

the BAYONET

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MAINEiacs UPGRADE AIRFIELD

BIATHALON HIGHLIGHTS

DEFYING THE ODDS

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD WELCOMES NEW UNIT



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A MESSAGE FROM COL DIANE DUNN

CHIEF OF STAFF- MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



From Extraordinary to Ordinary

Over the last few years we have watched several currently serving women make history as we celebrate the inclusion of women into the ranks of the Combat Arms, Rangers and Special Forces. Their extraordinary accomplishments will one day be ordinary.

In years past, those that have gone before us, have helped pave the path of today and set conditions for where we have yet to explore. Their efforts were extraordinary and now may seem a bit ordinary.

In Maine we have yet to celebrate our first female combat arms Noncommissioned Officer or Officer but I am hopeful that one of you reading this might become our first.

Becoming the first ... (fill in any blank) isn't for everyone, isn't always the goal

and not everyone aspires to such a position. Some of you may earn such a title without even knowing.

Some of you may be avoiding such a title because of the potential spotlight or stigma. I get it! I am motivated by knowing that one day all the bygone milestones for women will be exhausted and achievements will be recorded as simply that.

Until then, it is my hope that we are fully conscious and aware that every day we are making and writing our history. What we do matters.

For this reason, I believe we should all strive to be our personal best at all times, prepare and challenge ourselves to reach the next level of excellence, whatever or wherever it might be.

I believe that it should be our mission to make being extraordinary (because

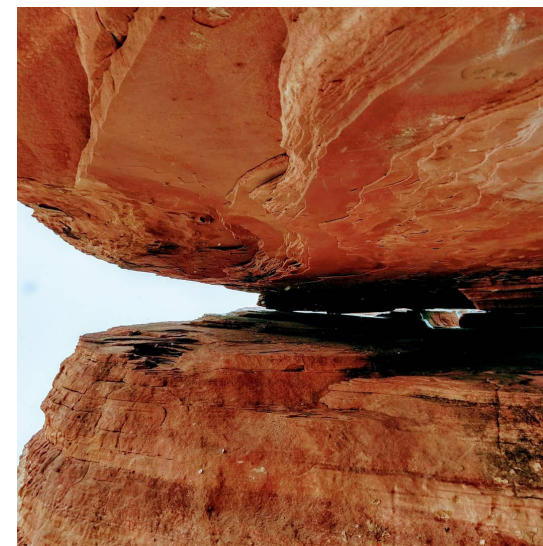
of your gender, race, nationality etc) ordinary and thru such effort, we all take our organization to the next level of success.

So as I come to grips with my reality... the fact that I am celebrating my 30 years of commissioned service this year and that alone qualifies me as 'history', I challenge each of you to continue to carve out the future on a path of making extraordinary, ordinary.

Every day I am inspired by those around me who display determination, confidence, humility and grace. I am truly blessed to be a part of the rich tradition and history of the Maine Army National Guard

-Col. Diane Dunn
Chief of Staff
Maine Army National Guard

MARATHON RUNNER MOTIVATED BY TEAM TO STAY FIT DURING THE WINTER



Sgt. Sarah Myrick, a photojournalist in the 121st Public Affairs Detachment, Maine Army National Guard ran her second marathon in two months with the National Guard Marathon Team.

She finished first in her age group, with a time of 3:51:23. She was the fourth woman to cross the finish line, and 15th finisher overall. Staying committed to running is not always easy during the winter months, but it can be easier when you know there are other people counting on you.

"Going to events with the members of the National Guard team and getting to know my teammates has helped motivate me because I know they are working out too to get ready, and that helps motivate me to get out and run even when its negative degrees outside," said Myrick, who works as a corrections officer when she is not tending to her National Guard duties.

This was the Red Rocks Canyons Marathon in Las Vegas, Nevada. Climbing uphill to a 4,771' summit (twice) marathoners run along the Backcountry Scenic Byway, a scenic drive that covers some of the Mojave Desert's most stunning sites including sandstone formations, desert vegetation, and wildlife.

"I want to better myself, and using the winter marathons to increase my performance for the Lincoln National Guard Marathon coming up in May," said Myrick.



Brig. Gen. Douglas A Farnham, Adjutant General for the Maine National Guard, hosted the 381st birthday of the National Guard at Camp Keyes in Augusta today. Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees enjoyed a historical overview from our command historian, Capt. Jonathan Bratten as well as a cake cutting ceremony. The National Guard is the Department of Defense's oldest service branch, established on Dec. 13, 1636. While our traditions, uniforms and equipment may have changed over the past 381 years, one thing remains constant: The core of the National Guard are its people. Happy Birthday, National Guard!



THE CHAPLAIN'S WORD

*"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."
Romans 8:25, ESV*



Whenever the month of March approaches I think of the Shakespearean play, Julius Caesar. In case you were asleep during that 9th grade English class, as I most likely was, the famous line that reminds me of March is, "Beware the Ides of March."

This was said by a soothsayer to Julius Caesar who's death was being predicted to take place on the Ide, or 15th, of March. This is some pretty bad news for the emperor who would be stabbed to death by his own senate. Bad news like this can lead to a negative outlook.

This outlook can change the way we do and even think about things. If in our minds we set ourselves up for failure we can often make that self-fulfilling prophecy a reality.

This is because we stop trying. We forget that we are still alive and therefore still have some modicum of control in the outcome; and so, we just give up.

We may do this in all areas of our life or just one that is particularly difficult for us to manage. Our finances, our home life, at university or even the workplace. But did you ever stop to think of how demoralizing this is not only for us but for those of us watching us?

Our fellow Soldiers may see this in us and say nothing. If we are lucky though our Battle Buddies will ask us what's going on-

As a chaplain candidate, when I get bad news or get a bad attitude I am reminded of one very specific four-letter word. That word is hope. I can hope that I am right about bad news and that hope will lead me fulfill that hope of failure.

Alternately I can have the kind of hope based on faith in a better outcome in store. In the Bible it says, "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8:25, ESV).

How we wait matters. It affects not only us but those watching us. If we walk around our lives and our community demonstrating hopelessness we may bring it to pass in ourselves and others.

On the other hand we also have the option of hoping that things will change, that they will get better and that there is a way to create brighter future.

We hope that you have a blessed Spring at your units and in your communities. Remember that your Chaplain Corps is here to help you find hope by being an ear and helping you to find resources that will aid you in your spiritual journey.

Blessings to You and Those You Love,
Kristina D. R. Stanley, 2LT (CH)



MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD WELCOMES NEW CYBER TEAM

Photos and Story by Spc. Jarod Dye

The Maine Army National Guard recently added a new unit, the 146th Cyber Support Team. This team is based in Augusta, however, it is part of the larger 146th Cyber Warfare Company from Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts.

The unit is extremely new, just created in October of 2017, but they are training to become stronger every drill.

"The long-range plan is to integrate the Cyber Team into conducting Department of Defense cyber missions and to work alongside the Computer Network Defense Team in defending the Maine Guard's IT infrastructure," said 2nd Lt. Danielle Ilsey, the team leader of the Cyber Support Team.

With increasing technology being integrated into the Army's daily operation, more opportunities for cyber-attacks have presented themselves.

"I think that it is more important now than ever," said Ilsey. "With advancements in technology come new vulnerabilities. In this day and age, we can hack not only computers and servers but cars and homes."

The team wants Soldiers to know while it is extremely important to keep the Guard's information safe, they must also watch out for themselves.

"Incorporating strong cyber practices needs to be a part of people's daily lives," said Ilsey. "One of the biggest misconceptions about cyber security is that people think, 'Oh, it could never happen to me.'"

There are plenty of things people can do without much knowledge or expertise in the cyber security world to protect themselves.

"The biggest thing I stress to my team is to decrease their social media footprint," said Ilsey. "These are all tools used to hack

people every day."

Social media is not the only way to be scammed or hacked.

"The second biggest thing is to not click on links or emails that you do not know," said Ilsey. "That is the easiest way to accidentally download a virus or something else nasty onto your computer without even knowing it."

Part of being a Soldier is always training and being ready for anything that might be tasked to your unit, and even with highly skilled individuals there's always more one can learn.

"Right now we're doing a lot of training," said Staff Sgt. Michael Kinney, the team's lead noncommissioned officer.

"We have varying degrees of skill, some of us have a lot of experience with this, some of us not as much. So we're trying to get everyone on the same page."

During drill, these Soldiers are given exercises that test and boost their skills.

"We've been using open source software to learn how to actually hack into other computers, this is the first time in my career I've actually seen it done," said Kinney.

The cyber security industry is growing immensely and there are many applications for the skills these Soldiers are perfecting on the Cyber Support Team.



Soldiers from the 146th Cyber Support Team of the Maine Army National Guard train to hack into other computers. The 146th Cyber Support Team was created in October of 2017 to increase the safety of the Maine Guard's technological assets.



Spc. Mark Pierce, a Soldier with the 146th Cyber Support Team of the Maine Army National Guard, trains on how to hack into other computers at Camp Keys in Augusta, Maine on February 4, 2018.

"On the civilian side, I work in cyber security," said Spc. Mark Pierce, a Cyber Support Team member. "The security aspect is something that is really booming in the information technology career field. A lot of companies are going to look for people who have these skills."

Members of the team have high hopes for its future and place in the National Guard.

"This is something I'm very excited about," said Ilsey. "I'm excited to see where the team goes as well as the future and all the things we can do."

PEST MANAGEMENT IN THE MAINE NATIONAL GUARD

Insects, rodents and other pests can impair the Guard Mission by posing a threat to Soldier health, damaging our facilities, and reducing performance as a distracting annoyance.

The Maine National Guard operates under an Integrated Pest Management Plan as required in Army Regulation 200-1.

Integrated Pest Management is a broad approach to managing pests meant to reduce the use of pesticides and control them before they become a problem.

The key principles of the program are:

- Set Action Thresholds: At what point does a pest meet a trigger point for action. This will be different for different pests based on the risk (health & safety, environmental, physical damage).

- Monitor and Identify Pests: Where are they, what are they and what is the risk should they persist?

- Prevention: Reduce the threat prior to the pest becoming a problem.

- Control: Control takes many forms depending on the pest, threat, risk and location.

For most facilities and personnel within the Guard, prevention and control will be the main concerns.

The three most common reported pest issues within the Guard are ants, rodents and biting insects.

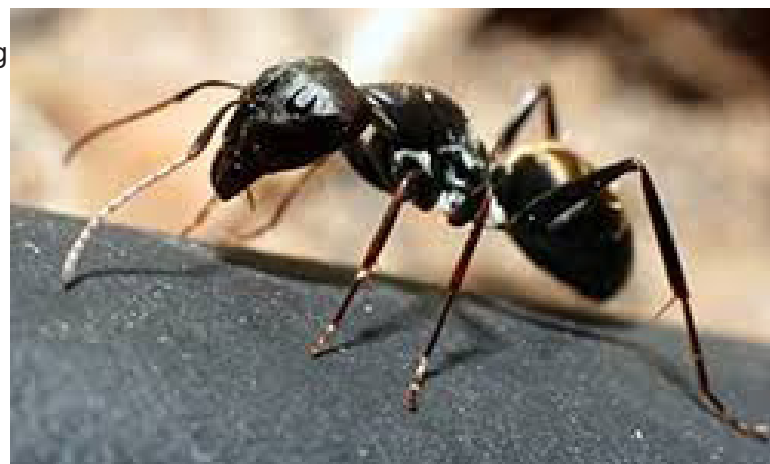
All three are easily preventable and somewhat controllable. Let's look at each of these individually:

- Ants: Ants are pretty much everywhere in the environment, right?

Ants need three things to survive; food, water and shelter.

As it turns out, the kitchens (and under some people's desks) in most facilities provide all three of these needs.

Ants can access buildings easily through the smallest of entry ways and travel under baseboard trim and other



gaps in walls.

If you can find these entry ways and block them, that is the best action to take but this can be difficult especially around door openings.

Once inside they will seek out the food and water. This is where housekeeping is essential.

Kitchens used by multiple personnel are the most common areas we see ant infestations so it is critical for facilities to establish policies on keeping these areas clean and dry.

Once inside, control can be difficult without the help of pesticides but it can be done. Sweeping or vacuuming up ants and food particles helps tremendously.

There are ant baits available in MEARNG DFE Supply-however these have shown limited efficacy. The last resort is contracting a pest management company through



DFE channels to apply pesticides where people keep food and eat.

This solution tends to be temporary as the pesticide does not remain effective for a long period of time and the attraction of food and water remain.

- Rodents: Typically we see rodents, usually mice, trying to enter facilities in the late summer or early fall to spend the winter but they can be observed anytime of the year.

Mice can gain access through small holes, sometimes smaller than you might think.

Mice are also seeking food and water sources as well a protected location to build a nest. Housekeeping and denying entrance by blocking routes of entry are the keys to prevention of these pests.

For control, we recommend mechanical mouse traps. They need to be checked on a daily basis and can be messy but they work well. Mouse traps are available from DFE Supply.

- Biting Insects: Most commonly we hear about the ticks that soldiers and employees pick up when working in the field.

Deer flies, black flies and mosquitos are also considerations when working or training outside.

Ticks are a serious concern for anyone outside in the tall grass or woods. Ticks carry a number of infectious diseases that can have very serious consequences if not recognized and treated immediately. You or someone you know has probably contracted Lyme disease transferred from a deer tick.

Other infectious diseases known to occur in Maine from ticks are Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Powassan virus, Tularemia, Ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Prevention of ticks and other biting insects starts with covering exposed skin sealing potential entry to your clothing.

Most military uniforms and some outdoor clothing is pre-treated with permethrin, a synthetic pesticide that will repel these insects.

Applying another repellent such as DEET containing products that can be directly applied to skin and are available on the market is advised.

Complying with all labels and instructions when using these products is a must to prevent injury, damage to clothing and maximize efficacy of the products.

For further information on these vector-borne diseases, refer to: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/>

The application of pesticides (insecticides, rodenticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.) on any Maine National Guard property is prohibited with the exception of the self-help pesticides that are available in DFE supply.

Self-help products include ant traps, wasp and hornet spray, ant and roach spray and mouse traps. For further information or if your facility is experiencing a pest issue, please contact Mr. Timothy Bickford at 207-430-5923 or timothy.a.bickford2.nfg@mail.mil.



A U.S. Air Force hydraulics journeyman of the 101st Air Refueling Wing Maintenance Squadron repair and replace a leading edge flap actuator on a KC-135R Strato-tanker during one of the coldest weeks recorded over the last 40 years at the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, Jan. 2, 2018. The temperature of 8.1 below zero and a windchill factor of 11.9 below zero does not stop the maintainers from performing the needed repairs. (Photo courtesy of 101st Air Refueling Wing)

PENTAGON RELEASES NEW POLICY ON NONDEPLOYABLE MEMBERS

By Lisa Ferdinando, DoD News, Defense Media Activity / Published Feb. 16, 2018

The Defense Department released a new policy on military retention for nondeployable service members as it seeks to provide more ready and lethal forces, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness told Congress on Feb. 16.

"The situation we face today is really unlike anything that we have faced, certainly in the post-World War II era," Robert Wilkie told the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee.

On any given day, about 286,000 service members -- 13 to 14 percent of the total force -- are nondeployable, Wilkie said at a hearing on military and civilian personnel programs and military family readiness.

Defense Secretary James N. Mattis in July tasked the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness with developing policies to ensure everyone who enters the military and those who remain in the military are worldwide deployable, he explained.

Service members who have been nondeployable for more than 12 consecutive months will be processed for administrative separation or referred to the disability evaluation system, he said.

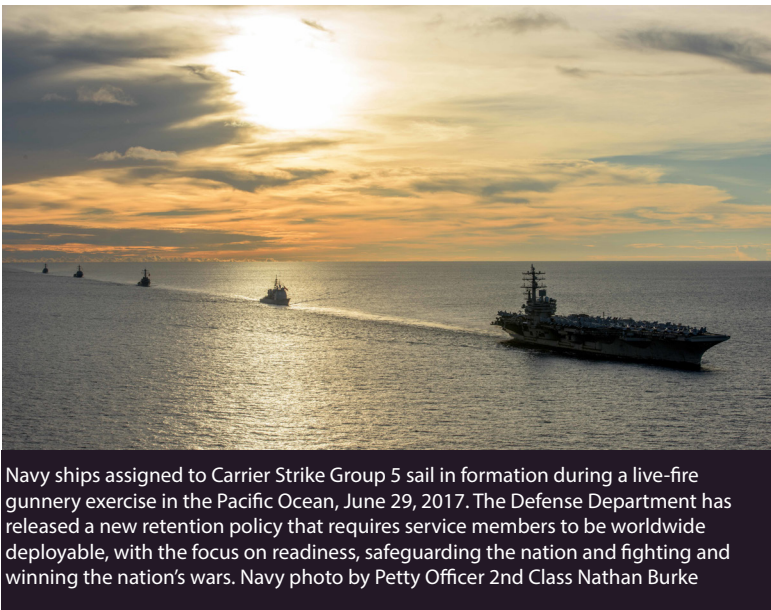
"This new policy is a 12-month 'deploy-or-be-removed' policy," he said, noting there are exceptions, such as pregnancy and postpartum conditions. Medical boards will review the medical status of those who have been wounded, he said.

"We need to look at the force holistically," he said. "We have to ensure given the climate that this country faces that everyone who signs up can be deployed to any corner of the world at any given time, and that is the reason for the change in policy."

Focus on Readiness, Lethality



A soldier assists with railhead operations in subzero temperatures at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Jan. 30, 2018, as part of Arctic Thrust, a short-notice rapid deployment exercise. Air Force photo by Justin Connaheer



Navy ships assigned to Carrier Strike Group 5 sail in formation during a live-fire gunnery exercise in the Pacific Ocean, June 29, 2017. The Defense Department has released a new retention policy that requires service members to be worldwide deployable, with the focus on readiness, safeguarding the nation and fighting and winning the nation's wars. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathan Burke

The new policy is effective immediately. Military services have until Oct. 1 to begin mandatory processing of nondeployable service members, Patricia Mulcahy, the director of DoD's officer and enlisted personnel management office, said.

Service members could be nondeployable for any number of reasons, she said, such as falling behind on annual medical exams or due to combat or training injuries. Only a small percentage of those who are nondeployable have been in that status for more than 12 months, Mulcahy said.

Each service member's case will be individually reviewed, she said, and the secretaries of the military departments are authorized to grant waivers to retain members.

The purpose of the policy is not to separate members, but rather is to get members back into a deployable status if possible, she emphasized.

"I think it's important to know that there is the balance between readiness and helping our members who are not going to be able to heal adequately to be deployable to help them with the next phase of their lives as well," she said.

The policy is meant to improve readiness and ensure members are deployable worldwide to carry out the mission of safeguarding the nation and fighting and winning the nation's wars, she said.

"Since Secretary Mattis has been on board, readiness and lethality of the forces has been [the] absolutely No. 1 priority for him, and thus for the department," she said.

<https://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/DoD-Universal-Retention-Policy.PDF>



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MAINE'S DOUGHBOYS ENTER THE WESTERN FRONT: FEBRUARY- MARCH 1918

Article and Images Courtesy of Capt. Jonathan Bratten

At the end of January, 1918, Maine's 103rd Infantry Regiment was nearing the end of its training regimen in the French countryside. However, they were still considered a "green" regiment.

Only four other infantry regiments in the U.S. Army had seen frontline service; those with the 1st Division. But the 103rd's time was coming. On February 2, the first echelon of the 103rd Infantry formed up in heavy marching order, loaded onto troop trains, and headed for the front lines.

Their first front was in the highlands of central France, an area that had been utterly destroyed in fighting the year prior.

The men marched past shells of bombed-out villages and through city streets pockmarked with shell holes. Wrecked by fighting the previous year,

it was now considered a "quiet" front. But as the Maine men found, the front was far from safe.

The German artillery had their range and would send over a flurry of shells daily. Airplanes – friendly and enemy – soared overhead, proving to be quite the novelty to the young men.

The front lines were not the trenches that the men expected: they were instead a series of outposts – petites postes, the French called them – along a canal. Across the canal were the dreaded Germans.

Each of the regiment's three battalions rotated in and out of front line duty. One would man the outposts, one would be in support, and one would hold a reserve position out of range of the enemy guns.



Colonel Hume at the Soissons front, March 12, 1918

Life on the front lines was exciting for the young men. They had not yet learned to fear the war; it was still novel to them.

They exchanged rifle fire across the canal, annoying the Germans who had established a live-and-let-

live policy with the French in this sector. Mortar and machine gun fire would be exchanged as the two sides felt each other out.

The support position was about 3-5 kilometers back from the front. The battalion in this position enjoyed some very different billeting arrangements: the whole battalion of over 1,200 men could easily be housed underground in limestone quarries that had been converted into underground housing.

In these subterranean halls, the men of the 103rd Infantry passed days of boredom before going out at night to dig trenches and string barbed wire.

Men passed the hours by fighting off the ever-present rats and carving names, unit symbols, and other designs into the walls of the cave. These still remain to this day, the names of small Maine towns standing out starkly on the French rock.

The quarries were lit by electric lights and resupplied by means of a narrow-gauge railroad.

This front, however, was not without its dangers. On February 10, Private Henry Duplissis of Company D was seriously wounded on the front lines.

On February 13, soldiers from the 2nd Battalion were digging trenches outside the quarry when a flurry of German artillery shells began to drop. The men of Company H ducked for cover and scampered for safety.

Private Ralph Spaulding of Madison, Maine paused for a moment to grab his hat that had fallen. In this momentary pause, he was struck by shell fragments and killed instantly. Spaulding was not only the first soldier of the 103rd Infantry to be killed, but also the first National Guardsman of the entire war to be killed in action.

He had written his last letter home two days before, where he told his family not to worry about him "because I am getting along all right and I don't think this will last very much longer."

Five days later, Private Henry Sweetney of Manchester, New Hampshire was killed by a shell on the front lines.

On February 24, Sergeant Joseph Chaisson from Milo, Maine was shot through the neck by a sniper when he was firing rifle grenades across the canal. Casualties slowly racked up the longer the regiment was on the front lines.

In fact, not even the regiment's commander, Colonel Frank Hume of Houlton, Maine, was safe. His command post was hit by German artillery, causing him to lose hearing in one ear as he was helping evacuate

casualties.

Yet for all the danger, the Maine and New Hampshire men were making names for themselves and proving to their French partners that they were excellent fighters and good friends.

On one occasion, a French platoon's kitchen was knocked out by German shells and Waterville's Company H voluntarily went to half rations to help them out.

During a gas attack on a separate occasion, Company H again went to the aid of their French friends who had suffered heavy casualties and could not man the front as well as evacuate their wounded.

Despite having been on duty all night, the Waterville Company manned the French sector as well as their own and helped rescue the wounded.

In everlasting gratitude, the French corps commander declared the New England division the goddaughter of the 11th French Corps.

By March, the 103rd Infantry was well-adjusted to the front lines. And just in time, too, because on March 6 the Germans began a heavy bombardment of their front lines: thousands of high explosive rounds and over 30,000 gas shells.

This bombardment last thirty-six hours.

Mechanic Ralph Moan with Com



Private Ralph Spaulding of Madison

pany K was awoken from sleep in his dugout by a shell bursting directly overhead: "The Boche bombarded us in good shape, at least seventy

big fellows bursting each minute," he recalled. "Believe me, the man who said he was not scared was a liar."

The Germans followed this up with a probing assault on March 11 which was met with a shower of hand grenades and well-aimed return fire.

Over twenty Germans were left dead in the wire with no casualties to Company K.

On March 19, the regiment came off the front lines, bloodied but now knowing they had what it took to face the Germans.

They would need this assurance because they were now headed to their first real front.

MAINEIACS UPGRADE AIRFIELD ON PORTUGUESE ISLAND

By: Tech Sgt. Shane Perry, 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron & Maj. Devin T. Robinson, Maine Air National Guard Public Affairs

“Who wants to go to Portugal this summer?”

The majority of the room raised their hand to the flight sergeant’s question.

“Technically it’s not Portugal...It’s the Azores.”

While some of the volunteers lowered their hands with the new revelation, Senior Airman Omar Gonzaga was not deterred. He had never been to either place, and he was excited for this new opportunity to put his training to use for the Air Force.

Airman Gonzaga is an installer with the Maine Air National Guard’s 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS) based in South Portland, Maine.

The 243rd is one of only 16 units nation-

wide that specializes in the engineering and installation of permanent communication infrastructure.

It was this unique specialization that took 10 members of the 243rd EIS to Lajes Field, Portugal, in the summer of 2017 to support an Air Force radio revitalization project.

The mission was led by the Air Force Flight Safety Administration (AFFSA) and included installation teams from the 243rd, 220th, 214th and 202nd Engineering and Installation Squadrons.

Lajes Field is located on the island of Terceira which is one of nine islands that make up the archipelago of islands off the coast of Portugal known as the Azores.

Since the 1940s, the Air Force has shared

Lajes with the Portugese Air Force, and during the cold war it became an important hub for strategic air traffic flying over the Atlantic. With the cold war over, life at Lajes Field got significantly quieter, and for 30 years the Department of Defense (DoD) focused it resources in other geopolitical hotpots.

As the Global War on Terror nears the end of its second decade, increasing tensions in Europe and Northern Africa have made the DoD once again focus its attention on Lajes Field. AFFSA was brought in to oversee the upgrading and replacing of 1950s Air Force technology in favor of equipment more suited for the 21st Century Air Force.

Lajes Field was only the fourth Air Force base to receive the new equipment and would be an important proving ground for the EI community. Their success at



Lajes would help to cement their role in future projects at U.S. installations around the globe.



Members of the 243rd EIS pose with other Airmen from the Engineering and Installation Community in front of the ATC tower at Lajes Field, POR.

equipment with state of the art General Dynamics CM-300 radios, as well as the associated racks and cabling infrastructure.

This would prove to be the most difficult part of the project due to the current equipment being in service and used for both civilian and military operations.

After weeks of prep work and planning, the team was able to execute a smooth cutover during an overnight lull in aircraft movement and handed operational radios back to ATC and the Portuguese Air Force in the early morning hours.

In total, the 243rd EIS installed nine new radio racks, 24 CM-300 radios and thousands of feet of antenna, voice and copper grounding cable, ensuring reliable air operations are maintained in and around Lajes Field.

The remote location of Lajes Field proved to be difficult for the Project Management team and created some unique challenges for the installers. However, the trip was not all work and no play. Being on a volcanic island in the middle of

the Atlantic Ocean gave team members what many described as the experience of a lifetime.

During their downtime, the team was able to explore the island’s landscape, which includes beautiful lush farmland accentuated by dramatic cliffs that plunge into the ocean, as well as the natural swimming holes that had been chiseled into the lava rock by the endless aqua marine water. Additionally, there was ample time to take in the local culture, which consisted of regular street festivals and the exciting Tourada a corda or “Bull on a rope” which seemed to be the pride of the Azorean people.

At the end of the day the 243rd was able to provide a professional service and product to the Air Force, while giving their members an opportunity that they will not soon forget.

It is the goal of AFFSA to use organic EI teams for many more of these types of projects all over the world, proving that Engineering and Installation plays a pivotal role in the Air Force Mission with the 243rd EIS being on the leading edge.



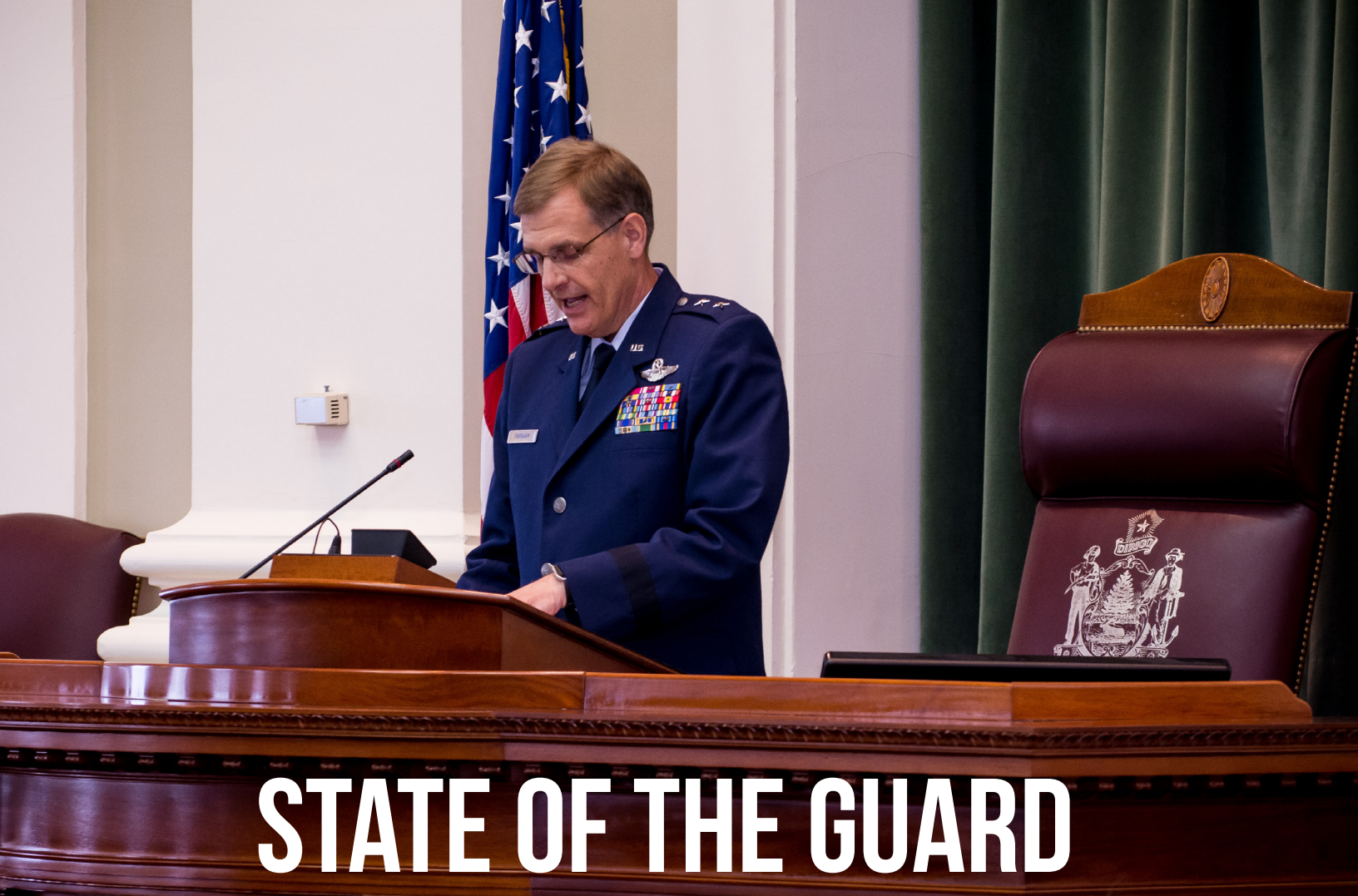
Legacy equipment located in the GATR site prior to the EI team starting their work. Some of the equipment dates back to the 1950s.



Members of the 243rd EIS work to remove old equipment and racks making space for the new CM-300 radios and associated infrastructure.



The finished product included nine new racks, 24 new radios and thousands of feet of new cable all installed by the EI team.



STATE OF THE GUARD

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S ADDRESS TO THE JOINT LEGISLATURE

It is an honor to address this assembled Joint Session. I know the reason I am given this opportunity is due to the respect you have for the commitment and sense of duty of my fellow Airmen, Soldiers and Department civilians. I am honored to have the opportunity to highlight their accomplishments.

We live in an age of uncertainty and we are a nation at war. That is the exact same line I used last year...nothing has changed, except that we may be living in a more dangerous and uncertain world. Just turn on the news or read the recently released National Defense Strategy...the threats are no

secret.

The readiness focus for both the Army and Air National Guard for more than 25 years has been the Central Command theater—Southwest Asia and the Middle East. Now we have been directed to focus readiness on a wider spectrum of threats in other parts of the world.

This requires training, resources and time. Unfortunately we have been challenged by a lack of a federal budget and multiple continuing resolutions. Each continuing resolution comes with portions of last year's dollars and we've been forced to plan

and re-plan.

We've been forced to cancel travel and training. We've planned for multiple federal shutdowns and actually furloughed employees last month. Many folks see our members in uniform and just assume we all fall under military exemption during the government shutdowns.

That is not the case for Guardsman. Our drill training, where most readiness training occurs, is not excepted.

During the January shutdown. Over 100,000 Guardsmen and Reservists across the country had drill cancelled.

We have 3,200 total National Guardsmen in Maine, both Army and Air. While most are traditional citizen Soldiers and Airmen, over 900 are full time.

During the shutdown last month over 500 furlough notices were issued to full time staff whose status or duty was not excepted in the shutdown language. Despite these distractions we remain focused on job number one ...providing ready forces in a dangerous and uncertain world.

The Maine Air National Guard is commanded by Brig General Scott Young with the help of State Command Chief, CMSgt Kelly Hoffses with Airmen serving in Bangor, Augusta and South Portland.

In June, I had the honor of presenting the 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron in South Portland with its seventh Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its significant contributions to the upgrades and enhanced force protection capabilities at US bases in CENTCOM and continuous engineering and installation support to high visibility USAF special programs.

Locally, they supported projects with the Army National Guard and installed 23 communications antennas for MEMA. A recent Inspector General report recognized the unit as "best small unit seen to date".

At this time next year, over thirty members of the 243rd will be deployed.

In September 2017, the 265th Combat Communications Squadron, also located in South Portland, was tasked to deploy the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) in support of Hurricane Maria and Irma recovery operations in the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The seven Airmen from the 265th provided core communications to

include commercial internet network and phone services to Civil Engineering, Army Medical and runway operations.

They experienced a lot of rain and did some important work, but I think the highlight was the ride from US Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico on a FEMA contracted barge. The 265th continues to be busy with over thirty members currently deployed to Africa and Southwest Asia providing cyber and communications support.

The 101st Air Refueling Wing continues to be one of the busiest Air National Guard Wings in the country.

There are a couple primary reasons: Geography and the Air Refueling mission. Our geography is ideal for transient aircraft deploying and redeploying and it is ideal for air refueling aircraft due to the great circle track to Europe and Southwest Asia.

The air refueling mission is critical to almost every aspect of the Air Force mission. Air Refueling makes our Air Force a global Air Force and is one of the most important capabilities for force projection.

The KC-135 is an old aircraft, our newest was built in 1963, but significant upgrades and improvements continue to keep them flying for another couple generations. The other thing that is going to keep them flying is the quality of the Airmen who maintain them.

MSgt Chris Pappas, TSgt Bob Caldwell, and SSgt Jonathan Catell were performing heavy maintenance on their KC-135 while a C-17 Globemaster III, an Air Force cargo aircraft, was doing touch and go's on the airfield. We are not strangers to transient aircraft.

Each year the Guard and City of Bangor coordinate to service about 1000 transients at Bangor International, so

our maintainers are a versatile group.

As the C-17 taxied past and prepared for another take off, MSgt Pappas's experience and situational awareness enabled him to see the C-17 had blown 2 adjacent main landing gear tires and was dragging portions of the tire behind it.

He directed TSgt Caldwell and SSgt Catell to stop the aircraft before it started its high speed take off role. They sprung into action and found the closest truck with a radio that could contact the control tower. They informed the tower that the C-17 had a problems with main landing gear. They then proceeded to follow the aircraft until it stopped to ensure no other debris came off the C-17 and endangered other aircraft at the busy civilian airport.

Attempting to take off with two blown tires would not end well. The swift response of these 3 airmen potentially saved the Air Force a C-17 aircraft and the lives of the aircrew if they had not stopped the C-17 in time. These three Airmen are examples of the experienced and dedicated Airmen in the Maine Air National Guard.

The Wing continues to deploy members at unprecedented rates to both CENTCOM and the Pacific. Last year wing members deployed to Afghanistan, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Djibouti, Niger and Guam.

There is no shortage of challenges, but with the leadership team of Wing Commander, Colonel Frank Roy and Wing Command Chief, CMSgt Dan Moore and their command staff, they continue the MAINEiac tradition and reputation.

That reputation usually provides us some unique opportunities. Over the past decade the majority of our aircraft, aircrew and maintainer deployments have been to Al Udeid AB, in Qatar.

<p>During a large deployment last year and due to our experienced Airmen and reputation, a significant portion of our contingent was forward deployed to Afghanistan. It was the first time any of our crews had operated out of Afghanistan and was a unique and challenging experience.</p>	<p>port of ongoing exercises.</p> <p>In collaboration with the University of Maine’s Climate Change Institute and the Maine North Atlantic Development office, the Maine National Guard has partnered with like-minded cold weather states to address the growing concerns in the Arctic.</p>	<p>that the suspects would be travelling out of state to pick up more drugs for distribution throughout southern Maine.</p> <p>Upon their return, agents were able to seize more than 1.7kg of heroin laced with fentanyl, \$175,000 cash from suspected drug proceeds, several vehicles and ATVs, 2 firearms and the arrest of two individuals. The street value of the heroin and the cash exceeded half a million dollars.</p>	<p>lature has become one of our most important tools.</p> <p>Last year I addressed how the referendum legalizing recreational marijuana complicated enlisting and serving in the military. We send a confusing message to those who want to pursue a military career. Thank you for the time and energy you have spent debating this serious issue.</p>	<p>UMaine with a Major in Interpersonal Communication and a Minor in Psychology. She is now working on her Master’s degree. You wouldn’t think she had a lot of time for other activities...but one thing she found time for was to compete in Miss Maine USA 2018 pageant. This was her first pageant ever—and she won. So this year she will be competing in the State competition to be the Maine NCO of the year and also competing in the Miss USA pageant.</p>	<p>General Joshua Chamberlain once wrote about soldiers willingness to serve out of a loyalty to the “great ideas” they “firmly believed to be vital elements of our Union.” He called them “the constructive principles by which our freedom should be realized.”</p>
<p>LTC Brian Risley was given this responsibility as the detachment commander and the successful execution of the mission freed up valuable air refueling assets for other missions.</p>	<p>Last year we helped form the National Guard Arctic Interest Council to codify the National Guard as a force provider for the Arctic, share situational awareness on issues related to the Arctic and conduct joint interagency exercises that will help us prepare for cold weather contingency operations.</p>	<p>We all know that law enforcement alone is not going to solve this epidemic. We were excited last year to reestablish a three person civil operations team charged with building relationships and working with community based prevention organizations.</p>	<p>Despite these challenges, please don’t get the wrong idea about the quality of Soldiers and Airmen that we are recruiting. One thing that has changed the most during my time in the military is the education and technical skills of our force. It is quite impressive.</p>	<p>One hundred years ago in February of 1918, Maine National Guard soldiers entered the Western Front of World War I. Two Maine Guard units, consisting of over 3500 men became part of the famed Yankee Division. This was the first deployment of National Guard soldiers in federal service fighting alongside their active duty counterparts.</p>	<p>As Mainers we have always been proud of the commitment to service that has been our tradition in every conflict.</p>
<p>The Maine Army National Guard is commanded by Brig Gen Tim Corbett with Command Sergeant Major Scott Doyon as the Senior Enlisted leader and Chief Warrant Officer Five Darrell Stevens, the Command Chief Warrant Officer.</p>	<p>As the council’s Vice Chair, Maine will host a conference at our Regional Training Institute in Bangor later this year to further coordinate these efforts. Our geography dictates that we must be part of the conversion when the Arctic is discussed.</p>	<p>Since that time this team has begun work with three coalitions, participated in a Drug Take Back Day in October with another planned in April, and is laying the ground work to broaden community outreach abilities.</p>	<p>Of our 3200 Soldiers and Airmen, over 500 have Bachelors degrees and over 160 have Masters degrees or higher. Nearly half of all our Soldiers and Airmen have some documented college attendance. A1C Shawn Goddard, a recent ANG enlistee in the Communication/Navigation section in aircraft maintenance, graduated from his Basic Military Training course last month.</p>	<p>It was a Maine National Guardsman from Madison, Private Ralph Spaulding, who was the first National Guardsman to be killed in battle. Over 175 Maine Guardsmen paid the ultimate sacrifice while nearly a thousand were wounded in action.</p>	<p>Maine citizens understand these great ideas and that these constructive principles are worth defending. I think it is important to remember that this generation is no different. We have been at war for over 17 years, some would say longer.</p>
<p>Since 2001, the MEARNG mobilized over 6,000 Soldiers in support of Homeland defense; combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; and Global stability operations in Africa, Kuwait, Kosovo, and Qatar.</p>	<p>We continue our strong partnership with local law enforcement in the battle against Maine’s opioid epidemic, providing case and criminal analyst support to drug related law enforcement agencies including seven Maine Drug Enforcement Agency offices and the Maine Information and Analysis Center.</p>	<p>Our partnership with Montenegro continues to be strong and mutually beneficial. The highlight this year was the actual accession of Montenegro as a full-fledged member of NATO.</p>	<p>His class started with approximately 820 recruits which through attrition dropped to 771 at graduation. Only 10% are selected as Honor Graduates. One is selected as the Top Graduate...our own, A1C Shawn Goddard.</p>	<p>When these Soldiers returned home to Maine they became the community leaders of the next several generations; building Maine through industry, labor, veteran organizations, politics and continued National Guard service.</p>	<p>We live in a dangerous time. Yet, Mainers from all across the state continue to join the Maine Army and Air National Guard. Despite the high operations tempo and deployments that strain families and employers, they continue to enlist and reenlist.</p>
<p>Currently we have Soldiers serving in Kabul, Afghanistan supporting NATO command operations and a fixed-wing aircraft unit providing support to the Middle East.</p>	<p>We provided direct support for over 500 cases by conducting background investigations, database inquiries, Mobile Device Forensics and producing intelligence products.</p>	<p>I know it was a lot of hard work for Montenegro and it is rewarding that they appreciate the help of Maine Soldiers and Airmen in their achievement. The Montenegrins are still hoping that Governor LePage can accept their invitation to visit Montenegro so they can thank him in person for our assistance.</p>	<p>SGT Marina Gray joined the ARNG at age 17 after graduating from high school early. She was active in high school in student council and class president.</p>	<p>The Maine Guard recognizes their sacrifice and will honor their courage during this 100th anniversary of World War I by participating in Centennial events. Our command historian, Capt John Bratten, went to France to help tell the story of our Maine Guard members in a Smithsonian Channel documentary. Last year, we participated in events in Maine and Massachusetts that marked New England’s role in the war. This year we are planning to participate in Maine and Army events, both in the US and overseas.</p>	<p>Most of our Soldiers and Airmen have never known the military not at war in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, or wherever we need to be to fight violent extremism or deter those who would threaten our constructive principles. I thank them for their service.</p>
<p>We are proud of these deployed Soldiers under the command of Colonel Bryan Ouellette and Command Sgt Major Jim Tash as they support the allies and fellow soldiers in Operation Resolute Support.</p>	<p>In January 2017 a MENG Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) analyst assisted with a heroin trafficking case. The analyst’s research in the case included searching for information through several databases and social networking sites and reviewing cell phone data.</p>	<p>Recruiting and retention continues to be critical to the future. A shrinking population of 17-24 year olds along with all the eligibility challenges that I’ve discussed for the last few years will continue to challenge recruiting and retention. Our Tuition Assistance program passed in the 127th Legis-</p>	<p>She enrolled in the University of Maine because she knew that education was key to a successful future. In her five year ARNG career she has been named her unit Soldier of the Year and in 2017 she received the Non Commissioned Officer of the Year award for her Company.</p>	<p>I appreciate the opportunity to give you an update on the Bureau of Veterans Services, Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Maine National Guard.</p>	<p>We have a Department and National Guard full of talented people who have chosen to serve the State of Maine and Nation. I am honored to serve beside them as your Adjutant General.</p>
<p>They are giving the Afghan people a chance to create a country where terrorism and violent extremism doesn’t survive and therefore creating a safer world.</p>	<p>The analyst was able to provide information that helped agents determine</p>		<p>This December she graduated from</p>		<p>Thank you</p>
<p>Over the next year the Maine Army National Guard will mobilize Soldiers to Afghanistan for Air Medivac; to Department of Defense Cyber Operations; and, to Eastern Europe in sup-</p>					

MAINE NATIONAL GUARD COMPETES AT REGIONAL BIATHALON CHAMPIONSHIP

Members of the Maine National Guard Biathlon traveled to Jericho, Vermont in January to take part in the Regional Biathlon Championships. 1st Lt. Elizabeth Boynton and Master Sgt. Jen MacGillivray brought home a first place finish for the Maine Army National Guard Biathlon team. MacGillivray brought home gold medals in the Women's Master Pursuit and the Women's Master Sprint. Boynton received a silver medal for the women's sprint and pursuit. (Photos courtesy of Maine Army National Guard Biathlon Team)



Staff Sgt. Mathieu Delaney (top photo) and 1st Lt. Jonathon Hobbs (bottom photo) also represented Maine at the event. The regionals consisted of two sprint races each for the men and women's categories. The men complete three laps adding up to ten kilometers, shooting five shots while prone after the first lap, five shots while standing after the second lap, then finishing on the third lap. The woman's is the same but the distance is only 7.5 kilometers. (Photos courtesy of Maine Army National Guard Biathlon Team)



Master Sgt. Jennifer MacGillivray prepares for her first round of target shooting. After skiing 7.5 kilometers, she has five shots at her target. Any missed shots mean a lap around the penalty circle. (Photo courtesy of the Maine National Guard Biathlon Team.)



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A U.S. Air Force hydraulics journeyman of the 101st Air Refueling Wing Maintenance Squadron repair and replace a leading edge flap actuator on a KC-135R Stratotanker during one of the coldest weeks recorded over the last 40 years at the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, Jan. 2, 2018. The temperature of 8.1 below zero and a windchill factor of 11.9 below zero does not stop the maintainers from performing the needed repairs. (Photo courtesy of the 101st Air Refueling Wing.)



DEFYING THE ODDS: FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO NATIONAL COMPETITOR AND ADVOCATE

PHOTOS AND STORY BY SGT. SARAH MYRICK,
PAGEANT PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLEMENTE PRODUCTIONS.

Sgt. Marina Gray, a petroleum supply specialist with the Maine Army National Guard earned the title of Miss Maine, USA on November 26, 2017. Gray will go on to compete at the national level Miss USA pageant this summer for a chance to represent the United States in the Miss Universe pageant.

The Mount Desert Island native comes from humble beginnings overcoming many challenges she says helped shape her into the strong, independent woman she is today.

“I felt when I was younger that I wouldn’t be able to achieve what I wanted because I came from a low income family,” said Gray. “I didn’t think my life would be as fruitful as it has been, but I just kept fighting for a better life.”

Gray said above all she wants to give hope to children who grow up in situations like hers. They can still go after what they want and should never feel like they can’t achieve their goals.

“I left home when I was 16 years old,” said Gray. “When I joined the Army at 17, the military immediately became my family and has supported me through the years.”

Gray became legally responsible for herself through the emancipa-



tion process and graduated from high school in just three years. She left for Army basic combat training two months after her 17th birthday.

“I definitely think the military helped shape me into the hard working, moral person that I am,” said Gray. “I’m thankful that I have the military in my life and everyone backing me.”

Gray has been in the Maine Army National Guard for five years. She spends one weekend a month with the 133rd Engineer Battalion’s Forward Support Company in Brunswick.

“Once I put my military uniform on that is what takes precedence over my life,” said Gray. “I know that the military comes first and it always will.”

On a typical drill weekend Gray and her fellow soldiers conduct bulk transfers for different units throughout the state, including dropping off anywhere from 200-1000 gallons of fuel to help support other units.

She also conducts truck maintenance, preventative maintenance checks and service on vehicles, driver’s training, load handling system training, flat rack loading and unloading, convoy operations and



battle drills.

“It’s a lot of hands-on work,” said Gray. “We’re normally out working on the vehicles and making sure they’re up to standard and making sure that everyone is proficient in driving them.”

Gray joined the National Guard to help pay for college. In addition to her military duties, she worked as waitress while she attended the University of Maine in Orono. She balanced a full course load with both jobs and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Communication.

Gray was inspired to enter pageantry by Deshauna Barber, the 2016 Miss USA title holder who, at the time, was currently serving as a captain in the United States Army Reserve. Barber was the first Miss USA to actively serve in the United States military.

“Pageantry was never something I imagined myself doing, but I think this is going to take me exactly where I want to go with my career,” said Gray. “I’m super excited.”

Gray said there’s a lot of media interaction involved in pageantry and she’s excited about the networking opportunities she’ll have with the Miss Maine title.

She started prepping three months before the pageant and committed every single day to gaining experience walking in high heels and learning about stage hair and makeup.

“I’ve always been afraid that physical beauty can overtake who you are as a person and I now understand that’s not true,” said Gray. “You can be both. You can take charge of your beauty and it’s nothing to be ashamed of. You should never be ashamed of feeling beautiful.”

Gray said she received a lot of help from the other women competing with her. She discovered that many women competing in the pageant had overcome adversities of their own.

“It’s really worth it to get to know the women you’re competing with because they’re amazing,” said Gray. “The pageant system is a platform for them to share their stories and get other women to feel confident with who they are.”

Gray said she’s excited to compete on the USA stage and represent Maine.

“I’m thankful for the opportunity as a whole,” said Gray. “It’s honestly an amazing community of people.”

Gray said she’s excited to inspire other young women to join the military. They can still be as feminine as they want and not be afraid of what other people think. They should still go after whatever profession it is they want, even in a male dominated career field.

“It’s been extremely overwhelming to have people tell me they are inspired by my story,” said Gray, “It’s motivating me to continue this journey of sharing and helping other people.”



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Programs and Benefits Subject to Change



Spc. Nathan Boutot, a Soldier assigned to the 262nd Engineer Company in Westbrook, fires an M2 .50 caliber machine gun simulator on March 3, 2018.

The simulator allows Soldiers to conduct realistic weapons training to improve proficiency before going to the range. (UPAR photo by Maj. Norm Stickney)



the BAYONET

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