

# Winnisquam Echo

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## Belmont's Milpower Source receives a visit from Jeanne Shaheen

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BELMONT — U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen spent time touring central New Hampshire last Thursday, visiting a few of the businesses and nonprofit organizations in the region to learn more about what some have to offer and what others may need for assistance in the future.

Her first stop was Milpower Source in Belmont, where she hoped to learn more about the products they make. Shaheen currently serves on a U.S. Senate committee that is working on a new Defense Authorization bill. Since Milpower Source supplies components to several branches of the military, another purpose of her visit was to discover more about cost options available through those currently contracted by the federal government and others who have issued proposals.

"We have some new language proposed for the bill, and I want to find out the difference between long term spending versus cheaper costs that may or may not have the same power and security involved," Shaheen said.

Tomer Esched is the General Manager of Milpower Source, and his company has been involved in military contracting for more than 30 years. One of their main products is an Uninterrupted Power Supply, which serves the U.S. Navy in particular.

"When a ship's power is knocked out, the UPS continues operat-

ing so they have radar, computers and other (technology)," Esched explained. "What's unique about what we make is how rugged they are and how they can handle extreme conditions at sea for months at a time."

To ensure the UPS systems will work well under those varying conditions, Milpower even employs a shock test for their UPS systems, which simulates what would happen if a ship were to hit something as powerful as an underwater mine.

"A 2,000-pound hammer swings down and hits it with 120G's of shock. One of the reasons we are so successful is no one else has ever been able to do that. It only happens here in quiet little Belmont," he told Shaheen.

He went on to say the UPS components are built like "tanks," able to sustain all other factors a Navy vessel may endure while out at sea for months at a time.

"They can't afford to carry spares out there. Reliability is the key," said Esched.

Milpower works with more than just the Navy however. The company also provides parts for the military's V-22 Osprey that feeds power to their generators. The V-22 is a specialized tiltrotor aircraft that has the capability of taking off and landing like a helicopter, but will fly like an airplane.

He told Shaheen they build power supplies for commercial operations, too. The company is currently work-

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Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire took time to speak with employees at Milpower Source in Belmont last week during an informational tour of the facility.



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U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen toured Milpower Source in Belmont last Thursday morning, where General Manager Tomer Esched explained some of the high-end technology they provide to the military through back-up power supplies used in Navy vessels and aircraft.

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ing on a power supply unit for the Boeing 737 commercial aircraft to provide the aircraft with back up power.

"When a power source fails, this has to work because people's lives will depend upon it. This will be as close to perfection as you can get," he said. "In all of my career, I have never seen anyone pay as close attention to these details as we do here. Some of the things we build have been out there for 30 years and still function."

Shaheen asked Esched and his staff about

the employment opportunities they offer and the tenure of those who are currently working at Milpower. She learned that among the employees are some recent hires from the past few years but there are others who have been with them from the start, now lending their expertise to the next generation.

Tomer said that workforce development is always a challenge in central New Hampshire but Business Development Manager Brian Paul told the senator that they have been working with local colleges and universities to

help provide them with the necessary curriculum that will develop skilled workers for the future.

"The challenge right now is finding electrically-minded people," said Paul.

While touring the facility Shaheen also had many questions for employees about their job functions and was impressed with what she heard.

"This is the information I want to take back to Washington. What's great about it is to see it all being done right here in New Hampshire," she said.

From Milpower Source, Shaheen made

her way to Voices Against Violence in Plymouth as part of her continuing support for domestic and sexual violence victims, then took a boat tour of Newfound Lake to learn more about ecological challenges and clean water initiatives in the region.