

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Fall/Winter 2020

GUARDSMAN

MAGAZINE



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
GUIDES GUARD
THROUGH PANDEMIC**

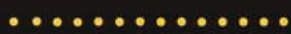
**GUARDSMEN
STAFF 13
VACCINATION SITES**

**PEASE KC-46A
PEGASUS REFUELS
BLUE ANGELS**

Referral Incentives

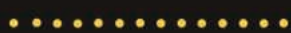


1 Enlistment



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2 Enlistments



K-bar Knife and Mount

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Adjutant General of the N.H. National Guard

Brig. Gen. John LeBlanc
Commander of the N.H. Army National Guard

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

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

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

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Cover Photo: Maj. Troy Townsend, director of psychological health, NHARNG, poses with therapy dog, Cache, Dec. 9 at the Concord military reservation. Townsend visits guardsmen with Cache, a 9-year-old retired sled dog from Alaska, during the work day.

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



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MESSAGE TO THE FORCE

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

As we take a much-earned pause to enjoy the holidays with our family and friends, I want to commend you for persevering through an extraordinary year.

2020 truly has been the Year of the Guard.

Never before has a governor called on his citizen-soldiers and airmen to support such an enduring and complex relief effort in our own backyard. You have exceeded every challenge during what has been the largest, and longest, Guard call-up for a noncombat event in our nation's history.

Since March, more than 740 New Hampshire guardsmen have been on orders supporting COVID-19 relief operations across the state. At our busiest, we were supporting eight different lines of effort. Collectively, you did more than just your job, whether it was PPE distribution, testing, or lending a hand to the NH Food Bank. You played an invaluable role in protecting the health and safety of the citizens of New Hampshire.

In the midst of mask protocols, school closures and restricted travel, we continued to train, deploy multiple units and field new airframes at Pease. More importantly, we sustained our readiness and core warfighting skills, surpassing the most optimistic expectations.

Under our mission triad of Fighting and Winning America's Wars, Securing the Homeland, and Building Enduring Partnerships, you rose to the occasion every time. This month alone we've again almost doubled the number of activated soldiers and airmen to just under 400. In addition to supporting the state's vaccination plan, we began new missions at the state veterans home and prison, and for the second time stood up a 211 call center at the Pembroke training center. In the New Year, more of you will be activated to support the state's vaccination plan for distribution to the general population.

Task Force Sentinels, under the command of LTC Ken Kruger and CSM James Westgate, are well into their deployment in support of the Southwest Border Mission in southern California. Eight NHANG airmen stationed in the United Arab Emirates continue to support multiple operations across the CENTCOM area of responsibility. On Christmas Eve, they spoke live with Peter St. James during a special broadcast on WNTK 99.7 FM (<https://www.wntk.com/>).

On behalf of Governor Sununu, our congressional delegation, and the citizens of New Hampshire, thanks for your hard work, dedication and living the Guard motto of being, "Always Ready, Always There." During this holiday season, take time to reflect and spend time with your families and friends. Remain vigilant and look out for each other. There is more work to be done in 2021.

Sincerely,

Major General David Mikolaities
Adjutant General
New Hampshire National Guard

PEASE REFUELS BLUE ANGELS FOR ARMY-NAVY GAME FLYOVER

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

A Pease aircrew performed their first-ever KC-46A aerial refueling of the Blue Angels on Dec. 12 in support of their flyover for the annual Army-Navy football game at West Point.

“It’s not a mission that comes up very often,” said Tech. Sgt. Keith Prochaska, a boom operator with the 133rd Air Refueling Squadron.

The Pegasus and another from McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, escorted and refueled the seven U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornets from Georgia to New York.

The mission demanded a massive offload of fuel. Though two tankers were tasked, the 133rd planned to fly solo, if necessary.

“We took it upon ourselves to max-load our airplane,” Prochaska said. “Our airplane by itself can give 130,000 pounds of gas. So we can accommodate all seven Blue Angels for both air refuelings. So if McConnell’s airplane breaks, we can basically do the mission without them.”

The decision meant pushing the Pegasus to its limits.

“This new aircraft gives us greater range, greater capabilities and is going to change the way the Air Force flies,” said Capt. John Richman, one of four pilots on board. “We took off at our max gross weight of 415,000 pounds, which was one of the few times the KC-46 has done this operationally.”

The tanker, call sign “Pack 91,” ultimately rendezvoused with

McConnell’s “Medusa” as planned and took turns refueling the blue and yellow fighters in reserved airspace at about 25,000 feet.

“Think of it like a highway in the sky reserved just for us,” Prochaska explained. “There’s no commercial airline traffic coming through us. There’s no other military assets coming through. It’s a time and airspace that’s reserved just for our air refueling operations. And we booked that like you would book track time at a racetrack. It’s ours. Nobody else can use it.”

Prochaska marveled over the advances in refueling since the 1950s-era KC-135 Stratotanker, the KC-46’s predecessor. He used to lie in the prone position to operate manual, line-of-sight controls through an opening at the plane’s tail. By contrast, he refueled each Blue Angel while seated remotely near the cockpit with video game-like 3D touchscreen controls.

“The technological leap is insane,” Prochaska said. “It’s like getting in a classic car, then getting in a brand new vehicle.”

Between refuelings, the aircrew crowded in front of pie plate-sized windows and snapped cellphone pictures of the Super Hornets as they cruised closely to the tips of the tanker’s wings. “It’s pretty exciting,” Prochaska said.

The Navy’s Blue Angels are one of the oldest aerobatic units in the world and perform across the country before millions of spectators. Their mission aims to inspire “... a culture of excellence and service to country through flight demonstrations and community outreach.” But their Pease-assisted flyover at Michie Stadium couldn’t prevent a less-than-inspiring 15 – 0 Navy loss to perennial gridiron foe, Army.

The game’s outcome didn’t detract from yet another trailblazing effort as Pease implements its new weapons system.

“We got them there and back,” Prochaska said. “There’s a lot of firsts with this aircraft. It’s a feather in the cap.”

Tech. Sgt. Keith Prochaska, a boom operator with the 157th Air Refueling Wing, NHANG, works the controls of a refueling drogue aboard a KC-46A Pegasus during a refueling of Blue Angels F/A-18 Super Hornets.

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



A KC-46A tanker from the 157th Air Refueling Wing, Pease ANG Base, N.H. and one from McConnell AFB, Kan. escort Blue Angels F/A-18 Super Hornets on Dec. 12 from Georgia to West Point, N.Y.

Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Gordon, Blue Angels PA.



Two F/A-18 Super Hornets of the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron fly alongside a Pease KC-46A Pegasus refueler Dec. 12 in Georgia airspace. The Pease aircrew teamed with another KC-46A and crew from McConnell AFB, Kan.

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



NO WRONG DOOR

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

A year unlike any other in our modern history.

Since March, more than 700 New Hampshire National Guardsmen have been activated for pandemic relief efforts across the state. From food pantries and PPE warehouses to test sites, they have answered the call.

And through each mission, behavioral health professionals have shepherded soldiers and airmen during quarantines, travel restrictions, social distancing and lockdowns. “We’ve had great visibility on our soldiers throughout this time,” said Maj. Troy Townsend, director of psychological health for the NHARNG. “A preventative approach versus a reactive is more preferred.”

Townsend, with his therapy dog “Cache,” was hired about 11 months ago—just in time to help guide the NHARNG through the pandemic. He consults leadership and steers clients directly to psychological health services. “Soldiers can come to me directly,” Townsend said. “But a commonality is peer network, soldier to soldier. I’m a resource for access.”

He’s been especially impressed with how soldiers have looked out for each another. “The New Hampshire National Guard can be proud of mitigating some significant mental health crisis events during COVID because soldiers have been proactive about staying connected to one another,” Townsend said. “This connectedness has led to identifying issues before they become severe.”

But guardsmen haven’t been impervious to the stressors of pandemic life. Donald Roussel, the director of psychological health for the 157th Air Refueling Wing at Pease, has been with the organization since 2015 and has noticed a concerning trend. “We’ve seen an increase in alcohol consumption; in cases of parental stress and work-life balance and generalized COVID fatigue,” Roussel said.

In providing guidance to services and support as needed, he offers some basic, stress-reducing advice. “I’ve noticed some who are super focused on COVID news,” Roussel said. “Minimize contact with news feeds and seek more trusted news sources for information.”

Working hand in hand with psychological health has been the NH Guard’s chaplain corps. It has helped commanders check on troops and ensure their well-being since COVID-19 missions began in late March.

“When people experience isolation, you can see an uptick in suicidal thoughts,” said Capt. Duston Thomas, a part-time chaplain with the 157th ARW since 2003. “I have not seen that in our airmen because they’re getting up, getting out of the house,



Maj. Troy Townsend, director of psychological health, NHARNG, goes for a morning jaunt through the snow with therapy dog, Cache, on Dec. 9 at the Concord military reservation. Cache is a retired sled dog from Alaska.

they’re doing meaningful work. They feel a sense of accomplishment being able to contribute to our community and state.”

Thomas said his counsel serves as a reminder of the “presence of the sacred,” which he stresses can benefit all guardsmen, regardless of religious preference. “We do have something to offer everyone,” Thomas said. “Atheists say, ‘Come on, chaplain. Why would I come see you?’” Thomas replies, “You won’t know until you come.” So far, he’s been impressed with people supporting people. “I think they’ve done a great job of being wingmen for each other,” Thomas said.

Col. Steven Veinotte, a full-time chaplain with 54th Troop Command in Concord, said communication between behavioral health professionals is key. “We all talk, appropriately,” Veinotte said. “We all share. We know what resources are available to folks to meet the needs if needs arise, and we’ve been able to kind of all pull in the same direction and communicate with each other on what needs to happen. There’s been a good support network.”

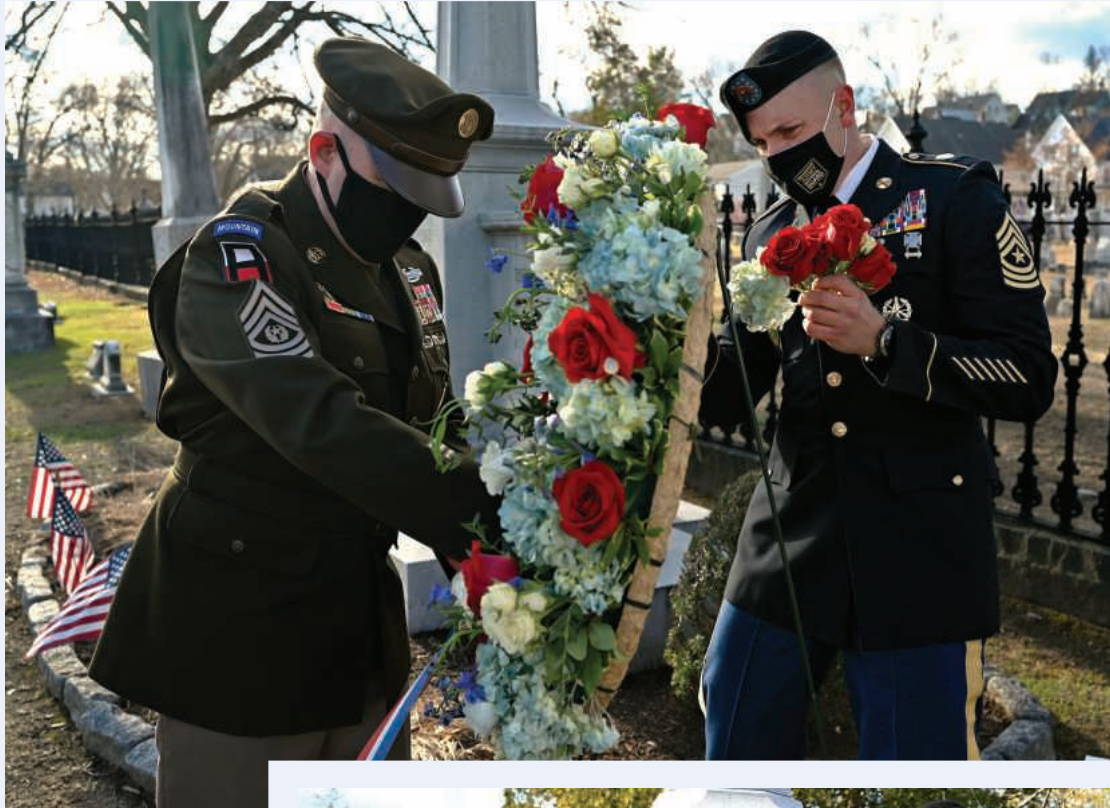
As social isolation, lockdowns and quarantines extend through the winter, Roussel said it’s imperative that people understand there is no stigma attached to asking for help.

“People worry about ‘if I see the director of psychological health, will it ruin my career,’” Roussel said. “And that’s a myth. People will go to the doctor if they have a broken arm, but if they’re overwhelmed and stressed, some won’t come to mental health for fear of being kicked out. Our services are here. Just let us know when and if you need something.”

He also stressed the importance of good sleep, a healthy diet, exercise and seeking social connection to strengthen resiliency. Guardsmen in need of assistance can seek services directly on their own or through their chain of command. “There’s no wrong door,” Townsend said. “We’ll get the support they need.”

CEREMONY COMMEMORATES 14TH US PRESIDENT

A graveside ceremony commemorated President Franklin Pierce's 216th birthday on Nov. 24 at Concord's Old North Cemetery. New Hampshire Guardsmen and the Pierce Brigade led the wreath-laying service. Pierce was in office from 1853 to 1857 and is the only New Hampshire resident to be elected president.



Command Sgt. Maj. Sage Ladieu, 54th Troop Command, and Sgt. Maj. Caleb Smith, 197th Field Artillery Brigade, NHARNG, arrange for the annual Franklin Pierce Wreath Laying Ceremony

Thomas Fisk, vice president of the local Pierce Brigade, and Sgt. Maj. Caleb Smith, 197th Field Artillery Brigade, NHARNG, place a floral wreath at the grave of Franklin Pierce.





An Honor Guard comprising NHNG soldiers and airmen perform during the ceremony. From left is Staff Sgt. John Nedeau, Sgt. 1st Class William Martin, Master Sgt. Robert Rojek, Senior Airman Igor Machado Nunez and Command Sgt. Maj. Sage Ladieu.

Sgt. 1st Class William Martin, Joint Force Headquarters, NHARNG, unfurls Old Glory.



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

The 157th Air Refueling Wing's newest KC-46A refuelers cool down after arriving at Pease Air National Guard Base on Nov. 6. Two more were also delivered Dec. 12, bringing Pease's inventory to 11.

Photo by Tech Sgt. Aaron Vezeau, 157th ARW Public Affairs.



Capt. Jordan Gauvin, right, a pilot assigned to the 133rd Air Refueling Squadron, 157th Air Refueling Wing, NHANG, briefs **Chief Master Sgt. Maurice Williams**, command chief, Air National Guard, on various instrument panels during a KC-46A tour at Pease Air National Guard Base, Dec. 5. The Chief visited Pease to meet with airmen and find out the needs of the 157th, as it continues to implement the new KC-46A refueler and conversion process.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Vezeau, 157th ARW PA.

NEW HAMPSHIRE GUARD **SNAPSHOTS**



Capt. Nicholas Smallwood of Pease Fire and Emergency Services and Firefighter **Michael Surette**, assigned to the 157th Air Refueling Wing, lower **Tech. Sgt. Eric Diaz** from a KC-46A Pegasus during an aircraft mishap training exercise Oct. 4 at Pease Air National Guard Base.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Taylor Queen, NHANG JFHQ PA.

FINDING DIRECTION

Trainees search for points on a map during a land navigation course Nov. 7 at the NHARNG Recruit Training Company in Center Strafford.

Photo by Sgt. Brianna Passi, 197th FAB PA NCOIC.



VIPS VISIT TASK FORCE DISTRO

Governor Chris Sununu and VA Secretary Robert Wilkie wait with New Hampshire guardsmen for the arrival of a PPE flight Nov. 20 at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

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



BELT-FED FUN

Pfc. Cameron Barbone, a supply specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion of the 197th Field Artillery, qualifies with a .50-caliber Browning machine gun Nov. 7 at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Vt.

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



WICKED DOPE

Spc. Dominique Ketchie, 744th Transportation Company, NHARNG, keeps an eye on 8.42 tons of expired and unused prescriptions at a secure disposal site Oct. 26 during the state's Drug Take-Back Day. The drugs were hauled by Light Medium Tactical Vehicles (LMTVs). Initiated through DEA in 2010, the biannual event allows residents to safely dispose of their medications.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Rick Frost, NHNG CDTF.





Maj. Jason Longval, incoming commander, Joint Force Headquarters, NHARNG, poses with his wife and children following a small change of command ceremony Dec. 5 in Concord. From left is **Chocoria, Jill and Moriah Longval**.

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

ANG DIRECTOR VISITS PEASE

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, director, Air National Guard, bumps elbows with **Tech. Sgt. Kayla McWalter**, a production recruiter with the 157th Air Refueling Wing, NHANG, during a visit to Pease Air National Guard Base on Dec. 5. Loh met with airmen and senior leaders to discuss their experience operating a new refueler, the KC-46A Pegasus.

Courtesy photo.



LOH AND BEHOLD

Staff Sgt. John Woodward, right, a metals technician with the 157th Maintenance Group, 157th Air Refueling Wing, NHANG, showcases to **Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh**, director, Air National Guard, the unit's innovative use of 3D printing to solve KC-46A maintenance challenges during a base tour Dec. 5 at Pease Air National Guard Base. Loh visited Pease to meet with Airmen and find out the needs of the 157th Air Refueling Wing as it continues the KC-46A conversion process.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Vezeau, 157th ARW PA.



SMELL TEST

Spc. Andrea Ferdinando, a mechanic with the 744th Forward Support Company, sprays a scented aerosol to test the fit of a mask worn by **Sarah Stanley** at the NH State Veterans Home in Tilton. Ferdinando is one of about 10 NH guardsmen currently assigned to the home to assist with pandemic-related duties ranging from the testing of staff and residents to general maintenance and cleaning. Stanley is the public information officer for the Veterans Home.

Photo by NHNG Public Affairs.



BORDERING ON

A socially distanced deployment ceremony for 45 soldiers of the NHARNG's 3643d Brigade Support Battalion is live streamed for family and friends Sept. 29 at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke. The soldiers deployed in support the Southwest Border Mission.

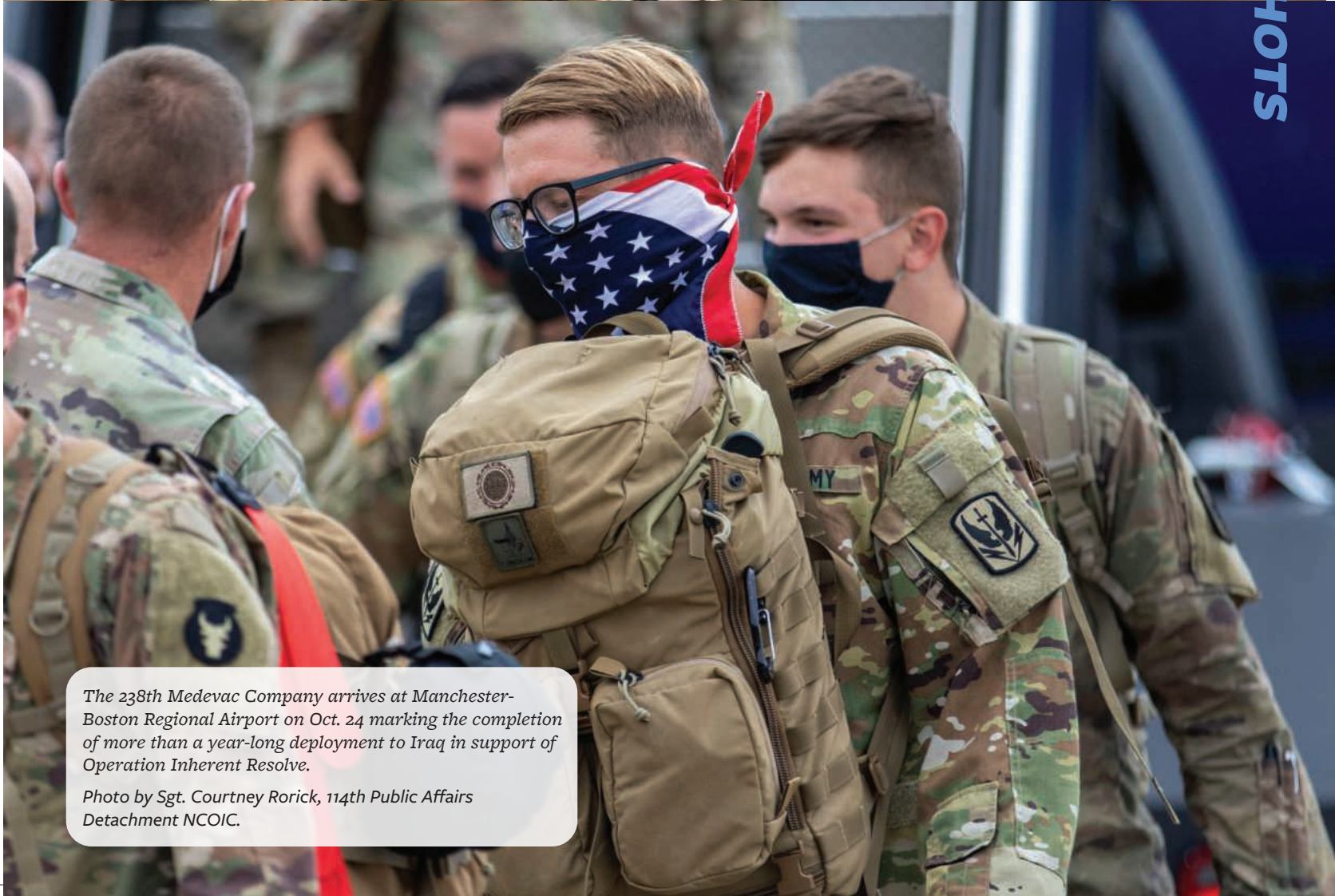
Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO.





Joanne Wernig fastens her daughter's new rank during a promotion ceremony Nov. 9 at Joint Force Headquarters in Concord. **Master Sgt. Arian Wernig** will assume her new duties as first sergeant of Headquarters and Service Company, 3643d Brigade Support Battalion.

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



The 238th Medevac Company arrives at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport on Oct. 24 marking the completion of more than a year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

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

GUARDSMEN STAFF 13 VACCINATION SITES

By Staff Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO

Thirteen vaccination sites officially opened for New Hampshire first responders and high-risk ambulatory care providers Dec. 29.

Teams of guardsmen were assigned to each site to manage traffic, logistics and administer vaccines.

“We’ve been able to rotate people through very regularly, very easily,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Boisvert, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Exeter site. “From the time you drive in, to the time you get your vaccination to actually leaving, you’re probably only here for about 20 minutes.”

Guardsmen funneled cars through security control points, confirmed appointments and checked IDs. Patients were then directed to a main lot, parked, and received vaccines from within their vehicles. After a 15-minute observation period, the process was complete.

Despite a successful first day, the process is in its infancy and expected to improve.

“We’re just going to get better as time goes on,” said Capt. James Miller, officer in charge at the Exeter location. “Today is day one.”

Miller was activated earlier this month to command a team of 11 soldiers and airmen for the first phase of vaccinations—one

of over 100 New Hampshire guardsmen currently on pandemic relief orders.

“We’re certainly doing something for the betterment of society,” Miller said. “We’re trying to take care of the community and make sure we can go back to normal as soon as possible.”

One of his most experienced soldiers is Spc. Madalyn Stella, a combat medic who has been activated since April at COVID-19 testing sites. Her latest assignment entails a unique dynamic.

“Vaccinating people in their cars, like we’re at McDonald’s and just handing them fries is pretty insane,” Stella said, “But it’s actually going really well. Being a field medic, I’m used to outside stuff. But administering drugs, like a vaccine outside, is pretty uncommon—even for the Army.”

Stella is prepared to remain on active duty orders until the mission is completed.

“We’re soldiers and we just carry on and carry on,” Stella said “And then when you take a second you’re like, ‘Wow, I’m part of this bigger picture, and it’s pretty incredible.’ We’ll get through this one day at a time.”



Spc. Madalyn Stella, a combat medic with 197th Field Artillery, emerges from a medical tent with a COVID-19 vaccine for an awaiting patient Dec. 29 in Exeter. Stella is one of 11 NH guardsmen assigned to the vaccination station, one of 13 across the state. She’s been on active duty orders since last April.

RUNNING OFF THE GRID

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

Every fall, the Army highlights reducing energy consumption at our facilities at home and in theater, while increasing efficiency and reducing costs.

The New Hampshire National Guard makes this a point of emphasis year-round.

“A while ago, the Army started moving towards renewable energy and energy reduction in the military,” said Maj. Logan Kenney, design and construction branch chief. “So we focused on Center Strafford, our training site, trying to bring down the water and energy usage to net zero.”

Nestled amidst farmland, rolling hills and colonial-era houses, the Center Strafford site was once home to a scholastic academy established in the early 1900s. After the school closed its doors, the Guard acquired the sprawling 100-acre campus in the ‘80s.

Myriad renovations and improvements have been made to the property over the years, to include a shooting range and an obstacle course.

But only recently has a commitment to energy efficiency and resiliency been undertaken. Net-zero consumption was the desired end state: limiting energy usage equal to or less than the amount of renewable energy created on site. As plans developed, goals were adjusted slightly to align with current technologies and expected energy consumption.

“It’s not really achievable to be net zero in the military, because

you’re always using energy from somewhere,” Kenney said.

“We have training needs. We can’t actually have a building not function and meet our requirements for computers, digital trainers, etc., so we focused on near net zero. We’re trying to do it for the campus by doing that with renewable energies and focusing on solar panels, primarily.”

The project first added photovoltaic (PV) arrays of solar panels to the rooftops of five structures. A massive ground-mounted system was then erected near the outdoor shooting range. Around campus, even streetlamps were affixed with small PV panels.

Energy credits are accrued through a local power company for every kilowatt generated by the solar arrays. At a cost of about \$3 million, the return on investment is expected to take about 21 years. But the option exists to power directly from the panels, if necessary.

“There is enough [energy] to offset at least one of the buildings in operation,” Kenney said.

That one building is the site’s maintenance and operations center, a 3,000-square-foot structure known as Cooper House.

“Cooper House was the final phase for the solar that’s currently installed out there,” said Warrant Officer Ben Stevens, construction project manager. “We wanted to bundle it all together and put it into a building where it was easily measurable against that near net-zero kind of concept. Anything that’s produced in those solar panels on the rest of the site, in theory, offsets the power requirement and consumption of just Cooper House.”

To be a worthy recipient of the site’s solar energy production, big changes were in order.

“It was basically a full renovation of the building to make it more superiorly insulated,” said Ken Coombs, state architect.

The 2018 renovation was deemed an essential part of the plan, which stripped the old house right down to the studs.

“The near net zero doesn’t just come from the production of the solar balance production consumption of that building,” Stevens explained. “It’s a combination. It’s an equation of everything we’ve done in that building. The walls were spray foamed. There’s a full-building envelope. There is no thermal break in that building or thermal conductivity from the inside to the outside, to include underneath the floors in many of the renovated spaces. And that makes it a tighter building.”

So tight in fact that specific air-exchange and ventilation units were installed just get inside.

continues on next page



The New Hampshire National Guard Training Site in Center Strafford rests on a sprawling 100-acre lot that was formerly a scholastic academy built in the early 1900s. The facility is moving toward energy resiliency with myriad renovations to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels.

“If you were to go inside that building on a high or a low-pressure day, you would have to force the door open, because it almost creates its own little vacuum inside it,” Stevens said.

The heating, ventilation and air conditioning system was also replaced with electric heat pumps, which basically employ technology similar to air conditioners and refrigerators. “There’s no fossil fuel consumption in that building,” Stevens boasted. “We disconnected all the propane tanks.”

Moving forward, the next phase of the plan entails installation of a 50,000-gallon water tank and an on-site treatment system, Kenney said. No outside resources will be needed to operate it.

The not-too-distant future might also employ wind power. But for now, preliminary studies suggest conventional wind turbines won’t maximize airflows distorted by nearby Parker Mountain.

“The wind changes direction too often,” Kenney said. “Because it keeps moving degrees and speed, we could get wind, but we would not harvest enough energy to warrant the cost of a project.”

In the meantime, the site’s PV panel production versus the exact energy consumption of Cooper House is being analyzed



The “Cooper House” has been repurposed as the operations center of the NHNG Training Site in Center Strafford. The old 3,000-square-foot farmhouse was retrofitted with new windows, heavy spray foam insulation and heat pumps that enables it to run off just the solar electricity produced on site.

and evaluated with new, high-tech software. And while near net zero is the still the target, the future holds loftier goals.

“Theoretically to run completely off the grid, that’s sort of what we were looking towards,” Kenney said.

Photovoltaic panels are affixed to training bays at the NHNG Training Site in Center Strafford. The panels produce enough power to run the facility’s operation center, known as Cooper House.



TASK FORCE MEDICAL SURPASSES 100,000 COVID-19 TESTS

Story and photo by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC

Task Force Medical today collected its 100,000th COVID-19 test, a significant accomplishment for what has been an unprecedented activation for the New Hampshire National Guard.

“100k is a big milestone,” said Maj. Daniel O’Brien, commander of TF Medical, which comprises both New Hampshire Army and Air guardsmen. “It represents a lot of hard work and an ongoing commitment to see this through with our state partners.”

As positive cases rise across the state and nation, the Guard’s COVID-19 testing teams have seen a substantial uptick in public demand for the testing. Appointments have more than quadrupled from last month.

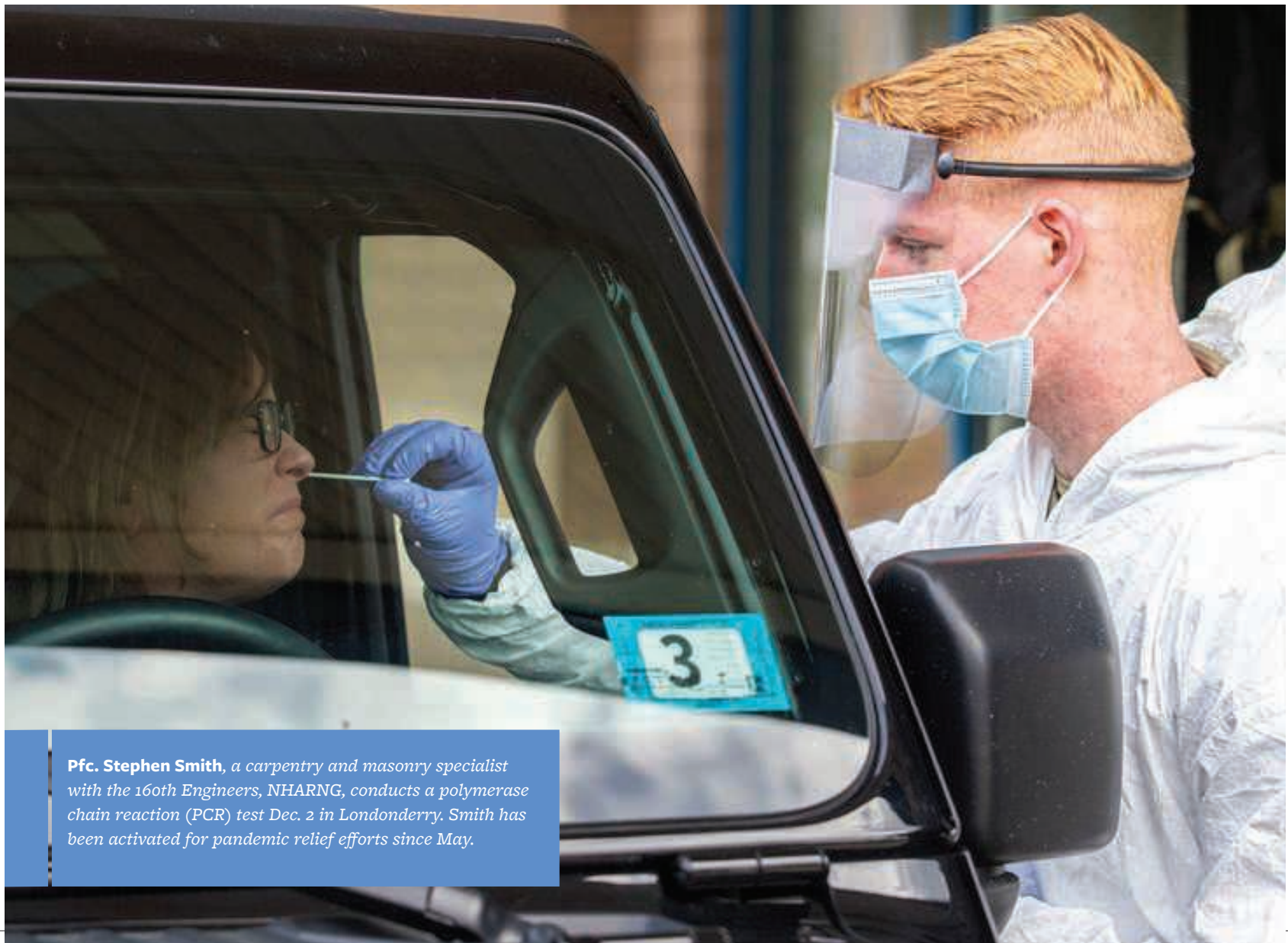
“We have 56 soldiers and airmen between our two fixed sites and mobile mission,” said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Emond, operations NCO for TF Medical. “Over the last three weeks our teams have conducted 13,795 tests.”

On any given morning at the Concord and Londonderry locations, there has been a line of up to 75 cars patiently idling for the sites to open.

“The biggest issue we’ve seen is individuals showing up to the site without an appointment,” Emond said. “While we can accommodate that, it’s much faster if they call in advance to block their appointment time.”

The Department of Health and Human Services is counting on the testing teams to handle another expected surge through the holidays.

“The soldiers and airmen on Joint Task Force Granite have been an indispensable part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Samon, deputy commander of JTF Granite. “These teams are driven to accomplish the mission.”



Pfc. Stephen Smith, a carpentry and masonry specialist with the 160th Engineers, NHARNG, conducts a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test Dec. 2 in Londonderry. Smith has been activated for pandemic relief efforts since May.

UNDETERRED

Story and photo by Sgt. Courtney Rorick, 114th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC

With a mix of determination and innovation, the New Hampshire National Guard and Salvadoran military have found ways to continue to train together despite travel restrictions and increased operational tempo prompted by the global pandemic.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the two militaries have been able to conduct several exchanges via Webex as part of the NHNG-El Salvador State Partnership Program, now in its 21st year.

Capt. Raymond Youngs, the state partnership coordinator, said it's been a challenge to collaborate, "but technology has helped us continue our partnership, conducting SMEEs (subject matter expert exchanges) on a variety of subjects such as cyber and CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives)."

The latest exchange was a crime scene investigation course Dec. 4 at Joint Force Headquarters in Concord. It was led by Spc. Todd Desmarais of the 237th Military Police Company. Some 3,600 miles away, 11 soldiers and four officers from the Salvadoran army's MP brigade sat in a classroom at their headquarters in San Salvador.

Desmarais covered a variety of topics to include how to process a crime scene, ensuring proper chain of custody of evidence, and best practices for preserving and collecting evidence.

"For me and my colleagues, we are grateful for the topics taught," said Salvadoran Staff Sgt. Jamie Castillo. "We see a lot of homicide here in our country and to be able to integrate ourselves into this training is truly beneficial."

"In the future we would like to conduct face-to-face training since our time was limited," he added. "We want to obtain more knowledge, but we are thankful for the training we had."

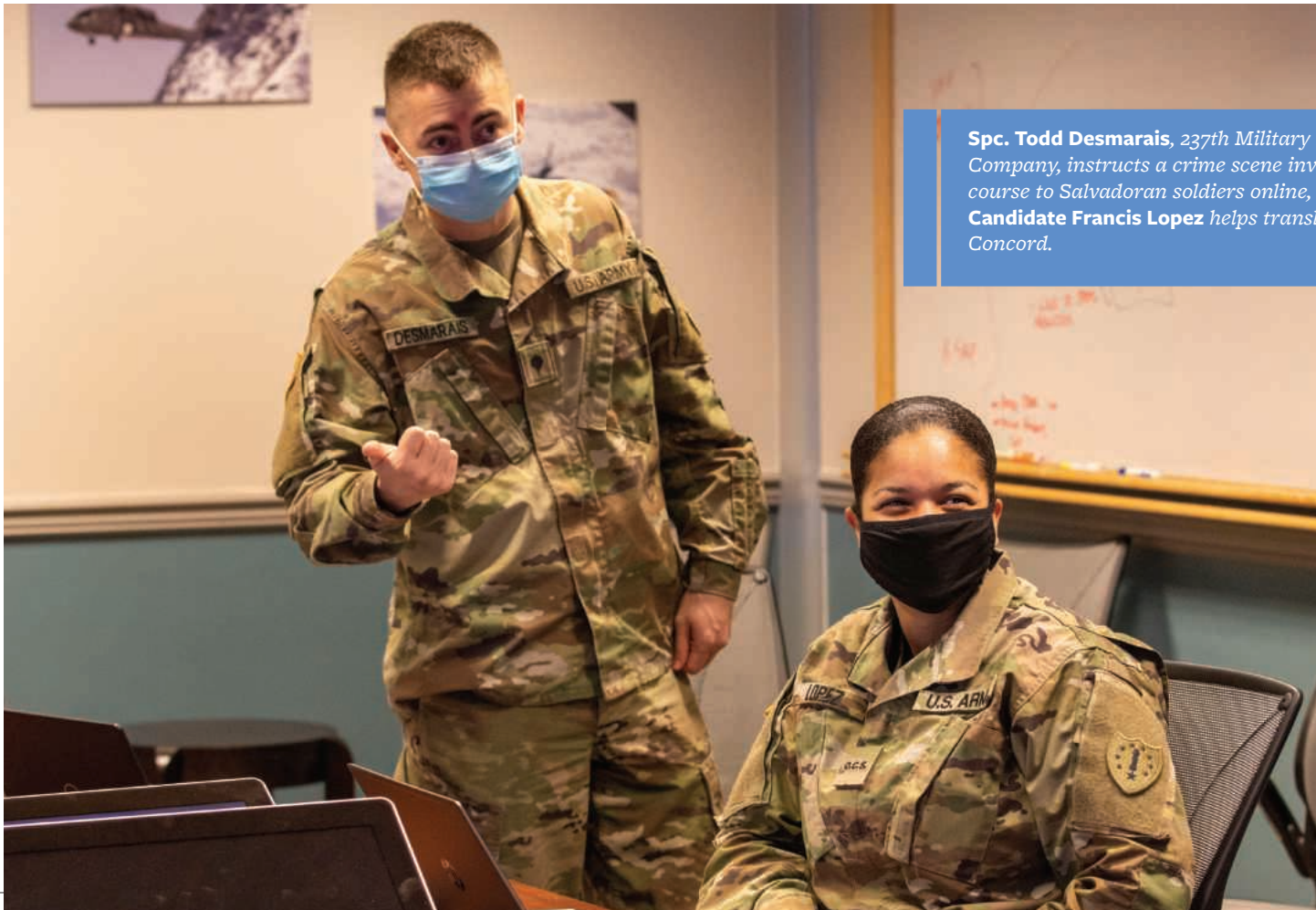
For Desmarais, working with the Salvadoran military and a translator was a new experience. "This helps to teach a standard for both us and for them," he said.

NHARNG Officer Candidate Francis Lopez, a native of Puerto Rico, was the translator. It was her second time working an SPP event.

"I am translating everything from the PowerPoint," Lopez said. "The most difficult part is making sure that everything makes sense because not everything translates word for word."

To ensure accuracy, Lopez likes to use Google translator for backup.

"We could not do this without our translators," Youngs said. "They are the true face of the partnership."



Spc. Todd Desmarais, 237th Military Police Company, instructs a crime scene investigation course to Salvadoran soldiers online, while **Officer Candidate Francis Lopez** helps translate Dec. 4 in Concord.

JUDGE ADVOCATES PLAY KEY ROLE IN PANDEMIC RELIEF EFFORTS

By Maj. Luke Webster, NH National Guard Judge Advocate

At the direction of Gov. Chris Sununu, the New Hampshire National Guard is the primary military responder for domestic emergencies. Historically, those have included hurricanes, floods, wildfires and civil disturbances. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be an extraordinarily different kind of backyard crisis and represents the longest Guard activation in modern history.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Chang, who leads the legal team for the New Hampshire Guard's pandemic relief efforts, said "during the response, NHNG judge advocates have demonstrated their subject-matter expertise by drawing on their unique blend of military and civilian legal experiences to provide timely and accurate legal guidance on a wide variety of unprecedented issues."

The majority of National Guard judge advocates are traditional or part-time Army and Air Force officers, who are experienced civilian attorneys in a diverse range of practice areas in the public and private sector. They serve an essential role as trusted legal advisors to commanders and support staff of the NHNG.

Judge advocates normally rotate through multiple areas of law during their service commitment. They include civil law (legal assistance to soldiers), administrative law (regulatory), contract and fiscal law, labor/employment law, and international and operational law, and justice (criminal). Domestic operational law is a more specialized area that encompasses aspects of many of the above-referenced disciplines, which have a nexus with the military's response to the domestic emergencies. Generally, the senior full-time Guard judge advocate of each state or territory is a subject-matter expert in this area of law.

The official motto of the National Guard is "Always Ready, Always There." During the state's pandemic relief efforts, which began in late March of this year, several NHNG judge advocates have answered the call and performed essential roles at various levels of the organization.

As COVID-19 started to spread in the United States, NHNG judge advocates assist, plan and prepare for potential missions by reviewing and interpreting a vast amount of information and guidance. When the governor activated hundreds of NH guardsmen, our judge advocates ensured they were fully prepared from a legal perspective. Throughout the response, our judge advocates have helped the NHNG navigate an evolving minefield of legal issues – some entirely new and others variations of more traditional ones. They consistently have provided timely and sound legal advice based upon complex regulatory guidance to ensure that missions – inclusive of mission tasks, usage of personnel and equipment – were both compliant and executed without delay.

Our judge advocates have collaborated successfully with other staff sections and numerous government attorneys (military and civilian) from federal and state agencies to find legally



The NHNG legal team, comprising judge advocates, advisors and paralegals, assist, plan and prepare for various COVID-19 support missions by reviewing and interpreting a vast amount of information and guidance. From left is Maj. Natalie Friedenthal, staff judge advocate, 157th Air Refueling Wing; Lt. Col. James Pappaoianou, attorney-advisor, JFHQ; Maj. Luke Webster, judge advocate, JFHQ; Lt. Col. Jeffrey Chang, legal advisor to the adjutant general, JFHQ; and Senior Airman Anna Arnold, paralegal, 157th ARW.

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

permissible solutions and ensure a unity of effort among key stakeholders. They have been integral in the drafting, negotiation, and execution of multiple interagency agreements, which enabled the NHNG to provide new types of support to other federal and state agencies.

They have interpreted regulatory guidance and provided legal advice on matters arising from COVID-19, affecting day-to-day operations of the NHNG to include guardsmen, civilian employees, and facilities. Lt. Col. Jim Pappaoianou, who is responsible for providing oversight of legal in- and out-processing of NH guardsmen, noted that this mission, "has highlighted how agile and adaptable our judge advocates need to be in providing legal support for domestic operations, in comparison to attorneys engaged in more traditional areas of practice."

The work of our judge advocates has been integral to the NHNG's ability to support the state's ongoing relief efforts, which has included eight different lines of effort: fixed and mobile testing teams, mapping, PPE warehouse and distribution, support to NH Food Bank, augmenting the state's unemployment call center, cybersecurity support, and establishing 14 alternate care/surge locations across the state.

More than 700 NHNG soldiers and airmen have been activated in support of those missions. As National Guard officers, judge advocates have sworn an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Hampshire against all enemies, foreign and domestic. COVID-19 has certainly proven to be an adversary in many ways to the citizens of New Hampshire. By remaining mission-focused and adaptable, our judge advocates will face these continued challenges head-on and always be ready when our nation and state needs them to their par to accomplish the National Guard's mission.



NEW HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL GUARD BIATHLON TEAM

The National Guard Biathlon Program participates in state, national and international competition. State-level teams compete at the annual Chief National Guard Bureau Championships, while All Guard Team members represent the U.S. at Olympics and World Cup biathlon competitions.

*** COMPETITORS WANTED ***



Maj. Luke Webster, 197th Field Artillery Brigade, NHARNG, skis towards the penalty loop during the 2020 Eastern/Central regional biathlon pursuit race January 18 at Camp Ripley, Minn.

For team information, contact:

Maj. Rob Burnham at robert.j.burnham2.mil@mail.mil

PROMOTIONS

N.H. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Airman

Andrew Aquino
Lydia Beaulieu
Nathan Wiggan

Airman First Class

Troy Meyer
Joshua Morrison
Lee Veader

Senior Airman

Christopher Albertelli
Ryan Brown

Caitlin Hogan
Jordan Moore
Kyle Rheaume
Kameron Virkaitis

Staff Sergeant

Joseph Lapadula
Brennan Malone
Eryn Murphy
Emma Nofsker

Technical Sergeant

Emi Cabral
Matthew Jackson
Joseph Melanson
David Paquet
Christopher Poulin
Gary Roy

Master Sergeant

Dana Carpenter
Kyle Charrette
Jordan Sizemore

Brittany Smith
Taylor Vondrasek

Senior Master Sergeant

Fred Balas
Bernard Cho
Kris Poplar

Major

Tyler Gibson

Lieutenant Colonel

Michael Blough
Jeffrey Davis
Daniel Kim
Brandon Lyon

Colonel

Kenneth Leedberg
Nelson Perron



N.H. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Private (PV1)

James Barsaleau
Veera Venkatapran Bathula
Cameron Blanchard
Cameron Courtemarche
Joseph Cronin
Christopher Ferry
Oscar Gamache
Trevor Hadley
Jeremiah Hardwick
Tara Lohar
John Joseph McCarthy III
Hayley Minahan
Giovanni Nieves
Santiago Ospina
Christian Peterson
Quincy Roy
Sergio Zaporoli

Private (PV2)

Alexander Aloisio
Eric Dubreuil
Christopher Ell
Brianna Coombs
Sean Foley
Aram Fowler
Ryan Gauthier
Alexander Greer
Kaylen Hebert
Rebeca Luanda
Darian Moore
Liam Murphy
Michael Nedeau
Benjamin Perez
Harry Pinti III
Dinesh Rai

Nicholas Sanderson
Milisi Skahan
Andrew Williams
Elizabeth Marie

Private First Class

Jayda Baker
Joseph Carvalho
Luke Cavanaugh
Camden Felix Foshier Soucy
Jason Jonathan
Brianna Jones
Khali McLean
Danny Morse Jr.
Connor Patterson
Caleb Everett

Specialist

Donald Beliveau Jr.
Kevin Blackstone
Cameron Coombs
Tyr Daveport
Margaret Dean
Brandon Decato
Joseph Doherty
Michael Downs
Elliot Frizzell
Luis Galvezsoza
Matthew Hutchinson
Dylan Jones
Christyan LeBlanc
Christopher Licona
Aaron Limbat
Kaitlynn Mize
Dawson Nadeau
Ivan Perez

Jacob Porazinski
Nathan Riggs
Brendan Schabhetl
Dakota Tripp
Jesse Tucker
Michael Wolinski

Corporal

Sean Gregoire
Jordan Horine
Courtney Reyes

Sergeant

Chad Champion
Sonja Carey
Eric Chase
Corinne Kelley
Paul Knight
Bradley Lamonica
Kaylee Lane
Peter Miller
Shane Roos
Kristofer Shepard
Jeffrey Splaine
Nicholas Wrigley

Staff Sergeant

Justin Crotty
Cory Foote
Chad Kelbe
Samey Mao
Jeffrey Shea

Sergeant First Class

Sara McPherson

Command Sergeant Major

Rachael Fleharty-Strevig

Master Sergeant

Frederick James

First Sergeant

Arian Wernig

Warrant Officer

Franklin Montenegro

Chief Warrant Officer 3

Joshua Latour
Ryan Washburn

Chief Warrant Officer 4

Iain Hamilton

2nd Lieutenant

Brandon O'Donnell
Anthony Rorick
Nicole Steinhart

Major

Timothy Manley

Lieutenant Colonel

Wayne Boutwell
Jillian Murray-Duchesne



Legacy is not what I did for myself. It's what I'm doing for the next generation.
- Vitor Belfort

Happy 384th Birthday to the National Guard

NEW HAMPSHIRE GUARDSMAN

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