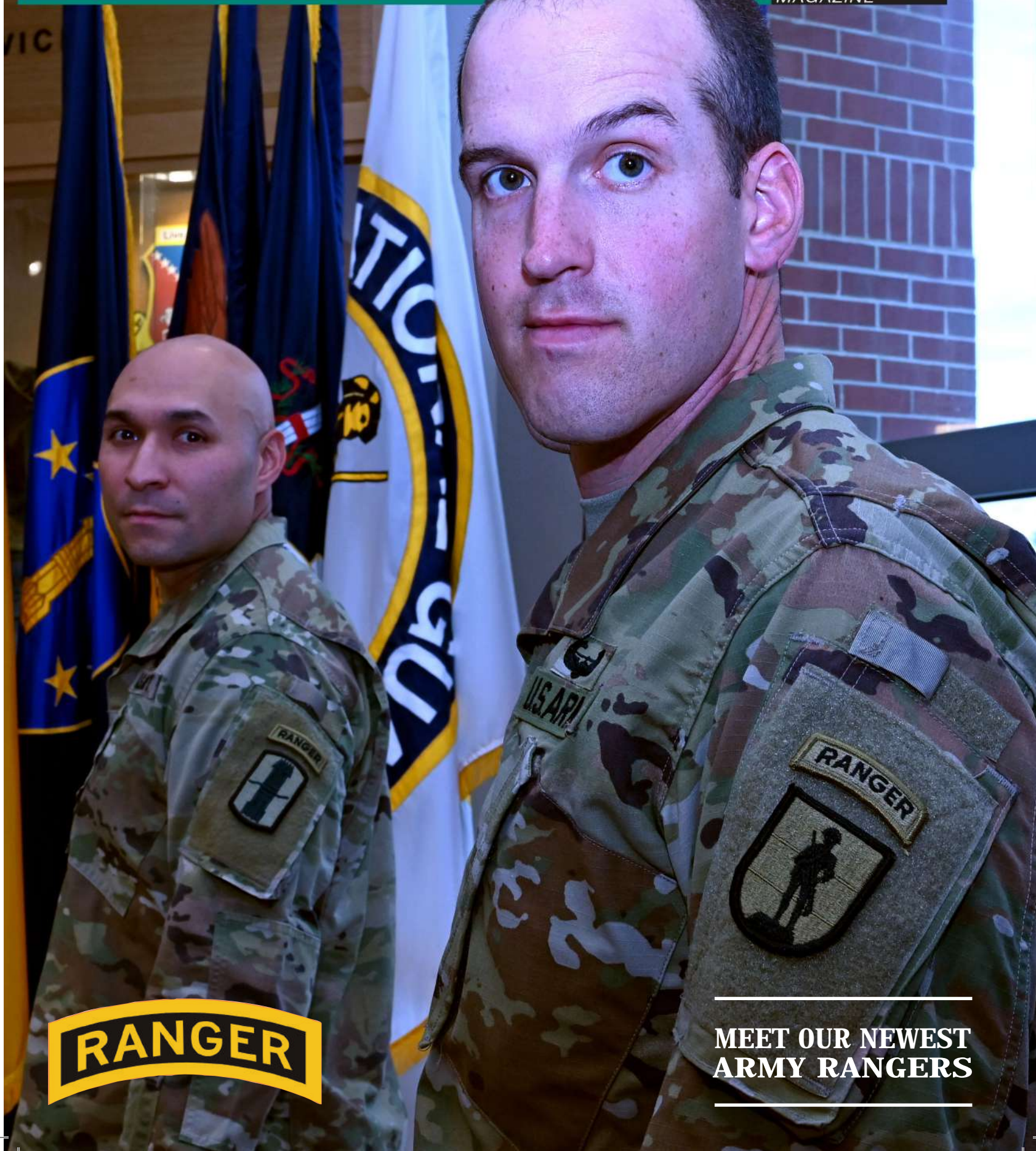


NEW HAMPSHIRE

Summer 2020

# GUARDSMAN

MAGAZINE



**RANGER**

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MEET OUR NEWEST  
ARMY RANGERS

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## 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. John LeBlanc**  
Commander of the N.H. Army National Guard

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

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- 603d Public Affairs Detachment,  
N.H. Army National Guard
- 197th Field Artillery Brigade Public Affairs,  
N.H. Army National Guard
- 157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs,  
N.H. Air National Guard
- Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs,  
N.H. National Guard

*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.*

*The New Hampshire Guardsman Magazine is produced by the State Public Affairs Office.*

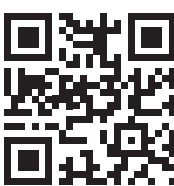
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**Cover photo:** **Capt. Mario Rey**, field artillery officer, 3/197th Field Artillery Regiment; and **Maj. Brandon LaBelle**, logistics officer with the 1986th Contracting Control Team; show off their Ranger tabs after graduating from the 62-day small unit tactics and leadership course last spring. The NHARNG conducts an annual Ranger assessment to determine eligibility for the elite Army school.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG deputy state PAO.*



## MESSAGE TO THE FORCE: FINISHING STRONG

To the Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilian Employees of the NHNG,

As we begin a new training year, I want to thank you for finishing FY20 strong. You met challenge after challenge with professionalism and grace. Your actions throughout the pandemic have helped prevent the spread of the virus, ensuring our governor could reopen the economy and schools safely.

In addition, both the New Hampshire Army and Air Guard ended the fiscal year “green” with our formations 100% manned. A huge thanks to our recruiting folks who persisted through the challenges of COVID-19 to fill our formations with the next generation of great Americans who will continue the legacy of selfless service.

In the midst of so much activity, the NHNG was named one of the state’s top employers for 2020 by Business New Hampshire Magazine. This much-coveted honor was not only a first for our organization, but also the first time a government agency cracked the magazine’s annual list of 20 best companies.

We recently bid farewell to Task Force West Sentinels as it deploys to California in support of the Southwest Border Mission. Led by LTC Ken Kruger, 45 soldiers from the Brigade Support Battalion will comprise a headquarters element for nearly 600 Army guardsmen from four different states. For the next year, they will be the “eyes and ears” for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, protecting the human dignity of those fleeing violence and corruption, and deterring threats and criminal organizations from entering the country.

At the same time, we welcome home Operational Support Airlift, Detachment 18 from its year-long deployment in support of ongoing missions in Afghanistan. Not far behind is the return of the 238th Medevac Company. And let us not forget the eight airmen from Pease who continue to perform their duties in Jordan, Al Dhafra and Qatar.

About 160 NHNG soldiers and airmen continue to support the state’s COVID-19 relief efforts now in its eighth month. They continue to support warehouse operations, PPE distribution, both mobile and fixed drive-thru testing sites, and the public health lab.

We bid hail and farewell to BG Shawn O’Brien as he retires from a stellar Army career and relinquishes command of the NHARNG to newly-minted BG John LeBlanc. We also recently bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Lore Ford and welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. William Ferland as the NHARNG State Command Sergeant Major. We also said good-bye to NHANG Chief Master Sgt. Dave Obertanec whose legacy of taking care of fellow airmen was unrivaled.

At Pease, the 157th Air Refueling Wing continues to be a standard-bearer for the Air Force’s KC-46 refueler. Crews are well ahead of scheduled training. Earlier this summer, a crew accomplished the first official coronet mission of the new KC-46 era.

With reported cases of COVID-19 trending upward in surrounding states, it’s even more critical that we safeguard against complacency and rumors. By now, wearing a mask should be habit when you are on mission.

Stay informed and be especially mindful of social distancing and hygiene protocols. If you are struggling financially or emotionally, contact the FAC’s resource and referral number at 1-877-598-0666, the Airman and Family Readiness Program Coordinator at 603-828-3892, or our Care Coordination Program at 1-888-989-9924.

Sincerely,

**Major General David Mikolaities**  
**Adjutant General**  
**New Hampshire National Guard**

## ANOTHER CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

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

Pease achieved another historic first in military aerial refueling.

A year after the 157th Air Refueling Wing became the first Air National Guard unit in the country to field the KC-46A Pegasus, New Hampshire airmen helped plan and execute the new tanker's first ever coronet, a tactical air movement that typically involves multiple fighter aircraft.

"A fighter has such a small gas tank, it can't get to point A to point B without landing or refueling midair," said NHANG Capt. Josh Stewart, a planner assigned to the Northeast Tanker Task Force, the command responsible for the Aug. 21 coronet.

Five Navy F/A-18E Super Hornets were "dragged" or escorted and refueled by a KC-46A from Volk Field, Wisconsin to Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, Stewart said. Stewart is helping the Air Force develop standard operating procedures on how to best implement the next-generation tanker. "We are a perfect entity to be planning these coronets," Stewart said. "We have three KC-46 qualified pilots and two qualified boom operators. It was important for us to volunteer and take these missions."

Not to be outdone, fellow NHANG Capt. Christopher Schimmel, the task force director, helped orchestrate the first official KC-46A transoceanic coronet Sept. 9. The milestone comprised an all-Pease aircrew and two tankers, which completed 16 refuelings for five F/A-18s.

"[Pease is], no kidding, writing the book on how to operate this new jet and knocking it out of the park," said Maj. Alex Nutting, coronet branch chief for the 618th Air Operations Center.

The goal is to keep improving the coronet process, Stewart said. Building on lessons learned from the first two coronets, the task force is planning a third, even more complex multi-leg mission for later this month.

"Very seldom do coronets go as planned, so coming up with a solid starting product gives us a baseline to deviate from, and our planners are some of the best on-the-spot thinkers out there," said NHANG Maj. Wiley Semrau, task force lead planner.

Schimmel credited a total-team effort for the task force's early success.

"It's due to the perseverance of our aircrew and our maintainers during multiple challenges," Schimmel said. "It's absolutely amazing."



**TOP RIGHT:** A NHANG KC-46A Pegasus refuels five Marine Corps F/A-18D Hornets over the Pacific Ocean on Sept. 12. The fighters were returning home to Yuma, Ariz. from Japan. It marked the first transoceanic coronet mission accomplished by a Pegasus refueler. (courtesy photo).

**LEFT:** Capt. Erik Earle, Capt. Chris Schimmel, Maj. Matt Valentino, Master Sgt. Brett Peterson, Capt. Jordan Gauvin, Chief Master Sgt. Michael George and Maj. Leon Rice stand with a KC-46A Pegasus Sept. 8 at Kadena Air Base, Japan. The Pease airmen executed the first official transoceanic coronet ever accomplished with a Pegasus refueler, which began Sept. 9 and involved 16 aerial refuelings of five F/A-18 jets. (courtesy photo).





## ON TARGET

*Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO*

A team of 13 New Hampshire guardsmen competed in the annual Military Advisory Council Region 1 (MAC 1) combat marksmanship match from Aug. 20 to 23 at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, Vermont.

They blazed through various pistol and rifle events and returned home with a haul of 22 awards, finishing second just behind Vermont in the final standings.

Maj. Brooks Hayward, senior team member and operations officer with the 941st Military Police Battalion, NHARNG, credits the successful showing to the Guard's rededication to training.

"This past year, the program has been reinvigorated through a series of new initiatives that prioritize marksmanship training," Hayward said. "This competition illustrates that those initiatives are having a positive effect, and soldiers' skills are improving because of it."

New Hampshire soldiers and airmen were split into four teams and led by a varsity squad of top shots: Capt. Patrick Randall, Staff Sgt. Joseph Wyner, Staff Sgt. David Musso and Hayward. The soldiers powered their "Team Alpha" to six team and 12 individual awards.

"As a team for New Hampshire, we represented pretty well," said Musso, reigning New Hampshire "TAG Match" champion. "We had a couple of novice individuals, which means first-time shooters here that placed really well."

Top novices included Randall, who finished as the top overall aggregate competitor, and Senior Airman Igor Machado-Nunes, who placed first in combat pistol.

"I'm happy with my performance, but there's always room for improvement," Machado-Nunes said.

Regional matches are unlike plinking recreationally at a



**Maj. Brooks Hayward, Staff Sgt. Joseph Wyner, Capt. Patrick Randall and Staff Sgt. David Musso show off hardware won at the 2020 Military Advisory Council Region 1 (MAC 1) shooting match Aug. 23 at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, Vt. The soldiers powered the NHNG's top marksmanship squad, "Team Alpha," to six team and 12 individual awards, finishing second overall.**





**Sgt. Bank Wutisen**, 12th Civil Support Team, NHARNG, surveys his target before shooting from the 400-meter line. Wutisen, a "Team Bravo" member, won two individual awards (novice class) and one team award.

local gun range. Marksmen deal with weather conditions and fatigue while managing weapons, ammunition, magazines and other gear during strictly timed events.

"One of the things that this competition really does instill in the soldiers and airmen is the ability to engage those targets over varied distances, but they also have to complete all the other administrative tasks of handling the weapon; the manual of arms for them," Hayward said. "Soldiers are reloading their weapons systems on their own. They have to arrange their gear, their magazines into positions that will best support that with both rifles and pistols. They're given ammunition and then told to complete the course of fire. And if they're unable to complete the course of fire correctly, then they're penalized for it."

"It really helps instill the sense of how to handle that weapons system appropriately, safely and effectively," he added.

The whole experience was a first for Machado-Nunes, who despite being a skilled pistoleer, is still adjusting to combat-style shooting in full loadout.

"When you come out here and you have all that gear on you, and you have that extra weight, and they're having us run around and do different drills and getting your heart

rate up before you shoot, it really sets a whole different perspective when you're shooting," he said.

The goal moving forward is for competitors to learn from their experience and share knowledge with the force.

"The soldiers who are here, they've worked pretty hard to get to this level," Hayward said. "They're now able to bring a lot of this knowledge back to their units and continue to build not only this program but build the readiness and lethality of their own units."

Guardsmen interested in shooting competitively are encouraged to contact Wyner, Musso or Master Sgt. Robert Valarese about tryout opportunities.

Full match results can be viewed at <https://wpwafsam.weebly.com/mac-1.html>

New Hampshire award winners and final standings:

#### **Novice Class Individual Awards**

Capt. Patrick Randall

First Place Overall – Excellence-In-Competition Rifle

First Place Novice – Individual Overall Aggregate



Second Place Overall and First Place Novice – Excellence-In-Competition Pistol  
 Second Place Overall – Warrior Challenge Aggregate (Combined EIC Aggregate)  
 Third Place Novice – The Rundown

Sgt. Nadthapong Wutisen

Third Place Novice – Close Quarter Battle  
 Third Place Novice – Reflexive Fire

Senior Airman Igor Machado-Nunes

First Place Novice – Individual Combat Pistol  
 Third Place Novice – The Rundown

### Open Class Individual Awards

Maj. Brooks Hayward

Second Place Overall – The Rundown  
 Second Place Overall – Close Quarter Battle  
 Second Place Overall – Reflexive Fire  
 Second Place Overall – Individual Overall Aggregate  
 Third Place Overall – Excellence-In-Competition Pistol  
 Third Place Overall – Warrior Challenge Aggregate (Combined EIC Aggregate)

Staff Sgt. David Musso

Third Place Overall – The Rundown

### Team Results

Alpha Team

Maj. Brooks Hayward (Second Place Individual Overall)  
 Capt. Patrick Randall (Ninth Place Individual Overall/First Place Individual Novice)  
 Staff Sgt. David Musso (Eighth Place Individual Overall)  
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Wyner (Seventh Place Individual Overall)  
 First Place – Anti-Body Armor Team  
 First Place – Falling Plates Team  
 Second Place – The Rundown Team  
 Second Place – Close Quarter Battle Team

**RIGHT: Capt. Patrick Randall, 157th Military Police Company, locks and loads on the firing line during the MAC Region 1 marksmanship match Aug. 22 at Camp Ethan Allen, Vt.**

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

Second Place – General George Patton Combat Pistol  
 Second Place – Team Pistol and Rifle Championship Aggregate

Bravo Team

Staff Sgt. Wayne Comtois (13th Place Individual Overall)  
 Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston (16th Place Individual Overall/Fifth Place Individual Novice)  
 Sgt. Nadthapong Wutisen (18th Place Individual Overall/Seventh Place Individual Novice)  
 Senior Airman Igor Machado-Nunes (35th Place Individual/22nd Place Individual Novice)  
 Third Place – Anti-Body Armor Team  
 Fourth Place – Team Pistol and Rifle Championship Aggregate  
 Fifth Place – Close Quarter Battle Team  
 Fifth Place – General George Patton Combat Pistol  
 Sixth Place – The Rundown Team

Charlie Team

Sgt. Timothy Huntley (21st Place Individual Overall/10th Place Individual Novice)  
 Staff Sgt. Jareth Belanger (31st Place Individual Overall/18th Place Individual Novice)  
 Spc. Ryan Stone (33rd Place Individual Overall/20th Place Individual Novice)  
 Sgt. Haley Schultz (39th Place Individual Overall/25th Place Individual Novice)  
 Seventh Place – Close Quarter Battle Team  
 Eighth Place – Anti-Body Armor Team  
 Eighth Place – General George Patton Combat Pistol  
 Eighth Place – Team Pistol and Rifle Championship Aggregate  
 Ninth Place – The Rundown Team

Solo Team

Capt. Sean Connolly (24th Place Individual Overall/12th Place Individual Novice)





## RANGERS LEADING THE WAY

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

Two New Hampshire Guardsmen just made the grade at one of the most notoriously grueling schools in the military.

Maj. Brandon LaBelle and Capt. Mario Rey returned home last spring as graduates of the 62-day U.S. Army Ranger School, each sporting the coveted “Ranger” qualification tab on their upper left sleeve.

“It was always something I was really interested in,” said LaBelle, a logistics officer with the 195th Regional Training Institute and a 13-year guardsman. “I think it’s good to challenge yourself to do really hard things and make yourself better.”

The small unit tactics and leadership course is based out of Fort Benning, Ga. and open U.S. service members and allied military students. It simulates the mental and physical stressors of combat, featuring 20-hour days, small meals and little-to-no sleep. Graduation rates hover around 50 percent.

“If you can grit it out, you can make it through Ranger School,” LaBelle said. “Because that’s really what Ranger School is. Most of it is ‘are you mentally tough enough to make it?’”

LaBelle admits he considered dropping out. But he remained positive, pushed through extreme weight loss (about 35 pounds), injuries and even a scorpion bite to his right wrist.

“I wanted to quit,” LaBelle said, “I thought about quitting. That thought creeps into everyone’s mind. You don’t execute on it. But everyone thinks about quitting. There’s not a single person at Ranger School who I’ve talked to that the thought doesn’t cross their mind.”

LaBelle said he prayed every day and thought of his sacrifice his family made for him to attend, to include his pregnant wife at home. “I can’t come home without this,” he reminded himself through the rigors of training.

The intense curriculum included a wide range of soldiering skills, including mountaineering, explosives, small unit tactical leadership, squad-level water tactics, land navigation and weapons proficiency.

Rey, an artillery officer with the 197th Field Artillery Regiment with 10 years of service, says words can’t fully prepare one for the experience.

“That degree of hardship, it’s hard to articulate to anyone,” Rey said. “People have told us about it. But you can’t really measure it until you’re there, because it’s just that exhausting. You think you know hunger, and then you experience real hunger. You think you know the weight of a ruck, and then you really get weighted down. You think you know a long day, and you then you really experience a long day. You think you know a mountain, and then you go to (Mount) Dahlonga.”



**Staff Sgt. Devin Anderson**, recruiting and retention NCO, NHARNG, performs sit-ups during the physical fitness portion of a Ranger assessment Sept. 4 at Fort Devens, Mass.

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

Now that the new Rangers have returned to their units, there’s an organizational return on investment.

“It produces leaders of character that can bring these lessons back to New Hampshire,” said fellow Ranger, New Hampshire Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities. “These leaders develop the skills, knowledge and aptitude to operate in austere conditions and lead our most precious resource, our soldiers, in the crucible of ground combat.”

Rey said he couldn’t overstate the school’s impact on him as a leader.

“It gives me more confidence in myself as a decision maker and a member of battle staff,” Rey said. “So I’m a more confident leader. I’m more confident talking about infantry tactics, maneuvering. I just feel more confident in myself.”

Moving forward, the NHARNG will continue to conduct annual assessments for Ranger hopefuls. The two-day tryouts are held at Fort Devens, Mass., and include events such as combat water survival, a 12-mile ruck march, night land navigation and a Ranger Physical Fitness Test. Slots are open to both officer and enlisted ranks.

But potential applicants might heed a famous story recounted by LaBelle about a Ranger with two tours of duty in Vietnam.

“I woke up in a cold sweat,” said Col. Robert “Tex” Turner. “I had a nightmare that I was still in Ranger School. Thank God I was in Vietnam. Compared to Ranger School, combat was easy.”





**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP:** Staff Sgt. Matthew Puleo, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Brigade, moves tactically through the woods during a Ranger assessment Sept. 5 at Fort Devens, Mass. A rising sun catches UNH ROTC Cadet Dillon Eberhardt, as he approaches the end of a night land navigation course. Staff Sgt. Devin Anderson, recruiting and retention NCO, NHARNG, changes-out his socks during the ruck portion. Photos by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC.





**Sgt. Patrick McCormack** of 54th Troop Command leads at the start of the 12-mile ruck march during a Ranger assessment Sept. 5 at Fort Devens, Mass.

Photo by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC.



## OUT OF THIN AIR

*Story by Staff Sgt. Victoria Nelson, 157th ARW Public Affairs*

The soft hum of electric motors fills the air at the back of the 157th Maintenance Group metal technologies shop.

Under the trained eye of Staff Sgt. John Woodward, the heated nozzle of a new 3D printer zig-zags back and forth, drizzling layer after layer of melted plastic until a custom-designed aircraft maintenance tool takes shape as if out of thin air.

“We can make shapes or features that you can’t make with traditional milling machines or drill presses,” said the metals technician, whose been leveraging his civilian skill set since he began a temporary tour at Pease.

Woodward has been creating digital prototypes of tools that meet the unique needs of the Wing. The 3D printer has allowed him to fabricate inexpensive prototypes before the metals team crafts them out of more durable, traditional materials such as aluminum.

The metals team also has been collaborating with others on base to identify different opportunities to leverage the capabilities of the 3D printer. The printer can create models of parts for traditional machinery, improving accuracy and cutting the cost of trial and error with more expensive materials.

“It allows you to move from that prototype to something more tangible, something that you can repeat,” said Woodward as he twisted a bright blue plastic tool head from its newly printed handle.

Senior Master Sgt. Donald Colcord, NCOIC of the metals technology shop, said the machine gives airmen another way to approach and solve problems. “The 3D printer changes the way we use our assets and support others on base,” he said.

Woodward’s newest project came from a need to protect the expensive exterior skin panels on the new KC-46 refueler. He designed plastic pry bars to remove the panels, which cost as much as \$80,000, without causing damage. The pry bars cost about \$2 to make.

“In this little sphere here at Pease, we can make a difference,” Woodward said. “We are making an impact.”

The printer is part of a broader innovation effort within the larger Air Force that’s focused on continuous improvement and saving money.



**Staff Sgt. John Woodward**, a metals technician with the 157th Maintenance Group at Pease, demonstrates his unit's 3D tool-printing capabilities to **NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities** on Sept. 16 while aboard a KC-46A Pegasus at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

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

“What better way to show what the Air Force can do than to design something that no one has seen or thought of yet?” Woodward said. “We have smart people who are willing to invest the time and energy to learn. We have the power to create something simple that is effective.”

For the metals team, the most inspiring part of the process is being able to create something that goes beyond the capabilities of traditional machinery.

“The only limiting factor is what you can come up with,” Woodward said. “With the KC-46, it’s a great time to be thinking outside the box.”



## THAT'S A WRAP

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

The New Hampshire National Guard worked its 15th and final mobile food pantry Aug. 7.

A team of guardsmen was temporarily assigned to aid the N. H. Food Bank with sorting, cooking and delivery operations since its COVID-19 relief mission began in April.

They even helped prep the charity's vegetable garden, digging trenches and raising beds.

"The soldiers loved it," said Sgt. Maj. Rachael Fleharty-Strevig, NCOIC of Task Force Distribution. "They're going to miss being able to immediately affect their local community."

The task force ranged from 15 to 25 citizen soldiers and airmen on any given day, spearheading mobile pantry operations across the state.

"It's something I never thought I'd be able to do," said Pfc. Nathan Porch of the 744th Forward Support Company. "But here I am, and I'm happy to be doing it."

Guardsmen staffed drive-thru pantries in Colebrook, Gorham, Loudon, Plymouth, Littleton, Dover, Newport, North Conway, Laconia, Nashua, Concord and Manchester. They

delivered more than 430,000 meals, weighing over 500,000 pounds to about 6,400 families at the events.

The task force was also a mainstay at the food bank's facility on East Industrial Drive in Manchester. Fleharty-Strevig's team sorted about 403,569 pounds of food, which helped provide an estimated 273,040 meals. It also cooked about 57,580 meals for the food insecure.

Eileen Liponis, the food bank's executive director, expressed concerns over the Guard's exodus. Her operations typically depend on a pool of older volunteers--a group at higher risk of coronavirus and not nearly as efficient as a military workforce.

"You know, I love my volunteers," Liponis said. "But it's not the same. The soldiers have a mission. They know what they're doing. They know our operation. They were totally engaged in our mission. These kids get it. They're feeding hungry people, and they love it."

Liponis said she never would have been able to meet the demand – which increased 50 percent during the pandemic – without the Guard.

"Having the guard on the floor was fabulous," she said. "I can't get 25 volunteers like this."



**Pfc. Logan O'Malley** of the 3643d Brigade Support Battalion loads a car with food Aug. 7 at a mobile pantry in Manchester. An estimated 600 families were served at the event, which was the 15th and final drive-thru food pickup to be supported by the NHNG since April. The partnership with the N.H. Food Bank was formed as a COVID-19 relief effort.



**BIGGEST HEART**

**Spc. Haley Hawthorne** of the 3643d Brigade Support Battalion represented the New Hampshire National Guard well in the Region 1 Best Warrior Competition on Aug. 15 in Vermont. Hawthorne, the only female competitor, received the “Biggest Heart” award for her effort and perseverance.

*Courtesy photo.*

**NEW SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER**

From left center, incoming NHARNG **State Command Sgt. Maj. William Ferland** receives an NCO sword from **NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities** during a change of responsibility at the Edward Cross Training Center on Sept. 12 in Pembroke.

*Photo by Spc. Mark Hayward, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.*

**A FOND FAREWELL**

Army National Guard state command sergeants major from Region 1 attended **Command Sgt. Maj. Lore Ford's** retirement ceremony at the Edward Cross Training Center on Sept. 12 in Pembroke.

*Photo by Spc. Mark Hayward, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.*

**MEN AT WORK**

From left, **Spc. Michael Insley**, **Sgt. Lucas Duncan** and **Sgt. Thomas Diemer** of the 160th Engineer Company, NHARNG, check measurements of a freshly cured slab of concrete Sept. 11 at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke. They are building a storage facility to house fitness equipment for the new Army PT test.

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





**TASK FORCE RUCK AT ECTC**

**Capt. Raymond Youngs**, 941st Military Police Battalion, NHARNG, rucks a 5K to support suicide prevention and awareness at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke on Sept. 11. Youngs was joined by fellow members of the guard's Task Force Distribution, which supports ongoing COVID-19 relief efforts. The event was also held to commemorate the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

*Photo by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC.*



**MAKING GRADE**

**2nd Lt. Anthony Rorick** receives his shoulder boards from his wife Courtney during his OCS graduation Sept. 13 at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke. Rorick will serve as a signal officer for the 372nd Signal Company.

*Photo by Spc. Mark Hayward, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.*

**WILLING AND ABLE**

**Staff Sgt. Aaron DeAngelis**, a crew chief with Able Company, 1/169th General Support Aviation Battalion, observes a cargo of lumber during a sling load Sept. 15 in Pittsburg. The Innovative Readiness Training mission was coordinated by the Nature Conservancy to transport more than 5,500 pounds of lumber for improvements to the Fourth Connecticut Lake Hiking Trail.

*Photo by Spc. Mark Hayward, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.*

**PLANE SIGHT**

From left, **Senior Airman Cory Lewis** and **Tech Sgt. Jay Cunha**, aircraft structural maintainers with the 157th Maintenance Squadron, apply a New Hampshire tail flash to a KC-46A Pegasus on Sept. 16 at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. The basic font style is similar to that used by the New England Patriots.

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

**BEHIND THE MASK**

**Sgt. Michael Tibbetts** of the NHNG Mobile Testing Team smiles from behind his mask as he dons his PPE on Aug. 28 at the Rockingham County Department of Corrections in Brentwood.

*Photo by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC.*





**POLL PREPARATION**

**Staff Sgt. Dalton Briggs**, 157th Security Forces, NHANG, loads personal protective equipment slated for polling sites into a town truck Aug. 12 at Dover Fire Department. Guardsmen have been delivering PPE across the Granite State in preparation for the upcoming presidential election.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria Nelson, 157th ARW Public Affairs.*





**AMONG THE BEST**

The New Hampshire National Guard was named 14th best company to work for in the state by Business NH Magazine. The men and women of your NHNG proudly live, learn and serve here.

*Photo by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC.*

**UP WITH THE RISING SUN**

**Sgt. Brianna Passi**, public affairs mass communications specialist, NHARNG, captures imagery at sunup of a Ranger assessment on Sept. 5 at Fort Devens, Mass.

*Photo by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC.*





### TAG TOURS NEW WEAPONS PLATFORM

From left, **Maj. Brandon LaBelle** and **NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities** observe **Tech Sgt. Ashley LaValley's** demonstration of how a MEON infrared test set is used to check the KC-46 Pegasus's missile defense system during the general's tour Sept. 16 at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. LaValley, an avionics technician, works with airmen of the 157th Maintenance Squadron on KC-46s at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport while the runway at Pease is being serviced.

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



### ON CAMPUS

**Pfc. Dilip Tamang**, a Team 1 member of New Hampshire National Guard's Mobile Testing Team, administers a COVID-19 test to a New England College student Aug. 30 at its campus in Henniker. The team was scheduled to test about 73 NHC quarantined students during the event.

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



### SUPPORTING STATE PARTNERS

**Staff Sgt. Natalie Howes**, an air traffic controller with 260th Air Traffic Control, prepares COVID-19 test kits at the Public Health Lab on Sept. 23 in Concord. Since April, a team of N.H. guardsmen have assisted Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with building these test kits, which are delivered to long-term care facilities, schools and used for facilities with COVID-19 outbreaks.

*Photo by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC.*

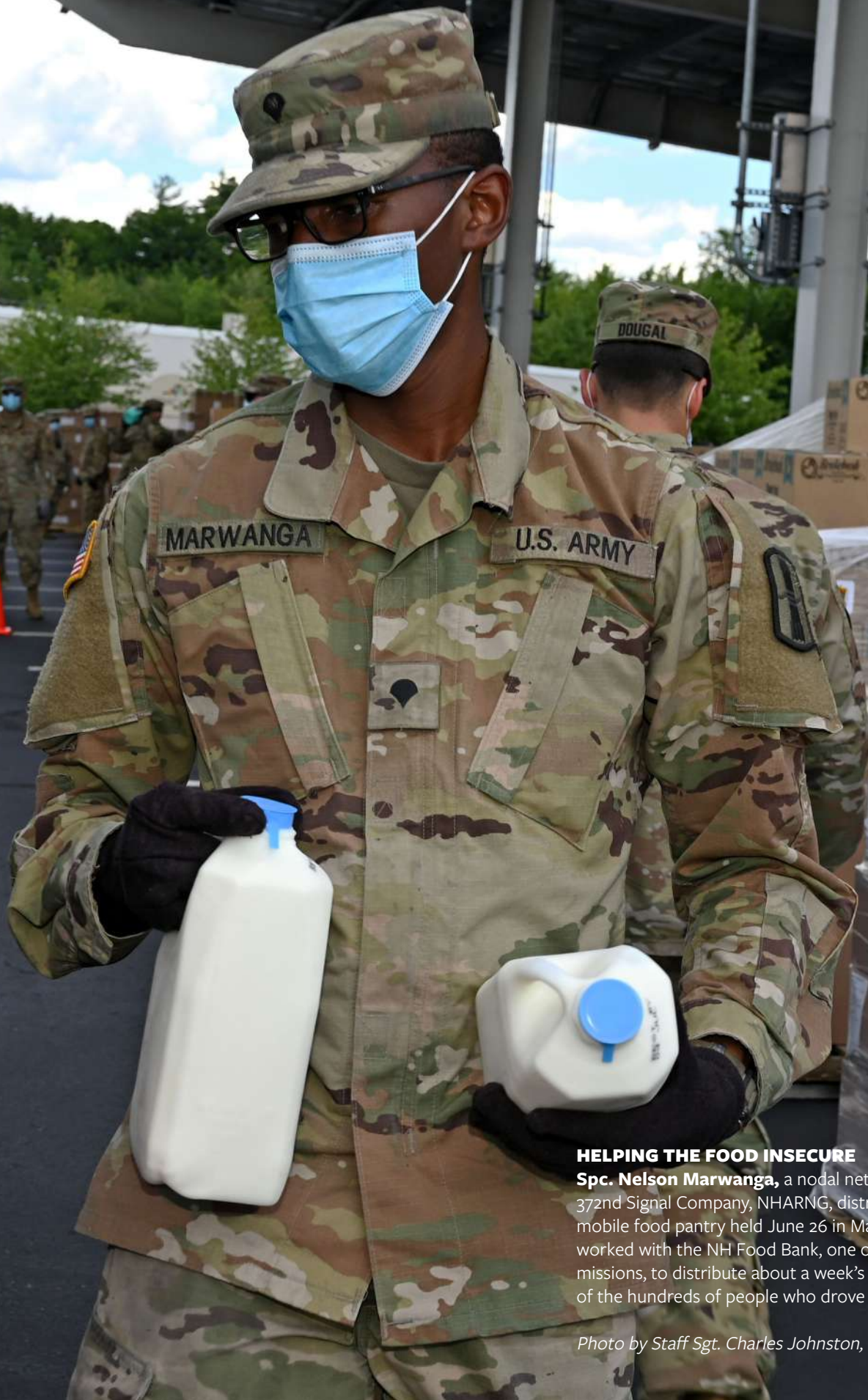


### POLLING PLACE PPE

From left, **Staff Sgt. Dale Weeks**, 237th Military Police Company, and Deputy Fire Chief Brad Ober, Gilford Fire Department, go over an itemized packing list of supplies slated for polling places Aug. 13 at Laconia High School. The Guard delivered PPE to municipalities across the Granite State for polling places.

*Photo by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC.*



NEW HAMPSHIRE GUARD **SNAPSHOTS****HELPING THE FOOD INSECURE**

**Spc. Nelson Marwanga**, a nodal network systems operator, 372nd Signal Company, NHARNG, distributes fresh milk at a mobile food pantry held June 26 in Manchester. Guardsmen worked with the NH Food Bank, one of several COVID-19 relief missions, to distribute about a week's amount of food to each of the hundreds of people who drove through.

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



**SUN MADE**

**Pvt. Jacob Morrill**, a fire control specialist with the 197th Field Artillery Brigade, NHARNG, sorts through a case of raisin snacks for a lunch-bag assembly line July 28 at the New Hampshire Food Bank in Manchester. Guardsmen took over food bank operations at the start of the pandemic, extending through August.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria Nelson, 157th ARW Public Affairs.*



**LAW AND ORDER**

**Capt. Patrick Randell**, commander of the 237th Military Police Company, NHARNG, instructs soldiers on police topics such as cordon and search, site exploration, evidence collection and detainee operations Aug. 9 at the Regional Training Site in Center Strafford.

*Photo by Spc. Bei Simmons, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.*

**WE DELIVER**

**Airman 1st Class Kyler Osbourne**, a structural technician with the 157th Civil Engineering Squadron, NHANG, secures a box truck following a delivery of personal protective equipment Aug. 11 to a distribution point in Littleton. Guardsmen delivered PPE to municipalities across the state for polling places.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria Nelson, 157th ARW Public Affairs.*





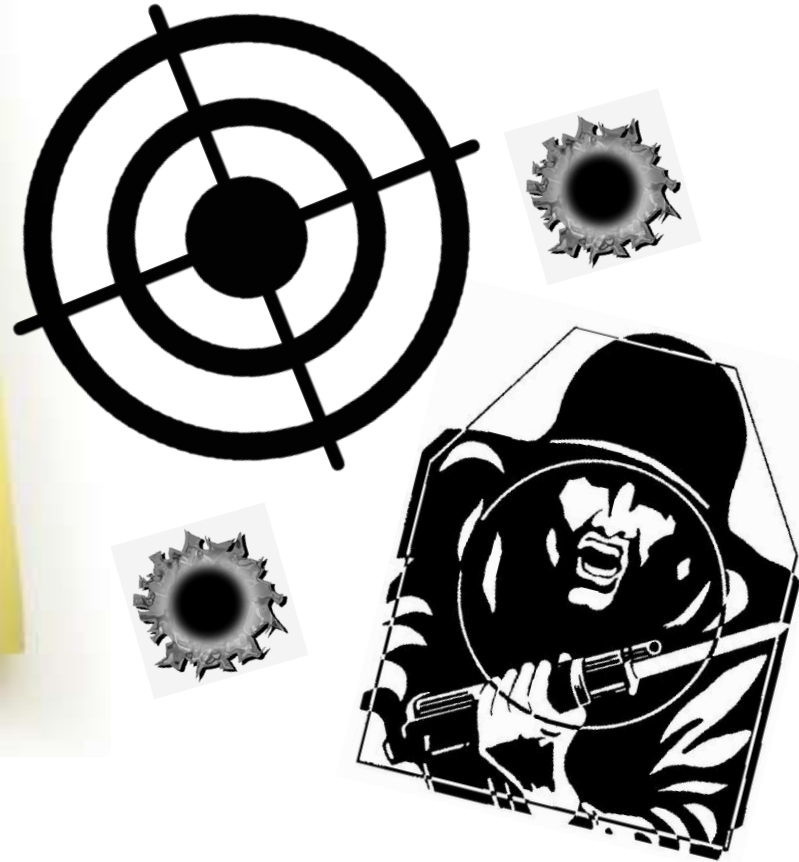
## MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING — OPEN RANGE DAY

**What:** Live Fire Ranges & Weapons Simulator

**When:** Every Thursday & Friday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Where:** NHNG Training Site, Ctr. Strafford

**How:** Schedule at least three days in advance at (603) 715-3631/3657/3619



### Additional Information:

A liability waiver must be signed before each use.

Prior to live fire range use, guardsmen must complete a range safety course administered by NHNGTS staff, held Fridays at the Cooper House, 9 – 10 a.m.

Bring your own weapons, ammo and approved targets.

All pistol calibers up to .45 ACP, all rifle calibers up to .30-06/7.62mm x 54R, and shotgun slugs are the only authorized ammunition. Ammunition that poses a safety hazard or could damage the range is prohibited.

Paper targets and approved biathlon target sets are the only authorized targets.

There must be a minimum of two trained and safety-certified users on the range at all times, so bring a battle buddy.

Live fire fees are \$3 dollars per hour (shared cost for two shooters is \$1.50)



## NHNG HOSTS REGIONAL CYBERSECURITY EXERCISE

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

Cyber Yankee 2020, a regional exercise designed to provide cyber responders a virtual range to train and test their skills against cyberattacks, was hosted by the New Hampshire National Guard July 21—31 at the Edward Cross Training Center.

Military representatives from Guard, Reserve, and active duty components participated, as did partners from various local, state and federal agencies.

“Cyber Yankee is primarily a hands-on keyboard cyber incident response exercise for National Guard soldiers and airmen in FEMA Region 1, which are the six New England states,” said Lt. Col. Woody Groton, exercise director. “We also work with critical infrastructure; so various utilities, primarily from the electrical and the water industry.”

Among the participating utilities were Avangrid, Ever-source, ISO New England, National Grid, The Massachusetts Water Resource Authority, The Metropolitan District, and Unitol, Groton said.

This marked the sixth year of the exercise and the second one hosted by the NHNG. Though on-site attendance was down this year due to COVID-19, many players, more than 200 in total, still participated remotely.

The event was broken down into four targeted groups, or “Blue Teams,” comprising mission partners from across New England. A “Red Cell” barraged blue teams with myriad cyberattacks, while a “White Cell” regulated and assessed event operations.

Capt. Nathaniel Richter, a cyber operations officer for the 157th Air Refueling Wing, outlined his Blue Team 1’s defensive strategy.

“Identify, protect, detect, respond and recover—those separate functions relate to the different types of activities we’re doing,” he said. “The entire sequence is all cyclical in that we will be running different parts of the system at different times, depending on what is happening in different parts of the network.”

Capt. Christopher Qubeck, of the Massachusetts Air Guard’s 202nd Intelligence Support Squadron, was tasked with spearheading Red Cell’s network attacks.

“As the red team, we’re playing the part of the bad guys,” Qubeck said. “We go into their virtual network and kind of wreak havoc on them. So we will go in and inject exploits and different types of hacks into their network, and hopefully they catch it and are able to mitigate it.”

Richter spoke of the challenges his young team faced combating Red Team’s onslaught of attacks. “It can very much be a steep learning curve,” he said. “Most of our personnel are information technology professionals, but they’re not necessarily cyber security professionals. So they are related skillsets and there is a lot of crossover.”

Groton said the challenges participants faced in Cyber Yankee, which are designed to emulate real-world threats, enhance readiness against an ever-increasing number of attacks.

“Cyber security, especially in critical infrastructure and state government, is a huge issue right now,” Groton said. “You can see it in the news every day. Ransomware attacks are on the rise; loss of data, loss of intellectual property. It’s hard to keep up with the adversary.”

“We’ve also, in the last several years, seen significant uptick in cyberattacks and attempted cyberattacks against the electrical industry and water,” he added. “By training on this ahead of time, we’re better prepared in case of an actual incident.”

In addition to the training, important partnerships were fostered during the course of the two-week exercise.

“It’s about developing relationships with other states so that everyone is familiar with each other so that if they do get a call to assist, you’re not beginning from nothing,” Richter said. “You have some familiarity with the personnel and how they do business.”

Groton agreed.

“The adjutant general talks about building enduring partnerships,” he said. “Well, six years of Cyber Yankee, we have done that. We have built enduring partnerships with state government and the critical infrastructure segment.”





**Lt. Col. Woody Groton**, exercise director of Cyber Yankee 2020, leads N.H. Gov. **Chris Sununu** on a tour during the final day of the event July 31 at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke, N.H. The two-week, regional exercise enhanced the guard's ability to respond to cyberattacks made against state government and critical infrastructure. This marked the second straight year the NHNG hosted the event.





Each May, hundreds of Air and Army National Guard athletes from each state and territory compete in the Lincoln National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Nebraska, in an attempt to earn a spot on the "All-Guard Marathon Team." The team represents the National Guard at several major running events across the country and has proven an outstanding recruiting and retention tool as members serve as warrior-citizen-athletes.

New Hampshire National Guardsmen can compete for a slot to attend the National Guard Marathon Team Trials with qualifying times as follows:

- Males under 40 years of age: Time of 4:00 or better for full marathon (26.2 miles)
- Males 40 years of age & over: Time of 4:30 or better for full marathon
- Females of all ages: Time of 4:30 or better for full marathon

Special note: You must have a qualifying event time equal to or better than those listed, between Jan. 1, 2019 and Jan. 31, 2021.

Others wishing to participate without a qualifying time should contact the state coordinator.

Interested runners can submit their full contact information—to include previous official race names, times and dates--via email no later than Jan. 1, 2021.

Point of Contact: **1SG Eddie Clements**  
NH State Marathon Coordinator & Team Captain  
All-Guard Marathon Team  
[edward.l.clements.mil@mail.mil](mailto:edward.l.clements.mil@mail.mil)





# PROMOTIONS

## N.H. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

### Airman First Class

Julie McGonagle  
Jamie Miller  
Ashtin Steen  
Thais Weller

### Senior Airman

Jaylyn Acres  
Katlyn Legestree  
Paula Pichardo  
Nathan Pincince  
Nathan Pincince  
Nathan Proulx  
Zachery Storch  
Jonathan Taylor

### Staff Sergeant

Dalton Briggs  
Matthew Dawley  
Kevin Maher  
Connor Martin  
Nathan Ramsdell

### Technical Sergeant

Hector Acevedo  
Matthew Barricklow  
Colleen Cummings  
George Cunningham  
Jared Karos  
Nicholas Kornutik  
Michael Mccrady

Beverly Meijers  
Gavin Cherry

### Master Sergeant

James Robinson  
John McDowell  
Chris McGraw  
Justin Cox  
Daniel Rinden  
Mike Toth

### Senior Master Sergeant

Eric Krans  
Robert Peach

### 2nd Lieutenant

Kirsten Arends  
Taylor Gamble  
Tyler Grady  
Nicholas Gray  
Alexander Horton  
Alexander Waitner

### 1st Lieutenant

Jamie Boutin  
Jonathon Febonio

### Captain

Brittany Chandler  
Andrew Lizotte  
Andrew Rodriguez

Geoffrey Schultz  
Christopher Smith

### Major

Michael Allen  
Mark Costa  
Jennifer Delker  
David Hopkins  
Lisa MacAllister  
Leon Rice  
Arren Sniderman

### Lieutenant Colonel

Alexis Bull  
Russell Campbell

Christopher Dillman  
Robert Groves  
Emily Lawrence  
Wiley Semrau

## N.H. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

### Private (PV1)

Liam Murphy  
Alexander Aloisio  
Roy Burns  
Brianna Coombs  
Casey Corleto  
John V. Currie V.  
Brooke Dembkoski  
Eric Dubreuil  
Christopher Ell  
Sean Foley  
Alexander Greer  
Gabriella Guarniere  
Nathaniel Hervieux  
Evan Jacobsen  
Christopher Kiernan  
Andrew Lane  
Georgia Le Comte  
Dustin Lester  
Rebeca Luanda  
Hunter Mack  
Peter Michelson  
Michael Nedead  
Benjamin Perez  
Cole Perra  
Harry C. Pinti, III  
Milisi Skahan  
Loralie Smith  
Isaiah Stephens  
Taya Tarquinio  
Estepan Torees

### Private (PV2)

Jayda Baker  
Spencer Almeida  
Jeremiya Andrade  
Brandon Babbitt  
Lucas Blanchette  
Kelly Boyer  
Hunter Breslin  
Jacob Brown  
Jenna Bung  
Luke Cavanaugh  
Kyle Corkum  
Joan Gravette  
Barillas Guallpa  
Hunter Hanscom

Fnu Jacky  
Xavier Jenkins  
Brianna Jones  
Grace Jordan  
Emily Kierstead  
Chloe Leborgne  
Allen MacKay  
Liam MacVitie  
Kameron Marshall  
Austin McClarigan  
Vega Mercado  
Danny Morse Jr.  
Khang Nguyen  
Liam Nguyen  
Christian Oglesby  
Elizabeth Orthman  
Riley O'Shaughnessy  
Corey Riordan  
Paul Smith  
Tovah Stonner  
Katie Torrey  
Tyler Whiting  
Dakota Wiers  
Joshua Wilcock  
Nyleem Wright  
Alec Yanulavich  
Ryan Young

### Private First Class

Tervor Abbott  
Kayla Abele  
Parker Adams  
Devin Bard  
Lauren Baylor  
Kaitlyn Belanger  
Gage Brown  
Abner Classenperez  
Cole Coburn  
Sanjay Darjee  
Dylan Dibernardo  
Nolan Ditty  
Cordell Drabble  
Ashlynn Ducharme  
Rami Eid  
Sean Farrell  
Brianna Feldman  
Mark Galvin

Richard Gendron  
Matteo Giler  
Kyle Gilmartin  
Todd Greeson  
Abigail Haigh  
Tyler Hazzard  
Gerik Hopkins  
John Hyland  
Rafael Jeffries  
Christopher Kelleher  
Madison Krug  
Ashly Lavery  
Devin LeBlanc  
Brandyn Ly  
Gregory Marquis  
Ethan McAllister  
Michael McCall  
Damon McCurry  
Jeremy Munroe  
Bryce Murdick  
Jerry Nineza  
Taylor Paquette  
Noah Phillips  
Dylan Rebelo  
Liam Reilly  
Edgardo Rodriguez  
Abigail Rossino  
Timothy Shippy Jr.  
Devin Sullivan  
Joseph Tardif  
Naila Thompson  
Leon Toscano  
Jenny Tran  
Brendan Tuttle  
John Ulicson  
Troy Tutton  
Conner Vaillancourt  
Evan White  
Patrick Williams  
Makayla Yake

Devin Sullivan  
Joseph Tardif  
Naila Thompson  
Leon Toscano  
Jenny Tran  
Brendan Tuttle  
John Ulicson  
Troy Tutton  
Conner Vaillancourt  
Evan White  
Patrick Williams  
Makayla Yake

### Specialist

Daniel Adams  
Jason Ashburn  
Zachary Blocker  
Jacob Bortnick  
Douglas Brown

Amy Bruneau  
Dorcas Callender  
Tanner Cammett  
Caio Campos  
Niccolai Ciccone  
Dylan Conway  
Ty Croteau  
Antonio Decilla  
Anthony Dickens  
Thomas Duhamel  
Bukola Fatukasi  
Jeremy Foote  
Avery Fournier  
Matthew Fritz  
Michael Gilfeather Jr.  
Nicole Goudreault  
Garrett Hancock  
Haley Hawthorne  
Bethany Hills  
Zachary Ingraham  
Brenden LaValley  
Julia Levesque  
Cory Mayo  
Charles R. McMakin, III  
Devin Merchant  
Michael Merone  
Tyler Miglionico  
Danielle Morin  
Luanna Mota  
Matthew Norloff  
Zachary Oak  
Courtney Ouellette  
Ashish Panwar  
Zachary Plante  
Pihl Ramberg  
Heather Rourke  
Jay Ruais  
Michael Rudewicz  
Jonathan Smith  
Dylan Taylor  
Daniel Tibbetts  
Nasiah Torres  
Lincoln Tracey  
Marissa Urban  
Austin Vandevander

### Corporal

Matthew Kimball  
Steven Pierce

### Sergeant

Brianna Passi  
Matheus Candido  
Francis Carrasquillo Lopez  
Samuel Cummings  
Lawrence W. Davis, III  
Bryson Desjardins  
Zachary Girard  
Victoria Jollimore  
Courtney Larabee  
Brandon Lau  
Daniel Leone  
Katie Lindh  
Abigail McCarty  
Hunter McKay  
Audrey Monroe  
Tyler Sackett

### Staff Sergeant

Jill Brinley  
Thomas Blythe  
Wayne Comtois  
Corey Fantozzi  
Stephen Long  
Alyssa O'Donnell  
Robert Sullivan  
Samantha Ward

### Sergeant First Class

Naomi Connelly  
Corey Caza  
Nicholas Collishaw  
Bruce Hamilton  
Matthew MaGuire  
Joseph Paradis  
Rachel Perreault  
Andrew Richardson  
James Shelby

**Master Sergeant**  
Kevin Harvey Jr.

Sean McClain  
Christopher McWilliams  
Ronald Spicer Jr.  
Edward Wiggan

### First Sergeant

Andrew Perry

### Sergeant Major

Rachel Fleharty-Strevig  
Caleb Smith

### Command Sergeant Major

Michael Thibodeau

### Warrant Officer

Richard Morse  
Marie Stauder

### Warrant Officer 3

Brian Connelly  
Gary Lytle

### Warrant Officer 4

Thomas Quillin

### 2nd Lieutenant

Ryan Camp  
Luciano Fiore  
Nicholas Muise

### 1st Lieutenant

Harrison Schwartzman

### Captain

Taylor Puksta  
Katrina Simpson

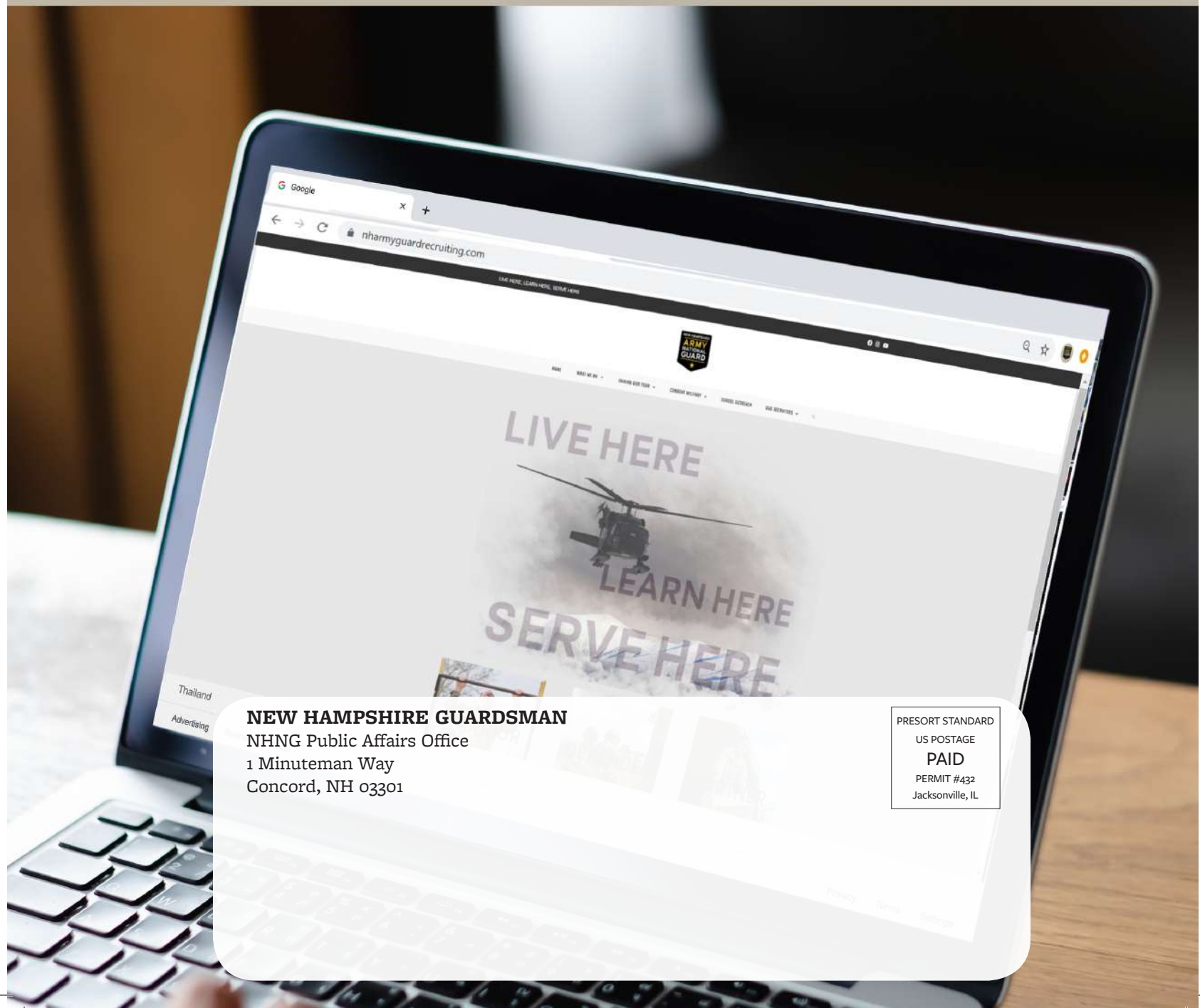
### Brigadier General

Thomas Behling





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