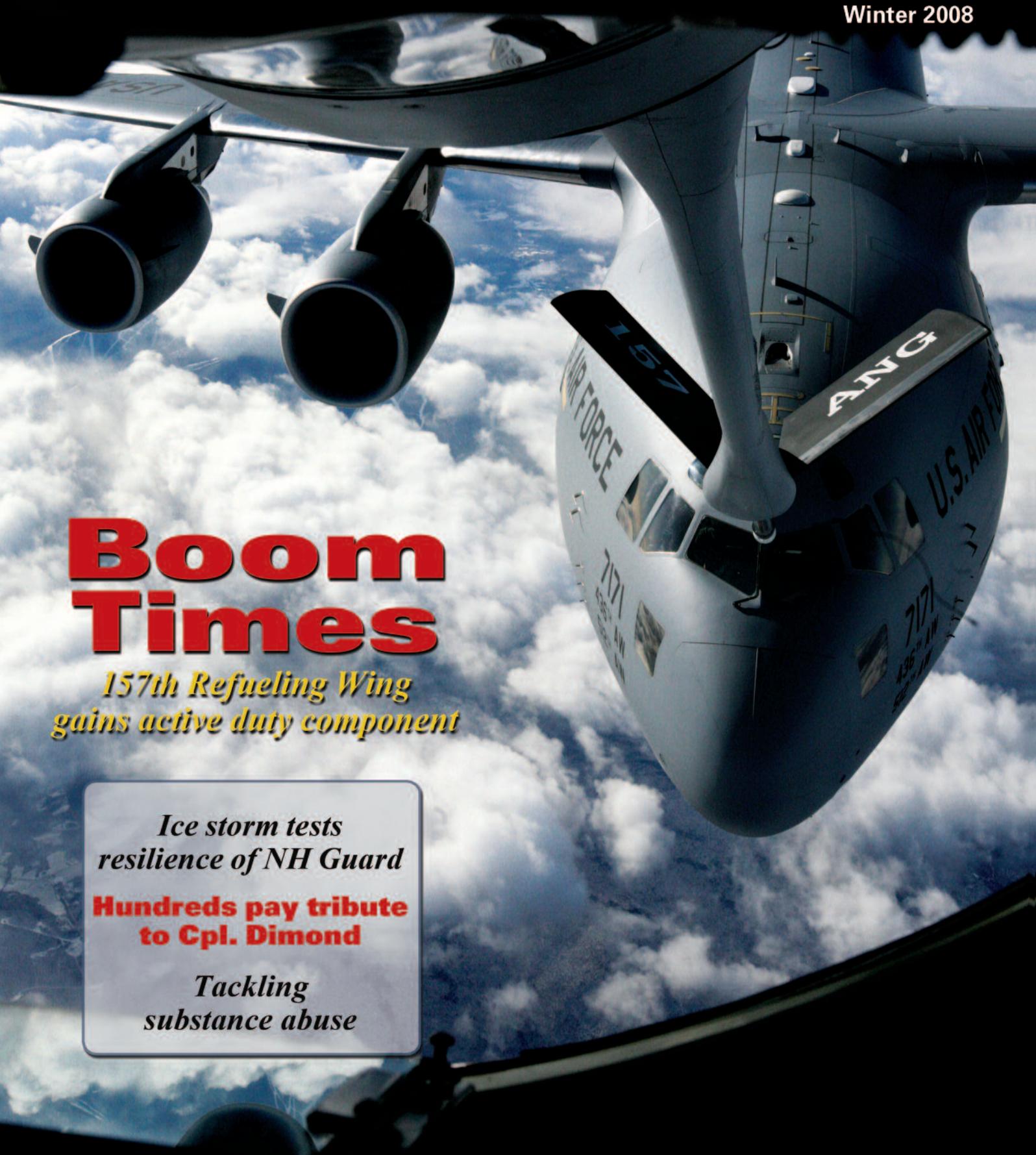


NEW HAMPSHIRE

National Guard

MAGAZINE

Winter 2008



Boom Times

*157th Refueling Wing
gains active duty component*

*Ice storm tests
resilience of NH Guard*

**Hundreds pay tribute
to Cpl. Dimond**

*Tackling
substance abuse*



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On the Cover: A 157th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker conducts a refueling mission this past November somewhere over skies of New England. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

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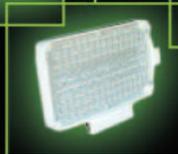
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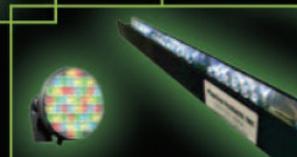


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ICE

STORM

tests resilience of NH Guard

Support of recovery efforts enters seventh day

CONCORD – As this edition of the *NHNG Magazine* goes to print, more than 200 NH National Guardsmen continue to assist state and local authorities seven days after an ice storm knocked out power to 400,000 residents.

From saw crews to health and welfare checks house by house, NH citizen soldiers and airmen have deployed to more than a dozen communities since the Dec. 11 storm, bringing an added level of assurance and security to the hardest hit neighborhoods across the state.

“We’ll be here as long as we are needed,” has been a common refrain from NH Guardsmen, many of whom were dealing with the loss of power and damage to their own homes.

Working in 12-hour shifts, they also manned the state’s emergency operation center as well as delivered critical supplies such as food, water, generators and cots.

Including support staff, more than 400 NH Guardsmen have been directly involved in recovery efforts.

“With us fighting overseas, this shows the people back home that we’re also here for them if they need us,” said Spc. Daniel Musso of the 237th Military Police Company, who was going door to door doing health and welfare checks in Temple. “From the support we’ve seen, people’s faces and their expressions and them thanking us, offering us cookies and drinks, they really appreciate us being here helping them out.”

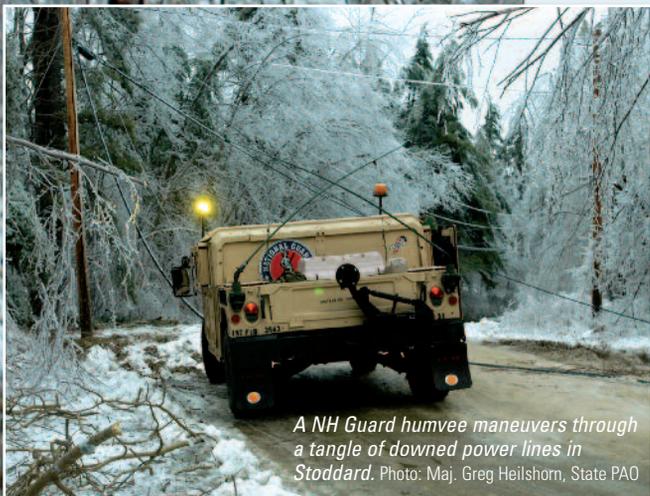
In Derry, Pvt. Brett Starcher and Pfc. Mark O’Brien of the 160th Engineers helped Derry resident Dianna Larocque load water into the trunk of her car. She and her family were going on the seventh night without power.

“The soldiers have been wonderful,” she said.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, the Adjutant General of the New Hampshire Guard, lauded the efforts of his troops after visiting with soldiers clearing debris in Stoddard.

“I could not be any prouder of our men and women,” said Clark, who has seen his force respond to four state-related emergencies over the past three years. “We talk about selfless service as being one of our core values in the NH Guard. It’s not just a slogan to us. It’s a deep commitment to always be there in a time of need, and it’s what makes us put on the uniform every day.”

“What you are seeing is the Guard at its best,” Clark said. ♦



A NH Guard humvee maneuvers through a tangle of downed power lines in Stoddard. Photo: Maj. Greg Heilshorn, State PAO



Pvt. Brett Starcher and Pfc. Mark O’Brien, 160th Engineers, help Derry resident Dianna Larocque load water into her trunk Dec. 17, 2008. This was the 7th night her family spent without power. Members of the NH National Guard earlier had been working on her street cutting trees. She thanked O’Brien for his service and said, “The soldiers have been wonderful.” Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA



Tackling Substance ABUSE with Compassion

What you need to know about helping your fellow soldiers, airmen when they come home from war

A Q&A with Lt. Col. Rick Greenwood, director of the NH Guard's Counterdrug Task Force

NHNG Magazine: I am 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle and I am talking with Lt. Col. Rick Greenwood about the New Hampshire National Guard's Counterdrug Program. Greenwood is the director of the program.

Greenwood: The task force has been around for more than 20 years now. Every state and territory has a program. The three core pieces of the program are drug demand reduction, which is an education piece really focusing on the children of the various states and territories – on the illegal use of substances and offering better alternatives. Healthy choices if you will. We like to use the term healthy choices.

When you and I grew up, we loved to go out and have a pickup game or something. That was something we enjoyed doing and that was a good, healthy thing outside and getting exercise. Kids today have gotten away from a lot of that and so we look at offering good alternatives to going down the road to substance abuse, and also talk about why communication is important, and self esteem, and staying in school and getting good grades. All of those things that lead to healthy lifestyles. The demand reduction piece is focused on that.

The second part of our program is our drug intervention criminal analysts. In this program, we have criminal analysts embedded with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The analyst's goal at the agencies is to support law enforcement in the preparation of drug cases that go to court for prosecution. It allows law enforcement people to free up their time, where they would be involved in the preparation of a case for court, so they can be free to be on the street doing what they do best, and that's getting the bad guys off the streets.

The third piece of what we do is our internal substance abuse – the urinalysis

program. As we know, soldiers and airmen are required to be drug free. We conduct that testing.

So it is a holistic approach in a sense. We work from the prevention piece with the children, work with law enforcement to get the bad guys off the street, and at the same time ensure our own people are drug-free and healthy.

NHNG Magazine: I am going to focus on the third piece. Do we have a substance abuse problem among our soldiers and airmen?

Greenwood: Since the 9/11 attacks and the onset of the wars, the environment and circumstances have changed. Do we have a drug problem? Relatively speaking, we have a drug problem similar to other guard units around the country. It appears to be more then it had been prior to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Learning from our history and the mistakes of the past, there has been a tremendous national effort to recognize and deal with the issues that our soldiers and airmen go through. In those environments particularly in war zones, and as such, a lot of attention has been given to establishing reintegration programs and related substance abuse issues.

In counterdrug, within the last three years, we have been working with the Army Center for Substance Abuse Programs, the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to come up with an approach to dealing with this. What's come out of that is a program called Prevention Treatment Outreach, commonly referred to as PTO. That program works hand in hand with these other programs, particularly the reintegration piece.

With soldiers and airmen who have deployed and come back, we are seeing a marked increase in personal issues, whether it be PTSD issues, whether it be domestic violence issues, divorce, criminal activity – just lots of issues that are the problems you might see from soldiers and airmen when they return from a combat environment.

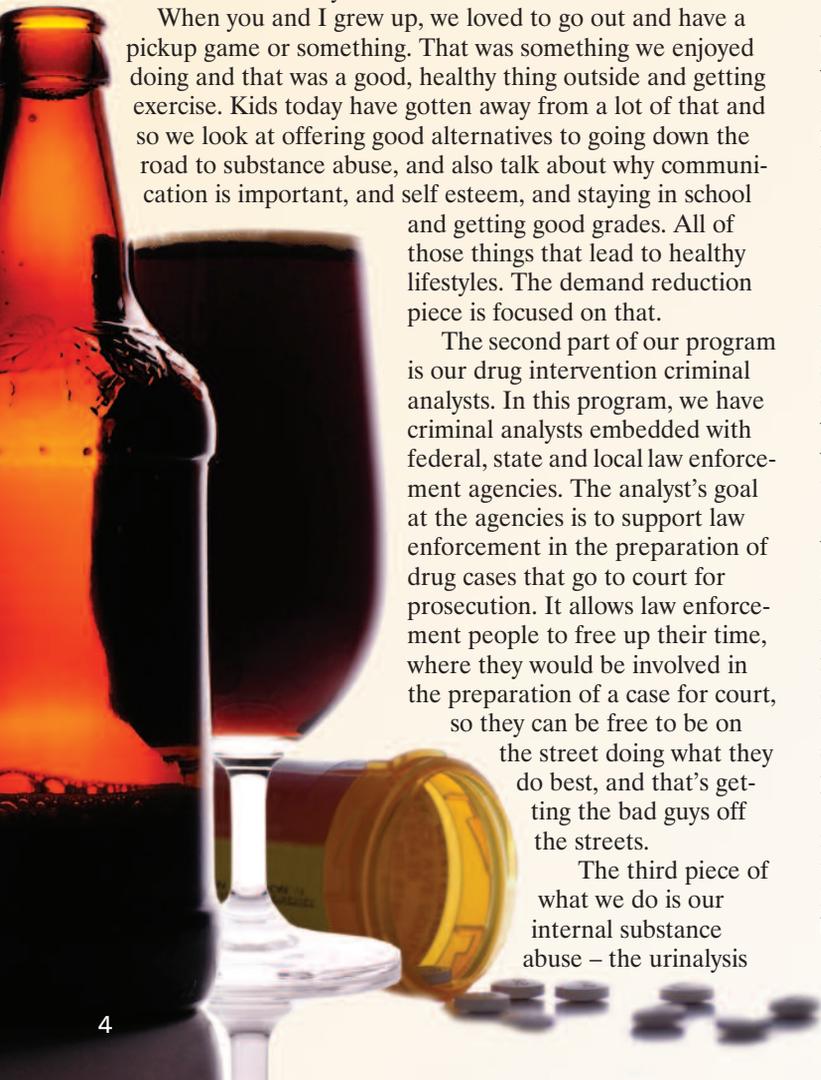
We recognize that and are trying to learn from our past and how best to approach and to help the soldiers and airmen in those circumstances.

Historically, there has not been a lot of help for people in those circumstances. The question that becomes the core question in my mind is substance abuse a result of the circumstances and experiences the soldier and airmen had or did the soldiers and airmen come back and go to substance abuse as a way of sort of suppressing and trying in their own way to deal with some of the circumstances they are in? And that's where they find themselves.

That's a pretty tough question. Fortunately, and I mean this, very fortunately, the National Guard as a whole and the National Guard in New Hampshire in particular, because I think we lead the nation, us and Minnesota, perhaps, in these very issues, recognize that the National Guard is not the service providers for the kind of help that these soldiers and airmen need. The service providers are the professionals who are in our communities and in our states, so we have partnered with them to make sure that our soldiers and airmen do get the appropriate and proper services that they need for their specific circumstances.

If you have someone who is abusing alcohol, that doesn't necessarily imply they have PTSD. Conversely, you don't want to send someone to a counselor for PTSD if really what they have is an alcohol problem. That is a very simplified example, but it is an example of determining the right approach.

The PTO NCOs (non-commissioned officers) are trained by



the agencies I just talked about. They are certified in how to recognize and deal with the issues they are being confronted with by the soldiers and airmen. Their task is several-fold but their major task is to make sure these people get funneled to the right service providers. Some may be concurrent. They may be dealing with alcohol issues and PTSD and they may need to see more than one counselor.

NHNG Magazine: So we do have a substance abuse problem, similar to other Guard units, and it has increased since the wars started?

Greenwood: It is a relative issue in Guard units and active duty military across the country that we are seeing those increases.

Let me go back to the PTO. Part of what they do is conduct unit risks interviews and they are done pre-deployment and post-deployment. They are very specific and difficult questions. Categories would be in terms of personal hardships, financial hardships, substance abuse, and suicide.

It is an anonymous survey, but it gives us strong indications because people, particularly when they get back, are pretty honest about what is going on with them.

I will tell you however, that within the command there are certain questions in this survey that are red flags. Particularly when it comes to a person's concern about hurting themselves or someone else. Some of the questions in a general sense would be, have you thought of suicide, do you have a plan for suicide, have you tried or attempted suicide, and if there is a yes to any of those questions, that is a big red flag.

We don't tally these surveys. They get sent to the Army Center for Substance Abuse, but we do review these very specific questions looking for those red flags that are immediate, urgent requirements, and then we go right to the command. Still, we can't identify the individual, because we don't know. It's anonymous. But what we can do and what we have done, if someone did indicate on a survey, yes I am thinking about it and yes I have a plan, is get it down to the unit command so they can address it with immediacy.

Another wonderful story – the commander of a unit, a young lieutenant, had the where-with-all to sit down to write a letter, an e-mail to every member of the unit. He basically said, I know we have all gone through a lot. Every single one of you are very important to me, and if anybody out there is contemplating or thinking about injuring themselves or doing anything, here is all of my contact information, personal phone, cell phone, office phone, e-mail. You name it, anything, get in touch with me please.

And he pushed it out. It was a wonderful approach. And I think we were able to do something with that. It was absolutely the right thing to do. He showed great leadership, great understanding and compassion for his soldiers. What more can you ask for in a leader, but it all came as a result of this PTO survey that was flagged.

I believe, personally, and I think I can substantiate it statistically, and in discussions I have had at the highest leadership levels, to include the congressional levels, that this program is certainly one of the top programs of concern all across the country. This may be the most significant thing we can do for our soldiers and airmen here.



Lt. Col. Rick Greenwood, director of the NH Guard's Counterdrug Task Force, answers a question from Bob LaPree, a photographer from the Union Leader during NH Guard Kids Camp held last summer. Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle, Deputy State PAO

NHNG Magazine: Is there anything that we should be doing that we are not?

Greenwood: I don't have a real snappy answer for that. This program hasn't been going long enough to determine that.

I think the best thing we can do is to continue to educate our command structure on what this really is. It isn't a form of punishment. But it is really a reaching out to the soldiers and their families. Don't neglect the families because they get a part of this too. And encourage PTO. Without getting into the whole curriculum of the PTO because there is one. There is a whole education piece on communication.

An example, you and I may be very good friends and you know what? I kind of know you've got a problem. I have seen you drinking a lot. I have listened to you talking. I need to be willing to step up as your friend and say you know, I think you've got a problem and I think you need to get help. And you know what; I am going to go through it with you. I'm going to stand right by your side and we are going to go through this together because you are my friend. Because you are my fellow soldier, we are going to get through this.

We have to get our soldiers to be willing to step up for their buddies – and a lot of them have – and say I'm going to go through this with you because I know it's tough. And we have shared experiences and I know what you have gone through and we are going to do this.

And that is where we need to continue to get the word out. People need to take that responsibility for their friends because it may not be something that a person can do on their own. And they don't know how to do it or what to do with it. Know they need something but don't know how to get there. So part of what we teach them, and the curriculum of this program, is ways to do that, ways to help them get that involvement.

There is no more important piece of this program than knowing from the highest levels of command all the way down to the soldiers in the field that they understand and then support what this program is doing. Because without that understanding and support, this is going to be a struggle. ❖

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Air Force Memorial dedicated

The three symbolic spires of the new Air Force Memorial at the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen were dedicated by retired Gen. Ron Fogleman on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

The dedication culminates over a year of combined committee effort from members of the Air Force Association, Brig. Gen. Harrison Thyng Chapter and the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 155/A155 Portsmouth by the Sea Chapter.

The memorial honors all men and women and their families that served in the USAF – Active, Guard, Reserve and civilians – and its legacy organizations. It was purposely made to be notional without aircraft to symbolize the idea that the Air Force is more than the airplanes it flies. It takes the effort of all people, aviators, mission support; officers, enlisted, civilians and families to accomplish the mission.

It is designed in the form of a roundel, which dates from the early days of the Air Force and is used today on aircraft and missiles alike. It is immediately recognized by friend and foe as identifying the finest fighting forces in the world. It represents the unifying foundation of the total force.

The three granite memorial tablets show icons and symbols with text representing the Air Force and its history in New Hampshire. The three spires evoke a modern image of flight by jet and space vehicles. They also enshrine the past in permanent remembrance of the pioneers who came before, and pay homage to those of the future. There are three to capture the core values of the Air Force: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.

The goal of the design was to be timeless and easily recognizable by whoever visited the site – a place where school-aged children could distinguish that they were at the Air Force memorial and a special place where veterans could go to reminisce. ♦



Crowds gather for the Air Force Memorial dedication at the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2008. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

157th enhances mission with addition of active duty component

By 1st Lt. Evan Lagasse, 157 ARW PA

On Dec. 10, 2008, the United States Air Force and the National Guard Bureau announced the formation of an active associate KC-135 Stratotanker unit at Pease Air National Guard Base.

Beginning in July 2009, active duty airmen, comprising aircrew, maintenance and support personnel, will be incorporated into the 157th Air Refueling Wing as part of the Air Force's ongoing Total Force Integration initiatives.

Approximately 135 personnel will be assigned to work side-by-side, flying and maintaining the Air Guard's fleet to accomplish the Wing's missions, to include contingency deployments such as Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Adding these active duty airmen to the New Hampshire Air National Guard's total force will enable the Wing to increase the utilization of its fleet of aircraft and provide even more of the professional global air refueling services it is known for.

The Wing will maintain ownership of all KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft stationed here and will be the host unit for the active duty airmen who will remain under administrative control of the Air Mobility Command, headquartered at Scott AFB.

The 157th ARW was selected to become an active associate

unit because of its reputation for excellence and its prime coastal location for executing the air refueling mission.

"New Hampshire's northeast coast location and very high quality of life make it an ideal location for the active duty airmen to train in and operate the KC-135," said Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, the Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard.

The Birmingham Air National Guard Base, Ala., and Scott Air Force Base, Ill., will also become active associate wings.

"Partnering with regular Air Force counterparts is a win-win for the Air Force. It allows our highly experienced citizen-airmen to share their knowledge and experience with their regular Air Force teammates, and it provides the regular Air Force KC-135 force with additional opportunities for training and deployments," said Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw, acting director of the Air National Guard. "The War on Terror has been a Total Force fight all along. By combining regular Air Force and Air National Guard airmen and resources, the Total Force provides tailorable units with unparalleled responsiveness and global reach."

These three active associations are forecast to be fully operationally capable by September 2011. ♦

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157th Security Forces defend Bagram Air Field



Story and photo by Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

From 30,000 feet in the air, Senior Master Sgt. John Craig could see ribbons of light snaking through total darkness. Through the boom window in the belly of the KC-135, he recognized the sight as a long, slow convoy of trucks on the earth below. He thought about the people who sat inside and drove the dusty humvees.

"I wondered if those were New Hampshire guys down there," said Craig, who just returned from a deployment in the Middle East.

The NH Air National Guard currently has roughly 75 people serving in overseas missions. Many of them are serving with the 157th Security Forces in Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. It is the eighth time the unit has deployed personnel since Sept. 11, 2001.

The ancient city of Bagram was once a key stop on the historic Silk Road to India. The air field, just outside of the city, also played a key role in the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Today it is a temporary home to airmen from New Hampshire who arrived there in August. Their mission is to provide security in defense of the air field, which holds approximately \$3 billion worth of military assets. On a daily basis, they uphold and ensure general law and order and provide security for all the aircraft currently stationed and visiting the air field.

"I have satisfaction that I am contributing to the freedom and democracy of the people of this country and the fight on terrorism," said Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Yoder, serving as the Security Forces functional manager. "Even though we are a small part of what is a really big picture, if it was not for the contribution of our AF Security Forces, the mission would not have the success it is having in this region."

Set in a valley surrounded by harsh, ragged mountain ranges, the air field is flat and dusty. Snow has already topped the steep peaks. Between blowing sand gusts, the vision of the hills reminds Yoder of the White Mountains back home in winter. The similarities to home seem to end there.

"Right outside the perimeter fence you can see people still living in mud huts," Yoder said. "To say the least, the population

is poor and limited on essentials that we take for granted every day, like running water and sanitation facilities." It is a contrast to the things the airmen have left behind at home.

The 157th Security Forces have missed both the election and the holiday season. Two of their members, who have new additions to their family, will miss their children's first Christmas.

Master Sgt. William Charland's son Ryan was born in October 2008. Charland and his wife, Judy, have a list of events they plan to celebrate in order when he gets home: his son's birth on Oct. 3, 2008, his birthday on Nov. 5, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, their anniversary on Jan. 27 and Valentine's Day.

In the meantime, he gets daily pictures of both of his children and talks to them using Skype. His older son, Daniel, 16 months, tries to feed him pretzels through the computer.

"The hard part is Daniel, who knows me, occasionally wakes up at night crying for Daddy," said Charland. The true hero, he said, is his wife. "She has to raise our two children, both still in diapers, pay the bills, make decisions on renovations for the house, ensure our furnace gets fixed and get the collapsed chimney flu repaired, and while doing all this, she remains strong and in control. She takes this a step further by passing her strength to me."

Tech. Sgt. Edward Dubaniewicz also has two children, one born during his deployment.

"It is tough knowing that my daughter this year will be old enough to understand what Christmas is about," Dubaniewicz said. "But I know that being here is going to make the USA and the world a safer place. I would rather be home with my family, but being here makes it possible to all the families in the USA to have a safe holiday season."

It's a sentiment shared by Yoder. "The majority of these guys volunteered for this mission, and they did it without reservation, knowing they would be leaving their families during a real difficult time," said Yoder. "Without their dedication to duty and honor, the success of this mission would be limited. As the beginning of the Airmen's Creed goes, 'I am an American Airman. I am a warrior. I have answered my Nation's Call.' These guys have answered that call and will continue to do so, and their families can be proud of them." ♦

Hundreds pay tribute to Dimond



By Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish, 114th MPAD

Hundreds of citizen soldiers, airmen, police officers, friends and family gathered to pay tribute to Cpl. Scott G. Dimond, C 3/172nd INF, at Franklin Middle School on Oct. 25. Dimond was killed in action on Oct. 13 in the Helman Province of Afghanistan. He was in the gunner's turret of his humvee when his vehicle was hit with a roadside bomb.

He had spent a life devoted to others, serving his community as a Franklin police officer for more than 18 years. He served his state by joining the New Hampshire National Guard, and he served his country by deploying to Afghanistan. He left behind his wife Jennifer and four children.

Gov. John Lynch said he was the lesser for having never met Dimond personally, but he had the fortune of spending time with Dimond's family and fellow guardsmen. "Scott was truly an amazing man, dedicated to his community, to his country and to his family. He was a protector," said Lynch.

Of those that shared their memories of Dimond, it was his cousin, Sgt. William Witcher, C 3/172nd INF, that drew an audible reaction from those present.

"It took me four helicopters and six planes to get here," said Witcher, who was serving in Afghanistan with a different unit. "Tonight when you go home I would like to have everyone pray for a special friend of mine, Sgt. Deon Taylor. He's the sergeant that filled in for me, so I could come here, and he was killed in action yesterday, for me to be here. Pray for him."

Witcher described a childhood shared with Dimond where backyards became a series of tunnels and foxholes, pine cones were grenades, and the two cousins were always on the same side. "Sometimes we had to play cowboys and Indians because somebody had to be the Nazis, and Scotty and I weren't going to be anything but Americans," recalled Witcher.

237th soldier remembered as devoted son, brother and comrade

ALTON BAY – Spc. Seth Haapanen, 22, of Alton Bay died Oct 28, 2008, in Manchester.

He served honorably with the 237th Military Police Company, returning from a year in Iraq in the summer of 2008.

Born in Great Barrington, Mass., on Oct. 12, 1986, son of Richard A. and Linda R. Briggs Haapanen, he attended Berkshire Christian School of Lenox, The Master's Christian School of Pittsfield, and was home schooled during his high school years.

He was a self-employed painting contractor serving much of the central New Hampshire area.

For most of his life Haapanen attended Hope Church in Lenox, Mass., and was active in the Boy's Brigade and youth programs there. A devoted son, brother and friend, he loved being in the company of those he loved and cared for and was always available with encouragement and compassion to those in need. Seth was very down to earth, enjoyed traveling, and the outdoors. ❖





Cpl. Scott Dimond is laid to rest in Franklin, Oct. 25. Dimond was killed in action while on duty in Afghanistan on Oct. 13. Photo: Tech. Sgt. Kurt Lenz, 157 ARW-PA

Dimond and Whitcher joined the Marines together in 1987, but Dimond could not continue his training because of a football injury.

“He was always looking out for me growing up, you know, always there,” Whitcher said. “If I needed back up at night, if my buddy Bruce wasn’t around, I’d always call Scott Dimond. And he’d run right over if he heard me on the radio in distress. He’d always come over and help me out.”

Whitcher met with 1st Sgt. Stephen Houten, a friend for many years, and told him in order to fulfill his life journey he, Whitcher, needed to deploy to Afghanistan. Houten agreed with him, and Whitcher then called Dimond to let him know.

“I told him what I was doing, and he said, ‘You don’t think you are going without me, do you? Someone’s got to get you home safe.’”

When the two cousins crossed paths during the course of their missions, each was easily recognized and quickly embraced by the other. “You know how he’s got that bounce when he walks, because he wants to feel taller than he actually is? You could always see him coming from a long way away.”

Whitcher recounted the events of a 12-hour firefight, with rockets, mortars and machine guns when his cell phone started ringing. It was Dimond.

Unable to answer the phone between changing magazines, Whitcher called him back when the attack was over. “He knew I was in distress and was calling to check on me,” explained Whitcher.

Dimond carried an American flag with him. He showed his

cousin how to fold the flag, as he had learned during his time with Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Richard Fredette in the NHNG Honor Guard. He placed it in his hands telling him to hold onto it for good luck.

“I felt that flag in my cargo pocket every firefight, and I knew I was going to be all right,” said Whitcher.

The last time the two cousins met was on a mission with Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, in Lashkar Gah in the Helman Province of Afghanistan. They hugged each other and talked for hours, never leaving each other’s side. Whitcher took the last picture of Dimond that day – sitting in his humvee giving the thumbs up to let everyone know back home he was okay. They traded dog tags, said they loved each other, and promised they would come home together.

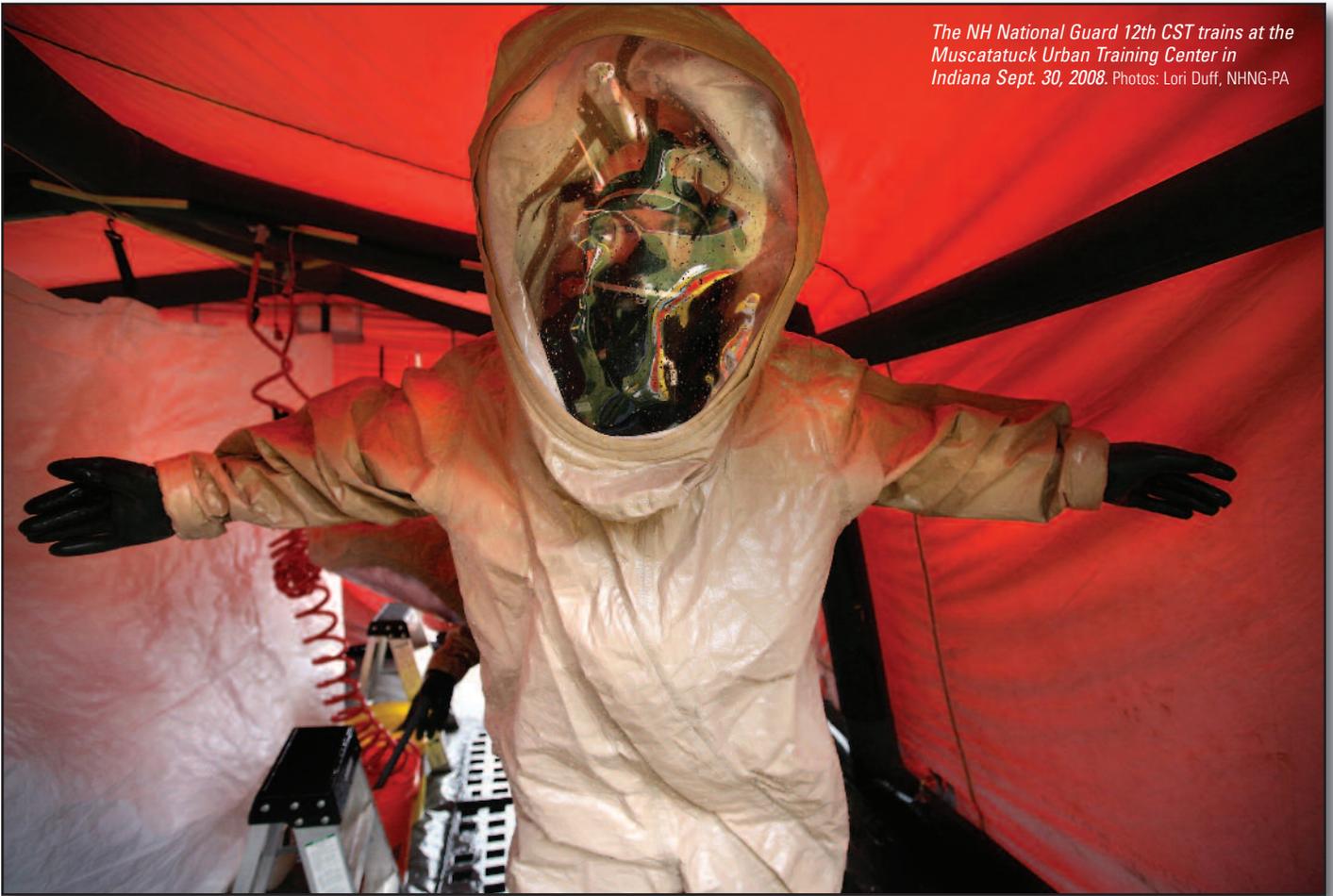
Whitcher, along with his fellow soldiers, said Dimond led by example, taking the front truck on missions because he felt that his experience could bring home younger kids safely.

Whitcher quoted Gen. Douglas MacArthur in his closing remarks, “He who dares to die, to lay his life on the altar of his nation’s need is beyond doubt the noblest development of mankind.”

“There’s no nobler man than Cpl. Scott Dimond,” added Whitcher.

Dimond was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service from April 8 to Oct. 13, 2008, while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He also received the Purple Heart, a Good Conduct Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge. ♦

The NH National Guard 12th CST trains at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Indiana Sept. 30, 2008. Photos: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA



12th CST finds its niche

Members of the 12th Combat Support Team recently traveled to the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Indiana for a week-long training with three New Hampshire public safety organizations – the Nashua Fire Department, the Manchester Police Special Operations Unit and the NH State Police Bomb Squad. It was the first time the groups have worked together for an extended week-long training.

“It’s a big deal to us,” said Sgt. Peter Favreau of the Manchester Police Department, who trained with the group for the first time. “We didn’t have a good understanding of the capabilities of these guys and the resources they have. If a scenario did happen, it’s good to know that they are there.”

Originally created to respond to the use of weapons of mass destruction and to support authorities during chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-explosive incidents, the 12th CST has expanded the ways it is able to serve the state. Commander Maj. Erik Fessenden said that since Hurricane Katrina, the team has grown their mission to assist with services such as the flooding in Alstead, screening at NASCAR events and communication during NH Fish and Game rescues.

“We want to push the envelope and find new ways that we can be of value to the National Guard,” said Fessenden. ♦



NH State Police Trooper and Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit member Ed Flynn gets his mask checked before training at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Indiana Sept. 30, 2008.

CONFESSIONS OF A MILITARY WIFE

By Terri Ouellet

I have a love/hate relationship with the Army. I'll be the first to admit that there have been plenty of times when I've felt that our family comes a distant second to my husband's life in the NH Guard. My mother, a military wife herself once, has told me before that if the military wanted its members to have families, it would have issued them.

Still, I am proud of my husband and his contribution to our state and country, despite the toll it sometimes takes on our family. He has a duty to the Guard, and at times I have felt the pain that that duty inflicts.

I remember his mobilization for Katrina relief: eight weeks away from our then two-year-old daughter, and a four-months-pregnant me left shouldering the load for both of us. That was my first experience with being a married single mother. I remember bursting into tears as I stood in four inches of rising water in our basement, feeling nauseated, with our daughter crying upstairs and the phone ringing. He was on the other end, calling to check, and selfishly all I could do was yell at him for being gone – all the while knowing that he wasn't gone by choice. He was fulfilling a duty to his country. I also remember screaming at him that his duty wasn't helping to dry the basement out.

There have been other times like that, plenty of them – somehow mostly involving flooding – when I've felt our family was playing second fiddle to the Guard. Despite knowing that I was strong enough to get through whatever was thrown our way (and if I wasn't, I had support that I could call in), I've often felt that Dan's obligation should ultimately be with us. All the while I know that orders are orders and that's that – end of story, whether I like it or not.



Terri and Dan Ouellet are all smiles with their daughters at Dan's welcome home ceremony earlier last year. Photo: Courtesy of Terri Ouellet

Then, I have to stop and look at the man that my husband is, partly because of what he's learned while in the Guard. He is a planner. The details with which he plans even the simplest of things, which sometimes makes me wonder if he has OCD, have saved many headaches. His ability to think on his feet and adapt to any situation is something I've always admired him for. He can assess any situation swiftly and accurately (okay, so his ability to read me accurately still needs a lot of work).

His service in the Guard has often forced me to be more appreciative of the life we have. The stories he's told of children our daughter's age that he came across while in Afghanistan – forced to work as sheep herders for the welfare of their families – put all of my seemingly insurmountable situations back into perspective.

I had the amazing opportunity once to interview and write an article about John Clayton, award-winning author of the book "New Hampshire: War and Peace" – a must read about New Hampshire's heroes, in and out of uniform. I asked John why he wanted to write the book, and his answer still resonates with me.

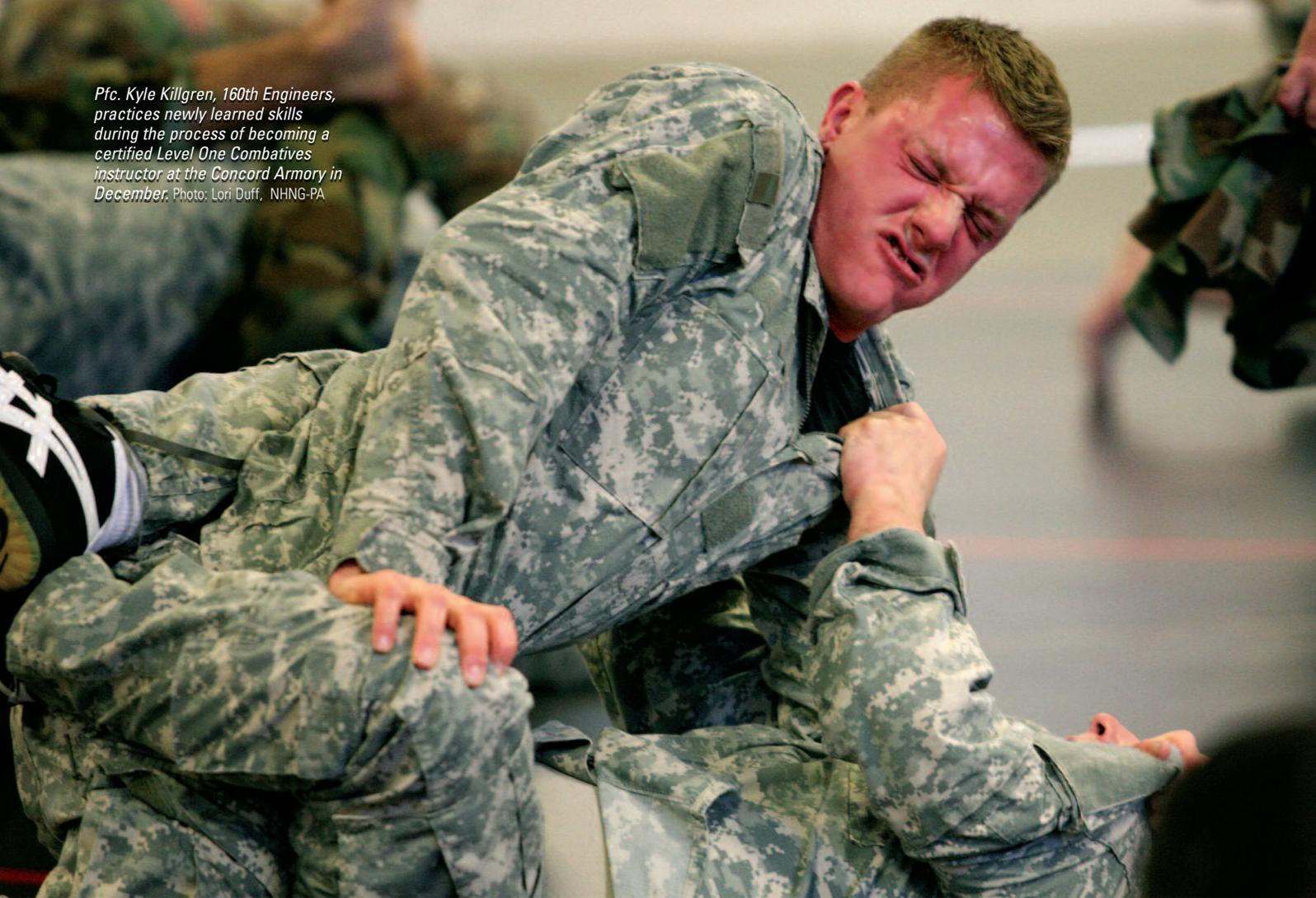
He said, "Every one of us wishes, in some way, that we could have done what these people have done. I know the sacrifices these people have made, and I hope this book gives them a sense of appreciation, of reverence, for what they have done and what they continue to do."

Not long after Dan returned home, we found a blog online, written by a guy who'd been on the plane sitting next to him as he flew home from his tour in Afghanistan. Dan was late coming home due to a mix-up in his orders, and this guy riding next to him had no idea what Dan's story was until he got off the plane to welcome-home banners, cheering and Lauren yelling, "Daddy!"

What they continue to do is serve selflessly, humbly and without question. The New Hampshire Guard touches people's lives, sometimes without meaning to, like that guy on the plane that night.

And that's why, despite the fact that I wrestle with this "other woman" in our marriage sometimes, I faithfully support my husband and his dedication to the Guard – even when it means that I'm left to pick up the pieces of our family that the Guard forces him to leave behind. ❖

Pfc. Kyle Killgren, 160th Engineers, practices newly learned skills during the process of becoming a certified Level One Combatives instructor at the Concord Army in December. Photo: Lori Duff, NHNG-PA



COMBATIVES

fighting techniques from conventional martial arts to combat sports

By 1st Sgt Mike Daigle, Deputy State PAO

With a sweat-streaked grimace of pain on his face and holding his broken finger with his good hand, Sgt. Maj. Jason Speltz, Headquarters, 195th Regiment, rolled off the exercise mat and walked over to a group of soldiers recently at the Concord army.

“The basic strategy of Combatives is to close the distance, gain a dominant position, and finish the fight,” Speltz said. “You train to learn the physical motions that accomplish the last two steps, but most importantly you train to master the first step of closing the distance. This step is the hardest because it is a mental one. It is all about the Warrior Ethos and having the confidence to act when called upon.”

Speltz’s broken finger was evidence of a practical application of Army Combatives, a new Army term for hand-to-hand combat technique. Combatives includes various hybrid martial arts that incorporate fighting techniques from conventional martial arts and combat sports.

Speltz’s injuries highlight what is controversial about the new program. The program has some people wondering – are the injuries from combatives training worth the program’s obvious benefits?

“The Office of the State Surgeon feels that combative training is an essential tool in the war fighter’s arsenal to protect themselves and others. However, it does come with risk,” said Maj. Richard Oberman. “We have had injuries in the line of duty due to combative training. It is essential that instructors are trained in how to properly instruct combative maneuvers as well as how to handle a situation should someone become injured.”

The modern Army combatives program began in 1995 with the 2nd Ranger Battalion and was adopted by the 11th Infantry Regiment in 1999. After receiving positive feedback from the soldiers, the program was incorporated into the new Field Manual 3-25.150. It is now being introduced to the Army as a whole.

Combatives SAFETY

The Army's combatives program has been specifically designed to train the most competent fighters in the shortest possible time in the safest possible manner.

- a. **General Safety Precautions.** The techniques of Army combatives should be taught in the order presented in the Army manual. They are arranged to not only give the natural progression of techniques, but to present the more dangerous techniques after the soldiers have established a familiarity with the dynamics of combative techniques in general. This will result in fewer serious injuries from the more dynamic moves.
- b. **Supervision.** The most important safety consideration is proper supervision. Because of the potentially dangerous nature of the techniques involved, combatives training must always be conducted under the supervision of qualified leaders.
- c. **Training Areas.** Most training should be conducted in an area with soft footing such as a grassy or sandy area. If training mats are available, they should be used. A hard surface area is not appropriate for combatives training.
- d. **Chokes.** Chokes are the best way to end a fight. They are the most effective way to incapacitate an enemy and, with supervision, are also safe enough to apply in training exactly as on the battlefield.
- e. **Joint Locks.** In order to incapacitate an enemy, attacks should be directed against large joints such as the elbow, shoulder, or knee. Attacks on most of these joints are very painful long before causing any injury, which allows full-force training to be conducted without significant risk of injury. The exceptions are wrist attacks and twisting knee attacks. The wrist is very easily damaged, and twisting the knee does not become painful until it is too late. Therefore, these attacks should be taught with great care and should not be allowed in sparring or competitions.
- f. **Striking.** Striking is an inefficient way to incapacitate an enemy. Strikes are, however, an important part of an overall fight strategy and can be very effective in manipulating the opponent into unfavorable positions. Striking can be practiced with various types of protective padding such as boxing gloves. Defense can be practiced using reduced force blows. Training should be continuously focused on the realities of fighting.

"Combatives training helps to instill courage and self-confidence," said Speltz.

To spin up interest in the officially sanctioned and regulated program, the Army holds combative competitions at Fort Benning, Ga. The competition has shown incredible growth. More than 280 soldiers from around the Army competed in the fourth annual U.S. Army Combatives Championship last month, twice as many competitors this year as last year. The previous month the NH National Guard sent two soldiers to the National Guard Bureau competition.

"Combatives training is just as important as weaponry training," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kinsella, Det Training NCO, 54th Troop Command. "The training is not just about learning combative skills. It is about learning to develop a battle mind and a warrior ethos."

To prevent injuries there is an extensive list of rules from the Army Field Manual. But according to Kinsella, "The true key to safety is supervised instruction by a certified instructor who will control the intensity of the training. Soldiers get excited about this training, as they should because they are warriors. But they need to temper their warrior spirit with discipline."

*"The basic strategy
of combatives is to
close the distance,
gain a dominant position,
and finish the fight."*

In the background, two old soldiers grunt and yell as they sweat and strain to pin each other to the mat as the young soldiers around them watch, eager to spot bad technique, or even better, some evidence of weakness. As the sweat dries on his face, Speltz also watches, and he grimaces in seeming sympathy with the two old soldiers.

"I have been told the defining characteristic of a warrior is the willingness to close with the enemy," Speltz said. "This way of life is a contact sport. There are going to be injuries."

Entry-level soldiers receive a training base in combatives during basic training and one-station unit training (OSUT). Advanced individual training (AIT) commanders can expand into the more advanced techniques discussed in the Field Manual. The Chief of Staff of the Army approved the Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) under the Task Force Soldier initiative. The CSA directed that every soldier will experience actual hands on combatives training prior to deploying. Consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force Soldier and Warrior Ethos Programs, the purpose of MACP is to train soldiers in combative skills and develop a train-the-trainer program for all Army units. This program ensures a safe and standardized implementation across the Army and provides soldiers with confidence in their ability to employ effective combative techniques.

The training itself is not competition. "There are competitions, but we are not training for competition," Kinsella said. "This training is about preparing soldiers for combat." ♦

Chief of field artillery pays visit to 197th Fires Brigade

By Staff Sgt. Neal Mitchell, HHB, 197th FiB PA NCO

MANCHESTER – For the first time in history, the Army Chief of Field Artillery visited the NH Guard and the 197th Fires Brigade at the Manchester Armory this past September.

Maj. Gen. Peter Vangjel, a graduate of the University of New Hampshire ROTC program, was welcomed by Col. Peter Corey, 197th FiB commander who presented a briefing on the post-transformation status of the unit, which last year traded in its howitzers for a high mobility rocket system.

Vangjel's visit to New Hampshire was a combination of business and pleasure.

"I think of New Hampshire with pleasure because I remember it as being such a beautiful place," he said. "My visit to the NASCAR races (in Loudon) gave me an opportunity to visit the 197th. My goal is to visit every one of the FiBs."

Concerns about the staffing, procurement and availability of equipment were discussed in order to better understand what challenges the 197th FiB is facing.

Vangjel offered Corey and his staff plenty of insight into the future of the 197th.

"It's the new FiB modular concept that provides our headquarters staff with the greatest challenge because we are somewhat inexperienced as to how this new concept will fit in with the bigger picture," he said. "Within the FiB it's the effective integration of the new non-lethal aspects along with our more familiar lethal fires doctrine that offers one of the biggest internal challenges to FiB formations."

Corey and his staff said the opportunity to have an open discussion with Vangjel was invaluable.

"It's not every day that a senior Army official like Maj. Gen. Vangjel takes the time to sit and listen to our comments," he said. "This is a historic event for the 197th." ♦



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The Adventures of "Team Granite"

By Lt. Col. Tom Haydon, Commander Team Granite

The 15 members of NH's "Team Granite" officially arrived in theater on Nov. 12, 2008. The arrival at Camp Phoenix marked a significant milestone in a journey that started in January.

The current Embedded Training Team or Transition Team (ETT/TT) mission was announced at the Joint Symposium Jan. 13. Over the next couple of months, the roster grew to the authorized 16 personnel, and we started training as a unit in March. Training included driver training and licensing on the humvee (to include the M1151 "up-armored humvee or UAH), close quarters marksmanship, combat lifesaver (CLS) and a variety of Army Warrior Tasks (AWT) while at annual training at Camp Ethan Allen in Vermont. In July, we conducted the formal family program briefings, and August saw lots of final administrative and "SRP" activity as we neared the Aug. 30 mobilization date and preparation for deployment.

September was a busy and emotional month for both the team and family members. The first significant event was our departure ceremony, which was conducted on Tuesday, Sept. 2. I was personally not particularly looking forward to this event as it would be a "reality check" for team members and families for what was about to transpire. As things turned out, the event was very well attended with a lot of support, for which the team and I were very appreciative. Two days later would see us all at the Manchester Airport for a tearful goodbye and a flight to Kansas.

The flight to Kansas was a proud moment for the team. On each leg of the trip the Southwest flight crew announced our presence and mission, which was received with applause and support from all the other passengers. That made us appreciate the hardship endured by Vietnam Vets who did not receive a similar welcome. It was nice to know that the country was behind us as we left NH and our families on an adventure which most of us could not yet fully comprehend.

The time at Fort Riley/Camp Funston started slowly, but by the time we hit the Columbus Day weekend, it seemed to flash by in an instant! One surprise was the number of Air Force and Navy personnel at Riley training for the same mission. The second surprise was how nice the weather was! Near perfect weather for two months, except of course, for one of the nights we spent on the range! There are many varied opinions as to the value of what is taught at Riley. This is even shared overseas. Overall, I can say that we were treated well, and although things could always be different or better, we were exposed to a number of skills that will prove helpful over the next nine months. Given the diversity of backgrounds going through the TT course, combined with the dynamic and ever-changing mission environment in Afghanistan, it is a significant challenge to say the least. The training mission will be transferred to Fort Polk next summer. One low note during our time at Riley was the release from active duty (REFRAD) of one of our team members due to a medical issue.

Unfortunately for the team, our leave window was cut dramatically the last week of the course. We had been planning on a flight window of Dec. 4-7, which on Monday of the last week was changed to Nov. 11-13. As a result, the graduation



The New Hampshire Guard's sixth embedded training team arrived in Afghanistan in November 2008 to begin their tour of duty. Courtesy photo

scheduled for Friday, Nov. 7, was cancelled. On Nov. 6, we all departed on leave, not knowing exactly when we had to be back. On Friday, I received three different changes from Fort Riley, with the end result being a report-back date of Monday, Nov. 10. At 1 a.m., Nov. 11, we began the process of departing Fort Riley and heading to the airport. Twenty hours in the air and three days later, we were at Camp Phoenix.

Our stay at Camp Phoenix ended up lasting nine days while we awaited transportation to the west. While at Phoenix, we went through in-processing, attended the Counterinsurgency Academy "COIN", and got lots of rest! Not to mention a dose of "hurry up and wait" and the movement of lots of duffel bags! The convoys between Camp Phoenix and the COIN Academy provided a limited opportunity to see parts of Kabul. Surrounded by mountains, Kabul is at 6,000 feet, quite crowded, and has rather poor air quality. Between coalition forces and contractors at Camp Phoenix, we lost count of the number of different countries represented! At 2:30 a.m. on Nov. 25, we all met at the gate of Camp Phoenix and boarded the convoy headed to the airport.

The team is presently at Camp Stone in Heart, in-processing and awaiting final assignments and transportation. We are assigned to Afghan Regional Security Integration Command – West (ARSIC-West), which in the grand scheme of things reports to Combined Joint Task Force – Phoenix (CJTF-Phoenix). Throughout our training, the importance of the balance between "kinetic" or combat actions and "winning the hearts and minds" of the people has been stressed.

The key to long-term success is the citizens of Afghanistan supporting the government, not through combat actions. Of course, a legitimate and well-run government that can provide for the needs of the people is essential. The primary mission of "Team Granite," along with the rest of the coalition, is to train and mentor the Afghan Army/Police in order to assist them with becoming a more professional and capable force. In many parts of the country, for example where we are, the army and police are the only representatives of the central government most citizens will deal with. Our focus therefore is to train and mentor at every opportunity so that the army and police will continue to improve and become well respected and capable representatives of the central government. Unfortunately, as much as we would like to be able to focus on the people, the "kinetic" aspect of the equation still exists. ❖

Army Promotions & Awards

Private 2

Jonathan King
 Jeffrey Klemarczyk
 Angel Dominguez
 Steven Lavertue
 Travis Guilmette
 Robert Sargavakian
 Rory Sullivan
 Ashley Brewster
 Ryan Mathews
 Shawn Bell
 Ethan Major
 Colby Chenard
 Michael Hutchins
 Matthew Hull
 Bradley Cole
 Daniel Towers
 Zachary Carey
 Kevin Gonyer
 Jeffrey Sweeney
 Megan Baum
 Randy Spates
 Timothy Barone

Private 1st Class

Tyler Boutwell
 Kelly James
 Collin Ainsworth
 Danielle Baron
 Selena Herbert
 Jason Ward
 Christopher Samiya
 Danielle Veilleux
 William Hickerson III
 Mark Seaton
 Michael Flood
 Nicholaz Paris

Specialist

Christopher Brown
 Kevin Slavin
 Dustin Glidden
 Jason Siudut
 Erich Fricke

Sergeant

Mathew Pelchat
 Jessica Salas
 Andrew Wagner
 Brian Perkins
 Stephen Dovich
 Steven Rizza
 Dwight Schaible
 Corey Joyal

Staff Sergeant

Stephen Hurst
 John Bachelder
 Kenneth Piehler
 Lenamaye Williams
 Jeffrey Bosinske
 Jason Soucy

Sergeant 1st Class

Edward Raczka
 Edward Clements

Clyde Lewis
 Donald Fortier

Master Sergeant
 William Bigg

1st Sergeant
 Jeffrey Miller

1st Lieutenant
 Bradley Johnson
 Emily Riordan
 David Devoy
 Barrett Bilotta
 Bradley Taylor

Captain
 Tyler Chamberlain
 Maurice Sampson

Lieutenant Colonel
 Nicholas Adler

From left to right: Soldier of the Year Pfc. Andrew J. Wallace, HHB, 3/197th FA (HIMARS); Command Sgt. Maj. Greggory H. Crotto, the State Command Sergeant Major; and NCO of the Year Sgt. William M. Martin, B Co. 3643rd BSB.

Photo: Spc. Richard Frost



Incoming commander Lt. Col. Thomas Spencer prepares to receive the colors of 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery during the unit's change of command ceremony in August at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Concord. The passing of the colors symbolizes the transfer of command authority and responsibility from the outgoing commander to the new commander. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Mark Roberts, 114th MPAD

Air Promotions & Awards

Lieutenant Colonel
Christopher Cieurezo
Robert Courtemanche
Robert Blonigen
Michael Dominque

Major
Paulo Morales

Captain
Suzanne Barrickow
Matthew Valentino

First Lieutenant
James Blume

Senior Master Sergeant
Carlos Teran
James Oloughlin
Paul Frohn
Gary Damour

Master Sergeant
Joseph McGill
David Pinard
Tammy Daigle

Joyce Kilmer
Mark Collins
Christina Ryan-Miller
Chad Penniman
Thomas Grondin
Christopher Boesch

Technical Sergeant
Joseph Samson
Robert Rojek
Joseph Jeddrey
Samantha Peplinski
Avalito Garcia

Edward Dubaniewcz
David Adrien
Angela Stebbins

Staff Sergeant
Nicholas DiSalvo
Melinda Fuller
Bryan Emerson
Brain Sanford
Meghan Kincaid
John Michniewicz
Justin Toiano

Melanie Gill
Kayla Bouchard
Valerie Johnson
Joshua Nichols
David Gregory
Jason Christiansen
Randy Gagnon
Robert Gibson
Jeffrey Greenlaw
Kenneth Hoyt
Gary Thomas
Yancey Devoy

Senior Airman
Jennifer Rouleau
John Stevens
Phillip Carter
Danette Perez
Joseph Cloutier
Anthony Nickerson

Airman 1st Class
Michael Johnson
Kevin Perro
Cara Bellerose
Nathan LeClair

A CLASS ACT



Col. Robert Kline is congratulated by Col. Richard Duncan, the NH Army Guard Chief of Staff, during his retirement ceremony Dec. 18 in the Hall of Flags, Joint Force Headquarters. Kline, an Army aviator, retired after a 34-year career in the active Army and the NH National Guard where he spent the last two years as the inspector general. Photo: Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish, 114th MPAD

237th, families honored for Iraq tour

By Lori Duff, NHNG-PA

As the final strains of the Freedom Salute Ceremony drew to a close, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Moore of the NH Army National Guard 237th Military Police Company could finally allow himself a sigh of relief. Turning to commander 1st Lt. Daniel McCarroll, he said, "Mission accomplished."

The event, held Sept. 28, 2008, marked the end of a journey for the 42 soldiers and their families, which began last June with their activation for a tour in Iraq. It also marked with sadness the void left by 27-year-old Sgt. David "DJ" Stelmat, of Littleton, who was killed in March by a roadside bomb.

"This was our group of kids," said NH National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark of the soldiers, who deployed as one of the youngest units in New Hampshire history. Clark visited the soldiers in Iraq last year and commended them on the camaraderie they displayed.

During their deployment, the unit was assigned to the 1132nd MP Company of the NC Army National Guard and was responsible for training police at nine Iraqi police stations. Dust storms racked the forward operating base in Rustamiyah where they were stationed and where they also experienced 65 mortar attacks, five IED strikes, and three small arms fire incidents.

At the ceremony, six soldiers were honored with a Combat Action Badge – Moore, Sgt. Michael Yurek, Spc. Cory Foote, Spc. Christopher Lemay, Spc. Daniel Musso and Pfc. Cory Blancato. Two soldiers, Spc. Adam Rich and Pvt. William Fluery, received the Army Commendation Medal. Moore was also awarded the Purple Heart for injuries he sustained in Iraq. All of the soldiers were presented with American flags, coins, certificates and pins for their family members.

"It's really the last time we will all be together as a group," said Spc. David Taylor, 20. "I'm going to miss a lot of these people. You don't realize how much time you spend together until you come home."

For Sgt. Gary Chandler, 42, the ceremony was a way to put the tour to rest. After returning from deployment, he immediately resumed work as an assistant store manager at Hannaford in Rindge and began classes at Keene State



Spc. David Musso of the 237th Military Police Co. gets a hug after the unit's Freedom Salute Ceremony at the Concord armory on Sept. 28, 2008. Photo: 1st Sgt. Mike Daigle, Deputy State PAO

University for his B.A. in management.

"It was tough at first making the transition," said Chandler. He found himself constantly assessing the level of threat from customers and positioning himself in a defensive stance with his hands to his waist to ward off a potential attack. Loud noises made him jump.

Sometimes when customers grumbled, for example, about the box size of their favorite cereal, he was tempted to say, "Suck it up and drive on," a favorite Army saying because in Iraq there were no boxes of cereal.

These days he's back to his family – going to the beach with his three children and joking with Hannaford Rindge Produce Manager John Miller who came to the ceremony to support him.

"Today is a closer," said Moore, whose family were also on hand to receive a Center of Influence Award for their dedication to soldiers through Moore Mart in Nashua. "Now it's time to let go and move on to the next chapter."

This was the third deployment for Moore, 48, a former Nashua Christian Academy history teacher, who found himself in charge of soldiers the age of his children – including one of his former students, Sgt. Daniel Reynolds, 22.

"The best thing about the National Guard is the relationships," said Moore. A few years after seeing Reynolds behind a desk in his classroom, "Here we are; a young soldier and a platoon sergeant, and we go off to war."

Unlike the regular Army, the National Guard unit deployed with brothers, friends, family and neighbors, a network of connections that continues even after the tour has ended.

"As difficult as the deployment was on myself and my family, I don't regret going," said Moore. "Leading these soldiers was a real honor and privilege and working with 1st Lt. McCarroll and the leadership couldn't have been better."

Now the tour as soldier in Iraq is over and the job of citizen has begun. ♦



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