



the

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JULY 2014



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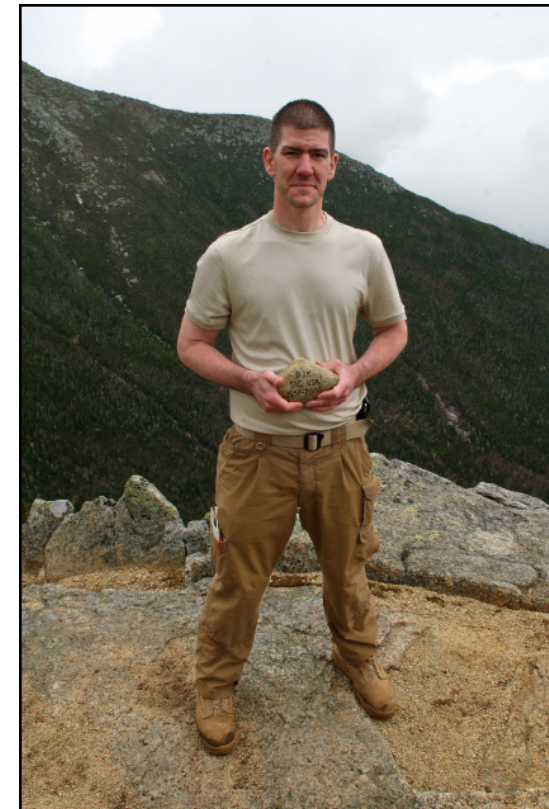
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The Summit Project

Photos by Sgt 1st Class Pete Morrison



Over Memorial Day weekend, Staff Sgt. Brent Randall climbed Maine's highest peak as part of The Summit Project, a living memorial that honors Maine's most recent war casualties and the faithful spirit of all Mainers. Every step of the way, Randall carried the memorial stone of CPL Andrew L. Hutchins. He honored the fallen by challenging the living and ensuring that Maine heroes are NOT forgotten. Randall said this in his biography before the climb:

"I try to spend as much time with my family enjoying the outdoors as possible, whether its hiking, hunting, boating or camping. I have climbed Mt Katahdin numerous times to include

a winter ascent in 2011. I volunteered to be part of The Summit Project climb to be sure that Cpl Andrew Hutchins had at least one Friend or Family member to represent him on this Memorial hike. I was CPL Hutchins Recruiter and knew him well and have never met a finer young man with such potential in life. By participating in The Summit Project and other Memorial Events I can find peace in knowing that CPL Andrew Hutchins' sacrifice for his Country will always be represented and remembered."

-Staff Sgt. Randall

Chaplain's Corner



then anticipating that you might have to deliver that message not only to the people of the United States, but also the UK, Canada, France, and all the allies, letting them know that literally tens of thousands of their sons had died at his order.

Yet, he did order the launch. This message points out that courage is not the absence of fear, but

"Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault is attached to the attempt it is mine alone."

-General Dwight David Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

You may or may not be familiar or even aware of the above message from General Eisenhower, because it was never necessary to deliver. As we know, D-Day was a success and WWII was won. Ike discovered this note, which he had written in free hand, in the pocket of his jacket, a few weeks after the fateful day – forgetting that he had written it.

What fear Ike must have had being the one who would be sending so many brave men to their fate! Can you imagine writing the above letter, and

the suppression of fear that allows you to be bold. There are so many things in our lives that bring about apprehension; so many things that could drive us to paralysis if we allow the fear of failure to invade our thoughts. Of course, some fear is useful; it keeps us from doing irrational things that can get us hurt. However, if we constantly focus on the negative, if we are always looking at the dark side of things, well, we probably shouldn't even get out of bed (though that's dangerous too – you might get bed sores!)

This Summer, focus on the can instead of the can't. Try something new! Make that change you've been thinking of.

Take a chance – after all, no one ever jumped over a chasm in two leaps!

CH Andy Gibson
Joint Forces Headquarters – Maine,
Chaplain

The Whistle Blower Protection Act



In general, our Army encourages all our service members to be “strategic corporals,” to be the man or woman on the ground in the right place, making the right decision, taking the right action that will lead to overall mission success. This is why we give “mission orders” and are so adamant about communicating the “purpose” and “intent” of a mission - so we can harness everyone’s ability and effort at achieving the end-state.

In the same way, as professionals, we demand that each of our service members act when they see something wrong, illegal, immoral or unethical. We demand that they step forward, stop or correct the activity and or report it to the Chain of Command. This self-

policing approach is an underpinning of our profession - we have high standards of performance and all have a common interest in keeping our organization the best.

Most issues that exist within units are best resolved at the lowest level, by company commanders and first sergeants.

They are guided by AR 600-20, Army Command Policy and have sufficient authority, responsibility and autonomy to intervene, prioritize efforts, enforce regulations and generally get “things fixed.”

When service members have larger concerns, don’t feel comfortable reporting to their command, or are unsure to whom they should report, they can and should seek out their Inspector General.

The Inspector General will decide if the complaint is appropriate for the IG to resolve or if there is a better organization to address it. If the service member does not feel comfortable seeking out their local IG, he/she has also has the freedom to report to a

member of congress or a higher IG. In any case, when a service member makes a complaint or report that meets the criteria below, he or she is making a “PROTECTED COMMUNICATION”

A protected communication (PC) is:

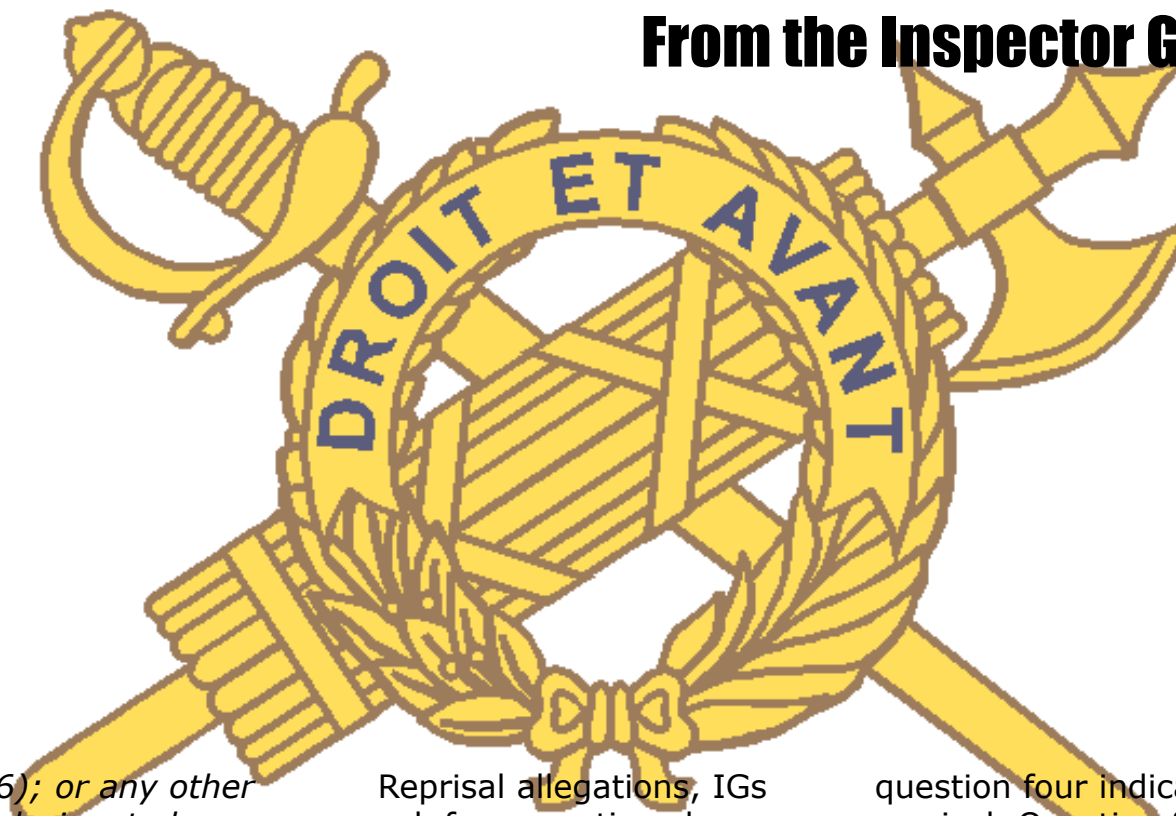
a. Any lawful communication to a Member of Congress or an IG.

b. A communication in which a member of the Armed Forces communicates information that the member reasonably believes is evidence of a violation of law or regulation, including a law or regulation prohibiting sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination, gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds or other resources, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, when such communication is made to any of the following:

(1) A Member of Congress; an IG; or a member of a DoD audit, inspection, investigation, or law-enforcement organization.

(2) Any person or organization in the chain of command (as defined by DoD

From the Inspector General



7050.06); or any other person designated pursuant to regulations or other established administrative procedures (e.g. Equal Opportunity Advisor, Safety Officer, etc.) to receive such communications.

The Whistleblower Protection Act as described in Section 1034 of Title 10, United States Code (10 USC 1034) and implemented by DoD Directive 7050.06, requires IGs to investigate allegations of individuals taking or threatening to take unfavorable personnel actions or withholding or threatening to withhold favorable personnel actions as reprisal against a member of the Armed Forces for making or preparing a protected communication.

When investigating and resolving Whistleblower

Reprisal allegations, IGs ask four questions known as the “acid test” to determine if it meets the elements of proof:
(1) Question 1: Did the military member make or prepare a protected communication (PC)?
(2) Question 2: Was an unfavorable personnel action (UPA) taken or threatened, or was a favorable personnel action withheld or threatened to be withheld following the PC?

(3) Question 3: Did the official(s) responsible for taking, withholding, or threatening the personnel action know about the PC?
(4) Question 4: Does the evidence establish that the personnel action would have been taken, withheld, or threatened if the PC had not been made or prepared (independent basis)?

A ‘yes’ to the first three questions and a ‘no’ to

question four indicate reprisal. Question four is the usually the most challenging to answer, and there are additional variables to measure. A detailed chronology is critical for analyzing the elements.

With this in mind, it’s important for all service members to know that not all information that is reported is “protected” and not all command actions are in “reprisal.”

For more information about the State IG office and on how to make a complaint, go to <http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/ig/filing-a-complaint.aspx>, email: ng.me.mearng.list.staff-ig@mail.mil, or call 207-430-6068. You can also visit the office on the second floor, west corner of Building 7, Camp Keyes, Augusta, Maine 04096.

MAINE SOLDIER ACCEPTED INTO WEST POINT ACADEMY FOR FALL 2014 SEMESTER

Story by Sgt. Angela Parady, Photos Courtesy of Ferrell Family

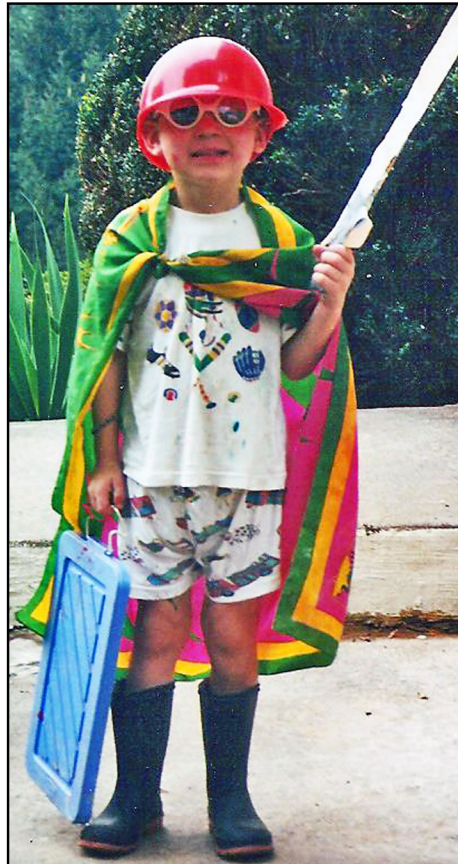
Pvt. Angus Ferrell moved from New Jersey to Maine during his junior year of high school. The son of an Episcopalian minister, and oil artist, the athletic student began taking the steps that would lead him on a path he felt destined to follow.

"When I was younger, I went to a wrestling camp at Annapolis," said Ferrell.

"There was definitely the wow factor. I saw all the cadets and midshipmen walking around in their uniforms, and they all just looked so impressive. I could picture myself being that person, that inspiring figure. I really looked up to the image, and it is something I want to be able to uphold for myself. It's just awesome, and it's very honorable."

What exactly does Ferrell hope to do? He wants to excel in one of the five military universities in the U.S. So, shortly after his family settled into their new home in Falmouth, Ferrell started to test out recruiters in the area, the Army, Navy and Air Force, and see what he could do to start getting

ahead on preparing himself to apply to these schools.



Most high school students spend the summer before senior year working part time jobs and spending time with friends. Ferrell, who works part time at Ralph Lauren- Polo, packed his bags and spent his summer listening and learning from his drill sergeants.

Attending basic training is

not a perquisite for getting into any of the military academies Ferrell had his heart set on, but he knew that getting that experience would be beneficial to him in the long run.

"The military was something I wanted to do since I was a little kid," he said.

"Maybe it was cool movies or something. But even growing up, we would all go play soldier in a big field across from our house. We would dig foxholes, and play with wooden weapons and have Nerf gun battles. We even had our own leadership structure. It was pretty cool. Now, I get to experience it as an adult, and it is different, but different in that we have all grown up now."

Ferrell's mother, Erin, said that her son's drive towards this path is nothing less than admirable.

"We were talking about having a 'broken leg school' in case none of the academies work out," she said. "Angus just looked at me and said, You know mom, if I don't get accepted this year, I will go

ahead with the military police training this summer, and apply next year. Maybe take some community college courses or something.' He just can't see himself anywhere but at a military academy."

Ferrell agreed. "It's like, I don't even really have a thought about others schools. This is my goal, and 100% of my focus is on these academies. I can't see anything else right now."

Most colleges require you to fill out the appropriate application form, and submit your SAT scores to be considered for admittance. For the military academies, the process is much lengthier and must be handled differently.

"I had to get the nominations from the Maine Senators, I had to fill out the academy applications," he said. "There was a physical fitness test, medical exams."

Erin added in, "The most difficult part about the process was that once



you get through one door, you face three more that are locked, and then you have to get through those. It's not a simple weekend process. He had to do three separate interviews with each school. One with a liaison to make sure we knew the policies. A family interview with all of us. And a separate one-on-one interview where they really look at your character and drive to see how you would fit in at the school."

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Kritzer is a Military Entrance Processing Command counselor, and is part of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion for the Maine Army National Guard. Kritzer was one of the non commissioned officers who helped Ferrell get his packet ready and start the enlistment process.

Now that Ferrell has

completed basic training, and is waiting on his next phase of training, he has been able to be a useful tool for the Recruit Sustainment Program.

Kritzer said that Ferrell has a natural ability to lead others. His confidence and self assurance have helped

push him into leadership roles that would normally be reserved for someone older, and of a higher rank. He takes himself very seriously.

"He studies the regulations, he knows the army values, he has done everything we could have asked him to do," said Kritzer. "He excels and pushes past the norm. He sets a standard and encourages other to follow."



Ferrell is very self motivated, sometimes waking as early as 4:30 to workout on his own, before heading to school, and then continuing with sports teams afterwards.

That drive has led him to push past the standards for the Army PT tests, and to encourage others to follow his lead. Kritzer pointed to one trait that is often found in leaders, charisma. The ability to speak clearly, concisely and in a manner that helps others to understand

“Ferrell is right there at the top of the list as far as maturity level. He is very squared away, and presents himself in a professional manner, his uniform is always top notch,” said Kritzer. “He is not afraid to step in front of the troops and use what he has learned to help them. A lot of kids his age don’t want to get in front of people and talk or use the skill set they have gained, but he is up there doing it.”

Those leadership qualities will certainly help Ferrell as he forges ahead with his dreams. In January, he turned in all of his applications.

He completed all of the medical screenings and interviews, and waited. He pushed forward with his studies, with his lacrosse

practices, and continued to be a leader, both on and off duty, and waited.

Of the 17,000 high school students that apply to all of the military academies, only 4,600 cadets are accepted.

Erin said she is not a patient person. Letters can come anytime between December and mid-April, depending on where you rank on the list.

“The higher on the list, the sooner you find out if you were accepted,” she said. “The lower you are on the list, the sooner you get your rejection letter. Angus was high, but not high enough.”

In April, the Ferrell’s found out the Angus had been rejected from the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy. It was then that they found out that Angus was ranked 5th in Maine, and the state only took two candidates.

Erin said finding out that information changed the outlook for the whole family.

“The future just looked different. Angus’s obligation with the Maine Army National Guard said that he needed to complete Military Police Training from August to October, so that knocked out a first semester at the University of Maine. Angus would

be hanging at home until February 2015. We were all a bit grumpy.”

Throughout May, the family worked to try to get to the backup plans they had thought of in case this happened. Arrangements were made, and the family started to move forward.

As the family resigned to their new plans and May turned into June, Angus received the phone call he had been waiting for. He was invited to attend West Point in the fall.

The Ferrell family said they are proud of Angus, and are ready to face the challenges of having him pursue a career in the Military.

“The invitation from West Point marks the end of a three journey beginning with the first visit to Annapolis,” said Erin.

“Then there was the realization as a parent that my child would fit perfectly in this strange military world, the hard work of forms and tests he had to complete, and then the waiting for seven months. Facing rejection and grief, and finally this incredible surprise, and finding tremendous joy. A joy that wouldn’t be so crazy without all the work and the pain that came before it.”

West Point Academy: The Facts

- West Point is the oldest military academy in the U.S., established 1802.
- West Point is possibly the oldest true university in the U.S., with education in math and the sciences. Harvard (and Yale) claim this honor, but they were established as divinity schools. Math and science didn’t become a major part of their curriculum until the 1850’s.
- Of 60 battles fought in the Civil War, 55 saw West Point graduates commanding on BOTH sides of the conflict. In the remaining battles, a West Point graduate commanded on one of the two sides.
- West Point has only 4000 cadets (total) because that’s the number the Congress of the United States has mandated for the institution. Prior to 1964, the number was 2,529.
- Even though cadets can major in such subjects as diverse as English, History, or Political Science, every graduating cadet receives a Bachelor of Science degree.
- Many people assume West Point teaches the ‘art of war’. It does not. It’s main curriculum is in the sciences and humanities. If you want to become a general, leading thousands of troops in battle, you first have to go to command school, and then the U.S. Army War College.
- West Point is not just a campus, or a military post - it’s actually a military reservation.
- The Corp of Cadets has representatives from every state in the union, most U.S. possessions, and several foreign countries.
- Females were first admitted to West Point in 1976. Currently they represent 17% of all cadets - the same percentage as in the U.S. Army.



National Guard Soldiers Rennovate YMCA Camp During Annual Training

Story and Photos by Spc. Adam Simmler

For almost one hundred years, the YMCA of Maine Summer Camp in Winthrop has offered a fun, safe and affordable environment for children from around Maine to spend time learning new skills, meeting new friends and enjoying time in the outdoors. For almost as long as the camp has been around, the U.S. Army and the Maine Army National Guard has been there to help.

On Sunday, May 6, the 136th Engineer Company (Vertical) from Skowhegan, began a two-week project to renovate bunkhouses used by campers during the summer months. This won't be the first time Maine National Guard units have lent a hand.

"The construction of our camp was completed in 1915, but our dining hall was replaced by the Army Corps of Engineers back in 1934, so we have a proud history of working with the National Guard," said Barry Costas, executive director of the state YMCA, and the YMCA camp director. "In the 70's the 133rd came back

and built the dock system, the amphitheater, and 17 cabins for the boy's side of camp."

"As times change the facilities have got to be upgraded to make it more accessible, especially for some of the handicapped children that come," said Costas. "We make sure that the camp is up to code and that we meet all the standards of today's camping world."

Soldiers from the Maine National Guard have returned several times since then, working on projects such as building roads and athletic fields. In May, the 136th returned to a project started in 2005 with the renovation of the cabins built in the 70's by the 133rd Engineer Company.

"A lot of communities can't afford the projects they need to have done," said Sgt. Jason Richards, an interior electrician with the 136th, from Standish, Maine. "The National Guard makes it available for them to be able to complete these projects."

"We could never do this without the National Guard," said Costas. "It would take us years to raise the money that we need, just in the cost savings and labor to make this project beneficial to the children that are going to be using it."

The relationship between Maine's National Guard and the local community is mutually beneficial.

Soldiers refine their skills by assisting the community and the real world hands on experience the soldiers receive during these two weeks will better prepare them for future operations, at home, and abroad.

We're very excited about the National Guard being here, concluded Costas. "The children that are going to camp this summer here have no idea that the facility is going to be remodeled, it's going to be a complete surprise."



Giving Back and Going Forward

Story and Photos by Sgt. Agela Parady

"A lot of people run a marathon every day," he said, sitting in his office overlooking the entrance to Camp Keyes. "Every day, you wake up, you put your shoes on, and you live your life. For me, running marathons is a way of demonstrating my resilience, but in my life, a lot of the marathons I have run have never been on a trail or on the road. They were me, sitting alone in a room thinking my way through some of the problems in my life, that we all have to face."

Col. Jack Mosher, Chief of Staff for the Maine Army National Guard has laced up to run over 25 marathons. That doesn't include his ultra marathons or trail runs. In 2009 he started running as a way to cope with the difficult times he was facing in his own personal life, and he has never stopped.

The well being of soldiers and their families is often on his mind during those runs. Shortly after Mosher began to find his own inner peace with running, Cpl. Andrew Hutchins, a native of New Portland, died in Afghanistan.

Only twenty years old, the military policeman who was serving with the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky left behind his wife and high school sweetheart, who was pregnant with Andrew's daughter he would never meet. Mosher ended up sitting behind Heather shortly after at an event at the Governor's house and was able to take some time to talk with her.

"I think she (Heather) and Andrew are emblematic



of all our men and women that step forward from every street, every corner, every hamlet and every farm in Maine to serve their country. I run for Andrew and I run for his family. I think he was a great person, and his wife Heather, an amazing person," said Mosher. That's why Mosher decided to run the 2014 Boston Marathon in Andrew's memory.

"I was so happy to hear that someone was running in honor of Andrew," said Heather, who traveled to Boston for the event with

his family and her two daughters. "And when I heard it was Col. Mosher, I was even happier. He is a great guy who has treated my family well in how he honors Andrew and us."

This was not the first race he has run with Heather and Andrew in his thoughts. He said he feels a connection to their specific family, and that's why he continues to run for them. "They have a great story, and are very emblematic of all our soldiers. I will continue to run for him so that he is not forgotten."

Heather, who lives in Maine with her two little girls, has been fighting hard to keep moving forward since her world was turned upside down in 2010. Although Allyssa may never meet Andrew, Heather and her family work hard to keep his memory alive, and make sure she knows who he was and what he did.

Heather is very active in attending events held by



the Maine Veteran Services program and the Survivor Outreach Support Services, such as Run for the Fallen, the Summit Project and the Maine Marathon Tribute March, along with different events to support scholarships that have been named in Andrew's honor. "I'm living," she said about how its been to move

forward since Andrew's death. "It isn't something you want to do. Everything I have been through, and the feelings I still have for Andrew, they will never be gone. But I keep focused because of my daughters. When I think about the real purpose of my life, I see their beautiful faces, and I know that my girls are my reason."

While Heather struggles through her own marathons to be strong

and healthy for her two girls, Mosher, who similarly is a single father of two boys, works to stay healthy by logging long miles alone on the road.

"The real victories come during those early morning runs on lonesome highways, when you are all by yourself plodding down the road," said Mosher.



Building Resiliency

Except from Psychology Today

"Whenever I can get out there and run. I run in total silence. It's just the thoughts in my head. I like to think when I run. I think about our soldiers, I think about their families, I think about my family. I think about my time serving in the military, and it is almost a prayerful time for me, out there alone with just the sound of my own breath, my feet on the road, and it's a very peaceful time for me. That's a sacred time for me, the time I spend preparing for marathons, and reflecting on what matters most in my life."

In April, Mosher completed what he considered to be his most emotionally charged marathon. 26.2 miles from the start line in Hopkinton, Mass, Mosher crossed the finish line of the Boston Marathon, one year after the tragic bombings. After receiving his finisher's medal, Mosher was embraced by Heather and Allyssa.

It was an experience Mosher reflects on as a culmination of all his previous marathons, and one he will never forget,

Mosher took off his hard earned finisher's medal, and placed it around Allyssa's neck, and told her it was hers now. Heather said she couldn't imagine that many people would do that, especially not to give the medal to a toddler. Heather's ability to find the strength to push forward has been driven largely by her three year old. Amidst the support from both her and Andrew's family, a lot of her drive has come from Allyssa, and her baby sister, Kabella.

"They can drive me crazy, but they keep me sane at the same time," said Heather. "If I am ever emotionally drained, or just upset, Allyssa runs right over and he will hold my face up with both hands, and say 'it's okay momma, you're a good girl' and then slap a big kiss on my face to top it off. They are the best."

Running, family, kisses on the face whatever it takes, Heather and Mosher have found their own means to keep putting one foot in front of the other in challenging and adverse times.

"I think that resiliency means taking whatever is thrown at you and being able to handle it, control it, and be strong through it, because your strength can get you through

almost anything. I am just trying to accept what has happened and do what I think is best for my family, and continue to have a life."

Mosher emphasized the importance of finding one's own source of strength, and fighting through the hard times.

"Every Maine servicemember is special, irreplaceable, a treasure," he said. "There is no one else like them on the Earth. The light of their presence here is very important for all of us. I would encourage all of them to fight for the quality of their life every single day. Never, never, ever quit. And to always be a healthy and happy person, especially for those who don't have that option anymore, those who have paid the ultimate price. "



Resiliency is the ability to overcome challenges of all kinds—trauma, tragedy, personal crises, life problems—and bounce back stronger, wiser, and more powerful. Here are 10 things that can help you become more resilient.

1. *Build Positive Beliefs in Your Abilities*

Research has demonstrated that self-esteem plays an important role in coping with stress and recovering from difficult events. Remind yourself of your strengths and accomplishments.

2. *Find a Sense of Purpose in Your Life*

In the face of crisis or tragedy, finding a sense of purpose can play an important role in recovery. This might involve becoming involved in your community, cultivating your spirituality, or participating in activities that are meaningful to you.

3. *Develop a Strong Social Network*

Having caring, supportive people around you acts as a protective factor during times of crisis. It is important to have people you can confide in. They allow you to share your feelings, gain support, receive positive feedback, and come up with possible solutions to your problems.

4. *Embrace Change*

Flexibility is an essential part of resilience. By learning how to be more adaptable, you'll be better equipped to respond when faced with a life crisis.

5. *Be Optimistic*

Staying optimistic during dark periods can be difficult, but maintaining a hopeful outlook is an important part of resiliency. Positive thinking does not mean ignoring the problem in order to focus on positive outcomes. It means understanding that setbacks are transient and that you have the skills and abilities to combat the challenges you face.

6. *Nurture Yourself*

When you're stressed, it can be all too easy to neglect your own needs. Focus on building your self-nurturance skills, even when you are troubled. Make time for activities that you enjoy. By taking care of your own needs, you can boost your overall health and resilience and be fully ready to face life's challenges.

7. *Develop Your Problem-Solving Skills*

By practicing your problem-solving skills on a regular basis, you will be better prepared to cope when a serious challenge emerges.

8. *Establish Goals*

Crisis situations are daunting. They may even seem insurmountable. Resilient people are able to view these situations in a realistic way, and then set reasonable goals to deal with the problem.

9. *Take Steps to Solve Problems*

While there may not be any fast or simple solution, you can take steps toward making your situation better and less stressful. Focus on the progress that you have made thus far and planning your next steps, rather than becoming discouraged by the amount of work that still needs to be accomplished.

10. *Keep Working on Your Skills*

Resilience may take time to build, so do not become discouraged if you still struggle to cope with problematic events.



Maine's Military History

LEWISTON JOURNAL

MAGAZINE SECTION

LEWISTON, AUBURN, MAINE, Saturday, May 11, 1957 12 PAGES

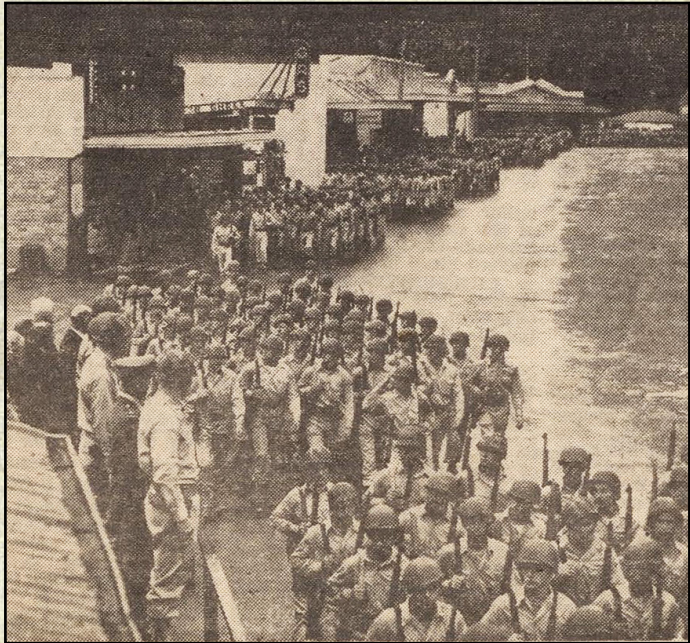
Maine's 103rd Infantry Units Here For "Armed Forces Week"

This is a continuation from our June history piece. All of the information herein comes from the May 11, 1957 Lewiston Journal, and describes the history of Maine's 103rd Infantry Unit.

The Bloody Civil War

After that grave experience a great training period for the Army of the Potomac went on under General George B. McClellan; but the 2nd Maine was mostly in positions of security. It grew in training and experience and never failed in its duty.

The 2nd Maine Infantry had been through these battles and campaigns:



Bull Run, Peninsula, Manassas, Virginia 1862, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and much of the Virginia 1863. There came a break because of the enlistment and organization methods of that era.

The two year enlistment periods of the original enlistees ran out on May 23rd 1863, little more than a month before the Battle of Gettysburg, the high water mark of the rebellion. There were some later recruits who had enlisted for three years.

These men were transferred to the 20th Maine Infantry, which under General Joshua Chamberlain, later a Governor of Maine, fought to Glory at Gettysburg's Little Roundtop, the point from which the Army of the Confederacy fell away to final defeat.

The relation of the 20th Maine Infantry was so close to that of the 2nd Maine that the successor organization today is also authorized to carry on its Regimental colors today streamers for the battles of Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spottsylvania and Cold Harbor.

So the original 2nd Infantry returned to Maine with only 275, including officers and enlisted men, of those who marched away in 1861. It was mustered out of service at Bangor on June 9, 1863.

Spanish American War

Now the continuity moves nearer to the military organization we know today, the 103rd Infantry.

Following the Civil War and demobilization there sprung up several independent companies which in 1880 were formed into the 2nd Maine Volunteers, an organization that has been continuous since that date.

On May 2, 1898 the Regiment was called out, and reported for duty in the Spanish-American War. Two

weeks later its companies were returned to home stations, there being more infantry troops than needed.

However, many men of the Regiment were later called and made up a Battalion of Heavy Field Artillery. Although the Regiment did not see action, the greater part of its personnel saw service in the artillery.

World War I

April 13, 1917, the 2nd Maine Infantry was recalled to active duty. Companies rendezvoused at home stations, and were assigned guard duty at bridges and public property from April 30 to July 4, when the Regiment was concentrated at Augusta for recruitment and training. Colonel Frank M. Hume of Houlton was in command.

On August 21, having been expanded to 2,002 officers and men, the 2nd Maine Infantry was redesignated the 103rd Infantry, 52nd Brigade, 26th Division, and moved to Westfield, Massachusetts, where it awaited the next move that would take it overseas, across the tip of England and into the mud and war of the Western Front.

Augmented by 1,500 troops from other sections of New England, bringing its strength to 106 officers and 3,600 enlisted men the regiment landed at Brest, France and proceeded at once to a training camp at Neufchateau.



103rd entrained for the front and went into the lines north of Soissons. There it remained until March 30 when it returned to the training area.

In French Campaign

On June 30, the Regiment moved to Chateau-Thierry to relieve the 2nd Division in Belleau Woods and participate in the great counter-attack started by the Allies on July 24. Some 900 men passed through the Regimental aid station during the first day of the fighting at Belleau Woods.

The Regiment having entered the lines with a strength of 2,900 came out with less than 900. There followed a period of 10 days in the Chatillon-sur-Seine area where for the first time since February the Regiment was out of reach of heavy gun fire.

Early in September, provided with replacements, the Regiment was moved to the St. Mihiel salient to participate in the closing of the salient on September 12, 1918. Some 900 prisoners were taken on the first

day and large quantities of supplies were captured.

During the early days of October, the First Battalion took Raiville-Marchville, suffering heavy losses. It then proceeded to occupy part of the Verdun sector where it experienced heavy fighting until the morning of the Armistice.

Following the Armistice the Regiment was designated as part of an occupation force but due to its depleted ranks the order was countermanded and the Regiment was moved to Chaumont for replacements. Leaves were granted for the first time.

Mustered Out- April 1916
On March 19, the Regiment moved to Brest and set sail for home on March 28, arriving in Boston on April 6, 1919. Its personnel was mustered out of Federal Service on April 28 at Camp Devens, Mass. While in France the 103rd Maine Infantry had participated in these engagements: Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Ile-de-France and Lorraine.

Ninety-three hundred men passed through the Regiment during the war.

The 3rd Maine Infantry, militia having been formed and recognized by the War Department, was designated the 103rd Infantry on January 1, 1922, thus perpetuating the war numerals "103rd."



262 Trains for Potential Deployment

Story and Photos by Spc. Adam Simmler

In preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan at the end of this year, soldiers from the 262nd Engineer Company are spending two weeks in the mountains of Vermont at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site.

During their time in Vermont, the soldiers will be tested on a wide variety of critical soldier tasks and skills to be better equipped for their deployment.

"During these two weeks we're doing some training and validation on different tasks," said 2nd Lt. Russell Boynton, the platoon leader for 1st platoon, from Waldoboro. "We'll be doing a lot of different things, like marksmanship, mounted and dismounted lanes, and we'll be able judge our level of

qualifications for this upcoming deployment."

"I'm excited and nervous, at the same time." Sgt. Amanda Yates, a heavy equipment operator with the 262nd who lives in Camden. "I'm looking forward to it and training for it, but at the same time a little nervous, because you don't know what to expect. But we're doing good training out here; I think we're going to be ready."

Despite the rainy weather and cold temperatures covering the area at the beginning of the week, the soldiers of the 262nd are in high spirits.

"The morale is really good, all the guys are really motivated," Said Pfc. Vitaliano Tantoco, a heavy

equipment operator with the unit. "I'm excited, I've been training over the last year and I want to utilize my training towards something bigger than myself."

Yates commented, "It's a confidence booster, it gives you a chance to realize what you're capable of before you go instead of being thrown in the middle of everything."

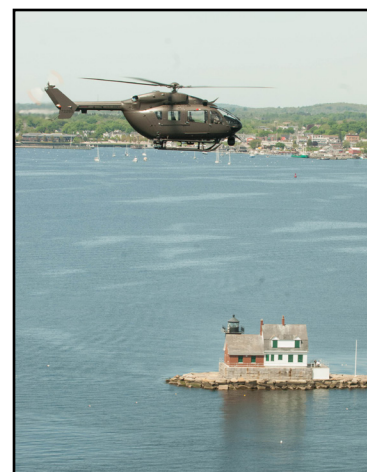
The training the soldiers are receiving at Camp Ethan Allen will cover all the major warrior tasks and drills in order to prepare the unit for pre-mobilization training in Louisiana later this year.



ANNUAL TRAINING



Sgt. Kevin McBreairty, a crew chief with Company C, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation regiment, guides the hoist hook from a Blackhawk helicopter to the hands of two waiting crew members on the ground, Thursday, May 8, during a training exercise in Baxter State Park. The crews from three helicopters spent the day assisting the Baxter State Park Authority by airlifting construction supplies to sites near the Chimney Pond Campground on Mount Katahdin. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Adam J. Simmler)



Maine Rolls Out the LAKOTA UH72

Detachment 2, Bravo Company 1-224th Aviation Security and Support is a 23 soldier unit whose mission is to provide command and control, communication (C31) flights, limited air movements, aerial reconnaissance and screening operations in support of Homeland Security and Defense requirements.

As part of a nationwide program to replace the National Guard's aging fleet of OH-58A/C Bell helicopters, the Maine Army National Guard received two 2014 UH-72A Lakota helicopters from which they will conduct training in support of their State and Federal mission.

Team, Playing it Straight and Retirement

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Morrison

Grant Delaware likes a good sports reference; ask him about retiring from the Maine Army National Guard after 23 year of military service and you're bound to get one or two. He has spent his life being on a team one way or another.



In 1987 at 19 years old Delaware joined the Marine Corps as a helicopter mechanic. He spent his time over the next few years between Okinawa and Desert Storm flying over 1200 hours on a CH53E Super Stallion helicopter conducting sling load and refueling operations.

Delaware said "For a young guy from Scarborough, Maine, it was awesome."

Despite all his travels and adventures in different cultures Delaware knew it

was time to move on, to get back home.

"I grew up in Scarborough; I knew there was a strong connection I just didn't realize how strong. I have been a lot of places weather wise and culture wise but there is truly no place I would rather be than here."

Col. Jeffery Squires, branch chief, Office of the Inspector General, recognized the value of the young recruit when he showed up in

Maine and mentored Delaware through his career.

"I met Grant when he returned to Maine after completing his obligation with the Marines. He had just completed the USMC Platoon

Leader Course and was in the process of deciding whether to go back into the USMC. I drove down to Portland and met him for lunch at the Old Port. He was on the fence and was unsure about which direction to proceed. It didn't take long to figure out what made Grant Delaware tick. He was a great Marine, a genuinely good person, and had incredible potential to serve as a leader in the Maine Guard. I was lucky enough to convince him to stay in service."

Delaware recognized the new team almost immediately, "As an active duty Marine I had a lot of opinions on the Maine Army National Guard and none of them were positive. But I realized quickly that it's a lot like the Marine Corps. It's a very close family that takes care of each other and there hasn't been a time when I have been away or deployed and I have needed help with something that people immediately start work to fix whatever issue I might have; it's a tight knit community."

In the fifteen year time span Delaware was with the Maine Guard he never wanted to simply sit on the bench. "You can do as little or as much as you want in the Guard," he said. For example he recalled reading an article in National Guard magazine about two Soldiers that ruck-marched the Boston Marathon that year. Not long after that, he led 125 service members from all branches across the finish line of the Maine Marathon. The Maine Marathon Tribute March is now in its 9th year.

"I have been fortunate the Guard has always let me



take the ball and said, ok Grant, you go ahead and



run with it, said Delaware." According to Squires he ran straight with that ball.

"His moral compass is straight; he has a strong sense of right and wrong, and never chose the path of least resistance. Without fail, Delaware always led by example. He is an independent critical thinker who always screened every decision he made against the Army Values. For him, the Army Values were not just buzzwords or rules to abide by they were a way of life and were instilled in him at a very young age by his own family. Grant never

avoided responsibility and when necessary, always chose the "hard-right" as opposed to the "easy-wrong" path. "

Delaware credits doing this as the key to success in a military career.

"Doing the right thing always appears to be the hardest thing up front, but ultimately it ends up being the easiest thing. Because standing up for your beliefs and saying 'something's wrong here,' or saying 'hey this is good but we can make it better.'"

I think that if you strive for that mark, and hey you're gonna screw it up, we all screw it up but, if you shoot for it you will be successful without question."

Delaware leaves the military to be the manager of employee benefits and insurance at an energy products company, a far cry from training the Afghan National Army or commanding Alpha Battery 1st of the 152nd Artillery.

Delaware sees even at the age of 45, that he has some things he'd like to work on before he officially retires from the work force.

"My family, my wife and my son to some degree has had to suck it up. Our entire 21 years has been me being gone or me travelling. I've been away a lot. I crossed the 20 year mark and started thinking, what's important to me? While I will always treasure the camaraderie that we have in the military, at the end of the ballgame, when you look around, it's your family. If you haven't been able to develop those types of relationships with your spouse kids or significant other then retirement is going to be harder. You know what my son looked around at me the other day and said 'dad I love having you home for breakfast.' That makes it; I am making the right call." He knows he's making the right call but he also knows he will miss the intensity of the big play, the emotion a firefight elicits and he won't forget his days in uniform anytime soon.

"I truly love my country and I strongly believe in the foundations of freedom; freedom of speech, freedom of action to live your life the way you want. When



you start to have those beliefs and train and train to ensure you can defend those beliefs, and like football you train because you want to make it to the super bowl, you want to go to the show. Everyone, even if you are playing for the bills hopes that something happens and the stars align and you are going to the show. "

"Both times I have deployed I recognized that I was good enough to make it worth it, and I did everything I hoped I would do when situations were less than ideal. Much like Ray Lewis and Brian Urlacher, you know that even though they are sitting at home, they are thinking "oh I got one more game"

If Uncle Sam says, hey grant we need you for one more game, I'd give it a shot.

Delaware looks more like a runner than a running back, but he brings the same intensity to every play, Squires knows the Maine Army National Guard will miss him and that his next endeavor will be a great success.

"Aside from his high level of productivity and results oriented work ethic, I believe the organization will miss his sense of humor and positive attitude the most. No matter who you are you could always count on a smile, firm handshake, and a genuine sense of organizational duty and responsibility from Grant. He has without question, left an indelible mark on our organization in his deeds and words," he continued.

"Grant will be incredibly successful in whatever he chooses to do in the future. He is a self-starter, always seizes the initiative, and is a consummate professional. He is one of those individuals that requires very little guidance or supervision. Once he has your intent and end state, he will always accomplish the mission regardless of complexity. "

Maine Marksmanship Team Compete at Nationals

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Ronald Cohen

The Maine National Guard (MENG) Marksmanship team recently had the opportunity to participate in the Winston P. Wilson Rifle, Pistol, Sniper & Light Machine Gun Championships held at Camp Robinson, in North Little Rock.

This was a five-day event which tested the ability of military personnel from all branches of service.

Their trip began early on the morning of Saturday, May 3rd with half of the team flying out of Portland at 6 a.m. The registration process proved to be a long and grueling exercise of patience as each member from both teams had to be in attendance before anyone was allowed to check in.

This first day provided the shooters with an overview of what they could expect from the 16 matches they would compete in over the next few days, to include one surprise match that would not be explained in advance.

There were 87 teams present, with some states, including Maine, bringing two or more teams, this brought the total number of competitors to almost 400! Maine's Alpha Team, led by Team Captain SFC Joshua Holmes, also included SSG Kyle Bartman, SGT Nicholas Girardin, and SPC Maxim Nickerson. The Bravo Team, led by SSG Keith Paul, included SSG Phillip Dow, SSG Ronald Cohen, and SGT Christopher Everest.

Maine's Alpha Team proved to



be one of the top contenders in the pistol events overall. Out of all the states' teams present the A-Team was awarded first place in the Anti Body Armor Pistol Match, and second place in both the Patton Match and Combat Pistol Team Aggregate. Individual awards included SSG Paul placing third in the Novice class for the Reflexive Fire Match, and three of our A-Team members making the Chief's 50. SFC Holmes (4th award) and SGT Girardin (1st award) both made the Pistol Chief's 50 and SSG Bartman (5th award) made the Rifle Chief's 50.

This award was only given to the top 23 shooters, in both

categories, at this competition. The award is determined by the combined aggregate of all individual matches within the respective discipline. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Frank Grass, was present to award the recipients. SFC Holmes earned his Distinguished Pistol Award.

The greatest achievement of the competition though, was SGT Girardin's accomplishment of becoming possibly the youngest service member in Maine to become Double Distinguished in both the Pistol and Rifle.

The MENG Marksmanship Team trains and holds competitive matches throughout the year and each member is responsible for taking what is learned at these event s back to their respective units to help train other soldiers. It was these learned and practiced marksmanship skills that helped the A-Team in achieving their awards. Anyone wishing to learn more about the MENG Marksmanship Team Program is encouraged to contact the Program Coordinator: SFC Joshua Holmes by phone at (207) 430-5602 or via email at Joshua.d.holmes.mil@mail.mil

152nd Cooks Compete for Coveted Connolly

Story and Photos by Sgt. Angela Parady

"Today we have a pretty decent sized menu," said the staff sergeant. "We have spaghetti and meatballs, and my personal favorite: chocolate pudding. There is salad, fruit, apples, some parmesan bread. It's a pretty decent meal for being out in the field."

Soldiers from the 152nd Component Repair Company, Maine Army National Guard are competing in the 47th Annual Phillip A. Connolly Awards Program. As part of the competition they have to prepare a meal in a field environment. Which means setting up stations where hands can be washed, soldiers signed in, meals eaten, utensils washed and

a fully functional kitchen is present.

This is the Army's ultimate cooking competition, which began in 1968 and is one of the few competitions where all Army components, active Army, Reserves, and National Guard, compete against one another. Mess sections from units across the country compete in order find the best Army cooking operations, and this time it's the 152nd who are being put on display.

"We are putting together food for 60 soldiers to simulate an event where we were on alert and facilities were not available," said Staff Sgt. Crystal Ryder, an

administrative sergeant, tasked with heading up the field sanitation team for the event. "So we are setting up for that, we've got our finest cooks cooking the food out here and our sanitation team working the safety side of it, ensuring the cleanliness of the food going in and out."

Sgt. 1st Class Tom Gordon is the food operations sergeant for the 152nd. The Waterville native emphasized that even though the unit is a component repair and maintenance company that works primarily on electronics equipment, light-medium tactical vehicles and heavy equipment, they still have to have the capabilities to feed their soldiers.

"We have to be able to feed our soldiers so they can continue the mission," he said. "A hot meal sustains them. It gives soldiers a good break in the middle of their day to collect their thoughts and to get together and see how things are going. On a hot day like today, it gives them the nutrition to replace things like salt and what not they may be sweating out, and it's good for morale."

Ryder, who lives in Augusta agreed, and praised the four cooks who had been sweating it out on the first 90-plus degree day of the year, in the kitchen for nearly two hours to get everything ready for the soldiers.

"If soldiers aren't fed, they aren't going to work," she said. "That's just how it is. I think these guys are doing an awesome job, a terrific job. They are using the resources they have and putting a great meal together. I know there are some people out there who can't cook in their own kitchen anything as good as some of these meals will be. Soldiers need their energy, and they need their food. Without food, they don't have energy, and we need energy to be mission capable. Food is very important."

The soldiers, who will cook the same meal as other units competing for the Connolly Award nationwide will be tested on their ability to meet field food safety requirements, the accuracy of their headcount, the appearance

and attitude of the food service personnel, and timeliness. According to Gordon, that's not all.

"We have to follow the recipe cards to standard, start at the times we say we are going to start, use

competition. Judges will base their decisions off of the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence standard, and rank the 152nd amongst all of the other competing teams. A success will move them to the national level competition.

Regardless of what the evaluators come back with for the soldiers who worked hard for this event, Ryder said she thought that the day's competition was a worthwhile exercise.

This program was named after Phillip A. Connolly, a leader in the Food Service Management Corp and a former President of the IFSEA, who worked diligently and earnestly throughout his life to promote professionalism

in food service, in both the civilian and military services.

The chefs being put to the test are: Spc. Stephen Cobb, Spc. Jeremy Karnes, Spc. Derek Gause and Sgt. Floyd Frost Jr.



the ingredients we say we are going to use. The sanitation tent and food service tent all have to be set distances from each other. And the food has to be good."

The June event was the first step in a long road to the national level



Maine Sappers Seek to Surpass the Standard

Story and Photos by Spc. Adam Simmler

A sapper, also called pioneer or combat engineer, is a combatant or soldier who performs a variety of military engineering duties such as bridge-building, laying or clearing minefields, demolitions, field defences and general construction, as well as road and airfield construction and repair. They are also trained to serve as infantry personnel in defensive and offensive operations. A sapper's duties are devoted to tasks involving facilitating movement of allied forces and impeding those of enemies.



"Practice makes perfect, and we train as we fight," said Spc. Jeff Shock, a combat engineer with the 251st Engineer Company (Sappers). For the Soldiers of the 251st, that makes for an exciting lineup of training for their June drill weekend, June 7 and 8 at the Bog Brook Training Site in Gilead, Maine.

"Normally, we do improvised explosive device training, route clearance lanes and demolitions," said Shock. "This is the first time we've done CBRN stuff."

CBRN, or Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear, is the term used to describe the steps and procedures to deal with a wide array of hazardous materials that could be found on a battlefield.

On Saturday morning, every soldier, from the newest private, to the company commander, rotated through the CS gas chamber. The chamber is

filled with a form of tear gas, and is used to reinforce the importance of being proficient with a protective gas mask.

"Sometimes it's hard to see in the mask," said Shock. "being aware of your environment is extremely important; so you need to keep your head on a swivel."

After the CS chamber, their situational awareness was put to the test on an IED lane where soldiers worked as a team to detect, report, and neutralize a series of simulated explosives hidden along a road.

"During CBRN training and while we're patrolling, my role as a leader is to make sure everyone knows what their job is, and that everybody is staying in their sector and scanning," said Sgt. Matt Tower a combat engineer with the 251st. "I want to make sure that everybody maintains

situational awareness, at all times, so that if someone spots an IED, we can react appropriately."

"I find this training exciting, because I know that as a National Guard member, I have my civilian job and I have my military service here," said Tower. "One weekend a month, believe it or not, I do look forward to it because I get to do something different, something that excites me and gets me going."

Over the rest of their June drill period, the soldiers from the 251st will conduct day and night patrols, obstacle courses and other crucial warrior tasks.

Shock comments, "The administrative drills are mandatory and have to get done. But this is our job, and to be good at your job, you have to keep doing it. Practice makes perfect and we train as we fight."

Maine Medevac Rescues Hiker

A hiker was rescued by helicopter and taken to a Bangor hospital after encountering several medical problems while hiking Mount Katahdin on Tuesday, June 10.



that small of a round hole,” he said.

The pickup went smoothly, despite the threat of erratic wind conditions that could threaten

the helicopter’s stability.

“Chimney Pond is in a bowl,” Ireland said. “If winds are coming from a certain direction, they will work around the bowl and you get lots of headwinds and tailwinds and the potential for a lot of turbulence.”

The successful mission “just emphasizes the importance of these aircraft, the importance of that dual purpose,” Ireland said. “We can do the federal mission and help out with the state mission, like natural disasters that happen in the states and these medevac situations.”

Ireland said his unit typically handles one to three missions of this type annually, at places like Baxter, Acadia National Park, and over the Appalachian Trail.

The Maine Army National Guard medevac team flew the hiker, a 23-year-old male, to Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor after Baxter State Park rangers determined he needed immediate treatment.

The man, who was suffering from hypothermia, bleeding and neurological issues, was admitted to the hospital in stable condition.

The patient was near Chimney Pond, which made landing an aircraft unlikely, so he was lifted out of the park with the medevac hoist system and evaluated by an on-board National Guard medic.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald Ireland, the commanding pilot handling Tuesday’s mission, said the flight went well. Army officials received the call from Baxter State Park at about 3 p.m.

Other Maine National Guard members Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kevin Daniel, pilot, Sgt. Greg Milliken, flight medic, and crew chief Sgt. Brandon Dugay reported to Bangor from their homes and workplaces. They prepped for the mission and after receiving approval to move forward, flew directly to Baxter State Park.

Most of the 70 minutes in pre-flight was spent assembling a flight crew, plotting the mission and getting mission approval from supervisors – pretty quick timing, considering how the reserve’s many deployments leave fewer helicopters on base these days. Ireland knew almost immediately the landing zone over the injured hiker was too small.

“It was a pretty tight area. It was just small. You can’t put a square peg that big in

Summer Hiking Tips

The summertime is a popular time of season to see some of the natural wonders of the United States. The state of Utah is home to some of the finest wonders around. Hiking safety isn’t one of the first things that people think of when they go on a hike, but it should be. Following these hiking tips could save your life.

Getting Lost

- Some times things don’t go the way they were planned, here is what you should do if you find yourself lost.

S – Stop.

At the beginning of a wilderness survival emergency, the most important thing you can do is stop. Survival is 85% mental and only 15% physical. You are intelligent and you know more than you think when it comes to survival. Now is the time to start discovering it. First Step: Stop.

T – Think.

If you think you are lost, study your map and try to determine where you are. Look around for landmarks. Note the contours of hills, ridges, or mountains and where you are in relation

to streams or lakes. If you don’t have a map, what was the last landmark you positively identified? In what direction did you travel from there? If you are on a trail or a road, can you follow it back to your starting point? Don’t go anywhere yet. There is no rush. Stop and Think.

O – Observe.

Assess the immediate situation. What are the weather conditions? Where is a good place to take shelter? Inventory everything you have in your pack and pockets, and look around to get a sense of the natural resources nearby. What clothing do you have? How can you improvise with what is available to make it suit your needs? Don’t go anywhere yet. There is no rush. Stop, Think, and Observe.

P – Plan

When you have figured out what your situation really is, the group can put together a plan for what to do next. Don’t make your situation worse by acting hastily. Most people are found within the first 24 hours of becoming lost. You could, if necessary, survive much longer.

Dehydration –

One of the biggest mistakes hikers make is to start the hike dehydrated. It is nearly as important as drinking water while on the hike. Stay hydrated. Even if you don’t feel thirsty, drink.

The symptoms of dehydration include:

- thirst
- headache
- dizziness
- increased sweating
- nausea
- muscle cramps
- extreme fatigue
- dark urine or lack of urination

Heat Exhaustion

- It can be brought on by a combination of dehydration and exposure to the hot sun, and if not taken care of properly can lead to heat stroke which can be fatal.

Some symptoms of heat exhaustion are similar to dehydration and can include:

- pale and clammy skin
- heavy sweating
- nausea
- tiredness, dizziness, or fainting
- headache
- muscle cramps

YOUR MONEY MATTERS

BUYING A HOUSE

Military OneSource Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues, including personal financial management. Free face-to-face counseling sessions (and their equivalent by phone or online) are also available. Call 1-800-342-9647 or go to www.militaryonesource.mil to learn more.

VeteransPlus provides free, confidential financial education counseling to service members and veterans. Their resources can help you better manage your finances, get control of any debt that you may have and learn how to save and invest for your future. For more information: www.veteransplus.org or call 888-488-8767.

If you are thinking about buying a home in Maine, you are fortunate as there are many mortgage options. VA is one of many choices, and all Veterans and active duty military are eligible for the Maine First Time Home buyers program as long as they do not already have a mortgage.

This program can be used in conjunction with another loan such as a VA, FHA, and Rural Development loans. All of these loans are government subsidized and have programs available if you have loss of income or find yourself in financial trouble.

Some of these loans have income eligibility requirements that are based on where you live. Rural Development loans are available to all of Mainers except those who live in Portland and Bangor, as they are not considered rural.

Be aware that where you loan starts may not be where it ends up. It's important to know where you loan is going to be in case you have mortgage issues down the road and want to contact your lender. If you purchase your loan at a local bank or credit union, you will be able to keep you loan local if you ask. Larger banks and Mortgage Brokers may not be able to guarantee the loan will not be sold.

A mortgage broker usually has the ability to access more loan options than a bank, and often can find you a lower interest rate. It's always a good idea to

ask a broker up front, "What do you charge for your services?" A broker works for himself and makes his money on commission. Once you have the mortgage, the broker's work is done. You will now be working with whoever currently owns the loan, which could change multiple times.

A Bank or Credit Union has limited loan options but once you purchase the mortgage you will continue to work with them or another local financial institution. For example, if you are part of the Maine First Time Home Buyers program your loan will eventually be held by Camden Bank. It will not leave the state.

Even if your Real Estate Agents or a friend has a recommendation on who you should get your mortgage from, always shop around, compare the total cost of the loan including all fees. When comparing loans cost look at interest rates, down payments required – if any, closing costs, and fees (including origination fees, service fees.)

BE WARE: There are some lenders who will try to fool you into thinking they are sanctioned by the DOD by using the name VA Loans, or Military Loans. The DOD does not sponsor any lenders.

If you have questions about obtaining a home mortgage contact your PFC Gayle Rose Martinez, 207-274-3987, gmartinez@mflc.zeiders.com.

Dental Programs and the Nurse Advice Line

Active Duty Dental Program (ADDP) Changes and Training

On August 1, 2014, the new ADDP contract goes into effect with United Concordia Companies, Inc. (UCCI) continuing as the program administrator. Here are some of the changes you will see in the new contract:

1. Instant Appointment Control Numbers (ACNs) for remote members will be available from United Concordia in two ways:

- Interactive Voice Response (IVR)
- ADDP website

Currently, remote members receive an ACN within two days of request to allow for eligibility verification. The new IVR and online system immediately accesses the Government eligibility system at the time of request and instantly returns an ACN for eligible remote members.

Note: ACNs are required to get private sector dental care under the ADDP.

2. The new IVR system that provides instant ACNs will also provide ADDP benefit information, help finding a United Concordia network dentist, recent claim information, and more.

3. Military dental treatment facilities (DTFs) and network dentists will be able to upload attachments (e.g., x-rays, Word and PDF documents, jpegs, etc.) in United Concordia's Dental Authorization and Referral Tracker Plus (DART+). They can also submit claims and appeals in DART+.

4. DTF staff will have advanced search functionality and dental code intuitive input capability in DART+.

5. The ADDP website will implement WebConnect, a new feature that allows individuals to schedule a callback from United Concordia on a preferred date and time.

The new features will benefit both components of the ADDP (Military Dental Treatment Facility referred and Remote ADDP).

The TRICARE Nurse Advice Line

Starting April 25, 2014, TRICARE beneficiaries can contact the Nurse Advice Line (NAL) to get advice on whether or not they should get care from a provider for an illness or to use other home options.

The NAL provides beneficiaries with live advice from registered nurses 24/7!

Stateside beneficiaries can call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) and select option 1 to speak with a customer service representative. Eligibility is verified through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting system (DEERS) and the beneficiaries are transferred to a nurse who asks specific question about the illness to determine the best course of action.

The NAL has nurses that specialize in different specialties and can provide medical advice on a wide range of issues, including pediatric care. The NAL also helps beneficiaries find nearby medical care and may call back to check on the issue a few hours later.

Beneficiaries may still call their PCM or clinic for medical advice and appointments, but the NAL is an easy and quick option. This is just another example of the self-service options available to our beneficiaries and another opportunity to manage their benefit.

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the
BAYONET