



# Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team • 142 Fighter Wing • 82 Brigade • 173 Fighter Wing • Joint-Force Headquarters • Combat Operations Group

## 1249th EN demoblize in Salem after tour in Afghanistan

Story by Ted Sickinger  
The Oregonian

When 24-year old Staff Sgt. Jerod Condit stepped off the Boeing 737 at Salem Municipal Airport on Dec. 12, his father wrapped him in a bear hug and couldn't let go, despite the crowd of family members waiting eagerly to lay hands and lips on their returning hero.

Nearly a month later, Don Condit was still brushing back tears on Saturday, awash in pride and relief as Gov. John Kitzhaber, Sen. Ron Wyden and a host of civilian and military leaders provided an official welcome home for 175 members of the Oregon Army National Guard's 1249th Engineering Battalion after a 374-day deployment in Afghanistan.

The Condits were among hundreds of family and friends who turned out Saturday at the state fairgrounds in Salem for the ceremony. The 1249th was one of the last Oregon guard units deployed overseas. It spent the last year building infrastructure, from re-paving roads and constructing schools to sweeping supply routes for

improvised explosive devices.

All of the Oregon soldiers returned alive, though the battalion lost five soldiers from companies based in other states. Saturday marked the demobilization of their unit after 400 days of active duty, and the start of the next phase of their mission -- transition back into civilian life.

"As you make the transition, you are not alone," Kitzhaber told the crowd. "I hope you'll stand by one another as you stood by one another in Afghanistan."

Maj. Jon Van Horn, a battalion surgeon in the 1249th, said that after living in a heightened state of alert for a year, putting on eye protection and a reflector belt for something as routine as a nighttime trip to the john, relaxing and reintegrating with spouses, children and jobs can be jarring. The tour in Afghanistan was his fifth since being married, including Bosnia, Iraq, Hurricane Katrina and another in Afghanistan. While he and his wife Shannon have become pros at managing the logistics, they said each deployment has gotten harder as their boys have grown, and their emotional and parenting needs have changed.

Van Horn recently returned to work as a physician's assistant at Legacy Emanuel after two weeks off to get back into a civilian rhythm. But he said he was encouraged to see the breadth of services being offered to returning vets compared to when he got back from Iraq in 2003.

"Back then, it was 'Thanks for your service, see ya later,'" he said. "Now the whole setup is much different. You've got a whole set of support service."



Photo by Sgt. Anita Vandermolten, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

Soldiers of the 1249th Engineer Battalion, Oregon Army National Guard, are welcomed home during the unit's demobilization ceremony Jan. 7, at the Oregon State Fairgrounds Pavilion in Salem, Ore. The Soldiers recently returned home from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. Photo by Sgt. Anita VanderMolen, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard.

In fact, Saturday was the first of the 1249th's three monthly yellow-ribbon days, with a phalanx of service providers on hand to counsel soldiers and their families on financial and educational planning, medical benefits and how to reconnect with your loved ones.

The 1249th now goes back to regular status, drilling two weeks a year and a weekend every month. In the meantime, soldiers were heading in all directions to take up their regular lives -- some where they left off.

Lieutenant Colonel Jon Middaugh took over command of the 1249th at Saturday's ceremony. But he, his wife and daughters were preparing for an eight-hour drive back to Pullman, Wash., where he teaches history at Washington State University.

"The semester starts Monday," he said. "I'm teaching three classes."

Wally Shreves was still exhaling after the last year. After his own 20 years in the Army, he's accustomed to the sacrifices of military life. But with two boys ages 6 and 3, a full-time job as a security officer at ATI Wah Chang in Albany and no family nearby to help pick up the slack, he was ecstatic to welcome his wife, Maj. Adrienne Shreves, back to the fold in Sweet Home after her stint as an administrative officer in Afghanistan.

"The last year was a catastrophe," he joked. "We have no plans for anything right now but to back off, relax and see how things go."

### **DOD Leaders: U.S. Will Remain World's Strongest Military**

Story by Karen Parrish  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8, 2012 – The Defense Department's new, 10-year strategy will ensure the United States remains the world's strongest military power, DOD leaders emphasized in weekend interviews.

In an interview with Bob Schieffer that aired today on the CBS news program "Face the Nation," Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Joint Chiefs Chairman Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said the department is changing to respond to a new global reality.

The strategy announced Jan. 5 outlines defense priorities for the coming decade, and emphasizes trimming the force while investing in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance programs, combating anti-access technologies, countering weapons of mass destruction and prevailing in all domains, including the cyber world.

"Clearly, we face the constriction of having to reduce the budget by almost half a trillion dollars," the secretary said. "We developed a strategy that said [the military] is going to be leaner, it is going to be smaller, but it has to be agile, it has to be adaptable, it has to be flexible, quickly deployable, and it has to be technologically advanced. That's the kind of force we need for the future."

The department's plan calls for priority

See **MILITARY** story on page 4



## A seat at the table for National Guard

Story by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON Dec. 31, 2011 - The chief of the National Guard Bureau is a statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With the stroke of a pen, the same month the nation's oldest military institution celebrated its 375th birthday, President Barack Obama today signed legislation that includes a provision adding the CNGB to the Joint Chiefs.

The provision - part of the fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act - ushers in a change some National Guard historians have called the most significant development since the Militia Act of 1903 codified the modern day dual-status structure of the Guard.

"We are grateful for the efforts the executive and legislative bodies have gone to in placing the chief of the National Guard Bureau on the Joint Chiefs of Staff," said Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"We look forward to working alongside the other Joint Chiefs to provide our nation's senior leaders with a fuller picture of the non-federalized National Guard as it serves in support of homeland defense and civil support missions," McKinley said.

The provision is part of an annual federal law that has for the last half-century specified the Defense Department budget.



Photo courtesy of National Guard Bureau

The 2012 NDAA authorizes \$670 billion in spending for Defense Department programs and Energy Department nuclear weapons programs.

Other provisions of the bill that affect the National Guard include re-establishing the position of vice-chief of the National Guard Bureau at the three-star level while rescinding the two-star position of director of the NGB's joint staff.

The bill also requires that National Guard general officers be considered for command of Army North and Air Force North and authorizes funding for the National Guard State Partnership Program.

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**COMMAND**

**A new year for the Oregon National Guard**



**Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees**, The Adjutant General, Oregon

We begin 2012, and as in normal fashion, in a historic way. The National Guard's first four-star chief, General Craig R. McKinley will now also officially be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, directly advising the President of the United States. This is an amazing accomplishment, especially as we have just celebrated 375 years of service to the people of our nation. This could only have happened because of the great success of our Soldiers and Airmen during the Global War on Terror.

The Oregon National Guard is off to a quick training year with overseas training over the next few months in areas such as

Oman, Thailand, and with our State Partner, Bangladesh.

For the Office of Emergency Management, I commend each and every one of you for your efforts during what is already known as the floods of 2012. As our citizen-soldiers and airmen remained thoroughly prepared for a potential call out, you were coordinating civilian and state assets to assist our citizens directly and were able to quickly assist with the Governor's decision to declare a state of emergency in multiple counties throughout the state. As both the Governor and I personally viewed the devastation and talked with unified command incident commanders in Marion County it was evident that they not only knew what assets were available to them if needed, but where to go and ask for assistance if they needed more. This superb synchronization between on the ground incident commanders, county emergency operations centers, and service providers truly demonstrated the relationships and prior coordination that had taken place to effectively assist Oregon citizens during an emergency. Job very well done!

In February, we will welcome home our unmanned aerial vehicle platoon from a six-month deployment to Iraq with a formal

demobilization ceremony. These were the last of our Oregon troops to be in Iraq before the complete withdrawal. I look forward to personally welcoming them back to Oregon. As we welcome them home we will prepare for elements of our aviation community to join forces with the Maine National Guard for an anticipated 400-day mobilization to Kuwait in support of MEDEVAC operations in the region.

This truly is an amazing time in our history. Oregon National Guardsmen are literally serving around the world. Simultaneously, we are preparing for homeland mission as never before. Vigilant Guard in May will dramatically demonstrate this. It will assure all Oregonians that the Oregon Military Department, comprised of the Office of Emergency Management and the Oregon National Guard, will continue to meet our missions to serve the people of Oregon as well the "away game". It is an honor for all of us to serve in and from this beautiful state we all call home. We are and will remain:

Always Ready! Always There!

**A new year for Warrant Officers**

Fellow Warrant Officers and all ORNG Soldiers,

As we begin this New Year for the ORNG, I will be writing a series of articles covering WO issues. I am prioritizing and publishing the most important issues first.

The ORARNG WO end strength has been around 84% of required manning for several months now. While 84% WO end strength, compared with all other states and territories, is average, it still lands us in the red for reporting purposes.

It takes a substantial amount of time and effort to put together a packet for a potential WO. Documenting individual's experience (military and civilian), training, evaluations, etc to provide the proponent schoolhouse the information they need to adequately evaluate each WO candidate is critical. Each MOS has different requirements and standards

applied by the proponent schoolhouse and of course no two soldiers have exactly the same resume (which means they are inadvertently compared with other soldiers). An example of a discriminator that is not yet a requirement is civilian education level; with higher level completion giving an indication that the soldier has proven ability for further training aptitude.

Even though the ORARNG is short WO's; high standards, ethics, and motivation are still the requirements necessary to asses into this pool of professionals. The WO recommendation and selection process must continue to seek out the most experienced, dedicated, and leadership oriented soldiers in the ORNG.

Do you have what it takes?  
A Warrant Officer/Officer Workshop is scheduled for the AFRC at Camp Withycombe on 10-12 Feb 12. Any Army or Air Guard



**Chief Warrant Officer 5 Terry Swartwout**, Command Chief Warrant Officer, Oregon National Guard

NCO's that are interested in the possibility of pursuing a WO career, should contact the Warrant Officer Strength Manager, CW4 Janet Martin, for more details regarding attendance of this workshop.

For the Corps

**National Guard State Partnership Program emphasizes building relationships**

*Story by Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON Jan. 17** - A small, but innovative, program demonstrates the U.S. military's "very agile and flexible" capabilities in working with partners, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said recently.

Meeting with reporters Jan. 5 after the announcement of President Barack Obama's new strategic guidance for the U.S. military, Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr. brought up the National Guard's State Partnership Program as an example of an ongoing effort that lines up well with the new strategy.

"It's a very high-leverage program where individual states will partner with another nation in Europe or Africa or Asia," Winnefeld said. "It's proven to be a very, very valuable high-leverage tool for us, ... so we plan to build on things like that to help us on these innovative approaches to other parts of the world."

In a subsequent interview with American Forces Press Service, Air Force Col. Joey Booher, chief of international affairs for the National Guard Bureau, said the program is where "the rubber meets the road."

"It's a [Defense Department] program that's managed by the National Guard Bureau, but executed by the states," he explained. "The states, the adjutant general, the state coordinator who works with the combatant commander's staff and the partner nation [work] to meet collective security cooperation objectives."

Booher said the fall of the Berlin Wall and U.S. military leadership's engagement with

Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Serbian Army Lt. Gen. Miloje Miletic, chief of staff of the Serbian Armed Forces, review Serbian troops following McKinley's arrival in Belgrade, Serbia, on Sept. 10, 2010, for National Guard State Partnership Program activities. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill



the former Warsaw Pact nations were the impetus for the program's creation.

"The U.S. was trying to engage with the former communist nations that were in the Warsaw Pact, and using active duty troops might have been a little too offensive to the Russians or the folks that were in there, so the idea was to use the small footprint of National Guard troops," he said.

The state adjutants general partnered with Air Force Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway, then the chief of the National Guard Bureau, to explore how to do this, Booher added.

Booher noted the National Guard was a "perfect fit" because of its force structure and capabilities such as disaster response, consequence management, interaction between the state governments and the federal government.

"What the goals of the program were back

then were promoting American principles and values while supporting democracy abroad, and also building institutions to keep Americans safe and the world peaceful," he said. "Those were the broad objectives we had."

The colonel lauded the program's success as it approaches its 20th anniversary in 2013. The first three partnerships were developed in 1993 with the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, he said, and all three partnerships still are going strong.

"It started off with [those] three countries, and right now we have 63 partnerships spread throughout 69 countries around the globe," he said. "So if you're just looking for growth in the program, ... that's a testament to what its accomplished in its goals and objectives."

NEWS BRIEFS

# Governor Kitzhaber, Maj. Gen Rees visit Turner

Story by Kim Lippert  
Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, along with Governor John Kitzhaber toured the community of Turner on Jan. 20, after flood waters swept through the town. Snowmelt combined with heavy rains flooded communities across Oregon. Kitzhaber declared a state of emergency for Marion, Coos, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

Rees and Kitzhaber saw the effects of flood waters on one of the worst-hit parts town. Some residents in Turner had to be evacuated from their homes because of the severe weather.

The State of Emergency authorizes the Office of Emergency Management to coordinate requests for state assistance from affected counties.

“The return of severe winter weather has overwhelmed communities across our state,” said Governor Kitzhaber.



Photo by Capt. Stephen Bomar, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs officer

Governor John Kitzhaber talks to reporters outside of the Turner post office in Turner, Jan. 20, 2012 about the flooding in the area and across the Willamette Valley. Kitzhaber toured the town along with Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Ore. visiting a recently washed out bridge that was repaired quickly.

# Vocational Rehab

Story by Master Sgt. Jeffery Lopez  
82 BDE Senior Human Resources NCO

The Department of Veterans Affairs’ Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Vet Success program (also known as Voc-Rehab or Chapter 31) offers disabled vets counseling, training, education and other services needed to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs.

If you are a veteran who has a VA disability rating and an employment handicap, you may be entitled to vocational rehabilitation & employment services under Chapter 31 of the GI Bill. These services include - but are not limited to - counseling, training, education and job placement assistance.

The following services may be provided through the VR&E program: Comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, interests, and needs.

1. Vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning.
2. Employment services such as job-seeking skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance.
3. Assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives.
4. On the Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences.
5. Financial assistance for post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school.
6. Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and referral. Independent living services for Veterans unable to work due to the severity of their disabilities.

**VR&E Eligibility**

Eligibility and entitlement for VR&E are two different things. You may meet eligibility criteria, yet not be entitled to services. The first step in the VR&E process is to be evaluated to determine if you qualify for services. To receive an evaluation for VR&E services, you must meet the following “eligibility” criteria: Have received, or will receive, a discharge that is other than dishonorable. Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% - or a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the VA. Submit a completed application for VR&E services (online at the Department of Veterans Affairs VONAPP site).

# Outreach program connects with kids

Story and photos by Spc. Cory Grogan,  
Oregon National Guard Reintegration

Children got a chance to play, spend time with family, and be around other kids from military families at JJ Jump in Clackamas, Ore., Dec. 29, thanks to a partnership between the Oregon National Guard Youth Program, Operation: Military Kids and local business owners who want to give something back to military families in their area.

More than 200 participants registered for the event, which quickly reached maximum capacity, where the children experienced multiple bounce houses and courses, a six-foot tall mouse, Santa Claus, a climbing wall, zip-line swing and much more free of charge for military families.

Alexis DeLeon, program coordinator, Oregon National Guard Youth Outreach Services, said the JJ Jump entertainment center opens its doors twice a year for an exclusive event for military children and youth. Participation has steadily increased since the event started in 2009, DeLeon said.

DeLeon said each child at the recent event also received a toy that was brought to the event as part of a donation to Operation: Military Kids.

JJ Jump owners Nora and Wade Wilson were presented the Two Star Note award from The Adjutant General, Ore., Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Oregon National

Guard signed by the Oregon National Guard Service Member and Family Support Director, Ret. Col. David Ferre and Rees.

Joan Engeldinger, the project director for Operation Military Kids, said her program and the Oregon National Guard have made an effort to reach out to military families with children and youth who have experienced deployments.

“We have worked hard with our networking to try and give families access to events where they can be around other military families,” she said. “It is a chance for them to be around people they have something in common with, take their mind off the stress, and just have fun.”

Engeldinger said these types of programs and events are important in Oregon because there are no active duty military bases to help create connections with other military families.

Staff Sgt. John Mueller, his wife Debbie, and their six children have attended every JJ Jump event. Mueller said he has been on three deployments and that he thinks the events are particularly important for his kids when he is gone.

“The kids love it, and gives them a chance to meet other kids who are experiencing the same thing,” said Debbie.

Hank Bauer, assistant state youth coordinator, Oregon National Guard Youth Program, said National Guard and



Hank Bauer, assistant state youth coordinator, Oregon National Guard Youth Program, helps children choose gifts during an exclusive event for military families at JJ Jump in Clackamas, Ore., Dec 29. Each child at the event received a toy that was brought to the event as part of a donation to Operation: Military Kids.

Reserve families live a different lifestyle than families on a military post and often are not as prepared when a family member leaves for deployment. He said that is a big reason the events are important to the families who attend.

“We get a lot of thanks, the children love it, and families are often asking when the next event will be,” he said.

For more information on upcoming family events for Oregon National Guard service members check [www.jointservicesupport.org](http://www.jointservicesupport.org) or [www.twitter.com/OR\\_YellowRibbon](http://www.twitter.com/OR_YellowRibbon).

## JTAP Career events

**Career and Education Fair**

Saturday March 10th  
Cascade Hall – Oregon State Fairgrounds  
0900 – 1300  
(Free Parking)

A diverse group of employers will be present and looking for you to fill their current openings. Additionally, there will representatives from the Mid-Valley’s Trade Schools, Colleges, and Universities ready to talk to you about continuing your education. Make it a point to come and see what the future may hold for you.

**Integrated Career Transition Assistance Workshop**

Monday February 27th - Wednesday February 29th  
Anderson Readiness Center  
Room 114  
3225 State Street ~ Salem, Oregon  
0830-1630

(Online Registration Required – [www.JointServicesSupport.Org](http://www.JointServicesSupport.Org))  
This two and half day course will prepare you for today’s highly competitive market. In addition to resume and interviewing skills, you will hear from local business leaders on what they are looking for and how to set yourself up for success. You will leave this course confident and ready to take your skills into the marketplace.  
Both events are open to all service members, family members and veterans!  
For information contact Craig Snitker, JTAP Program Manager, at 503-584-2393



## Oregon State Military Services 2 Day On-Site Sale

Joint Base Lewis-McChord Field Commissary is scheduled to sponsor an on-site sale event at the Jackson Armory, Feb. 3 through Feb. 4.

Jackson Armory is located at 6255 NE Cornfoot Dr., Portland, Ore. 97218.

Sale hours are: **Fri- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Sat- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m**

The sale is open to all Military ID card holders, currently serving and retired.

NEWS

# Safety News

Story courtesy of Hillsboro Argus

As of Jan. 1, 2012, a law modifying Oregon's ban on cell phone use while driving went into effect, along with a few other transportation-related laws aimed at increasing safety on Oregon's roads.

It's already against the law for most drivers to use a hand-held cell phone while driving in Oregon. The original law, however, allowed cell phone use "in the scope of the person's employment if operation of the motor vehicle is necessary for the person's job." That exemption is removed with House Bill 3186. The only drivers who are allowed to use a hand-held mobile communications device are those over 18 who are either operating a roadside assistance or tow vehicle or operating a utility vehicle for the purpose of servicing a utility. The bill outlaws texting for all drivers. In essence, it is now illegal for nearly everyone to use a cell phone or text while driving, unless it is a hands-free device. There are no exemptions for drivers under age 18. The violation is a Class D offense, with a new base rate fine of \$110.

HB 3590 updates the child safety seat rules. This simple update lets child passengers weighing more than 40 pounds ride in any approved child safety system designed for a child weighing more than 40 pounds. Previously, Oregon law required a child passenger weighing more than 40 pound be secured in a booster seat using a lap or shoulder belt until age eight or 4-feet 9-inches tall. That's still legal; however, a 5-point child passenger safety seat system designed to accommodate children weighing over 40 pounds will be a legal alternative to a booster seat. To learn more about this update and see a schedule for free child safety seat clinics, go to [www.childsafetyseat.org](http://www.childsafetyseat.org)

ORS 807 requires that new motorcyclists aged 40 and under must complete an ODOT-approved motorcycle safety course before they can be issued a motorcycle endorsement by DMV. This is part of a phased-in law passed by the 2009 Oregon Legislature. For information on Oregon's approved motorcycle rider education courses, visit the TEAM Oregon website, [www.team-oregon.org](http://www.team-oregon.org)

## Illness claims extended

Story courtesy of Army Times

The Veterans Affairs Department has extended the deadline for Persian Gulf War veterans to file compensation claims for medically unexplained chronic or undiagnosed illnesses that may be linked to their service in that war.

The deadline, which had been set to expire last Dec. 31, has been extended to Dec. 31, 2016.

Some Gulf War veterans report unexplained illnesses and symptoms such as muscle and joint pain, fatigue, headache, memory problems, rashes and shortness of breath. Gulf War vets also developed amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease) at higher rates than their civilian or non-deployed peers in the decade after the war.

The cause of these multi-symptom illnesses are unknown, although studies have linked them to environmental factors such as dust and acrid petroleum smoke, exposure to toxic agents and adverse reactions to inoculations and preventive medicines.

Nearly 700,000 U.S. personnel deployed to the region in 1990 and 1991.

## Military cont.

emphasis on the Pacific and the Middle East, while maintaining a presence elsewhere, Panetta noted.

"The bottom line is, when we face an aggressor anyplace in this world, we're going to be able to respond and defeat them," he added.

The chairman said a popular misconception about the new strategy assumes the nation's forces will no longer be able to fight more than one conflict at a time.

"In fact, we were pretty adamant that we must be able to do more than one thing at a time, and by the way not limit ourselves to two," Dempsey said. "The threat, and the environment in which we find ourselves in this decade of the 21st century, suggests to us that it's likely to be more than two."

The strategy aims to build a force capable across the military operational spectrum with the leadership, manning and equipment to provide options to the national command authority, the chairman noted.

One point that may have been underemphasized, he added, is that the military has "learned an enormous amount over the last 10 years about how to wage war."

Dempsey said the military has developed strengths unforeseen a decade ago, noting its capabilities in special operations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and cyber.

"What we're looking to do here is not constrain ourselves to a two-war construct, but rather build a force that has the kind of agility the secretary mentioned, that is a



DOD photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo

CBS' "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer interviews Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, center, and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left, in Washington, D.C., Jan. 6, 2012. Panetta and Dempsey fielded questions ranging from the upcoming budget cuts to the threats that Iran poses in the Middle East

learning organization that will adapt itself to what it confronts," he said.

The military has seen a decade of high demand, and defense leaders are working to ensure the force size remains adequate and adaptive to future missions, he said.

"We do have a ... significant, capable [National] Guard and reserve component, and we do have an active component that has learned a lot over the last 10 years," Dempsey noted. "What we're trying to do is break the template and think about different ways of accomplishing the task, to give more options to our nation's

## Army recruiter of the Month



Photo courtesy of Oregon National Guard Recruiting

### An Infantry recruiter's success

Story courtesy of Oregon National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class Johnny L. Palmer III was recently recognized by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, for winning Recruiter of the Month honors, at the Oregon Military Department, Dec. 19.

Palmer enlisted six new Soldiers during the month of November, focusing on a specific unit and Military Occupational Specialty.

Palmer, stationed in Corvallis, has enlisted twelve Soldiers into the ORARNG since Aug. 1 2011, all of whom chose Infantry career fields. Eleven of the Soldiers were assigned to Bravo Company, 2 Battalion, 162 Infantry Regiment.

Palmer's efforts represent the single most significant impact on the end strength of an Oregon infantry unit in recent history—and comes at a time when Maj. Gen. Rees has designated two infantry MOS's as among Oregon's top five most important career fields requiring gains in strength, said CSM Kevin Cutting,

Command Sergeant Major with the Oregon National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command.

Palmer attributes his success to long hours, the Soldiers of B/2-162, and his relationship with Oregon State University's Military Science program. He also trains with Soldiers of the unit and with the OSU Military Science program on a regular basis.

"I work in my schools as much as I can but nothing could replace the referral response I get from Bravo Company and OSU Military Science," Palmer said.

Palmer said his recognition was unexpected, and is a simple result of him doing his job.

"I really appreciate that my leadership took the time to arrange this but nobody should think I did any of it for accolades," he said. "I'm a recruiter with an office in an Infantry Armory. The way I see it, it is my mission to help keep that unit stay full and operational."



**No service member stands alone**

The Oregon Military Assistance Helpline is a **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** service that can help you and your family resolve personal problems

**800.511.6944**

[www.ormah.com](http://www.ormah.com)

## JFHQ

Family Program Cookbook Sales

The JFHQ Family Program is putting together a JFHQ Family Program Cookbook as a fundraiser for next year's events. Each book will have approximately 200 recipes and will sell for \$10 each. If you are interested in reserving one, please contact Robin Webb at 503-584-3581 or by email at [robin.m.webb@mil.state.or.us](mailto:robin.m.webb@mil.state.or.us). Supplies are limited so get your order in early. If you are interested in submitting recipes for the cookbook and have your name appear in print, send them to Robin also. The deadline to submit recipes is February 29th.

## Safety Hero Nominations

Starting January 1, 2012 and each quarter thereafter, the Federal (Oregon National Guard) and State (Oregon Military Dept.) Safety offices would like to recognize employees/soldiers for their contributions to the overall Safety Program by awarding honors to those who go the extra mile to provide a safer environment for all. A "Safety Hero" is someone who takes the initiative to prevent a near miss or accident/incident from occurring. There is no limit on the number of times an individual may receive this award. If you would like more information or the Nomination Form, please contact Robin Webb at 503-584-3581 or by email at [robin.m.webb@mil.state.or.us](mailto:robin.m.webb@mil.state.or.us)

NEWS

# JTAP in action

Story and photos by Spc. Kirby Rider  
115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Oregon Army National Guard

**THE DALLES, Ore.** – Soldiers returning from missions overseas now have an easier way to access crucial benefits aimed at helping Soldiers readjust to life after a deployment.

Soldiers in the Oregon Army National Guard now have access to crucial assistance dealing with these stressful issues thanks to the Oregon Joint Transition Assistance Program, the first Joint Military Service program in the nation.

“In Iraq there was something to do every day, whether that was managing vehicles or personnel issues, there was always something to do every day,” said Capt. Jeffery Sagen, Commander of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment. “Coming home, I may need to mow the lawn and that is it for the day. It’s about needing to adjust to a new lifestyle and having days off.”

“There is a lot of stress we deal with that Active Duty units do not encounter,” Sagen continued. “They come home and continue on within a similar organizational structure they become accustomed to overseas. Our guys come home and go back to civilian jobs and only see their unit once a month.”

The JTAP helps Soldiers by providing them access to information that helps with adjusting to a new lifestyle. Some of these programs are education benefits, employment issues, crisis management,

and their general well-being. “This program is very helpful to people with families and those with kids,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Abshier, an assistant convoy commander with A Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment. “The 60-day event was really useful and gave me information about services.”

One of the programs offered by JTAP is the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. These events happen prior to the deployment for Soldiers and their Families, during the deployment for families while the Soldier is gone, and three programs for the Soldiers and their families at 30-days, 60-days, and 90-days following the Soldiers return from overseas.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is one piece of the JTAP’s mission plan. However, the programs success comes from working with Soldiers on an individual level to ensure the needs of the Soldiers are met.

“The purpose of the program is letting the Soldiers know they can contact the team at any time,” said Scott West, a member of the Oregon Joint Transition Assistance Program and also a Staff Sergeant with the Oregon Army National Guard. “It’s about building a relationship with the Soldiers.”

The JTAP team members are available 24/7 to Soldiers who may need assistance, from program assistance to being available to talk with Soldiers about their problems. JTAP also works with local law enforcement agencies, educating them about issues and considerations particular to deployed service members.

“The reintegration teams are great,” said 1st Sgt. Brian Nation, the senior Non-Commissioned Officer of A Company,



RaeLynn Ricarte, President of Gorge Heroes Club, watches as Soldiers from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, receive new platoon information, during a reintegration drill at The Dalles Armory, The Dalles, Ore., Jan. 7. Ricarte prepared a welcome home dinner for the Soldiers and organized community members to provide a welcome home gathering at a local hotel.

3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment. “They have been with us since we got off the plane (at Joint Base Lewis-McChord). They have taken a personal interest in our guys to ensure they are taken care of.”

Although the JTAP is the main contact for Soldiers, they work with many outside organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Student Veteran Associations on college campuses, and many local organizations.

“The (JTAP) team is awesome,” said RaeLynn Ricarte, President of the Gorge Heroes Club, a non-profit organization that helps Soldiers and Veterans in the Mid-Columbia region. “We get insight into what soldier need and we can help connect

Soldiers to programs.” West has taken a special interest in working with homeless Veterans to ensure their needs are met. Recently JTAP received a large donation of tents, clothing and camping supplies from a retailer in Prineville, Ore.

“The community asked how they can help,” Ricarte continued. “This is a great way for military families to be active while their loved ones are deployed.”

To contact the Oregon Joint Transition Assistance Program call 1-888-688-2264.

## McKinley: Guard and Reserves well-positioned for new defense strategy

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Blair Heusdens  
Florida National Guard

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** Jan. 10, 2012 - The Rotary Club of Jacksonville hosted Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, on Monday at the Omni Hotel here, where McKinley spoke about the current state of the National Guard and the challenges that ahead for the U.S. military.

McKinley, a Jacksonville native, spoke about the recently released defense strategy that will guide the nation’s defense into the future. The strategy, announced Jan. 5, emphasizes trimming the force while investing in key areas such as: intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance programs; countering weapons of mass destruction; and combating cyber-terror threats. McKinley emphasized the National Guard is well-positioned to support this new plan.

“I will tell you, as a proud National Guardsman, that the National Guard was built to help in this new emerging strategy,” he said.

McKinley said that President Obama and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta took “a very bold and courageous step” in releasing this strategy to address the fiscal challenges of controlling the budget and maintaining our national security.



Photo by SSG Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

“These decisions were not made lightly,” said McKinley. “They were made with the most senior leadership of our uniformed services briefing the president of the United States and the National Security Council. And this is the military they believe will lead us through 2012 and into the next decade prudently, fiscally and with the ability to handle those types of emergencies that may occur.”

McKinley said he believes the U.S. military is still sized properly to handle these challenges, especially in the National

Guard where units are better trained and equipped than they were just 10 years ago.

“Your National Guard and the Reserve components are at the top of their game,” said McKinley. “For the next several years, we believe we are the answer to our nation’s security needs, and we are the answer to our needs here at home in Florida in case we have a natural disaster. We are well-led, well-equipped and we are very, very proud of the opportunity to wear the uniform of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force.”

## Politics in Uniform

Knowing what you can and can’t do in politics can be confusing as a servicemember. Part one of a multi-part series may help you understand what is and is not allowed, as a servicemember, federal employee and state employee.

### Part 1:

Excerpt from DoDD 1344.10 Feb. 19, 2008

A member of the Armed Forces on active duty shall not:

- Participate in partisan political fundraising activities (except as permitted), rallies, conventions (including making speeches in the course thereof), management of campaigns, or debates, either on one’s own behalf or on that of another, without respect to uniform or inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement. Participation includes more than mere attendance as a spectator.
- Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others.
- Allow or cause to be published partisan political articles, letters, or endorsements signed or written by the member that solicits votes for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause. This is distinguished from a letter to the editor as permitted.
- Serve in any official capacity with or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club.
- Speak before a partisan political gathering, including any gathering that promotes a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.
- Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.

### Memorial Pool

Built in front of the 41 Armed Forces Reserve Center, the Sunset Division Memorial pool stands as a tribute to the servicemembers of the 41st Division during WWII.

Do you have an interesting photo or story you would like to submit to the Sentinel?

Send them to:  
Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.  
OR.US



Photo by Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

See POLITICS story on page 8

**AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

**Experience counts when lives are on the line**

*Story and photo courtesy Kingsley Fire Department*

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** -- The Kingsley Air Guard Fire Department is staffed by 30 State firefighters and one Federal Technician Fire Chief. The firefighters work 24-hour shifts from 7:30 one day to 7:30 the next. Minimum staffing is seven operations personnel covering 24 hours a day.

Together the Kingsley Field Fire Department Firefighters represent more than 350 years of combined firefighting experience. The firefighters combined have over 350 State Certificates and over 300 Department of Defense Firefighter Certifications.

The Kingsley Field Fire Department is organized to provide primary fire protection and fire prevention services to the Kingsley Field Air Guard Base. The Kingsley Field Fire Department is also responsible for the fire protection of the commercial and general aviation traffic at Klamath Falls Airport.

The Kingsley Field Fire Department has responded to numerous incidents both on base and off. There have been several aircraft incidents that the fire department has responded to and performed rescue and fire prevention activities.

The fire department has assisted with the local fire departments by providing medical care assistance and firefighting assistance for structures and wildland incidents. In 2011, the Kingsley Field Fire Department assisted with the multiple alarm fire at the county mental health facility and at the Klamath Falls Gospel Mission.

In August 2011, several members



of the fire department attended the Air National Guard Fire Emergency Services conference awards banquet in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Jim Court, the Assistant Chief of Prevention was recognized as the Air National Guard Civilian Firefighter of the year for 2010.

The Kingsley Field Fire Department was honored with the CMSgt Edward Wolbert Award – 2010 Fire Department of the Year (Large Category) by the Air National Guard Fire Chiefs Association.

The Air National Guard Fire Chiefs Association is comprised of Air National Guard Fire Departments in the United States and its territories.

There are 31 departments that fit into the large category based on full time staffing. Award criteria includes: Fire Department Management, Quality of Life, Community Relations, Awards, Operations, Training, Fire Prevention and Technical Services.

**Oregon's Good Sam: The Convair C-131B in Oregon**

*Story By Gene Thomas, Chief Master Sergeant, Oregon Air National Guard (Retired)*

The Oregon Air National Guard (OreANG) flew the Convair C-131B Samaritan as an operational support aircraft between 1972 and 1986. Enlisted aircrews maintained the aircraft in excellent condition for its tenure with the OreANG.

Approximately 30 states that had fighter aircraft were assigned a C-131 aircraft for support missions. They were the Adjutant General's limousine and the flying unit station wagon. States could use the aircraft for a variety of purposes, such as to help recover their fighter aircraft from other locations, swap aircrews between places, transport maintenance personnel and take parts to a stranded aircraft, as well as flying aircrews to altitude pressure chamber checks at other bases.

Oregon's C-131B had served as an Air Force aircraft at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. It was a test bed for the encoding altimeter, the transponder which transmits aircraft altitude information to air traffic control centers. Today such technology is



part of the Terminal Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) found in commercial aircraft.

The C-131B model had a larger wingspan (105 feet, 4 inches) than the similar T-29 trainer (91 feet, 9 inches) and carried 10,400 pounds of fuel. This fuel fed thirsty Pratt & Whitney R2800 engines which developed 2500hp with water injection and using 100/145 octane fuel. Unfortunately, in 1980-81 100/145 fuel was not available at all bases and so they had to use 100/130 octane, which lost about 200hp. This made single-engine performance in the C-131 difficult and hazardous.

One of the important OreANG C-131 missions took place during the period from 1980 to 1986 when the OreANG was in the process of taking over Kingsley Field at Klamath Falls, Oregon from the USAF. Initially, the 123rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Portland had two aircrews on air defense alert at Kingsley. Later on, as the OreANG took greater control of Kingsley and responsibility for building up and operating the new ANG F-4 Phantom Replacement Training Unit, the C-131 was used for two to four

**See C131 story on page 8**

**Volunteer**

*Story and photos courtesy of 173rd Fighter Wing, Public Affairs*

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** -- Staff Sgt. Erin L. Miles, an aircrew flight equipment journeyman recently returned from a 130-day deployment to the AOR this October.

Miles volunteered for the deployment after deciding to pursue some additional adventure in her life, but that's not how she felt from the outset of her career.

"No, I won't ever deploy," Miles said in response to the often asked question. "I am with a training unit and my job is to maintain the pilot's equipment. Since my instructors stay with the students, and I stay with the pilots, No, I won't have to deploy."

But as Miles approached her 29th birthday she began to feel differently,



she began to feel the time was right to step out of her comfort zone. Shortly thereafter Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wigen, the 173 Ops Group Chief Enlisted Manager, approached her section with an opportunity to deploy.

"I don't even think I really thought about it before I said, 'I'll go!'" said

Miles.

And shortly thereafter she departed the United States for her overseas deployment to Iraq. Due to the sensitive nature of the work she performed she is unable to discuss specifically where she was or what she did there. What she can say is that it was worth the extra work and sacrifice.

"I can honestly say it was one of the best decisions I have made, not only in my career but in my life," She said.

Despite long hours and a heavy workload Miles said the experience was uniquely fulfilling.

"I would have to say that the most satisfying part of my experience down range was a feeling of fulfillment on such a deep, personal level—knowing that I was a part of making a difference," she added.

**142nd FW**  
6801 NE Cornfoot Rd.,  
Portland, OR 97218

**Base Operator**  
503-335-4000

**Recruiting**  
1-800-392-1801  
503-335-4040

**Personnel & ID Card Issue**  
503-335-4046

**Public Affairs Office**  
503-335-4104

**173rd Fighter Wing**  
211 Arnold Avenue  
Kingsley Field  
Klamath Falls, Oregon  
97603

**Base operator**  
1-800-864-6264  
COMM: 541-885-6350  
DSN: 830-6350

**Public Affairs**  
COMM: 541-885-6677  
DSN: 830-6677

**Personnel Flight**  
173FW/MPF  
COMM: 541-885-6133  
DSN: 830-6133

NEWS / FEATURES

# Former Oregon Guardsmen receives Air Medal with Valor

Story by Nathan Pfau, Army Flier Staff Writer

**FT RUCKER Ala.** -- Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey M. Day, of the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization, was presented with the medal by Col. Jessie O. Farrington, U.S. Army Aviation Center for Excellence deputy commander, for exceptionally meritorious achievement in valor that was displayed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom May 25, according to Capt. Jonathan Britton, operations officer of the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization.

"Day displayed complete disregard for his own safety while initiating multiple engagements against an enemy with superior fields of fire over the friendly forces," said Britton. "His actions were decisive in saving the lives of the Soldiers on the ground."

Col. David Fee, director of the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization, told the Soldiers and Family members the story of how Day came to receive the medal.

"We were trying to decide whether he is crazy or stupid," said Fee, "but no matter what, most of the great awards were given somewhere in between."

According to the colonel's account, there was a unit under heavy fire that had run out of bullets and water, and needed an emergency resupply. These supplies are stuffed into bags, which are then called speedballs, to be delivered by aircraft to the unit in need.

"They needed someone to help push [the supplies] out of the aircraft and, naturally, Day says, 'I'll do it,'" continued Fee.

It was Day's job to get the speedballs off the aircraft and to the unit. When the aircraft gets close enough to where the



Photo courtesy of Deborah Haines

unit is to be resupplied, Day is "mission focused," according to the colonel.

"Day leaps out of the aircraft and starts pulling off the supplies," he said. "In the mean time, [Day's] communication with the aircraft becomes unhooked, and he can no longer communicate with the aircraft."

"He stayed out there, under heavy fire, just doing his job and unloading the speedballs," said the colonel. "Three rocket propelled grenades came at the aircraft, but he continued unloading the emergency supplies."

Meanwhile, the Soldiers flying the aircraft and the ones on the ground are trying to communicate to Day, yelling for

him to "get out of there," added Fee.

In the midst of the heavy fire, and with disregard for his own safety, Day runs back and gets the rest of the speedballs for the unit in need. It wasn't until Day returned to the aircraft that he realized his communication with the aircraft had become unhooked, said the director.

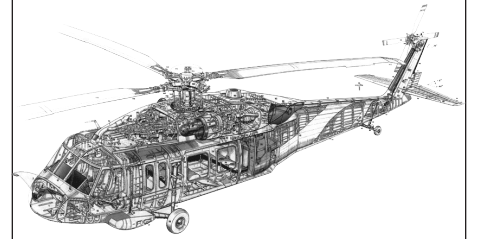
"The aircraft had six bullet holes in it, and both the ground crew and the aircrew felt that the enemies' intentions were to shoot Day," he said. "The end result is that he saved all the ground guys' lives by getting their supplies to them under a ton of fire."

"I was just doing a job," said Day when

reflecting on the story. "Everyone asks me 'Why did you get out of the helicopter?' and I say because they needed it."

"What the colonel didn't say is that the whole time the team was laughing at me. I had nothing better to do that day I guess," he joked. "But it was fun and interesting, and I have a trophy of it at home. It's a good reminder."

## Info Box: UH-60



- Max. Gross Weight:** 22,000 lbs, 23,500 (external cargo)
- Cruising Speed:** 150kt
- Endurance:** 2.1 hrs
- Range:** 306 nm
- Max. Gross Weight:** 9000 lbs
- Internal Load:** 2640 lbs (or 11 combat-equipped troops)
- Crew:** 4 (2 pilots; 2 crew chiefs)
- Armament:** Two 7.62mm machine guns
- Manufacturer:** United Technologies (Stratford, CT); General Electric (Lynn, MA)

## Resiliency through Mental fitness

Story courtesy of Oregon National Guard Resiliency Team

Setbacks or stressors as stated in the December Sentinel issue can be big or small. Examples can be you have all of meetings for the day, you have to pick up some milk for dinner after work or as big as getting stuck on I-205 in Portland due to a car accident. As we move on in our military career there are things that must be done to be prepared. It could be to update your promotion points with a new award, submit your latest college transcripts or even take the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT).

It is the APFT that the Resilience Office would like to talk about in this issue. For years the Army has worked on physical fitness training. Making everyone physically fit for training is very important and should be incorporated in every aspect of a leader's goal. But what about being mentally fit? What about having mental agility? Yes, some Soldiers are more fit than others and can cope with stressors a little better but everyone should basically "workout" and train for it. It also doesn't indicate that they are stronger; they might just look at the issue in a different way.

The resilience program is designed to do just that, to help Soldiers do some mental PT. This program is a training tool and is a preventative measure in a sense to help you to be able to run that mental 2 mile run in record time without injury. Like everything we do though, we need the proper training and practice, practice and practice. In this program Soldiers learn how to implement steps to help deal with stressors, understand how

A mortars team from the Oregon National Guard's 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, guides a Soldier from the Royal Army of Oman's 11th Brigade, Western Frontier Regiment, while firing a mortar at the Rubkut Training Range Jan. 22. The live fire event is part of a U.S. Army Central (ARCENT) training exercise in Oman. Photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

## 1-82 CAV in Oman



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Damon Morrow Oregon National Guard Resiliency Program

to handle them and in some cases that it is ok to raise a hand and say "I need some help".

Sometimes just to talk to a peer, chaplain or a counselor can divert a negative action. It also helps Soldiers to recognize negative thoughts and not act on them or to talk to someone in a rational way to work on the problem. To have the courage to raise that hand takes more strength than not too. Also, to mock a fellow Soldier who does so is not right or

what we are trained to do. A true Soldier, Leader, spouse or friend will be there no matter what for that battle buddy or spouse and assist them in any way. An individual Soldier within our organization is strong, but by standing together they can be unstoppable. As it is said "when we are needed, we are there", we are there standing together toe to toe and shoulder to shoulder. We stand there to support each other to complete any mission or in everyday life.

With more Master Resilience Trainers (MRT) and Resilience Trainers Assistants (RTA) at the unit level Soldiers will get the training needed. NGB requires that at least once a quarter Soldiers receive an hour block of instructions of Resilience Training. Like everything you do, the only way to be more proficient in a skill you need to apply it as often as needed.

Each training session is designed to implement each skill into everyday life in one way or another. An example would

be in the first lesson plan the block of instruction is "Hunt the Good Stuff". During this block you pick out three good things that happened to you for that day before you go to bed. It could be that you heard your favorite song in the morning, there was no line in the coffee shop and you only had a few e-mails to answer that day. As stated before, practice this and it does get easier.

Hunt the good stuff helps to counter the negativity bias, to create positive emotion, and to notice and analyze what is good. Additionally what was yours or others contribution to this good thing and what it means to you? In practicing this everyday you get a better outlook on things and to be able to reflect on what went well that day when something does go wrong. Doing this also focuses your thoughts on productive patterns instead of dwelling on counterproductive thoughts. In a relative term, you're exercising your brain and becoming more mentally tough.

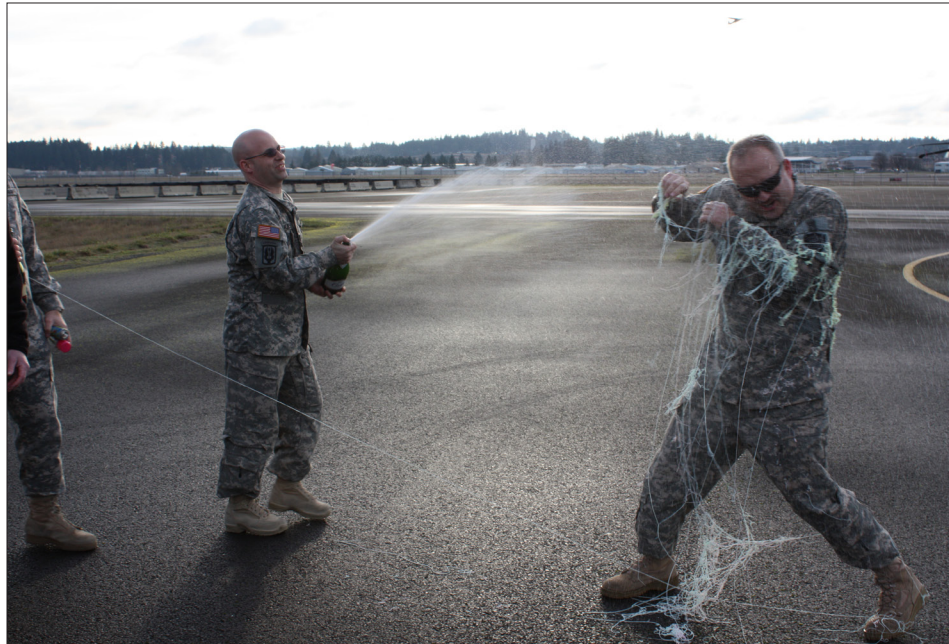
AZUWUR



# Final Flight



Chief Warrant Officer Four, Joseph P. Mollahan along with his wife, daughter and crew, gather after CW4 Mollahan landed his final flight in Salem, Ore. CW4 Mollahan will be promoted to CW5 prior to his retirement on January 19, 2012. Photo by: Sgt. Cherie Cavallaro, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs, Oregon Army National Guard



After his final flight on January 7, 2012 to mark his retirement, Chief Warrant Officer Four, Joseph P. Mollahan is greeted in a surprise attack by members of his unit. Showered in Champagne and silly string, the Chief tries unsuccessfully to block incoming droplets. Photo by: Sgt. Cherie Cavallaro, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs, Oregon Army National Guard

## Politics cont.

- Conduct a political opinion survey under the auspices of a partisan political club or group or distribute partisan political literature.
- Perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee or candidate during a campaign, on an election day, or after an election day during the process of closing out a campaign.
- Solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in Federal offices or facilities, including military reservations, for any political cause or candidate.
- March or ride in a partisan political parade.
- Display a large political sign, banner, or poster (as distinguished from a bumper sticker) on a private vehicle.
- Display a partisan political sign, poster, banner, or similar device visible to the public at one's residence on a military installation, even if that residence is part of a privatized housing development.
- Participate in any organized effort to provide voters with transportation to the polls if the effort is organized by or

associated with a partisan political party, cause, or candidate.

- Sell tickets for or otherwise actively promote partisan political dinners and similar fundraising events.
- Attend partisan political events as an official representative of the Armed Forces, except as a member of a joint Armed Forces color guard at the opening ceremonies of the national conventions of the Republican, Democratic, or other political parties recognized by the Federal Elections Committee or as otherwise authorized by the Secretary concerned.
- Make a campaign contribution to, or receive or solicit (on one's own behalf) a campaign contribution from, any other member of the Armed Forces on active duty. Any contributions not prohibited by this subparagraph remain subject to the gift provisions of sections 2635.301-2635.304 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (Reference (f)). See subparagraph 4.1.2.1. for general prohibitions on partisan fundraising activity.
- Commissioned officers shall not use contemptuous words as prohibited by section 888 of Reference (b) or participate in activities proscribed by DoD Directives 5200.2 and 1325.6 (References (g) and (h), respectively).

## Coming up in the next edition of the Sentinel:

- 1-82 CAV in Oman
- Political can and can't do's for Public Employees
- Personality features
- UPAR photos and more

## 2012 Oregon Women Veterans Conference

Story and photos courtesy of Mike Allegre, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

**SALEM** -- All women who have ever served in the military are invited to participate in the 2012 Oregon Women Veterans Conference. The conference has been scheduled for March 30-31 in Salem at the downtown Conference Center. Every even numbered year this free event offers women veterans an opportunity to connect with other women veterans and learn about the benefits that they have earned as a result of their honorable service.

The conference will offer workshops on topics which include women veterans health, military sexual trauma, VA benefits (federal and state), employment and stress reduction.

"I continue to be amazed at how many women who have served in the Armed Forces of this nation do not realize that they are a veteran in every sense of the word. It does not matter when a woman served (wartime or peacetime), it only matters that she served honorably and faithfully," said Val Conley, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs deputy director and president of the National Association of State Women Veterans Coordinators. "This conference is a unique opportunity for Oregon to honor its more than 25,000 women veterans and thank them for their service."

At the conference an award for Oregon Outstanding Woman Veteran will be presented. This award recognizes a female veteran who has compiled a



record of exemplary service as a military service member, as a veteran and as an outstanding member of and contributor to her community.

More information on this award as well as nomination forms can be found on the Oregon Women Veterans Conference website. Nominations for this award should be submitted by Feb. 24, 2012.

The deadline to register for the conference is March 10, 2012. For more conference information, including hotel arrangements, and to register, please visit the Women Veteran Conference web page at ODVA's website: [www.oregon.gov/odva/wvc.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/odva/wvc.shtml).

## C-131 cont.

flights a week to shuttle fighter aircrews to Klamath Falls and back to Portland.

Oregon's C-131 also performed many, many mercy missions during its tenure at Portland in "acts of caring by both pilots and enlisted aircrews for local citizens." The C-131 had a large cargo door for ease of ambulatory patients and was also used to fly serums for snake bites to small cities in Oregon. Some mercy missions included feed for wintertime stranded cattle and elk. Most mercy missions were early morning and many occurred with little or no warning.

OreANG maintenance personnel made some minor modifications to their C-131. The interior looked like a 1958 Cadillac with first class seats, a small table, credenza and coffee bar. However it only had a latrine and not a rest room, which could be a bit of an inconvenience, especially on long cross-country flights. Major General Richard (The Adjutant General of the State of Oregon) suggested we look into making a small rest room. With maintenance ingenuity the aircraft quickly had a small rest room.

As time went on, the National Guard Bureau's C-131 fleet showed its age and logistical problems. The aircraft had no weather radar. It also had many engine problems with the R2800 and there were shortages of parts that could cause grounding for many days.

There was no depot for quick engine changes (QEC). And to quote Lt Col Jerry Thompson, a pilot for Oregon's operational support aircraft, "...if it wasn't for SMSgt Ken Powers and the other Enlisted Aircrew who had a limited inventory of spare parts hidden, the C-131 would have been dead in the water more often."

Base supply units nation-wide had no back-up parts (including Oregon), they just were not available after the active duty USAF got out of the C-131 business. However, there were offers from civilian aircraft overhaul companies who offered engine exchanges but prices were beyond NGB budgets. But ingenuity by Enlisted Aircrews is what saved the C-131



program.

There was ingenuity at all OreANG levels to keep the aircraft flying. On one occasion Lt Col Thompson was vacationing near a California ANG base and picked up a # 9 engine cylinder complete and brought it back to Portland to save the C-131 from a lengthy grounding.

Another memorable quote concerning C-131 parts came from the TAG General Miller himself, "...parts are so critical we are ordering custom hoses from the John Deere Tractor Company." This was at an NGB conference which discussed the status of the C-131 program.

Oregon's enlisted aircrew associated with the C-131 accumulated more than 20,000 flying hours aboard Oregon's operational support aircraft. Although that figure is of course impressive, it does not reflect all the work behind the scenes essential to make the aircraft ready for flight before each mission. The early hours preparing for flight, involved in engine changes, cancellations, parts delays, crew sickness, etc., all added up for many more hours outside of flying to ensure an operational aircraft. All in all OreANG's enlisted aircrew exhibited a job well done.

The Oregon Air National Guard (OreANG) flew the Convair C-131B Samaritan as an operational support aircraft between 1972 and 1986. Enlisted aircrews maintained the aircraft in excellent condition for its tenure with the OreANG.

### Retiree Service Office

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