

NEW HAMPSHIRE

FALL 2019

# GUARDSMAN

MAGAZINE



THE COVETED GERMAN  
ARMED FORCES  
PROFICIENCY BADGE

KC-46 PEGASUS  
ARRIVES AT PEASE

DEPT. OF MILITARY  
AFFAIRS AND VETERANS  
SERVICES: SERVING  
THOSE WHO SERVED



NEW HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL  
GUARD LEADERSHIP



**The Honorable  
Chris Sununu**  
Governor of New  
Hampshire



**Maj. Gen. David  
Mikolaities**  
Adjutant General of  
the N.H. National Guard

**Brig. Gen. Shawn O'Brien**  
Commander of the N.H. Army National Guard

**Brig. Gen. Laurie Farris**  
Commander of the N.H. Air National Guard

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**Cover photo:** Spc. Stephanie Langlais, an intelligence analyst with the 197th Field Artillery Brigade, N.H. Army National Guard, is awarded the silver German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge by NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities, July 14, at the NHNG training site in Ctr. Strafford. Guardsmen earned bronze, silver or gold by performing to German military standards in several graded events, to include first aid, marksmanship, swimming, running and ruck marching.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO.*



Call or Text SFC THURSTON (603) 724-0726



Staff Sgt. Jason Burpee joined the New Hampshire Army National Guard in 2005. He probably didn't know that 13 years later his son, Joshua, would join the ranks with him.

Spc. Burpee said that growing up with his dad in the guard, "paved the path for me to follow." Spc. Burpee joined the 39th Army Band last year to follow his dream of playing music professionally.

"It feels good to see him want to carry on serving," said Staff Sgt. Burpee

Serving Better Together

of his son's decision to enlist.

Both Burpees also joined for educational benefits. Staff Sgt. Burpee is currently earning his degree at Granite State University.

Family and Service are critical missions in the NHARNG. Without family support, our ranks wouldn't be the same. When families choose to serve together, our organizational family strengthens.

In the National Guard, we serve our communities. Our soldiers are a part of those communities. What do we do to serve our soldiers?

The guard provides us and our families with opportunities of continued service with long-lasting

benefits. From bonuses to low cost health and life insurance options, we serve those who serve.

You are one of our biggest assets for bringing new soldiers into our ranks. Refer a relative or someone you know, and be the drive that passes on the tradition of service.

Learn more about our referral program and reenlistment options by contacting your Retention NCO.





BRAND NEW START

To All State Employees,

Sept. 17 marked the official date for changing our name and mission from the Adjutant General’s Department to the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services.

The journey that began on Feb. 15, 2018 with Gov. Sununu’s signing of Executive Order 2018-01 is now a reality.



N.H. Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities congratulates William Gaudreau, state director of the Division of Veterans Services, at a swearing-in ceremony Sept. 25 in Concord.

The department’s new name aptly defines our dual-mission set.

For those state employees who support our military division (NH Army and Air National Guard), thanks for what you do. Your mission remains the same; to support the men and women in the New Hampshire National Guard as they execute their mission triad of Fighting and Winning our Nation’s



Gov. Chris Sununu signs Senate Bill 208 at a ceremony held at the American Legion Henry J. Sweeney Post 2 in Manchester, July 30. The act officially renamed the N.H. Adjutant General’s Department to the N.H. Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston, Deputy State PAO.

Wars, Securing the Homeland and Building Partnerships.

Regardless of your position within our department, your support is paramount to ensure that our soldiers and airmen succeed.

For those state employees transitioning over from other state agencies to the Veterans Services component of our department, welcome to the team. You are now part of our “Soldier (service member) for Life” brand.

The Division of Community Based Military Programs, Division of Veterans Services and Veterans Cemetery all provide critical services and support for our military service members, their families and the broader veteran community.

Assisting those who currently serve or who have served this great nation is a calling that none of us should ever take lightly.

I again want to thank each and every one of you for what you do. It is truly an exciting time and I look forward to working with each and every one of you in serving our military and veteran community.

Sincerely,  
David J. Mikolaities  
Major General, NH National Guard  
The Adjutant General

GUARDSMEN COMPETE FOR COVETED GERMAN BADGE

By Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston, Deputy State PAO

It’s a shiny, metallic badge bearing the Bundesadler.

German for “Federal Eagle,” it’s a symbol on one of the oldest coats of arms in the world.

Troops around the world covet it.

Earning one is no small task.

For one long weekend in July, 56 New Hampshire guardsmen trained to the strict standards of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, for the right to wear the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

“I have the honor to supervise the GAFPB test for the NHNG,” said Bundeswehr Sgt. Maj. Micro Probst. “A German E-5, at least, has to be on site to supervise to ensure that the German standards are met.”

It was the first time the NHNG hosted the event. The badge is awarded in gold, silver and bronze dependent on one’s overall endurance, strength, speed and skill.

The event started with a swim test at the University of New Hampshire pool in Durham. Track and field, marksmanship, first aid and a ruck march followed at the NHNG Training Site in Center Strafford.

Probst closely monitored each test, clad in the distinctive Tropentarn camouflage uniform of the Bundeswehr, while N.H. guardsmen were timed and graded.

The swim, 100 meters within four minutes, proved most challenging. Participants dressed in battle fatigues. Any stroke was allowed. Shorts and t-shirts were worn underneath so swimmers who finished in time could remove their uniforms while treading water.

The added weight and drag of a uniform proved too much for several badge hopefuls. One soldier who couldn’t finish used the aid of a lane line to pull himself out of the pool. Another exited the water and vomited from exhaustion.

Fifteen competitors failed the event.

Even 1st Sgt. Peter LaFlamme, a former drill sergeant, found himself out of his element in the water.

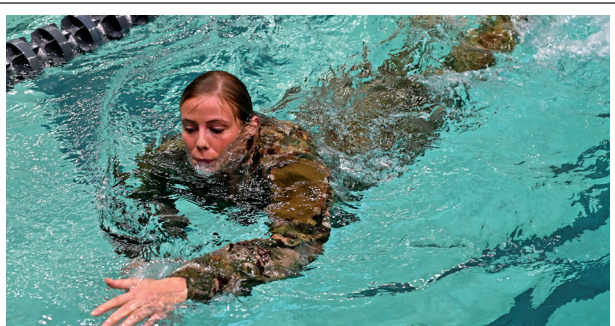
“I thought I was in decent shape, but not for swimming,” said LaFlamme, who went on to win gold. “Once I expended my initial burst of energy and my steam, it was pure heart after that just to finish. But I made it.”

Spc. Stephanie Langlais, an intelligence analyst with the 197th Field Artillery Brigade, was one of the few who swam effortlessly. She front crawled four lengths of the pool with a minute and a half to spare.

“I’ve swam my whole life,” Langlais said. “I loved the swim.”

Guardsmen then rotated through six events throughout a weekend, to include a 1000-meter run, 11 x 10-meter shuttle sprint, flexed-arm hang, first aid test, pistol shoot, and the culminating event, a 12-kilometer ruck march.

The pistol qualification ended the hopes of several marksman shooting for gold, as only a perfect five-of-five shots on target at 25 meters earned top score.



Spc. Stephanie Langlais

The 1000-meter run also proved formidable. Passing the run wasn’t problematic. But the gold standard of 3 minutes, 45 seconds, was too fast for some.

At weekend’s end, N.H. Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities decorated 41 fatigued soldiers and airmen with the covet-

ed German badge at a ceremony in Center Strafford. He awarded 13 gold, 26 silver and two bronze.

Spc. Andrew Walsh, a combat medic with Mountain Company, excelled throughout the competition. Sporting a gold badge pinned to his chest, he offered some advice for future participants.

“Get out and train, whether you’re running or rucking, just to make sure you’re ready to go for the events,” he said.

Langlais, who earned silver, said she joined the guard for exactly these types of challenges.

“I love talking about all the opportunities the guard offers with my friends who aren’t doing exciting things with their lives,” she said. “I work with computers, and that’s awesome. But I also get to participate in physically demanding events like this as well.”

## Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services

WORKING TOGETHER TO SERVE NH VETERANS

### Division of Veteran Services

DVS assists veterans who are residents of New Hampshire or their dependents in securing all benefits or preferences to which they may be entitled. As a result of the restructuring, DVS has hired additional Veteran Service Officers and has obtained a new software system to more effectively manage data. DVS maintains a registry of former Pease AF Base service members in order to provide updates & notifications about the health concern investigations. **Contact William Gaudreau, Director, (603) 624-9230, William.Gaudreau@va.gov**

### NHNG Service Member & Family Support

The Service Member & Family Support team provides resources and programs to enhance the readiness of Service Member's Families as well as contribute to the overall health, morale, and welfare of those families at any point during active military service or after military separation. The team partners with DVS Veteran Service Officers to meet a variety of needs. **Contact LTC Jeffrey Samon, Director, (603) 225-1329 jeffrey.m.samon.mil@mail.mil**

### Division of Community Based Military Programs

Through awareness, systemic change efforts, technical assistance services, and strategic partnerships, the Division of CBMP strives to create an integrated network of knowledgeable & well-equipped service providers who enhance systems of care in NH for service members, veterans & their families. The Division strives to better educate, coordinate and engage community providers around the needs of veterans. **Contact Amy Cook, Administrator, (603) 271-9394, Amy.Cook@dhhs.nh.gov**

### NH State Veterans Cemetery

To express the State's gratitude for their service to the country, the NH State Veterans Cemetery provides and maintains a dignified final-resting place to honor all veterans and eligible dependents. The Cemetery conveys peace through natural beauty and is a source of pride to veterans' families and NH residents. The Veterans Heritage Learning Center, opened at the Cemetery in 2018, offers a robust, creative and interactive educational environment for students and the public to learn about the selfless service & sacrifice of NH military veterans and their vital role in our nation's military history. **Contact Shawn Buck, Director, (603) 796-2026, sbuck@nhsvc.com**



# A NEW ERA IN AERIAL REFUELING: THE KC-46 PEGASUS

By Jeff McMenemy, Portsmouth Herald

PORTSMOUTH — When Air National Guard Lt. Col Marc Zubricki pilots a KC-135 air refueling tanker, his crew has to wear headsets to protect their hearing because the cabin noise is so loud.

“If I want to talk to you I have to lift up your headset to talk to you or I literally have to scream at the top of my lungs,” Zubricki said recently as he showed visitors around one of the two KC-46A air refueling tankers at the 157th Air Refueling Wing at Pease. “The only way to really communicate is to plug in and use the intercom and talk into a microphone to talk to each other. If you’re not using that, you can’t really communicate ... you’re using hand signals and yelling at each other.”

The massive KC-46A is the next generation of air refueling tankers, which will ultimately replace the KC-135 tankers. The Air Force and Air National Guard has been using the KC-135s for 60 years.

The new tankers are 159 feet long, 51 feet high and have a wingspan of 159 feet.

They can carry roughly 212,000 pounds of fuel, which tanker crews can then transfer to a variety of planes around the world while both are in flight, Zubricki said.

They also represent a new level of technology and operational ease and efficiency, he added.

“This airplane, when we get up above 18,000 feet, we just take our headsets off and talk to each other, it’s not much louder than it is now,” Zubricki said during a tour of the KC-46. “That’s because it was designed as an airliner initially and it’s got all that technology.”

When the Air Force and Guard starts using the new tankers for missions, the boom operators – who coordinate the critical job of transferring the fuel from the tanker to the receiving airplane – will no longer be “lying down on their bellies on the floor of the airplane,” Zubricki said.

Even in the summer, the boom operators have to wear heavy clothes to keep them warm in the KC-135s, he said.

“It’s freezing back there so they’re lying down freezing their butts off, but now they’re going to be sitting here,” Zubricki said as he pointed to the seats right behind the cockpit where the boom operator and air refueling operator sit.

“They’ve got their latte in the cup holder from the coffee maker, it’s completely different. You can do a better job, work a longer day, be less fatigued, be safer in this airplane because of those differences,” he said. “That’s the biggest difference anyone will say.”

“I don’t want to say anything bad about the KC-135, it’s an amazing airplane, 60 years old and they’re still flying,” he added.

Officials from the 157th Air Refueling Wing, along with retired and active Guard members, were joined by a bevy of federal officials during a ceremony in August when the first of the two new tankers landed at Pease.

Zubricki described the occasion as “huge,” because it marked “the first time an Air National Guard unit has ever got a brand new airplane right from the factory at the same time as the active duty Air Force.”

Zubricki piloted one of the new tankers from McConnell Air Force Base to Pease.

“We got to go pick up these two airplanes and fly them back, that was really cool, that was something,” he said.

“I felt very comfortable flying this airplane very quickly. The refueling stuff and the mission stuff that’s the stuff it’s going to take a little time to learn,” Zubricki said.” Flying across the country, I felt very comfortable. It’s an extremely capable airplane.”

The new generation tankers will continue the mission of proving aerial refueling services to U.S. and NATO aircraft around the world.

That’s something Zubricki has been doing while piloting the KC-135 tankers.

“I haven’t been to Australia yet, but name a place anywhere else in the world and I’ve been there, just in my years at the base,” he said.

Zubricki showed visitors the cameras on the belly of the plane that will give boom operators an up-close look at the receiving plane while they’re aligning the boom – which drops down from the tanker and into the receiving plane.

“They sit at the consoles and they use these controls to



Lt. Col. Mark Zubricki, 157th Air Refueling Wing KC-46A Pegasus pilot, explains the upgrades to the navigation, communications and aeronautics systems in the flight deck.

Photo by Rich Beauchesne, Chief Photographer, Seacoast Media Group.

move the boom left, right, up or down, all while looking at the screen,” Zubricki said.

Things will be easier for the pilots of the receiver planes when the KC-46s are used in missions, he said.

Lights on the belly of the plane, called PDIs or “pilot direction indicators,” help “the receiver pilot remain in the center of the refueling envelope,” he said.

“If the aft (tail) light illuminates while you’re under the plane with the boom down, and you need to come forward, it’s going to tell you,” Zubricki said. “... They’re going to tell you up or down, left or right, forward or aft.”

“If you’re right in the center, you’re going to have a green light here and a green light here, meaning you’re perfect on the forward and aft and you’re perfect on the up and down,” he added.

There’s also a compartment on the belly of the plane, which can be opened so crew can pull down a ladder, climb up, and quickly be inside the plane.

“If you need to get inside faster you can climb up this ladder, step on a platform, climb up another ladder and end up in the floor of the plane,” Zubricki said.

Behind the cockpit and crew seats of the new tankers, there’s also a massive fuselage area that can be converted to carry anything from passengers to cargo to wounded soldiers.

“It’s really built well for air medical evacuation missions where they would basically convert this into a flying hospital,” he said. “They’re folded up right now but when they pull out, they can be used for bunk hospital beds.” “It’s designed to be convertible,” he added.

The new KC-46A also has state-of-the art communications and tactical systems, Zubricki said.

And, he stated, the new tankers have another feature.

“This is a wide body fuselage so the fuselage has way more space, and they’re also longer too,” he said. “Everything about them is bigger.”



STATE CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT ASSUMES AUTHORITY

By Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston, Deputy State PAO



N.H. Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities, Chief Master Sgt. David Obertanec and Chief Master Sgt. John Symington before a change of authority ceremony held at Pease Air National Guard Base on Sept. 15. Symington assumed the state command chief position from Obertanec during the event.

Photo by Senior Airman Victoria Nelson, 157th ARW Public Affairs.

Chief Master Sgt. John Symington assumed authority as the New Hampshire Air National Guard state command chief master sergeant from Chief Master Sgt. David Obertanec during a ceremony Sept. 15 at Pease ANG Base.

Symington had previously served as group superinten-

dent of the 157th Mission Support Group since 2016. In his new position, Symington said he will focus on four distinct areas: recruiting, retention, readiness and most importantly, respect.

“None of these things can happen if we don’t treat each other with respect,” he said.

Symington acknowledged leaders who mentored him during his 38-year career.

“Throughout my career, I’ve been fortunate to have some great mentors,” Symington said. “They’d kick me in the butt when I needed it and made sure I was seeking opportunities to grow.”

N.H. Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities awarded Obertanec the Legion of Merit for his performance.

“Our business is about people,” Mikolaities said. “I’ve never ever known this man to not care about people.”

Obertanec, who will continue service in the guard as a military personnel management officer, wished Symington well in his new position. “On behalf of my wife and myself, Godspeed.”

Symington takes over as the state’s 12th command chief.

“The NHANG is blessed to have so many outstanding airmen within our ranks,” Symington said. “I’m honored and humbled to represent them.”

Headquarters in Concord. Baxter, a native of Pembroke, enlisted in 1980 and rose through the NCO and warrant officer ranks to achieve the highest possible command in the NH Army National Guard.

She became the sixth command chief warrant officer and first woman to hold the position — one of a handful across the country. Under her leadership, NHARNG’s warrant officer corps grew to unprecedented levels both in numbers and expertise. N.H. Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities lauded Baxter for her uncompromising standards and fearlessness when it came to speaking “truth to power.”

Photo by Staff Sgt. Rick Frost, JFHQ Public Affairs

IRREPLACEABLE



**State Command Chief Retires** — State Command Chief Warrant Officer Diane Baxter was honored at a retirement ceremony Sept. 7 held at Joint Force

COMPASSION FUELS FUTURE KC-46 PILOT

By Staff Sgt. Timothy Hayden, 157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**PEASE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE**, Newington, N.H. — Last March, a motorcyclist collided with an SUV on a rural back road in Newmarket. Kirsten Arends, a command post specialist for the 157th Air Refueling Wing, happened to be driving by just after the accident occurred.

“I pulled over to see if there was anything I could do,” the staff sergeant recalled. “And me being me, I grabbed a small first aid kit from my car and went over to see how I could help.”

Despite not having any formal paramedic training, Arends remembered the self-aid-buddy-care methods she learned from basic military training. She saw the motorcyclist on the ground and in pain. A bone in his leg was so severely fractured it protruded from his pants. A few other motorists had stopped to help but emergency personnel had not arrived on the scene. After assessing the extent of the injury, Arends grabbed a tourniquet she kept in her vehicle.

“His injury was producing a lot of blood,” Arends said. “Everyone around him was just talking about what to do. It was very chaotic. And at that point I just said ‘he needs a tourniquet now.’”

In the ensuing minutes, first responders arrived and treated the downed motorcyclist. “I asked the paramedics if he was going to be okay,” Arends said. “And they told me that we had given him the best chance of living.”

For Arends, helping others seems to be a part of her DNA. The only child of a social worker from Harrison, New York, Arends credits her mother with instilling that fierce sense of selflessness.

“I grew up with my mom in a one bedroom apartment in New York,” Arends said. “My mom slept on the sofa for eight years so I could have my own room. She sacrificed a lot so that I could have a good education.”

Arends attended a military boarding school in high school. There, she was exposed to military culture for the first time. That experience gave Arends a desire to serve in the military, but it was not her only source of motivation. Growing up 30 minutes west of New York City, Arends was directly affected by the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

“Some of my friends lost parents that day, so it was a very impactful event,” Arends said, “After that I knew I wanted to join the military.”

While pursuing a degree in social work at the University of New Hampshire, Arends enlisted in the NH Air National Guard in 2011. Initially joining the base supply section at Pease, she now works at the command post. This is a group of specialists who deal in emergency management. They monitor flights. They are the eyes and ears of the base and the Wing Commander.

“Kirsten has many personable qualities,” said Master Sgt. Joshua Connery, NCOIC of command post operations. “She’s known in the office for her empathy and genuine concern for others.”



Her desire to help others was evident even in the field of study she chose. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Arends earned her bachelor degree in social work in 2016. She went on to earn her master degree this past May.

“Education has always been really important for my family,” Arends said. Her resume will soon broaden to include officer training school as well and flight training. She was selected to be a future pilot of the KC-46 Pegasus.

“I am proud to be a member of the 157th,” Arends said. “It is an honor to put on the uniform every day – and follow in the footsteps of giants.”

When she is not hard at work in the command post or preparing for her future career, Arends enjoy hanging out with friends. A resident of Exeter, Arends also likes to help in her local community. She is a member of a human resource-funding group that supplies money to several well-known charitable organizations.

“I have always been a driven person,” Arends said. “Even on my days off I like to fill them with something meaningful and productive.”

For her efforts last March helping the injured motorcyclist, Arends was recently awarded the Air National Guard Commendation Medal.

“I’m not surprised at her ability and willingness to respond and react in such a brave manner,” Connery said.



JOY RIDE

From left, Shane Bowen, son of Sgt. Mike Bowen of the 237th Military Police Company, and his friend Liam Mulligan check out the controls of a UH-60 Blackhawk during the 54th Troop Command family day Sept. 8 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Rick Frost, JFHQ Public Affairs.



BEST SUPPORTING ACTORS

From left, Sgt. Derek Richardson and Staff Sgt. Matthew Maguire of the NHNG 12th Civil Support Team conduct a radiation survey at the site of a mock plane crash on the set of “War of the Worlds” at Universal Studios in Los Angeles on Aug 16. The team spent a week at the site using it as a CBRN event. The group collaborated with local law enforcement as well as the 9th CST from California for a unique, near real-world training experience.

Photo by Spc. Nicole Hayes, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.

AIM WELL

Sgt. Sean Healey, a mechanic with the 744th Forward Support Company, steadies his aim alongside fellow marksmen during a timed pistol event at the NHNG 2019 Combat Marksmanship Competition, Fort Devens, Mass., Aug. 3. Seventy-four N.H. Guard soldiers and airmen competed in various rifle and pistol events during the four-day match.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Curtis Lenz, 157th ARW Public Affairs.



HONORABLE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Medal of Honor Recipient Ryan Pitts addresses attendees of the NHARNG Officer Candidate School graduation ceremony on Sept. 6 in Concord. Pitts, a Nashua resident, was keynote speaker at the ceremony for the candidates of N.H. Class 56. Staff Sgt. Pitts was decorated for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving in Army’s 173rd Airborne Brigade in Afghanistan in 2008.

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

KC-46 PEGASUS

Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, Director of the Air National Guard, N.H. Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities, and Brig. Gen. Laurie Farris, Commander of the N.H. Air National Guard, wave the state flag as they exit the first-delivered KC-46 Pegasus to Pease Air National Guard Base, Newington, N.H., Aug. 8.

Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Queen, 157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs.



OCS GRADUATE

2nd Lt. Ted Baker’s daughter, Norah, pins on his new lieutenant shoulder boards at a Sept. 6. N.H. Army National Guard Officer Candidate School graduation ceremony for N.H. Class 56 in Concord. Baker was recognized for winning the class Academic Excellence Award. He will join B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery.

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

PATRIOT NORTH 19

N.H. Guardsmen of the 157th Security Forces Squadron and the 237th Military Police Company repel protestors during riot control training at Patriot North 19, Fort McCoy, Wis., July 18. Soldiers and airmen held position as demonstrators charged and assaulted the line.

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



PODCASTER

Sgt. Benjamin McPherson, a truck driver with the 744th Forward Support Company, loads rocket pods into a Multiple Launch Rocket System during BREAKTHROUGH 2019, a multinational live-fire exercise in Varpalota, Hungary, June 13. The training is hosted by the Hungarian Defense Force and includes Army National Guard units from four different states.

Photo by Spc. Nicole Hayes, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.

SACRED CLIMB

Infantrymen from the NHARNG & TXARNG join their Chilean instructors for a group photo during mountaineering training in Los Andes, Chile. The guardsmen attended the Chilean Mountain Warfare School this past July.

Courtesy photo.



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE VISITS PEASE

Matthew Donovan, the acting secretary of the Air Force, is greeted by Staff Sgt. Ashley Shipman, an airman assigned to the 157th Air Refueling Wing, Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., Aug. 8. Donovan attended a welcoming event at the base to commemorate the arrival of the KC-46A air refueling tanker. Pease was the first National Guard Base to receive the new aircraft, which replaced the divested KC-135 Stratotanker. Hundreds of people attended a welcoming event held along the flight line to usher in the new era of aerial refuelers and future generations of Pease airmen. Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston, Deputy State PAO.





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