

Cote awarded Meritorious Service Medal

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SANFORD - Add a Meritorious Service Medal to the honors Adam Cote has received for his service with the Maine Army National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Dean Preston, of Pembroke, presented Major Cote with the medal during a recent special ceremony at Camp Keyes in Augusta. The honor recognizes Cote's leadership in organizing and carrying out numerous projects of the 133rd Engineer Battalion in communities throughout Maine, from as far north as Houlton to as south as Acton, in 2016.

"We had a busy year," said Cote, referring to those serving in the battalion.

Preston presented Cote with a certificate praising Cote for his tireless work, attention to detail, commitment to excellence and overall leadership, all of which "reflect great credit upon himself, the Maine Army National Guard and the U.S. Army."

Last year, Cote led projects at Camp Nutter in Acton, along the ATV trail in Houlton, and at the YMCA summer camp in Lewiston-Auburn, among other places.

Locally, a couple of years ago, the engineers also started the new trail that begins at the end of Pioneer Avenue here in Sanford, and, when completed, will extend all the way to the new high school about a mile and a half away.

Cote said he was honored to have Preston present him with the award. Preston was the former

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battalion commander for the 133rd in Afghanistan when Cote served there.

"I was very honored and surprised," Cote said. "I have great respect for him."

Cote called the battalion's projects an opportunity for the people in Maine to see "the great things their engineers can be doing to strengthen communities throughout the state."

Cote is a graduate of Sanford High School and Colby College, and earned a law degree at the University of Maine School of Law. Currently, he is an attorney with the firm of Drummond Woodsum.

In 2008, he ran to become the Democratic nominee in the race for U.S. representative in Maine's First District. He placed a close second to current U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree in a crowded primary race.

Locally, he served on the Sanford School Committee.

Cote has served tours in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. For his leadership in Afghanistan, he was awarded the Bronze Star. He also earned the Combat Action Badge.

In 2013, he was named a "Champion of Change" by the Obama Administration, as a veteran advancing clean energy and climate security. In 2015, Cote received both the Colby College "Distinguished Alumnus Award" and the "Distinguished American Award" from the Maine Chapter of the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame.

Cote and his wife, Paulina, live in Springvale with their five children. He is serving his final year in the Maine Army National Guard.

"I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my life," he said.