

the BAYONET

The Official Magazine of the Maine National Guard

Vol6// Issue2



CHAINSAWS, WILDFIRES, ATV'S OH MY!

488TH MILITARY POLICE TRAIN TO STAY RELEVANT

RECRUIT SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM HELPS SOLDIERS

MAINE'S BEST WARRIORS



The Maine National Guard Public Affairs Office is pleased to present the June 2018 edition of the Bayonet Magazine.

The Bayonet is the official magazine of the Maine National Guard and is made possible by Soldier and Airmen provided content and feedback.

This edition contains some highlights from March through May, including a message from the new Maine Army National Guard state command chief warrant officer, coverage of the state Best Warrior competition, dynamic training for our military police and much more.

If you enjoy the content that is provided in the Bayonet and would like to see more of it, please consider "liking" the Maine National Guard on Facebook where you can keep up to date on Maine National Guard current events!

Would you like your training event highlighted in the Bayonet? Or do you know a service member that could be featured? We are always interested in sharing your story ideas and imagery. Please send them in to us for consideration for future editions of the Bayonet.

Thank you for your continued interest and unwavering support to your National Guard. Always Ready! Always There!

Maj. Norman Stickney

State Public Affairs Officer



the BAYONET

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Front Cover: Sgt 1st Class Jason Burnham, a horizontal construction sergeant with the 136th Engineer Company (Horizontal) uses a backpack water pump to help suppress a contained wildfire as part of a training exercise put on by the Maine Army National Guard Safety Office and the Department of Facility Maintenance Friday, May 4 at the Gardiner Training Area. In addition to providing certification in wildland fire suppression, the two offices also provided initial chainsaw operator and all-terrain vehicle training consistent with Army standards. (Maine Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Parady)

Back Cover: Maine Army National Guard Soldiers and noncommissioned officers complete a two mile run in less than ideal conditions. But they did not let the April 6th snowstorm slow them down. The APFT was only one of the determining factors in choosing the best NCO and best Soldier of the Year. (Maine Army National Guard photo by Cpl. Jarod Dye.)



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All pictures are Maine National Guard photos unless otherwise identified.



Master Sgt. Kim Hackett presents a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Avery Preston, wife of Col. Dean Preston during a change of command ceremony April 7th at the Samoset Resort in Rockland. It is a tradition to give the spouses of both the outgoing and incoming commanders' a bouquet to thank them for their continued sacrifice and support of the commander. (Maine Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Parady.)



Col. Blair E. Tinkham receives the 52nd Troop Command guidon from Brig. Gen. Hugh T. Corbett, assistant adjutant general- Army during a change of command ceremony at the Samoset Resort, Rockland, Saturday, April 7.

"I am not the first Tinkham to command the 52nd Troop Command," he said. "From 1987 to 1989 my father, the former Adjutant General Joseph Edward Tinkham had the distinct honor to command the 52nd Soldiers. Over the years, he often told me it was best assignment, because you are with Soldiers and there is nothing better than that."

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A WARRANT?

CHIEF COMMAND WARRANT OFFICER; CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 DAVID CHENEY



Value Added. That's the term used to describe what Warrant officer bring to the units in the MEARNG and MEARNG as an Organization.

But, there is more.

When a Warrant Officer is part of a unit they quickly establish their assigned capabilities to support the mission and then become the subject matter expert for the Commander on those capabilities. They are the go to person for solutions in that discipline. They know their job, their systems, and how to get the most out of the Soldiers working for them. This is an expectation all leaders have of Warrant Officers and Warrant Officers deliver.

But, there is more.

Because in the MEARNG we come from the ranks we have that time doing the hard work. Whether it is a move from initial enlistment and directly into a specialty as is common in aviation or spending time in a line unit learning the peculiarities of your field, Warrant Officers come from the ranks. This gives Warrant Officers the ability to speak two languages. The language of the enlisted and the language of the O-Grade. That skill allows Warrant Officers to listen to the vision, goals, and objectives of the Commander and interpret those to the enlisted ranks. Warrant Officers sit in the planning meetings, they provide input

relevant to their field, and offer suggestions on how to achieve the Commander's end state.

But, there is more.

Warrant Officers have longevity in their field and in the organization. They intuitively understand how the organization/system works. They know how other systems/processes in the organization interact with the systems/processes they operate. Whether preparing for a soldier for a MOB, providing aviation support to a ground unit, assisting a convoy with a contact maintenance team, determining the transportation requirements of a moving unit, keeping track of the unit's equipment needs, providing technical engineering guidance, or ensuring units can communicate digitally or analog, a Warrant Officer can see the way their specialty effects other parts of the organization. It takes years to reach this holistic understanding and because of the time Warrant Officers spend in the organization it is a gained understanding.

But, there is more.

Because of the unique and different promotion system used by the Warrant Officer Cohort that marks time as the predominate means of eligibility for promotion, the commissioned officer class that is the Warrant Officer does not face the same up or out mentality as the

O-Grade. It is not outside possibilities that a Warrant Officer could stay at a particular rank through a long career in their field and not be forced to leave if they are still capable and willing to serve the organization. This unique situation diminishes the competition between the Warrant Officer and the O-Grade. Warrant Officers become the trusted confidant of many O-Grade and senior NCOs because the goals of the organization are the end state, not a need to achieve the next position that carries the associated rank. This relationship gives the Warrant Officers insight into the larger organization and consequently a positive influence over it.

And yes, there is more.

On 9 July 1918, Congress established the rank and grade of warrant officer concurrent with establishing the Army Mine Planter Service within the Coast Artillery Corps. Creation of the Mine Planter Service replaced an informal service crewed by civilians, replacing them with military Army Warrant Officers. July 9th of this year will mark 100 years Warrant Officers have been providing the Army with value added capabilities and more. And well into the future the MEARNG benefit from the efforts of the Warrant Officer Cohort because when Warrant Officers are engaged, there is always more.

THE CHAPLAIN'S WORD



A devout old shepherd lost his favorite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the sheep. "Your name is written inside the cover."

What, exactly, is a miracle? In our story above, was it that the sheep returned the bible, as the shepherd assumed? Was it that the sheep could talk? Was it that the sheep could read?

Interestingly enough, the subject of the miraculous event, the sheep, doesn't seem to understand what all the fuss is about. Though none of it could be accomplished apart from divine intervention, she denies that it is even a miracle – "not really" – she says.



wonder how often each of us, in our own humility, deny how truly special we are.

There may be something that you do on a regular basis; making dinner, smiling a hello, fixing a child's bike, re-designing a room, or any other ability that you possess that might seem pretty mundane to you; but, which might be nearly impossible for someone else.

How often do we take such things for granted? Oh, he won't notice if I don't smile; she doesn't really care if I say, "good morning". How often do we not use the great gifts God has given us, because we feel that it just isn't that important?

The irony is that for someone else, those special things that we alone can provide, are truly miraculous!

In essence, don't hold back your gifts! Don't take those small miracles for granted! You might be thinking, "Well, there's nothing special about me"; but, how do we know whether or not the sheep in our story could speak and read all along?

God placed you here for a very special reason. You provide something that no one else can and it is the call for each and every one of us to find out what that is and share it. This is God's Will for you, that you would love each other even as He has loved us and that we would share that love with others.

CH Andy Gibson
Senior Army Chaplain, Maine





NEW COMMANDER: I'M ALL IN

By Maj. Devin Robinson

The 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron of The Maine Air National Guard held a change of command ceremony April 8, 2018, at the South Portland Air National Guard Station. With Brigadier General Scott Young presiding, Maj. Clinton Reed assumed command from Lieutenant Colonel Maynard Hinkley.

"It has certainly been a pleasure to lead one of the finest EI Squadrons in the country," Lt. Col. Hinkley said. "I take great pride in knowing I am leaving Maj. Reed with a great organization that is not only organized, trained, and equipped, to perform its primary mission, but is ready, capable, and willing of tackling the toughest of mission sets today."

Originally from Mount Desert Island, Maine, Maj. Reed spoke with pride about Maine's long history of military service in his first official remarks to the men and women of the 243rd EIS.

"Maine has a long and distinguished history of producing and providing hard working individuals who can be depended on," Maj. Reed said. "You go where ever needed – without question, and you've never failed to get the job done."

"I'm all in with this command, and that I'll put forward my very best every day that I serve in this position."



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XIVRAY, 1918: THE MAINE NATIONAL GUARD IS PUT TO THE TEST



Written by Capt. Jonathan Bratten

In the US military, we often say that we're the best.

But we seldom get the chance to prove it. The problem is, when you compete for who is best in warfare, lives are on the line. So it's not something to be taken lightly.

On June 16, 1918, soldiers from three companies of Maine National Guardsmen got the chance to show that they were the best. By going up against the mighty German Army's best shock troops.

Now, up until this point in the war, the soldiers of the Maine National Guard's 103rd Infantry Regiment hadn't seen any significant combat. There had been plenty of artillery barrages, a severe gas attack on May 10, and some raids and counter-raids. But not what people of the time would consider a severe action.

This all changed in the early hours of June 16 when observers from the 101st Field Artillery spotted

movement in the German barbed wire, across the lines from where men of Companies I (Eastport), L (Houlton), and E (Skowhegan) were sitting in trenches around the towns of Xivray and Marvoisin.

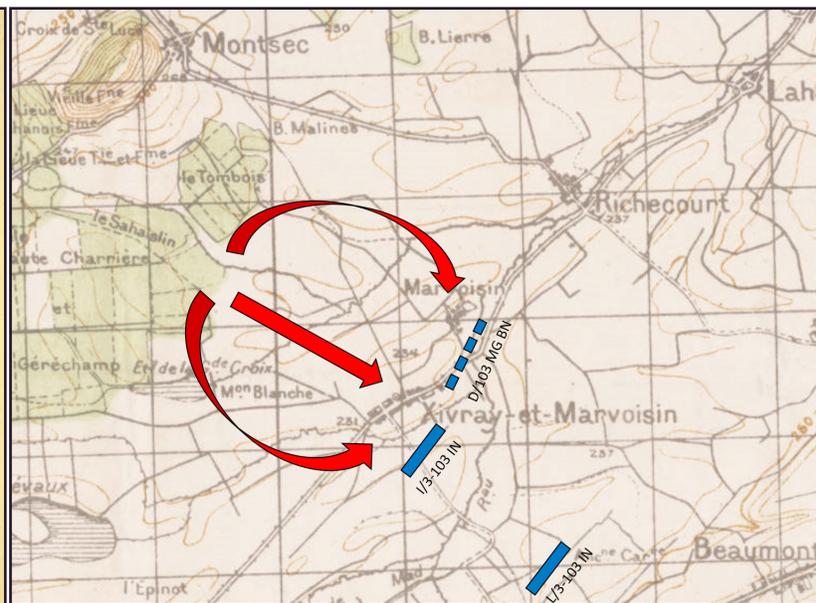
The gunners radioed infantry headquarters to ask if there were friendlies out on working parties; the infantry replied that there were none. Soon the boom of 75mm and 155mm guns echoed through the still night air.

A few minutes later, at 0320, the air came alive with the rush of shells and the Maine soldiers holding the front lines were engulfed in the most violent barrage they had ever experienced. Shells tore up trenches and stove in dugouts, causing casualties among any soldier brave or foolish enough to try to stand in the open.

Corporal Ralph Merrow of Company E tried to tend to a wounded comrade but was struck by shrapnel and killed. Corporal Clarence Dunlap of the same company was also killed, as he went to check on his



1920 Rotogravure WWI Aerial View Xivray



Xivray Tactical Map

men who were manning outposts. Communication wires were cut immediately. The Americans were on their own.

After thirty minutes, the surviving Americans spotted shadowy shapes coming towards them out of the smoke. Three columns of German assault troops – numbering about 600 men in all – were headed right at the 250 Americans. Leading them were specially trained shock troops, equipped with flamethrowers, demolition charges, and machine pistols. Veterans of fighting the French, British, and Russians, they were the best that the Kaiser had to offer.

One column struck from the west and two from the south, trying to envelop the US positions and capture the shell-shocked soldiers. Only, the Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont men weren't shell-shocked. Instead, they emerged from their cover and began pouring a devastating fire into the attacking columns.

"The Americans are masters in employing machine guns," read the German after action review for this operation. The first onslaught of fire checked the Germans who were trying to move into Marvoisin and stopped their attack dead.

One column entered Xivray where they bumped into two platoons of Company I who had stood their ground during the bombardment. Private Amedee Deschaines from Nashua, New Hampshire couldn't see over the edge of his trench very well, so he climbed up on top of it to see better. Wholly exposed in the open, he came face to face with the second onrush of German soldiers. Raising his automatic rifle to his shoulder, he blazed away until joined by his comrades who began to engage the enemy. In all, he fired 840 rounds of ammunition. The Germans

retreated into the town.

The last German column struck another US machine gun position and was halted by determined Vermonters of the 103rd Machine Gun Battalion.

With the Germans still holding Xivray, the commanders of Company I and L conferred. Lieutenant Roger Williams of I agreed that he would hold with his two platoons while Lieutenant Irvin "Devil" Doane of L ran back to bring up the reserve platoon of his company. The only problem was that German shells were still falling between where they were and where the reserve was. This would've been a problem for anyone other than "Devil Doane" who sprinted across the open ground in between the positions, dodging German shells.

He led his platoon of Houlton men back through the same barrage and staged for the counterattack. Off to the edge of their position, they spotted a small party of Germans who were making off with one wounded US soldier. Doane grabbed seven volunteers and took off after the Germans, who either ran or were killed by US fire. They recaptured the one wounded soldier and nabbed a German officer in the process. He was irate: "Your men don't know how to fight," he snapped. "They had no business to be where I was; they had come through a German barrage to get there and they might have been wiped out."

Now the Yanks counterattacked into the ruined village of Xivray, where the fighting became hand-to-hand. Sergeant Vern C. Boutilier from Oakfield caught a group of German machine gunners in the open and tried to engage them with his automatic rifle. This jammed, so he drew his bayonet and charged them. This scattered the group and he seized their machine gun. Lieutenant Williams fired on a German flame-



Pvt. Amedee Deschaines, Hero of Xivray



Pvt. Samuel Dana, Company I, 103rd Infantry, from Passamaquoddy, Maine. Dana was wounded at Xivray.

thrower team with his .45 pistol, igniting the tank and killing all three Germans.

As the Germans tumbled out of the town, American artillery resumed shelling and broke up the retreating formations. Machine guns sprayed no-man's land, causing even more casualties. When the patrols went out the next day, they found fifty-three bodies scattered around the town and its outskirts, with many more in the tall grass in no-man's land. Eleven prisoners made their way to the rear to be questioned by the Americans. The Germans – used to taking prisoners at will on the Western Front – had come way entirely empty handed.

The battle came with great pain to communities across our state. Twenty-eight men from the 103rd Infantry had been killed in action – sixteen of them from Maine –, thirty-six seriously wounded, sixty slightly wounded, and forty-seven gassed. The majority of wounds and deaths had come from artillery fire. The first sergeant of Company H, Arthur Castonguay of Waterville, was dead from wounds received during the barrage.

Also killed was Private Charles Lola, a Passamaquoddy from Company I, who received the French cross of war for defending his outpost until he was killed.

Musician Arthur Stowell, formerly of the University of Maine Band, was wounded in action while removing casualties off the battlefield. He gave up his spot on a litter for a more badly wounded man and was subsequently hit by shrapnel and lost his life.

Maine Senator Frederick Hale wrote to the Stowell family in July, "I have read with deep feeling the account of your son's splendid heroism in refusing to allow the stretcher bearers to take him back to the American lines until a wounded comrade had been moved to a place of safety...his name will be held in honor for all time by the people of his state and country."

On June 22, the Germans filed their official after action review. "It was again proven that the American Infantry employed on the Western Theater is an adversary that battles well in close fighting and must not be undervalued," it opened. The attack had been completely and decisively defeated. Their intelligence and planning had not spotted American positions and such was the discipline of US troops, the artillery had not budged them from their trenches.

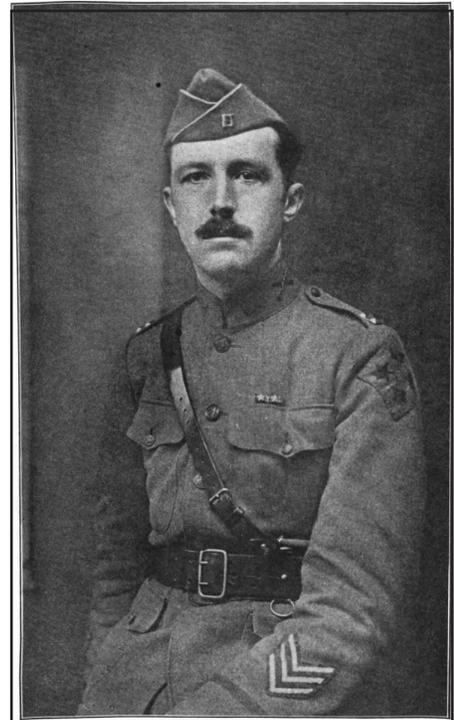
The record had been set: on June 16, 1918, the Maine National Guard was the best.



Musician John Arthur Stowell, killed in action at Xivray.

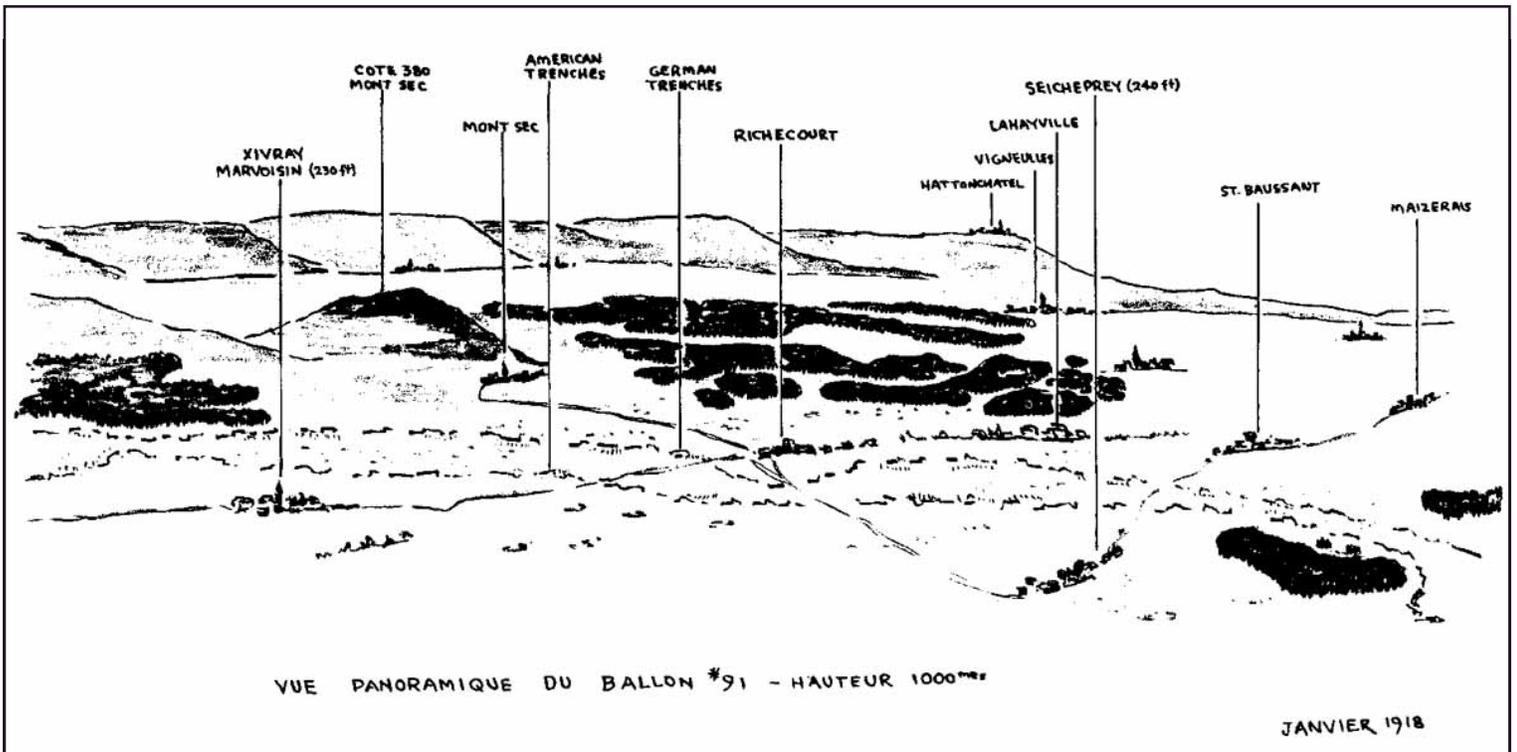


Cpl. Elmer D. Griffiths, Company I, 103rd Infantry, from Eastport, Maine. Griffiths lost his left leg at Xivray.



MAJOR IRVIN E. DOANE, 103d INFANTRY

Irvin E. Doane, native of Hampden, Maine. Doane was nicknamed "Devil Doane" by his men and cited twice for bravery. He served again in World War II as a colonel, was on the Bataan Death march, and survived his time in captivity when he was released in 1945.



Panoramic view of Xivray, with German and American trenches pictured.



Select Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from units across the Maine Army National Guard competed to earn the honor of Best Warrior for their respective division. Individuals were tested for their physical fitness, mental toughness, military bearing, and their knowledge of weapons systems, medical triage, military history among other tasks during the 24 hour long event at the 240th Regiment Regional Training Institute in Bangor, on April 6, 2018. The competitors are hand picked from over 2000 members of the Maine National Guard as the best representatives the state has to offer. The winners of this level will move onto the regional level of competition. (Maine Army National Guard Photos by Cpl. Jarod Dye.)





BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION





2018's competitors for Best Warrior Competition, from left to right: Pfc. Hunter Christian, Company B (-), 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, (Mountain); Spc. Nicholas Bourget, 488th Military Police Company; Sgt. Jhustin Welch, 11th Civil Support Team- Weapons of Mass Destruction; Sgt. Dominic Kelly, 172IN; Staff Sgt. Brandon Keene, 251 Engineer Company (SAPPER) and Staff Sgt. David Richardson, 488MP

MAINE'S BEST WARRIORS COMPETE FOR STATE TITLE

Story and photos by Cpl. Jarod Dye

"We've brought together the winners of the battalion level to compete for the title of NCO and Soldier of the Year," said the command sergeant major. "They will then go on to compete in the regional competition in May at West Point."

The six battalion winners are pushed mentally and physically in a series of challenges to find out who is the most well-rounded Soldier. The ten events took place at the Bangor 240th Regiment Regional Training Institute, April 6 and 7.

"The Soldiers competed in everything from land navigation to a PT (Physical Training) test to a written test to warrior tasks," said Command Sgt. Maj. Alexander Clifford, of the 240th Regiment Regional Training Institute. "They're finishing the competition with 12-mile ruck march."

Other events included vehicle searches, marksmanship, sergeants' major boards, weapons assembly and disassembly, radio communications, medical skills, and a CBRN

(Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear) event.

This year's competition was extremely close with the Soldiers only being separated by a few points.

"I've been involved with this competitions for about 25 years and this is the tightest competition I've seen," said Clifford. This competition serves more purpose than it may seem from the outside.



Sgt. Jhustin Welch shakes hands with Maine Army National Guard Chief of Staff Col. Diane Dunn at the Best Warrior of the Year ceremony April 7, 2018. Welch was named the Maine National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and will go on to represent Maine in the Region One Competition in May.



Spc. Nicholas Bourget works to plot his points for the land navigation portion of the Best Warrior Competition, Saturday April 7, 2018. Bourget was named the Maine National Guard Soldier of the Year and will go on to represent Maine in the Region One Competition in May.

"We like to instill esprit de corps in the troop and recognize those top performers in the units," said Clifford. "It's a tradition and it helps us identify our future leaders."

All of the competitors enjoyed the challenges, and all had a favorite event.

"The ruck march was my favorite part," said Spc. Nicholas Bourget, a human resources specialist with the 488th Military Police Company. "I like physical activity, I'm a distance runner, it's kind of my game."

Bourget, who placed first among the junior enlisted learned from this event and noted that he had studied intensively beforehand.

"I learned it's never a bad idea to over-prepare," said Bourget. "It gave me a bit of confidence knowing what I was getting into task after task."

Regardless of rank, the competitors knew that if they hoped to succeed, preparation is key.

"Every time you do these competitions you learn a bunch of stuff when you're

studying for the boards or even a warrior task you might not remember," said Sgt. Jhustin Welch of the 11th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, who placed first among the NCO's.

Each Soldier and NCO was allowed to bring one mentor with them from their unit. This mentorship helps provide a support channel, and builds on the esprit de corps.

"When you're in the moment before doing any task your mind kind of goes blank," said Bourget. "You have the mentor there to give you some pointers and tips, it helped out a lot."

Mentorship does not stop at the individual that joins the competitor at the event.

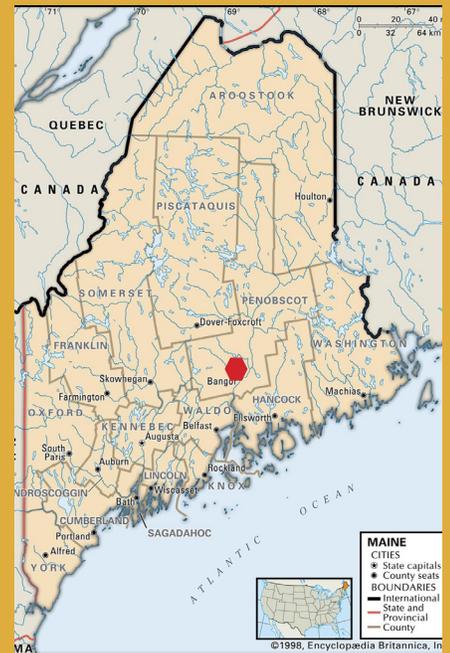
"Thankfully with my unit I have a lot of mentors all with their strong subjects whether that's communications or practicing for the board," said Welch. "I had Sgt. Wing here today, he pretty much did the whole ruck with me."

Now Bourget and Welch will continue to study and prepare as they get ready to compete in the regional event in May.

"I'm still at a point of disbelief, I'm sure tomorrow the realization will hit me and I'll be very happy," said Bourget. "I'm also very tired!"







Maine Army National Guard Soldiers and noncommissioned officers take off for the two-mile run portion of the Army Physical Fitness Test during an April 6 snowstorm. The APFT was only one of the determining factors in choosing the best NCO and best Soldier of the Year. (Maine Army National Guard photo by Cpl. Jarod Dye.)

CHAINSAWS, WILDFIRE, ATV'S OH MY!

The Maine Army National Guard Safety Office held a series of classes Friday, May 4th at the Gardiner Training Area for over 30 Soldiers. These classes provided soldiers with the knowledge of how to safely and effectively operate chainsaws, all-terrain vehicles and were certified in wildland fire suppression. These Soldiers are now able to train and mentor fellow Soldiers in their units, as well as being valuable assets to the units for their federal, state, and defense civil support authority's roles. It also provides them with the tools to help better support the local communities.

"Effective safety training enhances unit readiness and builds confidence with our Soldiers who are tasked as chainsaw operators and as a member of the unit's wildland fire suppression team," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Burnham, the state safety noncommissioned officer. "Accidents and injuries result when personnel don't know exactly what they are supposed to do, or how to do it following the standard."

The class focused on hands-on safety training to engage Soldiers and help solve these issues. The Maine National Guard Safety office worked with staff from





the Department of Facility Maintenance, Training Sites, and the 11th Civil Support Team to provide a dynamic training environment for these Soldiers.

During the chainsaw operators class, Soldiers learned basic and advanced felling techniques, proper technique for limbing and bucking, personal protective equipment selection and use, chainsaw safety features, PMCS, chainsaw operation, ergonomics/body positioning, practices and requirements of the work site to include the recognition, prevention, and control of general safety and health hazards.

During the fire suppression class, Soldiers learned the capabilities for each tool in the wildland fire kit, methods to control the spread of fires, and participate in live fire control. The training taught Soldiers the skills necessary to correctly and calmly react to a wildland fire should an unplanned fire occur on any one of our MEARNG training sites throughout the State of Maine.



TIMELINE

2018

1 OCT

Serviceable OCP's may be worn.

Airmen can purchase OCP's at the following AAFES locations: Aviano AB, Charleston AFB, Shaw AFB and MacDill AFB

2019

1 APR

Expansion of in-store AAFES sales locations continues

Tan T-shirt must be worn (Desert Sand is authorized until this date)

OCT

Online sales projected to be available

2020

1 JUN

Coyote Brown boots must be worn (Tan is authorized until this date)

DLA Issued green socks must be worn (Desert Tan, Tan authorized until this date)

2021

1 APR

OCP Mandatory Wear Date

BENEFITS

- The OCP works in all climates and across the spectrum of missions we perform
- Over 100,000 Airmen have been issued and/or are already wearing OCPs. This includes Air Force Central Command, Air Force Special Operations Command and our Air Force Global Strike Command Defenders
- The OCP will bring back Air Force heraldry with unit patches
- The OCP celebrates our joint warfighting excellence and close ties with the Army



Patrol caps will be worn with nametapes placed on the back using Velcro or sewn on. Officer rank will be sewn on the front of the hat and centered 1/2 inch above the visor.

T-shirt will be Tan.



Name and USAF tape embroidery will be spice brown thread.



Right Sleeve
(max. 2 Velcro patches)
Subdued U.S. Flags are mandatory and will be centered at the top of Velcro.

The following patches are approved to be worn under the US Flag:

Higher headquarters (HHQ) subdued cloth patch, Directorate subdued cloth patch, Inspector General identification subdued cloth patch, or subdued cloth patches/badges of awarded campaigns/combat while assigned to the awarding unit.



Left Sleeve
(max. 2 Velcro patches)
Organizational unit of assignment subdued cloth will be centered at the top of the Velcro area unless one of the following patches are worn:

Duty Identifier Tabs, or Joint qualification tabs may be worn, (e.g., Army Ranger, Sapper, Airborne, Air Commando, SERE, EOD) above the unit patch.

Right or Left Sleeve
The following patches will be worn on either sleeve in place of either the HHQ or organizational unit patch:

Weapons Instructor Course patch (graduate or instructor), USAF Test Pilot School and School of Advanced Air patch, Space Studies patch, Critical Care Air Transport Team patch, Test Pilot School graduate patches or other completed equivalent schools



Boots will be Coyote Brown.

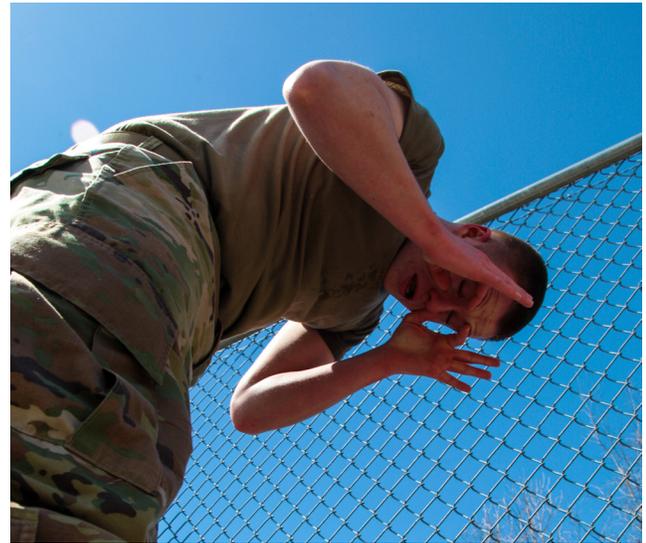
AIR FORCE OCP UNIFORM GUIDANCE

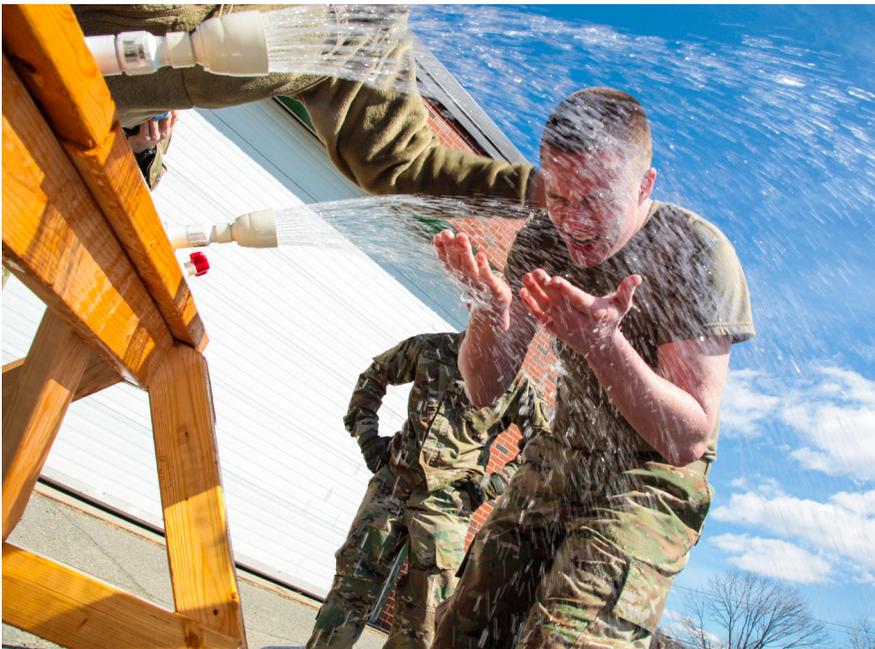
Further official wear guidance will be available soon in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance

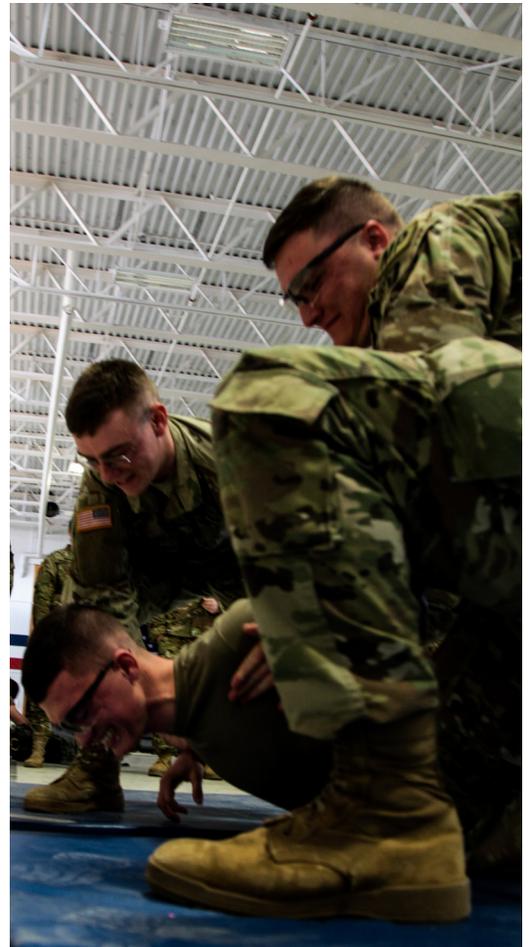
488 MILITARY POLICE STAYING RELEVANT, STAYING TRAINED

Soldiers assigned as military police for the 488th Military Police Company conducted Oleoresin Capsicum spray training at the Waterville Armory, Saturday April 7, 2018. Soldiers are required to participate in this training that teaches awareness and provides exposure to the effects of the OC, in order to carry this tool. Every year, Soldiers who have not completed this training must go through both a classroom portion of training, and then a “hands-on” portion where they are exposed to the tools. Not only does this make them more aware of the capabilities of the tools they are using, it also prepares them for a worst case scenario and teaches them how to handle the effects of both.

(Unit Public Affairs Representative photos by Spc. Joshua Grenier.)









Soldiers assigned as military police for the 488th Military Police Company conducted taser training at the Waterville Armory, Saturday April 7, 2018.

Soldiers are required to participate in this training that teaches awareness and provides exposure to the effects of using a taser which must be done in order to carry the tool.



Every year, Soldiers who have not completed this training must go through both a classroom portion of training, and then a “hands-on” portion where they are exposed to the tools.

Not only does this make them more aware of the capabilities of the tools they are using, it also prepares them for a worst case scenario.

(Unit Public Affairs Representative photos by Spc. Joshua Grenier.)

RECRUIT SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM SETTING THE STANDARD FOR SUCCESS

Photos and Story by Staff Sgt. Alyson Pelletier

It can be mentally and physically challenging for new recruits to make the transition from Citizen to Soldier. In order to help with that transition, the Army National Guard created a program that introduces new recruits to many things they may face during Basic Combat Training.

“The Recruit Sustainment Program is where all Soldiers who have enlisted in the Maine Army National Guard go for drill weekends before they attend basic training,” said 1st Sgt. Matthew Kritzer, the program’s first sergeant. “What our program does essentially, is prepare them for basic training administratively, mentally and physically, so that when they get to training there are less obstacles in their way.”

During the May 12 drill weekend, over 90 recruits in the Recruit Sustainment Program and more than 30 guests formed up outside at the Bog Brook Training Area. RSP staff called off names, separating the recruits into different groups.

This weekend is the annual field training exercise, a culminating event which includes an obstacle course, rappel tower, and a military operations on urbanized terrain paintball site.

Each event tests recruits physically and mentally. Kritzer said training the recruits to be mentally tough can be difficult, but the May drill events help test those waters.

“Some of the ways we prepare them for the mental portion is pushing them past their limits, for instance is this drill weekend during the field training exercise we’re going to be putting them down the rappel tower,” said Kritzer.

There are five different phases of the program, red, white, blue, green, and gold. Red phase is the first drill for new recruits.

White phase is for those who have more than three months before they leave for training and blue phase is for those who are going to basic training within 90 days.

Green phase are the split-option trainers. “We also have Soldiers who have attended basic training that are called split-option trainers,” said Kritzer. “These Soldiers attend RSP before they go to basic training, and they return to RSP after basic training. We maintain the basic training standards until they go to their advanced individual training the following year.”

Pvt. Ethan Cole, a junior in high school and a split-option trainer is in the blue phase and has attended seven RSP drills. He said he feels confident the skills he learned here will help him succeed in basic training.

“When I joined the military I was an absolute newbie, I didn’t know anything,” said Cole. “They have informed me of everything up to this point where I feel comfortable that I will be an outstanding Soldier at basic training.”

When Cole returns from basic at the end of the summer, he will return to the RSP while he finishes his senior year of high school. After graduation, he will depart for his advance individual training where he will become qualified as an aviation operations specialist. Once fully qualified he will once again return to the RSP for his gold phase drill, or the last drill before he joins his unit. Cole not only expects to do well in basic,

but hopes he will gain experience to help him excel in his last year of high school. “I hope to be a better person,” said Cole. “I plan to be a top student in my (high school) class when I graduate.”

Being an outstanding Soldier is not unusual for recruits in Maine’s RSP according to Kritzer.

“Maine’s RSP is rated on a matrix against all other states RSP programs,” he said. “Typically we hold about a 98 percent quality assurance rating on all our packets that go to the training installations, so administratively we’re very high. Mentally and physically, we have a lot of distinguished honor grads. We currently are fifth in the nation maintaining 13.39 percent of all our Soldiers being either an honor graduate or distinguished honor graduate.”



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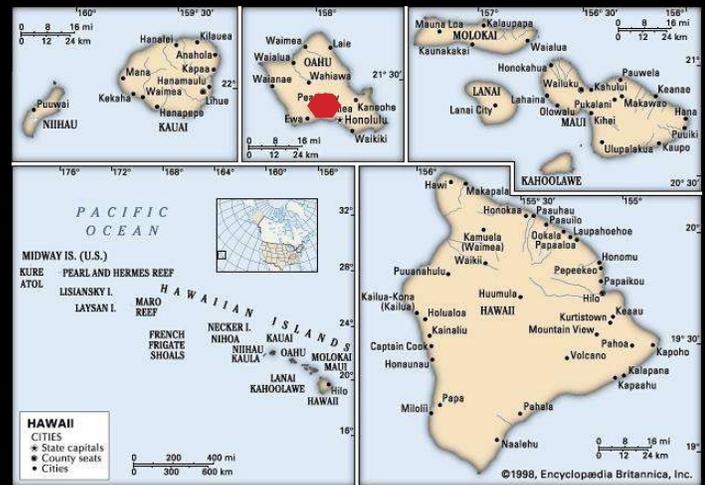
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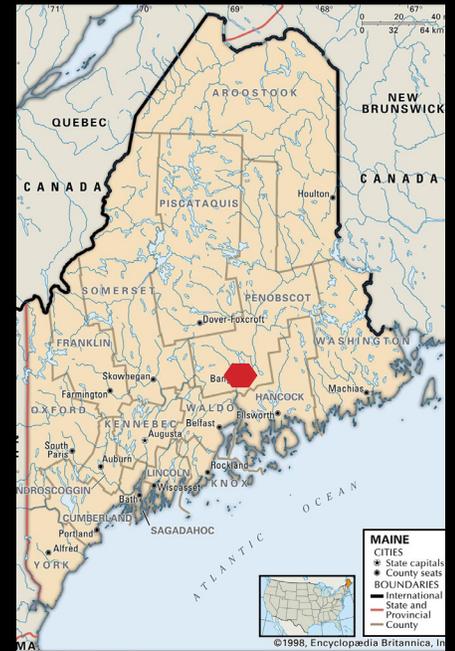
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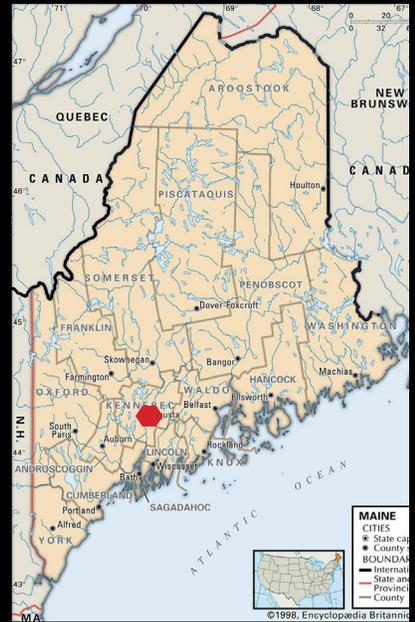
The 101st Air Refueling Wings Logistics Readiness Squadron's Aerial Porters participated in a deployment for training to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The two week training focused on passenger terminal operations, shipping and receiving of cargo as well as the loading and unloading of a variety of aircraft. Our Citizen-Airmen are able to do both upgrade training tasks and refresher training so they are always ready to carry out the mission of global reach capabilities. (Maine Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jonathon Duplain.)





Family and friends gather for a Maine National Guard sendoff ceremony for Company G, 3-126th General Support Aviation Battalion (MEDEVAC) at Bangor High School. The unit is deploying to Afghanistan to provide aeromedical evacuation (MEDEVAC) capabilities, emergency patient care, and movement of medical supplies and personnel. Gov. Paul R. LePage was the guest of honor at the ceremony and offered remarks to the unit and friends and family members in attendance. (Unit Public Affairs Representative photo by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jon Campbell.)





The Maine National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters raised the flags for the first time at Camp Chamberlain. The new facility co-locates both the Army and Air National Guard headquarters staffs in one building for the first time, making it easier to plan and conduct joint operations for the over 3,000 Maine National Guard members. The new location provides ample classroom space, conference space, and an auditorium that allows for more flexibility with modern technology.

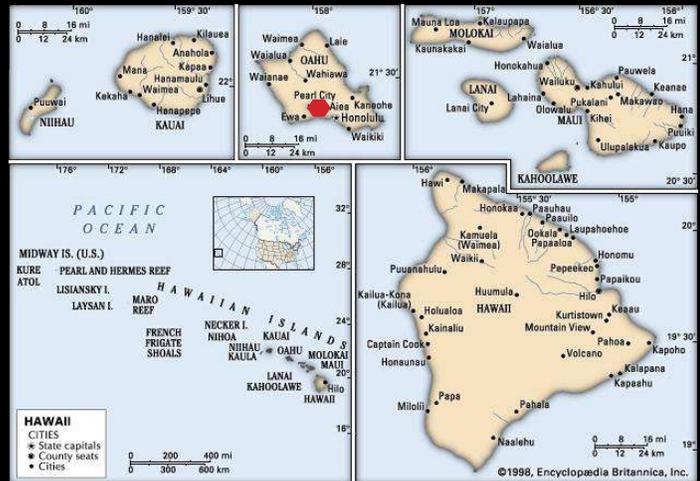




Members of the 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron, Maine Air National Guard, gather at the South Portland Air National Guard Station Sunday, April 8th for a change of command ceremony.

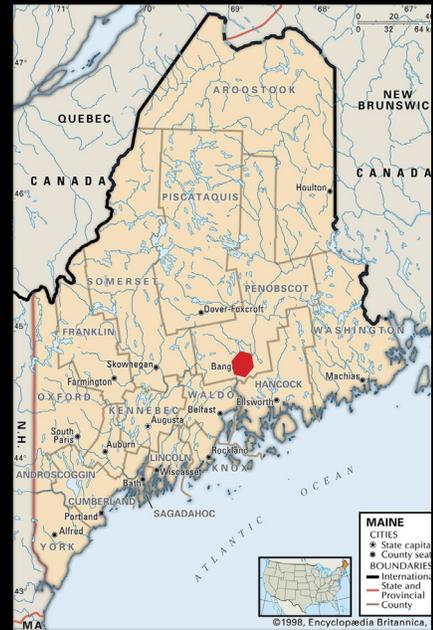
During the ceremony, Maj. Clinton Reed assumed command from Lt. Col. Maynard Hinkley.





The 101st Air Refueling Wings Logistics Readiness Squadron's Aerial Porters participated in a deployment for training to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The two week training focused on passenger terminal operations, shipping and receiving of cargo as well as the loading and unloading of a variety of aircraft. Our Citizen-Airmen are able to do both upgrade training tasks and refresher training so they are always ready to carry out the mission of global reach capabilities. (Maine Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jonathon Duplain.)





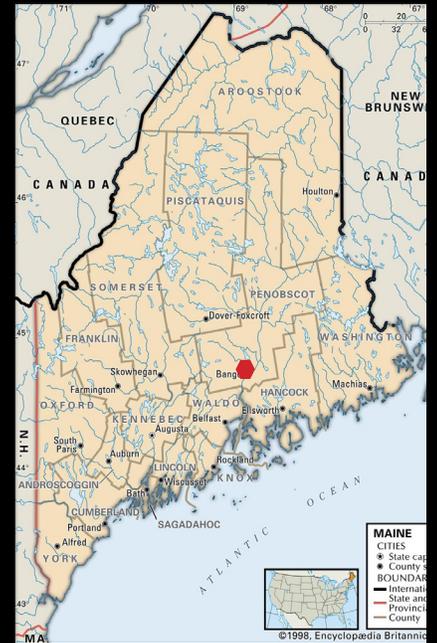
Sgt. Jhustin Welch conducts a vehicle inspection as part of a series of collective tasks during the 2018 Maine Best Warrior Competition in Bangor, April 7. Welch placed first among the noncommissioned officers, earning him a spot to compete at the Regional competition in May. (Maine Army National Guard photo by Cpl. Jarod Dye.)





An RSP recruit leaps up and over a log at one of the obstacles at Bog Brook Training Area, Gilead, Maine 12 May 2018. The obstacle course event helps build confidence and prepare the recruits mentally and physically for basic training. (Unit Public Affairs Representative photo by Sgt. Erika Yackulic)





Members of the 101st Air Refueling Wing participated in an earth day clean up spearhead by the environmental office. The members raked, collected debris and spread mulch to various locations around the base. Several members also went off base to nearby birch stream and collected a variety of garbage and debris! The 101st shares the community's goal of passing on a safe and clean environment to future generations. (Maine Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Duplain.)

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