

the BAYONET

The Official Magazine of the Maine National Guard

Vol 5 // Issue 1

AIRMEN SUPPORT PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

NOT IN MY SQUAD TRAINING COMES TO MAINE

MAINE AIR GUARDSMAN SEES SUCCESS ON STAGE

FUN WHILE FREEZING - BIATHLON TEAM TAKES TO THE SLOPES

CONSERVATION ON OUR TRAINING LANDS

MAINE ENGINEERING TEAM | INNOVATIONS LEAD TO NATIONAL AWARD



The Maine National Guard Public Affairs Office is pleased to present the March 2017 edition of the Bayonet Magazine.

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

This edition highlights some of the recent accomplishments and updates from the Maine National Guard, including a historical look at Maine's participation in the Presidential Inauguration, The Outstanding Airmen of the Year, history of the 203rd Artillery Battalion, The Maine National Guard Biathlon Team, Digital Citizenship and much, much more!

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

We are also interested in sharing your story ideas and imagery. Please send them in to us for consideration for future editions of the Bayonet.

Thank you for your continued interest and unwavering support to your National Guard.

Always Ready! Always There!

-Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Norman Stickney



the BAYONET

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All pictures are Maine National Guard photos unless otherwise identified.



Ground maintenance crews from the 101st Air Refueling Wing remove snow from ramp the morning after a storm at the Maine Air National Guard Base, Bangor, January 8, 2017. The trucks plow in a staggered formation to maximize the efficiency of pushing the snow off the ramps. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Jon Duplain/Released)

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A MESSAGE FROM

THE 26TH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



BIOGRAPHY

Jim Mattis became the 26th Secretary of Defense on January 20, 2017.

A native of Richland, Washington, Secretary Mattis enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at the age of 18. After graduating from Central Washington University in 1971, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

During his more than four decades in uniform, Secretary Mattis commanded Marines at all levels, from an infantry rifle platoon to a Marine Expeditionary Force. He led an infantry battalion in Iraq in 1991, an expeditionary brigade in Afghanistan after the 9/11 terror attack in 2001, a Marine Division in the initial attack and subsequent stability operations in Iraq in 2003, and led all U.S. Marine Forces in the Middle East as Commander, I Marine Expeditionary Force and U.S. Marine Forces Central Command.

During his non-combat assignments, Secretary Mattis served as Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense; as Director, Marine Corps Manpower Plans & Policy; as Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; and as Executive Secretary to the Secretary of Defense.

As a joint force commander, Secretary Mattis commanded U.S. Joint Forces Command, NATO's Supreme Allied Command for Transformation, and U.S. Central Command. At U.S. Central Command, he directed military operations of more than 200,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines and allied forces across the Middle East.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Marine Corps in 2013, Secretary Mattis served as the Davies Family Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, specializing in the study of leadership, national security, strategy, innovation, and the effective use of military force. In 2016, he co-edited the book, *Warriors & Citizens: American Views of Our Military*.



It's good to be back and I'm grateful to serve alongside you as Secretary of Defense.

Together with the Intelligence Community we are the sentinels and guardians of our nation. We need only look to you, the uniformed and civilian members of the Department and your families, to see the fundamental unity of our country. You represent an America committed to the common good; an America that is never complacent about defending its freedoms; and an America that remains a steady beacon of hope for all mankind.

Every action we take will be designed to ensure our military is ready to fight today and in the future. Recognizing that no nation is secure without friends, we will work with the State Department to strengthen our alliances. Further, we are devoted to gaining full value from every taxpayer dollar spent on defense, thereby earning the trust of Congress and the American people.

I am confident you will do your part. I pledge to you I'll do my best as your Secretary.

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The 203d Field Artillery Battalion

By First Lieutenant Jonathan Bratten, MEARN

The 203d Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) came into existence because of a major change within the U.S. Army's organizational structure. Prior to 1942, the Army's field artillery assets were organized into regiments, each consisting of two battalions. The 152d Field Artillery Regiment was organized along these lines in 1922 as an element of the Maine National Guard. The regiment's 1st Battalion was headquartered in Aroostook County, the northernmost county in Maine and located along the U.S.-Canadian border. Many of the battalion's men were of old Franco-American and French-Canadian families. The 2d Battalion was organized in 1924 around Bangor.



The distinctive unit insignia of the 203d Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) was first approved for the 203d Field Artillery Regiment. The 203d FAB was originally the 1st Battalion, 203d Field Artillery, until reorganized and redesignated on 1 March 1943. (Institute of Heraldry)

The 152d Field Artillery Regiment became one of the three field artillery regiments assigned to the 43d Division and, with the whole division, was activated on 24 February 1941 for one year of service. The Army later selected the 43d Division to be one of the National Guard divisions to take part in the General Headquarters Maneuvers, more commonly known as the Louisiana Maneuvers, in August-September 1941. While the division's length of federal service was to last one year, this changed on 7 December 1941 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States entered World War II.

In early 1942, the Army began a major reorganization of both its divisions and field artillery units. In addition to reducing the number of infantry regiments from four to three in the infantry divisions, the Army reorganized field artillery regiments into battalions. Some of these would become division artillery assets while others would be tasked to general support at the corps or army level. Thus, on 19 February 1942, 1st Battalion, 152d Field Artillery, was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 203d Field Artillery, and relieved from the 43d Division (2d Battalion, 152d Field Artillery was reorganized and redesignated as the 152d FAB and remained with the 43d Infantry Division). On 1 March 1943, 1st Battalion, 203d Field Artillery, was reorganized and redesignated as the 203d FAB at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The 203d FAB consisted of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Service Battery, A, B, and C Batteries, and a medical detachment, for a total of 515 soldiers. The battalion received additions of new recruits and draftees through 1943, considerably leavening the unit's northern Maine make-up. The 203d FAB then rotated through training centers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Camp Iron Mountain in the California deserts before arriving at Camp Shanks, the staging area for the New York Port of Embarkation, in early 1944. On 20 February 1944, the 203d FAB, under Lieutenant Colonel John G. Doran, was loaded onto the British ship *Pasteur* for the voyage to Europe.

The 203d landed at Liverpool, England, on 29 February and was assigned to an encampment on the Salisbury Plain unceremoniously dubbed "Misery Hill." Here, the 203d was issued their M1 155mm howitzers, with each firing battery (A, B, and C) receiving four. They were also equipped with M5 tractors and wheeled vehicles to haul the battalion's guns, equipment, and soldiers.

While at Misery Hill, the 203d took part in additional maneuvers, culminating in a two-week exercise with XIX Corps, to which they would be attached as corps artillery for the duration of the war. The men's experiences of England were common for the thousands of American troops awaiting D-Day: it was rainy, the food was bad, and there was a lot of boredom.

D-Day—6 June 1944—came and went for the men of the 203d FAB who were eager to learn when they would arrive in France. On 19 June, the battalion moved out to Southampton where the men got their first look at the Normandy casualties and German prisoners of war. The channel crossing came on 23 June, and that afternoon the three line batteries landed on famed Omaha Beach; Headquarters Battery arrived a week later. The batteries were greeted by enthusiastic infantrymen who had been pinned down and were waiting on heavy artillery to show up. The batteries moved forward to a position around La Folie and dug in. Batteries A and B were the first to go into action on 25 June, firing in support of the 30th Infantry Division. These were the first shots fired by XIX Corps artillery in World War II.

After landing in France, Allied forces quickly became bogged down in the "bloody bocage"—the hedgerows—of Normandy and faced stiff German resistance. On 5 July, the 30th Division made a combat crossing of the Vire River and the 203d was detailed to provide fire support. The operation was successful, but a heavy German counterattack soon followed. Each of the 203d's batteries received fire mission after fire mission, with the guns hammering away for nearly twenty-four hours. Support personnel were pressed into service to carry ammunition while



A cannoneer from the 203d FAB cleans the breech of an M1 155mm howitzer during a lull in operations around St. Lô, France, in July 1944. (Arndt Family Collection)



gunners poured water from the nearby streams into the gun barrels to cool them between rounds. After firing 2,400 rounds, German forces, which had come within a few hundred yards of the guns themselves, were finally repulsed.

The next move for the 203d was against St. Lô. Repeated bombardments and counter-battery fire, while dodging incoming artillery and *Luftwaffe* strafing runs, became the norm. During Operation COBRA on 25 July, the battalion fired to knock out enemy antiaircraft defenses until, according to a unit diary, “the air attack came over, including P-47s, P-38s, Liberators and Fortresses, and B-26s, so that the sky was full of planes, and when our bombing started to hit, the ground would shake where we were.” The 203d then joined in a general corps barrage that allowed infantry and armored units to break through the German lines, capture what was left of St. Lô, and begin the Allied drive east.

Through the end of July and into August, the 203d continued marching east while providing fire missions on an almost daily basis. The night skies were full of planes of both sides, forcing the 203d to play a deadly game of cat-and-mouse. The gunners waited until the sound of enemy aircraft diminished before firing their guns rapidly, then stopping as soon as they heard the planes returning. One of the men from Battery B observed that a “robot plane” flew over one night. This was one of the dreaded V-1 flying bombs used by the Nazis to target Allied installations and cities.

The 203d FAB was often well forward of division artillery and occasionally exchanged small arms fire with German soldiers. On 18 August, the battalion fired its last missions in support of the



ABOVE: Soldiers from Battery B, 203d FAB, move their howitzers into the Rötgen Forest during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. (Arndt Family Collection)

LEFT: Private First Class Frederick Arndt (shirtless) and two other men from Battery B, 203d FAB, clean their howitzer during a pause in the fighting. Arndt took the photographs featured in this article. (Arndt Family Collection)

larger Allied operation to close the Falaise Pocket. It was the 203d FAB’s last mission in Normandy.

The next day, the battalion moved out on a long 140-mile convoy to the east. From here they supported the crossing of the Seine River, protecting the operation’s left flank. After firing steadily for several days, the 203d crossed the Seine on 28 August behind the 79th Infantry Division. As the battalion moved further into France, they encountered more and more evidence of the war: decomposing bodies of German and Allied soldiers, bombed out villages, and columns of refugees. The Free French were rounding up collaborators and, according to a unit history, they “clipped off the hair of the women who had fraternized with the Jerries.” They also encountered graves of French civilians who had been killed by retreating Germans.

The 203d FAB continued to advance east, keeping pace with the infantry. At times, the battalion’s trucks were used to haul infantrymen to the front. On 8 September, the 203d pushed into Belgium and made camp near the historic battlefield of Waterloo. The men finally got a few passes at this time and were able to visit Brussels and Waterloo. This period of rest was short-lived, however, and within a few days, the 203d was back in action, firing from Belgium into Holland. Some of the men went out to act as infantry along the Albert Canal, and watched their own battalion’s rounds fly overhead and smash into retreating columns of German infantry.

As the 203d FAB approached German defenses of the Siegfried Line, movement slowed but the call for fire missions remained steady. The battalion was in Holland now and advancing with front-line units. At times, the batteries would have to slow their advance as they had caught up with their own armor as it fought through towns and villages. Air raids were a constant threat, not just from German aircraft but from Allied planes in “friendly fire” incidents. The 203d



A gun crew from Battery B pauses for a photograph as they prepare a firing position in the Rötgen Forest during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. (Arndt Family Collection)

BELOW: A soldier from Battery B checks the fuzes on 155mm rounds. In late 1944, the 203d FAB was issued proximity fuzes that greatly enhanced the effectiveness of its fire missions. (Arndt Family Collection)

was to support First Army's drive to break the Siegfried Line, but bad weather delayed the attack day after day. Finally, on 2 October, the push began. Fire missions were continuous against German defenses. Over the course of three days, the 203d fired over 3,000 rounds to support the 30th Infantry Division, which broke through on 5 October.

The 203d followed the 30th Division and entered Germany on 7 October. German artillery and the *Luftwaffe* contested every inch of ground. The battalion received random indirect fire day and night, and enemy air attacks came at what seemed like two-hour intervals. The men had learned the importance of digging deep foxholes while in Normandy, and this experience served them well in Germany.

The reduction of Aachen was the next objective, and the gunners of the 203d FAB fired thousands of rounds into the city. Number Two Gun in Battery B fired one round every six minutes one night. The following morning, the gunners found that its trail had disappeared into the mud and it took three vehicles to pull it out of the ground. Despite the large amounts of ordnance expended, the battle to take Aachen proceeded slowly due to the strong construction of the city's buildings. At times, the batteries employed single 155mm howitzers to destroy strong points holding up the infantry. They even destroyed enemy tanks on occasion. The battalion also fired colored smoke rounds to mark targets for P-47 Thunderbolts circling over Aachen.

When Aachen finally fell on 21 October, the men of the 203d FAB were able to get a little rest. Captured German accordions were put to good use by the men in their dugouts until they wore out. XIX Corps was then reassigned to Ninth Army in preparation for a new offensive. Throughout November, the 203d FAB kept pressing forward, enduring enemy counter-battery fire and firing heavy concentrations in support of the infantry. The forward observers with the infantry were calling fire missions to literally take down villages house by house because the street fighting was taking a toll on the grunts of the 30th Division. When the 203d moved to Mariadorf on 20 November, they saw the fearful nature of their fire, as the town was practically levelled. The 30th Division was advancing nearly every day, the 203d leap-frogged with the 113th FAB every other day to provide near-constant artillery coverage.

Thanksgiving came and went with the men feeding on turkey and then firing on German infantry and tanks. Battery A received a direct hit from enemy counter-battery fire on 25 November, killing three men and wounding five others. The continuous combat took a toll on the men's mental resiliency; one man in Battery B tried to shoot himself and was taken off the front lines. One of the battalion's observation planes, an L-4 Grasshopper (a military version of the Piper Cub), was shot down with the loss of both soldiers. Attacks from V-2 rockets were also becoming more common.

During the early morning darkness of 16 December, the soldiers of the 203d noticed that the *Luftwaffe* was suddenly very active. Soon, the battalion received reports that German paratroopers, including some wearing American uniforms, had landed near the battalion's ordnance section. The Battle of the Bulge had begun.

With a one-hour notice, the 203d FAB raised trails on their guns and moved south on 21 December bound for the Rötgen Forest, just south of the Hürtgen Forest. The battalion was positioned on the northern flank of the German breakthrough in the snowy woods near the Ardennes Forest. The men of the 203d found that they could not dig in, and so they built log huts with sturdy roofs to protect against incoming German fire. Tree bursts showered the men with splinters as they fired day and night to try to halt the German onslaught. Their main targets were the roads leading into the Ardennes, which the 203d pummeled repeatedly, halting German supply columns. As a diarist in Battery B said, "We celebrated Christmas Eve by firing plenty. If Jerry hung up his stocking, we filled it with HE [High



Explosive].” Clear weather assisted in breaking the German offensive as Allied air power was unleashed. Nevertheless, the 203d remained in their positions well into January and continued to provide constant fire support.

Ninth Army’s next objective following the Bulge was the Roer River. The 203d moved into position and prepared their guns for the barrage. On 13 February, a small fire began in a church where ammunition was being stored. Powder bags caught fire, killing two men and severely wounding three officers. Three soldiers, including Private First Class Frederick Arndt, who took the pictures seen in this article, rushed into the burning structure and dragged out the three officers and removed boxes of fuzes. Had the fuzes detonated, all men in the building would have been killed. For their valor, all three men were awarded the Soldier’s Medal.

The 203d began firing in support of the Roer River crossing operation at 0245 on 23 February 1945. The battalion kept up a sustained bombardment until 0700; it then fired steadily for two more days in a bombardment so intense that the ground

shook and the gunners could barely hear the fire commands. The 30th Division crossed the Roer on 24 February, and the 203d, with little rest, followed the next day. From here, it was a steady grind as the 30th Division pushed deeper and deeper into Germany.

On 22 March, the Ninth Army’s crossing of the Rhine River commenced. The 203d fired in support of both the British and the Americans for two days as they crossed the river. Even at this late point in the war, the battalion was receiving plenty of German counter-battery fire as well strafing attacks from the *Luftwaffe*. After crossing the Rhine, the 203d moved into the Ruhr industrial region of Germany accompanying the 30th Division and the 2d Armored Division on their drive into the heart of enemy territory. The battalion was sent Italian prisoners to serve as laborers for them, and the Americans and Italians got along well; the Italians stayed very close to U.S. soldiers for fear of the Germans.

On 11 April, the 203d went into position outside the town of Alvisia, with the gun crews dodging enemy machine-gun fire as they set up their howitzers. The heavy 155mm rounds soon began dropping on the nearby Germans and drove them back. By the end of the day, the 203d was firing into Brunswick, a city halfway between the German border and Berlin. Their goal was the Elbe River, where the city of Magdeburg guarded the approaches to Berlin. By now, the 203d was the only corps artillery attached to the 30th Division and 2d Armored. The reconnaissance parties for each battery were literally right behind the American armor when they would enter towns. Long lines of advancing American troops dominated the roads as streams of German prisoners passed them in the opposite direction. It was clear that the *Wehrmacht* was all but finished. Still, the war continued. On 13 April, a jeep from Service Battery was captured by a German patrol. The Germans shot the driver and took the motor officer captive.



Soldiers of the 203d FAB ride in one their battalion's M5 tractors during the Roer River crossings in late February 1945. The M5 served as the prime mover for the 203d's 155mm howitzers. (Arndt Family Collection)

The 203d FAB fired concentrations against Magdeburg on 17 April to break up German artillery that was pinning down U.S. armor. On 22 April, the battalion made radio contact with the Russians moving in from the east. The Allied pincer was closing on Germany.

Four days later, on 26 April, the 203d FAB fired its last rounds, receiving a few more back from the handful of German artillery pieces still in service. On 1 May, the battalion received word to halt on the Elbe and await the arrival of the Russians. A message arrived at battalion headquarters on 7 May at 1045: “Surrender of all enemy forces. Effective 090001 May 1945. Signed by General Eisenhower.” The official surrender notice came the following day. The war was over.

In 318 days of combat, the 203d FAB lost nine men killed and fifty-two wounded. In the 1,450 miles from Normandy to Germany, the battalion had fired more than 68,000 rounds in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe campaigns. Broken down by averages, that accounts for eighteen rounds fired per gun per day.

The 203d then began occupation duty, moving from Vilbel to Jalbenstadt to Friedburg. From May until August, the battalion conducted patrols searching for weapons and contraband, enforced local curfews, and maintained law and order in its assigned area. Dozens of men with enough points towards discharge left the battalion to return home, until only about 120 men remained at the end of August. The 203d returned to the United States at the Port of Hampton Roads on 26 October 1945 and was inactivated the same day at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia.

As was common of National Guard units returning after World War II, the 203d FAB that was returned to state control at greatly reduced in strength. However, veterans soon returned to their armories in Houlton, Presque Isle, Caribou, and Fort Fairfield in northern Maine and were joined by new recruits. In 1946, the 203d was redesignated the 152d FAB. Further reorganization would see it return to its first designation as 1st Battalion, 152d Field Artillery Regiment. In 2004, elements of the battalion were deployed to Iraq. The battalion’s colors were cased in 2008, but the organization’s lineage lives on in the 185th Engineer Support Company. ☞

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

First Lieutenant Jonathan Bratten is an engineer officer in the Maine Army National Guard, where he also serves as the organization’s full-time historian. He has deployed in support of both foreign and domestic missions as an engineer officer, most recently to Afghanistan. Lieutenant Bratten holds an M.A. in History from the University of New Hampshire and resides happily with his wife in Portland, Maine.

THE CHAPLAIN'S WORD

The weary door-to-door Bible salesman knocked on another door, fully expecting to have it slammed in his face. Sure enough, the woman who answered, angrily demanded that he leave once she figured out why he was there and slammed the door.

The door, however, bounced back open, and the woman shouted, "Get your foot out of my door!" "But ma'am..." the Bible salesman began, when the woman again slammed the door in his face. Once again it bounced back open.

"I said get your foot out of my door!" the woman yelled again. One more time she slammed the door. One more time it bounced open again. "But ma'am..." the salesman said again, only to be cut off. "Don't talk back to me!" the woman screamed in a rage. "I want you off my property!" She slammed the door a fourth time, only to see it bounce open a fourth time. "Ma'am," the Bible salesman yelled as he beat a hasty retreat down the sidewalk, "you'll be able to close your door if you move your cat out of the way!"

We certainly seem to be in time where everyone wants to express an opinion. Whatever side you're on politically, socially, or religiously, it just seems like there's a lot of yelling going on. Interestingly enough, there doesn't seem to be a lot of listening.

As soon as we find out what "camp" the other person is from, we place the label of "friend" or "foe" and act accordingly.

If a friend, we complain about all the other idiots with whom we disagree, if a foe, we go on the attack, discrediting their position, calling them names, and writing them off.

What an incredible waste of time. Have you ever changed your mind about a subject because someone yelled their opinion at you? Have you ever tried to change your perspective about something because someone ignores you (or unfriends you on FaceBook)? Probably not.

And just like the lady in the story above, maybe we get so worked up, that we don't realize that we are hurting someone or something we

do care about. In this day and age of a 24 hour news stream (whether the news is accurate or not), immediacy is the law of the land. Get the information quickly even if it is bad information; judge the person you meet fast or they just might get a word in edgewise.

Personally, I think we should all just slow down a bit. Maybe, just maybe, we might learn why a person feels as they do if we would just listen and not argue. After all, we don't actually learn anything from people with whom we already agree. The best we can do is get affirmation of our position - but no new knowledge.

Albert Einstein once famously said, "If two men each have a dollar and they exchange dollars, they both still have one dollar. If, however, two men each have an idea and they exchange ideas, now they both have two ideas." Seems like good counsel from a genius.

CH Andy Gibson
Senior Army Chaplain, Maine



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS EDUCATE STUDENTS AND FACULTY ON THE THREATS OF TECHNOLOGY

Maj. Christopher Elgee, Executive Officer for the Maine Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, shares some of the dangers of social media and technology use to students and faculty at Mt. Ararat High School.

Shuffling into the school's cafeteria for an assembly, the seniors at Mt. Ararat High School weren't sure exactly why members of the Maine Army National Guard were set up to deliver a presentation. What followed was an open, frank discussion about what the Internet can, should be, and is used for.

Technically-savvy members of the MEARNG have been leading discussions like this for over two years now under the title of Digital Citizenship. School administrators are finding more and more that dangerous online behavior is affecting students' school performance and personal lives. Certainly, some school teachers and administrators are happy to address issues such as sexting, cyber-bullying, and online predators directly with the student body, but some districts lack the technical expertise to answer questions about this increasingly-complex environment. In either case, most principals are happy to bring in outside experts to work with their student body.

For the students, many seem not to realize the extent of the threat facing them. In the MEARNG Digital Citizenship presentation, they discuss cases like that of Nicole Cable – a 15-year-old student from Glenburn, Maine who was kidnapped and killed by an online predator.

"The kids, and most adults, are not aware that there are dangers on the Internet. It's not until we show them the news clippings and videos of what the dangers are that they realize that they have to be careful about what they post and who they talk to online," said Chief Warrant Officer Three Kevin Moncrieffe

In addition to the regular slides, Mt. Ararat students were also treated to a brief exposé of their assistant principal, Mr. Don Gray. He volunteered to have an open-source search done to show what information he leaks about himself online. The seniors chuckled at the detailed property records available and the listing of pictures he'd liked on Facebook.

Recognizing the vulnerabilities associated with emerging technologies, Maine's Recruiting and Retention Battalion developed this presentation as a service to schools. Due to its success as a school program in Maine, the National Guard Bureau is planning on offering the material to all 54 states and territories.

Anyone interested in scheduling a Digital Citizenship presentation in Maine can contact Maj. Chris Elgee at (207) 430-5157 or christopher.d.elgee.mil@mail.mil.



MAINE AIR NATIONAL

of his take part in a Brunswick middle school performance of the musical "Annie".

"I was immediately lost within the story as if I was seeing something at the theater," Crowley recalls. "I recognized some of the students on stage and couldn't believe that kids my own age were responsible for putting on such an amazing show."

When the auditions for the 7th Grade play opened the following year, Crowley was first in line to audition – not surprisingly landing the lead role. That first experience had him hooked and began a life-long connection to the theater.

"The entire process of rehearsing with friends and slowly but surely building a production from nothing had me hooked," Crowley said. "Soon I was doing three or four shows a year with some performances and rehearsal schedules overlapping. I never looked back."

It was when Tech. Sgt. Crowley got to high school that he first considered following in his father's footsteps, and joining the Maine Air National Guard.

"Growing up a military brat I felt a responsibility to give back to my country as many of my own family members already had. Having a recruiter as a father certainly ensured I was well aware of the many benefits afforded to me should I make that decision," Crowley said. "I knew that getting

a degree would be incredibly important, and the financial support coupled with learning an in-demand skill made it an easy decision."

While many people grow up participating in school plays, Crowley decided to continue acting after graduating from high school and returning from Basic Military Training. It made for an often hectic home life, but the personal rewards made it worth the extra effort.

"I have always felt disappointed that there is so much of life that I won't be able to discover, to experience firsthand. I realized that I would need about forty lifetimes to scratch the surface of everything I'm interested in learning and partaking in," Crowley said. "I feel that by choosing roles

Most members of the Maine Air National Guard find themselves in the unique position of playing a variety of "roles" in their lives. They play one role in their family, another in their community, another at their civilian job, and yet another when they put on the uniform and report for duty. One Airman from the 265th Combat Communications Squadron, however, has taken juggling multiple "roles" to a whole new level.

Tech. Sgt. Joel Crowley is a quality control NCO, a former NCO (and Honor Guard Member) of the Year for Maine, and was recently nominated for four Broadway World Awards for his role as Clyde Barrow in the Portland Players production of Bonnie and Clyde, the Musical.

For Crowley, the love of acting began after seeing friends

GUARDSMAN SEES SUCCESS ON STAGE

By Maj. Devin Robinson, JFHQ Public Affairs Officer

that are the most distant from myself emotionally, I am able to in some ways experience an escapism that I otherwise wouldn't."

With 10 years of military service and 23 plays on his resume, Tec. Sgt. Crowley does not plan to stop any time soon.

"My goal is to complete a full, twenty-plus-year military career," Crowley said. "As I've had the opportunity to take more of a leadership role, my most ambitious goal is to make a definitive positive difference in our ability to fulfill our mission in the 265th as well as provide guidance, support and motivation to our junior Airmen."

When you ask Tech. Sgt. Crowley what his Air Guard peers think of his "extra-curricular" activities, he smiles, and stresses that military members, especially Air Guard members, come from all walks of life.

"That diversity is so important, and actually serves two purposes. On the mission assurance side, it allows for units to have a diverse set of skills that are incomparable to active duty. When IT specialists are health care professionals during the week and supply technicians are state troopers, it provides unique experiences and problem solving methods from multiple organizations and allows the Air Guard to utilize the best of both worlds," Crowley said. "From the civilian perspective, it provides a direct connection to the military that isn't based on what they see in the movies and TV. It helps break down stereotypes and makes everything more personal. We've all the gotten the question, 'What kind of plane do you fly?' before, and I feel that helping educate the public is an important part of our job."

When asked to sum up his decade in the Air Guard and on the stage, Tech. Sgt. Crowley not surprisingly points to teamwork being the key.

"Something that I learned and continues to be of value is that no one person is too small to make a difference," Crowley said. "I have also found that surrounding yourself with the right people has been instrumental to any success I've had."



(Left) Tech. Sgt. Joel Crowley and Joanna Clarke as Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker in a publicity photo from Portland Players production of Bonnie and Clyde, the Musical from 2016. Photo By: Tommy Waltz Photography.

(Top) Tech. Sgt. Joel Crowley of the 265th CBCS of the Maine Air National Guard leads the Honor Guard onto the parade grounds at the South Portland Air National Guard Station for a Change of Command ceremony last summer. Photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Hill, JFHQ Public Affairs.

(Below) Tech. Sgt. Joel Crowley is joined on stage by Bethany Perkins and Zach Handlen as they perform the song "Pretty Little Picture" from Lyric Music Theater's 2015 production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.

Photo By: Audra Hatch Photography.



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Programs and Benefits Subject to Change

PART OF HISTORY

MAINEAGS SUPPORT PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

STORY BY TECH. SGT. KATI
PELLETIER





Several members of the 101st Air Refueling Wing were tasked with the profound opportunity to participate in this year's presidential inauguration ceremony. The reason for the assignment was a unique capability that Chief Master Sgt. Eric MacDonald, the FEMA Region One Emergency Management Chief, worked diligently to obtain. "We competed for the opportunity to receive this asset, we received it, and were tasked to provide backup communications capability at the inauguration," said MacDonald.

Chief MacDonald is referring to the Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC), a 40 foot command trailer with communications capability. It is a regional asset for FEMA Region 1. "The MEOC is owned by the Air National Guard Bureau, and we are the custodian unit for it," said MacDonald. With the reception of this unit comes the responsibility for providing communications capability during disaster situations or other emergency situations. "We would set up this mobile office, use our satellite communications anywhere that they are needed for command and control. We are responsible mainly for New England," said MacDonald.

For the inauguration, Chief MacDonald's team was comprised of six members

from the Maine Air National Guard. Senior Master Sergeant Loni Bean, Master Sergeant Benjamin Hinton, Tech Sergeant Luc Marquis, Tech Sergeant Tom Bard, and Airman 1st Class Jesse Smith were all invited to attend in support of the Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (JRSOI).

"We left on the 10th and returned on the 23rd of January. We were pretty near a week in Baltimore for upgrades to the MEOC, programmed all of the radios with new software and capabilities with nine other MEOC teams. While we were there, there were some shortfalls, so we provided joint service communications for some teams who needed assistance," MacDonald said.

"It's nice to be a part of a historic event. A lot of preparation went into this leading up to it. We were working on stuff for a couple of months. We all had to be credentialed through the secret service, through the DC Operations center. The software had to be installed into our trailer, but we were able to tap into a lot of security capabilities and information. There was a lot of credentialing and upgraded training," he added.

"Our team did very well. Everyone had great attitudes. We worked 12-18 hour days, operating 24/7. We took shifts.

Everyone has a great work ethic and were not afraid to work long hours. Our radio guy, Ben, helped another team who wasn't as familiar with their equipment. He went over and programmed their radios for them. We took the lead on the communications exercises and tests, and we walked the other units through it. Overall, I would say we did very well. It was a good trip, and a good experience," he said.

According to Chief MacDonald, "I think this is something we will be tasked with in the future. It's a fairly new program. These MEOCs have only been in the field for four years, and this is the first time that it has been used for an event so large, but it went well and I think this is something we will use again in the future." He also felt that it was a good training opportunity for his team to be prepared to respond with the MEOC to any regional emergency situations should there be a need or should they be tasked in the future. "We will be ready," he said.



NOT IN MY SQUAD

**MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS ARE FIRST RESERVISTS TO CONDUCT
SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY TRAINING INITIATIVE**

STORY BY STAFF SGT. ANGELA PARADY

More than 50 noncommissioned officers from the Maine Army National Guard volunteered to attend a workshop called “Not in My Squad” in Bangor the first week of February. The workshop focuses on re-empowering NCO’s and addressing issues at the lowest possible level.

“Not in my squad is a grassroots initiative, focused at building mutual trust and cohesion at the squad and team level,” said program creator, Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey in a video message to those participating in the workshop.

“The highest performing squads are those that are built on trust; trust in their leaders and trust in one another. This is the essential element of Not in my Squad.” Dailey also took time to address the NCO’s attending the conference and answer their questions during the second day of training, connecting from his office in D.C. in a video chat.

Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Doyon, the senior enlisted Soldier for the Maine Army National Guard, attended a national command sergeants major advisory council where Dailey talked about his new initiative.

“I didn’t think much of it then, but when I came back I looked into it more,” said Doyon.

“The program is based on building trust, which struck a chord with me. I make it a priority to go out and visit all of our units and talk to as many Soldiers as I can. What I have realized is that the communication that we used to have is missing, and that’s what made me reach out to the NIMS staff.”

Sgt. Maj. Boris Bolanos traveled to Maine from The Center for the Army Profession and Ethic (CAPE) in New York with his team of researchers and facilitators to train a new group of Soldiers, National Guardsmen. Maine is the first National Guard organization that they have worked with directly.

“I am really impressed with the support and the comradery here,” said Bolanos. “The leadership has been phenomenal. They really opened their doors to us to be able to come and plant a seed with the junior leaders of the state. I think that speaks volumes about the senior leaderships’ belief in the concept, this initiative and what it can do to better readiness in [Maine].”

The Not in My Squad initiative was started in 2015 after Dailey attended a summit at West Point that discussed squad leaders needing to take ownership and responsibility for what happens within their squads, said Bolanos. He then took that idea and directed CAPE and the Army Research Institute to build a partnership that would take the program throughout the Army.

CAPE senior training developer, Don Jackson was another facilitator at the Maine workshop. Every month he gets at least one request for his staff to conduct this workshop at active duty installations around the world. Working with a National Guard organization provided an opportunity for CAPE to work with the challenges faced by the Citizen-Soldier.

“You are a unique audience that we have yet to serve in a direct face to face environment,” said Jackson. “We had the propensity to serve the entire state, versus a selection of individuals from an installation. Here, we have all the companies, brigades, battalions [which] are all significantly involved in the process.”

Being a squad leader in the Army National Guard has its own particular set of challenges as well. Unlike their

Stock image of Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dailey teamed up with squad leaders to shape the 'Not in My Squad' campaign. (Photo courtesy of US Army).



active duty counterparts, Soldiers may be dispersed throughout the entire state, making it more difficult for squad leaders to maintain a sense of cohesion and comradery, said Jackson.

Despite the differences between Active Duty Soldiers and the National Guard Soldier, Bolanos said that throughout all of the trainings they have conducted, reaching over 500 Soldiers in 2016, the same issues are always present -- professional development, trust, training management and discipline and standards and accountability.

Course facilitators challenged Soldiers to work with new people, splitting up members of the same unit into separate groups as challenges facing one unit may not be present in another unit. The separation of units also helped encourage conversation and problem solving as they worked through discussions focused on identity, climate and culture. Command

Sgt. Maj. Doyon greeted the NCOs every morning and polled the Soldiers on the previous day's training.

"Everyone I talked to, could only talk about what a great experience it was," he said. "It really worked well having all the groups with different people, rather than putting all of the combat engineers in one group, having all the medics in another, etcetera."

The dispersion seemed to lead to great conversations. Someone in the 11th Civil Support Team said it was great to hear about what is really going on with the traditional M-Day Soldier, especially where everyone in his unit serves full time. The feedback was great."

At the conclusion of the workshop, each of the groups presented what they consider to be three main issues to the command staff and a panel of command sergeants major and sergeants major. Doyon said he wasn't that surprised with the findings.

"I think it's pretty incredible that all of our E9's in the state are pretty in tune with what is going on," he said. "Almost every one of the issues you brought up, we are working on. We are fighting, we are arguing for you. Now, I have a confirmation that these are issues, and now, because of the ideas you all provided, I have a whole lot more tools in my back pocket. If my solution doesn't seem to want to work, I have more I can try!"

Both Doyon and Bolanos emphasized the importance of not letting this workshop end after the Soldiers go home.

"You can go back to your Soldiers and do this," said Doyon. "You can get feedback like you just gave me. Now I know what the problems may be for the squad leaders, but what do the privates think are the current issues? Take this back, make time for this. You want more time to team build, start here."

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32B CAL

33 DISCHARGE PRESS.

32 CAL



31 GAUGE SHUTOFF

25 MAIN PUMP PRESSURE CONTROL

48 CASE DRAIN BACK PRESSURE

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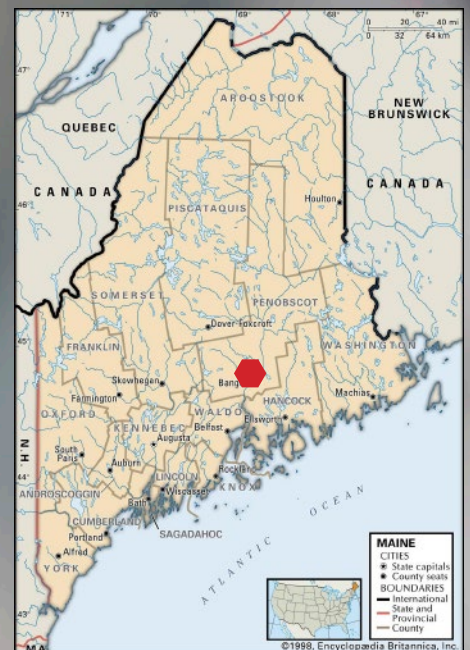
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F E N W

U.S. Air Force hydraulics journey-
man of the 101st Air Refueling
Wing Maintenance Squadron
perform a leak and operational
check on a KC-135R Stratotanker
actuator at the 101st Air Refuel-
ing Wing, Bangor, Maine, Jan. 7,
2017

(U.S. Air National Guard Photo by
MSGt. Jon Duplain/Released)







Members of the 101st Air Refueling Wing man the Mobile Emergency Operations Center, a 40ft command trailer with communications capabilities. The MEOC team was deployed to support the Presidential Inauguration, providing joint communications capabilities during the event.



FUN WHILE FREEZING

MAINE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN STAY FIT, CHALLENGE THEMSELVES ON BIATHLON TEAM

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT ALYSON PELLETIER

Eight members of the Maine National Guard Biathlon team snapped on their boots and headed out into the snowy, nine-degree weather. They put their .22 caliber Anschütz Biathlon Long Rifles on their back and went to the range to zero their weapons for the 2017 East Region National Guard Competition.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Wade helped coach the competitors this year.

"The team is looking really good," said Wade, before the start of the final race. "We've been shooting well all week, they've got a fresh coat of wax on their skis and should be skiing fast."

This year's East Region National Guard Biathlon Competition is comprised of Air and Army Guard members from Vermont, Maine, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York. The biathlon is one of many ways for the service members to interact with other service members around the country.

This is Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Macgillvary's fourth biathlon season with the team. As the full-time executive assistant for the Maine Army National Guard Command Staff, and a mother, Macgillvary already has a lot on her plate, but she keeps coming back year after year.

"You're getting to work with other military members from different

places, different states in this instance," she said. "If you're fortunate enough to make the National Guard Bureau biathlon team, the All Guard team, you could have opportunities to travel outside of state...and that would be fun." She would know. Last year, Macgillvary earned a spot on the All Guard Biathlon team.

Not only is the Biathlon team a good opportunity for networking, but it is one way to stay fit during the winter. Sgt. Jhustin Welch, a survey team member with the 11th Civil Support Team- Weapons of Mass Destruction, stayed fit last year so he could perform his best in the Best Warrior competition, and this year he decided to try something new, cross-country skiing with the biathlon team.

"We've had a great week. It's been a pretty fun first experience for me. They seem to enjoy what they do," said Welch of his first year with the team. "I signed up just to keep myself busy in the winter, and it looked like a pretty interesting sport from what I've seen on TV."

After the team zeroed their weapons, they went inside to warm up before race time. They checked their watches frequently not wanting to be late for the start line. The competitors have staggered start times so they don't clog the track.

Finally, the time comes. The first racers geared up and headed to the start line. Some moved their feet

anxiously in line waiting their turn. Others breathed deeply while the official counted down to their start.

"Once you start, the adrenaline rush starts to kick in and you want to do the best you can," said Welch.

The next couple hours were filled with sweat and panting. Spectators cheered on the competitors throughout the course. On the up-hills some competitors bent over to stop and catch their breath. Even veteran Macgillvary said the hills still leave her winded.

"I think about the next part of the course," she said. "I remind myself there are down-hills to recover on after the steeper hills."

Eventually one by one the competitors crossed the finish line. Macgillvary finished second overall in her category. Newcomer Welch was the last of the Maine team to cross the finish line, but still did well overall.

"For the novice category I placed third in both events," he said. "I would say that I met my expectations for my first time out. I was able to get out there and see what it takes to compete."

Welch said he still has some things to work on before Nationals, but until then he will keep up with practice, enjoying the experience and the fun with his teammates.



CONSERVATION ON MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING LANDS

Story and Photography by Tim Bickford, Environmental Specialist

Fire crews use drip torches to ignite a burn unit within the Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak Barrens at the Hollis Training Site, September 2016. Controlled burns maintain the natural community and support numerous rare, threatened and endangered species.

The Maine Army National Guard currently manages more than 6,000 acres of training lands in Maine. From the Hollis Training Site in York County to the Caswell/Loring Training Site in Aroostook County, MEARNG lands cover a diversity of landscapes, forest types and natural communities. The lands may be different but the mission is the same: provide the best training environment possible for MEARNG soldiers. This sounds simple enough but there are a number of behind the scenes activities occurring to support this mission and one of them is conservation. The MEARNG conservation program goal is to ensure current and future use of the training lands for military readiness. This management takes many forms as we inventory the natural resources at each site and determine what best management practices to utilize given the expected land use.

Learning what these resources are, what their susceptibilities are and how to manage for them is the first step to developing management plans. Identifying resources involves a lot of research and surveys and seeking the appropriate expertise from other agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations and contractors. What do we survey for?

Water/wetlands: Being a state where approximately 1/4 of the land mass is covered by wetlands (bogs,

swamps, forested wetlands, vernal pools, etc.), we have wetlands of some type on every training site. Wetlands tend to be the most biologically productive areas on the planet.

State and federally listed Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species, and species of concern: We have confirmed presence of two federally listed species on two training sites and have critical habitat designations on three training sites. Numerous state listed species can also be found on our training sites.

Natural Communities: Natural communities are defined by the Maine Natural Areas Program within the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. These areas are classified and ranked according to their rarity both in state and globally. These rankings range from an S1 (state) or G1 (global) being critically imperiled to S5 or G5 meaning demonstrably secure. Rare natural communities and rare, threatened or endangered species often coincide, but not always!

Forest Resources: Inventory and mapping of the species, health and volumes of timber on our lands allows the MEARNG to maintain healthy and productive forests through active management.

Soils: Soils play an important role in determining

what possible uses certain areas of our training sites may be used for. Sand and gravel reserves provide a resource we can use on our sites for constructing and repairing roads and trails. Soils also play a role in shaping the vegetative and tree canopy above it.

Flora and Fauna: Generating and maintaining lists of what species of plants and animals occupy and utilize our sites helps paint a broader picture of the sites' resources, how to manage for them and support our understanding of the complex ecosystems. Ecosystem health can be measured by the health of the species that make it up.

Invasive Species: Invasive species in Maine are typically non-native plants that have not evolved here with the rest of our natural plants and animals and therefore populations tend to go unchecked and can take over areas. Once established, control of these invasive species is very difficult. Some examples are Japanese Knotweed, Morrow's Honeysuckle and Multiflora Rose.

Conservation on the training sites is tailored to the specific natural communities, past and present use and coordinated training and resource management goals. For instance, the Hollis Training Site has several globally very rare natural communities that support a number of rare species. One of these rare communities is the Pitch Pine – Scrub Oak Barren (S2, G2, considered globally imperiled due to rarity) and is the dominant natural community on the site. This is a fire adapted natural community that responds to, and needs, frequent wildland fire events. The MEARNG simulates wildland fire by using prescribed fire to maintain this community while also providing for great military training by thinning the under growth. There is also anecdotal evidence that tick populations are reduced in these burned areas, albeit temporarily.

Recently there has been much ado about bats in the eastern United States and Canada. The primary reason for this is an emerging population crisis amongst the cave dwelling bats due to White Nose Syndrome. It is believed that this fungus was brought to the US from Europe on the boots and equipment of cave explorers and was first discovered in New York State. It quickly spread to most of the eastern United States and has decimated populations of our smaller cave dwelling bats. This prompted the US Fish and Wild-



Myotis septentrionalis (Northern long-eared myotis) roosting on a ceiling tile. This specimen was found in a church in Concord New Hampshire.

life Service to list the Northern Long-eared Bat in May 2015 as federally threatened throughout its range, which includes all of Maine.

In addition, the State of Maine has since listed the Eastern Small-footed Bat and the Little Brown Bat. These listings primarily impact construction and forestry related activities where potential bat habitat may be compromised. The MEARNG conducts acoustic bat surveys to determine what species of bats are occupying or utilizing our sites for roosting or feeding. This information is then used in the planning process to complete the mission while avoiding disturbance of the bats.

Saw Brook, whose headwaters begin on the Bangor Training Site, is an impaired stream as designated by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Because of this impairment, the MEARNG and other businesses and residences within the water shed are required to pay a storm water fee in an effort to make improvements to the storm water systems contributing to the stream.

Stream impairment is determined by certain water chemistry parameters and aquatic biological indica-

CONSERVATION ON MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING LANDS (CONTINUED)

The road side ditch removed and stabilized next to Hildreth Street North adjacent to Shaw Brook and the Bangor Armed Forces Reserve Center. This will prevent channelized stormwater flow from entering directly to Shaw Brook and reduce sedimentation. Photograph by Tim Bickford.

tors. The MEARNG has begun a project to improve the water quality of the stream with the goal of raising the stream classification and thus eliminating impairment (and associated fees) in the upper reaches of the stream. Limiting the velocity of stormwater entering the stream by removing ditches and allowing sheet flow of stormwater across land before entering the stream will reduce the sediment load in the stream. Allowing native trees and shrubs to naturally grow around the stream by limiting mowing slows stormwater movement and provides shade to the stream and keep the water colder. Colder water will have higher dissolved oxygen levels which benefits fish and other aquatic organisms.

Vernal pools are another hot topic and conservation concern. Vernal pools are forested wetland pockets that do not have any flowing surface water in or out of them and sometimes dry out completely during some parts of the year. Because of this, fish and some aquatic plants are not able to survive in the pools. These pools are important as rare species utilize these pools for breeding. In particular, Yellow-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*), Wood Frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) and Fairy Shrimp (*Eubranchipus* spp.) are the four species we look for utilizing the vernal pools in Maine. Should some or all of these species be present, the pool may be considered "Significant Wildlife Habitat", which garners regulatory protections.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Army Corps of Engineers both regulate activities in these pools and the surrounding habitat. Significant vernal pools are present on every MEARNG training site. The MEARNG surveys for and monitors these pools annually to record changes and collect data on how many and which species may be breeding in these pools.

Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) is an inconspicuous plant that occurs in the eastern United States and is federally listed as threatened due to habitat loss. MEARNG's Auburn Training Site is home to perhaps the most northern population of this plant in Maine. The Small Whorled Pogonia can be difficult to spot as it does not grow every year and looks very similar to Indian Cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*), a plant which is very common and grows in the same habitat type. The MEARNG monitors this population annually to maintain records of the population's distribution on the training site.

These are just a few examples of the efforts undertaken to help maintain the properties and training sites for the Maine Army National Guard.

For more information regarding the Maine Army National Guard's Conservation Program, contact Mr. Tim Bickford at 207-430-5923 or email at timothy.a.bickford2.nfg@mail.mil.



Significant Vernal pool at the Gardiner Training Site provides breeding habitat for several rare amphibian species. Vernal pools may dry up completely during summer months. Once hatched and metamorphosed, juveniles leave the pool and live a terrestrial life nearby and return to the pool to reproduce.



Wood frog egg mass in a significant vernal pool at the Plymouth Training Site. The adult wood frogs attach the gelatinous mass to underwater debris. The green color of the mass is from an algae that is part of a beneficial symbiotic partnership.



The rarest orchid in North America, the Small Whorled Pogonia at the Auburn Training Site. This federally listed species looks very similar to the very common Indian Cucumber-root found throughout the Maine woods.

2016 MAINE STATE OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Every year since 1970, the state headquarters of the Maine Air National Guard select four Airmen for the The Outstanding Airman of the Year program. Airmen are chosen from four categories - Airman, Non-Commissioned Officer, and Senior Non-Commissioned Officer.

This year, candidates for selection have been forwarded by the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor Air National Guard Base, Bangor, Maine, the 243rd Engineering and Installation Squadron, South Portland, Maine, as well as the 265th Combat Communications Squadron, South Portland, Maine.

The individuals selected as Outstanding Airman of the Year from the Maine Air National Guard will be submitted to the National Guard Bureau for consideration as Air National Guard candidates for the Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year program.

The Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year program selects one nominee from among all the Maine Air National Guard units for submission to the National Guard Bureau for consideration as an Air National Guard candidate for the Air Force Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year Program.

AIRMAN



Sr. Airman Jordan Charpentier is assigned to the Plans and Programs Section and manages the Security Forces Management Information System (SFMIS) and Reports and Analysis reporting process at the 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor, Maine. SrA Charpentier supports Alpha

Flight as a Response Force Leader and provides defense to Protection Level 1-3 resources, responding to incidents and alarms. He also conducts law enforcement duties, ensuring a constant safe and lawful environment for those assigned to the base.

Sr. Airman Charpentier enlisted in the Air Guard in 2013, and after attending training, was assigned to the 101st Security Forces Squadron. In 2016, he attended both the Active Shooter Incident Response Course and Phoenix Raven Qualification Course. SrA Charpentier maintains his qualification as Raven #2432 and has participated in various missions to austere locations throughout the world. Further, he has participated in Detainee Movement Missions, where detained personnel are released back to their countries from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER

Technical Sgt. Douglas Connolly is the NCOIC of the Combat Arms Training and Maintenance section for the 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor, Maine. As the NCOIC he



serves as the lead CATM Instructor along with coordinating, implementing and providing weapons training to all personnel assigned to the Maine Air National Guard and surrounding Geographically Separated Units. He inspects, maintains and repairs all base weapons to ensure mission readiness.

Tech. Sgt. Connolly enlisted in the Air Guard in 2005, and after completing training, was assigned to the 101st Security Forces Squadron. Sgt. Connolly has deployed numer-

ous times to such diverse places as Diego Garcia; Kirkuk, Iraq; and Fort Bliss, Texas. Sgt. Connolly has also been involved in several Detainee Movement Operations, where detained personnel are released back to their countries from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In 2011 Sgt. Connolly attended the Inter-Service Non-Lethal Weapons Course, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he became instructor certified to teach Non-Lethal Weapons. Later in 2011 he completed the Phoenix Raven Qualification Course, Ft. Dix, New Jersey, and has since deployed on several high profile Raven missions to include a Congressional Delegation Mission, securing the aircraft for Congressmen Eric Canter, and military aircraft protection assignments.

SENIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER

Master Sgt. Bryan Lord is an Equipment Specialist with the 265th Combat Communications Squadron in South Portland, Maine. Master Sgt. Lord coordinates the accountability and maintenance of millions of dollars' worth of deployable Unit Type Code equipment assets, functions as the Squadron supply liaison with the 101 Air Refueling Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron. He also functions as the NCOIC of the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability



Block III, which provides critical communications coverage throughout New England.

Master Sgt. Lord enlisted in the Air Guard 2004, and after training, joined the 265th CBCS as an Electronics Switch member. In November 2009, he was hired as the full-time Air Technician QA Representative for the 265th until December 2014. It was at that time, an opportunity for an Active Duty position was available as the unit Information Technology Equipment Specialist, in which he was hired and currently serves.

FIRST SERGEANT

Master Sgt. Jeremiah Delisle: Master Sgt. Jeremiah Delisle serves as the Logistics Readiness Squadron First Sergeant at the 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor, Maine. He advises the Commander on all issues of readiness, morale, and wellbeing of the enlisted force.

Master Sgt. Delisle enlisted in the active duty Air Force in 1999. After training, he was assigned to McChord Air Force Base, Washington, where he worked as a C-141 Hydraulic Apprentice. In 2004, Sgt. Delisle transitioned from active duty to the Maine Air National Guard as a KC-135 Hydraulic Craftsman. In 2011, he was hired as a full



time technician for the 101st Hydraulic Shop. In 2013, Sgt. Delisle was selected as the Logistics Readiness Squadron First Sergeant where he currently serves. Sgt. Delisle has deployed seven times in support of contingency operations NOBLE EAGLE, ENDURING FREEDOM and FREEDOM SENTINEL, seeing service in Germany, Turkey, Greece, and Qatar.

The overall Airman of the Year winner will be announced at a ceremony at the Blaine House in early April 2017.

RECRUIT SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER



Name: Dylan Finnemore

Rank: Private, E-2

Military Occupational Skill: 25U, Signal Support Systems Specialist

Unit: 185th Engineer Support Company, Houlton, ME

Basic Training Location: Fort Benning, GA

Advanced Individual Training: Fort Benning, GA

Hometown: Hodgdon, ME

High School: Hodgdon High School,

Hobbies and Interests: Basketball

What are your goals?

I want to make a career out of the Guard, serving for 20 years and possibly going to Officer Candidate School (OCS).

What are your future plans?

To earn a college degree.

Why did you join the Maine Army National Guard?

I was at my cousin's house while a National Guard recruiter was present. I heard a lot about what the Maine Army National Guard had to offer and decided to enlist.

I chose to be a 25U, Signal Support Systems Specialist, not only for the bonus, but also because I enjoy the communication side of the training.

Did you know:

Private Finnemore just returned from Advanced Individual Training (AIT) where he was an honor graduate.

His grandfather served in the United States Navy.

Private Finnemore offers the following advice for anyone who is preparing for Basic Combat Training:

"Always follow instructions. Also, be sure to have the Army Song and the Soldier's Creed memorized."



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SOLDIER CARE

Maintaining Warrior Readiness

Story and Photo by Spc. Jarod Dye

Maine Army National Guard Soldiers train every month to maintain their skills and proficiencies at their individual jobs. They do so to stay prepared for deployment at any time. However, to maintain this state of readiness they must also be medically ready to deploy by having up to date medical, dental, and personnel files.

To fulfill this requirement, many Maine Army National Guard Soldiers completed their Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) Saturday at the Augusta Armory.

"We have a lot of Soldiers without health care or that don't go to their providers regularly," said Sgt. 1st Class John Rivard, Non Commissioned Officer in charge of the PHA this month. "We pick issues up, track them, and make sure they get followed up."

The PHA's are an annual assessment that have to be completed by each Soldier every year. They help find unresolved health issues and then either make a treatment plan or treat the issue on the spot.

"It starts with a questionnaire, asking anywhere from family history to current behavioral health status," said Rivard. "From there you'll get your vision checked, your hearing checked, you'll get a full dental work up including treatment if you need it, you'll get labs done, you'll get immunizations if you need them, and then you'll see a doctor."

Soldiers come to the PHA's as whole units and go through the process as a group before heading back to regular training for the weekend.

"It's important to the unit," said Rivard. "Keeping you up to date on your health status is important, but the Army wants to know if you're healthy enough to deploy."

The importance of completing PHA's is more than an annual requirement, it is integral for unit operations.

"It is a big event to make sure all of our Soldiers are ready for deployment," said Pfc. Allison Alcantara, a dental readiness technician for the Maine Army National Guard Medical Detachment.

PHA's involve hundreds of Soldiers and technicians all moving through one building and can be very complex to organize especially when 90 percent of Soldiers are required to be medically up to date at all times.

"So far it's been very smooth, and last year was very nice, they said it was probably one of the best," said Alcantara.

Soldier fitness, health, and wellbeing is of the utmost importance to ensure the strength of the Army. Keeping up on these matters periodically is always necessary to stay ready to deploy and complete missions at any time. This is a task well done by the Maine Army National Guard Medical Detachment, a unit that continuously ranks in the top ten of medical detachments nationwide.

MAINE ENGINEERING TEAM INNOVATIONS LEAD TO NATIONAL AWARD

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY
STAFF SGT. ANGELA PARADY





The Environmental Protection Agency presented the Energy Star Combined Heat and Power Award to the Maine Army National Guard for their Combined Heat and Power prototype in use at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Bangor.

The Maine Army National Guard was one of four facilities recognized by the EPA for superior performance using combined heat and power at the New York State Energy Research and Development On-site Power Conference and Expo in New York City in December.

CHP systems reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide and other air pollutions by reusing the heat that is produced during electricity production and then use that heat to provide space heating, cooling, hot water and steam with zero emissions. Not only does this technology reduce pollution, it also saves money.

"This is a wonderful machine," said A.J. Ballard, energy manager for the MEARNG. "This system produces electricity we don't have to pay for and heat we don't have to pay for." Now that the system has been in place for nearly a full year, the MEARNG is now seeing the financial benefits.

Since installing the CHP, the MEARNG has

reduced its average energy costs to the facility by just over \$60,000 in the one year it has been in use, Ballard said.

The CHP has also increased the reliability of the Army Aviation Support Facility's energy supply. The 123,500 square foot building that houses many of the helicopters and flight assets for the state now generates electricity on site, displacing grid supplied power and reducing the dependency on outside power sources. The CHP is a 75 kilowatt-hour system and is supplemented by a smaller 43 kwh solar powered system that assists in energy production as well.

According to Ballard and MEARNG energy project manager Paul Lapointe, studies showed that solar power alone was not a feasible option for the facility.

The combination of the systems has led to a 30 percent decrease in energy consumption, and has encouraged self-sufficiency.

"These systems are designed in be able to disconnect from the grid and operate independently, without being hooked up to the commercial power lines," said Lapointe. "Right now, our system is completely self-sufficient during the weekends and about half the day. For a

building of this size and the needs of the facility, that is incredible." This system may soon be debuting in other states nationwide.

"The Secretary of the Army has made clean energy a very high priority, and we are going to try to develop at least 50 percent more of these because of the results that we achieved here," said Lapointe.

Ballard said being recognized for this award was a testament to the high energy conservation standards for which Maine has strived.

"We were there with all of these other [organizations] that have staffs dedicated to energy management that are bigger than the full-time staff for our National Guard," said Ballard. "It was an honor that our system here is comparable with these hospitals and universities."

(Left) The combined heat and power unit that produces electricity and heat for the Army Aviation Support Facility in Bangor.

(Top) A.J. Ballard, the energy manager for the Maine Army National Guard takes a thermal image of the intakes and returns for the combined heat and power system at the Maine Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility in Bangor, Maine. The award-winning system has already saved the MEARNG \$60,000 in heating and electric costs, but Ballard and his team say they are always looking to improve efficiency.

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