

ALUMNA PROFILE:

Clare Handy Has Her Head in the Clouds

By Marketing Student **Grace O'Connell**

Clare Handy ('14) enlisted in the N.H. Air National Guard after graduating from NDA and then went to Basic Military Training (BMT) for the Air Force Academy where she earned significant honors.

In late July, Clare started her eight-week program in San Antonio, Texas. She started out as a trainee and then graduated as a United States Airman in the U.S. Air Force. Clare said, "It was a challenging, thrilling, tiring, exciting and overall a fun course!"

During the BMT, she was assigned to Flight 494, a group of about 43 women. Clare received the honor of being Flight 494's, guidon-bearer which she explains is the individual who leads the flight while in marching formation. The honor was given to her because she had the highest physical training (PT) score in her flight.



She also received the Flight 494: Outstanding Airman award, voted on by her fellow Flight members; the Honor Graduate award, given to the top 10% of her graduating class which consisted of about 780 Airmen; and the 2nd Top Physical Training - Female award, for being the second highest scoring female in the graduating class.

Everyone at the Academy is very proud of Clare for all that she has achieved. As she explained, "It was a very exciting and hard job, and I loved every minute of it." She had a great time throughout the program and met many people that she hopes to stay connected with for years to come.



Clare has always been a leader and a hard worker. I had the honor of swimming with her on the NDA swim team. She was always there to motivate people to do their best. I am very proud to have known Clare and even more proud of her achievements.