getting this guy off the street will certainly make Zormat District a safer place, not just for us, but also for the civilians who travel the same roads we do. IEDs are not just a danger for coalition forces, they also hurt innocent civilians,” said Capt. Dan Newman, C Company commander of Merrimack, N.H.

During the operation, the Route Clearance Element they were working with also found and disposed of two IEDs, and found two single-action rifles, an AK-47 and about 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

Afghan National Army and C Company soldiers began their search operation at around 4 a.m. to gain the element of surprise. After apprehending the suspect, the ANA unit took custody of him in order to facilitate his prosecution under Afghan law. ❖



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Soldier displays courage under fire

By Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes, 86th IBCT PAO

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – “It kind of felt like Chuck Norris kicked me in the side,” is how Pfc. Phillip Mexcur describes what it feels like to get shot. But that is the extent of the theatrics Mexcur will offer in his narration of the day he was hit by two rounds of sniper fire – a story he tells in such a subtle tone his voice barely reaches above a whisper, as if he were telling a bed-time story rather than a near-death experience.

For most soldiers this would be the end of the story, but not for the 22-year-old fire support specialist from Concord, N.H., with 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 3/172nd Infantry (Mountain).

During a routine patrol near the village of Yazeen on Sept. 25, which happened to be the two-year anniversary of his graduation from basic training, he was hit with two rounds of sniper fire, which were stopped by the side plate of his body armor.

Immediately after realizing he wasn't injured, he performed a verbal casualty assessment of his platoon sergeant, gave the distance and direction of the sniper fire and directed Close Air Support – all within two minutes of being shot.

“I wasn't hurt, so there was no point in not doing my job. Even if I was bleeding out, I'd still want to do my job,” said Mexcur.

After the second shot, he dropped to the ground and his squad leader, Staff Sgt. Christopher Smith of North Haverville, N.H., checked him out.

After Smith determined he was OK, Mexcur's first concern was his platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Kiernan of Merrimack, N.H., who was hit by the sniper fire in the foot.

Then Mexcur's training as a fire support specialist kicked in, and he got on the radio.

“He instantly got on the radio and started calling in CAS [Close Air Support]. That's when the F-16 came out of nowhere,” said Sgt. Dustin Rogers, Mexcur's team leader from Peterborough, N.H. “That's the type of guy he is – he's way more mature than his rank. He is really into his job.”



Pfc. Phil Mexcur, a fire support specialist with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion of the 172nd Infantry (Mountain) Regiment from Concord, N.H., holds his vector binoculars that were hit by sniper rounds before being stopped by his side plate. Immediately after realizing he wasn't injured, he performed a casualty assessment of his platoon sergeant, gave the distance and direction of the sniper fire and directed close-air support, all within two minutes of being shot. Photo: Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes

Mexcur wanted to call in a medical evacuation helicopter for Kiernan, but Kiernan wouldn't allow it.

“He did not want to give the enemy the satisfaction of knowing they wounded one of us,” said Mexcur.

So instead, Rogers went to a local villager and bought a \$10 wheelbarrow and used that to get Kiernan back to their trucks.

Despite his pain, Kiernan was still able to give direction to his soldiers.

However, Mexcur saw that he needed help, so the private first class with just two years in the Army stepped in to aid his platoon sergeant by helping him communicate his orders to the other soldiers.

“Thirty percent [of the orders] were coming out of his mouth. For the rest, I just knew what needed to get done,” said Mexcur. For him, it was not a big deal.

“I have a different way of looking at things. I respect the rank, but I didn't do anything that a person my age, with my experience, shouldn't have. I guess it is just the way our parents raised us,” said Mexcur, mentioning his brother who is also in Charlie Company and, coincidentally, was also saved by his body armor which stopped shrapnel from hitting him.

Some of the other soldiers say that the Mexcurs are blessed with the luck of the Irish. Phil even wears a Celtic cross that he found in his Kevlar band.

“I kept it in my pocket until that day; that's when I put it in my Kevlar band ... and then I got shot,” says Mexcur as matter-of-factly as if he were telling you his favorite color.

Despite any luck that may have been involved, it is this even-keeled nature and uncanny maturity that gave him the ability to rise to the occasion and perform well above his rank. These qualities, combined with his intense commitment to his job and his fellow soldiers, are what make Mexcur's future in the Army a bright one, said Rogers.

“He really is a professional, one of the guys that gets stuff done. He's one of the few guys that you can really rely on,” said Rogers. ♦

“It kind of felt like Chuck Norris kicked me in the side,” is how Pfc. Phillip Mexcur describes what it feels like to get shot.



Sgt. 1st Class Sage Ladieu, Recruiting and Retention, calls in a nine line during the Soldier of the Year competition at the NHNG Training Site, Sept. 29.
 Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle



Soldiers fire at the range at Fort Devens during the Soldier of the Year competition, Sept. 24. Photo: Cmd. Sgt. Maj. John Nanof



Sgt. Jeffrey Jordan, 12th Civil Support Team, completes the two-mile run during his APFT for record on Sept. 25 at the NHNG Training Site during the Soldier of the Year competition. Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Smeltzer, right, RTI, keeps time and Sgt. Brittany Philibert, left, Det. 2, 237th Military Police Company approaches end of run. Photo: 1st. Sgt. Mike Daigle



Sgt. Jeffrey Jordan, 12th Civil Support Team, sets a claymore mine during the Soldier of the Year competition at the NHNG Training Site in Strafford, Sept. 26.
 Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle



Pfc. Brittany Battye, Det. 1, 237th Military Police Company, fires the M-4 at Fort Devens on Sept. 24 during the New Hampshire National Guard's Soldier of the Year competition. Photo: Cmd. Sgt. Maj. John Nanof

Soldier of the Year winners announced

By 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle, Joint Force Headquarters

Soldiers of the New Hampshire National Guard recently competed for the title of Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. The three-day competition was held at the New Hampshire National Guard's Regional Training Site in Strafford, with the weapons qualification portion being held at Fort Devens, Mass.

"It was a great competition that included M-4 weapons qualification, stress shoot, day/night land navigation, Army Physical Fitness Test, Warrior Task testing, 100-question written exam and personal appearance boards," said Command Sgt. Maj. John Nanof, state command sergeant major. "All competitors did a great job and were well prepared. Each was accompanied by a sponsor that supported them throughout the weekend."

Best Warrior Soldier

Spc. Sean Connolly, C Company, 3/172nd Infantry (Mountain)

Runner Up

Pfc. Brittany Battye, 238th Military Police Company

Best Warrior NCO

Sgt. Adam Bowden, C Company, 3/172nd Infantry (Mountain)

Runner Up

Sgt. Jeffrey Jordan, Civil Support Team

Troop Command Best Warrior Soldier

Spc. Sean Connolly, C Company, 3/172nd Inf. (Mountain)

Troop Command Best Warrior NCO

Sgt. Adam Bowden, C Company, 3/172nd Inf. (Mountain)

Combined Command (JFHQ, CST, R&R) Best Warrior NCO

Sgt. Jeffrey Jordan, CST

And the winners were ...

The winners will next compete in the Regional Best Warrior Competition to be held at Camp Smith, N. Y., scheduled for May 2011.

"It was a lot of hard work preparing for the Soldier of the Year competition," said Bowden. "The mentoring that my NCOs have given me over the years had positive results."

Bowden described how important his cross country team at college was in helping him to prepare for the competition.

"They held timed events for me. They constantly had me doing pushups and sit ups," he said. "They really helped me get into shape."

Working with other soldiers from different kinds of units was a big benefit of the competition for Bowden, an infantry soldier.

"It was a good chance to see the mindsets of other kinds of soldiers," Bowden commented.

Several competitors said that participating in the Soldier of the Year event made them better soldiers.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. John Nanof congratulates the New Hampshire National Guard's Soldier of the Year, Spc. Sean Connolly, Company C, 3/172. Photo: 1st. Sgt. Mike Daigle

"My knowledge base has expanded exponentially," said Sgt. Brittany Philibert, Det. 2, 237th Military Police Company. "Studying for the board gave me a reason to learn things that I otherwise may not have learned, making me a more valuable asset to my unit and a more competent team leader."

Philibert also said the event was a humbling experience. "I was sick throughout the competition and was upset that I wasn't able to give 110 percent," she said. "In reality though, it is rare when you can do something to the absolute best of your ability without something weighing you down."

Philibert explained that while competing, some people are always going to be sick, or distracted, or dehydrated or have all these excuses as to why they didn't win.

"But the person next to you though is competing through the same circumstances with similar situations," Philibert said. "All you can do is perform with everything you have at the time, and if you still don't win, it's because the person that did was simply more skilled at the tasking. No excuses."

"Why do we do this? To help us grow and motivate our young soldiers into [becoming] leaders," said Nanof. ♦



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. John Nanof congratulates the New Hampshire National Guard's NCO of the Year, Sgt. Adam Bowden, Company C, 3/172nd. Photo: 1st. Sgt. Mike Daigle



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GREETING OF A LIFETIME

By Capt. Robert Burnham
114th Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Neault received the greeting of a lifetime when he was welcomed home by his wife, Kim, sister Melissa, and 4-month-old son, Jacob, at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport on Wednesday night, Nov. 10, 2010.

With Jeremiah's final return flight delayed, Kim pleaded with her newborn son, Jacob, "You have to stay awake!"

Unaware, Jacob, with bright blue eyes and dressed in a patriotic onesie, was about to meet his father for the very first time.

"He [Jeremiah] has been dreaming of holding his son for weeks," Kim said while waiting in the airport terminal. "It is so tangible now."

Kim and Jeremiah, both of Sanford, Maine, realized only a few months before his impending six-month deployment with his New Hampshire Air National Guard Security Forces Squadron that they were expecting their first child.

While Jeremiah planned with his unit for their upcoming security mission in the Middle East, Kim teamed up with sister-in-law Melissa to manage responsibilities on the home front. Their plan included Melissa's involvement as live-in pregnancy partner for Kim.

"Taking care of a house and a new baby, that's a lot ... even when you have the whole family at home," Melissa said, between taking photos of mother and son as they awaited Jeremiah's arrival.

She said she was happy to contribute after her brother's departure in May 2010.

The 157th Security Forces Squadron was responsible for maintaining base defense and performing security operations for Eskan Village, a multinational training and support facility strategically located in Saudi Arabia.

In addition to her family, Kim said she received important support from members of her church and the 157th Security Forces Squadron's Family Readiness Group.

Jacob Neault was born July 2, 2010, with father, Jeremiah, in the delivery room via Skype from halfway across the world.

Now, more than four months later, Kim beamed while anxiously carrying the healthy baby boy next to her body, with a small American flag held across his back in her opposite hand.



Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Neault, with the 157th Security Forces Squadron, shares his son, Jacob, with his wife, Kim, immediately after stepping off the plane at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport on Nov. 10, 2010. Neault completed a six-month deployment in Saudi Arabia. This was the very first in-person meeting for father and son. Photo: Capt. Robert Burnham

Melissa shouted with excitement, "Neault!" as her brother finally appeared from the gateway at terminal 9.

Jeremiah weaved through a crowd of well wishers and headed directly for his wife and her precious welcoming gift.

He quickly swept the small child into his arms and enjoyed a close moment with his wife and son.

When asked about the realization of holding his son for the first time, he merely said, "It's overwhelming." ❖

Wing practices response to public health emergency

By Tech. Sgt. Angela Stebbins, 157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 157th Air Refueling Wing is no stranger to responding to emergencies, but a little practice never hurts.

Airmen from the 157th ARW Medical Group used annual flu shots as a chance to test their ability to respond to a large scale public health emergency during a Point of Dispensing exercise on Nov. 6 at Pease Air National Guard Base.

The goal of the exercise was to focus on the state's emergency operations plans especially for the mass dispensing capabilities of medications or vaccinations across the state, and specifically targets how to vaccinate first responders in the event of anthrax inhalation.



Senior Airman Leslie Wood, of the 157th Medical Group, administers a flu shot in conjunction with the "POD" exercise. "POD" is Point of Dispensing for the State of New Hampshire in the case of a need to dispense medical treatment.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Curt Lenz



Maj. Gen. William Reddel III addresses 400 veterans, family members and friends at the annual Quilts of Valor presentation held at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, N.H., Nov. 14. Reddel emphasized the importance of the state of New Hampshire to reach out and assist veterans of all wars, especially in times of need.

“The National Guard can be activated during a state or homeland emergency, so we need to make sure we are prepared for such a significant disaster,” said Lt. Col. Paul Loiselle, commander of the 157th Medical Group. “It is important we are ready to support the state when needed ... and we need to all be immunized or take whatever prophylactic is necessary before we can assist others as a resource for the state.”

The 157th ARW, state and federal agencies and eight of New Hampshire’s 15 public health regions collaborated on the exercise, including N.H.’s Department of Health and Human Services.

“These public health regions were established in part from the requirements passed down from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after the anthrax events in Capitol Hill, Florida and New Jersey, recognizing that local level health departments needed to strengthen their capabilities to quickly mass-vaccinate area populations in response to large scale biological events,” said Capt. Derek Brindisi, the 157 ARW’s Public Health Officer-in-Charge.

“In the event of a major outbreak, the federal CDC offices have equipment, medication and supplies stored in strategic

locations ready to ship out within hours of notice called [to] the Strategic National Stockpile,” said Brindisi. “The SNS contains hundreds of crates with a broad spectrum of medications, supplies and equipment that can be easily deployed during some type of catastrophic event.”

Evaluators observed the exercise and held a debriefing and formal after-action conference to discuss how the exercise went.

“We have several evaluators here that are going through the process with us, giving us the ability to work out the kinks now, to identify our strengths and see where we can make improvements,” said Fallon Reed, the Strategic National Stockpile coordinator, N.H. Dept. of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. “All of our evaluators are certified to be homeland security exercise evaluators, know what areas to look for, what the standards are, and how to ensure we are following the process.”

N.H.’s emergency preparedness website is called ReadyNH and can be found online at <http://www.nh.gov/readynh/>. During active emergencies, it will become the state’s primary location for information on the event. ❖



Photo: Capt. Robert Burnham

Editor's Note: As the New Hampshire National Magazine was going to press, members of Charlie Company were beginning to return to New Hampshire. We will follow up with coverage of the rest of the unit on the NHNG website and NHNG Facebook page.



Amanda, 10, waits for her cousin Spc. Nicolas High to return from Afghanistan at the Manchester Regional Airport on Nov. 22. Photo: Capt. Sherri Pierce

Charlie Company: A dozen make it home for Thanksgiving

By Mark Hayward, New Hampshire Union Leader

Charlie Company, a unit of about 150 New Hampshire-based soldiers who spent the last year in Afghanistan, could be called lucky, considering that none of the infantry soldiers was killed in action.

The luckiest of the lucky flew into Manchester Monday, Nov. 22 – a dozen Charlie Company soldiers who have finished their deployment and arrived home before Thanksgiving. But while they will be gnawing on drumsticks and hugging loved ones in two days, most of their fellow soldiers will be somewhere between New Hampshire and Afghanistan.

“It’s very sad for the guys who aren’t back for their families, but they’ll be home soon enough,” said Spc. Anthony Vladyka of Lovell, Maine, his wife and son by his side.

Vladyka and fellow soldiers flew into Manchester-Boston Regional Airport into the arms of loved ones, New Hampshire National Guard brass, support families and a color guard provided by the Patriot Guard Riders.

They flew to New Hampshire after being processed out of Camp Atterbury in Indiana.

The New Hampshire Army National Guard’s Charlie Company of the 3rd Battalion, 172nd Brigade, was profiled this fall by the New Hampshire Union Leader, which sent a writer and photographer to southeastern Afghanistan. Most recently, the soldiers were assigned to Combat Outpost Zormat.

The infantry unit spent time in counterinsurgency operations, protecting Afghans, patrolling the area and, of course, fighting



Spc. Anthony Vladyka hugs his wife, Nicole, at the Manchester Regional Airport on Nov. 23 upon returning from Afghanistan. Photo: Capt. Sherri Pierce

the Taliban, said Sgt. Andrew Cormier, a New Hampshire native who now lives in New York State.

“It’s kind of nice to be here,” said Cormier, his teary-eyed fiancée at his side. He said he missed fast food a lot, and he’s happy to have the opportunity now to speak English without an interpreter.

Like every soldier in Afghanistan, he fantasized about capturing Osama bin Laden, who is believed to be holed up on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, he said. But he detested the barren, mountainous landscape.

“It’s very challenging coming from here and going to a Nevada-type of landscape,” Cormier said.

Several of those returning looked forward to simple pleasures – a hot shower, uninterrupted sleep, a hot meal, a child sitting on their lap.

1st Sgt. Glen Drewniak of Newbury said it was the luck of the draw that the higher-ups sent him home early. During the deployment, a lot of the soldiers found it difficult to be away from their families. They missed birthdays of their young children and other milestones in a young family’s life, he said.

He weighed those against the camaraderie and strong bonds that developed among the soldiers. Charlie Company was deployed before President Obama announced a surge of 30,000 troops in Afghanistan. The president plans to begin drawing down troops next summer.

“It’s gonna take some time,” Drewniak said about the mission in Afghanistan. “There’s still a lot of work to be done. It’s not impossible. It’s going to take time and patience on the military and public’s part.” ❖

[Article reprinted courtesy of the New Hampshire Union Leader]



Spc. Nicholas French reunites with his nephew Jayden at the Manchester Regional Airport on Nov. 23, after returning from a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan. Photo: Capt. Sherri Pierce

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Source: Javelin Strategy & Research, "2010 Identity Fraud Survey Report," February 2010.

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Remembering the Great War

By Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas E. Graham II, NHNG Historian

The green haze rolled toward the front lines. It was doubtless a smoke screen. The troops tensely waited for the German infantry to burst through the smoke and press the attack. All was quiet as they waited, but through the dissipating smoke, their burning eyes saw nothing. Over to the right came a cough ... then another and another until the whole line, gasping and doubled over coughing, stumbled out of the trench and tried to outrun this slow relentless death cloud. Not many made it.

World War I was a terrible war. Chlorine, a poisonous green gas, could choke a person to death in minutes by producing hydrochloric acid when it came into contact with the moisture in the lungs. And mustard gas caused huge chemical burns on exposed skin. Technology allowed the production of new weapons which decimated troops relying on outdated tactics. World War I also saw huge advances in airplanes – first used for reconnaissance, then for strafing and bombing and finally for direct aerial combat in what came to be called a “dog fight.”

Trenches, though offering some protection from the devastation of the new killing machines, turned into pits of death themselves. Their bottoms, constantly wet and muddy, led to trench foot which led to gangrene which led to amputation. Lice inflicted a painful disease called trench fever which took months to recover from. Finally, the trenches became an ecosystem to millions of rats sustaining themselves by eating the eyes and livers out of the corpses, and turning a simple nightmare into a living horror.

It was a war that still relied heavily on horses for cavalry and artillery but saw the transition of ambulances from horse drawn wagons to the spindly Model T. And with new types of weapons came new types of wounds. The “standard” gunshot wounds were compounded by shrapnel and machine guns. Other new types of wounds came from the variety of chemical agents affecting lungs or swaths of skin. Many soldiers suffered psychological

scars – the result of something called “shell shock.” And anyone who lived through the war rarely spoke of their experiences.

As the Great War finally spilled over into the United States, New Hampshire’s 1st Infantry was drafted, and more than 1,500 of its men were transferred into 26th “Yankee” Division where the New Hampshire men experienced firsthand the fighting and horrors of that war. They distinguished themselves by earning 22 Distinguished Service Crosses and one Medal of Honor.

On July 18, 1918, an American platoon fought for, and finally secured, a critical observation point near Belleau Wood in France. A reconnaissance mission was needed to see just how far the Germans had been pushed back. The platoon leader and a young private first class named George Dilboy went forward. A German machine gun nest – one of many in that area – suddenly opened fire on the two men and their platoon. Dilboy began returning fire, but the machine gun continued its rampage. Dilboy then fixed his bayonet and advanced to within 25 yards when his right leg was almost shot off. Falling to the ground, he continued firing, killing two of the enemy and scattering the rest, thus securing the safety of his platoon, but losing his own life. Posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Dilboy is buried at Arlington National Cemetery with the additional distinction of being named one of the 10 greatest heroes of the First World War by Gen. John J. Pershing.



The New Hampshire Service Ribbon was awarded to New Hampshire veterans of World War I.

Photo: New Hampshire National Guard



Ford Model T ambulance. Photo: Courtesy of Kostyantyn Gordiyenko

*A statue of PFC George Dilboy
was erected in 1942
at the Hines VA Hospital in Hines, Ill.*

Another young New Hampshire hero was a Dartmouth Medical School graduate. Dr. Robert O. Blood enlisted in the U.S. Medical Corps in 1917 as a lieutenant and shipped to France with the 26th Yankee Division. Blood's Distinguished Service Cross citation tells the rest of his story:

"For extraordinary heroism in action near Bouresches, France, July 20-23, 1918. He remained with his battalion during the entire advance, working untiringly under heavy enemy fire at all times, superintending the evacuation of the wounded and caring for them in the most dangerous and exposed positions. On July 22, he established his dressing station in an advanced position that was constantly under shell fire, and many times left his station to go into the front lines to treat the wounded."

The carnage of this "War to end all Wars," as it was first called, finally came to an end when an armistice or cease-fire was agreed upon and was set to go into effect at 11 o'clock on Nov. 11, 1918 – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Though the Treaty of Versailles wasn't signed until 1919, the armistice is generally seen as the end of the war.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 the first commemoration of Armistice Day, to honor the sacrifice of

the many who served and the many who died. Two years later, following the custom of our allies, the body of an unknown American soldier killed in the recent war was sent from France to receive honors and a reburial at Arlington Cemetery. The ceremony was conducted on Armistice Day 1921, and the guarding of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier continues to this day, with service members from other wars added since.

Armistice Day continued to honor the veterans of the First World War until after World War II, when America wanted to honor its 15 million new veterans. An act of Congress then changed the name to "Veterans Day" in 1954 – a day in which to honor all veterans of all wars. The date of Nov. 11, however, remains as a reminder of the end of that Great War almost 100 years ago, and many countries continue to hold a few moments of silence every year beginning at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. ❖

Thomas E. Graham II, author of this article, is currently deployed with New Hampshire's 197th Fires Brigade.



Dr. Robert O. Blood.
Photo: New Hampshire National Guard

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Salvadoran Cavalry Regiment Signal Officer, Lt. Francisco Ernesto Aviles Rios walks alongside an 1165 High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle during drivers' training with the New Hampshire Army National Guard at Salvadoran Cavalry Regiment headquarters, La Libertad, El Salvador, Nov. 17. Photo: Capt. Robert Burnham

Military comrades maintain partnership to help defend the homeland for Salvadorans

By Capt. Robert Burnham, 114th NHNG-PAO

LA LIBERTAD, El Salvador – Three of the New Hampshire Army National Guard's most experienced maintenance technicians were mobilized on Nov. 15 to conduct a weeklong basic High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle operator and maintainer course with the Salvadoran Army's elite cavalry regiment.

With more than 50 years of vehicle maintenance experience among them, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Tkacz, of Manchester, N.H., Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Bickford, of Manchester, N.H., and Sgt. Christopher Mason, of Henniker, N.H., brought their knowledge and experience to the Salvadoran unit who recently upgraded to the latest up-armored Humvees used in modern warfare and peacekeeping operations around the world.



New Hampshire Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Tkacz, Manchester, N.H., instructs Salvadoran Army soldiers on the use of combat locks with the 1165 High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle, with the assistance of interpreter Alfredo Josue' Bautista Jovel at the Salvadoran Cavalry Regiment motor pool, La Libertad, El Salvador, Nov. 15, 2010. Photo: Capt. Robert Burnham

That knowledge exchange is part of an ongoing partnership between the New Hampshire National Guard and the Salvadoran Ministry of Defense, a partnership in existence for more than 10 years, according to Lt. Col. Ray Valas, New Hampshire National Guard state partnership program coordinator.

"The Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, Maj. Gen. William Reddel, was recently invited to a meeting in El Salvador by the Salvadoran Minister of Defense, Gen. David Muguia. In the meeting, the minister personally requested the support of the Guard to train members of the Salvadoran military that were recently fielded the nation's first issue of up-armored Humvees," Valas said.

The Salvadoran Cavalry Regiment received the small arms and high caliber machine-gun-resistant vehicles nearly a year ago, according to cavalry squadron commander, Capt. Alexander Rivas.

In addition to the improved force protection, the Humvees also provide increased fire power capabilities due to the shielded 360-degree gunner turret mounted on top. These modern vehicles are a far cry from the open-air Jeep Storm utility vehicles the Humvees replaced for the Salvadoran security forces.

Training has included generalized vehicle overviews, preventive care and maintenance supervision, riot control response drills, off-road driver training and vehicle recovery instruction.

During training, Tkacz stressed the importance of vehicle maintenance to his Salvadoran partners.

"If things are similar in your country, if you're an auto mechanic, your car is the last one to get fixed. If you're a plumber, your house is the last one to get fixed," said Tkacz. "But in the military, your lives and the lives of those in your vehicles depend on your vehicles operating to the best of their capabilities."

For Rivas and many of his men, this training has not been their first time working side-by-side with Americans.

In 2005, Rivas and 300 fellow Salvadoran soldiers served six months in Iraq, partnering with U.S. and coalition forces to secure Hilla Province, just south of Baghdad.

Their deployment coincided with a time Tkacz, Bickford, and Mason were deployed to Iraq with their New Hampshire National Guard units in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“It’s pretty cool,” said Mason, referring to the concurrence of the soldiers’ service together in Iraq. “I’m sure we drove right through the Salvadorans’ battle space from time to time.”

Back in El Salvador, the mission continued for Rivas and his Salvadoran soldiers, who routinely work in conjunction with local law enforcement departments to combat an epidemic of domestic terrorism and violent crime brought upon the fundamentally peaceful Central American population by rival gangs.

Despite the friendly nature of the nearly six million citizens of the tropical country, gang violence such as high-profile kidnappings, execution-style murders and mass casualty producing attacks have become signature threats to the Salvadoran people. Violent crime has plagued the county since the 1992 conclusion of a 12-year civil war.

“Today, El Salvador reports the highest per capita homicide rates in the Western Hemisphere,” noted Valas.

With more modernized protective equipment, Rivas is confident his troops will be more successful as they work to protect the Salvadoran people.

“The Humvees demonstrate to the gangs that our Army is getting stronger, and they fear our new technology,” Rivas said. “The gangsters call our new vehicles ‘little tanks,’ but the vehicles have greatly improved the effectiveness of our presence patrols.”



New Hampshire Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jeffrey, Manchester, N.H., inspects the undercarriage of a 1165 High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle with Salvadoran Army Sgt. Dodanim Jose Chumul Flores at the Salvadoran Cavalry Regiment motor pool, La Libertad, El Salvador, Nov. 16. Photo: Capt. Robert Burnham

Bickford has enjoyed the new-found camaraderie with his Salvadoran partners, who have not only taken a liking to the new vehicles but have been eager to learn and demonstrate their maintenance skills.

“Maintenance isn’t a field that gets a lot of attention, but we’re just focused on keeping everything running the way it should,” Bickford said. “It’s been great to come down here and see the same level of interest with these guys.” ♦



New Hampshire Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Tkacz, Manchester, N.H., disassembles the air filter of an 1165 High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle with Salvadoran Army soldiers watching at the Salvadoran Cavalry Regiment motor pool, La Libertad, El Salvador, Nov. 15. Photo: Capt. Robert Burnham

NHNG educates teachers on supporting military students and families during holidays

By Capt. Sherri Pierce, JFHQ Public Affairs

With the holidays around the corner and more than 700 military members recently deployed, the N.H. National Guard and the Department of Education knew there would be absences in the homes of the 600 school-age children left behind.

In order to help educators understand and support these children and their families, the two organizations held a seminar called Supporting Military Students and Families: Preparing for the Holidays.

“We knew the impact this deployment would have on kids and teaching and learning,” said Kathleen Murphy, N.H. Department of Education’s director of the Division of Instruction. “We wanted to prepare teachers to be able to respond to youngsters in this situation.”

“The holidays are often a time for family gatherings, and when one person is missing from home it can make their

“The holidays are often a time for family gatherings, and when one person is missing from home, it can make their absence even more profound.”

– Elizabeth Harding, Education Outreach Committee

absence even more profound,” said Elizabeth Harding, state youth coordinator for the NHNG and member of the Education Outreach Committee. “Educating schools about how they can support military children during this season will help students get much needed support from those who see them every day.”

As a mother of a deployed soldier, Dawn Loughery-Symonds, teacher at Wheelock School in Keene, N.H., knows firsthand what it’s like to celebrate the holidays with a family member missing. She attended the event to help others cope with the absence.

“About five or six years ago, I had a first grader whose father was deployed,” explained Loughery-Symonds. “I could hug him, but I didn’t know what to say. I didn’t have the words.”

During the workshop, educators were given ideas on how to acknowledge and assist military families such as videotaping a holiday performance to send to a deployed parent who would normally attend or creating an “honor board” where photos of military members are displayed. They learned about what stressors to look out for and ways to acknowledge that the holidays will be different for a deployed service member’s family.

“I will use this knowledge to make all my students aware,” said Dave DeLisle, teacher of U.S. history and global issues at Merrimack High School. “That way peers will understand why their friends are acting differently and give their support, too.”

The NHNG Education Outreach Committee and the Department of Education also conduct Military 101, a seminar designed to provide awareness to educators of the unique challenges military children face. ♦



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Promoting fitness through healthy competition

By Capt. Sherri Pierce, JFHQ Public Affairs

The air was crisp and the sun shone brightly on the morning of Oct. 17, when runners, volunteers and supporters gathered at Pease Air National Guard Base for the 2nd Annual Pease Relay Race.

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Davis, 157th Air Refueling Wing Fitness Monitor and race committee chairperson, came up with the idea for a Wing relay in the summer of 2009 while on his way to a road race.

“I thought about the enthusiasm that these races generate,” he said. “And knowing that the Air Force was going in the direction of a fitness test based on running, I thought it would be great if we could have some type of event that would encourage running but also some squadron competition.”

Davis meant the July 1 changes to the Air Force fitness test that require more members to complete the 1.5 mile run, which is 60 percent of the test. In years past, the aerobic portion made up only 50 percent of the test with the option of doing a two-minute step test.

Each team included seven or eight runners from various squadrons on base. Some teams were also supplemented by family members or friends who wanted to join in the competition. The approximately 28-mile course was broken down into eight legs ranging from 2 to 4.4 miles to accommodate “all levels of runners,” according to Davis.

“The idea for the course was based around starting and finishing on the base, touching the wildlife refuge, taking advantage of the foliage in beautiful Newington and running across the General Sullivan Bridge,” Davis said.

During the inaugural race in 2009, only nine teams and approximately 70 people participated. Between runners, volunteers and supporters nearly 250 people attended this year’s event.

“I’m pleased to see the level of participation ... and I’m more excited seeing a large group of members and families come out on their own time and enjoy such an event,” said Davis.

This year’s winner was the 133rd Air Refueling Squadron team finishing in 2 hours and 59 minutes.



Staff Sgt. Justin Webb of the 157th Maintenance Group runs his leg of the 2nd Annual Pease Relay Race on Oct. 17. Photo: Chief Master Sgt. Vince Sherman

“If you are a runner and missed it, you missed a great event,” said Davis. “If you aren’t a runner, start working at it and get ready for next year’s race.” ❖



Staff Sgt. Larry Bower, left, and Senior Master Sgt. Mike Mercier, both of the 157th Maintenance Group, turn a corner of the 4.2 leg two of the 2nd Annual Pease Relay Race. Photo: Chief Master Sgt. Vince Sherman

Eyes in the sky

By Spc. Courtney Selig, 114th Public Affairs Detachment

In 2007, Operational Support Airlift Command Detachment 18 was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Now, once again, members of the New Hampshire Army National Guard's Detachment 18 had to bid farewell to friends and family during a departure ceremony Oct. 9 at the New Hampshire Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility in Concord.

Detachment 18 is headed out on a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan to fly surveillance and intelligence gathering missions from bases in Bagram and Kandahar. This current mobilization involves flying a King Air 300 fixed-wing airplane, an upgraded version of the C-12 Huron, a twin-engine turboprop passenger and cargo aircraft.

"You are the eyes in the sky for our warriors on the ground," said Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, adjutant general of the New Hampshire National Guard.

OSA Detachment 18 is a state flight detachment comprising eight soldiers. Stateside, the unit flies a C-12, King Air 200 fixed-wing airplane, flying 600 flight hours a year. Their mission is to transport high priority military personnel and cargo.

Five soldiers, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joseph Ducey of Hudson, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Boyle of Londonderry, Chief Warrant Officer 4 George Munson III of Bedford, Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Ormond of Dover and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Galen Collins of Loudon, have previously deployed. This will be the first deployment for soldiers Spc. Ryan Broza of Hudson and Spc. Joshua McLean of Andover.

"You are part of a unique group of Americans," said Reddel. "You are military professionals who at all hours will keep watch over the battle field." ♦



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joseph Ducey, Hudson, N.H., kisses his son's forehead as he prepares to deploy Oct. 9 with Operation Support Airlift, Detachment 18, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Spc. Courtney Selig



Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Ducey, commander of Operational Support Airlift, Detachment 18, addresses friends and family at the departure ceremony held at the New Hampshire Aviation Support Facility on Oct. 9. Det. 18 will deploy to Afghanistan for one year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to conduct fixed-wing aerial intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. Photo: Spc. Courtney Selig



Ajax, right, played by T. Ryder Smith, rages at his wife, Tecmessa, played by Megan Brotherton, during a Theater of War production of "Ajax" at Grace Capital Church in Concord. Photo: Lori Duff

Soldiers view 'Theater of War' play 'Ajax'

By Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

On stage, Ajax, the strongest of all Greek warriors, stricken with grief and anger, kills himself after nine long years on the battlefields of the Trojan War. In the audience, 17,000 hardened Greek soldiers watch as he falls on his sword and dies a bloody death.

Fast forward 2,500 years as Sophocles' ancient tragedy arrives in the contemporary world.

The play remains the same. But in the audience sit modern day New Hampshire National Guard soldiers, nine long years into the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Though centuries apart, the issues dramatized in the 2,500-year-old play, Ajax, and anyone facing today's warriors – the emotional toll of war and what it means to be human in the face of great tragedy – remain unchanged.

"[The production] brings up a wild mixture of confusing emotions," said Rev. Bill Donoghue, a former Navy corpsman and marine in Vietnam, who served on an opening panel for the show.

Presented by the highly acclaimed Theater of War Productions, the dramatic readings lay bare the psychological and

physical wounds of war in an effort to generate discussion about the emotional trauma of war and the transition between the battlefield and everyday life.

With suicide rates in the military at a record high, the New Hampshire National Guard required soldiers to attend the presentation as part of their suicide prevention training.

"It has been suggested that ancient Greek drama was a form of storytelling, communal therapy and ritual reintegration for combat veterans. Sophocles himself was a general officer," said Artistic Director Bryan Doerries.

Set up like a town hall style meeting, Doerries has presented the show to 116 military communities across the United States since 2008.

Like a tour guide to the ancient text, Doerries asks some hard questions: In an era when violence was not depicted on stage, why does Sophocles choose to show the graphic nature of Ajax's suicide? Does committing suicide erase all of Ajax's past heroic actions? Is the burden of suicide the same as if you lost a soldier in combat?

Capt. Brent Boorsma, initially deployed to Iraq as an active duty infantry soldier, recently became an Army chaplain.

He relates to Ajax both as a soldier who has come home with expectations of glory only to be disillusioned, and as a chaplain who counsels veterans.

"As the chaplain, they ask me, 'What was the meaning of what I did on the battlefield?'" said Boorsma. "As chaplain, I'm begging them to see what is beautiful in their lives."

Sgt. 1st Class Chris Sorum also deployed in 2004. For him the reading called up memories of a fellow soldier killing himself in a Porta Potty at the end of an article 15 in Iraq. But the timelessness of the text struck home as well. He noted the line by Ajax that "Crying is for women and children," and how even today soldiers are not allowed to show any weakness.

Doerries says some of his audiences have likened the production to an After Action Review with an emotional connection – or as an "ancient suicide awareness campaign."

No matter how you see it, he says, the important thing to know is that soldiers are not alone.

"You are not alone in this room ... and you are not alone across time." ♦



Cadet Ben Moreau, Litchfield, points his weapon while in the prone position as the enemy target approaches during field training for the Reserve Officer Training Corps, Oct. 22, at Fort Devens, Mass. Photo: Spc. Karin Leach

Cadets train hardcore: Paintball, 9-lines, ambushes

By Spc. Karin Leach, 114 Public Affairs Detachment

As the tactical wedge maneuvered through the woodland, the breath of the bleary-eyed cadets formed small clouds of warmth erupting into the cold air.

Cadets from the University of New Hampshire Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps spent a weekend at Fort Devens, Mass., for two days of field training. The cadets' training consisted of conducting ambushes, reacting to contact, and ethical treatment of prisoners. The program is designed to transform men and women into leaders for the U.S. Army.

Forty-three cadets are in the simultaneous military program, allowing them to drill with the National Guard or Reserve units they enlisted with and work toward the goal of becoming an officer during college.

Lt. Col. Paul Webber, professor of military science and ROTC battalion commander, believes the tough training builds character, and that anyone who has previously gone through similar training has an advantage.

"SMP cadets have a tremendous advantage," said Webber. "They can take the training they received and take it back and forth between the Guard and the ROTC program."



Cadet David Taylor, 237th Military Police Company, leads his squad in a tactical wedge toward the enemy camp during field training for the Reserve Officer Training Corps, Oct. 22, at Fort Devens, Mass. Photo: Spc. Karin Leach

The cadets were sent down lanes with differing exercises to test their knowledge and reaction skills. They carried either simulated M-16 rifles or paintball guns throughout the day and down specific lanes.

As the trees grew thicker, SMP Cadet David Taylor, 237th Military Police Company, directed his squad to set up a perimeter as he discussed the next step with his platoon leader.

*“My hope for cadets
is either they love it and stay in,
or if they hate it, get out.
If they don’t have a passion for it
[ROTC], they won’t be a great leader.”*

– Lt. Col. Paul Webber

“Being in the Guard has definitely given me a one up,” said Taylor. “I got up to E5 rank. The time I had leading privates gave me even further knowledge of how to lead. Understanding the other side and being able to put yourself in their shoes is important to being a good leader.”

Cadets go through initial training during their first two years labeled the “Basic Course.” In the first year, they are introduced to leadership skills and soldier skills. During the second year, they focus on building effective teams and tactics.

The next two years are labeled as the “Advanced Course.” The training stresses decision-making, leadership skills and military ethics. Between cadets’ junior and senior years of college, the Leader Development Assessment Course is completed to evaluate their knowledge.

Cadets are allowed to skip the first two years of training if they have previously completed basic training as an enlisted soldier.

Cadet Sean Connelly, C Company, 3/172nd Inf. (Mountain), an SMP cadet, said he finds the military exciting. He also said there are important things to remember and emphasize as an officer.

“Always remember the soldier’s needs and wants,” said Connelly. “The lowest privates are important. Getting everyone trained up so things run as a well-oiled machine is an important part of leading.”

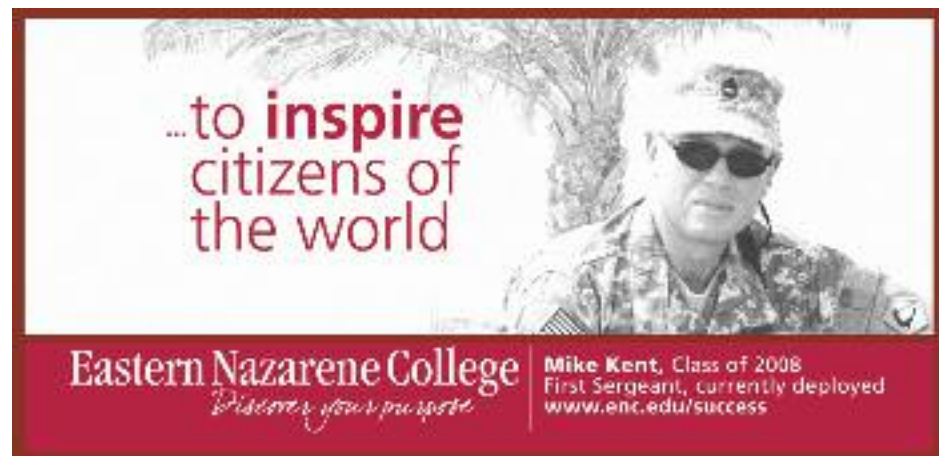
Webber said he also felt that understanding each soldier’s job is an important quality in a successful leader. Webber hoped cadets were driven to hone their craft of leadership and to be passionate about it.

“My hope for cadets is either they love it and stay in, or if they hate it, get out,” said Webber. “If they don’t have a passion for it [ROTC] they won’t be a great leader.”

Through the thick, hay-like grass, the formation maneuvered, hidden by the tall greenery. The cadets waited in the meadow for the next directive of attack not knowing what was ahead, but prepared to conquer. ❖



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Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Jacques, C Company, 3/238th MEDEVAC, explains the basics of flight operations to high school students of Team 134, First Robotics Team from Pembroke Academy on Nov. 17 at the New Hampshire National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility. Team 134 visited the flight facility to learn practical applications of flight to their robotics project. Photo: Spc. Courtney Selig

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Soldiers/airmen/civilians at risk of identity theft



Recently there has been a rash of high profile identity thefts involving National Guard members. With the rapid expansion of Internet social networking into our daily lives, including allowing social networking into the work environment, we open ourselves, family members, and work places to the risks of identity threat and computer fraud which can have a tremendous impact on the health and well-being of our workforce and our readiness.

Cyber-defense is receiving the highest attention of our senior leadership to reduce the vulnerabilities of our networks and computer environments. Unfortunately, network security devices and measures cannot protect us against ourselves.

We strongly recommend that each JFHQ-state/territory include the following information in your respective command information programs just as you routinely include safety, harassment, suicide prevention and other messages for the health and welfare of our soldiers, airmen and women, and government civilian workforce. Included below is information that needs to be disseminated to the lowest level concerning these threats and how to combat them. We need to continue to educate our soldiers and families to reduce the impact of these threats on our workforce and readiness.

Social Networking

With the introduction of Internet social networking into our daily lives and including our work environment, we open ourselves, family members and jobs to risk and threats that have to be managed closely by all. Our network security devices cannot protect us against ourselves. Computer incidents are on the rise within our work environment and with our soldiers and their families that can have a devastating effect on their personal lives and well-being. E-mail, phishing, viruses, identity theft and loss of personally identifiable information have become a daily fact of life. Now social networking sites are being used as a delivery tool for these threats. Always remember OPSEC when using and visiting social network sites, as it is the user who is responsible for all actions during these sessions, and no security device can stop those interactions.

The latest scam typically involves a service member who does not have a Facebook account, suddenly discovering that someone has created an account in their name for the purpose of defrauding others for financial gain. The scam artist typically befriends individuals online in chat rooms or via e-mail, while posing as the NG member. The scammer then attempts to ensnare long-time acquaintances of the service member, who unwittingly "friend" the scam artist posing as the soldier or airman. The fake Facebook pages typically have enough correct personal information obtained online, including photos, to

convince strangers and acquaintances alike that they are viewing the service member's real Facebook site. The con artist may also claim to be deploying/redeploying and be in need of financial assistance, seeking romantic engagements (to lure in their prey), or having suffered the recent loss of a loved one to play on the sympathy of others. The potential scenarios are, unfortunately, far too numerous to list, but no less disturbing. Typically, the service member will not become aware of the con until an acquaintance or suspicious victim contacts the member's unit, family or other sources. Therefore, if it comes to your attention that you may be the victim of this type of Internet fraud, you may contact Facebook and report the abuse to: <http://www.facebook.com/help/?topic=security>.

In addition, you should report identity theft to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. The Internet Crime Complaint Center, or IC3, is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National White Collar Crime Center and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The IC3 accepts online Internet crime complaints from either the person who believes they were defrauded or from a third party to the complainant.

It may also be in your best interest to contact your credit card company(ies) to submit a fraud alert. You should also contact the three credit bureaus – <https://www.experian.com>, <http://www.transunion.com> and <https://www.alerts.equifax.com> – who by law are required to provide you with one free credit report each year. These credit bureaus also have separate fraud alert services for active duty military personnel.

Another good source is the U.S. Federal Trade Commission Internet fraud website: <http://www.econsumer.gov/english>.

Each service member must be vigilant about the risks of using social networking sites, as well as the multitude of other threats to their personal and financial well-being, such as identity theft, internet scams, phishing attempts, virus attacks, spyware and the unwitting voluntary disclosure of personally identifiable information.

For questions about the above issues, contact John C. Hair, ARNG IAPM, (703) 607-7483, DSN 327 Secure Telephone: (703) 607-5815 SIPR e-mail: john.hair@us.army.smil.mil. ❖

Report Facebook fraud to:
<http://www.facebook.com/help/?topic=security>.

Report identify theft to:
Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>.

Army Promotions

Private 2

Nicholas Favata
 Nicholaus Palermo
 Kyle Drouin
 Tyler Deschenes
 Dominic Swett
 Brett Megan
 Timothy Vega
 Anthony Coy
 Jordan Forrest
 Sharon Berry
 Tyler Chilelli
 Patrick Barrett
 Anthony Govostes
 Joseph Green
 Peter Reynolds
 Britney Pelletier
 Kaylee Solano

Private First Class

Philip Mexcur
 Sara Kabes
 Alexis Mothershed
 Michael Murray
 Ryan Oneal
 Josiah Smith
 Salvatore Amato

Derek Myrdek
 Timothy Lanciani
 Brittney Fournier
 Scott Penn
 Cyle Ziegler
 Justin Anzalone
 John Jenner Jr.
 Andrea Wenzel
 Luis Mendoza
 Andrea Yarmo
 Jeremy Provencher
 Jason Wilkins
 Dale Weeks Jr.

Specialist

Steven Beattie
 Joshua Connors
 Khristopher Picott
 Kendall Wright
 Margaret Taylor
 Ryan Keane
 Jayson Lambert
 Brandon Beliveau
 Brian Prescott
 Michael Fessenden
 Jennifer Bellerose
 Christopher Moore

Matthew Cotton
 John Minahan
 Megan Torres
 Andre Petion Jr.
 Benjamin Hanley
 Michael Chapman
 Kyle Desroche
 Todd Connor
 Natalie Garcia
 Joseph White
 Scott Auditore Jr.
 Darren Dowers
 Devin Anderson

Sergeant

Jonathan Demers
 Daniel Kenly
 Peter Lebell
 Gordon Farrar
 Pieter Laubscher
 Michael Biestek
 Matthew Maguire
 Richard Duclos
 Brandon Westgate
 Robert Garand
 Richard Frost
 Gregory Zieroff

Kristie Matott
 Daniel Schmottlach
 David Leclair
 Christopher Ladd
 Michael Connors
 Sean Deshaies
 Rachel Glover

Staff Sergeant

Andrew Lasher
 Megan Bridges
 Nina French

Sergeant First Class

Michael Kiernan
 Mark Hickey
 Adam Adair
 Caleb Smith
 Daniel Beliveau

Master Sergeant

Christopher Stcyr
 Michael Thibodeau

First Lieutenant

Joseph Diener

Captain

Benjamin Leonard

Major

James Kelly
 Christine Tebbetts
 James Hanson III

Lieutenant Colonel

Rodney Freeman

Colonel

Thomas Spencer

Brigadier General

Craig Bennett

Air Promotions

Airman 1st Class

Stephanie Metivier, STUFLT
 Andrew Norton, STUFLT
 Joshua Stewart, CMN
 Nicholas Carrier, SFS
 Ron William, Jr., AMXS
 Thomas Demers, CES

Staff Sergeant

Phillip Carter, MXS
 Michael Zayak, LRS
 Nicholas VanLandeghem, ATC
 Rachel Hunt, MDG
 Jennifer Rouleau, ARS
 Matthew Brown, MXG
 Paul Lembree, MXG

Technical Sergeant

Emily Hanson, OPS
 Matthew Laventure, ATC
 Daryl Iannillo, MXS
 Paul Talley, ATC

Master Sergeant

Samantha Peplinski, LRS
 Anita Manupelli, ARW

Senior Master Sergeant

Diane Kaczmarczyk, ARW

Chief Master Sergeant

Carlos Teran, MDG

Second Lieutenant

Alec Vargus, ARW

Captain

James Blume, ARS

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A New Hampshire National Guard soldier takes positive control during combatives using a basic technique, the cross collar choke, to restrain his opponent. Photo: Lori Duff



Confidence, Control: Combatives

By Spc. Courtney Selig, NHNG-PA

The New Hampshire National Guard hosted their annual combatives tournament in May with more than 20 competitors. The tournament was divided into five weight classes.

The top five competitors, from lightest to heaviest class, were Sgt. Peter LaFlamme, Spc. Randy King, Pfc. Greg Tufts and Spc. Benjamin Duval, all of Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery, and Spc. Michael Pitaro, Headquarters Headquarters Battery, 197th Fires Brigade.

These winners, although now deployed with the 197th Fires Brigade of the New Hampshire Army National Guard, are eligible to compete in their weight class at a later date at the national combatives tournament at Fort Benning, Ga.

Combatives, as defined in Army Field Manual 3-25.150, is “an engagement between two or more persons in an empty-handed struggle or with hand-held weapons such as knives, sticks or projectile weapons that cannot be fired.” Being skillful in hand-to-hand combat is one of the essential building blocks in the training of today’s soldier.

In the spectrum of operations, no matter what a soldier does, he or she will need to maintain positive control of a situation with or without having to use a weapon. By teaching combatives,

the Army is taking a step back from weapons. Combatives is divided into four different levels: basic, tactical, certification and tactical certification.

Capt. Jared Boucher, of Lebanon, Maine, senior trainer for New Hampshire National Guard combatives, said he loves his job and his time training soldiers.

“Combatives training helps to instill courage and self-confidence in soldiers,” said Boucher. “It’s a great way to stay physically and mentally fit.”

Written in bold black ink on the top of the combatives handbook is a quotation from World War II General of the Army, George S. Patton III, aiming to inspire soldiers to use the fear within themselves in combat as a weapon rather than a detriment.

“Very few people have ever been killed with the bayonet or saber, but the fear of having their guts explored with cold steel in the hands of battle-maddened men has won many a fight,” said Patton.

To ensure that soldiers are prepared for hand-to-hand combat, the Army offers various training opportunities throughout the U.S. to further a soldier’s knowledge of basic fighting techniques.

“Combatives is about control and knowing how you move,” said Boucher. “By moving one way, you can simply submit someone, and in the next instant you can break their arm.” ♦

Orient Shield exercise brings new meaning to 'purple'

By Sgt. 1st Class Mike Chrisman
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Purple is a word many use to describe a joint venture in November between the Army and Air Force. Orient Shield 11 was an exercise based at Kami-Furano Training Area in Hokkaido, Japan, which brought the term purple to a new level.

Not only did a select number of Air National Guard personnel team up with approximately 400 Army National Guard personnel, but the integration of approximately 200 Japanese soldiers added a different twist to typical training.

Air Force Lt. Col. Stephanie Riley of Concord, N.H., was one of only two Air National Guard personnel supporting the two-week training exercise in northern Japan. Riley, an Air Force nurse, has a unique full-time job working as a case manager for the New Hampshire Army National Guard, but does her weekend drills with the New Hampshire Air National Guard.

"I like the camaraderie," Riley said. "We have been so accepted that we really don't feel like we are strangers."



Air Force Lt. Col. Stephanie Riley of Concord, N.H., takes a blood pressure reading of an Army National Guard soldier during sick call procedures at Orient Shield 11 in northern Japan in early November. Riley is one of two Air National Guard personnel assisting in training with National Guard units in several states and the Japanese military. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Mike Chrisman

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Hutchinson of Boston, Mass., a member of the New Hampshire Air National Guard, is a medic supporting the exercise. He gained a better understanding of how the Japanese and U.S. militaries differ in medical expertise.

"Their medics and nurses cannot start IVs," Hutchinson said. "Only their physicians can start an IV."

Riley agreed that Japanese and U.S. medical care is very different, but was quick to point out that there are even differences between Air Force and Army medical care.

"Army soldiers get right into the action," she said, referring to the training Army soldiers receive in assisting their battle buddy during combat. "Once people are stabilized in the field, they come to [the Air Force] for higher echelon care."

The Air Force trains airmen in self-aid buddy care, whereas the Army trains soldiers to be combat lifesavers who are able to give IVs to a fellow soldier.

Riley and Hutchinson are working hand-in-hand with roughly a dozen Army National Guard medical personnel during the exercise.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Fausto Crespo of Tacoma, Wash., is part of the medical command with the Washington Army National Guard. He said exercises like Orient Shield show the full spectrum of what the U.S. military has to offer to other countries.

"It is exercises like this where we are able to shine," Crespo said. "The collab-

orative effort with the Japanese shows we can strengthen their defense forces."

Joint exercises between different military branches and foreign military counterparts are nothing new. Orient Shield has taken place in Japan for 13 years. Sgt. 1st Class Roy Lowes of Wolfeboro, N.H., a member of the New Hampshire National Guard Medical Detachment, participated in a similar mission in El Salvador several years ago. Lowes said such operations show Army and Air Force personnel can work well together.

"In El Salvador we did not have a dentist, and [the Air Force] did," Lowes said. "With the state of the world the way it is, it's important for all branches to be able to work together."

Sgt. 1st Class Bradford Connolly of Dunbarton, N.H., a member of the New Hampshire Army National Guard Medical Detachment, liked the different layers of the training, but admits the best experience was working with his Japanese counterparts.

"I was so naive about our relationship with Japan," Connolly said. "Before this, all I really knew was what my wife's grandfather said about Japan when he served during World War II."

Orient Shield 11 officially kicked off Nov. 2 and concluded Nov. 11. The exercise focused on Japanese soldiers training with approximately 200 Missouri Army National Guard soldiers. It also included logistical support from National Guardsmen in New Hampshire, Illinois, Washington and Nevada. ❖

An advertisement for Rite in the Rain All-Weather Writing Paper. It features a spiral-bound notebook with a pen resting on it. The notebook has handwritten notes: "Products on GSA Schedule", "Most have NSNs", "download the list: www.RiteintheRain.com", and "Field worthy writing products". The Rite in the Rain logo is in the top right corner. At the bottom, there is a list of products: "Field Books • Notebooks • Loose Leaf • Field Planners", "Targets • Index Cards • Covers • All-Weather Pads". Logos for PDR, GSA, and RITE are also present, along with the website "www.RiteintheRain.com".

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