

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Winter 2023

GUARDSMAN

MAGAZINE





NATIONALGUARD.COM

**MORE STUDENT.
LESS DEBT.**

EDUCATION BENEFITS



New Hampshire Army National Guard 100% Tuition Waiver

By law (RSA 110-B:63) the State of New Hampshire waives the tuition for any National Guard soldier who attends a NH state college or state technical college.

NHTI
NH Community Colleges
Granite State College

University of New Hampshire
Plymouth State University
Keene State College

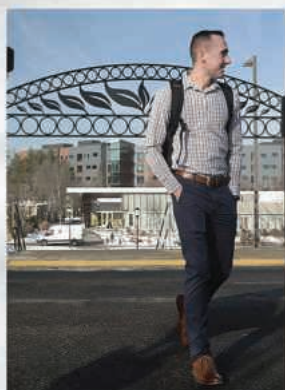


Montgomery G.I. Bill

Pays up to \$392 per month for up to 36 months when you attend school full time and reduced amounts for 3/4 time and 1/2 time.

The G.I. Bill also pays for apprenticeships and on-the-job training.

You can learn more about the Montgomery G.I. Bill at <http://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL>



Student Loan Repayment

Certain enlistment and reenlistment contracts will include a \$50,000 student loan repayment program. There are additional qualifications to be eligible for this program.

**START YOUR
JOURNEY
HERE**



NHARNG

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ★

1-800-GO-GUARD ★ nationalguard.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL GUARD LEADERSHIP



**The Honorable
Chris Sununu**

Governor of
New Hampshire



**Maj. Gen.
David Mikolaities**

Adjutant General of
the N.H. National Guard

Brig. Gen. John LeBlanc

Commander of the N.H. Army National Guard

Brig. Gen. John Pogorek

Commander of the N.H. Air National Guard

NEW HAMPSHIRE GUARDSMAN MAGAZINE STAFF

Lt. Col. Greg Heilshorn | Director of Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Charles Johnston | Editor

CONTRIBUTING UNITS

- 114th Public Affairs Detachment,
N.H. Army National Guard
- 603d Public Affairs Detachment,
N.H. Army National Guard
- 197th Field Artillery Brigade Public Affairs,
N.H. Army National Guard
- 157th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs,
N.H. Air National Guard
- Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs,
N.H. National Guard

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

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

Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of the departments of the Army and Air Force, or the State of New Hampshire. All photos are the property of the N.H. National Guard unless otherwise credited.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IN THE LAND OF VOLCANOES	4-5
ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE	6-8
THESE ARE OUR PEOPLE	9
SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT	10-11
SNAPSHOTS	12-17
LIVING UP TO OUR MOTTO	18-19
NO BETTER PARTNERSHIP	20-21
TWINS HAVE EACH OTHER'S BACKS	22
ARMY AND AIR PROMOTIONS	23

COVER PHOTO: Spc. Victoria Fatukasi hits the high notes and energizes the crowd during the 39th Army Band's performance at the Ilopango Airshow on Feb. 5 in El Salvador.

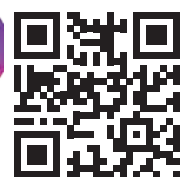
Photo by Spc. Kelly Boyer, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.



Facebook.com/ NHMinutemen



@NHNationalGuard



@NHNationalGuard

IN THE LAND OF VOLCANOES

By Staff Sgt. Timothy Hayden, 157th ARW Public Affairs

NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities and Salvadoran Defense Minister René Merino met for the second time in nine months during a New Hampshire National Guard-El Salvador State Partnership event Feb. 3 to 6 that included concerts by the 39th Army Band and a vehicle maintenance exchange.

It was an opportune time for the two leaders to catch up as the partnership enters its 23rd year and the National Guard celebrates the program's 30th anniversary.

"The meeting was great," said Mikolaities after the Feb. 6 office call at the Ministerio de la Defensa Nacional. "It allowed us to reconnect and continue to build on this long-running relationship."

The 157th Air Refueling Wing transported the NHNG contingent, about 40 guardsmen, on a KC-46A refueler from Pease Air National Guard Base in Newington. In addition to the six-hour flight, the 157th crew performed a flyover each day of the airshow.

The first day on the ground Mikolaities met with newly appointed U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, William Duncan. Sightseeing was also built into the schedule, which included a visit to Mayan ruins and hiking an active volcano.

While the band played both days of the Ilopango Airshow, a six-man maintenance crew from the NHARNG traveled across the country, exchanging best practices with their counterparts in the Salvadoran navy.



A group of New Hampshire Guardsmen arrive at the summit of the Santa Ana Volcano in western El Salvador on Feb. 6. About 40 soldiers and airmen traveled to the Central American republic for three different state partnership events. At 7,812 feet above sea level, Santa Ana is the highest point in El Salvador.

Photo by Spc. Kelly Boyer, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.

The team conducted technical inspections of troop carrier trucks at La Union Naval Base at the country's southernmost coastal point, and a naval compound in the capital city of San Salvador.

"I believe we accomplished what he came here to do," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Randall Dockham, maintenance manager for the NHARNG. His crew presented standardized methods for documenting vehicle maintenance issues as well as detailed technical manuals for diagnosing problems in the future. "We laid the groundwork for future opportunities to exchange information with our Salvadoran partners."

Chief Warrant Officer 5 George Munson, state command chief warrant for the NHARNG, accompanied Mikolaities. It was his first visit to El Salvador.

"By providing direct training assistance to their military personnel, we are not just affecting their readiness, we are building partnerships and friendships that our adversaries cannot match," Munson said.

The Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau created the State Partnership Program in the early 1990s as an initiative to assist countries emerging from behind the Iron Curtain.

SPP now includes partnerships with the National Guard of every U.S. state and territory and 100 countries around the world. Some states have multiple partnerships. Last year, Cabo Verde agreed to become the NHNG's second state-partner country.



ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE

Story and photos by Spc. Kelly Boyer, 114th Public Affairs Detachment

On a hot Saturday afternoon last month, the New Hampshire Army National Guard's 39th Army Band opened the first of two concerts at the Ilopango Airshow in El Salvador with a cover of The Romantics, "What I Like About You."

Talk about starting off with a bang.

As the flipping and twirling of aircraft echoed overhead, a sea of spectators gathered so quickly at the front of the stage, event organizers grew concerned no one was paying attention to the stunt pilots.

By the time the 39th wrapped up their second performance on the following night, they had played for an estimated 50,000 people.

"I have never played for that many people before," said Spc. Lauren Dennett, a saxophonist with the 39th. "I have never seen anything like that."

The same could be said for many of the spectators. After the Feb. 4 and 5 shows, attendees rushed the stage for selfies with band members. Father and son Jose and Diego

Martinez waited in line to take a photo with vocalist Spc. Victoria Fatukasi.

"My dad and I want to thank you for your service," Diego said to the singer. "He also wanted to say that he loves the way you sing. This was our first time seeing the band, and we really enjoyed it, especially when you played Guns and Roses."

It was the third time in five years the 39th has played at the airshow under the long-standing State Partnership Program between the NH Guard and Central American republic. During the band's first appearance in 2019, the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador at the time, Jean Manes, performed a duet of Van Morrison's "Brown-Eyed Girl."

"The most important thing about the band's performance was the ability to use American rock and roll to connect with a trusted ally," said NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities, who made the six-hour flight with the band on a KC-46A from Pease Air National Guard Base. "It was fantastic to see the amazing response the Salvadorans gave them and the number of people who stayed to watch."



The 39th Army Band performs during the opening ceremony at the Ilopango Airshow in San Salvador, El Salvador, on Feb. 4.



The 39th Army Band hypes the crowd prior to their final performance at the Ilopango Airshow in San Salvador, El Salvador, on Feb. 5.

“They were exceptional,” he added.

For more than 20 years, the NHNG and Fuerza Armada de El Salvador have forged a partnership built on collaboration and professionalism. While the dancing never stopped, the citizen-soldier musicians were well aware of their role beyond just entertainers.

“I think it’s important that the people of El Salvador see us as positive role models and know about us, know about the United States, and know that we are here for them,” said Dennett who is a music teacher at Strong Foundations Charter School in Pembroke and Sherwood Middle School in Shrewsbury, Mass.

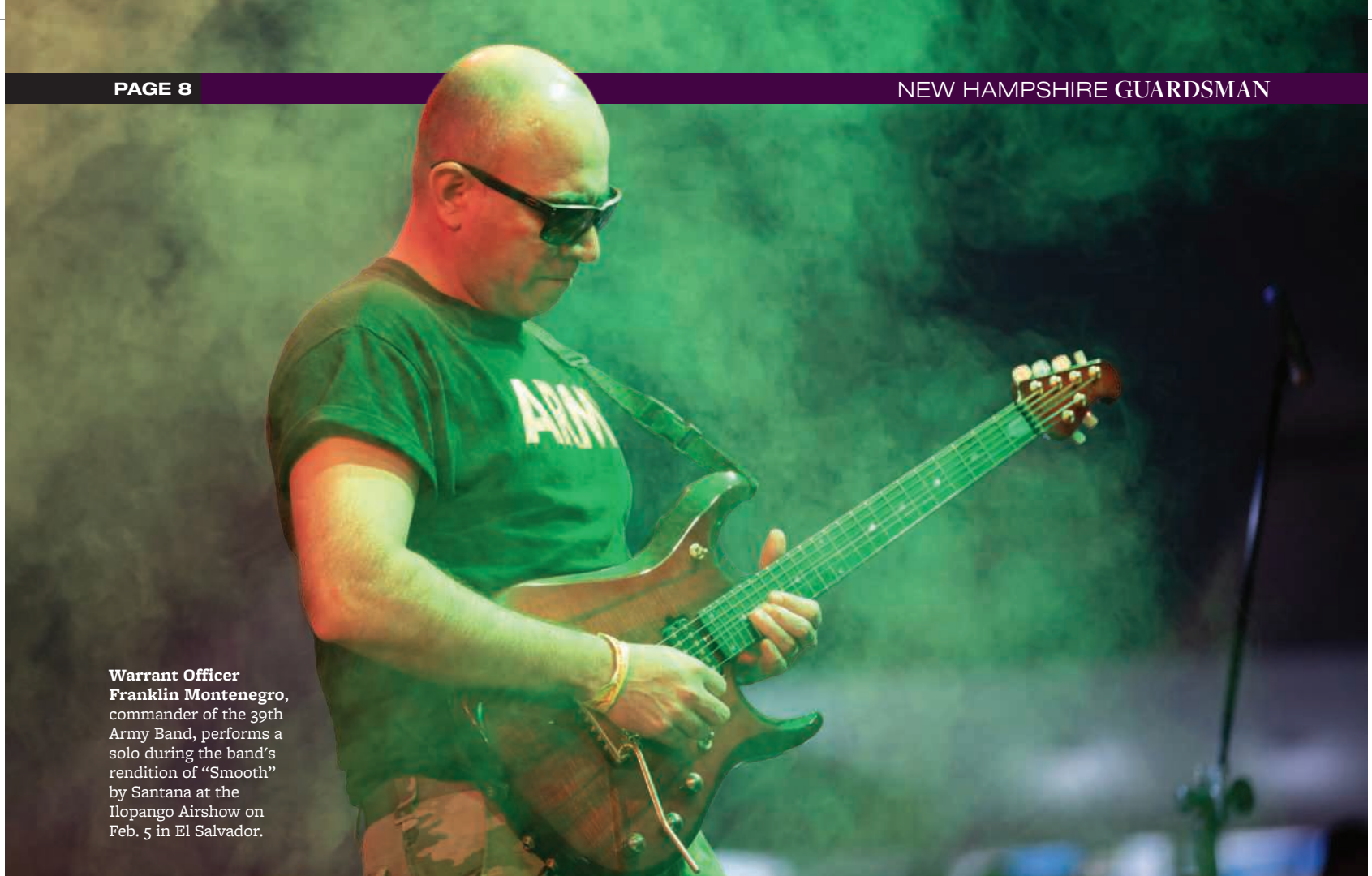
1st Sgt. Gregg Chapman reiterated the importance of his unit’s humanitarian mission. “We are helping to build a bond between New Hampshire and the community (here),” he said.

Valeria Franca, a Salvadoran paramedic working the event, wanted to take a photo with the band after their Feb. 4 set.

“I really think the music they play is something amazing,” she said. “I like the Army because I am here to help people and they are here to help El Salvador.”

Spc. Lauren Dennett, a saxophonist with the 39th Army Band, performs a solo during “Old Time Rock and Roll” at the Ilopango Airshow on Feb. 5 in El Salvador.



A close-up photograph of Warrant Officer Franklin Montenegro, a bald man wearing sunglasses and a green t-shirt with "ARMY" printed on it. He is playing a dark-colored electric guitar on a stage. The background is dark with some stage lighting.

Warrant Officer Franklin Montenegro, commander of the 39th Army Band, performs a solo during the band's rendition of "Smooth" by Santana at the Ilopango Airshow on Feb. 5 in El Salvador.



Sgt. 1st Class David Selmer, a drummer and production director with the 39th Army Band, performs during the Ilopango Airshow on Feb. 5 in El Salvador.

THESE ARE OUR PEOPLE

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

Staff Sgt. Dante Davis was driving home to Boston on Interstate 93 in Manchester on the evening of December 15, 2022, when he came upon an accident scene.

A maroon SUV had overturned and rested against the guardrail. He immediately stopped, exited his vehicle and rushed over.

"I couldn't see inside the cabin," said Davis, a New Hampshire National Guardsman with 54th Troop Command. "As I got closer, I could hear a woman yelling for help."

He forced open a door and extricated the driver. After moving her to safety, he rendered first aid for a head injury and stayed until police and fire personnel arrived.

Though Davis downplayed the significance of his actions, an official written report indicated otherwise.

"At risk to his safety, in the dark and the rain, he made his way across three lanes of active traffic to check on those involved," wrote Lt. Michael Meehan of Manchester Fire Department.

When soldiers of Davis's unit were asked if they were surprised by his heroics, the answer was a resounding "no."

"His actions do not surprise me," said Maj. Richard Brown, operations officer with 54th. "This is consistent with how he conducts himself daily."

"Davis's heart is always in the right place," he added. "He is one of the most morally, ethically sound NCOs I've had the pleasure of working with. His love for the community and our guardsmen knows no limit."

Davis's other team members describe him as one of the most humble, hardworking, caring, and driven humans they have ever met.

"What most people don't know is he's also a combat veteran," said Capt. Robert Matzelle, training officer with 54th. "When you first walk up to him, he's very quiet and calm. When you get to know him, you're like 'wow, this guy has been around the block.'"

Matzelle said the presence he brings to his job as an operations noncommissioned officer is refreshing.

"Davis is exactly the kind of soldier anyone wants to work with and be around," he said. "I'm proud of him."

Davis's assessment of the incident was simple: it was his basic duty to assist.

"This is a human, and no one was doing anything. No one was stopping to help," Davis said.

"Imagine what it would feel like to be trapped in a car having just been in an accident. We'd all be afraid."

Coincidentally, he graduated the next day with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Simmons University in Boston. And moving forward, Davis is working toward earning his license to work in a hospital emergency department next summer.

"I think the world could use a little bit more humanity," Davis said. "As New Hampshire Guardsmen, these are our people. This is our community. These are the people we swore an oath to look after and protect."



Staff Sgt. Dante Davis poses at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke on Dec. 21, 2022.

SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Gregory Heilshorn, NHNG Public Affairs

Mouths open, eyes hidden by sunglasses, Keyla and Samuel Chielel appeared to doze off in their dental chairs. Keyla was having a tooth pulled, her brother was getting a filling.

Seated at opposite ends of the city's mobile dental clinic, neither sibling flinched as a pair of NH Army Guard dental teams worked from behind clear plastic curtains. The see-through quality of the protective shields gave a hazy, dream-like symmetry to the procedures, which took less than an hour to complete.

"You're doing great," whispered Maj. Jacob Akers after he gave Keyla a shot of novocaine.

During the pilot run of an oral health collaborative between the Guard and the Manchester Health Department, held Jan. 7 at the Beech Street Elementary School, Keyla and Samuel were among 11 school children treated.

Hundreds more in the city's dental care program are being scheduled for the remainder of the 2022-23 calendar year, said Andrea Iasillo, a certified public health dental hygienist for the Manchester Health Department. Since 2007, the program has grown from eight to all 21 public schools, serving more than 600 students a year.

Most of the children are from families with refugee status or who are undocumented, Iasillo said.

"They cannot afford the care or are afraid to apply for it," Iasillo said. "We don't turn anyone away. We follow HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) guidelines."

Through the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program, which pairs military training requirements with community needs, the Guard will provide fillings and extractions as well as other preventive dental care at no cost to the city, schools, or families.



A NH Army Guard dental team confers with **Andrea Iasillo** of the Manchester Health Department in a mobile dental clinic Jan. 7 at the Beech Street Elementary School. From left are **Spc. Hayley Minahan**, **Lt. Col. Christopher Fauver**, **Sgt. Katie Lindh**, and **Maj. Jacob Ayers**.



From left, **Lt. Col. Christopher Fauver** and **Sgt. Katie Lindh** of the NHARNG Medical Detachment prepare **Samuel Chilel** for a filling in a mobile dental clinic Jan. 7 at the Beech Street Elementary School in Manchester.

"This is beyond fantastic," lasillo said. "You guys can do stuff we can't do in a normal school day."

For the Guard's small contingent of Army dentists and dental assistants, many of whom work in civilian practices, the homegrown partnership is a unique opportunity to gain practical experience while helping local communities. They'll man the mobile clinic on a monthly basis during drill and annual training.

"I've been in the medical detachment my whole career, which is a little over eight years," said Sgt. Katie Lindh, a hygienist for a family dentistry in Hampton. "This is the first time I've done anything like this."

Lt. Col. Christopher Fauver, state dental surgeon, likened the clinic to a medical readiness exercise the detachment supported in El Salvador in 2013.

"We did the same thing," said Fauver, who has a dental practice in Chester, Vermont. "We pulled a lot of teeth, and the kids spoke Spanish too."

Spc. Hayley Minahan, an emergency medical technician and firefighter for the town of Newmarket, took her first day in stride.

"It's pretty cool," the dental assistant said.

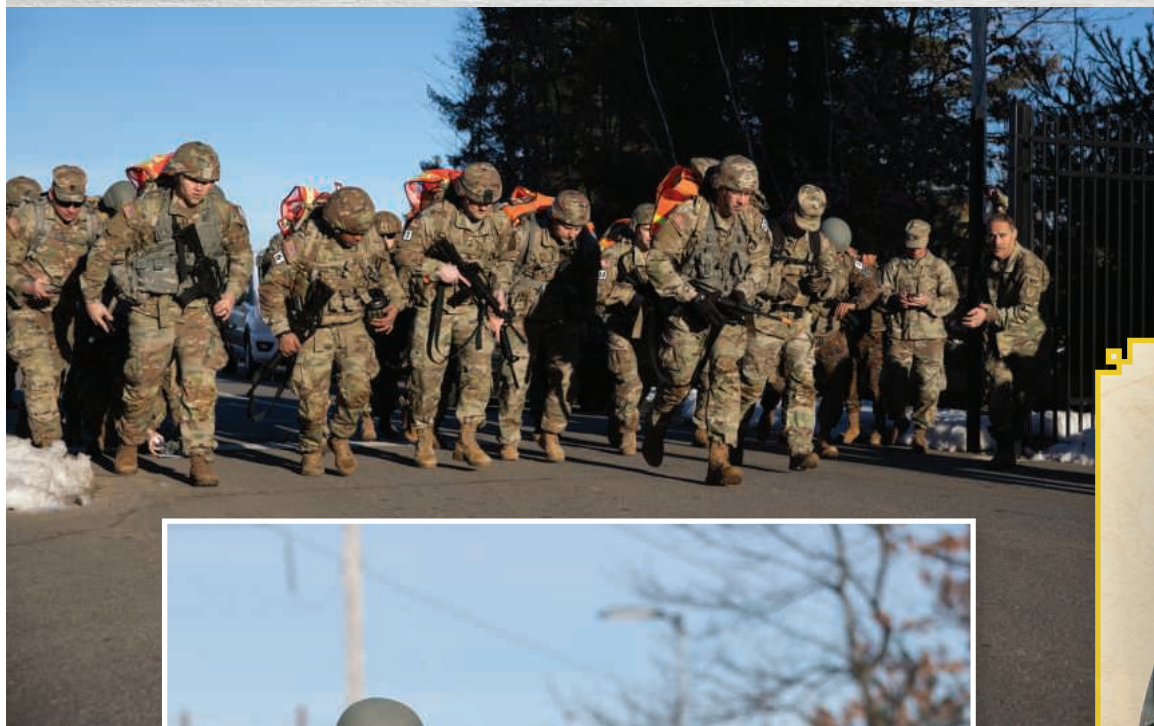
Akers, who commutes from Standish, Maine, has been a dentist with the detachment for six years.

"Giving back is always a good thing," he said. "Especially to those who are underserved."

FOR THE GLORY

An artilleryman and a recruiter earned Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, beating a field of 16 challengers in the 2023 New Hampshire National Guard Best Warrior Competition. **Spc. Brendan Tuttle**, a HIMARS crewman with 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, and **Staff Sgt. Davis Jollimore**, a training NCO with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, won their respective categories in the annual soldier-skills contest held Feb. 9 to 12 at training sites in Pembroke and Center Strafford. Two airmen from the 157th Air Refueling Wing and four soldiers from NHNG state partnership countries El Salvador, (Fuerza Armada de El Salvador), and Cabo Verde (Forças Armadas de Cabo Verde) also competed.

Photos by Sgt. Sean Ferry, 114th Public Affairs Detachment.



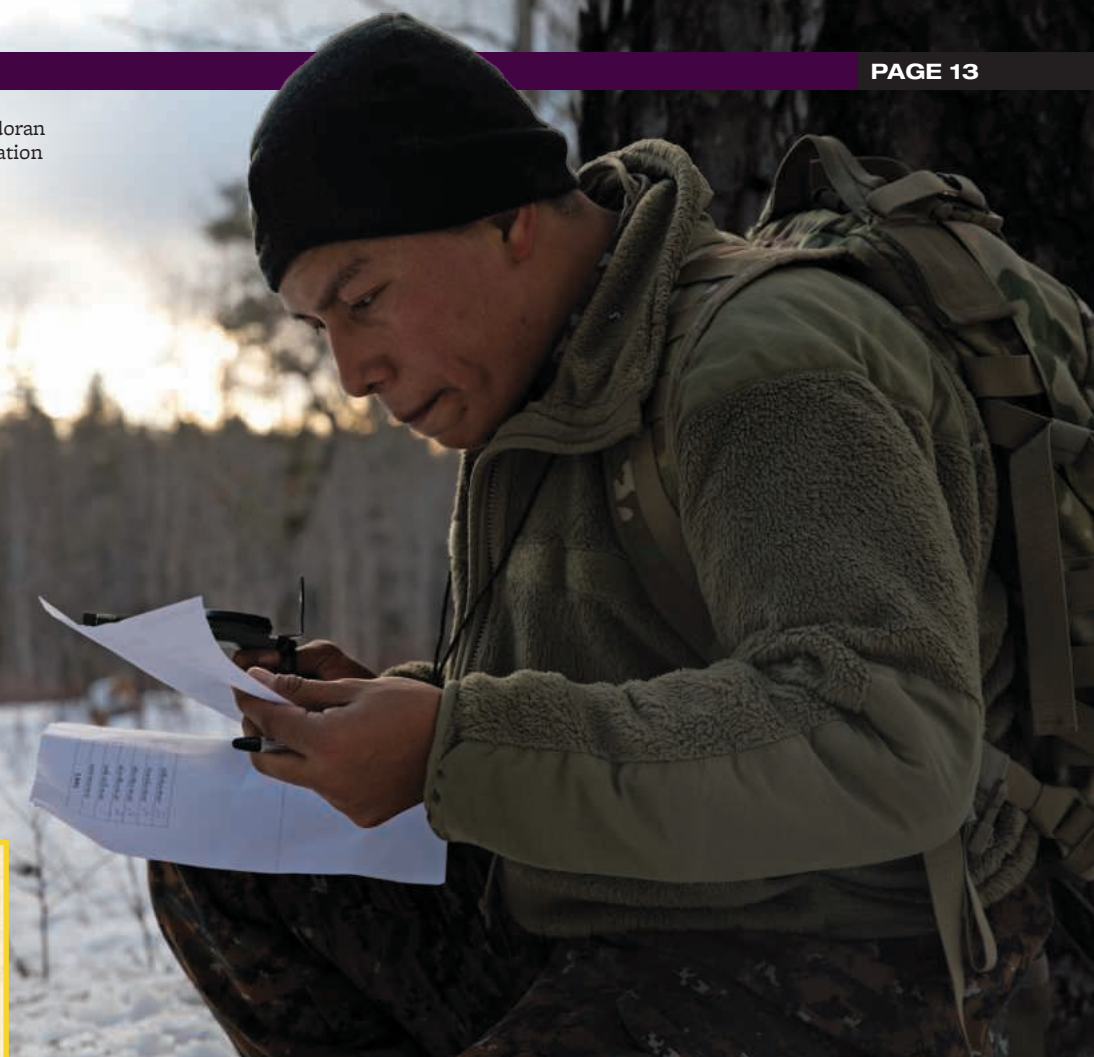
At left, soldiers, airmen, and state partnership challengers begin a 13.5-mile ruck march, the competition's final event.



Pictured above, **State Command Sgt. Maj. William Ferland** awards the Soldier of the Year trophy to **Spc. Brendan Tuttle**, a HIMARS crewmember with Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment; and the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year trophy to **Staff Sgt. Davis Jollimore**, a training noncommissioned officer with Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

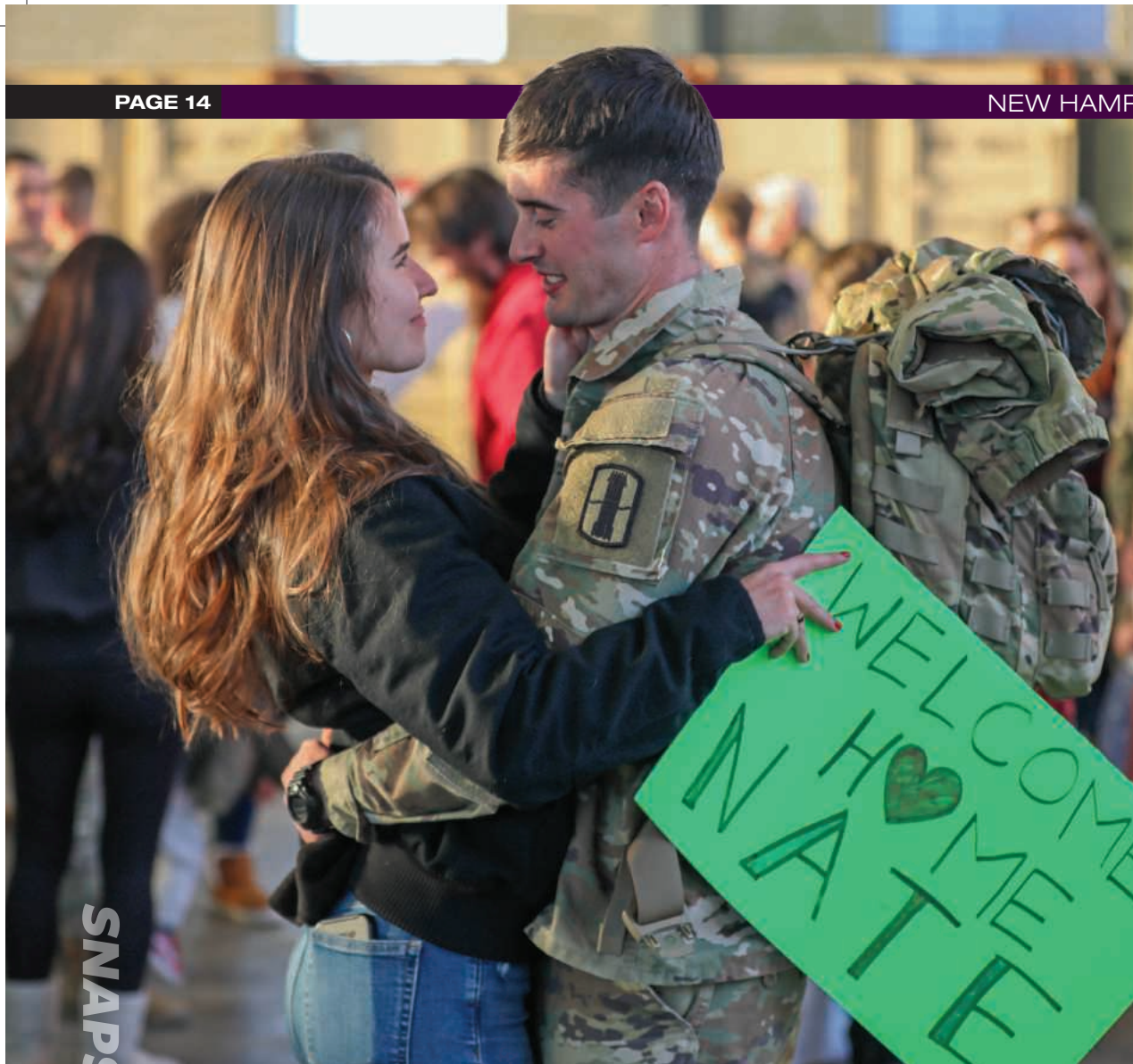
Cpl. Mauricio Jacobo of the Salvadoran Special Forces crosses the finish line of a 13.5-mile ruck march with a winning time of 2:30:21.

Sgt. Marcos Cruz of the Salvadoran Special Forces estimates his location on the land navigation course.



Pfc. Jency Encarnacion, a driver for the 237th Military Police Company, plots points during for the night land navigation event. Competitors had 90 minutes to find three points, navigating a course of snow-covered and wooded ravines.





WELCOME HOME

1st Lt. Nathan Walters of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 197th Field Artillery Brigade, embraces his wife Erica after returning home from a nine-month deployment to the Middle East on Feb. 1 at the Manchester armory.

Photo by Spc. Liam Reilly, 603rd Public Affairs Detachment.

SNAPSHOTS



SPEAKING THE SAME LINGO

Sgt. Lucas Collins (middle), a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 237th Military Police Company, inspects the undercarriage of a troop carrier truck with **Rey Navas** (left) and **Melvin Zepeda** (right), two Salvadoran marine mechanics assigned to Fuerza Naval De El Salvador, in San Salvador, El Salvador, on Feb. 5. The mechanics convened as part of a two-day maintenance exchange under the New Hampshire National Guard-El Salvador State Partnership Program.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Hayden, 157th ARW Public Affairs.



FLIGHT LINE

Tech. Sgt. Rodney Turgeon, a crew chief with the 157th Maintenance Group, unwinds cords from the fuel truck on the flight line Dec. 22, 2022, at Pease ANG Base in Newington.

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



PLOW SHARES

Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Delong, an aircraft structural maintainer with the 157th Maintenance Group, plows the flight line during a Feb. 24 snow storm at Pease ANG Base in Newington.

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



ONE OF THE FEW

Col. Melinda Morin receives her new shoulder boards with the help of her mother, Sherry, during her promotion ceremony Mar. 2 in the Heritage Room at the State Military Reservation in Concord. Morin has a combined 28 years of service in the U.S. Army and New Hampshire Army National Guard.

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

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Pack, mascot for the 157th Air Refueling Wing, visits with **Senior Master Sgt. Patrice Foggarty** during her promotion ceremony Jan. 7 at Pease Air National Guard Base in Newington. Foggarty's promotion to chief came after about 37 years of Guard service. She is currently assigned to Joint Force Headquarters as chief of manpower and personnel.

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



THE GOOD TEACHER

Sgt. 1st Class Crystal Boisvert, winner of the Instructor of the Year Award for the 195th Regional Training Institute, stands in the motor pool at the Hillsboro armory Dec. 3, 2022. A senior facilitator at the RTI, Boisvert bested a field of 12 NHARNG instructors considered for the award. She taught 17 courses and completed more than 100 hours of instruction.

Photo by Spc. Kelly Boyer, 603rd PAD.





Award recipients gather for a group photo during the New Hampshire National Guard Annual Awards ceremony Dec. 13, 2022, at the Edward Cross Training Complex in Pembroke. A cake cutting was conducted to commemorate the Guard's 386th birthday, and 27 award winners were recognized for outstanding achievement.

LIVING UP TO OUR MOTTO

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

The New Hampshire National Guard held its annual awards ceremony December 13, 2022, at the Edward Cross Training Complex in Pembroke.

A cake cutting was also conducted to commemorate the Guard's 386th birthday.

The year's top individual soldiers, airmen and civilians were officially recognized for outstanding achievement.

Army Guard

Soldier of the Year: Sgt. Michael Downs

NCO of the Year: Sgt. Mark Hayward

Recruiting Rookie of the Year: Staff Sgt. Steven Pierce

Recruiting Expert of the Year: Sgt. 1st Class Jason Collins

TAG Match Champion: 1st Lt. Andrew Hudak Jr.

RTI Instructor of the Year: Sgt. 1st Class Crystal Boisvert

Air Guard

Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Jared Hakala

NCO of the Year: Staff Sgt. Adam Kenchion

Senior NCO of the Year: Master Sgt. Dave Cato

1st Sgt. of the Year: Master Sgt. Traci Renzella Molis

"Spirit of Hope" Recipient: Senior Airman Temika Lyman

Honor Guard Member of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Frederick Horne

Company Grade Officer of the Year: Maj. Andrew Rodriguez

Title 5 of the Year: David Obertanec

State Employees

Maintenance Mechanic CFMO – State Maintenance:
Christopher Auger, James Camberis, Bryan Costello

Maintenance Technician FFMO – State Maintenance:
Jeffrey Letendre

Accountant – State Business Office: Richard Clorite, Thomas King, Erica King

Technical Support Specialist – Department of Information Management: Susanna Klein

Inventory Control Supervisor Pease ANG Base – Civil Operations: Christopher Boesch

Administrative Secretary – Division of Veterans Services: Cynthia Fisher

Supervisor – Division of Veterans Services: Jamie Cummings

Grants Program and Resource Development Coordinator – Division of Community Based Military Programs: Heather Smith

"Thanks for living up the Guard's motto, 'Always ready, always there,'" said NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities. "I can't wait for 2023."

Mikolaities highlighted the year's top achievements for attendees with a "12 Days of Christmas" countdown.

12 – Operation Winter Surge: various COVID-19 relief missions were conducted throughout the state.

11 – Thunder Over New Hampshire Air Show: Pease Air National Guard Base earned gold at national awards ceremony for hosting the 2021 event.

10 – Biathlon and Marathon Athletes: multiple guardsmen competed on official "All Guard" running and biathlon developmental teams.

9 – Construction and Facilities Management: the Heritage Room in Concord, the state's oldest armory, was converted into a military artifacts gallery, featuring an exhibit in honor of Capt. Harl Pease Jr., Medal of Honor recipient.

8 – State Partnership Program: the development of Department of Defense partnerships with the Republic of El Salvador and newcomer, the Republic of Cabo Verde.

7 – Innovative Readiness Training: missions in Greenfield State Park and Cherokee Nation enabled guardsmen to complete annual construction and medical training requirements while simultaneously serving communities.

6 – Marksmanship Team: a four-man squad won the Marksmanship Advisory Council Region 1 Championship, comprising shooting teams from six northeastern states.

5 – Purple Heart Recipients: five soldiers of Charlie Company, 238th Aviation (Medevac), awarded the Purple Heart for service in Iraq during a missile attack.

4 – Heroism: a Pease airman administered lifesaving medical care to a boating crash victim, and a soldier helped rescue a North Country resident from a house fire.

3 – Federal Deployments: nearly 400 soldiers and airman were deployed around the globe.

2 – Fliers: aircrews engaged in 15 helicopter search and rescue operations and a record-breaking, 36-hour KC-46A refueling mission.

1 – Best in NH: The New Hampshire National Guard was voted by Business NH Magazine as one of the state's best "companies" to work for.



From left, the NHANG's oldest guardsman, **Chief Master Sgt. Alfred Orsini**, NH Adjutant **Gen. David Mikolaities**, and the NHARNG's youngest guardsman, **Pvt. Waleed Shahin**, cut a cake with a ceremonial sword during the Guard's 386th Annual Awards ceremony Dec. 13, 2022, at the Edward Cross Training Complex in Pembroke.

NO BETTER PARTNERSHIP

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO

In the spirit of giving, the New Hampshire National Guard gave a tactical assist to Santa for Christmas.

Guardsmen transported thousands of donated children's gifts to communities across the state in military trucks, buses, and even a Black Hawk helicopter December 13, 2022.

The endeavor was facilitated through a partnership with the State Employees' Association and Operation Santa Claus, a charitable program in its 62nd season.

"This year, we served roughly 3,500 children, which is one of the highest we've ever done unfortunately, but fortunately," said Richard Gulla, SEA president.

For several weeks, gifts were gathered and staged at the state military reservation in Concord.

Dozens of guardsmen, from generals and lieutenants to sergeants and airmen, amassed to stand shoulder-to-shoulder and pass packages from heaping piles into awaiting delivery vehicles. Gifts were then taken to Department of Health and Human Services facilities, including offices in Berlin, Concord, Manchester, Keene, Claremont, Portsmouth, and Rochester.

"One of our missions is building partnerships," said NH Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities. "There's no better partnership than working with these folks here as we support our communities throughout the state."

According to Christine McManus, SEA communications manager, this year's OSC was one of the biggest ever, citing inflation and the pandemic as contributing factors.

"We are always looking for sponsors and donors and all kinds of help," McManus said. "We even need shoppers to go out and just buy gifts for the kids. But it is very exciting. It's one of the things we look forward to every year, and it just couldn't be better."

McManus added that SEA's support of OSC is year-round, and planning for next year's event starts in January.

Donations can be made at operationsantanh.org.

"We're so grateful to be able to use your facility this year," Gulla said. "It's a team effort. We couldn't do it without you."



OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

Spc. Kelly Boyer of the 114th Public Affairs Detachment loads a donated Christmas gift onto a delivery truck Dec. 13, 2022, at the state military reservation in Concord. Guardsmen loaded and transported thousands of donations to communities across the state in military trucks, buses, and a Black Hawk helicopter. The endeavor was facilitated through a partnership with the State Employees' Association and Operation Santa Claus, a charitable program in its 62nd season.



New Hampshire Guardsmen load donated Christmas gifts onto a delivery truck Dec. 12, 2022, at the state military reservation in Concord.

Photo by Sgt. Bei Simmons, 114th Public Affairs Detachment

From left, **Staff Sgt. Andrew Doucette**, **Master Sgt. Jacinta Guerreiro**, and **Master Sgt. Samantha Warren** of the 157th Air Refueling Wing load donated Christmas gifts onto a delivery truck Dec. 12, 2022, at the state military reservation in Concord.

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



TWINS HAVE EACH OTHER'S BACK

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Johnston, NHNG Deputy State PAO

Senior Airmen Olivia and Gillian Conley enjoy an extra holiday every December.

National Twin Day, in observance since 2019, gave the fraternal twin sisters occasion to reflect on their special relationship last Sunday.

“We love an excuse to have a holiday, so it’s definitely something we will celebrate,” said Gillian, the youngest by a minute.

They joined the New Hampshire Air National Guard fresh out of high school in 2017, trained together at basic and were roommates at tech school.

“We’ve been with each other since we were in the womb,” Olivia said.

Following in their father’s footsteps, a former airman, the Conleys served at Pease ANG Base until Olivia’s recent transfer to Connecticut for a full-time Air recruiting job.

“It’s definitely been an adjustment period,” said Gillian, a respiratory therapist with the 157th Air Refueling Wing. “I feel like I lost my other half.”

But while distance separates them for the first time in their young lives, an Air Guard bond endures.

“As long as we do it together, it’s more motivating for each other,” Olivia said.

Before branching off to different bases, the two were never mistaken for one another on drill weekends—a work hazard for many identical and fraternal twins. They don’t really look alike. And if not for sharing a last name, they suspect most people wouldn’t even realize they’re related.

Some obvious differences are Gillian is brunette, Olivia is blonde and noticeably taller. And though they do share common interests, there are subtle contrasts. They both like downhill skiing, for example, though Gillian changed to snowboarding. Olivia is still making the change, despite Gillian’s copycat accusations.

“I was born first, so you’re copying me,” Olivia clarified.

In the spirit of National Twin Day, they observed the holiday by fielding a few “twin questions” via video conference—Olivia from her Connecticut recruiting office and Gillian from her medical group at Pease.

Do you have twin ESP?

Olivia: For sure, we definitely do. Somebody will say something, we look at each other and read each other’s minds. I can already tell what she has to say about it or what she’s thinking about it just by giving each other a look.

Gillian: It’s like a little smirk or something. I can’t really describe the look, but I know exactly what she’s talking about.

Who is smartest?

Gillian: I am.

Olivia: That is not true!

Gillian: Yes, it is. I always had better grades at school. I am definitely the smartest one.

Olivia: We’re smart in our own ways. I think I’m more military smart than Gillian is.

Gillian: I would disagree.

Best looking?

Gillian: It’s Olivia.

Olivia: It’s blondes or brunettes. It’s your own preference.

Most physically fit?

Olivia: Gillian is.

Gillian: I am. Like, two whole minutes faster.

Olivia: I would not say that. My last fitness test was pretty good.

Gillian: But you still haven’t beat my fastest, a 9:46 mile and a half. I think I’m probably better at push-ups, but Olivia is better at sit-ups.

The playful Q&A revealed a sibling rivalry they admit leads to heated disagreements. They said they only last a few minutes, however, because it’s impossible to stay mad at each other for long.

“I love that she has my back no matter what,” Gillian explained. “I couldn’t imagine my life without her.”

“We’re best friends,” Olivia said.



From left, **Senior Airmen Gillian and Olivia Conley**, fraternal twin sisters, pose Dec. 10, 2022, in Northfield. They joined the New Hampshire Air National Guard together in 2017.

Courtesy photo.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

Private (PV2)

Kyle Ayers
Anabel Bobadilla
Benjamin Bouchard
Kacia Campbell
Tyler Campbell
Cooper Carlson
Joseph Costa
Madalyn Delotto
Carlos Dow
Nendoe Gleekia
Acevedo Gomez
Mary Gubitose
Dennis Harris
Matthew Higginbotham
Jezelle Josef
Peter Kratovil
Dominic Lacasse
Stephen St. Laurent
Veronica Madore
Christian Naugler
Tristan Patten
Luciano Quezada
Tanyan Scott
Waleed Shahin
Jonathan Slankard
Matthew Slover
Dominic Stengle
Rozalia Vajda

Private First Class

Konnor Abbott
Moise Akili
Tyler Biron
Christopher Brown
Nadyan Byrnes
Marvin Corporan
Marnie Crichton
Jake St. Cyr
Quynh Dang
Ryan Duddy
Julie Fredricksen
Bradley Gamelin
Carson Geha
Andrea Obando Gordillo

Jessica Hayes
Bao Vo Huynh
Amelia Magay
Connor Manning
Robert Marquis
Tyler Maviki
Tristan Mayville
Aubrie McGinn
Tomas Garcia Medina
George Munson
Christian Nepa
Dillan Norcross
Khim Oli
Michelle Otgonbaatar
Boden Rand
Brandon Roy
Matthew Seymour
Stefane Godoes De Souza
Ashley Stephens
Jared Toms
Daniel Watts
Ashlee Weatherbee

Specialist

Zack Allen
Jeremy Aubin
Kenneth Barker
Veera Bathula
Tyler Boyle
Emily Brien
Brendan Bunnell
Alan Burns
Joseph Carvalho
Maria Cioto
Edward Cole
Zackery Cressy
Mozafer Dawod
Quinn Estes
Christopher Ferry
Summer Gagnon
William Graff
Jordan Graham
Dane Gravette
Adam Haidari
Kaylen Hebert

Tanner Holk
Zander Humphrey
Stephen Jones
Zel Kerkel
Joshua Lafleur
Alison Lambert
Ryan Lavin
Matthew Lawley
Kyle Lebel
Tucker Leitch
Zackari Lepicier
Tara Lohar
Nicodemus Mato
Khali Mclean
Colin Mehalek
Hayley Minahan
Ruben Moreno
Santiago Ospina
Alexander Otova
Jacob Peterson
Christian Peterson
Tyler Pischinger
Christofer Riel
Nicholas Sanderson
Kyle Shattuck
James Small
James Smith
James Spencer
Derek Strom
Owen Thomas
Jakob Unsworth
Codi Vachon
Kurt Warnick
Asia Webber
Bishop West
Andrew Williams
Connor Woodward
Nyleem Wright

Corporal

Jesse Rothery
Brett Rousseau

Sergeant

Micailah Albertson
Jacob Barrington
Kaitlyn Belanger
Zachary Blocker
Todd Bouchard
David Boynton
Joseph Cardona
George Carson
Asher Clark
Heather Cote
Riselly Deoleo
Chad Desautels
Michael Downs
Cordell Drabble
Ashlynn Ducharme
Scout Germaine
Nathan Gilmartin
Amber Ginnetty
Jonathan Hamilton
Thomas Headington
Erik Hilyard
Justin Holt
Cyrus Hull
Zachary Ingraham
James Kilgo
Isaac Ladd
Widmac Laterion
Brenden Lavalley
Tyler Lefebvre
Samuel Libby
Aaron Limbat
Stephanie Mahoney
Kameron Marshall
Nelson Marwanga
Cory Mayo
Joseph McCaig
Michael McCall
Conor McKeogh
Gordon McQuaid
Vega Mercado
Kevin Morency
Richard Morris
Justin Nem

Ivan Perez
Sean Throneberry-Perkins
Jacob Porazinski
Arthur Ring
Edgar Saucier
Matthew Simon
Noah Smialek
Trevor Smith
Sanjay Sundash
Jordon Tavares
Nicholas Theberge
John Vance
Trevor Wassel
Tyler Whiting

Staff Sergeant

Travis Abbott
Joshua Ball
David Broome
John Cotter
Nulise Francois
Thomas Gabelmann
Mark Hayward
Davis Jollimore
John Lally
Courtney Larabee
Matthew Long
Patrick Mccormack
Andy Morgan
Brenden Nadeau
Caleb Pride
Courtney Reyes
Austin Rosende
Sharmaine Sanders
Aaron Smith
Jaleesa Tuttobene
Kayla Westanderson
Adam Wong
Timothy York

Sergeant First Class

Michelle Burke
Cameron Holtcorti
Len Larrabee
Jayco Laughton

Lashawnda Lee
Brendan Manning
Marcus Manning
Christopher Mason
Carey Morris
Mackenzie Sickel
Dean Van Tassel
Joseph Wyner

Master Sergeant

Crystal Boisvert
Rich Capen
Robert Gould
William Roth
Derek Russo
Christopher Stauder

First Sergeant

Eric Bashor
Greggory Chapman
Carolina Compton
Jonathan Dingman

Command Sergeant Major

Gregory Gerbig

Warrant Officer

Joseph Paradis

Chief Warrant Officer 4

Athena Clements
Ryan Drouin

Second Lieutenant

Markos Starz

Major

Joseph Legerstee

Lieutenant Colonel

Richard Laflame

Colonel

Richard Frear
Melinda Morin

AIR NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

Airman First Class

Shelby Demingway
John Flynn
Luke Holland
Haley Lawrence
Kendall Lawrence

Senior Airman

Andrew Aquino
Justin Fox
Jack Horne
Benjamin Lagueux
Ahnais Letch
Kyle Marsh
Mariah Russell
Collin Shanahan
Karina Decilla-Torres
Nathaniel Wiggin

Staff Sergeant

Roderick Ababon
Alyssa Berger
Austin Boyle
Brendan Brack
Scott Collins
Gregory Gargano
Aaron Katz
Drew Labbe
Timothy Mangolds
Alexa Minnich
Andrew W. Myers
Ashtin Steen

Technical Sergeant

Michael Bird
Jacob Bishop
Mark Fowler
Jason Heiman
Donald Heincy
Jacob Kelly

Adam Kenchion
Rebekah Londoff
Tara Martel
Amber Martine
Jacob Miltner
Victoria Nelson
Kristofer Provencal
Nicholas Reynolds
Austin Routhier
John Uzzle
Matthew Willard
Christopher Wood

Master Sergeant

Natalie Belongie
Brandon Cevallos
Joseph DiPalma
Kelsey Hannafin
Alleem Humber
Sarah LaPerle
Aaron Loring
Michael McInnis

Zachary Otto
Jonathan Pack
Joseph Riley
Jeffrey Shisler
Edward Thibault
Corey Weaver

Senior Master Sergeant

Amanda Bates
William Werner

Chief Master Sergeant

Patrice Foggarty
Michael Girouard

First Lieutenant

Ryan Ducharme
Margaret Tereschuk
Charles Walker

Major

Piers Osborne
Michael Petrin
Kimberly Steinhagen
Joshua Stewart
Ryan Sychterz

Lieutenant Colonel

Ryan Cunningham
John Lockard
David Whitney

Colonel

James Brown
Brian Carloni

NEW HAMPSHIRE GUARDSMAN
NHNG Public Affairs Office
1 Minuteman Way
Concord, NH 03301

PRSRT MKTG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Spectrum Marketing
Companies

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Spc. Davis Jollimore finds some scholarly inspiration during a visit with a statue of poet Robert Frost on the campus of Plymouth State University.

Like many of our citizen soldiers, the sports management major joined the New Hampshire Army National Guard for the educational benefits--free tuition at any state university.

By today's standards, Davis, now a staff sergeant, chose a path less traveled. But he'll soon graduate knowing his decision will have made all the difference.



1-800-GO-GUARD

