



# ABENAKI NEWS



Volume 19, Issue 1

*"Semper Vigilans!"*

SPRING 2016

## WING CALENDAR

Lesley M. Lara  
CAP Executive Administrator

### APRIL

- 2 FAA Safety EXPO CAP booth  
Daniel Webster College
- 9 NER/MA Conference Amherst, MA  
Mt. Fury Training CON
- 16 Fish and Game Wild NH Day  
0730 CON
- 20 Commander's Call 1900 CON
- 25 USAF OPS EVAL

### MAY

- 14 Color Guard/Honor Guard Tng.
- 18 Commander's Call CON 1900
- 20-22 Whitefield SAREX
- 28 Color Guard/Honor Guard Tng.

### JUNE

- 4 NH Wing SAR Training
- 4 Wings and Wheels--Skyhaven
- 11 Color Guard/Honor Guard Tng.
- 15 Commander's Call 1900 CON
- 25 Color Guard/Honor Guard Tng.

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"SEMPERVIGILANS"

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Col. Kevin N. Harbison, Commander

As I look back on the short time since I took command, I am reminded of exactly how great the members of New Hampshire Wing are at supporting our missions. However, this time has not been without its challenges. As a team we continue to meet these challenges head on and gain success.

Moving forward we have the USAF Operations Evaluation coming at the end of April. This will be our chance to take a good hard look at how we do business in the Emergency Services realm. The purpose of this is never to find fault, but see and identify problem areas that are reducing our effectiveness. Once identified we will work as a team to make them better. No one unit is perfect, and I do not expect or ask for perfection. What I expect is a professional approach to mission accomplishment. Professionalism dictates that we pay attention to even the mundane items, or those items that are repetitive in nature. Many accidents or casualties in emergency services start with the comment "it was an ordinary job".

Our cadets have been very busy over the past few months. NHWG ran a great Winter Academy which included Encampment and NCO Leadership School. Also, many of our squadrons competed in Cyber Patriot meets through the winter. These teams placed in the top three in each of their division within the state. Congratulations to the combined team from Laconia and Monadnock squadrons at winning the NHWG Cadet Competition. The joint team from Greater Nashua and Humphrey put up a great fight and made it close. We will again have our Rocketry Weekend in Jun and our Summer Academies in July. Lastly, we host the UK exchange cadets in July.

Through all these activities we continue to move closer to the ACC/1<sup>st</sup> AF merger. Some of us have already experienced the challenges that this move presents. There is a lot of good coming out of this merger, including significant recognition and increased funding by the Air Force. However, we need to get used to doing things the Air Force way. It is different in many respects to how we used to operate.

Continued pg. 7

AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

**EARHART AWARD**

Jack Heller Lebanon

**MITCHELL AWARD**

David Hurd Concord  
 John Canary Concord  
 Warren Quinlan Concord  
 Nils Jobe Highlanders

**CONCORD**

Colby Hammond C/Capt  
 Elizabeth Saucier C/1Lt  
 John Canary C/2Lt  
 David Hurd C/2Lt  
 Warren Quinlan C/2Lt  
 Noah Ceresa C/CMSgt  
 Nathan Strysko C/CMSgt  
 Peter Donovan C/TSgt  
 Jeremy Gooden C/TSgt  
 Taylor Owen C/TSgt  
 Emilee Harlow C/TSgt  
 Daniel John-Zensky C/TSgt  
 Marcus Drew C/SSgt  
 Steven Butler C/A1C

**GREATER NASHUA**

Daniel Mossey C/SMSgt  
 Evan Plateel C/A1C

**HIGHLANDERS**

Steven Mitchell III C/SMSgt  
 John Debow C/SMSgt  
 Abigail Debow C/SMSgt  
 Valerie Mitchell C/SMSgt  
 Andrew Pincince C/TSgt  
 Erik Sigurdsson C/TSgt  
 James Kelley C/SSgt  
 Lexus Freeman C/A1C  
 Steven McEwan C/A1C  
 Luke Abbett C/Amn  
 Ethan Kelley C/Amn

**MONADNOCK**

Jordan Seppala C/CMSgt  
 Taylor Hennem C/TSgt  
 Pearl Allen C/SrA

**HAWK**

Hunter Martin C/1Lt  
 Bailey Harrington C/MSgt  
 Jon Panus C/TSgt  
 Gabriella Fox C/SSgt  
 Benjamin Hughes C/A1C  
 Benjamin Vachon C/A1C  
 Zechariah Smith C/A1C

**HUMPHREY**

Matthew Heiter C/SSgt  
 Brian Jiminez C/SSgt  
 Louis Vinton C/SSgt  
 Isabella Wang C/SSgt  
 Brendan Corban C/SSgt  
 Denali Ferrero C/SrA  
 Aiden Martin C/A1C  
 Mason McDonald C/A1C  
 Jared Moran C/A1C  
 Roy Hill C/Amn

**LEBANON**

Jack Heller C/Capt  
 Matthew Dailey C/TSgt  
 Brendan Freeman C/SrA  
 Jeffery Moody C/SrA  
 Luke Ouellette C/Amn  
 Ryan Ouellette C/Amn

**MANCHESTER**

Marcus Barone C/SMSgt  
 Autumn St.Hilaire C/SSgt  
 Mackenzie Finocchiaro C/SrA  
 Garrett Gagne C/A1C  
 Josh Moser C/A1C  
 Tarek Abbdelkarim C/A1C  
 Elijah Dionne C/A1C  
 Willis Freeman C/Amn  
 Elizabeth Niven C/Amn  
 Michael O'Neil C/Amn

**SEACOAST**

Danielle Brackett C/1Lt  
 Nicholas Lauer C/CMSgt  
 David Brackett C/CMSgt  
 Seth Cornell C/TSgt  
 Cameron Virkaitis C/SSgt  
 Jayme Brannan C/SrA  
 Samuel Hall C/SrA  
 Seth Noyes C/SrA  
 Kyle Schalitz C/SrA  
 James Johnson C/A1C  
 Kadin Virkaitis C/A1C  
 Cooper Welch C/A1C  
 Anthony Discoe C/Amn  
 Maxwell Eastman C/Amn



**SQUADRON NEWS**  
Submitted by Individual Units



**CONCORD COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

A very successful Open House on 3 March had over 100 visitors and family members in attendance. New Cadet Commander is C/2Lt Peter Houle. Cadet Quinlan received the Air Force Association Cadet of the Year for 2016. The Cyber Patriot team worked 6-8 hours per week in preparation and came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state.



CONCORD SQUADRON CADET CHANGE OF COMMAND

**GREATER NASHUA COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

The squadron's Cyber Patriot team came in first in the state Gold round and third in the regional Gold round which included all the CAP units in the country. Senior members recently visited the TRACON facility in Merrimack.

**HAWK COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

The squadron welcomed its new Cadet Commander C/2Lt Ethan Cray recently. The unit's Cyber Patriot team "Hawk Eyes" came in 59<sup>th</sup> out of 1,281 in the regional round. They were one of the top five in the All Service event. Open House night will be on April.



"HAWK EYES" TEAM

## HIGHLANDERS CADET SQUADRON

Squadron cadets are participating in the General Aviation Manufacturers Assn. completion for aerospace education. This has the cadets learning about flight and what changes in airfoil design can have on the characteristics of flight. They have to build an airfoil and perform experiments using the provided software. Each cadet received software for a flight simulator to practice with their designs at home as well as at the squadron. The squadron had a fun night in February and went bowling and rode bumper cars. A trip to Battleship Cove is planned for early summer.

## HUMPHREY CADET SQUADRON

The squadron welcomed their new commander, 1 Lt. Michelle Kavanagh in January. Squadron members participated in a packing event for Operation Care for Troops who send packages to deployed troops. The Cyber Patriot team Phoenix placed first in the state in competition. They then competed in the All Service round. C/2Lt Tanner Bogner was awarded the AF Sergeant's Top Cadet Officer of the Year Award and C/SSgt Isabella Wang received the Outstanding Cadet NCO of the Year Award.



Team Phoenix

C/SSgt Matthew Heiter, C/SrA Denali Ferrero, C/SrA Cyril Leo

## LEBANON COMPOSITE SQUADRON

The squadron hosted the January TRAINEX in Lyme. Dr. Jay Buckey, payload specialist aboard NASA Space Shuttle flight STS-90 as part of a Neurolab mission visited the squadron to talk about his experience and present the Earhart Award to Cadet Heller.



LYME TRAINEX “Rescue Team”

## MANCHESTER COMPOSITE SQUADRON

Manchester Squadron was recently visited by Lt. Colonel Jeff Cole a KC-135 pilot with the New Hampshire National Guard. Lt. Col. Cole briefed the cadets on air refueling procedures and the various career paths to become a USAF pilot. Cadets were able to examine various components of flight gear and ask questions about the KC-135. Lt. Col. Cole also spoke about the anticipated arrival of the KC-46 to Pease. The Boeing KC-46 Pegasus is a military aerial refueling and strategic military transport aircraft developed by Boeing from its 767 jet airliner. In February 2011, the tanker was selected by the United States Air Force (USAF) as the winner in the KC-X tanker competition to replace older KC-135 Stratotankers. The first 18 combat-ready aircraft are to be delivered to the U.S. Air Force by August 2017 under the terms of the development contract.

## MONADNOCK COMPOSITE SQUADRON

The squadron has been using the Red Bird simulator to practice “flying”. Cadets Ethan and Connor Ahern joined with Hawk Squadron for the Wing Cadet Competition and will now be going to the NER Competition. CDI Maj. Lawrance visited the squadron to talk to the group. Andrew Solomonides now at West Point and Liam Smedley at the USAFA visited over the holiday vacation. Cadets are working on the STEM Robotics activity which is nearing completion.



Monadnock cadets trying their hand at RC Aircraft Simulator

### SEACOAST COMPOSITE SQUADRON

The squadron hosted the Character Day event at UNH for the second time back in January. This event teaches teamwork. Five cadets visited Turbocam of Barrington in February and gave a brief explanation of what they saw at one of the meetings. Open House was held on March 17<sup>th</sup> with a good group of prospective members in attendance. Some of the PT activities are now being held at UNH. Weather permitting the squadron will have a carwash fundraiser in May as well as one at Flatbread Pizza. C/1stLt Danielle Brackett became the new cadet commander of the squadron, taking over from Cadet Justin Snyder. Senior members Ratzlaff and Williams scored a FIND by locating an ELT in a boat at Great Bay Marina. Guest speaker at the March awards and promotions night was MG Desmaris, USAF retired. She spoke to the cadets about her career in the military.



Seacoast Members talk with the Open House Visitors

## Commander's Corner cont.

. In fact, the phrase “that is not how we have always done it” needs to be removed as an argument for not doing something correctly. These changes are only bad, if you look at them with negative eyes. Look to the positive, view them as a challenge to meet, then rise up and meet them head on. Most importantly, if something does not make sense, ask questions. Keep asking questions until it does make sense.

In closing I would like to remind you, the challenges of leading New Hampshire Wing are far out shadowed by the spirit and tenacity of the membership in this wing. Very much like a sports team, we are successful as a group by the professional and dedicated actions of individuals. If I started to name each one, the list would stretch on for several pages. I know together we will do great things, just look what has already been done. As always be professional in everything you do, but don't forget to find some room to have fun.

Colonel Harbison is a graduate of Saint Leo University near Tampa, FL where he received a BA in Technology Management and Computer Science. He is married to Christine Harbison and they have four children ranging in age from 21 to 14. He retired from the United States Army after a 22-year career that saw him serving ever increasing levels of leadership. His assignments included Demolitions Team Chief, Detachment Command, Company Command and Battalion Operations Officer. His military career culminated with his assignment as Assistant Professor of Military Science at North Carolina A & T in Greensboro, North Carolina.

On retiring from the military he focused on flying and operation of his maritime crewing company. He joined the Civil Air Patrol in 2008 along with two of his sons one of whom is now a senior member. The other son is presently a C/2Lt. in the Humphrey Cadet Squadron. Col. Harbison went on to serve as Squadron Commander for the Greater Nashua Composite Squadron and helped organize the Humphrey Cadet Squadron which was started at The Academy for Science and Design in Nashua, NH. This squadron was the first to be formed at a school in NH. He presently teaches aerospace education at the school. He has served on many CAP emergency services operations and cadet activities over the years. He has received the NH Wing Squadron Commander of the Year award. He is master rated in Aerospace, Cadet Programs and Logistics, is a mission observer and Ground Branch Director.



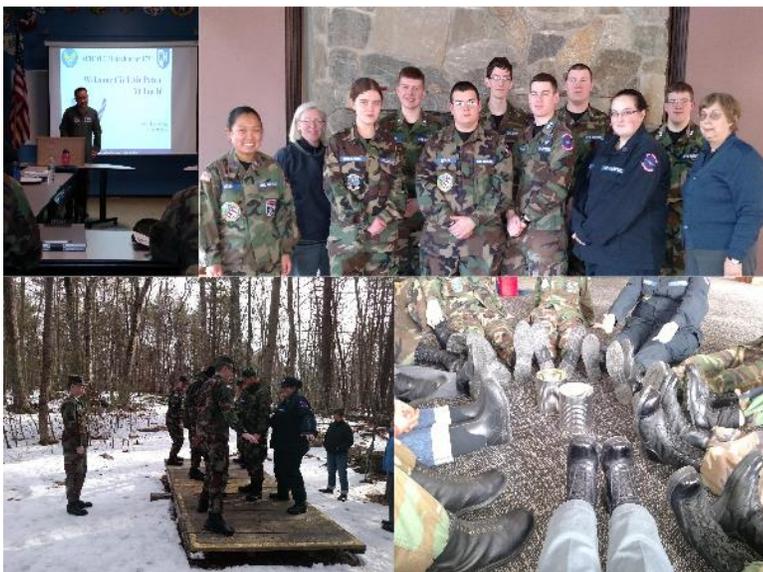
Col. Harbison accepts command from Col. Leclair, NER Commander

## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT DAY

By Cadet Ethan Cray

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January cadets from all over New Hampshire participated in a character development day at the University of New Hampshire. The cadets learned how to better themselves, how to work as a team, and how to build character. LTC Thomas Lee, USAF spoke to the cadets about character and different philosophies about how to be excellent to the people around them and to their community. The cadets also learned about trust and teamwork at The Brown Center at UNH. One of the activities was trying to balance each other on a large balance board with little to no touches on either side of the board. Another exercise was transporting everyone from one “island” to another across a “raging river” while using stepping stones to get there.

**A FALL 2016 CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT DAY IS PLANNED FOR OCTOBER START THINKING ABOUT ATTENDING NOW!!!**



**Photos: Top left: LTC Lee guest speaker  
Bottom left: Cadets trying to balance on board  
Top right: Cadet attendees with Lt. Cray and LTC Croker  
Bottom right: unknown event**

