NEW HAMPSHIRE

Winter 2022

GUARDSIVANI MAGAZINE





NEW HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL GUARD LEADERSHIP



The Honorable Chris Sununu Governor of New Hampshire



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David Mikolaities
Adjutant General of
the N.H. National Guard

Brig. Gen. John LeBlancCommander of the N.H. Army National Guard

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The New Hampshire Guardsman Magazine is a joint publication for soldiers and airmen serving in the N.H. National Guard, as well as their families and retirees.

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COVER PHOTO: Pvt. William Graff of Charlie Company, 3rd of the 172nd Infantry (Mountain) Regiment offloads cases of donated masks Jan. 24 at the Department of Health and Human Services warehouse in Concord. A total of 500,000 masks were donated by the Taft family and were made available to schools and nonprofits across the state through a collaboration with Granite United Way, NH Departments of Health and Human Services, Education and the NHNG.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Taylor Queen, 157th ARW Public Affairs.











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MESSAGE TO THE FORCE

As Operation Winter Surge comes to a close this week, I join our commander-in-chief, Gov. Chris Sununu, and so many other state and local officials who have expressed their sincere appreciation for your "tireless work" alongside first responders, EMS departments, hospital staff and volunteers.

Whether you staffed a hospital cafeteria, folded linen in a nursing home or hauled cases of face masks to a local school district, you accomplished each task with equal care and professionalism.

For Pfc. Liam MacVittie, that bearing extended well beyond his military duties. Driving home from a Feb. 7 shift at the Coos County Nursing Hospital in West Stewartstown, MacVittie spotted a plume of smoke billowing from a mobile home. When he arrived at the scene, the residence was nearly engulfed in flames.

MacVittie and two other bystanders rescued a woman from the blaze. Had MacVittie not stopped to investigate, she would have perished in the fire, according to the state fire marshal's office.

During Winter Surge, which began in December, 250 NHNG soldiers and airmen amassed nearly 78,000 duty days. Going above and beyond doesn't begin to capture their accomplishments when the Omicron variant of COVID-19 triggered severe staffing shortages in health care facilities and at the men's state prison.

- 25 hospitals supported, accounting for over 35,000 shift hours
- 11 long-term care facilities supported and 9,500 shift hours
- Nearly 10,000 vaccine boosters administered
- More than 1,000 vaccines administered by mobile vax team
- More than 1,100 calls handled at the 211 call center
- Nearly 35,000 vaccines and 356,000 masks delivered to more than 120 locations, accounting for 17,000 miles driven
- 29 soldiers accounting for 6,400 shift hours at men's state prison

At the same time, we met and often surpassed our military obligations under the Mission Triad of Fighting and Winning Our Nation's Wars, Securing the Homeland, and Building Enduring Partnerships.

Fighting and Winning Our Nation's Wars

We welcomed home three NHARNG units: Alpha Company, 1/169th Aviation Regiment from Kosovo; Charlie Company, 3rd of the 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain) from the Middle East; and Task Force West Sentinels, a headquarters element from the 3643rd Brigade Support Battalion, after a year on the Southwest Border.

Just over 100 airmen from the 157th Air Refueling Wing completed tours in five different countries spanning the Middle East and Africa as well as closer to home in support of Operation Allied Refuge at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Next month, we'll bid farewell to 125 soldiers from the 197th Field Artillery Brigade, while one of its subordinate units, 3rd Battalion, prepares to deploy in early 2023. We'll also host a Purple Heart ceremony for five soldiers from the 238th Medevac Company, who were stationed at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq during an Iranian missile strike Jan. 8, 2020.

To date, more than 5,500 soldiers and 5,400 airmen have deployed since 9/11 in support of combat and humanitarian missions around the world.

Securing The Homeland

Closer to home, the Granite State element of the New England Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Force Package or CERFP participated in Arctic Eagle-Patriot 2022. Held in Alaska, the three-week exercise posed homeland security and state-level scenarios to facilitate realistic training in austere, extreme cold-weather environments. The 21 NHNG soldiers and airmen were among 900 guardsmen from across the country and 200 active duty soldiers, airmen and Marines.

Our fledgling biathlon team continued to make great strides. Sgt.

Jacob Engelhardt, a mental health specialist with 197th Field Artillery Brigade, finished 12th out of 26 competitors in the men's novice class during the National Guard 2022 Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley, Minn. on Feb. 14. Two other NHARNG soldiers competed -- Maj. Jason Longval of Joint Force Headquarters and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Dingman of 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment.

In state, we stood up our Warrant Officer Candidate School after a five-year hiatus. Five NHNG soldiers and one reservist are enrolled in the six-month program, which is open to any enlisted soldier E4 and above with four to six years of experience.

A public affairs soldier swept the Best Warrior Competition for the second straight year. Sgt. Mark Hayward of the 197th Field Artillery Brigade bested a field of nine soldiers to win NCO of the Year. Spc. Michael Downs of 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, earned Soldier of the Year honors. He and Hayward will compete in the regionals later this spring.

Just as impressive was the performance of two Salvadoran soldiers. Sub Sgt. Raul Martinez and Sgt. Osmel Hernandez placed second and third in the junior enlisted and enlisted divisions respectively. It was the first time they had seen snow, not to mention freezing rain and sleet.

At Pease, the 157th Air Refueling Wing welcomed a temporary compliment of KC-46 personnel from the 22nd ARW last month. The swift integration of active duty personnel from McConnell with our airmen is a testament to the trust and confidence the 157th has cultivated with Air Force leadership over the last three decades of continuous operations.

In December, the 157th was recognized for hosting an exceptional air show. The Wing earned gold in the Military Air Shows/Open House Pinnacle Awards category for its extensive Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) exhibit that featured a basketball court-sized robot tournament. Led by forward-thinking Capt. Richard Lambert, more open houses focused on STEM education are being planned at Pease.

Building Enduring Partnerships

In February, a delegation led by Gov. Sununu made a big splash in Cabo Verde when the NHNG and the island nation off the coast of West Africa officially established a state partnership program. Cabo Verde represents our second partnership. As we have done with our friends in El Salvador, we hope to forge an enduring relationship anchored in a whole-of-society approach involving both government and private sectors.

Looking ahead, we plan to sustain the partnerships we established with fellow state departments during our response to the pandemic.

Recruiting remains our top priority. I encourage each of you to pitch the benefits of serving in the NHNG whenever and wherever the opportunity presents:

- Free tuition to any state college or university including graduate degrees
- Minuteman scholarship to any college or university in the country
- Loan repayments
- Immediate health and dental coverage
- Paid to become qualified in careers ranging from trades to STEM
- Accomplish this in a part-time status without having to relocate

It continues to be an honor to serve alongside such a dedicated and compassionate group of professionals. On behalf of our state and nation, thank you for living the Guard motto of being, "Always Ready, Always There."

Sincerely,

Major General David Mikolaities Adjutant General

New Hampshire National Guard

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Taylor Queen, 157th ARW Public Affairs

Living by the motto "Always Ready, Always There" is easier said than done for New Hampshire guardsmen trying to balance their military obligation with their civilian job.

Over the last three months, more than 250 New Hampshire citizen soldiers and airmen have been supported Operation Winter Surge, the state's recent pandemic relief effort. They worked at hospitals, nursing homes, the men's state prison, the state warehouse and the Department of Health and Human Services.

For many, like Staff Sgt. Steven San Antonio of the 195th Regional Training Institute, managing those competing expectations was a challenge. He and his wife Amy started their own business Historic Properties of New England in 2020 and were working towards establishing a stable flow of clients when he was first activated.

"We had just started the company and had to immediately try to figure out how to split the time," said Amy, co-owner and lead researcher. "It's been a struggle for sure. It's kind of like missing the wheel off of a car."

Through tracing lineage and historical documents, the company certifies the history of properties for their clients, a process that Amy says takes no less than 20 hours per project.

Her husband was first activated in February of last year. He was on orders until July and then reactivated in December.

"(Amy) has had to pick up a lot of additional duties that I used to do," San Antonio said. "But she is crushing it and making it work."

Cooperation is paramount in balancing the needs of private sector companies and those of the Guard.

"It's never fun having to make the call [to an employer] to say I'm getting activated," said 2nd Lt. Christopher Lind, officer in charge of JTF's Dartmouth region. "I know I am kind of that wrench being thrown in."

Lind works on a six-man production line at Stormalong Cider, a handcrafted cider company in Sherborn, Mass. He is finishing up his second activation in a year.

"It's tough when you are trying to plan things logistically," said his operations manager Bright McConnell IV. "It's kind of just the flip of a switch, and now I'm down a man."

Lind praised his company for its staunch support. "They worked with me and took all the stress away," he said. "Being mentally ready to complete the mission is huge."

He also appreciates the fact that his coworkers have had to cover down in his absence.

"They really need to be thanked as well," Lind said.

Picking up the slack is something employers have grown accustom to, especially during the last two years of the pandemic. They understand the necessary sacrifice, but are eager for the return of their workers and the predictability of a full staff.

"I'm 1000% looking forward to Chris being back," McConnell said. "He really is a valued asset to us. I know when he comes back, he will work just as hard without skipping a beat."

Staff Sgt. Steven San Antonio of the 195th Regional Training Institute answers a call Feb. 14 at the St. Joseph COVID triage call center in Nashua. San Antonio is one of two NH guardsmen assigned to the center as part of Operation Winter Surge.

GIFTED COLLABORATION

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Taylor Queen, 157th ARW Public Affairs

A phone call made to Granite United Way resulted in six New Hampshire guardsmen transporting half a million masks across the state Jan. 24.

Janet Taft was looking to donate 100 unopened cases of disposable masks her Newbury family had purchased at the onset of the pandemic.

"We originally got them for local hospitals," said family member Whit Merritt. But due to "some technical issues," the masks went undelivered.

After the family reached out mid-January, the Manchester-based nonprofit, which serves more than 80 percent of the state along with Windsor County, Vermont, coordinated a plan with the NH Department of Health and Human Services, NH Department of Education, and the New Hampshire National

Guard to pick up, store and eventually distribute the masks, said Bill Sherry, chief operating officer for Granite United Way.

A team of guardsmen supporting state warehouse operations in Concord secured the masks from the donor's home, then transported 80 cases to the warehouse and 20 cases to the Granite United Way's facility in Manchester. The 80 were earmarked for schools, and the 20 were to be distributed at local nonprofits on an as needed basis.

"It all came together really fast," Merritt said. "It is perfect. They are all going out to where they are needed."

Added Spc. Michael Gilfeather, one of the NHNG soldiers on the warehouse team, "It just feels good to be a part of the mission and help out where I can."





CALL BACK

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Taylor Queen, 157th ARW Public Affairs

A detachment of New Hampshire guardsmen returned to the state prison in January.

For about two months, 25 soldiers and airmen assisted corrections workers in Concord with safety and security operations, the same mission they supported a year ago at the height of the state's pandemic relief efforts.

Activated as part of Operation Winter Surge, they filled staffing gaps caused by a spike in cases of COVID-19.

"We're just stepping in to help relieve some of that stress," said Staff Sgt. Michael Lagare, the teams' noncommissioned officer in charge, at the mission's onset.

The troops were assigned from the 157th Security Forces Squadron, 941st Military Police Battalion and 237th Military Police Company. To prepare, they conducted more than

40 hours of specialized training led by Capt. Scott Towers, commandant of the NH Department of Corrections academy.

Airman 1st Class Joshua Pincince of the 157th SFS said the training was both thorough and tough.

"It has been a lot of classroom, going over policies and what to expect, as well as a good amount of combatives," Pincince said.

For some guardsmen, it was their first time working on the other side of the prison wall. Others were activated for the first call-up.

Despite everyone's willingness to help, the mission forced some to establish new work-life balances.

"In the last year, I've been on eight or nine different COVID support missions," Pincince said. "It makes going to school very hard. But anything I can do to help the state is worth it."

DIFFERENT, BUT THE SAME

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO

Tech. Sgt. Sean Wood and fraternal twin Staff Sgt. Chris Wood, his younger brother by 30 seconds, had no idea December 18 was a special day for them. Then again, National Twin Day has only been observed since 2019.

"We almost act more like close friends than brothers," said Sean, during an interview at Pease Air National Base. "But then there is that caveat. If one of us needs the other, then at the end of the day we're brothers. Period. We're twin brothers."

For 13 years, the airmen have served side by side in the 157th Air Refueling Wing. They carpool to and from the base, working elbow to elbow as full-time vehicle maintainers.

"We're car guys," Chris said. "Cars are our lives. Doing it for the Air Force is just an additional piece."

The 30-year-old brothers collect, repair and restore all kinds of vehicles, from racecars and trucks to trolleys and jet skis. "We joke about it," Sean said. "Literally, the only type of vehicle that we haven't owned yet is an aircraft."

The twins' car-fancy catalyst was a 1960 Studebaker found when they were 8, absent a hood and abandoned in the woods.

"I was out there every day tinkering with it," Sean said. "I would sit in the seat and clean it up. I have one photo of the car still to this day. If there's one car that I dream I could somehow get my hands on, it would be that."



Chris isn't quite as nostalgic about the rusty old station wagon. He'd prefer a 1,000 horsepower Cerbera Speed 12 racecar, if given the choice. "That's just one car since I was a kid, just a little kid in the 90s, that's something that I've wanted," he said.

They nearly enlisted in the Marines, but chose the Air Guard after touring Pease and were offered guaranteed careers in the automotive field.



In honor of National Twin Day (not to be confused with National Twins Day, which is observed the first weekend in August) Sean and Chris were kind enough to tackle a handful of standard "twin" questions.

Who is better looking?

Chris: It's me.

Sean: If you have low standards, it's him.

Smarter?

Sean: Definitely me. Chris: It's me also.

Better athlete?

Sean: Me.

Chris: Probably me.

Fastest runner?

Chris: Me

Sean: No, we've been pretty evenly matched our entire lives.

Do you have twin telepathy?

Sean: I wish. In a way, because we get so used to each other.

Half the time, we don't even have to talk.

Chris: We're on the same page when we work on stuff here. It's like we both think the same way to circumvent problems. *Sean:* We're definitely pretty good at reading each other.

Pepsi or Coke?

Chris: I actually prefer Pepsi products, and he drinks Coke.

Do twins run in the family?

Chris: They do.

Sean: Almost 400 years. There's only one generation that

doesn't have twins and that's my Dad's.

Who is more outgoing?

Sean: He's a social butterfly, and I'm not.

Chris: When we were younger too. Sean, he was definitely the quieter one. He kept to himself. A lot more modest. I've always

been loud. Sean: You still are.

What's the easiest way to tell you apart?

Chris: I always tell people our hair, but we have very different

noses. They're just different shaped.

Sean: We cut our hair differently. That's the quickest and

easiest one.

Coworkers Tech. Sgt. David Moore and Senior Airman Ashtin Steen said they can easily tell the brothers apart. But both agree they have one attribute that makes them indistinguishable.

"They are both great mechanics," Moore said.

"They know their stuff," Steen added.



Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Taylor Queen, 157th ARW Public Affairs

On the afternoon of Feb. 7, Pfc. Liam MacVittie had to make an unscheduled trip to his home in Dover.

He had just finished his shift at the Coös County Nursing Hospital in West Stewartstown. Since January, the young artilleryman has been part of a team of New Hampshire guardsmen helping the intermediate care facility through a staffing crunch caused by a spike in COVID-19.

Traveling south on Route 3 along the New Hampshire-Vermont border, MacVittie was about 30 minutes into what would have been a three-and-a-half-hour drive when he noticed smoke billowing from a roadside mobile home.

Without hesitation, he turned his car around and headed down a small dirt road in Stratford. The residence was nearly engulfed, and MacVittie noticed a truck in the driveway.

"I assumed someone was inside," recalled MacVittie, who on any other day would have been relaxing at his team's hotel, a short commute from the hospital.

After calling 911, he ran up to an enclosed porch and flung open a door. As smoke poured out, he yelled for anyone who might be inside.

Around the same time, a next door neighbor arrived.

"I ran over and tried going in, but I got beat back from the heat and flames," said Walter Kostka, who said his sister lived in the mobile home with another adult male. "So I started pounding on the side with everything I had."

The pounding and yelling worked.

A woman was able to make her way towards the porch. As she emerged through the smoke, Kostka and MacVittie grabbed her. With the help of a third bystander, they carried the woman outside to safety.

The fire claimed the life of the other occupant, according to the New Hampshire State Fire Marshall's office. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The woman is currently being treated at a New England burn center.

Four fire departments responded to the blaze along with a local ambulance service. Afterward, MacVittie and Kostka, no longer strangers, deflected praise onto each other.

"He did something a lot of people wouldn't do," Kostka said. "If it wasn't for him I wouldn't have even noticed (the fire)."

Stephen Dennis, an investigator with the fire marshal's office, agreed. He credited MacVittie with playing a critical role in helping to save the woman. Had MacVittie not stopped and continued on to his destination she probably would not have survived, Dennis said.

"I think my military training helped a lot," MacVittie said. "It helped me keep a clear mind and just focus on what needed to be done. It was just my duty as guardsman and really just as a human being."

NEW HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL GUARD

SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM



WHO CAN JOIN: Any member of the New Hampshire National Guard

WHAT: Become a member of a volunteer

search and rescue team

WHERE: The search area will be south of

the LAKES REGION and SOUTHERN NH

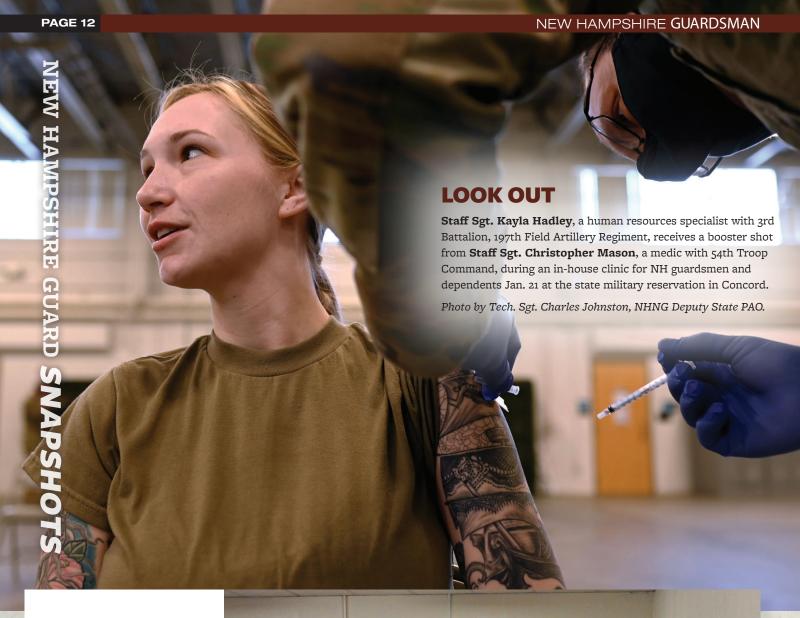
Use your military skills, broaden your knowledge base, increase resiliency and give back to the community.

www.nhvsar.com









TRIO

From left, Sgt. Eric Chase, Staff Sgt. Chazz Rogers and Sgt. 1st Class David Selmer of the 39th Army Band rehearse Dec. 4 at the Manchester Armory. The band resumed live concerts after a 645-day hiatus, during which the soldier-musicians were assigned to pandemic relief operations across the state.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO.



NEW HAMPSHIRE GUARD **SNAPSHOTS**

OFFICER FOR ALL SEASONS

NHNG Deputy State PAO.

Maj. Raymond Youngs, executive officer of the 941st Military Police Battalion, NHARNG, is congratulated by NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities as Young's family looks on during a promotion ceremony held Feb. 18 in Concord. Youngs was promoted to his current rank after more than 13 years of military service. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Johnston,



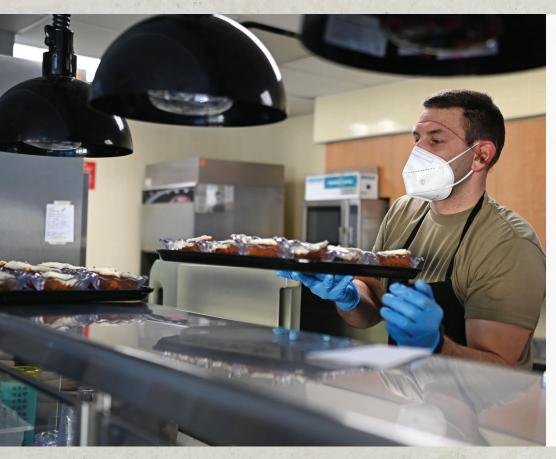
STRETCH RUN

Sgt. Jacob Engelhardt, a mental health specialist with 197th Field Artillery Brigade, pushes toward the finish line of a 7.5 kilometer sprint race during the National Guard 2022 Biathlon Championships at Camp Ripley, Minn. on Feb. 14. The week-long championships featured state National Guard teams from across the country competing in a series of individual and team races. Engelhardt finished 12th out of 26 competitors in the men's novice class. For more information about the NHNG Biathlon Team, contact Maj. Rob Burnham at robert.j.burnham2.mil@army.mil.

Courtesy photo by Capt. Marcia Bruno, Virgin Islands National Guard.



NEW HAMPSHIRE GUARD SNAPSHOTS



HELPING HANDS

Staff Sgt. Tyler Chapman, an equipment operator with 157th Civil Engineer Squadron, prepares dessert trays for resident lunches at Merrimack County Nursing Home Jan. 19 in Boscawen. Chapman was one of six New Hampshire Guardsmen assigned to the facility to assist with kitchen meal preparation and COVID screenings at the home's main entrance.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO.

1ST STEP

From left, 1st Sgt. Matthew
Lovgren and Sgt. 1st Class Alex
Thurston of NHARNG Recruiting
and Retention Battalion discuss
the state's new Soldier Training
and Education Program (1st STEP)
on podcast episode 5 of "Your NH
Guard" on Nov. 30 in Concord.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO.











PUTTING ON A CLINIC

Staff Sgt. Jordan Dean, a security forces officer with the 157th Air Refueling Wing, performs a temperature check on Jim Smuda of Concord at a mobile vaccination clinic held Dec. 30 at the state military reservation in Concord. A team of

eight soldiers and airmen directed vehicular traffic, registered patients, and conducted temperature checks at the Department of Health and Human Services event.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO.





THUNDER OVER NEW HAMPSHIRE EARNS GOLD

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Victoria Nelson, 157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 157th Air Refueling Wing was recognized for hosting an exceptional air show during the recent International Convention of Air Shows, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, Dec 9.

The 2021 Thunder Over New Hampshire Air Show hosted by Pease Air National Guard Base earned gold in the Military Air Shows/Open House Pinnacle Awards category.

Pease was recognized for professionalism, innovation in problem solving, and overall excellence in air show operations and management.

"The program was developed to showcase and explain creative ideas and innovations in all areas of the air show business," said Adam Glowaski, ICAS Director of Marketing and Communications. "We use the program not just to give credit where credit is due, but also to help make new and helpful ideas accessible to other ICAS members who might benefit from hearing about them."

The Thunder Over New Hampshire Open House drew attention for its extensive science, technology, engineering and mathematics exhibits, which included nearly a dozen displays, including a basketball court-sized robot tournament.

Capt. Richard Lambert, the air show STEM coordinator, said this exhibit exposed young students to a diversity of science and technology-based careers in an accessible manner.

"Running the STEM exhibit was so impactful," he said. "It's so important that our youth see what opportunities are out there and they got to see what they are capable of."

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard contributed a massive water tank for interactive simulations and live demonstrations, while other exhibitors like the STEM Van, NASA Solar System Ambassadors program and BOSLab provided exciting hands-on learning experiences for youth and adults alike.

Karen Connors, the director of ICAS Membership Services, said the STEM contributions stood out from all other open houses entries.

"Excellence in our business reveals itself in many ways," she said. "It has never been more important to shine a spotlight on progressive ideas and originality, congratulations."

The 157th Air Refueling Wing is scheduled to hold future open houses with a large focus on STEM education and its range of application in the work force.

"I love that Pease is inviting the community in and building a longer lasting relationship with these organizations," Lambert said. "The smiles on the kids' faces when all of their hard work showed was the cherry on top of the entire air show weekend for me."

"I look forward to what we can build together," he added.



MASTERS OF DISASTERS

Story and photo by Spc. Devin Bard, 114th Public Affairs Detachment

A specialized NH Guard incident response team deployed to Alaska in February to hone its decontamination and medical skills during Arctic Eagle-Patriot 2022, a joint training exercise designed to increase the Guard's capacity to operate in the Arctic.

The 21 citizen soldiers and airmen who comprise the Granite State element of the New England Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Force Package or CERFP were among 900 guardsmen from across the country and 200 active duty soldiers, airmen and Marines. They trained alongside local first responders and the Canadian military from Feb. 22 to March 10.

Held in Nome, Anchorage and Kodiak, the biannual exercise posed homeland security and state-level scenarios to facilitate realistic training in austere, extreme cold-weather environments. Alaska has been hosting Arctic Eagle-Patriot since 2012.

"This training event was an amazing experience and I look forward to doing it again," said Sgt. Timothy York, the NCOIC of the NHNG CERFP element. "It was a really great opportunity to conduct training and meet our fellow counterparts from different states."

The New England CERFP (pronounced "surf-pea") consists of teams from New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island National Guards. Its mission is to save lives in the aftermath of natural disasters, large contaminations and nuclear strikes.

Rhode Island provides search and rescue capabilities while New Hampshire brings decontamination and medical expertise. Maine handles command and control, coordinating with first responders on the ground.

"We respond to environmental, chemical, biological events," said York, adding that worst case they are trained to respond to a nuclear attack.

"If we ever were to end up in an event like that there could be thousands of people who need to get out of the contaminated area and get medical treatment," he said. "It's the basis of why we're all here."

A process known as dry decontamination was a focus of this year's Arctic Eagle-Patriot. It involves using large quantities of water to decontaminate a casualty, which can become a major issue in arctic climates, trainers said. It can cause equipment failure and additional cold-weather injuries.

"National Guard Bureau is trying to see whether or not we can handle dry decontamination, what it entails and what it looks like," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Paul Turner of the Maine Army National Guard. "We're hoping that a few years from now we can actually add dry decontamination to a list of our capabilities."

The exercise was also an opportunity to share best practices.

"We've been able to incorporate different methods that all of us use and learn from each other," said Gunnery Sgt. Justin Kulman, the NCOIC of the Marine Corps incident response detachment. "We're always going to be working together at different times and it's good to be familiar with some of their processes."

Kulman added, "Disaster strikes at any time and the temperature doesn't matter, the location doesn't matter, the time of day doesn't matter."

Cadet Ethan De

Angelis, 237th Military Police Company, the appointed Supreme Allied Commander for Joint Task Force Arctic Eagle-Patriot, oversees a site with Capt. James Goddard, Alaska Joint Task Force Headquarters, during the 2022 Arctic Eagle-Patriot at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, in Alaska, March 1. Arctic Eagle is a bi-annual event held in Alaska with the purpose of training service members in

arctic conditions.





ANYONE CAN BE ONE

Story and photo by Spc. Devin Bard, 114th Public Affairs Detachment

After five years of being shuttered, the New Hampshire Army National Guard resurrected its warrant officer candidate school, a decision commanders hope will help retain and recruit soldiers with proven, if not highly coveted, skill sets.

Five NH Guard soldiers and one U.S. Army reservist are enrolled in the six-month program, which began March 5 and 6 at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke. The course is spread over one weekend a month and culminates in September with a two-week active duty phase at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Previously, New Hampshire had been shipping candidates to other states, which created a variety of scheduling and transportation challenges causing some to drop out.

"It's really good for us," said Maj. Mark Goldey, commander of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 195th Regimental Training Institute. "We have better visibility conducting it here. We can see more of the progress throughout the course."

The state command chief warrant officer, George Munson, convinced leadership that the local investment of personnel and resources would better serve the organization, especially when faced with an ever-shrinking pool of eligible recruits.

"The New Hampshire Warrant Officer Candidate School is a force-generating platform that builds capacity for the United States Army, the Army National Guard, and the New Hampshire Army National Guard," Munson said.

Becoming a warrant officer allows a soldier to specialize in a chosen vocation such as aviation, logistics or medical for their entire military career. To be eligible requires a rank of E₅ or higher and four to six years of experience in a related field.

The beauty of it, Munson added, is that "anyone can be one."

Run by Delta Company, the school's first weekend focused on an overview of the curriculum. The candidates, who range from E5 to E7 and have 72 years of combined military experience, warmed up with a three-mile ruck march.

"We talk about all the things that candidates might struggle with throughout the course," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Athena Clements, one of a handful of cadre. "There are no secrets. We give them the keys before they even start."

Graduates are considered subject matter experts in their chosen field, Clements said. Warrant officers have existed in the Army since 1918. They account for 47 specialties in 17 branches.

"It is hard to let go of the enlisted side," said Warrant Officer Candidate Matthew Maguire, an operations NCO with the 12th Civil Support Team. "It's a different leadership style. I haven't really let that go yet."

Maguire said he is grateful for the opportunity to attend the school.

"This program fosters growth and development for the future leaders of the New Hampshire Army National Guard," Goldey said. "The relationships built within the program are sure to last for decades."

For more information on the NHARNG warrant officer program, contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Erik Emond at erik.p.emond. mil@army.mil

KNEES IN THE BREEZE

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th PAD NCOIC

Soldiers, family and friends gathered outside the Hillsborough armory March 5 for the rededication of a granite marker honoring the service of Sgt. Jeremiah Holmes.

A truck driver for the 744th Transportation Company, Holmes died when his vehicle struck an IED in route to Fallujah, Iraq on March 29, 2004. He was part of a convoy hauling fresh supplies to a Marine unit. At 27, Holmes was the first New Hampshire guardsman killed in the Iraq war and the first to die in combat operations since Vietnam when 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery lost six soldiers in 1969.

The engraved stone was moved from the Somersworth armory, Holmes's former duty station and home to the 744th "Black Sheep." The armory was recently vacated and returned to the city of Somersworth.

"That tragic day brings us together," said Master Sgt. Edward Wiggin, an operations NCO for the 3643d Brigade Support Battalion. "In his passing he kept a lot of people together. He kept us alive."

"When something like this happens that early in the deployment it really wisened us up to what we were there for," he continued. "It made everything that important."

Holmes was fondly remembered 18 years later as a family man who loved a good joke and enjoyed motorcycle rides with friends.

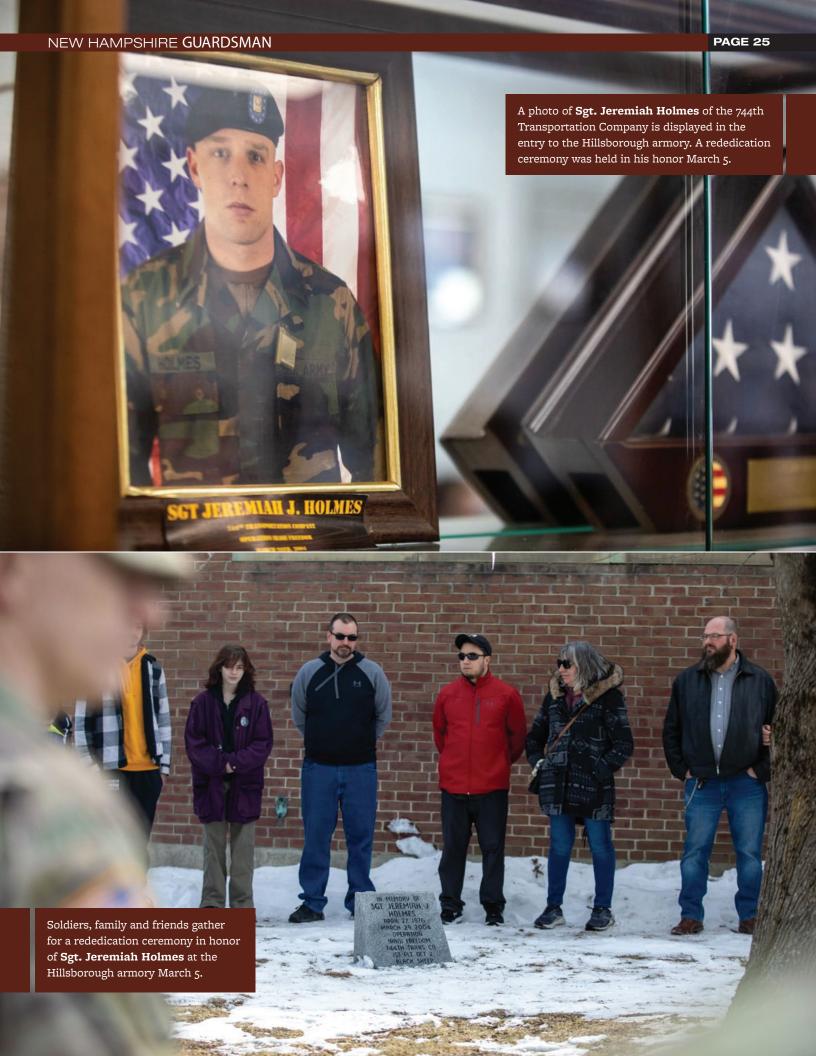
"Whenever I ride my bike, I think of Jay," said Sgt. 1st Class Carey Morris, a readiness NCO for Rear Detachment Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 197th Field Artillery Brigade. "Knees in the breeze," he would say. 'Knees in the breeze."

"It really means a lot to see his marker find a permanent home," Morris added.

Holmes' widow Kim, and his son Kaleb, who was a year old when his father died, attended the ceremony. Kim said she was grateful to see so many people and appreciated the support.

"If you look behind you, there are other markers here," Wiggin said. "The Guard looks after its own. We aren't afraid to reflect on our losses. Our locations and the soldiers may change, but no matter where you go and what you do, you're never forgotten about."







Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Chanes Johnston, Willed Deputy State PAO

A signing ceremony establishing a state partnership between the New Hampshire National Guard and the Republic of Cabo Verde was held Feb. 4 at the 3rd Military Region Parade Ground in Praia, Cabo Verde.

The new alliance falls under a Department of Defense program that links state National Guards with the militaries of foreign countries.

A NH delegation led by Gov. Chris Sununu and NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities met with President Josè Neves and Minister of Defense Janine Lélis before the ceremony.

"We're extremely excited for the partnership," Sununu said during a press conference at the presidential palace. "It starts with a military-to-military partnership, and we know that can really create opportunities between our schools, education, health care. We look to provide opportunity on both sides of the Atlantic in a really positive way for our citizens."

U.S. Ambassador Jeff Daigle expressed his approval of the budding alliance, part of a Department of Defense program that pairs National Guards from all states with foreign countries.

"There were many states that applied to be a partner for Cabo Verde, and we are extremely excited that New Hampshire was the state that was chosen," Daigle said. "What the embassy was most excited about is that the state partnership program involves citizen soldiers. These aren't military people who are full-time soldiers. They are full-time doctors and lawyers and firefighters and teachers. And so they bring those relationships from their private sector job to the state partnership."

"It really will be a whole of state government approach to working with Cabo Verde rather than just a military one," he said.

The work to build the partnership begins immediately.

"We will be leaving three or four of our planners to work with the Cabo Verdean military in order to do an assessment to figure out a road map (for the partnership) on behalf of both countries," Mikolaities said.

Delegates toured various historical sites on the island of Santiago, including Pillory Square and Forte Real de São Filipe, a 16th century fortress. A trip to a local high school was also made to meet students and faculty and conduct a transatlantic video call to students at Bow High School, New Hampshire.

Cabo Verde represents the NHNG's second state partnership, having forged a lasting relationship with El Salvador since 2000.

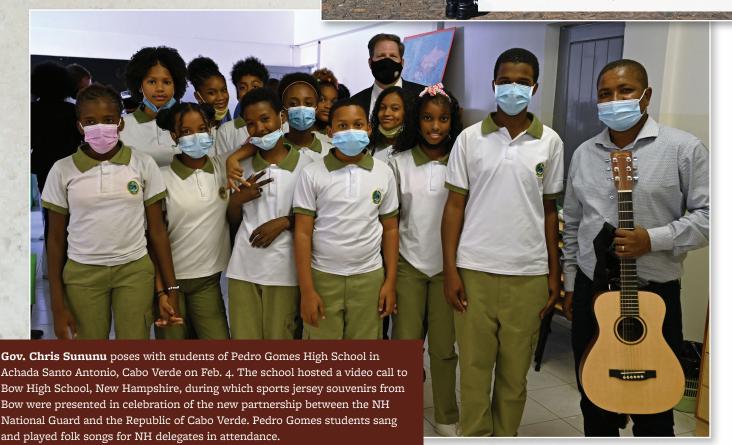
"As we have done with our Salvadoran friends, we hope to grow our partnership with Cabo Verde from military exchanges to a whole-of-society approach involving our government and civilian sectors," said NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities, who traveled to Cabo Verde as part of a NH delegation led by Gov. Chris Sununu. "We are grateful for your commitment to building stronger ties with the United States and the State of New Hampshire, and we look forward to establishing a lasting and mutually beneficial relationship that will help meet today's global security challenges."

"This is really kind of the first step and a door opener for something that we see as very long term and very prosperous for both New Hampshire and the Republic of Cabo Verde," Sununu said.





A Cabo Verdean Armed Forces band performs during a State Partnership Program signing ceremony from afar at the 3rd Military Region Parade Ground on Feb. 4 in Cabo Verde.







PROMOTIONS - AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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Airman First Class

Andrew Aquino Lydia Beaulieu Ahnais Letch Rebecca Pincince Meghan Ridley Jacob Sansoucie Magdelena Tobin Eric Wong

Senior Airman

Robert Alcocer
Shea Armstrong
Matthew Black
Brendan Carkin
Brian Chamard
Steven Champagne
Gillian Conley
Nolan Guillemette
Nathan Hafner
Christian Hale
Brett Hofland
Seth Joy
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Drew Labbe

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Jon Lynch
Casey Maas
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Julia McGonagle
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Christian Montembeau

Joshua Morrison Nicholas Nelson Bryce Parker Summer Parkhurst Joshua Pincince Seth Porter

Thais Ricci Jamie Senzapaura Willem Shattuck William Soucy Tamlin Soucy

Keith Reid

Ashtin Steen Claudia Vargas

Lee Veader

Cassandra Wachowiak Madelyn Wade Staff Sergeant

Jaylny Acres Eric Allard Ryan Allen

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Gabriel Archambault

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Kyle Rheaume Douglas Sandin Chance Sandova

Howard Sevey Logan Sneirson Erik Swanson Adam Taatjes

Joshua Ta<mark>mmaro</mark> Jonathan Taylor Brandon Tweed

Kameron Virkaitis Mason Von Doorn Dakotah Vondrasek

Technical Sergeant

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Amber Anderson
Benjamin Aulbach
Nicholas Bertell
Kaleb Booth
Daniel Cheshire
Lauren Courtmanche

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Nicole Keniston Erik Keyser Anthony Kolodziej Kellie Lajoie

Thomas Laste
Anna Leitz
Mary Lux

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Ray Somero

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Jacob De Angelis
Jamie Lynn Desrochers
Elizabeth Detrude

Cassandre Dowling
John Fiorentino
Tara Fitzgerald

Lauren Diogo

Peter Getchius Kraig Hoag

Nicholas Johnston Kevin Klingelhoefer Ashley LaValley

Cody Lewis Kayla McWalter

Meghan Oregan Kia Price

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Nathan Tarleton William Waters Michael Wunderly

Joseph Yahnjan Nicholas Zachos Senior Master Sergeant

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Richard Lambert
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Major Thomas Duston

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