



the BAYONET

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Adjutant General of Maine
Brig. Gen. James D. Campbell

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Richard
Hannibal

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Michael Steinbuchel

121st Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. 1st Class Pete Morrison, NCOIC
Managing Editor

Sgt. Angela Parady, Photojournalist
Layout & Design

Spc. Adam Simmler, Photojournalist
Contributing Journalist



The Organizational Inspection Program

From the Inspector General



"What you inspect is what you can expect."

This unattributed, Army axiom is as true today as it was back in 1779 when General Baron Von Steuben published his "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States" or better known as the "Blue Book."

Commanders are responsible for everything that their units do and do not do. This is a weighty task. They are typically successful when they develop their subordinates, establish mutual trust, delegate effectively and inspect the various systems in their units.

Inspections not only give the commander the opportunity to verify the status of systems and make necessary corrections, but also to see and reward the outstanding

performance of their subordinates.

The Army recognized that asking a commander to verify all things at all times is unrealistic and inefficient.

Its solution is outlined in Army Regulation 1-201, Army Inspection Policy. This document describes a comprehensive, written Organizational Inspection Program (OIP) that addresses all inspections and audits conducted by the command and its subordinate elements as well as those inspections and audits scheduled by outside agencies.

The purpose of the OIP is to coordinate inspections and audits into a single, cohesive program focused on command objectives.

An effective OIP allows the commander to use these inspections to identify, prevent, or eliminate problem areas within the command.

Commanders should also use the OIP to complement and reinforce other sources of evaluation information when determining or assessing readiness.

The OIP provides the commander with an organized management tool to identify, prevent, or eliminate problem areas. All inspections conducted as part

of an OIP must adhere to the Army inspection principles.

They must be purposeful, coordinated, focused on gathering feedback, instructive and involve follow-up on the areas to improve.

The OIP will contain command guidance on the conduct of inspections, priorities and goals, explain the mechanism for scheduling and executing inspections, assign responsibility for scheduling and monitoring inspections, provide standards for inspectors, and discuss a way to track feedback and corrective actions.

The battalion OIP forms the basic building block for inspections, and those of higher commands must complement the battalion-level programs. These will focus on those areas that immediately impact on readiness and reinforce goals and standards. It includes command inspections by the battalion commander and staff inspections or Staff Assistance Visits (SAVs) by the battalion staff.

The battalion commander must add visits and inspections by higher headquarters and agencies to the OIP—especially in areas where the battalion staff lacks experience or

expertise. Additionally, command inspections will articulate standards and assist in teaching, correctly, the processes at work within the battalion. Teaching, training, and mentoring will be a goal of all inspections—especially company-level Initial and Subsequent Command Inspections (ICIs and SCIs).

The OIP at state level (or similar level headquarters) and above primarily involves staff inspections, SAVs, and IG inspections. The state OIP must establish guidance and a framework within which the brigade and battalions can develop their own OIPs.

Command inspections at this level must include, at a minimum, command inspections of any separate units, such as the JFHQs Headquarters Company. The focus of the OIP will be on the state's ability to effectively execute plans and policy.

At a minimum, the OIP must verify the effectiveness of OIPs at subordinate levels, protect subordinate commanders from being over inspected, and disseminate lessons learned throughout the command.

In addition, state OIPs must address the IG's intelligence oversight responsibilities and requirements as outlined

in AR 20-1, Intelligence Oversight.

The regulation clearly states that Army National Guard OIPs will exist at all levels from battalion through state commands.

Commanders, principal staff officers, fulltime staff members, and IGs must remain sensitive to the time-distance factors and the compressed training time available to our units when establishing inspection policies and procedures.

The OIP must strive to ensure that inspections do not consume valuable training time that could be devoted to mission-essential task list efforts.

Commanders in our high-OPTEMPO state should clearly recognize that the OIP is not merely a garrison-oriented program, but a program that applies equally to the deployed environment. There is no room for a breakdown in property accountability, equipment training, weapons maintenance or other essential systems in combat.

The scope and nature of command, staff, and IG inspections may change, but inspections take on greater importance when the operational tempo is high and adhering to standards becomes absolutely critical.

By now, all commanders likely have read AR 1-201 and the The Organizational Inspection Guide (OIP) for Commanders, both posted on SharePoint.

These will soon be accompanied by the publication of Maine Army National Guard Regulation 2-1, Organizational Inspection Program (OIP) in the coming month.

Further, all commanders should "expect" to be "inspected" on their compliance with this program, that is fundamental to what all Commanders have been required to do since 1636.

For more information about the State IG office and on how to make a complaint, go to <http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/ig/filing-a-complaint.aspx>, email: ng.me.mearng.list.staff-ig@mail.mil, or call 207-430-6068.

You can also visit the office on the second floor, west corner of Building 7, Camp Keyes, Augusta, Maine 04096.

dirIGo!
LTC Beatty

118th Boston Marathon 21 April 2014



Col. Jack Mosher ran the 26.2 mile Boston Marathon on April 21 in honor of fallen servicemember, Andrew Hutchins, and to raise money for Run for the Fallen, and Gold Star Families. After completing the marathon, Mosher presented Allyssa Hutchins, Andrew's daughter with his medal, and the shirt he wore in his honor.

Spc. Andrew Hutchins, 20, died Monday, Nov. 8, 2010 from wounds he suffered when insurgents attacked his unit while on tower duty in Sabari District, Khost Province in eastern Afghanistan near Pakistan. Hutchins was a military policeman assigned to the 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Fort Campbell, Ky. He graduated from Carrabec High School in 2008. His wife, Heather was pregnant with their daughter Allyssa at the time of his death.

Heather, who has worked with Mosher at past events honoring her husband, said, "Col. Mosher is a great guy who has treated my family well by honoring Andrew, and us. I don't know many people who could finish an amazing run like the Boston Marathon, and then give their medal away to a toddler. He put it around her neck, and said she could keep it. I know that made her feel special."

The 2014 Maine Run for the Fallen will be held August 24th at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.



Seven Soldiers from the Maine Army National Guard were selected to participate in this years marathon run:

Capt. Colleen Swanger

Lt Owen Baxter

Staff Sgt. James Jordan

Staff Sgt. James Robbins

Sgt. Thomas Hayden

Sgt. 1st Class Norman Voter

Sgt. Jordan Richard

Staff Sgt. Sarah Cayia

Congratulations to All for Representing Maine



New England Guardsmen Hone Security Skills

Story by Sgt. Angela Parady, Photos Courtesy of RI Public Affairs Office

"A chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive (CBRNE) enhanced response force package, is now a part of our homeland defense structure. We are there to help support the governor and local authorities when bad things happen," said Maj. Richard Hallowell, executive officer for the 521st Troop Command Battalion, Maine Army National Guard.



Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Massachusetts provide roughly 200 Air and Army National Guardsmen who are prepared to provide assistance to local authorities in case of a catastrophic event, such as a terrorist attack. The teams are designed to execute mass decontamination processes, medical triage, and provide governments and local authorities with assets they don't have access to.

In March, this CERF-P met with the Rhode Island Coast Guard to expand the response team's readiness by exposing them to maritime incidents. Until this event, the teams were

more focused on large crowd scenario, structural collapses and events such as the Super Bowl or the Boston Marathon, where a terrorist attack would

have devastating effects. Their main goal is to keep people safe by controlling any potential for threat.

The CERF-P team was directed to focus on maritime missions as well by the Adjutant General of Maine who requested this team be prepared to handle such incidents to protect the New England coastline.

For the March exercise, the units received notification of a vessel approaching the Newport Naval Station with sick immigrants and crew members aboard. Within six hours, a command and control element from Maine,

decontamination and medical units from New Hampshire, and a decontamination and search and extraction team from Rhode Island were deployed to the scene. The CERF-P worked with the Rhode Island Civil Support Team to determine what was causing the illnesses, and how to contain the threat.

"The scenario was a group of immigrants from Haiti were coming across the ocean, and they got sick,"

said Sgt. Andrew Jensen, an operations noncommissioned officer for the 521. "The crew members were sick. We were notified and tasked with trying to figure out what was wrong with them. The CST identified the cause to be the plague, and advised us on how to deal with it. Our mission was then to extract the people, decontaminate them, and then medically treat them if we can."

The teams used pulley systems and additional man power to pull out the ROTC cadets who were role-playing for the day.

"This is just another way we have been able to improve our

training as we have become more adept," said Jensen, who lives in Brewer. "Training has become more and more realistic. We have a better idea now of what to expect for hazards, how different systems interact with each other. When this first came out, no one had done this sort of stuff before.

So when we were building the earlier scenarios, they weren't always very realistic. As we have come to understand more about the behaviors of the chemicals, and the casualties, we can work on responding appropriately to both.

With casualties, we can coach them now to help make better training. Using role players makes it harder for the search and extraction teams. Pulling out a mannequin is different than pulling out a screaming person who doesn't know who you are or why you are touching them"

The teams train on their own to make sure they are prepared to respond. Some teams have on the job training in hospitals; others work in rubble piles with jackhammers and pulley systems, using dummies as victims. Quarterly, they meet up to test the unit as a whole in a cumulative scenario.

In November, they supported



Vigilant Guard, the exercise that tested the capabilities of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, and local and state first



responders. One of the scenarios presented in Vigilant Guard was a collapsed ice arena that was discovered to be leaking hazardous material.

They had to safely remove people from the rubble, while also working with hazmat, setting up decontamination stations, and medical tents.

Hallowell, who lives in Caribou, said that the members of his team traditionally train in a CBRN environment, so they are prepared to gear up in their suit and mask, and handle the extraction of casualties, decontamination processes and medical triage in any event. On a smaller level, the search and extraction teams can also be called out for smaller missions, such as a lost hunter.

"This happens a lot in Maine, in New England," he said. "You can use us to go out and search. We wouldn't necessarily need a decontamination team, so we could spend more efforts on the search and rescue element. We can also use our communication assets and command resources to help local first responders set up their command sections in actual emergencies."

Mostly, these teams help improve the overall security of the United States. They are prepared to respond quickly to any number of events, working with local first responders and governments to protect the communities they live and work in.

Battle Buddies in Basic: Mother and Daughter Succeed Together

Story and Photos by Sgt. Angela Parady

When Michelle first said she was thinking about going into the military, Amber thought she was out of her mind. She never thought a mom could do something like that.

Less than 14 percent of the Army is made up of females, and less than 10 percent of military recruits over the age of 35, it is no wonder her mom's seemingly abrupt decision came as a shock to Amber.

Struggling to overcome physical fears and complacency, the 37 year old was determined to realize a dream she had held on since she was young, and she was going to convince her daughter to come along for the ride.

Amber and Michelle Silvermane enlisted in the Maine Army National Guard in 2007, less than a month apart from one another.



"My mother worked three jobs her whole life just trying to support us kids," said Amber. "She did a little bit of the CNA work, she worked as a behavioral technician at one point,

but she never really had anything to call her own. She always put us first, and it was always about us kids. She was the one who really wanted to join."

When her youngest was 16, Michelle's mind was made up. Michelle said her husband, who served in the Army until Amber was 1, was very supportive of her decision. Knowing it was something she had really wanted to do, and knowing she had the support of her family, Michelle went to the recruiter. She made Amber, who had recently graduated high school and was working

the graveyard shift at a call-in center come with her.

"Amber was not going in a direction I approved of," said her mother. "She wasn't doing anything illegal, or super bad, but I could see where it could go really bad, really quickly."

Amber, now the full time administrative noncommissioned officer for Joint Force Headquarters in Augusta, never gave the military any thought until her mother told her she was going. She remembers thinking that the military would never be a good match for her.

"My dad looked at me, and said, 'what are you doing right now? You aren't going anywhere. If you hate it, it's not active duty, its one weekend a month, and two weeks a year. Anyone can do that.' He was right, in a way."

Amber enlisted in January, and her mother, who also works full time for the Maine National Guard at Camp Keyes, Augusta, enlisted the next month. The two were matched up, and left for basic training that November.



At this point, both women were nervous. Amber's dad had given them a rundown on what he had gone through when he went to basic. He told Amber she was going to have to shave her head. Michelle was mentally prepared for what she would face, but not necessarily physically prepared.

"I knew mentally, I could do it," said Michelle, a healthcare specialist for the Maine Army National Guard Medical Detachment, and full time case manager for medical and behavioral health.

She knew that her own life experiences would give her an advantage over some of the younger recruits who may have a difficult time

being yelled at, or ordered around. She knew that, tough as it may be, she could look past the yelling and screaming, and see the end result of what they were trying to accomplish, a mentally tough, and disciplined soldier.

Michelle said changing her mindset as a 37-year old wife and mother, was more difficult than she thought.

"I went from being the one who organized everyone's lives, the one who made sure they did what they were supposed to, when they were supposed to, and were where they were supposed to be, to being told what to do and when to do it," she said. "I think that was the hardest struggle for me."

Michelle has always had a close bond with her daughters. Going to training together gave the women a support system as they faced the same challenges, the same struggles every day.

However, they also had to handle a certain level of misperception, being mother and daughter. While both women were ready and prepared to help each other along the way, they were also ready to independently be successful. There was a constant hyperawareness of their mother-daughter status.

At Fort Jackson, they were warned by commanders that this wasn't something they approved of. Michelle remembers a commander asking her what she would do if Amber was dropped and yelled at by a drill sergeant.

"I looked at him and said, I held her accountable as a child, I expect you to hold her accountable as a soldier. I think that kind of surprised him."

Michelle said that level of discipline was common in her house. Growing up, Amber and her sister knew that the results of their decisions, well thought out, or a split second

impulse, would be theirs alone to face. It made the girls responsible, and for Amber, part of why they are closer than most. The support they were able to lend each other after hours in training helped each woman succeed along the path to where they are now. Amber remembers when her mother was almost sent back because she was going to fail basic rifle marksmanship.

"My mother is an extraordinarily smart woman, she is driven and passionate, but can be easily discouraged," said Amber.

"To this day, she struggles with shooting. After a day at the range we would come together and she would be tearing herself apart. I would look at her and tell her, you are smart enough, driven enough; you have to stop talking yourself out of things. You have to stop being so detrimental to your own progress."

That blunt support helped the team graduate basic training together, and quickly reversed roles when they both arrived in Texas for their healthcare specialist training. Michelle would have to rein Amber

in at the end of a long day of classroom activities and power point presentations, almost forcing her to focus and study so that they could make it through together.

"She wanted to go for a walk, go to the gym or the PX, but there was a very real chance that she wasn't going to make it through AIT the first time if she didn't buckle down," said Michelle. "I would tell her, you are not getting recycled, not here, not now. Open that book, we are going to study and we are going to get you through this."

They both struggled a lot, as they were torn down, and built back up by their experiences. Now, they both work doors away from one another, and get lunch together nearly every day. Amber said her mom has become a personal counselor for her, and one she doesn't have to pay for. Because they both live and breathe the Army life on a full time basis, they understand a lot of the same things.

"She is a constant source of support," said Amber. "I know, the Army is a family. The National Guard is a family. But every family has its issues. There is a lot of he-said, she-said. People will share rumors

and secrets, but they aren't necessarily close. You don't always know who you can talk to; who will keep what you say confidential. But I can tell my mom anything. She can tell me anything, it doesn't go anywhere. She gets me."

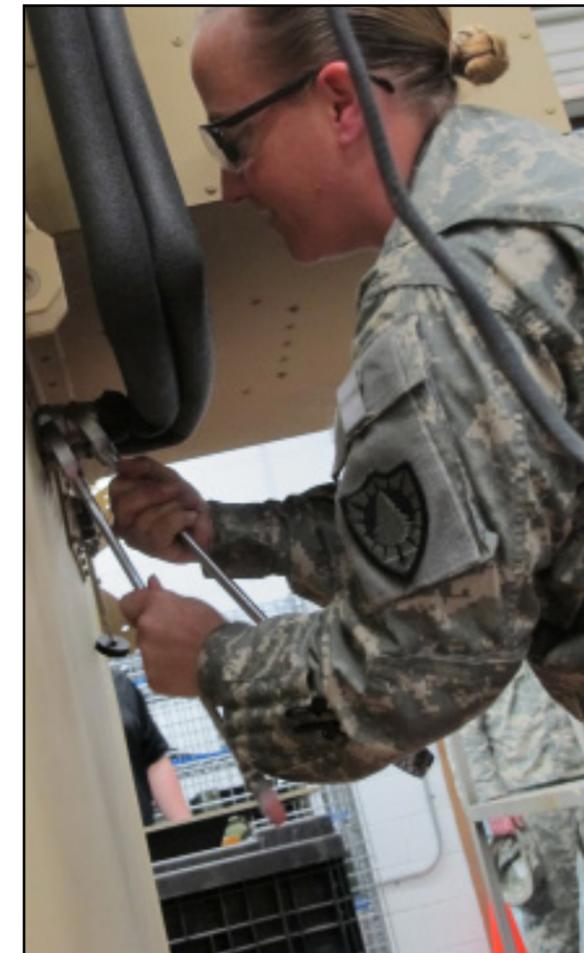
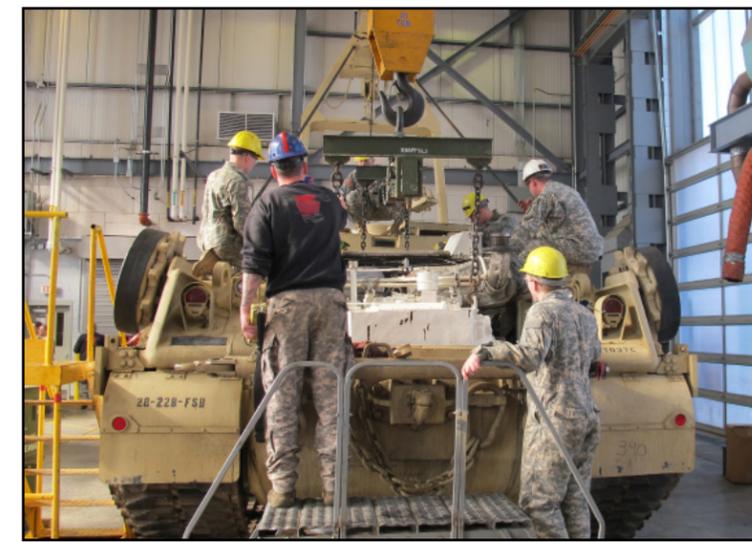
Michelle is proud to be where she is. She is proud to serve, and proud of her girls who serve. For her, she has realized a life-long goal. It may have taken her a bit longer to achieve it, but because she waited, she was able to share her experience with her daughter. She said that she has seen a change in Amber, who has found focus and direction, while maintaining her happy and carefree outlook.

"I never expected either of us to accomplish what we have already accomplished," said Amber. "Everyone has aspirations to be something someday, but that's just it. No one defines it. I never thought my mom would really do this. I know I never thought I would be here."

Women in the Military

- During the War of 1812, two women served as nurses aboard ships.
- During the Civil War women disguised as men served on both sides. Women also served as spies, nurses--including aboard at least one hospital ship and one, Dr. Mary Walker, received the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- Women have served in the American armed forces for over 100 hundred years--since 1901--when the Army Nurse Corps was established. The Navy Nurse Corps soon followed in 1908.
- Women who were not Nurses were first enlisted in the Navy and Marine Corps during World War I. Only nurses served in the Army during this war; but the Army did hire about 200 civilian women who were fluent in both English and French to serve as telephone operators. These women, often referred to as the "Hello Girls," were later given veterans' status.
- 432 American military women were killed during World War II. 88 were prisoners of war all but one of these in the Pacific Theater.
- 7 women died in the line of duty while serving in theater during the Vietnam War. Their names can be found inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial.
- Almost 41,000 women served in theater during Persian Gulf War. 13 women were killed and two were taken as prisoners of war.
- Two women sailors were killed and five were wounded in the terrorist attack on USS Cole.
- About 10 percent of the U.S. Forces currently serving in Afghanistan and Iraq are women.

The 152nd Component Repair Company spent two weeks in April training at Fort Indiantown Gap Training Site or the Tobyhanna training site where they were able to work with equipment that they need to stay proficient on.



Maine's Military History

LEWISTON JOURNAL MAGAZINE SECTION

LEWISTON, AUBURN, MAINE, Saturday, May 11, 1957 12 PAGES

Maine's 103rd Infantry Units Here For "Armed Forces Week"



THE 103RD INFANTRY STARTS AGAIN—This is a picture of the officers and non-commissioned officers of Company "E", of Lewiston, one of the units allocated to Lewiston after the 103rd Infantry Regiment was reactivated following World War I. The picture was taken at a specialists' school at Camp Devens, Mass., on Aug. 11, 1923. Front row, left to right: Corp. Aime St. Pierre, 1st Sgt. Roland Randlett, Lieut. Cleophas H. Morin, Capt. Daniel S. Dexter, Lieut. Hale Sawtelle, Corp. Roger Pruneau, Corp. Paul Cloutier. Second row, Sgt. Pete Lemelin, Sgt. Alfred Descoteau, Sgt. Emile Marcoux, Corp. Glidden, Corp. Hector Marcoux, Corp. Laurien Libbey, Corp. Maurice Filtean, Corp. Roy Davis, Sgt. Clyde Davis. Third row, Corp. Turmeau, Sgt. Alfred Vaehon, Corp. Turmeau, Corp. Louis Bechard, Corp. Roland Morneau, Sgt. Ralph King, Corp. Arthur Scott. (Anyone knowing first names of corporals Turmeau and Glidden please inform 103rd Infantry Assn., Lewiston Memorial Armory.)

Heritage doesn't just happen. It builds up in generations of courage, determination, daring and devotion to principle. It gets into the fibre of one's being, and it can't be taken off like a coat.

With a military organization it means many men, down through the years, living up to an ideal- or dying for it- blood and fire- forced marches- low rations- but the will to carry through "To the Last

Man".
That's the way it is with Maine's 103rd Infantry, a military organization that had its baptism in the first battle of the Civil War and fought many others before the Union was saved -- that took a determining part in the World War I drives that freed France of the Prussian oppressor- and in World War II surged up one enemy-held Pacific beach after another until the world was again free for democracy.
And through all those 96 years down to now,

all those men, generations of them, marching shoulder to shoulder, fighting through the heat of it, funning together in the off hours, giving and sharing together, "To the Last Man".

That's the motto of Maine's 103rd Infantry-citizen- soldier organization always- an ideal many veterans of the regiment and combat team are preparing to proclaim anew at an Armed Forces Week reunion in Lewiston on Sunday, May 19.

On the afternoon of that day, battalions of the 103rd Regimental Combat Team (as the organization is now known) will parade in review before its former members and the men who once belonged to its parent organizations, the 103rd or 2nd Maine Infantry Regiments.

Then, the visiting veterans will join with the present- day soldiers in a reunion program at Lewiston Memorial Armory. Together they comprise the 103rd Infantry Association. A potential of the number of present organization members plus living veterans of the organization is approximately 10,000 men.

Levi Emerson, Founder

Now how did the 103rd come by this heritage? How did it start? What was its continuity? One might say it started with a man named Levi Emerson up in Bangor who realized that a great war was starting and that the government would need fighting men - fast.

Fort Sumpter had been fired upon. Washington was hurrying plans to raise an army to suppress the Southern Rebellion. There were people up North plenty of them- who said "There won't be any real war come out of this." But Levi Emerson knew better. He did more than talk.

He recruited a company of volunteers and on April 19, 1861- seven days after Sumpter was fired on- wired Governor Israel Washburn Jr., that his company was ready to enter the service.

Bangor was First

Governor Washburn who was also an eager patriot, wired back "Rendezvous the troops, the State will pay." And so Bangor, Maine, had raised the first company of volunteer infantry

in the United States and had been accepted for immediate service.

Captain Levi Emerson had started the ball rolling. Other companies, some of them existing militia companies, filled their ranks and reported to Camp Washburn near the arsenal on Essex St. There they formed the 2nd Maine Infantry, were sown into Federal service, and by July 1, 1861 were at Falls Church, Virginia, being the farthest advanced of any Union troops toward the enemy.

Then came the first Battle of Bull Run, the first battle of the Civil War. In the large that was a test of green troops, men who had never been in combat before. Some speak of the Union action on that sizzling summer day as a "rout," but of the 2nd Maine Infantry it can be said it was not in the forefront of the retreat. Instead, it was a rear guard fighting the surging Southerners so their fellow troops could escape in safety. For this gallant action the 2nd Maine Infantry was warmly commended.



MEN OF ACTION!—Typical of spirit of this great Maine military unit is this thrilling action of the armed group above. The parent organization of the 103rd was the first volunteer unit in the United States during the Civil War, a fact not widely known, and little publicized by historians. Through the intervening years the 103rd has seen action in every war.

Simulator Trains Many, Saves Thousands

Story and Photos by Sgt. Angela Parady

Even with all elements of the United States military preparing for budget cuts, the need to meet training and safety standards is still important so that we can remain fully mission capable.

Recently, the Maine Army National Guard's Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment acquired Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainers, which are mobile aviation simulator systems for their annual training.

By using the simulators, the unit is saving the state roughly \$500,000 for their two-week training period.

The AVCATTs allow the units to train more individuals, while saving money because they don't require fuel or the maintenance expenses of actual air craft.

The medical evacuation pilots in Charlie Company are able to work with technicians to set up the scenarios for the simulators. The technology of the equipment allows the programmers to virtually place the pilot anywhere in

the world, under any types of conditions.

For Charlie Co., the scenarios were based on real world, combat scenarios where the soldiers would be waiting for the call for a medical evacuation. They could jump in the cockpit, where they would get a medevac request read to them, and then head to the GPS coordinates provided.

The simulator gives the pilot and copilot the feeling of being in a hostile area. Their mission requires them to fly into a combative environment, sometimes taking fire to get the injured individual and bring them to a safe area, or hospital, depending on the medical needs.

Air medevac pilot, 1st Lt. J.J. Marcigliano, said that having these tools available increased the value of their annual training, and allowed them to have more time flying, and less time traveling to and from different facilities to do so.

"We have just under 120 people in our unit," he said. "We are all required to complete nearly 96 hours of flight time a year, plus 12 hours of simulator

training. Normally, to get our simulator training, we have to spend a whole weekend or week commuting to Pennsylvania to do so. That's time off from work, funds for additional people to fly us there, fuel to fly us there, or the cost of a commercial flight, it adds up. This is a great resource to have, even just for the short period we have them."

While convenient, the mobile units do not provide the full effect of being in the air, so many of the pilots have to spend some time getting used to having their brain and eyes reacting to movement, while their bodies remain in place.

"Unlike a full motion simulator that has the capability of giving you a fuller flying experience, including that feeling of being on the edge of your seat, your body stays put in these," said Marcigliano. "So your brain and eyes are seeing one thing, and your body is expecting to feel what you see, but you don't, so that's weird. We spent two days just working on getting familiarized so that everyone could experience that disconnect of what you

are not feeling and what you are seeing. It does feel weird flying without any motion especially when you know how the aircraft flies."

Sgt. A.J. Mears, the aviation operations sergeant for the company, said he thinks these are a great opportunity to give the soldiers more flight time at a lower cost to the state.



"These give us the opportunity to experience missions that we wouldn't normally be involved with unless we are in an actual combat environment," said the Springvale native. "Without these, we wouldn't be able to experience any of the hard stuff, in any sort of

capacity."

Marcigliano agreed that this is a safe way for the newer pilots to get the experience of receiving a request and reacting to it, with access to the survivability equipment that isn't available on a day-to-day basis, without being put in harm's way.

"Certain equipment is only activated when you are in

o'clock you can't get that on a daily basis."

Charlie Company has been and continues to be a valuable asset to the state, ready and able to assist state medical evacuations where they need to be.

The equipment they have, such as their hoist capabilities allow them to get to some locations that

that combat environment," he said. "You can test the equipment on the ground, make sure things are working, hear the audio. As far as flying, as far as having the audio go off and shooting flares and having the system tell you are being tracked at your three

the LifeFlight can't get to. Statewide they have helped with people who are injured, or lost, and in times of state emergencies.

Officer Candidates work with Aviation to Prepare for School

Story and Photos by Chief Warrant Officer 3 David F. Cheney

During November drill seven officer candidates in the 240 Regiment (RTI) OCS Phase zero conducted a seven mile ruckmarch in the Deepwoods Training Area.



After the normal early start the candidates were moved to the Army Aviation Flight Facility where they were given a briefing on the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter flown by the B Co, 3-142nd AV Company commanded by

1st LT Peter LaVay.

After ensuring the Officer Candidates were aware of how to move around the helicopter, they were loaded in and flown out to the Deepwoods Training Area to

conduct the seven mile ruckmarch.

During the accelerated Officer Candidate School the Officer Candidates will have to complete a five, seven, and 10 mile ruckmarch.

Phase zero OCS candidates at the RTI also complete a five, seven, and 10 mile road march. Candidates also take a PT test each of the four drills of OCS Phase zero with 70 points per event as the standard.

Overall, the opportunity to work LT LaVay and his aviators was a worthwhile training event for both the Officer Candidates and the B Co, 3-142nd.

If you are interested in becoming an officer in the Maine Army National Guard contact 2nd LT Ethan Evans at 430-6213 or 458-4587



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Are you thinking of taking a loan from your TSP account? If so, be aware that taking a TSP loan might cost a lot more than you think. We will explain the basics of the TSP loan program, as well as some of the less obvious costs.

How does a TSP loan work? When you take a loan from your TSP account, you are borrowing from your own contributions and the earnings on those contributions. (You can't borrow from agency or service contributions or their earnings.) When your loan is disbursed, the amount of the loan is removed from your account. As you repay your loan, your loan repayments return the money plus interest to your TSP account. The interest rate is the interest rate for the G Fund at the time your loan application is processed.

When you borrow from your TSP account, you miss out on the earnings that otherwise could have accrued on your borrowed money. While it's true that you'll be paying yourself back with interest, that interest will come from your own hard earned pay rather than from investment performance. And if the interest on your TSP loan payments turns out to be less than what your money could have earned in the TSP investment funds, you'll have less money saved even after the loan is repaid. This could cost you hundreds or thousands of dollars in retirement income, especially if your repayments stretch over a long period of time.

- If you have an outstanding loan when you leave Federal service, you must pay it back within 90 days

or the outstanding balance will be treated as taxable income.

- The TSP charges a loan fee of \$50 for administrative expenses and deducts the fee from your loan proceeds. For example, if you request a loan for \$2,000, the amount paid to you will be \$1,950.

- If you fail to repay your loan in accordance with your Loan Agreement or you do not repay your loan when you separate from service, the TSP must report a taxable distribution to the IRS. This means that your loan will be closed and you will owe income taxes on the taxable amount of the remaining balance of the loan, plus any accrued interest. If you are younger than 59½, you may also be subject to an early withdrawal penalty tax.

Want to learn more? For a detailed explanation of the TSP loan program, your obligations if you take a loan, and the consequences of not repaying a loan, read the TSP booklet Loans. To estimate loan payments based on specific terms, visit the TSP's loan calculator under Planning & Tools on the TSP website, tsp.gov. For information about outstanding loans, you can check your leave and earnings statement, your TSP participant statements, the TSP website, or contact the ThriftLine.

From the Education Office

Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Merrill

The month of June brings with it the 70th anniversary of the Servicemans' Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill.

This landmark legislation which was passed while hundreds of thousands of Americans were breaching Hitler's Atlantic Wall succeeded in changing post secondary education forever.

The original GI Bill offered benefits of not only tuition assistance (equal to \$6,192 in 2010 dollars per term), it also offered a living stipend (equal to \$1,486 in 2010 dollars per month), allowing veterans to focus solely on school and not working a job while trying to fit in classes for a total of 48 months.

The results of the GI Bill

were astounding. When service eligibility ended in 1947 veterans made up nearly 50% of total college enrollments across the entire country (RAND, 2014).

When the GI Bill program ended in 1956 over 7.8 million veterans had used the program (VA, 2014).

The Servicemans' Readjustment Act was not the

last of the GI Bill programs. Over the next 70 years the United States government has enacted a number of bills in order to assist in the education of her veterans.

In 1952 the Korean War GI Bill was passed. The Vietnam GI Bill was put into place in 1962, and was followed by the Post-Vietnam Era Veteran's Educational Assistance Act in 1977.

The still current

Montgomery GI Bill was enacted in 1984 which works side by side with the MGIB-Selective Reserve GI Bill and the Reserve Education Assistance Program for those Selective Reserve members who served on active duty after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

While all GI Bills continue to be a boon to veterans, none of them could compare to the generosity of the original GI Bill, either in length or dollar amount. This discrepancy was corrected by the Post 9/11 GI Bill enacted in 2008.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is designed to pay up to 100% of tuition and fees per the most expensive public school in each state.

In addition to the tuition and fees the Post 9/11 GI Bill also pays a living stipend equal to the BAH rate as if the student were an E-5 with dependents based on the zip code of the institution as well as a book stipend of up to \$1,000 a school year.

In 2010 the bill was revised so a veteran is now eligible for up to 100% of tuition and fees of any school in their

state at the in state rate.

In Colorado, and Florida just to name a couple of states these rates can exceed over \$40,000 per year (Rand, 2014).

For those veterans attending schools out of state many institutions participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program which requires an institution to cover 50 percent of any cost above and beyond what the bill will pay for, and the Veterans Affairs office covers the other 50 percent.

One of the most well known functions of the Post 9/11 GI Bill is the ability to transfer the benefit to a veteran's dependents.

Many veterans who have already achieved their education goals find this option to be vital in assisting their dependents in achieving their own education goals without incurring tens of thousands of dollars in debt.

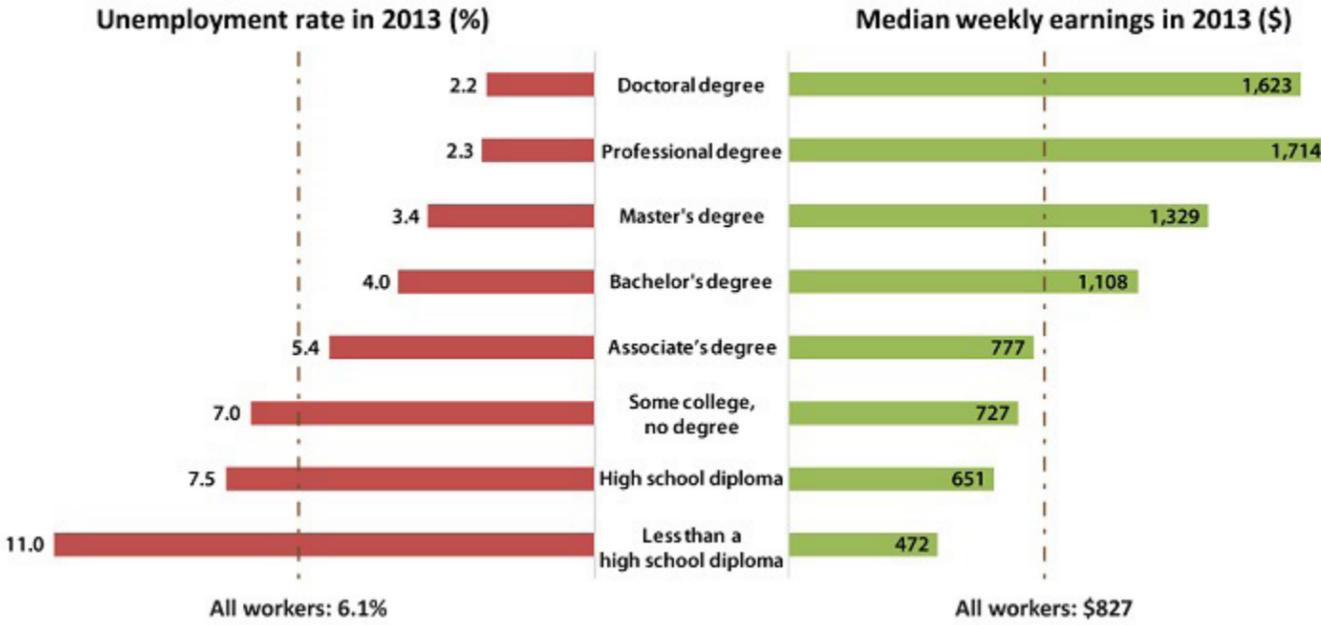
From the Second World War to the ongoing War on Terror the United States continues

to fulfill President Lincoln's promise to America's veterans.

While only a small portion of the VA's overall mission, the current GI Bill is estimated to cost over \$90 billion in assistance by the end of the 15 year program, providing benefits to hundreds of thousands of Soldiers and their dependents (Sander, 2012).



Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers. Source: Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Summer Recruiting Events

While it might be early still, here at the Recruiting & Retention Battalion we are in summer mode already. We don't just sit back in the summer though. When school is out and the sun shines again, we are out there generating interest in the National Guard. To get the word out, we often execute events on a local, grassroots level.

We like to work within our communities to help raise awareness of the National Guard mission, educate about opportunities for qualified individuals and to thank our neighbors for their support. Based on that structure, we entrust each recruiter to maintain relationships with "centers of influence" in their assigned areas. We also schedule events and devote National Guard resources to those causes to become fully vested in our cities and towns. We have some exciting events we will be at this summer!

June 15th
Every year, the best and brightest juniors in the State of Maine apply for the opportunity to participate in Boys State or Girls State. This American Legion-sponsored, week-long event trains young

men and women to be aware of the structure of their city, county and state government and how to effect real change in the world through legislation. The education, training and networking helps participants get ready for college, real world jobs and to be better members of society. The Maine Army National Guard steps in during the week to instill a sense of how the Guard is important to State and Federal government.

July 19th
Just because it's summer, doesn't mean there's a lack of high school sports. The Recruiting & Retention Battalion has teamed up with the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic for its twenty-fifth year of competition. This summer, we will be on-site at Waterhouse Field in Biddeford, Maine to cheer on the best of the best. We can't say it any better than the Lobster Bowl website, "This East vs. West match-up, brings over 160 student athletes and coaches from all over the state together to help produce what is considered the premier High School sporting event held in Maine. All participants commit to a week-long training camp where they make new friends and more importantly, learn

why we play the game." Now, doesn't that sound like future members of the National Guard?

July 26th
Get your muddy sneakers out! The Recruiting and Retention Battalion will be partnering up with Sunday River for the Tough Mountain Challenge. This adventure obstacle course is a Maine-born challenge involving alpine terrain, pits, culverts and ponds, rustic walls and much more! The race is limited to 3,500 competitors and some of the best and most-fit people in Maine present themselves for the challenge. We are incredibly excited to be a part of this event and we're already planning a great giveaway item.

These are just a few of the many events we participate in during the busy summer months. Is there an event in your area, in which you think the Maine Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion should be involved? Go to our Facebook Page @ MEARNGRRB and let us know!

But Then What?

Where do my dependent's supporting documents go when I take them to the unit?

Many service members believe that once they take their dependent's birth certificate, marriage certificate and social security cards to their unit, their dependent information has been updated in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System). NOT TRUE!

The documents a service member takes to the unit are used to update the service member's personnel record and posted to iPERMS (interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System). They do not update DEERS. A service member must bring the original documents to an ID card issuing office in order to add or remove a dependent(s) from DEERS.

DEERS information is used to issue an ID card to dependents and to determine a dependent's eligibility for benefits such as Tricare, commissary and the Post Exchange system. It is the service member's responsibility to keep DEERS updated and a condition of the Family Care Plan.

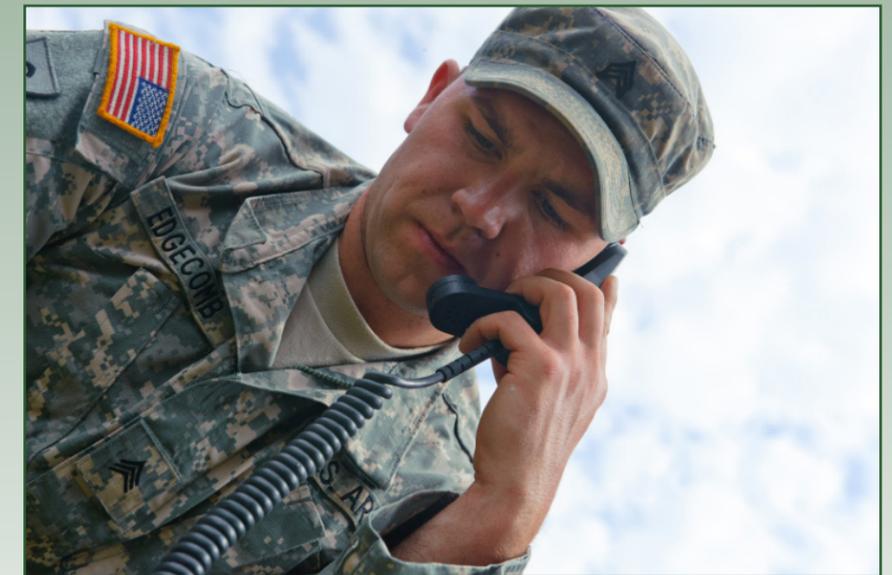
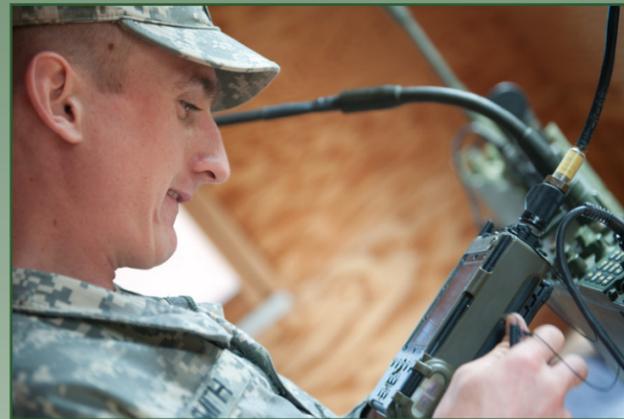
Tricare Dual Eligibility?

A National Guard or Reserve member, who is also a dependent of another service member (i.e. a parent) may not and does not, have dual eligibility under Tricare. They become their own sponsor and may no longer receive a benefit from the parent.

For example: An active duty member/retiree /deployed Reservist/traditional M-Day Reservist has family coverage under Tricare Standard/Prime/Tricare Reserve Select. That SM has a child who becomes a member of the National Guard or Reserve. That child becomes their own sponsor and may no longer receive the benefit from the parent. If they wish to remain covered under Tricare, they must determine their own eligibility based on their own duty status and then enroll or purchase (TRS) the program they are eligible for. This rule applies regardless of the child's age. The aging out of Tricare at 21/23 does not apply.

Wendy J. Moody
Transition Assistance Advisor - Maine
(207) 430-5778
wendy.j.moody2.ctr@mail.mil

The 2014 Region One Best Warrior Competition
Camp Ethan Allen, VT. May 13 - 15



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